



We sing of God the Spirit, faithful and untameable, who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.

Song of Faith

**A Combined Annual Report for the
Okotoks- DeWinton Pastoral Charge
2014**



Okotoks United Church (est. 1917)
43 Riverside Dr.
Okotoks, AB T1S 1A7
www.okunitedchurch.ca
Ph. 403-938-4357
Fax: 403-938-4385
Charitable Reg. No. 89035 9045 RR0001

St. Andrews United Church (est. 1935)
304 Macleod Trail South
DeWinton, Alberta

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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

- Sobeys-Be a STAR dinner
- Guiding Light Photography, Jason Verschoor - Be a STAR slide show
- UPS Store – printing for the Annual Report
- Windmill Theatre Players- Sound of Music sing-a-long
- M&M Meat Shop Okotoks-BBQ fundraiser
- Okotoks Bottle Depot- Mission Possible bottle drive
- Orchard Valley United Church -Bruce Tymchuk –for donated communion trays
- Okotoks Bison's- for help setting up at the Be a STAR event
- That's Entertainment Video Productions -Manfred Huesken –Be a STAR video
- Western Financial- donated file cabinets for choir music
- Ardiel Agencies-Insurance for Ladies Night Out and Food for Inn from the Cold
- Foothills Animal Hospital – Dr. Miranda Logan for the dog safety talk

In this report

Okotoks Annual Report

In Loving Memory.....	4
Message from Rev. Julia Kimmett.....	5
Message from Rev. Murray Speer.....	6
Our Mission.....	7
Our Values.....	8
Message from the Ministry Board Chair.....	9
1. By the numbers.....	10
2. Natural Church Development.....	12
3. Helping those most in need.....	13
4. Seeking a deeper connection to God.....	20
5. Meaningful service.....	24
6. Wholeness, healing and fellowship.....	26
7. Safe and Caring Community.....	29
Message from the Governing Board.....	31
1. Ministry and Personnel Report.....	32
2. Joint Search Committee.....	33
3. Our building.....	34
4. From the desk of the Office Administrator.....	35
5. Be A STAR.....	36
6. Fundraising.....	37
7. Harmony Group.....	38
8. Financially speaking.....	39
Board Members / Trustees/Contract Staff.....	40
Appendix A: Agenda for the 2014 AGM.....	41
Appendix B: Minutes from the 2014 AGM... ..	42
Appendix C: Minutes Special Congregational Meeting Sept 28, 2014.....	44
DeWinton Annual Report.....	45
December 2014 financial statement.....	48
Appendix A: Agenda for the 2015 AGM.....	49
Appendix B: Minutes from the 2014 AGM... ..	50

Quotes from the Song of Faith that appear throughout this report are taken from the Song of Faith, A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada 2006.

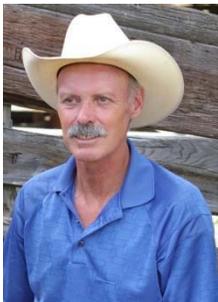
In loving memory

Over the past year we have lost members, adherents and friends of Okotoks United Church. We remember them and give thanks for the time we shared together:

Sharon Hagan died March 14, 2014: Sharon was a strong person with a loving heart and a passion for life. She will be remembered for her love of music and dancing, the comforting blankets she made for family and friends, her pride in her grandchildren, her enjoyment of baking and cooking and her determined personality.



Terry Smith died July 30, 2014: Family was a priority with Terry. He and his wife Donna enjoyed travelling and riding until the arrival of their beautiful daughters Kathryn in 1990 and Megan in 1993. He was so proud when Kathryn earned her degree in Mechanical Engineering and when Megan became the NRCHA Reserve World Champion in 2011.



Pat Balderson died August 11, 2014: Pat was anything and everything for her children, family and extended family. She will be remembered for her selflessness and generosity to all who knew her.



We place our hope in God. We sing of a life beyond life and a future good beyond imagining: a new heaven and a new earth, the end of sorrow, pain, and tears, Christ's return and life with God, the making new of all things

Song of Faith

Message from Rev. Julia Kimmett, Minister of Spiritual & Pastoral Care

As you read through the pages of this annual report, you will see that Okotoks and DeWinton have been busy communities throughout 2014. So much activity, so much giving. Generous sharing of time, abilities and resources. But then again, that's what God is all about – self-giving love. Paradoxically, that is when we are at our best. When we forget about ourselves and give of all that we have so that God's story might be seen and heard in the world through our generosity, hospitality and love. For God so loved the world that God gave....

These pages reflect the places where ordinary life intersects with the extraordinary to make a difference in people's lives. They reflect small acts of kindness and, on occasion, large contributions to the good of the community and the world. We are making a difference. And each of us is vital in making these communities vibrant and effective. Do not think that what you have to offer is insignificant, for if we each play our small parts, the whole becomes grand and worthy.

We build on our past, but we do not settle for what has been for there is far more that is needed to meet the needs of lost, lonely and broken people in our community and beyond. It bears remembering that these buildings do not belong to us. Yes, we pay for them and maintain them as good Stewards but, in the end, they have been dedicated to God and to God's purposes. We will continue to partner with and open our doors to those who are doing work that serves anyone in need. This means that there will be times when the buildings are not accessible to us. This is as it should be. Whoever is serving the needs of people, we want to partner with and offer whatever resources we have for the good of all.



The church is changing and this year promises to be one of significant change in The United Church of Canada as General Council meets this summer to discuss the future of our grand denomination. People are no longer as interested in joining organized religious institutions as they were but they are still interested in spirituality, good causes and serving those in need. We will find new ways to meet the needs of those who want to pursue spiritual paths and serve in meaningful ways. We have done that for over a century and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Please read carefully through these pages and see the faith, prayer, generosity and hard work that have gone into making vital faith communities that strive to serve God through serving others. Search your hearts for how you might want to be a greater part of this work in the year to come. It is only in working together that we will remain effective and faithful.

Thank you for your continued contributions to the life and work of these two communities. May God richly bless you as you move into 2015 and may you know the peace, grace and joy of Christ as we seek the way of generous self-giving.

Julia

**Message from Rev. Murray Speer,
Interim Minister of Christian
Education and Programs:**



When the decision was made in January to not replace me or extend my appointment, my goals for ministry shifted to helping that transition. Between January and June, my activities included:

- leading the senior youth group, with assistance at meetings from Melanie Toews and Nancy Ferguson

- conducting a Lenten bible study group focusing on the Gospel of John

- gathering a Sunday School Program Team to consider the purpose and programming needs of Okotoks United's children's ministry

- offering intergenerational worship service on Palm Sunday as well as the regular worship, preaching, outreach, and administrative duties of ministry.

Blessings,
Murray

Our mission

In 1917, when the Methodist and St. Luke's Presbyterian Churches amalgamated to become The United Church of Okotoks the population of The Town was around 600 people. Much has changed since then.

Today Okotoks is considered a, "mid-sized urban centre with a population of 26,319 (2013 census)...Okotoks is younger, more prosperous, and more educated than provincial and national averages: Okotoks is the second youngest mid-sized urban centre in Canada and the youngest community in Alberta (2006). 72% of the population is under age 45..." Okotoks Fact File June 2014

The mission of the church has evolved over the years `however in 2009 the church defined a mission statement that continues to articulate the purpose for our existence and the focus of our activity.

Our mission: With God's help we are Following Jesus, Reaching People and Changing Lives.



Our ancestors in faith bequeath to us experiences of their faithful living; upon their lives our lives are built.

A Song of Faith

Our values

The Okotoks United Church is committed to advancing its mission and undertaking its work with:

Spiritual celebration and nurture: As reflected in quality worship leadership, learning opportunities in faith and a beautiful worship space.

