



The Lowville-Nelson United Ministries CommuniPac

Nelson—11:00 am Sunday Services Lowville—9:30



December 13, 2009

3rd Edition, Issue 12

Jan/Feb/Mar

From the desk of Rev. Barbara

Christmas is coming! And I know that today, we will be blessed by our Sunday Schools with our annual Joint Christmas Pageant. It's such a gift to be graced with their offerings. With the Christ Light still shining in their eyes, our own hearts are open in new ways to the light of Christ within us.

But there are still many events which will lead us to Bethlehem and they are documented throughout this newsletter. For myself, as these days of Advent continue to lead us towards the light, I'm grateful to everyone within our community of faith for shining brightly. We are, indeed, gifts to each other.

May the light of your love and compassion continue to shine brightly throughout these days and in all the days that follow as your gift to all the world.

Have a very blessed Christmas and a grace-filled year to come.

White Gift Sunday

December 6th was White Gift Sunday at both Nelson & Lowville Churches. Children and adults took part in the giving of gifts for the less fortunate at this time of year.

The number of white gifts collected at both services was overwhelming. Thank you to everyone for your incredible generosity at this Christmas time.

White Gift Sunday dates back to 1904 in Ohio.

The wife of a Methodist minister and her two daughters came up with the idea of giving gifts wrapped in white paper at Christmas time to people in need.

Gifts are wrapped in white so that they will be anonymous. People who can only give a little will never be embarrassed.

The White Gift shares in the spirit of Christ and the God of love at Christmas. We give gifts of love to people in need. These gifts are often nonperishable food items which are distributed to people in the community.

White Gift Sunday celebrates the stewardship of God's love and giving at the time of year when we remember the coming of the King of Kings.

Prayer for the Dedication of White Gifts

Holy God, you are the giver of all gifts.

We come before you today with these white gifts given in our Lord's Spirit of love.

May they be offerings of love, symbols of our faith in you, and signs of the work of Christ's church.

Bless us as we dedicate these gifts in the service of others.

AMEN

In This Issue

<i>Rev. Barbara's Message</i>	1
<i>White Gift Sunday</i>	1
<i>Lowville Carol Sing & Tea</i>	2
<i>Service of Memory & Hope</i>	2
<i>Nelson Council Chair</i>	2
<i>Thanks Giving</i>	3
<i>Lowville Events Delayed</i>	3
<i>Lowville-Nelson Apples</i>	3
<i>Grief</i>	4
<i>What the World Needs Now</i>	5
<i>Worship Ministry</i>	6
<i>Lowville Carol Sing</i>	7
<i>Nelson Ministries</i>	7
<i>Lowville's Pies & Apples</i>	7

Special points of interest:

- ◆ *Lowville worships at Mt. Nemo Nursing Home 1st Sunday of each month at 2pm. Come join us.*
- ◆ *Mt. Nemo Carol Sing Dec. 16 at 6:45 pm Get involved!*
- ◆ *Card Night Christmas Pot Luck Dec. 12, 6 pm at Lowville.*

Lowville's Carol Sing And Tea: A Wonderful Gift Given

On December 9th, under the leadership of Ruth Coverdale, we had a Pastoral Care 'Carol Sing and Tea' at Lowville Church. Many who are no longer able to attend services, were joined by others for a time of worship with Communion and many favourite carols.

This was followed by a time of fellowship with wonderful refreshments. Old friendships were renewed and new ones made during this time and it remains a gift and blessing to all who were there. An additional blessing was having two residents of Mt. Nemo Nursing Home join us.

Lowville Christmas Tree

The beautiful evergreen Christmas tree that stands at the head of the sanctuary was donated by John & Jane Gnocato and is very much appreciated by the Lowville congregation.

At the same time, John and a crew of helpers come to Lowville to assemble the tree each Christmas season and after the season is over, they return to dismantle the tree and return it to its place of rest in the balcony.. This is also an achievement that is appreciated by the property ministry and the congregation of Lowville United.

