

TIME OUT FOR WOMEN

On behalf of Time Out for Women, I am pleased to present a report on the group's activities for 2008. The women and young children who make up the group continue to meet every Thursday morning. A donation of fifty cents per week purchases coffee supplies with the members rotating coffee duty.

The group continues its outreach endeavours. We remember with Christmas cards members of the congregation, both near and far, who have had an association with TOFW over the years. The annual Alzheimer's "Coffee Break" raised \$150 for the Association. Although this had been advertised, the support of the congregation has not been as great as we feel it could be. The Bridge Club meets every Friday with many of the participants coming from the community. A fee of \$2 per week is shared amongst the Bridge Club, Outreach activities of the congregation, and TOFW.

This year we were saddened by the death of Anne Bourne; a donation was made to the church in her memory. We were sorry to say goodbye to Andrea Wacker. A gift of Newfoundland tartan kitchen accessories was presented to her.

The group has had a policy for many years that it does not generally support operational expenses. In 2008, as a result of requests by various groups within the church, blinds were installed in the lounge. Because of the difficulty with parking on Bannerman Street, new signage was placed in the parking lot. TOFW purchased the replacement sign for the Bannerman Street door after the glass in the door had broken. TOFW cost shared with the Men's Club the purchase of second-hand chairs for the gym.

Ongoing activities include the sale of marmalade, recycling account at Evergreen Recycling, and the collection of Canadian Tire money. The congregation is encouraged to take their recyclables to Evergreen depots and donate their refund to TOFW.

In other areas of activity, one card party was held this year. Newfoundland tartan table runners were sewn for Destination St. John's. During the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention, a luncheon for 100 people was hosted following a concert held in the sanctuary. During the Stewardship Forum on Religious Buildings, sponsored by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, a luncheon was held in the gym for about 120 people attending that meeting. We must thank the congregation, and in particular the Men's Club, for their help with this kind of event. A Sunday luncheon, in aid of the Sunday School, raised \$308 for the 2009 budget to help the teachers carry out their very important work in our congregation.

Two members of TOFW researched and prepared 18th century sweets and savouries for a reception at Government House. This was in association with a series of meetings held by the provincial Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation on living history.

For the fourth summer, "Thursdays at Cochrane" has been very positive for the church and the community. Although we did not hold organ recitals in 2008, the number of people attending the weekly lunches continues to increase. This summer event welcomes many in the community to our church, it provides a time for fellowship when many regular activities have been suspended for the summer months, and it raises some money for restoration.

The lunches are attended by those within and outside the congregation, from the neighbourhood, and from far away, with many returning summer after summer. Sincere thanks are extended to all those who help with these weekly events, whether it be in the kitchen or dining room, contributing food, or providing security; it would not be possible to continue to host "Thursdays at Cochrane" without this help.

In conclusion, another successful year is behind us and we look forward to the fellowship and activities of 2009. A very warm welcome is extended to women of all ages and those with young children.

Linda Bowden