



**God's love  
colours  
outside the lines**

**Okotoks - De Winton  
Pastoral Charge**

**Annual Report  
2015**





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## In this report



*OUC provided 112 students with food, clothing and transportation to Soto Christian School in the Dominican this year.*

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Special thanks to the following for their support during the year:

Ardiel Agencies: food for Inn from the Cold

Dr. Miranda Logan: dog safety talk for Christmas pageant

Sobeys: dinner for the Magic of Making a Difference stewardship event

Cobs Breads: buns for the Turkey Supper

Windmill Theatre Players: fundraising concert for the Mission Team

Okotoks Minor Soccer Association: uniforms and soccer shoes for the children in the Dominican

Baden Sports: soccer balls for the children in the Dominican

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# Our Mission

With God's help we are:  
Following Jesus  
Reaching People &  
Changing Lives

# Our Values

Spiritual celebration and nurture  
Community presence, participation and outreach  
Harmony of purpose and congregational unity  
Adaptability for mission  
Hospitality and  
Growth



# Message from Rev. Julia Kimmett

*"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world." (Romans 1:8)*

Never more than this year has this passage from Romans been my heartfelt response to the work of the church in this community, in the world and in my life. As I look back over 2015 and what has taken place this year, I am ever so grateful for your service, compassion and generosity. Your support through my illness and time off will forever be ingrained in my heart. You pulled together and made things happen in my absence and you did it well. That is so encouraging to a minister. The leadership of so many, especially our Board Chairs Joanne Dzurka, Bev Carlson and Wendy Hoflin at DeWinton, and so many others ensured that the church community of Okotoks/DeWinton not only survived but thrived during this time. You are an extraordinary community and I am blessed to minister alongside you. You are amazing.



We experience exponential growth personally and as a community when we all endeavour to find a place to serve in the congregation. And serve you did! Thousands of hours were put into spiritual formation, Mission Teams, fundraising, Kids and Youth ministry, outreach, fellowship activities, decorating, music, pastoral care, Healing Ministry, building maintenance, Board and Committee work and the list could go on. You are the reason that the faith communities of Okotoks and DeWinton are growing and thriving. You are the church. Your generous giving in so many ways to the ministries of these congregations means that people's lives are being touched and changed in ways we will never know.



As you look through this report you will see where all of your generosity and efforts are paying off. They will continue to do so as we anticipate new opportunities and possibilities in the coming year. I believe that God is and will do new things in and through us as we seek to remain faithful to God's call to be and tell the good news of God's love through us. Our world is changing. We too are in the throes of change and we must be prepared. The church of tomorrow is not the church of yesterday or even today. We need to be intentional about how we respond to the needs of people today.

Please continue to pray for the life and work of our faith communities and ask yourself where you might find a place to serve. When we are all doing our part and share in the responsibility for our congregations, the load becomes bearable for all. We are a blessed people. We are called to be a blessing to others. To meet the needs of the lost, the lonely and the broken.

May 2016 be a year of living dangerously and courageously for the sake of God's work in the world. May we know God's grace in our lives and the prod of the Holy Spirit to go deeper into our faith that we might grow more and more into the people God intended for us to be.





## The magic of making a difference



We have been attending the OUC **Turkey supper** for most of the 19 years we have been in town.....it is really a thanksgiving tradition! We invite our extended family....grandparents, my brother and his family. The food is the epitome of a thanksgiving feast, and is of course delicious. The atmosphere is warm, the volunteers are welcoming and the new sanctuary is very comfortable. It is affordable, but more importantly we are happy to support a church that is so community minded.....thank you for many wonderful memories and meals!

See you next year!



**Jacket Racket** is a wonderful program that helps kids and parents play outside warmly and safely. My little girl had shoes that light up and she called them her Rock Star shoes and she grew out of them and was so sad – I was able to find boots that light up and now she again has Rock Star boots and is so happy.

Thank you so much!



**Bible Study:** I definitely have learned a lot about the Bible. To me the fellowship meant the most. It was great to just be yourself and not worry about what people think



A soccer ministry was started in the Dominican as a way to engage at risk children. This year the church partnered with the Okotoks Minor Soccer Association to donate soccer cleats and jerseys to this ministry. Before this, it wasn't uncommon for them to practise in bare feet however when they received the donations they were so excited they would share with their friends. One child would wear the left shoe and another would wear the right! With your support the **Mission Possible** team has funded 70 additional pairs of cleats so that all the children can have their own.



You have provided us with comfort and a wonderful sense of **community**. We are so grateful for all the positive **thoughts and prayers** that have been said for our daughter.



## Message from Joanne Dzurka, Chair of the Ministry Board

As the pages of this report come together, I am once again amazed at the dedication of our volunteers and staff as they carry out the work of the church. New programs have been initiated, existing ones have been revitalized and the results are evident. For our part, the Ministry Board worked to:

- 1) develop guidelines for Jacket Racket, and the Turkey Supper
- 2) develop Terms of Reference for Mission Tour Teams and the Centennial Committee
- 3) revise Terms of Reference for the Worship Committee and the Third Floor Apartment.

It is hoped that these documents will enable us to work more efficiently and experience improved results in the year to come.

To allow us to maintain more up-to-date records, Ministry Board members also continued work on the Historic Roll with the help of Maureen Hardie and Jack Ferguson who developed an electronic version of this important document.

We partnered with the Okotoks Chamber of Commerce to hold an "All Candidates Forum" at the church on October 6 where political candidates debated a wide range of issues prior to the federal election which was held on Oct 19. This was an expression of our commitment to participate in decisions that affect our community, our country and the world.

We also worked closely with the Governing Board to host this years Stewardship Event, The Magic of Making a Difference. Guidelines for this event were also developed.

To ensure we had the staffing and support needed for growth, we worked with M & P and the Worship Committee to both revise and develop contracts for staff positions.

Last year congregants completed a Natural Church Development survey. We intended to continue work on this, however, in October we concluded there were not sufficient ministry resources to continue to lead this initiative.

In the coming year the Ministry Board is looking forward to more emphasis on membership and enhancing pastoral care as we continue to support all the work of the congregation.

As I conclude my term of service on the Ministry Board, I want to thank everyone who offered their support, wisdom and encouragement during this time. We have wrestled together to dream of a future for our church and I am full of hope for what lies ahead!

Joanne Dzurka



The Ministry Board is responsible for all programs that relate to the life, worship, and work of the congregation including: christian education, worship, pastoral care, visitation, outreach, social action, membership and support to staff.