Community presence participation and outreach: Firmly committed to participation in the wider community life of Okotoks and district.

Harmony of purpose and congregational unity: Collaboration and consultation in decision making has been a priority. The congregation is committed to retaining unity and seeks mutual discussion rather than confrontation when differences arise.

Adaptability for mission: An adaptable congregation open to new ideas in support of active mission in the community. A particular emphasis is placed upon having effective mission and outreach programs for children and youth.

Hospitality: That the community feel welcome to participate not only in Sunday morning church related activities but that the church should be a community space for all.

Growth: The church wants to grow in effectiveness of mission, spirituality and size.

Message from the Ministry Board Chair



For the ministry board, looking back on this past year brings a sense of awe and humility. Despite a number of unexpected events including: Having to say

goodbye to Rev. Murray, Rev. Julia's sick leave and the loss of many leaders in key areas of ministry, it was a phenomenal year! Hours of service, teamwork, and creative problem solving led to the discovery of new ways of doing things and stronger, closer relationships between us! We are amazed by the commitment of our staff, members and adherents who devote their time, ability and resources to the work of the church in the midst of busy lives. It is you who have made God's love visible here in our community and in the world.

We encourage you to read the stories and details in this report to gain a full understanding of the accomplishments that our church – with God's help – achieved this year.

We must continue to ask ourselves how we can live out our mission in relevant, sustainable and creative ways. This is the question being asked by The United Church of Canada and in congregations across the country. We hope that in times when you feel discouraged or are worried about the future of the church you will return to this report and the stories within to be inspired and reminded that others are right there with you working together to create a future where everyone can experience the Kingdom of God.

As we anticipate the New Year the results of the Natural Church Development survey have invited us to consider how to foster passionate spirituality in every person who comes to the church and we look forward to the journey with you.

Joanne Dzurka

We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in the world. We are called together by Christ as a community of broken but hopeful believers, loving what he loved, living what he taught, and striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place.

Song of Faith

By the numbers

Members: This year we welcomed the following NEW members:

- Brad Traverse
- Audra Brown
- Madison Carlson
- Curtis Carlson
- Linda and Bruce Wilson (by transfer).

Becoming a member of the church, like Christianity itself, is opposite to the way the world thinks. While we think that joining a group or organization might give us special “perks” or privileges, membership in the church is an exercise in giving of ourselves for the greater good. In other words, we join the church not to get anything but to give and to serve. To be clear, no one has to make a formal commitment to membership in the United Church. It is God’s church, therefore everyone is welcome and everyone belongs. However, to become a member is to publicly proclaim your intention to become a fully participating and contributing member of the church. It is to declare that you intend to follow Jesus Christ and offer your gifts to the life and work of the body of Christ. It is to say, “I am giving my life to something greater than myself and I want to be a part of something that makes a difference in the world.” To be a member is to work to make the church a vibrant, living faith community that cares and shares, works and grows together. In a world that is becoming increasingly commitment phobic, to make a public declaration of faith is to be counter-cultural, as Jesus was. The church is not always

an easy place to be. It is messy because it is made up of perfectly human, messy people. That’s us. But we are trying. Trying to be better, trying to realize the world God’s story tells us it should be. And to join the church is to commit to living out a faith that draws us deeper into the mystery of what is and could be, if we put our hearts, minds, souls and strength into the vows we make when we become members of the church.

During the year the Ministry board formed a sub-committee to update the historic roll. This committee was comprised of: Sharon Campbell, Elizabeth Pitura, Maureen Wedderburn and Betty-Lou Bayley. Work on the roll continues but it is hoped that results will be available in 2015.

Weddings: While more weddings took place in our facility this year, Rev. Julia had occasion to perform two wedding ceremonies in 2014: one at DeWinton for John and Eva Ingram and one through Okotoks United Church, though at another facility for Mark and Meghan Nagy. Rev. Marilyn Evans presided over a wedding for Charles and Janis Collins at DeWinton. Each wedding that takes place requires an average of 20 hours which includes marriage preparation for the couple, ceremony preparation, wedding rehearsal and the actual ceremony. As fewer people request religious ceremonies or choose not to get married, it is part of our policy that when we do get requests we ask that the couple engage in some form of marriage preparation in order to ensure that some foundation is laid for the marriage. Our facility is used for weddings not performed by our ministers. However, part of our policy is that the wedding must have a spiritual/religious element to it and that it be performed by clergy.

Funerals/Celebrations of Life: As with weddings, fewer people are requesting more formal religious ceremonies to mark the passing of loved ones. This year Rev. Julia presided over only two Celebrations of Life in 2014, spending an average of 15-20 hours on each service. This includes meeting with the family, service preparation and the service itself. This is one of the great privileges of her ministry as she gets to walk with people through some of the most vulnerable times of their lives, hopefully offering comfort and the generosity of a faith community that offers these services to people who are grieving. This is still one of the services that a church offers that cannot be done by anyone else in the community. People want to know that God loves and cares for them at these times and this is the hope that we offer. That God loves and will continue to love those we so deeply mourn.

Baptism: This year the Ministry Board approved a policy for baptism. Eight children were baptized into the Christian family.

- Isla Maisie Ruth Grainger,
- Ben Alexander Fenton
- Hannah Natalka Kohn
- Katherine Olivia Kohn
- Matthew George Kohn
- Curtis Carlson
- Madison Carlson
- Trent Alexander Brown

In the church baptism, confirmation and membership are the ways that we articulate what we believe. They are commitments that we make to one another as members of a faith community. When children are baptized the congregation acknowledges that they are an integral part of worship, that we will provide Christian education programs to strengthen their spiritual nurture and, Christian community, aside from the home, in which a child's faith can grow, be understood and shared.



Natural Church Development

Thirty three members of the congregation were invited to participate in the survey in October. Generally the results indicated that helping those in need, trying new things and enjoyment of worship were areas that come more naturally to us. The area that comes less naturally to us is passionate spirituality.

“Natural Church Development (NCD) is a paradigm – a set of principles for thinking about church growth. NCD suggests that quality (health) precedes quantity in church growth thinking. Size itself is no indicator of healthy growth. A healthy church is better able to grow through reproducing disciples, ministries and itself. In fact, a healthy organism – and a church is an organism – should grow, it can’t help it, it’s just part of nature.

NCD is based on extensive international research initially in 1,000 churches in 32 countries on 5 continents. The research uncovered principles promoting healthy growth independent of a church’s denomination, theology, ministry model, liturgical style or size. NCD is principles-based not program based. Over the past 15 years or so, data on church health has been extended to 70,000 churches in 70 countries on 6 continents!

NCD uses a long term strategic process for improving the health of churches. It centers on a sophisticated diagnostic tool which provides a unique, accurate and up-to-date assessment of the health of a church in eight quality areas: Empowering leadership, inspiring worship, gift-based ministry, passionate spirituality, need-



oriented evangelism, effective structures and loving relationships.

Armed with a regular “checkup” of the church’s health, leaders are equipped to:

- *refine vision, strategies and goals*
- *assess the church’s commitment to essential growth values*
- *focus limited resources for maximum impact on health*
- *move from a program-based mentality to a principles-based approach*
- *take a long term strategy for producing lasting health and growth*
- *grow a church as a living organism rather than merely build a spiritual organization”*

[NCD Canada website](#)

The results of the NCD survey suggest that OUC needs to develop ways to foster passionate spirituality. This will be a priority for the Ministry board in the coming year.



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.

Helping those most in need

Benevolent Fund: This year over \$33,000 (including a one-time donation of \$20,000) was donated and used to assist individuals and families. This fund enables the church to provide one time financial aid to individuals or families who are in urgent need. It is intended to provide for essentials such as food, clothing, shelter or medical treatment not otherwise available.

