

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

The 57 Cent Church

A little girl stood near a small church from which she had been turned away because it was "too crowded". "I can't go to Sunday School" she sobbed to the pastor as he walked by. Seeing her shabby, unkempt appearance, the pastor guessed the reason and taking her by the hand, took her inside and found a place for her in the Sunday School class. The child was so happy that they found room for her, and she went to bed that night thinking of the children who have no place to worship Jesus.

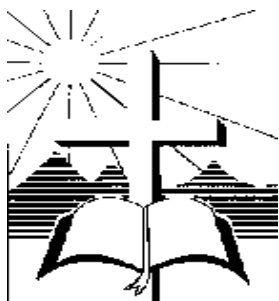
Some two years later this child lay dead in one of the poor tenement buildings. Her parents called for the kind-hearted pastor who had befriended their daughter to handle the final arrangements. As her poor little body was being moved a worn and crumpled red purse was found near her. Inside was found 57 cents and a note, scribbled in childish handwriting, which said; "This is to help build the little church bigger so more children can go to Sunday School.

For two years she had saved for this offering of love. When the pastor read that note he knew instantly what he would do. Carrying the note and the red purse to the pulpit he told the story of her unselfish love and devotion. He challenged his deacons to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building.

But the story does not end there...

A newspaper learned of the story and published it. It was read by a wealthy realtor who offered them a parcel of land worth many thousands. When told that the church could not pay so much, he offered to sell it to the little church for 57 cents.

Church members made large donations. Cheques came from far and wide. Withing five years the little girl's gift had increased to \$250,000.00 – a huge sum for that time. Her unselfish love had paid large dividends.



The 57 Cent Church (cont'd)

If you are ever in the city of Philadelphia, look up Temple Baptist Church with a seating capacity of 3,300. Have a look too, at the Sunday School building which accommodates hundreds of children, built so that no child in the area will ever need to be left outside during Sunday School time.

In one of the rooms of this building may be seen the picture of the little girl whose 57 cents, made such remarkable history. Alongside of it is a portrait of her kind pastor, Dr. Russell H. Conwell.

This is a true story, which goes to show **“What God can do with 57 cents!”**

Submitted by Alice MacDonald

Tae a Virus

Some months ago, we didna ken,
Yer name or ocht about ye.
But lots of things have changed since then,
I really must salute ye.

Yer spreading rate is quite intense,
Yer feeding like a gannet.
Disruption caused, is so immense,
ye've shaken oor wee planet.

Corona used tae be a beer,
they garnished it wae limes.
But noo it's filled us awe wae fear,
These days are scary times.

Nae shakin hawns, or peckin lips,
It's whit they a' advise.
But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips,
that's how we'll a' survive.

Just stay inside, the hoose, ye bide.
Nae sneakin oot for strolls.
Just check the lavvy every hoor,
And stock-take your loo rolls.

Our holidays have been pit aff.
Noo that's the Jet2 patter.
Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh,
And paddle 'doon the waater.

Canary isles, no for a while,
Nae need for suntan cream.
And awe because o this wee bug,
We ken tae be..19.

The boredom surely will set in,
But have a read, or doodle
Or plan yer menu for the month,
Wi 95 pot noodles.

When these run oot, just look about,
A change, it would be nice.
We've beans and pasta by the ton,
And twenty stane o' rice


So dinnae think ye'll wipe us oot,
Aye true, a few have died.
Bubonic, bird flu, and TB,
They came, they left, they tried.

Ye might be gallus noo ma freen,
As ye jump fae cup tae cup
But when we get oor vaccine made,
Yer number will be up.

By Willie Sinclair

Submitted by Rev. Greg Dickson

I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do and what I ought to do, with God's help, I will do. -Edward Everett Hale-

LEST WE FORGET – It will be a different Remembrance Day during the pandemic but let us all remember in own way 



Some photos from past Thorburn Remembrance Day Services. Although there will be no public services held this year, we remember our veterans with honor and will forever be grateful for their service and sacrifice to our country. ***We will remember them.***

Here's One for Halloween...

August 5, 1913

The Thorburn Post

Marsh Monster Exists?

In the sleepy backwaters of Pictou County, something has been raiding chicken coops and stealing milk right from the cows. Mrs. Eryin MacKay, a resident of the Marsh Road, outside of Thorburn, Nova Scotia, Told this writer, that "There is something evil out there. Something big and shadowy and it scares the bejeebers out of me." A tour of the area yielded a large number of footprints, which were very large, up to 15 inches in length and were clearly made by something very heavy. Mavis Merriweather a local widower told us that the creature comes from the Marsh at night and retreats there before dawn. She further stated that "The great beast carried off my beau three fortnights ago, and he hasn't been seen since. It's scary up here at night alone, you know." She explained. Upon review of local historical documents, it seems the beast is seen for a year or two every 50 years. It comes, causes a rucous, and then is gone. In this reporters opinion, it is best to leave such mysteries alone, and hope no harm comes to those living nearby - Frank Johnson, Reporter

Another look back to the past...



A member of Thorburn Union Church with her sister during one of their cherished family visits from Montreal to Thorburn many years ago. A glimpse of the year can be seen in the vehicle passing by and their lovely outfits. Note the beautiful church in the background.

Sunday School Update



We are happy to announce that Sunday School is starting again! All children and young people are very welcome! Classes will take place downstairs at Thorburn Union Church each Sunday at 11:00am to 12:00 noon starting November 1st, 2020. Please spread the word so that all children and young people can have the opportunity to join. The purpose of the program is to help young people enjoy time together while developing a love of God, good values, faith in times of difficulty and to interact in a positive way. This will be done through stories, crafts, videos, games, and music while teamwork and youth leadership are developed. The program is not specific to any one religion /denomination but is based on Christian values. Safety protocols will be followed. For further information, please contact Darlene at darlreeves@hotmail.com or 922-2666



Many thanks go out to Susan MacIntosh, Courtney Maldre, Manon Potvin, Ashley Robertson and Amanda MacDonald for helping me with the Sunday School Boxes for young people. We packed and sent out 22 boxes. Also, thanks to the Session and Congregation for all their support and Adopt a Reader for giving us some extra books for the young people.

Submitted by Darlene Reeves

OUT OF THE PAST.....1900'S HEALTH PROBLEM....Health problems in the Village of Thorburn.....Smallpox epidemic. Infected houses and families were quarantined then the entire village, churches, and schools. Infected houses were fumigated, and guards were placed outside them. The disease was traced to a family who had returned to Thorburn from the United States. Sound familiar? Except what we are going through with Covid-19 is on a much larger scale.

Submitted by Gail Jordan