

*The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge*

First United Church, Bathurst - South Tetagouche United Church
www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

August 22, 2010

13th Sunday of Pentecost

"Stewardship Celebration Introduction" – part 2

"Your life is your message:

An invitation to celebrate and live what we believe"

Clergy	Rev. Blair Lewis	Organists	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston		Joseph MacDonald
Custodian	Alan Wilcox	Greeters	Shirley Gammon Hazel Harris

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>2 Chronicles 31:5-6 Psalm 24 Hebrews 12:18-29 Matthew 25:14-30</i>	<i>Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 112 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1,7-14</i>

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

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

We welcome Rev. Austin Jagoe who is leading us in worship today.

Organ Prelude:

***Choral Opening:** 'Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness' #375 VU

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness
Blow thro' the wilderness
Calling and free
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.*

Welcome:

Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: May the flame of this Candle serve to remind us that Jesus Christ, the light of the world, is present in our midst. May the light of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Our Approach: (Invitation to Worship)

Once, while Mahatma Gandhi's train was pulling slowly out of the station, a European reporter ran up to his compartment window, "Do you have a message I can take back to my people?" he asked. It was Gandhi's day of silence, a vital respite from a demanding speaking schedule, so he didn't reply. Instead, he scrawled a few words on a piece of paper and passed it to the reporter; " My life is my message". Let us quiet our minds and bodies, and be still on the inside so that we can ready ourselves to listen for God's message in our lives...

Theme Song: "Come Celebrate" (Tune MV #122)

Come celebrate and make some noise,
by peace and love we are led;
Come celebrate and make some noise,
never be silent instead.

Refrain:

*Share, now, what is right; seeking Christ's delight;
Burdens are made light when we can all do our part;
Share, now, what is right; what an awesome sight,
To care day and night, willing to give from the heart.*

Come celebrate and make some noise,
reach out beyond your four walls;
Come celebrate and make some noise,
happy to act when Christ calls.

Refrain:

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

Eternal God, we have gathered in community to remind ourselves that we are in your presence at all times. In the midst of the many voices that surround us, teach us to be attentive to your voice. In the midst of all the pressures of our daily living, make us long to do your will. Grant us the courage to shine light in dark places and to fearlessly seek your truth in faith that your love and your truth will set us free. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

*Opening Hymn: *'O For a Thousand Tongues'* #326 VU

Time with the Children Of All Ages:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Readings From The Scriptures:

Old Testament Reading: 2 Chronicles 31:5-6
*Responsive Psalm: Psalm 24 #751 VU
New Testament Lesson: Matthew 25:14-30

Hymn: *'Open My Eyes'* #371VU

Message:

Anthem:

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Sharing Our Gifts:

*Choral Response:

*Praise God, all people of the light
Praise Christ, who teaches what is right
Now Spirit-filled, we hear the call
To share our gifts, our lives, our all*

*Dedication Prayer: (in unison)

God of all that is, you teach us not only to pray for ourselves but to have a concern for others and to give thanks for all of life. We ask your blessing on these gifts. May each of us and the world be transformed by their use. Amen.

Prayer Time:

Prayer of Reconciliation:

All: O God, what a strange people we are! We have more things than most people yet we want more and more. More gadgets, more experiences, more toys, more channels. But your word warns us not to satisfy our worldly desires – only the desires from your Spirit. We want to remember that our most priceless treasure is from you.
You, yourself, in the healing of Jesus
You, yourself, in the self-giving death of Jesus.
You, yourself in the victorious resurrection of Jesus.
You, yourself, in us and among us. Amen

One: Hear the Good News! God's grace is for us all without reserve.

All: **We joyfully accept God's shower of loving forgiveness which frees us to live full lives as Christ's disciples.**

One: God writes a new law upon our hearts, a law of self-giving and service.

