

First United Church Mount Pearl



Annual Report 2017

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Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
First United Church
March 19, 2017

The meeting opened with a short worship led by Rev. Scott Parsons, Pastoral Oversight Chairperson.

Rev. Scott called for nominations for a Chairperson and a Secretary. Wayne Rideout was elected chairperson and Joan Winsor was elected secretary.

There were 40 people in attendance

Wayne opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and for Rev. Scott for stepping in as our Pastoral Oversight Minister in Rev. Ian's absence.

Proposed Agenda - It was moved by Gary Gosse and seconded by Tony Tuck that the proposed agenda be adopted. **Motion carried**

The minutes of the Congregational Meeting of March 13, 2016 - It was moved by Nelson Bailey and seconded by Heather Sinyard that the minutes of the congregational meeting of March 13, 2016 be adopted. **Motion carried**

Committee Reports: The following reports were received for information purposes:

Chairperson of the Board- Joan Winsor
Property Committee - Nelson Bailey
Worship Committee - Joan Winsor
Christian Development - Kelly Tuck
Sunday School - Kelly Tuck
Book Club - Pam Morgan
Quilting Group - Pam Morgan
Youth Group - Kelly Tuck
Outreach Reach & Social Action - Susan Vardy
Bridges to Hope - Kelly Tuck
Ministry & Personnel - Brenda Andrews
Board of Trustees - Gordon Morgan
Men's Club - Harold Sinyard
UCW- Heather Sinyard

General Protestant Cemetery - Calvin Gibbons

Comments on Reports:

Thank You - Joan Winsor thanked everyone that has helped out doing services in Rev. Ian's absence.

Motion - It was moved by Jean Fry and seconded by Sid Butt that the committee reports be accepted. **Motion carried**

Statistics for 2016: Rev. Scott read the names of the 21 members for whom funerals were conducted. A moment of silence was held for the deceased members.

Stewardship Report: Glenys Harris presented the stewardship report. Wayne Rideout thanked the committee for their tremendous efforts to meet our obligations for this past year. Also Wayne thanked all the groups for their fundraising and to all the members who supported the different groups. All bills were paid at the end of the year.

The Stewardship Report was moved by Nelson Bailey and seconded by Sid Butt.
Motion carried

Budget for 2017 was presented

Election to the Board of Management:

New Members standing for election: Madeline Rideout, Bill Lake, Michelle Marsh and Harold Sinyard. It was moved by Gordon Morgan and seconded by Heather Sinyard that these four members would be elected to the board for a three-year term. **Motion carried.**

Wayne thanked Gordon Morgan and Kathleen Taylor for serving on the board for the last three years.

East Districts Reps: Cynthia Burt, Janice Andrews-Ralph and Gordon Morgan will be our reps to East District. We have to look for two more.

New Business:

Byron Button asked what are the plans for after April 30th. Joan reported that we hope that Rev. Ian will be well enough to return to work then.

Closing Comments:

Wayne Rideout thanked Joan Winsor, Glenys Harris and Brenda Andrews for their tremendous work that they have put in at the church since Rev. Ian has been off. We have one of the strongest congregations around. Thank you to everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm with a benediction by Rev. Scott.

Respectfully Submitted

Confirmed

Joan Winsor
Secretary

Wayne Rideout
Chairperson

Minutes
Special Congregational Meeting
First United Church
November 5, 2017

Chairperson Wayne Rideout thanked all members for staying for a short meeting.

There were 64 people in attendance.

Wayne explained that at the congregational meeting next Spring we have seven board members that have term served their five-year term and one member that has served his three-year term. So we will be looking for eight new members, which we feel will be impossible to fill. The United Church Manuel says that a pastoral charge is responsible for the length of years that a person can serve.

Motion: The following motion was moved by Gary Gosse and seconded by Ralph Hiscock. " I would like to make a motion to make an exception to paragraph E of the official constitution of First United Church to allow board members to serve an additional two years for a total maximum term of seven years".

Question/ Comments on the motion;

Gordon Morgan - When you extend a board you have the same people all the time.

Eric Eveleigh - We need new blood on the board.

Wayne Rideout - We cannot get members to serve and this is why we are in this situation.

Gordon Morgan - Do you mean that is added to the constitution or one time only?
Wayne replied one time only.

There being no more questions or comments the motion was put to a vote. **Motion carried.**

Rev. Ian closed the meeting at 12:25 with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted

Confirmed

Joan Winsor
Secretary

Wayne Rideout
Chairperson

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CONFERENCE
EAST DISTRICT SPRING MEETING
May 27, 2017 at Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium, Grand Falls-Windsor, NL

Gathering with Music

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Led by Mary Bartlett Smith and Marilyn Rees.

Welcome

WELCOME

The Vice-Chair, Brian Colbourne, welcomed everyone to the court.

Constitution of the Court

CONSTITUTION OF THE COURT

Brian Colbourne, Vice-Chair, constituted the Court.

By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the church and by the authority granted to me by East District, I now declare this meeting of East District open for all business that shall properly come before it.

Quorum

QUORUM

The Vice-Chair noted that a quorum was present.

Introductions

INTRODUCTIONS

The presence of Sarah Harrington, General Council Office representative, was acknowledged.

Regrets

REGRETS

Abbott, Vera, Retired; Adams, John, St. John's-George Street United PC; Baker, Ruth, St. John's-St. James United PC; Barbour, Stephen, Bay Roberts-Shearstown PC; Bowby, Miriam, St. John's-Cochrane Street United PC; Burt, Cynthia, Mount Pearl-First United PC; Coish, William, Retired; Crewe, Lewis, Retired; Daireaux, Michelle, Bay Roberts-Shearstown PC; Dawe, Betty, Brigus-Cupids-Georgetown PC; Dicks, Lawrence, Coley's Point-Grace United PC; Evans, Eileen, Grand Bank PC; Green, Essie, Heart's Content PC; Green, Rose, Grand Bank PC; Hann, Donna, Britannia PC; Hender, Claude, Topsail PC; Hodder, Morley, Retired; Locke, Doreen, Port Blandford PC; March-MacCuish, Ian, Mount Pearl-First United PC; March, Rick, Grand Bank PC; Matthews, Beverly, Retained, Matthews, Guy, St. John's-Gower United PC; Matthews, Stephen, Retained; Mojica-Fisher, Nancy, Harbour Grace PC; Morgan, Denine, St. John's-Cowan Heights United PC; Parsons, Scott, Retained; Paul, Ethel, Burin PC; Penney, Derrick, Retired; Pike, Ruby, Harbour Grace PC; Rodgers, Silas, Whitbourne PC; Sellars, Clarence, Retired, Small, Russell, Retired; Smart, Cherie, Summerville PC; Squires, Elsie, Retained; Tuck, Karen, St. John's-Gower Street United PC; Watts, Mildred, Grand Bank PC; White, Rosemary, St. John's-St. James United PC; Williams, William, Retired.

Opening Prayer

OPENING PRAYER

The Vice-Chair, Brian Colbourne, offered an opening prayer.

Enabling Motions

ENABLING MOTIONS

Fannie Hudson and Grant Stuckless presented the Enabling Motions:

1. That the agenda that has been circulated by mail be the agenda for this meeting of East District, subject to change as the Court deems necessary.
2. That the roll of East District be the list of Registered Delegates.
3. That the Delegates to Conference be the list of Registered Delegates for East District.
4. That the bounds of the District meeting be the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium and Memorial United Church, Grand Falls-Windsor, NL.

