



He is Risen!!!

Easter Greeting 2022 from Rev. Neal

Manna, according to the Bible, is an edible substance which God provided to the Israelites during their 40-year stint travelling throughout the desert following their Exodus from Egypt.

In the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, manna is described twice: once in Exodus [16:1–36], and once in Numbers [11:1–9]. In the Book of Exodus, manna is described as being "a fine, flake-like thing" like the frost on the ground. In Numbers, it's described as arriving with the dew during the night. Exodus adds it had to be collected before being melted by the heat of the sun, and that it was like a coriander seed in size but white in color. Numbers describes it as having the appearance of bdellium, adding the Israelites ground it and pounded it into cakes, which were then baked, resulting in something that tasted like cakes baked with oil. Exodus states that raw manna tasted like wafers made with honey.

The Israelites were instructed to eat the manna they had gathered for each day alone. Stored manna, it was understood, "bred worms and stank": the exception being that which was stored the day before the Sabbath/Preparation Day, when twice the amount was gathered. That manna didn't spoil overnight. Exodus [16:23–24] sharing: This is what the Lord commanded: "Tomorrow is to be a day of rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. So, bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning." And so, they saved it, as they'd been commanded to.

Alydia Smith writes, in Gathering [Resources for Worship Planning], "I have often used manna as my personal symbol of hope, especially in the work towards racial justice. I imagine the wilderness as our society and the lives shattered by the sin of racism, and manna as the constant yet fleeting flakes of sustenance we are promised on the journey toward liberation. I love the imagery of manna because we don't really know what it is, and we have to search for it, work for it, every day... Most days, Jesus is the manna that I find, but the more I learn about the complexity of racism, particularly within the church, the more elusive the manna becomes. When I was reminded of the commandment from Moses to save some fragrant manna in a jar for future generations, it stressed me out! How could I possibly muster enough *hope* to save? Truthfully, it would be easier to save a jar of tears. You don't have to look far to find followers mourning a person crucified by the harsh reality of the wilderness. As a faith leader, clearly, I must be inadequate if I can't find enough *hope* to share with future generations.

My comfort, though, comes in the reminder that the Israelites were, besides the day prior to the Sabbath, only allowed to store manna when they were leaving the wilderness, not while they were in the wilderness. The jar, then, was a memorial, something to help them look back at what they'd been through so they could move forward. And yet, their hope wasn't just in the manna; their hope was in the faith that the manna would come. Their jars filled, then, with the most powerful hope there is: faith."

Friends, we're still in the wilderness. Even more so, I'd say, with what's currently happening in Ukraine. And, with what happened throughout our country just prior to that, we, as a result, need our jars of faith even more: faith that we're not where we once were, not where we should be, and not yet where we will be. And yet, where we *hope* to be, much sooner than later.

May it be so, and with that, a Happy Easter to all.

Yours in Christ, in friendship, and in our ministry together,

Rev. Neal

Highlights – Bathurst Pastoral Council

February 15, 2022 by Isabel MacLaggan

Using Zoom again, the Council met with Sandra Boone presiding and a quorum present. Rev. Neal Palmer opened the meeting with a prayer. Also in attendance were Brenda Parrott, vice-chair; Judy Losier, secretary; Peter Gammon; Martha Vickers; Rick Watling; Wayne Lord and Dave Morison.

- Dave presented and highlighted the church's financial position as of December 31, 2021. The deficit for the year stood at \$23,271. This was \$14,441 higher than what was budgeted even though money from an inactive account from over ten years ago, in the amount of \$23,000 was moved to general revenue.

Local givings were right on the mark and a good effort was made to keep expenses in line. The absence of fundraising and a drop in rental income were the major factors in the 2021 deficit. Mission & Service contributions resulted in \$2,000 under what was set for the year.

Also, the special offerings at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas showed a drop of \$2,700 from what was budgeted. No wage subsidy was received in 2021.

