

FROM REV. KELLY'S DESK

I was sitting in the waiting room at my doctor's office the other day. I have learned to make good use of this time – in fact I have composed entire sermons during a wait in this room; planned out months worth of hymns; made inroads as to a plan for world peace....

Which is to say, this is serious waiting time!

My lovely doctor's patients all seem to know this. A mother and her small son arrived. He was no more than 4, but with the dexterity of a master geek, he took the iPad from her and was soon lost in another world. I thought it was a game. But after a few moments of letting out oohs and aahs, I realized he was looking at an on-line Christmas catalogue! So much for the days when we sprawled out on the living room floor flipping through the Sears or Eatons' Christmas spectacular!

"How long till Christmas?" he lisped to his mother?

"Oh, soon enough, hon, soon enough!" was her reply.

His expression said it all: It can't *possibly* be soon enough!

Waiting is hard work for children. Waiting is hard work for all of us.

When I was finally called in my doctor apologized, explaining that he was covering for a colleague, and was looking after several expectant women. "Do you enjoy that part of your practice?" I asked.

His face lit up. "I love it! I hardly do it anymore. But oh my, I once thought I might specialize in that. It is absolutely wonderful."

"Does it ever become routine," I asked?

"Oh, you'd think it would," he said. "But my land, it never does. There's an aura that comes over the whole room. You're all in it together. Waiting. Just waiting and holding your breath, doing anything and nothing – just waiting to greet this new life, to welcome him or her into your midst. I never took it for granted. Each time it's...well, magical, just magical. That one tiny life just fills up the whole room!"



That's what we are all doing throughout the holy season of Advent.

Just waiting – all of us gathered together - waiting and holding our breath, doing everything and nothing – just trying to be ready for the new life that God has in store for us! That tiny baby filled that whole stable, so long ago. He lit up that whole dark night. And every Advent is our preparing time again, so that we might wait in the dark for the coming of the light. That we might welcome in Emmanuel - the One who fills our whole lives!

Happy Advent waiting time, my friends!

With much love,
Rev Kelly



**FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
'REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY'**



For several years on the Sunday preceding Remembrance Day, New Maryland United Church has a special ceremony to honour and remember our country's veterans with special emphasis on those from this kirk who paid the supreme sacrifice. Lewis Morgan pipes the procession in, Brody Power rings the bell, and Bill Elderkin reads the names. Two from this church paid with their lives, one in each of the world wars.

Donald Shaw went overseas with the Western Ontario Regiment, and was killed at the northern French village of Courcellete during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. He was only 17. He should not have been there as the minimum age for recruitment was 19. However, many lied about their age, and often the recruitment officers turned a blind eye. In fact, between 15,000 and 20,000 under aged youth went overseas with the Canadian Forces during the Great War.

Thomas Ball was with the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment which landed at Juno Beach during the Normandy Campaign. The North Shore was considered the best fighting unit of the entire Allied Expeditionary Force. Edgar was killed on June 12, 1944 as the troops were moving inland. The fighting inland was even more fierce than on the beaches and eventually the North Shore Regiment had to be withdrawn as it was nearly decimated. It was given time to rest as well as for training reinforcements.

At the NMUC ceremony, as each name is read, the bell is rung in solemn remembrance. A wreath is placed at the communion table, 'In Flanders Fields' is read (this year by Brooke-Lyn Power), Rev. Burke says the Act of Remembrance. Two minutes of silence begins with the ringing of the bell and ends with the ringing of the bell. This is followed by a Lament on the pipes, and the ceremony concludes with a reading.

Some may opine that such a ceremony has no place in a Christian community, as it glorifies war. However, there is no better place for this to happen since it is anything but a glorification of war. It is to remember those who went to war, not the war itself, sacrificing themselves for their fellow citizens so we could continue to live in a free society. The Act of Remembrance is not only to pay tribute to the fallen but to all the veterans. It is a reminder, if indeed we need one, that it is better to live in peace, not war. By remembering the sacrifice that was made the Christian community is remembering and honouring the sacrifice, but condemning the war that made that sacrifice necessary. The Gospel does not advocate violence, but it does say: Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (John 15: 13) **MAY WE NEVER FORGET!**

HATS OFF!