5. That corresponding member status be given to representatives of General Council; representatives of United Church organizations; those who will need to speak to reports; interns of the District; and others who are in the candidature process; and visitors.
6. That the quorum be set as twenty (20) percent of the total membership of the District.
7. That the rules of debate for this meeting be the rules outlined in The United Church Manual and, if necessary, Bourinot's Rules of Order.
8. Proposals:
 - a) that the Proposals Committee for East District be: Jean Brown; Wilson Gonese and Faith March-MacCuish (staff), as appointed by the Nominations Committee;
 - b) that all proposals, including those that arise from discussion groups, be submitted to the Proposals Committee for presentation by the Committee;
 - c) that the deadline for Proposals Committee to receive proposals be 4:00pm on Saturday, May 27, 2017; and
 - d) proposals that are received after the deadline will be dealt with at the next meeting of East District Executive.
9. That the Business Table of East District be Fannie Hudson, Grant Stuckless and Amanda Barnes, as named by the Program and Agenda Committee.
10. That any business unfinished at the rise of District be referred to the District Executive with power to act.
11. That any elections held during this meeting be by majority ballot.
12. That the Table Group facilitators for this meeting of District be as selected by the Table Group members.
13. That the following shall be the duty people for this session of East District: Emma O'Rourke, Beulah Hayley and Danny Button, as named by the Program and Agenda Committee.
14. That duty persons be responsible for distribution of reports or other handouts; collection of table group responses; distribution, collection, tabulation and reporting the results of all ballots.
15. That the Chaplains for this weekend be Linda Pike and Gneid Walsh.
16. That the nurse for this meeting be Fannie Hudson.

MOTION: (Grant Stuckless/Fannie Hudson)

That the enabling motions be adopted.

CARRIED

MINUTES

Minutes

MOTION: (Bob Bennett/Danny Button)

That the minutes of the Spring East District meeting of June 3, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED

CONSENT MOTIONS

Consent Motions

MOTION: (Marilyn Rees/Bill Bartlett)

That the East District receive for information the following accountability reports in the docket: Finance and Administration (E1); Christian Development (E2); Stewardship (E3); Ministry Personnel and Education (E4); and Pastoral Oversight (E5).

CARRIED

Nominations

NOMINATIONS

Joan Brinston, Chair, presented the Nominations report from the docket (E6-E9). She outlined vacancies and informed those present that Expression of Interest Forms are available to those who wish submit a form to fill a vacancy. The following positions have been filled: Lisa Potter, Chair, Susan Sheppard, member Division of Christian Development; Max Hussey, Secretary, Pastoral Relations-Avalon, Jack Badcock and Sylvia Trickett, members, Pastoral Relations-Avalon; and Wilson Gonese, member, Proposals Committee.

MOTION: (Joan Brinston/Lynda Goy-Flint)

That the Nominations report be adopted.

CARRIED

GC43
Commissioners

GENERAL COUNCIL 43 COMMISSIONERS

Heather Sandford and Jean Brown presented information regarding election of General Council 43 (GC43) Commissioners. It was noted that Jean Brown is the East District Lay Representative for 2015-2021. In addition, two (2) Youth Commissioners (up to age 18 (eighteen)) per District. The youth commissioners will be determined by the Christian Development Committee in the fall. Six (6) commissioners will be elected for each District; a total of three (3) Order of Ministry and three (3) Lay.

As part of the process, we will name three (3) Order of Ministry or DLM plus alternates and three (3) Lay plus alternates. It was agreed that each person nominated would have two (2) minutes to address the court. If a person is not present to speak on their own behalf, the person nominating them will speak.

MOTION: (Karen Bursley/Lynda Goy-Flint)

That all six (6) names are to be listed on the screen, people will be asked to pick three (3) names with those receiving the highest number of votes to be elected Lay Commissioners, with the remaining three (3) names to be named alternates.

CARRIED

The following were nominated to be Lay Commissioners:

MOTION: (Glenn Jarvis/Marion Davis)

That JoAnna Bennett be nominated.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Wilson Gonese/Wayne Blackwood)

That Danny Button be nominated.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Bob Bennett/Wayne Blackwood)

That Doreen Cave be nominated.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Bill Bartlett/Shane Foote)

That Hannah Sheppard be nominated.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Jim Evans/Susan Sheppard)

That Katie Vardy be nominated.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Cecil Noseworthy/Max Hussey)

That Roy West be nominated.

CARRIED

The following Lay Commissioners were elected from East District to GC43:

Lay
Commissioners

Commissioners: Hannah Sheppard, Danny Button, Roy West.

Alternates: Katie Vardy, Doreen Cave, Joanna Bennett.

The following were nominated to be Order of Ministry commissioners:

MOTION: (Jim Evans/Karen Thorne)

That Stephen Barbour be nominated.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Jean Brown/Wayne Blackwood)

That Miriam Bowlby be nominated.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Bob Bennett/Bill Bartlett)

That Karen Bursey be nominated.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Doreen Cave/Bob Bennett)

That Gordon Flint be nominated.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Doreen Barbour/Wilson Gonese)

That Lynda Goy-Flint be nominated.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Brenda Andrews/Joan Brinston)

That Susan Sheppard be nominated.

CARRIED

The following persons declined nomination: Grant Stuckless, Wilson Gonese, and Brian Colbourne.

The following Commissioners from the Order of Ministry were elected from East District to GC43:

Order of Ministry
Commissioners

Commissioners: Lynda Goy-Flint, Miriam Bowlby, Gordon Flint.

Alternates: Karen Bursey, Stephen Barbour, Susan Sheppard.

MOTION: (Gordon Flint/Bill Bartlett)

That the ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

Dissolution of Districts**DISSOLUTION OF DISTRICTS****MOTION:** (Gordon Flint/Wilson Gonese)

That East District accepts the recommendations of the Task Group for the Dissolution of Districts to dissolve District as per Appendix B Recommendations R1-58 and Appendix A Implementation Plan, and work from the District will be transferred to Conference, with permission.

CARRIED

Remits**REMITs**

The Conference Personnel Minister, Heather Sandford, presented the remits and responded to questions for clarification. It was noted that "Abstain" votes are "No" votes.

Remit 1 – Three-Court Model

Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree that:

- a) the United Church be re-organized into the three-council model approved by the 42nd General Council 2015; and that
- b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change?

Results: **YES 77** (seventy seven) **NO 2** (two) **ABSTAIN 0**

Remit 2 – Elimination of Transfer and Settlement

Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree that:

- a) the processes of transfer and settlement for members of the order of ministry within the United Church be eliminated, including the elimination of the General Council Transfer Committee; and that
- b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change?

Results: **YES 81** (eighty one) **NO 1** (one) **ABSTAIN 1** (one)

Remit 3 – Office of Vocation

Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree that:

- a) a denominational office of vocation be established in the structure of the United Church, with responsibilities and structure as approved by the 42nd General Council 2015; and that
- b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change?

Results: **YES 75** (seventy five) **NO 5** (five) **ABSTAIN 1** (one)

Remit 4 – Funding a New Model

Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree to a new funding model for the United Church with the budgeting process guided by the following principles?

