

Connexions

Schedule of Services for Advent

Hi everyone! Sunday School is up and running for the year. We have so many children registered this year! We had our **Registration Party** with a big **Welcome Back** cake on September 20th. The following Sunday we had a **Carnival** with lots of games and treats. Many of the children are returning for another year of fun and worship and we have some new faces to welcome. The next important activity for us is the **Hanging of The Greens** at the 11:00 a.m. service, November 28th; and then at the 11:00 a.m. service on December 12th, we have our **White Gift Service**. We will be very busy over the next few weeks practicing to make these services enjoyable for all. We have managed to include all the children in our service either through singing, reading or acting!! We are certainly looking forward to performing for the congregation. Don't forget to bring along a non-perishable food item wrapped in white paper for the children to collect during the White Gift Service.

Christina Osmond
Sunday School Superintendent

Grand Falls-Windsor, Bishop's Falls Community Food Bank Inc.

The **Food Bank** will be distributing **Christmas Hampers** on December 18, 2010. If you would like to donate items for the hampers, please drop off your items to the food box in the church or to the Food Bank by Dec. 11, 2010. The Food Bank is open on Friday and Monday from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The items required for each hamper are: (Non-Perishable Items)

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|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 can Beans | 1 can Pasta | 2 cans Soup |
| 2 cans Vegetables | 2 cans Milk | 2 pkgs. Kraft Dinner |
| 1 pkg. Tea Bags | 1 bag Sugar | 1 pkg. Cereal (reg. size) |
| 1 lb. Margarine | 1 carton juice | 1 tin fruit |
| 1 pkg. Rice | 1 pkg. Biscuits | 1 pkg. Macaroni or other dry pasta |

3 tins Lunch Food (ie. Meatballs, Stew, Corned Beef, Flakes of Ham or Turkey, Tuna, etc.)

All Hampers will be standard and these are the items required. If individuals or groups wish to make a complete hamper, please use this list. Money donations are always welcome.

Sunday, Nov. 28

11:00 a.m. **Family Worship**
Hanging of The Greens
(Sunday School participating)

7:00 p.m. **UCW Vesper Christmas Candle-light Service**

Sunday, Dec. 5

11:00 a.m. **Advent and Family Worship Service**
7:00 p.m. **Drama Club, "A Christmas Carol"**

Sunday, Dec. 12

11:00 a.m. **White Gift Service** led by Sunday School
7:00 p.m. **Advent Evening Service** -
Men's Choir, Church Choir & UC5

Sunday, Dec. 19

11:00 a.m. **Christmas Communion Service**
7:00 p.m. **Youth/Students** -- The Maple Buds

Friday, Dec. 24

7:00 p.m. **Traditional Christmas Eve Service**
Theme - "O Holy Night"

Merry Christmas

From The Minister's Desk

Please let me know if you, a friend or loved one would like to have a pastoral visit. Make sure, however, that you get the person's consent or their affirmation, that they would like a pastoral visit first. If you cannot reach me at the Manse (489-2439), or Church Office (489-6151), please call my cell number (427-9754).


 Reverend
Donna's Desk

To: United Church Members, Adherents and Friends


What Is Happening At Memorial United Church!

Our Vision Statement: "Love one another just as I have loved you."(John 15:12)

Our Mission Statement: "As a Christian community on an exciting journey of faith, we strive to follow God's loving ways by growing spiritually, reaching out to all, and seeking truth and justice."

If you are not already doing so, we invite you to come and join with us in worship and fellowship each Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. Our Sunday School begins immediately following our **Time With Our Younger Members**. Following worship on the first Sunday of every month, we share in a time of coffee/tea and getting to know each other. There is always lots happening at Memorial United, but we are especially active during this time of year. The Advent Season is rapidly approaching and we have many special services planned. Advent is a time of preparation and expectation. At each service the flame of each candle we light, reminds us that something is happening and something more is yet to come. I not only invite you to look at our list of Advent morning and evening services on the front of this 'Connections' issue, mark your calendar and put **Christ** back at the center of your Christmas celebrations, where he belongs. The theme of our Traditional Christmas Eve Service this year is "**O Holy Night**". We are looking forward to seeing you and your family there.

