

# Memorial United Church

## Grand Falls-Windsor Pastoral Charge

P.O. Box 454, 13 Church Road  
Grand Falls-Windsor, NL  
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## Annual Report 2014

Annual Meeting - February 22, 2015

## Table of Contents

Minister's Message 2015 .....	3
Official Board .....	4
Session .....	5
Burials .....	5
Baptisms.....	5
Marriages .....	5
Ministry and Personnel Committee .....	7
Annual Report 2014 – Property Committee .....	8
Church:.....	8
Manse:.....	8
Memorial United Church Women .....	9
UCW Executive for 2014-2015: .....	9
Convenors: .....	9
UCW participated in: .....	9
Social Functions:.....	10
Donations of time & money:.....	10
Sunday School Report 2014.....	12
MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH MEN'S CHOIR .....	13
Memorial United Church Men's Choir.....	14
ANNUAL REPORT 2014 .....	15
4 <sup>th</sup> Grand Falls Scouts .....	17
Beaver Scout Report .....	17
Cub Scout Report.....	18
Scout Report.....	19
Venturer Scout Report .....	21
The Exploits Valley Branch of The Canadian Bible Society .....	23
Loon Bay Camping Centre .....	24

## Minister's Message 2015

Greetings to all as we tie up 2014 and dive into 2015!

The last year together has been one of growth and of love, and I have been truly honoured that you have allowed me to journey with you. There have been moments of incredible joy, and moments of unbearable heartbreak, but this is the nature of being a family. Every person in the family is unique, with his/her own personality and quirks. This family is no different. Sometimes we all get along like gangbusters, and sometimes we squabble and disagree. But regardless of everything else, we are a family who gathers at the Table, who cares about each other, and who loves each other (even when we argue). We lose some members, and are always sad to see them go, and we gain new members and are always joyful to see them come. It gives me such incredible, indescribable joy to tell people that this family welcomes anyone and everyone...and to know that every word of that is true.

This year you, the Congregation of Memorial United, have fed the hungry, clothed the naked, loved the lost, given drink to those who have thirsted, shared light with those who knew darkness, held up the children, and embraced the aged. You are amazing. You are what I know Christianity to be about. You are doing Church right, and you are following the path of Jesus. We can always improve, but I want you to know that you are doing things right. Our building is ageing and will soon require investment, our givings aren't increasing substantially, though the bills are. But that's the practical stuff ... as your minister I am concerned about the spiritual stuff. And that part, my sisters and brothers, you do very well. I am proud to walk with you, and honoured that you let me.

Keep up the good work, and keep in front of you always this reminder of what Christ called us to be about:

*Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore Love is the fulfilment of the law.  
(Romans 13:10)*

Be well. Be safe. Be loved.

Rev. Kim Waite

## **Official Board**

On behalf of our Official Board and the congregation of Memorial United I would like to thank everyone who helped make 2014 another exciting year. This is my first year as Chair of the Official Board and I am excited to work with the dedicated, knowledgeable and passionate individuals who sit on the board. The above qualities are also found in those groups and individuals who are the “Hands and Feet” of the church and getting things done day to day. I would like to thank past Chair Ralph Angel for his dedication and service through his various roles over the years.

The church continues to work on its outreach initiatives and developing partnerships with Women’s Central and are working on other possible community partnerships.

We would like members to carefully consider our current financial situation. Even though the Mortgage is paid off there is always a need for ongoing repairs and maintenance costs (such as the parking lot repaving). We will work at communicating our financial situation more frequently to keep members aware.

2015 is shaping up to be another exciting and fulfilling year with many good things to come including hosting Newfoundland Conference in the spring.

Thank you for all your support and the Official Board look forward to serving you in the future. Please do not hesitate to express any concerns or bring new ideas to us. If we don’t officially know about it then we can’t act on it.

Greg Forward  
Official Board Chair

## Session

The Session of Memorial United Church meets the second Tuesday of every month from September to June unless otherwise determined necessary.

The primary responsibility of Session is to oversee the spiritual needs of the congregation. Members of the session are called Elders and serve a term of three years and must be a member of Memorial United Church.

The current members of Session are: Reverend Kimberly Waite (minister), Ray Penney (Clerk of Session), Erica Nault (Secretary), Christine Jayne, Paulette White, Vince Christian, Megann Orendorff, Roseline Mouland, Eileen Butt, Neil Rowe, Marilyn King, Peggy Jane Saunders, Zelliah Alyward, Kathryn Kelland Howell, Vera Shapleigh, Judy Room.