The difference we make: *“Thank you so much for helping me with the funds to attend Bow Valley College. I have completed my final exams and passed and will be continuing on into a diploma course. Couldn’t have done it without your help.”* A Benevolent fund recipient -It came with flowers.

The Benevolent Fund is managed by the Minister and is based entirely on donations from specified giving’s. Charitable receipts can be provided.

Jacket Racket: Jacket Racket collects gently used winter wear and offers it for free to those who are unable to afford new. The clothing is cleaned and repaired prior to being given away. This year a donation of \$500 also enabled volunteers to provide gift cards to those who could not find the clothing they needed . In 1997 the church identified that there were people who could not afford winter wear. No other options existed in Okotoks at the time so Jacket Racket was established. Now in its 17th year, Jacket Racket continues to provide this valuable community service.

This ministry is run by volunteers who collect donations of winter wear from the community. If you want to get involved or make a donation please contact the church Office Administrator.



Third Floor Apartment: A single parent moved into the third floor apartment in February and was provided with transitional shelter throughout the year.

The purpose of the third-floor ministry is to provide a short-term (2 years or less), affordable, transitional residence on a fixed-term tenancy basis in the third-floor suite, for people who fit the space and who have financial need, as part of our outreach and Christian discipleship work. Since purchasing the building in 2002, the third floor has held a number of different occupants; however, in 2013 it was formally revived and defined as an outreach ministry.

A committee comprised of Shannon Olson, Bev Carlson, Sally Salter, Rev. Julia Kimmett and Brian Olson provided oversight to this ministry.

Spiritual Care in the Community: Each year, local Pastors are asked to participate in Spiritual Care/Worship Services at local senior facilities and the hospice. The Okotoks United Church, always a strong public presence, does its best to accommodate these requests. About once a month (this Fall being an exception), Rev. Julia went to one of either Sandstone Lodge, High River Hospital or the Foothills Country Hospice to provide spiritual care to the residents of these facilities. These services are always well received and appreciated. Each service takes 2-3 hours depending on preparation, travel and length of the services. To have a presence in our community is huge as we follow through on our commitment to caring for those who are most in need of care in our communities.



He healed the sick and fed the hungry... He crossed barriers of race, class, culture and gender. He preached and practised unconditional love- love of God, love of neighbour, love of friend, love of enemy- and he commanded his followers to love one another as he had loved them.

A Song of Faith

Tudor Manor: Some visitation was offered to members living at Tudor Manor this year.

Healthy Moms Healthy Babies: Free space was offered on a monthly basis to distribute fresh food boxes. Healthy Moms Healthy Babies is a Canada pre-natal nutrition program supporting expecting and new mothers living in conditions of risk.

Meditation: Free space was provided to Megan Bishop Scott who offered meditation on a weekly basis.

The Heartland - Revera: Rev. Julia visited residents during the year. The Heartland residence opened in 2011 offering seniors a variety of living options.

Okotoks Network: The church has offered free space to this group whose mandate includes creating healthier, more connected neighbourhoods in our community.

Jocelyn Linda-Ayters Piano Studio: The church offered free space to allow immigrant children to hold their piano recital. Jocelyn provides free music lessons to these children.

Pound Rescue: The proceeds from the Blessing of the Animals Service (\$60) on August 3/14 were donated to Pound Rescue.

United Church of Canada: OUC donated \$320 for typhoon Haiyan relief.

Red Light Green Light: Approximately 43 people including the mayors of Okotoks and High River attended this documentary on human trafficking. The church provided free

space and AV support to Megan and Kathleen Miller-Jacobson to show this documentary.

Drop-in support: Over the year the church offered approximately 8 people the opportunity to have a shower and food or gas.



United Church of Canada: In 2013, \$16,343.75 was contributed to the Mission and Service fund. In 2014 it was \$15,865.

The Mission and Service Fund represents our collective way to be God's presence in the world—to be the church, to love and serve, to seek justice, to live with respect in creation. Okotoks United Church has always contributed to Mission and Service however, contributions depend on donations. The M&S funds are used in 8 key areas including:

1. Global Mission and Service
2. Community and Justice Work
3. Theological Education and Ministry Support
4. Faith Formation
5. Support to Local Ministries
6. Conference Leadership
7. General Council Leadership and Governance
8. Pension and Group Health Insurance

Donations can be made through specified giving.



Okotoks Food Bank: This year 680 food hampers were provided to address the very real problem of hunger in our town. The Food Bank also provided 258 holiday food hampers for Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving. The Okotoks Food Bank is also committed to finding long-term solutions to hunger. This year Rev. Murray Speer provided input on the proposed new Okotoks Food Bank bylaws. Ellen Kneiss sat on the board. An additional 6 volunteers representing OUC served on teams every 10 weeks. Executive Director, Karen Wilke, resigned at the end of August 2014 and Krysten Brown was hired for this important role.

In 1983 the Okotoks Food Bank began operating out of the St. Peters Anglican Church. Today The Food Bank is a registered charity run by a board of directors with oversight from members of the Okotoks Ministerial representing 10 Christian churches in the community including: The Sheep church, Foothills Community Church, St. James Catholic Church, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Okotoks Alliance Church, Okotoks Evangelical Free Church, Grace Lutheran Church, St. Peter's Anglican Church, God's House Pentecostal Church and the Okotoks United Church.

Over the years the Okotoks United Church has played an integral role in the Food Bank through volunteers and ministerial support. For many years the church housed the Food Bank which moved into its new location at 109 Stockton Point earlier this year.

Support of this ministry is through ministerial support, donations of cash, food bank items and volunteer hours.

Inn from the Cold: This year we hosted 6 Inns where a total of 90 guests were provided with emergency shelter, food and clothing. The mission of Inn from the Cold is to provide emergency shelter, support and programs to homeless children, their families and others in need, with the goal of building healthy, stable families and ending homelessness. Okotoks United Church is part of a network of over 59 churches, mosques and community associations that form the Community Inn program. The church first began volunteering at the Deer Park United Church Inn in 2005. Okotoks United Church made renovations for shower and laundry facilities and we began to offer our own Community Inn in 2013. A partnership with Okotoks Rotary Club initiated in December will enable OUC to offer more Inn's in 2015.

Inn from the Cold is supported through volunteers and donations of food.



TEARS and Partners in Deed (PID): Through congregational donations and a variety of fundraising activities such as the Strawberry Tea, an M & M Meat Shop BBQ, calendar sales, a bottle drive, the Change for Change jar, selling hot dogs at the Okotoks Parade, Sound of Music sing-a-long with Windmill Players, Hutterite chicken sales and blanket sales funds were raised for the Soto Christian School in the Dominican Republic. Soto Christian School opened in 2007 with 25 children in kindergarten and now has 116 children up to grade 5 with plans to add a grade every year. Many of the children who attend the school were living in the street and eating food found in the trash. Over the years Okotoks United Church has sent short term mission teams to other areas to serve, however, in 2012, in response to growing insight into the value of longer term partnerships, the church decided to partner with TEARS in the Dominican Republic. A further partnership was established with Partners in Deed. On Oct 4/14 Pastor Rod Davis and his wife Twila visited Okotoks. On Feb 24/15 a third team of 25 people including 10 youth will be travelling back to the Dominican Republic to continue building relationships and supporting community development projects defined by the local people. As a result of the funds provided the children of Soto Christian School have transportation to school, uniforms and breakfast.



