

FROM REV. KELLY'S DESK

God has given me cause to laugh, and all who hear of it will laugh with me.
Genesis 21:6



At choir practice the other day, the subject of April Fool's Day came up.

This day of good natured tom-foolery often seems to slip by me now, with little notice. It wasn't always so. My Dad was known to pull a few tricks on his brood. Even at the rather snooty Bishop Spencer College that I attended, April Fool's jokes ran rampant: salt in the head mistress's sugar bowl; a pair of gym bloomers hung out a classroom window (I know...soooo wildly delinquent!).

But then again, it is somehow 'understood' among pranksters that this day is meant for "fun" – Do no harm, and nothing illegal. The one hard and fast rule was that you had to end all pranks by noon. This was not up for discussion.

Perhaps this year, given the mountains of snow about, spring itself feels like the grandest prank of all. And maybe it feels like we are all more than ready for a good laugh or two!

But did you know that there is a long tradition within the church, if not precisely for April Fool's Day, at least a time set apart time for humour and laughter? It goes something like this:



Easter is, in a very real way, the Great Prank. The Biggest Spoof on death ever known. For Jesus was clearly dead and buried. And yet.... 3 days later he was on the loose! Death does not get the last laugh.

Thus, the church, for centuries, though it seems to have fallen out of practice, followed a liturgy of the first Sunday after Easter being known as **Risus Paschalis** ('God's Joke,' or 'the Easter laugh').

Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After worship, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played by raising Jesus from the dead.

The observance of **Risus Paschalis** was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. It seems people were having too much fun!

I think we have the best of both worlds here at NMUC. Rather than needing a specific Sunday set apart, this is a community that delights in sharing joy and laughter together anytime: in the midst of worship, at a meeting, in the middle of choir practice or over a cup of coffee. Besides, I have witnessed clergy trying to tell jokes from the pulpit. They often fail – in many ways! Instead of a joke (often in questionable taste!), I think God offers us plenty of wonderfully hilarious moments in the midst of our honest to goodness lives. And let's not forget the grand humour that can be found in scripture.

Laughter is good medicine, for body and soul! That's a prescription we can all get behind!

With love and laughter,

Rev Kelly



FROM THE CHAIR OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD

The 2014 Annual Report for NMUC was impressive as it reflects a very active year in our church. Not only have we expanded the size of our building to make it more accessible to everyone, we have also had many opportunities for worship, prayer, fellowship, and outreach.

As our Official Board meets for the first time following our congregational meeting, we welcome new members to our committees and say "thank you" to those who have completed their commitment to various committees.

We have lots to look forward to in the days ahead...Easter and Spring. So Happy Easter, everyone, and Happy Spring!!

Sue Morrison

Chair of Official Board



FROM THE UCW



~ The UCW will be holding two Bridge Luncheons as our major fund raisers during 2015, one in the spring and one in the fall. Our spring one will be held on Tuesday, May 5th at the New Maryland Rec Centre from 12 to 3. A table of four can be booked for \$40 by calling Loraine Ward at 455-8208.



~ The Spring Rally for UCW is being hosted by the United Church in Woodstock on Saturday, April 25th from 9 to 3. If you are interested in car pooling with some of our members to this event, please contact Dorothy Webster at 457-9795 for more details.

FROM THE MEN'S CLUB



CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST: Join us for a Continental Breakfast Easter Sunday, April 5, between the hours of 9:30 and 10:30. The Men's Club and the UCW will be serving coffee, tea, juice, fruit, sweet breads, brown bread, hot cross buns, muffins, tea biscuits, sweet breads, jam. Free will offering.

YARD SALE: Saturday, May 23, 8 a.m. - noon. Please start saving all the items you no longer need but could be donated to our yard sale ... please no TV's, computers or clothing. Items will be received at the church Friday evening, May 22. All proceeds from this event will go to the Accessibility Fund. The UCW will also have a Bake Sale and will be selling coffee and muffins. Let's make this a successful event!



YARD CLEAN UP: The Men's Club will be doing their annual church yard clean-up on Thursday, May 28th, starting at 6 p.m. All men and ladies are welcome to come and help. Please bring your own rakes, shovels, and gloves.

