

Merry
Christmas

First United News



Minister Notes

Valerie's Visions

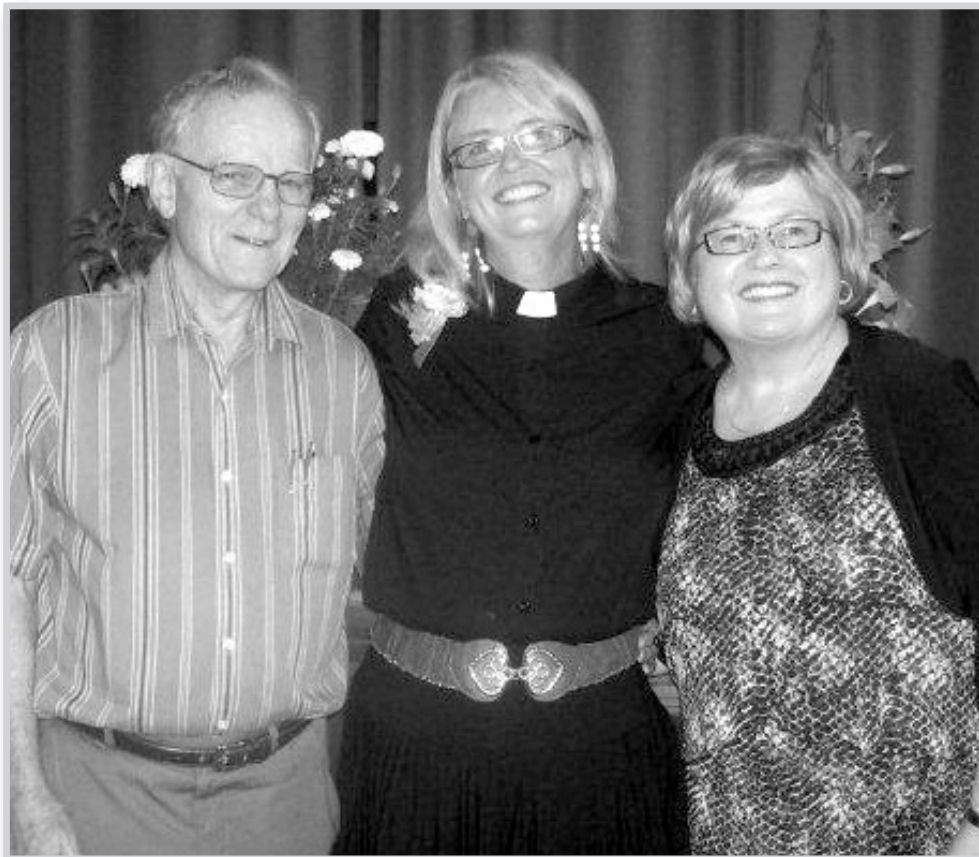
Valerie Kingsbury
Minister



Well it is hard to believe that I am nearing the end of my third month among you. On the other hand, it feels like I have been here for longer as this is home. We are slowly getting to know each other and learning the steps to the dance that we will create together. It is always a joy for me when I enter into a new faith family to discover, bit by bit, the presence of God revealed in my brothers and sisters in faith. There are always such wonderful surprises and amazing opportunities that surface!

We are about to enter a new season of the church year – Advent. This is a time when we wait with anticipation and expectation for the birthing of the Christ among us and open ourselves, yet again, to a very simple and profound story. There is something in this story that touches our souls with power and majesty. It

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Rev. Valerie, our new minister, is warmly welcomed to our church on Sunday, September 4th by Bob Jordan and Pat Roberts

Kirkin' O' The Tartan

Over the years much has been written about the Kirkin' service. Stories abound about its roots in the days of the Act of Proscription when the wearing of tartan was banned in the Highlands of Scotland. It is however a truly North American custom with a Scottish twist.

In 1941, Rev. Peter Marshall, a Coatbridge, Scotland native was the minister of a Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. He held regular prayer services to raise funds for British war relief. At one of these services he preached a sermon entitled 'The Kirkin' O' the Tartans' and thus a legend was born.

Today Kirkin' services are held all over North America in both protestant and catholic churches.

The Scottish Register of Tartans was established by an Act of the Scottish Parliament in 2008. Its aims are to promote and preserve information about registered tartans and be a focal point for tartan research. It is administered by the National Archives of Scotland and was established in part to recognize the importance of the tartan industry to the Scottish economy.

