

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*

First United Church, Bathurst  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

January 8, 2012  
Baptism of the Lord

**Clergy** Rev. Blair Lewis    **Organists** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Isabel Clouston    **Greeters** Wilma Dempsey  
**Custodian** Alan Wilcox    Haines Scott

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Isaiah 60:1-6</i> <i>Psalm 72</i> <i>Ephesians 3:1-12</i> <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>	<i>I Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)</i> <i>Psalm 139</i> <i>I Corinthians 6:12-20</i> <i>John 1:43-51</i>

## THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

*The asterisk \* identifies those times in the service where the congregation is invited to stand as able.*

### Organ Prelude:

\***Choral Opening:** *'Arise, Your Light is Come'*    #79VU vs.1  
*Arise, your light is come!*  
*The Spirit's call obey,*  
*Show forth the glory of your God,*  
*Which shines on you today.*

### Welcoming:

One: If anyone is in Christ they are a new creation:

**All:** **the old has passed away, behold,**  
**the new has come.**

One: God was in Christ reconciling the world to God's self,

**All:** **entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.**

*II Corinthians 5:17, 19*

### Welcoming One Another:

### Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

### Announcements:

### Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: Give me a candle of the Spirit, O God,  
as I go down into the depths of my being.

**All:** **Show me the hidden things,**  
**the creatures of my dreams,**  
**the storehouse of forgotten memories and hurts.**

One: Take me down to the spring of my life  
and tell me my nature  
and my name.

**All:** **Give me freedom to grow,**  
**so that I may become that self,**  
**the seed of which you planted in me at my making.**  
**Out of the depths I cry to you, O God.**

### Call To Worship:

One: Jesus said: Love one another.

**All:** **We come to worship God who is love,**  
**that we may learn to love one another.**

One: Jesus said: No longer do I call you servants;  
now I call you my friends.

**All:** **We come to worship God,**  
**whose friends we are in Christ.**

One: Let us sing praise to God,  
and live in love and friendship;  
through Jesus Christ.

### Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

**Sculpting God,**  
**you give galaxies their form, shape granite mountains,**  
**and design butterfly wings.**  
**Dancing God,**  
**you choreograph the paths of stars**  
**and the flight of snow geese.**  
**Singing God,**  
**your divine song is sung by sparrows, mountain streams,**  
**and the rushing winds.**  
**Wonderful God,**  
**we rejoice to be a part of the divine world**  
**which you love and sustain. Amen.**

\***Opening Hymn:** *'This is God's Wondrous World'*    #296 VU

## SERVICE OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

### Statement of Purpose:

**Scripture Reading:** Ephesians 4: 4-6

### Presentation of Candidate: *Beth Sullivan - Chair of Worship Team*

On behalf of the congregation of First United Church, I present the following person who has requested Baptism and Confirmation: Vanessa Lynn Walsh. On Behalf of the Worship Team and the Pastoral Council I welcome you to our church family.

### Profession of Faith and Promises:

#### *a. Profession of Faith in the Triune God*

Question: Do you believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

**Answer: *I do, by the grace of God.***

#### *b. Commitment to Seek Justice and Resist Evil*

Question: Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

**Answer: *I will, God being my helper.***

#### *c. Commitment to Follow the Way of Jesus Christ*

Question: Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, in your words and actions?

**Answer: *I will, God being my helper.***

#### *d. Commitment to the Mission and Ministry of the Church*

Question: Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this congregation to share in the life, work, and ministry of Jesus Christ?

**Answer: *I will, God being my helper.***

### Congregational Commitment:

One: Let us pledge to Vanessa Lynn Walsh our continued support and care:

**All: We will continue to support you, walk with you,  
And grow with you.  
With God's help we will live out our baptism as a  
loving community in Jesus Christ: nurturing one  
another in faith, upholding one another in prayer,  
encouraging one another in God's work.**

### A New Creed: (in unison)

**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
Who has come in Jesus the word made flesh,  
To reconcile and make new,  
Who works in us and others by the spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
To celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
To love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

### Sacrament of Baptism:

#### Laying on of Hands:

One: By the gift of your Spirit, O God, strengthen Vanessa Lynn Walsh that she may be true to you all her life.

