

The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge

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

September 5, 2010
15th Sunday of Pentecost

Clergy Rev. Blair Lewis **Organists** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston Joseph MacDonald
Custodian Alan Wilcox **Greeters** Cheryl & Gordon Murphy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Jeremiah 18:1-18</i> <i>Psalm 139</i> <i>Philemon 1-21</i> <i>Luke 12:49-56</i>	<i>Jeremiah 4:11-12,22-28</i> <i>Psalm 51</i> <i>I Timothy 1:12-17</i> <i>Luke 15:1-10</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:** '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.

Welcoming:

Feet, still, still now, upon the floor, no need to hurry.
Hands, lie quietly at rest, no task to do just now.
Body, relax in peace, serene; now calmly rest.
Mind, let go the scurrying, let thought be still, so still.
Soul, in silence vast as space, reach, yearning, loving, unto God.

Welcoming One Another:
Welcoming Friends Worshipping by Tape/CD:
Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: As we light the Christ Candle we celebrate life and offer thanks to God.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: At the beginning of a new school year we are reminded that God has given us teachers and students eager to learn.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: God has gathered us into a community of care, learning and worship.

All: Let us worship God with love, thanksgiving, and praise.

Call To Worship: (in unison)

**We come from scattered lives to this sanctuary,
Seeking unity in the Spirit,
Seeking the grace of Christ,
Seeking the peace of God.**

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

We feel your welcome, gracious God, in this time of worship.

You welcome young and old, all seeking peace. And all brimming over with energy.

You welcome newcomers and long-time members; all seeking a familiar expression of praise and prayer, and all seeking a startlingly new celebration of faith. You welcome us all, welcoming God. Amen

***Opening Hymn:** 'All Creatures of Our God' #217 VU

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding: (in unison)

As we pray we search for Good News! Good News for all of your people! With your help may we wish to hear and be able to open our ears to hear what is happening in the hearts of a people who have begun to awaken. Those who wish to see must open their eyes to see what is happening in the hearts of a people who have begun to walk together. Amen

Latin America

Scripture Readings: Cheryl Brewster

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-18
*Responsive Psalm: Psalm #139 #861 VU
New Testament Lesson: Luke 12:49-56

*Hymn: 'For the Beauty of the Earth' #226 VU
(tune Dix)

Message: "A Labour of Love"

Anthem:

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

*Choral Response:

'Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow' #541 VU
Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures high and low,
Give thanks to God in love made known,
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

*Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

In the name and in the spirit of Jesus, we bring our gifts to you, O God. Help us to give with them, a ready mind, a willing spirit, and a joyful heart. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

All: God of love and of grace, you know the secrets of our hearts;
How blind we are to our own faults, yet harsh in judging others;
How swift we are to take for gain, yet slow to give for others;
How proud we are of our success, yet grudging in our praise of others.
Remember, O God, your tender care and love unflinching. Do not remember our sins and offences, but remember us in your goodness, in accordance with your endless mercy.

One : Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

All: have mercy on us.

One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

All: have mercy on us.

One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

All: grant us peace.

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.

Words of Assurance:

God the Creator brings you new life, forgives and redeems you. Take hold of this forgiveness, and live your life in the spirit of Jesus. Amen.

Reflective Music:

Silent Prayer:

Pastoral Prayer:

One: In prayer we bring everything to God – good things and bad things, and God always hears us when we pray.

Let us pray

We pray: for those who make decisions about the resources of the earth.

All: that we may use your gifts responsibly;

One: On this Labour Day Sunday we pray for those who work on the land and sea, in city and in industry,

All: that all may enjoy the fruits of their labours and marvel at your creation;

One: for artists, scientists, and visionaries,

All: that through their work we may see creation afresh.
(silence)

One: We thank you for giving us life;

All: for all who enrich our experience.

One: We pray: for all who through their own or others' actions are deprived of fullness of life;

All: for prisoners, refugees, those differently able, and all who are living with illness and are searching for peace of mind and hope.

One: for those in politics, medical science, social and relief work, education and for your Church;

All: for all who seek to bring life to others.
(silence)

One: We thank you that you have called us to celebrate your creation.

All: Give us reverence for life in your world.

One: We thank you for your redeeming love;

All: May your Word and Sacrament strengthen us to love as you love us.

(silence)

One: God, our Creator, bring us new life.

All: Jesus, Redeemer, renew us.

One: Holy Spirit, strengthen and guide us.

All: Amen.

Lords Prayer:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 'How Firm a Foundation' #660 VU

*Commissioning: (in unison)

**May the God who dances in creation,
Who embraces us with human love,
Who shakes our lives like thunder,
Bless us and drive us out with power,
To fill the world with justice.**

*Blessing:

May the grace of God, deeper than our imagination;
The strength of Christ, stronger than our need;
And the communion of the Holy Spirit, richer than our
togetherness;
Guide and sustain us today and in all our tomorrows.

*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:



Church News

This Week at First United – Sept. 6– Sept. 11

Monday	Office closed	Labour Day

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2010 **900**

Total to Date **664**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 15-16 jars of peanut butter per week.

