



## THE BEACON

JUNE 7, 2015 NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER NO. 29

FROM REV. KELLY'S DESK

### *On Prayers, Fish and Flags*



Prayer.

There's the ones you might have been taught to say at night: you know, "God Bless: and the list begins. If you were as clever a child as I was, you probably learned to pray for as many people as you could possibly think of, just to stay up a bit longer. After the usual suspects – Mum, Dad, Nana, Grandpa, sisters and brothers, assorted extended family - I would add in the mailman, the woman who delivered eggs, the lady in the green house 3 blocks away, etc. And I always added in all the neighbourhood dogs in my prayers. That should go without saying.

Then, there's prayers before we eat, prayers for strength, prayers for greeting the day, prayers when someone is ill, or facing a serious situation, or lonely. Indeed the kinds of prayers are limitless. So is our need it seems.

And the way we pray is perhaps generally thought of as either silent prayers, or spoken prayers. We seldom think of prayers as "concrete", do we? They are thoughts, emotions, needs, worries, hopes. Prayer is as ethereal as the wind, as spirit.

Or is it?

I remember one summer long ago, when I was a volunteer Chaplain at the UCC Camp Kidston in NS. The Christian Education leader had teamed up with the Art director and had helped the children create Prayer flags. They are Tibetan in origin, but the idea has been embraced by many faiths, including our own. A piece of cloth (or even paper) is transformed by words, images, paint, markers, ink, etc., into a prayer. It can look however you wish. It can "say" whatever your praying heart desires.

On this particular day the prayer flags the children created were tied to trees lining the road into camp. You turned a dusty corner, and were greeted by a wild and colourful host of flapping joy!

It was a wonderful – a holy thing – to see the transformation of those parents and grandparents, weary after a long work week, hot and tired from their drive up to claim their camper. Suddenly they were laughing and smiling, sticking their hands out of car windows like children once again, in order to touch the flags, to feel the prayer as greeting, as joy, as peace!

Well, something of that spirit has infected the folks who are planning General Council in Corner Brook, Newfoundland this summer. Because Prayer flags – called prayer fish (cause we’re in Newfoundland, my son! OK, but also because that is a traditional Christian symbol) – are being requested!



As we gather for General Council 42 from sea to sea to sea in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, this August, we would like to be – indeed we NEED to be -surrounded by our congregations’ prayers.

Each congregation is invited to create a “prayer fish” (like a prayer flag, only in the shape of a fish) to hang in our gathering space, carrying your prayers and hopes for the church at this time. Create a prayer fish to hang vertically on legal-size cardstock or material 8.5 inches by 14 inches, and mail it to:

Linda Stonehouse, 7 Westview Ave., Corner Brook, NL A2H 3B7

For ideas:

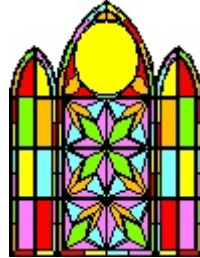
<http://theprayerflagproject.blogspot.ca/>

<http://www.thepeaceflagproject.org/creatingpeaceflags.htm>

Anyone who is interested please let me know. I will be so thrilled to see NMUC’s prayer fish there to greet us!  
With much love and prayers,

*Rev Kelly*

### FROM THE CHAIR OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD



I suspect that you all would agree that our new addition already feels like home and is being used on a regular basis...the upstairs provides such a lovely welcoming area to the sanctuary as well as useful space for social events. We have already had lunch served there during our annual meeting and the area was so convenient for the yard sale. (Many positive comments were made by visitors who attended our yard sale.....future members maybe?)

Many believe that "a project" brings life to a congregation. I think New Maryland United is a good example of this. With the Accessibility Project nearing completion and bills to pay, our church committees have been very busy this spring with fundraising; the UCW held a Bridge Luncheon and the Men's Club organized a yard sale. Both events were very successful.

We are blessed to have so many people in the congregation supporting our church in so many ways.  
Many thanks!

*Sue Morrison*

## INTRODUCING LYDIA (BROWN) LAPOINT



Like Marg Frenette, I had the good luck to be born on the beautiful island of Grand Manan, the oldest of 4 children, 3 girls and finally (in my mother's opinion) a boy. My father served overseas in World War II, while my mother was a cab driver in Edmundston, before and after she got her drivers license! Post war children came quickly; we were all born within 5.5 years of my father's return from Europe.