Over 3000 direct and 4000 indirect jobs are involved in the industry that contributes 3500 million pounds



Frances Langille receives tartan from Bob McEwan (Doug Purdy photo)

annually to the Scottish economy. The tartan is seen as a symbol of kinship and belonging for Scots around the world. This has led to a surge in the number of new tartans created. There are currently 6219 tartans on the Scottish Register. Of these close to 400 are new tartans registered during the past year.

The Scottish Society of Colchester wishes to extend thanks and appreciation to all those who in any way contributed to the success of the Kirkin' Service on September 25th.

Music Notes December 2011

Chris Bowman
Music Director/Organist

Hi friends.

It has been a very musical fall at First United. From a new home and podium with rail in the balcony for the handbell choir, to a successful concert with the Men's Choir where over \$2000 was raised for Christian Counselling Ministries, to a delightful concert where the Adult Choir sang with Rhapsody Quintet, all groups have experienced important and exciting events. The Music Committee held its annual pancake breakfast, which was well attended and a great time for all involved. Thanksgiving and Anniversary services featured musical highlights, and by the time

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Ministry of Word
and Sacrament
Rev. Valerie Kingsbury

Faith Formation Minister
Rev. Roger Moore

Minister of Music
Chris Bowman

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Silent Auction and Supper

Our U.C.W. and Outreach Committee will be holding a Silent Auction and a Supper on Saturday, September 29, 2012. September sounds like it is a long way off but it's not too soon to start thinking, "Now what could I put into a Silent Auction?" Some suggestions might include a family treasure i.e. jewellery, antique furniture, glass, china, artistic pieces etc..

If you like to cook, perhaps you could donate a catered dinner or lunch. If you like to quilt, would you consider something in the quilting line? If anyone does needle work, something in that area should bring in lots of bids. We all have a talent for something, so take some time to think about what you may be able to donate on September 29, 2012. You will be hearing more about this project in the New Year.

U.C.W. & Outreach Committee



First United News

Valerie's Visions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

calls us , again and again, from the hillsides to follow a star and we listen, as if for the first time, the proclamation of the angels " Behold I bring good tidings of Great Joy!"

This can also be a time of great difficulty for some. In the midst of festivities and the increased emphasis on family gatherings we feel keenly the absence of loved ones. Perhaps their absence is a result of having moved away or perhaps, they have yielded their space in the universe and begun a new journey in the Kingdom. Regardless of the reason there can be an empty

place at the table and our hearts ache.

Whether we come to this season with a song in our hearts or a lament in our souls the message is the same. God is with us! The Christ child waits to enter our lives, to touch us with love, to transform our being and invites us to do the same for one another.

May you hear again the story that is as ancient as time itself and as new as this moment; may the blessings of the Christ child rest with you and may you be empowered and transformed by the magnitude of light that can lead you on an amazing journey!

Blessings, Rev. Valerie

Our First United Church Council



First United Church Council Members - October 2011

In October the new Council system had been in existence for a year.

Our first meeting of the Council took place on October 26, 2010 with 100% attendance. Subsequently, there have been four more meetings of the council and at each meeting attendance was 100%. This speaks well of the dedication of the new members who have taken on the tasks of

doing the work of the church and the efficiency of the new system. Previously, there had been difficulty in getting quorums for both the Official Board as well as other committees of the Board.

The committees are doing their work well, making their own decisions and getting work done without having to go through a number of layers of approval.

The 14 committees of the Council have over 100 volunteers and they are led by the following leaders:

- Ministry and PersonnelDwight Stewart
- Board of Trustees Alan MacLean
- Nominating Committee Eleanor Norrie
- Green CommitteeGreg Allan
- Fellowship and Fund Raising ... Grant Campbell
- Outreach and Social Action ... Tillie Armstrong
- Communications Martha MacLaughlin

- Women's Ministries Ann MacCormack
- Pastoral Care Burt Amiro
- Finance Russell MacKinlay
- Christian Education Pam Gilroy
- Worship Committee Pat Roberts
- Music Committee Kim Dale
- Property Committee John Cook

There are 16 committees of Council but currently we have no one in Men's or Youth Ministries.

The Executive of Council includes:

- Chair Sheila Allan
- Vice Chair Vacant
- Council Clerk Grant Langford
- Finance Russell MacKinlay

- Ministry and Personnel Dwight Stewart
- Lay Rep to Presbytery Abbie Ingraham
- Ministry personnel Rev Valerie Kingsbury
Rev. Roger Moore and Chris Bowman

If you have any questions about the work of the church feel free to contact the chair of Council, Sheila Allan or any of the committee chairs listed above.

The council is working well; the committees are busy and church attendance is rising. It's a great time to be a member of First United Church!