Food for the Hungry (FFH): In 2002, Kids



Ministry began partnering with FFH which is a Christian non-profit organization dedicated to ending poverty - one community at a time. Kids Ministry raised \$465.30 through collections on Sunday mornings and the Pancake Supper to

sponsor Sowedl Nabende Muwanika who was born May 10, 1998 in Mbale, Uganda. Sowedl is now 17 years old and hopes to become a policeman. Now that Sowedl is transitioning to adulthood, Kids Ministry leaders have decided to conclude the sponsorship with Food for the Hungry in favour of supporting other ministries of OUC.

Watoto Choir: For many years OUC has hosted the Watoto Children's Choir last, hosting them in 2013. Watoto Children's Choirs have travelled internationally since 1994 as advocates for the estimated 50 million children in Africa orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS, war, poverty and disease. Accompanied by a team of adults, the choir presents Watoto's vision and mission through their stories, music and dance. Watoto choirs act as ambassadors to raise awareness about the plight of the orphaned and vulnerable children of Africa.

The difference we make: *"The first thing I would like to say is what a blessing it was to have my sponsor child that is from ALL the way from Uganda to spend time at my house! The connection and real emotion with getting to have her in my home brought tears, laughter and pure joy..... I honestly think the gain I received from doing this was not what I expected in the beginning. I thought I was helping them but they in fact enriched me!*

I would say it helped us realize how neat the girls were and we got to see their true personalities and make it more personal in regards to "putting a face to a name" so to speak. I also think we got to see how much they valued you and your support and we got to see how much they valued the support from a human standpoint and not a financial or commercial standpoint".

The Mosby 's



Hosting the Watoto Children's Choir involves volunteer hours, advertising and billets to house the children and their chaperones.



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

Seeking a deeper connection to God

Worship: The Worship Committee was formed in 2013 and this year the Ministry Board developed terms of reference for this committee. Members included: Jimmy Walker, Jody Connors, Betty-Lou Bayley, Cynthia Dyck, Marge Bell, Heather Puttee, Tamara Webster, Pat Reader-Downey and Audrey Hipwell.

Working with the Minister the worship team:

- Created a year-at-a-glance schedule for worship services giving opportunities for improved planning, enhancement and coordination of worship.
- Implemented an evaluation of services to help discern how to better meet the needs of congregants
- Arranged for pulpit supply during Rev. Julia's sick leave and regular Sunday's off.
- Received donated communion plates from Orchard Valley United Church
- Created a successful Ushers & Greeters program including a number of youth
- Welcomed new members
- Prepared and helped to serve communion.

Also supporting and enhancing the worship experience were:

- A team of 6 AV Technicians and a NEW AV Coordinator, Stuart Innes, who created a training schedule for the AV team to build confidence and improve their skills
- A 20 member choir who provided 40 Sunday Anthems, and the Christmas Eve Extravaganza, in addition to hosting Gospel Night and participating in a Flood Fund Raiser for High River United Church.
- A pianist and organist
- People who decorated the sanctuary to reflect the seasons of the church
- A NEW Newcomers & Welcoming Team comprised of Pam Grinevitch, Carol Keen, Catherine Slobodian, Amy Mounkes, Norma Hamilton and Anne Lamb.



We offer worship as an outpouring of gratitude and awe and a practice of opening ourselves to God's still, small voice of comfort, to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge. Through word, music, art, and sacrament, in community and in solitude, God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world. We sing with trust.

Song of Faith

Bible studies and courses: In October, Rev. Julia and Jody Connors facilitated a 6-week course entitled “Finding You” in which various practices were explored in order to help people reflect on their lives, identity and connection with God. Twelve people participated over the 6 weeks.

Rev. Murray Speer offered a study on the gospel of John in the spring which allowed the participants to explore new ways of seeing this gospel.

Throughout the year (excluding the summer), Rev. Julia Kimmett facilitated a Thursday morning Bible Study. Through the first half of the year, the group used Dean Salter’s devotional book, “Personal Journeys” to delve into various bible passages. Beginning in the Fall we began a concentrated study of the gospel of Matthew. About 12 people regularly participate in this group though more are always welcome.



Scripture is our song for the journey, the living word passed on from generation to generation to guide and inspire, that we might wrestle a holy revelation for our time and place from the human experiences and cultural assumptions of another era. God calls us to be doers of the word and not hearers only.

Song of Faith

Kids and Youth Ministries: Eighteen volunteers dedicated their time to children and youth ministries during the year. Special thanks to Melanie Toews for helping to coordinate volunteers.

Outreach: Kids raised \$465.30 to support a foster child through Food for the Hungry. Contributions of toothbrushes and toothpaste for Soto Christian School were collected on White Gift Sunday. After Mary Willis came to talk to them about the work of the Okotoks Food Bank the children collected donations of syrup and pancake mix and donated them to the Okotoks Food Bank.

Sunday mornings: This year leaders set up a rotating Sunday morning schedule that 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) **Curriculum choices** (A Joyful Path, Placemat Curriculum and Whole People of God) and **special Sundays** (where the children heard from Mary Willis about the work of the Okotoks Food Bank, talked to April Jordan about how we are all connected and the importance of self-care and played with puppets) and **Intergenerational worship.** The children learned and sang 3 new songs during intergenerational worship.

Children's bulletins: In September new children's bulletins were introduced for children between the ages of 3-6 and 7-12. The bulletins included a scan code so the children could go on-line during the week to play faith-based games.

Nursery: A group of volunteers including youth helped to provide care to the youngest

members of our congregation. Nursery is a ministry to parents of young children, providing them with an opportunity to connect with God and to be fed for the demands of raising a young family. It is also a ministry to the children who learn to develop relationships of trust and to be nurtured by members of the congregation.

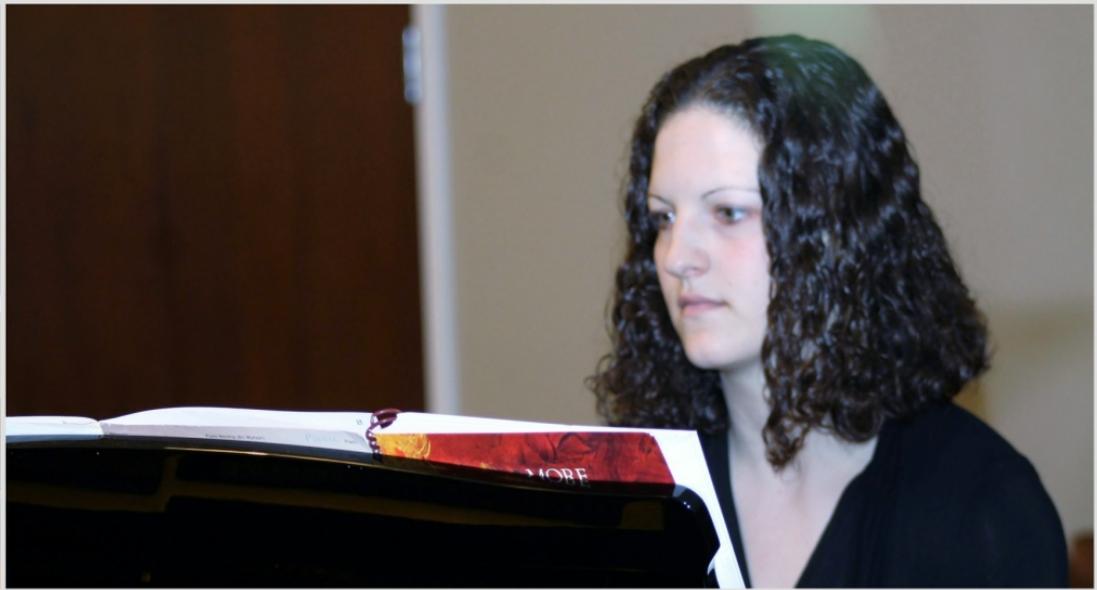
Palm Sunday: The children and youth helped Rev. Murray lead the Palm Sunday service.

