

Fall 2014 Newsletter



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



"For the Beauty of the Earth"

*For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, Over and around us lies,
God of all to you we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise!*

The Psalmist once wrote: *"The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork."* (Psalm 19: 1) These words are certainly reflected in the hymn "For the beauty of the earth" written by Folliott Sandford Pierpoint in 1864. This hymn encourages us to praise God for all the wonder and beauty of creation. As fall begins we do indeed find evidence of nature's beauty as leaves start to turn – red, yellow and orange and the vegetables planted back in June have reached their time for harvest. All this beauty causes us to pause and give thanks to God for the many blessings that are ours. Indeed we sing, *"God of all to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise."*

As I write a note for this fall newsletter I thought about all the ways that we "visibly" express our thanks to God. The expression of thanks is seen as we start up the various activities in our congregation that, along with worship, enable us by our participation to receive a blessing and be a blessing. I encourage all of you to become involved in our church's life and work because your involvement brings something special to each event we have. Another expression of thanks is certainly evident as we prepare for our annual HARVEST FESTIVAL. The Harvest Festival committee has begun its work in planning the many activities that enable us to give Thanks with our Thanksgiving Breakfast, Soup Luncheon & Bake Sale, Jiggs Dinner, Auction and Flea Market. All these activities are founded upon our THANKSGIVING worship on Sunday, October 12 as we gather to give thanks and praise to God (This Newsletter contains much more information on these events).

One of the greatest ways we can express thanks for God's blessings is by being a blessing to others. Let us continue this by maintaining our support of the food bank, making regular donations to our Mission and Service Fund and supporting community efforts of outreach.

I hope that this Fall season will be a blessing and enjoyable for all of us both in our home and church families. My wife Dianne, joins with me in assuring you of our prayers and best wishes for this Fall season. Happy Fall and Happy Thanksgiving.

*For the joy of human love, Brother. Sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild.
God of all to you we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise!*

**Blessings,
Bruce**

Harvest Festival



Mark your calendar:

**Saturday, October 11
8 am to 11 am**

Thanksgiving Breakfast
(\$7 adults, \$3 children)

**Sunday, October 12
10:30 am**

Thanksgiving Worship

**Monday, October 13
11 am to 1 pm**

Sale and Soup Lunch
(\$7 soup, roll, dessert,
tea/coffee
Take-out available

**Monday, October 13
4:30 pm to 6:00 pm**

Jiggs Dinner
(Advance tickets only
\$14, available from
September 28
Take-out available)

**Saturday, October 25
10 am to 3 pm**

Fall Flea Market
(\$1 adult admission)

**Wednesday, October 29
7 pm**

Annual Giant Auction

October is a busy time at Topsail United Church. The annual fundraiser **Harvest Festival** will be celebrated on **Thanksgiving Weekend, October 11 to 13** with worship and fellowship as we give thanks to God for the many blessings that surround us. The weekend begins a month of major fundraising for our church, with the Fall Flea Market and Giant Auction to follow. We hope that you will

help make this year's "Harvest Festival" month its usual great success!

Please donate what you can and come along with your friends to one or more of the events. **MONETARY DONATIONS** are always acceptable in the offering plate or in the mail if you are unable to help out with, donate items to, or attend the Harvest Festival this year.

How can you help?

Monday, October 13th Sale: Donate BAKED GOODS (cakes, breads, rolls, pies, tea buns, squares, cookies, candy) CRAFTS (knitted and sewn goods); PRESERVES (pickles, jams, jellies); FRUITS, and VEGETABLES.

Bring along to the Church on Saturday, October 11th; Sunday, October 12th at Worship; or Monday, October 13th before 10:00 am.