Music Notes September 2011

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of this publication, the Candlelight Concert will have come and gone. Thanks to the many individuals whose time, talents, and energy made these occasions as special as they were! We welcomed new and returning

members to each of our choirs. It is great to have you with us, and other new faces are welcome at any time.

We are now in the season of Advent, a time of waiting and anticipation for that which is to come.

I am very much looking forward to a number of upcoming musical events in the months ahead.

Please put these on your calendar and plan on taking part!

This Month . . .

Sunday, December 18

Service of Lessons and Carols featuring all choirs and many of our musicians.

Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 pm

Service of Light

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Services 7:00 pm – featuring Brenna Conrad, soloist, and 11:00 – Featuring Bette Pring, soloist

And, in the new year . . .

Saturday & Sunday, February 4 & 5, 3:00 pm

Choirs for Comfort benefit concerts (expanded to two days this year!), where your donations will support the Colchester Food Bank

Sunday, March 25

We welcome the Blue Engine String Quartet (members of Symphony Nova Scotia) who will join with the Adult Choir in a performance of Vivaldi's Gloria

Also, I will be leading a Lenten study this year which is open to our congregation and to members of Truro Presbytery, where, during the six weeks of Lent we will aim to sing through every piece in More Voices, with a chance to talk about some of the pieces. Please consider taking part in this during your Lenten journey this year (these sessions will likely take place on Wednesday evenings in Lent). Details to follow!

I would like to remind you that a limited number of copies of our CD

"Sing God Is Love" are still available, if you do not yet have a copy or know of someone who might like one. Please feel free to contact me or visit the church office for more information.

On behalf of Laura and myself, thank you ever so much for all your well-wishes as we welcome Erica into our family. We feel very loved by our church family! This season, may we all continue to celebrate our common story and follow Christ's example in our interaction as a community of faith.

Yours in harmony, Chris Bowman



First United Bell Choir at the Candle Light Concert, Saturday, December 3.

Committee for First United News:

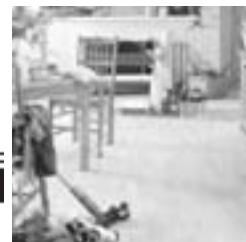
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- Treasurer - Susan Dixon-Dyke Design & Layout - John MacLean

The Committee wishes to thank all the contributors to this edition.

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First United News

GREETINGS OF THE SEASON from our Sunday School!



Sunday School Students present a handmade 2012 Calendar to Rev. Valerie at the Congregational BBQ

We have had a busy Fall Term learning all about the stories of the Bible. We learned about how the stories of the old testament can be related to our lives today and how Jesus himself was a great storyteller who used stories about everyday life to teach his followers.

The curriculum this year is Whole People of God; it is a wonderful resource providing a lesson plan, a song and a craft idea for each week.

This year, because of numbers, we have split the children into two groups; elementary age in one class, and then our Junior and Senior high students in another class. Pam Gilroy has been teaching the younger children this year, while I have been spending Sunday mornings with the older ones. The baby/toddler care department consists of five rotating teams. Our teams this year are Kim Fielding and Jessie Campbell, Shelley Power and Jodi Vacheresse, Patricia and Jenna Bailey, Laura MacLaughlin and Makayla Williams and Sonya Law and her sons Brandon and Joshua. We can't forget Sandy Vacheresse - who is always around and ready with helping hands.

We are heading into a busy season for everyone and our Sunday school is no exception. I hope everyone enjoyed the Advent skit Sarah McOnie and Rodney Hatcher performed on November 27th about getting ready for Christmas. I thought they did an amazing job!! Also on November 27th we had Martha MacLaughlin join us in our Sunday school time to show us how to make advent candle holders. They turned out beautifully.

The children are now getting ready for the White Gift service on December 4th, and watch for them on Christmas Eve at 7pm, where they also have something planned.

All of us in the Sunday school would like to wish you and yours a joyous Christmas and a happy and safe New Year and to also thank you for your continuous support.

Karen Parker
P.S. Sleigh Ride in February, watch the bulletin for date and time.



