

# Union and Sutherland's River Presbyterian Churches

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

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*Sutherland's River*



*Thorburn*

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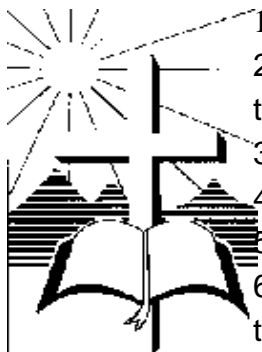
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## From the Minister's Desk

Have you ever stopped to consider some of the BIG Christian words we use freely in conversations and in worship? I sometimes wonder if we all understand some of these theologically-based words in fullness before we try to apply them in our lives here in the modern 21st Century.

Of course, I mean words like redemption, justification, righteousness and salvation - and discipleship, mission, stewardship and meditation, and a bunch more that you will encounter every time you pick up the Bible or an article dealing with the human condition or morality or ethical behavior. As difficult as these words sound, sometimes we do not fully appreciate the depth of their meaning. As a result, I think we might have trouble applying them in the context of our lives.

So, to help you get started in thinking about these words and their meaning in your life, I would like to offer a little framework the Church of Scotland has developed that unfolds like a conversation. Please feel free to use this in your daily devotions and wherever you feel it might be appropriate between Sundays.



1. Think of a time when your relationship with others shaped your journey of faith.
2. Try to remember a time when you were taught or discovered something that changed the way you see God.
3. Is there something that Jesus said or did that you find easy to apply in your own life?
4. What about something that Jesus said or did that you find hard to apply in your life?
5. How do you notice other people following Jesus in their everyday lives?
6. Is there anything valuable from this time spent in thought about God's work in your life that causes you to spend a moment in a prayer of thanks to God?

## From the Minister's Desk...(con't)

I pray that this little exercise will prove useful as you engage in thinking about what being a Christian really is and how God wants you to deepen your knowledge of what you profess to believe.

Let us pray... Lord Jesus, you gathered some of the least likely people in your community to become your disciples and asked them to follow you. As they did, you taught them about who you are; your purpose for the world, and how they were to prepare for the time when they would be without you. Help us in our time and place to continue the good work that you began so long ago. Help us to be good stewards of your words and works as we move through the arc of our lives in Christian service to our fellow citizens of Earth. Be with us as we develop and deepen our knowledge and faith every day. This we pray in the strong name of Jesus who is the Christ. AMEN

Rev. Greg Dickson

## Sunday School 2021



Our Sunday School classes resumed again in January. Our class size is definitely smaller and more challenging due to Covid but we have a lovely group of young people and wonderful volunteers. Here are some of our students doing activities. We are learning about the love of Jesus as we journey through Lent towards Easter. New students are always welcome. Thank you to everyone for your support and encouragement!

*And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.*

*— 1 Corinthians 13:13*

## Attention Knitters

An AMS group in St. John's, Newfoundland has been knitting toe covers for children in hospitals to cover their toes while wearing a cast. If there are any knitters out there who would like to help out with this project, the pattern is on the back cover of the February 2021 AMS Message booklet of there will be copies available in the church vestibule. Thanks for considering this project.

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*I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ.*

*— Philemon 1:6*

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## Finding God in the Pandemic



As the pandemic reaches the milestone of a year living with fear, masks, and social distancing, we miss many people, events, and practices. Something as simple as singing hymns in church or hugging someone is a loss for many of us. Missing those we are close to but not able to spend time with can be exceedingly difficult. Life in many ways is incredibly challenging and we wonder why. Although only God knows for sure, some think that like Moses in the Old Testament and Jesus in the New Testament, God might have given us a needed turn of events.

Like in biblical times, the lack of faith and hectic lifestyles in the world today may have needed a reset. God and his message were being neglected by many in recent years. So many fool themselves into thinking they are in control but COVID-19 has shown us all that even the most famous leaders in the world aren't in control. This really makes one stop and take a pause. Just as we saw many resets in the Bible, maybe this is what was needed in our times. But where does that leave us?

