



From 1887 to 2017 many cosmetic changes  
have taken place in our church  
but its parishioners remain faithful to its  
Mission Statement:  
"To worship and serve God,  
grow spiritually in faith, fellowship and friendship,  
follow the teachings and principles of Jesus,  
invite and involve others in the congregation and local community  
to participate in the life of the church,  
and minister to all of God's people."



# **New Maryland United Church**

**130<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
1887 - 2017**

## NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH - CELEBRATING 130 YEARS - 1887 - 2017



*A Letter to the founders of New Maryland United Church, or "The Kirk" as it was known in those days, from the minister who serves it now, these 130 years hence.*

Dear Alexander, James, Ida, Joseph, William, and Mary,

I write to you, dear saints, across the years (130 to be exact!) in thanksgiving, and in the solidarity of the Spirit. Before I go further, St. Paul would tell me that I ought to begin a letter to such a venerable group as you, with the courtesy of a formal greeting. And so: I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, and I bid you grace and peace.

I have been wondering what it was like for you, as you undertook to build a church out here in Nasonworth. Did it feel like a daunting task? Did you worry about the future, and how it would all turn out? Your decision to build was apparently unanimous. I like that. It speaks well to the strength of your undertaking. From the day you met to decide to have a church here, it was 6 years before it came to be. Did it feel like a lifetime until it was finished? Did you bristle with excitement at the daringness of your project? Did you marvel at the volunteers, at their energy and faithfulness? Did you sense the goodness of the Spirit with you?

Do you know that we still tell many of the stories of your time? I love that someone stayed up all night keeping a fire going in the wood stove, so that the newly plastered walls wouldn't freeze. Someone stayed up all night so that this church could be ready to welcome in the worshipping community.

Like the stories, some of the gifts remain too. We still have the Bible that David Sinclair donated. And Miss Ella Shaw, as you rejoice in heaven now, do you recall the strains of the hymn from that first service? Were you pleased with the organ that was purchased for you to play...it cost a whopping 17 dollars and 25 cents! You were the first of many musicians here. Myrtle Charters and Ruby Hamilton made careers of it, staying 40-45 years each! Say hello to them for me. And maybe have them give our brilliant musicians Allan and Carolyn a nudge, that such a lengthy duration is a good idea.

And my dear Joseph - Rev. A. J. Mowatt – my predecessor, my brother in Christ: you were the first minister here. I am the 52<sup>nd</sup>. Did you feel a sense of hope and wonder as you preached that first Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1887? And by any chance did you arrive early on your first Christmas Eve here? Did you too walk around outside, circling this small church tucked along the New Maryland Highway? Did you too throw up a prayer thanking God for putting you in this place that truly feels like "the Gate of Heaven?" Did you thank God for the beloved people of your time, as I do for mine?



You made bold decisions here, dear saints, and I think we have too. And I think we will make out just fine, because, like you, we are not trying to be a “successful church” – we are instead trying to live out “the hope to which God has called us.” We treasure the glorious inheritance we have received from you saints, and want to honour it by being faithful to the Spirit’s call to us in our time, as you were in yours!

With enormous love and gratitude,  
Rev. Kelly

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD**

*“History provides abundant examples of people whose greatest gift was in redeeming, inspiring, liberating, and nurturing the gifts of others” (Sonya Rudikoff).*



Some ask why a special celebration for our 130th Anniversary? It is customary each year for us to have an Anniversary Sunday service and a pot luck lunch, but since this has been an exceptionally busy and challenging year for us, some additional festivities have been planned in recognition of the wonderful church family we are.

We have a lot for which to be proud; born from the modest little Kirk built in 1887 to our lovely accessible Church we worship and celebrate in today. We have descendants of our founding church members who continue to be part of our church family and our committees remain dedicated to our Mission Statement.

So, as you read the articles and look at the photos and reflect on this special edition of The Beacon, remember to give thanks for the legacy of those who have supported this church for 130 years. Pray that we will continue to worship and prosper in the coming years.

Happy 130th Anniversary, Everyone!

Sue Morrison  
Chair of Official Board

## **HAPPY 130TH ANNIVERSARY FROM SESSION**



Greetings and blessings from Session as we celebrate 130 years of worshipping together at New Maryland United Church. Our church family of 2017 is so grateful for those who had the foresight and determination to turn their vision into reality 130 years ago. And so today we continue to worship God, care for our people and reach outward beyond our boundaries to the wider community sharing God's love and message in meaningful ways. Happy Anniversary, New Maryland United Church, and may there be generations of our church family continuing with the church's work for many years to come!

In Celebration,  
Sue Harris  
Clerk of Session

## **A MODEST BEGINNING IN EXCITING TIMES!**



Canada was just twenty years old when the New Maryland Kirk was dedicated in the fall of 1887, a country so young that it consisted of seven of the 10 current provinces and although it stretched from sea unto sea, only four million people lived in Canada. Among those millions was this modest group of Presbyterians who chose to build a tiny church in New Maryland, New Brunswick. They held some optimism about the need for a church and indeed some optimism for their own futures. What was the world like in 1887 that lifted the spirits of this small group of believers to design their own spiritual future?



Well, in Great Britain, the Mother Country [to many Canadians], Queen Victoria and her subjects across the British Empire were celebrating her Jubilee as the Monarch of the largest empire in the history of the world. She was still in mourning over the loss of her husband, Albert Augustus Charles Emmanuel, her first cousin, who was delivered by the same mid-wife as Victoria in 1819. Victoria was only 18 when she ascended the throne of England and of course she was a rather eligible young woman. As early as 1838 she had set her sights on Albert of whom she wrote, "Albert is extremely handsome, his hair is the same colour as mine, his eyes are large and blue and he has a beautiful nose and a very sweet mouth with fine teeth." She proposed to him in 1840, apparently not a woman to wait for a man to propose, and they were married later that year. Theirs was a marriage made in heaven; they had nine children, many of whom married royalty in countries across Europe, so that by 1887, Victoria had family connections in Netherlands, Canada, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia. No doubt networking, as we call it today, was one of Victoria's long suits. Sadly, her precious Albert died in 1861 at only 42 years of age. His death plunged Victoria into a deep depression and she mourned him for the rest of her very long life.

