QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Union Presbyterian Church

Thorburn, NS

Modelling faith in our communities one conversation at a time

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The Gospel and the Formation of a Christian Worldview

This is an extract of a learned document published by Robert Sloan in 2004

The gospel of the crucified and risen Jesus is the core of a Christian worldview. To understand the Christian worldview, we must start with the word worldview itself.

A worldview is a way, a perspective, an outlook on the world on all there is. While worldviews can certainly be the subject of academic analysis and opinion we can take them as a set of assumptions that govern how we view and understand all of reality. A worldview is the lens, or the frame of reference on which we build the way we think. It is our way of knowing and understanding what develops throughout our lives. In German, the word weltanschauung is used to describe worldview.

A Christian worldview begins with the assumption of the one true Creator God, who involves himself in history and seeks a relationship with his creation; makes all things good; and who is faithful in all his interactions with it. He is involved in it. And his presence in the world is seen in both routine and in things wondrous and strange.

From the vantage point of creation and the Fall, we see the patterns of God's actions in history to redeem and rescue as they unfold in Scripture. This has implications for a Christian understanding of history. In a Christian worldview, that history does not inevitably decline into the present and eventual annihilation. There is always the prospect of God's divine action, which at any moment may set a new course for history.

And so we have a word of encouragement for these modern times. Even though things are happening today in ways we do not welcome, God is still in control, shaping human history just as he promised.

Rev. Greg Dickson
Interim Moderator

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Service Times

Thorburn:11:00 a.m.

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A few photos of some of the many birthdays of Union Presbyterian Church recently

A Special Celebration! One of our dedicated church family, Kay Kirk, celebrated her 95th birthday. It was a wonderful reception at her granddaughter's place with family, friends, delicious food, beautiful decorations and some great singing from the birthday girl herself. Kay looked lovely and we wish her many more great years and good health!

Sweet time at Bible Study! Also, our Bible Study group had many birthday girls this winter. Here are some of their photos *(Below: Barb, Becky, Josie and Margie)* with their delicious cakes. We just completed our last study until the Fall, many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way whether leading, sharing, providing food and clean up. It was great learning and growing our faith together!

WHERE IS SPRING AND THE DANDELION?

As the saying goes **"Spring is just around the corner".** I think its over a few snowbanks before we even get to the corner – then we might see Spring.

That's when we see the first dandelions peeking out after a long cold winter. This makes the bees happy because its the first food they get to eat after sleeping all winter. They rely on early wildflowers to fuel their bodies so they can continue to do their jobs i.e., collecting pollen to create honey.

Did you know dandelions are not weeds. They are from the same family as sunflowers. Every part of the dandelion is edible. Up until the 1800's dandelions were seen as extremely beneficial. People would remove grass to plant dandelions. (I don't think any of us would do that today.)

It is believed that parts of dandelion represent the celestial bodies, for example, the yellow flower represents the sun, the white seed head represents the moon, and the seeds represent the stars as they spread all over our galaxy.

So, if you don't get your lawn cut every day or so in the summer – remember you are being kind to the bees!!!
Submitted by Gail

Some of our Winter Activities

U.C. Friends learn about Cyber Safety and Protection. In these times of fake news, excessive negative media and other unsavoury social media, it's important for kids to know how to protect themselves. Also, it's important they know God loves them and their community is there for them. They also made pizza and played games.

In January we had an inter-generational skating evening with hot chocolate and cookies. It was a great turnout and lots of fun together!

Left is a photo of some of the Sunday School working on the 10 Commandments Banner that's hanging in the church. Thanks to Tena for her all her work on this. Also, many thanks to her and Paul, as you can see they were very busy shovelling over this long winter!