**New members:**

**Jack Parsons and  
Dean Salter.**

**By transfer of membership:**

**Sharon and David Matson,  
Keith and Edna Downey,  
Phyllis Dick,  
Jodeen Connors,  
Kathleen Eveline,  
Doug & Dot Cook,  
Sharon Parsons,  
Lyn Fitzmaurice,  
Tamara Webster and  
Margaret Arsenault.**

**Funerals:**

**Mernie James,  
John Thomson,  
Devin Flatekval,  
Mary Nemitz and  
Bernard Block.**

**Weddings:**

**Coleman & Lauren Lumley (Scribner),  
Timothy & Alena Wiebe (Hart),  
Bryce & Tawnya Couture (Smith) and  
Harvie & Eileen Cameron (Sanders).**

**Baptisms:**

**Layla Smith,  
Conner Couture and  
Jessica Heaton.**



Okotoks Food Bank - Food Drive  
L to R: Ellen, Ursula and Margaret  
May 30, 2015

We promise to make a positive impact  
in the world by helping those most in  
need and partnering with those who  
are doing the same.





Jacket Racket 2015  
L to R: Claire and Amy

130

### Jackets

were given out by 35 volunteers who helped to facilitate Jacket Racket between Oct. 24 and Nov. 12.

\$670

### Collected

for the relief of those affected by typhoon Haiyan.

\$15,380

### Donated

to the United Church of Canada Mission & Service Fund.

1

### Single parent

housed in the third floor apartment until May 2015.  
This individual successfully transitioned to independent living in the area.

\$435

### Provided

to help victims of the Nepal earthquake.



Six people were provided with access to food, laundry and shower facilities, on a drop-in basis, at the church this year.



## Helping those most in need Benevolent fund

*It was my 118th day of feeling like I was losing grip on hope, fulfillment and great accomplishment as well as being a father... Now, I am on tears of happiness because angels of Okotoks United Church served as wings flying me to the arms and shoulders of my wife and kin-raised children. No certain words to express my deepest and whole-heart appreciation.*

*Thank you, thank you...may our good Lord bless us all.*

*Benevolent fund recipient*



So goes the life of just one of the many families or individuals we have been able to assist through the Benevolent Fund this past year. This man was able to go back to the Philippines to be with his family after temporary foreign workers lost jobs locally.

A Chilean family who had driven from their home to Okotoks got to sleep and shower in a clean room while we sorted out what they needed to do from here.

Mothers with children who couldn't get into a home because they didn't have a damage deposit were helped to get into a place where they could raise their children.

Fear, bewilderment, hopelessness, anxiety and embarrassment characterize many of the people who come in looking for assistance from the church. Many have simply experienced a difficult stretch in their lives or do not have the tools to handle life in ways that are healthy or productive. Often when they leave the church they express a feeling of hope, optimism and relief. We rarely solve people's problems by offering them financial assistance. We do allow them a little breathing room to move toward resolution of some of their pressing concerns. We all need help at times. And we all need to help at times.

This year we had **28** opportunities to assist families or individuals with concerns ranging from imminent loss of housing or heating to the need for groceries, gas and medications. We also had more unique opportunities to assist a local school with a depressed teen and her need for emotional support through dance or helping the Big Brothers and Big Sisters to host a self-esteem night for a number of young people. Dozens of gift cards were distributed for groceries and gas.

You, the communities of Okotoks and DeWinton, have been extremely generous in supporting the Benevolent Fund allowing us to distribute **\$13,701.12** to those in need.

As we move into 2016 and our economy continues to decline or remain unstable, we can be assured that the needs will continue. It is a privilege to administer the Benevolent Fund on your behalf. I am always clear that we are in a position to help because of the generosity of our congregations. We continue to not only pray for those in need but to seek ways to assist where we can and to influence those who make decisions in our communities and world.

Rev. Julia Kimmett





Feb. 22, 2015 - Commissioning the Mission Team

25

## Mission Possible

team members were commissioned on the first Sunday of Lent (Feb. 22). The team of 15 adults and 10 youth travelled to the Dominican Republic to participate in community development in La Vega. Highlights of their experience included painting the new pre-school and spending time with a local family who was reunited with a loved one. The youth helped to pay for medical care for Michiliene (the mother of a T.E.A.R.S. student), and the team toured Soto Christian School and fed breakfast to the students. Obed and Chelo, partners from the Dominican, came to Okotoks in September. This was the first trip to North America for both men who experienced the first snowfall of the year while they were here. Obed participated in the church service on Sept. 27.

1,004

## Food hampers

were distributed this year. The Okotoks Food Bank saw a **47.68 %** increase in need over 2014. They served 208 new family units and a total of 357 households. These households consisted of 1837 adults and **1197 children**. The mortgage debt of \$220,000 on 109 Stockton Point was paid in full. A new Executive Director, Sheila Hughs, was hired. Ellen Kneiss sat on the board and OUC provided approximately 13 volunteers to the Okotoks Food Bank.

\$675

## Contributed

to the Syrian refugee crisis.

105

## Guests

were sheltered and fed at Inn from the Cold. This year we partnered with Rotary to offer 7 Inns.



## Helping those most in need Inn from the Cold



*We partnered with the Rotary Club  
of Okotoks to offer 7 Inns this year.*

### Maria's story

The intake room at the shelter is as busy today as it is most days. Mostly it is women, lots of children, a few men, and a surprisingly relaxed receptionist. Sitting against the back wall is a beautiful woman, serene, no children, quietly observing, smiling. She hasn't been to the shelter in years, and is here today to share her story.

She's a little nervous, rather emotional, strong, happy; vulnerable, yet determined to tell her story in hopes it will help others. I tell her she can trust me, her information is confidential and promise to change a few details so she can't be identified – she's afraid of this. Feeling safe is something she'll come back to again and again as we spend nearly an hour together.

She grew up fearing the police and recognizing that corruption, violence and crime were with you always, everyday, wherever you went. "I did not have the luxury of feeling safe like I do in Canada, like I did when I came to the Inn... we grew up knowing the police were corrupt and violent... the streets were dark, scary and mean ... the government untrustworthy. You never felt safe there like I do here", she says reflecting on her home country.

Maria's country was in turmoil: an unstable, corrupt government and a brutal police force scarred her with fear. Safety – the everyday kind of safety to, say, go for a walk – was not something that could be taken for granted. This is a luxury that makes her smile today.

Arriving first to Montreal, and then to Calgary in 2011, Maria's life today is an inspiring example of determination, hard work, sacrifice and success. "I don't know where we'd be today if it wasn't for Inn from the Cold." Maria arrived in her new hometown with her husband, two teenage children, no money, nowhere to stay, no family or friends, and barely spoke English. "A friend-of-a-friend mentioned the Inn; he said there were good people there and we'd have a place to go, where we could stay together as a family while my husband and I searched for work and an apartment." "It was difficult and rather shocking for our family to be in a shelter but my kids were okay, we were together and we felt safe. It was very loud here, no walls, there aren't even locks on the doors! But, so much kindness and respect ... especially for young women ... we'd never known this before. It is more the parents that find it difficult than the kids, I believe."

