

*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
First United Church – South Tetagouche United Church  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)  
*Easter Newsletter*

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**H**ighlights – Bathurst Pastoral Council  
January 29, 2008

- As a forerunner to First United's annual meeting on February 17, Bathurst Pastoral Council met in regular session with Chair, Hugh Ellis presiding.
- UCW support to Bathurst Volunteer Centre continues with December donations totalling 169 jars of baby food and 23 boxes of cereal. Members of the congregation are thanked for food donations and assistance involving five recent funeral receptions.
- Council Chair Hugh thanked Shirley Sealy for her work in leading the nominations process. Team and Sub-Team newcomers for 2008 include Peter Watling, Ted Shannon, Mike and Vivien Kierstead, Ian Hatheway, Sylvia Donnelly, Kim White, Byron McLean and Leigh Morrison. Vivien Kierstead and Shirley Allain are newcomers to Bathurst Pastoral Council; Vivien as a Miramichi Presbytery representative and Shirley as chair of Hospitality and Friendship.
- The Education and Program Development Team reported that Kipani Good and Jodie Lee have joined the Church School team as a teacher and nursery co-ordinator respectively. Elaine Godin is Church School co-ordinator for the remainder of the school year.
- In approving policy changes, Council agreed there must be a spirit of openness and outreach in our approach to marriage that encourages couples to celebrate a *Christian Covenant of Marriage*. The established practice emphasizes the importance of solemnizing marriage in the presence of God while recognizing the complexity of our society and personal circumstances. However, Bathurst Pastoral Charge holds to the traditional practice of conducting marriage services between a man and a woman only. This policy is subject to annual review by the Pastoral Council.
- The Pastoral Care Team reported on its ongoing pastoral and bereavement visitation program, greeting card mailings, Do Drop In on Tuesday mornings, the church service tape ministry, welcome kit preparation and the annual cancer *Service of Hope* in April.
- The Community Outreach Sub-Team continues to support Bathurst Volunteer Centre in various ways including a monthly soup and sandwich meal as well as supporting local schools. The Christmas Tree Benevolence Program realized \$1,302 for the Volunteer Centre while the 'Help Lesotho' Appeal resulted in \$1,629.
- The Communications Sub-Team reminds those of you on the free Talk Mail service to notify the church office if your phone number is changed or if the phone is disconnected when a move is made to another address. Otherwise, you'll end up in '*left field*' without any messages.
- Ongoing projects of the Property Management Team include installation of a sound speaker in the Ruth Morrison Fellowship Room, obtaining estimates on interior painting in the church and exploring a new key system for Donald Eddy Memorial Hall. Many positive comments have been received concerning custodial services.
- The two-month clergy report covering December and January showed 30 regular, special and sacrament services, seven scheduled meetings, 65 hospital visits and three other events having to do with Miramichi Presbytery, continuing education and the *Come Visit the Stable* event. This report does not include duties carried out by Rev. Austin Jagoe during the minister's week-long study leave in December and Bible Study which he conducts on a volunteer basis.
- The next regular meeting of the Pastoral Council is Tuesday, March 25, 2008.



**Scripture Readings for Holy Week**

Palm Sunday	<i>Matthew 21: 1-7</i>
Monday	<i>Matthew 26: 1-30</i>
Tuesday	<i>Matthew 26: 31-56</i>
Wednesday	<i>Matthew 26: 57- Matthew 27:2</i>
Thursday	<i>Matthew 27: 3-31</i>
Good Friday	<i>Matthew 27:32-56</i>
Saturday	<i>Matthew 27: 57-66</i>
Easter Sunday	<i>Matthew 28: 1-15</i>