Monday, October 13th Jiggs Dinner: Cook a pot of dinner. We provide the beef, you add the vegetables. Salt beef will be available for pick up at the church on Saturday, October 11th, 8 to 11 am or Sunday, October 12th after Worship. Call Gillian 781-1562 or email gcorbett@warp.nfld.net

Monday, October 13th Jiggs Dinner: Prepare homemade pies for dessert. Deliver to the church before 4 pm. on October 13th. Contact Gillian at 781-1562 or gcorbett@warp.nfld.net

Saturday, October 25th Flea Market: Drop off your unwanted items on Thursday, October 23th 10 am - 5 pm and Friday, October 24th from 10 am to 5 pm and 7 pm - 9 pm. Contact Pat Jones 834-4567 or patjones@nl.rogers.com

Wednesday, October 29th Giant Auction: Donate an item.

Contact Gillian at 781-1562 or Bob at 782- 0388 before October 27th to list the item and confirm arrangements for getting it to the church. The item should be marked "AUCTION" and include the Donor's name and the value.

WE ALSO NEED HELP WITH SET UP, FOOD PREPARATION, SERVING AND CLEAN UP AT ALL EVENTS. MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

Please contact Gillian at 781-1562 or Bob at 782-0388 for more information

Message from the Outreach Committee

The TUC Flea Market has been an annual success and we are always looking for ways to keep it fresh and make improvements. One great fund raiser is the jewelry (costume, good and even broken!), handbags, and “good” footwear. Please consider this when setting aside your donations this year.



As you know, “*We want what you don’t want or need any more*”. We accept household items, furniture, lamps, bedding, clothing, etc. Some of the things we cannot accept include computer parts of any kind, old appliances, old TV’s, and old microwaves. Thank so much for your donations and purchases. We look forward to another successful Flea Market.



Save the Date!

The United Church of Canada's 41st Moderator is the Right Rev. Dr. Gary Paterson of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Our congregation, along with three other local area United Churches, have been selected to host the Moderator, the Right Rev. Gary Paterson, on Thursday, October 23rd, 2014.

There will be an hour of musical entertainment, co-ordinated by Andrew Cranston and including the Topsail United Church Mixed Choir, followed by an hour of fellowship with refreshments. There will be an opportunity to meet the Moderator on a one to one basis.

This celebration will take place at Cochrane Street Church, 7 to 9 PM on Thursday , October 23rd.

We will be providing sandwiches & cookies, so if you can help, please speak to one of the women from UCW.

Hope to see you there.

Children and Youth Program



Greetings!

I am pleased to write this message for inclusion in the Topsail United newsletter. I write amid all the busyness that autumn brings: pumpkins are being harvested, leaves are changing colour, and students are preparing their first assignments of the semester.

Great activities are happening at Topsail United too! Our growing music program continues to be a creative outlet for children and youth. The Rhythm Band is an ensemble suitable for ages 8 to 12 where emphasis is placed on performance techniques in various percussion instruments. This year, we will also be working on some pieces that include recorder, glockenspiel, and piano. No previous musical experience is necessary to join the Rhythm Band. The Youth Band is a very versatile ensemble that performs a variety of popular and traditional music with mixed instruments. We currently have musicians with talents in piano, violin, cello, saxophone, guitar, voice, drums, accordion, recorder, glockenspiel, bass, and drums – and we are open to other instruments as new members join! The Youth Band is not only a musical ensemble, but also a relaxed social setting where youth from junior and senior high can hang out, have fun, and make new friends. Our Children's Choir continues to be a much-loved vocal ensemble under the excellent leadership of Rosalind Foley. When they are not singing, the Children's Choir also participates in special parties and ice-cream nights. For more information about rehearsal and performance schedules, please make contact via the email address below.

The Sunday School continues to provide activities in Bible Skills & Games, Music & Movement, Science, Art, Cooking, Video, and Godly Play. We are thankful for the dedication of our returning leaders, and we are pleased that some new parents have expressed interest in volunteering at our Sunday School. New volunteers receive at least one hour of individual training and are provided with all the materials needed to carry out their activity with the children. The time commitment is generally 3 consecutive Sundays, 10:30-11:30am. Other training and support is made available to our volunteer leaders on an on-going basis. Please send an email or call the Church Office if you are interested in this wonderful opportunity.