A Star in the sky, an Angel's voice, telling the world - Rejoice! Rejoice! However that was centuries and centuries ago! In addition, we ask today, **Was It Really So?** Was the Christ Child born in a manger bed without a pillow to rest His head? Did He walk on earth and live and die, and return to God to dwell on high? We were not there to hear or see, but our hopes and dreams of eternity are centered around that holy story, when God sent us God's only Son in Glory - And life on earth has not been the same, regardless of what the skeptics claim. **For no event ever left**

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| <p>ConneXions Editor: Gloria Raines Layout: Wallace Robinson</p> | <p>13 Church Rd. P.O. Box 454 Grand Falls-Windsor, NL A2A 2J8 489-6151 -- Church Office 490-2156 -- Minister's Office</p> | <p>Memorial United Church</p>  |
| <p>www.memorialunitedgfw.com Over a century of faith and service -- 1906-2006</p> | | |

**Congratulations!
and best wishes**

Congratulations and Best Wishes are extended to Greg & Rochelle Forward on the birth of their baby girl, Claire, born Sunday, October 24th. Claire weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz.



'Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box' again this year was a great success. Boxes filled with toys, treats, hygienic supplies, school supplies, and articles of clothing will soon be on their way to children in far away lands. You can only imagine what the reaction of the recipients will be as they open these boxes. Thank you to everyone who found it in their hearts to do something special for a child they will never meet.

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| <p>Hearing Assisted Technology (HAT)</p> | <p>Thanks to our UCW and the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association - Newfoundland and Labrador, we are making the Sanctuary hearing accessible. Receivers may be borrowed from the sound room and returned after each service. Should you wish to purchase your own compatible unit, please talk to Harold Butt (489-5313) for more information</p> |
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**The Ennis Sisters
Christmas Family Concert**

The Memorial United Church will present the Ennis Sisters Christmas Family Concert (Christmas on Ennis Road) on Saturday, December 4, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00 each and will be available from the



Church Office, the Grand Falls Drug Store, Central Pharmacy, or from one of the Committee members (Ralph Angel, Maxine Stanley, Dave Anthony, Nina Butt, or Brad Saunders).

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| <p>Memorial United Men's Choir and the UC5 Hosted by Gospel Kitchen Party with <i>Irene Bridger</i></p> |
| <p>We started the celebration of the UC5 & The Men's Choir. Irene Bridger was the highlight of the evening. Irene is a well known Gospel singer from Twillingate.</p> |

10 UCW Annual Fall Sale

On November 20, 2010, Memorial United Church Women will host their 48th Annual Fall Sale. The sales were held for 25 years in Bennett Hall in the basement of the old church. In 1988 with the closure of the old church and the new one not yet ready, the venue was changed to the Mount Peyton Hotel for two years. In November 1990, the new church was opened just in time for the sale.

Many of the tables carried the same type of goods over the years. The foundation of the sale is still the baked goods table. Other tables feature grabs, fudge, knitted goods, dolls' clothes, and crafts. Each unit had primarily been responsible for specific items. Wesley Unit held a pudding making day a week before the sale. This has been their hallmark for 43 years. Jordan Unit had for many years hosted a fudge table and those ladies enjoyed a candy packing evening just prior to the sale. For many years Memorial Unit sponsored an afternoon dessert tea. When the desserts were no longer a viable option this unit experimented with various projects, including jam and marmalade making, small fruit cakes and tree ornaments.

For the past several years they

have held a successful pastry making day. This has grown tremendously and the ladies are quite proud of their frozen 'sky-high' pies. Many of us still remember with great pride and affection our 'senior' units -- Outreach and Endeavor. These Units for many years worked on their craft items on a weekly basis. The Sale has evolved to reflect changing times and circumstances.

For many years it was a day long event with a Morning Coffee and Afternoon Dessert Tea. Now it has become a Morning Coffee event only. Besides the baked goods table there was an equally impressive knitted goods table. Beautiful Christmas stockings, baby layettes, scarves, caps, vamps, and trigger mitts flew off the tables. There is no longer a great demand for knitted goods and this is giving way to other items.

Our Fall Sale is still our main fund raiser but it is also a tremendous venue for fun and fellowship as we meet to make puddings, pack fudge, roll out pastries, and prepare the CE Center and welcome hundreds of people. We look forward to this event for man more years.

--Submitted by Nina Butt



Sunday, December 5th at the 7:00 p.m. service the **Northcliffe Drama Club** will be presenting their Annual Reading of Dickens - "A Christmas Carol". Local actors and musicians will be featured. All proceeds from a 'good will offering will be forwarded to the Food Bank.

Reverend Donna's Desk

behind a transformation of this kind! Jesus is the incarnate Word. Jesus is the Word made flesh. Jesus is the human form of God's forgiveness. Jesus is the human form of God's mercy. Jesus is the human form of God's justice, of God's truth, of God's love. This is the Christmas story ... the word became flesh and dwelt among us. God, Emmanuel - Thanks be to God! We are not alone; we live in God's world.

