

Topsail United Church Spring 2013 Newsletter

"The Church by the Side of the Road"



*The dawn has broken,
The tomb is empty,
The stone has rolled,
The women have witnessed,
The grave clothes are folded,
Christ has risen,
Hallelujah.*

Greetings to one and all. I am happy to write a brief message for inclusion in our Spring Newsletter. I realized that as I began to write this note it is actually the first day of spring. The forecast, however, on this first day of spring is calling for a "late" winter or "early" spring snowfall. We may not be pleased to hear that but, despite the forecast, spring has begun and our thoughts turn to warmer days and new life starting to begin. In fact just the other day I noticed the early signs of "buds" beginning to form on the bushes in our garden. Let us celebrate the beginning of spring and the signs of new life all around us.

The start of spring is highlighted in the Christian faith with Easter and the new life through the resurrection of Jesus, our Lord. We have just finished our journey through Lent which has enabled us to reflect upon and rejoice in the good news that after Good Friday comes Easter Sunday, and the evidence and hope of new life in Christ.

The verse at the beginning of my message highlights the evidence of that first Easter morn. There is the mention of dawn breaking, an empty tomb, a stone rolled way and the witness of the first visitors to the tomb receiving the news that Christ has risen. There are many responses people of faith have made to this news but one that has always been given is one word – "Hallelujah". Hallelujah means "Praise to God."

The celebration of Easter is a time for all people of faith to express Praise and Thanksgiving for God's unconditional love in Jesus. The wonderful thing 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. This certainly is enhanced by the thanksgiving we have for the newness of life that is all around us as we move into spring. When we reflect upon all of this we have to shout with the disciples of old – "Hallelujah" or as the words of "My Life Flows On" by Robert Lowry state:

**I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin, I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am Christ's – how can I keep from singing?**

Let us keep singing the good news of God's love as we celebrate Easter and the beginning of spring. My wife Dianne joins with me in offering a prayer that this Easter Season will be one of meditation, peace and blessing for you.

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Join us for Spring Events at Topsail United Church

GOOD FRIDAY FISHCAKE LUNCH

Good Friday, March 29th 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.

Call Gillian 781-1562.

RON KLUSMEIER IN CONCERT – Sunday April 21st 7:30 p.m.

Canadian Church Musician on his “Tour of a Lifetime” in aid of the “Canadian Foodgrains Bank”.

Ron will also lead a workshop 3 – 5 p.m. Watch for further information.

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 11th

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

Watch Bulletin and Website for details on price and availability of tickets.

AN EVENING OF MUSIC AT TOPSAIL UNITED - Wednesday, May 15, 7:00pm.

A special fundraising concert to support and grow the children and youth music program. The concert program will feature the Children's Choir, Youth Band, Rhythm Band, and other musical ensembles and soloists from our congregation. More details will be announced later.

OUTREACH SPRING FLEA MARKET - Saturday, May 25th

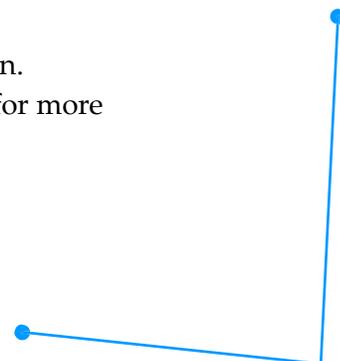
“We want what you don't!” When you do your Spring Cleaning please.

Remember to save your "stuff" for the Church. We 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 24 and Friday, May 25th.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE – June – watch for notice of the date.

7.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. Come and find mature plants and annuals for your garden.

Donations of plants and help needed. Please call Bob Bennett 782-0388 in May for more information.





Congregational Designated Minister – Spring

As I write this note for inclusion in our Spring Newsletter, there is a snow storm outside my window! Even so, we look forward with anticipation to Spring and with thanksgiving for the many exciting activities that are planned for this season.

Our Confirmation program started on March 24 with 5 students registered. The Confirmation class will join other teens from our congregation/community on April 21, 11:30am – 1:00pm, in a special event called “Sacred Bodies.” Focusing on body images in recent movies and YouTube video, we’ll use games and activities to help us discover our own meaning of “Sacred Body.” Lunch will be provided!

Our Children’s Choir, Youth Band, and Rhythm Band continue to provide excellent musical leadership at our Family Services that take place on the third Sunday of each month. Registration in these ensembles is on-going and we welcome new members at any time during the school year. On May 15, 7:00pm, we will hold a Fundraising Concert that will feature the Youth and Children’s Ensembles as well as other soloist and groups from our congregation. All donated monies will be used to support and grow the music program at Topsail United.

We are hoping to start a new rug hooking ministry! This group will be open to adults, youth, and children (10 and up) who wish to learn the art of traditional rug hooking. The various prayer squares, wall hangings, and floor mats produced will incorporate Christian images or symbolism. Each meeting will begin and end with a short devotional. The small prayer squares crafted by this group could be blessed at a public service of worship and used in pastoral care or in other creative ways throughout our congregation or community. Those with previous rug hooking experience are welcome, and those with no experience are also welcome. We are hoping to set a start date soon, so if you’re interested, please contact the email address below, or call the church office.

