

## FROM REV. KELLY'S DESK

**HITTING THE BOOKS...STILL!**

I thought you might be interested in an update on how things are going with my doctoral studies. In order to begin this particular doctorate (D. Min) you are required to already be in possession of a Master of Divinity degree, to be currently working in ministry, and to have been doing so for at least 3 years. I am studying through Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS), in Chicago, Illinois. In addition to producing a thesis (also known as a professional paper), I am required to take 10 courses. Four are required (The Orientation Intensive, the Theological Intensive, Research Methodologies, and the Professional Writing seminar). The remaining six courses are chosen in consultation with your advisor, and they need to be appropriate to your area of study, i.e., assist you in deepening the issue, context and research of your project.

My project:

***Welcome to the Improv - Funerals in the Postmodern Context:  
Examining the Perils and Privileges involved as clergy attempt to offer funerals  
that are both welcoming and faithful when the bereaved are at arm's length from the church.***

Courses so far completed:

Orientation Intensive (Required)  
Ritual Studies  
Theological Intensive (Required)  
Preaching as Personal Narrative  
The Minister as Public Theologian  
Eating and Drinking with Jesus: Theology of the Eucharist  
Research Methodologies (Required)  
The Poetics of Grief



I have just received full approval for my project from the Ethics Review Board (Hurrah!), so I will begin that part of my studies this Spring. It will entail my interviewing clergy and bereaved families on their particular experience of a funeral. The focus of this project is to determine helpful and authentic ways for clergy to engage in the holy endeavor of end of life rituals within the post modern context with integrity, grace, and gospel hospitality, and to discover how it provides meaning for the non-church attending bereaved.

The most common question I hear when people find out I am engaged in this is "Why??" Or more often, especially from clergy friends: *Why on earth are you doing that???*

I suppose that is a fair question. Unlike a lot of professions, it does not come with any professional advancement or salary increase (for which Allen is grateful!)

But it is important to me to be involved in the critical study of a ministry practice, and to develop fresh and innovative approaches that could make a significant contribution to the practice of ministry for transformative leaders. But to be honest, I was really missing the academic life, and the energy I get from studying and being in conversation with colleagues and teachers. Even as I left seminary to begin full time ministry, I knew I would be back. And the great joy of a D. Min is that it combines my passion for the Academy with my passion for local, pastoral ministry – and for me, that is heaven!

The earliest (and my hoped for!) date for completion is May 2014 - but there are certainly “miles to go before I sleep.” I give deep thanks for your encouragement and prayers, without which I truly could not do this!

With gratitude and love,

*Rev. Kelly*

### **FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

In 2012 a questionnaire was circulated to the congregation requesting information on the amount of commitment to proceed with renovating and providing better access to the church. As a result of the information received, the Official Board, on the recommendation of the Committee of Stewards, unanimously agreed to proceed with the project to a maximum of \$200,000.00. A building committee was struck, and it made its first report at the annual congregational meeting held this past February. After receiving this report the congregation voted unanimously to proceed with the renovation and accessibility project.

Before actual construction can begin, there are several steps that first need to be taken. A set of plans need to be drawn up and approved; Presbytery and Conference have to approve of the plans; financing has to be attained; the congregation's commitment needs to be confirmed; etc., etc. At each stage the Official Board will be kept informed, and in turn the congregation will be given the information. Prior to any construction taking place, all the relevant information will be brought to the congregation for its perusal and approval.



As far as this project is concerned, it should be stated once again that this is not a luxury item that the church is embarking upon. With an older congregation, accessibility is becoming more of an issue. And lack of space is chronic and needs to be addressed. The money for this project is in addition to one's weekly contribution. The congregation at its annual meeting unanimously approved a budget of slightly over \$110,000.00. This would represent an increase of one's weekly offering of approximately 6%. As an example a \$20.00 contribution should increase by \$1.20; a \$100.00 contribution should increase by \$6.00. Unquestionably there is a lot of money involved. But if everyone does one's part, and it occurs over a period of time, it can be done. Let's do it!

*Bill Elderkin*

## A CHALLENGE FOR US AT 125!



When services began at our little country church 125 years ago, folks arrived at the New Maryland Presbyterian Kirk by horse and wagon for the most part. Not too hard on the environment. Today cars are essential – especially when we live where we do – with no bus service, etc. But what if we made a plan to reduce the number of cars that arrived in our church parking lot? What if we car-pooled to meetings? What if we offered someone else a ride to church on Sunday morning? Besides doing something good for God’s green earth, we would have the fun of good company with us on the drive, and a chance to get to know one another in deeper ways!

