

First United Church Newsletter

Summer 2010

Bathurst Pastoral Charge

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Minister's Message

This month we have celebrated the 85th anniversary of the United Church of Canada. The church over the years has faced many significant challenges, the great depression, the world wars and changing values and lifestyles in society. Through all of this the church has been and continues to be a life-giving and empowering influence in our lives. Thank you one and all for all of your dedicated work during the year, there is strength in our solidarity. In our 86th year and beyond we will face many new challenges that will require us to go forward with determination and faith. In all of this we are not alone, God is with us as we move forward.

There is a prayer of blessing that says:

"In this day's journey, life blessing moments.

In this day's journey, a peaceful spirit.

In this day's journey, words which strengthen.

In this day's journey God's healing love.

May this be a hope filled summer for each of us as we go forward on our journey.

2010 Graduates

Congratulations to the 2010 Graduates from First United Church.

Brett Joseph Boudreau
Beka Christina Chamberlain
Jeremy Richard Eddy
Kevin Chesley Eddy
Kevin Nicholas Hadley
Sean David Jagoe
Josh Jenks
Kent Frederick Knowles
Patrick Philip Lenihan
Taylor Patricia MacDonald
Joshua James McLean
Brittany Erica Mercer
Tyler Scott Mullin
Torey Louise Smith
Matthew Kyle Sullivan
Amanda Jane Palocz
Kathleen Tozer



Elm Tree Memories

Do you know who is in this picture? Visit the Elm Tree Camp Reunion Website (www.elmtreecampreunion.com) or check out the photo album in the Narthex to find out!!!

Maritime Conference

by Isabel MacLaggan

More than 400 voting delegates attended the 85th annual meeting of Maritime Conference which was held May 27-30 in Sackville. Observers and guests added to the number.

The voting delegates from Bathurst Pastoral Charge were Rev. Blair Lewis, Vivien Kierstead, Isabel MacLaggan and Cindy Doucet. Jennifer Oliver Lavigne and Alan Doucet attended as observers.

The five topics dealt with in theme presentations and table discussion groups were radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking service & mission, and extravagant generosity.

"In a variety of places throughout the Conference and in many ways, we already are immersed in these five practices," stated Rev. Bob Johnson, as president.

"Our coming together affords us the opportunity to be nurtured by one another for improved practising."

Held in conjunction with the four-day meeting were two separate programs for more than 100 teenaged youth.

Two candidates were received into the Order of Ministry during the ordination service on the final day. Another candidate was recognized for designated lay ministry all having successfully completed the required training and interviews.

Succeeding Rev. Bob Johnson as president of Maritime Conference is Ruth Gamble, a designated lay minister in Truro Presbytery. Elected president-designate was Rev. Jane Johnson of New Maryland in Woolastook Presbytery.

Maritime Conference embraces New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, the Gaspé Coast and Bermuda.

Message from the Finance Team

At some point in people's lives they experience good news and bad news. The church is no different. The good news is great. The Donald Eddy Memorial Hall renovations have been completely paid. Generous donations and dedicated fundraising allowed First United Church to pay off the loan earlier than expected. Thank you!

Our endowment fund, repair and memorial fund accounts are doing well at this time, but unfortunately our local giving's account is not. Local givings pay for the day-to-day operation of First United. The money we give to local givings not only pays for the power, water, phone, salaries and office supplies, it also pays for funerals, baptisms, pastoral care, Christian education, outreach and other critically important needs.

As we head into summer, our expenses continue. Across Canada 42,000 United Church members have signed up for PAR (pre-authorized payments). At First United we had projected a deficit of \$12,000 as of May 31/10. Our actual deficit is \$18,000. We encourage anyone not on PAR to please join. It is safe, convenient and very easy to join. A call to the office is all that is needed to get you started. If every family gave an additional \$5.00 per week, our deficit could be eliminated by the end of the year.

Thank you on behalf of the Finance Team
Cathy McLaughlin
Chair, Finance Team

Highlights – Bathurst Pastoral Council

by Isabel MacLaggan

- ~ Bathurst Pastoral Council met for the first time since the annual congregational meeting in April with Brenda Parrott presiding.
 - ~ It's been 85 years since the United Church of Canada came into being. Our June 13th church service will include some of the same hymns and liturgy used at the inaugural service in Toronto on June 10, 1925, Rev. Blair Lewis reported.
 - ~ The annual high school graduation service will be held on Sunday, June 20th with Erica Smith, a 2010 UNB graduate, as guest speaker.
 - ~ The minister gave highlights of his one-week study leave in early May, of Miramichi Presbytery's program presentation at Maritime Conference and of his visits to veterans and other seniors with his little dog, Lily.
 - ~ After the rise of Conference on May 30th, Rev. Lewis will become chair of pastoral relations for Miramichi Presbytery.
 - ~ He expressed his gratitude again for the help he receives from Pastoral Council, the Council Executive, the various teams and others.
 - ~ As Finance Team Chair, Cathy McLaughlin reported that total revenues at the end of April were \$2500 below budget and Mission and Service givings were down.
 - ~ She repeated the warning that the church cannot continue to operate in the red.
 - ~ Brenda Parrott reported that a "Celebrate Stewardship" program will be held for the five weeks of October. Members of the organizing committee are Rev. Austin Jagoe as chair, Jane Murphy, Debbie McLean, Jennifer Oliver-Lavigne, Bev Murphy, Dave and Cheryl Brewster, Isabel MacLaggan and Brenda Parrott. Rev. Lewis will have a supporting role.
- This special committee was formed after participants at the April 24th seminar were told that local givings had decreased every year for the past five years. As a result First United is budgeting for a \$13,000 deficit for 2010.
- ~ The October program will zero in with gratitude on the important presence and role of First United Church and the many types of services and support it offers.
 - ~ Written reports by the Education and Program Team, Worship Team, UCW, Pastoral Care Team showed how active volunteers are in these programs as are those on the other teams as they carry out important work.
 - ~ Jack MacKay was named to the West Bathurst Protestant Vault Committee succeeding Blair Chamberlain.
 - ~ Reporting on the spring meeting of Miramichi Presbytery, Isabel MacLaggan said the program centered around the national anniversary theme, "The United Church at 85: Rooted in the Past – Visioning for the Future".
 - ~ The next meeting of Bathurst Pastoral Council was set for Tuesday, October 5, 2010.