Life on the edge of the Bay of Fundy in Grand Harbour meant seeing a float plane land (a sight that gave me nightmares for weeks—the plane was headed into the water!), playing in old beached skiffs with sea shells as dishes for our mud pies, exploring the coastline, smoke sheds, seeing live lobsters crawling on the kitchen floor, and walking to school. I was blessed with 3 girls my age living close by.

My father's family had all moved away—one aunt to Saint John, NB, and the others to ``The States`` but they visited often in the summers. I remember the horde of boys from Aunt Margaret's family — 6 of them all older than me. Aunt Verda had only 2 boys—one adopted and one of her own. At 95, she is the only remaining member of that generation. She lives in Panama City, Florida, in a seniors` apartment complex. I have had the privilege of visiting her twice in the past 3 years, and reuniting with her son, my cousin Calvin Brown.

When I was 9, my parents divorced (unheard of in the 1950`s) and my mother brought us back to her home area in Pennfield to raise us on her own, with no support and no contact with our father, his new wife and family. I did not see him again until I was 19. Life was a challenge, with a stigma to being the family with no father.

My teen years were centered on scholastic efforts at ECRS (Eastern Charlotte Regional School) in St. George, and life at Pennfield Baptist Church. Having no car, and living out of a town, the school bus took us to school, and the church was within walking distance. My grandmother, who lived across the road from us, was a huge influence. Among other things, she was a reporter for the St. Croix Courier, providing weekly updates on the social activities in Pennfield. Her heavy black telephone with the rotary dial was kept humming as she checked on everyone. Pay was a 5- pound box of Ganong chocolates which she proudly displayed to everyone.

Youth group, choir, Sunday School, Youth Rallies in the county, and even attendance at the Women's Missionary Circle with my grandmother constituted a lot of my social life and really formed me. Lucky for me, one minister`s wife provided piano lessons.

The first minister and his wife were transferred and in their place came a couple with a daughter about my age. Joan Green and I became close friends and through her, I was able to travel around the province, to the St. Stephen exhibition, and the FREX! Her mother was from Fredericton and she wanted to visit as often as possible. Joan and I remain friends today.

My mother worked as a sardine packer in the old Connors Brothers factories in Blacks Harbour and Beaver Harbour. I worked there one summer—a job that motivates you to study hard and get a good education! Another summer job was the best one ever—signing in campers at New River Beach Campground. The hours were 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. I met many people from all over the country and beyond.

Fortunately, when I graduated from High School, it was possible to attend NB Teachers` College for free tuition if you worked in the province for 2 years. After graduating from Teachers' College I taught in Woodstock's Fisher School which burned two months after my arrival! Staff and students were then distributed around the town; another teacher and I shared teaching 2 combined Grade 3 classes at the Anglican Church hall. One student had epilepsy in addition to all other challenges we had to deal with.

After 2 wonderful years in Woodstock, I returned to UNB and studied for my Bachelor of Teaching degree. A handsome young engineering student caught my eye as well. We were married in October of our last year at school, in Grace Memorial United Baptist Church. Upon graduation, we spent 7 years in Arvida, PQ.

Teachers' College is where I started to learn to speak French. Then, I attended a French Immersion Summer School course at University of Moncton, which helped a lot. Moving to the almost totally French speaking area of the country, the Saguenay Valley in Quebec, really helped me improve my skills. Up there, no one needed a French teacher, so I taught English!

Pat worked for Alcan, I taught school a bit, but stayed home to raise our daughters, Janine and Diane. We moved to Bathurst in 1977, and came to New Maryland-Fredericton area for good in 1981. Rev. Doyle Prier from Bathurst suggested we attend church at New Maryland United which we did. We love being members of this church and appreciate the atmosphere of warmth and support here. Our daughters were barely in elementary school when we arrived, so they both grew up in the church and were confirmed there. They sang in the Junior Choir directed by Penny Fletcher, and attended Sunday School and CGIT. It was a great place to grow up.

Upon arrival in Fredericton, teaching jobs were not plentiful so I started working in the life insurance business. I have been doing this for 30 years, 20 of those with York Financial Services. My industry designations include: CLU (Chartered Life Underwriter, similar to being a Chartered Accountant in my profession) and Chartered Financial Consultant (Advanced Estate Planning). It has been a wonderful career!