Yet, after fifty years on the throne, her Empire was at its peak. There had been virtually no wars of any consequence [save the Crimean War], the Industrial Revolution was in full swing and millions had their standard of living raised as the empire grew more prosperous. Small wonder the impact of the Victorian Age was so profound.

Think of her times. Charles Darwin published "On the Origin of Species" in 1859, Louis Pasteur created germ theory in 1864 and advocated the pasteurization of milk a year later, saving thousands from serious infections, Joseph Lister began what he called antiseptic surgery in 1865 and by 1872 Edison had created the telegraph. The first street lights were turned on in London in 1878 and that same year Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated the telephone to Queen Victoria and she spoke to friends in a cottage at Osborne - she was impressed. By 1879, Bell's telephone system opened its first London exchange. Before her reign was over, Marconi had demonstrated the wireless telegraph and Sigmund Freud had treated enough Victorian women to construct his theory of Psychoanalysis. A couple of years after Victoria's demise, the Wright Brothers proved the skeptics wrong by making the first heavier than air craft fly across Devil Hills, North Carolina. Surely the Victorian Age was one of great change, largely for the betterment of humanity.

At the same time as Freud was uncovering some strange aspects of the deeper private thoughts of Victorian women, there were some equally strange practices which emerged. For example, arsenic was widely used by women as "complexion waters and shampoos." As well, it could be found in the very popular wallpapers, clothing and some foodstuffs. We shouldn't be surprised as arsenic's prevalence is still a worry today, particularly in rice. The Victorians popularized the use of beer as a safer drink than water in as much as the water was polluted from human or animal waste and the sewer systems were only beginning to be developed systematically. Pubs became the centre of many small towns, just as they did in the colonies.

Today we are accustomed to seeing lots of people with tattoos and we think it a current trend. In

fact, the Prince of Wales, Victoria's eldest son, sported a tattoo and "inking" became a fad for many Victorian men. These first 'tattooees' were considered daring men of modern and stylish dress. Of course, these stylish men were met by young women who, determined to present themselves in what they considered an attractive figure, wore extremely tight whalebone corsets so tight that it was difficult to breathe. These brutal undergarments were the principal cause for ladies to "swoon and faint" even if the men thought it was due to their personal attraction. Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales, came to New Brunswick in 1860 at the age of 18. There was no report of his tattoo but Fredericton went all out to welcome the heir to the throne. The city of 4000 swelled to 20,000 as these faithful colonialists wanted to see the Prince. After a late night of dancing, the young Prince slipped away early the next morning to take a ride in a birch bark canoe with Gabe Acquin, one of the Wolastokqiyik, no doubt causing a bit of stir among the soldiers assigned to protect him. Acquin would later be invited to England twice and on one occasion offered rides in his birchbark canoe on the artificial lakes near Kensington.

Finally, Victorians had their own take on death and remembrance. George Eastman, manufactured the Kodak box camera in 1887, making photography available to the general public. The Victorians began in earnest to photograph their dearly departed. Virtually no one took pictures of the living except the professional photographers but suddenly everyone took pictures of their dead relatives. These were put into lockets and brooches with locks of the deceased's hair. The Victorian Age was the big setting in which a very small Presbyterian church began but there were, of course, different influences closer to home.

Canadians, as members of the British Empire, were well aware of the world around them. There were daily newspapers in the larger cities and weeklies throughout the young country. Most of the news was local but the telegraph meant news from across the country and eventually across the world was available to print. In Fredericton, James Crockett published 'The York Gleaner' in 1880 three days a week and it became a daily by 1890. James Hogg published 'The New Brunswick Report', beginning in 1844, and 'The Royal Gazette' brought news from across Canada and the world. 'The Colonial Farmer' began in 1863 and was replaced by 'The Maritime Farmer' in 1879 and continued as 'The Fredericton Farmer' until 1905. In each of these iterations, news for farmers and their families in rural New Brunswick kept these small communities in touch with the larger world.

Canada itself was changing. In May of 1887 Britain granted Canada the authority to negotiate its own commercial treaties with other countries and shortly thereafter the first direct trade with China began. John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister, returned to office in 1878, after being banished for four years, the result of his senior officials accepting bribes from the CPR for favours. He remained in office until his death in 1891 and oversaw the completion of the CPR across Canada in 1885, linking Canada from sea to sea.

While the world was in the midst of a great depression, Canada's population growth waned and the innovative Canadian entrepreneurs could not compete with their southern neighbours. Macdonald instituted the National Policy, with the clear intent to use tariffs to protect the growing young



industries in Ontario and Quebec but business leaders in the Maritimes also responded positively. Probably the most notable was Alexander “Boss” Gibson, a lumber baron and railway builder who already saw the demand beginning to drift from the lumber industry. Gibson sold one of his railways for \$800,000 and began in 1880 to build the town of Marysville where he constructed 50 brick buildings for his employees and by 1885 had opened the Marysville Cotton Mill. By 1887 the Marysville Cotton Mill employed 500 men and women from all over the province. The mill was only sustainable as long as the high tariffs were in place but in the short run it was a boon to the economy.

