

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 2015

Annual Meeting - February 28, 2015

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Minister's Message 2015

Another year over and a new one begun! Warm greetings to all as we enter into 2016.

It has been a deep and profound privilege to minister with you, the congregation of Memorial United Church, through this last year and I am so excited to continue our relationship together as we enter into this next season. It has been a year of joy and renewal, of trial and sadness, and of change and uncertainty...all things which make life together worthwhile.

The last few months have found me reflecting on 1 Peter 5:10

And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, will restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.

Grace is defined as undeserved blessings. Things and times in life when we get so much more than we could ever hope to earn. Suffering is a part of the human experience, and the church is not exempt from that. This congregation, made up of human beings, has suffered throughout the years...and by the grace of God continues. Not only do you continue, but you continue to be the very best you can be – giving, loving, welcoming – thereby growing. We have once again seen growth in our Sunday School, growth in the size of our weekly congregation, growth in outreach ministries, and growth in relationship. We struggle with maintaining our physical space, but see the church building being used almost nonstop for both church and community events. Memorial United Church is gaining a reputation outside of our own walls and in the larger community for being a place of welcome and help and safety. And we feel the Spirit of God living and breathing into our own internal community, giving us both purpose (true discipleship) and the energy to live that purpose.

In our individual lives the Grace of God brings us through troubled times even when we feel so bogged down that we see no way out of the darkness. In the life of our church the Grace of God brings us together to help one another through the dark and brings us to confident knowledge that Love Wins. It does. It can be seen in each of you and in us as a family. Grace and Love define my experience of this congregation... keep up the great work. I can't wait to see where we go from here!

Blessings,

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 2015 another great year. We celebrated 25 years of the church building and we all came together to host the Newfoundland conference in the spring. This is my last year as Chair of the Official Board and I am thankful for the board members and staff who work tirelessly to help keep the church administration running smoothly. I again want to thank all the groups and individuals who work inside and outside of the church as volunteers. The church continues to work on its outreach initiatives and building is busy most days of the week with many groups utilizing our facilities. We would like to again remind everyone 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 .

We will be looking for volunteers to fill vacant board positions as well as a team to look at taking action on our new Guiding Principles. Please make sure to consider participating. Nothing can happen without volunteers! Thank you for all your support and the Official Board look forward to serving you in the future. I wish to formally welcome Dave Anthony as the Official Board Chair. Please do not hesitate to express any concerns or bring new ideas to the board. 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 meet the second Tuesday of every month from September to June unless otherwise deemed or 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. The current members of session are Rev. Waite (Minister) Ray Penney (clerk) Erica Nault (Sect) Rosaline Moulard (Sunday School Rep) Vince Christian, Megann Orendorff, Eileen Butt, Neil Rowe, Paulette White, Christine Jayne, Vera Shapleigh, Marilyn King, Zelliah Alyward, Peggy Saunders, Kathryn Howell, Ann Hull and Melanie Moore.

All requests for use of Sanctuary shall be directed in writing to session. The Sanctuary was thoughtfully and prayerfully built for worship and proclamation of the gospel. Any activity judged by the minister or session to be inconsistent with the belief, teachings and practice of the congregation will not be permitted in the sanctuary. We believe that God is truly worshipped in the 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 the Church.

Ray Penney (Clerk of Session)

Burials

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Loretta Franis Trask	Mar.7/2105
Ann Violet Bennett	Apr.9/2015
Marion Joyce King	May.17/2015
Jasper Lake	May.24/2015
Deborah Elizabeth(Walsh) Hiscock	June. 11/2015
Walter Wm. Critchley	June11/2015
Elizabeth Mary Louise Rendall	Aug. 2/2015
Roger James Lane	Aug.24/2015
Gary Moores MacDonald	Oct.5/2015
Raymond Vincent Rowsell	Oct.16/2015
William Graham Lacey	Oct.21/2015
Helen Martin	Oct.30/2015
Donald Gilbert Elson	Nov. 12/2015
Margaret Joan Bursey	Nov.20/2015
Ruby Gilbert	Dec. 28/2015

Marriages

Total: 5

Ministry and Personnel Committee

The Ministry and Personnel Committee's mandate 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 paid staff or staff and congregation members. In this light it is very important to remember to address any complaints in a signed written format to this committee.

The Committee is made up of the following members. Harry Parsons, Charlie Pittman, Merv Baker, and Marilyn King. All of these members have given a commitment to remain on this committee for as long as it takes to resolve some long term issues currently being worked on.

This committee has met on a regular basis as well as several informal meetings as we discuss ways and means to accomplish our tasks.

