

TOPSAIL
UNITED
CHURCH

2015 Annual Report

“The Church by the Side of the Road”

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
<i>Church Directory</i>	1
<i>Church Rolls 2015</i>	2
<i>Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes</i>	3-5
<i>Minister's Report</i>	6-8
<i>Official Board Chair Report</i>	9
<i>Congregational Designated Minister Report</i>	10-13
<i>Pastoral Care & Membership Committee</i>	14
<i>Worship & Sacraments Committee</i>	15-16
<i>Organist/Choir Director</i>	17
<i>Christian Development Committee</i>	18
<i>Sunday School Financial Report</i>	19
<i>Youth Group Financial Report</i>	19
<i>Ministry & Personnel Committee</i>	20
<i>Outreach Committee</i>	21
<i>Financial Report</i>	22
<i>Food Bank</i>	23
<i>Mission & Service</i>	24
<i>Property & Trustee Committee</i>	25
<i>Men's Club</i>	26-28
<i>United Church Women</i>	29-30
<i>Fundraising Committee</i>	31-32
<i>Finance Committee</i>	33-37
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	38

CHURCH DIRECTORY 2015

Minister	Rev. Bruce Kearley
Congregational Designated Minister	Steven Rogers
Office Manager	Nicole Ivey-Cross/ Lynn Mercer
Caretaker	Roger Richards
Organist and Choir Director	Andrew Cranston and Beth Cranston
Youth Band Leader	Brett Vey (January to June)
Family Service Music Leader	Brett Vey (September to December)
Wedding Coordinator	Rosemary Richards
Cemetery Caretaker	Bob Bennett
Webmaster (www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net)	Ken Corbett

OFFICIAL BOARD

EXECUTIVE

Chair	David Jones
Vice Chair	Valerie Howe
Secretary	Bond Swain
Treasurer	Boyde Clarke
Minister	Rev. Bruce Kearley

MEMBERS

Joanne Avery	Freeman Budgell	Paul Burt	Dale Butt
Mildred Coles	Gillian Corbett	Lloyd Hobbs	Glenys Moran
Wanda Saunders			

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ministry & Personnel	Gillian Corbett
Finance & Administration	Boyde Clarke
Fundraising	Gillian Corbett (Acting Chair)
Pastoral Care & Membership	Valerie Howe and Genevieve Phillips
Outreach	Patricia Jones
Christian Development	Bond Swain
Property & Trustee	Paul Burt
Worship & Sacraments	Doreen Cave
Long Term Planning	Jim Rowsell and Bruce Kearley

CHURCH GROUP LEADERS

Men's Club	Bob Bennett
United Church Women	Doreen Cave
Sunday School Coordinator	Steven Rogers
Youth & Children's Choir Director	Rosalind Foley (January to June)
Sunday School and Youth Group Treasurer	Anne Allen

EAST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Delegates:	Bob Bennett, Doreen Cave, Rosalind Foley
Burry Heights Contact:	Patricia Jones

CHURCH ROLLS 2015

BAPTISMS - 25 MARRIAGES - 22 FUNERALS - 17

<i>Valda Berkshire</i>	<i>Ronald Wilson</i>	<i>Gwendolyn M. Perry</i>
<i>Joan A. Herder</i>	<i>David B. Miller</i>	<i>Gail Sharpe</i>
<i>Lawrence Mooney</i>	<i>Ricky Glenn Reid</i>	<i>Charles Stanley Abbott</i>
<i>Robert James Peach</i>	<i>Norman Francis Trevor</i>	<i>Dora Milley</i>
<i>Matthew Courage</i>	<i>Randolph Paul Haggett</i>	<i>Allan Andrew Grandy</i>
<i>Elizabeth Mullett</i>	<i>Evelyn Pynn</i>	

HISTORIC ROLL 2015 – NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS BY CONFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

<i>Shannon Collins</i>	<i>Brooke Fowler</i>	<i>Nicholas O'Brien</i>
<i>Linden Power</i>	<i>Alyssa Stone</i>	<i>Ashtyn Wells</i>

NEW MEMBERS - TRANSFERRED

<i>Fred Brown</i>	<i>Baxter Cooze</i>	<i>Beth Cranston</i>
<i>Heather Cronhelm</i>	<i>Eloise Bugden</i>	<i>Leonard Bugden</i>
<i>Ina Mulrooney</i>		

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED OUT

<i>Henry Hart</i>	<i>Doreen Hart</i>	<i>Arlene Benita Viscount</i>
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DECEASED MEMBERS

<i>Margaret Clouter (2014)</i>		
<i>Valda Berkshire</i>	<i>Yvonne Ivany</i>	<i>Larry Mooney</i>
<i>Martha Morgan</i>	<i>Frederick D. Pike</i>	

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

– MARCH 8, 2015

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Rev. Bruce Kearley called the Annual Congregational Meeting to order at 12:00 noon, welcoming the 25 people in attendance.
- 2. CHAIR AND SECRETARY FOR 2015 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** Rev. Kearley called for nominations for the Chair and Secretary for the meeting. Doreen Cave volunteered to Chair the meeting. Gillian Corbett agreed to accept the position of Secretary.
- 3. OPENING DEVOTIONS:** Rev. Bruce opened the meeting with the prayer “A Prayer for the Care of Creation” V U # 311 and then led us in the singing of “He’ Got the Whole World in His Hands, followed with a reading from Genesis Ch. 1 “The Creation Story. He gave a short reflection on the witness and faithfulness of the ministry of the whole church as being our response to God’s gift of grace and love for us and he ended with prayer.
- 4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS:** the Chair expressed sincere thanks to Rev. Bruce, on behalf of the entire congregation, for his Ministry and his devotion to the Topsail Congregation over the past year.
- 5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
Motion (D.Jones/B.Clarke) that the 2014 Reports of Committees be presented and discussed, with the exception of the Finance Committee and there would be one motion to accept them all. The financial report including the 2015 Budget would be approved in a separate motion. **Carried.**
- 6. CHURCH ROLLS:**
Rev. Bruce read the names of those who had passed away in 2014, followed with a moment of silence and a prayer. The Lord’s Prayer was repeated by all present.
- 7. MINUTES OF 2014 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:**
MOVED: (B. Clarke/D. Jacobs) that the Minutes of the 2014 Annual Congregational Meeting be adopted as circulated. **CARRIED.**
- 8. 2014 ANNUAL REPORTS:**
8.1 Minister: Rev. Bruce spoke of his report being more of a letter. Highlighting his reference to the Hymn “When Hands Reach Out” as the ministry of the whole congregation reaching out to the community, making a difference in the lives of our congregation and beyond. Rev. Bruce estimated making 634 pastoral contacts through visitations and ‘phone calls and noted again that he relies on the congregation to inform him about people who are in the hospital as there is no longer access to hospital lists. Rev. Bruce expressed his thanks to the staff, congregation, volunteers, and Board members for their support and guidance. He gave his thanks and those of his wife, Dianne, for the response of the congregation to his Ministry.

8.2 Chair of the Board: Board Chair, David Jones, responded to his report commenting that we are certainly blessed with the leadership our minister, Rev. Kearley, the great staff, music ministry and youth ministry. He thanked the members of the 2014 Official Board for their service in the role of supporting the minister, stressing the need for new volunteers to ensure the strong future of the church.

8.3 Congregational Designated Minister: In the absence of Steven Rogers, thanks were expressed for his return to the congregation in August and his ongoing leadership in the area of Christian Development.

8.4 Membership and Pastoral Care: Gillian Corbett spoke to this report in the absence of Valerie Howe. There was one correction noted, there being no people transferring in to the congregation in 2014 the Historic Role now lists 507 total confirmed members. The need for consent to use email addresses for electronic communication was highlighted.

8.5 Worship and Sacraments: Allan Parsons asked that his name be removed from the list of members - he volunteered just to look after the Ushers List. Doreen Cave drew attention to the flagpole which will be used to permanently display the Canadian flag brought back from Afghanistan and which will be dedicated at a special Worship Service.

