



"To be a bold new expression of our Christian faith"

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Worship Services:  
Saturdays at 4:00 pm  
21 Fieldcrest Drive, Moncton (First Church of the Nazarene)

Web: [www.visionsunited.ca](http://www.visionsunited.ca)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/visionsunitedchurch](http://www.facebook.com/visionsunitedchurch)

## *Fall Newsletter, October 2011*

Hello Visions United Family!



We hope you have been well and have enjoyed the warm and wonderful fall we were blessed with this year. If ever there is a time to fully appreciate God's incredible creation, it is fall in the Maritimes!

With the all too fast approach of the colder weather, we wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some of our activities over the past 6 months and tell you about what's coming up in advent and Christmas. Of course our most exciting news is that of our new Minister's arrival! Rev Christine MacLeod will officially begin on Nov 14<sup>th</sup>. A special celebration of new ministry will be held at the Nov 19<sup>th</sup> service with a meal to follow.

We are also blessed to have a talented new music director, Daphna Pearson as well as a skilled new Admin assistant, Karen Geldart. Our office is at the

Stilesville location and phone number 384-0843. We also have a new website and Facebook group that you should check out at ([www.visionsunited.ca](http://www.visionsunited.ca)).

### **From The Chair**

It has been six months since we started on our new journey at Visions United. We have experienced Saturday worship by a wonderful group of Leaders that have taken us on a journey from Traditional to, well should I say, 'Out of the Box'. As a leadership team we have received many wonderful comments both favourable and not so favourable but all given with love and sincerity. We have worshipped in the park and we have done the Hokey Pokey all with a sense of experimentation. In this time our Search Committee did a wonderful job of finding potential ministers, interviewing and recommending a wonderful candidate. Their work was made so much easier by the incredible JNAC Report produced by the Needs Assessment Committee. Every one of the seven candidates that applied for the position we impressed by the report and had a strong desire to be part of our journey.



Very soon we will embark on the next phase of our journey. Christine MacLeod will lead us on our vision path that we developed and presented in the JNAC report. Things will be new, exciting and different, but we certainly will move forward by building on the good things about the United Church. As much as we want to be new and different, there are many good things we will bring with us and build upon.



I was contacted by Rob Dalglish to prepare a video to be included in the kick-off of the new Edge program he is heading for the national office. We have also been asked to make a presentation to the next round on the Second Cup next June in Toronto. We are being asked to participate in these initiatives because we are an example of where the United Church wants to go in the future. And we are not alone, all over the country United Churches are doing new and wonderful things to reach out and be meaningful in a very complicated world.

We are on a journey and we do not know where it will lead us, but we are a congregation that has taken huge steps on this journey. We amalgamated, we moved out of our existing buildings, we share (rent) from Church of the Nazarene, we worship Saturday afternoon and we have started our armchair ministries.

I believe in May 2012, when we look back at the first 12 months of Visions United, we will all be astounded of where we are and how far we have come.

### **Armchair Ministry**

On a regular base we plan to explore current topics by hosting first-rate speakers on the social justice topics. We will strive to bring well known and well informed individuals to our community. During our worship time the individual will be interviewed by a key note community leader.

Two (or more) large wing back armchairs will be placed at the front of the church. The interviewer will be presented to the congregation; they will change according to the topic. The speaker will be introduced with words and possibly a recent U- tube clip. (This part will be conducted by our congregation's leadership.)

The interview may play out in this manner - begin with learning a little about the speaker's life – family and background, the events leading up to the speaker's involvement with the topic? Detailed information on the topic and then the hard stuff – what can society do to make the topic improve? What is our role as the church? How can we influence the necessary change? And so on as we move forward to build a better world for everyone. Most sessions will end with a call to action – what is God calling us to do?

If the introducer and speaker are willing, and if time is available, we will host a few questions from the floor. The formal part will be followed with a reception and time for informal discussion.

Twice per year we will attempt to host an international big name at which time we will partner with schools, universities and Rotary to stage a full two days of events. This partnership will involve different partners depending on the topic. Sometimes it may involve health, climate change, justice, race relations, etc. We have a strong connection to CBC and would see our "armchair ministry" as global in nature.

The media coverage will enable us to attract 1,000's to our congregation. We expect to use social media as well as press, TV and radio to build the attention to our cause. The action teams to be put in place will vary according to the topic. The follow-up may need to involve other partners but for sure we will strive to make a better world for all.



