

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT A PATHWAY!



So, how are you moving through these winter days?
I know, it sounds like the opening line of an old joke, where we await the punch line of: *very carefully!*
It certainly has been a real old fashioned New Brunswick winter. And that can leave a body feeling housebound, can't it?
But have you also been experiencing the joy of winter paths?
Maybe it has been a cleared trail at Odell Park for you and your dog to wander; Or a path established by cross country skiers, beckoning you to follow;
Was it the wider swath of a snowshoe trail promising the quiet of the woods?
Maybe it is an indoor path, where your cabin fever can be eased by early morning mall-walking with some neighbours; or the marks on a hill, showing the happy path a child made on their sled.
And for some, the best winter path is the beeline they made to a travel agent to book a getaway to Cuba, or Florida, or some other sunny clime.

Pathways have been on my mind of late. It began when Loraine Ward brought me a picture of a Lenten banner. It was a simple but powerful image of a pathway winding towards 3 crosses. I have watched with anticipation as Sheila Penney and Janet Merrill joined Loraine in this fabric artistry. The image just beckons you. There's just something about a pathway....

The parking lot was a veritable skating rink last week. I pulled in with confidence though, my winter tires performing just as they ought. But as I opened my car door, that confidence waned. I was pondering how best to make my way to the door, given that *I* didn't have studded footwear! Now traditionally, heroes seem to ride in on white horses. But this day my hero appeared in a big ol' yellow truck. It was Freeman Hiscock, spreading a path of sand between me and the doorway of the church. Now that's a path I could count on. We can all count on. The Price family has been making a path for us at New Maryland United Church for more than 15 winters - plowing and clearing mountains of snow and ice; spreading sand and salt; making a path that we might be able to gather together every Sunday. So thank you Freeman and Brian and Philip and Doug - to all at M. W. Price and Sons Ltd. - thank you for helping us to make our way to worship, Sunday by snowy Sunday.

Safe travels to you all as you navigate your path this winter, and
Grace and peace to you all, in the name of the One who laid out his life as a path for us all,
Rev. Kelly

GIVING FROM THE HEART

In December 2010 the rains fell throughout New Brunswick, and several people in different areas were severely affected by flooding. The New Maryland Kirk began raising funds for the victims. In the end a total of \$2465.00 was raised; the church contributed \$500.00, and the rest came from the congregation and groups within the church. Cheques have been sent out as follows: ½ (\$1232.50) to the people of St. Croix Presbytery which includes Bonny River and St. George; ¼ (\$616.25) to St. Paul's United Church, McAdam, which received flood damage to the church and manse; and ¼ (\$616.25) to the people of Keswick in Woolastook Presbytery. On behalf of the Official Board many thanks to the people of NMUC for their assistance.



During the very early days of Christianity, one of the Roman Emperors remarked how quickly the Christian community responded to help those in need, both Christian and non Christian, it didn't seem to matter. He only wished his own priests and people would act in that way. NMUC is continuing a long tradition of charity and helping those in need, without regard to religious affiliation, whether friend or stranger. Although our contribution is not large in a monetary sense, it does show that no matter how small a group is, it can still contribute to the welfare of the whole. The kirk can stand at the side of the road, and say, without any hint of boastfulness, this is a church that is fully alive.

Bill Elderkin: Chairman of the Official Board

THANK YOU!

A great big thank you from a non-bookkeeper to Lloyd Penney for making the UCW treasurer's statement look so professional. He made my year end report so easy to do. Thanks from Sandra, Lloyd!

WE NEED YOUR RESPONSE!



The United Church of Canada is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. The New Maryland United Church is requesting your support in allowing us to use certain personal information about you on the NMUC website. Without this consent, we cannot use your name or any other personal information. The forms and further info regarding this are available from the church office. If you have not already completed the form, please do so and return it to the church office at your earliest convenience. For additional information on the United Church of Canada Privacy Policy, go to <http://www.united-church.ca/local/privacy>

CHURCH ACCESSIBILITY

A sub-committee of the Board of Trustees has been formed to look into the possibility of making the church and sanctuary more accessible from the parking lot, and the basement more accessible to the sanctuary. The committee held its first meeting recently and looked at some possibilities. The thinking is at a very preliminary stage at this point. We will be meeting with an architect in the near future to provide us with some proposals as to how we might be able to accomplish this. We welcome any input from the congregation. If you have any thoughts or concerns, please speak to any member of the committee: Ralph Brannon, Paul Lister, Jim Merrill, Don Ostaff, Sheila Power and Dorothy Webster.



AN INVITATION TO THE LADIES

The UCW will be holding their monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 2nd, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Loraine Ward, 64 Kindle Ct., Covered Bridge Valley. Please note change of date as Ash Wednesday falls on their regular meeting date. New members are always welcome.