Maria was genuine and emotional as she reflected on the help she received at the Inn – it gave her hope and a safe place to be with her family as they established themselves in a new city. "Kate, our support worker, changed our lives. Kate is super awesome, the best social worker ever." "With Kate's support, and a safe place to stay, they made a plan and quickly secured jobs and an apartment. Maria smiles as she remembers how Kate helped to make their new apartment a home; Inn from the Cold, along with community partners, provided furniture, essential move-in items and food for her family. "Oh, we were just so happy to have our own place. If I had to sleep on the floor every night and eat only rice every day, I was grateful to have a home for my family."

Her message to others: Keep your family together, don't give up and keep working. We have everything inside us that we need to be strong. If you need help, you can get it here. "I don't know where we'd be today and I'm grateful for the life we have. We couldn't have done it without the Inn." Today, Maria owns a local business with her husband and lives her days thankful and happy.

Thank you for reading Maria's story.





Thanksgiving Oct. 4, 2015

We promise to provide an environment  
where all can explore the Christian faith,  
ask questions  
and seek a deeper connection to  
God.





Good Friday April 3, 2015

**Worship:** The Worship Committee has had an eventful year this year! I (Jody Connors) started as the new chair of the committee at the beginning of the year. The committee and I have taken the course of the year to find our new stride and have begun to work towards some exciting new goals and projects. We have:

- \* started a Worship Planning Group, which meets every Thursday evening to assist Rev. Julia in planning music, liturgy, and themes for upcoming services.
- \* administered a congregational survey on worship priorities and preferences, to inform the Worship Committee's mandate in meeting the congregation's needs.
- \* been working closely with Lois Irvine and the M & P Committee to revamp the music coordinator job description and begin the hiring process for this position.
- \* helped plan and carry out various services throughout the year including helping with the Animal Blessing, Outdoor River Service, Seuss summer series, Remembrance Day, Kid's Pageant/White Gift Sunday and especially the Advent series (we are VERY proud of this effort!).
- \* worked with the Ministry Board and Rev. Julia to expand the overview and responsibilities of the Worship Committee.
- \* enhanced training for those responsible for welcoming newcomers.

Some new items that come under the purview of the committee include the overview of the AV Team, choir, and paid musicians (except for contract issues); media and music licensing; decor in the sanctuary; and guest musicians. We have also been working with Rev. Julia on planning and providing leadership for communion monthly.

Overall, we have had a VERY productive year, full of growth and changes. We feel that we are thriving and evolving, and are excited about the new year ahead and its opportunities!

Respectfully submitted by Jody Connors, Worship Committee Chair



# Seeking a deeper connection to God



*Average Sunday service attendance - 103.*

**Bible studies and courses:** Rev. Julia facilitated Thursday morning bible study and courses on End of Life Issues and Pastoral Care. Rev. Ruth McArthur offered a Lent study and a Rituals course.

**Choir:** This was a very interesting year for the choir. We laughed ... every Thursday and during all the choir parties. We cried... when our beloved Julia had to take some time off to deal with health issues.

In January we once again participated in the Twelfth Night choir concert.

In March we hosted a gospel night. There was so much interest we had to limit the guest choirs to 7 so the concert would be around an hour long. Then we indulged in tasty treats.

One of the accomplishments was that we were able to clean up the choir room. The Big Rock Singers gave us some of their older music. Not only is it great music but it also saved us a lot of money.

We were wonderfully led by Jocelyn and Pat. Kevin jumped in when Pat or Jocelyn were away. When Jocelyn finished in October we were pleased to have Brenda Wong and Cynthia Acton as our accompanists.

Submitted by: Betty-Lou Bayley

**Organ:** A special thank you to Heather Puttee who plays the organ most Sunday mornings enhancing the worship experience with her beautiful and thoughtfully selected music.

**AV Team:** This year the AV team replaced the church laptop which was beginning to have issues. Work continues on increasing the number of AV team members and training so they can support the ministry team and renters who use the building.



Oct. 25, 2015-Jocelyn, "Our Favorite Thing"

# Seeking a deeper connection to God



Parachute fun - June 14, 2015



L to R: Amelia, Brian and Ella  
Straw and Order Dec. 13,  
2015



Conner - Oct 18, 2015

*Nine volunteers dedicated their  
time to Kids Ministry this year.*



**Kids Ministry:** We were thrilled to have Candice Sutton join the team in February as the Coordinator for children and youth ministries. You can read about Candice elsewhere in this report. Other highlights from Kids Ministry this year include:

## **Special guests:**

- \*Mary Willis who talked about the work of the Okotoks Food Bank,
- \*April Jordan who spoke to the kids about resiliency (the ability to adapt to stress and adversity),
- \* Maureen Misura who led the kids in drumming,
- \* Gary Dzurka who talked about the work of our church in the Dominican Republic ,
- \* Galina Welchman, Author of, The Kings Treasure, who read her story (children received a free copy of the book)and
- \* Dean Salter, Author of, Michael Moose, came to read his book to the kids.

**Outreach:** The kids collected items for the Okotoks Food Bank.

The Sunday morning schedule included a variety of opportunities to engage the children and reduce demands on individual volunteers including:

- \***Godly Play** (an approach that helps children discover who God is through promoting biblical knowledge, empathy and spiritual growth. It invites the listener to connect faith stories with personal experience through wondering questions and open-ended response)
- \***Felt stories** that provided a creative way for the children to learn the stories of the Bible.
- \***Curriculum choices** ( A Joyful Path, Placemat Curriculum and Whole People of God)

**Summer Camp** was offered in July and August however both sessions were cancelled due to low enrollment.

Throughout the year the children participated in one **Intergenerational service** a month contributing to elements in the service. Highlights included Palm Sunday and Remembrance Day and the Christmas pageant, Straw and Order, with special guests Justus, Quinton and Arlene Dufour.

**Children's bulletins** were discontinued in September when it was concluded that they didn't add enough value to warrant the work and copy costs.

A group of volunteers including youth helped to provide care to the youngest members of our congregation in the **nursery**.



# Seeking a deeper connection to God



Youth Group at the Dzurka's  
June 5, 2015



*Ten youth traveled to the Dominican Republic on the Mission trip this year.*

Jr. and Sr. youth were combined this year due to the number of attendees and leaders.

Between 7-15 youth, grades 4 and up, met every other week led by Candice Sutton and a number of different individuals and couples.

The fun kept coming all year long with events such as: a private ghost tour in the Town, drumming with Maureen Misura, Halloween festivities at the Okotoks Public Library, outdoor games and a bonfire at the Dzurka's, and a game of bubble soccer with the Toews at the Crescent Point Regional Field House. Special guest JT came to speak with the youth about his experience in the military in preparation to lead the Nov. 8 Remembrance Day service. The youth provided key support and leadership for the Christmas Pageant, Straw & Order, on Dec. 13. Finally, a Christmas party wrapped up the year.

Youth Ministry at Okotoks United Church is intended to create a safe and inclusive environment for youth to come and experience the love and acceptance of the Christian faith. It is a place where the participants are able to find unequivocal acceptance for where they are on their spiritual journey and are able to renew and explore this journey further.