- Martha Vickers, who represents our pastoral charge regionally, reported that Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council would be meeting online June 3rd and 4th for the annual open meeting. It involves representatives from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.
Martha, a member of the regional executive as well, stated that the Regional Council logo is being changed to reflect the affirming ministry status.
- The Christian Development Team, in its report, mentioned a marriage held and a baptism request accepted.
- The Land Acknowledgement Sub-Team has been meeting regularly as it considers how to move forward with such an acknowledgement. The current United Church of Canada crest, adopted in 2012, was examined. Some of the various symbols on the crest pertain to indigenous culture, spirit and history. Heading the group are Martha Vickers and Anne Wilson with the cooperation of Rev. Neal. Other members are Helen Knowles, Jini Palmer and Torey Smith.
- Wayne Lord of Ministry and Personnel reported that Lester Scott has undertaken custodial duties for 15 hours per week.
- The COVID Response Team continues to keep up with changing pandemic directives. Members of the Team are Sandra Boone, chair; Bev Murphy, Ian Oliver, Martha Vickers, Brenda Parrott, Lester Scott and Rev. Neal Palmer.
- Anne Brooks reports no UCW meetings have been held due to COVID restrictions. Rick Watling said the Nominations Team needs an updated list of members from all teams.
- On behalf of Property Management, Peter Gammon reported on maintenance projects carried out.
- In new business, the annual congregational meeting was set for Sunday, April 24th after the church service.

If regulations permit, the next meeting of Bathurst Pastoral Council will be held in person on Tuesday afternoon, April 5th, with proper social distancing.

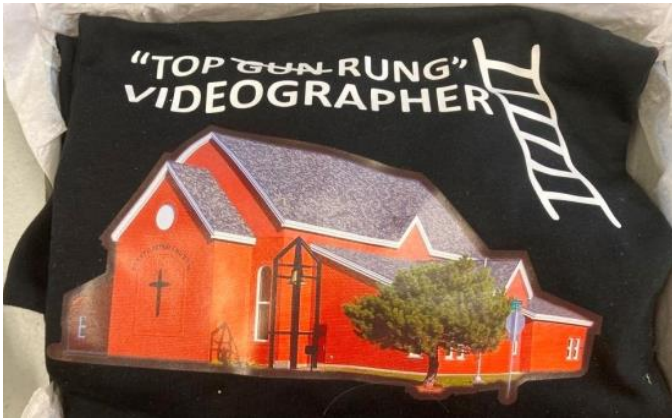
Honouring Two Dedicated Volunteers

It was at our pre-Christmas meeting that the Pastoral Care Team decided to honour two of our First United dedicated volunteers – Don Eddy and Lester Scott.

Initiated by team member, Gwen Sturgeon, the idea soon blossomed into reality. Considering the humble nature of the recipients, the honour was bestowed upon them around Christmas without fanfare.

The Pastoral Care Team bought a T-Shirt for each of them bearing a logo pertaining to their voluntary contributions to our church community.

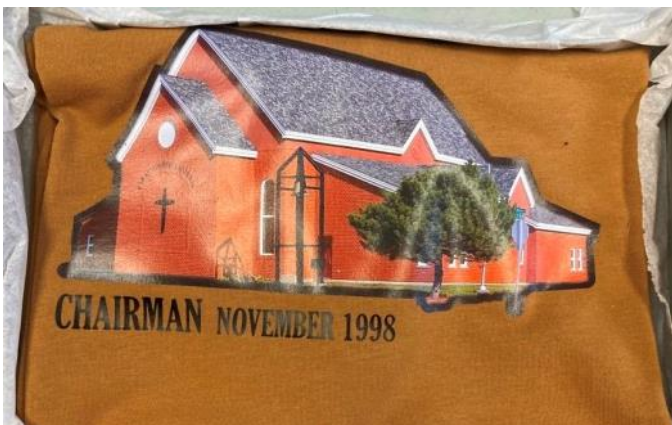
We wanted to recognize how Don is always on deck – or on the ladder – as he sets up his camera to videotape the Sunday service every week, and then he follows up with the finished product for on-line public viewing. He is knowledgeable and proficient in so many ways. It is a real commitment.