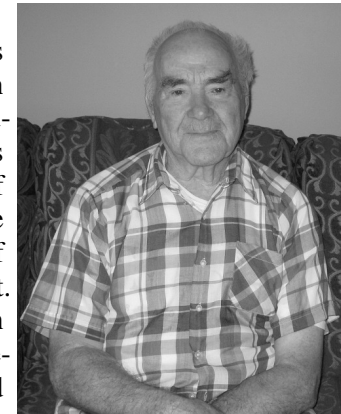
It is our hope that you will mark your calendars and attend some of the special services and events happening at Memorial United Church.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and those whom you love a **very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year!** May the Christ Child find a place in the manger of your hearts this Christmas and always.

Rev. Donna Hann

Profile: Roy Stoodley

Roy Stoodley was born and raised in Grand Bank on the Burin Peninsula. He was the second youngest of twelve children. He met Emily Powell of Carbonear in St. John's when they both taught at Curtis Academy. In 1948 Roy and Emily Powell were



successful in getting a teaching position with the Integrated School System in the company town of Grand Falls. They were married in 1949 and made Grand Falls their home where they raised their three children - Sandra, Mary Lou, and David. All three children became teachers. They are very proud of their seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Roy retired from his teaching career in 1981 after thirty-five years. During that time he had been a classroom teacher, a vice-principal, principal and supervisor with the Integrated School Board. He was conscientious, energetic,

hard working in all aspects of his career. He worked hard to improve the Educational System for both students and teachers. He spent seven summers in University upgrading. Roy was instrumental in bringing 'Summer School' courses to Grand Falls-Windsor for teachers in the Central Newfoundland area to upgrade in their field. Roy taught 'Off Campus University Courses'

4 Profile: Roy Stoodley

himself and was co-ordinator of Off-Campus Courses for 15 years.

Roy has been a faithful member of Memorial United Church since coming to Grand Falls and has made an enormous contribution to our church family through his involvement with the many church activities. He has served in many leadership roles. He was chair of the 'Ways and Means Committee'; first chairperson of the 'Christian Education Committee'; served on the 'Official Board'; chair of 'The Building Committee' for the new Memorial United Church. The activity he takes most pride in is the 'Men's Choir'. He was instrumental in forming this group in 1990 for a 'one time' only performance for the opening of our new Church. The Men's Choir has been very active since then and was there to sing for the '20th Anniversary' of our Church on Nov. 14, 2010.

Roy has been responsible for organizing many of the 'Lumber Jack' suppers, catering events, and jumble sales. He can still be seen making Christmas puddings for the UCW Christmas dinner, making desserts, serving and washing up after a Church event. Whenever there was work to be done, Roy was there to volunteer. Roy was awarded a 'Volunteer Pin' in recognition of his hard work over the years.

Roy has made an outstanding contribution to the youth of our town through his involvement not only with the school but with Scout-

ing, the Army Cadet Core, and sports. Roy was a member of the First Scout Group Committee that set up Scouting sponsored by Memorial United Church. In 1949 he became a Cadet instructor and was responsible for setting up an Army Cadet Core. Roy received the 'Canadian Decoration Award' for twenty years service. His involvement with sports was mainly with the hockey teams. Roy was also responsible for having an annual 'Sports Day' in the Grand Falls Academy Schools.

According to Roy, 'Teaching is the best job' and he loved his job. Roy, you have made an enormous contribution to the lives of all those young people you came in contact with in building character, encouraging good work and study habits, giving values, building self-esteem, and gaining self-respect to grow into the productive and responsible adults they are today.

Roy, as an educator, volunteer, organizer, and leader, you have made an invaluable contribution to the youth you worked with, your Church, and your community by sharing your time, talents, and energy. Thank-you!

Breakfast With Santa
in the C E Centre of
Memorial United Church
December 4, 2010
at 9:00 a.m.
\$5.00 per family

The choirs

The Church Choir and the Men's Choir are having a successful fall of fun and fellowship with a lot of singing thrown in for good measure. Maxine Stanley was back at the helm of the Men's Choir to help celebrate the '20th Anniversary' of the opening of the new Church and, of course, the formation of the Men's Choir. A number of former members returned and joined us for the morning service on Nov. 14th. It was so nice to have them back with us,

Christmas time is fast approaching and preparations are ongoing for our Choral Music Special. The Church Choir, Men's Choir and the

UC5 will be joining forces again this year for our annual Advent special music worship service on December 12th at 7:00 p.m. Our special guests will be the Central Cancer Survivors Choir and, hopefully, our own youth choir under Pete Banfield's capable leadership. This promises to be an enjoyable evening of seasonal readings and music. Please make an effort to attend.

