

TOPSAIL
UNITED
CHURCH

2016 Annual Report

“The Church by the Side of the Road”

P.O. Box 13010, Stn Topsail
Conception Bay South
NL A1W 2K1
Phone: 834-4567
Fax: 834-6200
www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
Church Directory 2016.....	1
Church Rolls 2016.....	2
Historic Rolls 2016	2
Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes - February 28, 2016	3-5
From the Minister's Desk	6-8
Official Board Chair Report	9
Pastoral Care and Membership Committee Report	10
Worship & Sacraments Committee Report	11-12
Choral Director and Organist Report.....	13
Christian Development Committee Report	14
Youth Program Coordinator Report	15-17
Youth Band and Choirs Director Report.....	18
Sunday School Financial Report	19
Youth Group Financial Report.....	19
Ministry and Personnel Committee Report.....	20
Outreach Committee Report	21-22
Food Bank Report	23
Mission and Service Fund Report.....	24
Property and Trustee Committee Report.....	25
Men's Club Report.....	26-27
United Church Women Report.....	28-29
Fundraising Committee Report.....	30
Finance Committee Report	31-35
Nominating Committee Report	36

CHURCH DIRECTORY 2016

Minister	Rev. Bruce Kearley
Congregational Designated Minister	Steven Rogers (Jan – Apr)
Youth Program Coordinator	Heather Cronhelm (August – current)
Office Manager	Nicole Ivey-Cross (Jan – Apr)
	Jacqueline Kennedy (Apr – current)
Caretaker	Roger Richards
Organist	Beth Cranston
Choir Director	Andrew Cranston
Youth Band & Choirs Director	Brett Vey
Wedding Coordinator	Rosemary Richards
Cemetery Caretaker	Bob Bennett
Webmaster (www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net)	Ken Corbett

OFFICIAL BOARD

EXECUTIVE

Chair	Brad Cole
Vice Chair	Paul Burt
Secretary	Lynn Mercer
Minister	Rev. Bruce Kearley

MEMBERS

Joanne Avery	Freeman Budgell	Doreen Cave	Mildred Coles
Carol Gillingham	Claude Hender	Lloyd Hobbs	Denise Jacobs
Glenys Moran	Jackie Perry		

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ministry and Personnel	Gillian Corbett
Finance and Administration	Sandra Baggs
Fundraising	Bob Bennett / Gillian Corbett
Pastoral Care and Membership	
Outreach	Patricia Jones
Christian Development	Bond Swain
Property and Trustee	Paul Burt
Worship and Sacraments	Doreen Cave
Long Term Planning	Jim Rowsell and Rev. Kearley

CHURCH GROUP LEADERS

Men's Club	Bob Bennett
U.C.W./Coffee Group	Doreen Cave
Sunday School and Youth Group Treasurer	Anne Allen

EAST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Delegates:	Bob Bennett	Doreen Cave
Burry Heights Contact:	Patricia Jones	

CHURCH ROLLS 2016

BAPTISMS - 37 MARRIAGES - 12 FUNERALS - 13

<i>Vera Irene Squires</i>	<i>Carol Ann Wyman</i>	<i>Evelyn Bastow</i>
<i>Wallace Barnes</i>	<i>Ada Florence Lockyer</i>	<i>Dallas Morton Dalton</i>
<i>Audrey Doreen Butler</i>	<i>Glenis Lorraine Penney</i>	<i>Chesley Gerald Bishop</i>
<i>Roger Perry</i>	<i>Marjorie Miller</i>	<i>Maxwell Gillingham</i>
<i>Georgina Mary Eveleigh</i>		

HISTORIC ROLL 2016

NEW MEMBERS BY CONFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS - 10

<i>Emma Lesley Bishop</i>	<i>Dylan Michael Frederick Callan</i>	<i>Jessica Ruth Cole</i>
<i>Kimberley Elva Cole</i>	<i>Russell James Corbett</i>	<i>Natasha Rose Crann</i>
<i>Ashley Sarah Howe</i>	<i>Keegan Francis Laundry</i>	<i>Kiana Alyssa Laundry</i>
<i>Alexander Ralph Pelley</i>		

NEW MEMBERS TRANSFERRED IN - 5

<i>Claude Hender</i>	<i>Margaret Hender</i>	<i>Lloyd Hobbs</i>
<i>Loretta Coish</i>	<i>John Coish</i>	

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED OUT - 0

DECEASED MEMBERS - 1

Roger Barnes

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 28, 2016

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Rev. Bruce Kearley called the Annual Congregational Meeting to order at 12:05 pm welcoming the 34 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 was nominated Chair and there being no further nominations agreed to Chair the meeting. Gillian Corbett was nominated Secretary and there being no further nominations agreed to accept the position of Secretary.
- 3. OPENING DEVOTIONS:** Rev. Bruce invited those present to join in singing “Part of the Family” and followed this with a reading of selective verses from Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians. He gave a short reflection on the reading, ending with prayer.
- 4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS:** the Chair expressed sincere thanks to Rev. Bruce, the professional congregation leaders and the committees whose reports appeared in the Annual Report
- 5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
MOTION: (L. Hobbs/R.Jenkins) that the 2015 Reports of Committees be presented individually and discussed, with the exception of the Finance Committee and there would be one motion to accept them all. The financial report including the 2016 Budget would be approved in a separate motion. **CARRIED.**
- 6. CHURCH ROLLS:**
Rev. Bruce read the names of those who had passed away in 2015, followed with a moment of silence and a prayer. The Lord’s Prayer was repeated by all present.
- 7. MINUTES OF 2015 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:**
MOTION: (B. Cole/R. Jenkins) that the Minutes of the 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting be adopted as circulated. **CARRIED.**
- 8. 2015 ANNUAL REPORTS:**
 - 8.1 Minister:** Rev. Bruce expressed his thanks to the congregation for their time, talent, commitment and support of his ministry. The Pastoral Care part of his ministry includes phone calls, home and hospital visitation, counselling and baptism preparation. Worship involves preparation of the weekly service and Rev. Bruce thanked Steven for his ministry and Andrew, Beth and Brett for their ministry of music.
Committee work for the congregation, the local Ministerial and the District all take time
Rev. Bruce thanked the Board past, present and future and gave his thanks and those of his wife, Dianne, for the response of the congregation to his Ministry.
MOTION: (D. Jones/F. Budgell) that a vote of thanks be given to Rev. Kearley and the Staff, especially recognizing Rev. Kearley’s pastoral work and leadership of the Congregation.
CARRIED