Silver Don Cameron – Nov 5th

#### **Letter of Introduction to Visions United from Christine MacLeod**

Dear friends in faith,

Your JNAC is so unique offering a picture of such relevant ministry, that I offer this introduction to my call and vision in kind.

What if a minister could be a bold new voice within a community who craved challenge and growth? What if that voice resonated with our prophetic history by being courageous enough to name current issues needing our care, stretching us out of our comfort and into something much more satisfying? Then our communal ministry would be honest – a partnership where together minister and congregation live a muck-boot ministry, willing to get out into the muck of life (to see it, name it, entre it and help it). This is a ministry I crave.

What if a minister could serve within a gift-based community where those who entre can share their uniqueness without predetermined restrictions? What if that church had the openness of opportunity for diversity? Then we could have a community where different perspectives and beliefs create diverse programs and projects. Then we would take yoga to the beach to worship, body, mind and spirit within the blessing of creation's bounty. Then we would have a Go-Global Café where together we learn about our world through cuisine, music, art, dance, video, and story. And we would have a multicultural community space evident in what we see, hear and do. We would have dance jams in the parking lots and sing a rap song for an anthem. We would have a Facebook ministry. This is a ministry I can get passionate about.



learn about Stewardship by doing a beach clean-up. We would fund-raise for things that worry our children. We would give them a full voice within the church, on all levels. This is a ministry I have gifts to create and a deep call to enact.

What if a minister had a wonderful gift of music to share and a passionate spirit to lead dynamic worship? Then we, young, middles and oldies, would dance communion in. We would create a variety of worship styles from meditative (ex.Taize) to djembe filled rhythmic hand-clapping. We would seriously invest in a music ministry that involved drums, guitars, trumpets, piano, harp, fiddle and anything else someone can offer to share. We would have a ministry where the minister, the worship team and the music ministry would afford the time and resources for music writing that is relevant to our context interests and needs. We would create a roster for pre-service music enabling our congregants to offer their musical talents and styles. We would take music concerts into the homes of those home bound by illness or age. We would celebrate all the arts as God's gifts to touch our souls.



This is a ministry I would love to be a part of creating, where innovation and spiritual vibrancy have support.

What if a minister could serve within a justice community where fair trade and justice based commerce were a passion and commitment of the whole community? Then we would buy and sell Fair Trade and we would only use products and supplies that care for God's Creation in loving actions. This is a ministry that I must be a part of to live honestly within a hurting world.

I am by nature an innovator, a creator of new ideas, an artist. I am by passion a singer and a spiritual leader. I am by personality, dynamic, bold, passionate and sensitive. I think in many directions. I think big and different. I do not like restrictions that stunt growth or potential. I cannot understand a world that hurts itself yet I continue to believe in healing and hope. I understand Jesus Christ as an amazing justice seeking, environmentalist, innovator who boldly challenged our world to rebalance itself in peace. He lived his whole life out of the box, so I believe that's where truth lies.

I believe that our past informs us in wisdom and the present informs us in relevance – that past and present belong in an innovative dance of possibility. I believe in the Spirit That Moves through All Things as the pure energy that resonates goodness throughout time and space. And I believe that God is good, all the time and we have the amazing blessing of being a part of it.

I hope that this grants you some insight into what God is calling me into at this time. If what Visions United is called to do and be, resonates with this, I am sure God will let us know.



Linnea Good, July 16



### Congregational Leadership Team

Following is a list of the Congregational Leadership Team Members with contact info as well as an indication of which support team(s) the member sits on:

#### Chairman

Alan MacKenzie H: 859-1018 [bamacken@gmail.com](mailto:bamacken@gmail.com)  
C: 862-9357

#### Secretary

Karen Geldart 384-0843 [office@visionsunited.ca](mailto:office@visionsunited.ca)

#### Congregational Care

Helen Halfpenny 859-0089 [halfpenny@rogers.com](mailto:halfpenny@rogers.com)

#### TRI Committee: Finance, Trustees & Property

##### Trustees

Cecil Briggs 384-7582 [cbriggs@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:cbriggs@nbnet.nb.ca)  
Charlie Kelly 383-9188  
Gordon Norton 383-1448 [nortong@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:nortong@nbnet.nb.ca)  
Bill Peters 383-1479 [pwilliamanna@rogers.com](mailto:pwilliamanna@rogers.com)  
Claudia Schaerer 389-4320 [claudiaschaerer@hotmail.com](mailto:claudiaschaerer@hotmail.com)

