

Union and Sutherland's River Presbyterian Churches

Modelling faith in our communities one conversation at a time

The Church and Change

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Cradle Roll	2
Minister's Reflection	3
As I Remember	3
Birth of Newsletter	3
Upcoming Events	4

Why is the word change so frightening to some people? Change doesn't mean "out with the old and in with the new". The dictionary gives many meanings for the word i.e.: adjustment, revision, remodel, alter, harmonize, modify and, yes, even improve.

Church attendance is dwindling everywhere. We have seen it all; we have had our moments of glory when our churches were filled to capacity and programs for all ages and interests were available and well attended. Things change. Yesterday is gone. It cannot return. What of today? What of tomorrow? Priorities change. Our day to day lives have changed and we here at Thorburn and Sutherland's River have to work to find ways to move forward with today's busy lifestyle.

We have beautiful church buildings but.... they are only buildings. The church is, and always has been its people, old and young alike. We pray that someday our pews will begin to fill up but we have to be willing to try new things, for example, our Soup Luncheons have proved very successful and we can even find ways to improve on this event. Let's hear your ideas and suggestions.

Gail Jordan

CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister: Jeff Lackie
902-933-3203

Clerk of Session
(Thorburn): Ray Kirk
902-922-2526

Clerk of Session
(Sutherland's River):
Audrey Hodder
902-922-2379

Board of Managers
(Thorburn): Jane Taylor
902-755-4408

Treasurer (Thorburn):
Kathy Campbell
902-759-1705

The History of Cradle Roll

It has been 33 years since Cradle Roll was started again at our church by Elizabeth Reeves and a group of senior ladies. Darlene Kirk and I were out walking our babies and Elizabeth stopped and asked us if we'd be interested in going to a play group once a month in the church basement. We thought it was a wonderful idea and always enjoyed the last Wednesday of each month. Except for December and June when we meet on the second Wednesday of the month. The December meeting is a Christmas party with Santa and each child brings a wrapped story book to place under the tree as a gift exchange.

The History of Cradle Roll (con't)



I have been looking after the Cradle Roll group for the past 14 years. Karen Macdonald has helped me from the beginning and for the past few years Lynn Cooley has stayed on to help after her grandson started school. They are a blessing as are the congregation for the wonderful support received.

We have opened the Cradle Roll group to all children in the county. It is a wonderful place to meet new friends and connect with old ones. The parents, grandparents or caregivers stay with the children and enjoy tea & coffee and everyone enjoys snack time.

The first meeting after our summer break is September 27. It is in the church basement from 10-12. Please tell anyone who you think would like to come, new friends are always welcomed.

Sheryl Tree 902-754-9152

Fuzzy Bats with Purple hats

Are flying all around

Little squirrels with golden curls

Were sitting on the ground

Big red pigs with long black wigs

Were making lots of noise

And lambs and goats with furry coats

Were playing with some toys

I must have fell asleep that's true

For all the little cats were blue

The dogs all looked just like "old yeller"

My dream was all in Technicolor

By Barbara Palmer

Bible Trivia

1. Laws mentioned in the Bible required farmers to leave parts of their fields unharvested for strangers, a practice that still exists in parts of the world – (Deuteronomy 24:19, among many)
2. The phrase 'God never gives you more than you can handle' never appears in the Bible and actually the opposite is said multiple times.

Minister's Reflection

Jesus asks a lot of questions. "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15); "Why are you afraid...?" (Matthew 8: 26); "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" (Matthew 9:28); "Why do you ask me about what is good?" (Matthew 19: 17); "Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" (Matthew 20:22) - and these questions are difficult to answer, because the answers depend on us. Jesus is the centre of our faith - our Prophet, Priest and King. His life, death and resurrection is the foundation of the Christian faith, and the lessons we learn from his example bring hope and healing...but only if we are willing to examine ourselves through the questions Jesus asks.

We are called to follow - and not just to memorize commandments, or practice proper ritual - we are called to consider how the words, actions and attitudes of Jesus might alter the way we live our lives. When Jesus asks us about our fear, we ought to consider how our fear causes us to treat one another - especially those who are different from us. When Jesus questions our belief, we should remember that belief is founded in God, who we profess has created the universe and everything in it. When Jesus questions our commitment ("are you able to drink the cup...?"), we are reminded that a life of faith does not come with a 'trouble-free-guarantee', and we ought to be suspicious of those who equate faithfulness with happiness. And when he asks us about himself, we are reminded that this is a relationship to which we are called. Jesus is curious about us - and we need to be curious in return. We are invited to ask our own questions, to consider the ways that God is revealed in the stories of Jesus; the questions of Jesus; the witness of Jesus - so our own stories might begin to reveal something of the kingdom of heaven.

As I Remember (by Evelyn MacKay)

We all have our earliest memories of our experiences in the church activities of Union Church, and I shall share some of mine with you (as I remember them.)

My memories date back to December, 1946, when I transferred from Westminster church in New Glasgow to Union Church in Thorburn. There was no permanent minister here at that time -- I think Rev. Perry Rockwood had just left.

Shortly after I came, I joined the choir. During the early years, Alice Beaton, Laura Dempster, and I formed a trio, and we performed in a couple of other churches, as well as in Union Church. Addie MacKay was organist and choir director at that time. We had a large choir of male and female singers. Every Easter and every Christmas, we presented a cantata, which is kind of a musical drama based on a Bible message. This effort required a great deal of practice and preparation, but we really enjoyed it. We were able to do this special music because at that time we had several trained singers, such as: Laura Dempster, Catherine Beaton, Alice Beaton, Rollie Robertson, & Lee Dempster Gainer. (to be continued in next issue)

How Our Newsletter Was Born...

Some time ago, during one of our Soup Luncheons (where many things are discussed while preparing the soup) the suggestion was made to publish a newsletter. This idea was met with positive responses. This idea was then brought before the Session and we were given the go-ahead to proceed. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep everyone informed of church meetings, church functions as well as community related happenings. We would like to acknowledge birthdays, births, anniversaries and other events in our publications (with permission, of course). Your submissions of articles, poems, quizzes, recipes, photos (old and new) are welcome.

September 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Services: 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn	4 Labour Day	5	6	7	8	9
10 Services: 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Services: 11:00: Thorburn. Combined service with S.R. Session to conduct service.	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Services: 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn	25	26	27 Cradle Roll	28 11:30: Soup Lunch	29	30

October 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Services: 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn Communion	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Services: 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn	9	10 7:00 pm: Session Meeting	11	12	13	14
15 Services: 11:00: Thorburn: Anniversary Service 3:00: Sutherland's River Anniversary Service with The Stellarton's Men's Choir	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Services: 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn	23	24	25 Cradle Roll	26 11:30: Soup Lunch	27	28
29 Services: 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn	30	31 Hallowe'en 				