



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2012

Topsail United Church
"The Church by the Side of the Road"



CELEBRATING 175 YEARS

Schedule of Worship

March 25	Lent 5	10:30a.m.	Worship Senior/UCW Choirs
April 1	Palm Sunday Parade of Palms	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion Senior Choir
April 6	Good Friday	10.00a.m.	Senior Choir
April 8	Easter Day	8:00a.m. 10:30a.m.	Holy Communion Worship, Combined Choirs <i>Guest Speaker</i>
April 15	Easter 2	10.30a.m.	Family Worship Junior High Band
April 22	Easter 3	10:30a.m.	Worship, Senior/UCW Choirs
April 29	Easter 4	10.30a.m.	Worship, Guest Choir <i>Coastal Sounds</i>
May 6	Easter 5	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion Senior Choir
May 13	Easter 6 Mother's Day	10.30a.m.	Christian Family Sunday Junior High Band
May 20	Easter 7	10.30a.m.	Worship, Men's Choir <i>Guest Speaker</i>
May 27	Pentecost	10.30a.m.	Worship Senior/UCW Choir
June 3	Pentecost 1	10.30a.m.	Confirmation Sunday Holy Communion Senior Choir
June 10	Pentecost 2	10.30a.m.	Worship, Senior Choir <i>Guest Speaker</i>
June 17	Pentecost 3 Father's Day	10.30a.m. Sunday School Picnic	Family Worship with Senior High Band
June 24	Pentecost 4	10.30a.m.	Senior Choir



A MESSAGE FROM REV. BRUCE

**Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Hallelujah.**

Greetings to one and all. I am happy to write a brief message for inclusion in our Spring newsletter. I realize that as I write this note the official start of Spring is just over a week away but certainly our thoughts are of warmer days and new life starting to begin. The start of Spring is highlighted in the Christian faith with Easter and the new life through the resurrection of Jesus, our Lord. As the journey through Spring gives us cause to celebrate the newness of life occurring around us each day so the journey through Lent enables to reflect upon the journey of Christ to Easter Sunday.

The above words are the first verse to an Easter Hymn entitled: "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing". This hymn, written by Cyril Alington, bids us rejoice in the good news of Christ's resurrection as the most wondrous thing God has done for us.

The celebration of Easter follows the journey through Lent. Lent leads us through the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem, his crucifixion and makes us ready to receive this good news of Easter with the joy expressed in Alington's hymn. Lent and Easter are at the center of our faith and challenges us to see that the gift of God's love through Jesus is universal.

The wonderful thing to realize about this Holy time of the year is that we are heirs of this great promise of God and called to continue the ministry of Jesus. We continue this ministry by telling the astonishing story that God invites all people everywhere to experience this promise of "New Life." It is our ministry, as disciples of Jesus, to ensure that God's promise of New life is made known throughout the world.

The last verse of Alington's hymn encourages us to be in one accord in celebrating the new life we all have in Jesus Christ our Lord. As I end with this verse, 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.

**Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
Hallelujah.**

Happy Easter

Rev. Bruce



**From Steven Rogers
Congregational Designated Minister**



Greetings!

I am pleased to submit this message to the Spring Newsletter. In January 2012, I began a part-time position at Topsail United Church as the Congregational Designated Minister for Christian Development. I wish to thank you, the people of Topsail United, for offering me this wonderful opportunity to be part of your ministry. Your warm welcome and your many words of encouragement continue to be a source of strength and inspiration.

Topsail United is blessed with staff members and lay volunteers who dedicate their time, talent, and energy to the various programs and initiatives of the church. This dedication was evident on March 9th during a very successful fundraising concert that was carried out in support of our Youth Music Program. On the 3rd Sunday of each month, the children and youth provide the music, readings, and technical support for the Family Service. We are fortunate to have an active Lenten Study Group that meets every Thursday at 7pm under the capable leadership of our laity and clergy. The dedication of our Sunday School teachers also deserves mention. They devote many hours to the preparation and delivery of our Sunday School classes and provide a very important ministry to our children and youth every week. We would appreciate extra help at our Sunday School and would welcome new volunteers. If you are interested, please contact me!