8.6 Organist/Choir Director: Thanks were expressed to Beth and Andrew for their music leadership. Question: re. the Scholarship program not being included in the Budget. Boyde replied that monies would come from the Music Fundraiser Concert.

8.7 Christian Development Committee: Bond Swain highlighted the redefined role of Sunday School Superintendent and the need for another volunteer to help Jo-anne Stone - not necessarily someone who is already involved. Planning for the Godly Play Training Course was discussed along with the possibility of an invitation to other Sunday School leaders to help defray the cost and the use of some Sunday School funds for this event.

8.8 Ministry and Personnel: Thanks were expressed to all staff members.

8.9 Outreach: Doreen Cave lifted up the importance of Outreach to the immediate and wider community. In 2014 U.C.W. and Coffee Group took on much of the work under Pat Jones' leadership. Doreen appealed for others to volunteer for this committee.

8.10 Property and Trustee: The committee had another busy year. It was noted that the bathrooms are a great improvement. Thanks were extended to Bob Bennett for his work with the cemeteries; he in turn thanked Max Robbins.

8.11 Men's Club: The Men's Club were thanked for their hard work with Fellowship and Fundraising events.

8.12 United Church Women: Doreen Cave mentioned how willing the Coffee Group members were to help out the U.C.W. with their projects.

8.13 Harvest Festival: David Jones thanked the committee for their work.

9. ADOPTION OF REPORTS:

MOTION: (D. Jones / A. Parsons) that the individual reports 8.1 to 8.13 be adopted as amended. **CARRIED.**

10. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Boyde Clarke reviewed the highlighted items in the report. He noted that the 2014 budgeted deficit was reduced due to the savings on Capital Expenditure and the exceptionally good offerings at Christmas. He noted that the Roofing Fund still had an unpaid Balance of \$8,157.

Budget for 2015.

MOTION (D. Jones / B. Swain) that the 2014 Financial Report including 2015 Budget and Statement of Funds be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

David Jones commented that there would be a stewardship program carried out in 2015 and quarterly updates on the finances would be given in the Bulletin.

The Treasurer, Boyde Clarke expressed thanks to the Office Administrator, Lynn Mercer for all her work with the Finances.

11. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Meeting Chair, Doreen Cave spoke to the report prepared by the outgoing members of the Board. She stressed the importance of serving on the Official Board. The Chair read the names of those nominated in the report, Paul Burt and Lloyd Hobbs and called three times for further other nominations, there being none, the motion was called.

MOTION: (D. Jones / B. Swain) that Paul Burt and Lloyd Hobbs be elected as Board members. **CARRIED**

David Jones asked that a further appeal for Board members be made to the congregation.

12. A VOTE OF THANKS to Rev. Kearley and the Staff for their excellent work in 2014 was given by David Jones.

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN: (B. Clarke) that the meeting be adjourned at 1:30 pm. **CARRIED**

14. BENEDICTION: Rev. Bruce closed the meeting with a Benediction.

Doreen Cave (Chair)

Gillian Corbett (Secretary)

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH *"The Church by the Side of the Road"*

*"The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork"
(Psalm 19: 1-2)*

Dear Friends:

Greetings in Christ's name. 2015 was another busy year here at Topsail United Church (*The Church by the Side of the Road*). The very first thing I must write is a heartfelt *Thank You* to the entire congregation for your commitment and support of the ministry of this congregation. It is a ministry shared by all of us. The ministry we provide is wide and varied and includes all aspects of God's creation. It is the vastness of God's creation that is in my thoughts as I write this letter for inclusion in the 2015 Annual Report. Creation (as Psalm 19 indicates) *"proclaims God's handiwork"*. God's handiwork provides for us blessings and beauty but also work on our part as we are given the responsibility to care for all of creation. That is a monumental task and one that we cannot do on our own. We need each other and we need the help of our faith as we strive to preserve, conserve and care for all creation. In doing this we acknowledge the central place of God in our lives as we seek/work to bring God's love, respect, justice and peace to all living things. The words from the Bible as recorded in Micah 6:8 can bring wisdom and direction for our care of creation: *"... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?"* We strive, in our personal faith and in our communal faith, to express God's love in our care and respect for Creation. This responsibility is further reflected in a beautiful hymn in "More Voices" by Ruth Duck entitled *"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky."*

*We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflow'rs growing,
For we are part of all that is, within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,
That all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.*
(#143 More Voices "We Cannot Own the Sunlit sky" – words by Ruth Duck)

The beauty of God's creation is there for us to enjoy and find meaning in always and provides strength for our lives day by day. I realize, however, that some days it is difficult to feel that strength especially when our journey takes us through times of sorrow and loss. There are members of our congregation whose journey in 2015 has been difficult because of the death of a loved one or some other circumstance. I cannot take away that hurt but I want you to know that God's love is there for strength and, as a congregation; our continued support and prayers are with you. My favourite Bible verse is Isaiah 49: 15. It states: *"...See!.. I will not forget you ... I have carved you on the palm of my hand."* May knowing that you are held in the palm of God's hand bring you a sense of comfort and assurance on the difficult paths of life.

The beauty we see in creation also indicates that God's presence is seen in our times of celebration. There were many opportunities for us to celebrate together as a congregation this past year. It would be impossible to mention all of them in the confines of this letter but I do want to highlight the opportunity given to us by our Sunday School and its leaders, in their Christmas Pageant, to see how different approaches can result in coming to a fuller understanding of the wide scope of our faith and the importance of working together as a people of faith. The Sunday School presentation was entitled "*Matt & Lucy's Version Births.*" The presentation dealt with the Christmas stories as recorded in the Gospels of Matthew & Luke. The accounts are quite different but in the end the stories gave an appreciation of the diversity in our faith but our diversity results in unity. We are very blessed to have these young people with us and we thank them for their willingness to share their time, talent and commitment with us.

The music program of our congregation also provides us with the opportunity to see God's hand at work in Creation through our worship experience. The ministry of our Choirs under the direction of Beth & Andrew Cranston, Steven Rogers & Brett Vey is truly amazing and lifts our spirits as we come to worship each week. The opportunity to listen to the ministry of music, and sing the old songs of the faith as well as learn new ones is truly a blessing and an opportunity for our faith to grow. Indeed, as one of the hymns in Voices United states: "*How can we keep from singing.*" Thank you to our choirs and music leaders for your ministry.

I do want to mention a change that occurred in our office this year with the retirement of our Office Manager, Lynn Mercer, and welcoming our new Office Manager, Nicole Ivey-Cross. The amount of responsibility as Office Manager is great. On behalf of the congregation and myself personally I want to thank Lynn for her expertise, efficiency, commitment and care as our office manager. We thank you Lynn for your kind spirit and a job well done. We extend our well wishes to you in your retirement.

I want to welcome Nicole to the position as our new Office Manager. As I said earlier, the amount of responsibility as Office Manager is great. Nicole has settled into this position very quickly with expertise, efficiency, commitment and care as our Office Manager. On behalf of our congregation and myself personally we are happy you are with us and look forward to working with you for years to come.

As I mentioned earlier, there were many highlights in this past year and, along with the couple I have mentioned, the Annual Report gives an account of the entire life and work of our congregation for 2015. It is with praise to God and a thanksgiving to you, the members of this congregation, that this report is compiled and made available. As you read through this report please do so with a deep sense of gratitude for God's blessings and God's guidance throughout the year.

It is difficult to write a letter for the annual report and not make reference to finances. The many projects we do are dependent upon the support of financial contributions. That being said, we celebrate the fact that in 2015 we were able to maintain a healthy financial position but we need to be always aware of the challenges to maintain that position. *(Please take a look at the report from our Finance Committee)*

Because of your generous support we have been able to pay congregational expenses and support the larger work of the United Church of Canada through our Mission and Service Fund. This is cause for celebration and I want to express my sincere thanks. Your commitment to sharing your time, talent and financial support is a ministry in itself and without your support the overall ministry of our congregation could not happen.