Gwen put it this way –

"Don's contributions to our church community are invaluable. Where would we be without his musical, technical and editing skills?"

At the time of our November meeting, Lester was carrying out custodial tasks without remuneration in his own quiet way. The church was seeking a replacement for the position and the day-to-day maintenance work couldn't wait. It wasn't a surprise the Lester came to the rescue.



"Lester has had First United Church as a number one priority for years, serving as chairman of the building committee for our new church back in the late 1990's. His genuine interest and commitment are sincerely appreciated!"

A framed Certificate of Appreciation accompanied each gift. The certificates read – ***"Sincerest thanks for 'who you are' and for your generous contribution of time and talents to our First United Church family and beyond"***.

The certificates were signed by Pastoral Care Team Members: Rev Neal, Pat Brown, Isabel MacLaggan, Mae Branch, Shirley Allain, Dorothy Ann McCallum and Gwen Sturgeon.

West Bathurst Cemetery Update

On June 5, 2021, our committee was contacted by Bathurst City Police about a car accident that had caused damage to the gate, fence, and a gravestone at West Bathurst Cemetery. An estimate of \$10,322.40 to replace/repair the gate and fence was obtained from Expert Fence. Also, an estimate of \$517.50 was obtained from Maritime Monument Works to repair and place the gravestone back on its base. A police report was required to proceed, so with help from Hugh Schryer, this was obtained on August 5, 2021. Since the driver was not insured, an application to the "Uninsured Automobile Fund" was completed and mailed on August 12, 2021, and then the wait began to see if we would get funding or not. On December 7, 2021, the West Bathurst Cemetery Committee received a letter informing us that the estimates we submitted were approved and will be covered by the "Uninsured Automobile Fund". The repair work will be completed in the spring.

There were five burials at West Bathurst Cemetery in 2021. A total of \$3,105.00 was donated to the West Bathurst Cemetery Fund in 2021. A special thank you is extended to everyone who made a single donation or a regular donation by PAR. These donations are essential for the yearly maintenance of West Bathurst and Saint Luke's "Old Scottish" Cemeteries. A special thank you is also extended to the City of Bathurst for the repair of the fence and gate at St. Luke's Cemetery.

Newsletters - If you wish to have your letters in the future sent directly to your email send your request to fristadmin@nb.aibn.com. Your donations can be mailed to:
First United Church, 309 St Patrick Street, Bathurst, NB E2A 1E2

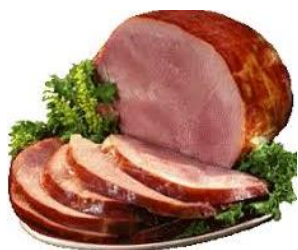


***Bunnies are cuddly
The large and the small
But I like chocolate ones
The best of all.
~Author unknown***

Did You Know - A couple of really good ways to keep updated on First United Church events are to check out our website at www.firstunited-bathurst.ca or to follow us on Facebook. Here you will find upcoming events as well as cancellations if the need arises.

Newsletter From Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region - latest updates, obituaries, resources, etc. Anyone who would like to subscribe to the FSLDW newsletter may do so at:
<https://ucceast.ca/66810-fslwd-spark-newsletter>

News reports of the invasion of Ukraine stir both our hearts and our conscience. As people of faith, The United Church of Canada holds in prayer all those facing fear and violence and seeks the immediate cessation of war. To donate money to help Ukraine, through the United Church of Canada, go to this link: <https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/conflict-ukraine>



Ways & Means Team

The next Ways and Means team event will be held on Thursday, May 19th - a take-out only
Ham & Scallop Potatoes Supper



Community Outreach Sub-Team

None of us needs to be reminded that we've been restricted in various ways for the past 2 years. However, it's exciting to realize that the support of our outreach projects has increased during the pandemic. **Bravo!**

- During the Advent Season, \$1400 was contributed to support the Benevolence project.
- In cooperation with the Bathurst Volunteer Center, our 2021 goal (900 jars of peanut butter) was surpassed and monetary donations, towards the cause, were also received.
- A new ongoing project, Purses Plus, in support of Passage House clients, has been initiated. The response has been so positive, that several bags of supplies were recently delivered & were met with enthusiastic gratitude.
- The Mission & Service fund (M & S) continues to be promoted weekly during worship.
- As well, occasional personal requests for monetary support are received. Each is reviewed & addressed, as our budget allows.

