



# Fall 2012 Newsletter

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

## Welcome Back



*God of life, in Christ you lead us,  
Guiding us along the way.  
In our past, through joys and sorrows,  
You have been our strength and stay.  
Keep us faithful, true disciples,  
In our learning and our praise,  
Celebrating past and present,  
Consecrating future days.*

Greetings to one and all! I am happy to write this message for inclusion in our *Fall* newsletter. I hope that everybody had a wonderful summer with times of relaxation with family and friends. The Season of Fall brings many things for us to celebrate. We celebrate the beginning of our church's activities with the start-up of our groups and programs. We look with anticipation to our Harvest Festival celebrations in just a few weeks. And, we continue our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations which will culminate with the Anniversary Banquet and special Worship Service in November.

I have begun this Newsletter with the words of the hymn "God of Life" written by Jane Parker Huber. This hymn celebrates God's guidance in past, present and future. These are certainly "appropriate" words as we celebrate 175 years as a congregation but also just as appropriate as each day we strive to serve God. The beginning of our Fall activity reminds of how blest we are to have a place of fellowship and worship here at Topsail United enabling us to celebrate God's presence in all of our days.

The many programs and activities that we have are made possible by the combined effort of the entire congregation. Thank you for being here and for your commitment. The presence of God in all our days acknowledges that faith is a journey that we take as individuals and together. Happy Thanksgiving as "together" we begin the fall season in our church. May our journey together be a source of fun, fellowship, challenge, thanksgiving and blessing as, guided by God's love, we journey in faith together. I end my message with a verse from this hymn and the prayer from my wife, Dianne, and I that God's blessings will be yours in this season of Harvest and Thanksgiving.

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**"As pilgrims we are seeking,  
Seeking grace from You our God;  
We need to know your presence,  
Guide us with Christ's shepherd rod.  
Give us strength to serve you truly  
As we move from place to place;  
Let us journey on as pilgrims  
While relying on your grace."**



## Harvest Festival

October is a busy time at Topsail United Church. The annual fundraiser **Harvest Festival** will be celebrated on **Thanksgiving Weekend, October 6 to 8** with worship and fellowship as we give thanks to God for the many blessings which 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.

### Mark your calendar:

**Saturday, October 6  
8 am to 11 am**

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

**Sunday, October 7  
10:30 am**

Thanksgiving Worship

**Monday, October 8  
11 am to 1 pm**

Sale and Soup Lunch

**Monday, October 8  
4:30 pm to 6:00 pm**

Jiggs Dinner  
(Advance tickets only  
\$12 adults, \$6 children)

**Saturday, October 20  
10 am to 3 pm**

Fall Flea Market  
(\$1 adult admission)

**Thursday, October 25  
7 pm**

Annual Giant Auction

### How can you help?

**October 8<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 8 to 11 am or 2 to 4 pm; Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at Worship; or Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> before 10:00 am.

**October 8<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 8 to 11 am or Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> after Worship.

Call Gillian 781-1562 or email [gcorbett@warp.nfld.net](mailto:gcorbett@warp.nfld.net)

**October 8<sup>th</sup> Jiggs Dinner:** Prepare homemade pies for dessert.

Deliver to the church before 4 pm. on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Call Gillian 781-1562 or email [gcorbett@warp.nfld.net](mailto:gcorbett@warp.nfld.net)

**October 20<sup>th</sup> Flea Market:** Drop off your unwanted items on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm and 7 pm to 9 pm.

**October 25<sup>th</sup> Giant Auction:** Donate an item. Call coordinator Max Robbins at 744-3363, **before October 22<sup>nd</sup>** 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.

### Reserve Tickets for the Jiggs Dinner

Call Gillian at 781-1562 or the Church Office at 834-4567

Tickets may be picked up at the church following Worship on:

Sunday, Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sept 30<sup>th</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup> or Monday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> 12 to 1pm only.

## Message from the Outreach Committee

The TUC Flea Market has been a n annual success and we are always looking for ways to keep it fresh and make improvements. One great fund raiser from last year was the new department started for 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.



## Anniversary Celebrations Continue

The congregation has been very supportive of events planned for TUC’s 175 Anniversary and the celebrations will continue this fall.

A Commemorative Booklet is nearing completion and will be available this fall at a cost of \$6 per booklet. There will be a small quilt display during the Harvest Festival weekend showing some old and new quilts. A new church banner is being completed and will be unveiled as a permanent banner to hang with the

other beautiful ones that we presently have in the sanctuary.

Tickets will be available soon for the November 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet at the Royal Canadian Legion, Kelligrews. Also, a special Worship Service and Hymn Sing will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> with guest clergy, Rev. Ralph Taylor. At year end, a photo album of the year’s memorable events will be available for viewing by the congregation and will serve as a lovely memory of this special Anniversary year.

### Mark your calendar:

- November 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet, Royal Canadian Legion, Kelligrews
- November 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Worship and Hymn Sing with Rev. Ralph Taylor.

## Bequest

Topsail United Church would like to inform its members that in June we received a generous bequest to the “General Fund” from the Estate of long time member Melvina Sheppard who passed away in 2011.

Melvina and her husband Ernest, who passed away in 1981, were both

great workers for this church and the Official Board will be discussing a fitting use for the bequest which will also recognize both of their lifetime commitments.