It was, however, a little concerning for me to see that congregational support through envelope giving was down from 2014. We do need to maintain our level of financial support by making regular contributions and maybe even increasing, if possible, because (as you know) expenses rise with each new year. The ways you can maintain regular contributions are by using weekly envelopes, monthly envelopes or by contributing through PAR (pre authorized remittance). Our church office can give you information on any of these ways. Thank you for your generous financial support.

I also, on behalf of myself and the congregation, want to express deep appreciation to our other church staff. Thank you to *Lynn Mercer and Nicole Ivey-Cross, Steven Rogers. Beth and Andrew Cranston, Rosemary and Roger Richards, and Brett Vey* for their support, expertise, help and guidance to me and our congregation.

I end my letter with remaining verses of "*We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*" as a means of thanking you once again for sharing your time & gifts to ensure that our congregation under the leading of God's grace continues to share God's Love day by day by attending to and preserving and conserving the needs of all creation. The assurance that God always walks with us is my prayer for you as we begin 2016. My wife Dianne joins with me in wishing you God's blessing for the year ahead.

*We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflow'rs growing,
For we are part of all that is, within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,
That all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.*

*When bodies shiver in the night and weary, wait for morning,
When children have no bread but tears, and war horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labour,
That all may have abundant life in oneness with their neighbour.*

*God calls humanity to join as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear, life's goodness celebrating,
that new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavour,
That all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.*

Blessings,



Rev. Bruce

OFFICIAL BOARD CHAIR REPORT

This has been another good year for Topsail United Church – thanks to all of you, our Church groups, Committees, Choirs, and our staff and to our Board and Minister for their leadership and support.

As we look back and celebrate what we have achieved over the last year as a Church, it is also necessary that we look to the future. We must keep faith with the promises of the past and blend that faith with the hope of our future if we are to become all that we can be and achieve all that we can as a Church.

This coming year will no doubt be a year of economic challenge for many of our people and our Church as yet unknown economic waves roll before us nationally and internationally, and locally here in this province. This stated, relying on our faith and building upon the strong economic, social and religious foundation that we have put in place here in this Church, I have no doubt that we as a Church and as a Church people will overcome whatever challenges face us and prosper. Our faith is strong and our resolve is great.

As we head into 2016 I have no doubt that it will also be a time of renewal for our Church. Later this year a new Stewardship program will be unveiled. I also have no doubt that exciting new programs will be developed to continue to involve our young people, who are our future in this Church, while at the same time this Church continues to offer the services that it has in the past for the benefit, support and spiritual enrichment of all our people.

While some may not think it appropriate to draw attention to the work of any one individual in this Church and while I am inspired by and proud of the dedication and work of all of our staff, I intend to. We, as a Church, are truly blessed to have Reverend Bruce Kearley as our Minister. I have seen him in action in good times and in bad, in helping someone celebrate a wedding or a Christening and in comforting a grieving person or family after a death or during a funeral. He is an extraordinary shepherd to his flock and a pastor who in my humble estimation truly lives out the meaning of the words of the ancient prophet Micah, “What can a man do but to do justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God.”

Unless there is a change in our Church’s constitution, my time as Board Chair and as a member of the Board is now at an end. If I have been able to accomplish anything over the past two years as Chair and during my time on the Board it has been because I have had the help and support of others, including all of you for which I am eternally grateful. It is an honour to have served.

May God bless each and every one of you and Topsail United Church.

David W. Jones
Board Chair

CONGREGATIONAL DESIGNATED MINISTER REPORT

Greetings!

I am pleased to write this report outlining some of the successes and challenges within our Christian Development program over 2015. While a report of this nature could never fully encompass the depth and reach of Christian Development at Topsail United Church, some accomplishments are highlighted below.

Children's Ministry

Topsail United Sunday School was fortunate to have a team of dedicated leaders in 2015 including: Jo-Ann Stone, Mona Morey, Genevieve Phillips, Tonya Pelley, Sabina Callan, Heather Cronhelm, and Michelle Button. Anne Allen continues to offer her time and talent as Sunday School treasurer. The Spark Workshop Rotation curriculum remains a great success for both children and leaders. The flexibility of this curriculum allows for easier scheduling of volunteer workshop leaders. Each week, children engage in various workshops such as art, cooking, music, video, skills, and games as they explore the themes of Bible stories.

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday School led a Palm Parade with palm branches and rhythm instruments. The rhythm instruments combined with the singing of our Senior Choir and congregation made for a very joyous parade. The Sunday School also prepared a colourful flower craft that was used to decorate the Sanctuary on Resurrection Sunday.

Sunday School Membership Statistics

Preschool	3
Kindergarten	4
Grade One	7
Grade Two	4
Grade Three	3
Grade Four	4
Grade Five	2
Grade Six and up	14
Average Attendance	20

The numbers above are based on registration forms received in 2015. Additional participants have attended for whom no registration form was received.

Godly Play

We continue to integrate Godly Play sessions in regular rotation with the Spark workshops. Godly Play is based on the Montessori Method of learning and uses props and figurines to provide a dramatic telling of the Bible story. The Christian Development Committee has been working to secure resources for a Godly Play certification course. This 2-day course is conducted by two trainers who are accredited by Godly Play Canada. Our hope is to provide this training to our Sunday School leaders who will receive a certificate upon completion. Several attempts were made in 2015 to organize the Godly Play training course at Topsail United. However, there were a number of scheduling conflicts between our Sunday School leaders and the Godly Play trainers. Godly Play training is often offered during the Spring season at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Mount Pearl, and we are hoping to have our leaders complete this training in 2016.

Members of the Christian Development Committee have been engaged in the cleaning and reorganizing the Godly Play room (former nursery adjacent to the Church Hall). This room is now the primary location for our Godly Play sessions and is an important facility for our Children's Ministry. The work of cleaning and reorganizing this room continues.

With the purchase of additional Godly Play resources, and the certification of our Godly Play leaders, we hope to fully implement and expand the Godly Play program in our ministry to children and youth. I continue to offer individual training and small-group study sessions on the method of Godly Play. Additional information sessions are needed to build congregational awareness of this great program.

Christmas Pageant

The Christmas Pageant was an intergenerational event that included children, youth, adults, and senior members from Topsail United. The Youth Band and Children's Choir combined to form an ensemble that provided the musical support for the pageant, while members of the youth group, Sunday School, and congregation filled the various acting and logistical roles. Andrea Deacy performed a beautiful selection of carols during the luncheon that followed the pageant.

The pageant, entitled *Matt and Lucy's Version Births* had a significant educational component. While Matthew and Luke are the only gospels to tell the story of Jesus' birth, their stories are very different from one another. As the pageant plot unfolded, Matt and Lucy volunteered to help with this year's Christmas Pageant. Little did they know that the Director gave them each a different script - Matt received a script based on the Gospel of Matthew, and Lucy received a script based on the Gospel of Luke. The Director left them to work out how to put on a play with conflicting story lines, characters, and settings. As the play ended, the Director explained how having two stories gives us an appreciation of the diversity of ways early Christians expressed their understanding of who Jesus was. Cast members from Matt's script wore purple face paint, and members from Lucy's script wore blue face paint. Blue and purple are the traditional colours for advent in the liturgical seasons of the Christian church.

Wireless headset microphones, transmitters, and receivers were rented for the pageant production and this equipment greatly contributed to the overall success of the production, particularly the sound projection of the lead characters.

For Christmas Eve, elements of both the 4:00pm and 6:00pm service were led by the children and youth of our congregation. While the 4:00pm service featured a liturgy

appropriate for young children, the 6:00pm service focused on the theme “Giving the Gift of Encouragement” with special readings written in the style of Dr. Suess, and new Christmas carols describing Christmas in a modern city.

Children’s Choir | Youth Band | Rhythm Band

The Children’s Choir and Youth Band continue to rehearse every Wednesday evening. The Choir and the Band perform under the direction of Brett Vey. The ensembles provide lovely music at our monthly Family Services, fundraisers, and at other special events throughout the year. Stephen Stone continues to serve as sound technician at our Family Services, and many other services and events as well. We are thankful his leadership and service to our musical ensembles. Members of the youth group and other guests operate the sound mixer as needed. In November 2015, a special presentation was made to recognize Rosalind Foley and her many contributions to the Children’s Choir and Christian Development at Topsail United. Rosalind officially resigned as Director of the Children’s Choir earlier in 2015.