##### Finance

Peter Lightfoot 383-8240 [lightfoo@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:lightfoo@nbnet.nb.ca)  
Peggy Renton 386-1077 [peggyrenton@rogers.com](mailto:peggyrenton@rogers.com)  
John Russell 861-0176 [rusmel@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:rusmel@nb.sympatico.ca)  
Annie Watson 383-7791 [jimandanniewatson@rogers.com](mailto:jimandanniewatson@rogers.com)

##### Ministry & Personnel:

Pat Harknett 383-1909 [andrewha@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:andrewha@nb.sympatico.ca)  
Kathy Dunn 384-5651 [kldunn@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:kldunn@nb.sympatico.ca)

##### Jennifer Kennedy

##### Presbytery Representatives

Joan Hawkes 204-6024 [zeus0791@rogers.com](mailto:zeus0791@rogers.com)  
Glenna Lightfoot H: 383-8240 [lightfoo@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:lightfoo@nbnet.nb.ca)  
C: 850-4096

Anna Peters 383-1479 [pwilliamanna@rogers.com](mailto:pwilliamanna@rogers.com)

##### Spiritual Development & Worship

Roy Baillieul 382-8765 [baliol@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:baliol@nb.sympatico.ca)  
Gregory Kennedy 383-1479 [gregorykennedy@rogers.com](mailto:gregorykennedy@rogers.com)  
Anna Peters [pwilliamanna@rogers.com](mailto:pwilliamanna@rogers.com)

Charene Slupsky 858-9519 [jslupsky@gmail.com](mailto:jslupsky@gmail.com)  
Jim Slupsky - Chair 858-9519 [chawk@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:chawk@nb.sympatico.ca)  
Linda Taylor 852-9635

##### Vision Aiders (Outreach in Action)

Glenna Lightfoot (Chair) H: 383-8240 [lightfoo@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:lightfoo@nbnet.nb.ca)  
C: 850-4096  
Joan Hawkes (Secretary) 204-6024 [zeus0791@rogers.com](mailto:zeus0791@rogers.com)  
Claudia Schaerer 389-4320 [claudiaschaerer@hotmail.com](mailto:claudiaschaerer@hotmail.com)

Pam Harrison	H:902-251-2549 C: 902-664-2561	<a href="mailto:pamharrison@ns.sympatico.ca">pamharrison@ns.sympatico.ca</a>
Susan MacDonald	H: 383-9799 C: 855-3618	<a href="mailto:md@hotmail.com">md@hotmail.com</a>
Heather Horsman	384-9308	

### Team Rolls

#### Spiritual and Worship;

Role: to oversee the worship services and the use of the sanctuary.

#### Congregational Care;

Role: to assist the Minister in caring for the pastoral needs of the congregation.

#### Finance;

Role: to guide, motivate and educate the local congregation in its responsibility as stewards of creation, including time, talent, and money.

#### Property;

Role: to be responsible for the maintenance of the church property.

#### Trustees;

Role: the trustees shall hold all real property of the congregation.

#### Christian Life and Growth;

Role: to assist the Minister in implementation of a relevant program of Christian Education for all ages.

#### Ministry and Personnel;

Role: To provide support and facilitate two-way communication between the congregation and staff members.

#### Vision Aiders;

Role: to support, both spiritually and financially, local and global concerns of mission, outreach and social gospel.



### Vision Aiders

The Mission and Outreach Committee of Visions United chose the name of Vision Aiders to be different than others. We have been meeting monthly since our beginning. Some of the programs we have been involved with are:

1. The grocery card Saturday continues to provide cards to the local stores and is a fund raiser as well.
2. Mobile One is receiving assistance in sandwich making under the care of Martha Aldridge. If interested speak to Martha.
3. "Minute for Mission" is visible during worship with a reading or a video.
4. The Strawberry Social was well attended and the proceeds were divided between Re-Connect and the Bio-sands Water Filtration System, providing clean drinking water to Haitian people living and working in the Dominican Republic.
5. Re-Connect is a program that is managed by the Y.M.C.A. and provides clients with information necessary to access the necessary local agencies. Vision United is committed to provide some yearly funding. We also collect toiletry articles which are made into kits and distributed to those in need.
6. Grocery Saturday is the first Saturday of the month and food collected is given to the Food Bank.
7. Our goal for the Mission & Service Fund of the United Church had been set at \$10,000. and we have passed the half way mark.