Lowville Decorating

When you look in awe at the huge Christmas tree with all of its beautiful decorations and all of the Christmas splendor throughout the church, think of Katherine and Geoff Ireland, Connie Salmi and a host of decorating helpers.

Geoff was the tree decorator for the top half of the tree and the balance of the tree was taken care of by Katherine & Connie. A great job was achieved by all of them for the beauty of the Lowville United. Church.

Joint Service Of Memory And Hope

Tuesday, December 15th - 7:00 pm at Lowville

We are having this special joint service because we have been called to be a people who remember as we look forward into the light of Hope. That's not always easy, especially when one is grieving a loss. It could be the loss of health, the loss of work, the loss of a family or the loss of a loved one. Whatever the loss, this season of great joy and celebration can feel hard when grief rises in our hearts.

So we will gather together to remember... to reflect... and to give thanks.

In the stillness of the night, we will light candles for all those who have touched our hearts and we will remember that, through Christ, the light of God's love never goes out.

Whether you are grieving or not, you are invited to this quiet, meditative Christmas service which reminds us that Christ's light shines forever, even in the darkest of December's nights.

Peace & blessings.

From The Chair of Nelson Council

As the calendar year winds down, try to take some quiet, reflective time. I did and I realized once again as we enter the new Christian year and the end of the calendar year, we, as a church have accomplished many things. Did we get it all done? Probably not. Have we contributed our fair share to the needs of others? Maybe not. Could we plan to do better? Likely. What we do know is that our God will forgive our shortcomings and will provide us with the strength and energy to move into the New Year setting and accomplishing new goals.

There are several people at Nelson who need my thanks for helping to make my position as your Chair of Council an easy one. If I start naming them I am sure to miss someone but you know who you are. Just accept a big thanks from me.

2009 was highlighted by the 150th Anniversary of the present church building. History tells us that people came together in the Nelson community to worship God 51 years before that. Will there be a church in this community in the next 150 years? I believe there will be. It may look different but God will lead us in the direction he has for us.

Once again, thanks to everyone who works in front of the scenes and behind the scenes. All of us are needed to do God's work.

God bless and may you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Shirley Bottaro, Chair of Nelson Council

Co-Chair of Lowville-Nelson United Ministries

Thanks Giving From Lowville Ways & Means

It usually starts sometime in June of each year. Marilyn receives a phone call from a vendor wanting to know when the Lowville Christmas Craft Sale is going to be. By August, she has several call-backs to make and she starts putting together plans and paperwork for the Annual Country Christmas Craft & Bake Sale.

As the event creeps closer, lists begin to form for supplies, advertising, floor plans, posters, tickets, program, food, beverage, and volunteers. Allan starts arranging his paperwork for the Silent Auction, gathering items together and arranging for volunteers to approach contributors of items for the auction.

As time swiftly passes by, pies and other baked goods are being prepared by many hands, the church is being decorated, the tree ascends to a lofty height and the rooms of the church are being transformed into a different venue.

On the day before the event, the crafters begin to move in to set up their displays as the excitement builds. They continue to arrive again on the early Saturday morning as helping hands arrive and prepare the baked goods for display and the luncheon items for the Tea Room. Last minute preparations are being taken care of and hustle & bustle abounds with a fever.

Minutes before the starting hour, a shopper slips in through the door and stares in fascination at the color and glitter from the array of wonderful crafts that lay before her. A Christmas Wonderland has risen in this little country church and excitement is everywhere. The shopper is soon joined by others who have come in search of that unique gift.

The rooms are soon full of conversation, laughter and excitement. The Tea Room sends out an aroma of fresh coffee to all who wander near, and sharply at 11 am, who should appear in all their mystique and glory, Mr. & Mrs. St. Nicholas. Wide-eyed children stare in wonder and shoppers and vendors alike are greeted by this Christmas-time Couple.

Allan, Connie & Yvonne have the Sanctuary transformed into a Silent Auction and curious shoppers are beginning to browse over the enormous variety of wonderful Christmas Gift items so graciously donated by businesses and other donors.