All: **Thanks be to God for this gift of freedom!**

Choral Response: *'Come to My Heart' vs. 1 #661 VU*
*Come to my heart, Lord Jesus, teach me to walk in your way
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus, come to my heart today
Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus, give me a song to sing.*

Prayers Of the People:

Pastoral Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 'In Loving Partnership We Come' #603 VU

*Sending Forth in Hope.....

Benediction:

One: Let us go in celebration of God's goodness.

All: Let us go with thanksgiving.

One: Let us go with thanks-living

All: Let us go with the love of God.

One: May the light of God surround you
The love of God enfold you
The power of God sustain you.
The presence of God protect you.
Wherever you are, God is. Amen.

*Choral Closing:

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

Organ Postlude:



What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is a complete lifestyle, a life of total accountability and responsibility acknowledging God as Creator and Owner of all.

Stewards as disciples of Jesus Christ see themselves as caretakers of all God's gifts. Gratitude for these gifts is expressed in prayer, worship, offering, and action by eagerly sharing these gifts out of love of God and one another.

Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all His blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent, and treasure allotted to us.

Stewardship is caring. Stewardship is responsible management of our God-given resources of time, talent, and treasure. It enhances our relationship with God and one another.

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

1 Peter 4:10

Church News

This Week at First United – Aug. 23 – Aug.28

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2010 **900**

Total to Date **642**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 14-15 jars of peanut butter per week.

Vacation: Rev. Lewis will be on vacation from August 10th to September 1st. Rev. Austin Jagoe will be our pulpit supply.

Employment Opportunity

There are two employee vacation replacement vacancies available for each of the positions of Custodian and Office Administrator. One week training with pay is available for each position. Interested persons should contact George Robertson, Chair of Ministry and Personnel at 546-6180 or email at grober@rogers.com for further information.

The Sunday School is looking for donations of musical instruments. ie. Tambourines, drums and maracas. Anything you have to contribute would be much appreciated and can be left at the church office.

For security reasons, the door into the church from the Murray St parking lot will be locked at all times, except for the Sunday services, until Sept 14, 2010. Please use the St Patrick St. entrance.

Upcoming Community Events

The **exquisite art works of Cynthia DeCoste** will again be on exhibit in Gallery 360 in the Nepisiquit Centennial Museum/Cultural Centre during August to September 7th, 2010. The Centre is open 7 days a week and by appointment. Call 546-9449.

Bathurst Christian Women's Club invites you to join us at Danny's Inn and Conference Center, Wednesday, August 25 at 11:30 am for our "Thanks for the Memories" Luncheon, **\$14.00**. Ken Smith, Bathurst Author, will share his love for writing about Bathurst. Linda Bullock, of Miramichi, will share some of her life's experiences. Call Wanetta at 548-5083 or Edith at 548-3924 for necessary reservations.

Interfaith Spaghetti Supper Sept 18, 2010, 4:30-6pm, Knights of Columbus Hall. Adults \$9.00 Children 12yrs & under \$5.00. Proceeds for the support of Fathers Bastarache and Carlos and their Cuba Mission. For more information call Donald Goodspeed @ 546-5387 or Harvey Aubie @ 546-4256



*Pause to Worship
On Vacation!!!*

2 Chronicles 31:5-6

⁵ As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously gave the firstfruits of their grain, new wine, oil and honey and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything. ⁶ The men of Israel and Judah who lived in the towns of Judah also brought a tithe of their herds and flocks and a tithe of the holy things dedicated to the LORD their God, and they piled them in heaps.

Psalm 24

Of David. A psalm.

¹ The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

² for he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the waters.

³ Who may ascend the hill of the LORD ?
Who may stand in his holy place?

⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to an idol
or swear by what is false. ^[a]

⁵ He will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God his Savior.

⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, O God of Jacob. ^[b]
Selah

⁷ Lift up your heads, O you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

⁸ Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.

⁹ Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰ Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory.
Selah

Matthew 25:14-30 (New International Version)

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents^[a] of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²²"The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

²³"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸" 'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'