The Youth Band, with a membership of 11, offers members the opportunity to participate in a worship ensemble and currently features diverse instruments including: bass, guitar, violin, cello, mandolin, piano, percussion, recorder, accordion, glockenspiel, saxophone, flute, and voice. The Children’s Choir, with a membership of 8, offers a fun environment where children learn the techniques of singing along with engaging social activities.

In 2015, the Youth Band was named “Inspiration”. The band members have been working on the graphic design of a band logo that incorporates this new name. Similarly, the Children’s Choir was named “Courage”, and they have also been working on a logo to represent this new name and to promote their ensemble.

The Rhythm Band, with a membership of 8, concluded their rehearsals in June 2015. This ensemble provided a space for children to learn performance techniques in various percussion instruments such as djembes, maracas, claves, wood blocks, bongos, cymbals, snare drums, glockenspiels, and other instruments. Many of the former members aged out of the program, and some have expressed an interest in theatre activities and skits moving forward. The rhythm instruments continue to be used in music workshops within the Sunday School. A special Rhythm Band was formed especially for the Christmas Pageant where a host of angels performed choreographed movements while playing percussion instruments.

Like our Sunday School and Youth Group, registration in these ensembles is on-going and interested individuals can join at any time from September to June. In addition to musical development, weekly rehearsals also provide our children and youth with a safe space to make friends, to discuss current affairs, and to explore social questions. There is a great sense of camaraderie between the members and the leaders, and the contribution of these ensembles to the life and work of Topsail United could never be overstated.

Confirmation

Much positive feedback was received from parents and confirmands regarding our 2015 confirmation program. Our confirmation program was conducted as a day-camp where participants completed their confirmation requirements in a single day from 9:00am until 4:30pm. The day began with a team-building exercise called the "Spider's Web" that highlighted commonalities between the group members. Learning sessions explored topics such as church history, liturgy, social justice, social media, Jesus, and the Bible. Workshops, team-building activities, and spiritual practices were held in all areas of the church building: Sanctuary, Board Room, Foyer, and Church Hall. The class also engaged in some reflection outdoors on the parking lot! A lunch was provided in the Church Hall and refreshments were offered throughout the day. Confirmands were able to build deeper and more meaningful relationships with their fellow confirmands in this day-camp model compared to a one-hour weekly class.

In closing, I would like to thank Rev. Kearley, the staff, the Official Board and Committees, and the members and supporters of our pastoral charge for being part of the journey. You are appreciated. I am blessed to be part of this journey with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Rogers

PASTORAL CARE AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Co-Chairs: Valerie Howe and Genevieve Phillips
Members: Cle Callan Gillian Corbett Rosalind Foley
Lynn Mercer
Anne Skanes (Baptism Sponsor)
Ex officio: Rev. Bruce Kearley

Historic Roll: This Roll contains the names of all those who have joined Topsail United by confirming their baptismal vows, or by profession of their faith or by the transferring in of their membership. The Roll should only contain the names of those members who **reside in the area and who continue to have an active interest in the life and work of the church.** Membership is subject to review by the Official Board. In 2015, 6 new members were added by Confirmation, 7 new members were added by transfer, 3 members removed by transfer; and 6 members were removed by their death. The Historic Roll currently lists 511 members. Please call the Church Office if you need information about transferring your Membership or wish to confirm your baptismal vows.

Invitations to come to Sunday School were sent to 26 children living in the Pastoral Charge who were baptized here and started kindergarten in September. Our church records for 2015 list **25 Baptisms, 22 Marriages and 17 Funerals** conducted at Topsail United Church throughout the year.

Supporting Families List: In 2015 there were 330 listed families financially supporting the church and a further 130 families listed under our Pastoral Care.

Newsletter: All those on our Supporting Families list receive the Newsletter, which was published in November only this year. The Newsletter was distributed via email, delivered by hand or mailed. To comply with Canada's anti spam legislation all email families have been asked to confirm whether or not they wish to receive email from the church. -end we We would appreciate any family who has access to email to please provide your email address and your consent for electronic communications. This means of communication is both timelier for members and more cost effective for our church.

Neighbourhood Contacts: We could not possibly get our Newsletters out without the help of this dedicated group. Many thanks to all of you who have delivered Newsletters this year.

"Meet and Greet": The Committee continues to sponsor "Meet and Greet" each Sunday following worship (except for Family Worship, which is sponsored by Outreach). This social gathering provides the chance to meet new people and have a chat. We encourage everyone to attend.

Pastoral Care: Rev. Kearley and a group of volunteers continue visiting our seniors who can no longer get out to church.

Thank you to all who have found a church home at "The Church by the Side of the Road" over the past year and to those who continue to support our church community.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Howe

WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Doreen Cave

Secretary: Beth Cranston

Members: Marie Burt Andrew Cranston Heather Cronhelm
Rosalind Foley Allan Parsons Rev. Pearce Penney
Jacqueline Perry Steven Rogers Wanda Saunders
Barbara Brown

Ex-Officio: Rev. Bruce Kearley

Summary of Activities:

MEETINGS

The Worship & Sacraments Committee met five times in 2015. Sunday worship schedules were established for the year and business related to worship and other activities in the sanctuary was conducted.

Our first meeting in January was called at the request of the Official Board to discuss how to reach more of our congregation and community members. We talked about the possibility of recording and broadcasting services on our website and the discussion revolved around both the need and purpose of such an activity, as well as the logistics and challenges it could present. It was determined that research and discussion should continue on this topic, but that certain things could be tried now, even before a comprehensive strategy is laid out. These include updating the website, polling the congregation on their needs and desires, meeting with Heather Sanford about how audio/visual equipment could be used in our Church, and using our existing audio recorder to test recording services more often.

An election of officers was conducted by Rev. Bruce Kearley at our second meeting in March. Doreen was re-elected as Chair and Beth was re-elected as Secretary.

MUSIC

The Mixed, Men's, and Children's Choirs, along with the Youth Band all performed in a fundraising Gospel concert in March. There was also a Kevin Collins concert held in October. Both events were successful in attendance and in raising funds for the Church. The annual Anniversary Hymn Sing was held on November 22.

All of our music groups are seeking new membership. Last year, the Official Board approved a Scholarship Program for the mixed choir so that we could seek section leaders to support our sound and aid in singing in multiple parts. This has not yet come into play due to lack of interest. It was determined that other Churches are offering more generous honorariums for section leaders. We will consider additional fundraising and continue working toward having section leaders and singing more in multiple parts.

Four new microphone stands and clips were purchased thanks to the support of the Men's Club. Andrew & Beth attended a sound workshop led by Long & McQuade. The old gowns belonging to the Mixed Choir were donated to the Arts & Culture Centre's costume bank. Rosalind Foley retired as Children's Choir Director. During the summer months, Beth & Andrew offered special musical selections.

FAMILY SERVICES

Family Sundays have been very busy and even hectic in the past. A balance was required between musical performances and the rest of the service, both for the organizers as well as for the congregation. Musical groups are now taking turns performing on different Sundays. In addition, Baptisms have moved from the 3rd Sunday to the 4th Sunday in the month. These changes happened smoothly and have allowed for a more organized and settled feel to these services.

SANCTUARY

Fifty new pew bibles were donated last year and have been dedicated and placed in the pews. The Canadian flag that was flown in Afghanistan, given to us by a former congregation member, was also dedicated and displayed in the Sanctuary. A large print bible was also donated.

A significant clean up and inventory of Worship Committee Materials occurred on October 10. Barbara offered to replace the old candleholders on the Communion Table in memory of Benjamin.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Flower Services were held in Topsail on July 14th, in Long Pond on July 28th, and an additional service was held in Upper Gullies, which was well attended. The Grand Lodge attended service on September 6th. The SUF Lodge attended service on September 20th.

