

Topsail United Church

Spring 2014 Newsletter



"The Church by the Side of the Road"

*When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died:
my richest gain I count by loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.*

Greetings to one and all. I am happy to write this message for inclusion in our Spring Newsletter. Spring is highlighted and celebrated many ways in society. It is celebrated with the coming of longer hours of daylight. It is celebrated with the first Spring flowers coming to bloom. In my younger years, it was celebrated by receiving (at Easter) a chocolate egg nestled on bright yellow straw like paper in the bottom of a brightly painted china tea cup and saucer. But, what I remember most about Spring is the spiritual journey taken through Lent and the celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter morning. As people of faith we still take this Spiritual journey. It is a journey that assures us of the depth of God's love for us.

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" is one of my favourite hymns. This hymn was written by Isaac Watts and it is one of his greatest. The words of the hymn bid us gaze upon the cross and then respond with our readiness to accept this one great act as the wonder of God's unconditional love. Lent leads us through the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem, his crucifixion on Good Friday, and his glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday. These happenings are at the center of our faith and challenge us to see that the gift of God's love through Jesus is universal. This is God's promise. The wonderful thing to realize about this Holy time of the year is that we are heirs of this great promise of God. We, as heirs of this promise, are called to continue this ministry by telling the astonishing story that God invites all people everywhere to

experience this promise of “New Life.” The last verse of Watts’ hymn indicates how we are to strive daily to accept and spread that promise.

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far to small:
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

The coming of Spring includes the coming of Easter. Easter brings us a new experience that cannot be compared to other experiences. The Easter message is not just about a change in Jesus, but also about change in all faithful followers. We cannot explain it all and maybe to live as an Easter people is to live with mystery and to allow that mystery to transform us. When we experience that inner joy of Easter we also become aware that the empty tomb and the news that Jesus is alive opens up for us the reality that Christ is present all around us.

A verse of a well-known hymn indicates this reality. This verse is my prayer that as you celebrate Spring and the Easter Season you will also experience the “full” promise that, through Jesus, God walks with us in our daily lives. Indeed, let us celebrate the Easter message as we resolve to, not only see the face of Christ in everyone we meet, but that everyone we meet will see the face of Christ in us. My wife Dianne joins with me in offering a prayer that this Lenten and Easter Season will be one of meditation, peace and blessing for you.

*We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise,
Your image we see in simple and wise.
You live in a palace, exist in a shack.
We see you, the gardener, a tree on your back.*

Blessings to you all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruce", followed by a horizontal line.

Rev. Bruce



Join us for Spring Events at Topsail United Church

GOOD FRIDAY FISHCAKE LUNCH - Good Friday, April 18th 11:30 a.m.

Fish Cakes, Baked Beans, Raisin Molasses Bread & Assorted Cakes, Tea & Coffee.

Tickets \$12.00 adult , \$6.00 child. Book ahead - no tickets at the door.

Tickets are available from the Church Office 834-4567 or Gillian Corbett 781-1562.

MEN'S CLUB FLIPPER DINNER - date to be announced

Tickets \$20.00 . Tickets will be available when the date is confirmed. Watch for an announcement in the Bulletin and on the website.

ANNUAL GALA LOBSTER / STEAK DINNER - Saturday, May 11th

Come and enjoy a great meal of Lobster or Steak or a combo of Lobster and Steak.

Tickets are available through the Church Office 834-4567. \$30 Steak Dinner \$45 Steak and Lobster Dinner

OUTREACH SPRING FLEA MARKET - Saturday, May 24th

"We want what you don't!" when you do your Spring Cleaning. Remember to save your "stuff" for the Church.

We do take "gently used" clothes - but please note we can no longer take large appliances, i.e. refrigerators, stoves, washers or TV's.

Drop off Thursday, May 22 and Friday, May 23th.

Membership Contact Information - Do we have your email address?

So far we have 171 email addresses! This method of communication helps our church save on printing and mailing costs and gives members timely and current information. Please send your email address to lmercerc@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net or valeriehowe@me.com so we may add you to the distribution list.



Message from the Treasurer

Greetings! At the Annual Congregational Meeting on March 9, I was pleased to present the financial results for 2013 and a Budget for 2014. Firstly, thank you to all for your part in the important and exciting work of Topsail United Church and for responding faithfully to the generosity of God.

The approved Budget projects a deficit of \$11,369, primarily due to a provision for washroom renovations in the Church Hall, estimated to cost approximately \$20,000. Preparing a Budget is an opportunity to revisit and critically review all costs associated with running the Church on a day-to-day basis.

As most expenditures are fixed in nature and generally increase from year to year, there isn't much room for reductions. While we have projected a deficit, we would very much like to, at best, break even. To do so, we need your help. May we suggest that you thoughtfully reconsider your level of contribution to the work of TUC? Perhaps a contribution to our Roofing Fund?

Thank you, once again, for your continued support!

Boyde Clarke, Treasurer

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Church Office: 709-834-4567
Church Hall: 709-834-8584

www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net

Weekday Hours: 9am to 1pm

Roofing Fund

Thank you for your support! To date generous donations totaling \$9,854 have been received from the congregation in support of the TUC Roofing Fund. We are asking for your continued support to offset the \$25,000 cost.

Please support our “Buy a Bundle of Shingles” initiative.



Welcome to the Official Board for 2014:

David Jones, Chair

Brad Cole, Vice Chair

Valerie Howe, Secretary

Rev. Bruce Kearley, Ex Officio

Members: Freeman Budgell

Dale Butt

Doreen Cave

Boyde Clarke

Solomon Davis

Denise Jacobs

Glenys Moran

James Rowsell

Wanda Saunders

Bond Swain

Message from the Official Board Chair

Springtime is a time of renewal and new life. New life in the Church as the Board is renewed each year. New life in our lives as Easter teaches us to renew our faith in ourselves and in the Church.

Each of us has within us our own special talents and abilities. Each of us in our own way has the ability to help out with the work of the Church.

In the coming year each of you will be called upon to assist in that work and to give in your own way and in accordance with your own means to the extent that your conscience tells you is right to that effort.

When you are called upon, irrespective of your age and station in life, I ask that you respond positively so that the Church can continue to respond positively to the needs at home and abroad. Knowing two things for certain, that history will be the final judge of our success and that here on Earth God's work is truly our own.

David Jones



All Worship Services begin at 10:30 am unless otherwise noted

APRIL 2014

- 6th Communion, Mixed Choir, Sung Lord's Prayer introduced a second time
- 13th Family Sunday, Parade of Palms
- 18th **10 am**, Good Friday, Mixed Choir
- 20th Easter Sunday, Sung Lord's Prayer
- 8 am** Communion **10:30 am** Combined Choirs
- 27th Introduction to Creation Time, "Oceans" Mixed Choir, Sung Lord's Prayer

MAY 2014

- 4th Creation Time 2: "Atmosphere/Hydrosphere", Communion, Mixed Choir
- 11th Creation Time 3: "Flora". Mother's Day, Baptism, Family Sunday
- 18th Creation Time 4: "Cosmos", Men's Choir
- 25th Creation Time 5: "Fauna (Animals)", Mixed Choir

JUNE 2014

- 1st Communion Service, Confirmation, Mixed Choir
- 8th Regular Service, Men's Choir
- 15th Father's Day, Sunday School Picnic, Family Sunday
- 22nd Regular Service, Mixed Choir
- 29th Regular Service, Combined Choir

*If you have ideas for articles in the TUC Newsletter or comments about this publication,
please send them along to valeriehowe@me.com*