The myth that Fredericton was always a Government and University town does not hold up when looking at the period surrounding the birth of the New Maryland Kirk. New Brunswick had started building railways almost as quickly as England and they were central to the growth of the province and the seeking of Confederation. Fredericton had grown to 6000 people by 1880 and had daily rail service to Saint John. The greater Fredericton area had 23 boot and shoe factories employing hundreds. ‘Nashwaaksis Manufacturing’ was producing farm equipment and in 1880 won prizes at the Provincial Exhibition for horse rakes, mowing machines, combine mower and reapers, ploughs, bandsaws, vertical drills and seed separators. ‘Risteen’s Window and Sash Company’ was adding value to wooden products and it provided many of the materials including the pews for the building of St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church in 1886. Perhaps the most relevant manufacturer to New Maryland was Hoegg’s Canning Factory. Started in 1881, it gathered crops from local farmers surrounding the city and canned 300,000 pounds of corn by 1883 as well as tomatoes, peas, beans, apples, berries and beef. The farmers could take their produce to the busy Fredericton market but Hoegg’s meant that bumper crops would still have a market. Hoegg’s employed one hundred workers.

London had set up its first telephone exchange in 1879 and John Babbitt built the first telephone in Fredericton after seeing Alexander Graham Bell’s model in the United States the same year. Bell Telephone had 123 subscribers by 1889 in Fredericton. Even in the face of a worldwide depression, Fredericton had an optimistic outlook, employment was high, while wages were competitive and business was brisk. Perhaps it was this outlook that prompted the farmers in New Maryland to see that their community was ready for another church.

It turned out to be an auspicious day for a small group of Presbyterians assembled at the New Maryland School House on November 17, 1881. All of the assembled were members of St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, Fredericton, who lived and worked in the tiny hamlet just a few miles south of Fredericton. The meeting was chaired by Rev. A. J. Mowatt, the pastor at St. Paul’s, who was apparently willing to entertain the wishes of his rural parishioners. By the time the meeting adjourned, a committee had been struck with unanimous approval to recognize the “necessity and importance of having a church erected”.

Coincidentally, St. Paul’s situation had changed during the same period as a result of earlier problems. As early as 1843, the Presbyterian Church of Scotland had what they called the “Disruption” and many Presbyterians broke from the old church and became “Free Churches.” St. Paul’s Presbyterian

suffered the same fate and a large group set up a “Free Church” a couple of blocks away on Brunswick Street. However, by 1881 the churches re-united under a new Minister, Rev. A. J. Mowat. The need for a new church was clear and a stone church, St. Paul’s Presbyterian, was quickly built and was dedicated in January, 1886. This dramatic change made the creation of the New Maryland Church seem more urgent.

Maybe it was the prospect of worshipping with more than 600 Presbyterians at St. Paul’s that moved the committee to follow their vision with great purpose. All of the committee members were farmers and perhaps the thought of worshipping weekly with city folk was less attractive than with their farmer neighbours. Among those optimistic attendees, seven men were named as a steering committee to explore obtaining a site for the proposed church and the cost of building it. Those brave souls were Alexander Haining and David Haining, Andrew McMurtrie, Archibald Charters Sr., William Shaw Jr, John Greer and James Haining Jr. The question of land was settled quickly when Alexander Haining offered a substantial portion of his land on which to build the church, next to his home. It would be an easy walk to church for Mr. Haining and his family, a walk taken today by Lewis Morgan, who now lives in the original homestead. St. Paul’s paid the honorific sum of \$1.00 to conclude the agreement. As in many community projects, the road to the erection of the new building would take time and persistence. At the time, these faithful members of St. Paul’s had to trek weekly the several miles from New Maryland to the corner of York and George Streets to attend Sunday service. We don’t know whether they “wagoneer or buggy pooled,” but with many having young children, it required an investment of several hours across dirt roads in variable weather. Small wonder they saw the necessity of a local building.

The campaign to raise funds started immediately and it took two years before the initial materials were purchased. And we thought it a challenge for our Accessibility Fund! Fifteen hundred linear feet of fine New Brunswick hemlock were purchased for the princely sum of \$10.50 but it took three more years before they had enough building materials to undertake the basic construction. By September, 1886 a building, 24’ x 20’ was constructed and painted, with most of the labour donated by the men of the church. With the building closed in, they started to hold services in the bare structure. Think about it, we began to worship in less than 500 square feet.

It took another year before the counter plastering was done, the organ purchased for \$17.25, the pulpit purchased for \$12.00 and finally the pews for \$45.00. And as Kelly reported in her return to the pulpit on October 8, the stove was kept burning all night on November 1, 1887 to keep the final plaster from freezing. Clearly, any global warming had not been felt. But more frequently it was called by those original members as the New Maryland Kirk, good Presbyterian church that it was. The deed for the church was signed November 26 and the dedication service was held in the church on November 27, 1887, 130 years ago! The church was officially called; “Branch of St. Paul’s” but was usually called by those original members as the “New Maryland Kirk.” The Steering Committee was present and they were joined by their spouses and other family members. Rev. A. J. Mowat presided, Miss Ella Shaw was the organist and many members of the St. Paul’s choir joined Mr. and Mrs. William Shaw Sr., Alexander Haining, William Haining, John Green, Ida Shaw, Isabell Fisher, William



and Robert Shaw. You can imagine in that tiny space how they lifted their voices to praise God and to give thanks for the gift of neighborliness.

One hundred and thirty years later, the optimism of those courageous angels allows those of us today to enjoy New Maryland United Church, a vibrant caring community worshipping in the traditions of those who gave us a modest beginning.

#### Author's Note:

The previous article is not intended as a research paper and no formal footnotes are offered. The following books were drawn from liberally to gather the facts for the narrative:

A. T. Doyle, The Premiers of New Brunswick, 1983; G. Gill, We Two, Victoria and Albert, 2009; R. Gwyn, Nation Maker-Sir John A. Macdonald, Vol.2, 2011; Il Hill, Fredericton, New Brunswick, 1966; P. Lister & K. Neilson, New Maryland United Church, An Historical Sketch, 1987; B. St. John Neville, Editor, Life at the Court of Queen Victoria, 1984; F. A. McGrand, Backward Glances at Sunbury & Queens; 1975; SL Morrison et al, A Century of Service, St. Paul's Church, 1832-1932, 1932; W. A. Squires, History of Fredericton-The Last 200 Years, 1980.