- ~ to **Pam Campbell** who is working tirelessly on behalf of the NB teachers to see that their pensions are secure!
- ~ to the members of the Outreach Committee - **Nancy Ostaff, Janet Merrill, Peter Dickinson** and **Linda Watson** who led the worship service on October 27th!
- ~ to **Bill Elderkin, Lewis Morgan, Sam Simms, Brodie Power** and **Brooke-lyn Power** for their participation in our Service of Remembrance on November 10th!
- ~ to **Dorothy Webster** for filling the position of choir director for the past number of months!
- ~ to the **Green Committee** for compiling the booklet '125 TIPS for LIVING GREEN' in honour of NMUC's 125th Anniversary and making it available to everyone in the congregation!
- ~ to **Sara Hayes** for providing the wonderful display on our Anniversary Sunday and for presenting such an interesting children's story!
- ~ to all the folks who volunteered their time to stuff 3000 envelopes for the Community Kitchen Fundraising Drive! The CK receives no funding from the government so they are grateful for your support in money, time and prayer.

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN !



With Christmas less than one month away, its time to check the Christmas lights and the outlets. Outlets and the plate coverings can be a problem especially if they have cracks in them or are discoloured.

Cracks in the outlets or the wall plate collect dust, dirt, lint and hair, which act as a kindling when the area gets hot. So check them out and replace them if necessary.

Video games that plug into the outlet create a considerable amount of heat and if these are plugged in next to other electronic equipment, more heat is generated. Always turn them off after use.

Any outlet that has been painted over is a fire hazard. Scrape all the paint off the outlet and the plate. A wall plate that is unnaturally brown or appears slightly scorched probably indicates there is a hot wire that is not grounded. One way to check is the feel the screws; if they are unusually hot that indicates a problem. The outlet

may need to be re-wired or replaced completely. There are electrical outlets that have built in testers and surge protectors. These would be the best replacement option.

Another cause of hot plates is running too much power through them. There are outlets that can handle larger loads. If this is the case in your home, replace these with the larger-load outlets.

The Green Committee wishes all a very Joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with hope and peace.



THE OBSERVER

The "OBSERVER" is constantly in touch with all people from each United Church. Subscriptions for the "OBSERVER" for 2014 are \$20 and can be ordered by putting your money in your regular envelope and marking it under Other as 'Observer' or by contacting Allen Parlee at 459-8007.

SUNDAY SCHOOL M & S FUNDRAISER



The Sunday School has begun its new Mission & Service Fundraiser. You may pick up your "collection plate" at the back entrance. For each holiday listed on the back of the plate, please tape a toonie on the face of the clock. On your birthday add a loonie to the center of the plate and by next June, you will have added \$25 to the M & S Fund. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask Sheila Power. Thanks for your help with this fundraiser.

BE HAPPY !



If you want to be happy, then start right away
Doing a kindness for someone each day;
Scatter some sunshine, forget about self
And put all your worries away on the shelf.

2014 CHURCH CALENDARS



Church calendars are available from Sandra Cook for \$6.

The MITTEN TREE



The Mitten Tree will soon be ready to receive any knitted items you would like to contribute. By Christmas time, the items will be distributed wherever the need exists.

MEN'S CLUB



A big thank-you to all those who helped with our salmon supper and made it such a success. All men of the congregation are welcome to join us at our monthly meetings held the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. Please join us too at our December meeting, an outing at Wetmore's on Dec. 10th at 6 pm.

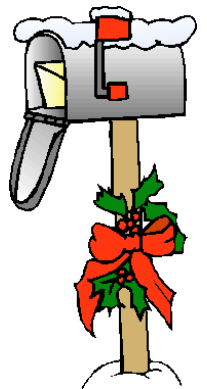
A VISIT? A CARD?

Congrats to our long time church members, Doris and Murray Gorman, who recently celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary!! Doris and Murray are currently being well cared for in the Gagetown Special Care Home, but miss being closer to town and seeing all their church friends. Visits to the Gagetown Home, or keeping in touch with cards and letters, would be very much appreciated! If you are trying to think of a little treat you may take along for them, Doris loves jelly beans....and chocolate. And Cheesies will bring a big smile to Murray's face at any time!

Their mailing address is:

Murray and Doris Gorman

c/o Gagetown Special Care Home, 142 Tilley Road, Gagetown, NB E5M1H6



UCW

The December UCW Meeting and Christmas Social will be held on Wednesday, December 11th at the earlier time of 6:30 pm in the home of Dorothy Webster, 215 Bradshaw Drive. Each person attending is to bring a wrapped Yankee Swap gift of approximately \$10 in value and a finger food to share during the evening. All women of the congregation would be very welcome to join us...call Dorothy at 457-9795 for more details. There will not be a UCW meeting in January. We will be returning to our regular meeting schedule of the second Wednesday in each month for February, March, April and May.



CONGRATULATIONS!