Anniversary Quiz

by Isabel MacLaggan

1. How old did the United Church of Canada become on June 10, 1925?
2. In what Canadian city did the service of church union take place?
3. Are the offices of the Church's top court (General Council) located in this same city?
4. What three denominations joined together to form the United Church of Canada?
5. Was it a unanimous decision for all concerned?
6. Have other denominations joined since 1925?
7. Who was the first moderator of the United Church of Canada?
8. Who is the moderator now, having been elected at the General Council Meeting last summer?
9. What were the names of the two Bathurst Churches that joined the United Church of Canada at its inception?
10. Did these two churches become one church congregation at that time?
11. Was it a smooth transition?
12. What event precipitated and hastened the amalgamation of the two United Church congregations in Bathurst?
13. Were both churches and both clergy residences kept?
14. What happened later?

Answers on the back page

Elm Tree Camp Reunion...how it became a reality

There have been so many people have asked me why I wanted to organize a reunion for Elm Tree Camp- so I thought I would share it with everyone...

One sleepless night in November I got it into my head that I needed to organize a reunion for Elm Tree Camp- so for two hours I laid in bed planning out what a reunion would look like. I eventually fell asleep but when I woke up I was still convinced that this was something I needed to do, so I created a facebook page, registered a domain name and started scanning photos from my camp days...but what was it that compelled me to do this... well in my mind it was pretty clear- Elm Tree Camp left a lasting impression on me- I daresay it influenced me. I spent endless summers at camp, as a camper who was so homesick I had to sleep with my counselor, to a counselor and craft lady who overcame her shyness as a teenager to the Director while in University studying leadership and recreation. Elm Tree Camp was a place that I grew as a person and met some of my best friends- who I still have today. I have to say that I loved campfires and the memorable songs we would sing and the skits we used to act out. Nobody cared if you couldn't sing or act- it was a place where you could be yourself. I can't even begin to pick out my favourite memory- I know one of them was when I was Director and I had to sleep all alone in the Directors Cabin. The night before the campers arrived, the counselors decided that it would be funny to play a prank on me. So they rigged up speakers in my cabin and in the middle of the night they cranked up the volume and it scared the living daylights out of me... but it was a great way to start the week, because it broke the ice and we had a ton of fun as a team!!

Continued on the next page

The reunion will be an opportunity for everyone to share their memories and stories. I recently read a quote that said that you can't go to camp again- No you can't but sharing your memories is the next best thing!! I hope to see everyone at the reunion from July 23-25.

The deadline for registration is July 19th. Registration forms can be picked up and dropped off at the Church office, by contacting me at (506)548-3723 or visiting our website www.elmtreecampreunion.com. The website also has a great assortment of photos and stories- it is well worth visiting!

Thank you
Jane

Jane Murphy getting
"pranked" at the 1994
Elm Tree Camp Variety
Show



Answers:

1. 85 years old.
2. Toronto
3. Yes
4.
 - a. The Presbyterian church in Canada
 - b. The Methodist Church
 - c. The Congregational Churches of Canada
5. No, only two thirds of the Presbyterians voted to unite.
6. Yes, in 1968 the Canada Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren voted to unite.
7. Rev. George Pidgeon, originally of New Richmond on the Gaspé Coast of Quebec.
8. Mardi Tindall whose origin is Ontario.
9. St. Luke's Presbyterian and Trinity Methodist.
10. No. It was in 1941, 16 years after that the two became one even though initial steps were taken in 1927.
11. Yes. The two congregations had met together for joint services on several occasions. Thus they embarked on a commendable course of dwelling together in unity as First United Church.
12. The onset of the Second World War resulted in a decrease in active membership with so many men and women enlisting for active service including the minister at St. Luke's, Rev. Herman Campbell.
13. The St. Luke's manse on St Patrick Street was sold a few years after amalgamation. St. Luke's Church was used for regular services and Trinity Church remained as a Chapel for weddings, funerals, Sunday School and mid-week groups. The Trinity parsonage on Murray Avenue was kept with the minister, Rev, Harold Bishop continuing to reside there.
14. Eventually the chapel was demolished and Donald Eddy Memorial Hall was officially opened in 1947. Later. The parsonage was taken down as was the First United Church building. The new edifice, attached to the hall, was officially opened on November 15, 1998.



Learn more
about
Stewardship at
First United this
fall...