Christmas Candle Light Concert (Bob Braedly photo)

Mission and Service EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS

In 2010 United Church Congregations and supporters raised \$29, 413, 000 in Mission and Service Legacy revenue to provide a total of \$31, 791, 000 to support the Mission and Service work of the United Church of Canada

Some people in the United Church work hard to raise just a few funds for M. & S. My cousin Jean, in Ontario, who is well into her eighties, is one of these people. In December of 2010 I received my annual letter from her and she told me of her adventure to raise some funds for M. & S. This is what she wrote: "Our church decided to collect Pop Cans to raise money for Missions and they wanted volunteers. So, I decided to give it a try. When people put their garbage out for pickup, on the sidewalk, I would walk the sidewalk, and, seeing pop cans in the blue box, I would go to the owners of the house who had the cans and ask if I might have them. They would readily agree. I have several homes to work. The pick up truck comes each Wednesday so I have to work fast to keep ahead of the truck! Several put the cans in plastic bags for me, which helps. The highest number of cans I have brought home with me after working for one hour is 158 and

I love getting out in the fresh air. I probably won't do much during the winter because of the cold, as I usually go early in the morning. I take my walker, pack the plastic bags in the basket and also hang one or two bags on the handles of my walker."



Joan Campbell

Now isn't she a woman with determination? Can't you just picture her returning to her house with her walker loaded down with bags full of pop cans. She is certainly doing her part to help carry out the mission of the United Church of Canada, globally. What a trooper she is!!
By Joan Campbell

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First United News

The Question of God BOOK & FILM GROUP

Our Book & Film Group will begin 2012 reading the book by Dr. Armand Nicholl "The Question of God". Through the ages, many of the world's greatest thinkers wrestled with the concept of-and belief in-God. The 20th century has managed to produce two brilliant men with two diametrically opposed views about the question of God: Sigmund Freud and C.S. Lewis. The book and film presentation will allow these two thinkers to speak for themselves on the subject of belief and disbelief. We will reflect together on the questions around the ultimate meaning of life and death.

Please consider joining us beginning on January 24th at 11 AM in the Parlour. The book is in and may be purchased at the church office. We plan to do about seven sessions on this book, and your interest and input is what will make it all worthwhile.

Bible Study Group

Reading Other Folk's Mail

Around 50 C.E. Paul wrote a letter to a struggling inter-city church in which he takes up a variety of social and religious issues. The letter to the church at Corinth was personal and never meant for our eyes and ears. Nevertheless it got into "print" and has come down to us. It deals with all the gritty issues that make church life what it is: church fights, denial of the resurrection, speaking in tongues, misuse of gifts, abuse of communion, failure of church leaders to work together and sexual issues. We will go through I Corinthians chapter by chapter for eight sessions. Don't dare miss it.

Every Wednesday morning, beginning February 7th from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM. First United Church Parlour



Our Anniversary guest speaker, Dr. Rev. Russell Daye was introduced by Charlotte MacQuarrie



Heather MacLean visited friends in Truro on her new motorbike

Tuesday Book Study & Film Group

Tuesdays from 11:30 until 1:00 we have been meeting to discuss the book "God the What?" by Carolyn Jane Bohler.

This book dealt with how we view God and the metaphors we use to describe God, from a rock to a father figure. It was interesting to see why we use the metaphors and what harm there can be in using them and not having an open mind about other metaphors for God as well.

We also watched the movie, "The Alzheimers Project" which opened our eyes to some views of people who are

dealing with the dreaded illness. As well, we watched "The Weapons of the Spirit" a very moving documentary about a village in France who hid Jews during World War 2, sometimes right under the noses of the Nazi party who had made a convalescent hospital in the village.

After Christmas we will be studying the book, "The Question of God", which is a debate between C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud on the ideas of God and the meaning of life. As well we will be watching some more movies on various topics and discussing them after the viewing. Reverend Moore, our facilitator, is very knowledgeable on the topics and makes it very interesting. We wish to thank him for being such a good facilitator in guiding our discussions.

Come join us after Christmas for good discussion and good friends. Watch in the announcements for when we are starting up, or call the church office. Bring your lunch and join us.

Sympathy and Prayers

The sympathy and prayers of the congregation are extended to friends and family of:

Audrey Cornell, Wilma Carruthers
Elsie MacIntosh and Blanche Barnhill

Book Review from Our Library

If you have ever had the experience of sorting through your books you'll understand my latest dilemma. As you sort you find the pile for the University Women's book club sale or the Great Village library starts getting smaller. You rediscover favorites, find books you're sure you've never read but must. This may be a pleasant task but doesn't lend itself to working on a deadline.

As a member of our First United Church Library Committee I have just completed a spreadsheet record of the books in our library. We have over 600 books!!! As I typed in a title I'd think, "I didn't know we had this book. I must sign it out." The titles are a commentary on our church community and those books hold magic and wonder, help and solace, questions and possible answers.