REACHING OUT TO HELP OTHERS

On the 3rd Monday of each month, people from our church volunteer at Christ Church Cathedral to offer sandwiches and fellowship to assist in their weekly outreach efforts. On the 4th Saturday of each month, volunteers from our church help from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in preparing and serving lunch for the clients at the Fredericton Community Kitchen. If you would like to assist with either of these outreach programs, please contact Peter Dickinson.



A BREAK FOR THE COOK!



The Friendship Group will meet for lunch at the Wetmore-Street Pub in New Maryland on Tuesday, March 8th at 12 noon. Come join us for fun and fellowship and a meal you don't have to prepare yourself. Please call Ruth Landers (459-8304) or Marjorie Olmstead (459-7328) to let them know you will be attending. Note the change of day from Monday to Tuesday for this month in event members of Monday's Bible Study Group would like to join us.

"THERE'S A SPECIAL PLACE IN HEAVEN FOR QUILTERS."



The Quilting Group which meets on Wednesday afternoons at the church from 1:00-4:00 p.m. invites anyone interested to join us. If you do not quilt, but would like to learn, we will try to coach you. It's very relaxing and we just work at our own pace. For more info please contact Sandra Cook (357-2762).



A DAILY DEVOTION AID

New copies of "Our Daily Bread" (Mar/Apr/May 2011) are now available at both entrances of our church. These copies are provided free of charge. However, a container is available for those wishing to make a donation to the Radio Bible Class.

REJOICE!

- ~ The Worship Committee is working on a banner for the Lenten Season.
- ~ Scott's Nursery will be supplying our Easter flowers again this year. The orders will have to be called into Scott's by March 18. Easter Sunday is on April 24th this year, later than usual. Thus, the number of potted plants, especially mums, will be limited. The lilies and mums can be purchased for \$10.00 and the hydrangea will be \$15.00. Please watch your Sunday bulletins for more information regarding the flower orders.



A LETTER OF THANKS



Dear Reverend Kelly Burke and New Maryland United Church Men's Club:
On behalf of the staff and students of New Maryland Elementary School, thank you for the generous donation of funds that we have received from your church. The funds will be used to provide nutritious snacks, meals and winter clothing to students in need. We learn best when we are comfortable and healthy - having the means to better ensure this for all of the students on a regular basis is very important. Thank you for your interest in New Maryland School - your support is greatly appreciated and very meaningful.
Sincerely, Steve Pierce: Principal

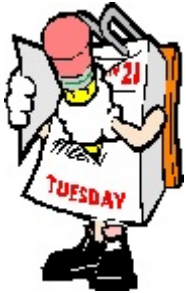
FROM THE NEWBIES WITH THANKS

Beginning the first Sunday we attended NMUC we were extended a warm welcome. We parked outside the front door, and the many people who made a point of greeting us had to 'swim against the flow' to reach us as we went down the up aisleway. Okay, so small churches are usually friendly. Okay, so is Wilmot. But NMUC is unique in our experiences over forty years. The difference is seamless inclusion. For the first few services, the first few choir practices, the first hour at a new event – coffee break between choir practice and church, after church coffee hour, Bible study with the closing dinner, progressive dinner, salmon dinner, mid-winter social, Men's Club, ladies' lunch – (This church travels on its stomach, doesn't it?) someone was at our sides introducing and explaining. Then we were simply part of the whole. In fact, scratch the word 'Newbie' and put 'friends in God's world'.



Bob and Dawn Watson

CALLING ALL MEN!



The Men's Club consists of a small group of men who take a great interest in our church. Our club meets at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. All men of the congregation are invited to join! Our main goals include participating in the general repairs of the building and providing financial and spiritual support as needed. Our club hosted a Mid Winter Social on Friday, February 11 at the Oakland Lodge. The 45 people attending enjoyed a great evening of food, fellowship and entertainment. A vote of thanks is extended to Dorothy Webster and her "Sound Reflection" quartet for a great evening of harmony.



MARK MARCH 4th ON YOUR CALENDAR

This year, the World Day of Prayer service has been written by the women of Chile. The service for the churches in our area will be held on Friday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Family Parish Church on the Hanwell Road. Several women from our congregation will be taking part in the service.

INNER PEACE



If you can start the day without caffeine; If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains, If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles; If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it; If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time; If you can take criticism and blame without resentment; If you can conquer tension without medical help; If you can sleep without the aid of medications; then you are probably the family dog! (Submitted by Moyra Hansen)

2010 WAS ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR M & S AT NMUC !!



As in previous years, NMUC was blessed with generous contributions from the members of the congregation again in 2010 which meant that we met our goals for our gifts to the Mission and Service Fund. The active participation of the Sunday School class in providing coffee hours with freshly baked cookies has enhanced awareness, increased donations, and provided fellowship opportunities for all. It is definitely a "Win-win-win" situation and I thank the teachers for their leadership in this area. The enthusiasm of the students is greatly appreciated as well.