## A 12-item Quiz

1. What year was our new church building completed and dedicated?
2. Is the replacement value of First United Church and Donald Eddy Memorial Hall more than \$3 million, \$4 million or \$5 million?
3. What two United Churches in Bathurst amalgamated in 1941 to form First United Church?
4. How many spaces are there in First United's parking Lot (40, 35, 31)?
5. Is the value of First United's pipe organ more than \$300,000, \$350,000 or \$400,000?
6. What building previously occupied the corner lot on which First United Church now stands?
7. Was South Tetagouche United Church Methodist or Presbyterian prior to the formation of the United Church of Canada in 1925?
8. Is it true that the debt for the recent major renovations to Donald Eddy Memorial Hall will be eliminated if all the pledges are honoured?
9. How many households are currently in First United's system (521, 571, 551)?
10. As of the annual meeting in February, who is the new treasurer of First United Church succeeding Alberta Buttimer who was treasurer for more than 20 years?
11. When did the first burial take place in the South Tetagouche Cemetery and whose was it?
12. Compared to 2006, the Mission and Service contributions at First United in 2007 were what percentage higher (1.8%, 1.4%, 2.2%)?

## Bits and Pieces

- ❖ There were 1102 independent visits to the Bathurst Pastoral Charge website ([www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)) since its inception one year ago. The monthly record of 192 was set in January, 2008 to break November's total of 149.
- ❖ Miramichi Presbytery's report on its triennial visit here concluded, "Bathurst Pastoral Charge is an active Christian community with strong leadership and an excellent pastoral relationship. Other congregations and pastoral charges could learn from its experience of developing a new governance structure." However, we must not *'sit back and enjoy'* but continue to address new challenges.
- ❖ Your attention is drawn again to the four information racks in the narthex at the entrance to the Ruth Morrison Fellowship Room. There you will find memorial cards, other donation and special gift cards, along with pamphlets on cancer, stress, seniors' programs, grieving, fire prevention, suicide, making a will and more.

- ❖ To offset winter exercise restrictions, the hall gym is available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for free indoor walking from 10:00 am until noon. Badminton, which has attracted 16 women this season, uses the gym on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 am on a 'pay as you play' basis. Both activities are open to anyone and everyone.
- ❖ Copies of the 2007 annual report are available in the narthex or in the church office. The Finance Management Team extends thanks to the teams for keeping their expenses within or better than budget. A thank you goes to those who helped with janitorial services during the time between staff assignments.

## Interesting Facts

**Easter is early this year.** Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is March 20. This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify Passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar.

Based on the above, Easter can actually be one day earlier, March 22, but that is pretty rare.

**Here's the interesting info.** This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives! Only the most elderly of our population have ever seen it this early (95 years old and above)! None of us has ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier! **Here are the facts:**

- The next time Easter will be this early, March 23, will be the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913. If you are 95 or older, you are the only ones who were around for that!
- The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has or ever will see it any earlier than this year.

Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse.  
Nails in Jesus Christ's hands will produce salvation for the entire world.  
It depends whose hands they're in.  
So put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your families and your relationships in God's hands because.....  
It depends whose hands they're in.

## Calendar of Events - Spring 2008

Thursday, March 20	Maundy Thursday Service of Word and Table 7:00 pm
Friday, March 21	Good Friday Service of Worship 7:00 pm
Sunday, March 23	Easter Sunday Service of Word and Table 10:00 am
Thursday, April 3	Roast Pork Supper 5:00-6:30 pm Takeouts 4:30-6:00 pm
Friday, April 11 Saturday, April 12	Confirmation Instruction Weekend
Saturday, April 19	An Evening of Music <i>Boiestown United Church Men's Choir</i>
Sunday, April 20	Ecumenical Service of Hope 1:00 pm <i>Guest Speaker, Rev. K. Ruth Stuart</i>
Friday, May 9 Saturday, May 10	Yard Sale
Sunday, May 11	Service of Confirmation 10:00 am
Sunday, May 25	Memorial Hymn Sing 10:00 am
Thursday, May 29 – Sunday, June 1	Annual Meeting Maritime Conference United Church of Canada
Sunday, June 1	Last Day of Church School Classes



### Easter Word Search



B R Z E A S T E R F B D  
 A I U N B C A V O D S Y  
 S G Y C H O C O L A T E  
 K E R A N L A G L S R B  
 E G G M X O N F B K O U  
 T H U N T R D I Y D B E  
 O L B U N N Y T F U N A