THORBURN

Memory Lane

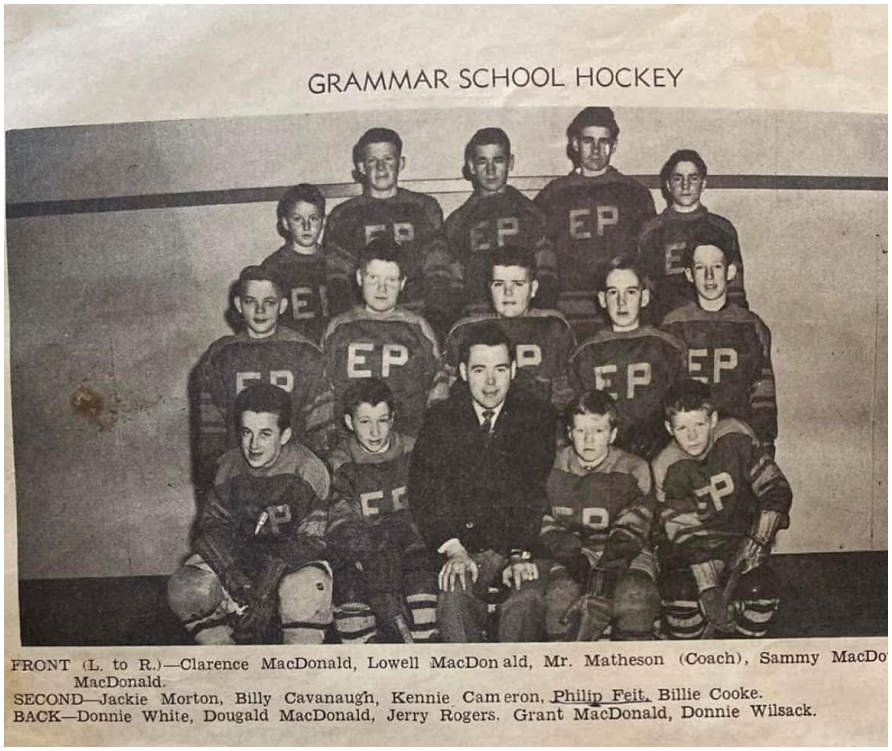
(Memories of Thorburn and Greenwood?)

Just down the road....around the bend,
lies memory lane....a road without end.
Those visions of childhood in our memory,
are like precious gems, and they are always free.
Down that lane are both smiles and tears;
along with our secret hopes and fears.
Memories of school...grade by grade;
the excitement of watching a parade.
The fun we had when friends came to play;
the special joy of an overnight stay.
Most of the time there was work to do;
but times to play, we somehow found a few.
Swimming at Parks Falls and fishing in a stream,
those things were really not just a dream.
Snow piled high and covering the fence;
trying to get to school just didn't make sense.
Memories of sledding on the world's best hill;
there were no others that fit the bill.
In spite of the cold, we grew quite fond,
of skating with neighbors on a frozen pond.
Memory lane is such a wonderful trail to wander,
just down the road.....around the bend.
Tenderly we treasure the past,
with memories that will always last.
As you were you will always be,
treasured forever in our memories.

This poem came from a bulletin which was made for a memorial service for Clarence and Jean Sinclair. The service was held on November 10th, 2001, in Thorburn Presbyterian Church and led by Rev. Glenn MacDonald.

Submitted by:

Susan Henderson



FRONT (L. to R.)—Clarence MacDonald, Lowell MacDonald, Mr. Matheson (Coach), Sammy MacDo
MacDonald.
SECOND—Jackie Morton, Billy Cavanaugh, Kennie Cameron, Philip Feit, Billie Cooke.
BACK—Donnie White, Dougald MacDonald, Jerry Rogers, Grant MacDonald, Donnie Wilsack.

This picture was shared with me recently of the East Pictou Hockey Team from a long time ago. Not only did I spot my father, who I knew played but I had never seen in a hockey uniform, but I also saw many people we all knew from the Thorburn area. The names are listed below the photo. With the recent passing of Lowell MacDonald, it seems a fitting tribute to a great person and retired NHL player who always kept Thorburn in his heart. I did not know him personally but often saw him at local events and heard many stories about all the great things he did with his life. May he rest in peace.