At this point, Pat is working in Saint John and our 2 storey home on Forest Hill Road is for sale. However, we are not leaving the city or the church. We want to move into a bungalow that is accessible in case we have mobility problems in future.

We thank the members of NMUC for their friendship and support over so many years.

*Lydia (Brown) LaPointe*

## NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH WEBSITE UPDATES



The passing of Paul Lister in April, 2014 not only left us mourning a very good friend but also the loss of his expertise as webmaster to our New Maryland United Church website. We have been stumbling along for a while now and fortunately for us Garth Caseley, who had worked with Paul on the website, has graciously accepted the responsibility of doing the updates for us into the future. Going forward, Sue Harris will be feeding information to Garth so our website will stay current. Should you have an item you want added to our website please forward it to Sue at [sue.b.harris@gmail.com](mailto:sue.b.harris@gmail.com) and she will see that Garth gets it. So as not to overwhelm Garth with updates, Sue will be sending emails to Garth over a period of time requesting changes until the site is up to date. Lorna Ball will continue to submit the weekly bulletins and Kaye Lister will forward the newsletters to him. Hopefully in the fall we can get updated pictures of the various church committees and groups.

Submitted by

*Sue Harris*

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Allen poses with his family as NMUC surprises him with their congratulations on receiving his Juris Doctor Degree.



## MORE CONGRATULATIONS!



~ To RCMP Constable **Mark Morrison**, son of Paul and Sue, who received The Commanders Commendation for Bravery on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

~ To **Pam Campbell** for being elected President of the Central Branch Retired Teachers, a professional organization of approximately 400 members dedicated to the needs of retired teachers here in central New Brunswick.

~ To **Lydia LaPoint**, featured in the publicity poster 'Feast in the Field', being held in Officers Square, Sunday, September 13, 2-5 pm, a fund raiser for Ability New Brunswick which helps people with disabilities become as independent as possible.

## FROM THE MEN'S CLUB



The Men's Club thanks all those who supported the Yard Sale held on Saturday, May 23! To those who donated items, made purchases, helped with the setting-up and clean-up, your participation was greatly appreciated. The event was a great success with proceeds of \$1,915.00 being added to the Accessibility Fund.

Just a reminder to keep in mind the fall Salmon Supper being held October 18<sup>th</sup>. Once again we will be asking for your assistance with the event and hopefully donations of homemade pickles.

## NMUC WEBSITE

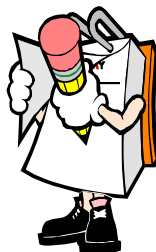


[www.newmarylandunited.ca](http://www.newmarylandunited.ca)

Have you checked our website lately to keep informed of our numerous activities?

Be sure to click on 'Photos' !

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR !



Join us on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 11 a.m. when we will celebrate **Dads and Grads**, plus the **Closing of Sunday School** for the summer months. A pot luck luncheon will follow the service. Donations of any type of finger food would be appreciated. Hot dogs and ice cream sundaes will be provided by the C. D. Committee.

## ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE



In June of 2014 the foundation was poured to begin the new addition to our church. In the twelve months since that foundation was started, we have watched a beautiful new addition being built and have seen what a difference it has made to our congregation.

We are now watching the final stages of the project be completed. The bathrooms have been installed and the tile is now in place on the walls. The construction work handled by DC Forbes is now complete, and finishing touches will be completed shortly. The installation of the lift will be the crowning glory and we expect that should take place within the next month. In some ways the past year seems so long and then when you think of what has been done, it seems like a lot in a short period of time.

Throughout this process the most exciting and heartwarming experiences have been the times when the full congregation was engaged. The people who signed their names in the studs of the walls, the exchange of books in the new "library " area , the many donations made by so many people, and the wonderful comments that can so often be heard, have all made this project a labour of love. If we ever tried to say thank you to every person who deserved thanks, we would soon realize that each person who has entered the doors of our church in the past year deserves thanks. The encouragement given to the committee and the willingness to assist in any way was the fuel that kept the project going.

Just recently our church held a yard sale. As David Ward said, we had rain, and snow and hail. It was so very exciting to find out that the sale was moved inside. We actually had room in our new addition to hold a yard sale. Whoever would have imagined that! The result was awesome. The proceeds of the sale were to be used for the accessibility project and in a way it seemed very fitting that it be held in place it was helping to fund.