Christmas pageant: This year 34 children and youth plus special guests, Quinton, Justus and Arlene Dufour presented the musical, A Midwife Crisis. The nativity story was told through a flustered midwife and her put-upon donkey Steve.

Jr. Youth: An average of 3 youth between grades 4-6 met weekly from Jan.-June and every other Friday from Sept. - Dec. for faith and fun.

Sr. Youth: An average of 13 youth, grades 7 and up, met every other week. They were led by a number of different individuals and couples over the year meeting in family homes, at the church and participating in several community events such as laser tag, Halloween fun at the Okotoks Public Library, the Steve Bell concert in Calgary and Light Up Okotoks. The purpose of Sr. Youth is to provide support and togetherness and opportunities to participate in the life of the congregation.

NEW Youth Worship Team: This new youth group opportunity was piloted in September but was cancelled due to a lack of participation.



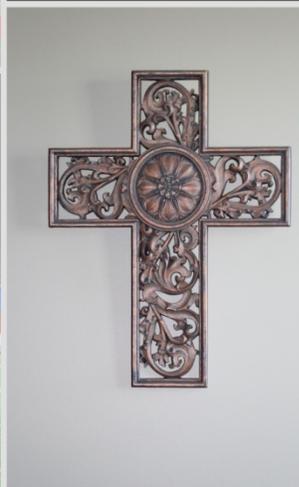
We promise to provide opportunities for meaningful service, where everyone can passionately use their gifts and resources to serve God.

Meaningful service

Our members and adherents offer their time, abilities and resources to perform a wide range of activities from folding bulletins to leading kid's ministry. They raise funds and serve on the board of directors. They feed, clothe and shelter those who are in need. They comfort those who are hurting and ill. They steward the building, property and grounds. They carefully plan and deliver worship services. They offer their musical talents. They tend to the needs of

the ministers and staff. Many people volunteer in more than one area and some have been volunteering for **over 30 years!** They bring skills, energy, passion and creativity. They are ambassadors for the church in the community and abroad. The work of the church would not be possible without them and we are grateful. Throughout the year notes of appreciation were shared in worship as one of the ways that we expressed our gratitude.





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

Wholeness & Healing

Healing Ministry: This year Healing Pathways Phase 2 “Where two or more are gathered” was offered from Sept 26-28. Eighteen participants were trained. Healing Touch practitioners continue to work with flood victims in High River once a month and healing sessions are offered by appointment.

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.

The Okotoks United Church Healing Ministry is grounded in the Naramata Healing Pathway program which has four phases of training. It is guided by ethical principles and values that reflect the life of Jesus. 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. This includes hospital, hospices, care facilities and private homes.

The difference we make: *“...I am grateful for the opportunity for prayer where 2 or more are gathered. I feel God’s presence. I feel so peaceful and calm there and I feel I have been healed by these sessions. My heart, my gut and my spirit...”* A healing ministry recipient

“I have been the recipient of OUC Healing Ministry over the past many years and have had very positive results in dealing with several different medical issues. I always leave my treatment time with an overall feeling of well being...” A healing ministry recipient

I thank all active members of our team for their ongoing support. We are all grateful to offer the gift of healing hands and to be a vessel of God’s healing power. On behalf of the team I thank all who came for their own personal healing.

Respectfully submitted by Gisela Dyck

To become a practitioner or to request an appointment contact: Gisela Dyck 403-938-2506. This ministry is funded entirely from voluntary donations. A tax receipt can be provided.



Fellowship

Church Directory: This year Bev Shiel began work on updating the church directory which is expected to be ready for distribution in February 2015.

Winers and Diners: Carol Keen organized a dinner club where 10-13 couples enjoyed meals in one another's homes during the year.

The Stampeders Faith and Family Night: This year a group of football enthusiasts braved the cold temperatures and took in this event.

Pancake Supper: Shrove Tuesday was celebrated with a delicious dinner of pancakes. The children and youth raised funds to sponsor their foster child with Food for the Hungry.

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

Turkey Supper: Fifty seven volunteers served 380 meals this year. The Turkey supper is an important fundraising event as well as an outreach and fellowship experience.

Ladies Night Out: This year the ladies enjoyed an evening of entertainment watching a Tom Jones impersonator and raising a significant amount of money for the general funds.

Card Ministry: Throughout the year Ruby Loucks sent greeting cards to members experiencing an illness, loss or celebrating a special event. Ruby resigned at the end of the year





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

Personal reflections



"I've been involved in the church all my life! I was baptized in 1925 when the United Church of Canada was formed and I've been a member of

Okotoks United Church since 1998. For me, part of receiving is giving. Over the years I played the organ and the piano. My involvement with the music was a blessing and very fulfilling. I have also been a member of the Harmony Group and served on the church board. These have been important ways for me to give back to the church. From May to September this year I appreciated all the prayers and visits while I was in hospital. I was also amazed at the response to the invitation to my 90th birthday celebration. Thank you for the support."

Ruby Loucks member since 1998

"I believe that Okotoks United Church is an exceptional, very special church. It is a happy, joyous, sincere, honest, and a healing church. I think it is like this because of all the wonderful people we have in our congregation. It is a church with good unity and cooperation, and respect and consideration.

This congregation is like a family to me, and when a sad event happens to one, everyone is sad, as when something happy happens to one, everyone is happy.

I believe that our minister is the one God wanted us to have. We have a wonderful minister, and with her direction, we have, and

will become even better than we are already. She is a people person, and is wonderful on a one-to-one basis.

I find people are so easy to work with, there are never any "control" issues, everyone works together, and things this church undertakes are always successful. It is amazing to watch all the new people who have come into our church and have become one of us over the years. It is a church where there are dozens of areas where anyone who desires can become involved, and thanks to the ministry board, and governing board, there is only one direction this church can take and that is up.

God has and is blessing Okotoks United Church because the people desired a full schedule of activities and meetings, and we are there, we are a 24/7 day church, and we thank God for leading us in this direction.

In my opinion anyone who visits our church will always be glad they did, and everyone who attends our church and makes it their church home, will never regret doing so. I am ecstatically happy about having just over 11 years in Okotoks United Church. Thanks be to God."



David Chandler, Member since 2004

Message from the Governing Board Chair



Looking back on my first year of chairing the Okotoks United Church Governing Board, it is with great appreciation of all who came

before me and did this job, as well the many who contribute to making this a welcoming and safe place to gather. The rest of our Board members consist of Udo Adam, Gerhard Dyck, Allan Herchek, Lois Irvine, Peter Shiel and of course, Rev. Julia. We also could not possibly do what we do for our church and our community without the tremendous help and dedication of Denyse Geiger in our front office. She fields so many things, I'm sure none of us really know how much, and takes care of everything that comes through the front doors with professionalism, courtesy and grace. We are truly blessed to have so many people who contribute so much to our Ministry.

2014 has been a challenging year of change for everyone. The decision to change our staffing model back to one full-time minister based on our financing budget was not an easy one, and with it came commitments to Rev. Julia not to overload her, while giving her the necessary resources and support to manage her work load as best as possible. A part-time position for Kid's Ministry Coordinator was also approved and the search to fill this will commence in the New Year. Later in 2014, we were also faced with Rev. Julia's illness and subsequent medical

leave. Realizing the importance of her not having to deal with day to day workings in the church, as well as not preparing and preaching sermons in order to expedite her recovery, many people came together to make things work through the remainder of the year. I can't stress enough the hard work the Ministry Board did, and is doing, through this time to keep the continuity of the worship service going. This is incredibly challenging work and greatly appreciated!