This ministry seeks to support and challenge both the faith and life journeys of all participants, using the Christian world view as a model to be reflected in all our lives.





Brian and Carol - preparing for Christian Family Sunday  
May 3, 2015

We promise to provide opportunities for meaningful service, where everyone can passionately use their gifts and resources to serve God.





## Candice's Story

I had a company taking marketing contracts but due to the economy I was considering a change. When I saw the ad for the Kids Ministry Coordinator I talked to my Mom (Karen Sutton) who told me that the people at the church were very positive so I thought I would apply.

After my interview I felt very overwhelmed. I was baptised in the United Church but I had not attended church on a regular basis. I was really worried about whether I could provide the spiritual guidance that the children needed. Eventually I decided to give the role a try.

On my first Sunday Rev. Ruth asked me to read the children's story. I was so nervous I still don't remember anything after they put my mic on! I was especially terrified of the youth. I wondered if I would be able to earn their respect. My first group was drumming and I came away thinking, "I need to get better at this". Now I LOVE working with the youth. Earning their respect was a feeling like none other. "They don't scare me now". When I earn my teaching degree I hope to teach kids in Jr. High.

Shortly after I got involved with the children and youth I knew I wanted to work with young people on a full-time basis. I spoke to my boyfriend, Bruce, and it was he that suggested I try teaching. I talked to my friend who is a teacher in the Catholic School System. She told me, "It sounds like God is whispering to you – you have to listen". That's when I decided to apply to St. Mary's University. St. Mary's only accepts 70 students and they interview candidates from around the world. When I got the call to say I was accepted I couldn't stop crying.

I always knew that I was spiritual, but I didn't know how much I had to grow. Since taking on this role, I have found inner peace; I didn't think I had a gift but now I realize I'm at my best.

The church has given me a community which is just as important as faith. I feel like I have 60 sets of grandparents who are encouraging and supporting me. On several occasions when I have been worried about something I will ask myself, "What would the congregation say to me?" I know they would tell me I'm great. I have come to realize, through their support, that I'm worthy of more than I gave myself credit for. The children's time has been a huge area of growth for me. I went from doing what I was told, to following prepared outlines, to creating my own lessons. It has changed how I treat myself. I'm not nervous anymore. This has carried over to school. That inner peace stays with me, and I no longer feel the need to be perfect – if the lesson doesn't go well, I just tell myself I can learn from it and try again next week.

I feel as though I have the best job in the world. There are times when it is trying, but the kids in our church are amazing. I feel like the lucky one because I get to work with them. Their parents are the ones who deserve the credit because they have raised generous, thoughtful children and I get to reap the benefits.



Turkey Supper Oct 4, 2015

We promise to provide effective programs and services where people can come seven days a week for wholeness, healing and fellowship.





*Over the year the healing ministry team provided 16 healing sessions.*



**Healing Ministry:** The Christ centred healing is a process guided by God to restore balance and wholeness of body, mind and spirit, not only within the individual but also within relationships, community and creation. Our ministry is used in a wide variety of settings. These include: hospitals, hospices, care facilities and private homes. The healing ministry involves a gentle touch that assists in balancing physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well being. The goal is to restore harmony and balance to support the body's natural healing ability. It is safe for all ages.

This year Healing Pathways Phase 2 "Healing from the Heart" was offered at the church from Nov 13-15.

**The magic of making a difference:** *I started going to heart specialists about 25 years ago. Two years ago the specialist took a cardiac ultrasound and other heart tests and told me that my heart had deteriorated. I would need heart surgery for a valve that was leaking. He scheduled a heart catheterization to view the coronary arteries and the heart valve.*

*I decided to go to Okotoks United Church for a Healing Pathway session. Where two or more gather He is present. Two healers started music, said a prayer for me and gave me healing. I felt I went to another place. I felt wonderful.*

*When the surgeon did the catheterization he was angry that the heart specialist had sent me for no reason. He could not even hear the heart murmur I've had for about 40 years. After the results of my heart catheterization came in I went to receive the good news from my heart specialist. He kept shaking his head and saying there is nothing there. He could not believe it.*

*I feel that God working through the healers hands healed me.  
A Healing Ministry recipient*



Submitted by: Gisela Dyck

Two hundred and seventy cards sent this year.

**Card Ministry:** The card ministry continued this year providing encouragement and support to congregants. Amy Mounkes, Marie Cuda and I sent 170 cards to our members from March 1 – December 31. Ruth and I sent over 100 in January and February – so business was brisk. We certainly enjoy our time together on Monday afternoons sending cards from the church. We have a wonderful time visiting, sharing stories and preparing the cards. We would like to thank all the folks who donated cards to this Ministry – our supply is endless.

Submitted by: Sharon Campbell



Members of Mission Possible, the Okotoks Minor Soccer Association and Obed from the Dominican - Sept. 27, 2015 @ the Crescent Point Regional Field House.



*Over 400 guests were served at the Turkey Supper this year*

**Foyer Team:** Formerly the Hospitality Team, this group continues to welcome everyone and to maintain the bulletin boards with up-to-date information about church and community events. This year they added: another bulletin board, tables, table clothes and centre pieces for the tables. They also helped to plan for the addition of 2 new posters to display in the foyer. These posters were selected by congregants at the Stewardship event and will help to tell visitors what we believe as a church.

**Church Photo Directory:** This project was completed In September, a little later than anticipated. Thanks to Bev Shiel and Sharon Parsons for their work on this project.

**Fireside Book Club:** This new club began in March. Which book did we like the best? Perhaps the Book of Negroes – no maybe it was the Red Tent. The fact is – we are nine different people and a book talks to each of us in a different way. That is the beauty of a book club: the sharing of ideas and perceptions. The new book becomes available to the membership a month in advance, thanks to Amy Mounkes who borrows the required number of copies from the Okotoks Public Library. The club only has one rule of thumb: if you did not have time to read the book or did not like the book and refused to read it – you come for the fun and the fellowship - the discussion may surprise you!! Over the course of the book year – we have developed a system, wherein club members have opted to voluntarily lead the discussion on a selected title, out of personal experience, interest or enthusiasm. This has worked really well. In January 2016 we will begin the process of compiling suggested titles and select nine books by consensus. The Book Club welcomes you. Any questions – call Sharon Parsons at 403 995 4373.

**Food for Fun:** This new ministry started in March. Various groups offered lunch once a month following Sunday service with the exception of July and August. We had incredible response from the groups who offered to host the events and contributed the funds to cover the cost. Gayle MacPherson made coffee and tea and juice for all of the lunches while the Leggett family helped set up the tables and chairs. This ministry gave us an opportunity to meet and visit with each other. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success! Submitted by: Sharon Campbell.

**Winers and Diners:** This dinner club of 13 couples continues to offer an opportunity for participants to grow closer to one another. Thanks to Carol Keen who capably organizes the rotation.