Strawberry Social



## Pastoral Care

In answer to our vision to Show a Real and Profound Concern for Each Other and Our Neighbours, your Congregational Leadership Team is looking to address this in the short term with Pastoral Care volunteers. If this is something you feel called to do, we would greatly appreciate hearing from you. Please contact Helen Halfpenny (859-0089) or Jim Slupsky (858-9519) if you are interested. If you are not sure if this is for you, training will be provided to help you discern this.

## Finance

### Visions United Church

#### Financial Situation (as of Sept 30, 2011)

Current Assets (bank accounts, etc.)	\$37,490
Long Term Assets (not including buildings)	\$115,971
Less Liabilities (loan @ 3% annual interest)	-\$31,592
Equity (monetary worth of congregation)	\$121,869

*Note: \$3000 of assets are designated for "Sunday Dinner Program"  
And \$4000 is designated for building and property use.*



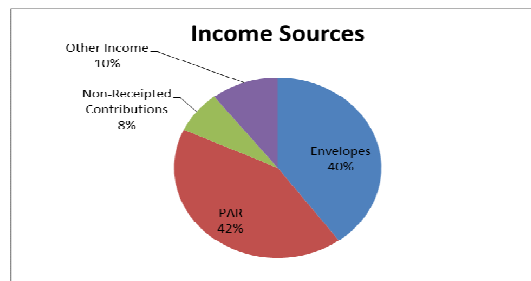
#### Income and Expenses (May to Sept 2011)

Income (for operations of congregation)	\$44,053
Expense (for congregation)	\$33,151
Other Income (for other charities - M&S etc.)	\$10,008
Other Expenses (payouts to charities to date)	\$8,384
Net total income	\$12,526

#### Average Monthly for Operations since May

Income	\$8,811
Expenses	\$6,630

*With our full time minister, expenses are expected to be approximately \$11,000 per month.*



### **PAR**

PAR, or Pre-Authorized Remittance, is a direct debit program that allows people to support their church through an automatic monthly withdrawal from their bank account. The United Church administers the program following the giver's wishes (e.g., X amount for local church expenses and X amount for the Mission and Service Fund). Once a month, all PAR givings are debited from givers' accounts and then the total, less a service fee, is electronically transferred to local church accounts.

PAR was introduced in 1976 as a convenient way for members and adherents to provide consistent, year-round financial support for their local church. It's now growing at a rate of about 15 percent every year. Increasing numbers of people find that monthly direct debiting allows them to more intentionally plan and honour their financial commitments to their local church.

A table is set up at worship every Saturday to answer your questions or to sign on.

## Property and Trustees

### **Update to Visions United Congregation Regarding Disposal of Humphrey Memorial's Assets**

During the spring and summer, there was a small core of members who spent many hours assessing and disposing of the assets that belonged to Humphrey Memorial United, in preparation for the eventual sale of the building and land. HMUC's Property Re-purposing Committee, which was formed in November 2009, was given the mandate to explore options for disposal and/or redevelopment of HMUC's building and land and the assets in the building.

- In Memoriums, were returned to the person who donated the item, or to a relative of the donor.
- Several items that had been donated In Memorium such as piano, communion table; pulpit will stay with Visions United with approval from the persons who donated these items (or their relatives if the person was deceased).
- Gordon Norton and Larry Wells did a great job of taking items that could only be deemed 'junk' and transporting them to the Westmorland Albert Solid Waste facility.
- Three boxes of bibles and other books from the library were taken by the First Church of the Nazarene to be distributed during their mission trips to developing countries.
- Members from the former Stilesville congregation identified items that could be used in the Stilesville kitchen. The Stilesville building will be promoted as a place that can be rented for retreats or small family/business gatherings. In addition, we anticipate that fund-raising events will continue to be held there, so the above items will be well used.
- Mountain View took the stand-up cooler and the wooden storage cabinet from the gym, as well as most of the dinner and dessert plates, mugs, cutlery, large pots, mixing bowls, coffee and tea carafes, and First Aid kit for their new Sunday Diner program.
- Harvest House staff was very happy to receive mugs, plates and dry food items.
- Port Elgin United was grateful for the metal stacking chairs from the hall, as well as the senior choir gowns and stoles.
- The junior choir gowns were taken by the Greater Moncton Ecumenical Children's Choir.
- St. George's Anglican Church was thankful for the large freezer in the gym and all of the Scouting equipment and tents.
- The large stove in the gym was sold to the Irishtown Community Centre
- A yard sale and auction were held on June 24<sup>th</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The Greater Moncton Association for Community Living took a truck of leftover items from the yard sale.
- In late July, Doug Steeves kindly came to HMUC and prepared the organ to be put into long-term storage.
- On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Geldart's moved the remaining items from HMUC to Stilesville United for long-term storage.