### *Burials*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Benjamin G. W. Butt	March 24, 2014
Margaret Gloria Fudge	April 19, 2014
Pauline Elizabeth Martino	May 16, 2014
Eva Mary Thorne	June 28, 2014
Harry Bert Fudge	July 13, 2014
Myrtle Lock	August 15, 2014
Joyce Marion Goulding	September 8, 2014
Florence May West	October 8, 2014
Margaret Ann Reid	October 17, 2014
Jean Bertha Gaulton	November 14, 2014
James Michael Bland	November 21, 2014
Joseph George Moores	December 17, 2014

### *Baptisms*

Total: 13

January 2014 (2)

February 2014 (1)

March 2014 (1)

May 2014 (1)

June 2014 (1)

July 2014 (1)

August 2014 (5)

September 2014 (1)

### *Marriages*

Total: 5

All requests for use of the sanctuary of Memorial United Church shall be directed in writing to the session of the church. The sanctuary was thoughtfully and prayerfully built for worship and proclamation of the gospel. Any activity judged by the Minister or session of the church to be inconsistent with the belief, teachings, and practices of the congregation will not be permitted in the sanctuary. We believe that God is truly worshipped in this space through good liturgical usage that reflects the best of our theological thinking. As a congregation may God's blessing be on each one of us as we continue to work for the good of our church.

Ray Penney,  
Clerk of Session

## **Ministry and Personnel Committee**

This committee consists of Harry Parsons, Charlie Pittman, Merv Baker and Marilyn King.

This past year our secretary, Rochelle, went on maternity leave and was replaced by Crystal who has done a great job.

We also said good-bye to our long time custodian Steve who has been replaced by John who is getting familiar with all our needs so please be patient as we move forward.

The mandate of this committee is to liaise with all paid church employees, assess their needs and working conditions, and make recommendations to the Official Board as to any and all changes to be made. It is the responsibility of this committee to resolve, where possible, any conflicts that may arise between staff members or staff and congregation members. Because of this it is very important to address any complaints in a signed written format to any committee member.

Annual reviews will proceed in February as per our mandate.

Harry Parsons  
Chair

## **Annual Report 2014 – Property Committee**

### ***Church:***

Spring cleanup around the church was organized. Thanks to all those who volunteered their time to assist the cleanup.

The nursery was relocated to the Choir room.

A second hand piano was purchased to replace the piano in the CE Centre.

Fire extinguishers were replaced with new units more appropriate to their specific locations.

The office computer and the Minister's computer were both upgraded.

The parking lot was dug up, new material was added, leveled, and paved. One section of guide rail was replaced as well. The parking lot was painted.

The old dishwasher was removed from the kitchen and donated to one of the local service groups.

Several times through the year some of the janitorial work was contracted out to a local firm.

A new caretaker was hired.

### ***Manse:***

Mowing the lawn at the manse was contracted out for the summer months.

A new wall oven has been installed at the manse

David Stoodley  
Property Chair



## Memorial United Church Women

The purpose of the United Church Women is “To unite all women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which we may express loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service.”

### *UCW Executive for 2014-2015:*

President	Eileen Butt
Vice President	Nina Butt
Recording Secretary	Loretta Osmond
Corresponding Secretary	Alice Pittman
Treasurer	Bonnie Angel
Assistant Treasurer	Alice Cater

### *Convenors:*

Friendship & Visitation	June Oldford & Sharon Goulding
Carmelite visiting	Faith Champion & Diane Kelly
Program	Sharon Stoodley & Lorraine Gidge
Social	Marilyn Oldford, Rosaline Moulard & Ann Hull
Flowers	Shirley Cole
Church in Society	Louise Gillingham
Stewardship & Literature	Jean Cater
Membership	Shirley Down

This year the UCW had four new members – Barb Bishop, Eleanor Hamilton, Audrey White & Hazel Evans – bringing our total membership to 85 with 101 adherent members. During our Christmas Dinner aloe vera plants were presented to the new members and a Life Membership pin was presented to Vera Judge. The Act of Remembrance for eight of our departed members was done by Alice Cater and June Oldford. The UCW continues to visit the sick and shut-ins, the Seniors Homes and The Carmelite House. This year 135 visits were done.

The UCW have expressed their sympathy throughout the year to members who have lost loved ones who have been ill, by preparing food, sending cards, visiting and making donations in their memory to “The Building Fund”.