## A QUIZ FROM THE GREEN COMMITTEE



**EcoTrivia** (Answers are on the next page ... don't peek!)

1. At what percentage do your heating costs rise for every degree above 20 C that you set your household thermostat in winter? A. 2%, B. 4%, C. 5%, D. 7%
2. Your residential water heater uses \_\_\_\_\_% of your homes energy and produces approximately 2 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. ( 2 tonnes equals the space of two swimming pools each one 32 feet wide, 82 feet long and 6.5 feet deep) A . 5% B. 10% C. 15% D. 20%
3. Recycling 1,000 kg. of aluminum saves enough energy to heat \_\_\_\_\_ for ten years.  
A. Typical home B. Elementary school C. Corner store D. Restaurant
4. The average Canadian uses 36,000 litres of water each year for  
A. Showers B. Dishwashing C. Laundry D. Toilet flushing
5. What country has the greatest supply of fresh water?  
A. Canada B. Brazil C. Russia D. China
6. On average, households waste \_\_\_\_\_% of their food purchase.  
A. 5% B. 10 % C. 14 % D. 19 %
7. One tree can remove \_\_\_\_\_pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere annually.  
A. 13 B. 20 C. 26 D. 32
8. As much as \_\_\_\_\_% of chemicals that are applied to our lawns, gardens and crops to ward off pests and insects end up in our drinking water supply.  
A. 70% B. 60 % C. 50% D. 80%
9. Automobile exhaust contributes to:  
A. Ozone depletion B. Acid rain C. Global warming D. Smog E. All of the above
10. The amount of waste in landfills that could be recycled is about:  
A. 20 % B. 50% C. 40% D. 70%



## EcoTrivia Answers

1. C. 5 %. Don't overheat your home. Save money and electricity by wearing a sweater.
2. C. 15%. Water heaters are often set higher than necessary; turn it down a little. If away for a period of time, turn it off as it doesn't need to be heating when not in use.
3. A. A typical home. Or the equivalent of 10,000 litres of gasoline.
4. D. Toilet flushing. The average toilet uses 19 litres per flush. Replace with a low flush toilet or put a water replacement dam in your present toilet. It can save up to 5 litres per flush.
5. A. Canada. Use water conservatively. There is a severe shortage of fresh water around the globe today. California is an example.
6. C. 14%. An average family of four throws out about \$590.00 per year just in fruit, vegetables, meat and grain products.
7. C. 26. This is equal to the amount of car emissions produced if a car were driven 17,600 km.
8. C. 50%. Pesticides and chemicals leach into the ground water and contaminate our drinking water supply which in turn negatively affects our health.
9. E.
10. D. 70%. Be sure to compost or recycle all appropriate material and try to reduce the amount of packaged goods you buy, thus diverting 70% of household waste from the landfill.

## A LETTER OF THANKS

It has been almost 4 months since we celebrated the life of Dawn. It has given me time to reflect on the events of the past. What stands out for me is the sustained support provided by our NMUC friends over the last two years of Dawn's journey. Your kindnesses provided much of the strength and comfort we needed to live our last days together with purpose, hope and thankfulness.

The many kind words, the letters, the cards, the flowers, the quilts and, of course, the food were all examples of the many ways you showed your support. You let us know that you cared and wanted to help in any way that you could. Each of these gifts brought us flashes of joy, excitement and gratitude—as Dawn would say, "Sparkles".

While the end of the journey was inevitable, all of this made us realize that we were not in this alone. We drew strength from your kindnesses and strong support to make the most of our remaining days, as Dawn and I together moved to a serene transition. Your gifts to us clearly demonstrated how you answered the call to carry out Christ's work in our community.

For all of this, I give you my deepest thanks and I want you to know that I feel your continued support as I enter uncharted waters.

My Everlasting Gratitude,

*Bob Watson*



## SOMETHING TO PONDER

### Charitable Planned Giving--Overview of Options Available



Everyone benefits from the power of a planned gift - you, your family and your favourite charity.

There is a wide range of planned giving arrangements. They include:

#### **Bequests**

The easiest way to make a planned gift to the church is through your will. New Maryland United Church can accept and provide charitable receipts for both cash bequests and gifts in kind. NMUC can also assist *you* with drafting your bequest.