In conclusion. I emphasize how grateful our sub team is for the degree of support received for each of our projects. This enables us, on your behalf, to provide extensive outreach in church and community.

Helen M Knowles, Chairperson

PAR - Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) is a convenient way to support the ongoing work of your church. Your monthly contributions are taken directly from your bank account or charged to a major credit card. Currently we have 94 households using this method of support. Signing up for PAR takes only a few minutes and can be done for you at the church office. All that is required is a void cheque or your credit card number.

~Musings by Isabel MacLaggan~

Now that COVID-19 restrictions are somewhat weakened, surely we can look forward to more normal living and social interaction with one another.

As we ponder about the past two years, we think about the masking and distancing, the cancellation of church services, the absence of group activities and community meals, and the visits of friends so enjoyed.

Yet, we have much for which to be thankful, both in our personal lives and in our association with First United Church. Firstly, we are indebted to the church's COVID-19 Response Team that has kept us safe and will continue to do so.

We appreciated the telephone calls from Rev. Neal. We knew that the Pastoral Care Team would continue to send cards of caring and congratulations to those people identified. We knew our former office administrator, Isabel Clouston, and her successor, Margaret Daniels, would be there to attend to our daily needs.

In the absence of a choir, our music director, Martha Vickers arranged for special vocalists to lead in hymn singing and prayerful interludes. Rev. Neal always expressed thanks to all church service participants, those in the background like Josh Gammon, and those showing support by actually attending. The videotaped service presentations were well received. Up to 50 people have been attending in person.

The teams of volunteers, Christian Development that supported Rev. Neal so well, Financial Management, and Property Management, all these three in particular – met regularly to keep the church alive, meaningful and functional. The Pastoral Council also carried out its oversight and decision role.

The sub-teams responsible for Community Outreach, Ways & Means and Communications did their part as much as they could. Also active, leading up to our Annual Meeting on April 24th, is Rick Watling, chair of the Nominations Team. He is looking for volunteers to round out the various positions for the upcoming year. The cemeteries received the necessary attention as well.

Yes, the congregation at large continued to support the church financially. Unfortunately fundraising initiatives came to a standstill, a major reason why we are experiencing an undesirable deficit. The challenge is still there. We recognize the important work by our treasurer, Dave Morison.

But our children have missed out by not having Sunday school. I feel this is unfortunate. It is such a priority as we face the future, and we miss the children too.

On a positive note, Sandra Boone announced at a recent church service that the Federal Government has granted \$25,000 in response to our application, the money needed to update the sound system. She and Brenda Parrott, as chair and vice-chair of Pastoral Council, prepared the application with great help from Margaret, our office administrator.

So, as we look ahead to the coming months, we are hopeful that attendance at Sunday services will continue to increase, that the choir will return, and that social activities at First United will resume.

Looking beyond the church to the community, I for one – and I know there are many others – have enjoyed the personal contributions made on-line by Linda Knowles and Charles Ramsey. Using their talents, Linda has offered countless piano selections while Charles has kept us up close to nature with his outstanding photography. Their volunteer presentations have helped lift our spirits and to enrich our lives, during these challenging, and often depressing times. Most recently they presented a St. Patrick's Day program at the Southern Comfort home followed by other appearances.



We are thankful to have Linda and Charles in our First United family, Linda often being our guest pianist/organist at Sunday morning services as well.

Graham Farquharson Awarded the Order of Canada

The West Bathurst Cemetery Committee extends sincere congratulations to Graham Farquharson on his being awarded the "Order of Canada" at the beginning of this year. Graham made the largest donation to the "Endowment Fund" Drive that the cemetery held in 2013-14. He gave a second generous donation in 2019 when his wife, Anna Liisa, was buried there next to his mother, Jean Farquharson.