Rod Campbell, Nov. 3, 2017

### **ANDREW JOSEPH MOWATT**

the First Minister at the New Maryland Kirk in 1887



Andrew Joseph Mowatt was born in on 11 February, 1838 in Woodstock, NB, the son of Thomas Mowatt & Elizabeth "Betsy" Moffitt. When quite young he moved with his parents to Harvey. He received his early education at Fredericton and took the Arts Course at the Presbyterian College, Truro, studied Divinity at the Theological Hall, Halifax, graduated and was licensed a Presbyterian preacher in 1866. That year he married Miss Louise J. Annand of Gay's River. He accepted a call to Stellarton in 1866, to Windsor 1873, to St. Paul's, Fredericton in 1880 and to Erskine Church, Montreal in 1891. During his years at St. Paul's he encouraged his parishioners from New Maryland to carry out their dream to build a Presbyterian church in their little farming community. He conducted the dedication service in that New Maryland Presbyterian Kirk on November 27, 1887.

He was elected by the Assembly to the Board of Management of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, and succeeded Dr. McVicar as chairman of the Board of French Evangelization. The College of Montreal conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1901.

He died February 19th, 1911, in the pulpit of Erskine Church, Montreal. He had been in ill health for two months previously and appeared weak on the morning of his death. He was assisted in the devotional portion of the worship by the Rev. Dr. E. Scott. Rev. Dr. Mowatt was to have addressed the congregation on the text from Revelation 1: 17, "When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as one dead", but shortly before the time for the beginning of the sermon, he became unconscious and died before medical attention which had been summoned could arrive.

**NEW MARYLAND PRESBYTERIAN KIRK TO NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH: 1887 - 2017**



**1887 - 1918**



**1919 - 1958**



**1959 - 1979**



**1980 - 2015**



**2016 - 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 2017**

## THE YEARS IN PICTURES

On November 17, 1881 a public meeting was held in the New Maryland School House to discuss the possibility of building a Presbyterian Church.



**New Maryland School House**

The families represented at the meeting were residents of the Parish of New Maryland but were members of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Fredericton. They were determined to form and house a local congregation in New Maryland. At the meeting in the little one-room school it was moved and seconded and unanimously agreed upon to have a church erected. Mr. Alexander Haining offered a free site on his property next to his home, presently the home of Lewis Morgan.

The New Maryland Presbyterian Kirk was built by means of free labour by the men of the congregation and the deed was signed on November 26, 1887.



**Alexander Haining**



**New Maryland Presbyterian Kirk**



A pump organ similar to the one pictured here was purchased for \$17.25.



Kerosene lamps were placed on the lamp stands on each side of the organ.



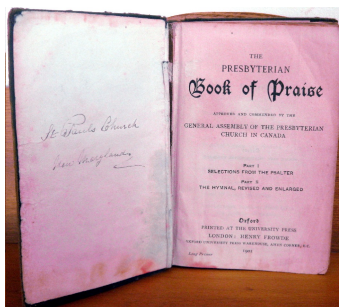


**Portable pews were purchased, some of which can still be seen in the sanctuary.**



**A Communion Table was purchased for \$4.50 and is still on display in the sanctuary.**

The first Sabbath School associated with the new church was held in one of the parishioner's homes. Copies of the gospel hymn book used in the Sabbath School and the hymn book used in the new church can still be seen in our church today. One is pictured here.



Kerosene lamps similar to the one pictured here were mounted on the walls.  
Electric lighting was not installed until 1952.

1887		Receipts		
July 13 <sup>th</sup>		Balance on hand from 1885	4	96
Aug 29 <sup>th</sup>		From M <sup>rs</sup> and the Misses Wood	11	00
Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>		For Large Chair from L. Haining	2	50
Nov 27 <sup>th</sup>		Collection at Dedication	29	31
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>		From W. H. M Knight for hair		75
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>		Collection - - -	2	68
Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	1888	Communion Sabbath Col. -	4	38
Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>		From Sewing Circle	4	16
March 4 <sup>th</sup>		Collection	1	35
March 18 <sup>th</sup>		Collection	1	26
			<u>\$62</u>	<u>25</u>

Receipt showing income and expenses: July, 1887 - March, 1888

Records kept from 1883 to 1912 show the building material expenditures for the church to be \$220.00. The cost of furnishing the church completely at that time was \$115.00.

Expenses for the building and maintenance of the church prove interesting. Among the expenses listed are:

5000 shingles ..... \$10.00  
 350 bricks ..... 3.00  
 1 cask lime ..... 1.25  
 2 bushels hair ..... 50 cents  
 1 bottle wine for sacramental purposes .... 75 cents  
 8 lamp burners and wicks ..... 1.36  
 Insurance: 1911 - 1912 .... 5.00

Money to cover such expenses was realized from offerings at Sunday services, Sewing Circle donations, proceeds from pie socials, donations from church members and friends and according to written records, "Received at Tea Meeting", "From Rainbow Social, School District 3", "From Fancy Sales and Socials" and "From Sabbath School Funds".





One of the men arrived early each Sabbath morning in the winter, often hauling kindling and firewood on a hand sled, and made a fire in the stove to take the winter chill off the sanctuary before the parishioners arrived for the service.

The Sabbath School closed for the winter months and reopened in April.

In the summer months the stove was removed from the church and set up once again in the late fall.

In 1959 an oil furnace was installed to replace the wood stove and a new chimney was built.