- 8.2 Chair of the Board:** Board Chair, David Jones, spoke to his report commenting that this was the end of his three year term and thanking their Board for their work.
- 8.3 Congregational Designated Minister:** Steven Rogers highlighted the need for volunteers in all areas of the Christian Development program. He has been training Godly Play leaders one on one and still hopes that a course can be arranged for the coming year. Steven thanked all those involved with the very successful Christmas pageant. He mentioned the value of the use of the Website, Facebook, and Email contact to the church. Questioned on the kids response to Godly play, Stephen replied that attendance has been up and the leaders are excited about the program. The supplies being requested will be a lasting investment for the Sunday School.
- 8.4 Membership and Pastoral Care:** Valerie Howe spoke to the report requesting help for the committee and the Newsletter.
- 8.5 Worship and Sacraments:** Doreen Cave spoke to the report, requesting people to participate in Worship and to be ushers.
- 8.6 Organist/Choir Director:** Andrew Cranston thanked the congregation for its support. New music has been purchased specifically for Easter. He requested new members for the Men's Choir. The proposed Scholarship program is ongoing with funds being sought for participants.
- 8.7 Christian Development Committee:** Bond Swain spoke to his report and thanked Steven, Brett and Rosalind for their work.
- 8.8 Ministry and Personnel:** Gillian Corbett expressed thanks to all staff members.
- 8.9 Outreach:** Pat Jones spoke to her report, there were no questions.
- 8.10 Property and Trustee:** Paul Burt spoke to his report. Brad Cole agreed to fix the problem with the gates at the Long Pond Cemetery
- 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 spoke to the report. She mentioned that numbers in attendance of U.C.W. meetings were very low and the viability of the group would be discussed at the March meeting. U.C.W. projects have been carried out with the willing help of the Wednesday Morning Coffee Group members.
- 8.13 Fundraising Committee:** Gillian Corbett spoke to the reorganising of this committee. Harvest Festival 2016 will go through some changes. The committee is looking for new fundraising ideas.
- 9. ADOPTION OF REPORTS 8.1 – 8.13:**
MOTION: (R. Jenkins / B. Cole) that the individual reports 8.1 to 8.13 be adopted as presented. **CARRIED.**

10. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Boyde Clarke reviewed the Highlights of the 2015 budget noting that a surplus of \$3,791 had been achieved in part due to the Godly Play Workshop not going ahead and an increase in Fundraising income.

The bank account balance at year end was \$60,918.56 and the GIC balance \$50,000 for a total of \$110,918.56.

For 2016 a deficit budget of \$7,662 is forecast.

There is no Capital Expenditure budget.

A Stewardship Program "Called to be The Church" is planned for June.

It was noted that the Minister's Housing allowance is now included in the salary amount.

MOTION: (B. Clarke/Jones) that the 2015 Financial Report including 2016 Budget and Statement of Funds be adopted as presented. **CARRIED.**

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. There are 6 members continuing on from 2015 – Freeman Budgell, Glenys Moran, Joanne Avery, Paul Burt, Mildred Coles, and Lloyd Hobbs.

The Committee further nominated Doreen Cave, Brad Cole, Denise Jacobs and Lynn Mercer. Jackie Perry was nominated by Wanda Saunders and Brad Cole.

Further nominations were called for twice.

MOTION: (W. Saunders/ D. Jones) that nominations cease and that those nominated be elected as Board Members for 3 years. The Board may add further members for a term of 1 year as necessary. **CARRIED**

12. Thanks were expressed to those in attendance by outgoing Chair David Jones

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN: (B. Clarke) that the meeting be adjourned at 1:40 pm. **CARRIED**

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

Submitted by,

Doreen Cave (Chair)

Gillian Corbett (Secretary)

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

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

*"Jesus loves me, this I know.
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong,
In his love we shall be strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Dear Friends:

I Greet you in Christ's name. 2016 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 seeks to share Jesus' love as a people of God. The hymn "*Jesus Loves Me*" has been a hallmark of our faith expression from childhood. We know it as well as the Lord's Prayer and Psalm 23. And that is good but it can also mean that the message of the hymn can be lost in its familiarity. We have to guard against that because whenever we sing (or speak) of God's love through Jesus it proclaims the foundation of our faith and everything we strive to do in faith derives its meaning from the abiding love of God.

The story of God's love is found in the Bible. (*Jesus loves me, this I know. For the BIBLE tells me so*). It was said of Karl Barth (A Swiss Reformed Theologian who is often regarded as the greatest Protestant theologian of the twentieth century) that being asked by a student if he could summarize his whole life's work in theology in a sentence responded with the words "*Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so.*" We learn of God's love in the bible and we see it expressed in the world as people of faith live that love in deeds of kindness and acts of justice. These thoughts are in my mind as I write this letter for inclusion in the 2016 Annual Report.

A report mostly provides statistics and facts but those statistics and facts are founded upon the commitment to sharing God's Love. We strive, in our personal and communal faith, to express God's love in our care and respect for all people and all of Creation. This responsibility is further reflected in a beautiful hymn in "More Voices" by **Gordon Light** entitled: "Draw the Circle Wide"!

**Draw the circle wide, Draw it wider still
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**
(*More Voices #145 "Draw the Circle, words by Gordon Light*)

The beauty and assurance of God's Love is there for us to enjoy and fine meaning for our daily lives. 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 2016 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 as we strive always to draw the circle of God's love wide and stand side by side and walk shoulder to shoulder. May knowing that we are walking with you in prayer and presence bring you a sense of comfort and assurance on the difficult paths of life.

The beauty and assurance of God's love is also 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 opportunities given to us by our Sunday School students, Inspiration Band, Courage choir, their teachers and leaders, in presenting worship through music and song that enables us to express faith in new and exciting ways. We are very blessed by all our youth and their leaders and 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 experience God's Love through our weekly worship. The ministry of our Choirs under the direction of Beth Cranston, Andrew Cranston, and 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: *"Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice."* Thank you to our choirs and music leaders for your ministry.

Steven Rogers, our Congregational Designated Minister, resigned in April. We were sad to see him leave. We were truly blessed by Steven's ministry and wish him well and God's blessing in his future endeavors.

In August we welcomed Heather Cronhelm in the position of Youth Program Coordinator. In this position Heather develops and directs the youth program for our church. The leadership she and the youth provide for our congregation has enhanced and broadened our worship and congregational life experience with a deeper understanding of the scope and depth of God's love. Heather is a member of our congregation and is studying for the Order of Ministry. We are very pleased and thankful for Heather's ministry and are truly blessed by the insight and leadership she brings to our congregation. We wish Heather well as she continues her studies and surround her with our prayers and love.

Our Sunday School, our youth, our choirs, our music leaders and our Youth Program Coordinator are joined by a host of other individuals, members of the various committees and groups in the congregation who share their time, talent and commitment enabling us to experience and then share God's love through worship, work and witness.

This year has seen a couple of changes in the position of Office Manager. For a portion of the year Nicole Ivey-Cross was our office manager and provided wonderful leadership in the office but was unable to stay in the position due to family responsibilities. On behalf of myself and our congregation I want to thank Nicole for her expertise, efficiency, commitment and care as our office manager. We extend our well wishes to Nicole and her future endeavors.

In April we welcomed Jacqui Kennedy as our new Office Manager. The amount of responsibility as Office Manager is great. Jacqui has settled into this position very quickly with expertise, efficiency, commitment and care as our office Manager. We are very happy Jacqui is with us and look forward to working with her for years to come.

There were many highlights in this past year and, along with those I have mentioned, the Annual Report gives an account of the entire life and work of our congregation for 2016. 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 2016 we were able to maintain a good 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 the previous year. We do need to maintain our level of financial support by making regular contributions and maybe even increasing them, 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.

As a means to ensure that we continue and celebrate the ministry of our Church we will be holding a Stewardship campaign beginning the end of April. This is a 5 week program with the theme "Called to be the Church: Congregational Giving Program." The title of the specific program is "Salt & Light" and will help us reflect upon how our generosity is our response to God's vast generosity in our own lives. There will be more information coming in the next couple of months.

I also, on behalf of myself and the congregation, want to express deep appreciation to our other church staff. Thank you to *Jacqueline Kennedy, Heather Cronhelm, Brett Vey, Beth and Andrew Cranston, Rosemary & Roger Richards* for their support, expertise, help and guidance to me and our congregation.

I end my letter with the remaining verses of "Draw the Circle Wide" 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. The assurance that God always walks with us is my prayer for you as we begin 2017. My wife Dianne joins with me in wishing you God's blessing for the year ahead.

