



He Is Risen!

Halleluiah!

I am writing this letter on Tuesday afternoon following our Bible study group. Today we were looking at the significant role that faith plays in our lives as we deal with life's challenges and uncertainties.

On this winter afternoon we are mindful of the significant amount of snow that is an ever present reality in our daily lives. Soon spring will come and our world will change and the impact of the snow will be in our collective memories and we will be thinking about spring flowers and lobster fishing!

In life God calls us from safe and quiet harbors out onto unfamiliar seas. Many fishermen experience bright sunny days and they also know days that are full of rain and fog. They are called to go out to harvest the sea to feed people.

They go from the known to the unknown; Lent is indeed a time of transition in our lives it is a time when we explore our faith and when we search to understand the supreme gift of love that God has given to us in the sacrifice of his son so that we might be free.

Lent is a time of preparation and it is a time of searching as we travel the road to Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

God created the universe and with it the possibility of all that can be. God tends the universe mending the broken and reconciling the estranged.

God enlivens the universe, guiding all things toward harmony.

In our world there is so much discord where people fail to see the good in one another. We live in a world where we are separated by our differences. We live in a world where it is difficult to live in solidarity with men and women who are our brothers and sisters living in different lands where the values can be so different.

The gift of Easter is a gift of sacrificial love, the love that Jesus revealed in his life, teaching, death and resurrection.

Our living faith enables us to reach beyond pain to the joy of love and hope revealed by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May this Easter be special to each of you. May this be a year when you discover in a very personal way the essence of your faith.

Please join us for special Good Friday and Easter Sunday services.

May the blessings of Easter be with you and your loved ones,

Rev. Blair Lewis



St. Patrick's Celebration

"If You're Irish, Come into the Parlour" was one of the earlier selections played at the Pastoral Care event held at First United on March 10.

All of the 90 people present were not Irish nor did they gather in the parlour. But, seriously, everyone seemed to enjoy the 80 – minute program of music, singing and laughter as well as the light refreshments that followed in the adjacent fellowship room. Green was the dominant colour without a doubt.

Entertaining with music from First United were Linda Knowles-MacPherson, piano; Don Eddy, clarinet/mandolin; Archie Fowlie, guitar and Isabel Clouston who sang three of the 20 popular songs on the program. Helen (Mick) Knowles added humour with her jokes and limericks.

Special guests from the "Downshore Area" were Duncan Eddy who gave a few memorized recitations and Joanne Dempsey who sang two well-known Irish favourites.

Actually there was a good representation of people not associated with First United. This added to the camaraderie of the morning.

The special event was organized by the pastoral Care and Membership Team. Members acting as hostesses were Patricia Brown, chairperson; Lois Good, Dorothy McCallum, Mae Branch and Isabel MacLaggan who was mistress of ceremonies for the program. Another team member, Gwen Sturgeon, was unable to attend but Bev Murphy assisted as a member of the Community Outreach Sub-team at First United.

Rev. Blair Lewis, an ex-officio member on the Pastoral Care and Membership Team, asked the blessing prior to lunchtime. With free will offerings, people contributed an amount of \$200 towards our Community Outreach projects.

Also offered for free will donations were copies of a recent CD by Linda Knowles-MacPherson. Entitled "Notes from the Bay", the CD features a variety of Linda's piano music. Funds raised from this project will go towards the Ministry of Music within First United Church.

To request a CD, people can contact the church office at 546-3532 or Linda at snowclam@rogers.com at their convenience.

Isabel MacLaggan



Church Services

Good Friday - April 3rd 10AM
Easter Sunday - April 6th 10AM



Ways and Means Events

March 26 - Ham and Scallop Supper
April 26 - Sunrise Breakfast



Celebrate Spring!

- ~ Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 7pm
- ~ An evening of favorite gospel music, hymn sing selections and special music by the Senior Choir, Emma Vickers, Linda Knowles- MacPherson and several others.
- ~ Tickets \$10. Available at the church office and from choir members.