#### Word List

basket	Easter
bunny	egg
candy	fun
chocolate	hunt
color	roll
dye	

United Church of Canada's  
*'Let's Break Bread Together'*

#### **Fish Casserole**

1-1½ lbs. fillet of sole or other type  
 1-10½ oz. can condensed celery soup  
 1 medium onion, sliced  
 Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice, salt and pepper.  
 Grease an oven-proof dish well. Arrange a layer of fillets, cover with onions. Season the layer with pepper, salt, lemon juice and Worcestershire sauce according to your taste. Add additional layer or layers and season. Pour the celery soup over the fish, etc. Cover the top with cracker crumbs. Bake, uncovered, in a preheated oven at 350°F for 25-30 minutes.

Rev. Wilfred Lockhart,  
UC Moderator, 1966-1968.

### **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

April 11-12, 2008

Those interested in preparing for full membership in the United Church of Canada are invited to join in a weekend instruction program scheduled for **6:30 pm on Friday, April 11, 2008 to 4:30 pm on Saturday, April 12, 2008** in the First United Church, Bathurst.

These classes are open to all ages and to anyone interested in exploring the nature and structure of the United Church of Canada. The polity of the United Church requires only that candidates seeking confirmation will have reached an *age of understanding*. Registration forms for participation are available from the church office. Following the prescribed weekend instruction, those candidates wishing to proceed with the *Act of Confirmation* will be received during the regular service of worship on **Sunday, May 11, 2008**.



## An Easter Message

The Season of Lent is now drawing to a close and Christians around the world are preparing for and anticipating the joyful celebration of Easter. Lent was a time for us to reflect upon our own lives and to attend to what we often neglect. It was an opportunity to turn our attention to those elements of our lives that block wholeness of life; and it was a time to discern our part in the brokenness of the world. However, lest we become disheartened by such reflection alone, the Season of Lent was also an opportunity to journey with Jesus towards new life.

For Jesus of Nazareth, death on the cross was not the last word. Yet, for those who walked closely with Jesus during his earthly ministry, his crucifixion was indeed an extremely emotional and stressful time. Their time together with Jesus had been short and they were not prepared for such an abrupt end. They loved Jesus ~for he was their teacher, their friend, and their brother. There was still so much to learn from him. However, their time together was now over ~and their dreams for a new and different world were pulled out from underneath them. For the early followers of Jesus, it was a time of great darkness and confusion ~ a time in which they plummeted into deep despair, anger and fear..... *and then came the news, breaking through like the dawn of a new day. **He has risen! Jesus is alive!*** Yet, excitement was also mingled with doubt. Could it be true? Dare we believe in *new life*? Clearly, the hope was in their hearts.

Like those so long ago, we too share many different emotions, thoughts and feelings as we reflect upon the darkness and confusion of the broken world in which we live. Yet, I am also reminded of the following message which Mother Teresa of Calcutta delivered to her audience in Toronto several years ago.

*"I want to tell the citizens of Toronto and the whole world, no matter how much evil seems to conquer, never lose hope. Never give way to despair! For Easter and the risen Christ reassure us with the promise of new life beyond despair."*

In this message, Mother Teresa reminds us that Easter is about *life* overcoming the powers of death and destruction. It is about *hope* springing up from the ashes of despair. It is about *joy* emerging from the darkness of sorrow and grief. It is about *love and justice* overpowering hate and evil. Indeed, to believe in the Good News of Easter is to believe in the struggle for a better world.

May the life-giving hope of the Easter season sustain and empower each of us in our faith community to pursue God's dream for a better world.



### Answers to Quiz

1. 1998
2. \$4 million
3. Trinity United Church and St. Luke's United Church
4. 35
5. \$400,000
6. First United Church parsonage, formerly Trinity United Church parsonage
7. Methodist
8. Yes
9. 571
10. Dave Morison, husband of Brenda Parrott
11. 1881-Jessie (MacIntosh) Smith, 29 years of age
12. 2.2% for a total of \$26,478.