**God the still-point of the circle, 'round who all creation turns;
Nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms.**

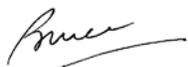
**Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call.**

**Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door.**

**Draw the circle wide, Draw it wider still
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

(More Voices #145 "Draw the Circle, words by Gordon Light)

Blessings,



Rev. Bruce

OFFICIAL BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Wow, how time flies by. This past year was my first as chair of Topsail United Church official board and I must admit, it has been an exciting time. Being involved with many of the church activities while addressing the issues that face our church on a regular basis really made me appreciate this position. I certainly learned a great deal about the operations of our church and the dedication and commitment required from so many volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers who so freely donate their time. Without your hard work and dedication, we would not be the church we are today; vibrant and full of energy. Please, I ask you as members of our congregation, to take a minute and shake the hand of one of our many volunteers and thank them personally for their work. It is a small gesture but means so much.

Through the warm and welcoming spirit so often displayed by our leader and minister, Reverend Bruce, we continue to be strong in numbers and faith. Thank you, Reverend Bruce. God bless you.

This past year we've experienced many changes here at Topsail United. Our previous Chair, Mr. Dave Jones, completed his three-year tenure and on behalf of the board I would like to thank Dave for his commitment and dedication he so freely gives to our church. With the addition of Ms. Heather Cronhelm, Youth Program Coordinator, we have seen a revitalization of our youth programs evidenced by the increase in Sunday school attendance. Thank you, Heather. Also, we have a new administrator, Ms. Jacqueline Kennedy, who has joined us this past year. We thank you for your dedication and hard work. We are here to support you in the months and years to come.

We have a full slate of committees, active and strong, and as you read through this report you will appreciate the work our committees do, from outreach, to keeping the property in a well maintained and ecstatically pleasing condition. Our financial position continues to remain strong considering congregational givings are down slightly over the previous year. However, a word of caution; Topsail United Church is not immune to the effects of the recent downturn in the provincial economy. Our operating costs continue to rise. We will be introducing a Stewardship Program later this spring to assist in building on the current level of support that we so generously receive through our various givings and fundraising initiatives.

Topsail United Church has embraced change as it strives to better serve its congregation and the surrounding communities. Accepting new ideas is in keeping with the Bible's teaching, which instructs us to "Be strong and courageous For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

Let's think "outside the box" and collectively we will embrace change in a positive and supportive way. Thank you all for your commitment to our church; to your church. Without the dedication and support, of our congregation and community, the commitment of our board, our volunteers, all under the leadership of our minister, Rev. Bruce, Topsail United Church would not be the great place it is today, a place of friendship, of fellowship, and of loving spirit.

God bless you all,

Brad

Brad Cole, Chairperson

PASTORAL CARE AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: Gillian Corbett Valerie Howe Genevieve Phillips
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, 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 2016, 10 new members were added by Confirmation, 5 new members were added by transfer; and 1 member was removed by their death. The Historic Roll currently lists 525 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 again sent to children living in the Pastoral Charge who were baptized here and started kindergarten in September. Our church records for 2016 list **37 Baptisms, 12 Marriages, and 13 Funerals** conducted by Topsail United Church throughout the year.

Supporting Families List: In 2016, there were 348 listed families financially supporting the church and a further 44 families listed under our Pastoral Care.

Communications:

Newsletter: The Newsletter was not published this year.

Web Site: The church Web Site www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net continues to be updated weekly with Bulletin information and other information and photos which are received by the Web Master, Ken Corbett.

Our Facebook Page: The church uses Facebook to highlight any upcoming events. Beth Cranston posts the information.

E-Mail: To comply with Canada's anti-spam legislation we would appreciate any person who has access to email to please provide your email address and your consent for electronic communication.

"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. Many thanks to Dianne Kearley for all her help.

Pastoral Care: Rev. Kearley contacts and visits members at home or in hospital if he is made aware of the need.

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,

Gillian Corbett

WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Doreen Cave

Secretary: Beth Cranston

Members: Barbara Brown Marie Burt Erin Burt
Andrew Cranston Heather Cronhelm Rosalind Foley
Allan Parsons Jacqueline Perry Wanda Saunders

Ex-Officio: Rev. Bruce Kearley

Summary of Activities:

The Worship & Sacraments Committee met three times in 2016 - February, June and September. Sunday worship schedules were established for the year and business related to worship and other activities in the sanctuary was conducted. We were happy to welcome Erin Burt as our youth representative, and we thank Steven Rogers and Rev. Pearce Penney for their valuable contribution while members of our Committee. We were pleased that Heather Cronhelm accepted the position of Youth Program Coordinator.

SPECIAL SERVICES

There were three Flower Services held in 2016: Long Pond on July 5, Topsail on July 12, and Upper Gullies on July 19. The Annual Hymn Sing took place on November 13. This year Christmas and New Years Day fell on Sundays and it was decided to hold Worship on these days. Both services were well attended.

MUSIC

Led by Brett Vey, the Courage Choir and Inspiration Band held a fundraising concert in the spring. In November, the Mixed and Men's Choir led by Andrew Cranston, along with both youth ensembles and invited guests, held a Remembrance-themed concert, which also raised funds for our Church. Kevin Collins was booked to perform once again and this concert was also a fundraising success.

A generous donation of Hand Chimes was dedicated to our Church thanks to the gracious efforts of Lorraine Jarvis. The chimes have been played by the youth as well as by some adult volunteers. The intention is to continue to feature these wonderful instruments in a more regular fashion.

The Official Board has approved funds for a new Choral Scholar Program with an intended start date of March 2017, provided that appropriate candidates apply. Advertising has just begun with some interest already. The selected singers will be considered Section Leaders, responsible for becoming members of the Mixed Choir and facilitating part-singing during worship.

SANCTUARY

A new Family of God Liturgy began to be adopted in 2016 but was discontinued after Steven Rogers' departure. The Liturgy may or may not be put into use again in the future.

Following a meeting with Rev. Heather Sandford to discuss possibilities around live-streaming Worship services, a proposal was prepared and provided to the Official Board. The lack of adequate internet service at the Church must be addressed if we are to continue with this project.

A pair of candle holders was graciously donated by Barbara Brown in memory of her son, Benjamin. The candleholders were dedicated on December 4.

The pamphlet of information kept in the pews has been updated so that all visitors may be aware of the various groups and ministries our Church provides.

There is a 175th Anniversary Banner hanging in the Sanctuary which was donated by George and Lorraine Jarvis. Our Committee has agreed to their request to change the anniversary numbers on a yearly basis, and to make other modifications as they see fit.

Together with the Property Committee, this committee shared efforts in re-arranging the Altar in order to make the area more spacious and safe. The layout of the Sanctuary is now that of a Split Chancel, with the pulpit placed to the congregation's left and a smaller lectern to the congregation's right, and the Communion table has been moved back toward the organ. The new pulpit and lectern were expertly fashioned out of the existing pulpit.

The Worship and Sacraments Committee expresses sincere thanks to all staff and volunteers who contributed to worship in our Sanctuary in 2016. We also thank those who filled in for vacations and other absences. We are blessed to work with such a special congregation at Topsail United. Your many talents and generous commitment not only to our own congregation but also the wider community are truly a testament to God's love.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Cranston
Secretary

CHORAL DIRECTOR AND ORGANIST REPORT

It's hard to believe we have been sharing music together for almost four years. The time has flown by and continues to be a rewarding and enriching experience for both of us. We want to thank you for being such a warm and friendly community!