Please come and join us for a relaxing evening of gospel music. A reception will follow.

Calling all Graduates: If you are a potential graduate of the class of 2015 for either BHS or ESN please advise the church office. The First United Church service honoring our graduates will be held on June 14, 2015.



Men's Choir- now recruiting!

If you enjoy singing, but are concerned about the amount of time you can commit to a choir, why not consider joining the Men's Choir? Usually the last Sunday of each month, Sept. through May (9times/yr.), the men's choir gather at 9:30am for a brief practice before the worship service. Hope to see lots of men in the choir loft Sun., March 22! For more information, please call the church office or Martha at 548-3282.

*I don't sing because I'm happy;
I'm happy because I sing.
~William James*



"Notes From The Bay"

A CD featuring a variety of piano music by Linda Knowles MacPherson, is now available. You may obtain a copy by making a donation in the amount of your choice to First United Church. To request a CD, please contact Isabel at the church office, or email Linda at snowclam@rogers.com Funds raised from this project will go towards the Ministry of Music within First United.

Newsletters: We are hoping to compile a list of those people who would like to receive their Newsletters directly to their email address. Send your request to receive yours by email to fristadmin@nb.aibn.com. Special envelopes for Easter contributions can be found in the Narthex. Currently, approximately 400 members of our church family receive three letters yearly at the cost of around \$1.00/letter.

Did You Know: A couple of really good ways to keep updated on First United Church events are to check out our website www.firstunited-bathurst.ca or to follow us on Facebook. Here you will find upcoming events as well as cancellations if the need arises.

For the Children and the Young at Heart

How to Color Easter Eggs.

You don't have to spend a small fortune to buy supplies to color your hard boiled eggs, you can use items you probably already have in your kitchen.

Time Required: 30 minutes (*Does not include drying time*)

Materials Needed:

- Hard Boiled or Blown out eggs
- Food Coloring
- Vinegar
- Water

Instructions:

In a coffee cup, mix together a 1/2 cup of water at room temperature, 1 tablespoon of vinegar, and several drops of food coloring. I used about 20 drops of each color, but you can adjust this however you like. Prepare several different colors in this manner.

Carefully place one egg in each cup of food coloring. Watch the eggs carefully and remove them when they reach the desired shade. Use a spoon to remove the egg and place it in an egg holder or on a paper towel to dry.

Jelly Bean Poem

*Red is for the blood He gave.
Green is for the grass He made.
Yellow is for the sun so bright.
Orange is for the edge of night.
Black is for the sins we made
Purple is for His hour of sorrow.
Pink is for our new tomorrow.*

*An egg full of jelly beans,
Colorful and Sweet*

*Is a prayer, a promise,
A loved one's treat!!*

Charlene Dickensen, 1997

From Our Kitchens

QUICK-AND-EASY HOT CROSS BUNS

1 c. whole wheat flour (white flour can be used)

2 tsp. baking powder

1/2 tsp. salt

2 tbsp. shortening such as butter

1 tbsp. honey

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

1/4 c. raisins

1/3 c. milk

FROSTING:

1/2 c. confectioners' sugar

2 tsp. milk

1/4 tsp. vanilla

1. Mix the flour, baking powder and salt together in a bowl. Cut in the shortening with a fork until it looks like coarse crumbs. Add the honey, cinnamon and raisins and toss lightly. Make a well in the middle and pour in the milk all at once. Stir it around quickly with a fork and form a ball.

2. Divide the ball into 6 small ones. Grease a baking sheet and place the 6 balls on it, about 2 inches apart. With a knife cut a deep cross through the top of each ball. Bake them at 400 degrees for 15-20 minutes.

3. When the rolls are slightly cool, dribble the frosting mixture of confectioners' sugar, milk and vanilla over each.

Submissions wanted: Our next newsletter will be going to the congregation at Thanksgiving. If you know of something that might be of interest to the members of our church family, let us know and we will do our best to include it.

*No matter how long the winter,
spring is sure to follow.*

~Proverb