Now that’s a win-win-win!

## CHERISHED FRIENDS



God must have known there would be times we'd need a word of cheer,  
Someone to praise a triumph or brush away a tear.  
He must have known we'd need to share the joy of "little things"  
In order to appreciate the happiness life brings.  
I think He knew our troubled hearts would sometimes throb with pain,  
At trials and misfortunes, or goals we can't attain.  
He knew we'd need the comfort of an understanding heart  
To give us strength and courage to make a fresh, new start.  
He knew we'd need companionship, unselfish....lasting....true,  
And so God answered the heart's great need with Cherished Friends....like you!!

B.J. Morbitzer

## HELPFUL TRICK!



Next time you’re cooking, hang your recipe from your overhead cupboard with a pants hanger.  
Your recipe will be at eye level and easy to follow.

## GRACE BEFORE MEALS



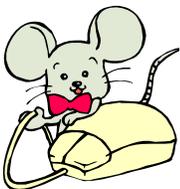
Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Johnny received his plate, he starting eating right away. "Johnny, please wait until we say our prayer," said his mother. "I don't need to", the boy replied. "Of course, you do," his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house." And Johnny explained, "That's at our house. But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook."

## FROM THE CHOIR LOFT



During the month of February to honour Black History Month, the choir performed traditional African American Spirituals as our anthems: 'Children Go Where I Send Thee', 'Over My Head', 'Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning', and 'He's Got the Whole World In His Hands'. Each Sunday an insert was included in the bulletin to explain the nature, meaning and significance of each of the Spirituals. For example, 'Keep Your Lamps' was based on the Scriptures, of being prepared for Jesus, but it was also a way of sending a coded message to those in bondage, telling them when the Freedom Train was coming.

Lent is a time for deepening our relationship with God in prayer in its variety of expressions. The Choir is preparing special anthems for the Lenten period: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.



## NMUC WEBSITE

Our church website has a new address: [www.newmarylandunited.ca](http://www.newmarylandunited.ca)

## EASTER PLANTS



The Worship Committee is taking orders for Easter lilies, mums and hydrangea. The purpose is threefold:

~ to beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday or

~ to be placed as memorials or

~ to take home or to be given to a friend or shut-in after the service

Lilies and mums are \$10 each and hydrangea ae \$15. Deadline for orders is March 10<sup>th</sup> (today).

Contact Loraine Ward at 455-8208.

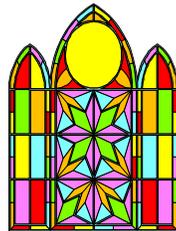
## FROM THE GREEN COMMITTEE



### Some helpful hints for everyday:

- ~To find small articles, such as a contact lenses or earrings, that have fallen on the floor or rug, secure a piece of thin material, such as old panty hose, over the end of the vacuum hose. The suction will pull the article up from the floor or rug.
- ~Use a grater instead of a knife to scrape the bottom of burned biscuits.
- ~To get twice the amount of juice from a lemon when baking, soak it in hot water for fifteen minutes.
- ~When leaving on a trip, put ice cubes in a bag in the freezer. If, when you come back, the cubes are a different shape you will know there has been a problem.
- ~White vinegar is best for cleaning, apple cider vinegar is best for personal use.
- ~When cleaning coffee makers, fill reservoir half-way with vinegar and run it through. Then completely fill with plain water and run it through again.
- ~When you find photographs stuck together, heat them on low setting with a hair dryer, then gently pull apart.
- ~Old plastic containers that have become sticky with age, can be scrubbed clean with baking soda. Best used after for non-food items.
- ~If you want to reuse a cardboard shipping box, remove the label by using a hair dryer set on high to heat the label, the adhesive becomes soft and the label will peel off.
- ~To clean copper, apply a paste of salt and vinegar or rub with catsup and let stand for ten minutes.

## A VISIT TO THE MOSQUE



As the completion and the highlight of their recent Bible Study, a number of ladies - Carol Charters, Meg Simms, Sharon Noel, Lorna Ball, Loraine Ward, Marg Frenette, Sue Morrison and Rev. Kelly - made a visit to the Mosque on the Lincoln Road. There they experienced first hand a meaningful glimpse into the Islamic religion. Rev. Kelly tells us all about the visit .....