The Christian Development Committee is in need of new members. This Committee provides support to the Sunday School, Youth / Children’s music program, Youth Group, Confirmation, and other educational programming in our congregation. At present, this Committee does not have enough members to properly function. In particular, we need parents / guardians who have children and youth participating in the various programs named above. The Christian Development Committee will likely meet 4 to 6 times per year. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the evening of April 3. Your participation in this Committee is urgently needed. Please consider becoming a member!

I am pleased to join with you as we continue our ministry together at Topsail United Church.

Blessings!

Steven Rogers

Join the TUC programs:

- Sunday School
- Children’s Choir, Rehearsal Wednesdays at 6:30pm, Age 6 and up
- Youth Band and Singers, Rehearsal Wednesdays at 7:30pm
- Youth Group, meets Tuesday evenings

Contact Steven Rogers for more information:
srogers@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net



Rev. Bruce's Retirement from HMCS Cabot St. John's Chaplaincy

On Saturday March 2nd members of the Board and others were invited to attend a "Farewell Luncheon" at HMCS Cabot St. John's, on the occasion of Rev. Bruce's retirement from the Canadian Forces and Royal Canadian Navy, having served for a total of 18 years in Chaplaincy. We were pleased to add greetings and good wishes on behalf of the congregation to Rev. Bruce on this special occasion, which was also his 60th Birthday.

The following excerpt is taken from the HMCS Cabot St. John's notice of his retirement:

"In addition to his faithful service to HMCS Cabot and her ship's company, Padre Kearley acted as chaplain in support of HMCS Avalon Sea Cadet Sail Training Centre and assisted the chaplaincy at CFS St. John's and CFB Halifax. while still tending to the duties of his own very active civilian ministry in St. John's and then Topsail, Padre Kearley accepted the role of Atlantic Regional Padre in 2009 and 2010.

Padre Kearley was acknowledged for the outstanding ministry of service he provided to the stranded families resulting from the terrorist attacks of 11 Sept 2001.

Despite the pressures and responsibilities of his own parish and his own educational pursuits, Padre Kearley always made himself available, day or night, 24/7, to listen, to provide advice and to support the members of HMCS Cabot. a kind, caring and warm individual who makes every person that he encounters feel special and at ease, his wonderful sermons during Battle of the Atlantic and Remembrance Day commemorations will be sorely missed."

Rev. Bruce always recognized Topsail as being integral to his Chaplaincy Ministry with the Navy and the congregation received a plaque of "recognition of support" from the Navy in 2011. This plaque hangs in the vestibule of the church.

TUC Official Board 2013

Welcome to our new Board for 2013:

David Jones, Chair

Judy Powell, Vice Chair

James Rowsell, Secretary

Rev. Bruce Kearley, Ex Officio

Paul Burt

Doreen Cave

Boyde Clarke

Brad Cole

Solomon Davis

Rosalind Foley

Valerie Howe

Denise Jacobs

Mitchell Moran

Wanda Saunders

Bond Swain

Roofing Fund

As part of our ongoing maintenance, the church roof was resingled and an ice/water membrane was applied over the entire surface as added protection against future leaks. We are asking for your support through donations to the **"Roofing Fund"** to offset the \$25,000 cost.



Please support our **"Buy a Bundle of Shingles"** initiative. To date generous donations totaling \$4805 have been received from the congregation.

Newsletter Distribution

Do we have your email address?



We are moving to distributing the Newsletter by email for those who have access to a computer. It is a much more efficient way of distribution in terms of time and cost.

Please send your email address to Lynn at the Church Office

lmrcer@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net so we may add you to the list.

Worship Schedule - March 2013 to June 2013

All services begin at 10:30 am unless otherwise noted

MARCH 2013

- 24th Palm Sunday with parade of palms
- 31st Easter Sunday, Communion at 8 a.m.
Easter Service, combined choirs, no Sunday School



Topsail United Church
2426 Topsail Road
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Topsail
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Church Office:
709-834-4567
Weekday Hours
9am to 1pm

Church Hall:
709-834-8584

www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net

APRIL 2013

- 7th Communion Service, Senior Choir
- 14th Regular Service, Men's Choir
- 21st Family Sunday, Earth Day, Baptism
- 28th Regular Service, UCW and Senior Choir

MAY 2013

- 5th Communion Service, Senior Choir
- 12th Christian Family Sunday, Baptism
- 19th Regular Service, Men's Choir
- 26th Regular Service, UCW and Senior Choir

JUNE 2013

- 2nd Communion Service, Confirmation, Senior Choir
- 9th Regular Service, Men's Choir
- 16th (Father's Day), Sunday School Picnic
- 23rd Regular Service, UCW and Senior Choir
- 30th Regular Service, no choir

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