



"THE BEACON"

June, 2014

NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

No. 25

FROM REV. KELLY'S DESK

Remember the packets of sunflower seeds?

When High River, Alberta's United church made a Facebook appeal for sunflower seeds in March, they weren't certain they'd reach 4,000 — one packet for every mailbox in town. Less than three months later, the congregation has received **18,000** seed packets to help clean up flood-ravaged soil and remind residents they're not alone. The church's clergy team, Rev. Susan Lukey, and husband Rev. David Robertson, heard about the benefits of planting sunflowers from folks in New Orleans, post Hurricane Katrina. While most plants can't survive in soil infused with heavy metals, the rapidly growing sunflower can absorb numerous toxins and lock them into its cells. But they also imagined the project as a way to bring brightness, hope and courage to the community. The church met its goal by its mid-April deadline, but the seeds just kept on rolling in – including some from NMUC!

In a town still recovering, where people lost homes and valuables to the flood waters, some simple seeds may seem odd. But these seeds hold within themselves the promise of brilliant yellow flowers, big bright heads bobbing in the breeze, redeeming the soil, and bringing cheer to the heart. These seeds, sent from all across the country, bear hope. And they embody the UCC at its best: reminding folks that we are not alone, but joined as one great big family of faith across this country.

Whether you are gardeners or golfers, loungers or adventurers, may this summer find you all taking some tender time for yourselves, friends. Join us when you can Sunday mornings at 10:30, and drop by through the week to keep an eye on the progress of our Accessibility project! I'll make the coffee!



Summer Grace to you all,

Rev. Kelly

SUMMER HOURS

From **July 6th** up to – and including - **August 31st**, worship will be at **10:30 am!** Please join us!

We wish Rev. Kelly a well deserved vacation.

She will be away the following Sundays: August 3, 10 and 17th.

HATS OFF !



- to Dorothy Webster and her Elm City Echoes Barbershop ensemble. They placed third in the annual competition, and won for most improved chorus score compared to last year's performance! Congratulations Dorothy!
- to The Accessibility Committee – Chair Sheila Penney, Jim Merrill, Allen Parlee, David Ward, and Dorothy Webster, and their consultants Doug Watson and John St. Pierre - for their tireless efforts!
- to Vivian Ni who has been selected to represent New Brunswick in both strings and piano at the 2014 National Music Festival in Kelowna B.C.

FROM THE UCW

*India is a land of great contradictions: hauntingly beautiful and with much wealth:
but also a place of astounding slums teeming with children in despair.* Leena Barua



On Sunday, May 25th, the UCW led the service when Rev. Kelly and Dorothy Webster were away at Maritime Conference. They centered it around the exceptional work done by the organization 'Families For Children', founded by Canadian Sandra Simpson. Simpson, already a mother of 4 living in Montreal, adopted a little girl in 1970, Mai Lien, from Viet Nam. Over the next three decades, she personally adopted 28 children and helped hundreds of other Canadian families adopt from Asia in the 1970's.

Simpson was part of a small group of mothers who took leadership of Canada's first major wave of international adoptions because they believed a Canadian family was the best gift they could give to children whose lives and futures had been disrupted by war, poverty, and civil unrest.

In time, Sandra Simpson focused her energy on building care facilities abroad – in India and Bangladesh - that allowed children to stay within their homeland. It is FFC's orphanage at Podanur Junction, near Coimatore, in South India that our UCW have been supporting for some twelve years. And the need in this particular place is great: In India 1 in 10 children is disabled. Less than half reach adulthood. And less than 1 percent have access to education. But one small organization is changing this!

At FFC orphanage they take care of over 400 children – all with special needs. The atmosphere is that of a home rather than an institution.

A volunteer who travels regularly to India says: At FFC, they do not try and find families to adopt these children. That is because they already are a family: a very large and very loving family. A family with a future of hope:

Families For Children make sure the children are educated, teaching them skills that allow them all to contribute. Some stay on at the mission as adults, working in this place that has been home to them: Kalai came to the mission as an infant. She went on to get a Masters Degree in Business – and she now runs the Families For Children office.

Thangeray was brought to the mission at one year of age, with polio. He has received a college degree and is the proud and happy Librarian at FFC.

In our UCW Statement of Purpose we say that service is a way we demonstrate our love for Jesus. As members of the United Church of Canada, our creed reminds us that we are people called “to love and serve others.” We feel we are blessed and privileged to be contributors to these children's lives in our own small way.

[With thanks to Leena Barua of Fredericton (originally of Calcutta, India, and a former neighbor in New Maryland) who has helped to transform our sanctuary with the loan of beautiful saris, fabrics of silk and cashmere (from Kashmir, India) and wooden articles, all from her native India.]