**Stampeders Faith and Family Night:** This year Obed from the Dominican was able to join members of the church on Oct. 10 to watch a spirited game of football between the Edmonton Eskimos and our beloved Stamps!

**Pancake Supper:** Due to time constraints we did not host a pancake supper this year. We are looking forward to celebrating this event again in 2016.

**Sunday morning coffee:** Gayle MacPherson continues to provide coffee on Sunday mornings giving people a chance to visit after the service.

**Turkey Supper:** We moved the supper into the sanctuary this year which was beautifully decorated by Carol Keen. We served approximately 400 people and were able to increase revenue through the generous donations of food by congregants.

**Ladies Night Out:** On March 7 we partnered with Big Rock Singers to host Ladies Night Out. The evening featured a meal provided by Hansel & Gretels Catering, a silent auction, special music by Jocelyn and Kevin Leiver and the entertaining Highwood Sheddies. The Master of Ceremonies was Kevin Leiver.





Welcome Back Sunday  
Sept. 20, 2015

We promise to be a safe and caring community where everyone is warmly accepted and nurtured by supportive and authentic relationships.

## Message from Bev Carlson, Chair of the Governing Board



*Over 8,000 unique visitors  
to our NEW website since launching on August 1*



Well, another year has flown by, and here we are, reading through these amazing pages of our Annual Report! 2015 has been a time of reflection, a time of hope, and a time of settling in for us here as we work within our new staffing model of one full time Minister. We have been very blessed to have hired Candice as our Youth Coordinator as she has brought her many gifts and talents to this position. The youth of our congregation has grown throughout this past year, and it is wonderful to see the programming come together as well as the frequent inclusion of the kids in our weekly worship service. I know my own are having a great time and the friendships and experiences will last a lifetime I'm sure.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the rest of our Governing Board for all their work throughout this past year. Our board consists of our treasurer Udo Adam, Lois Irvine, Peter Shiel, Ellen Kneiss, Stewart Thomas, Bill Calder and the lovely Rev. Julia! Denyse is in attendance at our meeting to take minutes, but usually has a wealth of insight and contribution to our processes as well. Thanks so much to you all, and we will miss having Lois on our board in 2016 as her term is over. I know she won't stray too far, and I fully expect to see her on many committee's for the upcoming year! Thanks everyone!

I would like to make mention of our 2nd annual Stewardship event that was held on November 1st, 2015. This was an evening to recognize the contributions of our congregation that allow us to do what we do in our church, in the community, and in the world beyond our community. It highlights why our volunteers do what they do, and allows us time to be thankful for all we have in our lives and the ability and opportunity to share what we have with others. This evening recognizes why the Okotoks United Church and our congregation are such an important part of our community, and hopefully will be for many more years to come.

I am very much looking forward to 2016, the challenges it will bring and the successes I'm sure we will have. With the continued support and dedication of our leaders, staff and congregation, we will continue in our tradition of Following Jesus, Reaching Others and Changing Lives.

The Governing Board is responsible for areas including: the building, property, finances, staffing, policy and procedure, growth and visibility of the church and reporting to the congregation.



## Our building



Over \$21, 000 was generated through buildings rentals in 2015.

**Hostess team:** This team works with renters to help them maintain the building in good order and includes: Gayle MacPherson, Lynne Boriskewich and Sharon Campbell.

**Maintenance Committee:** This sub-committee of the Governing Board coordinates building inspections and maintenance. This year they were able to mount the cross over the sanctuary doors, replace the bulbs in the lights in the Sanctuary and fix the alarm system on the foyer doors. A generous donation enabled them to install the chancel railing.

**Custodians:** "Hard to believe it's been 5 years since we kinda 'stumbled' into our role as Custodians at Okotoks United Church. As volunteer work was winding down & the church was about to open someone asked if we would be interested in the position. Having been retired for 2 or 3 years and not particularly enjoying retirement we jumped at the idea & are very pleased we did. We spent 30 years owning & operating businesses in the hospitality industry, restaurants & salons, so view our job thru the eyes of employer & employee. We also recognize the importance of rental revenue so view church renters as we would customers. Altho' we've never done janitorial work as full time employment, cleanliness & customer satisfaction was a critical component of our previous careers. The church has become a busy place, especially in Dec, which is wonderful. Our hours vary depending on the time of year but the annual average would be 16 hours a week, increasing to 24/25 hours in Dec, decreasing to around 12 in July & Aug. Flexible hours are a plus as we're usually able to clean in the early morning; the downside being the job often requires us to be there 6 or 7 days a week." Submitted by: Roy and Val Peterson

**Rental Committee:** This sub-committee of the Governing Board was struck in April. Its purpose is to research rentals at OUC and prepare guidelines to present to the Governing Board around but not limited to:

- 1) fair market value of our rental spaces
  - 2) prepare a rental package with photos and square footage of our space, prices, equipment available etc.
  - 3) how to best utilize our space
  - 4) what types of rentals do we want at OUC (short/long term) and the implications of such on staff, custodians etc.
- Members included Bev Carlson, Ellen Kneiss, Wendy Adams, Gayle MacPherson, Heather Puttee, and Denyse Geiger. Work in this area is ongoing.

In 2015 Okotoks United Church received just over \$21,000 from 30 building rentals. We also provided free space to 5 groups. AV Technicians and Hostesses provided support at many of these events.

# Thank you

The Magic of Making a Difference - Nov. 1, 2015

This year's stewardship event featured special guest, Richard the Magician. Approximately 120 people attended this fun-filled family evening to celebrate the difference we are making in the lives of others. The pledges received subsequent to the event indicated a positive upward trend which is a good sign for our outreach programs next year. The church could not do what it does without your generous financial contributions. We are grateful for all that you give to help us live out our mission.

## 2015 Contributions to Empowering the Promise

Range	# of Contributors	Total Given	Average
0.01 - 250	32	\$3,122.05	\$97.56
250.01 - 500	11	\$4,325.00	\$393.18
500.01 - 750	10	\$6,080.00	\$608.00
750.01 - 1000	5	\$4,460.00	\$892.00
1000.01 - 1500	9	\$11,297.00	\$1,255.22
1500.01 - 2000	1	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
2000.01 - 3000	8	\$19,522.00	\$2,440.25
3000.01 - 10000	4	\$24,843.60	\$6,210.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>\$75,449.65</b>	<b>\$943.12</b>

## 2015 Contributions to Local Giving

Range	# of Contributors	Total Given	Average
0.01 - 250	74	\$6,208.90	\$83.90
250.01 - 500	27	\$10,292.00	\$381.19
500.01 - 750	17	\$10,991.00	\$646.53
750.01-1000	17	\$14,535.00	\$855.00
1000.01 - 1500	19	\$22,955.00	\$1,208.16
1500.01 - 2000	9	\$15,795.00	\$1,755.00
2000.01 - 3000	7	\$18,995.00	\$2,713.57
3000.01 - 10000	14	\$65,048.50	\$4,646.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>\$164,820.40</b>	<b>\$895.76</b>

*\*Please note: The above numbers do not include fundraising amounts or loose contributions.  
Please see the financial information document for full details.*





## Ministry & Personnel

*Custodians spent around 700 hours cleaning  
the building this year*

Despite beginning the year with supply Ministry, we welcomed our Minister Julia back in February. We were also fortunate to have Rev. Ruth McArthur with us from February to the end of April to provide some support for Julia and general assistance in pastoral care, worship and spiritual formation as well as Christian education. For the remainder of the year we have gradually been able to put into place other specialized assistance to help to meet the needs of the congregation.