As always our choirs are open for new members. It is never too late to join. If you like to sing, please come along on Wednesday nights and join us. We would love to have you!

Submitted by Glenn Mouland

Thank you!

As a congregation, we have been so fortunate to have availed of the skills and talents of two wonderful people - Pete Banfield and Mary Keats.

Pete Banfield, a retired music teacher, stepped in as our Church organist while Wally Robinson took a leave of absence.

Mary Keats, a retired Administrative Assistant with Fisheries and Oceans, has taken the position of Church Secretary while Rochelle Forward is away on maternity leave.

Thank-you! Your time, skills and talents are greatly appreciated.

Our website URL:
www.memorialunitedgfw.com
Office email address:
mucsecretary@gmail.com



8 News from **The United Church Women**

Creative ways of holding meetings are being explored. Our June meeting was held at the Golf Club. In September we opened with a 'Welcome Back' potluck brunch on a Saturday and had a good number in attendance. One of our own members gave a presentation on her recent trip to the Holy Lands. This was well received.

To date our new improved group is working well. It has provided us with an opportunity for renewal, a chance to make new friends, reestablish lapsed relationships, have fun together, and to imagine what we can become. In January we will evaluate our efforts and determine what further changes need to be made.

The United Church Women meet on a monthly basis, usually on the second Monday. Special interest groups of women also meet informally. Currently there are three such groups meeting; namely, pie-making, fudge-packing, and pudding-making.

Our Fall Sale will be held on November 20, 2010.

At our meeting in October, UCW member, Cora Randell, gave a slide presentation on her recent trip to the Holy Lands. We also catered to two school board luncheons.

Our Christmas vesper service will be conducted on the evening of November 28, 2010.

The annual Christmas Dinner will be enjoyed on December 2, at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are available at the office at a cost of \$10.00.

This evening is always very enjoyable. Following our traditional turkey dinner (catered by the men), we have devotions, followed by the presentations of Life Membership pins and an Aloe Vera plant to all new members. Our evening concludes with a fun time whereby members show off their dramatic skills or musical talents. All women of the congregation are welcome to attend.

A Warm Welcome

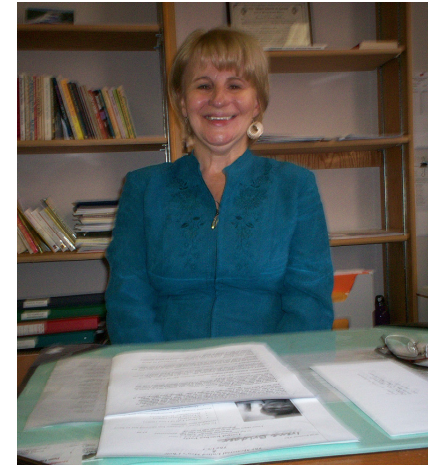
A very warm welcome to all who have joined our Memorial United Church family this past year. We hope you have found your very comfortable spot within our family where you will feel happy and given the opportunity, to share some of your talents with us. Remember our choirs and church groups always welcome new members.

Welcome, Rev. Donna, to Memorial United

Rev. Donna entered Lay Pastoral Ministry in her mid-30s and was actively involved in the work and life of her hometown church of Port Blandford, Newfoundland. She worked with the presbytery/district, serving on various committees and boards, and as superintendent of the Sunday School. She completed the "Roots" correspondence courses for a Lay Preacher's License in the late 80s and filled in for ministers' vacations, and conducted worship services in the East District, as well at special services and dinners for various community organizations.

Donna knew she was being called to ordained ministry but struggled with uprooting her children so she could attend Atlantic School of Theology (AST) in Halifax. She filled in as a District Supply for the Swift Current Pastoral Charge for a year, which became her Pastoral Charge for Lay Pastoral Ministry training. She completed her three required Residential Events at St. Andrews College in Regina and Prairie Christian Training Center in Fort Qu'pelle, Saskatchewan.

Donna still saw AST as her immediate goal so, while at home attending to her family, she studied for the ten Arts credits through correspondence from Memorial University which she would need to attend



AST, to start on the path to ordination. She filled in as a Student Supply for the Clarenville/Deep Bight Pastoral Charge for a year while working on her Arts courses.

