

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



This newsletter was written and produced by the  
Communications Sub-team.

## An Easter Message



The season of Lent/Easter is upon us again. Every year we consider the importance of the season in our lives and in our church.

The season can affect us in many ways, as the "Body of Christ" (the Church) in the community/world today.

First of all, the reconciling power of God's love shown to us in Jesus Christ, can draw us into a closer relationship with Him;

- and then, we can become more effective partners in Christ's Mission in the world, because our lives will have been transformed as we allow ourselves to see the world through Christ's eyes and not only our own;
- and then we begin to see ourselves differently and begin to break free of the bonds of weakness, fear and sin that can bog us down. We begin to feel Christ's power within us;
- and then we begin to see others differently also, and we can begin to catch a vision of a church and world, governed by justice and love;
- and then, we begin to reach out to others in a brand new way.

What is it that can change us? It is the Resurrection! For when we experience the risen Christ, we also experience the power of God's reconciling love.

So may we all experience a whole new sense of God's great love for us during this Lenten/Easter season this year.

May the God of Easter bless us and keep us as individuals and as a community of faith.

Happy Easter!!

Reverend Austin Jagoe

## **H**ighlights – Bathurst Pastoral Council Meeting February 3, 2009

- ❖ The first meeting of 2009 was presided over by Brenda Parrott, who succeeds Hugh Ellis as Council chair.
- ❖ Since November, the UCW donated 170 jars of baby food and 17 boxes of cereal to the Bathurst Volunteer Centre and 10 dozen small cakes for the “Boys in Red” reception at Holy Family Church in January. Margaret Demmings has succeeded Emma MacKay as UCW President.
- ❖ The Worship Team report stated 12 individuals attended the Blue Christmas Service and approximately \$800 was realized from the “Come Visit the Stable” event.
- ❖ Council approved the transfer of membership of Karen and David Brown from South Tetagouche United Church to Cornwall, Ontario. Accepted was the transfer of membership of Heather and Ossie Gildart from Edmonton to First United Church here.
- ❖ The team chair of Financial Management, Cathy McLaughlin, called upon Treasurer Dave Morison to present the financial picture as of December 31, 2008. Local givings were down. The 2009 budget was reviewed for referral to the Annual Meeting later in February.
- ❖ The Nominations Team report showed the four new team chairs as being Heather Smith, succeeding Nora McLean (Worship), Patricia Brown succeeding Brenda Parrott (Pastoral Care), Jack MacKay succeeding Nancy McKay (Policy and Planning) and Bill McCallum succeeding Shirley Sealy (Nominations). Nora, Nancy and Shirley will continue to act on their respective committees.
- ❖ Recognizing that the life and work of the Pastoral Charge is a reflection of the contribution of dedicated and caring volunteers, Council expressed appreciation to those retiring, as well as to those who will be serving.
- ❖ The Ministry and Personnel Team is advertising for a church secretary to succeed Wilma Dempsey.
- ❖ The Pastoral Care Team has decided not to have a Community Service of Hope this year. The latest count shows the members are delivering 20 church service tapes each week.
- ❖ The Community Outreach Sub-team reported \$1,778 was received in Christmas Benevolence donations, which went to needy families in our congregation and to the Volunteer Centre. The Soup and Sandwich Day continues to support the Centre each month.
- ❖ The Education and Program Development Team reported Jennifer Oliver-Lavigne is returning as nursery coordinator. Courtenay Vickers and Kathleen McLaughlin will help with the pre-school class.
- ❖ As hosts for the April 25 Northstar Quilt Guild show, the E & P Team will receive half the admission proceeds.
- ❖ Council agreed with the Policy and Planning Team that all buildings and property shall be tobacco and smoke free and scent reduced. This policy applies to all staff, the church family and the general public.
- ❖ The next Council meeting will be held on Tues., April 14.

## **H**ighlights – Bathurst Pastoral Charge Annual Meeting Feb 22, 2009

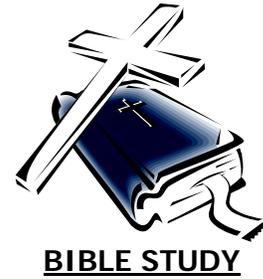
- ~ Thirteen people, whose deaths occurred during 2008, were remembered in silent prayer; six fewer than the previous year. Rev. Austin Jagoe led in the opening prayer.
- ~ Brenda Parrott, who has replaced Hugh Ellis as Pastoral Council chair, reported that the Search Committee seeking a new minister was continuing its work. Brenda also chairs this special committee.
- ~ Brenda thanked Rev. Austin Jagoe for taking on ministerial duties on a temporary basis. The staff, team members, and other volunteers were thanked as well, including those whose commitment has concluded.
- ~ Dave Morison, the new Treasurer, expressed gratitude for Alberta Buttimer’s help in making a smooth transition during the year.
- ~ The 2008 statistical report showed there were 579 households in the Bathurst Pastoral Charge, 1190 persons including active, non-active and non-resident members and adherents.

