

First United Church Newsletter

Spring 2010

Bathurst Pastoral Charge
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AN AFFIRMATION OF HOPE

As I write this letter we are in the middle of our Lenten journey to Good Friday and the ultimate gift of the living hope contained in Easter Sunday. This is indeed a new year for all of us, a year filled with new possibilities and challenges. The Australian Student Christian Movement wrote the following Affirmation.

We affirm our hope that a new day is dawning upon us.

We affirm our vision of a new heaven and a new earth.

We affirm our belief that the love of God which is greater than all understanding has the power to unite us to participate in the creation of a new world.

We affirm the hope that turns suffering into a creative process.

We affirm the hope that enables us to act.

God of hope: help us to hope together.

In our church and in our society we are living through a time of rapid, significant and often unpredictable change. The one element of life that doesn't change is the solid foundation of hope that is Easter Sunday. Ruth and I are moving forward with all of you on a journey of faith, may God empower all of us as we explore creative possibilities.

CELEBRATE STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY SEMINAR

"Celebrate Stewardship" days are upon us. To introduce to our church leaders and any interested members this program of congregational awareness around the notable difference that generosity in giving makes to the Church and its members, a free seminar entitled: "Doing a Stewardship Program in your Congregation" will take place on Saturday, April 24th from 12 to 3 p.m. in the Donald Eddy Hall. A soup and sandwich lunch will be served at noon.

The workshop will be led by George Doughart, Stewardship Consultant, Maritime Conference. He will present the goals, materials, and theological basis and steps for the Stewardship Committee to follow to conduct a successful "Celebrate Stewardship" program for the Bathurst Pastoral Charge. He'll also share the interesting results from campaigns conducted by other comparable pastoral charges.

Anyone interested in participating on the Committee would enjoy this afternoon's information, as well as others who would like to see improvements in our programs, finances and participation levels at First United. For more information contact Rev. Blair Lewis or members of the Pastoral Council, and to register, please contact Isabel at the office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 28	Sunrise Breakfast 8:30-Noon
April 2	Good Friday Service 7:30
April 4	Easter Sunday service, 10am, Communion
April 18	Annual Meeting – After church
April 24	Beverley's Hillbillies

This newsletter has been prepared by the Communication Sub-Team. The members of the team are:

Isabel MacLaggan
Edie Gammon
Stacy Kenny- Secretary
Jane Murphy- Chairperson
Isabel Clouston (non-voting member)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Community Outreach Sub-team falls under the umbrella of the Pastoral Care Team. We have 6 members. including chair Lynne Moffitt, secretary Joyce Daley, Marlene Boyd, Ruth Laszweski, Helen Sullivan Doucet and Bev Murphy.

Three of our outreach projects require appeals to the congregation for donations. With your help, in December we were able to contribute in excess of \$1,300 to the Bathurst Volunteer Centre for their Christmas program and to meet our 2009 commitment to the Centre for 900 jars of peanut butter. We also have a box in the Narthex to collect Cheeze Whiz and jam which provides ongoing support to the BHS breakfast program. Thanks so much for your assistance.

We are very pleased to have First United represented in the annual Relay for Life again this year. Helen Knowles and Shirley Sealy have agreed to be co-captains for this event. We encourage you to support our team, either by signing up to become a member of the team or by supporting someone who is a member.

We also provided monetary support to three local schools with specific needs. Another one of our projects is providing soup and sandwiches to the Volunteer Centre once a month during the fall, winter and spring months.

It is part of the mandate of Community Outreach to receive, assess and respond to requests for food and/or shelter from local indigent folks. Standards of response have been set in place. We are pleased to note that an emergency shelter is once more available in the area.

Lastly, it is the duty and responsibility of Community Outreach to educate the congregation regarding the work of the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada and to encourage financial support. This is accomplished through weekly Minutes for Mission readings. We are pleased to say that First United exceeded its 2009 pledge by \$500 due to the generosity of our congregation and the UCW.

First United is active in the local community and in the global community thanks to your time, talents and money. Thank you!

BEVERLY'S HILLBILLIES

Granny Clampett and Jed relate the happenings at the local church since they have moved to Beverley Hills from their hills. Granny and Jed want to see this new church happen so that Elly-Mae can be married. The antics ensue as plans are made to find a suitor for Elly; and especially when Jed decides to contribute to the cost of building the facility . The cast will keep you entertained with music and frolic.