**Ministers and Student Ministers from St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Fredericton travelled to the New Maryland Kirk in the early years of the church by horse and carriage.**



### **MINISTERS: 1887 - 2017**

<b>1887 - 1890:</b> Rev. A. Joseph Mowatt	<b>1962 - 1967:</b> Rev. Bruce Roberts
<b>1889 - 1891:</b> Rev. Robert Watson	<b>1967:</b> Rev. Norman Estey
<b>1892 - 1896:</b> Rev. Willard MacDonald	<b>1967 - 1968:</b> Rev. George Gilliss
<b>1896 - 1897:</b> Rev. Robert Watson	<b>1968 - 1972:</b> Rev. James B. Phelps
<b>1897 - 1927:</b> 24 Student Ministers	<b>1972 - 1977:</b> Rev. G. E. (Bud) Tarrant
<b>1928:</b> Rev. B. W. Turner	<b>1977 - 1980:</b> Rev. Nathan Bowering
<b>1928 - 1930:</b> Rev. J. H. Rowley	<b>1980 - 1983:</b> Rev. Nathan Bowering Miss Sara Harrison
<b>1931:</b> Rev. H. Brown	<b>1983 - 1989:</b> Rev. L. Bradley Little
<b>1932 - 1939:</b> Rev. J. A. Suiston	<b>1989:</b> Rev. Reg Miller (2 mos.)
<b>1939:</b> Rev. Alfred King	<b>1989 - 1997:</b> Rev. James Leland
<b>1940 - 1946:</b> Rev. A. Frank MacLean	<b>1997 - 2001:</b> Rev. Joanne Barr
<b>1946 - 1952:</b> Rev. J. Arthur Forbes	<b>2001 - 2003:</b> Rev. Bob Stevens; Rev. Gil Todd
<b>1952 - 1955:</b> Rev. John Stewart	<b>2003 - 2004:</b> Rev. Merrill Slipp
<b>1955 - 1950:</b> Rev. H. Gilmore MacKenzie	<b>2004 - 2008:</b> Rev. Bill MacLeod
<b>1959 - 1961:</b> Rev. Russell Alcorn	<b>2008 - Present:</b> Rev. Kelly Burke
<b>1961 - 1962:</b> Rev. Chester C. Wallace	

Records show that a choir consisting of ten members of the New Maryland Presbyterian Kirk participated at the dedication service on November 27, 1887 assisted by several members of the choir at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Throughout the years since that special service, the New Maryland church has been proud of its choirs.

### **ORGANISTS**

<b>1887 - 1898:</b> Miss Ella Shaw	<b>1995:</b> Tony Mombourquette
<b>1899:</b> Miss Martha Greer	<b>1996:</b> Connie Ladds
<b>_____:</b> Miss Laura McMurtrie	<b>1996:</b> Peggy Arsenault
<b>1914 - 1925:</b> Miss Jennie Charters	<b>1996; 1997:</b> Fred Brett
<b>1925 - 1931:</b> Miss Myrtle Daniel *	<b>1997:</b> Jarred Hartt
<b>1925 - 1935:</b> Miss Ruby Kirk	<b>1998 - 2000:</b> Fred Brett
<b>1931 - 1966:</b> Myrtle Charters *	<b>2001 - 2004:</b> Anne Marie Murphy
<b>1935 - 1966:</b> Ruby Hamilton	<b>2005 - 2006:</b> Joyce MacLeod
<b>1966 - 1968:</b> Penny Fletcher	<b>2007:</b> Jennifer Hansen; Emma Randall
<b>1969 - 1973:</b> Myrtle Charters *	<b>2007; 2008:</b> Virginia Leiter; Emma Randall
<b>1973 - 1974:</b> Norma Reid	<b>2008 - 2009:</b> Jennifer Hansen
<b>1974 - 1976:</b> Joyce Parsons	<b>2010:</b> Jennifer Hansen; Karen Rutledge
<b>1976:</b> Mr. Billy Horncastle	<b>2011:</b> Karen Rutledge
<b>1976 - 1978:</b> Sharon Pond	<b>2012:</b> Karen Rutledge
<b>1979 - 1980:</b> Claudia Milburn	<b>2013:</b> Karen Rutledge; Allan Morgan
<b>1980 - 1981:</b> Billy Horncastle	<b>2014 - Present:</b> Allan Morgan
<b>1981 - 1988:</b> Penny Fletcher	
<b>1988:</b> Laura Slichter	
<b>1988 - 1995:</b> Fred Brett	

\* Total: 45 years

## CHOIR DIRECTORS

**1975:** Joyce Parsons

**1975 (Junior Choir):** Penny Fletcher

**1976 - 1978:** Sharon Pond

**1977 - 1983: (Junior Choir):** Penny Fletcher

**1979:** Claudia Milburn

**1979 - 1980: (Intermediate Choir):** Pat Lister

**1981 - 1988:** Penny Fletcher

**1985 (Intermediate Choir):** Fred Brett

Cynthia Boyle

**1986 (Junior Choir):** Beverley (Hall) Tims

**1987 - 1988 (Intermediate Choir):** Fred Brett

**1988 - 2000:** Fred Brett

**2001 - 2004:** Anne Marie Murphy

**2005 - 2007:** Joyce MacLeod

**2007 - 2010:** Jennifer Hansen

**2011 - 2013:** Dorothy Webster

**2014 - Present:** Carolyn Hatt



**Baptism Day, July 8, 1953 at New Maryland United**

**Rev. John Stewart, Norma MacFarlane with Duane; Thelma Morgan with Sharon; Lib Charters with Stephen**

## SIXTY SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH

and

### DEDICATION SERVICE

3 P.M. November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1954

To the People of New Maryland:

Dear Friends:

In the year 1887 many of the people of your community saw the realization of their dreams on a Sunday late in November with the dedication of their newly built church. To our knowledge there is only one person now living who was at that service. A brief history of the church will be included in the service. It will be a service of worship in which we pay tribute to the devotion and labors of the founders of our church.

At this service we will also dedicate the new set of pulpit chairs provided for the church by the Women's Association. These chairs will be placed in the church before the Sunday service.

The guest speaker is to be Dr. Harry Jones who was minister at Wilmot Church a few years ago, has since been president of the Maritime Conference and is now minister at Shediac.

