

The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge
First United Church, Bathurst - South Tetagouche United Church
www.firstunited-bathurst.ca



Happy Easter
2011

Christ is Risen!

Let Us Rejoice!

Easter greetings to everyone on the Bathurst Pastoral Charge:

One Good Friday, little Jane was taking part in a Sunday school presentation of the scene preceding the crucifixion. Jane was one of the crowd who had to cry out, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

She thought how unfair this was. Jesus was the friend of little children, and she just wasn't going to be a party to crucifying him. She made an important decision that day.

The Sunday afterwards, she was telling her grandmother all about it, and her grandmother said, "Well if you didn't cry crucify him!" With the others, what did you say?

I said, "For he's a Jolly good fellow!"

Meister Eckhart once said: "you may call God love you may call God goodness, but the best name for God is compassion."

Because Jane saw Jesus as a friend of little children she didn't believe that he deserved to be crucified.

She thought that because he showed love, care, and compassion for others particularly children he deserves to be called a Jolly good fellow.

In our journey towards Easter we have gone through a period of preparation during the days of Lent, we experienced the excitement of Palm Sunday, the ominous uncertainty of Holy Thursday, the tragic rejection of Good Friday and the miraculous transformation of Easter Sunday. Easter is indeed a very special time in our church year; a time when our lives can be open to the transformative power of God's love. It is a time when God reaches out to you and me as we are; it is a time when God's love has the power to transform us in our daily living.

Stand at the crossroads and look,

ask for the ancient paths,

ask where the good way is,

and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. (*Jeremiah 6:16*)

Please join us for special Good Friday and Easter Sunday worship services:

Good Friday at 7 PM

Easter Sunday at 10 AM.

May this be a special Easter for you and your loved ones, may this be a time of transformation and the beginning of a new chapter in your life. (*Rev.) Blair Lewis*

Highlights – Bathurst Pastoral Council
April 12, 2011
by Isabel MacLaggan

- ~ Bathurst Pastoral Council met for the first time since the annual congregational meeting in February. Presiding was Brenda Parrott, Council chair. Brenda welcomed three newcomers to Council – Sandra Pentland as vice-chair, Dave Brewster as Ministry and Personnel chair and Ian Hatheway, chair of the Financial Management Team.
- ~ Others on the 2011 Council include Jack MacKay, secretary; the chairperson of each of the eight working teams or committees, Bev Murphy, Vivien Kierstead and Isabel MacLaggan as Miramichi Presbytery representatives, Marg Demmings and Emma MacKay representing the United Church Women. Rev. Blair Lewis attends all meetings. All volunteers are elected for a three-year term.
- ~ The UCW report stated 65 people attended the World Day of Prayer, Valentine Luncheon receipts amounted to \$2400, twelve members attended the Miramichi Presbyterial annual meeting in Nash Creek, and a donation of \$300 was made to First United where all Presbyterial executive meetings are held.
- ~ The Memorial Hymn Sing, organized by the UCW every three years, is scheduled for Sunday, May 29. The Maritime Conference UCW biennial meeting will be held at First United in April, 2012.
- ~ The Worship Team, with Heather Smith as chair until June, welcomed Betty Lou Matchett and Elna Scott as new team members at its first of two meetings in March. The team gave three suggestions for improvements to baptismal services and reported on five weddings and two baptisms to be held this year.
- ~ Services, on a rotation basis with other churches, are being held at the Veterans Unit and the Foyer.
- ~ A group photo will be taken at the high school graduation service on June 19 to be given to all graduates who attend.

~ In his report, Rev. Lewis said two adults will be confirmed on Easter Sunday.

Council approved the membership transfer of Cheryl Brewster from Grace Presbyterian Church in Saint John as recommended by the Worship Team. He said he has conducted eight funerals this year. Rev. Dr. Beverly Daley has agreed to be the anniversary speaker in November.

~ First United is taking turn about with Central United with respect to a monthly service at the seniors' home on Union Street. As a member of Bathurst Area Ministerial Association, Rev. Lewis is acting on an ecumenical committee with Father Gregory Culligan.

~ The minister also mentioned the beautiful design that Marie Oliver painted on a quilt depicting the history of Bathurst Pastoral Charge. The quilt will be completed by the Take A Break (TAB) group before being sent to Maritime Conference as requested.

~ The Pastoral Care Team, chaired by Pat Brown, reported 41 greeting and sympathy cards were sent during the three month period. Church service CD's are delivered weekly to 15 shut-ins, and the minister regularly visits 10-12 hospital patients each week. Newcomers to the congregation are Sarah and Jason Chiasson and their two young sons.

~ At a Do Drop In gathering in March the team hosted Karen and Bill Butt who are home temporarily from the mission field. A video and question period combined for an interesting presentation. Their work is supported through the Mission and Service Fund of the national church.

~ The Community Outreach Sub-team under Pastoral Care prepared a soup and sandwich luncheon for the Bathurst Volunteer Center both in January and February and another is planned for April. Through the Christmas Benevolence program, a cheque for \$1355 was delivered to the Center and another \$250 was given to a family within the congregation.

~ Other outreach activities include support to four city schools, delivery of household items to the Homeless Shelter along with a cheque for \$300, the proceeds from the Ann Landry School of Dance recital. The Shelter has opened a drop off center on King Avenue for receiving good used household items such as clothes, blankets, furniture and towels.

~ The Education and Program Development Team mentioned 12-14 Bible Study participants each week, the Quilt Guild display April 29-30 at the DEM Hall, a new Church School curriculum on order and next year's confirmation potential of 12-13 year olds presently attending Church School. Team Chair is Debbie McLean.

~ Nominations Team Chair Wayne Clowater reported that Wayne Lord will be filling the vacancy on the Ministry and Personnel Team. The new M&P Chair is Dave Brewster.

~ Reporting for the Financial Management Team was Church Treasure Dave Morison. He said that to the end of March local givings, total revenue, as well as Ways and Means income – with the additional dinner this year were above budget. Mission and Service contributions were \$400 less than expected. Total expenses were right on budget. Attending his first council meeting was Team Chair Ian Hatheway.

~ Don Nelson, Chair of Property management, agreed with the request received from the First United Group Committee for Scouting. Requested was the use of Room 8 downstairs in the hall by leaders in the program and for Group Committee meetings. Also, the Committee will be given permission to make changes in the boiler room for storage purposes.

~ The Communications Sub-team reported the First United website is well used. An addition has been made to the site explaining how memorial and other donations can be made.

~ The Sunday morning coffee time continues to be well attended. Chair of the Hospitality and Friendship Team is Shirley Allain.

~ The decommissioning service, marking the closure of South Tetagouche United Church, will be held on Sunday, June 5. Communion and transfer of memberships will be included. More than 40 dedicated items as well as 64 Voices United hymn books will be transferred to First United Church, some of which have been received already.

~ The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 24.

Schedule of Events Spring 2011

April 17 - Sunrise Breakfast 8:30-12:00

April 22 - Good Friday Service 7:00pm

April 24 - Easter Service 10am – Confirmation & Communion

April 29 & 30 – Quilt Show-DEMH - Northstar Quilt Guild

May 29 – UCW Memorial Hymn Sing

June 5 – Decommissioning of South Tetagouche Church & Communion

June 9 – Beef BBQ

June 19 – Graduation Service

Be sure to visit our website

www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

to see the events of the Summer.