- ~ Congratulations to Mark and Jacqueline Langford and big brother Weston on their newest member of the family. Shaylyn Whitney arrived Nov 13 weighing 8 pounds 13 ounces. A new baby to be doted on by grandmother Carol Langford and Great Aunt and Uncle, Betty and Doug Holland.
- ~ Congratulations to Keely Campbell, granddaughter of Lloyd and Sheila Penney, who has been awarded the Marguerite Bourgoïn bursary. It is awarded to a female student of St. Thomas University who makes a difference in school and community and has good academic standing.
- ~ Congratulations to Jason LeBritton, grandson of Marjorie Olmstead, and to Josh Campbell, grandson of Sheila and Lloyd Penney. These two fine young men are part of the Mt Allison University Football team, the Mounties. They won the AUS title – the first time Mt. A has won it in 16 years!
- ~ Blessings on Lauren King, Rev Kelly's daughter, who has been approved as a Candidate for Ordained Ministry. She plans to begin her seminary studies in the Fall of 2014 at Emmanuel College in Toronto.

CORPORATE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



Every year the Mactaquac Country Chamber of Commerce awards a local business or person our Corporate Citizen of the Year award. This year the award went to our own Lydia LaPointe! On November 21, 2013, the Mactaquac Country Chamber of Commerce honored her at the Annual General Meeting and Business Recognition Awards held at the Riverside Resort and Conference Centre, Mactaquac. Congratulations, Lydia!

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A FOSTER FAMILY?



There is an ongoing high need in our community for couples or individuals to become foster parents for children in care. Foster parents play an essential role in supporting the most at-risk children in New Brunswick. The Department of Social Development is currently recruiting individuals or families to participate in their fall orientation and training sessions. We have a high need for new homes to foster children of all ages. If you are interested in getting information on becoming a foster family please call: 1-866-444-8838 or visit www.gnb.ca/family.

NMUC WELCOMES OUR MUSICAL TEAM!



On September 29th two new faces were welcomed to the NMUC choir loft, namely Allen Morgan and Carolyn Hatt. Allen filled the vacant position of pianist/organist while Carolyn became the new choir director. They now share their musical talents each Sunday for everyone to enjoy, causing us to want to know more about them. So let's do a little research!

Carolyn E. Hatt was born in Grand Falls-Windsor, Newfoundland, the oldest child of John and Michelle Hatt. Carolyn's younger sister Emily is now an Engineer, employed in Lafayette, Louisiana. Her younger brother Stephen is studying Engineering at Memorial University in St. John's, NL.

Carolyn started voice and piano lessons when she was seven years of age. Each year, from grade one through to grade twelve, she performed in the Grand Falls-Windsor Kiwanis Music Festival and was selected to perform in two provincial music festivals.

During her childhood years Carolyn was a member of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral parish in her hometown.

She started singing/canting in church regularly when she was thirteen years of age. While in elementary and secondary school she sang in various community events. From her grade four through to her grade twelve she was a member of a community choir, 'The Bel Canto Singers'. During her junior high and high school years she was a member of her church choir and the handbell choir, "The Cathedral Carillonneurs," She still sings at the church when she goes back home to visit family and friends!

Carolyn graduated from Exploits Valley High in 2006. During her high school years she sang with two school choirs, 'The Exploits Valley Chorale' and 'The Maple Buds'. The latter, a sixteen member chamber choir, was her favourite part of high school. Other activities included playing the alto saxophone in the school's concert band, performing in the drama club, playing on the volleyball team and being an active member of the leadership team. Another special memory was singing and acting in the Queen Street Dinner Theatre from 2005 to 2009. Carolyn completed a Bachelor of Music (voice) at Memorial University of Newfoundland from 2006-2010, followed by a completion of a Bachelor of Music Education at the same university. In 2009 she sang with the university's 'Opera Road Show' during the tour of 'Hansel and Gretel', acting as a cover for Gretel, and in 2010 she played the role of Papagena in the School of Music's production of 'The Magic Flute'.

Carolyn completed her teaching internship in Harlow, England and while there, travelled throughout Europe, touring parts of England, Scotland, Italy and France. She says, "It was awesome!" She taught Music from 2011 to 2013 at an all-grade school, Pearson Academy, in Wesleyville, Newfoundland. She moved to Fredericton in July of this year and is currently supply teaching in New Brunswick's Anglophone West School District. In September she started studying towards her Master of Education at UNB, focusing on Curriculum Studies.

And in her spare time, you ask? She and Allan enjoyed a trip to New York in the summer of 2012. It was her first time there and she can't wait to go back to what she describes as an incredible city! In the meantime she enjoys yoga, walking, reading, and the theatre.