Our financial outlook is a little stronger ending this year than what we had originally anticipated coming into 2014. Through the efforts of everyone to keep our costs down, and the generous gifts of our congregation throughout the year, we are finishing better than budgeted. Going into 2015 we will continue to be conservative in our budgeting forecast, and will continue to rely on the contributions of our membership and our rental income to meet our financial obligations for the coming year.

As we close out this year, I look back and realize all the challenges we have faced and managed to deal with in 2014 together, and I am very thankful for the generosity of time and talent that so many people have given throughout the year to make this such a wonderful place to come together as family and friends in worship. I look forward to 2015 and the successes I know it will bring, the new friends there will be to meet, and the continuous support of our extended family in the Okotoks United Church.

Bev Carlson

Ministry and Personnel Report:

The Committee (Susan Baker, Jean Burns, Jimmy Walker and Lois Irvine) has been occupied this year with the changes that have taken place in our Ministry and the effects of these changes on current staff and future planning.

The pastoral charge began 2014 with two Ministers: Reverend Julia Kimmett as Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care and Rev. Murray Speer on contract as Minister of Christian Education and Programming. The charge was in the middle of a search for a minister to call as full-time Christian Education and Programming Minister. Rev. Kimmett had been called in 2013 but the search process did not result in a second minister being chosen. For the interim until the search was renewed, Rev. Speer had been appointed to June 30, 2014. It became apparent early in the New Year that a second call or appointment could not be sustained at this time. Sadly, it was necessary to say goodbye to Rev. Speer at the end of June.

The Joint Needs Assessment, upon which the search was based, had confirmed the need for two ministers. Foothills Presbytery had accepted the report and a Joint Search Committee had been set up in 2013. Okotoks – DeWinton strongly felt the charge still needed two ministers and were asked to report back to Presbytery in January 2015 on a plan to accomplish this goal.

In September, the minister called to the Spiritual and Pastoral Care position was unable to continue and was accepted into the



restorative care plan at the beginning of November. The Governing Board and the Ministry Board, the two Chairs, Bev Carlson and Joanne Dzurka, a considerable number of board members and other volunteers worked together to keep everything going with emphasis on Sunday worship services. Thanks are especially due to Susan Wilkinson-Matticks and Rev. Ruth MacArthur who have and are helping to provide ministerial worship support, and to lay leaders for organizing worship services and preaching. A firm plan for Presbytery may not be possible until our current minister has returned.

In the meantime in order to keep programs going and the church functioning both Boards have worked hard to accomplish current goals. A Kid's Ministry Coordinator was approved and is expected to be hired early in the New Year.

Time has been spent on financial aspects of Ministry Personnel in order to ensure the processes related to this part of the budget are working or going to work with the Power Church accounting program. In addition, both programs and the major personnel issues that the charge are facing affect current job requirements of staff and contract personnel

and attention is necessary to see that gaps are filled and pressures do not become too heavy. Volunteers also feel the weight of fluctuating circumstances and ways to alleviate these stresses must be found.

A short questionnaire on the Status of the Church and Ministry was circulated in June for the entire congregation to answer. The response was very weak but nevertheless there were some interesting results even though they are not statistically reliable. The report will be available shortly but it is worth noting that the relationship with the ministers was felt to be uniformly positive and areas such as worship and the choir were highly regarded.

As always the charge is significantly indebted to all those who contribute time and expertise, paid and unpaid. Thank you all for your dedicated service!

The end of the year sees the charge with ongoing limitations to be overcome and further planning to be done regarding the path forward with God's guidance and blessings. We are optimistic that we will emerge during the coming year with a revitalized church, renewed

and enhanced Ministerial staff and confidence in our ability to meet new challenges.

Lois Irvine

Joint Search Committee: Formed in 2013 the mandate of the Joint Search Committee was to search, select and recommend a minister for Christian Education and Programs at Okotoks United Church. Candidates reviewed included all those considering a new calling in the national database. An ad was run for two months in the Observer. The committee interviewed seven candidates. At the point of narrowing the list to two candidates a meeting with the M& P committee and the Board determined the church did not have the financial capacity to call a second minister. Candidates were advised and the committee disbanded. Members from DeWinton were Barb Douglas and Bonnie Campbell. Bill Calder, Mary Willis, Desiree Hart and Brian Olson represented Okotoks. Presbytery was represented by Ray Goodship and Irene Milton.

Brian Olson

Our building

Next to people the church building is our greatest asset. It is where we worship, celebrate and grieve. It is tied up with special memories that include our spiritual formation. The church helps to create a sense of belonging

"...Some argue that shared memory and stories – the collective experience of the community – is what transforms a mere space into a sacred place." Trisha Elliot The United Church Observer May 2014 pg. 24-25

The building also offers a unique opportunity for us to expand our ministry in the community. As a result of its bright contemporary design, audio visual capabilities, central location, accessibility and affordable rental rates it allows us to support 1) charities and not –for-profit groups, 2) arts and worship and 3) private groups.

Contract staff, members and adherents take great care to clean, repair and enhance both the inside and outside of the building.

Hospitality team: OUC has a hospitality team comprised of Gayle MacPherson, Marge Bell, Sharon Campbell and Rev. Julia Kimmett. This team works to welcome everyone and to maintain the bulletin boards with up-to-date information making details about activities available to our members.

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 team: Dave Wedderburn, Abe Enns, Gary Dzurka, Norm Willis, Gerhard Dyck, and Don Gilbert have been at the ready when repairs or maintenance to the building are required. This year the landscaping around the building was completed through donations of plant material and hours of care. Snow removal and attention to water damage to the foyer flooring were also managed.

Emergency Response Team: Denyse Geiger, Abe Enns, Dave Wedderburn, Allan Hercheck, Gerhard Dyck and Peter Shiel comprised this team. A grant of \$10,000 was received from Alberta North West Conference for disaster resources (shed, generator defibrillator etc.). A shed was built to house some of these resources.

Special thanks to Val and Roy Peterson for their help to keep the building clean for everyone to enjoy!



**From the Desk of our Office Administrator,
Denyse Geiger**



Building Rentals: In 2014 Okotoks United Church received just over \$21,000 through building rentals.

Room Full of Sound
Big Rock Singers
Alcoholics Anonymous
Al Anon
Okotoks Men's Chorus/U of C Choir
Concert
Foothills Philharmonic Chorus
NOB Concert
Fan Club – healing sessions Recovery
CPC/PI Meetings
Bibles for Missions AGM
Gail Parkins/Counselling
Ladies Time Out
Calgary Concert Opera Company
Private Weddings
Parent Link Centre
Living Grace Church

Naomi Koch Music Recitals
Okotoks Children's Choir
Music Central Recital
Christina Taylor Music Recital
Marion Leeson Music Recital
Tanis Taylor Music Recital
Okotoks Montessori Preschool
Christmas Concert

AV Technicians and Hostesses provided support at many of these events.

Office Team: Sharon Campbell, Amy Mounkes, Gayle MacPherson, Lois Irvine and David Chandler all provide office support on a regular basis.

Be a STAR

Be A STAR (Stewardship of Time, Abilities and Resources) was an evening celebration held on November 1st. This evening brought together so many people to be thanked for all they do, all year long, to help make our church and its many ministries successful. We could not do the work we do in our church, our community and the world without the dedication of a large group of people, and the support of the congregation. Stewardship is a time to be thankful for all we have to share, and appreciate the giving of everyone, in every way. We look forward to making this an annual celebration, and having many more folks come out and enjoy the evening of fellowship it offers.