As you know, Okotoks – De Winton Pastoral Charge has felt the need for two Ministers but, because of financial constraints, it has been impossible to manage a full-time second Minister. However by the end of the year after thinking about a variety of different options, we feel we have in place a network of support that will carry us through without too much stress. Ruth's legacy of pastoral care (Card Ministry and visitation) continues, and we hope to put into place a Pastoral Care Leader to work specifically with the Minister to enhance our care of those in the congregation who especially need it, and to enable us to thank all of those who work tirelessly for us. Our Kid's and Youth Ministry Coordinator has done excellent work for Christian Education and the results are evident. We are also putting into place a new Accompanist / Music Coordinator who will assist the Worship Committee and Choir Director to synchronize the musical aspects of our worship. Bookkeeping is being done on a volunteer basis.

We were very sorry to see Jocelyn Leiver depart for new challenges in her career but understand her point of view and wish her well. We hope to see both Jocelyn and Kevin as members and wonderful guest musicians from time to time.

More comprehensive and better support is being provided for our Minister and our congregation in Christian education, worship and music, and pastoral care.

It is especially important that we remember all of the volunteers including the two Boards who are making this possible and we would not be as vibrant and solid as we are without every single person who has contributed time and money to our church.

Thank you and God's blessings upon you.  
Lois Irvine, Chair of M & P

Ministry and Personnel is a mandatory committee that is responsible for : Pastoral relations (oversight of the Minister) and personnel matters (all other employed staff and contract work).



This is a group of active ladies that meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm at the church. On occasion we do move the meetings to Tuesday morning if we are going to be using the kitchen.

It has once again been an eventful year for the group.

We catered to one funeral and assisted De Winton with another that was held at the church. We supplied morning snack and lunch for 29 for a presbytery meeting in April. Over two sessions, we made and sold 650 turkey pot pies. In May, we supplied the "Food for Fun" Ministry lunch. We again will be taking part in the Christmas Bazaar along with Mary's Treasures. We accept donations from the congregation for the baking table as well as items for a craft table. Our big seller at this event is Antipasto and this year we have processed 165 jars. Also a big seller is Marilyn's Pepper Jelly.

Our funds this year have been used towards a \$5,000.00 donation to the church, payment for maintenance of the organ and the purchase of 8 dozen salad plates and 8 dozen glasses for the kitchen.

In November, a group of members met and did a thorough cleaning of the kitchen.

We would like to extend this invitation to any members of the congregation who would like to join us on a regular or part-time basis.

Submitted by: Judy Niven, Secretary

## OKOTOKS UNITED CHURCH HARMONY GROUP JANUARY 1,2015- DECEMBER 31,2015

Opening Balance Jan 1/15	\$5,325.62
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### Income

Christmas Bake Sale	2,881.25
Pot Pies sales	3,260.00
Funeral Luncheon	1,000.00
Presbytery Meals	330.00
Donation	100.00

Total Income	\$7,571.25
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### Expenses

Donation to Church	5,000.00
Groceries & Supplies	1,750.83
Russell Food Equipment (Dishes)	755.43
Christmas expense	237.00

Total Expense	\$7,743.26
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Closing Balance Dec. 31,2015	\$5,153.61
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Submitted by: Ellen Kneiss , Treasurer



# Board Members, staff and trustees



*Approximately \$750 in gift cards were  
donated to the Benevolent fund on  
White Gift Sunday*

## **Governing Board**

Chair, Bev Carlson  
Treasurer, Udo Adam  
Secretary, Ellen Kneiss  
Recording Secretary, Denyse Geiger  
Stewart Thomas  
Peter Shiel  
Bill Calder  
Lois Irvine  
Rev. Julia Kimmitt

## **Ministry Board**

Chair, Joanne Dzurka  
Secretary, Sally Salter  
Pam Grinevitch  
Bev Shiel to May 2015  
Betty-Lou Bayley  
Dean Salter  
Jack Parsons  
Rev. Julia Kimmitt

## **Trustees**

Chair, Bill Calder  
Bonnie Chant-Kinsmen  
Ursula Hoppenheit  
Gerhard Dyck  
Dave Wedderburn  
Rev. Julia Kimmitt

## **Office Facilities Administrator**

Denyse Geiger

## **Contractors**

Roy and Val Peterson  
Jocelyn Leiver to October  
Keith Bayley  
Karen Sutton to January  
Candice Sutton from February

## **Nomination Committee**

Sharon Campbell  
Gayle MacPherson  
Amy Mounkes

## Agenda Okotoks United Church 2016 AGM

Opening prayer  
Opening remarks

1. Election of a Secretary
2. Election of a Chair
3. Motion for Adherents to vote on all matters except finances
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of minutes from Feb. 8, 2015 AGM
6. Approval of 2015 Annual Report
7. Report from Ministry Board
8. Report from Governing Board
9. Financials
10. Motion to approve financials
11. Presentation of the 2016 budget
12. Motion to approve the 2016 budget
13. Outgoing Ministry Board members
14. Outgoing Nominating Committee
15. Outgoing Governing Board members
16. Election of officers to the Ministry Board
17. Election of officers to the Governing Board
18. Election of Committee Members
  - a. M & P
  - b. Nominating Committee
19. New Business
  - a. Refugee sponsorship
20. Benediction
21. Motion to adjourn



*Five people provided office support throughout the year*





**Present:** Attendance list on file. There were 53 persons in attendance consisting of 45 members, 6 adherents and 2 staff.