Shoppers expressed their amazement at the variety of crafts and gift items that lay before them throughout the church and how unique each and everyone of them were. Their arms and shopping bags soon began to fill up and the day continued on as shoppers were coming and going and, unusually even after the closing time had come.

The purpose of this article is to extend a well deserved gratitude from Marilyn & I for all of the volunteers that made this event possible and what it has become.

Thank you to George & Keith for their help in setting up for the craft sale, to Keith Copeland, Keith Rutherford, Ron Coverdale, & Geoff Ireland for helping to move pianos. Thank you to George, Keith, Ron, Helen & Shirley Williams for helping to dismantle tables, put away chairs and cleaning up.

Thank you to all of the ladies of the UCW and all others who provided their time in making the baked goods for the Bake Table and the Tea Room. Thank you to Shirley Mayeski, Shirley Williams, Norma Copeland, Helen Rutherford, Lorene Bridgman, Fran Gunn, Carol Foster, Jeannette Paquette, & Carol Haley who took part as the preparation team for putting together the sandwiches, sandwich plates, items for the bake table & serving at the bake table & in the Tea Room..

Thank you to Kelly Thordarson for her superb talent and thoughtfulness in making the Gift Baskets for the UCW and the Silent Auction. And another thank you to Deanna Rimmer for her beautifully crafted glass marvel which she donated to the silent auction.

Thank you to Allan, Connie & Yvonne for developing, setting up & over-seeing the Silent Auction to bring it to where it is today. Thank you to Norma Copeland for her help in approaching businesses for donations.

Thank you to Dale Dutton for his relentless attack on dishwashing and tidying the kitchen to a spotless condition & a special thank you to Rev. Barbara for her guidance, her help in the Silent Auction, her help in greeting and passing out free muffins to the vendors.

Thank you to Bonnie Fay for bringing about the beautiful kitchen that the volunteers had the pleasure of working in. To John Readhead for his special expertise in keeping our parking lot clear for customers and vendors. To Ron Coverdale for his delightful expertise in greeting the visitors at the door and directing them to the Silent Auction and the other rooms downstairs.

A Special thank you to Lou-Ann Trabucco for her relentless help in making copies of our posters, flyers and programs as well as taking telephone calls for donors of goods, crafters and buyers of apples & baked goods.

There are always a number of volunteers who work behind the scenes who may not have been mentioned in this article but you know who you are and we deeply thank you for your help and thoughtfulness.

Owen & Marilyn, Co-Chairs of Ways & Means Ministry

Grief - What About Death?

Few Things that you'll face in life will be as hard as the death of someone you love or whose love you've always been able to count on. And few things will challenge, as death does, everything you've believed and understood.

Grief Is Normal. Death, even one we've expected, can send us into a spiral of grief that may involve long or recurring periods of intense feeling, including anger, confusion, numbness, guilt, sadness, or relief for the end of suffering. If death comes unexpectedly, the absence can be so overwhelming it can drain all pleasure from life and consume us entirely.

Comfort Those Who Mourn. In this time, though you may dread the thought of life without your loved one, there are caring people able to help in The United Church of Canada. The church recognizes the need for family and friends to gather and remember loved ones and those who mourn them. It holds a special service of worship during which people remember honestly, healing tears are shed, and the person's life is celebrated. The church reminds us that God's love endures—even in grief, even in death.

Wipe Away Tears. The Bible uses mysterious language and images to describe death. It speaks of a

great banquet at which we'll gather to feast on God's abundant love. It speaks of a new heaven and a new earth where every tear will be wiped away. Though no one can say exactly what it's like in death, the Bible is clear about this: God's love continues to hold and care for us in death, as always.

Death Is an inevitable part of life. The church can assure us in our darkest hours that we will survive and that it will accompany us on this, the longest of life's healing journeys.

[The above was taken from one of the brochures in the box at the entrance to the Zimmerman Room at the Lowville United Church and also at the front entrance of the Nelson United Church.