The Be a STAR team consisted of: Carol Keen, Sharon Parsons, Wendy Adam, Dean Salter, Vi and Joe Muhle, Gayle MacPherson, Sharon Campbell, Curtis and Madison Carlson, Shae Hardie and members of the Governing and Ministry boards.

Special thanks to Rev. Michael Ward, Guy Pleas, Jason Overshoot of Guiding Light Photography, Manfred Huesken of That's Entertainment Video Productions, volunteers from Foothills Composite High School and the Okotoks Bison's hockey team for their contributions to this event.



Fundraising



This year a significant amount of money was raised for ministries and the general fund through various fundraising activities including:

- Garage sales
- Pancake supper
- Strawberry Tea
- Sound of Music sing-a-long
- Change for Change jar
- Hot dog sales at the Okotoks Parade
- Bottle drive
- Blanket sales
- Calendar sales
- Hutterite chicken sales
- M & M Meat Shop barbeque
- Turkey Supper
- Ladies Night Out and the
- Christmas Market.

Harmony Group

Once again this group of ladies had a busy year. They supplied meals and catering in the following areas:

- 4 soup luncheons
- 4 Roomful of Sound evenings where meals were supplied to the performers and the staff from Shaw who did the taping
- 1 funeral lunch
- 1 day-after-the-wedding lunch
- made soup and helped Gisela Dyck with a Healing Touch gathering
- lunch for Ruby's 90th birthday celebration – a special honour
- made and sold Turkey Pot Pies and Sheppard's Pies
- participated in the Christmas Market & Bake Sale. Along with donations of baking and crafts, the antipasto made by members sold well again as did Marilyn's Pepper Jelly. This was held in conjunction with Mary's Treasures. Thank you to those who donated to this and to Sharon Nelson for the donation of the Christmas Village items.
- A June tea was hosted for residents of Heartland

Some additions to the kitchen have been made as needed.

As well, we covered the cost of maintenance to the organ.

A donation of \$5,000.00 was made to the general account of the church.

We have made some changes to our program and will no longer be hosting soup luncheons but will put our efforts to other projects – suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

We are a small group of ladies who would like to invite others to join us.

We do give our thank-yous to those who have helped us on occasion during the past year.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Niven, secretary



Financially speaking

Benevolent Fund 2014

Disbursals

Utilities	1128.00
Hotel	\$356.53
Car Payment	355.50
Small Business License	102.32
Housing/Rent	2852.00
Furniture	565.00
Shopper's Drug Mart Card	25.00
Grocery Gift Cards	1210.00
Gas	325.00
Education	940.97
Flights for Philipino family	2227.90
Child Care	400.00
Dry Cleaning	65.85
Third Floor Outreach	1610.11
Westmount School	480.00
Total:	12,644.18



OKOTOKS UNITED CHURCH HARMONY GROUP				
FINANCIAL REPORT FROM JANUARY 1 - December 31, 2014				
OPENING BANK BALANCE			\$5,509.64	
EXPENSES				
Advertising	\$144.15			
Groceries & Supplies	\$2,019.64			
Organ Repairs	\$1,627.50			
Donation to Church	\$5,000.00			
Gift to Minister	\$100.00			
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$8,891.29	
INCOME				
Soup Luncheons	\$2,037.77			
Room Full of Sound	\$1,403.00			
Funeral	\$625.00			
Wedding Luncheon	\$140.00			
Turkey Pot Pies	\$1,335.00			
Christmas Bake Sale	\$2,511.50			
Donations	\$55.00			
Birthdays	\$600.00			
TOTAL INCOME			\$8,707.27	
DECEMBER 31, 2014 BANK BALANCE			\$5,325.62	
Report Submitted By				
Cae Parry				
Treasurer, Harmony Group				
(403) 880-4025				

Directors, Staff and Trustees 2014

Governing Board

Chair
Treasurer
Secretary
Recording Secretary
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member – M & P

Bev Carlson
Udo Adam
Allan Herchek
Denyse Geiger
Gerhard Dyck
Peter Shiel
Lois Irvine

Ministry Board

Chair
Secretary
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member

Joanne Dzurka
Sally Salter
Shannon Olson
Bev Shiel
Betty-Lou Bayley

Trustees

Chair

Bill Calder
Bonnie Chant-Kinsmen
Ursula Hoppenheit
Gerhard Dyck
Dave Wedderburn
Rev. Julia Kimmett

Office & Facilities Administrator

Denyse Geiger

Contractors

Roy and Val Peterson
Jocelyn Leiver
Pat Reader Downey
Keith Bayley
Karen Sutton

Nomination Committee

Jimmy Walker
Pat Reader-Downey

Editor

Dean Salter

Appendix A

Agenda 2014 AGM

Opening prayer

Attendance

Election of a chair

Election of a secretary

Motion for Adherents to vote on all matters except for finances

Approval of Agenda

Approval of minutes:

- a) Feb 24/14 AGM
- b) Sept 28/14 Special congregational meeting

Approval of reports (except financials)

Financials:

- a) Approval of audited financial statement 2013
- b) Approval of audited financial statement 2014
- c) Approval of the 2015 budget

Election of slate of officers for:

- a) Governing board
- b) Ministry board

New business:

Staffing model



Appendix B

OKOTOKS UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING February 23, 2014

The meeting opened at 11:35 a.m. with Rev. Murray Speer calling for a nomination from the floor for the position of Meeting Chair. Dave Frederickson (nominated by Gerhard Dyck, seconded by Betty-Lou Bayley) was unanimously chosen. Previously, sign-in sheets had been circulated for members and adherents. Dave Frederickson then called on Rev. Julia Kimmett for an opening prayer.

Following this, an invitation that "adherents be extended voting privileges on all matters related to financials or administrative work of the congregation" was moved by Pat Reader-Downey, seconded by Brian Olsson, and carried by the assembly.

The next item of business was the approval of the agenda (moved by Ursula Hoppenheit, seconded by Bruce Wilson) followed by a request that the three sets of minutes from general meetings held in 2013 also be approved as presented in the Annual General Report. (So moved by Betty-Lou Bayley, seconded by Jimmy Walker and carried)

In regards to the Annual General Report it was moved by Susan Baker, seconded by Donna Smith, that "all reports except for the 2013 Financials and 2014 Budget be approved as presented". The motion was carried.

At this point the Rev. Murray Speer presented a brief summary of the new Governing Bylaws of Okotoks United Church. After a short discussion, Joe Muhle moved, seconded by Bev Carlson, that the new Governing Bylaws be approved. The motion was carried unanimously.

Udo Adam, our treasurer, next presented the 2013 Financial Report. After some clarification regarding Ladies Night Out, the Garage Sale and the Turkey Supper (all are Okotoks United Church fund raisers) it was moved by Bev Shiel, seconded by Brian Olson, that the report be approved. The motion was carried. Udo Adam then presented the 2014 Budget for Okotoks United Church, key elements of which are a deficit projection and a delay of the church's call for a second minister. Discussion ensued regarding Support Staff, FIF v.s. Budget, and the Budget setup, most of which were clarified with reference to Udo Adam's "Notes to the Financial Statements" found in the Annual Report. In addition, with the absence of a second minister, all support staff -both paid and volunteer- will need to step up, Forward in Faith (FIF) is being replaced by Empowering the Promise (EP) and the budget does not include our mortgage payments. Ursula Hoppenheit then moved, seconded by Jimmy Walker, that the 2014 Budget be approved as presented, and the motion was carried.