In addition, contributions come from envelope designations, as well as annual assistance from our faithful UCW. We are proud of the record of maintaining our goals of giving to the Mission and Service Fund regardless of the challenges we have. My personal thanks to all who contribute so generously to this fund that takes care of others both at home and around the world on behalf of the United Church. (Lydia LaPointe, M & S Enthusiast)

SOME HINTS FOR THE COOKS

- ~ To keep scalding milk from scorching, rinse the pan with hot water before using.
- ~ Rice won't boil over if a small lump of butter is added to the pot.
- ~ Cut a raw potato in half and rub it on your barbecue grill to prevent food from sticking.
- ~ You'll end up with no "curly" bacon if you dip it into cold water before frying.
- ~ Beating a little vinegar into boiled frosting will keep the frosting from breaking when the cake is cut.
- ~ Add 1 tsp. cold water for each egg white before beating and the volume will be doubled.
- ~ Always put bacon in a cold pan before cooking. (Thanks to Maudie Boyle)





FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

Jennifer and the choir continue to practice each Sunday morning at 9:30am and have included one Sunday evening a month from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm in preparation for Easter. A warm invitation is extended to any who wish to join the choir.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

~ to Joanne Webster and Stuart MacGillivray on their engagement! Joanne is the daughter of Dorothy and the late Bill Webster and Stuart is the son of Ernie and the late Nancy MacGillivray The wedding will take place in 2012 after Stuart receives his PhD in Computer Science.

~ to Deanna Ball and Matthew Reicker on their engagement! Deanna is the daughter of Lorna and Keith Ball and Matthew is the son of Mona and Terry Reicker of Belisle Bay, NB. Matthew has just completed his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

FOR YOUR HASTI-NOTE CORRESPONDENCE

New Maryland United Church note cards designed by Pam Gonnason are available all year round. They are packaged in units of 6 cards with envelopes and are sold for \$10 each , with \$4 of every unit sold going to Outreach projects. You can choose from a winter design, summer design...or get a package of 3 of each! They are a perfect size for sending that quick little note to someone , make nice little gifts *and* are a great way to draw attention to our little country church! The note cards are in baskets at both church entrances and can be purchased through Lorna or Pam. For more information, please contact Pam @ 452-7483 or favthing @nbnet.nb.ca



CAN YOU HELP?



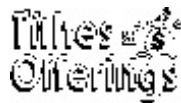
The nursery has been active these past few months and we are happy to have Julie Bongard and Nicole Tracy helping out with the little ones. We are always looking for extra hands. If you can volunteer on a Sunday every now and then it would be most appreciated. There are speakers in the nursery that enable Rev. Kelly's great sermons to be heard. Please contact Lorna Ball, Sheila Power or Pam Gonnason if you would like to help out.

NEWS FROM THE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY CHAPTER

Thank you to all who supported our local Muscular Dystrophy chapter fundraising events during 2010. Funds raised are used for research on the national level as well as education forums and equipment at the local chapter level. A book sale will be held at Kings Place on March 24 and 25. If you have any books you would like to donate, please contact Allen or Marilyn Parlee at 459-8007 for information.



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT P.A.R.?



In order to meet our church's financial obligations, your weekly commitment is required. Did you know that you can ensure your weekly offering will be received by the church even if you are absent from the service? To learn more about P. A. R. contact Allan Parlee at 459-8007 or Keith Ball at 455-1948.

AN ARCHIVAL MOMENT



1915: Through the kindness of Mrs. Gerrard, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs Greer and others, arrangements were made to have screens put on the windows and doors of the church without drawing upon the revenue of the congregation.



2011 is our 124th year as a faith community in New Maryland. Let's get some plans ready now in order to really celebrate our 125!! Anyone interested in helping get some ideas together for the big year in 2012, please contact Lydia LaPointe with your suggestions. With our new website and time to organize some special events, we can really make our 125th year a special one of celebration for everyone associated with NMUC. Looking forward to a wonderful year ahead followed by the joy of celebrating our wonderful past and looking forward to our exciting future!

A FEW SMILES



Any names in the following stories have been changed to protect the innocent ... but each of these episodes actually took place at New Maryland United over the years!