Topsail United now has a Facebook group. You may find this group by searching for *Topsail United – Youth and Young Adults*. If you are involved in the youth and young adult ministry of Topsail United, or if you simply want to show your support, please request to join our group.

Registration has already begun for this year's Confirmation Course. Available for students in grade 7 and up, the Confirmation Course will start on March 18 at 2pm and conclude with a communion / confirmation ceremony during the June 3 morning worship. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about spirituality and justice – and to ask questions. A number of students have already registered and we welcome others who are interested.

I am always willing to listen to your ideas and concerns. Feel free to speak with me at the church or you may email me directly at: srogers@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net. My office is located in the foyer near the front entrance of Topsail United Church.

Peace and blessings to you,

Steven Rogers

Church Membership – Transfer

If you were confirmed in another United Church or denomination and you have now decided to make Topsail United Your home church, we invite you to please call the office and arrange for the Transfer of your Membership.

Bulletin Dedications

You can remember a loved one or celebrate a birth, special birthday or anniversary by making a donation to Dedicate a Bulletin. Please call the office ahead of time.

Supporting your Church

Many of our church families have made the decision to contribute regularly by signing up for the PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) program. It ensures your support of the church and its ministry even if you cannot be there on a regular basis. Just like using your envelope, you choose where you want your money to go. Please contact Lynn at the Church Office, 834-4567, for all the details.

Staying Connected – www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net

This Newsletter is published in the spring and the fall, but up to date information can be found on the Church Website all the time. Please visit us on line and check out the site.



If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please contact Gillian at gcorbett@warp.nfld.net

Mission and Service Fund - "Gold Banks"

The Total Amount for Mission and Service in 2011 was a record \$30,990.00. Thank you to all who donated through their envelope or PAR to this fund.

Your Outreach Committee promotes the M & S Fund and also provides Gold Banks for your loose change for the Fund. Last year the Gold Banks realized \$1,392.00. Many thanks to all those who faithfully filled their Gold Bank. The banks are available in the church vestibule – please take one.

Your Mission and Service Fund dollars support outreach programs at home, in the rest of Canada, and around the world. When there is an emergency the United Church is there, thanks to your support.



"For everything there is a season, a time for everything under the heavens".

2012 is here! The Anniversary Banner was unveiled at the church service on January 8th and will hang in the sanctuary throughout the year. A second banner is being designed by Lorraine Jarvis and it will have a permanent spot along with all the other beautiful banners in our church, later in the year.

Lapel Pins are available for purchase now at \$3.00 each.

Watch for the Commemorative Booklet designed by Sharon Deemer, which will be available for purchase later in the year - a lovely souvenir. A special thanks to Sharon for taking on this project. A souvenir bookmark will also be available later.

Former clergy have been participating in worship:- Rev. Pearce Penney in January, Mrs. Lorraine Jarvis in February and in March, Rev. Jack Mercer. Rev. Mel Ralph will be with us in April, Rev. Myles Vardy in May, Rev. Harry Whitehorne in September, Rev. Scott Parsons in October and Rev. Ralph Taylor in November, the Anniversary month.

The first "Special Event" to was the "Bean Supper and Variety Show" in January, which was enjoyed by all. Upcoming events include:

1. A tree planting in May/June depending on weather.
2. Dinner Theater hosted by "Spirit of Newfoundland" on June 8th
3. Church Picnic, June 17th
4. Anniversary Dinner in November (Royal Canadian Legion in Kelligrews)

Watch for more details on these and other events in the Bulletin and on the Website. The Anniversary Committee invites you to make this time even more special by joining us in as many of the activities as you can.