This brochure is called 'Grief'. There are many more to choose from. Please help yourself to any that you would like to have for your own information, needs or enjoyment.]

A part of

**"The United Church of Canada
Welcomes You"**

series

Funding Cuts To Kairos

Kairos is a church-based non-governmental organization that is funded by CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) and represents seven of Canada's largest denominations including the United Church of Canada.

Kairos works with global partners on a range of social justice issues, including human rights in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. On November 30, 2009, an official from CIDA contacted Kairos executive director, Mary Corkery to inform her that CIDA would no longer fund Kairos and that Kairos no longer fits CIDA priorities.

Kairos and its precursor organizations have been funded by CIDA for 35 years and if this decision is not reversed, it will cut funds to 21 ecumenical and citizens organizations around the world.

United Church congregations are being invited to respond to Kairos call to action to have this decision reversed. Church members are encouraged to meet with their MPs

- Speak about their own positive involvement with Kairos.
- Express grave concern about this decision.
- State KAIROS desire to restore the long-standing

Relationship with CIDA.

- Emphasize the impacts of this decision on global partners and KAIROS' work in Canada.
- Ask them to call on the Government of Canada to reverse this decision.

Kairos supporters are also asked to write to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, pm@pm.gc.ca;

Bev Oda, Minister of International Cooperation, oda.b@parl.gc.ca;

And Margaret Biggs, President of CIDA, Margaret.Biggs@acdi-cida.gc.ca

Requesting a reversal of the decision.

Please copy your letters to KAIROS at info@kairoscanada.org

For more information about the CIDA cuts, please visit the KAIROS website, www.kairoscanada.org

For more information, please contact Patti Talbot, Program Coordinator, People in Partnership/Acting Executive Minister Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit

The United Church of Canada

Tel:416-231-7680 ext.4018 Toll-free 1-800-268-3781 ext 4018

E-mail: ptalbot@united-church.ca

Lowville-Nelson Joint Worship Ministry

WORSHIP THE LORD!

*Starting time for services at Lowville is 9:30 am
and starting time for services at Nelson is 11:00 am. This will continue until the
summer services which start again on the last Sunday in June, 2010.*

Our final Sunday of Advent is this coming Sunday as we celebrate the gift of Love that Christ brought and still brings into our hearts and our lives.

This will lead us to Christmas Eve with services at both Lowville and Nelson at 7:00.

Continuing in the season of Christmas, we will have a JOINT SERVICE at 11:00 am

Sunday	Dec. 6th	Advent 2 - White Gift Sunday - Celebrating the Gift of Peace.
Sunday	Dec. 13th	<u>Joint Service</u> at Lowville at 9:30 am. Advent 3 - Christmas Pageant - Celebrating the Gift of Joy.
Tuesday	Dec. 15th	<u>Joint Service</u> at Lowville at 7:00 pm “Service of Memory and Hope” - for those finding this joyful season hard.
Sunday	Dec. 20th	Advent 4 - Celebrating the Gift of Love.
Thursday	Dec. 24th	CHRISTMAS EVE with services at both churches at 7:00 pm.
Sunday	Dec. 27th	<u>Joint Service</u> at Nelson at 11:00 am. A family service of Christmas celebration.
Sunday	January 3rd	Celebrating Epiphany with Communion
Sunday	January 10th	The Baptism of Jesus
Sunday	January 31st	Communion
Sunday	February 14th	Transfiguration Sunday with Annual Meetings following both Services
Tuesday	February 16th	Shrove Tuesday prepares us for Lent
Wednesday	February 17th	Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten season
Sunday	February 21st	Lent 1
Sunday	February 28th	Lent 2
Sunday	March 7th	Lent 3 and Communion
Sunday	March 14th	Lent 4
Sunday	March 21st	Lent 5
Sunday	March 28th	Lent 6 - <u>Joint Service</u> at Lowville at 9:30 am Palm/Passion Sunday leads us into Holy Week and the road to Easter

Lowville - Nelson Notes

Food Banks are in urgent need of your help. Gifts of non-perishable food items or cheque donations will help get them through this lean period.