The bulletin today is in *loving memory of Douglas Hinton* placed by Barbara.

The bulletin and flowers are *in celebration of Ruth Knowles' 90th birthday*, placed by Joyce, Bill and family.

Please join with Ruth and her family for cake in the fellowship room following the service.

Ruth will be receiving visits from family and friends, at home, from 2-4 this afternoon.

Sunday School will be opening for the 2010 season on **Sept. 19th**. Registration will be held on that day. They are 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.

Do-Drop-In will be resuming on **Sept. 14, 2010** in the Ruth Morrison Room from 9:30-11:30. Come and visit with your friends that you might not have had the chance to see over the summer. Enjoy a cup of coffee and some lively conversation.

Thank You is extended to Shirley Gammon and Hazel Harris for being our greeters and to Shirley Allain and Pat Brown for being our counters for the month of August.

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.

Observer

Would you like to receive the Observer, a United Church of Canada publication? For a new subscription, please contact the church office at 546-3532 before Friday, October 1, 2010. The annual subscription rate is \$20 (Tax included) Please note price increase. Renewals are also payable at the office.

Beaver, Cub & Scout Registration will be held on, Sunday, Sept 12, 2010 from 6:30-8pm in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall.

Evening of Music and Song: Featuring Local Talent
Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010, 7:00 P.M.
Donald Eddy Memorial Hall, 309 St. Patrick Street
Adults \$10 Children (under 12) \$5



Upcoming Community Events

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

Old Fashioned Turkey Dinner A mission trip fundraiser in the form of a Turkey Dinner (tickets, \$10) followed by a Dessert Auction will be held on Saturday, September 18th, 5 PM at Evangel Pentecostal Church. A limited number of take-out meals (with dessert included) are also available for \$12. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Helen M Knowles (546-9563). Proceeds will assist the ecumenical team in their ongoing outreach efforts in the Dominican Republic.

Anglican Parish of New Bandon Salmon Supper
Saturday, September 11, 2010 Place: Christ Church Hall, Clifton
Settings at 4pm 5pm & 6pm.
Adults \$14.00 Children under 12 \$7.00
For Tickets Contact: Lorna: 546-2948, Elaine: 546-2970, Norma: 546-9638, Laura: 546-2890, Nancy: 546-6535

Central United, Fall Fair: September 18th, 2010, 1-3pm
Come join in the fun! Browse through our craft tables, home-baked goods tables, home grown produce and face painted pumpkins. Wagon rides and face painting for the children.
Cold Turkey Plate take-out supper, \$10.00. For tickets please call Darlene- 546-8213, Joanne- 546-3690, Judy- 545-6832 or Eunice- 546-4079.

A WONDERFUL JOURNEY: CURSILLO ...

Kathryn McIntosh is the spiritual advisor for the upcoming Women's Weekend Retreat to be held in Bathurst September 23rd - 26th. It is a wonderful weekend of listening, singing, sharing, laughing, worshipping, and growing in your walk with Christ. If you are interested in such a life changing experience, please call Kathryn for more information and registration forms- 546-4817. There is also an opportunity for men- **Men's Weekend is September 16th to 19th.**

A Family and Community Breakfast will be held Saturday, September 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Saint George's Anglican Church Hall. Free will donation.

A Circle of Friends

*We've joined together as classmates
as the new year begins...
A year full of learning
while we become friends.
We'll share and be kind
as we work and play.
And our friendship will grow
with each passing day.*

Jeremiah 18:1-18 (New International Version)

Jeremiah 18

At the Potter's House

¹ This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD : ² "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." ³ So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. ⁴ But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁶ "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. ⁷ If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, ⁸ and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. ⁹ And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, ¹⁰ and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

¹¹ "Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, 'This is what the LORD says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.' ¹² But they will reply, 'It's no use. We will continue with our own plans; each of us will follow the stubbornness of his evil heart.' "

¹³ Therefore this is what the LORD says:
"Inquire among the nations:
Who has ever heard anything like this?
A most horrible thing has been done
by Virgin Israel.

¹⁴ Does the snow of Lebanon
ever vanish from its rocky slopes?
Do its cool waters from distant sources
ever cease to flow? [\[a\]](#)

¹⁵ Yet my people have forgotten me;
they burn incense to worthless idols,
which made them stumble in their ways
and in the ancient paths.
They made them walk in bypaths
and on roads not built up.

¹⁶ Their land will be laid waste,
an object of lasting scorn;
all who pass by will be appalled
and will shake their heads.

¹⁷ Like a wind from the east,
I will scatter them before their enemies;
I will show them my back and not my face
in the day of their disaster."

¹⁸ They said, "Come, let's make plans against Jeremiah; for the teaching of the law by the priest will not be lost, nor will counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophets. So come, let's attack him with our tongues and pay no attention to anything he says."

Luke 12:49-56 (New International Version)

Not Peace but Division

⁴⁹"I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. ⁵²From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Interpreting the Times

⁵⁴He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. ⁵⁵And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. ⁵⁶Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?"