Marilyn King has decided to move on from this committee as she has completed her term. I and all committee members wish to thank Marilyn for her dedication and hard work. However the committee must have new members added for 2016.

Annual reviews will proceed in February as per our mandate.

Respectfully Submitted,
Harry Parsons, Chair

Annual Report 2015 – Property Committee

Annual Report 2015 – Property Committee

Church:

The two small rooms at the front of the building (the old nursery and a classroom) had the wall between them removed. The area was painted, the carpet was removed and new tiles were laid.

A wireless router was installed in the CE Centre to improve internet access in that area.

A corner cabinet was installed in the kitchen to make better use of that space. A stainless steel countertop has yet to be installed.

New wireless LED lights were installed over several pictures and the Memorial plaque in the sanctuary.

Small cosmetic jobs around the church are ongoing. These include: repairing/replacing floor tiles, repairing small gyproc cracks, small plaster and painting jobs.

Manse:

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

The Board of Trustees took on several improvements to the manse. These included removing old insulation in the attic and installing new blown-in insulation. As well, plans were made to install a propane fireplace. This work has yet to be completed.

Property chair
David Stoodley

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 Mouland & Ann Hull
Flowers	Shirley Cole
Church in Society	Louise Gillingham
Stewardship & Literature	Jean Cater
Membership	Shirley Down

This year the UCW had one new member bringing the total membership of the UCW to 79 with 90 adherent members. During our Christmas Dinner a Life Membership pin was presented to Cora Randall & The Act of Remembrance for three of our departed members—Betty Rendell, Helen Martin & Marg Bursey—was done by Eileen and Nina. The UCW continues to visit the sick and shut-ins, The Seniors Homes and The Carmelite House. This year 66 visits were done.

The UCW have expressed their sympathy throughout the year to members who have lost loved ones or have been ill by preparing food, sending cards, visiting and making donations in their memory to The Building Fund. The UCW was presented with a cross stitch of The Last Supper done by deceased member Betty Rendell.

UCW participated in:

- World Day of Prayer
- Seniors Home visits with Lay Readers
- Advent Vesper Service
- Ushering in June
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Decoration of Church for Thanksgiving and Christmas
- AGM in Loon Bay

- Fall retreat at West Haven
- CGIT 100th Anniversary
- Swedish Weaving classes

Social Functions:

- UCW AGM potluck
- Congregational Meeting potluck
- Sunday Coffee Time
- Anniversary Sunday
- Men's Social
- Seminar for Laypeople doing funerals
- Bring & buy

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 pop tabs for The Robert Hampson Tabs for Kids Fund
- Arranging, caring and purchasing The Sharing Magazine
- Ronald McDonald House
- CNIB White cane
- Orphans in Romania
- Sunday school M&S project and Bible time cooking class
- South & Central Radiothon
- Boy Scouts
- Radio Broadcasts

The UCW purchased items including a new microphone, and ice maker, passed over \$12,500 to the church as well as \$2,800.00 to the Men's Choir and provided cookies to The General Council Meeting in Corner Brook.

The Exercise classes have been a great success again this year. Monies collected were used to purchase items for Cara House.

The Social committee continued to do caterings upon request & hosted an Easter breakfast. This year they took on the task of hosting the United Church Conference for over 300 members.

Our program Committee were busy again this year preparing events for The General Meetings. This year there was a great speaker from the town of GFW on the curbside recycling program, and a presentation by The Boy scouts on their trip to Europe.

UCW members knitted 103 scarves for The Special Olympics in Corner Brook in 2016 & donated hats & mitts for the homeless.

In November the UCW had their annual Fall Sale with members continuing to make fudge, puddings, fishcakes, home made goods and knitted items.

Breakfast with Santa was a tremendous success again this year.

Our Church in Society convenor helped a single father with five boys & purchased a refrigerator for a local man battling cancer.

The United Church Women under the leadership of Eileen Butt and her executive have had another rewarding year thanks to all of the outstanding help from everyone.

Recording Secretary
Loretta Osmond

Sunday School Report 2015

We had another successful year in Sunday School. Two new parents, Jennifer Blackwood and Leanne Hancock joined in to teach in the nursery. We had six youths and twelve adults taking turns teaching or helping all year.

Last February Mrs. Sheppard's group organized their 5th annual cupcake sale to raise money for Gifts with Vision. The children enjoyed this project and raised \$522. In May, this same class organized a Café after church on Mother's day and this time raised \$870. Over the past 5 years, Mrs. Sheppard's class has raised just over \$4,500 for their causes. We would like to thank the congregation for their continued support.