“We eight women pulled our scarves over our heads, and began our walk into the mosque (masjid). A helpful sign explained where we should leave our footwear: we were entering holy ground. Friday is the special day of worship for Muslims. Men are required to attend services at the mosque. Women are welcome to, but are not required in the same way. As was explained to us, the Koran says that a woman can make of herself, or her home, a holy place, so she may do her worship without travelling to a mosque.

On Friday services, there is, in addition to the prayers, a sermon. Different Muslim speakers provide this. This day, Dr. Shahid (a psychiatrist at the DEC) delivered the sermon. We were very moved when we heard that he had changed his sermon for the day, specifically because he knew we were visiting. He chose to speak of the basics of Islam, that we might become better acquainted with their religion. He explained to us the 5 Pillars of Islam:

1. There is only one God (Allah), and Muhammad is his messenger.
2. Islam requires prayer 5 times daily: dawn, noon, afternoon, evening, and night.
3. Alms (Zakat): there is personal responsibility upon each Muslim to ease the economic hardship of the poor.
4. Fasting: Muslims must refrain from eating from dawn until dusk during the month of Ramadan.
5. Hajj: Pilgrimage to Mecca: At least once in a Muslim's life he/she is required to make this trip (as long as one is financially and physically able).

Dr. Shahid drew out some of the parallels of our two faiths, noting that we share many sacred stories, such as that of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, and others. Islam also acknowledges Jesus, although it sees him as a prophet rather than the Son of God.

The prayers especially moved me: they are very bodily, involving movement from standing to sitting to bowing to kneeling with the forehead touching the ground. At a certain point the presider calls for everyone to stand close together – shoulder to shoulder - as they perform their prayers. It was such a powerful visual of what it means to be in community: both intimate and communal.

Noureddin ElBakali Kassimi (Nour) was our delightful host that afternoon, making sure we were welcomed in, and ushering us to our seating area. (The women sit separately from men in the mosque, due to the close bodily contact of the prayers). After the service, he offered us the choice of a formal power point presentation, or the chance to sit together in a circle and talk together, and ask him any questions we had about Islam, or the Koran, etc. We enthusiastically opted for the latter. He was passionate about his faith, describing how he follows the requirements of prayer five times a day. It does not seem like a burden, he said, but a privilege. "It is not hard to do – I adapt by simply having a bit of cloth that I can spread in a corner of my office in the university where I may pray to Allah." Nour teaches in the Chemistry Dept. at UNB.

As we settled ourselves into a circle others brought up a table, and proceeded to load it with coffee, juices, samosas and pastries – a veritable feast! We left with pockets bulging with the leftover samosas: "You must take them home. We brought them especially for you." The only polite thing to do was to agree!

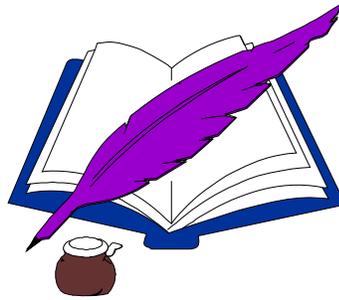
As we were departing, a sign once again guided us: reminding us to leave the mosque with our left foot leading. Beforehand, I wondered how it would feel at the mosque. Would we feel like observers? Instead, we felt like welcome guests. I found myself drawn into worship during prayer time. It felt different, and yet holy. Somehow, our oneness, as people of God, overshadowed our differences. And that is a holy thing, indeed!"

## CONGRATULATIONS!



Sharon Noel's granddaughter, Chloe Parent, participated in the first National Canadian Girl Pageant held in Halifax last weekend. These pageants have been very popular in western Canada for several years and have been gaining popularity across the country. Chloe convinced her sceptical mother that this would be a great opportunity to meet new people and practice her public speaking skills. With the support of her entourage (mother, sister and father), Chloe excelled and won the title of "Miss Teen Canadian Girl New Brunswick". She also won the distinction of having the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest mark in the entire pageant, across all age groups.

Photos will soon be available on Flickr.



### **AN ARCHIVAL MOMENT**

Mr. Alexander Haining, in 1881, graciously offered property next to his home, presently the home of Lewis Morgan, for the site of our church. He was paid the token sum of one dollar to acknowledge his release of the land. Later, Mr. John Charters donated land which was used to expand the cemetery in 1964. In 1978, Mr. Henry Morgan donated another acre of land, followed by his son Lewis Morgan's further donation of more than three acres of land. We are indeed grateful for these generous gifts.