FROM THE CHOIR LOFT



Our dedicated choir members continue to practice on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30, under the wonderful leadership of Allan and Carolyn. As well as offering an anthem for each Sunday Service, we are also practising wonderful anthems for the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday Services. New members would be very welcome!

SOUP AND PIE SUPPER



Mark your calendar for the Soup and Pie supper to be held Wed. April 22nd at 6 pm at the church. Admission by donation with all proceeds going to support the work of DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS.

NMUC WEBSITE

www.newmarylandunited.ca



Keep informed of the NMUC activities by checking our website.
Appreciation goes to Garth Casely who keeps it updated.

FROM THE GREEN COMMITTEE



Do you recall, back in January, the challenge that NB Power put out to Moncton and Fredericton areas? The challenge was to come up with ways to cut back on energy use during peak hours of the day. Did you know that the Fredericton area won? I understand that the Fredericton YMCA has already started to work on their \$10,000 winning electricity upgrades. Congratulations to Fredericton and New Maryland power customers!



Since we are on the subject of making better use of our resources, recently, in The Daily Gleaner, there was an article about a chap from Rusagonis who is a “dumpster diver”. (By the way, he has a well paying job in Alberta.) A dumpster diver is a person who searches through dumpsters outside local retail stores and finds amazing, useful items, for example, broken bags of dog and cat food, that could be donated to a local animal shelter; many plastic and paper items that could be recycled; tools and building supplies that could be donated to Habitat for Humanity, as well as, new winter clothing that could be donated to clothing banks. Often edible fresh fruits, vegetables and dairy products are found.

We know that just a couple of weeks ago our local Community Kitchen was in dire need of fresh produce. When the community heard of this, the citizens came through and the cooler and shelves were restocked. Why does this happen when fresh food often ends up in dumpsters?

One reason is the retailers have a concern re-the legal implications of someone becoming ill from eating their donated food. It is not widely known that in September 2011, New Brunswick passed the Charitable Donation of Food Act, which provides legal protection as long as there is no gross negligence.



Many non-perishable foods, nearing their best before date, are donated but some are not. As for clothing, tools, etc. it is simpler and less expensive for retailers to dump it rather than return it to the manufacturer.



The New Maryland United Church Community has always had the less fortunate topmost in their minds and hearts by donating food, clothing, kitchen items, bedding, etc. as well as our time to various non-profit organizations.

As individuals, can we do more? A tip from a member of our congregation has informed us that the Greener Village, now home to the Fredericton Food Bank, has added new services, one is cooking classes. They are happy to accept kitchen utensils, cooking pots, etc. Some of these get used by the Greener Village Staff while others are made available to the Food Bank clients. They may be dropped off at the Greener Village location in Lower St. Mary's from Monday to Friday.



We can donate clothing and household items through the many bins located in parking areas or by calling Community Living Pick-Up Service, 1-866-662-2548. Habitat for Humanity Restore, 385 Wilsey Rd. accepts tools, building supplies and furniture. They sell these items to raise money for Habitat for Humanity. Computers for Schools will accept any computer related fixtures, e.g. towers, all wires, etc. They will accept six non-flat screen computers free of charge, after that there is a charge of 56 cents per kilogram.

Anyone for “dumpster diving”?

AN ARCHIVAL MOMENT



2003: Dr. Carolyn Barry has rented the church basement rooms for a private school.

FOOD BANK



Thanks to those who contribute food to feed the less fortunate! You will find in each Sunday's bulletin the suggested food item for that month. However, everything is deeply appreciated, as well as egg cartons and clean plastic bags. You may leave your donated items in the basket in the church lobby.

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES



Dear God: Thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. Love, Anita

Dear God: Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they each had their own rooms. It works out okay with me and my brother. Love, Larry

Dear God: It's great the way you always get the stars in the right place. Why can't you do that with the moon? Love, Jeff

INTRODUCING BETTY BARKER



Betty Barker was born Mary Elizabeth Plume in Tay Fall, NB, the fourth of five children of William (Billie) and Letita (Wilkins) Plume. She had one sister who sadly died as an infant and she had three brothers. She began her school years in Tay Fall but when the family moved to Woodlands she continued her schooling there and enjoyed helping the Woodlands teacher with some of the daily duties.