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The UCW enjoyed their closing dinner at the Ramada on June 11<sup>th</sup> with NMUC friends joining them. Their regular meetings will resume in the fall, the first meeting being on the second Wednesday in September.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL



Thank you for participating in the 2013/2014 Sunday School M & S Calendar Plate Fundraiser! Please remember to bring in your completed plates and give them to Sheila Power or Lorna Ball. Be sure to include your envelope number on the back to have the amount included in your church contributions. Your support in this endeavor is greatly appreciated.

With the end of the school year and warm days, our Sunday School year has drawn to a close. We would like to thank all the teachers and helpers who volunteered their time and made this another great year! We couldn't do it without you and really do appreciate all that you do!

To all our Sunday School children, teachers and helpers, have a wonderful summer! We look forward to seeing you all again in the fall!

## PAR



The Committee of Stewards would like to remind the congregation that the church needs continued support in order to meet its financial commitments. By using PAR (pre-authorized remittance), you can be assured that your weekly offering will be received by the church even when you are absent from a service. If interested, please contact Lloyd Penney, our church Treasurer.

**No God - No Peace**  
**Know God - Know Peace**



## **THANK YOU!**



We would like to thank everyone who supports the MS Walk in Fredericton each May. We have watched it grow each year and we are aiming for even larger numbers in our upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the MS Society. There will be a cure for this puzzling disease and through your donations we will all be part of it!

Team Crazy Legs

Pam and Trevor Gonnason

## **FROM THE MEN'S CLUB**



The Men's Club held their final meeting at Wetmore's for an evening of good company and a great meal. Our regular meetings will begin again in September.

We want to remind those who make their own pickles over the summer months that the Men's Club will be looking for donation of pickles for our annual Salmon Supper being held on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Have a great summer!

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**



John and Judy St. Pierre welcomed a new grandson Quinn Benjamin Brian St. Pierre on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Trevor and Pam Gonnason announce the birth of their first grandchild, Ethan Leonard Webb, born April 27<sup>th</sup>. Proud parents are Matt and Heather Webb of Fredericton.

## FROM THE GREEN COMMITTEE



The Green Committee thanks everyone for their contributions of “pictures of pets” for our Environment Sunday presentation on June 1. The response was overwhelming!

What would we ever do without the wondrous gifts God has provided through His Creation? It’s difficult to imagine what we would do without our dogs, cats, budgies, horses and, yes, even tarantulas, for some “odd-ball” people!

To keep our pets, the animals of the wild, creatures of the sea and those of the air safe and secure in our environment, we must PRACTICE being good stewards of God’s creation every day. We may need to remind ourselves, especially during the “lazy, hazy” days of summer, to take that extra moment to put that paper, plastic bag or cup in the recycling box. It’s the little things we do every day that helps.

A reminder, check the “Book Exchange” at the front entry, for your summer reading. Its operation is simple: take a book home, read it, then bring it back. If you have one you would like to bring in, please do.



Here is a Green Tip to help make your summer more enjoyable:



Mosquito Repellent: In a Mason jar put liquid citronella (can be found in home improvement stores). Using a hammer and nail, put a hole in the lid of the jar. Put an all cotton wick or string through the hole, put the lid on the jar and give the wick about ten minutes to absorb the citronella oil, then light. Other types of bottles can be used, as well as adding small pebbles or glass discs to the jar or bottle, so use your imagination to make an attractive oil lamp repellent.

Enjoy your summer, wear sunscreen and remember the “3R’s”!

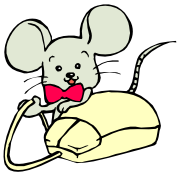


## AN ARCHIVAL MOMENT



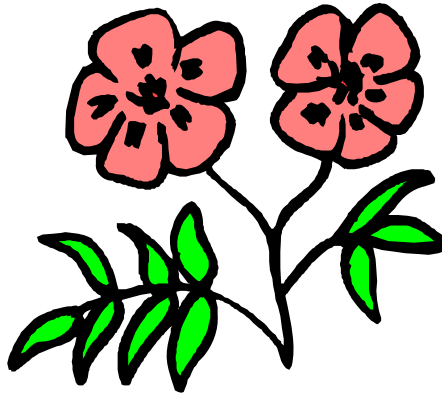
**1987:** The UCW donated a Baptismal Font stand in memory of former UCW members.

## NMUC WEBSITE



Have you checked our website lately at <[www.newmarylandunited.ca](http://www.newmarylandunited.ca)>?  
Appreciation to **Garth Caseley** for keeping our website up-to-date!

"I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June."  
- L. M. Montgomery



Kind hearts are the gardens;  
Kind thoughts are the roots;  
Kind words are the flowers;  
Kind deeds are the fruits.  
English Proverb