### **INTRODUCING LEWIS MORGAN**



Like my late parents before me, Henry and Eleanor (Alexander) Morgan, I have always been proud to live in this cute little old house that is not only the last of its type (broadaxed, dovetailed log walls) in the community, but also the former home of the New Maryland Kirk's principal founders: Alexander Haining Sr. and his son Alexander Haining Jr. (fulfilling old Alec's death bed wish, I suspect). My father and I could even claim some legitimacy as "heirs" in a situation where no direct descendants were forthcoming: the mother-in-law of my father's granddad, Henry E. Morgan, was Ann Haining, from one or another of the four Haining homesteads in the New Maryland Parish back then. Another connection: Alec Jr. ("Sandy") and Henry E. were colleagues, jointly representing the parish in York County Council for years and years around 1890 - 1910. Sandy died in 1917 but his spinster daughters "Dee" (Delia) and "Gene" (Eugenia) held on for another twenty years, in what might be called a "one-farmstead Kings Landing lifestyle".

Sometimes I even wonder if a Haining "aura" might underlie my interest in Scottish activities like bagpiping, although I also have Graham ancestry from Scotch Settlement through my father's mother. Anyway, the lovely tartan area rug that I found for the living-room in front of the fireplace can do for both the Hainings and the Grahams!

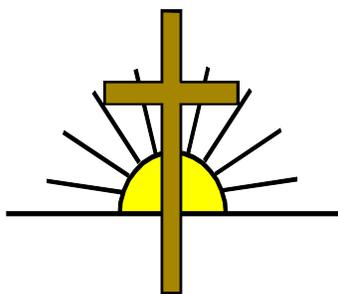
I'm so glad to be just old enough to remember the days of oil lamps and lanterns, big wooden battery-powered radios with WWII news and music, a wooden telephone as well on the wall, outdoor "plumbing", farm and woods work done with horses and hand tools, the little Morgan sawmill, big steam trains every day passing my mother's old home at Rusagonis Station, and of course, the one-room eight-grade schoolhouses in New Maryland and Nasonworth. The latter building still survives and I still hope to preserve it; the former is long gone but my first teacher there in grades 1 and 2, Elizabeth "Lib" (Fowler) Charters, lives on, and in this church! It was in these schools where I became keen on history, other cultures and art, reading books and drawing things from cars to cartoons in spare minutes. And Lib may have been right: she still says it's the art I should have developed. I console her now that my son and daughter have carried on for me: Lyneth in art; Kevin in design.

Although I somehow never quite made the grade as an academic, I'll never begrudge (as my Pa would say) all the travel and new experiences I gained in the attempt. After Honours Academic at FHS there was UNB, with some classes still in the "Old Arts Building" - Kings College (Honours History, '63) , then grad studies in Russian History and Language at McGill in Montreal, with a full '65-'66 student exchange to Moscow University. Before and after settling for an M. A. instead of a PhD in '72, I taught history at St. Thomas ('68-'70) and Collège Ste.-Anne in Nova Scotia. Then came what seemed like the solution: a "back-door" career as a staff translator in Ottawa. Marriage and two children followed, along with special-interest evening courses at Ottawa University, singing in the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society and piping in the Air Command Pipes and Drums.

When even that solution disintegrated, with the marriage and the job both gone by 1990, I still managed to salvage a powerful "consolation prize": back in the good old home with the good old folks, and with freelance translation, paying for child support, and frequent visits to and from the kids.

Now, on pension, independent, still active and healthy, I should, for example, travel a bit. Then, well, there's White Rapids Manor with its view of trains crossing the rail bridge!

### LOOKING AHEAD



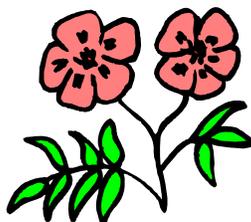
Sun., March 17, 11:00 am - Lent 5

Sun., March 24, 11:00 am - Palm Sunday Service

Thurs., March 28, 6:00 pm - Potluck Supper  
- The Last Supper Story  
- Communion

Fri., March 29, 10:00 am - Good Friday Service

Sun., March 31, 8:30 am; 11:00 am - Easter Services



Have the happiest of Easters  
And the springiest of Springs!