

# Union and Sutherland's River Presbyterian Churches

Thorburn and Sutherland's River, NS

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*Modelling faith in our communities one  
conversation at a time*



*Sutherland's River*



*Thorburn*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

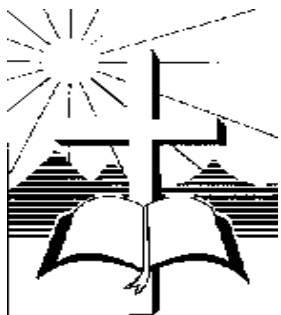
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## Okay, So We're Blessed...Now What..?

In both versions of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew and Luke), we encounter The Beatitudes. In Matthew, we read of those who will be blessed in some way – the poor in spirit, the hungry, the homeless, the sick, the powerless, the stepped-on, pushed-down, left-out, and crushed. Any one of us reading this list can easily see how a person who is any of those things would also be "poor in spirit."

But in Luke, we also read about those who will face woe, anguish and spiritual emptiness when they persist in sin. In Luke's account Jesus addresses people with very little to offer beyond their enthusiasm and their devotion but recognize the presence of something new and powerful happening around them. They are there out of curiosity – a show me attitude rather than worship

So, Luke tells us that Jesus says there's more to being blessed than just satisfying our intellectual thirst. With half as many Beatitudes, and - perhaps most notably - the four woes that are added, the warnings, we might call them, we might say that they are the logical consequences of turning away from God's vision for the world.

Now we have a sense of, Okay, now that we have been blessed by a God who loves us, now what? What are we to do with it?

Here, in his instructions to the crowd just before he makes his way to Jerusalem, here in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says what he means. We are told by Luke that he is laying out the plan not only for those new disciples and the crowds that join them, but for us, too: what it means to be his followers.

## Okay, So We're Blessed...Now What..?

Friends, after we learn that the Teacher means every word he says and talks the talk after he has already walked the walk and we come to know who he is as much by what he does as what he says, we are now called to take ALL of his teachings – blessings and woes alike – into the world in how we act and in every word we speak.

Alas, this is a hard message to preach, this message of blessing and woe, in a culture as rich as ours. It's easier to talk about the resurrection and avoid the woes. And it's tempting for comfortable Christians to resent liberation theologians who speak of God's "preferential option for the poor." But when you listen to Jesus directly, it is all of us who are blessed; those poor in spirit and those poor in attitude. Gustavo Gutierrez explains, "God has a preferential love for the poor not because they are necessarily better than others, morally or religiously, but simply because they are poor and living in an inhuman situation that is contrary to God's will."

When Luke's Jesus offers those woes as warning that The Beatitudes belong to all of us, let us all remember that grace is free and abundant, but not cheap. The mighty may be flying high now, but they will be brought low, Mary sang. Those who are pressed down will be lifted up and those who are full will taste what it feels like to be empty.

**Rev. Greg Dickson**

## As I Remember (by Evelyn McKay)

I remember the Senior Fellowship group was started by Elizabeth Reeves and Viola Johnstone. This was a group of seniors who seemed to have so much fun together. They enjoyed several bus trips and had a banquet at the end of each year.

I recall the large CGIT group we had. I believe it was started by Sara Jean MacDonald when she was here. Viola Johnstone, Lil Reid and Margie Johnstone were outstanding leaders for many years. There are others I can't recall at this time. Later Chris MacDonald, did a lot of CGIT work. One year Maureen Finlayson arranged to have the Newfoundland CGIT Choir perform a concert in our church. Members of the congregation billeted the choir girls. Joyce Hartt was the name of the girl we billeted.

I recall Cubs and Scouts were very active groups in our church for many years. I can't remember all the leaders, but Joan Kearley, Warren Mason and Doug Turnbull were some. Scott Murdock was the last Scout Leader I remember. One winter's day, one of Scott's Boy Scouts came to our door and asked if he could shovel the snow off our steps and shovel a path for us. This was great training for the boys.

(to be continued next issue)

## The Middle of the Bible

**Did you know that:**

- Psalm 118 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible?
- Psalm 117, before Psalm 118 is the shortest chapter in the Bible?
- Psalm 119, after Psalm 118 is the longest chapter in the Bible?
- The Bible has 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after?
- If you add up all the chapters except Psalm 118, you get a total of 1188 chapters?
- 1188, or Psalm 118, verse 8 is the middle of the entire Bible?
- Should the central verse not have an important message?  
*"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man"*
- Is this central verse not also the central theme of the entire Bible?

## **Church Visitation Committee by Darlene Reeves**

As most of you are aware, in the not so distant past, our community lost two of our local churches. This was a sad time for many, and as a result, a proposal was taken to Session to start a process of revitalizing our churches here at Union and Sutherland's River so that we will be here in the future for those who need us. Session agreed and a call was put out to our churches asking for volunteers to sit on a Visitation Committee.

We were fortunate and blessed to get very motivated volunteers from both churches. The members are Liz Archibald, Gail Jordan, Jamie Patchett, Kathy Campbell, Ethel Dee, Faye Visser-Booth, John and Darlene Reeves. The committee met three times and divided into 4 pairs of two who will work together. We made a committee mission statement that we seek to be welcoming and nurturing Christian communities where all are welcome. We hope to do this by reaching out and connecting with our community and helping those who need encouragement and support.

It is a big undertaking and we will work on this project in stages. Our committee members will be updating the church lists and calling or visiting many members/ adherents to see how everything is going and to do an informal discussion on what they would like our church to be in the future. We'll also be asking if they have family or friends who would like a visit or some information on our churches and services. In addition, we would like to share with them the church activities we already have in place.

If you are not contacted, please let us know if you would like a visit or call and/or would like to pass on any suggestions for the future and success of our churches. We would be happy to receive it!

## **Household and Cooking Tips by Josie Butler**

- Shake salt in the fat when frying fish. Fish will retain its shape and not break up.
- When frying fish, add a piece of celery to cut down on odors.
- When beating egg whites, add one teaspoon of cold water for each egg white before beating. This will double quantity.

### **An Irish Blessing**

May flowers always line your path and sunshine light your day.

May song birds serenade your every step along the way.

May a rainbow run beside you in a sky that's always blue,

And may happiness fill your heart each day your whole life through.

If anyone would like to receive this newsletter by email please contact Gail Jordan or John Reeves.

This is a link to a great Daily Devotional website: <http://www.presbycan.ca/>


The website for the church can be found at: <http://pccweb.ca/union-thorburn/>



## March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3 Services:</b> 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn 11:00: Sunday School	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>10 Services:</b> 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn 11:00: Sunday School	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>17 Services:</b> 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn <b>March Break:</b> <b>No Sunday School</b>	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>24 Services:</b> 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn 11:00: Sunday School	25	26	<b>27</b> 10:00: Cradle Roll	<b>28</b> 11:30: Community Soup Lunch	29	30
<b>31 Services:</b> 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn 11:00: Sunday School	<b>"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."</b> <b>Matthew 11:28</b>					

## April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>7 Services:</b> 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn 11:00: Sunday School	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>14 Services:</b> 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn 11:00: Sunday School <b>Sunday School Presentation</b>	15	16	17	18	19 <i><u>GOOD FRIDAY</u></i>	20
<b>21 EASTER SUNDAY</b>  <b>Services:</b> 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn <b>No Sunday School</b>	22	23	<b>24</b> 10:00: Cradle Roll	<b>25</b> 11:30: Community Soup Lunch	26	27
<b>28 Services:</b> 9:30: Sutherland's River 11:00: Thorburn 11:00: Sunday School	29	30	<b>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."</b> <b>John 11:25-26</b>			