- 1) use Mission and Service to fund ministry and mission activities;
- 2) fund governance and support services of other courts/councils by assessing communities of faith/pastoral charges;
- 3) share assessments equitably across the whole church;
- 4) permit Conferences/presbyteries/regional councils to use additional resources for regional purposes; and
- 5) encourage sharing of all resources across the church.

Results: **YES 78** (seventy eight) **NO 2** (two) **ABSTAIN 2** (two)

MOTION: (Gordon Flint/Patricia West)

That Remit 6 vote take place by secret ballot.

CARRIED

Remit 6 – One Order of Ministry

Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree that there should be one new order of ministry encompassing the present categories of recognized designated lay ministers, diaconal ministers, and ordained ministers, with ordination to the ministry of word, sacrament, education, service and pastoral care as the single rite of entry, and with provision for the continued identity of the diakonia within the ordained ministry?

Results: **YES** 34 (thirty four) **NO** 46 (forty six) **ABSTAIN** 4 (four).

DEFEATED

MOTION: (Gordon Flint/Danny Button)

That the ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Finance and Administration

Roy West, Chair, presented the Division of Finance and Administration report.

MOTION: (Roy West/Doreen Barbour)

Budget 2018

That East District approve the 2018 budget as found on page C4 of the docket.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Roy West/Gordon Flint)

That the Division of Finance and Administration report be adopted.

CARRIED

COURTESIES

Courtesies

Grant Stuckless, Conference Program and Agenda Chair, offered courtesies.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

Having completed all business, the Vice-Chair, Brian Colbourne, adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm.

BENEDICTION

Benediction

Brian Colbourne closed the meeting with prayer.

Brian Colbourne
Vice-Chair

Florence Sanna
Recording Secretary

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge, Annual Report 2017
From Desk of Reverend Ian March-MacGuish

The year 2017 will always be a significant memory for me. My family and I were embraced by the loving congregation of First United. Being in ministry I have experienced what it is to reach out to people or families in their time of need to insure they feel supported by their church family. Last year the First United family reached out to me and my family through prayer, cards, food, visits, telephone calls, social media, and more prayers. God is good. During my sick leave the congregation didn't just manage but flourished with many people stepping up to take on larger roles and some volunteering for the first time. Deadlines were met, meetings happened, and the ministry continued. The worship life of the church never missed a beat. Leadership and preaching was powerful and compassionate. Special thanks to the Board and all the committees whose presence enabled me take the time off that I needed. I have said in past annual reports that what you read is merely a snapshot of the work involved. I realize in new ways just how true that is. The Board has worked their way through a difficult year and these pages reflect only a small portion of that work and faith. For the giving of yourselves to the work of your church, and for your journey of faith. Thank you.

As I write this we find ourselves in the season of Lent. Traditionally people in the northern hemisphere have believed that the word "lent" comes from the same root as "length" and that it refers to the lengthening of the days at this time of year. Recently it has been suggested that the word comes from the Latin word *lentare* which means "to bend." With that connection, Lent can be seen as a time of transformation or bending – of turning toward a new way of being. Over the past year we have allowed ourselves to be transformed through the story of all the people and groups reflected in this report. Our worship services have been uplifting, our programs have been enriching, our fellowship has been engaging, our outreach has been extraordinary, our ministry has been transformative. Another major theme during Lent is that of "covenant." We explore how Jesus became an embodiment of this new covenant. We see how Jesus' covenant relationship with God was such an integral part of his life that it was "second nature" and "written on his heart." Jesus faithfully lived out the covenant in a way that Jeremiah could only dream was possible. This faithfulness led Jesus into a confrontation with the institutional powers and authorities of his day and, through his death and resurrection, opened the way to a new covenant relationship for all humanity. Through our work and witness we have opened ourselves to be in covenant relationship with God, and we will continually be loved and transformed. God is good! All the time!



Annual Report
Board of Management

As most of you are aware 2017 had its ups and downs. In January Rev. Ian went off on sick leave and returned to us in June. We are very thankful that he is back and was missed alot. Also, a very big thank you to all the people that helped in doing a Sunday morning service. In Rev Ian's absence Rev Scott Parsons was assigned as our Pastoral Oversight Supervisor Rev. Scott attended our board meeting and was there for support when we needed him.

Rev. Ian and Rev. Scott provided spiritual guidance over this past year to our congregation, through services, visits to different families, sickness and in times of need.

Music at First is #1. With Peter and Melissa directing our choirs we have a very special music program here at First. Thank you.

Thank you to all who have given of their time to provide leadership to the various groups within our church. We are thankful for your dedication and hard work.

At the end of the year we will be losing some board members, which I would like to thank them for their dedication and service. I also look forward to having new board members.

Thank you to Angie Chaytor and Christina Manning as office administrators this past year. Also, thank you to everyone that filled in, answering the phones in the office while we were without a secretary. A very big thank you to the congregation for all their support over the year. Thank you to Rev Ian for his support and guidance. Glad you are back!!!!

Joan Winsor
Chair

**Property Committee
2017 Annual report**

The past year has been a very busy one for our property committee. Along with the regular maintenance of repainting, replacing bulbs and odd jobs we have completed many larger projects.

The parking lot lines were redone and the surrounding area cleaned up by members of the Men's Club.

New walls are being erected in the storage area to bring the electrical room up to code.

Chain Link fencing has been erected on the East side of the church in an attempt to keep trespassers off the roof.

Carpeting has been completed.

Security cameras have been installed covering many areas of the building both interior and exterior.

I would personally like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped the committee in any way over the past year. A special thanks to Kirk, for co-chairing committee and to members of the Men's Club who can always be relied on to help. There are too many helpers to be named individually, but THANK YOU for all you do. You know who you are.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Bailey
Co-chair
Property Committee

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

2017 Annual Report

Committee members: Melvina Moores, Rev. Ian, Peter MacDonald, Madeline Rideout. Co-op members: Gordon Morgan, Brenda Thistle.

The committee met to plan worship services for the year. We scheduled communion, special services and vacation coverage throughout the year. We also arranged to have the Men's Club conduct worship service during Conference weekend. The UCW and Youth Group led services during the Easter and Christmas seasons.

There were six communion services held throughout the year. Thank you to all who assisted during these services. We are encouraging individual families to assist in serving communion. If your family is interested in serving during the coming year, please contact the Worship Committee or the church.

Rev. Ian was off on sick leave for four months in 2017. A special thank you to all the volunteers who agreed to conduct Sunday services. Thank you to Joan Winsor for coordinating these services and arranging to have ministers to conduct baptisms and communion.

Thank you to Rev. Ian for his spiritual guidance during the year.

Thank you to the UCW for supplying the Baptismal Candles and to the Canadian Bible Society for gifting each baby with a bible.

Thank you to the usher teams for their dedication and efforts throughout the year.

We are blessed with a great music team of Peter MacDonald and Melissa Butt who lead the Senior, Youth and Children's choirs. Thank you for providing us with your uplifting music. Thank you, as well, to Peter Andrew MacDonald, Spencer Fitzgerald, Mitchell Tuck and Carl Burt for sharing their musical talents with the congregation and enhancing our church music program.

We have a new musical choir, Blended Voices, led by Sid Butt and Doreen Squires. Thank you for leading our evening Gospel Service in November.