## (Highlights of Annual Meeting continued)

- ~ There are 236 on the membership roll who are non-resident. Baptisms for 2008 totalled 11 and there were five marriages.
- ~ A look at the financial picture, as clearly outlined by Dave, showed total revenues for 2008 were down and so were total expenses. The net income for the year amounted to \$12,280.69; the principal reason being the absence of a permanent minister since June.
- ~ In anticipation of increased expenditures involved in the salary, benefits, and high moving expenses for a new minister, among other predictions, a deficit budget for 2009 has become necessary. Therefore, the congregation is challenged and urged to meet this need by increased givings if at all possible.
- ~ Mission and Service givings, for support at home in Canada and abroad, fell short of the \$26,400 objective by 2.5 per cent. The 2009 objective was set at \$26,000.
- ~ On a positive note, the loan covering renovations to Donald Eddy Memorial Hall has been paid off, thanks to the honouring of pledges and to special money-raising projects. The Capital Budget for maintenance and repair throughout the church and hall for the coming year is in the amount of \$6,600.
- ~ Since 2005, 23 policies have been approved by Pastoral Council as recommended by the Policy and Planning Team. Three other policy statements are under review, including risk analysis, funerals and financial record keeping.
- ~ Nominations Chair Shirley Sealy and her 2008 team are to be commended for recruiting 10 newcomers to the various teams. They are Debbie McLean, Amy Cormier, Julie Spence, Samantha Thibideau, Osborne Gildart, Jean Fowlie, Pat Thibideau, Kim White, and Gail McLellan. Those not returning for teamwork in 2009 are Marvin Ramsay, Pam Hamilton, Marilyn Doucet, Ann Swan-Boudreau, Anne Buzas, Krista Calnan and Leslie Oldford.

The attendance at the annual meeting was 65, an increase of 20 over last year. Judy Losier, secretary on the Pastoral Council, acted in the same capacity at the Annual Meeting. Nancy McKay is the new vice-chair of Council.

Copies of the 2008 annual report are still available in the church office.



Fourteen interested and eager participants have been meeting since last fall to understand the scriptures more fully and to determine their relevance to daily living.

Led by Rev. Austin Jagoe, the 1½ hour sessions are held in the Eddy Room each Tuesday afternoon, beginning at 1:30 pm.

As the weeks and months passed, the participants realized our knowledge or lack of knowledge of scripture wasn't made evident. Instead, the sessions have proven to be a searching process for everyone during our journey of understanding. As a result, we have become more vocal as we agree or disagree with what is being said. This input is sprinkled with humour initiated often by the leader and others.

We look forward to Tuesday afternoon as we struggle to understand the message and meaning of the scriptures we are studying. In fact, we wonder why others haven't joined us. The door is always open! - Isabel MacLaggan



**Bible Study Group 2008 - 09**

L to R: Jean Babin, Helen Norton, Lois Good, Gladys Chamberlain, Edith Davidson, Dee Dee Davidson, Isabel MacLaggan, Rev. Austin Jagoe, Judy Cumming, Lillian Jagoe.

Absent: Aldra Carson, Lois Campbell, Vivien Kierstead, Helen Daley, Rachel St. Laurent.

## *Fun - Food - Entertainment A Good Time was Had By All!*

It's a new band with lots of talent but no name! Well, that's not exactly true, because the initials ABGJ are being considered.

The group, consisting of Archie Fowlie, Bill McLean, George Robertson and John Clouston, performed at "Seniors' Morning Out" on March 19. Also, two female vocalists, Faye Robertson and Anne Marie Hocquard, members of the band as well, added their fine voices to the mix. (see photo at right) Actually Bill, a ship's captain, wasn't at the event that day. He was off to the Caribbean plying his trade. All six are connected to First United. Archie, John, George and Faye are members of our church choir.

It was as recent as February that the band started to jam and practice at George and Faye's home. Already they are putting out a really good sound!

"Our intention is to go to the Foyer and the hospital and give them a bit of music. We like the "Big Band" sound and we play some western music too. Now we're looking at some gospel stuff", said George, as spokesman for the group.

George said he and Archie, as neighbours, have been getting together for music fun for two years. They have played in other bands but they find they can be more versatile as a smaller group. All of the group have extensive musical backgrounds, and have been widely involved in the Bathurst musical scene over the years.

The newly-formed band delighted the 25 or so people present at the "Seniors' Morning Out" event. A highlight was Anne Marie's solo rendition of "The Lord's Prayer". This was followed by an impromptu song: "When Irish Eyes are Smiling", by Jessie Horsley and Helen A. Knowles, two of the seniors in attendance.

