QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 Issue 3
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Union Presbyterian Church

Thorburn, NS

Modelling faith in our communities

one conversation at a time

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Summer Thoughts

The Presbyterian system of church government possesses a number of strengths. For example, our form of church order provides a structure, time and place for the Spirit of God to be both at work within Christian community and to be discerned by it. It also provides for deep, organic unity between the membership of the church and the government of the church.

On top of this, our system makes for better decisions for the common good. It helps us to be more directly accountable to each other and also better connected to one another. Finally, the pooling of our resources (human, material and monetary) allows us to accomplish more than we might in a strictly congregational or episcopal church system.

Along with the strengths of our form of church government, however, come some ongoing challenges. Since all ministry is spiritual in nature, seeking to grow as disciples of Christ has central importance. The ability of our church courts to reveal God in Christ to the world is linked integrally to our ability to glorify and enjoy God.

In the end, strong Christian discipleship is the foundation of communities built on trust and mutual support. And this is what those outside our walls see - good fruit springing from the fertile ground of well-developed, caring and compassionate relationships. To show everyone the Body of Christ in this way requires faith, vision, commitment, courage and a sense of hope as we capitalize on gifts already received: knowledge, skills (including communication skills) and grace.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Interim Moderator:
Greg Dickson
902-759-8221

Clerk of Session:
John Reeves
902-922-2666

Board of Managers:
Jane Taylor
902-755-4408

Treasurer:
Kathy Campbell
902-759-1705

Service Times

Thorburn:11:00 a.m.

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unionchurchthorburn.ca

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Summer Thoughts (cont'd)

Friends, as we now rise for the summer, let's consider this: How can The Presbyterian Church in Canada seek to create an environment in our church and the community it serves that encourages everyone to offer their gifts in working out Christ's ministry to the world? Our answer to this question will influence the kind of corporate witness to God's love in Christ that we present from our humble home in rural Nova Scotia. Have a happy and safe summer!

Rev. Greg Dickson
Interim Moderator

Family & Friends Service at Camp Geddie

God blessed us with a beautiful day at Camp Geddie. This service coincided with the Sunday School Closing and Prayer for the Camp Counsellors for this summer. We held the service in the outdoor chapel with the ocean as our background. Thank you to everyone who participated, brought food or helped in any way. The children who were present received their certificates and books and all the young people there received treat bags. Prizes this year went to Abigail, Lilly, Bentley and Emmy. Afterwards we enjoyed a meal and a time of fellowship together. Afterwards the counsellors played games, which we borrowed from MOPC, with the students. Thanks again and have a blessed summer everyone!

Our Alpha Group

Our Alpha Group started our first session celebrating with a cake and ice-cream for a member's birthday and finished with this beautiful cake brought by Murray & Barb to celebrate the ending of a great time of learning and fellowship! We had 14 people who attended regularly. It was a wonderful group; we were blessed to be part of it! For each session, members brought delicious sandwiches, subs, fruit and veggies trays and outstanding desserts. We had interesting discussions and enjoyed all the good food too!

Making it to Church, Rain or Shine!

What was up with all those rainy weekends throughout the Spring! Just when you were ready to break out the summer clothes, it would be another cool rainy day. This didn't stop one of our dedicated church members who takes her participation in worship very seriously. She arrived rain or shine, even if it involved a strange fashion accessory as seen in this photo. It is said that *"Necessity is the mother of all inventions"* and Josie found another great use of the plastic bag. When you can't find your rain hat or your umbrella, it works great in a pinch. Thanks for all you do, Josie, as a choir member, reader of psalms and much more. We enjoy your enthusiasm and wonderful sense of humour! Looks like the sunny days are finally back for us all to enjoy which is a blessing!

Sunday School Bible Story

Sunday School was recently learning about the Bible Story of when the Holy Spirit was sent to help the disciples after Jesus went to Heaven to be with God the Father. Jesus told them to wait patiently and that he would ask God to send someone to help them while they waited for Jesus to return. Ten days later the Holy Spirit came and helped them talk in different languages so that they could tell the world about everything Jesus had done on earth while He was here. It was the early beginning of Church and people coming together to praise God. We recognize it as part of the Easter Season called Pentecost Sunday. The children made little hats to remind them of this special day which were adorable on them!

The Board of Managers Team

Our Board of Managers contribute so much to the functioning and well being of our Church. Here is a photo of some of the team who work well together preparing for one of their amazing church suppers. It is really lots of work but they make it seem easy with their great comradery and putting fun into God's work. These suppers not only help to provide funding for church projects and mission but also are a great time of fellowship for our church and community! A huge thank you to the Board of Managers for all they do for our Church and Community!

U. C. Friends join Little Harbour Presbyterian Church for an Event at Pictou Pool

Little Harbour Presbyterian young people sometimes attend U. C. Friends activities and asked us to attend one of theirs. It was a wonderful afternoon at the Pictou Fisheries Pool along with pizza for all, healthy snacks and delicious cookies. Thanks to Heather, Rev. Kim and the other volunteers, we really enjoyed our time together!

Book of Revelation Bible Study

We're looking forward to doing another type of Bible Study this Fall. These low pressure but informative studies are a fun time of learning and fellowship. We don't know all the answers, but we explore together using the Bible and other trustworthy, relevant resources to shed light on the different verses and concepts in the Bible to help us better understand God's purpose for those who love Him.

One of our Alpha Study group members suggested we look at the final book of the Bible, called Revelation. This very important book in scripture contained Jesus' final instructions to God's people while they waited for Jesus' return and their future eternity with God.

Please consider joining our next session by letting John or Darlene know if you are interested. The timing and length of the sessions is determined by the entire group when we meet for the first session. We look forward to this next Bible adventure (see below) and hope you can join us. Everyone is welcome!

Book of Revelation 21:1-4 The New Heaven and the New Earth

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."