### *UCW participated in:*

- World Day of Prayer
- Reading of The Proclamation
- Seniors Home visit with Lay Readers

- Advent Vesper Service
- Bible Study with Rev. Kim
- Ushering in June
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Decorating of Church for Thanksgiving and Christmas
- AGM Loon Bay
- Some members attended a Workplace Hazardous Material Information System seminar

***Social Functions:***

- UCW AGM Potluck
- Congregational Meeting Potluck
- Salmon Festival Brunch
- Sunday Coffee Time

***Donations of time & money:***

- Stella Burry Foundation (Naomi Centre & Emmanuel House)
- Carew Lodge
- Labrador Fund
- Mission & Service Fund
- West District Allocations
- Foster Parents Plan
- Hospital Auxiliary
- Operation Shoe Box
- Benevolent Fund (White Gift)
- Canadian Diabetic Association Children's Camp
- EVI Breakfast Program
- Daily Bread
- In Memoriam Hymn Sing
- Collected poptabs for The Robert Hampson Tabs for Kids Fund
- Arranging, caring, and purchasing flowers for the Church
- Canadian Bible Society
- Hosted In Gathering of Least Coin
- Some UCW members continue to purchase The Sharing Magazine
- Sunflower seeds were collected for the Sunday School to send to the flood victims in Alberta

The Exercise classes have been a great success with up to 12 ladies attending. A new TV was purchased to help in their fitness.

The Social committee continued to do caterings upon request and this year hosted an Easter breakfast.

Our Program Committee were busy again this year preparing events for The General meetings including – Yoga instructions, Defibulator demonstration, Heritage night and a presentation on a Rug Hooking project for the Janeway.

UCW members knitted squares to make blankets for The Warm Hearts Program. These blankets were presented to Jackie Thompson of The Status of Women Council at our Closing Dinner. Members are presently knitting scarves for The Special Olympics in Corner Brook in 2016.

In November the UCW had their annual Fall Sale with members continuing to make fudge, puddings, fishcakes, home made goods and knitted items. Nina Butt submitted a write up and the recipe for the puddings in The Sharing Magazine.

Breakfast with Santa was a tremendous success again this year.

Our Church in Society convener helped in a medical emergency and supplied food, clothing and Christmas gifts for a family of three.

The United Church Women under the leadership of Eileen Butt and her executive have had another rewarding year and look forward to working together through 2015 and to continue to focus on the UCW Purpose.

Loretta Osmond  
Recording Secretary

## Sunday School Report 2014

This past year was another successful and very exciting one for our Sunday School. We have had another increase in enrollment since last January, although our attendance has stayed about the same. Our Sunday School leadership has seen an increase in youth participation. Since January Jill Sheppard has joined us, taking over regular teachings of grades 2 & 3. Julia Hynes, Claire Hynes, Leah Roberts & Lauren Bartlett have also been teaching part time. They have been very devoted and shown tremendous leadership. Last February, under the leadership of Debbie Sheppard, the grades 4, 5 & 6 organized their 4<sup>th</sup> annual cupcake sale. The response was overwhelming and raised just over \$800 for Gifts with Vision projects. During lent, the children took part in helping the local food bank by passing out food suggestions coupons to the congregation, encouraging donations to the food bank. Sunday School closed for the summer on Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup>. Because of bad weather, the closing activities took place in the C.E. Centre with various games and treats. It was a fun day!

During the summer, Memorial united Church saw its first Vacation Bible School (VBS). A government grant was received to hire a student to run the program. Alecia Rideout was hired and did a marvelous job organizing, decorating and running a very successful VBS called "Weird Animals". The activities took place from July 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> and was offered to the children of our congregation as well as anyone interested from the community. In all, 29 children participated.

Sunday School re-opened on September 14<sup>th</sup> and we had a very busy fall preparing for the Advent season. On the first Sunday of Advent, fifty-two children participated in the Hanging of the Greens Service, from nursery to youth. On the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday School presented their program for the White Gift Service. Altogether 40 children took part in a play called "Nativity Story". On the forth Sunday of Advent, 12 youth presented their program called "A Christmas to Believe In". Both presentations were enjoyed by all. Thanks everyone for doing such a great job.

In closing, I would like to thank all the children, parents and leaders of our Sunday School for their never ending support to the program as we all learn together how to live in God's way.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseline Mouland  
Sunday School Superintendent

## **MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH MEN'S CHOIR**

### **Report for 2014**

Our Men's Choir were very active again this year. The weekly practices under the direction of Glen Moulard and accompanist Wally Robinson, were well attended and very enjoyable. We all appreciate their dedication to our choir.

