



FORT MASSEY STAR

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AUTUMN 2008

A Thanksgiving Message From the Minister

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Someone has written that Thanksgiving was a holiday instituted by the Pilgrim Fathers for the benefit of parents whose children survived football season. Football and sports are likely now more synonymous with Thanksgiving than church and harvest.

The origins of the day are somewhat confusing, especially for us in Canada. Ask any school child in Canada to draw a picture about the beginnings of Thanksgiving and the pictures are likely to include Pilgrims and turkeys with maybe even a football game in the background. What that really shows is the origins of the American Thanksgiving.

A recent history of celebrations in Nova Scotia by local historian, Clary Croft, tells us that in Nova Scotia the day has different origins He writes:

Early government officials in British North America used to proclaim special days of thanksgiving to mark... a successful expedition, a discovery, a victorious battle, a treaty, or the recovery from illness of a royal personage. In Nova Scotia some of these early celebrations included a day of thanksgiving on October 10, 1710, to celebrate the British capture of Port Royal from the French, and another in 1763 when the citizens of Halifax celebrated a general day of thanksgiving after the signing of the Treaty of Paris which gave Canada to

Britain.

These were the early Thanksgiving celebrations in Canada. Later as New England Planters and Loyalists came north some of their traditions came along, and harvest celebrations became part of the day.

Trying to keep track of when it was celebrated is difficult. It moved around from October to November for many years. At one point Remembrance Day celebrations and Thanksgiving celebrations were joined. Thanks was for the Armistice at the end of war. In fact, it was not until 1957 that Parliament declared Thanksgiving was to be celebrated on the second Monday in October. A day **"of general thanksgiving to almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed."**

Harvest celebrations themselves are not uniquely American. Most countries and cultures and religious traditions have marked the harvest with a celebration, a community meal; gathering together around the world. So whatever the origins of our own holiday we gather to worship and reflect upon the many blessings we enjoy in Canada.

The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes penned the words **"Go eat your bread in gladness"** or **"Go eat your food and enjoy it."** He writes much as did the woman from Kentucky who wrote that if she had life to live

over she would eat more ice cream and less beans. (Yes!!!) The message of Thanksgiving Day is that we should stop now, pause now, eat our bread in gladness today, and be grateful for today. We are called to enjoy our living more.

We are told that a **rabbi once asked a prominent member of his congregation "Whenever I see you, you are always in a hurry. Tell me, where are you running all the time?"**

The man answered: "I'm running after success. I'm running after fulfilment. I'm running after the reward for all of my hard work."

The rabbi responded, "That's a good answer if you assume that all those blessings are somewhere ahead of you, trying to elude you. If you're fast enough you may catch up with them. But isn't it possible that those blessings are behind you, that they are looking for you, and the more you run the harder you make it for them to catch you?"

Thanksgiving is an opportunity to give thanks and to begin to realize that life is, indeed, a gift. **Go - eat your bread in gladness**, not just on Thanksgiving Day, but every day.

Happy Thanks-living,

Rev. Trent

“If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice.”

~Meister Eckhart

“Thanks-giving, after all, is a word of action..”

~W.J. Cameron



FMC's resident flutist, Kevin Robarts, is joined by his flute teacher, Elizabeth DuBois McCarthy (accompanied by Pierre Perron on piano), playing Andrew Lloyd Webber's Pie Jesus from Requiem, dedicated to the memory of the victims of 9/11, at the Sunday morning 10:30 Service on September 14, 2008.

Upcoming UCW Events

M&S

October 18, 2008:

Harvest Tea & Bake Table, 2 - 4 p.m. Freewill Offering. Entertainment with the Cranston Trio - Susan Walters, Ann MacLean & Nelson Ferguson.

November 22, 2008:

Annual Christmas Tea & Sale, 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Tables include: Pantry, Jams & Jellies, Christmas (a great selection this year), Jewellery, Miscellaneous, Silent Auction and New-to-You. Tickets: \$5.00. If anyone has something to donate to the Silent Auc-

tion, please contact Sharon Ross or Irene Parks at least 2 weeks before the sale, or as soon as possible.

December 6, 2008:

Annual Pot Luck Luncheon, Noon. Christmas Music. All Welcome!

Submitted by Irene Parks



Most gifts to the United Church's M&S Fund come from groups, members, and supporters who give through their local congregations.

Explore all the payment options to support the work of the church by going to this web site:

<http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/donate/howto>



Fort Massey Block Party

Tropical Storm Hanna could not dampen the spirits of the Fort Massey community, as the folks at the Fort postponed the celebrations to the next weekend, Sunday September 14th. On that day, we had a fabulous time!

The focus of the Block Party was community, and the Membership Development Committee invited the congregation, our neighbours, and people who use the church building to host their classes and events.

Our Block Party turned out to be a real community event. Members of the Scouts manned the barbeques, Amy Brandon entertained us with her lovely guitar playing and Cassie Kent from the Playgroup provided vibrant face painting for the children. The Scouts, Amy and Cassie are some of our community who use our church building during the week, so it was great to have them with us sharing their talents and the fun of the day.