Carolyn says she is enjoying her job at New Maryland United and is very thankful that members of the congregation, the choir and Rev. Kelly have been so friendly and welcoming. Their kindness is sincerely appreciated.

We have asked Allen to introduce himself!

As I've been known to remind my younger brother in jest, I'm the firstborn to Leo and Carolyn Morgan – two wonderful parents who raised me in Bishop's Falls, Newfoundland. My younger brother, Mark, is currently enrolled in first-year university studies in Newfoundland.

As I reflected on my 'musical journey' for the purposes of this profile, I realized just how disjointed and abstract my route to the piano actually was! In retrospect, I guess it's somewhat ironic that I vehemently disliked music classes in elementary school, and was often disciplined for my unrestrained expressions of disinterest to the classroom music teacher.

I'm guessing that my parents found it odd when I expressed interest in piano lessons around grade five, and thought that this was surely a passing phase. They enthusiastically agreed to the lessons, but we did not have a piano in the house, and investing in such an expensive (and large) instrument to satisfy a passing interest was not practical. While attending a house party one evening, my parents overheard the host say that she was getting rid of an old organ. Mom offered to take the thing off her hands, and both she and Dad carried that thing to our house in the wee hours of a cold winter morning. The contraption was nothing to write home about – old, noisy and undoubtedly annoying – but I was elated. Everyone listened intently as I played through "Oh When the Saints" and "Mary Had a Little Lamb" at a painstakingly slow pace with more mistakes than right notes. I outgrew the organ (which had only 32 keys), and upgraded to a keyboard before my grandmother bought me a piano (with a whopping 88 keys!). That piano sat in our living room, and my family endured my seemingly constant cacophonous banging on the keys until I moved out of the house. Their support was unfailing, and eventually I could play a few songs decently.

Around age thirteen, I began to occasionally accompany the choir at Sacred Heart Parish in Bishop's Falls. Under the tutelage of my kindergarten teacher, Jackie Hynes, I learned the various parts of the Mass, how to accompany a choir, and how to tactfully conclude a piece when the priest's patience wore thin and he continued to say the Mass over whatever I was playing! I accompanied that choir throughout high school, and returned on occasion when visiting home.

In high school, I sang in the school choir, acted in drama productions, and accompanied soloists – all artistic activities I enjoyed tremendously. I also played the trombone in the concert band: an instrument for which I did not exude the same enthusiasm. Though we were supposed to practice twenty minutes per day, I am doubtful if my combined practice time throughout high school totaled twenty minutes!

After high school, I studied music at Memorial University in St. John's, NL. The program required me to manage a larger than average course load, performance obligations and practice time while subjecting me to regular criticism and feedback. During the last three years of the program, I also worked at St. James United Church as the assistant organist/choirmaster and for one year taught theory lessons in a private music studio.

After graduating with a history/piano music major in 2012, I was ready for a change (and a much lighter workload), so I moved to Fredericton to study law at UNB. Since moving to New Brunswick, I have been a member of St. Dunstan's church choir, occasional accompanist at St. Dunstan's, and rehearsal pianist for Choeur de Soulanges. In February, Carolyn and I will be in the chorus of a local production of Henry Purcell's opera, Dido and Aeneas. I accepted a summer associate position with the law firm Stewart McKelvey after finishing first year at UNB. I thoroughly enjoyed my first real-world exposure to law, and I have accepted a second year summer position with the firm. After graduation, I will be returning to the firm to complete my articles.

We responded to an ad for the music directorship at New Maryland United thinking that it would be little more than a job – a way to make some extra money; however, it has proven to be so much more: the choir is dedicated and receptive; Rev. Kelly is wonderfully collaborative, friendly and open; and the church community is overwhelmingly supportive. Thank-you for that – I look forward to working with you to enhance your worship and strengthen your community through music for some time to come.

Their new friends at NMUC wish Carolyn continued success in her teaching profession and musical endeavours. To Allen goes all our best as he continues towards his career in law. We welcome them both to our church family where we hope they will truly feel 'at home' as we all make music together.

FUND RAISER FOR OUTREACH: VINTAGE SANTA

Christmas is just around the corner and Pam Gonnason is selling her newest designer card "Vintage Santa". These high quality 5X7 folded cards are packaged in sets of 4 cards/envelopes for \$10. All profits will go towards NMUC's Outreach Program. The cards are available at the church office or can be purchased directly from Pam at favthing@nbnet.nb.ca or 452-7483. To view other available designs, please visit www.pamgonnason.com and click on "Designer Cards" in the menu on the left side.



PROGRESSIVE DINNER



The annual Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 7th at 6 pm.
See Rev. Kelly, Nancy Ostaff or Anne Johnson for details. You will find the sign-up sheet at the back door.