Several choir members supported a number of community activities this year including:

The Kiwanis Music Festival, and assisting with services at the seniors' homes. We also entered a team in the Cancer Relay for Life again this year. 2014 was the twelfth consecutive year that our Men's Choir has entered a team in this event. We have raised over \$70,000 over the twelve years of our participation in this project. This year the UC5 and our Men's Choir held a sing-along night which raised \$800.00 in support of the relay team. We recognize Howard Barnes for coordinating this project and on behalf of all teams members we would like to thank everyone for their continued support as we look forward to entering this event again in 2015. This year for the first time the choir was able to sponsor a youth camper to attend the Loon Bay Camp.

The Men's Choir gave support to our Lay Readers with regular monthly visit to Golden Years, Hollett's and Twin Town Senior's Homes.

In 2014 we sponsored a number of successful fund raising activities enabling us to continue our financial support to our congregation:

1. During the town's Winterlude in February we held our Lumberjack Dinner. Volunteers from the Choir served Baked Beans, Bologna, toutons and molasses buns, and entertainment by our UC5 Group.
2. In December, we catered to the annual United Church Women's Christmas Dinner.

Our Closing Social took place in late May at the Odd Fellows Hall, a fun evening was enjoyed by all.

2014 was another active and enjoyable year for all members, new members are always welcome.

We would like to thank the congregation for their continued support.

We would also like to thank the men of our congregation who assist the choir with their projects.

Submitted by  
The Men's choir Committee  
Finance Report attached

**Memorial United Church Men's Choir**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**2014**

**Balance Forwarded From 2013.....\$ 1551.67**

**Revenue For 2014**

Interest	0.08 (BMO)	
Projects	2471.60 (LumberJack Special/Relay For Life Sing-a-Long)	
Catering	1688.00 (UCW Christmas Social)	
Socials	540.00 (Tickets sold for year-end social)	
Donations	100.00 (Funerals)	
	\$4799.68	<b>+ \$ 4799.68</b>
		<b>\$ 6351.35</b>

**Expenditure For 2014**

Bank Fees	17.50 (BMO)	
Projects	505.02 (LumberJack Special)	
Catering	687.32 (UCW Christmas Social)	
Socials	1602.34 (Year End Social at ODD Fellows Club/Gifts/Cards)	
Sponsors	925.00 (Loon Bay Camp Student/Relay For Life Team)	
In Memoriam	100.00	
	\$3837.18	<b>- \$ 3837.18</b>

**YEAR END BALANCE FOR DECEMBER 31, 2014** **\$ 2514.17**

Men's Choir Committee

E.M Osmond  
Treasure/2014

## ANNUAL REPORT 2014

<http://www.memorialunited.com>

Below is a monthly breakdown in 2014 of the number of users who visited our website: “memorialunited.com”.

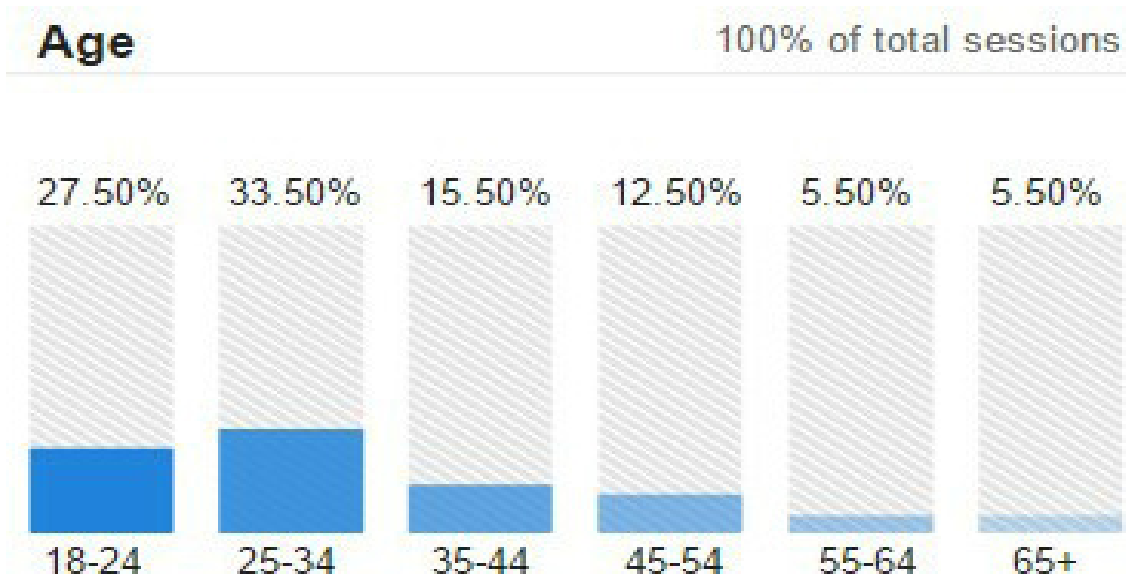
“Sessions” is the number of times the site was visited.