Most importantly, we can pray for those who are suffering and have lost loved ones. We can pray and reach out to those who have put God aside and hope that they will see His light and love. We can pray for those on the front lines of the pandemic. Also, we can look inside ourselves and take this time to see where we need spiritual work.

Unfortunately, we see the suffering of some, especially seniors and school aged young people, who are not able to connect in person with their family and friends. However, we can pray and try to help them as much as possible within the pandemic guidelines. Many stories we read or hear reflect how many people have stepped up to help those in need which is really heartwarming. Another unexpected blessing that has emerged is the wealth of God centered resources for families and individuals now available online. Although personally my life has not slowed down much, I do find myself making more of an effort to read, listen and access materials that reflect God's love and direction for us as a people. This can be really helpful.

We can so easily be distracted, caught up in the hectic pace of the world and put our faith on hold for worldly distractions. Let's switch this narrative and take this time of the Pandemic to contemplate God's plan for us all. Where do we fit into His plan? What can we do to make the world a better place as we wait for God's plan to unfold?

There are many resources out there but some I have found personally helpful are the Bible, daily devotionals, podcasts and online bible studies and services. Listed below are a few examples that could be helpful or a place to start if you are interested. These resources can help augment our time in our weekly Church Services and help us understand even more our Lord's plan. May God bless you as you continue your journey of faith in these challenging times!

Presbyterian Daily Devotionals [www.presbycan.ca](http://www.presbycan.ca)

St-Andrews Church [www.standrewscalgary.ca](http://www.standrewscalgary.ca)

Grace Church Calgary [www.gracechurchcalgary.com](http://www.gracechurchcalgary.com)

Matthew Ruttan Up! Devotionals and Podcasts [www.matthewruttan.com/up](http://www.matthewruttan.com/up)

Online Bible Studies [www.faithgateway.com](http://www.faithgateway.com)

*Submitted by: Darlene Reeves*



# Mystery Quilt

This quilt top has a name and address under each butterfly. People from near and far are connected through this work of art, unfortunately we don't know the reason behind it. However, it is beautiful and worth sharing. Here are the names on it, as they were written. Please pass on any info you may know.