Betty lived on the family farms in both Tay Fall and Woodlands and helped with the barn chores, milking the cows and feeding the farm animals. She helped with the gardening, with the cutting of wood for the home fires, and helped in the hay fields providing hay for the cows, horses and sheep. Betty's mother taught her at a young age to knit and quilt, two skills she still enjoys today. The cornfield provided a grand place to play hide-and-seek with friends and they enjoyed many a ball game.

Betty recalls favourite memories from her teen years when the family moved to Nashwaaksis. She and her friends would get together for good times at Young Peoples, dances and movies and she recalls a special trip travelling to New York with a friend. However, as a teenager it was not always 'play and no work'. Her mother took in boarders so Betty often helped with the housework and she baby-sat.

It was at a dance in Woodlands where she met Glenwood, her future husband! Before their marriage, Betty was employed at the local K-Mart for ten years. After they married, Betty and Glenwood lived in New Maryland and raised three children - a daughter, Debbie, and two sons, Chris, and Dean. Betty and Glenwood often enjoyed week-end camping trips with the children in the New England States ... but that was years ago! Now Debbie and Terry and their three children live in Edmonton. Betty has enjoyed travelling there to be with them for the past three years at Christmas time. She is proud too of her two great-grandchildren. Chris lives in Vermont where he is employed as a Civil Engineer. Dean worked with his Dad in their 'New Maryland Automotive' business at their homestead in Charters Settlement and has continued with the business since his Dad's passing.

After successfully completing a Red Cross Course, Betty was employed in seniors' homes, assisting the elderly with their housework and daily care. She retired at age 65 although she continued to help the elderly on her own time in the years following her retirement.

Betty has enjoyed bus trips with friends and was especially thrilled with a trip to Hollywood to see her granddaughter win several trophies in a gymnastics competition.

She helps her long-time friend Minnie Foss with their quilting projects, gardening their potted and bedding plants, and they can be found displaying the results of their hard work at exhibitions and yard sales. Betty is a dedicated member of the New Maryland United Church and its quilting group and she was a faithful member of the New Maryland Lions Club.

Betty's friends at NMUC wish her many years of happiness ahead as she continues to enjoy her hobbies and her travels.



"Happiness cannot come from without. It must come from within. It is not what we see and touch or that which others do for us which makes us happy; it is that which we think and feel and do, first for the other fellow and then for ourselves." Helen Keller

FROM THE FARMER'S ALMANAC: 1815 (200 YEARS AGO!)



MARCH : 'Tis almost as much as anyone can do to keep his hat upon his head, and his head upon his shoulders during this turbulent month.

APRIL: This is the month when the whole village is in motion - man , beasts and birds are all awake.

MAY: Come, Flora, and bring me a nosegay! What a delightful month is this!

JUNE: Weed your flax before the weeds choke it. If this is neglected, your flax will be poor and your women will be complaining.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE GRANDMAS GONE?



In the dim and distant past,
When life's tempo wasn't fast,
Grandma used to rock and knit,
Crochet, chat, and baby sit.
When we were in a jam,
We could always call on Gram.
In that day of gracious living,
Grandma was the gal for giving.
But today she's in the gym,
Exercising to keep slim.
She's off touring with the bunch
Or taking clients out to lunch;
Going North to ski or curl -
All her days are in a whirl.
Nothing seems to stop or block her
Now that Grandma's off her rocker!

GOD SAID "NO"



I asked God to take away my habit.

God said, "No. It is not for me to take away but for you to give it up."

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said, "No. Patience is a by-product of tribulations. It isn't granted; it is learned."

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said, "No. I give you blessings; happiness is up to you."

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said, "No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said, "No. You must grow on your own! But I will prune you to make you fruitful."

I asked God for all the things that I might enjoy life.

God said, "No. I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things."

I asked God to help me love others as much as He loves me.

God said, "Ahhhh ... finally you have the idea."

LOOKING AHEAD



April 2, 6 p.m. - Pot luck supper followed by Maundy Thursday service

April 3, 10 a.m. - Good Friday service

April 5 - No early service. Continental breakfast 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. before the 11:00 am Easter service.

April 22, 6 p.m. - Soup and Pie Supper

May 22, evening - Drop off items to the church for the May 23rd yard sale

May 23, 8 a.m. to noon - Yard sale

May 28, 6 p.m. - NMUC Yard Clean-Up