Our attendance has been steady both for the Mixed and Men's Choirs but there is always an open invitation to the congregation to consider joining either ensemble. If you've thought about it and just aren't sure, why not come visit us and try it out?

The Mixed Choir and the Men's Choir took part in a Remembrance concert this year, along with the Children's Choir and Youth Band, as a fundraiser for the church. Aurora Women's Choir were invited guests. It was very well received by the audience and there are plans in the works for more concerts in 2017 featuring all of our music programs.

Some new repertoire that was purchased in 2015 was again featured for our Good Friday, Easter and Christmas Eve services. We plan to continue to build upon the choirs' repertoire in 2017, as well as regularly introduce new hymns and congregational singing during worship.

Finally, we are grateful to the Board for their approval of a new Choral Scholars program. We are currently seeking up to four section leaders for our Mixed Choir. These singers would be responsible for attending all Mixed Choir services and rehearsals. They would possess strong sight-reading skills and help promote more frequent, and confident part singing in the choir.

A similar program was introduced two years ago, but we were unsuccessful in seeking interested applicants at the time. This new program is open to singers of any age and comes with an honorarium payable in two installments, one per term. Our search for applicants will take place in February with the intended start date being March 2017.

It is our hope that these new singers will help our existing choir members learn new skills and possibly even grow the choir beyond our congregation and into the wider community. We are excited about the opportunity to keep building on the choir programs to offer you new musical worship experiences.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew and Beth Cranston
Choral Director and Organist

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Bond Swain
Members: Glenys Moran Judy Powell Rosalind Foley
Jo-ann Stone Charlotte Ackerman
Ex officio: Heather Cronhelm

Summary of Activities:

The Christian Development Committee met three times throughout 2016. 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.

Heather Cronhelm is now TUC's Youth Program Coordinator. The Committee acts as a resource to provide feedback and guidance to Heather, as well provides an oversight role with respect to the Christian Development Program. We thank Heather for all her hard work and dedication to our youth and to Topsail United!

The Courage Choir and Inspiration Band led by Brett Vey continue to provide Topsail United Church with uplifting music and entertainment.

The year-end service for the Sunday School was held downstairs in the auditorium on June 19th with skits along with the Courage Choir and Inspiration Band participating. The food was prepared by the Men's Club and the UCW.

Godly Play continues to be a part of the education program for the Sunday School but it was seen that the SPARK program was very beneficial to our children. Therefore, a decision was made to combine both programs into our Sunday School teachings. Last spring a fundraising campaign was launched to raise money for new Godly Play items. We are very thankful to the congregation and other groups for the over \$1600.00 raised. Heather is preparing the inventory of items/new stories to be ordered for the Sunday School.

The Committee is thankful for all of the wonderful volunteers assisting with Children, Youth and Sunday School Programs! We would also like to thank the Men's Club and UCW for their continued support and never ending will to help whenever asked!

Respectfully submitted,

Bond Swain
Chair

YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR REPORT

I am thankful for this opportunity to report to the congregation as Youth Program Coordinator. The following report will primarily cover the fall semester of 2016 as my role began in mid-August 2016. Steven Rogers had provided leadership for our youth ministries as Congregational Designated Minister during the first few months of 2016. I am grateful for the talent, hard work and sense of vision that he shared during his time at Topsail United Church. The position of Youth Program Coordinator has now replaced the former Congregational Designated Minister position. I begin my report with a brief introduction of the Youth Program Coordinator position.

As Youth Program Coordinator, I am responsible for unifying, supervising and supporting the work of all youth programs within our church. This will include the youth Confirmation class which I will lead in partnership with Rev. Bruce. My position includes working with leaders, youth, parents, and the congregation as a whole. I work twenty hours a week in the capacity of Youth Program Coordinator. I have been hired on a ten-month contract. I report to the board through the Christian Development Committee. I also sit as staff member on both the Worship and Sacraments Committee and the Christian Development Committee. Over the past few months I have been grateful to have had Bond Swain's guidance in his capacity as chair of the Christian Development Committee. I feel equally grateful for the support and guidance provided by the Ministry and Personnel Committee as I began my new role.

Sunday School/Youth Sunday Class

The Sunday School is blessed to have a group of dedicated leaders. Jo-ann Stone continues to serve as Superintendent. I appreciate the direction that she offers. I am also grateful for the insight shared by other leaders. We meet as a team as regularly as possible to plan and discuss issues relating to Sunday School. Sabrina Callan, Tonya Pelley, and Genevieve Phillips have also continued youth ministry within our Sunday School. We have welcomed four new Sunday School leaders: Erica Bungay, Lori Dinn, Jennifer Barnes and Tania Cave. I would like to thank Mona Morey for lending support as I began my new role in September. I thank her also for her years of dedication to our Sunday School. The Sunday School consists of five age groups. All groups with exception of the youth class meet in the church basement. The youth class meets in the boardroom. Preschool to Grade 6 uses two sets of curriculum. The group meets together for Godly Play once a month. I will be purchasing a new set of Godly Play stories in the near future. I have also contacted the Church of the Good Shepherd, as it is my hope that some of our leaders will take part in Godly Play in the Spring. Spark workshops are used twice a month. Each class takes part in a different workshop such as art, science, baking, and Bible games. The children appear to enjoy both curriculum. The children are also involved in contributing money to help support our foster child in Guatemala. During Advent some of the children drew pictures and wrote letters which we gave to Sara Budgell, Sara will send them to Guatemala.

The youth class is led by Jo-ann and Sabrina. They are using a number of resources in order to provide a class that aims to meet the interests and needs of this age group. There are 5 youth who are registered for this class. Other statistics for the Sunday School are as follows: Preschool (6), Kindergarten to Grade 1 (8), Grades 2 and 3 (8), and Grades 4, 5 and 6 (8). Altogether there were 35 children registered. There was an average attendance of 19

youth and children. Anne Allen continues to work as treasurer for the youth programs. Her contribution is appreciated.

Youth Music Ministry

The music ministry programs continue to be led by Brett Vey. It is a joy to work with both Brett and the members of the Courage choir and the Inspiration band. Brett welcomes each member's energy, enthusiasm, and talent. He fosters a team spirit among group members and brings focus to the task of preparing musical presentations. Brett and I work together in choosing hymns and anthems for the family services. I am grateful for the musical talent and knowledge that he shares. Choir and band members provide an important ministry through the music that they offer. I know that congregation members are very thankful for their contribution. New members are always welcome. We would especially like to increase the number of younger members in the choir. Additional information regarding these groups can be found in Brett's report.

Encounter

Encounter is a group that was initiated by Steven Rogers, Brett Vey, Jo-ann Stone, and I now co-lead Encounter. This group meets once a month on a Wednesday. On these evenings, band practice finishes early. Many of the band members are involved in the group and bring along their friends. Other youth from our church have also joined us and have brought friends. This time of fun and fellowship begins with grace and a snack such as pizza or ice cream. This is followed by games. We end the night with a time of sharing. The youth appear to appreciate having a place where they can speak openly with their peers. It is a privilege to work with this amazing group of young people.

Family Worship Services

Children and youth assist in leading worship on the third Sunday of the month. Members of both the Sunday School and music ministry programs take active roles in reading scripture passages, leading the Call to Worship, and leading the congregation in prayer. Children and youth also assist in taking up the offering. Also, a family is invited to give out bulletins. The family services usually focus on a theme that is celebrated by our National Church. Music is led by the Inspiration band and the Courage choir under the direction of Brett Vey. These musicians are very talented. The practice time given to prepare for anthems and congregational pieces also shows their dedication. Many thanks to Stephen Stone for working with the sound system. Reverend Bruce and I work as a team in leading other aspects of the service. The ministry provided by our children and youth is treasured. These services are a blessing to members of all ages within our church family.