In response to invitations from the Membership Development Committee, the neighbourhood businesses supported our event, through gifts of financial donation or food.

The Membership Development Committee's goals are to reach out to our community to invite our neighbours to share events with our warm and welcoming congregation – and to work with other groups in the church to provide events and opportunities to grow fellowship to those already attending Fort Massey.

Successful community events are only possible with the work and enthusiasm of many people. A hearty "thanks" is given to members of the Membership Development Committee (Peter Orser, Dan Sampson, Susan Lidstone, Angie Ngu, Joanne Hayman and, of course, Rev. Trent), Anne Marie Clifford, the Scout Leaders and the whole Day family, Amy Brandon, and Cassie Kent. Thanks also goes to our local businesses .

Submitted by Alison McDonald



Terry Burry

The was a Terrie Burry from down Newfoundland way,
The daughter of Brenda and Terry, so they say.

She came over to the mainland,
not to avoid their reach,
But rather to expand her down home ability to preach!

While in Halifax she met a congregation on a hill,
And through her prayers and sermons, their minds she helped to fill.

Not only has she shown us that there is a broader world,
But she has been quite able to help us keep our minds unfurled!

We know that this young lady will go on to spread her wings,
And indeed will continue to do many, many more good things.

By Ruth MacKenzie



A Lovely Dog Story

An older, tired-looking dog wandered into my yard; I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of.

He calmly came over to me, so I gave him a few pats on his head. He then followed me into my house, slowly walked down the

hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep.

An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out.

The next day he was back, greeted me in my yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour. This continued off and on for several weeks.

Curious, I pinned a note to his collar: 'I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap.'

The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different

note pinned to his collar: 'He lives in a home with 6 children, 2 under the age of 3 - he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?'

Submitted by Colleen Estabrooks

Church Family Celebrations



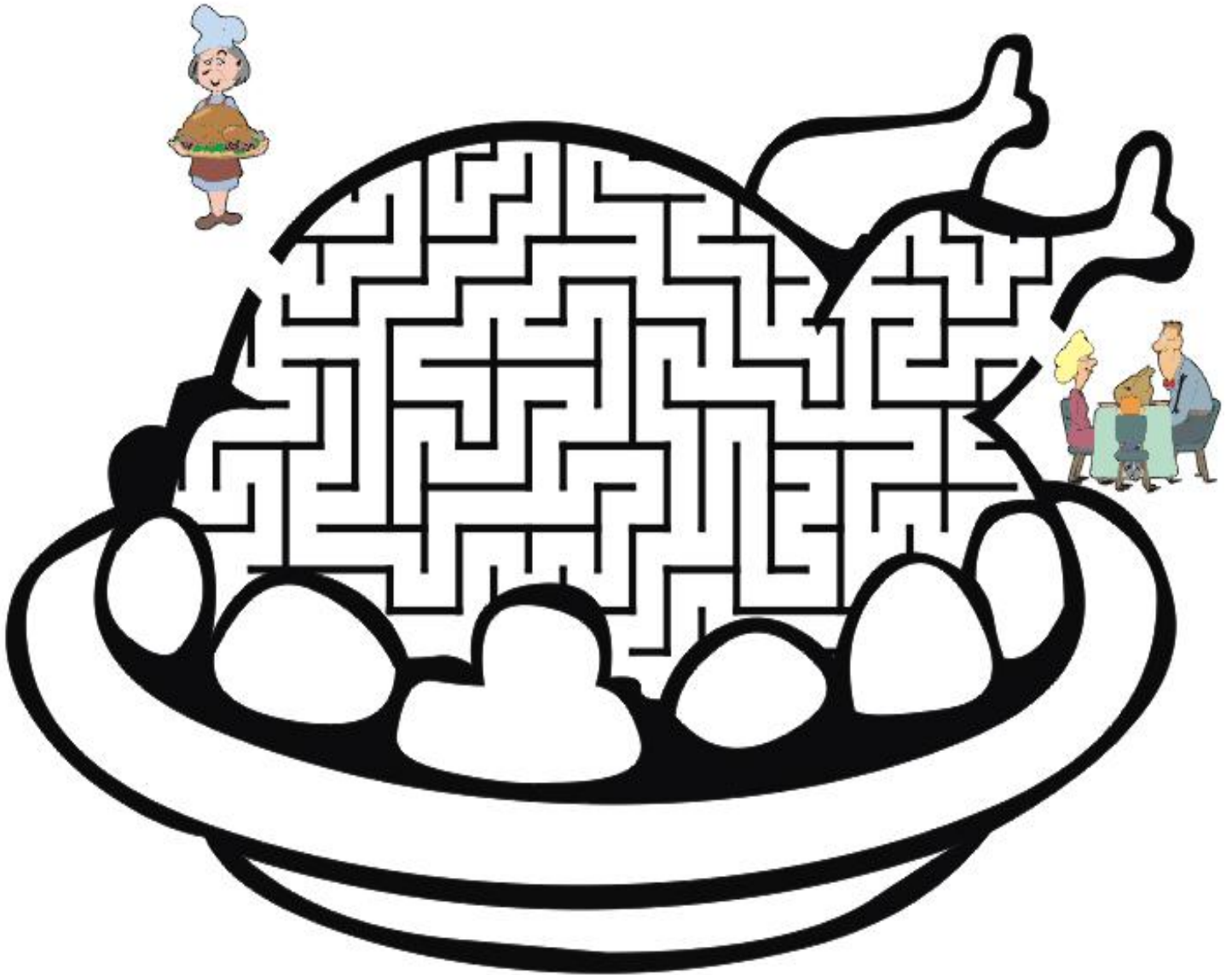
Baptized on September 21, 2008, at Fort Massey, were Jeffery (wearing tie) & Sarah Robinson. They are pictured above with their parents, Aaron & Sue Robinson and brother James. Proud grandparents are Richard & Carol Robinson.