A donation from Melvina Sheppard’s Estate was also made to the Cemetery Fund.



## Children and Youth Program

Welcome back to another exciting year of programming for the children and youth in our pastoral charge.

A number of exciting changes have been made to Sunday School this year. As of September 2012, the Spark workshop rotation curriculum was implemented. Children engage in Bible stories using the new Spark Story Bible with its colourful illustrations and dramatic dialogue. Following the story, the children participate in various workshops that rotate each week: art, cooking, video, games, drama, music, and science. Parents/guardians are now able to register their children for Sunday School using an online registration system (<http://topsailunitedchurch.sparksundayschool.org/users/register>).

### 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](mailto:srogers@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net)

The Children's Choir, under the direction of Rosalind Foley, continues to be a much-loved ensemble within the congregation. New members aged 6 or older are encouraged to join. The Youth Band & Singers, under the direction of Brett Vey and Rosalind Foley, continue to lead our Family Services every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. This very versatile group is open to junior high, senior high, and university/college students. The Youth Band & Singers welcomes new members. Repertory ranges from traditional tunes to modern pop/rock.

Plans are underway for a Youth event to begin in fall 2012 with a theme of "Becoming a Good Samaritan." This series will feature video-interviews with well-known speakers such as: Eugene Peterson (author of "The Message" Bible paraphrase), Tony Campolo (Christian teacher, author, and sociology professor), Gary Haugen (President of International Justice Mission), Archbishop Desmond Tutu (Nobel Peace prize winner and major opponent of apartheid in South Africa), Chuck Colson (the founder of "Prison Fellowship"), Jim Wallis (founder and editor of "Sojourners Magazine"), Richard Stearns (President of World Vision), and Ron Sider (author of the seminal justice book "Rich Christian In An Age of Hunger"). Each session will focus on a particular topic including: Who Is My Neighbor?, How to Fight Global Epidemics and Prevent Diseases, How Fairness Changes People, Communities, and Nations, How Best to Serve Those In Need, Why Environmental Stewardship Is Biblical and Beneficial, and How to Care for the Disabled, Orphaned, and Incarcerated.

Each topic will be illustrated with references to popular movies, films, video games, and school-yard culture. Food, fun, and games are always part of each meeting. This is a safe place for youth to be themselves and to wonder about the world around them. Church membership is not required to participate, and youth can freely express their doubts and ideas without fear of judgment. We strive to create a welcoming environment where diversity is honoured.

Please come and join us! We want to see you!

## Roofing Fund

As part of our ongoing maintenance, the church roof is in need of repair due to ongoing problems with leaks and the risk of mould and mildew. The Official Board has approved an expenditure of up to \$25,000 to have the entire roof re-shingled. This will include an ice/water membrane 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.



Watch for our **“Buy a Bundle of Shingles”** initiative as we hope to start this following the September meeting of the Official Board.

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## “175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service and Hymn Sing”

**Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am**

This November being the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of “the Church by the Side of the Road” a special service is being planned and will feature all our choirs and musicians. We have much to celebrate and remember. Request forms will be available soon, in the Bulletin and on the website. We invite you to make a dedication to the memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for a long life, the birth of a child or your family, in celebration of a birthday, an anniversary or other special event. This will be an opportunity to sing and hear the hymns and music we have grown to love over the years.

The Lieutenant Governor and representatives of the Conference and East District will be in attendance. Rev. Ralph Taylor is the Guest Preacher.

Following this service there will be a time of fellowship in the Church Hall.



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## 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 [Imercer@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net](mailto:Imercer@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net) so we may add you to the list.

## Worship Schedule - October 2012 to January 2013

All services begin at 10:30 am unless otherwise noted

### OCTOBER 2012

- 7<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving, World Wide Communion Sunday, Senior Choir
- 14<sup>th</sup> Guest clergy, Rev Scott Parsons, Male Choir
- 21<sup>st</sup> Family Sunday
- 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Service, UCW and Senior Choir



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Weekday Hours  
9am to 1pm

Church Hall:  
709-834-8584

[www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net](http://www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net)

### NOVEMBER 2012

- 4<sup>th</sup> Communion Service, Senior Choir
- 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day Service, Children's Choir **9:30 start time**
- 18<sup>th</sup> A time to celebrate our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.  
All choirs, guest clergy and Lt. Governor John C. Crosbie will attend
- 25<sup>th</sup> Regular Service, UCW and Senior Choir

### DECEMBER 2012

- 2<sup>nd</sup> First Sunday in Advent, Communion Service, Senior Choir
- 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Service, Men's Choir
- 16<sup>th</sup> Family Service, Christmas Pageant, lunch sing-a-long
- 21<sup>st</sup> Longest Night Service, Mr. Ed Kavanagh, harpist, will perform
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Cantata, all choirs (possibly including UCW)
- 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve, three services at 4pm, 6pm and 8pm
- 30<sup>th</sup> Regular Service, carol sing-a-long, UCW

### JANUARY 2013

- 6<sup>th</sup> Communion Service, Senior Choir, Sunday School
- 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Service, Men's Choir
- 20<sup>th</sup> Family Service
- 27<sup>th</sup> Regular Service, Senior Choir

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## Christmas is Coming!



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

December 2<sup>nd</sup>      Outreach Christmas Dinner      December 8<sup>th</sup>      Breakfast with Santa

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