I have promised Martha a book review for the December issue of our newspaper. Now you see my conundrum. Pick one of these titles. Which one? How? Why? If you write any type of report you know it's easiest to do when it excites you. I am currently reading A Troubled Faith - Do We Really Need God? by Alan Reynolds. I haven't finished the book and I need time to digest it so I've made another choice. Those of you who know me will suspect I've chosen a children's book and you're right.

Since the spring we've been following the debates in the United States as Republican candidates prepare for next year's election. We watched the "Occupy Wall Street" movement spread across Canada. All us hear the rhetoric about those who rely on government, charities and churches to survive. One of the foundations of my faith, learned at home and in church, is that anyone I meet may be Christ. Like the king in the fairy tales he travels through his kingdom to see how his people treat each other.

The book Fly Away Home is not about birds. It's about one small bird, a boy and his father. The bird is trapped in an airport. The boy and his dad are too. They are homeless. They are not dirty. They are not lazy. They are loved. The book is told in the child's voice. Dad does work on weekends and is looking for a full time job. There is a small hidden community in the airport who care for each other. The small boy watches the little bird for days as it beats its wings against the glass in its attempt to escape. One day it does!!

The last page of the book shows the boy with his travel bag containing all his possessions leaning against the huge airport window watching a plane take off. Eve Bunting writes, "Then I remember the bird. It took a while, but a door opened. And when the bird left, when it flew free, I know it was singing."

You can read and discuss this book with children and you can read it for you. I couldn't help but be reminded of the children's hymn "God Sees the Little Sparrow Fall," while reading this book. Published in 1991 we're reminded that we have much to do for all the sparrows in our midst.

Submitted by Susan Campbell

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First United News

Dinner Theatre Bus Trip

The day that the rain came down in buckets a group from First United, and other friends, were undaunted when their trip to Petrie's Halifax Dinner Theatre was scheduled for October 20, 2011.

A bus from Markie's Fleet picked us up at the church parking lot and set out through fog and streaming rain arriving on time for the presentation of a light musical called Spree, with a delicious meal served between acts.

The play, presented by a cast of young actors with a lovely blend of musical voices, concerned a High School Glee Club. Several members of the cast had begun their acting careers in high school musicals and then studied Theatre Arts at various universities or with Neptune, while some of them are still attending university. The fact that they loved what they doing was so evident. In the play they represented a typical mix of high school students with school and life problems, choir competition, mismatched love interests, failing grades, school dances and a typically mixed faculty of teachers with their own problems. This production was part of the theatre's 25 year celebration.

We hope to have more bus trips. It is a wonderful way, for seniors especially, to enjoy great fellowship without the



Norma & Bob McEwan enjoying their dinner

worry of driving, finding parking or traveling alone. Special thanks to Ruby MacCallum for organizing the trip. She has done this many times, always with pleasure, for so many at First United.

Hoping to see you again on tour!
Joan, Eric and Ruby

Church Services & Up-Coming Events

DECEMBER

- 3 7:00 pm .. Candlelight Concert
- 7 2:30 pm .. Seniors' Social Tea
- 4 10:30 am . Second Sunday in Advent - White Gift
- 11:45 am . Family Gathering
- 10 Christmas with Cantabile Singers and Boys Choir
- 11 10:30 am . Third Sunday in Advent - Free Spirit
- 18 10:30 am . Lessons and Carols
- 21 Service of Light
- 24 7:00 pm .. Family Service - Musical
- Guest: Brenna Conrad
- 11:00 pm . Worship and Holy Communion
- Musical Guest: Bette Pring

JANUARY

- 1 Worship
- No Senior's Tea this month
- 8 10:30 am . Worship with Communion
- 15 10:30 am . Worship
- 21 9:00 am .. Recycle 2012
- 22 10:30 am . Worship
- 2:00 pm .. Worship @ Cedarstone
- 29 10:30 am . Worship

FEBRUARY

- 1 2:00 pm .. Seniors Social Tea
- 4 & 5 Choirs for Comfort
- 5 10:30 am . Worship
- 12 10:30 am . Worship
- 2:00 pm .. Worship @ the Mira
- 19 10:30 am . Worship
- 26 Scouting Sunday with Communion

MARCH

- 2 World Day of Prayer
- 4 10:30 am . Worship
- 7 2:00 pm .. Seniors Social Tea
- 11 10:30 am . Worship
- 18 10:30 am . Worship
- 2:00 pm .. Worship @ Townsview
- 25 10:30 am . Worship



Members of First United help lead a Worship Service at Vimy Court



Heather MacLeod provides piano accompaniment at Vimy Court

Christmas Index 2011



On Wednesday, October 5th the first Christmas Index meeting for 2011 was held and First United agreed to look after the needs of seventeen families and seventeen individuals who are in need of help.

