

First United Church Newsletter

Fall 2010

Bathurst Pastoral Charge

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Notes from my Study

The month of September has arrived, we think back over our summer days, the warm summer sun and being with friends and family. The days of summer quickly become the cooler fall like days that herald the beginning of meetings and other church related activities and we think about what it is like to be lost in time.

It is different to be lost in time — to be completely unaware of its passing, even though it flows around us. This usually happens when we are absorbed in doing something we love, enraptured by a vision of beauty, or simply allowing ourselves to be in the present without obsessing about what has been or is to be. The great irony is that it is in these moments that time loses its power over us. When we try to control it, it just controls us even more. But when we let ourselves be lost within it, it has lost its hold on us. This fall as we are engaged in our weekly routines may we develop a sense of the truly important dimensions of life. May the moments of time that make up our days and weeks be keys to unlock the powerful dimension of all that can be?

May the Spirit of God empower us as we Celebrate the Stewardship of our lives this fall and as we work together within our church family.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Blair Lewis

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is a complete lifestyle, a life of total accountability and responsibility acknowledging God as Creator and Owner of all.

Stewards as disciples of Jesus Christ see themselves as caretakers of all God's gifts. Gratitude for these gifts is expressed in prayer, worship, offering, and action by eagerly sharing these gifts out of love of God and one another.

Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all His blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent, and treasure allotted to us.

Stewardship is caring. Stewardship is responsible management of our God-given resources of time, talent, and treasure. It enhances our relationship with God and one another.

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

1 Peter 4:10



What does Stewardship look like at First United?

First United Church provides a variety of opportunities for members and adherents to celebrate stewardship in the Church. The 4 key areas of the work of the church include:

Worship

Pastoral Care

Christian Development

Mission and Service Outreach

The work of the church is dependant upon the financial giving of the congregation and of their time and talents- without these contributions many of the valuable programs and services would not be able to operate.

Worship

This area of ministry includes:

- Ministry leadership in worship/preaching
- Instruments, choir, music, and staff
- Funerals, weddings, baptism, and records
- Banners and decorations
- Scripture readers
- Supplies: bulletins, offering envelopes, etc
- Worship resources
- Hymn books
- Special services
- Ushers, greeters, and counters
- Appropriate technologies
- Space for worship and preparations

Pastoral Care

This area of ministry includes:

- Staff time, travel expenses, and space
- Visits to hospitals and seniors' residences
- Premarital and marital counselling
- Bereavement counselling and new member visits
- Milestone ministries to mark significant life occasions
- Newsletter distribution to all families
- Social time before or after worship

Christian Development

This area of ministry includes:

- Church School curriculum and children and youth programs
- Small group ministries, bible study, speakers' series, and discussion groups
- Adult membership classes and baptism orientation classes
- Teen confirmation classes
- Staff time, space, and supplies

Mission and Service and Outreach

This area of ministry includes:

- Mission and Service Fund support
- Support for presbytery/district and Conference work
- Local initiatives for the Bathurst Volunteer Centre
- Special projects
- Staff time, supplies, and space



Come Visit the Stable

Bathurst Pastoral Council

The role of the council and how it relates to stewardship...Council members are comprised of the chairs of each of our Teams. We have the chair of the Worship team, the finance team, Ministry and Personnel, pastoral care, communication etc. , plus representatives from Presbytery and UCW. We each bring our own time and talent together to coordinate the role of the church as a whole. We report on our own Teams and we give input to each other, truly working together to enhance our relationship with God and one another.

The Teams of Bathurst Pastoral Council include:

Financial Management Team
Pastoral Care Team
Education & Program Development Team
Property Management Team
Hospitality & Friendship Team
Communications Sub-Team
Board of Trustees

Cemetery Teams
Worship Team
Ministry & Personal Team
Policy & Planning Team
Community Outreach Sub-Team
Ways and Means Sub-Team
Nominations Team



Back Row: Cathy McLaughlin – Finance, Brenda Parrott – Chair, Jack MacKay – Vice Chair, Emma MacKay – UCW
Front Row: Heather Smith – Worship, Don Nelson – Property, George Robertson – Ministry & Personnel, Rev. Blair Lewis
(photo to the left)

Back Row: Bev Murphy – Presbytery Rep., Margaret Demmings – UCW, Vivien Kierstead – Presbytery Rep.

Font Row: Pat Brown – Pastoral Care, Isabel MacLaggan – Presbytery Rep.,

Missing: Shirley Allain – Hospitality and Friendship, Debbie McLean – Education & Program Development



Celebrate Stewardship Month- how will it work?

On October 3 we will begin our stewardship program- entitled Celebrate Stewardship.

Over a period of 4 weeks this program will provide members of First United Church with a greater understanding of what stewardship is and the importance of giving to the life of the church leading up to Celebration Sunday and the Celebration Luncheon on the fifth Sunday with our guest speaker Rev. Bill McLeod.

All members of First United Church will receive 3 mail-outs with important information pertaining to stewardship. We ask that you review this information and in some instances we will also be asking you to provide input- this is important to the success of the program.

The stewardship mail-outs will be hard to miss as we have personalized envelopes and letterhead in a bright orange - the celebrate stewardship colour. You will also see the "Celebrate Stewardship" logo quite a bit over the month!

We invite you to get engaged become involved and ask questions of the celebrate stewardship team. The team comprised of Brenda Parrott, Rev. Austin Jagoe, Dave Brewster, Cheryl Brewster, Isabel MacLaggan, Bev Murphy, Jane Murphy, Jennifer Oliver and Debbie McLean will be easy to pick out in church during the month of October as everyone will be wearing name tags.

Ways and Means Events 2010

October 2	Concert – Local Talent
October 12	Breakfast
November 18	Turkey Supper

Education and Program Committee

The first fall meeting of the Education and Program Committee was held on September 8. The direction of the E and P for the fall and winter was discussed with a very important meeting being called for September 23 at 7pm in the Eddy Room. At this time the projects for the upcoming two seasons will be chosen. All members of the committee are asked to attend this very important meeting. Church School registration will be on September 19 with regular classes beginning that day as well. The Church - School is looking for new teachers and if you are interested please contact the church office. Teachers have the option of only helping out once a month! Also we are looking for helpers to open the Church School rooms at 9:30 each Sunday morning. If you have one Sunday a month to be a "Hall Monitor" please contact the church office.



Respectfully submitted by Debbie McLean