A special offering will be used for the purchase of a new organ for the church. We feel that you will wish to support this project initiated at a meeting after last Sunday's service and we are enclosing an envelope for your use.

Your presence will help us to make this a great day as we worship God in the beauty of holiness.

Sincerely,

John T. Stewart

Guest Minister - Dr. Harry T. Jones

(A hand written note was written at the bottom of the previous letter by Nell Charters which reads as follows: *Miss Ella Shaw, living here now, was the organist for the opening and did so for 11 years. She was 96 this month. There are two other people now living whom we know were at that service - Mrs. A. Greer and Mrs. John McMurtrie.*)

## Church Observes <sup>56</sup> 68th Anniversary

The 68th anniversary of the founding of the New Maryland United Church was celebrated recently with the sermon preached by Rev. H. Gilmore MacKenzie assisted by organist Mrs. A. W. Hamilton.

In his sermon from Genesis 28 chapter, seventh verse, the same as was preached in Nov. 27, 1887 by Rev. A. J. Mowatt, Mr. MacKenzie read the word, "This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of Heaven." First organist of the church was Ella Shaw. *for 11 years*

Several persons attended the anniversary service including Mr. and Mrs. John McMurtrie of Hawkshaw. Mr. McMurtrie played in the rafters of the church when he was a boy at the time of its erection. Another visitor was Robert Sinclair of Moncton.

A dedication service was also carried out as Mr. and Mrs. James Charters had presented a set of offering plates to the church.

Flowers were placed on the communion table by members of the congregation in memory of the late Pte. Thomas E. Ball who gave his life in the Second World War. Special mention was made of the Sunday School children who were present for the service. The choir sang two special hymns in addition to the regular ones and the new offering plates were used for the first time.

In Rev. John Stewart's letter seen on the previous page, he informed the readers of the gift of new pulpit chairs donated by the Women's Association. This association was formed by Rev. Arthur Forbes in 1950. The members of the group met regularly. Their meetings included worship, program, and fund raising plans, the proceeds of which would assist with the church expenses.



**An early WA group: 1959**

**Left: Ruby Hamilton, Myrtle Charters, Hulda Anderson, Bessie MacFarlane, Carol Charters, Marie Charters, Helen Kirk, Nell Charters  
Front: Mabel Peterson, Marina MacFarlane, Mae Daniel, Marjorie Barton, Bessie Barker**

The WA observed its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1960 at the home of Mrs. C. T. Charters. Following the worship and a business meeting, a well planned program was conducted consisting of readings, quizzes, conundrums and contests. Mrs. William Daniel was presented with a beautiful corsage as being the eldest charter member of the WA. The minutes of the first meeting held in 1950 were read and the roll of that first meeting was called, while five of the same members at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary answered to their names: Mrs. William Daniel, Mrs. Charles Charters, Mrs. J. O. Charters, Mrs. A. W. Hamilton and Miss Helen Kirk. Extensive renovations were begun in 1959 when a basement was constructed under the church. A choir loft was added, the vestibule and altar area were enlarged and an oil furnace and new chimney



were installed. The new basement area provided space for Sunday School classes, Explorers, and CGIT meetings. It was not unusual during such a gathering to see a mouse scurrying along the hand-hewn supporting beams! Twelve years later the space was finished with a tiled ceiling and panelled walls.



**Pictured at the front entrance of the church prior to the 1959 renovations is Marie Charters Drummond, daughter of Dan and Stella Charters.**

While the renovations were being done, Sunday services were held in the Victoria Hall owned by the Women's Institute.



**Victoria Hall**



**1959 Renovations completed**



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH



November, 1959

Dear Friend,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are sending this letter your way in order to acquaint you with some of the events taking place within the life of our congregation.

After many weeks of work the renovations effected to our church building have been completed. The addition of the basement, the oil furnace, the chancel and electric organ have made a great difference to the building in terms of space, comfort and beauty. We returned to the improved building for our first worship service on Sunday afternoon, November 8.

We are now making plans for a special service of rededication which is to take place on Sunday afternoon, December 4 at 3:00 P. M. We shall also celebrate the 72nd Anniversary of the dedication of the church at that time.

You will be interested to know that the cost of renovating and improving our church building was \$4200.00 This amount could be repaid within the year if the following commitments were to be undertaken by the members and adherents of the New Maryland United Church.

4	@	\$5.00	per week	\$20.00
10	@	\$3.00	per week	\$30.00
15	@	\$2.00	per week	\$30.00
20	@	\$1.00	per week	\$20.00

These commitments total \$100.00 per week and would help us meet not only the debt on the church property but also our current expenditures.

We invite you to be with us on Rededication and Anniversary Sunday. We feel that you will want to bring a special offering on that day and hope that you will do so in grateful recognition of God's goodness to us this past year.

Sincerely yours

*Russell H. Alcorn*  
Reverend Russell H. Alcorn  
On behalf of the Board



As part of Canada's 1967 Centennial celebrations, New Maryland United, celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, was proud of its entry in the Fredericton Centennial Parade.



**Back: Myrtle Charters, Nell Charters**

**Front: Milton Price, Warren Price**

CGIT was once a thriving movement at New Maryland United.  
Below is a 1961 photo of the first group (Photo credit: Elizabeth Morrison).