Just so you are aware, we are looking for toys for girls and boys from one month of age to seventeen years of age, as well as clothing items and personal items. We do

look for gifts for Moms and Dads but it is the children who are most important.

As usual, we will be providing Christmas dinner for the families along with approximately one week's worth of groceries. The items that will be in those boxes will be coffee or tea, peanut butter or cheese whiz, pasta and sauce, canned vegetables, beans, soda crackers, cookies and sugar. The milk, eggs, rolls etc. must be purchased closer to the delivery day.

With the increase in the needs and wishes of the families and the increase in the cost of items, we have found it necessary to put a cap on the amount to be spent and that is \$50.00 per person.

This is a combined total for needs and wishes - ie winter jacket would be \$30 to \$40 for a child and then we have approximately \$20 left to cover the wishes.

The tags for gifts have been on the boards in the church since November 20th so please feel free to look them over each Sunday and choose what you feel is within your price range. Delivery will take place on December 22nd.

We want, as always, to thank you for your help for this worthwhile outreach project and we look forward to your continued blessings.

Judy Hickman and Vince Baird, Co-Chairs

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First United News

The Haitian Stew Dinner



Haiti Stew Dinner - Canada World Youth in the kitchen

A very successful Haitian Stew Dinner was held in the Church Hall on Sunday, October 16th, which was World Food Day. Catering for the dinner was organized by Ian Mac Hattie and Brenda Leenders while Ian's cousin, Catherine, organized the work in the kitchen and the cooking of the stew. Members of Canada World Youth and the Interact group from C.E.C. did all of the food preparation, helped with the set-up and waited on tables.

A very interesting program, "If the World Were a Village", was led by Brenda Leenders. Ian spoke on the "Haiti House Project Update" and Lynn Erskine did a "Haiti Food Study Tour". Guest speaker was Randy Crozsmann who is the N.S. representative on the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank believes that there is enough food for all. It is a partnership of fifteen Canadian churches working together on a Christian response to World Hunger.

On behalf of its fifteen member agencies the Foodgrains Bank collects grain and cash donations, provides funds and

expert advice for projects submitted by member agencies and their partners, manages the procurement and supply of food commodities and engages in public policy and educational activities related to hunger and food security. Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a federally incorporated, non-profit corporation registered as a charitable agency. Its work is supported by a \$25 million annual grant from C.I.D.A.

Looking ahead to this November, Lynn Erskine, Brenda Leenders and Ian Mac Hattie are going to Haiti to learn first hand how the Canadian Foodgrains bank is working to reduce hunger in Haiti. They will see, up close, the impact of food aid and food security programming from the eyes of these communities and see how Haitians continue to work proudly and tirelessly for a better future.

We are all connected through the food we eat, the things we buy and the air we breathe. If we are connected, then the hunger of some must matter to us all.

We look forward to hearing from Ian when he returns from this latest trip to Haiti.



Haiti Stew Dinner - Brenda Leanders instructing the volunteers

Out of the Cold



Don Simpson & Lila MacLean practice setting up one of the cots for Out of the Cold.

The Out of the Cold program began Thursday, December 1, 2011. The program is at First United on Wednesdays and Thursdays, St. Andrew's on Tuesday and Immanuel Baptist on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. We use six volunteers a night. The first shift is from 7:45PM to 1 AM and the second shift is 1 AM to 7 AM. The people who are using the shelter are given sleeping accommodations along with food and warm clothing.

The members of First United have donated enough bedding and money. We still need soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, warm clothing and boots. Volunteers are needed. Please call Tillie Armstrong 895-5811 or the Church office if you can help even for one shift. A very generous person donated 25 army cots for the program this year.

Tillie Armstrong

World Food Day, October 16, 2011

For many Canadians, world food day is every day. We have an abundance of food from around the world. My own breakfast this morning was a banana from Guatemala, with NS blueberries and milk, pineapple from Costa Rica, fair trade sugar from Paraguay in Just Us! Coffee grown in Haiti.

How often have we stopped mid mouthful to wonder about the farmer who made our food? While we eat our supper tonight, some of the people who made the food for our tables may go to bed hungry.

World Food Day challenges us to think about the injustice of food abundance for many, while worldwide 800 million people are chronically hungry.

Ironically, two thirds of them are involved in food production. And 70% of the world's farmers are women. These are numbers from a Canadian Foodgrains Bank pamphlet called 'Hungry Farmers'. It is part of their End Hunger Campaign.

