



The first Canadian Thanksgiving is often traced back to 1578 and the explorer Martin Frobisher. Frobisher, who had been trying to find a northern passage to the Pacific Ocean, held his Thanksgiving celebration not for harvest but in thanks for surviving the long journey from England through the perils of storms and icebergs.

On his third and final voyage to the far north, Frobisher held a formal ceremony in Frobisher Bay on Baffin Island (present-day Nunavut) to give thanks to God and in a service conducted by Robert Wollfall they celebrated Communion.

It's interesting to note how giving thanks is tied directly to our expectations in life. Giving thanks can be a very challenging experience when life doesn't measure up to our expectations.

For all of us life is a mixture of rewarding days and challenging days and as we accept the reality of the challenges we become freer to offer thanks to God for the rewards that we experience in life.

The book of Deuteronomy calls us to remember the story of how God heard the people cry for freedom from oppression. God called them into a desert to a life that called for total dependency on God and one another. After they formed themselves into a people with the law and a commitment to loving God, they were ready to enter the Promised Land.

Thanksgiving Day is a day of worship, a day of rest, a day for community and a day to be blessed.

Thanksgiving Day is a day for offering and a day for welcoming, it is the day for remembering and a day for reflecting.

Thanksgiving day is a day that God has made let us rejoice and be glad.

In a spirit of gratitude and joy let us join in our church family on Sunday, October 9th to celebrate and offer thanks to God for the gifts that we have received in life.

Have a happy Thanksgiving,

Rev. Blair Lewis

Miramichi Presbytery
Fall Meeting – September 10, 2016

Miramichi Presbytery, the church court between the local pastoral charge and Maritime Conference, met at First United Church for its first meeting since May.

Miramichi Presbytery comprises 16 pastoral charges from Blackville and Black River northward to Tide Head and Upsalquitch and along the Chaleur Bay coast of Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec.

Special guest was Rev. Catherine Stuart, president of Maritime Conference. She was introduced by Presbytery Chair Marion Green of Tabusintac Pastoral Charge. She delivered a challenging message and presided over the serving of Communion.

Reports were given by the various committees of Presbytery beginning with Pastoral Relations by Rev. Blair Lewis. He reported that Dave Allan is serving as a student minister in Loggieville/Black River Pastoral Charge for an eight-month period. Dave has a Master of Divinity degree from Emmanuel College in Toronto.

Rev. Lewis announced that he was withdrawing as chairman of this committee to take on other duties in Presbytery and Conference. He has chaired this committee for six years after being co-chairman of the same committee in Halifax Presbytery for 17 years.

The new head of Pastoral Relations is Rev. Sue White of New Bandon Pastoral Charge. Rev. Lewis was named chairperson of the Education and Students Committee. Kent Gibbons, diaconal minister in Dalhousie/New Mills Pastoral Charge, is commencing duties as co-chairman of Presbytery.

Wayne Mullin of Chatham Pastoral Charge gave an update on the Presbytery-sponsored Syrian refugee family that arrived in Chatham earlier this year. He said language classes are progressing well and the father is in a custodial role.

A fundraising variety concert is scheduled for First United in support of this refugee project. It will be held on Sunday, October 23 at 2p.m.

Wayne said it is likely a second refugee family will arrive during 2017. A generous donation towards this second sponsorship has been received from a longtime member of Miramichi Presbytery.

Christian Life and Growth Chair, Ann McCosh of Chatham Pastoral Charge, introduced Kyle Grant who is taking youth ministry studies through Atlantic School of Theology (AST) in Halifax. Originally of Tide Head, Kyle is a resident of Bathurst and has been working in various locations for Atlantic Superstore including Bathurst.

Also, Jason O'Hearn of Campbellton/Escuminac Pastoral Charge attended the September 10 meeting as a youth delegate. Both Kyle and Jason, a Campbellton High School student, have attended for several years the special youth programs that are held in conjunction with the annual Maritime Conference sessions in Sackville.

As treasurer, Dave Morison of Bathurst Pastoral Charge submitted his report showing Miramichi Presbytery to be in a satisfactory financial position. There are investments as well.

At the request of Presbytery, a soup and sandwich luncheon was served by First United UCW in honour of the visit of the Maritime Conference president.

The next meeting of Miramichi Presbytery is scheduled for January 28 with February 4 as the storm date.