**Back Row, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> from the left: Elizabeth Hamilton, Joan Charters (leader) and Rev. Russell Alcorn**



### **CGIT Leaders**

**1961 - 1962** - Joan Charters (Corey)

**1965 - 1972** - Kaye Neilson (Lister)

**1973 - 1974** - Nancy Bird (Robinson)

**1974** - Janet Merrill

**1975** - Maudie Boyle

**1976 - 1977** - Doris Scott & Bonnie (Cameron) Delaney

**1982 - 1987** - Lydia LaPointe



**The above photo is of the 1972 group.**



**A few CGIT Girls in a group effort Garbathon  
New Maryland: ca. 1970**

**L to R: Ann Hetherington, Lisa Ball, Marilyn Charters, Ruth Ball**



**Janine LaPointe: 1986**





**CGIT Float and Banners Entry in the New Maryland Winter Carnival Parade: ca. 1972**

Records show that in the early 1900's the ladies in the Kirk congregation raised funds from Fancy Sales and Socials to help defray the expenses of purchases and improvements in the little church. Years later the WA continued the work of the earlier generations. In 1962 when the WA was renamed the United Church Women, often referred to as the UCW, those members carried on the work of years past. One of the many functions was the popular Christmas Bazaar. A clip from the 1970 bazaar is shown here.



**L to R: Kaye Neilson. Penny Fletcher, Myrtle Charters**



The UCW also used their creative talents to enter a float in the annual New Maryland Winter Carnival parade. Their 1976 entry is shown here.



The ladies of the New Maryland Kirk made warm quilts from scraps of cloth at home to keep the family warm though the cold winter nights. Often the women would meet at a Quilting Bee to help each other with the fine stitching. Today the Quilting Group at New Maryland United meets weekly to stitch a hand-made quilt created by a friend or family member. And so the Quilting Bees live on!



**2012:**  
**Alice Jeffrey, Helen Marr, Maudie Boyle, Sandra Cook, Minnie Foss, Betty Barker, Carol Charters, Ruth Anderson**



New Maryland United celebrated its 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on November 27, 1982.



**95th ANNIVERSARY** – The New Maryland United Church celebrated its 95th anniversary on Sunday. Presentations were made at a reception following the service. Left to right: seated, Martha Lipsett, eldest church member; and Mrs. Ruby Hamilton, member with the longest-standing association with the church. Standing, left to right: Rev. James Forbes of Sackville, guest speaker; Tony and Susan Harris with baby, Andrew,, who represented the future of the church and son Adam and Rev. Nathan Bowering.



## New Maryland United Church Celebrates Its Centennial in 1967



**ANNIVERSARY HELD** — Rev. Bruce Roberts, middle, and Ella Roberts, second from left, were special speakers at ceremonies marking the anniversary of the New Maryland United Church. With them were, from left, John Kershaw, in charge of public relations, Rev. Brad Little and Doris Gorman, chairman of the centennial committee. (Robert Wilson photo)

A full year of celebration to recognize New Maryland United's 100th Anniversary included a New Year's Levee with members dressed in old-fashioned costume. During the anniversary week in November the members enjoyed a Men's Fellowship Breakfast, a Ladies' Fellowship Brunch, a congregational supper, a hymn sing service, special workshop meetings, a Teen Pizza Party and a special praise and celebration service on Sunday followed by a reception.



Photo of the The Harris Family taken for the anniversary photo album: Sue, Tony, Andrew (seated) and Adam



Emma Cook (right) with Carrie, Cindy, Wendy and Ashley Smith



Three years later the church celebrated its 103<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on November 25, 1990. Members of the congregation attired in the dress of the years gone by. At the time of the dedication of the Kirk in 1887 there were 20 families comprising the congregation. By 1990 there were 140 families with a Sunday School enrollment of 80 children.



**Milton and Myrtle Price**

Tea Meetings were held in the early days of the New Maryland Kirk. Not to be outdone, the UCW made history come alive by hosting an old-fashioned Tea Meeting in 1984 with members dressed in period costume. These two photos show their enthusiasm.



**L to R: Nancy Ostaff, Maudie Boyle, Nell Charters, Dianne Saunders, Sherry Smith**





**Back: Carol Charters, Dianne Saunders, Myrtle Price, Carol Williams, Doris Gorman  
Front: Connie O'Leary, Ann Johnson, Norma Wakelam, Maudie Boyle, Nancy Ostaff, Beckey O'Leary, Doris Scott,  
Sherry Smith, Myrtle Charters, Nell Charters**

Throughout the years the church has been proud of its choirs.  
The next three photos show the Junior Choirs, directed by Penny Fletcher.







**Front Row: Kathy Ball, Philip Price, Timmy Cameron, Danny Charters, Penny Ball**  
**Second Row: Lisa Ball, Billy Gould, Cynthia Boyle, Maxine Price, Shelley Cameron, Wayne Boyle**  
**Back Row: Ruth Ball, Marilyn Charters, Bonnie Cameron, Ann Hetherington, Karen Charters**

### The Senior Choirs



1988





**New choir gowns were purchased and dedicated in the memory of Myrtle Charters in 2007.**

Throughout the years parents and friends enjoyed the many Sunday School Christmas concerts.



**1966**

**Back Row: Scottie Rynax, Jonathan Charters, Danny Cameron, Marilyn Charters, Danny McFarlane, Timmy Cameron, Billy Gould  
Front Row: Shelley Cameron, Cynthia Boyle, Susan Fraser, Karen Charters**





1986



2011: Draydon Scott, Nicole Tracy, Ashley Scott, Julia Dickinson



Have you ever noticed the little wooden manger used each year in the children's Christmas pageant? You may be interested in its history. In 1964 the CGIT group in our church took part in the national annual CGIT Vesper Service featuring "The Huron Christmas Carol". The girls so loved the hymn they decided to include a pageant as part of the service. Each of the 30 girls wanted to sing in the choir so the problem arose as to who would perform in the pageant. It was decided that some of their younger sisters and brothers should be the ones to take part. And so it was. The little ones were given the roles of the wise men and shepherds, the angels and Mary and Joseph, while someone's baby doll became the infant Jesus. Out came the burlap to create costumes, white cardboard and sparkling tinsel for angel wings, and furs and bow and arrows to help set the scene. Then came the problem of where the baby would be placed. Two of the girls, Anna and Marilyn Ball, had offered to ask their father, Alfred Ball, if he would build a wooden manger and he had agreed to do so. He used dried branches from the woods to create a perfect manger and he lined it with hay, providing just the right touch. When the service had ended that night and the props were put away, the manger was stored in a closet ... but not to be forgotten. The following Christmas, and every year since, when the Sunday School children re-enact the Christmas story, out comes the little wooden manger. And so the story has come full circle. Many of the young people who took part in that CGIT pageant in the 1960's are now grandparents. And the little manger lives on, each year providing a bed for the infant Jesus.

