



# **THE BURNING BUSH**

101 COBURG STREET, SAINT JOHN, N.B. E2L 3J8

## **GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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# **Pentecost 2014**

**MINISTER: THE REV. DR. JOHN CRAWFORD, B.A., M.Div., D.Min.**

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The event of Pentecost is a significant event in the life of the Church because it is the result of the Holy Spirit falling upon the disciples of Jesus Christ. The rushing wind, the fire which darted about the heads of the men, women, and children who were present in Jerusalem was an outward visible sign of an invisible reality. The Holy Spirit brings the spiritual presence of Jesus Christ to everyone that has gathered in the Temple to worship. Prior to Pentecost the Holy Spirit would come to certain persons but not to everyone. The persons receiving the Spirit were anointed for a specific task and did not always remain within them because when the task was accomplished, or the person had turned away from the work they were called to do the Spirit would depart.

The coming of the Spirit fills men, women, and children with the presence of Christ. Jesus promised his disciples would not be forsaken, comfortless, abandoned or alone. The life of Jesus would be in them as they would be in Jesus. Dear friends, the Spirit comes with power to draw us into the very life of Christ even though he is in heaven above. We have a Saviour who hears us when we pray, strengthens us when we are weakened by life, and shows us how to walk by faith one step at a time through the dark times in life.

The Church is also strengthened to serve and speak boldly about the peace of Christ and the forgiveness of sins in his name. Through the Word and sacraments of the Church Christ makes his presence in his people because the Spirit illumines the Word to speak directly to us, and the Spirit is at work in the sacramental signs of his presence that are revealed in the water poured from the font, and the bread and wine that are on the Table. The Spirit seals us to Christ through the sign of the water and thus our new life begins by God's grace and will rather than our own strength of choice.

The signs of bread and wine are not just a remembrance of what Jesus has given of himself on the Cross. Rather, the signs of bread and wine are the means in which the Spirit infuses the very person and life of Jesus to his people. The life of Jesus is not just knowledge of him and his saving work, but rather the very life of our Saviour as he himself is in heaven. Jesus is not stuck in heaven awaiting his return and unable to come to his people. The power of Jesus' presence with us is not simply based on knowledge of Jesus as saviour and lord but rather his presence within us is the very transformed and glorified Jesus. We attribute the life of Christ in us through the mysterious and powerful working of the Holy Spirit.

Dear flock, consider the power of the Spirit at work in you and the Church today. Pray that the Spirit may move upon us with power and authority in such a way that we like the early church may be transformative people in our proclamation that Jesus is Lord. Also, that we might be positive influences bringing a measure of insight, integrity, strength, and love to our culture and society.

John Crawford

## **Church Home News**

For over 30 years Leroy & I have been in the snow business and there has never been a winter like this season. There were 25 storms, dumping 350cm of snow not to mention the freezing rain that played havoc with us during the Christmas season. I don't remember having to cancel church at the Home so many times....and a lot of other events were canceled because it was too dangerous for the residents to go out or volunteers couldn't get to the Home. You can't imagine the joy of our residents to just get out, even sitting on the back deck and feeling the warmth of the sun puts a great big smile on their face.

Our staff did a terrific job keeping the flu out of the Home. Visitors who didn't get flu shots had to wear masks. Housekeeping put extra effort sanitizing doorknobs and railings, as well as their regular routine. Nursing and dietary were on their toes watching for any signs of any bug creeping into the Home.

To cheer up the long cold month of March, they celebrated St. Patrick's month with Irish Lunch, Green Beer Pub, travelogue of Ireland, Irish sing along, lunch at Lily's and a Irish night at Harbour View High.

On April 5<sup>th</sup> Anne Murdoch & I hosted a Wine and Cheese party for the residents with the tour of Israel. We packed the activity room and they had a wonderful time. They're still taking about the great cheeses and fruit which Ken Nice (Food Service Support Manager) provided, and they loved the wine. On April 8<sup>th</sup> Anne & Hamish were presented with the Nursing Home Association's Volunteers of the year award at the Volunteer Gala held in Fredericton. May 14<sup>th</sup> at the NBNHA annual general meeting they present the Terry MacNeill Wellness Award and Terry was the first recipient.

Celebrating Nursing Home week, we will hold an ecumenical service June 8 at 2pm - hope you can make it. On June 26<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating Canada Day with a barbeque from 11am to 1pm. There will be lots of food and entertainment. If you can join us please call the front desk 643-6003 and let Kathy know you will be attending.

We need help in the gardens just pick a patch to clean up, every little bit helps, or give me a call and I'll come with you.

Heather Hatfield

## **Women's Group**

We will make our last soup of the season on June 10<sup>th</sup>. We will resume in September and if you would like to join us, please come any Tuesday that we make soup (it is always listed in the bulletin). You could also offer to make the stock or buy the vegetables, and deliver these items to the Church either on the Sunday before, or on the Tuesday morning by 8:30. Please speak to anyone in the soup group. Many Thanks!

