

Union and Sutherland's River Presbyterian Churches

Thorburn and Sutherland's River, NS

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

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Sutherland's River



Thorburn

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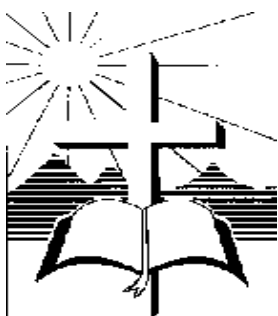
An Invitation from the Special Committee to Share Experiences (Reconciliation)

To the People of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The 2022 General Assembly asked the Special Committee on Petitions 1 and 2, 2021, to continue its work, including continuing to listen to stories of marginalization and racism within the church and to develop a statement of confession to God and to marginalized ethnic groups and individuals within the church.

We have been moved by the stories we heard during our first year of work. We thank those who told us their stories. We are humbled that we would be entrusted with these stories. We have been changed by what we have heard, and we pray that the church, both as an institution and as individuals, will also be changed as we are confronted with the church's actions and attitudes of racism and marginalization. We were asked by a storyteller, "What will be different this time?" We pray that in hearing the stories and confessing both our corporate and our individual sin we will be open to being transformed by the Holy Spirit to be a church where people of every tribe and nation and language will gather together in glorifying Jesus Christ who is Lord of all.

We are aware that there are more stories to be told. We invite people to tell us what they have experienced and what they have witnessed. If you wish to tell your story, or describe what you have witnessed, please contact us by email at special.committee.pcc@gmail.com.



An Invitation from the Special Committee

These stories can help us develop a more complete understanding the impacts of racism and marginalization in the church. Thereby helping to develop a robust confession of the church's wrong, and statement of our desire, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to be changed.

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Peter Bush

Linda Park

Convenors, Special Committee re: Listening, Confession and Association

Submitted by: *Rev. Greg Dickson*

Interim Moderator

Union Church Year End Reflections

As we come to the end of another year, we reflect on the happenings in our church and community. As you know 2022 was a milestone for the Village of Thorburn in that it celebrated its 150th birthday. This significant occasion was celebrated by having a Kiosk erected in the village depicting the years since its founding in 1872 until the present day. This event was very well attended as was the Homecoming Church Service held in conjunction with this event.

At this time, we remember those from our church family and the community who passed away during the year. We continue to pray for those who are ill, have medical issues or just need moral support in their daily lives.

Our area is still cleaning up from the terrible hurricane Fiona which swept our area in early October. Seeing friends helping friends was quite evident in our community during this time. Our church and manse received significant damage from the storm and repairs are ongoing at this time.

Our Sunday School and Youth Group continues to be active. Cradle Roll has restarted, and the Board of Managers has been busy with take-out dinners and are planning another event on November 12th with a sit-down supper followed by entertainment by the popular group Hanna's Boys.

Our Community Soup Luncheons have started again and are held on the last Thursday of each month. We have improved our online services, started our food bank contributions again and are preparing Good Samaritan Christmas Boxes to be sent to help those in need.

We will continue to search for God's message for the future of our Church and Community. It will take time and perseverance to build up again after the setbacks of covid and the storm but let's look to the new year with faith, hope and love as we remember God's promises to his people. We are a small church, but we have very dedicated volunteers. We are so grateful for their support and to all the people who may not be able to be here in person but support us in many other ways. Let us take time every day to pray that God will help us reach our mission as followers of Christ and bring God's salvation to as many people as possible.

As the Holiday Season is fast approaching, **BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR ARE SENT YOUR WAY.**

Submitted by: Gail Jordan

Camp Geddie in 1951

HOW TO REACH CAMP GEDDIE
By Car. Leave N.S. Highway 4 at Sutherland's River, east of New Glasgow. Along Shore Road through Merigomish & six miles past to the camp entrance. Signs mark route.
By Train. C.N.R. to Merigomish on Truro-Sydney Line. You will be met at station if you request it on form. To enable any in the Maritimes to attend, a refund toward travel expense will be made at camp to campers from distant points.

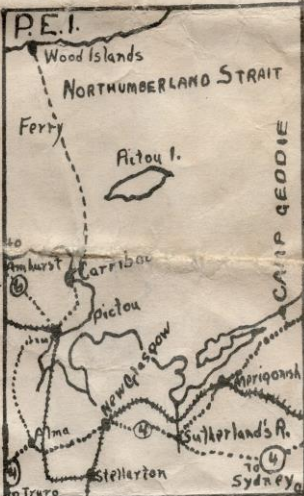
WHAT TO BRING
 Bible, Pencil, Notebook, Blankets, Pillow & Case, Sheets, Soap, Towels, Flashlight, Clothing for hot, cold & rainy days, 25¢ for Handicrafts. Optional-Camera, Film, Music instruments, Hobby eqpt. etc

POST OFFICE ADDRESS
 Camp Geddie, Merigomish, N.S.