Isabel MacLaggan

*Hem your blessings
with thankfulness
so they don't unravel.
~Author Unknown~*

Highlights – Bathurst Pastoral Charge
September 20, 2016

A quorum was declared by Vice-chair Brenda Parrott, who presided in the absence of Council Chair, Sandra Pentland.

Also attending this first Council meeting since May were Judy Losier, secretary; Dave Morison, Church treasurer; Ian Oliver, Elna Scott, Wayne Lord, Linda Newell, Aldra Carson, Rick Watling, Don Nelson, Pat Brown, Isabel MacLaggan and Rev. Blair Lewis who gave the opening prayer.

The treasurer presented the financial picture to the end of August. Total revenue was \$147,178 compared to the budgeted figure of \$146,583 for the eight-month period.

Dave explained that additional revenue came from a new rental and from the use of Donald Eddy Memorial Hall for the municipal election. Generally speaking, total givings were on budget as were the Mission and Service Fund receipts. Operating expenses were less than what was expected. This is dependent on the different times that bills are due.

As to memorial church bulletins, it appears the average donation is \$25. Bulletin covers accounted for a \$1472 expenditure compared to revenue of \$585. Rev. Lewis suggested a 25 cent saving per fifty covers could be realized by ordering past year bulletins. It was decided the next bulletins will be ordered using this suggestion.

Wayne Lord of Ways and Means Sub-team said two big dinners are coming up – the Beef BBQ on September 29 and the annual turkey harvest dinner on November 24.

Don Nelson, Chair of the Property Management Team, said that with help of Lester Scott, Alan Wilcox stripped the floor of the sanctuary during the summer. He said roof repairs would not be necessary because the annoying pigeons are not causing damage since food is no longer an attraction in the neighborhood.

Council addressed a serious security concern affecting First United and other churches in the area. Stricter precautions will be looked into by Don Nelson to supplement what has been done already.

Elna Scott, president of UCW, spoke about the members supplying lunch on Anniversary Sunday, at the Miramichi Presbytery meeting and for a funeral reception. The UCW has decided that the Memorial Hymn Sing will be held every five years instead of every three years. An amount of \$2,000 has been forwarded to the Church's general fund for 2016.

Rev. Lewis reported that Jennifer Oliver Lavigne is interested in starting a youth group. Her valuable contribution as Sunday School Superintendent was recognized. He said that those interested in Bible Study should notify the church office so the study packets can be prepared on time for the first meeting on Tuesday, September 27.

Aldra Carson said the Hospitality and Friendship Team meets informally. In addition to the weekly after-service food and fellowship time, the Team held a reception following a small funeral. She said a birthday cake, donated by Jessie Horsley, was served marking her 93rd birthday on September 4.

Isabel MacLaggan gave highlights of the September 10 meeting of Miramichi Presbytery and of the last meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The next meeting of Council was set for Tuesday, November 15.

Isabel MacLaggan

*A snowflake
is one of God's most fragile creations,
but look what they can do
when they stick together!
~Author Unknown~*

Refugee Sponsorship

by Helen M Knowles

In 2015, the Miramichi Presbytery Refugee Sponsorship Committee was formed, under the leadership of Georgina Baisley & Wayne Mullin. Extensive groundwork was accomplished in a few months & culminated in the arrival of our refugee family at the Moncton Airport on February 12th. A Syrian family of four: mother & father with 2 young sons, was warmly greeted on one of the coldest nights of the year. Since then, with the support of a multitude of volunteers & an interpreter, the family has become well settled in their new home, an apartment in Miramichi. The parents undertook language training, while the boys were enrolled in day care & we soon learned that the mother is pregnant & that her due date is October 17th!

As a liaison, between the organizing committee & the congregations of First United Church & Central United Church, I am delighted by the degree of local support, exhibited through monetary donations & contributions of household furnishings, all of which helped enable the committee to fulfill its sponsorship responsibilities. All congregations have been encouraged to undertake fundraisers to continue our support, so I am happy to announce that a Variety Concert will be held on Sunday, October 23rd, 2 PM at First United Church, Bathurst. Local performers are being recruited & tickets: Adults, \$10 & Children (12 & under) \$5 will be available at the church office, 309 St Patrick St. *For more information, contact me at 546-9563 or hknowles@rogers.com.*



Beef BBQ

Thursday, September 29, 2016

Donald Eddy Memorial Hall

309 St. Patrick Street

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Takeouts available 4:00 - 5:30 pm

\$15. Adults \$6. Children (under 12)

All tickets sold in advance.