“Users” is the number of visitors to the site each month (does not include repeat visits per month).

“PageViews” is the number of pages the visitors viewed.

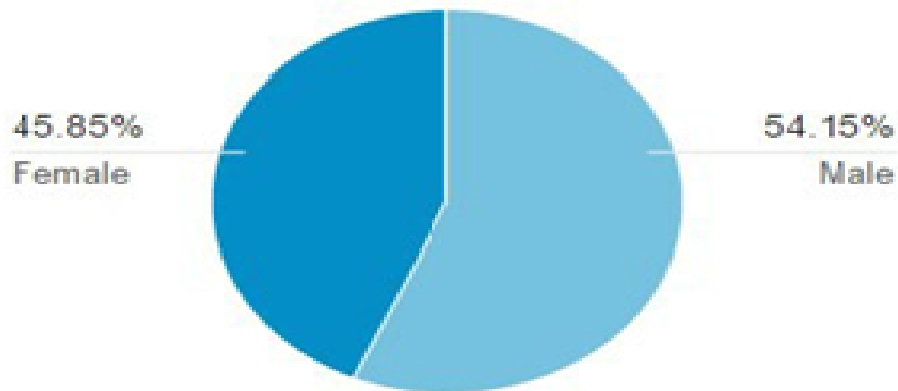
“Pages/Session” is the average number of pages viewed per session.

Month	Sessions	Users	Page Views	Pages/Sessions
January	225	120	629	2.8
February	209	115	589	2.82
March	243	133	723	2.98
April	261	140	698	2.67
May	241	125	709	2.94
June	236	145	685	2.90
July	204	142	464	2.27
August	216	154	688	3.19
September	222	187	633	2.85
October	226	151	634	2.81
November	350	259	940	2.69
December	349	249	919	2.63



## Gender

100% of total sessions



These are the countries where users visited from. Some countries might have had only one or two visitors:

Canada, U.S., U.K., Cyprus, Germany, Nigeria, S. Korea, Norway, Brazil, France, India, Jamaica, Japan, Puerto Rico, Romania, Mexico, Portugal, Belgium, Chile, Algeria, Italy, Uruguay, Guatemala, UAE, Argentina, Colombia, Spain, Malaysia, Switzerland, Cape Verde, Ghana, Ecuador, Ivory Coast, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Russia

Most users reach our website through a bookmark created on their own computer.

Otherwise, these are the search engines used to find our web site:

Google.ca 382

Bing 46

Yahoo 36

Google.com 28

Google, UK 3

Wallace Robinson, webmaster  
on behalf of website committee



## 4<sup>th</sup> Grand Falls Scouts

There seems to be no way to slow down the progress the youth and leaders in our Scouting program at the 4<sup>th</sup> Grand Falls Scouting Group are able to achieve! Our program at all levels is now youth-driven under the close guidance of our leaders. While this is often a scary prospect, our youth have been able to rise to the challenge and perform well beyond what is normally expected of their age groups. For those who are unaware, the Scouting movement now encourages participation by girls as well as boys. Our groups reflect that change and we are proud to see males and females working side by side to achieve their goals.

We were saddened to hear of Scouter Ed Thorne's passing. Ed served in a variety of capacities throughout his Scouting career. He certainly was part of the backbone of the 4<sup>th</sup> Grand Falls.

We are very pleased once again to have Memorial United Church as our sponsoring body. This sponsorship gives us a comfortable, spacious and reliable meeting and activity home.

We would like to welcome Shawn Osmond to the new role of Commissioner. Shawn has many years of Scouting experience and he is looking forward to the challenges of his new role.

I am very proud of the achievements of our youth. I know we will all be in good hands as these Scouts (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers) become leaders in our community. I am also very proud of our leaders who give their all. Thanks to them, we have become a group to which all other Scouts in the province are compared!