OTHER

We have begun highlighting a different Church Committee each week, in order to keep the congregation abreast of who's involved, what they do, and how they can help.

The Worship and Sacraments Committee wishes to thank all staff and volunteers that have contributed to worship in our Sanctuary over the past year. Thanks also go out to those who filled in for vacations and other absences. We are so blessed to have such a committed and generous congregation with so many talents and abilities to share together in the name of God.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Cranston

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR REPORT

The past year was an exciting and successful one for both the Mixed and Men's Choirs. Both ensembles have shown musical growth and both have benefited from the purchase of new music to build out their current repertoires.

The Mixed Choir continues to experience growth in numbers and has a very strong attendance record. We are always on the search for new music to share with the congregation and have enjoyed exploring little known selections from "More Voices" in particular. We have some beautiful new selections chosen for Good Friday and Easter Sunday and hope you will be able to attend these services so that we may share them with you.

The Men's Choir has done a stalwart job every second Sunday of the month, however our numbers have dwindled slightly over the past couple of years. The choir is actively seeking new members and encourages any interested men in the congregation to consider coming to join us for this one-week-a-month commitment. Indeed, all are welcome to attend any choir rehearsal at any time to try it out or just visit!

In 2014, the Official Board approved a new Choral Scholarship program and we attempted to find interested singers who would come and lend some teaching support to facilitate more part singing. After being unable to find anyone, it was determined that the amount originally offered might not meet the market value for this kind of position, and that we may also have more success if we removed the age limit. We endeavour to continue working on this project and hope to bring it to fruition in the near future.

In March 2015 we held a fundraising Gospel Concert for the Church. The event featured the Mixed and Men's Choirs, along with the Children's Choir and the Youth Band. All groups also shared in presenting selections from the movie "O Brother Where Art Thou". The event was successful in raising funds for the Church and we plan to hold a similar type of event this coming spring.

As Co-Artistic Directors of the Coastal Sounds Choir Association, we invited the TUC singers to join our 2015 Christmas Cantata Project and are pleased that many took part once again. We performed another mass choir work with orchestra and it was an exciting and fun opportunity for all involved. We continue to be astounded at the talent and passion for music and the arts in CBS and surrounding areas and believe it is a wonderful thing to bring various groups and individuals together from our community and the surrounding areas to share together in a powerful musical experience, especially one celebrating the birth of our Lord.

We'd like to thank all of our choir members for their loyal support and hard work in making the Topsail United Church choir program what it is today. We are also so appreciative of the congregation's feedback. Although we are only closing in on our third year, you've made us feel like we've been a part of this family for much longer. Thank you! Here's to another exciting and musical year!

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew and Beth Cranston
Choir Director & Organist

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Bond Swain

Members: Glenys Moran

Jo-anne Stone

Ex officio: Steven Rogers

Judy Powell

Charlotte Ackerman

Rosalind Foley

Summary of Activities:

The Christian Development Committee met three times throughout 2015. The committee continues to act a resource to Steven to provide feedback and guidance, as well provide an oversight role with respect to the Christian Development Program.

The committee's major focus continues to be the Youth and Children's programs of Topsail United Church. Aspects of the Christian Development Program that were carried out this year were the Sunday School, Youth Group, Youth Music and Children's Choir.

Rosalind Foley retired as Children's Choir Director, we thank you for your 9 years of work & dedication. Bret Vey is now the Children's Choir Director.

A year-end service for the Sunday School was held downstairs in the auditorium on June 21st with skits and the youth bands participating. The Men's Club prepared the food.

Steven and the committee were working to implement a formal Godly Play certificate course for 2015. Unfortunately due to scheduling conflicts this did not happen, however it still remains as a major goal of the committee and hopefully it will be done in 2016.

The Church and the Committee is thankful for all of the wonderful volunteers assisting with Children, Youth and Sunday School Programs but we are always in need of additional help! If you are interested in volunteering in any way please contact Steven Rogers or a committee member.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bond Swain

SUNDAY SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT

Description	Income	Expenses
Opening Balance January 1, 2015	2,325.00	
Weekly offerings (January to December 2015)	380.00	
Interest earned (Jan to Dec 2015)	3.72	
Green Depot	71.75	
June Year End Party		88.93
Beeswax for Baptism Candles		147.40
Supplies - Easter & Christmas		216.21
Guatemala Sponsor Child c/o UCW		210.00
Christmas Pageant Music		240.79
Totals	455.47	903.33
Total Year End Balance in Account (31/12/15)	1,877.14	

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Allen
Treasurer, Topsail United Church Sunday School

YOUTH GROUP FINANCIAL REPORT

Description	Income	Expenses
Opening Balance January 1, 2015	690.89	
Green Depot	71.75	
Food & Supplies - confirmation class		92.32
Totals	71.75	92.32
Total Year End Balance in Account (31/12/15)	670.32	

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Allen
Treasurer, Topsail United Church Sunday School

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Gillian Corbett

Members: Anne Allen Freeman Budgell Lloyd Hobbs
Patricia Jones

The committee is responsible for the role of overseeing all staffing requirements of the church and assisting staff in ensuring the efficient and responsible use of church resources while making sure that the work of the church meets the needs of the congregation.

Topsail United Church is fortunate to have a dedicated group of individuals working for the congregation and this makes the work of this Committee that much easier.

The Committee met with all staff during the year to discuss individual contracts, concerns, compensation and other needs.

There were just two changes in regular staffing during 2015.

Lynn Mercer, Office Manager, retired at the beginning of September and Nicole Ivey- Cross was hired to fill her position following a process of advertising and interviewing several candidates.

Rosalind Foley had to give up her regular volunteer work with the Children's and Youth Choirs and Brett Vey has taken on these added responsibilities.

Thank you to all our staff, Steven, Lynn, Nicole, Beth, Andrew, Brett, Roger and Rosemary and a very special thank you to Rev. Bruce for his continuing leadership and spiritual guidance, we feel truly blessed to have him with us. There are many volunteers who put in countless hours working side by side with our staff to deliver our church programming and we would also like to thank each one of them for their dedication.

Respectfully submitted,

Gillian Corbett

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

Coordinator: **Pat Jones**

The work of the Outreach Committee in 2015 has been carried out through the U.C.W. and the Coffee Group.

Committee Mandate:

The goal of the Outreach Committee is to reach out to people in our community and around the world.

Summary of Activities:

- Provided postage costs for mailings (Bulletins & Daily Devotion Books) to church members who are shut-ins.
- Supported the Mission and Service Fund by providing “Gold Banks”.
- Promoted Burry Heights United Church Camp.
- Promoted and supported the CBS/Paradise Community Food Bank
- Promoted and supported the work of “Stella’s Circle” which includes Emmanuel House and Naomi House.
- Promoted and collected subscriptions for “The Observer” magazine.
- Organized the annual Outreach Christmas Dinner.
- Provided for Fellowship time following Family Worship
- Provided for social gatherings in the Hall following funerals, when requested.
- Organized two (2) Flea Markets, one in the in Spring towards the Church budget and one in the Fall as part of the Harvest Festival.

The Outreach Committee is committed to the activities listed above and appreciates your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones

OUTREACH COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

Opening Balance Jan. 1 2014	\$ 2,514.59
"Gold Banks 2015" for Mission & Service Fund	\$ 990.89
Spring Flea Market	\$ 3,795.20
H F Flea Market	\$ 3,618.30
Christmas Dinner	\$ 2,334.50
Bank Interest	.05
Total Income	\$13,253.53

DONATIONS & EXPENSES

" Gold Banks 2014 (Late deposit)	\$ 881.00
Topsail United Church Budget	\$ 3,000.00
Food Bank	\$ 500.00
Burry Heights - Fees for a camper	\$ 275.00
Harvest Festival	\$ 3,318.30
Harvest Festival (float & expenses)	\$ 300.00
"Gold Banks 2015" for Mission & Service Fund	\$ 990.89
Christmas Dinner - S.U.F. Hall	\$ 1,232.00
Emmanuel House - Christmas	\$ 500.00
Miscellaneous /framing	\$ 50.00
Bank Charges	\$ 40.25
Total Expenses	\$11,087.44

Balance as of Dec. 31st 2015 **\$ 2,166.09**

OUTREACH COMMITTEE FOOD BANK REPORT

Thank you for your support of the CBS/Paradise Community Food Bank through donations of both food and money during 2015. Please remember the first Sunday of each month is highlighted for donating to the Food Bank but you may bring items any time. Thank you to the Men’s Club for their additional donations of food throughout the year.