A large company of family, friends and church friends from numerous churches throughout the city and Lunenburg County, gathered Saturday afternoon, June 7th, to celebrate Doug Ritcey's 90th birthday. It was great day for a great man. These penguins did not make the party, but did grace the front lawn of his Rosebank Avenue home.

Kid's Korner

Thanksgiving Turkey Maze



Help the lady through the cooked turkey shaped maze to get the turkey to the dinner table.

FOOD FOR PHOENIX PROGRAM

Correspondence from Margaret Guy United Church Representative, Food For Phoenix Program - November 2007

To the Congregation of Fort Massey United Church: Heartfelt thanks are extended to all for your most generous donation to the Food For Phoenix program on November 19, 2007. The donation of \$125 *plus* a large box and 2 grocery bags filled with non-perishables, ensured the 40-50 youth who use the centre on a daily basis were provided with nutritious snacks through the week.

**Many Thanks,
Yours Truly
Margaret Guy – United Church Rep.**

The **Phoenix Centre for Youth** is a walk-in resource centre for youth between the ages of 16-24 who are at-risk or homeless. The centre sees approximately 40-50 youth on average each day providing services, including one-to-one counselling, shower and laundry facilities, healthy drinks and snacks, health care, crisis intervention and advocacy. For some it may be the one point in their day where they are able to receive good, nutritious food.

The **Phoenix Youth Programs Church Committee**, organized in 1987, assists in providing nutritious snack food to the Phoenix Centre. The United Church is responsible for the months of November, May and some weeks in the summer. **Fort Massey United Church has committed to supporting the week of November 24, 2008** and will endeavour to cover the 3rd week of November annually.

The Fort Massey United Church has committed to:

Raising \$150: towards perishable items such as milk, cheese, fresh vegetables and bread.

Collecting Non-Perishable nutritious snacks: Strawberry jam, peanut butter, canned – sandwich

meats, soups, tuna, pasta sauce, hot chocolate, single servings of Fruit Cups and Apple Sauce, granola bars, spaghetti, Ensure (meal replacement drink), baby formula and baby food.

If you would like to make a donation, please mark the offering envelope "Food For Phoenix" and bring in non-perishable items to the Specially Marked Box located in the Tobin Street Lobby area.

Thank You,

The FMC Outreach Committee

For more information on the Youth Centre, the Youth Programs or other ways you can support this wonderful organization please visit www.phoenixyouth.ca

Submitted by Teresa Orser

REMEMBER



I wrote this poem one November 11th when I was watching the cenotaph ceremony from Vancouver, BC, when I was living in White Rock, BC. I wanted to go to the ceremony that year, but I slept too late to catch the bus into the city. I always remember my Dad on Remembrance Day, remember standing at the cenotaph in Newcastle-Miramichi, often in the snow and seeing the sadness on his face as he remembered. He served in Europe during WWII and never talked about it much, but he always insisted that we go to the Remembrance Day ceremonies and was so proud the year that I recited "In Flanders Fields" for the whole town. I think I shook as much from nerves as from the cold that day, but I did it and didn't forget a word!!

I remember watching the parade to the cenotaph (in Vancouver) and thinking how old all the veterans were becoming. I thought "What are they thinking today...what do they remem-

ber?" Then the words started to come and here they are. One of my best poems and now it is also a tribute for my Dad, George Beverley Anderson and all those fine young people who served then and those who are serving now, wherever they are.

*Aging and worn they stand erect
Saluting the flag as it passes by
Tears fill their eyes as they remember
Comrades who fell and friends who have
died*

*They see not the crowds standing
Shuffling their feet in the cold
They see in their minds the terror and
bombs
And the friends who fell and never grew
old*

*They see the cruelty of the war
That they fought in their youth
They hear guns and bombs and cries
Of the fallen for justice and truth*

*They stand and remember things
We'll never experience or know
As they stand at rigid attention
As they watch their flag blow*

*We can never understand the feelings
We were too young and never knew
why
The young men of our nation back then
Chose to take up arms, fight and die*

*We must not forget the sacrifice
We must remember the cause for the
fight
We must honour our veterans and stand
At their side and know that they were
right*

*To fight the injustice that started the war
To protect the freedom that we have
today
And never forget what they sacrificed
As we honour them on Remembrance
Day*

LEST WE FORGET!

Beverley (Anderson) Byrne, 11/11/99