Christmas Pageant

"Shepherds Sheep and a Savior" was created by Ed Kee. This piece is a musical that invites participants and the audience to experience the first Christmas through the eyes of a group of shepherds. Through their journey to Bethlehem, the shepherds learn that everyone is special in God's eyes. The shepherds also proclaim the good news that God has come to be with us in His son Jesus. All children had the opportunity to take part in the pageant as shepherds, travelers, sheep, and angels. Sunday School leaders also dressed up and led groups as they moved around the sanctuary during musical portions of the performance. Those with speaking parts did a wonderful job! The non-speaking parts were also played with enthusiasm and creativity! During Advent, Sunday School children and leaders worked hard to prepare the acting parts. Extra practices were attended also during the week leading up to the pageant. Children also prepared star shapes that were hung in the

sanctuary as pageant props. Under Brett's leadership, the Courage Choir and the Inspiration band began to practice the musical portion of the pageant in the fall. Their extra practice was evident on the day of the pageant. The music and singing were amazing! We were also very pleased that both Colin Perry and my son, Nick Slade, could join with the band for this event. Both the congregation and the participants appeared to enjoy this Christmas celebration. The pageant is an example of the unique ministry that our children and youth provide. The response of the adult members of the congregation showed that they truly honor the gifts that our young people have to give. Following the pageant there was a well-attended time of refreshment and fellowship downstairs. I would like to thank Andrea Deacy who played carols on the piano for a sing along. This time was enjoyed by all!

Christmas Eve Services

I would like to thank Rosalind Foley for planning and providing leadership for the 4 pm children's service. It was a blessing to see Rosalind provide ministry in this way. The children presented "The Friendly Beasts". This presentation consisted of both reading and singing parts. Instrumental music and an anthem were provided by members of the Courage choir and the Inspiration band. Rev. Bruce provided a Christmas message with the help of a lamb puppet. The Vey family lit the Christ candle. Sunday School children also helped to take up the offering. The service was very well attended and well received. I provided leadership for the 6 pm service along with Rev. Bruce. This was a service of candle lighting, carol singing, and reflection. Children and youth participated by reading Luke's account of the first Christmas, taking part in leading the call to worship, and leading prayer. Children and youth read and lit advent candles throughout the service. Sunday School children also helped collect the offering. My reflection was titled "Christmas Beauty". I read from "Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect" by Richard H. Schneider. Members of the Courage choir and Inspiration band provided music throughout the service. They also presented a unique version of Fred Jay's "When a Child is Born". This piece had also been presented in the 4pm service. This service was also well attended and appeared to be well received,

In closing, I would like thank all who support the youth ministries within our church. Thank you, fellow staff members, the committees and groups within our church, and all congregation members. It is very evident that within Topsail United Church, children and youth are a welcomed group of our community of faith. There is much that is being done to support them in their faith development. It is also evident that children and youth are encouraged to share in the ministry of proclaiming God's love. I also thank all those who have been supportive to me in my role as Youth Program Coordinator. A special thank you to Rev. Bruce for his support and guidance. I will continue with God's direction and grace to do the best I can to support children, youth and leaders during the rest of my time as Youth Program Coordinator. May each of you know Christ's peace and Joy!

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Cronhelm
Youth Program Coordinator

YOUTH BAND AND CHOIRS DIRECTOR REPORT

The Topsail United Church Youth Program includes the Courage Choir, Inspiration Band, and Encounter group.

Beginning in 2016, both groups worked with Brett Vey who coordinated with Steven Rogers whose employment finished towards the beginning of summer. Steven's contribution was very well noted and his efforts were very well received. Starting in September, Brett coordinated programming with Heather Cronhelm. The team is doing an excellent job continuing on the path as well as adding new innovative ideas.

Steven Stone continues to serve as sound technician for all events as well as helping with setup and tear-down. Members of *Inspiration* are very helpful with the younger members of *Courage* during setup for services.

Beginning in 2016, *Encounter* has been added which is a very social night whereby members of *Inspiration* can invite their friend for "ice breaker" type games as well as an open discussion about their lives and opinions. *Encounter* takes place once per month.

The Christmas pageant was very well received. Two alumni members (Colin Perry and Nick Slade) from the band took part in the service to help out. 2016 has been a great year for youth programming and the members are a pleasure to work with.

Courage Choir:

The *Courage* choir consists of nine members between the ages of 6-14 years. Led by Brett Vey, they rehearse each Wednesday night from 6:30 to 7:30. Although their main focus is to lead the family services, they also participate in other events around the community as well. Some of these events include a Christmas Eve service, a fundraiser for the food bank, and concerts at Topsail United Church. During the rehearsals the participants get to learn singing techniques, harmony, and sometimes use instruments such as chimes, boom-wackers and percussion. This group is a pleasure to work with and the bond between members and the leaders cannot be understated.

Inspiration Band:

The *Inspiration* band consists of eleven members between the ages of 13 to 17 years. The assortment of instruments include violin, piano, bass, drums, percussion, saxophone, flute, accordion, viola, cello, guitar, glock, and mandolin. This very talented group have really taken pride in this band and the camaraderie between members is very strong. *Inspiration* rehearses each Wednesday night from 7:30 to 9:30. Similarly to *Courage* they focus primarily on the family services as well as outside performances. This group is very fun, talented and motivated.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Vey
Youth Band and Choirs Director

SUNDAY SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT

Description	Income	Expenses
Opening Balance January 1, 2016	\$1,877.14	
Weekly offerings (January to December 2016)	562.30	
Interest earned (Jan to Dec 2016)	2.93	
Green Depot	31.60	
Godly Play - Food		98.83
Godly Play - Supplies		96.97
Guatemala Sponsor Child c/o UCW		210.00
Totals	\$ 596.83	\$ 405.80
Total Year End Balance in Account (31/12/16)	\$2,068.17	

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Allen
Treasurer, Topsail United Church Sunday School

YOUTH GROUP FINANCIAL REPORT

Description	Income	Expenses
Opening Balance January 1, 2015	670.32	
Green Depot	31.60	
Food & Supplies - confirmation class		123.30
Totals	43.60	123.20
Total Year End Balance in Account (31/12/16)	590.62	

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Allen
Treasurer, Topsail United Church

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

The Committee dealt with several changes in regular staffing during 2016.

Administrative Assistant, Nicole Ivey- Cross who joined us in 2015 left in April and the position was filled by Jacqueline Kennedy following a process of advertising and interviewing several candidates. Also in April, Christian Development Coordinator, Steven Rogers submitted a letter of resignation to the Official Board which was accepted. We greatly appreciated all the gifts he shared with our congregation over the 4 ½ years he was on staff. In August, Heather Cronhelm accepted a newly developed 10-month contractual position as Youth Program Coordinator following the usual hiring process.