CELEBRATE, REMEMBER, FIGHT BACK

While Claire Wilt & her planning team prepare for the 9th annual Bathurst Relay for Life, efforts have been initiated to recruit a church team to participate in this year's event. Shirley Sealy & Helen M Knowles have agreed to be co-captains & are excited about the potential of such a team. After all, this will be the 7th year that a church team has participated in the local relay & over the years, with the support of our congregation & enthusiastic fundraising, our teams have raised approximately \$40,000. The 2010 event is scheduled to begin at Coronation Park on Saturday, June 12th. "Relay for Life is a 12-hour event in honour of those who battle cancer 24-7 & in memory of those who have lost the battle", says Claire Wilt. "It starts at sundown & concludes the next morning. The light & darkness of day & night parallel the physical & emotional effects, experienced by a cancer patient undergoing treatment".

Prior to the relay opening at 7 pm, survivors will attend a reception at the Heritage Museum & later, kick off the event by leading a Victory Lap around the walking track. Per usual, the Bathurst event will have a festive mood with numerous tents on site, teams in costume & ongoing entertainment. At dusk, you'll be inspired by the words of cancer survivors, followed by a moving luminary lighting ceremony. Thousands of luminaries (special candles placed in bags, identified with the names of loved ones) placed around the walking track will light the path throughout the night.

In 2009, Relay for Life raised \$2.6 million in 33 events throughout New Brunswick & this year, Canada's premier fundraising event will take place in over 500 Canadian locations. Relay for Life is not only a tribute to the lives of loved ones who have been touched by cancer but also is twelve hours of fun, friendship & fundraising to beat cancer communities from coast to coast, taking up the fight. Funds raised through relay events support the Canadian Cancer Society's mission to eradicate cancer & to enhance the quality of life of people living with cancer. The society works towards its mission by funding research, providing practical support & offering programs of education & prevention. Unfortunately, nobody is unaffected by cancer. Thus, it's everybody's business. Why not consider joining the cause by supporting this year's Relay for Life? If you wish to support our church team but are unable to be a team member, there are various means of support, which will be identified as the team evolves. For more information, visit the web site www.cancer.ca; as well, Shirley (546-5425) & Helen (546-9563) will welcome your interest/inquiries.

Relay for Life 2009- members of the first United Church Relay for Life team (Dorothy McCallum, Blake Mullin and Lela Branch)

Education and Program Team Update

The Education and Program Committee continues to be active with Church School and TAB continuing weekly. The team is discussing new programming and closing activities that will be finalized at the next meeting. All members of the Education and Program Committee are urged to attend the monthly meetings!



UCW Holds Yet Another Successful Valentine's Luncheon and Bake Sale

The members of the United Church Women of the Bathurst Pastoral Charge held another very successful Valentine-themed luncheon and bake sale February 12. Tickets were sold out, and baking which was donated by many members of the congregation as well as UCW members, brought in a record sum. The tea and luncheon was enjoyed by all who attended, including many members of the community who make this event an annual outing. A hearty and delicious meal, prepared by UCW volunteers, was served in an efficient and timely way, and everyone enjoyed visiting their friends and neighbours and to have the chance to purchase home made breads, pastries and goodies. UCW members thank everyone for their participation, and look forward to hosting this event again next year.

THANK YOU

As Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Team, I thought this would be a great opportunity to express my appreciation to the team members who continue to stand by me and offer their wisdom and guidance in insuring that our team activities remain focused. The Team members are Jack MacKay, Secretary; Sherry Mitton; Shirley Allain; Vivien Kierstead; and Peter Ellis.

I would also like to thank the Church Employees on behalf of the Ministry and Personnel team, for their superb performance and consideration. These employees are Rev. Blair Lewis, Minister; Isabel Clouston, Office Administrator; Martha Vickers, Organist; Allan Wilcox, Custodian.

I am convinced that the current church atmosphere is certainly attributed in part to the performance and attitude of all of the aforementioned persons.

Sincerely,

George Robertson

ELM TREE MEMORIES

With date set for the Elm Tree Camp Reunion from July 23-25 2010 we now need to start compiling all of the great stories and photos from those people who attended. Even if you are not able to attend the reunion we would love it if you could submit a story or photo (or both) from your time at Elm Tree Camp. We plan on creating a keepsake memory booklet of stories and photos. If you have anything you would like to share please send them to elmtreecampreunion@gmail.com or call Jane Murphy at 548-3723.

Registration forms will be available on April 1st from the First United Church office or by contacting Jane Murphy at the email or phone number listed above.

Please visit our website at www.elmtreecampreunion.com for updates and new memories!!



Bible Study Group - 2009-2010

Seated: Left to right
Rachel St. Laurent, Edith Davidson,
Vivien Kierstead, Lillian Jagoe
Standing: Left to right
Helen Daley, Gladys Chamberlain,
Dee Dee Davidson, Helen Norton,
Aldra Carson, Judy Cumming,
Nancy Scott, Isabel MacLaggan,
Rev. Austin Jagoe, Lois Good