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Anne Sewell will be ordained in our Church. The Women's Group will host a reception following the ordination. Anne will be inducted as the minister of Knox Presbyterian Church in Harvey. Our prayers and best wishes go with her as she starts her new and challenging career.

Respectfully Submitted,  
May Megaw & Vivian MacDonald

## **Church Management Committee**

At the Church's annual meeting Joe Shelley and Angela Odei were elected and joined the CMC as new members for a three year term.

After a busy year, the committee held its last meeting before the summer break and will be holding its next planned meeting on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thanks to very good Christmas and Easter offerings the church has not had to dip into the its saving account this year to date however, summer is coming and church attendance normally decreases, so we ask the congregation to keep in mind the church during the warmer months of the year.

Fred Hammond has been hired by the church for an 8 week summer work term and began work on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Fred will be busy this summer doing general cleanup and maintenance, mostly painting. Fred was hired under the Government Student Assistance program so there is no cost to the church. It would be very helpful though if members of the congregation helped by volunteering to buy a gallon of paint. This will help to offset the cost of repainting the church. *If you wish to help please drop a sealed envelope marked " painting project" contribution!"* along with your envelope number and name on the outside of the envelop into the collection plate. The cost of a gallon of paint is approximately \$45.00. Fred will very carefully be applying your paint. Fred has finished his first year of pre-med studies at Bishop's University and has a football scholarship to attend there.

Laurie Hossack

## **Books and Blankets**

This smaller group of children meets in the lounge/classroom on the mezzanine level. This smaller confined space provides a soothing atmosphere for our literacy program.

With Sunday School materials around the room, we are provided with many Christian Education opportunities. Lately, the poster with the Apostle's Creed has attracted attention. We have a beginner reader who sat there one day reading the creed, needing some explanation here and there, He came to the line, " the third day he rose again from the dead", and was astounded." What! Glenda, did He come Alive again? "During the Easter Season he had absorbed that Christ had died but had missed the important part of the story.

Only ¼ of the children in the programs are affiliated with a church. Sadly, the next week a much older child, reading the creed, seemed just as confused. One little fellow often takes down the Children's Bible and asks for a story from it.

Children take turns reading our story of the day, enjoy games that build reading skills and wait patiently to pick out their "take home book". Three children from "Family Plus" have joined this year - one comes quite faithfully.

Thank you to all of you who have passed on some wonderful children's books to us. They provide a great stimulant for the children as they continually develop their reading skills.

## **Co-Op Kitchen**

A lot of positive things have happened in this program. Not only did some of the girls take in special classes at a Healthy Diet program sponsored by Sobeys, but they also worked in teams to plan and execute each menu. While doing this we learned that most of the girls do not receive flyers, so they rely instead on word of mouth when they make a decision of which grocery store to shop at for their families.

The experience of planning our menus, flyers in hand, and then leading the kitchen empowered the girls and gave them confidence. By spring they were looking to fill some gaps in their cooking experiences. They wanted to make bread and pastry. The soda bread we made, and ate at the Kitchen. Nice warm bread and a "cup of tea" went over well.

Making pastry for the first time has been known to bring a grown woman to tears. However, there were lots of laughs as seven pastries were (again) rolled out. Only one ball going back to the rolling pin for yet another workout came in danger of going out the window and in the end there were seven pies to go home. They looked good and hopefully the girls were encouraged by their children's pleasure.

We are pleased that Anne Marr has begun to help with the program. We were also glad to have Wilma Slaney return just in time for the pastry escapade after a heavy year at University.

This month we're off for our annual retreat at Milkish Creek, a time of great pleasure for the girls.

## **After School Club**

Now that June is here our children are getting quite excited. Summer vacation is within reach. Attendance has had a yoyo pattern: 5 or 6 one week and then 16 or 17 the next. There seems to be no solid reason for this recent development, but I'm sure we'll have lots of children on hand for our closing party at the bowling alley.

We have a nice number of middle school girls this year and several younger children, both candidates for arts and crafts. Many have tried more challenging projects: glass painting, scrapbooking, card making and blanket stitching a felt "book" for needles that was decorated with sewn-on buttons for Mother's Day. Everyone painted a flower pot and planted flowers. And of course many weeks they find a way to use paint or glitter.

If the older girls are finished in time we sometimes give them a donated bag of seasonal clothing to go through in the ladies washroom. There they try on and model their choices for each other. An older teen is usually available to help with suggestions. As one girl says, "Wow, a free shopping spree". We are very grateful to the congregation for all the items you donate; clothing, craft materials, games, lego, those precious knitted items, books, etc. They help to round out the program and allow us to spend more on larger products and healthier meals. Thank you for helping to make this program a success.

I would also like to mention those people who work with the children. I am grateful to Wendy Rowe who plans and makes the children's meals. She runs a pleasant kitchen but accepts no arguments so sometimes "time out" is spent in her domain. Tina Barthelot and Dian Marin have been valuable "On Call" people who can be relied on to work during busy times and when I'm away.

We have 5 children from Family Plus who attend with their care takers all of whom take part in supervision in the program as their children blend with ours. In addition, high school students Katie Gunter and Daniel Dupuis volunteer. We're always glad to see them arrive.