**All: Amen.**

**Presentation of a Bible:**

Receive this Bible, and with your sisters and brothers in Christ,  
continue to grow in faith, trusting in God's promises.

**Prayer for the Candidate:**

**Blessing:**

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**\*Hymn:** *'Water Flowing from the Mountains'* #87 MV

Water flowing from the mountains.  
Water flowing o'er the earth.  
Water comes to us, so precious.  
Living water gives us birth.

**Refrain**

*Drink deep this source of life.  
Drink deep and know.  
For living water sings, and living water brings  
the love that makes our spirit grow.*

Water rushing down the rivers.  
Water rushing to the sea.  
Water comes to us, so precious.  
Living water makes us free.

**Refrain**

Water springing from the dry place.  
Water springing in the sun.  
Water comes to us, so precious.  
Living water for each one.

**Refrain**

**Prayer for Understanding:** (in unison)  
**Guide us, O Lord, by your word and Holy Spirit,  
that in your light we may see light,  
in your truth find freedom,  
and in your will discover your peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Scripture Readings:**

Pat MacIntosh  
New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12  
\*Responsive Psalm: Psalm 72 #790VU  
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

**Meditation:** "Guidance from above"

**Anthem:**

**THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS**

**Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:**

**Choral Response:**

*'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow'* #541 VU  
***Praise God with songs that never cease,  
Praise God who fills the earth with peace.  
Praise God for love and joy within,  
The Holy Child is born again***

**\*Prayer of Dedication:** (in unison)  
**Ever-present God,  
with this offering, we present also ourselves:  
all that we have been,  
all that we are,  
and all that we shall become,  
and our resolve to walk in your way.  
Accept us and our offering, we pray for Jesus' sake.  
Amen.**

**Prayer Of Confession:** (in unison)  
**Forgive them all, O Lord:  
our sins of omission and our sins of commission;  
the sins of our youth and the sins of our riper years;  
the sins of our souls and the sins of our bodies;  
our secret and our more open sins;  
our sins of ignorance and surprise;  
and our more deliberate and presumptuous sins;  
the sins we have done to please ourselves;  
and the sins we have done to please others;**

the sins we know and remember;  
and the sins we have forgotten;  
the sins we have striven to hide from others;  
and the sins by which we have made others offend;  
forgive them, O Lord, forgive them all for his sake,  
who died for our sins and rose for our justification,  
and now stands at your right hand  
to make intercession for us,  
Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

*John Wesley 1703-1791*

**Choral Response:**     *'How Deep the Peace'*     **#95 MV**  
*How deep the peace, the confidence,*  
*Of those whose wrongs are forgiven.*  
*How deep the peace, the confidence*  
*Of those whose hearts are healed.*

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Let us receive the promise of grace and the assurance of pardon given to all who believe and ask for forgiveness: this is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to bring us forgiveness and liberation.  
Praise be to God.

**Silent Prayer:**

**Reflective Music:**

**Pastoral Prayer:** (in unison)

**We thank you, compassionate God,**  
**that you hear the prayers of our hearts:**  
**all who rejoice at a baby's new birth,**  
**all who mourn when the circle is incomplete,**  
**when a friend or loved one has died,**  
**all who are grateful when their work meets with success,**  
**all who suffer because no work is to be found,**  
**all who are bored, not having enough to do,**  
**all who are tired, having too much to do,**  
**all who are surrounded by the love of family and friends,**  
**all who are lonely.**

Thank you for hearing us in every situation of life.  
Help us to support one another always:  
rejoicing with those who rejoice,  
and weeping with those who weep.  
We want to be joined together  
as members of the body of Christ,  
loving one another and serving the world.  
Like Jesus, we want to respond  
to each human being who crosses our path  
with sensitivity and compassion.  
This morning we remember all loved ones  
especially those who are no longer with us.  
Our prayers are with our family members and our friends.  
We share in a moment of silence  
our personal petitions and prayers.