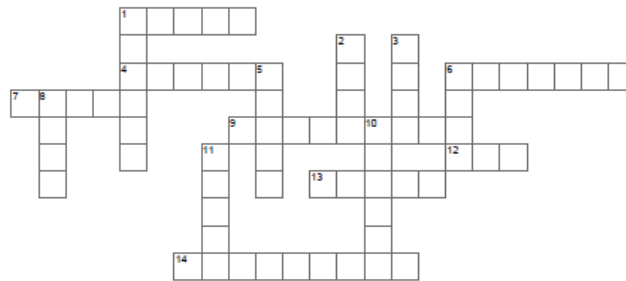
Graham moved to Bathurst with his parents in 1952 at the age of 12. His father was instrumental in finding the ore body that became Brunswick Mines. Graham credits Eddy Group where he worked in the lumberyard starting at 12 years of age with his strong work ethic and his desire to be his own boss.

He graduated from Bathurst High School in 1957 and later attended the University of New Brunswick, the University of Alberta (Bachelor of Mining Engineering), and Queens University (M.B.A.). He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science from U.N.B. in 2011 and delivered the Encaenia address where he announced a two million dollar donation to the university. Graham has also donated millions of dollars to Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital and Sunnybrook Hospital for Kidney Cancer research.

Graham was a founder of Strathcona Minerals, a mining consulting company, that was involved with mining all over the world. It established the first mine above the Arctic Circle in Canada's North and exposed the Bre-X gold deposit as a fraud saving more people from losing their life's savings.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Easter Crossword



ACROSS

1. A young rabbit.
4. The season after Winter.
6. Bloom from plants.
7. Hatches out of a real egg.
9. Small, round brightly colored candy shaped like a bean.
12. A coloring material.
13. Kids eat lots of this on Easter.
14. Easter eggs are often made out of this treat!

DOWN

1. You need this to collect your eggs.
2. Easter flower.
3. Put or keep out of sight.
5. Color of grass.
6. A discovery of something.
8. To search for something.
10. A hat, usually tied under the chin.
11. We can celebrate Easter as early as _____ 22 and as late as April 25.

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|--------|---------|
| FIND | LILY | HUNT | SPRING |
| GREEN | JELLYBEAN | BASKET | FLOWERS |
| BUNNY | CHICK | DYE | BONNET |
| CANDY | CHOCOLATE | MARCH | HIDE |



Easter Cake Pops

Added by Nadine Mesch



Nadine used a yellow cake mix and vanilla frosting, but you could use any combination that sounds appealing. ***Tip:** use the smaller sucker sticks, as the longer ones make them top heavy.

Cook time: 1 Hr 30 Min **Prep time:** 10 Min **Serves:** 24

Ingredients

1 box cake mix, any flavor

1 can frosting, any flavor

1 bag Wilton white chocolate melts

Easter sprinkles

24 sucker sticks

1 styrofoam base

Directions

Test Kitchen Tips: Don't make the cake balls too big or they will be top heavy. A small cookie scoop works perfectly. Make sure to chill well before coating. Only take out a few at a time to ensure they stay cold.



1. Bake a cake mix in a 13 x 9 inch pan, according to package directions.



2. After cake has cooled, smash the cake with a fork.



3. Mix in 1 can of frosting.



4. Refrigerate for 15 minutes.



5. Remove from fridge and form into balls.



6. In a double boiler melt a 1/2 cup of candy melts. Dip the tip of the sucker stick into the white chocolate.



7. Then insert stick into each ball.



8. Then refrigerate again for another 15 minutes.



9. While cake pops are in the fridge melt the remaining candy melts.



10. Remove cake pops from fridge. Dip the cake part into the melted chocolate.



11. Sprinkle with Easter sprinkles.



12. After the cake ball is covered, insert the stick into a styrofoam block to allow the chocolate coating to harden.

Last Step: Don't forget to share!