Quite recently I've added Fred Hammond to our staff. He's great with the kids and is brave to start a second job after a day of painting upstairs. Many thanks to you all!

Glenda Hossack

## **SITTING PRETTY – UNHAPPILY NOT**

Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffett .....probably because there was no chair available and, sadly, she would have that problem again today in visiting most of the rooms in our Nursing Home. Nearly forty years have passed since its doors were opened and even the best of equipment gets tired or expires when used over that period of time. At the moment visitors may have the choice only of sitting on the bed, perching in a wobbly walker or wedging into a parked wheelchair! Our Residents need and deserve better so a search is on to find and buy comfortable but compact chairs with which to welcome visitors and to enjoy incidentally otherwise. Please, will you join us in the immediate initiation of a Fund to be titled:  
"PLEASE TAKE A SEAT"

We hope to be able to provide a significant number of these new chairs before the year is out. An illustration of the selected pattern and its actual cost will be circulated as soon as possible. Donations by cash or cheque, designated "Please take a seat fund" will be gratefully accepted in the offering plate at Church or at the offices both there and at the Nursing Home. Tax receipts will be issued for all amounts of \$10.00 and above. You don't have to commit to sponsoring a whole chair – join with three friends and buy a leg each. Make your groaner motto for 2014 "CHAIRity begins at our Home".

## **STICK IT OUT**

Who are the Kindlers and what do they do? They are strange creatures who tend to hibernate in Summer but they do not sleep all the time since axes need to be sharpened, amputated fingers have to be reattached and healed, and appeals go out in all directions seeking raw material to manufacture for use in the winter which inevitably lies ahead. They have been busy for many years, beginning with minor participation in the annual sale at the Nursing Home. More recently they have functioned independently, donating their proceeds for gardens at the Church and Nursing Home.

The hacking crews have been manned [we await our first lady volunteer!] by all generations from our congregation. The bulk of their product is cut from cedar [swell smell!] but spruce has been used too. The first material came from site clearing by Paul, then from Milkish Creek, hefted by a gang of youngsters, quite a bit from Philip's west side glebe garden but most generously of all from Glen's property on the Kingston.

All the money earned now goes to the gardens at the Nursing Home since the Church is fully planted. It buys chrysanthemum pots to cheer the Fall, bulbs to greet the Spring, together with basic tools, equipment and fertilizers. Over the past three seasons we have raised a total of almost \$2,000.00 and hope to continue at least that volume of sales. Our bundles are very competitive with our rivals in the field and our customers have the extra benefit of having supported an excellent cause! So, please think to patronize our service in the coming winter by placing your order with Judy or known [surviving!] members of this elite operation. Prices will remain at \$7.00 per bundle with three bundles going for the bargain price of \$20 – generous and satisfied customers have been known to give more!

Hamish Murdoch

## **Congregation News**

### New members:

Robert Kinley  
Meaghan Kirkpatrick  
Rachel McCoy  
Sophie Nickerson  
Joe Shelley  
Annika Wright

### Transferred members:

Richard Campbell  
Bill Grass  
Ed Le Sueur  
Sue Le Sueur  
Joyce McDowell  
Chris Wells

Liam Caines, grandson of Gordon and Suzanne Ellerker, is a dancer with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. He has just enjoyed his first success as lead dancer in a production of Four Seasons.

### **Announcements**

**SUMMER LAY READERS – There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the vestibule for lay readers for the summer. Please consider helping out by volunteering to read one or more Sundays over the summer. Thank you.**

**ORDINATION –Anne Sewell has been called to Knox Presbyterian Church in Harvey, New Brunswick. Her ordination will take place here at Grace Presbyterian on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm with Presbytery meeting at 6pm. There will be a time of fellowship following the service.**

**Grace Presbyterian Church has been selected to be the repository for the New Brunswick Saint Andrew's Society of Saint John's historical pieces.** These will include, but are not limited to the President and Vice-President's Chairs and 4 tartan covered chairs along with a hand carved relief of Bruce and Wallace. There may be other additions to the display as time and resources allow. These pieces will be placed in what will be named "The Saint Andrew's Chapel" where the current chapel is located (looking toward the front of the sanctuary the chapel is located on the far right side. You can recognize this spot because the pews are facing toward the piano). This area will be cordoned off from regular use but will be available for people to view and use for special occasions.

**SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE** - Grace Presbyterian will be joining Stone Anglican Church located on 87 Carleton Street on **Sunday, July 27, at 10:30 a.m.** Dr. Crawford will be preaching. Following the service there will be a potluck luncheon in the hall adjacent to the building. As always, bring your favorite covered dish and share in the great fellowship.

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The deadline for the Thanksgiving issue of THE BURNING BUSH will be October 5<sup>th</sup>. Please contact me at 849-8934 or [nancyhossack@hotmail.com](mailto:nancyhossack@hotmail.com) to submit articles at any time up to that date. Please pass along news of graduations, anniversaries, or things that the congregation would be interested in reading about.

- Nancy Hossack

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