Disposing of HMUC's assets was a huge undertaking. Many members assisted in this task, but special thanks need to be given to Gordon Norton, Larry Wells, Bill Peters, Norm Teed and Sheila Snyder, members of the Property Re-purposing Committee, for laying the ground work, and Carolyn Cameron, HMUC's now-retired office administrator.

## Spirit and Worship update and upcoming worship services

For the past six months, we've really been blessed with a wonderful variety of worship leaders and music leaders. We've had some more "traditional" services and we've also had some special events, like our Environmental Round Table discussion. On the June 10-12<sup>th</sup> weekend we held our first annual Visions United family camp at Camp Ta Wa Si, which was very well attended and lots of fun! On Sept 10<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed a special Homecoming service filled with Children's stories, music and cupcakes! We also held the first in our Arm Chair Ministry with invited guest, Paul Ivany recently, which was very successful. We had a wonderful gathering at Mapleton Park Lodge on Oct 1<sup>st</sup> where we enjoyed a guided nature hike, a BBQ and a special worship service. We also had our second Arm Chair Ministry with special guest Silver Don Cameron on Nov 5<sup>th</sup>.



Rev. Paul Ivany being interviewed, Sept. 24



Upcoming Services include a celebration of Visions United on Nov 12<sup>th</sup>; and a Celebration of New Ministry as we welcome Christine on Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, with light meal to follow. We begin our Advent Services on Nov 26.

We invite you to ***Join us for "ADVENT-ures in Giving" as we as we celebrate our Christian Faith, building on the themes of Faith, Hope, Love and Joy, to provide meaningful outreach in our community.***



### Letter of Introduction from Christine

Blessings of great joy to you all. What a wonderful time to begin a new ministry. Here we are on the edge of Advent, a time of new beginnings. We will journey together in wonder and discover what God is creating in us. How will we be the hope, peace, love and joy in this world? This will creatively unfold within us and call us into new ways of being the Church here and now, filling ourselves and others with the blessings of the Spirit.

As we begin this special time together, allow me to introduce my family to you. My husband of 15 years, Greg Osowski, is a Wilderness Educator from Vermont. Greg is a Nature guy through and through. His family is French and Polish with Abenaki Ancestry, which is the way of his soul. Our oldest daughter, Machaela, is 12 and is very artistic. She plays the Celtic harp, piano and trombone and step dances. She loves to compose music. She is in grade 7 and taller than her Mum! Our youngest daughter is Kiona and she is 9, in grade 4 at Mountain View School. She is our actor and full of creativity and originality. Kiona plays violin and loves to sing. She also follows her grandfather MacLeod's passion and loves to run. We have a black lab dog named Luna (after the moon or more realistically short for Lunatic). She is very loveable and loves to play. As for me, you will have lots of time to get to know me and I look forward to spending spirit filled time with each of you. My soul is best filled with music, laughter, love and chocolate. May we share this wonderful journey with great joy and discover. My friends, we are blessed and called to be a blessing.

Joy to you all,

Rev. Chris



Cupcakes at Mapleton Lodge, Oct. 1



### Choir

Choir practice is every Tuesday, 7:00 PM at the First Church of the Nazarene, 21 Fieldcrest Dr., Moncton. Choir Director Daphna Pearson welcomes you. If you like to sing, come and join the choir.

### Email Address

Please advise the church office of your email address. The church sends out regular emails to the congregation and we want to include you. Be eco-friendly and help reduce paper and postage costs.

### Address, Telephone & Email Changes

If you have a change of address, telephone number or email, please advise the office to keep your records up to date.

### Mailings

If you received this mailing it means you are on Visions United Church membership roll. Contact the church office if you would like to remove your name from our mailing list.