Madeline Rideout
Chairperson

Christian Development Committee
Annual Report 2017

Committee Members:

Kelly Tuck (Co-Chair)
Tony Tuck (Co-Chair)
Rev. Ian March-MacCuish
Faith March-MacCuish
Janise Saunders
Cynthia Burt
Pam Morgan

Well another year has come and gone, we are so blessed to have such a busy, active Church family here at First United Church. The Christian Development Committee oversees such groups as Sunday School, Youth Group, Book Club, and the Quilting group. These groups and their members play such an important role in bringing people together in Christian fellowship in our church.

These groups meet weekly or monthly here at our church, and involve a lot of dedication from their leaders and members to run successfully. We are so grateful and blessed for the leaders of these groups, who take the time out of their busy lives to bring their leadership to make such a success here at our church.

Sunday School remains to be very active downstairs in Trinity Hall, as the children celebrate in being members of the congregation in their own way. The Youth Group had a busy and exciting year the past year with the Newfoundland/Ontario YMCA Youth Exchange.

The C.D. Committee hosted two Bar-B-Q's this past year. Both were held in Trinity Hall. One was in June to celebrate the end of the season and closing of some of the groups before Summer. The second was in September to celebrate the start up of all programs and to Welcome everyone back after a beautiful Summer. Both of these Bar-B-Q's were a great success with lots of food fun and fellowship. A huge Thank You to all those who helped with these events, even the smallest thing you do makes a big difference in its success. To all the members of our Congregation who take the time to come, without you things like this would not happen, Thank You. It is a wonderful thing to bring us all together in fellowship.

We would like to thank all the people who volunteer their time to the Christian development of our church. To the members of the CD Committee, as well as the leaders of groups, Sunday School teachers and helpers, Youth Groups leaders, Book Club and Quilting, and all the volunteers who make all these things possible a HUGE Thank You. Without you these things would not be possible.

There is always room for more people who want to join any of our groups in any form, membership or leadership. We welcome you.

Our Groups and Leaders:

Youth Group - Pam Morgan, Faith March-MacCuish, Tony Tuck, Jenny Noel, Kelly Tuck and Junior Leader Zachary Froude

Sunday School - Co-Superintendents Faith March-MacCuish, Susan Vardy, Kelly Tuck, Sunday School teachers, Tony Tuck- Kitchen Snack provider and Kitchen helpers, Ronald MacDonald for Music leadership, and the many parents who help throughout the year.

Book Club - Pam Morgan

Quilting Group - Pam Morgan

Foster Children's Fund - The Sunday School children continues to collect nickels for the Foster Children's Fund. Thank you to all those who donate.

To all people who give their time out of their busy lives to share their gifts of leadership to the Christianity of our church we are grateful. We as a Church here are First United are truly Blessed to have such active and dedicated people in our Congregation that contribute to the success of our community of faith. Thank You. It is a Pleasure to be a part of this Family.

"We Make a Living By What We Get, But We Make A Life By What We Give" Winston Churchill

Yours In Christian Development

Kelly & Tony Tuck

Sunday School Report 2017

Co-Superintendents:

Faith March-MacCuish

Susan Vardy

Kelly Tuck

Kitchen: Tony Tuck

Music: RONALDA MacDONALD

Well Sunday mornings downstairs in Trinity hall is a wonderful place to be. It's full of laughter, stories, fun and games, and so much more. Not to mention the cookies. We are blessed to have such an active Sunday School each and every Sunday, with a wonderful group of children.

The Sunday School took part in several Church services this past year. Some of those including: White Gift service, Palm Sunday Service, Christian Family Sunday. They love to take part in Worship Services, and often come looking for a part even before asked.

The number of children each Sunday is on par with the past couple of years. They take turns lighting our Christ candle, and taking up collection. We celebrate any Birthdays that may have occurred in the week, and listen to any stories that need to be shared.

We continue to collect nickels for our Foster Children's Fund each Sunday. We continue to have two Foster Children.

We also continue to collect Pop can tabs, in which the metal is recycled and made into wheelchairs for children. If anyone in our Congregation would like to donate nickels or pop can tabs just contact one of us or simply pass it to a child on the way downstairs. We will gladly accept your donation.

There is always music to sing, and snacks to eat. A big thank you goes out to RONALDA MacDONALD for her Ministry of Music, and to Tony Tuck and his kitchen helpers for being our snack providers.

To the parents and Volunteers who take the time out of their day to come down and help us make our Sunday School a success, Thank You so very much. We couldn't do it without you, even the smallest gesture makes a big difference.

We as a church are very lucky to have such wonderful, dedicated people in our community of Faith who make a difference with all they do. Thank You.

Our Children play such a vital role in the success of our church. We can learn so much from them, as they learn from us along their Faith Journey.

" Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future"

John F. Kennedy

Yours In Christian Development

Kelly Tuck

Faith March-MacCuish

Susan Vardy

First United Book Club

The Book Club had another successful year, adding a few new members and enjoying sharing our reading experiences. We meet monthly at the church, except during the summer months. As well, we go out to eat for a social time at Christmas and at year end, although there are also books on our list for discussion those months.

This year our reading renewed our acquaintance with a couple of authors, and travelled throughout, Europe and North America. We spent time with refugees, politicians, geniuses, families, and friends. We did some history, some current events, and some speculative. All in all, we had a great mix of books we might never have read on our own.

Below are our ten one-line book reviews for the past year:

- 2017-01-23 **Inside the O'Briens** by Lisa Genova
"Interesting and informative, as usual with this author"
- 2017-02-22 **Friendship Makes the Heart Grow Fonder** by Lisa Verge Higgins
"Friendship makes all the difference"
- 2017-03-29 **The Time Keeper** by Mitch Albom
"Like time itself, is slow at the beginning and speeds up"
- 2017-04-26 **Infidel** by Ayaan Ali
"An eye-opening, thought-provoking, worthwhile read"
- 2017-05-24 **A Fall of Marigolds** by Susan Meissner
"A tale of two tragedies bound with the resilience of marigolds"
- 2017-06-21 **The Letter** by Kathryn Hughes
"A tangled web of love and abuse, overcome by a mother's love for her child"
- 2017-09-27 **All the Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr
"A sad story that was strangely compelling"
- 2017-10-25 **Big Little Lies** by Liane Moriarty
"Humorous book full of big and little issues"
- 2017-11-29 **The Other Einstein** by Marie Benedict
"The Einsteins, brilliant but stupid; not a lick of common sense between them"
- 2017-12-18 **The Best Laid Plans** by Terry Fallis
"Some laugh out loud moments in a humorous political novel with an apolitical lead"

Submitted for the Book Club

Pamela Morgan

First United Quilting Group

Quilting group continued into the new year with an email list of 15 people, tight to fit into the room if everyone shows up. People worked on a variety of projects over the year, from quilts to table runners to bags. More experienced quilters also worked to assist our beginners with their projects. Show and tells are always a fun time, and we also enjoy consulting with one another on patterns and colours.

The group got an early start in the fall on the quilt for the Fall Fair, with everyone bring in a couple of blocks that they had made over the summer to go into the quilt. This year was a double-sized quilt, which again raised over \$300 for the church.

Having enjoyed it so much the first year, we again paused in our quilting during the last meeting before Christmas to hold a Christmas social and enjoy a variety of treats.

Submitted on behalf of the Quilting Group

Pamela Morgan

Youth Group Annual Report **SNAC -2018**

The youth group at First United Church known as SNAC-Sunday Night at Church (because that is where you will find us and you will also see us snacking among other things) has had another successful year.