A candle-making workshop has been scheduled for October 12th, 10:30-11:30am. All junior and senior high students are invited to participate as we make baptism candles. We will provide the wax and wicks, and we ask that participants bring along a hairdryer.

Scripts and musical scores have been purchased for our Christmas Pageant! This year, our Sunday school and other guests will be performing "Spirit of the Christmas Tree". This inspiring intergenerational pageant presents the nativity story in a unique way with upbeat and reflective music. Pageant rehearsals will take place on December 7th and 14th. The pageant will be performed as part of a special worship service on December 21st. You won't want to miss this event, so mark your calendars now!

If you want to receive updates on new events, programs, and volunteer opportunities, please request to be added to our mailing list by contacting me at the email address below.

In this season of autumn as we give thanks for the harvest, I wish to close with the words of hymnodist Brian Wren:

*Creator, Friend and Partner, Companion of our days,
How wide, how deep, your wisdom; how wonderful your ways!
Help us to show thanksgiving for all you freely give:
To love you in our neighbour, and by the way we live.*

Blessings to you all,
Steven Rogers

srogers@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net

Roofing Fund

We are asking for your continuing support through donations to the “**Roofing Fund**” to offset the \$24,000 cost of having the roof resingled. Our Raise the Roof campaign has had a great start and we thank you for the generous donations received to date. We are asking everyone to get involved, as you are able, so that we can pay off this outstanding debt as soon as possible.

For your information we are providing the following guidelines:

To donate a bundle of shingles.....	\$ 25.00
including installation.....	\$100.00
To donate a roll of ice/water shield	\$ 50.00
including installation.....	\$200.00

As we proceed, the amount of roof re-shingling paid for will be shaded in on a chart in the vestibule. Donor names will be recognized monthly in the Sunday Bulletin, and the total amount for each month will be published.

Cantata

Sunday, December 7th at 3:00 pm

This fall season, members of the Topsail United Church Mixed Choir are taking part in a mass choir to perform a Christmas Cantata along with the Coastal Sounds Community Choir on Sunday, December 7, 2014. This concert will also feature a brand new women's choir created by the Coastal Sounds Choir Association, and the Cantata will be performed with an orchestra and members from the CBS and surrounding areas. The concert will be held in the church at 3PM and tickets will be \$20, \$15 for students and seniors, and children under 12 are free to attend.



Newsletter Distribution

Do we have your email address?



We are building our Newsletter email list 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 Imercer@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net so we may add you to the list.

Worship Schedule - October to December 2014

All services begin at 10:30 am unless otherwise noted

OCTOBER 2014

- 5th Communion Service, Mixed Choir
- 12th Men's Choir, Harvest Festival
- 19th Family Sunday
- 23rd Moderators Visit, Cochrane United Church. Four churches are working together to hold a concert and reception. Evening Service.
- 26th Mixed Choir



NOVEMBER 2014

- 2nd Communion Service, Mixed Choir
- 11th Remembrance Day Service, Men's Choir
- 18th Family Sunday
- 23rd Anniversary Sunday, Mixed Choir
- 30th First Sunday in Advent, Mixed Choir

DECEMBER 2014

- 7th Second Sunday in Advent, Mixed Choir, Communion
- 14th Third Sunday in Advent, Mixed Choir
- 21st Fourth Sunday in Advent, Family Sunday, Sunday School Pageant, and Longest Night
- 24th Christmas Eve, three services at 4pm (Sunday School), 6pm (Youth) and 8pm (Traditional Service)
- 28th Men's Choir

Topsail United Church
2426 Topsail Road
P.O. Box 13010, Stn.
Topsail
Conception Bay South,
NL A1W 2K1

Church Office:
709-834-4567
Weekday Hours
9am to 1pm

Church Hall:
709-834-8584

www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net

Christmas Events at Topsail United Church!



Watch for details of upcoming events for the Christmas season in the Bulletin and on the Website.

December 6th Breakfast with Santa December 7th Outreach Christmas Dinner

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