David Stoodley  
Group Chair

=====

### ***Beaver Scout Report***

Our Beaver Scout Colony meets at the C.E. Center 2 nights a week, Tuesday and Wednesday from 6 - 7 pm. We have 2 groups consisting of 48 youth, 2 youth leaders and 9 adult leaders.

Our program this year is youth-driven where our members (under our guidance) decide upon an adventure, plan it and then review it. It will take us roughly 6 - 8 weeks to do an adventure. We have already completed a "Knights and Castles" adventure and are looking forward to starting a "Beaver Chef" adventure early February.

We will be participating, along with our other sections, in all planned Scout/Guide Week activities and are looking forward to our 2-night Family Camp and Camp Nor' Wes the end of May.

## *Cub Scout Report*

The winter of 2014 seemed to never end, and our Cub Scouts took full advantage. We had multiple snowshoe hikes, built a snow hut, and even simulated a survival exercise after a SAR lesson on winter safety. As always February was filled with Scout Guide week activities such as sliding and a campfire and other traditional youth gathering from both the Scout and Guide movement.

In March the Cub Scouts lost one of its own as Scouter Ed Thorne (Baloo) passed away suddenly leaving our pack, his family and the Scouting and Cadet Movement mourning.

The Cubs finished on a high as we took 24 energetic and excited youth to St. John's for a 'Blast off' to summer camp. We spent two nights in the city, including shopping at the old Scout shop, visiting the Fluvarium, hiking the university campus, feeding the pigeons, swimming at the Aquarena, hiking Signal Hill, geocaching on Rennie's River and mineral exploration, as well as the highlight, sleeping at the Johnson Geocenter and enjoying their star gazing space program.

We began the fall 2014 session with 8 leaders and 28 registered cubs. We have seen continued growth and now boast about 35 youth at the Cub Scout level. About five are working to join Scouts by year-end.

The first outing for the Cubs was held at a Scout camp in Aspen Brook where the Cubs got to visit an active Scout camp, play some wide outdoor games, treat water from the river for drinking, and see the Venturers' rope bridge. They ended the day cooking over an open fire (in the rain).

Three major fundraisers have been held to date, including apple day, popcorn sales, and vegetable sales. These were more successful than ever.

We have had two outdoor hikes already this fall, and took part in the annual Santa Claus parade, Remembrance ceremony and food bank drive. We also donated dues and gifts to the Happy Tree.

Currently we are working on our Kub Kars for our upcoming races in February. We have just completed our first winter camp with Cubs in Square Pond, Gander where 16 Cubs were engaged in ice safety lessons, fire-building and other team challenges, many of which were led by four Scouts who wanted to help out and lead the camp.

The program is youth driven and ideas from the youth have included Nerf games, science nights, camping skills and so on. We are planning a flex youth leadership workshop for our Cub Scouts and leaders in the next few months and have seen 5 new Cubs join since Christmas. One of our Cubs is still on track to join the Scouts on their expedition to Europe this summer as well.

Another busy season underway. All Cubs are excited and eligible to join us for the summer Provincial Jamboree at Camp Nor' Wes and are looking forward and setting sites on the National Jamboree for the summer of 2017 in Nova Scotia. Bring on the adventure...

### *Scout Report*

We started 2014 with 21 Scouts and nine Scouters. We spent most of the 2013/14 Scouting year working on our "Zombie Apocalypse" theme. Planning for a fictitious Zombie invasion allowed us to concentrate on survival skills, emergency preparedness, disease prevention, etc., while still keeping it fun and keeping the youth engaged. Early in the year our Court of Honour (youth leaders) decided that our next big adventure will Expedition Europe – an 18 day trip across Western Europe to learn more about Newfoundland & Labrador's role in the two world wars and to finish with a 10 day International Jamboree held in the Netherlands. Much of the year was spent fundraising and planning for the epic adventure.

The winter included our first outdoor winter camp. The Scouts spent a VERY cold weekend in a campground in Botwood where they slept in tents or survival shelters for two nights in -26 degree weather. We all learned a GREAT deal that weekend and certainly walked away with a new appreciation for our nice (but short) summer! After we survived the camp, the Court of Honour decided we could take it up a notch and made plans for our March 2015 8km snowshoe expedition camp.