The Food Bank continues to be well supported by the community at large and again there was a tremendous response to the Christmas “Hamper” program which saw each family unit received a turkey and a gift card for the purchase of food only. A single person received a \$50.00 gift card, a family with 2 or 3 people received a \$75.00 gift card and a family with 4, 5 or 6 people received a \$100.00 gift card. This all worked extremely well and was really appreciated by the families.

A total of 281 Christmas “Hampers” were given out. At Christmas time some of our regular clients are looked after by other organizations such as “Single Parents” or a school for their Christmas Hamper and we request that these organizations file the names with “Food Sharing” to eliminate duplication.

The majority of monthly hampers are requested by people who are in receipt of government assistance. We know that there are others in need especially the working poor and those waiting to receive benefits. If you know of someone who is in need please let them know that the Food Bank is there for them. **No one is turned away.**

The Food Bank continues to supply lunch items, on request, to schools in the CBS/Paradise area - to be given out as needed.

The Food Bank Board has appealed for financial help to businesses in both communities and continues to seek increased financial help from the member Churches. When special Food Bank Fund Raisers are held we ask for your support whenever possible.

The Annual General Meeting of the Food Bank is held each May and is open to the general public.

Congregational Monetary Support

Regular & Christmas Hamper Donations.....	\$ 4214.00
Outreach Committee.....	\$ 500.00
Men’s Club	\$ 200.00
Total Donations	\$ 4,914.00

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

MISSION AND SERVICE FUND REPORT

Outreach is responsible for the promotion of the Mission and Service Fund within the congregation.

The United Church of Canada, through the “Mission and Service Fund”, partners with local churches in Canada and around the world to bring immediate and appropriate help to people wherever and whenever there is a need.

Each year we set a goal for our donations and we remit money to the National Church each quarter as it is received. Our goal is \$20,000.00 so we have fallen short this year. Thank you to Rev. Bruce for bringing the Mission & Service Fund to our attention each week with his reading of the “Minute for Mission” and thank you all those who have responded generously through your envelope, PAR and Gold Bank donations.

Summary of Donations:

INCOME

Individual Offerings (envelopes & PAR).....	\$ 17,243.51
“Gold Banks” 2014.....	\$ 881.00
“Gold Banks” 2015.....	\$ 990.89
Total	\$19,115.40

EXPENSES

Bank Charges.....	\$ 56.39
PAR Charges.....	\$ 325.49
M & S Actual Remittance.....	\$ 18,733.52
Total	\$ 19,115.40

Donations for Syrian Relief Fund.....\$ 410.00

PROPERTY AND TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair:	Paul Burt	Ex officio:	Rev. Bruce Kearley
Members:	Robert Bennett Roger Richards Brad Cole	Roland Regular Max Robbins	Derrick Tuffin Dale Butt
Ex officio:	Rev. Bruce Kearley		

Summary of Activities:

2015 was again a busy year for the Committee with the following projects representing just some of the more significant issues dealt with during the year:

- Soundproofing work was undertaken in the area of the church offices.
- New gates were manufactured and installed at Long Pond Cemetery.
- An encroachment issue involving a neighboring property was resolved at Long Pond Cemetery.
- A significant amount of landscaping and resodding was completed at Upper Gullies Cemetery.
- Painting of the Church Hall was completed. Thanks to the Men's Club for volunteering their labour for this significant project.
- A summer maintenance program was again put in place for the three cemeteries maintained by the church and snow clearing/ice-control efforts at Topsail were also coordinated.

During the year an appeal was made through the congregation for any members with expertise in trades, construction, legal matters, etc. to come forward and serve as a "support network" for the Property/Trustee Committee as required. From time to time there is a need for advice on specific matters on a "one-off" basis as we deal with various projects and issues. Thank-you to those who have offered their services thus far and I would again appeal for anyone that would be willing to serve in this capacity to reach out to any member of our Committee.

In closing, I would like to thank all committee members for their continued support and dedication towards the time consuming process of maintaining our church building and cemeteries during the past 12 months.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Burt
Committee Chair

MEN'S CLUB REPORT

President: Bob Bennett
Secretary: Bob Osmond

Vice President: Derrick Tuffin
Treasurer: Boyde Clarke

Summary of Activities:

Donated Music Stands to the Church

Held a successful Easter Breakfast. Thank you to those who come out and support the Men's Club with our fundraising activities.

Held our Annual Flipper Dinner again this year. The event was sold out and continues to be our Largest fundraiser of the year. Thank you to all who helped in any way with this meal, to our cooks, Tony Rogers and Randy Rice, to all who volunteered to prepare pastries for the meal, those who prepared the meal, those who helped clean vegetables, helped in the kitchen, and helped with set up/clean up.

- We were very delighted to be asked to cater for the Wedding of our Long Time Member Baxter Cooze on June 27.
- Supplied hot dogs, drinks and volunteered for the year end Family Service.
- Annual Contribution of \$2500 to the Church.
- Contributed \$275 to Burry Heights Camp to help send an underprivileged Child to Camp.
- Held our year-end outing with our spouses and invited guests at the Outport Restaurant. Thank you to our Musicians who continue to supply the music.
- In August we catered to Members of the Mission and Service fund group who were touring the Island after General Council Meeting in Corner Brook.
- In September we catered for the SUF who were having their Annual Communications at Topsail.
- The Men's Club members continue to help with our Annual Harvest Festival Celebrations. Thank you to all who helped in the kitchen, served supper and cleaned up afterwards. The financial report speaks for the success.
- Made a donation of \$100 to Burry Heights Camp.
- Purchased \$100 of Food and donated it to the Food Bank
- Sent a \$200 donation to the families the church built houses for in Guatemala.
- We Made a Donation of \$ 200 to the Food Bank toward the purchase of Christmas Hampers.

- Made a Donation of \$ 250 to East District Chaplaincy Committee in support of our Hospital Chaplains.
- Made an additional donation of \$1000 to the Roofing Fund.
- The Men's Club expresses thanks again to Roy Boland one of our Members for his gracious Donation of 2 paper towel dispensers and towels for the bathrooms.
- We invited our spouses and other guests to our December Meeting and were treated to a delicious turkey dinner and Dessert Thank you to Freeman, Marvin and Sol for the preparation. After supper we were entertained with music in the Sanctuary. Thank you to Mr. Art Penney and Mr. Gerald Head.
- Held another successful Breakfast with Santa. Thank you again to all of those who came out and supported this breakfast, a special thank you to Santa as well. Unused food items were donated to the CBS Food Bank.
- We continue to donate Church bulletins to members of our Group who have experienced bereavement.
- Contributed toward the purchase of a new faucet for the kitchen. The cost of the faucet was \$415. This will be installed in the early new year.