Thank you to all of our current staff, Jacqui, Beth, Andrew, Heather, Brett, Roger and Rosemary and as always 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
Chair

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

Coordinator: Patricia Jones

The work of the Outreach Committee in 2016 has been carried out with the help of members of the Women's 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 Coordinator

OUTREACH COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

Opening Balance Jan. 1 2016	\$ 2,166.09
Spring Flea Market	\$ 4,325.00
Valentine Lunch	\$ 669.80
Christmas Dinner (Tickets and Donations)	\$ 2,545.45
Bank Interest	.09

Total Income \$ 9,706.43

DONATIONS & EXPENSES

Topsail United Church Budget	\$ 3,000.00
Women's Coffee Group - Valentines Lunch	\$ 700.00
Flea Market Float	\$ 400.00
Christmas Dinner - S.U.F. Hall	\$ 1,368.00
Emmanuel House - Christmas	\$ 500.00
Church Cards	\$ 186.25
Miscellaneous Expenses/Bank Charges	\$ 123.30

Total Expenses \$ 6,277.55

Balance as of Dec. 31st 2016 \$ 3,428.88

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 2016. Please try to remember to bring along a donation of food each Sunday when you come to worship. Thank you to the Men’s Club for their additional donations of food and money throughout the year.

The past year saw the use of the Food Bank increase rapidly due to people returning from Alberta and the downturn in the economy here at home. Following special appeals in the fall there was a huge response to the need which continued on until the end of the year. The Christmas “Hamper” program, which saw each family unit receive a turkey, a vegetable hamper, and a gift card for the purchase of food, went ahead thanks to your response and that of the Avalon North East Rotary Club. A total of 324 Christmas “Hampers” were given out and gratefully accepted.

At Christmas some of our regular clients are looked after by other organizations such as the “Single Parents Association” 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 continue to be 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 to schools in the CBS/Paradise area, to be given out as needed.

The Food Bank Board is an ecumenical initiative and as such is run by a committee of volunteers from all the churches in CBS and Paradise. The committee continues to seek increased financial help from the member Churches, Town Councils, Service Clubs and Businesses. Monthly expense for rent, salary, and utilities amounts to \$4,000 - \$5,000 alone. When special Food Bank Fund Raisers are held we ask for your support whenever possible.

The Food Bank year runs April 1st – March 31st . The Annual General Meeting is held each May and is open to the general public.

Congregational Donations.....	\$ 5,867.00
Men’s Club Donations.....	\$ 400.00
Total Donations 2016	\$ 6,267.00

Respectfully submitted,

Gillian Corbett

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

MISSION AND SERVICE FUND REPORT

Outreach is responsible for the promotion of the Mission and Service Fund within the congregation. We provide the “Gold Banks” to encourage extra givings.

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 again this year, however the Gold Banks for 2016 are being counted and will be included in 2017 donations now. Please remember the Mission & Service Fund when you donate to the church and collect your loose change for your “Gold Bank” – every little bit helps.

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).....\$ 17,462.44

EXPENSES

Bank Charges.....\$ 52.83

PAR Charges.....\$ 159.06

M&S Actual Remittance..... \$ 17,275.55

TOTAL: \$ 17,487.55

Donations for Fort Mac Fire.....\$ 155.00

PROPERTY AND TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair/President: Paul Burt
Members/Executive: Bob Bennett Roland Regular Roger Richards
Max Robbins Derrick Tuffin

Ex officio: Rev. Bruce Kearley

Summary of Activities

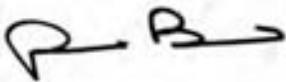
2016 was once again a busy year for the Property/Trustee Committee. While no projects involving capital expenditures took place during 2016, the following is a brief summary of some of the issues dealt with during the year:

- A new cross was manufactured and installed on the front steeple of the church.
- A review of church hall rental rates and tenancies was undertaken resulting in considerable additional revenue for the church.
- Fence repairs were undertaken at Topsail Cemetery.
- Other general maintenance activities took place throughout the year including common area painting, cleaning of the carpets in the sanctuary, and improvements to the propane delivery system in the church kitchen.
- A summer maintenance program was put in place for the three cemeteries maintained by the church and snow clearing/ice-control efforts at Topsail were also coordinated.

From time to time there is a need for assistance and/or advice on specific matters as we deal with various projects and issues relating to the upkeep of the church and its properties. Thank you to those who have offered their services in this regard and I would again appeal for anyone that would be willing to serve in this capacity or would like to join our committee to reach out to myself or any other member of the Property and Trustee 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
Chair

MEN'S CLUB REPORT

President: Bob Bennett
Secretary: Bob Osmond

Vice President: Derrick Tuffin
Treasurer: Boyde Clarke

Summary of Activities:

- Purchased a rubberized apron for the kitchen.
- Donated paint for the Nursery Area and the Godly Play Room.
- Donated \$500 for Godly Play items.
- We had a successful Easter Breakfast. Thank you to those who come out and Support the Men's Club with our fundraising activities.
- We 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: our cook, Tony Rogers; volunteers who prepared pastries; volunteers who prepared the meal; volunteers who helped clean vegetables, helped in the kitchen, and helped set up and clean up.
- We supplied hot dogs, drinks and volunteered for the year-end Family Service. Thank you to Derrick Tuffin for getting a donation of drinks for this event. Thank you to all who helped with this event: Freeman, Sol, Derrick.
- We made our annual contribution of \$2500 to the church.
- Thank you to Glenys Moran for updated training on the defibrillator.
- We contributed \$275 to Burry Heights Camp to help send an underprivileged child to camp.
- We offered congratulations to Rev. Bill Williams on his 25th year of ordination.
- We held our year-end outing in June with our spouses and invited guests at the Outport Restaurant. Thank you to our musicians who continue to supply the music.
- 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.
- Donated \$100 to Burry Heights Camp.
- Donated \$200 to the CBS Food Bank.
- Donated \$100 toward Burry Heights Camp Day.
- We sent a \$200 donation to the families the church built houses for in Guatemala.
- Spouses and other guests were invited to our December meeting and we were treated to a delicious turkey dinner, thank you to Freeman and Marvin for the preparation. After supper we enjoyed music in the sanctuary. Thank you to Andrew, Beth, Rev. Bruce and Cle.
- We had another successful Breakfast with Santa. Thank you to all who supported this breakfast, a special thank you to Santa. Unused food items were donated to the CBS Food Bank.
- We continue to donate Church Bulletins to Club Members who have experienced bereavement.
- We purchased fruit baskets for members who were in hospital.
- We contributed toward the purchase of a new faucet for the kitchen.

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 willing to help out in so many ways; and to all those who when asked come and help. Thank you as well to everyone who supports 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
President

MEN'S CLUB FINANCIAL REPORT

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH MEN'S CLUB FINANCIAL REPORT 2016

DESCRIPTION	NET
Balance as at January 1, 2016	
Fundraising (Net of expenses)	
Breakfast with Santa	1,156.04
Easter Breakfast	1,461.76
Flipper Dinner	2,376.37
	4,994.17
TUC Annual Contribution	2,500.00
TUC Sunday School (Godly Play)	500.00
TUC Other	150.00
Burry Heights	375.00
CBS Food Bank	400.00
TUC Youth Band	100.00
Guatemala Project	200.00
	4,225.00
Other	
AED Battery	113.00
Get Well baskets	100.00
Fellowship Dinners	(297.02)
Bank Charges	142.60
Honorarium	250.00
Kitchen	380.80
Sunday School closing	66.44
	755.82
Total Income less Expenses	13.35
Balance as at December 31, 2016	<u>\$ 3,196.13</u>

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW) REPORT

President:	Doreen Cave
Vice-President:	Rosalind Foley
Secretary:	Ruth Jesseau
Treasurer:	Madeline Parsons
Social/Program Convener:	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:

- Hosted Valentine's Day luncheon on February 10th, providing meats, rolls, tea, coffee, and desserts while people attending brought along a salad. Provided prizes for the event as well.

