

BATHURST PASTORAL CHARGE
First United Church - South Tetagouche United Church
www.firstunited-bathurst.ca
Fall Newsletter

Highlights – Bathurst Pastoral Council
September 25, 2007

- The first Council meeting since June was held in the Eddy Room with Chair, Hugh Ellis presiding.
- Four new members have joined the newly structured Education and Program Development Team as reported by Nomination Team Chair, Shirley Sealy. They are Marlene Fortune, Megan Martell, Heidi MacLeod and Ann Swan-Boudreau.
- President Emma MacKay reported that the UCW fall schedule began with an afternoon at Bayview Village consisting of worship, fun and games shared by the residents and UCW members.
- The Worship Team, of which Nora McLean is Chair, promoted desirable storage for the new brass communion ware. In the interest of safety and convenience, Council decided that existing cabinet space in the former Ladies' Parlour could be used for this purpose.
- The Pastoral Care Team continued to deliver church service tapes during the summer and members have resumed bereavement visits, Do Drop In and other responsibilities. Hope Scott continues to send out greeting cards. Team Chair is Brenda Parrott.
- All eight members of the Community Outreach Sub-Team attended their September meeting during which plans were discussed for the second *Soup and Sandwich Day* for the Volunteer Centre. The third meal will be delivered on October 25. The Team Chair, Shari Smith-Ellis, will consult the administrators re support to local schools.
- The *'Journey Through the Bible'* study program began on September 24 with 14 people in attendance. The next two sessions will be on Tuesday, October 2 and October 9 at 1:30 p.m. in the Eddy Room. Rev. Austin Jagoe is the facilitator.
- With Remembrance Day falling on Sunday this year, the regular Sunday church service is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. rather than 10:00 a.m. This will allow time for the choir and others to attend ceremonies at the K. C. Irving Centre. The *'Honouring Our Veterans'* intergenerational church service will be held the previous Sunday (Nov. 4) as usual.
- Among items dealt with at the September Ministry and Personnel Team meeting were salary recommendations for 2008, annual staff reviews for the minister and organist and review of the custodial workload. George Robertson is team chair.
- The Education and Program Development Team will focus on building stronger relationships with newly confirmed youth. The TAB (Take A Break) craft program has resumed. The walking program in the gym, open to anyone, will begin in October. Margaret Demmings is the E. & P. Chair.
- Hospitality and Friendship Team Chair, Shirley Gammon, reported on the weekly food and fellowship time following Sunday church services. Additional volunteer hosts are invited.
- Financial Management Chair, Cathy McLaughlin, said she was pleased with the current financial status even though the net loss is \$2,564 greater than budget to date. The Ways and Means Sub-Team has raised \$7,364 more than last year at this time with interior Donald Eddy Memorial Hall renovations completed.
- Mission and Service givings increased \$1,417 as of August 31, 2007.
- Isabel MacLaggan reported that the Very Rev. Peter Short, past moderator of the United Church of Canada will be guest speaker at the November 23-24 Miramichi Presbytery meeting in Bathurst.
- The Membership Database form will be posted on the church website for those who have not as yet returned this information to the church office.
- Property Management Team Chair, Don Nelson, reported work was being completed on the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall entrance.
- Nancy McKay, Chair of the Policy and Planning Team, said nine policies will be completed including those involving fee structure for hall usage and our revised marriage policy.
- Also reporting on the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall restoration, Nancy said less than \$40,000 remains to be paid on the debt. She said further donations or commitments that could be made at this time would be welcomed as interest charges would be reduced. She thanked Church Treasurer, Alberta Buttimer, and the fundraising group for work undertaken. A more detailed picture is expected to be available by year end.
- A letter of congratulations will be sent to Joseph MacDonald in recognition of his receiving the Order of New Brunswick Award.
- The three-month clergy activity report by Keith Adams showed almost 200 entries including regular and special worship services, sacrament celebrations, pastoral visits, scheduled meetings, programs and interviews as well as Miramichi Presbytery and Maritime Conference commitments.

Have You Visited Yet?

As you read in the summer newsletter, our pastoral charge has had a website since June. It is live to the public at www.firstunited-bathurst.ca so who not check it out if you have not done so already.

It is interesting to hear that there were 128 independent visits to the site during the first month of operation. This was followed by 117 visits in July, 100 in August and 89 in September up to September 18th.