Ian MacHattie



Some people in our Guitar Group joined the Fundy Fiddlers for the Social Tea in October



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Edie Oulton REMEMBERS

Edie Oulton was born in Montreal in 1921 to James and Edith Adams. James and Edith were originally from Dundee, Scotland and James immigrated to Canada about the time of W.W. I., and worked in Montreal. Edith came to Canada in 1915 and that is where they were married. During Edith's preparations to get ready for her trip to Canada she booked her own passage on the Canard Shipping Line and didn't tell her father. Now, her father was a retired shipping captain and he didn't like the Canard Line so when he found out with whom his daughter had booked her passage he immediately booked her on a different line, without her permission. This was a good move on his part because she would not have arrived in Canada if she were on the Canard Liner. It was one of the first passenger ships to be sunk by the Germans during W.W. I.

So if Edie's grandfather had not made that ticket change, Edie would not be here today. James and Edith had three children Edie and two boys, one of whom died in infancy. Her family lived in the eastern part of the city of Montreal. When Edie went to High School her family had to pay \$250 each month for the first year and it went up fifty cents each month for Grades IX, X, XI and XII because they were English Protestants. She travelled to school on the streetcar and carried a brown bag lunch and bought her milk for five cents a bottle. She remembers that her school had a swimming pool and two gyms. The boys' classrooms were on one side of the school and the girls' rooms were on the other. There were stairs that went up and stairs that went down and Edie managed to earn five "discredits" on the first week of school because she was going the wrong way on the stairs. They were not allowed to talk to anyone they met in the hallways. When she finished her education she worked as secretary to the Naval Store's Officer.

Edie met her husband, Bob Oulton, in Montreal. Bob was from Halifax and was a member of the Canadian Navy at the time. Many naval personnel at that time were sent across Canada to navy shipyards for the building of the Corvettes. Bob happened to be sent to Vickers in Montreal, and the rest is history.

In 1944 Edie and Bob were married and soon moved to Halifax where he began his work, as a Commercial Traveller, with Kelloggs Canada. Because Northern Nova Scotia was his territory, they then moved to an apartment in Truro and shortly after that they moved to Dufferin St. where they lived until five years ago.

Their son, Ken, was born in 1947 in the old Annex on Queen Street. Lynn, their daughter, was born in, what was then, the "new" Truro Hospital.



Jason and Erin Langille, an active couple in the congregation



Edie Oulton

They, as a family, soon became very active in First United Church. The Rev. Earle Gordon was the minister at the time. Edie recalls back in the days, when she was a member of the Auxiliary, that margarine had just been invented. The company was asking people to save the box tops from the margarine, send them into the company, and they would have a chance to win a prize of money. They were to write a letter to tell the company what they would do with the money if they won. So, Ruth White and Edie wrote the letter saying they would be giving the money to the church, if they were lucky enough to win. Well, they did win and they gave the money to the church. However, some one saw the thin wedge of evil in their project, thought it was gambling and brought it to the attention of the minister. In the end, after discussion with the minister, it was decided that there was really nothing wrong with what they had done.

Edie's church was an important part of her life and she became a faithful member of Unit K when U.C.W. was formed in the early sixties. She was a valued member of her group and gained many strong friendships as the years went by.

Edie recalls that Verda Tucker was the first leader of Unit K. Back then, when June rolled around each member received a dollar or two to use during the summer to make more money. They were not to bury it under a bushel! In September at their first meeting they were to turn into the treasurer the money they had earned and tell the group how they earned it. One of the ladies didn't really want to reveal how she made her money. Finally she was persuaded to tell, and said she went to the racetrack and earned it on the horses.

Edie relates that they always had a lot of fun in Unit K and she especially enjoyed working at the Bazaars which were held every Fall.

Five years ago Edie and Bob sold their home on Dufferin St. and moved to Parkland Estates because Bob was not well. "It was a good move," she comments. Although Bob has since passed away Edie continues to live there and tries not to miss any of the varied activities that take place regularly.

Edie is not able to get to church as often as she would wish but continues to be very interested in her church. She celebrated her 90th birthday this past summer with many friends and family. We wish Edie well, may she have many more birthdays and may God's richest blessings be upon her.



Joel Hughes McKay is shown receiving an award from "The Reverend Gordon MacLean Fund". The award is being presented by Heather MacLean and Alan MacLean, Chair of Trustees. This fund has been set up in memory of Rev. Gordon as a source for music scholarship for the youth of our community to be dedicated for the glory of God. Joel, son of Leo and Kathryn McKay, is a Grade XI student at C.E.C., and a member of the Symphonic Band and the Jazz Combo.