We are very fortunate to have a group of dedicated leaders. Thank you to: Pamela Morgan, Kelly Tuck, Tony Tuck, Jenny Noel, Zachary Froude, Caitlyn Pardy, Faith March-MacCuish, and Rev. Ian March-MacCuish.

We began the year with an opening party, BBQ and Games night to help people get to know each other. The year got off to a great start, our youth group ranges in ages 12 years to 18 years, or grade 7 to grade 12. We actually have youth in each age category which makes for a wonderful program of Faith and Mentoring.

Outreach Programs

Can Project:

Our youth group is proud of its many outreach projects, again this year they included the "Together we Can" project initiated by the youth group in consultation with the Official Board. This project has been running for some years now and includes all the members of the Church and is a wonderful way to generate extra funds for both the Pastoral Charge and the Youth Group.

Prison Loot Bags:

Unfortunately, our chaplain was not in place over Christmas this year and, therefore, we did not provide the loot bags. We will be in touch with the new chaplain for the upcoming year, and, if this outreach is no longer required, we will be looking for another Outreach project for our youth to embrace.

Seniors Outreach:

This year again we baked cookies and made valentine cards for the seniors who live at Hillcrest Seniors Residence and Pearl house. We made 432 cookies so each person got three cookies and we just had to have a few for ourselves. We also created 130 homemade valentine cards and delivered them on Valentine's Day. The best part of the whole outreach program was having the young and the young at heart spend a small amount of time visiting together.

Congregational Outreach:

This year we provided our annual pumpkin carving night for the children and adults of the congregation, as well as our creative Trick or Trunk. This is always a fun time and the youth have lots of fun especially. We are so happy to have so many congregational members getting involved and decorating their trunks and giving our treats to our children. Well Done And Thank You!!!!!!

We once again hosted our annual Easter Breakfast. It provides an opportunity for our congregation to come for the early morning Communion Service and have breakfast together and then go to church again. The youth get up very early and even put off their Easter Egg hunt to later in the day, so they can provide this wonderful outreach to the congregation.

We as a group also took part in the Prayer Vigil. It is really amazing to see a bunch of young people sitting quietly in church in prayer and contemplation. We are very proud of our young people for being part of this ministry.

Decorating:

This year we again decorated Trinity Hall for Christmas and also took down the decoctions after Christmas and various celebrations.

Worship Services:

The youth group this year lead three worship services:
The Christmas Candlelight Vesper service;
The Palm Sunday Service with the Sunday School.

Faith Talks:

We have two nights each year when we invite in a guest speaker or we go to a program that helps to develop our faith.

YOUTH EXCHANGE

Wow, what a year we have had. As many of you know, we made an application to be part of a YMCA Youth Cultural Exchange and were accepted!!! So off we went into fundraising mode and planning.

The event began with a group of youth and their leaders coming to Mount Pearl in July to spend the week with us. While they were here, we were to showcase our province and that we did. Then we went to Ontario in October over Thanksgiving weekend. In Listowel , Ontario we were exposed to the rural Ontario with its rich farming culture. In each place we took part in outreach programs, the most important part of the trip was the lasting friendships and knowledge we gain about showing our culture and seeing another's.

We will be doing a presentation for the congregation so we can share the details of our experience.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all of the support and encouragement and financial help given to us from the members of the congregation, family, leaders and community.

Fun and Fellowship:

Our youth group provides a place for youth to come and feel comfortable, supported and safe. We play games, go bowling, watch movies, go sliding, go curling, have sleepovers and gym nights and just plan our nights enjoy being together.

Thank You:

Thank you to First United Church for all your support, to the UCW and Men's Clubs and Official Board who support us. A very special thank you to Rev. Ian for all your support. Thank you to the youth for being such a great group of young people, Thank you to the parents who help and support the youth and get them to the church and events we are hosting and for being a support to all we do!!

Outreach and Social Action Report February 2018

The Outreach and Social Action Committee was very active again this year keeping the congregation up to date on various activities of First United Church through our church communications, with our newsletters, the website (special thanks to Beulah Bouzane - BCI-Esolutions/Bouzane Consulting Inc.) and social media through Facebook and Constant Contact Email updates.

Bridges to Hope

- The first Sunday of each month is designated as Bridges to Hope Sunday at First United members of the congregation are invited to bring non perishable items. There are times throughout the year when extra help is needed to help stock the shelves and First United is always there to assist. Non-perishable food items are always needed and a collection bin is in the foyer of the church. Your continuous support is appreciated...thank you so much.
- At Easter and at Thanksgiving, we have “reverse offering” (special food drive) for Bridges to Hope.
- Newfoundland has the highest rate of per capita food bank usage in Canada. In 2014 the Bridges to Hope Food Pantry prepared hampers for over 8,800 people who needed food assistance and our clients come to us from every sector of society.
- No one is turned away. Clients access food assistance once a month and can receive a full food hamper or an emergency hamper. Loblaws discovered that Canadians have been over charged for packaged bread and have launched their \$25 gift card program for consumers. For those who are eligible, we invite you to pay it forward by donating your \$25 to Bridges. Bridges to Hope can use that \$25 toward groceries we need to purchase, and toward the homemade bread we bake for each and every hamper. #breadforbridges

White Gift – Sunday, December 3, 2017

The tradition of White Gift Sunday has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio in 1904. What began as a humble way to reflect on the love and devotion of the giver and not the value of the gift has grown into today's white gift services in many churches across several denominations. The story that is told is a minister's wife initiated the idea to solve the problem of inequity of gifts given at the Sunday school Christmas party. Instead of focusing on receiving gifts, the focus shifted to bringing gifts to Jesus that could in turn be shared with people around the world who did not have much. All the gifts would come wrapped in plain white paper, so that no one would know which was an expensive gift and which was a more modest one. No one would feel ashamed of their gift and everyone would share in the joy of giving to others. Today, in churches that observe White Gift Sunday, the service usually takes the form of a drama which

depicts some aspect of the Christmas story. In keeping with the spirit of the first White Gift service all those attending bring a gift wrapped in white paper to be given to someone in need. During White Gift Service our Sunday School children helped to collect the white gifts. After church they were sorted and distributed to those in need this Christmas at Bridges to Hope, Iris Kirby House and Emmanuel House... A special thank you to those who helped with this project.

Mission and Service Fund ~Minutes for Mission-

Each Sunday during our worship service you hear "*Minutes for Mission*" which is a story from a ministry supported by our gifts for Mission and Service. Each story is an invitation to pause and take a moment to connect with God's mission. Each story tells how we are living God's call to us to mend the world. These story moments will smooth the way for meaningful annual giving BOTH for Mission and Service AND for our local church. Mission & Service is the heart and soul of this United Church of ours, where we come together in loving if you are interested in reading one of these "*Minutes for Mission*" stories please contact Susan Vardy at 364-4581 or by email at vardys@nl.rogers.com or by contacting the church office at 368-2194.

If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join us in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!

Senior's Christmas Dinner ~ Sunday, December 10, 2017

126 Seniors registered for the Senior's Christmas Dinner this year, 103 seniors attended in Trinity Hall and there were six delivered and seventeen who were registered and unable to attend.