2012 Anniversary Committee: Eileen Green (Chair) Members: Rev Bruce Kearley, Bob Bennett, Larry Grandy, Bonnie Robbins, Lorraine Jarvis, Rosalind Foley, Margaret Clouter

Official Board 2012

Chair, Gillian Corbett; Vice-Chair, Judy Powell; Secretary, James Rowsell, Finance Chair, Cle Callan; Members – Freeman Budgell, Paul Burt, Doreen Cave, Brad Cole, Rosalind Foley, Lloyd Hobbs, Leona Laundry, Mitchell Moran, Jan Negrijn, Rev Bruce Kearley.

TO GUATEMALA ... WITH LOVE FROM TOPSAIL UNITED



Thanks to Sarah Budgell, we are able to help people in one of the poorest parts of Guatemala in a very direct way. The first time Sarah visited Guatemala was in 2009, and with our support of money and supplies, she helped build a house which bears our church's name. Sarah traveled back again last year with her focus on taking medical supplies and items for the children, especially shoes. Sarah pays her own travel expenses.

Sarah works with "The Arms of Jesus Children's Mission" (see more at www.armsofjesus.org) founded by Dr. Sam Martin. The Mission runs a school, a clinic and a food distribution programme in Guatemala.

Sarah will be part of a "Mission Team" of 15 people supporting all of the Mission's efforts, and in addition providing an outreach to the children in the school and to their families in Parramos and Pampay.

Sarah will go to Guatemala this year on June 1st for one week. Our Men's Group and UCW/Coffee Group are again supporting Sarah with donations of money and some of the items listed below.

The U.C.W. is especially excited as this past November they decided to sponsor a little girl, Elida Roxana Chacach Sajmola, who lives in the village of Parramos. The Sunday School are sharing some of the expense and hopefully will share with the corresponding. Sarah will be visiting Elida and the children whom she and Freeman sponsor when she is in Guatemala.

If you wish to make a personal donation, you may do so through the church. Mark your envelope "Guatemala" and all of whatever money you donate will go towards the building of another house in the name of "Topsail United" and you will be credited for the amount on your annual receipt from the church. You may also help by donating some of the following items which Sarah will also take with her:

*Medical supplies, (over the counter). Aprons, *Diapers made from t-shirts, Diaper pins, Men's ball caps, Flip-flops for ladies and girls, Baby items, Socks, *Knitted teddy bears to give to the children, New underwear, School Supplies. *Patterns Are Available for Diaper and Teddy Bears*

If you need more information, you may contact Sarah at 834-6994.





Upcoming Events for Your Calendar

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY - Saturday, March 31

8.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. There will be face painting & coloring for the children, usual good menu.

Adults \$7.00 Children \$3.00



GOOD FRIDAY FISHCAKE LUNCH - Good Friday, April 6

11.30 a.m. Fish Cakes, Baked Beans, Raisin Molasses Bread & Assorted Cakes

Tickets \$10.00 adult - \$5.00 child. Book ahead – NO TICKETS AT THE DOOR.

Call Gillian 781-1562 All reserved tickets must be picked up by Thursday, April 5.



MEN'S CLUB FLIPPER DINNER - date to be announced

Tickets \$20.00 - available when the date is confirmed, watch the Bulletin and Website.



ANNUAL GALA LOBSTER / STEAK DINNER - Saturday, May 12

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

Watch for more details on price and availability of tickets.



OUTREACH SPRING FLEA MARKET - Saturday, May 26

"We want what you don't", when you do your Spring Cleaning, remember to save your "stuff" for the Church - but please note, we can no longer take TV's, microwaves, refrigerators, stoves, washers etc. Don't forget the costume jewelry and accessories (good purses, shoes etc.) department with everything individually priced and paid for at a separate cash – it does really well!

Drop off Thursday, May 26 and Friday, May 27th.

175th Anniversary Event

DINNER THEATRE – Friday, June 8 hosted by Spirit of Newfoundland at the Masonic Temple, St. John's

Tickets \$60.00 – to reserve call Bob 782-0388. Only a few tickets left.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE - Friday, June 15

7.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. Come and find mature plants for your garden. annuals also. Donations of plants and help needed. Please call Bob Bennett 782-0388 for more information.

Drop off Thursday, June 9th and Friday, June 10th.