Pictorial Church Directory

The photo shoots of people in our congregation will have been completed by the time you receive this edition of the First United News and most of you will also have had received the photos which you had previously ordered.

The Pictorial Directory takes longer to produce and should be ready for delivery in three to four months following the last photo shoots in December. Finished directories will be mailed to the church for distribution and for everyone to enjoy.

We are very pleased with your support of this project and we know that Rev Valerie is extremely pleased because now she will be able to put names to faces more easily.

Martha MacLaughlin

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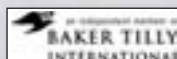
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First United News

The Chief Scout's Award SCOUTS CANADA



Rodney Hatcher receives Chief Scout Award from Rod MacLennan

The Chief Scout's Award is the highest level of achievement in the Scout section of Scouts Canada. The Governor-General is recognized as the "Chief Scout" for Canada, thus this award is considered to be awarded through his or her office.

Prior to 1973, when the older

sections of Scouting were divided into Scouts (11-14yrs) and Venturers (15-18yrs), the equivalent award was called "Queen's Scout Award".

In order to earn the award a Scout must earn the Voyager and Pathfinder Activity Awards which require the Scout to develop citizenship, leadership, personal development and outdoor skills, as well as earn ten Challenge badges, at least one in each of the seven categories (athletics, outdoors, home and family, personal development, science and technology, culture and society, and environment); they must in addition hold current qualifications in Standard First Aid, hold the World Conservation Badge, investigate and present findings on Scouts Canada's involvement in World Scouting, design a challenging programme which will require the Scout to excel in each of the four activity areas (Citizenship, Leadership, Personal Development, and Outdoor Skills), including at least 30

hours of additional service to others (above those required in the Citizenship Activity area of the Voyager and Pathfinder awards).

At First United's Scout Group, known as 2nd Truro, we are pleased that Rodney Hatcher has earned the Chief Scout's Award, and we offer our congratulations.

Rod MacLennan



Venturers and their leaders - Rod MacLennan, Bruce Moore, Ian Mumford and Michael Brown

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December

Margaret Johnson
Marg MacKenzie
Ryland Marshall
Beatrice Bailey
Lorna Higgins
Margaret Scott
Louise Fleming
Abbie Ingraham
Maxine Cameron
Vivian McNutt

January

Frances Cox
Helen Congdon
Richard Humby
Audrey Reid
Anna Laymon-Romyn
John Romyn
Doug Moffatt
Jim Saunders
Rex Moore
Edna Blaikie
Tom MacNaughton

February

Verna Hunter
Orie Singer
Rene MacNevon
Beth Goodwin
Edda Ferguson
Charlotte MacQuarrie

KD is Christmas!



KD Thursdays in Action

"KD is Christmas!" That is what one of the teens said when I asked them how they felt about KD Thursdays. I am not sure exactly what he meant by that, but I hope that he meant that he recognized the sentiment of giving that makes the KD program possible.

Each Thursday the gymnasium at First United resonates with the noise and laughter of hundreds of eager CEC students. KD Thursday has been around for six years now and there is no sign of it ever slowing down!

When the high school announced that they would be going to a single, one hour, lunch time for the 2011-2012 school year

many of us were worried about how that change would affect KD. I am very pleased to let you know that the changes we have seen have certainly been for the better!

Yes, the numbers are down. Last year we fed about five hundred fifty teens per week;

this year we are probably closer to about three hundred per week. The interesting thing for us as youth leaders is that the fewer numbers have helped us to better accomplish the original purpose of KD Thursdays.

KD was started primarily as a means to allow the local youth pastors/youth workers the opportunity to get to know the students of CEC so that we could eventually have the opportunity to share the message of the Lord Jesus with them. The longer lunch hour and the smaller number of teens have given us more opportunities to actually sit and talk with the teens during the lunch hour.

It is a privilege to be able to sit with a student during lunch and find out what is going on in his/her life. Many of them are willing to chat and, as a result, we have been able to share the gospel with them.

The KD crew would like to say a special "thank-you" to First United for your willingness to provide a home for KD. Your generosity has allowed many students in Truro to be fed both physically and spiritually!

Group Committee/Scouting Groups PAPER AND BOTTLE DRIVE - 2012

<p style="text-align: center;">Paper</p> <p>Newspapers, Flyers, coloured included Telephone Books, Paper Books Magazines, Shredded Paper Hardcover (with cover removed (if possible))</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Refundable Containers</p> <p>Soft Drink and Juice Containers Beer & Liquor Containers <i>(Please Remove Caps!)</i></p>
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May 26, 2012
September 29, 2012

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