Special thanks to all our volunteers who made this event possible -the cooking crew, those who helped to prepare the meal, set up, served, peeled vegetables, cleaned up, prepared favors, bought groceries, delivered meals, poured the tea and coffee, washed dishes, provided musical entertainment. Many of the seniors stayed and attended the *Annual Youth Group Christmas Vesper Service* which the youth group had at 7 pm that evening.

Special Events & Fundraising

This year our Anniversary event was a concert with Spirit of Newfoundland coming to our Church at Christmas for Christmas Concert.

"*Singing Voices*" a musical presentation under the direction of Peter MacDonald held on November 17th and the same presentation was also brought on the road to Harbour Grace on November 19th to Coughlan United Church.

During the Frosty Festival First United hosted a concert with John Curran from the Masterless Men at First United- another great evening for our church.

Breakfast with Santa, Pancake Night (&Sausage) Supper, the Good Friday Breakfast and of course our Tasty Turkey Teas Take outs. – were great fundraising and friendraising events for our church family-thanks to all who participated and volunteered to make the events successful. These events take a lot planning, hard work, time and energy which does not go unnoticed.

- Stay tuned for more special events this year-it's sure to be another exciting year ahead

Thanks so much to all the members of my committee and those who have helped throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Vardy, Chair, Outreach and Social Action Committee

Do you get emails from the church if not-
complete the form below or email the church with your info
firstunited@nf.aibn.com

Are you on the First United Church Constant E-mail List?

If Not, Take a Moment and Email or Call The Church Office With Your Information.

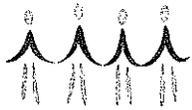


Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Email this information to First United Church firstunited@nf.aibn.com



bridges to hope

Bridges to Hope Inc.
39 Cookstown Road
St. John's, NL A1C 4G7

709-722-9225
info@bridgestohope.ca
www.bridgestohope.ca

Charitable Registration
#859148009RR001

January 2018

Report to our Partner Churches for 2017

Bridges To Hope is a unique partnership of Presbyterian and United Churches operating a food pantry and other programs. Please visit our website, <http://www.bridgestohope.ca> and Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com> to become more familiar with our services.

2017 was an important year for us as we made some significant changes in our operations. We also experienced continued demand of our services: daily food hampers increased by 6%; Christmas hampers increased by 8%; Bags To School also increased.

Vision

A community where each person has access to sufficient and wholesome food

Mission

Inspired by values of dignity, respect and hospitality, Bridges to Hope supports people in need through direct food assistance, instructional cooking programs, and food security advocacy in metropolitan St. John's. Fundraising, food donation, volunteer participation, and a healthy workplace are essential elements in sustaining these activities. In association with the United and Presbyterian churches, Bridges to Hope is a non-profit society committed to accountable stewardship, good governance, open communication, and justice in all our relations.

Staff

Following the departure of our Executive Director in May the operations continued with the three continuing staff. This has required acceptance of changing roles and responsibilities. This adjustment is ongoing and the staff have responded well. We have also introduced a participatory medical benefits program.

Food Donations

Our food donations come from several sources: our church partners; corporate and school food drives; Community Food Sharing Association; purchases; baking on site. In 2017 we have improved our management of the flow of product from these various sources resulting in more efficient distribution at lower cost.

Marketing

We have launched an aggressive initiative to raise our profile and community awareness through use of social media, primarily Facebook. We invite everyone in your congregations to become a Friend on Facebook. And spread the word to all your regular friends! Please. We have already seen the tangible results of this profile in the community through increased traffic on Facebook, especially when people volunteer to push the Donate button which we conveniently provide on our website, using Canada Helps.

Finances

We depend on voluntary donations. In 2017, donations from our church partners increased almost 29% to \$18,560. This is our dependable core support and very much appreciated. Such an increase in support is simply wonderful! But it still represents less than 9% of our total revenue. We put a lot of attention and energy into fundraising initiatives. In September we held a fundraising event, which though modest in size, was quite successful. We plan to have a larger similar event in 2018. We are also seeking to encourage regular donations through our website. Those people who volunteer to become monthly donors are our Ambassadors. Already, in the last four months of 2017, our Ambassadors more than doubled and their monthly donations increased almost 50%. We believe this has much upside potential. There are many, many individuals and organizations who voluntarily choose to support us and what we do. We are humbled by your confidence and trust, and seek to be worthy.

New Pantry Facility

We continue to have dreams of a new pantry facility to cope with increases in clients, food storage, and hamper preparation, as well as necessary updating and improvements for the safety, security and conditions for our clients, volunteers and staff. We hope to fulfill this dream in 2018. More later.

Thank You

Once again, we extend a sincere THANK YOU to you all for your continued support. We invite you to attend our annual meeting later this spring.

Roger Angel
Chair

On behalf of the Board, staff and our many volunteers

FIRST UNITED CHURCH

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (M&P) ANNUAL REPORT – 2017

The M&P Committee is composed of five members – Brenda Andrews (Chair), Eric Eveleigh, Ada Eveleigh, Janice Andrews-Ralph and Carl Burt. We respectfully present our 2017 Annual Report.

M&P provides consultation and support for church staff and the congregation. Much of its most effective work is done quietly and confidentially. It has a responsibility to make recommendations to the Board and receives direction from the Board. The Committee welcomes advice and input from staff and the congregation at all times.

Examples of our 2017 efforts include:

- Reviewed and kept current the employee job descriptions
- Advised the Board on salary levels appropriate for each position
- Recommended to the Official Board annual compensation guidelines
- Advised employees in general on HR issues
- Attended Board meetings and submitted monthly reports
- Met with and supported staff on an ongoing basis
- Communicated salary and wage changes for employees
- Arranged a Respectful Workplace Workshop during October

First United continued to be blessed this year with the excellent spiritual leadership provided by our Minister, Rev. Ian March-MacCuish, supported by our Musical Direction Team, Peter McDonald and Melissa Butt. We are sincerely grateful to all of these individuals for the valuable contributions they make to our church congregation on an ongoing basis. As well, we are very grateful to Rev. Scott Parsons, Pastoral Charge Supervisor, and to all of those members of our Board, Congregation, and our wider church who so graciously stepped up to assist with our worship services while Reverend Ian was on sick leave for a period during the year.

Angie Chaytor, our part-time Office Administrator, left us in June to pursue other career opportunities. In October Christina Manning joined us in this role. We extend our sincere thanks to Angie and Christina for the services they have provided for First United during 2017. We also want to express thanks and gratitude to our volunteers who provided office coverage as necessary during the year.

During 2017, Avalon Cleaners provided cleaning services on a contractual basis. Mr. Jim Eales provided snow-clearing services for the parking lot, and Mr. Alan Broderick provided snow-clearing services for the thoroughfares and exits on a contractual basis. Members of the congregation looked after the grounds keeping during the summer. We are very grateful to all who have assisted in any way in keeping our church property safe and beautiful.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the M&P Committee members for their work and support over the past year.

Brenda Andrews
Chair

First United Church Women Annual Report 2017

The First United Church Women's Group (UCW) continues to be a vibrant and active group of women who meet the second Monday of each month. In 2017 the UCW had a membership of 53. Regular meetings usually open with UCW Purpose and worship followed by a business portion and end with UCW Prayer and fellowship. Meetings are varied and they can encompass a wide range of activities, special guests and events. In 2017 members of the UCW were saddened by the loss of long time members Bette Powell, Francis Broderick and Roberta Pomeroy.