On March 8th UCW held their last meeting. Attendance had dropped considerably over the past year or so, with as few as 5 members attending meetings on scheduled Tuesday. The ladies group still meets every Wednesday morning at church hall, now known as Topsail United Church Ladies Coffee Group. This group will still support efforts in the church, just not under the UCW East District umbrella. There is still a treasurer who will handle financial duties for the group.

- Hosted the Good Friday Luncheon March 25th, 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
- Assisted with preparing for and helping out at the Flea Market in May and October.
- Provided a soup luncheon, with rolls, desserts, and coffee and assisted with other functions throughout Harvest Festival. Member of the ladies Coffee Group 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.
- As part of our Outreach responsibilities provided and served food and refreshments throughout the year for funerals when requested. We also donated items to Emanuel House and the Food Bank at Christmas.
- Provided prizes for the Outreach dinner which was held in December.

Our members enjoyed a year of work, fun and fellowship in 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Jesseau

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW) FINANCIAL REPORT

Opening Balance at January 1, 2016	\$ 1,584.85	
Income		
Good Friday - Fish Cake Dinner	1589.00	
Donation to Foster Child	\$210.00	
UCW Monthly Dues	\$10.00	
Valentines Lunch	\$700.00	
Donations to Coffee Group	<u>\$75.00</u>	
Total Income	\$4,148.85	\$4,148.85
Expenses		
Foster Child monthly payments & Christmas (\$175.00)	\$ 595.00	
Valentine Luncheon	85.95	
Topsail United Church	1,200.00	
Bank Fees	35.00	
Godly Play	700.00	
Men's Club (Kitchen Faucet)	192.34	
Good Friday Dinner	205.00	
Burry Heights	<u>50.00</u>	
Total Expenses	\$ 3,063.30	\$3,063.30
Closing Balance at December 13, 2016		\$1,085.55

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Parsons
Treasurer

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Co-Chairs: Bob Bennett Gillian Corbett
Secretary: Beth Cranston
Members: Brad Cole Andrew Cranston Denise Jacobs Pat Jones

The Committee oversees all the fundraising events in the church, confirms all dates for the annual fundraisers with the committees/groups involved, and draws up the calendar of events for the year. The Committee had four regular meetings in 2016 plus extra meetings for the Auction. All the regularly scheduled fundraising events were very successful.

Net amounts raised:

Good Friday Feast (Women's Coffee Group)	\$ 1,200.00
Youth Music Concert (Brett Vey)	\$ 1,250.00
Spring Flea Market (Outreach)	\$ 3,060.00
Lobster Steak Dinner (Official Board)	\$ 2,264.00
Harvest Festival (details below)	\$ 14,850.00
Kevin Collins Concert	\$ 1,190.00
Remembrance Concert	\$ 815.00
Anniversary Hymn Sing	\$ 1,590.00

Harvest Festival

Both the Men's and Women's Groups took their usual lead in the main Harvest Festival Events. It was decided not to continue the Jiggs Dinner and instead offer a Harvest Festival Hot Turkey Dinner at the end of all the October events. Members of the Committee, headed up by Brad Cole, formed the Online Auction Committee which proved to be a great success, involving more people than our previous auctions and bringing in good results for a first-time effort.

Income:

Breakfast.....	\$ 1,315.00
Sale & Lunch.....	\$ 2,070.00
Harvest Festival Dinner.....	\$ 2,100.00
Flea Market.....	\$ 3,608.00
Auction.....	\$ 9,769.00
Donations.....	\$ 188.00
Total.....	\$19,050.00
Expenses.....	\$ 4,200.00
Net profit.....	<u>\$14,850.00</u>

Kevin Collins was booked for a performance of his "Better Than Today" show which was well attended and added to the Harvest Festival Month totals. Many thanks to all those who have supported our church's fundraising events. Please speak to a member of the Committee if you would like to be on this Committee or have any fundraising ideas for our future consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Bennett and Gillian Corbett

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Highlights - 2016

- Surplus of \$11,658 compared to a Budgeted Deficit of \$7,662; difference due primarily to the unexpected loss of the CDM position part-way through the year
- Congregational givings (all categories) under Budget by \$10,733; 'Local Church Support' under Budget by \$11,587; Stewardship Program planned for 2017
- Harvest Festival net of over \$18,000
- Godly Play Sunday School Program expenditures of \$5,000 deferred until 2017
- Bank account balance at year-end = \$72,577
GIC balance = \$51,325
Total funds available = \$123,902
- 121 families on PAR

Budget Submission - 2017

- Budgeted Surplus of \$33
- Budgeted increase in Local Church Support to be driven by a planned Stewardship Program in May 2017
- No Capital (major expenditure) Budget for 2017
- Godly Play training for Sunday School instructors budgeted at \$3,500
- Potential recoveries against this cost to be determined

Respectfully submitted,

Boyde Clarke
Treasurer

Topsail United Church
Statement of Income and Expenditures
January 1, 2016 to , December 31, 2016

	2016 Budget \$	2016 Actual \$	Over (Under) Budget \$	2017 Budget \$
OPERATING INCOME				
CONGREGATIONAL GIVING				
Initial Offering	400.00	551.00	151.00	500.00
Local Church Support	147,900.00	136,312.88	(11,587.14)	145,000.00
Loose Offering	8,000.00	7,707.80	(292.20)	7,500.00
Bulletin Dedications	1,500.00	810.00	(690.00)	1,000.00
In Memoriams	5,000.00	3,520.00	(1,480.00)	4,000.00
Easter Envelopes	2,000.00	2,119.00	119.00	2,000.00
Lenten Cards & Envelopes	750.00	859.00	109.00	750.00
Good Friday Envelopes	1,000.00	934.00	(66.00)	1,000.00
Thanksgiving	2,200.00	2,390.00	190.00	2,200.00
Christmas Envelopes	8,000.00	9,634.00	1,634.00	8,000.00
Advent Folders	1,000.00	1,070.00	70.00	1,000.00
Anniversary Income	0.00	985.00	985.00	0.00
Building Fund	1,500.00	1,564.00	64.00	1,000.00
Roofing Fund	500.00	560.00	60.00	0.00
	<u>179,750.00</u>	<u>169,016.66</u>	<u>(10,733.34)</u>	<u>173,950.00</u>
FUNDRAISING				
Harvest Festival	18,000.00	20,050.67	2,050.67	18,000.00
UCW Good Friday Feast	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
Calendars	100.00	60.00	(40.00)	100.00
Hymn Sing	1,500.00	1,590.00	90.00	1,500.00
Lobster/Steak Dinner	4,000.00	4,130.00	130.00	4,000.00
Spring Flea Market	3,000.00	3,060.00	60.00	3,000.00
Observer Subscriptions	500.00	577.00	77.00	500.00
Men's Club	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
Music Program	2,000.00	1,350.50	(649.50)	1,500.00
Kevin Collins Concert	2,000.00	1,190.00	(810.00)	0.00
Sunday School - Godly Play	0.00	1,622.00	1,622.00	0.00
	<u>34,800.00</u>	<u>37,330.17</u>	<u>2,530.17</u>	<u>32,300.00</u>
OTHER				
HST Refund / Sundry Revenue	4,000.00	4,957.98	957.98	4,000.00
Church Hall Rental	13,000.00	16,782.50	3,782.50	13,000.00
Weddings/Funerals	5,000.00	3,850.00	(1,150.00)	4,000.00
GIC Interest	325.00	0.00	(325.00)	0.00
	<u>22,325.00</u>	<u>25,590.48</u>	<u>3,265.48</u>	<u>21,000.00</u>
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	<u>236,875.00</u>	<u>231,937.31</u>	<u>(4,937.69)</u>	<u>227,250.00</u>