Pop Can Tabs are being collected at both Lowville & Nelson Churches for a worthwhile charity. Look for the large jar with the 'Tabs' label. For further information, contact Norma Copeland at Lowville or Joan Hunt at Nelson.

Save your Campbell Soup Labels. The front of the label & the bar code must remain intact. Deposit them in the CE room of Nelson or the Zimmerman Room of Lowville.

Save used stamps for Leprosy. There is a container in the CE room of Nelson or the Zimmerman Room of Lowville. These stamps are sold to stamp collectors and the funds turned over to the Leprosy organization as an outreach mission.

Mission & Outreach is calling those with a heart for outreach to contact Bev at bbalch@cogeco.ca at Lowville or Bev at bevrygreer@yahoo.ca at Nelson.

Scripture Readers are required each week at Lowville and Nelson, There is a sign-up sheet at Nelson. Those at Lowville, please speak with Linda J.

Refreshments are required each week for fellowship after service on Sunday. Sign-up sheets are available in both churches if you would like to provide your favorite tidbits or creations for the congregation. Bring milk & cream for the coffee and juice for the children or others not wanting hot beverage. Don't forget to prepare and turn on the coffee urn. Training is always available.

Ushers are required each week at the Sunday Service. Contact the Worship Ministry to find out how you can help in this way. Get to greet your friends and neighbors on their way in to service and assist in taking up the collection during the service.

Work Bee - Lowville united has a work bee on the second Tuesday of each month at 9 am. If you are interested in taking part in keeping the chair in proper repair, come and join others for fun and conversation. If you know of something in the church needing repair, fill out a card at the thermostat.

Lowville

United Church Women (UCW) 2009/10 Programme



All women from both churches are welcome. Bring a sandwich to share. Join us at 12 noon, on the 1st Wednesday of each month for an interesting and enjoyable program,

November 4th	December 2nd
<u>2010</u>	
January 6th	February 3rd
March 3rd	April 7th
May 5th	June 2nd
Summer Recess	

Nelson Pastoral Care

The ministry has been extremely busy sending cards and attending to visitations and personal communications.

Our line of knowledge comes from the members of the congregation making us aware of any person or persons in need of our support.

Your continued support is deeply appreciated.

Doreen Vivian

‘May his peace be with you’

Lowville Pastoral Care

Whenever Lowville United Church members hear of another member or neighbor being ill, requiring help or care, please pass the information on to the church so that those in our Pastoral Care Ministry can take the proper steps to let the person know that there is someone there for them in their time of need. Leave a message on the church telephone at 905-335-0911 if there is no answer. The call will be retrieved and forwarded through the proper channels.

‘God doesn’t necessarily call the qualified,
He qualifies the called.’