2017 was a very successful year. The following is an outline of the various activities we participated in this year:

January

- Visited Pearl House Retirement Home along with 'The Gospel Plus Band' for an evening of fellowship with the residents.

February

- UCW Valentine Pot Luck Social with invited guests. There was food, fellowship and a fun evening. The UCW annual 'Valendimes' Fundraiser was collected.

March

- First United UCW hosted the World Day of Prayer Service with special speaker Rev. Faith. Refreshments followed.
- Hosted a Stew Supper Fundraiser
- Visited Karwood Retirement Retreat with 'The Gospel Plus Band' for an evening of fellowship with the residents.

April

- Our regular meeting for April was cancelled due to a snow storm.
- Provided refreshments for the social after the Deaf Ministry Service
- Led the Good Friday Service at 10:30am.
- Visited Meadow Creek Retirement Home with the 'The Gospel Plus Band' for an evening of fellowship with the residents.

May

- Held the UCW Spring Afternoon Tea and Bake Sale
- Visited Ruby Manor with 'The Gospel Plus Band' for an evening of fellowship with the residents.

June

- Held our summer closing dinner which was catered by the Men's Club

July

- Ushering duties at the 11:00am services during the month
- Prepared and served a meal for the Youth Exchange Group
- Men's Club joined with the UCW for a visit to Hillcrest Retirement Home for an evening of fellowship with the residents.

August

- Our Quilts for Comfort Project gave 11 quilts to the Association for New Canadians

- Joined with the Men's Club to hold the 11:00am service

September

- Participated in our annual Walk-a-thon fundraiser which took place at Bowring Park

October

- Hosted the Birthday Party at Agnes Pratt Home for residents celebrating birthdays in September and October.
- Hosted a Pot Luck supper for all the volunteers who helped us with our activities during the year.

November

- Assisted the Church Board with the preparation of the Take-Out Turkey Teas.
- During our regular meeting held the annual shower of personal care items to be given to Carew Lodge and Emmanuel House.
- Held our election of officers

December

- Conducted an evening memorial/celebratory service entitled 'Symbols of Christmas'
- Held the UCW Christmas Dinner and revealing of our Secret Sisters. We received a visit from Santa. The dinner was catered by the Men's Club. The evening was enjoyed by all.
- Delivered Christmas Gift Bags to the 14 men and 10 women at Carew Lodge.

The UCW continues to provide many programs with financial support. In 2017 the group supported the Mission & Service Fund, the Fellowship of the Least Coin, Burry Heights and the Chaplaincy Fund, as well as supported the church's local and building fund.

The UCW provides outreach in other ways. We provide copies of 'Our Daily Bread' booklets to members of the congregation; support Bridges to Hope with personal care items throughout the year; provide personal care items and other items to Carew Lodge and Emmanuel House at Christmas; provide hats, mittens and scarfs for the Mitten Tree Project. We have a prayer chain that circulates prayer requests for individuals and families who are going through difficult times. We provide the Baptismal Candles for newly baptized children and Birthday Cards for their 1st and 2nd Birthdays.

UCW members and friends knit strips for the Quilts for Comfort Project. Since this project started in 2006 a total of 533 quilts/blankets have been distributed far and wide to those who need a little warmth in their lives. This year we also gave Carew Lodge 11 quilts and one to a member of our congregation. We give thanks to those who have provided the wool, knit the strips and to those who put the quilts together.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all members and friends of the congregation who continue to support our many projects. Without you we could not do all that we do.

We would also like to extend an invitation to all women of the congregation to join us on our faith journey as we share our time, talents and treasures. We pray that God will continue to bless us and our work.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Manuel
Linda Manuel
Secretary (2017)

Report of First United Church Men's Club

The aim of First United Church Men's Club is to promote Christian fellowship, deepen the spiritual life of its members and develop an effective program of Christian service. The members meet for dinner/business meetings eight times during the year and on two occasions for social gatherings. Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month under the leadership of our president Harold Sinyard. There are some fifty (50) members in the club with an average attendance of thirty (30) members per meeting. A warm welcome is extended to any men of the Congregation to join us.

The following are some of the year's activities, projects and just plain fun of the Men's Club during the year 2017.

January:

Reverend Scott Parsons, Chaplin to the Health Science Center and Her Majesty's Penitentiary was our guest at our January meeting and gave a very interesting talk on his work. He made a request that we collect some gently used or new clothing to deliver to him at the penitentiary for the use of the inmates. Byron Button agreed to take on the project and delivered the clothing to HMP.

A member of the Club donated a key board for use of the Visitation Choir, United Church Women and Gospel Plus Band. This instrument has been a great asset when these groups do outreach ministry to the various seniors' homes in our area.

On January 25, a team of 6 Club members cooked and served a dinner for 28 adults and 7 children at McDonald House.

February:

The Club members cooked and served a Jiggs Dinner at Trinity Hall. The Club conducted the morning service, February 26th. The members of the Cowan Heights Men's Club were our guests at our February 7th meeting. We were entertained by the Gospel Plus Band and our Visitation Choir.

March:

The guest speakers attending our March 7th meeting were Art Norris, president of the Hard of Hearing Association, Newfoundland and Labrador and Leon Mills, Director of CHHNL.

April:

Assisted in serving the fish and brewis breakfast sponsored by the Official Board on April 14th.

The Visitation Choir conducted a service at Karwood Seniors Home April 19th.

The Club held a flea market on April 29th.

May:

Prepared and served lunch for the staff of Her Majesty's Penitentiary, St. John's.

May 17th, the Visitation Choir conducted a service at Meadow Creek Seniors Home.

May 28th, Conducted the Morning service at First United Church.

June:

Cooked and served the year end dinner for the U.C.W. Members.

Held our year end barbecue at the Mount Pearl Track building.

Did the annual clean up of the Church property

July:

Prepared and served a jiggs dinner for our youth group and their guests, a group of young people visiting as part of an exchange trip with churches in Ontario. The dinner and blueberry pudding desert was a big hit.

September:

Held our first meeting after the summer break with a pot luck meal.

October:

Served tea and coffee to the members of the Seniors Independence group at the Reid Center. Prepared and served a Jiggs Dinner at Trinity Hall on October 27th. The proceeds were donated to the Church operating account.

November:

Assisted in decorating the church sanctuary for Christmas.

Conducted the evening service November 26th.

Assisted the Official Board with the Take-out turkey teas.

Doug Ivany assisted by Mitchel Tuck, a representative of First United Church Youth Group, laid the Club wreath at the Mount Pearl War Memorial during the Remembrance Day Ceremony.

The election of the executive for 2018 was conducted by Byron Button. The following were elected.

President ----- Harold Sinyard

Vice President---Gary Gosse

Secretary-----Ford Rideout

Treasurer-----Nelson Harris

Membership-----George Hicks

Program-----Lorne Squires

Visitation-----Mike Bouzane and Clarence Butt

Worship-----Sid Butt

December:

Club members helped with the preparing and serving breakfast with Santa.

The Club held their Christmas party at Trinity Hall December 12th. There were 56 people in attendance.

Visitations:

Our visitation team provides visits, cards, flowers, and fruit baskets to members in hospital or recuperating at home and sympathy cards to bereaved families.

Other helpful chores:

During the year, Club Members deliver church envelopes, newsletters, quarterly statements, Lenten and Advent folders to church households, thus saving the cost of postage.

Club members were saddened by the passing of three of our members.