Organized by Margaret Demmings, Chair of the Education and Program Development Team, the two-hour program included card games, a delicious soup and sandwich luncheon and the enjoyable entertainment by the band. Others helping in the serving of the meal were Bev Murphy, Jean Fowlie, Shirley Sealy, Jean Young and Shirley Allain.



## *Bits and Pieces*

- ❖ Bathurst Pastoral Charge website ([www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)) has seen steady increases in usage since its inception. Be sure to check the site for upcoming events, announcements, church services posted in advance of Sunday, Terms of References, lists of team members, and other interesting and informative items. Suggestions for new items and features are welcome.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ There are some sets of Notecards still available at the church office for purchase.
- ❖ The gym is available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for free indoor walking from 10:00 am until noon. The Badminton Group 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.
- ❖ The First United Birthday Box program has begun. Its purpose is threefold:
  1. To celebrate birthdays!
  2. To raise money!
  3. To reach out and help the less fortunate. Young people celebrate their birthdays by placing the amount of their age in the box. Adults are asked to donate double their age. We are still developing a program/project that we can support with the collected funds. If you have any suggestions, call the Church Office.

## CONFIRMATION CLASSES

**April 24-25, 2008**

Confirmation classes will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 24-25. The instruction is for young and older people who are interested in becoming full members of the United Church of Canada.

Actually these classes are for anyone interested in exploring the church's nature and structure. Confirmation is for anyone who has reached an age of understanding.

The Instruction sessions will be held from 7 to 9 pm on Friday evening and from 10 to 12 noon on Saturday. Confirmation Sunday will be on May 10 – Mothers' Day.

For those who wish to participate, you are reminded to please pick up reading materials and the list of requirements as soon as possible, as these will need to be handed in by Friday, April 17.

For more information contact the church office at 546-3532.

### Scripture Readings for Holy Week

Palm Sunday	<i>Mark 11: 1-11</i>
Tuesday	<i>John 12:20-36</i>
Wednesday	<i>John 13:21-32</i>
Maundy Thursday	<i>Luke 22: 7-20</i>
Good Friday	<i>John 18 1-26</i>
Holy Saturday	<i>John 19: 38-42</i>
Easter Sunday	<i>John 20: 1-18</i>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Thursday, April 9</i>	Maundy Thursday Service of Word and Table 7:00 pm
<i>Friday, April 10</i>	Good Friday Service of Worship 10:30 am
<i>Sunday, April 12</i>	Easter Sunday Celebration and Holy Communion 10:00 am
<i>Tuesday, April 14</i>	Bathurst Pastoral Council Meeting 7 pm
<i>Friday, April 17</i>	Deadline for return of confirmation forms
<i>Sunday, April 19</i>	Worship Service with speaker Gary Branch on "Global Citizenship"
<i>Friday April 24 and Saturday April 25</i>	Confirmation Classes, Friday 6 to 9 pm, Saturday 10 am to 12 noon
<i>Friday April 24, 1 to 8 pm Saturday, April 25 10 am to 4 pm</i>	Northstar Quilt Guild Show in Donald Eddy Memorial Hall
<i>Friday, May 8 Saturday, May 9</i>	Yard Sale – Friday 6 to 9 pm, Saturday 8 am to 12 noon
<i>Sunday, May 10</i>	Service of Confirmation 10:00 am
<i>Sunday May 17</i>	Last Day of Sunday School Classes
<i>Thursday, May 28 –Sunday, May 31</i>	Annual Meeting, Sackville Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada

### *April 19 - Global Citizenship Presentation*

Asked to do so by the Worship Team, Gary Branch will be giving food for thought again when he speaks about "Global Citizenship" at the Sunday church service April 19.

Gary's PowerPoint presentation on his September, 2007 education experience in Lesotho, Africa, proved to be interesting, informative and challenging. It is with anticipation that we look forward to this second presentation to the congregation.

Initiated by the local School District 15, the Help Lesotho project raised more than \$40,000, no small feat for the smallest school district in New Brunswick. The people of First United contributed generously to the project at that time.

Gary, a guidance counsellor at the Parkwood and Janeville Schools, will give a follow-up on the help given. He will present, as well, an overall picture of the world's needs at home and abroad.

"We are our brother's and sister's keepers. We continue to be supportive through our Mission and Service Fund here at First United and through other charities", said Gary.

One small aspect of global health concerns blindness due to cataracts. According to the World Health Organization, 18 million people in the world are blind for this reason, over 90 percent living in the global south – the world's poorest countries.

A majority of these people could have their sight restored through a 12 to 15 minute operation. Nine out of 10 children born blind with cataracts will not go to school.

Speaking about his real-life educational trip to Africa's southern country, Gary said he didn't think anybody could go there and not be changed. We look forward to more from Gary about Lesotho on Sunday, April 19.