### **Sunday School Flashbacks**



Emma Cook, a Sunday School student at NMUC,  
was chosen by the 1988 Calgary Winter Games to carry the torch!  
She ran a km. on the highway this side of Petersville Hill.





### **A 1990 Sunday School Class Wins an Award!**

Krissy Brett, Robert Eveleigh, Adam Harris, David Burrige, Allison Wister, Jason Heustis, Melissa Morton, Danny Fitzgerald, all proud of the award they won sponsored by the United Church Observer. Their project featured the importance of protecting the forests.



### **A Mission and Service Project in 2007**

The children collected new teddy bears for the children's ward at the DECH. Each bear had a tag attached with a message from the children of NMUC! At the end of the project Sharon Scott and Myrna Tracy organized a field trip to the DECH to present the bears and do a little tour.



## We Remember

Two young men who attended the New Maryland Presbyterian Kirk many years ago were killed in action during the world wars. Private Donald Bruce Shaw, son of William Shaw who was a member of the founding committee of the Kirk in 1881, served in WWI in the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Infantry, and lost his life at the age of 17 years in the Battle of the Somme in France. He is remembered with honour at the Vimy Memorial, France.

Private Thomas Edgar Ball, son of George and Grace Ball, served in WWII in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment and lost his life at the age of 23 years on June 12, 1944 during the Normandy Campaign. He is remembered with honour at Beny-Sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, Normandy, France.

### NEW MARYLAND MAN KILLED IN ACTION; OTHERS MISSING

Pte. Thomas Ball, 22, Overseas  
Two Years, Killed While  
Fighting in France

### ONLY ONE OF SIX BROTHER'S LEFT

Pte. Albert Pete, of No. 7 Re-  
ceived Word Last Surviving  
Brother Killed.

Mr. and Mrs. George Ball, New Maryland, received word late yesterday afternoon from the Department of Records, Ottawa, that their son, Pte. Thomas Edgar Ball, had been killed in action in France. *June 18/44*

Pte. Ball, who was 22 years of age, enlisted early in 1939, but was rejected as he was under weight. He put on weight and three years ago enlisted again and was accepted. He went overseas in 1942 and served in England for some time before going to France on D-Day. He had a great many friends, not only in New Maryland but elsewhere who will learn with regret that he has made the supreme sacrifice. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George A. Ball, New Maryland; a sister, Mrs. Harry Arnold, Halifax, and two brothers, WO. George Ball, R. C. A. F., just back in Ottawa after three years service overseas, and Pte. Arnold Ball, Camp Borden.



### MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD NEW MARYLAND

United Church Filled to Honor  
Memory of Late Pte. Thomas  
E. Ball.

In spite of the inclement weather yesterday afternoon the United Church of Canada at New Maryland was filled to the doors, benches being used in addition to the pews to seat the many who were present to take part in a memorial service to the first New Maryland boy to be killed in the present war, Pte. Thomas E. Ball, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Ball. The pulpit was draped with the Union Jack and many floral tributes were placed around it.

The service was conducted by Rev. A. Frank MacLean, of St. Paul's Church, Fredericton, and he was assisted by Capt. the Rev. H. T. Jones, of Wilmot United Church, and a quartette from St. Paul's singing Sweet Peace, the Gift of God's Love. At the request of the family Arnold Estey sang Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone. There was a detachment from No. 70 C. A. (B) T. C. present and Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Pte. Arthur Bourgeois. Present at the service in addition to parents were WO1 George Ball, R. C. A. F., home after three years service overseas for instructional purposes, and a sister, Mrs. Harry Arnold, of Halifax. Another brother, Pte. Arnold Ball, stationed at Camp Borden, was unable to get home for the service.



Each November New Maryland United remembers the fallen soldiers.



**Piper Lewis Morgan, Preston Charters,  
Rev. Kelly Burke**



**Warrant Officer Emma Geneau, Bill Elderkin,  
Brody Power, Piper Lewis Morgan**



Many of the residents of New Maryland in 1887 were farmers who grew their own fruit and vegetables to support their growing families. Now on each Thanksgiving Sunday, similar produce which they grew in their gardens has been displayed at the altar. At the conclusion of each Thanksgiving service, while keeping in mind the part of our Mission Statement which states 'to minister to all of God's people', the fruit and vegetables in the display are donated to the less fortunate.





## **And Time Moves On**



An antique carriage greeted the parishioners when they arrived at the morning church service on November 25, 2012 on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of New Maryland United.

As we reach our 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we pause to wonder what will be written on the pages of the anniversaries which lie ahead.

Along with the stories and photos of the past years, we remember with gratitude all those who have helped to make New Maryland United a church dedicated to the Glory of God. As we continue to grow, may we experience the enthusiasm of those few Presbyterian families who gathered together to discuss the possibility of erecting a new church 130 years ago.

## **A SPECIAL THANK YOU**



~ To contributors of this history:

**Rev. Dr. Kelly Burke, Susan Morrison, Susan Harris, Rod Campbell, Carol Charters, Karen Legere, Penny Fletcher, Sandra Cook, Lydia LaPointe, Elizabeth Morrison, Myrna Tracy and Janet Gorman**

~ To Lorna Ball for her tireless photocopying efforts!

~ To resident artist Pamela Gonnason who provided for the cover of this document a copy of her beautiful framed painting in recognition of the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of New Maryland United Church.

**Editor: Kathleen Lister**