~ The Daily Vacation Bible School had completed the week of studies and fun and the children were presenting a program for their parents to share what they had learned. One little lad was quoting a Bible verse he had memorized from the first book of Thessalonians: **"In everything give thanks for this is the will of God. - Chapter 5, Verse 18 of Thistles and Onions."**

~ Each Sunday for the children's story, the minister asked the children to come to the front of the church. During the story time, little Billy kept interrupting to tell the minister something that he wanted to share, and it happened so often it was sometimes difficult for the minister to get his story across to the children. At home Billy's mother tried to reason with him that he shouldn't interrupt but Sunday after Sunday he continued to do so. Finally one Sunday before leaving for church, his mother told him that if it happened one more time, then he wouldn't be allowed to go to the front of the church the following Sunday. But Billy forgot the threat and sure enough, he continued to interrupt. The following Sunday when the children gathered at the front of the sanctuary, the minister looked at the faces in the group and then asked the children, "Where is Billy this morning?" From the back of the church was heard a child's loud voice, **"Here I am! Back here! My Mom won't let me come up!!!"**

~ Two little girls were visiting the church service with their grandmother. It was Communion Sunday and when the tray of bread was passed, one little girl piped up in a loud voice saying, **"Oh, look, Gramma, marshmallows!"**

~ The Christmas story was being told to the children in Sunday School. They had learned that the gifts brought to the Baby Jesus were gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Later at home one little girl told her parents, **"I learned the names of the three wise men! One was Frank, the next one was Murray and I forget the other fellow's name."**

~ The minister had arrived at church, had put on his robe and he proceeded to the fellowship room downstairs. A little lad waiting to go into the nursery walked up to the minister, pulled on the hem of his robe, looked up at him and said, **"Good morning, God!"**



SUNDAY SCHOOL



The Sunday School continues to use the 'One Room Sunday School' program with some games and activities added in each week to keep the kids busy. As always the children fully enjoyed the Christmas season, including presentation of their pageant; helping out on White Gift Sunday and putting the angels on the Christmas tree! A special thank you to Sheila Power for your creativity in composing the pageant again this year. It was enjoyed by all! In recent weeks the children had fun making Valentines crafts; have had some discussion about the "Golden Rule" and are currently working on plans for their annual Mission and Service Project.

PERSPECTIVE AND EMOTIONAL RISK



Getting rid of clutter means getting rid of excess, not reducing your home to a “bare bones décor”. Acknowledge that getting rid of clutter involves some emotional risk. For instance, if you grew up with frugal parents, you may feel guilty when throwing things away. If you grew up poor, having things around may reassure you that you will always have enough. Getting rid of possessions after the death of a loved one means coming to terms with loss and grief.

Considerations

Choose the easiest area first OR choose the area that causes you the most stress, this is the area where you will see the biggest gain. Start small, clearing out clutter can become overwhelming.

Complete one area or room before going on to the next.

Use the F.A.S.T. principle: FIX a time in your schedule to do the job and commit to it, maybe an hour, a day, or if working outside the home, maybe fifteen minutes each evening.

ANYTHING not used in the past year or so should go. ASK yourself, when was the last time I used it, will I need it again, is it easily replaced?

SOMEONE else’s stuff? Ask them to please come and pick it up!

THROW AWAY. In this situation, the trash can becomes a good friend.

Process

Have four boxes or bags, label them; KEEP, THROW AWAY, DONATE, NOT SURE.

KEEP the items you love and the ones that will fit in with your new plan of how you want things to look.

DONATE quality items you don’t want or don’t use.

THROW OUT items that are broken that no one else could possibly want. (Maybe that cup with the broken handle that you have kept all these years for sentimental reasons.)

If you are NOT SURE you want to let go of an item, put it in the Not Sure box and put it in storage. If you haven’t used it within the next year, get rid of it or find a way to use it. (If it’s Grandma’s favourite teapot, maybe put it in a shadow box.)

When you clean up clutter, life flows more easily; give yourself credit for making progress and celebrate!

If you want to donate items, the following suggestions may be helpful: Consignment stores, Salvation Army Thrift Stores, Changes (King St.), Bibles for Missions Thrift Store (Sunset Drive), Community Living, Value Village.

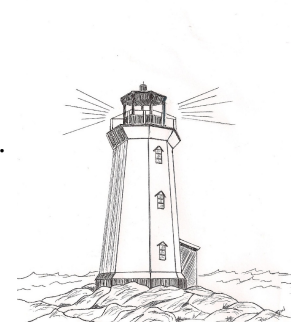
If you wish to sell items: Kijiji Fredericton (on line), some local stores have bulletin boards and there are always yard and rummage sales.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

A fantastic job was done on the December newsletter! I like the name and the cover design. It suits the newsletter and is very Maritime-ish!

Anonymous



A PARTING THOUGHT



Be yourself. Everyone else is taken.