In May we participated in Jamboree On The Trail for the first time and chose the Ski Trails as the location... well we got to experience a 7.5km hike through a bog in the rain, but at least we had fun! It was great to have the Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts all out on the same trails though – great linking activity. We have committed to participate again in 2015, but we are planning to hike from Corduroy Brook to the trestle bridge in Bishop's Falls.

The beginning of June the Scouts planned and ran a weekend camp at Camp Nor'Wes for our Beaver Scouts. The Scouts planned and ran all the activities, they planned the menus, purchased the groceries, and cooked every meal, and basically ran the camp. It was an awesome experience and was really well received by the Beaver Scouters, and the parents who attended with their kids. They simply could not believe how great our Scouts were.

The Beaver Scouters requested that the Scouts run their 2015 family camp as well.

The end of June saw us say goodbye to our most senior members as they advanced to Venturer Scouts. Kind of fitting that there were only two Scouts advancing to Venturer Scouts to form our first Venturer Company in 20 years considering that back in June 2012 there were only two Cub Scouts who advanced to Scouts to plant the seeds for our now thriving Scout Troop. We also attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at the legion for the first time in many years.

Scouts meet bi-weekly through the summer, and our summer meetings focused on easy fun activities that take advantage of the nice summer weather. The Scouts also planned a big "ALS Ice Bucket Challenge" and raised over \$100 for ALS research. We ended the summer season with a 15km canoe and kayak expedition down the Exploits River. This was our first camp ever that we did not bring any tents whatsoever – all the youth slept in

shelters they built themselves. This was particularly impressive because the first night they had to build their shelters in the dark, and the second night it POURED overnight. Everyone was dry in the morning though! The camp finished with a challenging portage. September marked a new Scouting year and we got things started with a series of meetings involving team based challenges to help the new Scouts get to know everyone and help the youth naturally form into patrols (small groups). In Scouts the youth determine their own patrols and elect their own leaders. Once our patrols were formed we immediately put them to the test with a camp at the old Aspen Brook Provincial Park. We hosted the Cub Scouts for a full day at camp as well to teach them about camping and to play some wide games with the Scouts.

Once our youth leadership team was elected the youth got together to build our program plan. This is the first year that we have been able to run a 100% youth planned program. Every single event on our calendar was put there by the Court of Honour after discussion with their patrol members. This is a huge step towards a truly youth led section. We had eight youth participate in the Provincial Youth Leadership Camp at Camp Nor'Wes. This is an intense leadership training camp for youth who show real leadership potential. The camp is run by Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts – so truly youth teaching youth to lead. Very cool experience! It rained 100mm in under 48hrs that weekend, so we also learned a lot about camping through a monsoon... we managed to light two cooking fires in the POURING rain though, and the youth even managed to set up their tents in the pouring rain without getting a drop inside them. Yes, our Scouts are that good!

November we had a very strong showing at the Remembrance Day parade and also had a contingent of youth represent Scouts Canada in Bishop's Falls. We also assisted the Legion in their poppy campaign (in fact Scouting played a more substantial role than Cadets did) and attended the Legion ecumenical service. We spent a meeting playing "unfair games" in which the Scouts experienced racial discrimination first hand through a series of exercises. The kids really handled this difficult topic well and had an excellent discussion afterwards. November ended with a Christmas Camp at Camp Nor'Wes. The highlight of the camp was the most complex challenge we have ever set up. We had the Scouts participate in a series of puzzles, orienteering challenges, mapping and trailcraft to earn caches of "money" which they later had to use in a food auction to create a healthy supper for their patrols (with ingredients that they were not necessarily familiar with).

While the Scouts went off to cook and enjoy their meals unsupervised, the Scouters sat down to a traditional Christmas dinner. It was a great camp, and one we will be doing every year.

December was a short Scouting month for us, but the highlight was definitely mummering at the Carmelite Home. The youth decided that they wanted to visit the Carmelite Home, so they planned mummering and a formal campfire. The residents really seemed to appreciate it. What impressed me most is that several Scouts asked afterwards if they could plan another visit! We really have some great kids in our program. Our last event of 2014 was running a movie night for our younger sections.

The Scouts also donated money from their patrol funds to support the SPCA, Make a Wish Foundation, CNIB, and United Church of Canada's Mission Services. Over \$200 was donated in total.