Granted, some people could have visited the website each of the four months but it is surprising to hear how this new way of communicating has become a vibrant part of our church life already. These figures and other statistics were presented to this month's meeting of our Communications Sub-Team of which Jane Murphy is chair. It was through the kindness and cooperation of Josh Gammon that the website was established. The website is being administered day-to-day by Wilma Dempsey, secretary of Bathurst Pastoral Charge. Among the information items on the new website are: *Our Mission, Worship Bulletins, Terms of Reference, Policy Statements, Our History, Our Staff, Events, Links, Newsletters and a Photo Gallery.*

Those wishing to contribute to our online photo gallery are encouraged to forward their photos to the church office at secretary.first@nb.aibn.com.

Jewellery Sale Update

These days are busy ones for the *Friends of the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall* as they prepare for the Saturday, **October 27** jewellery sale.

"A lot of nice costume jewellery has come in," said Emma Mackay, a member of the committee that has been organizing special fund-raising events to go toward the hall renovation debt.

"We've been sorting the donations of good used jewellery as we receive them. We had to wait until we had enough before we could set the fall date for the sale. People have been very generous."

Emma, along with Shirley Sealy and Margaret Demmings, will continue to receive donations of jewellery up until the sale.

"The earlier the better," said Emma. "We have received some beautiful brooches, probably 200 necklaces and beads and earrings galore. People often tire of what they have been wearing for years and costume jewellery is in fashion these days."

This is the third fund-raising project that has been organized by the group this year. Both the spring *Quilt Show and Tea*, held in conjunction with

the *Northstar Quilt Guild*, and the summer *Garden Tours and Silent Auction* were highly successful. Aldra Carson and others were also involved.

"We are looking for new ideas too. There will be no admission charge for the sale and further details will be announced," Emma concluded.

Any *good used* jewellery can be left with Margaret Demmings (546-4685), Shirley Sealy (546-5425), Emma MacKay (546-5519) or at the church office. Of course, more valuable jewellery will be accepted as well.

Autumn Hymn Sing

Saturday, **October 20** at 7:30 pm has been set aside for another *Autumn Hymn Sing* in the First United Church sanctuary.

This popular event will feature many well-loved gospel hymns sung by members of the First United choirs. So numerous are these old familiar hymns, many of them upbeat and lively, that there will be very few repetitions from last fall. There will be a mixture of the old and the new during the evening program.

Many selections will be sung by the senior mixed choir and men's choir with solos and duets offered by others.

Martha Vickers, organist and choir director, extends an open invitation to anyone interested in joining the choir for this special event. Practices are held on Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

Martha says special guests will include the local choral group, Take Note; the Hornibrook Harmonies, George Robertson and some members of the Bathurst Community Concert Band, vocalist Torey Smith and Highland Dancers. She is awaiting confirmation from others.

Refreshments will be served following the event. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and are available at the church office or at Catherine & Company. Proceeds will be directed toward First United's general operating account.

"We look forward to having you join with us for an evening of song and fellowship. Bring a friend," Martha concluded.

Advance Notice for 'Come to the Stable'

The Worship Team will be hosting a display of nativity scenes again this year. Although details have not been finalized, the popular event will be held on Saturday, **December 1** in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall. Nora McLean, who spearheaded the unique display last year, invites people to start thinking about it now.

"We will welcome the same crèches as last year. Hopefully there will be new ones, even from people outside our faith community. The initial event was most successful even in bringing people together. Usually the nativity scenes are brought in the day before the display," Nora explained.

So plan to dust off your crèches early and watch for further details.

Church School

Have you made a new connection with someone lately? Have you re-connected with a friend or family member? This year, the theme for the Church School opening was *"Making Connections."* Having attended Maritime Conference 2007, the Doucet family enthusiastically created an activity program based on the conference theme, "Making Connections." Activities included: puzzle piece connecting, picture taking, birth date sharing, Bible Trivia and hand tracing 'one hand at a time'. The photographs on display in the narthex attest to the tremendous success of this event!

On Sunday, September 23, Joey Wiseman of the Bathurst Fire Department addressed the Church School classes concerning fire safety, fire drills and building codes at First United Church. The Church School participated in a practice fire drill exit. Joey expressed his appreciation and pleasure with the students' attentiveness!