Last March, Julie Ferraro and I offered a 5 week "Bible Time" cooking class for the grades 7 and up. Ten girls participated on Saturdays and, at the end of the sessions, they organized and prepared a supper for their families and guests. They served 36 people a meal of lamb, latkes, naan bread and poppy seed cake, amongst other things. Proceeds from the meal were donated to the Nepal earthquake relief fund.

Sunday School closed for the summer on June 7th with games, crafts and a lunch. Everyone had a great time.

During the week of August 10th to 14th, our church sponsored a second Vacation Bible School (VBS) called "Wilderness Escape". A government grant was received to hire a university student to run the program. Kristen Milley was hired and with the help of youth & adult volunteers, ran a very successful VBS which attracted 26 children. Sunday School reopened on September 20th with 30 children registering. Everyone had fun working on a craft and creating the Sunday School Bulletin Board in the C.E. Center. Thanks to Julie Ferraro for looking after registration Sunday in my absence. The numbers have been growing since September and we are up to 46 registered not including the youth.

For the past 3 years, our youth girls have been great leaders/teachers for our Sunday School program. Last fall they have researched and developed their own unique curriculum based on rotational models where they are retelling a bible story in various ways. So far they have taught the Creation Story, Adam and Eve and Noah's Ark using videos, games, crafts, puppets, songs and food. Thank you for your hard work! The children are also taking part in the scripture readings during the service. They are doing an amazing job while building self-confidence.

During the season of Advent the children were excited to learn the story around the birth of Jesus. The Sunday School took part in the Hanging of the Greens Service on November 29th. The White Gift Service took place on December 13th and the children and youth presented a play called "Bethlehem!...Nothing Ever Happens Here". In preparation for this service, we had a "Sewing Saturday" where ten of our youth girls

were teamed up with ladies from our congregation and together sewed costumes that were used for the play.

In closing, I would like to thank the parents and the ladies from our congregation who are leading or helping the youth in the classrooms. You are ALL so important in making our Sunday School as successful as it is. I would like to express a special thank you to Debbie Sheppard for her dedication over the past 10 years, and also to Megann Orendoff who is leading the children in music and songs every Sunday as part of Sunday School. All in all, the Sunday School is doing well and maintaining an attendance of at least 20 children each Sunday.

Sincerely,
Roseline Mouland
Sunday School Superintendent

Memorial United Church Men's Choir

Report for 2015

Our Men's Choir was very active again this year. The weekly practices were under the direction of Glenn Mouland and accompanist Wally Robinson. Choir Membership has been dropping in numbers but not in enthusiasm. We have 15 - 20 members at our practices and we can always count on full support when asked to assist at a funeral service or any Choir Project. We all appreciate the dedication of our leaders and choir members and new members are always welcome.

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

The Kiwanis Music Festival and assisted with services at the seniors' homes. We entered a team in the Cancer Relay for Life again this year. 2015 was the 13th consecutive year that our Men's Choir has entered a team in this event. We have raised more than \$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. The total raised by our team was \$12, 962.25. That amount gave the team GOLD status. Four members of the team Dave Anthony, Howard Barnes, Neil Rowe and Dave Stoodley were recognized as "Grand Fundraisers". We recognize Dave Anthony and Dave Stoodley for their team leadership. 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 2016.

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

In 2015 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.(Takeout) Baked Beans, Bologna , Toutons and Molasses Buns.
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. After the meal we were entertained by Rev. Royden Reynolds (a wonderful story teller) It was a fun evening and enjoyed by all.

We would like to thank the congregation for their continued support and the men of our congregation who assisted the Choir with their projects.

Submitted by

The Men's Choir Committee

BALANCE SHEET
MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH MEN'S CHOIR
JANUARY 1/15 - DECEMBER 31/15

Balance Forwarded From 2014.....\$2514.17

Revenue For 2015

Projects	3379.00	(LumberJack Special/Relay For Life Fund Raiser/Kitchen party)	
Catering	4048.00	(UCW Christmas Social/ United Church Conference)	
Socials	650.00	(Tickets sold for year end social)	
Donations	<u>100.00</u>	(Funeral)	
	\$8177.00		
			+<u>\$8177.00</u>
			\$10691.17

Expenditure For 2015

Bank Fees	30.00	(BMO)	
Projects	754.61	(LumberJack Special/Relay For Life Fund Raiser)	
Donations/Sponsors	5570.00	(4 th Grand Falls Scouts Canada/Relay For Life Team/Memorial United Church/Canadian Diabetes Assoc)	
Socials	1529.12	(Year End Social at ODD Fellows Club/Gifts/Cards/Plaque)	
Catering	<u>656.99</u>	(UCW Christmas Social)	
	\$8540.72		
			- \$8540.72

YEAR END BALANCE FOR DECEMBER 31, 2015	<hr/>	\$2150.45
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Men's Choir Committee

E. M. Osmond
Treasurer

4th Grand Falls Scouts

Our Scout program for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers, continues to offer exciting experiences to both male and female youth in our community. One of the goals of the program is to allow youth to develop their leadership skills by planning and running their own program overseen by a group of very dedicated leaders.