I didn't mention all the fundraising we've been up to because I wanted you to first appreciate how full our year was. In 2014 our Scouts spent 14 nights at camp in seven

separate camping adventures covering all four seasons – this is a huge accomplishment and goes to show the dedication of our youth and volunteers. Through all that, we still managed to fundraise over \$65,000 for our trip to Europe – and also plan the trip! We cleaned up Salmonfest in less than 24 hours thanks to 50+ hardworking volunteers, we participated in several clean-ups both at the church and across town, and have been there to support our community whenever and wherever we have been needed. Scouting is alive and well in Grand Falls-Windsor! 2014 was a great year, but you'll see even greater things from us in 2015! Thanks again for your continued support.

### *Venturer Scout Report*

We have 2 full time leaders and 3 Youth in our Venturer Company. Since establishment the Venturers have accomplished quite a lot in their short time so far.

They established their by-laws and Code of Conduct and took on roles such as President, Vice President and Treasurer. They have participated along side the Scouts in fundraising activities like Popcorn, Veggie, and Recycling events.

Late last September they planned their first camp together and even helped run the program for Cubs and Scouts participating in that camp. They slept in tarp shelters well off the beaten path and enjoyed a campfire where they were able to discuss their spirituality and their futures together.

Since then they attended the "MOPS" leadership camp where they were able to meet with Venturers from across the island and make new connections and build new friendships.

The Venturers coordinated the construction of the Scout Christmas Parade float.

Then our youth attended the Scouts' "Christmas Camp" and learned about locks and security along with knots and lashings. They even built the largest pioneering structure in recent memory.

They recently attended a 1st aid camp where they learned critical skills for assisting in emergencies.

Between camps they've been active youth leaders helping to run the Cub program. They also use meeting time to both teach and learn new things like: what local plants are edible, firework safety, advanced knots, emergency scene assessment, and night time navigation.

In the coming months they will be going on a winter expedition that involves hiking their gear along a 7km trail in snowshoes. They will be preparing for the Provincial Jamboree at Camp Nor' West, and of course they will be preparing themselves for one of the most exciting trips our program offers: The World War Memorial Tour to Europe and the Harlem Jamborette.

Along the way they have learned a great deal about finances and program planning. Much more will come in their future as their next projects involve learning vocational skills.

## **The Exploits Valley Branch of The Canadian Bible Society**

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to Memorial United Church for the privilege of serving as your representatives on the **Exploits Valley Branch of The Canadian Bible Society**.

Tremendous effort of many volunteers make this a most rewarding experience.

**The Exploits Valley Branch of The Canadian Bible Society** is made up of representatives from all the Churches in Grand Falls-Windsor and Bishop Falls. Our Branch continued in 2014 to successfully meet its mandate and mission to promote and encourage, without doctrinal note or comment, the distribution and use of scripture and related materials throughout the local region.

Our Branch continued to fundraise by receiving annual donations from our various Churches;

Having a special Sunday service focusing on the **Bible** and monies are collected through a special envelope distributed to each congregational member. (Memorial United Church held its **Bible Sunday** on March 9, 2014); Our best loved event , our **Annual Festival of Praise** is held in alternate Churches with each Church providing a Gospel selection. Our 2014 Festival of Praise was held at Holy Trinity Anglican Church on Tuesday, February 4, 2014. It was an honour to have The Rev. Dr. Lorne Freake, Director of Ministry Advancement, and Maritimes in attendance. The Exploits Valley Branch was very pleased to present \$5,000.00 to The Canadian Bible Society at this event.

We continued again this year to distribute New Testaments to infants at their Baptism. Thirteen **New Testaments** were presented at Memorial United Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cora Randell & Gloria Raines  
Memorial United Church Representatives

## Loon Bay Camping Centre

Loon Bay Camp has been making great strides since re-opening in 2011. Our registration has increased each year from sixty (60) youth in 2011 to one hundred eighty-four (184) in 2014. Our programming has improved remarkable and conditional accreditation by our National church was received this year.

We would like to sincerely thank you for all your past support, financial and otherwise, and to request that you again include Loon Bay Camping Centre in your 2015 budgets.

***This year, 2015, our expenses will exceed our 2014 expenses by some \$8000.***

***Consequently, extra support will be required.***

The Camp needs considerable upgrading and this is only possible if Congregations, Men's Groups, UCWs and individuals in our area do their part to help provide life changing experiences for our youth.

Please plan to support your youth camp and maybe copy this letter to other groups or individuals in your congregations who might help.

Donations may be forwarded to:

Phyllis Luff, Treasurer

Loon Bay Camping Centre Ltd.

P. O. Box 1623

Lewisporte, NL A0G 3A0

Sincere thanks,

John Elliott

Chair, Board of Directors