**Opening:** Rev. Julia Kimmett opened the meeting at 11:45 am with a short reflection on 'Christian hope'.

1. Election of a Chairperson

**It was moved by Gerhard Dyck and seconded by Brian Olson that Bev Carlson be elected as Chairperson. Carried.**

2. Election of a Secretary

**It was moved by Betty-Lou Bayley and seconded by Susan Baker that Sally Salter be elected as Secretary. Carried.**

3. Invitation to Adherents

**It was moved by Joe Muhle and seconded by Ellen Kneiss that adherents in attendance at the meeting be allowed to vote on all matters except for those related to finance. Carried.**

4. Approval of the Agenda

**It was moved by Udo Adam and seconded by Gisela Dyck that the agenda be approved with the following changes:**

**Under Financials remove a) Approval of audited financial statements 2013**

**Under Financials remove the word 'audited' from b) Approval of audited financial statements 2014**

**Add 'Reports from Governing and Ministry Board Chairs' prior to the Financials**

**Add 'Benediction' at the end.**

**Carried.**

New Business

1. Approval of Minutes of February 24, 2014 AGM

**It was moved by Marg Smith and seconded by Abe Enns that the Minutes of the February 24, 2014 AGM be approved with the following revision:**

**Amend wording of election of officers and Committees to read: 'The following candidates were presented to the assembly for election:**

**Governing Board: Peter Shiel joins Bev Carlson, Udo Adam, Allan Herchek, Lois Irvine and Gerhard Dyck.**

**Ministry Board: Joanne Dzurka, Sally Salter, and Bev Shiel join Shannon Olson and Betty-Lou Bayley.**

**M&P Committee: Existing Committee remains Lois Irvine, Jimmy Walker, Susan Baker and Jean Burns.**

**Presbytery Reps: Stuart Thomas joins Lois Irvine**

**Nominating Committee: Elect Pat Reader-Downey and Jimmy Walker.**

**Carried.**



2. Approval of Minutes of September 28, 2014 Special Congregational Meeting

**It was moved by Ellen Kneiss and seconded by Gisela Dyck that the minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting dated September 28, 2014 be approved with the following revision:**

**Item 2, Betty-Lou Bailey should read Betty-Lou Bayley.**

**Carried.**

3. Approval of Reports (except Financials)

**It was moved by Keith Bayley and seconded by Fred Keen that the reports contained in the Annual Report be approved with the following revisions:**

**Page 3, Table of Contents, Appendix A, date of AGM should read '2015'**

**Page 36, Be a STAR, last paragraph should have names corrected to read 'Guy Plecash, Manfred Huesken and Jason Vershoor'.**

**Carried.**

4. Board Chair Updates

Joanne Dzurka, Ministry Board Chair, thanked the congregation for all that they do. Joanne also spoke about the results of the NCD survey that was undertaken in 2014. In 2015 we will be engaging the congregation in dialogue about these results with specific focus on 'passionate spirituality'.

Bev Carlson, Governing Board Chair, thanked the congregation for their donations which resulted in a balanced budget for 2014. Bev also spoke about how financial decisions are a balance between building use and worship. We are working to make our building sustainable. In 2015 the Governing Board will be conducting a review of our rental policy and fee structure.

5. Approval of the Financial Statement 2014

**It was moved by Joe Muhle and seconded by Fred Keen that the 2014 Financial Statements be approved as presented. Carried.**

6. Approval of the 2015 Budget

**It was moved by Ellen Kneiss and seconded by Gisela Dyck that the 2015 Budget be approved as presented. Carried.**

7. Thanking the outgoing Board and Committee Members

Thanks were given to the following persons for their service: Shannon Olson, Jimmy Walker, Pat Reader-Downey, Gerhard Dyck, and Allan Herchek.

8. Election of Officers for the Governing Board

Gerhard Dyck presented the following candidates to the assembly for election to the Governing Board for a two year term:

Ellen Kneiss

Stewart Thomas

Bill Calder

They join Bev Carlson, Udo Adam, Lois Irvine and Peter Shiel.

**It was moved by Marg Smith and seconded by Joe Muhle that these candidates be accepted. Carried.**





9. Election of Officers for the Ministry Board

Gerhard Dyck presented the following candidates to the assembly for election to the Ministry Board for a two year term:

Dean Salter

Jack Parsons

Pam Grinevitch

They join Joanne Dzurka, Sally Salter, Bev Shiel and Betty-Lou Bayley.

**It was moved by Ellen Kneiss and seconded by Abe Enns that these candidates be accepted. Carried.**

10. Election of Committee Members

M & P Committee – no change, Lois Irvine, Susan Baker and Jean Burns

Presbytery Reps – no change, Lois Irvine and Stewart Thomas

Nominating Committee

Gerhard Dyck presented the following candidates to the assembly for election to the Nominating Committee for a one year term, accountable to the congregation:

Amy Mounkes

Gayle MacPherson

Sharon Campbell

**It was moved by Vi Muhle and seconded by Brian Draper that these candidates be accepted. Carried.**

11. Staffing Model

Joanne Dzurka explained to the congregation that our current staffing model consists of the following:

- one full time ministry personnel
- Rev. Ruth MacArthur to serve on a part-time basis until the end of April while Rev. Julia Kimmett returns to work
- Kids Ministry Coordinator is being hired
- the two boards will continue to have combined meetings (6 were held in 2014 in addition to the individual board meetings)

12. Motion to Adjourn

**It was moved by Joe Muhle that the meeting be adjourned at 12:48 pm.**

13. Rev. Ruth McArthur offered a Benediction.

Adjournment Time: 12:48 pm

Recorded by: Sally Salter

Chair: Bev Carlson

# St. Andrew's



Annual Report 2015





Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” is a phrase in the Lord’s Prayer that the St. Andrew's United Church takes to heart through spiritual inspiration, warm-hearted fellowship and by extending benevolence to those less fortunate. Led by Reverend Julia Kimmett, an energetic volunteer board and supported by an enthusiastic community minded group, this congregation redefines being an “open arms to all” assembly of parishioners.

## **Fundraising**

A number of fundraising initiatives were again successfully pursued this year. Our Spring flower basket program led by Bonnie Campbell is always popular and the beautiful blooms a sure sign of the arrival of summer. The annual High Tea was again hosted at the De Winton Community Centre and was a Mother’s Day weekend treat thanks to the combined effort of everyone in the congregation. On Canada Day the Garage Sale, which has become more of a Country Store bonanza under the leadership of Shannon Ellenton and assisted by the indefatigable efforts of the congregation; had lineups to discover the many treasures thanks to a coordinated effort with the De Winton Community Center breakfast. Moving into the Fall, Wendy Hoflin recruited Don Henry and his wife Ruth to provide a fun filled old-time country concert that stirred many memories and even some dancing. As the Christmas season approached the congregation and guests romped at the concert organized by Bonnie Campbell and solemnly celebrated Christ’s birth at the candlelight service. This year’s initiatives raised in excess of \$10,000 with portions of the proceeds provided to benevolent agencies such as the Rowan House Emergency Shelter, Okotoks Food Bank, Hospice of the Foothills and the Okotoks United Church Dominican Team.

## **Capital Improvements and Maintenance**

Under the oversight of Renovation Committee Chair, Brent Ellenton and committee members Jean Burns and Jenny Wolsey, James Casemier of Caz Construction was selected and completed a renovation of our chancel by lowering and expanding the stage, minor resurfacing of the fir hardwood floor and upgrading the electrical componentry. Yves Mercier of Simply Flooring in Okotoks and his crew installed new carpet to complete the new look which along with our already excellent acoustical setup has definitely enhanced our facility for future services and performances. Finally, special thanks to Andy Laboucane and Brent Ellenton for their ongoing maintenance of the church and grounds.