Rev. Dr. Hector Swain

Doug Collins, and

Roy White.

Frank Whiteway also left our club. Frank and his wife moved to New Brunswick to be close to their son's family.

Hector, Doug and Frank were members of Gospel Plus Band. Because of their loss, the Band is no longer performing.

Respectfully

F. Rideout
Secretary

Faith is to believe what we cannot see, and the reward of faith is to see what we believe.
St. Augustine

First United Church Men's Club - - - -year ending December 31, 2017

Balance at January 1, 2017		\$2,394.84
<u>Income:</u>		
Membership Dues	\$ 80.00	
Dinner Meetings	1,470.00	
Auctions	321.40	
Misc. Donations	573.25	
Christmas Social	795.00	
Flea Market	1,235.55	
Jiggs Dinners	4,712.10	
U.C.W. Dinners	1,275.00	
Catering (Mt. Pearl Seniors)	200.00	
		\$ 10,662.30
<u>Expenses:</u>		
Dinner Meetings	939.97	
Cards and Fruit Baskets	225.88	
Memorial Donations	175.00	
Bank Charges	167.60	
McDonald House	118.08	
First United Church Donations		
General Account	1,200.00	
Jiggs Dinner	1,449.75	
Security System	600.00	
Kitchen Supplies	250.00	
Building Fund	150.00	
Propane (gas & cylinder rental)	296.46	
Hearing Assists	321.50	
Refrigerator	75.00	
Bridges to Hope	199.78	
Christmas Social & Closing BBQ	1,255.70	
U.C.W. Dinners	666.56	
Jiggs Dinners	1,570.68	
Plaque engraving	143.75	
Darts Equipment	225.00	
HMP Appreciation Lunch	145.95	
Youth Exchange Meal	297.00	(\$ 10,473.66)
Balance at December 31, 2017		\$ 2,583.48

Nelson Harris, Treasurer

**The General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc.
Annual Report for 2017**

We continue to make improvements to our cemeteries each year. In addition to our regular maintenance at our cemeteries, we filled, leveled and re-sodded a large number of graves and leveled a number of headstones. As in previous years, we used several thousand square feet of sods again this year.

During the past year we had 226 burials, a decrease of 18 from the previous year; and of these, 149 (66%) were cremations.

The following breakdown may be of interest:

Burials in:	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>
The General Protestant Cemetery	8	17	15
Mount Pleasant Cemetery	220	194	173
The Field of Honor (MPC)	29	28	25
Memorials Gardens Cemetery	_____	5	13
Total Burials	257	244	226
Cremations Included	151 (59%)	165 (68%)	149 (66%)

Your Board met nine (9) times during the past year.

The **Memorial services** for this year will be held at Mt Pleasant Cemetery, Monday, July 2nd, 2018, 7pm. and General Protestant Cemetery on Monday, July 16th. 2018, 7 pm.

General Protestant Cemetery, Old Topsail Rd. / Waterford Bridge Rd, St. John's.

As indicated in the above chart, we still continue to have a small number of interments / inurnments in this cemetery. The first burial took place in 1842. Since there are no new plots available, all of these interments / inurnments were in previously purchased plots or in existing family plots. This year we've spent a substantial amount of time removing fallen trees and leveling / resodding sunken graves.

The annual Memorial Service took place on July 17, 2017. There was a small number of attendees. However, everything went well, and the offering was up slightly from last year. Thank you to all those who helped.

Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Hamilton Avenue Extension / James Lane, St. John's.

The first burial took place in 1942. The majority of all interments / inurnments continue to take place in this cemetery, mostly in previously purchased plots or existing family plots. Currently, there are only a few single plots available and there are NO double plots available. We have approximately 45 niches available in the Columbarium's. Each niche is large enough for two (2) urns.

The annual Memorial Service took place on July 3rd, 2017. Everything went well, the weather was good and the attendance was very good. However, the offering was down from last year. Thank you to all those who helped.

Memorial Gardens, Galway, St John's.

The first burial took place on September 1st, 2015. There have been eighteen (18) burials up to our year end date of October 31, 2017. Since there's just a small number of plots remaining in Mt. Pleasant, we expect that in the near future the number of interments to increase substantially in Memorial Gardens.

We experienced some problems with access to Memorial Gardens last fall during construction of the round-a-bout at the entrance from Ruth Avenue. However, this work is basically complete and we do not anticipate any problems in the future.

We have completed work on a new Field of Honour in Memorial Gardens, and it's now ready for burials.

Approximately 260 ft. of concrete base has been installed for regular headstones and 70ft. for Field of Honor headstones. This will ensure that all headstones will remain straight and level and will reduce any maintenance on them in the future.

This year we plan on extending the chain link fence around the cleared area, and also we plan to have an area of paving completed.

As a point of interest for those who are wondering about the size of Memorial Gardens. The overall size is 35 acres and to date 10 acres have been cleared and basically ready for use. In comparison, Mt. Pleasant is 17 acres. The west boundary is adjacent to the new water tower that is installed for Galway. So needless to say this new cemetery will provide burial space for many future generations.

A personal thank you to the congregation of First United for their continual support.

I am pleased to place on record a special thank you to our cemetery staff. We have a dedicated staff, and the feedback from the public is excellent. We appreciate the work done by Bill, Vince and Graham, and 3-4 seasonal workers. We operate six days a week, sometimes through difficult and challenging situations, especially during the winter season.

Respectfully submitted,

Calvin Gibbons

First United Church Representative

Vice Chairman, General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc.

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Statistics 2017

Baptisms:	14
Marriages:	5
Funerals:	27

Confirmation of Membership

December 31, 2016	1087
Added by profession of Faith	4
Added by Transfer	0
Removed by Transfer	0
Removed by Death	1
Removed by Request	0
Membership as of December 31, 2017	1090

Confirmation classes 2017

Dawson Broderick Penney	Nicole Catherine Careen
Holly Eva Careen	Liam Albert Legge

Removed by Death 2017

Max Simmons

Marriages in 2017

Katelyn Margaret Doyle and Mitchell Donald Peddle
Colleen Theresa Trainor and Scott Bernard Cleary
Deborah Ann Martin and Philip John Sceviour
Kathleen Anna Marie Fleming and Evan William Styles
Jennifer Sarah Burton and Steven Louis Wells

Baptisms in 2017

Isaac Matthew Deering	Sam Andrew Marvin Burton
Austin William Allan Fry	Jessa Ally Grace Coles
Owen Nicholas Scott Parsons	Wesley Ralph Ford
Tate Wayne Vallis	Lauren Amber Gosselin
Alexis Jessie Elizabeth Mercer-Maillett	Kate Jorja Parsons
Johnathan Brian Newhook	Delilah Jean Pomroy
Maddison Imelda Dyer	Charlie Madeline Swain

Deaths in 2017

Hector Swain	Everett Burden
Doris Wight	Winnifred Grace White
Essie Howell	Evelyn Piercey
Bette Marilyn Rose Powell	Eric Barnes
Margaret Penny	Douglas Collins
Phoebe Mullett	Marjorie Murphy
Barbara Marie LaBelle	Audrey Clarke
David Soper	Boyd Penney
Frances Broderick	Max Simmons
Graham Goodwin	Anthony Wayne Blundon
Meghan Stone Dean	Roberta Pomeroy
Mary J. Collins	Arthur Mercer
Dianne Benson	Violet LeGrow
Mary L. Janes	