All men of the Congregation are invited to attend the Men's Club Dinner Meeting on the First Monday of every Month.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to all members of the Men's Club who are so supportive and help out in so many ways and who do so willingly and to all the men who when asked come and help. Thank you as well to everyone who come out and support our fundraising activities for our church, which make it possible to donate the money back to the Church. Our Church is certainly blessed to have such dedicated group of men.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Bennett

MEN'S CLUB FINANCIAL REPORT

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH MEN'S CLUB FINANCIAL REPORT 2015

DESCRIPTION	NET
Balance as at January 1, 2015	\$1,880.19
Fundraising (Net of expenses)	
Breakfast with Santa	1,192.01
Easter Breakfast	1,131.54
Flipper Dinner	2,666.87
Catering	1,724.52
	6,714.94
Contributions/Donations	
TUC Annual Contribution	(2,500.00)
TUC Roofing Fund	(1,000.00)
TUC Other	(300.00)
Burry Heights	(375.00)
CBS Food Bank	(300.00)
East District Chaplaincy	(250.00)
Guatemala Project	(200.00)
	(4,925.00)
Other	
TUC Choir (Microphone stands)	(198.00)
Fellowship Dinners	172.96
Bank Charges	(71.40)
Honorarium	(250.00)
Kitchen	(140.91)
	(487.35)
Total Income less Expenses	1,302.59
Balance as at December 31, 2015	\$3,182.78

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW) REPORT

President: Doreen Cave
Secretary: Ruth Jesseau
Social/Program Convener:

Vice-President: Rosalind Foley
Treasurer: Madeline Parsons
Mildred Coles

Our purpose as UCW is to unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.

Summary of Activities:

- Participated in the World Day of Prayer service at Holy Innocents Anglican Church in Paradise March 5th.
- Hosted a Paddy's Day Luncheon on March 17th, providing meats, rolls, tea, coffee, and desserts while people attending brought along a salad. UCW group provided prizes for the event.
- Hosted the Good Friday Luncheon April 3rd, providing fish cakes, baked beans, homemade breads and desserts, proceeds from luncheon were donated to Topsail United Church.
- Mildred Coles once again made her annual Easter Eggs and monies raised were donated to Topsail United Church.
- Several of our members attended the UCW Rally at Gower St. United May 2nd, and also Burry Heights Days in September.
- Assisted with preparing for and helping out at the Flea Market in May and October.
- Provided muffin and dessert lunch with tea and coffee and assisted with other functions throughout Harvest Festival. Member of the ladies Coffee Group and UCW donated items for the bake sale and craft sale.
- We continue to support our foster child program (in Guatemala) Monies went to the continuing help for our foster child, her family and their community. We also provided monies for a Christmas Hamper for our foster child. The Sunday School children and our Coffee Group assist with the support for our foster child Program.
- Seven tote bags were made for General Council and a donation was also given towards the provision of cookies for break time at the meetings.
- Visited several of the seniors' residents in the area as part of our Outreach work, along with Rev. Bruce, for worship, fellowship and singing. As part of our Outreach responsibilities we provided and served food and refreshments throughout the year for funerals when requested.
- Catered a soup and sandwich luncheon in October for approx. 30 members of the Masonic Society.
- Along with coffee group members, UCW provided prizes for the Outreach dinner that was held in December.

Our members enjoyed a year of work, fun and fellowship in 2015. Along with members of coffee group we concluded our year with a potluck supper in the church hall. Members brought along items for Emanuel House which were delivered before Christmas by Pat Jones, Gillian Corbett and Mildred Coles.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Jesseau, Secretary

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Opening Balance at January 1, 2015		\$1,182.33
Income		
St. Patrick's Day	\$427.10	
	\$1,137.0	
Good Friday - Fish Cake Dinner	0	
Foster Child Donation	\$240.00	
Monthly Dues	\$239.00	
Membership Fees	\$130.00	
Donations	\$599.00	
Masonic Luncheon	\$304.00	
	\$3,076.1	
Total Income	0	\$3,076.10
Expenses		
Foster Child monthly payments & Christmas (\$175.00)	\$595.00	
East District	\$310.00	
	\$1,200.0	
Topsail United Church	0	
Bank Fees	\$30.00	
Gifts	\$131.28	
St. Patrick's Day	\$47.30	
Off site Events	\$160.00	
Burry Heights	\$200.00	
	\$2,673.5	
Total Expenses	8	-\$2,673.58
Closing Balance at December 13, 2015		\$1,584.85

Respectfully Submitted,
Madeline Parsons – Treasurer

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Members: Bob Bennett, Dale Butt, Brad Cole, Andrew Cranston, Beth Cranston, Gillian Corbett, Denise Jacobs, David Jones, Pat Jones

The Committee was set up by the Board in May of this year the purpose being to oversee all the Fundraising events in the church. The Committee Mandate is as follows:

1. Confirm all dates for the Annual Fundraisers with the committees / groups responsible
2. Confirm all dates are on the Church Calendar in the Office
3. Set up the Harvest Festival Committee
4. Set up the Fall Auction Committee
5. Remind groups to put notices in the Bulletin.
6. See that media advertising goes out on time – if necessary
7. Check in with each group and offer help if needed
8. Suggest improvements to current fundraisers
9. Identify new fundraisers
10. Report to the monthly meeting of the Official Board

The committee has had 6 meetings.

All the regularly scheduled Fundraising events were very successful.

Harvest Festival

Both the Men's and Women's groups took their usual lead in the main Harvest Festival Events. There seems to be waning interest in the Jiggs Dinner and the committee is looking into changes for 2016, in consultation with the groups involved. Members of the committee formed the Auction committee with the items being posted online for bidding prior to the Auction evening. This was a good gauge of the possibilities of a full online Auction in the future.

Harvest Festival Financial Report

Income:

Breakfast.....	\$ 1,786.00
Sale & Lunch.....	\$ 1,468.00
Jiggs Dinner.....	\$ 1,635.00
Flea Market.....	\$ 3,321.00
Auction.....	\$ 7,547.00
Donations.....	\$ 2,000.00

Total.....\$17,757.00

Expenses.....\$ 2,059.00

Net profit.....\$ 15,698.00

In addition to the scheduled regular events Kevin Collins was booked for a performance of his "Up Close & Personal" show that was well attended and added to the Harvest Festival totals.

Please speak to a member of the committee if you have any Fundraising ideas for our future consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Gillian Corbett

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair/Treasurer: Boyde Clarke
Members: Don Allen Sandra Baggs
Bob Bennett Lynn Mercer

Highlights - 2015

- Surplus of \$3,791 compared to a Budgeted Deficit of \$8,134
- Congregational givings (all categories) under Budget by \$5,302; “Local Church Support” under Budget by \$7,370
- Fundraising income over Budget by \$5,544 primarily due to 2 unbudgeted events – Spring Concert and Kevin Collins Concert
- Harvest Festival net of under \$16,000
- Godly Play Sunday School Program expenditures of \$5,000 deferred until 2016
- Bank account balance at year-end = \$60,918; GIC balance = \$50,000
- 120 families on PAR

Budget Submission - 2016

- Budgeted Deficit of \$7,662
- Budgeted increase of \$10,000 in Local Church Support to be driven by a planned Stewardship Program in June, 2016
- No Capital Expenditure budget for 2016
- Godly Play training for Sunday School instructors budgeted at \$3,500. Potential recoveries against this cost to be determined