## **Musicality**

Who can brag of a 100 year old craftsman pump organ still being played in their weekly services? Thanks to organist Audrey Hipwell we can and it is outstanding. As well, the addition of Crissy Curzon’s stirring solos is always sure to bring a tear of joy.



### **Weddings**

We only hosted one wedding this year, but what a celebration with Yolande Tarnowski and Richard Hilburn bringing together friends and family from Europe, the United States and Canada. This vibrant couple showcased our church in a fabulous way and the bonus is that they have become an important part of our community!

### **Board Members**

President - Wendy Hoflin, Vice President – Lesley Ritchie, Treasurer - Jenny Wolsey, Secretary - John Coleman and fellow members/trustees Jean Burns, Eleanor Curzon, Brent Ellenton and Sandra Neish were wholeheartedly supported by the congregation through the year. Future goals include growing the congregation; furthering goodwill initiatives in a worsening economy; increasing awareness, acceptance and education of differing religious theologies and continuing to provide a solid Christian base of support to the De Winton community.

### **Special Memories**

Our loss of Anna Harder and Krystyna Dziminska this year left us with great sorrow. However, we are cheered to know that they are now undoubtedly working as hard and as cheerfully as ever as God's newest Guardian Angels. Anna passed in her 91st year and had attended St. Andrews as a teenager having grown up in the area. She and one of our other long standing patron saints, Russell Martin, were childhood friends. Krystyna immigrated to Canada from Poland and was always so thankful for her Canadian freedoms. She will always be remembered for her generous spirit and care and concern for the health and wellness of her friends.

### **Financial Highlights**

For 2015 our Pastoral expenses were reduced by \$5,000 to \$15,000 per year to reflect the reduction in the number of ministers of our combined pastoral charge with the Okotoks United Church. Meanwhile, the renovation of the chancel came in just under our \$12,000 budget and on the revenue side of the ledger our weekly offerings kept pace with our business plan.

### **Looking Forward**

2015 was a year of struggles and triumphs; however the return to good health by our Minister Julia Kimmett was an answer to all of our prayers. Buildings, equipment and belongings can always be replaced or upgraded but the positive aura of our spiritual leader is priceless.



**Agenda**  
**St. Andrew's United Church**  
**2016 AGM**

- 1/. Opening Prayer.
- 2/. Election of chairperson for meeting.
- 3/. Election of secretary for meeting.
- 4/. Minutes of last AGM.
  - a/. Errors and omissions.
  - b/. Acceptance.
  - c/. Matters arising.
- 5/. Minister's report.
- 6/. Financial report for:
  - a/. Acceptance.
  - b/. Matters arising.
  - c/. Operating budget.
  - d/. Capital improvement budget.
  - e/. Fundraising.
- 7/. Elections.
- 8/. Any other business.

## St. Andrew's United Church Minutes 2015 AGM

**Date: 8th. March 2015**

**Location: Okotoks United Church.**

The meeting was held after Sunday service and called to order and opened with solemn prayer at 10:10 am.

There were 12 attendees present and the Minister Julia Kimmett all as listed on the attached sheet.

It was proposed by Jean Burns and seconded by Andy Laboucane that Brent Ellenton and John Coleman act as Chairperson and Secretary respectively. Was also proposed by Jean Burns and seconded by Lynne Ewbank that all attendees be entitled to vote at this AGM – unanimous.

The minutes of the last AGM held on the 27th April 2014 were read and after a few minor corrections, recorded by hand on the minutes, Wendy Hoflin proposed and Eleanor Curzon seconded that the minutes as read and amended be accepted – unanimous.

The Minister Julia Kimmett presented the ministers report first noting that she was on the road to recovery and was as present working  $\frac{3}{4}$  time and hoping to be back to full time soon. Julia also expressed her gratitude for the assistance she had received and was still receiving. Both De Winton and Okotoks United Churches were now in credit. Julia had been elected to attend the General Council Presbytery being held this year in Newfoundland. This would be the most important meeting since the founding of the United Church of Canada. Our churches are closing at the rate of one week due to decreasing attendance, this and the resulting decrease in funds will be the primary items of discussion which could lead to significant changes. The meetings are to be held 8th to 15th August any member of congregation may attend and the meeting will be broadcast by live streaming. Sandra Neish proposed and Audrey Hipwell seconded that the report as presented be accepted and our gratitude for the work put in by our minister Julia Kimmett - unanimous.

In the absence of the treasurer, Jenny Burrell, the Balance sheet to 31st December 2014, the Profit and Loss sheet for 2014 and the budget for 2015 were presented by Jean Burns and Sandra Neish.

The significant changes in the budget were the Pastoral charge was lower due to only having one minister and the maintenance costs were higher, previously these were done at no charge but now we will have to pay. Jean Burns proposed and Lynne Ewbank seconded that the Financial Reports be accepted as presented, - unanimous.

Discussion arising from the financial report;

- \*Julia advised that there can be no spending unless approved by the board.

- \*That we use some of our surplus to financially assist Okotoks UC in the costs of the annual report that they prepare for themselves and us.

- \*That we purchase a "Clarion" church bell using the memorial fund (this item was not included in the budget). This was referred back to the church committee as there may be a problem with noise and the neighbors and the wisdom of spending money on our church which is not increasing in numbers.

- \*Our plans for fundraising in 2015 include Sale of flowers, a High Tea, a garage sale, two concerts and a pizzas sale.



## St. Andrew's United Church Minutes 2015 AGM

### **Elections of Committee Members.**

It was proposed by John Coleman and seconded by Wendy Hoflin that the elections of the last AGM be for a period of three years, - unanimous.

That this approved proposition applies to last years elections was proposed by Lynne Ewbank and seconded by Andy Laboucane, - unanimous.

As a result of this vote no elections were needed, the officers elected last year had only completed one year in office.

Audrey Hipwell gave the worship report presented at the last committee meeting.

It was agreed that our summer closing would be the whole of August.

It was agreed that the board meeting dates will be arranged at a later date.

A letter from the Calgary Foundation was read advising that this year's grant from the Mr. and Mrs. James Burns snr. Family Designated Fund will be \$2,017.44 to be split 50/50 between De Winton and Okotoks United Churches.

There may be some follow up regarding this fund and in the absence of Jenny Burrell the secretary will attend to this if necessary.

It was proposed by Lynne Ewbank that the AGM be closed.

A Benediction was given by the Minister Julia Kimmett and the meeting declared closed at 11.25 am.

Attachment: Signed list of attendees.



My soul longs to colour  
outside the lines,  
tear back the curtains,  
sun, come in and  
shine;  
I want to walk beyond  
the boundaries  
where I've never been  
before,  
throw open doors to  
worlds outside the  
lines.

*My Love Colours Outside the Lines*  
*More Voices #138*  
*Words and Music Gordon Light*