Our Beaver Scout Colony is divided into 2 groups which meet in the C.E. Center on Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 6 -7 pm. Currently we have 7 adult leaders and 3 youth leaders with a membership of 36 youth.

The Beaver Scout Program is a youth led adventure based program whereby the youth decide what type of adventures they will have. Generally there are 4 adventures per year. Our first adventure was Aboriginal Awareness. The highlight of this adventure was when we had 2 Mi'Ma, one an elder, visit us to explain their culture. We just clued up our second adventure "Space". During this adventures the Beaver Scouts became astronauts . They learned about our solar system, the planets, constellations, how to make a ship to take them into outer space and received astronaut training.

Other events that we have taken part in include the Remembrance Day Ceremony, the Lions Club Santa Claus Parade. Upcoming events include a builder adventure, the Beaver Scout Sleepover and a year end Family Camp.

The Cubs have 36 youth registered this year. We have 10 adult volunteers and 2 youth volunteers. Highlights for the 2015-16 year include taking 18 cubs to a provincial jamboree for 4 days in July of 2015. The youth joined over 1500 cubs scouts and ventures at camp Nor'Wes to "Rock the jungle". A great provincial program was planned and youth canoed, camped in tents, and shot air powered bottle rockets on the beach.

In September our cub pack grew from 30 in 2014-15 to 36. We added 4 new scouters and have pushed the Canadian path youth leadership model. Cubs had their regular weekly meetings and popcorn themed fall. We created a Kub Kar themed Christmas parade float. The cub leadership team have set up the next winter camp for this month. They held an automotive adventure in January with kub kar building. They are designing wooden box cars, and a car safety air bag demonstration is coming up. A yeti hunt is planned for March which will focus on orienteering and wilderness survival. The cubs loved an artistic impression night where we had local arts from different arts and backgrounds. Being exposed to 5 different forms of art in one evening was inspiring. We had a Halloween themed campfire with ghost stories and co-hosted with the local youth center and shared hot chocolate and roasted fire treats. We had a chemistry demonstration at the local college - a night with lots of fun that ended by having cubs make their own colored chemical slime.

Our Scout Troop has grown to 28 members and 12 adult volunteers. Most of last year revolved around our trip to Europe. We took 21 youth and 8 adults on the adventure of a lifetime through France, Belgium and the Netherlands to celebrate the incredible bravery of Newfoundlanders and Canadians in the first and second world wars. Everyone who attended the trip came back forever changed. We always like to say the best is yet to come, but that trip will likely be the highlight of all of our Scouting experiences. In addition to the battlefields experience we spent ten glorious days at the Haarlem Jamborette in the Netherlands. The Jamboree experience was so incredible that we booked our spot for 2019 before even leaving camp. We will be back!

Europe was not the only major achievement, as leading up to the trip, we had some pretty incredible expedition camps including our 14 km snowshoe hike to Camp Nor'Wes (and getting snowed in), our 18 km, nearly disastrous, expedition on Green Gardens in Gros Morne, and our 18+km Outport Expedition in Terra Nova. Both Green Gardens and the Outport Expeditions were ENTIRELY youth planned and youth run - our first.

After Europe, our focus has been completing our transition to the new Canadian Path. We have given our youth Troop Leader a great deal more responsibility and control and have engaged the youth in actively planning and running most meetings. There are days now that the adults just stand back and try to stay out of their way! Our biggest Post-Europe accomplishment so far has been ACTUALLY learning how to tie knots and complete some pretty impressive pioneering projects. It may have taken us three years, but we can finally tie a knot!

Our Venturer program currently has 2 full time dedicated Leaders and 4 Youth. Highlights for this year for our Venturers include delivering Christmas cards to the elderly at a personal care home, hiking Alexander Murray trail (8 km of hiking), planning and leading the FAST leadership camp and enjoying several Astronomy nights of looking through telescopes and learning about the stars, planets, and our galaxy.

Upcoming events/activities include providing support at beaver sleepovers, providing program and support at Cub camp, participating in Scout Guide week and Wake-a-thon, advanced Winter Trekking training, some personal passion pursuits in technology, a Winter Camp and an Orienteering challenge.

Financial Statements

See attachment.