Next on the Agenda was the election of officers. The following slate of candidates was presented to the assembly: Governing Board: Peter Shiel (joins Bev Carlson, Udo Adam, Allan Herchek, Lois Irvine and Gerhard Dyck)

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

M @ P Committee: Jimmy Walker, Susan Baker, Jean Burns

Presbytery Reps: Lois Irvine, Stewart Thomas

Nominating Committee: Pat Reader- Downey

Fred Keen, seconded by Heather Avis, moved that this slate be accepted as presented and the motion was carried.

Prior to concluding the AGM, the floor was opened for questions or comments with the following being noted: Brian Olson requested that Financial Information regarding OUC be presented on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

Betty-Lou Bayley encouraged everyone to give a bit more to help get OUC out of its financial crisis.

Pat Reader-Downey suggested more involvement by all church goers was imperative.

Donna Smith expressed regret that Murray Speer would be moving on.

Dean Salter emphasized that for long term success OUC would require two ministers.

Joanne Dzurka expressed faith and optimism for the future of OUC.

Dave Frederickson received a Standing Ovation for his many years of service to OUC in many capacities. Also recognized for their contributions were Heather Avis, Jimmy Walker, Pat Reader-Downey and Gerhard Dyck.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m. with Rev. Murray Speer saying the closing prayer.

Recording Secretary, Gerhard Dyck

Appendix C

Minutes Special Congregational Meeting September 28th, 2014

Call to order at 11:41am

Bev Carlson, Governing Board Chair presiding.

The following items were brought forward for motion:

1. It is moved that the current start time of service, 10:45am, remain in place during the coming year.

Motion: Peter Shiel

Second: Brian Olson

Carried

2. It is moved that four additional Sundays be allocated for Julia to be relieved of worship duties.

Motion: Betty-Lou Bailey

Second: Lois Irvine

Carried

Motion to adjourn by Gerhard Dyck at 12:00 pm.

Bev Carlson

Recording Secretary

September 28, 2014



De Winton United Church
Annual Report 2014



DeWinton United Church

DeWinton, Alberta

Minister: Rev Julia Kimmett.

Secretary (403) 256-1969
55 Heritage Cove RR3,
DeWinton, Alberta,
T0L 0X0
Email: johnfcoleman@shaw.ca
2014 Annual Report

The attendance at our church was as usual for the past few years, 12 to 15, with 3 exceptions. The exceptions were a memorial service for Bridget O'Sullivan a long time member of our congregation and instructor at a local yoga class, a service augmented by the Okotoks United Church Choir and a presentation by the youth from the Okotoks United Church about their forthcoming trip to the Dominican Republic, part of their TEARS program. On each occasion we had a full house.

There were 4 fundraising events during the year, 3 concerts by local artists and a jumble sale. All were well attended and aided considerably in defraying our church's expenses.

We had just two other religious ceremonies, both weddings.

There were two sad events in the year which we hope never to see repeated. We, with Okotoks, had to let go Murray Speer, as between us we could no longer afford two ministers. The other event is the sudden illness of our minister Julia Kimmett which caused her to be absent from our services. This was and still is distressing both to Julia and ourselves as Julia is much loved by our congregation.

Julia recommended Susan Wilkinson-Matticks and Rev. Ruth McArthur to officiate during her absence.

John Coleman

Secretary



10:00 AM
29/12/14
Accrual Basis

DeWinton United Church
Balance Sheet
As of 31 December 2014

	31 Dec 14
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
Royal Bank Okotoks	22,261.71
Total Chequing/Savings	22,261.71
Other Current Assets	
GIC Home Trust Company	15,000.00
Memorial funds Royal Bank GIC	4,200.00
Non Redeemable GIC Royal Bank	50,000.00
Royal Bank GIC	9,500.00
Total Other Current Assets	78,700.00
Total Current Assets	100,961.71
TOTAL ASSETS	100,961.71
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
GST/HST Payable	-440.16
Total Other Current Liabilities	-440.16
Total Current Liabilities	-440.16
Total Liabilities	-440.16
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	43,133.57
Retained Earnings	-460.00
Net Income	58,726.30
Total Equity	101,401.87
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	100,961.71

10:48 AM
30/12/14
Accrual Basis

DeWinton United Church
Profit & Loss
January through December 2014

	Jan - Dec 14
Income	
Calgary Foundation	1,005.40
Don Henry Fundraiser	480.00
Donations	50,000.00
Fundraiser Christmas Concert	0.00
Fundraising, Flower	2,554.00
Gain of Sale of Shares	11,702.48
Garage Sale	1,937.80
Interest Earned GIC	202.04
Investment in Shares	0.00
Memorial Fund	545.00
Mission and Service	1,100.10
Offering	21,105.45
Rent	1,068.00
used fire extinguisher	30.00
Weddings	900.00
Total Income	92,631.27
Expense	
bank charges	22.00
Church basement flood repairs	188.14
Church Donations	250.00
Church Utilities	1,335.67
Electrical	1,151.88
Flower Fund Raiser expense	2,101.00
Insurance	1,732.00
miscellaneous	334.74
Mission & Service	835.10
Ok United Church Pastoral Chrg	15,000.00
Piano Tuning	130.00
Relief Minister	1,325.50
Relief Organist	125.00
Repair & Maintenance	7,221.94
Septic Tank	1,250.00
Total Expense	33,002.97
Net Income	59,628.30

Agenda for 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.
 - c/. Fundraising.
- 7/. Elections.
- 8/. Any other business.

DeWinton United Church AGM

April 27, 2014

Wendy opened the meeting and called it to order.

Lyne nominated Brent to chair the meeting, Leslie seconded and Audrey nominated Bonnie to be secretary and Wendy seconded. Passed and carried.

Lesley made a motion that all adherents have extended voting privileges. Lynn seconded, passes and motion carried.

Lesley read minutes of the 2013 AGM and Lesley made a motion we except the minutes as presented. Amendments were the spelling of ordained and adherents. Jean made a motion that we accept the minutes with amendments. Motion passed and carried.

There was no business from the minutes of the meeting

Ministers report

Julia announced were are going back to one minister. Murray will be leaving at the end of the June

Wendy made a motion we accept Julia's report as presented, John seconded. Motion passed and carried.

Treasurers Report

See attached. Brent went over the report with attendee's. Audrey made a motion to accept the financials as presented 2013/2014. Seconded by Eileen motion passed and carried.

Julia discussed the Congregational Governance; she discussed the pros and cons and explained it. It was decided we would like to think about it and discuss later.

Election

Chair- Wendy Hoflin

Vice President- Lesley Ritchie

Treasurer- Jenny Wolsey

Secretary -John Coleman

Member at large- Jean Burns, Brent Ellenton

Worship -Audrey Hipwell

Lynne made a motion we accept the elections of the board. Jean seconded Motion was passed and carried.

Trustees are Brent Ellenton, Sandra Niesh, Jean Burns, Eleanor Curzon and John Coleman

Andy made a motion that trustees be accepted as elected, Sandra seconded the motion was passed and carried.

Basement Update and appreciation.

Andy reported there are a few small things that need to be done but all major jobs are completed.

New Business

Add: worship times changing Closing for the summer, Gravel for yard

Discussion of OUC

We had a small discussion and it was said we would continue to pay what we have always paid-

Summer start time will be 9:00 am, first Sunday in July.

Summer closing month will be August.

We discussed that we need gravel in the yard and proposed we considered do it next year.

Fundraisers

Garage sale July 1st Tuesday

Churchyard Farmers market Andy will be the lead on this and details to follow. Pig Roast combined with the market.

Don's Concert Early Sept or Oct

Xmas Concert Andy and Bonnie Details to follow

High Tea Fashion show and tea on Mother's day Eleanor, Sandy and Barb.

Coco Brooks Bonnie

Joint Service and Picnic For further consideration

Jean thanked Brent for all his efforts and Brent adjourned the meeting.