We have 33 students registered in Church School. This number will continue to adjust over the coming weeks and is on par with the 2006 figures. The Education and Program Development Team continues to recruit Church School leaders. Leadership vacancies are also anticipated in the 2008 church year. Contact Margaret Demmings or Keith Adams if Church School leadership is a meaningful place for you! Consider making a new connection or renewing an old one!

Do Drop In

The weekly Do Drop In each Tuesday morning has proven to be a great fun and fellowship time for all ages.

Held in the Ruth Morrison Room at the church, the informal get-together has people 'dropping in' for mid-morning coffee, tea and light snacks. More importantly, they seem to come for the casual conversation, friendliness and lots of laughter. There is no charge and no donations are expected.

Some people linger longer than others and others come and go at different times. The fellowship event is slated for 9:30-11:30 am. It is hosted by members of the Pastoral Care Team.

Dee Dee Davidson, one of the newer ones to 'drop in,' said she is really enjoying it. "It's an outing and we have lots of fun. It helps to keep my mind off other things. It is nice seeing everyone and I look forward to it." She says she enjoys listening to what Harold Gammon, who at 87 is one of the older supporters of the weekly event, has to say. "I always knew he was smart. He has some interesting and comical things to add to the conversation," remarked Dee Dee.

The team members who take turns being responsible for Do Drop In are Mae Branch, Lois Good, Isabel MacLaggan, Faye Robertson, Gwen Sturgeon and Brenda Parrott, Chair of the Pastoral Care Team. Even when it isn't their turn to host, they still 'drop in' to enjoy the light and sometimes more serious conversations. Two of the husbands are regular attendees.

"An open invitation is extended to one and all to join us whenever you can. It is like a 'Hot Stove League' but we're sitting around a large table instead," one of the team members concluded.

This and That

- About 90 per cent of those who attend church services regularly are taking advantage of the Talk Mail connection with the church office. Should you want to be 'in the know' as to what is going on in our church community, phone the church office at 546-3532 for simple instructions. There is no charge to the individual for this communication arrangement.
- The Communications Sub-Team has 43 packets of note cards left which depict the interior and exterior of First United Church. There are six in the packet for \$5.00, including tax. Contact the church office if interested in purchasing these note cards either for your own use or as a gift. Perhaps there are out-of-town folk who once attended church here and would welcome these pictures of our nine-year-old edifice.
- Plans are underway for a soup and sandwich luncheon for seniors some time in November. Table games will precede the meal, possibly floor shuffleboard. In the interest of joint preparation, the luncheon will coincide with the monthly Soup Day provided for the Bathurst Volunteer Centre by our Community Outreach Sub-Team.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, October 7	Service of Word and Table at 10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Weekend
Thursday, October 18	Spaghetti Supper
Saturday, October 20	Autumn Hymn Sing at 7:30 p.m. First United Church
Saturday, October 27	Jewellery Sale Donald Eddy Memorial Hall
Sunday, November 4	Annual Remembrance Service of Worship
Thursday, November 15	Turkey Supper
Sunday, November 18	UCW 45th Anniversary Service
Saturday, December 1	Come Visit the Stable Donald Eddy Memorial Hall
Sunday, December 9	Annual White Gift Service of Worship

Interested in Playing Badminton?

Badminton in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall gymnasium will resume after Thanksgiving – Tuesday, **October 9**. As usual, play will continue on Tuesday and Thursday each week from 9:00-11:00 am. A dozen or so women of all ages have been playing for fun and fitness from October to May each season. It is a 'pay as you play' arrangement. For more information contact Lois Dow (548-3572) or Isabel MacLaggan (546-5521).

You Could Help!

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre
Target December 31, 2007 – 900
Total to Date 637

Optimum Points Transfers

The Community Outreach Sub-Team extends appreciation to those who, in the past, have transferred Shoppers Drug Mart Optimum Points to our corporate card. Through points donated by members, our Sub-Team purchases baby supplies for clients of the Bathurst Volunteer Centre. Each purchase goal is set at 75,000 points for \$150.00 worth of merchandise. There are, at present, 24,860 points in our corporate account. If each card holder transfers 250 points periodically, our goal is achievable. Please contact the church office to have points transferred. A donation of any amount would be greatly appreciated!