<p align="center">Lowville United's Outreach To Mount Nemo</p>	<p align="center">Jeanette's Soup Kitchen</p>
<p>The first Sunday of every month, a group of dedicated volunteers support a Sunday afternoon service at Mount Nemo Nursing Home. Located at 4486 Guelph Line at No. 2 Sideroad, it depends on the generosity of neighbouring churches to provide the music and worship on a weekly basis. Lowville United takes the 2:00 p.m. service on that first Sunday of the month.</p> <p>Volunteers are always needed to help the residents gather in the community room and to set up the worship space. If you would like to join us in this ministry, please, just come and join us at 1:45 with the service starting at 2:00 and ending at 2:30 pm.</p>	<p>Jeanette lives in Carlisle and each year she opens up her home and turns her dining and living room into a soup kitchen. She and some helpful neighbors place a sign on the front of her house and start cooking soup in her kitchen.</p> <p>There were a variety of homemade soups, bread rolls, & crackers along with tea & coffee Her kitchen has become well known in Carlisle and the surrounding areas including Lowville. Workers and friends from the local businesses and the surrounding areas enjoy their lunch in her kitchen.</p> <p>The total donations at Jeanette's soup kitchen this fall amounted to \$2363.70. These monies are divided equally between Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charities, and the Canadian Food Grain Bank.</p> <p>Jeanette would like to express her thanks to all who participated from Lowville United Church.</p> <p align="right">Ruth Coverdale</p>
<p align="center">Nelson Trustees Ministry</p>	<p align="center">Wondering How To Share Your Gifts?</p>
<p>The board met on November 25th with our financial advisor and reviewed our portfolio. The widening of Dundas Street and the Emergency Plan were discussed and appropriate action was left for the annual meeting. We will be installing a new roof on the continuing education building and quotes will be submitted. The insurance on the church was increased to \$889,494.00 as the estimated value for replacement was close to \$1,000,000.00.</p> <p>The next meeting of the board will take place sometime in the new year as the need arises.</p>	<p>Every year at this time, the co-chairs of our Joint Council (Bev. Balch at Lowville and Shirley Bottaro at Nelson), begin to look for volunteers to sit on Council for the coming year which begins after our Annual Meeting. There is always need for more people to share this load.</p> <p>If you aren't sure which ministry is calling you, please ask. Both Bev and Shirley would love to talk to you about the many places we have to serve.</p> <p>And the rewards are great. Whenever we find ourselves doing what God is calling us to do, then our hearts fly open and love flows with a power beyond our own.</p>
<p align="center">Nelson Finance and Stewardship</p>	<p align="center">The one who would be a leader, must also be a bridge!</p>
<p>We are in the final month of our budget year. Thus far we are almost on target with our expenses at \$58,949.00 and our receipts at \$57,556.00, leaving us in a minus position of \$1393.00. December is a month for giving and I know our members will respond as they always do. Our M & S receipts are well on target at \$3254.00.</p> <p align="right">Respectfully, Bill Vivian, Chair</p> <p align="right">Judi Riebot, Treasurer</p>	<p align="center">Lowville Pies & Apples</p>
<p align="center">Lowville's Mt. Nemo Carol Sing</p> <p>The Lowville Choir will be once again be singing their favorite carols for the enjoyment of the residents at the Mt. Nemo Nursing Home at 6:45 pm on Wed. Dec. 16th. The singing of the choir is our gift to the seniors in return for their gift of smiling faces and there are plenty of those to go around. Many of their favorite carols are being sung bringing much joy to their hearts.</p>	<p>Lowville United has frozen apple pies for sale at \$8.00 each and also apples for sale at \$1.00 per baker's dozen. There are three kinds of apples available; Red Delicious, Mutsu, and Macintosh.</p> <p>If there are other baked items that you would like to have for Christmas or other reasons, just let us know and we will try to get your order filled. This is church fundraising at it's best!</p> <p>Contact Marilyn for the pies or Owen for the apples at 905-681-0864 or by e-mail at mfox14@cogeco.ca</p> <p align="right">Ways & Means Ministry</p>
<p>3rd Edition</p>	<p align="right">Page 7</p>

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A generous soul
 Is blessed indeed!

Give your Communipac to a friend
 or neighbor when you're finished
 with it. It's good recycling!

The Lowville-Nelson United Ministries
 COMMUNIPAC
 Newsletter

TO:

**The future depends
 on what we do in the present!**

UC Seconds

Give Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)
 because church is one of your priorities!
 Lowville - Bonnie 905-878-6062
 Nelson - Bill 905-332-8885

Business Card Advertising

If anyone is interested in having their business card
 placed into the COMMUNIPAC as per the previous
 issues, please contact Bonnie Fay at 905-335-0911.
 The cost is \$10.00 per issue.

(Business Card from last newsletter)

Newsletter Publishing - 2009 - 2010

Article Deadlines	Delivery Dates	Covering:	Topics
Dec. 1st	Sunday, Dec. 13th	January to March	(Annual Meetings to Lent)
Mar. 1st	Sunday, Mar. 14th	April to June	(Holy Week to end of June)
June 1st	Sunday, June 13th	July to September	(Summer Events & Sept. Start-up)
Sept. 1st	Sunday, Sept. 12th	October to December	(Fall season to Christmas)