Mrs. Annabelle Webster	Belmont, Mass.	Mrs Annie C. Smith	Portland, Oregon
Mrs. Margaret F. Ross	Portland, Oregon	Edwin Kinley	Port Hillford, N.S.
Mrs. Laura F. Horn	New Glasgow, N.S.	Mrs. Ethel Forbes	New Glasgow, N.S.
Bertha Fraser	Portland, Oregon	Dan P. Webster	Belmont, Mass.
Isabelle Cullopy	Belmont, Mass.	Maggie D. Fraser	MacLellan's Mtn, N.S.
Mrs. Mildred MacDonald	Plymouth Park, N.S.	Christene Ross	Washington, D.C.
Beverley A. Wheaton	Amherst, N.S.	Mrs. Jessie Battye	Wallace Bridge, N.S.
Emily M. Webster	Belmont, Mass.	Jessie Webster	Greenwood, N.S.
Maddie MacDonald	Sunnybrae, N.S.	Mary K. Holmes	McPherson's Mills, N.S.
Nell MacPherson R.N.	Newark, N.J.	Mrs. Ethel MacDonald	Edmonton, Alberta
John Dunbrack	Halifax, N.S.	Mrs. Joan MacQueen	Springville, N.S.
Mrs. Marion McK Merrey	Not Given	Mrs. Minnie MacCauley	Halifax, N.S.
Fritz F. Jarmann	Oakland, California	Audry Wiley	Waltham, Mass.
Christene Fraser R.N.	Linacy Glen, N.S.	Mrs. Edith MacDonald	Greenwood, N.S.
Norma Smith	Crystal Springs, Sask.	Mrs. Tena MacGregor	Blanchard Rd, N.S.
Mrs. Ellen Webster	Greenvale, N.S.	Phylis M. Webster	Sudbury, Mass.
Charles MacCauley	Halifax, N.S.	Ethel Smith	Crystal Springs, Sask.
Mrs. Irene S.	Vancouver, B.C.	Clara R. Murray	New Glasgow, N.S.
Mrs. Janet Fraser	Linacy Glen, N.S.	Bell Sutherland	Lowell, Mass.
Billy Webster	New Glasgow, N.S.	Bobby George	Hillsgrove, R.I.
Mrs. Jessie A. Campbell	Moose River, N.S.	Mrs. Eileen Green	Sunnybrae, N.S.
Belle Fraser	MacLellan's Mtn, N.S.	Mrs. Ida P. Smith	Crystal Springs, Sask.
Flo Zwicker	Halifax, N.S.	Alex W. MacKinnon	Dorchester, Mass.
Fraser Webster	New Glasgow, N.S.	Mrs. Mary Web. Fraser	Blanchard Rd, N.S.
John A. Webster	New Glasgow, N.S.	Robert B. Webster	New Glasgow, N.S.
Mrs. Catherine Scowcroft	Edgewater, N.J.	Mary Chiene	Portland, Oregon
Mrs. Mary F. MacKay	Riverton, N.S.	John J. Fraser	Blanchard Rd, N.S.
Henry C. Webster	So. MacLellan's Mtn, N.S.	W. H. Webster	So. MacLellan's Mtn, N.S.
Herbert Webster	MacLellan's Mtn, N.S.	Bessie Peers	Halifax, N.S.
Miss Christy Fraser	Providence, R.I.	Muriel Smith	Vancouver, B.C.
Mrs. Elsbeth S	Flin Flon, Manitoba	Elizabeth MacDonald	Coalburn, N.S.
Miss Margaret Fraser	Providence, R.I.	Allister Webster	New Glasgow, N.S.
John T. Fraser	Blanchard Rd, N.S.	Mrs. Barbara F. Webster	New Glasgow, N.S.
Mrs. Margaret MacKinnon	Dorchester, Mass.	Eunice O. Jarmann	Oakland, California
Mrs. Wm. D. Fraser	Portland, Oregon	May J. Santos	Providence, R.I.
Mrs. Jessie F. Watson	Pawtucket, R.I.	Mrs. Irma M. Dean	Cheshire, Mass.
Peggie George	Hillsgrove, R.I.	William D. Webster	MacLellan's Mtn, N.S.
Winnifred W. Bramford	Alliston, Mass.	Mrs. Elizabeth MacVicar	Providence, R.I.
Mrs. Jessie Appleton	New Westminster, B.C.	Maggie E. Fraser R.N.	MacLellan's Mtn, N.S.
Mrs. Jessie L. Kinley	Port Hillford, N.S.	Annie Barber	Stellarton, N.S.
Mary Scowcroft	Edgewater, N.J.	Irene M. Webster	Greenvale, N.S.
Mrs. Jessie Wiley	Waltham, Mass.	Mrs. Margaret MacDonald	New Glasgow, N.S.
Ida M. Webster	MacPherson's Mills, N.S.	Mrs. Rachel Sparks	New Glasgow, N.S.
Mary Fraser R.N.	New York, USA	Mrs. Mary X MacDonald	Coalburn, N.S.
George H. Webster	Belmont, Mass.	Raymond Dean	Cheshire, Mass.
Donald Webster	Greenvale, N.S.	Mrs. Lizzie MacDonald	Sunnybrae, N.S.
Mrs. Annie Dunbrack	Halifax, N.S.	Mrs. Tena MacDonald	Thorburn, N.S.
Mrs. Christy Stewart	Blanchard Rd, N.S.	Mrs. Elsie MacInnis	Sunnybrae, N.S.
Henry E. Webster	Sudbury, Mass.		



Submitted by: Manon Potvin



*The quilt top belonged to Elizabeth Reeves. Her name before she was married as well as her mother's name can be found on it.*