(Silence)

**This we pray in the name of Jesus.**

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH**

**\*Closing Hymn:**     *'I am the Light of the World'*     **#87 VU**

**\*Commissioning:**     (in unison)  
**Heavenly Father,**  
**receive, we pray, the prayers of your people.**  
**Grant that we may not only understand**  
**the things we ought to do,**  
**but have the grace and power faithfully to do them.**  
**This we pray through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*8th Century Sacramentary*

**\*Blessing:**

Light of God to give us hope  
Power of God to protect us  
Light of God to give us joy  
Peace of God to calm us  
Light of God to give us faith  
Grace of God to save us  
This day and forevermore.

## Church News

\*Choral Closing: 'When You Walk From Here' #298 VU

*When you walk from here,  
When you walk from here,  
Walk with justice, walk with mercy,  
And with God's humble care.*

Organ Postlude:

*One resolution I have made,  
and try always to keep, is this:  
To rise above the little things.  
~ John Burroughs ~*

### Community Events

#### Billets Required

BHS is hosting 10 Chinese students and we are looking for host billets from Sunday, Jan 29th to Saturday Feb 4th, 2012. Your responsibilities would be few suppers during the week, arranging drives to school, and a warm bed. If you would be interested in billeting a Chinese student for the week or would like more information please contact Kelly MacDonald at 547-6703.

The North Shore Shrine Club will be holding a Cornish Hen Dinner. January 29, 2012 in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall at 5pm. Entertainment will be provided by Derek Knowles as well as Helen Hachey with Take Note. Guest speaker is Darryl Stothart. Cost: 25.00 per person. For more information contact Earnest Brooks at 548-2156

A Family and Community Breakfast will be held in Saint George's Anglican Church Hall from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 14. Free will donation.

### This Week at First United –Jan 9- Jan 14

Monday	9am	Ways & Means – Eddy Rm
	1:30pm	UCW – Eddy Rm
	6:15pm	Beavers – Rm 1,2&3
Tuesday	9:30-11:30	Do-Drop-In – RMR
	6:15pm	Cubs & Scouts – DEMH Gym
	7pm	Worship Team - RMR
Wednesday	9am	TAB – Rms 1,2,& 3
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Thursday	7pm	Pastoral Care Team - RMR

The bulletin today is placed *in loving memory of Evelyn Russell* by Wayne, Clara & Melissa Carroll.

The bulletin today is placed in *loving memory of Regina Fournier* by Harvey & Julie Spence.

#### Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2012                   **900**  
Total to Date   **75**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 16-17 jars of peanut butter per week.

The Upper Room for Jan. and Feb. are in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one. A container for donations is located with the publication.

Scripture Readers: Anyone interested in volunteering to read the scripture lessons on Sunday mornings, please leave you name with the church office. 546-3532. Thank You

#### **Jiggs Dinner**

#### ***Corned Beef & Cabbage***

**Thursday, January 26, 2012**

Donald Eddy Memorial Hall

Adults \$12 - Children (12 & under) \$6

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Takeouts available 4:00- 5:30

Advance Tickets Sales Only

**2012 Schedule for**  
**First United Church Events**  
**Hosted by Ways and Means Sub-Team**

Thursday, January 26	Jiggs Dinner
Thursday, February 23	Ham and Scallop Supper
Sunday, April 1	Sunrise Breakfast
Saturday, June 9	Beef BBQ
Thursday, October 25	Roast Pork Supper
Thursday, November 22	Turkey Supper

**All date and events are subject to change**

**Ephesians 3:1-12 New International Version (NIV)**

***God's Marvelous Plan for the Gentiles***

<sup>1</sup> For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

<sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

## Matthew 2:1-12 New International Version (NIV)

### *The Magi Visit the Messiah*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi<sup>[a]</sup> from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.