#### **TFSA or other savings accounts**

All or a portion of the assets in regular or special savings accounts can be donated. A charitable tax receipt will be issued to your estate for the full amount of the donation.

#### **Life Insurance Policy**

Annual or monthly premiums that fit your budget can provide a substantial gift for NMUC. In addition, your estate is not affected and the gift is not diminished due to taxes, probate or administration fees. You can donate an existing policy or a new one. There are policies with limited or no medical questions, available up to age 85. Many couples consider Joint Last to Die policies which are more economical than individual ones.

*Tax receipts for the premiums are issued if the church is named irrevocable beneficiary.*

#### **Gifts in Kind**

New Maryland United is also able to accept donations of real property such as stocks, bonds, land, and other assets. Gifts in kind may be made as outright gifts, through a will or in trust.

#### **RRSPs/ RRIF's, LIRA's/ LIF's** (Registered savings and income plans)

This option saves taxes on your estate and can provide a generous gift to the church. You benefit both for the amount you can give and the tax benefits your estate will receive. You simply state in your will that remaining money in your RRSP, RRIF, LIRA or LIF be bequeathed to New Maryland United. *Instead of losing almost half of your savings to income taxes, 100% of the money in that account goes to NMUC. Your estate qualifies for a receipt for the full amount donated. CRA does not get any tax money on this part of your savings!*

#### **Real Estate**

Land or buildings, commercial or private, make excellent charitable gifts. The property can either be used by the church or sold, with the proceeds used for purposes designated by you, the donor.

## CHUCKLES



~ At what time of day was Adam created? (... a little before Eve).

~ Why was Noah the greatest financier on record? (... because he kept his company afloat when the rest of the world was in liquidation).

## THANK YOU!

On behalf of myself and Team Crazy Legs I would like to express a huge thank you to those who have supported our team over the years. We had a great day and at last count had raised over \$6500. If you haven't had a chance to donate, it is not too late as we fundraise 24/7! We celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> year with the MS Walk and will continue until a cure is found.

If you would like to follow our ongoing fundraising, please go to and "like" our Team Crazy Legs Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Team-Crazy-Legs/411744902331180?ref=ts>

*Pam Gonnason*



# 90TH MARITIME CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

May 28 - 31, 2015 - Digest of Proceedings

Moderator Gary Paterson offered leadership in the theme, "Live the Promise, That All May Be."

· At the 90th Annual Meeting held last weekend, Maritime Conference voted to seek formal recognition as an Affirming Ministry within The United Church of Canada. With a few slight amendments, the Annual Meeting approved the Vision Statement and the Plan of Action presented by the Affirming Ministry task group after 3 years of study and reflection by the whole Conference.

The Affirming Task Group team consists of April Hart, Meggin King, Jane Johnson, and Bob Johnson, staffed by David Hewitt.

· Finance and Property offered the 2016 budget, including a Narrative Budget. Approved:

~ expenditures of \$1,233,663.64;

~ revenues other than allocations of \$298,972.00

~ allocations to synod/presbyteries totaling \$934,365.99;

~ and a cash reserve of \$20,000

· Commissioners to General Council were elected, including Heather Donnelly, Kelly Burke, Jane Johnson and Lauren King.

Six persons – all women- were ordained on Sunday morning, including Yvette V.A. Swan who is serving the Nashwaak Pastoral Charge here in NB.

· The Rev Matthew Fillier was installed as President Maritime Conference, to serve for one year.

## PLANNING AHEAD



**June 07:** Special Worship Service of Baptism, Communion, Confirmation and the Reception of New Members

**June 21:** Sundaes Sunday! In this Intergenerational service we celebrate Dads, Grads, and Sunday School!

**June 28:** Last Sunday for worship at 11 am

**July 05:** SUMMER HOURS begin. Worship is at 10:30 am.

**July 13-20:** Rev Kelly on 1 week vacation

**August 7-15:** Rev Kelly working at General Council in Corner Brook, Newfoundland

**August 16-24:** Rev Kelly on 1 week vacation

**Sept 13:** Worship returns to 11 am ; Sunday School returns

**Sept 20:** Welcome Back Sunday

## A PARTING THOUGHT



Take the time to look outside. It's not hard to tell that green is God's favourite color!