*Tickets available at the office 546-3532
or from Ways and Means team members.*

West Bathurst And St. Luke's "Old Scottish" Cemetery Update –

The cemetery committee met on April 27, 2016. It was moved by Heidi Jansson and seconded by Robert Willis that "Shawn's Lawn and Property Management's" estimate of \$2400. be accepted for mowing the two cemeteries from the end of May to the end of September. A work morning was held at the West Bathurst Cemetery on May 14, 2016, and an evening clean up of St. Luke's "Old Scottish" Cemetery took place on May 24, 2016. Other ground's maintenance has taken place during the summer and a number of gravestones have been straightened. The person who carried out the work is a mystery to the committee so if you can help us with the worker's identity, please let us know so we can properly thank the person or persons.

Donations continue to come in for the cemeteries "Endowment Fund" which as of August 31, 2016 has a balance of \$58,230. and has grown by over \$9,000. since the official fund raising campaign ended in 2014. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the "Endowment Fund". This fund will help ensure the proper maintenance of the cemeteries for years to come.

The committee is also interested in repairing the broken and toppled gravestones in the St. Luke's "Old Scottish" Cemetery located at the end of St. Luke's Court, and is planning on starting this project in October. If you have some time to volunteer, please contact Gary Branch (546-9208).

Up-Coming Events at First United

Sept 29 - Beef BBQ

Oct. 9 - Thanksgiving

Oct 23 - Variety Concert in support of Refugee family

Nov. 6 – Remembrance Sunday

Nov. 24 – Turkey Supper



Thanksgiving Service

10am - October. 9, 2016

*Anyone wishing to contribute items
to decorate the church are
encouraged to bring them in by 4pm
Thursday Oct. 6th.*

Bible study has started for the fall season. New members are always welcome. It is held on Tuesdays at 2pm in the Eddy Rm. Bible Study meets weekly and will continue until the last week of November.



Christmas Concert 2016

The choir of First United will be hosting its annual Christmas concert in December. Plan to join us for a peaceful evening of music of the season.. Announcement will follow with the date of the event and the participants.



Do you enjoy singing? Play an instrument?
Looking for people who enjoy music- old favourites as well as new contemporary selections.
Please consider joining us:

- ~ Senior Choir. Practice Wednesday evenings
- ~ Men's Choir. Practice Sunday Morning last Sunday of the month.
- ~ Instrumentalists- youth and adults

Please contact Martha for further details: 548-3282
martha.vickers@rogers.com.

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.

Newsletters: To date, there are 73 households receiving the newsletter online. This is a \$216.00 yearly saving. We thank all who have requested to be part of our online distribution. If you wish to have your letters in the future sent directly to your email send your request to firstadmin@nb.aibn.com. Special envelopes for Thanksgiving contributions can be found in the Narthex.

Church envelopes for the coming year will soon be available. If you haven't had contribution envelopes in the past and wish to have them for 2017, please advise the church office. Another way of making contributions is through PAR.

PAR: Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) is a convenient way to support the ongoing work of your church. Your monthly contributions are taken directly from your bank account or charged to a Major Credit Card. Currently we have 91 households using this method of support. Signing up for PAR takes only a few minutes and can be done for you at the church office. All that is required is a void cheque or your credit card number.



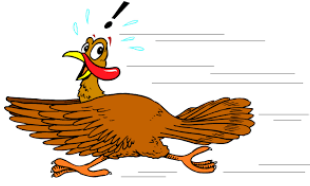
Sunday School teachers needed!!

If you feel you can sign up for one or two Sundays a month, let the church office know. We are looking to have enough teachers to set up a rotation schedule. Curriculum is provided.

Financial Report as of August 31, 2016

Local Givings - Actual	\$107,386.14
Local Givings - Budgeted	<u>\$107,400.00</u>
	<u>(\$13.86)</u>
Total revenue	\$147,178.21
Total expenses	<u>\$168,047.14</u>
Actual Deficit	<u>(\$20,868.93)</u>
Budgeted Deficit	(\$30,363.28)

Canadians will eat this Thanksgiving



Enough turkeys to stretch, beak to tail feather
from Regina to Fredericton



Enough loaves of bread to cover 31 hockey rinks.



The equivalent weight of 65 Air Canada 747's in potatoes.



Enough cranberries to fill to Olympic Swimming Pools.



Enough gravy to fill a train 17 cars long.



Enough pumpkins to cover 16 CFL football fields.

*And thank you
for a house full of people I love.*

Amen.

~Terri Guillemets~