TUCK SHOP AS USUAL

The Presbyterian Church
in Canada

CAMP GEDDIE



SUMMER 1951
 Operated by
 Committee of S.S. and Y.P.S.
 for Maritime Boys, Girls
 and Young People

1. Boys' Camp Ages 10-15
 July 4-July 14
 Director: Rev. A.E. Morrison
 Programme: Handcraft, Bible Study, Swimming, Games, Hikes, Campfires, Sports, Films, etc
 Registration \$1 Board \$11

2. Junior Girls Ages 9-12
 July 16-July 24
 Director: Miss M. MacDougall
 Program: Handcraft, Interest Groups, Games, Skits, Morning Watch, Films, Swimming, Bible Study, Campfires, Vespers, etc
 Registration \$1 Board \$9

3. Senior Girls Ages 12-16
 July 30-August 9
 Director the same, Program similar to Junior Girls
 Registration \$1 Board \$11

4. Young People Ages 16-up
 August 13-August 23
 Director: Rev. E.H. Bean
 Program: Worship, Song, Bible Study, Lectures, Discussions, Sports, Swimming, Campfires.
 Registration \$2 Board \$11

A. Dominion Day Week-End
 June 29-July 2
 S.S. Teachers & Y.P. Workers
 Director: Rev. W.I. McElwain
 Program: Discussion, Question Box, Lectures, Missions, Song, Swimming, Films, Campfires & Registration 50¢ Board \$4

LEADERS AT CAMP GEDDIE
 The leaders are ministers, deaconesses and others who are especially interested in camp work and give time absolutely free. At least one leader at each camp is a capable swimming supervisor and instructor.

THE PROPERTY
 The warm salt water of the Northumberland Strait with a wide sandy beach fronts our site. Buildings include cabins and the lodge which is used as a dining hall & also a club-house in bad weather. There are baseball diamonds, Volley-ball court and a chapel in the trees.

Camp Geddie in 1951

My cousin Carole MacDonald went to Camp Geddie in the summer of 1951. She would have been about 13.

She went for a certain amount of time, and when the day came for visitors, her parents showed up. Like any normal teenager, she begged them to bring her back home. So, they did. She'd had enough. It made me think about being at camp, with other children and teenagers.

"Why did you want to go home, Carole", I asked. She said that she missed the leisure of reading books and not rushing to finish one thing to start the next. So even in the days of no technology, there were activities and events set up to keep the campers busy, maybe even too busy.

Going to summer camp is a new experience, and like it or not, a taste of life. It might be a great vacation for some who have difficulties at home, while for others, it can seem too regimented and not relaxing at all.

Everyone is different, and even though Carole came home early from her stay at Camp Geddie, she has kept the camp bulletin and has a few blurry photos of the time she was there.

Anyone else have a Camp Geddie experience? I would be happy to write your story for you.

Submitted by: Manon Potvin

The Right Focus

"One, two, three, eyes on me!" I would sing to my Grade One class. I needed to get their attention at the beginning of the lesson to give them instructions and to start teaching them. If they were noisy or if they had wandered from the task assigned to them, they needed to be brought back to their work. Their focus was restored when the children sang back, "One, two, eyes on you!" Their faces were turned toward me in expectation, ready to listen.

Hebrews 12:1b-2a – Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. (NLT)

Focus is so important. I found this out when I struggled to use my husband Terry's old pair of hand-me-down binoculars. I hadn't always been enthusiastic about bird watching, so for a long time, those heavy, old-fashioned binoculars seemed to work for me. They had their limitations, though. Even after I had spent precious seconds trying to focus, the image that I had of the bird in view was still not as sharp as the image in Terry's binoculars. "Wow! So that's what it looks like!" I exclaimed when I looked through his binoculars at the bird that we had just sighted.

1 Peter 3:12a – The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. (NLT)

Psalms 139:3,15 – You see me when I travel, and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. (NLT)

The Lord Jesus always has His eyes on us. Because we are human, however, our focus can waver so easily. When we lose our focus on Him, we run into trouble, and we can be so easily overwhelmed by ordinary happenings.

Focusing on Him is something that we have to initiate, just like focusing a pair of binoculars. My daily quiet time helps me to gather up my scattered thoughts. As I bring my thoughts to the Lord, their tenacious hold on me fades away as I centre on Him. Morning worship at church does the same: it prepares our hearts to focus on the presence of God and prepares our hearts to hear from Him.

As the old chorus reads:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

Look full in His wonderful face

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim

In the light of His glory and grace

Helen H. Lemmel

Let's do it!

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, that Your eyes are always on us, watching over our lives. Forgive us when we take our eyes off You, and help us to keep our eyes on You, knowing that our difficulties and challenges dissipate in the light of Your presence. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Written by: Alice Burnett

Red Deer, Alberta, Canada