NEWS FOR SENIORS!



The provincial government has launched a new toll-free information line for seniors. 1-855-550-0552 will be answered Monday - Friday, 8 am to 5 pm, by trained, bilingual agents. Seniors, their families and caregivers will receive information on government services and programs related to seniors.

BITS AND BITES



Excerpts from 'Letters to the Editor' from readers of the September issue of 'The Beacon':

- ~ loved reading 'The Beacon' on line!
- ~ Clear, no squinting, no pages sticking together!
- ~ appreciate the time it takes to put it together!
- ~ the graphics are gorgeous!
- ~ I love reading the profile in each issue!
- ~ a very newsy Beacon for the first one in the fall season!

FROM THE CHOIR LOFT



Our Church Family and Choir are delighted to welcome Allen Morgan as musical director and Carolyn Hatt as choir director. They are truly talented individuals and we are most fortunate to have them with us. We again thank Dorothy Webster and Karen Rutledge for their dedication and direction in the past months.

Choirs and directors are busy preparing for St. Paul's Choir Festival again this year. Our choir is being joined by the choirs of Grand Lake and Gagetown United Churches for this event. Come early on Wednesday, December the 4th at 7:30 pm to reserve a good spot and begin the magic of the Advent season. The event raises funds for much needed support for the food bank and those less fortunate.

During Christmas week Allen and Carolyn will be home in Newfoundland for the Christmas holidays. Vivian Ni will be our pianist while they are enjoying the holidays with family and friends. We wish them safe travels.

From each of us in the choir, Happy and Blessed Christmas filled with the joy, peace and hope of the season.

WEST INDIES SELF HELP - 'WISH'



Sue Morrison has been invited to participate in a mission trip to Haiti in partnership with WISH (West Indies Self Help) in February. WISH is an interdenominational organization with a goal to help those in need.

She will be one of four members who will be visiting La Gonave Island which is about two hours by boat from the mainland of Haiti. WISH has a mission located on the island and has been instrumental in providing fresh water and power to the people there. The team will be focusing on prenatal and postnatal supplies since the area has some of the highest infant mortality rates in the third world.

Each team member plans to take as much as they can carry in their suitcases. Anyone interested in donating small size sleepers would be appreciated.

Sue has also volunteered to make 130 cloth diapers with liners and would appreciate help in making these. Monetary donations would also be appreciated which will be used for emergency funds for the mission.

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY UPDATES

Thank You!

~Thank you once again for saving your 'pop tabs' and passing them along to Allen Parlee. The Fredericton Chapter of Muscular Dystrophy Canada wound up their 2013 'Pop Tab' drive by submitting one million tabs, raising \$430.00. This is the third year in a row they have met their goal. They have an early start already for 2014 with a good donation from Nackawic Lions.

~ The 2013 Christmas ornament is now available for \$12 each. For more information, contact Allen or Marilyn Parlee at 459-8007.

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY



Prayer is not a 'spare wheel' that you pull out when in trouble but it is a 'steering wheel' that directs the right path throughout.

CEMETERY EXPANSION



The Board of Trustees has received approval for an expansion of the church cemetery. The expansion will provide an additional 70 lots to our present cemetery. The new area will be adjacent to the existing newer part of the present cemetery and will extend into the parking lot about ten feet. It will be graded up in the spring to be level with the existing cemetery. Lots will cost \$500 each, \$250 of which goes towards perpetual care.

AN ARCHIVAL MOMENT



1970: The CGIT donated to the church an oak guest book stand crafted by Manford Booker.

CHRISTMAS IS



Christmas is.....

A time for gifts and love and sharing,
A time for joy and hope and caring,
A time for friends to get together,
Chilly, snowy, wintry weather,
A time for sending Christmas cheer
And wishes for a bright new year.

LOOKING AHEAD!



Sun., Dec. 2, 11 am - Advent 1: A Hanging of the Greens Service
Wed., Dec. 4, 7 pm - 'Carolfest' at St. Paul's United Church, Fredericton
Sat., Dec. 7, 6 pm - Progressive Dinner (A 'moving' feast!)
Sun., Dec. 8, 11 am - Advent 11 Worship: White Gift and Mitten Tree
Sun., Dec. 15, 11 am - Advent 111 Worship: The Children's Pageant
Thurs., Dec. 19, 6:30 pm - Carolling (Meet at NMUC, then car pool)
Sun. 22, 11 am - Advent 1V Worship: Holy Communion
Tue., Dec. 24, 7 pm - Christmas Eve Family Service
10 pm - Service of Candlelight and Holy Communion

**Merry
Christmas**