Topsail United Church
Statement of Income and Expenditures
January 1, 2016 to , December 31, 2016

	2016 Budget \$	2016 Actual \$	Over (Under) Budget \$	2017 Budget \$
OPERATING EXPENSES				
MINISTRY & PERSONNEL				
Salaries & Contracts	132,696.00	122,000.22	(10,695.78)	113,818.00
Benefits and Allowances	30,600.00	25,047.09	(5,552.91)	25,800.00
Worker's Compensation	1,000.00	916.93	(83.07)	1,000.00
Professional Development	2,879.00	863.00	(2,016.00)	1,874.00
Association Dues	100.00	0.00	(100.00)	100.00
Committee Expense	200.00	608.99	408.99	400.00
	<u>167,475.00</u>	<u>149,436.23</u>	<u>(18,038.77)</u>	<u>142,992.00</u>
WORSHIP				
Committee Expenses	500.00	381.60	(118.40)	500.00
Organist Supply	375.00	320.00	(55.00)	375.00
Pulpit Supply / Guest Ministers	750.00	1,324.00	574.00	1,000.00
Choir Expenses	250.00	190.30	(59.70)	2,250.00
Bulletins	1,400.00	2,246.12	846.12	1,400.00
	<u>3,275.00</u>	<u>4,462.02</u>	<u>1,187.02</u>	<u>5,525.00</u>
PROPERTY & TRUSTEE				
Insurance	6,081.00	6,444.00	363.00	6,800.00
Heat & Light	10,000.00	9,360.20	(639.80)	10,000.00
Telephone	4,000.00	3,852.24	(147.76)	4,000.00
Snow Clearing	4,000.00	5,451.25	1,451.25	5,000.00
Garbage	750.00	840.74	90.74	850.00
Repairs and Maintenance	5,000.00	6,395.84	1,395.84	7,000.00
Municipal Services	600.00	590.00	(10.00)	600.00
Propane	500.00	288.51	(211.49)	500.00
Capital Expenditures	0.00	51.02	51.02	0.00
	<u>30,931.00</u>	<u>33,273.80</u>	<u>2,342.80</u>	<u>34,750.00</u>
PASTORAL CARE/MEMBERSHIP				
Kitchen Supplies	175.00	310.75	135.75	250.00
Committee Expense	1,000.00	993.33	(6.67)	1,000.00
	<u>1,175.00</u>	<u>1,304.08</u>	<u>129.08</u>	<u>1,250.00</u>
CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT				
Committee Expense	0.00	335.00	335.00	0.00
Sunday School	1,500.00	151.37	(1,348.63)	1,500.00
Godly Play Training	3,500.00	0.00	(3,500.00)	3,500.00
Youth Band/Choir	300.00	0.00	(300.00)	300.00
Bible Study	200.00	0.00	(200.00)	200.00
	<u>5,500.00</u>	<u>486.37</u>	<u>(5,013.63)</u>	<u>5,500.00</u>

Topsail United Church
Statement of Income and Expenditures
January 1, 2016 to , December 31, 2016

	2016 Budget \$	2016 Actual \$	Over (Under) Budget \$	2017 Budget \$
OUTREACH				
Committee Expense	100.00	34.50	(65.50)	100.00
Observer Subscriptions	600.00	663.72	63.72	600.00
	<u>700.00</u>	<u>698.22</u>	<u>(1.78)</u>	<u>700.00</u>
ADMINISTRATION				
Office Supplies	2,000.00	1,800.97	(199.03)	2,000.00
Photocopier	2,500.00	1,027.36	(1,472.64)	1,200.00
Postage	850.00	760.30	(89.70)	1,500.00
Computer Services	1,500.00	1,460.79	(39.21)	1,500.00
	<u>6,850.00</u>	<u>5,049.42</u>	<u>(1,800.58)</u>	<u>6,200.00</u>
FINANCE				
Envelopes, Folders, Printing	750.00	698.07	(51.93)	1,000.00
Audit Expense	1,500.00	0.00	(1,500.00)	1,500.00
Pastoral Charge Assessment	8,981.00	8,981.00	0.00	9,200.00
Bank Charges and Fees	1,100.00	1,238.76	138.76	1,200.00
Payroll Administration	600.00	494.71	(105.29)	600.00
PAR Expenses	1,400.00	994.10	(405.90)	1,200.00
	<u>14,331.00</u>	<u>12,406.64</u>	<u>(1,924.36)</u>	<u>14,700.00</u>
MISCELLANEOUS				
HST Paid & Sundry Expense	4,500.00	6,306.66	1,806.66	6,000.00
Harvest Festival Expense	2,000.00	1,700.68	(299.32)	2,000.00
Wedding/Funeral Expense	3,800.00	3,210.00	(590.00)	3,600.00
Lobster/Steak Dinner	2,500.00	1,865.70	(634.30)	2,500.00
Minister's Discretion	500.00	79.28	(420.72)	500.00
Delegate Expense	1,000.00	0.00	(1,000.00)	1,000.00
	<u>14,300.00</u>	<u>13,162.32</u>	<u>(1,137.68)</u>	<u>15,600.00</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>244,537.00</u>	<u>220,279.10</u>	<u>(24,257.90)</u>	<u>227,217.00</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(7,662.00)</u>	<u>11,658.21</u>	<u>19,320.21</u>	<u>33.00</u>

Topsail United Church
Statement of Funds, Loans & Balances
December 31, 2016

	<u>\$</u>		<u>\$</u>
Mission & Service Fund		Bank Account	
Balance, January 1, 2016	0.00	Balance, January 1, 2016	60,918.58
Donations	<u>17,402.12</u>	Surplus (deficit), 2016	<u>11,658.21</u>
	17,402.12	Balance, December 31, 2016	<u>72,576.77</u>
Less:		GIC	
Bank Charges	(52.83)	Balance, January 1, 2016	50,000.00
Remittances	(17,275.55)	Transfers in	1,000.00
PAR expenses	<u>(159.06)</u>	Transfers out	-
Balance, December 31, 2016	<u>(85.32)</u>	Interest earned	<u>325.00</u>
		Balance, December 31, 2016	<u>51,325.00</u>
Cemetery Fund		Total General Account	<u>123,901.77</u>
Balance, January 1, 2016	11,020.21		
Donations	2,068.75		
Flower Services	837.30		
Plot Payments	<u>600.00</u>		
	14,526.26		
Less:			
Expenses	<u>(10,408.40)</u>		
Balance, December 31, 2016	<u>4,117.86</u>		
Food Bank			
Balance, January 1, 2016	0.00		
Donations	<u>5,867.00</u>		
	5,867.00		
Total Income	5,867.00		
Less:			
Remittances	<u>5,867.00</u>		
Balance, December 31, 2016	<u>0.00</u>		

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Freeman Budgell Glenys Moran

Ex-officio: Rev. Bruce Kearley

It is recommended that Board members serve 3 consecutive years.

2016 Official Board Members eligible/willing to stand for re-election in 2017:

2nd year Doreen Cave
 Brad Cole
 Carol Gillingham
 Claude Hender
 Denise Jacobs
 Lynn Mercer
 Jackie Perry

3rd year Joanne Avery
 Paul Burt
 Mildred Coles
 Lloyd Hobbs

Nominees 2016 Freeman Budgell
 Valerie Howe

Nominees may be accepted up to the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 26, 2017.