Respectfully submitted,

Boyde Clarke

Topsail United Church

Statement of Income and Expenditures

January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

	2015 Budget \$	2015 Actual \$	Over (Under) Budget \$	2016 Budget \$
OPERATING INCOME				
CONGREGATIONAL GIVING				
Initial Offering	500.00	388.00	-112.00	400.00
Local Church Support	145,000.00	137,629.04	-7,370.96	147,900.00
Loose Offering	8,000.00	7,875.75	-124.25	8,000.00
Bulletin Dedications	1,500.00	955.00	-545.00	1,500.00
In Memoriams	4,500.00	5,099.62	599.62	5,000.00
Easter Envelopes	2,000.00	1,682.00	-318.00	2,000.00
Lenten Cards & Envelopes	750.00	720.00	-30.00	750.00
Good Friday Envelopes	1,000.00	1,134.00	134.00	1,000.00
Thanksgiving	2,200.00	2,115.00	-85.00	2,200.00
Christmas Envelopes	7,500.00	7,860.00	360.00	8,000.00
Advent Folders	1,000.00	1,144.00	144.00	1,000.00
Anniversary Income	750.00	760.00	10.00	0.00
Building Fund	1,500.00	1,845.00	345.00	1,500.00
Roofing Fund	5,000.00	7,765.00	2,765.00	500.00
Flag Fund	0.00	35.15	35.15	0.00
Pew Bibles	500.00	-610.00	-1,110.00	0.00
	<u>181,700.00</u>	<u>176,397.56</u>	<u>-5,302.44</u>	<u>179,750.00</u>
FUNDRAISING				
Harvest Festival	18,000.00	18,481.94	481.94	18,000.00
UCW Good Friday Feast	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
Calendars	100.00	25.00	-75.00	100.00
Hymn Sing	1,000.00	1,715.00	715.00	1,500.00
Lobster/Steak Dinner	4,000.00	4,256.00	256.00	4,000.00
Spring Flea Market	2,500.00	3,000.00	500.00	3,000.00
Observer Subscriptions	500.00	560.00	60.00	500.00
Men's Club	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
Music Program	0.00	1,825.25	1,825.25	2,000.00
Kevin Collins Concert	0.00	1,781.00	1,781.00	2,000.00
	<u>29,800.00</u>	<u>35,344.19</u>	<u>5,544.19</u>	<u>34,800.00</u>
OTHER				
HST Refund / Sundry Revenue	4,000.00	4,357.75	357.75	4,000.00
Church Hall Rental	13,000.00	10,986.00	-2,014.00	13,000.00
Weddings/Funerals	3,500.00	6,635.00	3,135.00	5,000.00
GIC Interest	400.00	400.00	0.00	325.00
	<u>20,900.00</u>	<u>22,378.75</u>	<u>1,478.75</u>	<u>22,325.00</u>
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	<u>232,400.00</u>	<u>234,120.50</u>	<u>1,720.50</u>	<u>236,875.00</u>

Topsail United Church

Operating Expenses

	2015 Budget \$	2015 Actual \$	Over (Under) Budget \$	2016 Budget \$
MINISTRY & PERSONNEL				
Salaries & Contracts	116,425.00	116,445.79	20.79	132,696.00
Benefits and Allowances	30,600.00	28,916.92	-1,683.08	30,600.00
Housing	15,100.00	14,710.89	-389.11	0.00
Worker's Compensation	990.00	837.17	-152.83	1,000.00
Professional Development	2,831.00	1,414.00	-1,417.00	2,879.00
Association Dues	100.00	0.00	-100.00	100.00
Committee Expense	200.00	173.76	-26.24	200.00
	166,246.00	162,498.53	-3,747.47	167,475.00
WORSHIP				
Committee Expenses	500.00	864.65	364.65	500.00
Organist Supply	375.00	480.00	105.00	375.00
Pulpit Supply / Guest Ministers	750.00	489.00	-261.00	750.00
Choir Expenses	500.00	54.95	-445.05	250.00
Bulletins	1,200.00	781.47	-418.53	1,400.00
	3,325.00	2,670.07	-654.93	3,275.00
PROPERTY & TRUSTEE				
Insurance	6,058.00	6,081.00	23.00	6,081.00
Heat & Light	10,000.00	9,666.88	-333.12	10,000.00
Telephone	3,600.00	4,073.24	473.24	4,000.00
Snow Clearing	4,000.00	3,291.85	-708.15	4,000.00
Garbage	750.00	786.70	36.70	750.00
Repairs and Maintenance	4,000.00	4,667.72	667.72	5,000.00
Municipal Services	600.00	590.00	-10.00	600.00
Propane	450.00	723.97	273.97	500.00
Capital Expenditures	0.00	139.99	139.99	0.00
	29,458.00	30,021.35	563.35	30,931.00
PASTORAL CARE/MEMBERSHIP				
Kitchen Supplies	250.00	160.76	-89.24	175.00
Committee Expense	1,500.00	862.40	-637.60	1,000.00
	1,750.00	1,023.16	-726.84	1,175.00
CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT				
Committee Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sunday School	1,500.00	150.00	-1,350.00	1,500.00
Godly Play Training	3,500.00	0.00	-3,500.00	3,500.00
Youth Band/Choir	200.00	0.00	-200.00	300.00
Bible Study	200.00	12.95	-187.05	200.00
	5,400.00	162.95	-5,237.05	5,500.00
OUTREACH				
Committee Expense	100.00	47.19	-52.81	100.00
Observer Subscriptions	600.00	619.47	19.47	600.00
	700.00	666.66	-33.34	700.00

Operating Expenses, Continued

ADMINISTRATION

Office Supplies	1,750.00	2,459.48	709.48	2,000.00
Photocopier	3,500.00	1,845.53	-1,654.47	2,500.00
Postage	750.00	754.23	4.23	850.00
Computer Services	1,500.00	1,317.72	-182.28	1,500.00
	<u>7,500.00</u>	<u>6,376.96</u>	<u>-1,123.04</u>	<u>6,850.00</u>

FINANCE

Envelopes, Folders, Printing	750.00	319.00	-431.00	750.00
Audit Expense	900.00	0.00	-900.00	1,500.00
Pastoral Charge Assessment	8,755.00	8,780.00	25.00	8,981.00
Bank Charges and Fees	1,000.00	971.94	-28.06	1,100.00
Payroll Administration	650.00	519.76	-130.24	600.00
PAR Expenses	1,400.00	1,359.41	-40.59	1,400.00
	<u>13,455.00</u>	<u>11,950.11</u>	<u>-1,504.89</u>	<u>14,331.00</u>

MISCELLANEOUS

HST Paid & Sundry Expense	4,500.00	4,486.99	-13.01	4,500.00
Harvest Festival Expense	2,000.00	2,559.18	559.18	2,000.00
Wedding/Funeral Expense	2,500.00	5,040.52	2,540.52	3,800.00
Lobster/Steak Dinner	2,200.00	2,306.88	106.88	2,500.00
Minister's Discretion	500.00	150.00	-350.00	500.00
Delegate Expense	1,000.00	416.00	-584.00	1,000.00
	<u>12,700.00</u>	<u>14,959.57</u>	<u>2,259.57</u>	<u>14,300.00</u>

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

	<u>240,534.00</u>	<u>230,329.36</u>	<u>-10,204.64</u>	<u>244,537.00</u>
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SURPLUS (DEFICIT)

	<u>-8,134.00</u>	<u>3,791.14</u>	<u>11,925.14</u>	<u>-7,662.00</u>
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Topsail United Church

Statement of Funds, Loans and Balances

	\$		\$
Mission & Service Fund		Bank Account	
Balance, January 1, 2015	0.00	Balance, January 1, 2015	57,127.42
Donations	19,115.40	Surplus (deficit), 2015	3,791.14
	19,115.40	Balance, December 31, 2015	60,918.56
Less:		GIC	
Bank Charges	-56.39	Balance, January 1, 2015	50,000.00
Remittances	-18,733.52	Transfers in	-
PAR expenses	-325.49	Transfers out	-
Balance, December 31, 2015	0.00	Balance, December 31, 2015	50,000.00
Cemetery Fund		Total General Account	110,918.56
Balance, January 1, 2015	8,319.30		
Donations	1,625.00		
Flower Services	1,434.45		
Plot Payments	5,500.00		
	16,878.75		
Less:			
Expenses	-5,858.54		
Balance, December 31, 2015	11,020.21		
Food Bank			
Balance, January 1, 2015	0.00		
Donations	4,914.00		
Total Income	4,914.00		
Less:			
Remittances	4,914.00		
Balance, December 31, 2015	0.00		

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee is comprised of the following retiring Board Members:

Boyde Clarke	Gillian Corbett	Valerie Howe	David Jones
Wanda Saunders	Bond Swain	Dale Butt	

Ex-officio: Rev. Bruce Kearley

It is recommended that Board members serve 3 consecutive years.

2015 Official Board Members eligible/willing to stand for re-election in 2016:

3 rd year	Freeman Budgell
	Glenys Moran

2 nd year	Joanne Avery
	Paul Burt
	Mildred Coles
	Lloyd Hobbs

Nominees 2016	Doreen Cave
	Brad Cole
	Denise Jacobs
	Lynn Mercer

Nominees may be accepted up to the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 28, 2016.