While at AST, Donna's field placements were at Fort Massy United Church and Bryony House, a shelter for women and children fleeing violent relationships in Halifax. Her eight-month internship was at North Bay, Ontario. She also completed a CAPE unit while in Halifax. Rev. Donna graduated AST in April of 2002 with a Masters in Divinity Degree and was ordained by the East District of Newfoundland and Labrador in May of 2002, at Mount Pearl United Church.

She settled at the Carmanville Pastoral Charge in July 2002. That same year while driving home after a Christmas Eve service, Donna was involved in a car accident on Gander Bay Road which left her unable to work for a year. When Donna returned to work, she served First United Church in Fort Mc-

6 Welcome, Rev. Donna, to Memorial United

Murray, Alberta, for 4½ years. She returned to her home in Newfoundland in July of 2008.

Previous to her accepting the call to Memorial United in Grand Falls-Windsor for a one-year term, Rev. Donna served as Ordained Supply

Minister for the King's Point Pastoral Charge. She is pleased to be here and "happy to join your church family and to share in ministry with you, until we see more clearly where the Spirit is leading us."

from www.memorialunitedgfw.com

Church Life

Wall of Celebration

What a wonderful way to remember significant milestones, events or even the life of a departed loved one! Have the event, the individual's name, date, etc. engraved on a plaque to be placed on the vestibule wall of Memorial United Church.

To order a plaque, you may get an order form from the Church office. Fill out the order form with the required information and submit it to the Church office along with a \$50.00 contribution.

We Need You!

If You are interested in helping out at Memorial United Church; becoming a Scripture Reader or a Minute For Mission Reader, joining Memorial United Church Choir or the Men's Choir, becoming a member of the UCW, helping with functions at our Church, please come and join or call the Church office to say you are willing to help.

Coffee Sunday

The Session has designated the first Sunday of every month as 'Coffee Sunday'. You are invited to come to



the C.E. Center after worship for coffee and a chat with friends. Hope to see you there!

Youth Choir Is Starting Up!

All school age boys and girls who would like to join our Church Youth Choir contact Pete Banfield at 489-2982. We are now preparing for the Christmas season.

The Exploits Valley Branch of The Canadian Bible Society

continues to be a very active group. It is the vision of The Canadian Bible Society to reach every man, women and child with the life-giving Word of God and to encourage its use. The Society is made up representatives from the various churches in Grand Falls-Windsor and Bishop's Falls. Memorial United Church is represented by Cora Randell and Gloria Raines.

The Exploits Branch is presently making plans for our **34th Annual Festival of Praise** to be held on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at the Windsor Pentecostal Church at 7:30 p.m. Keep this time available to join us in a wonderful evening of music.

News from

The United Church Women

"United As One"



7

-- Submitted by Nina Butt

During the winter of 2010 the three remaining units of Memorial United Church Women combined to form one group. Five units had formed in 1962 (Outreach, Endeavour, Jordan, Wesley, and Memorial). Over the years two of these had disbanded, Outreach and Endeavour.

When we held our Annual meeting in January we found ourselves in the position of not having a President, Vice President or Program Convenor as well as several other vacant positions. Wesley Unit, traditionally our largest, was also without someone at the helm.

The remaining executive and outgoing members gathered in a brainstorming session to determine what options we could pursue. As many of our counterparts across the country, we were faced with a declining membership, an aging membership and a tiring membership. It became obvious that unless some definitive action was taken we would cease to exist.

We saw our situation as not necessarily being an insurmountable problem. It could provide us with the opportunity to become something different from what we were while allowing us to retain those elements we most valued. It became an opportunity for renewal, for establishing

a new vision.

We also knew it would take time to become something different, something unique. We would have to let go of some of our long established practices and imagine what new things we could do. One large group would take time to form its own new personality.

A proposal was developed to be taken to each unit to allow them time for discussion and questioning. Members of the executive would guide this process. Some of our senior members who are no longer able to play an active role were contacted and asked for their ideas and advice. At the conclusion of each unit meeting a vote was taken. Imagine our surprise when the voting was unanimous. With that mandate we set out to secure a new executive. With so much enthusiasm now being generated an executive was quickly found.

A special worship service was developed for the inaugural meeting. We formally disbanded our units and in a candle-lighting service brought the three units as one. The Fall Sale, pudding making, fudge packing, pie making, and collecting gifts for the hospital gift shop will continue. Catering continues to be a part of our activities but it will not be our main focus.

(Continued on next page)