



The Lowville-Nelson United Ministries COMMUNIPAC

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



December 1, 2006

3rd Edition, Issue 1

Dec/Jan/Feb

“Prepare the way of the Lord...” (Isaiah 40:3)

As Christmas decorations begin to appear in local stores and in our homes, Christmas bazaars and bake sales offer wonderful gift suggestions and, Christmas carols begin to fill the air, we all begin to glimpse the wonder of the season which has the power to make our hearts soar. Christmas is coming!

It's that wonderful season when we celebrate the birth of our Messiah - with an inn in Bethlehem, with shepherds and sheep on a hillside, with a bright star shining in the sky, and with angels beyond our wildest dreams. All of these things remind us of Christ's birth. A birth bringing peace on earth and of goodwill towards all. Christmas is coming!

Yet into all the excitement of Christmas, come the words of the prophet Isaiah. Into every anticipation of great joy to come, we hear his voice as the world is told

“Prepare the way of the Lord”

What do these words mean for us today? After all, we're busy preparing for Christmas; simply or elaborately, with gifts and with garlands, with ribbons and

bows, with carols and bells, with people and parties. Still, the words of Isaiah echo throughout all ages and within our hearts. Words that can, when we let them, reach deep within

“Prepare the way of the Lord”

Our season of Advent are the 4 weeks before Christmas Day and is a time set apart to “prepare for the way of the Lord.” We do it through reflection on the stories of God's work; sacred stories of prophets and angels, of people and places. We gather to receive the blessings offered in this season; God's gifts of hope, peace, joy and love.

If you are seeking a way to prepare your own heart for this wondrous season of Christmas, know that our doors are always open. Join us as we celebrate together in song and praise the greatest gift given; the gift of Jesus Christ. Emmanuel. God-with-us! Come with joy and thanksgiving.

“Prepare the way of the Lord”

Rev. Barbara

Select a Newsletter Name

The Communipac is now a joint newsletter for Lowville & Nelson United Churches. Do you like the newsletter name “Communipac”? Let us know or tell us what you would like to have it called. Make a list of possible names for the newsletter, then pick 2 or 3 and send them to the church to the attention of Dale McKeown (Nelson) or Owen Calhoun (Lowville). We will be making a selection from the entries and place a photo of you in the newsletter with your winning entry.

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Special points of interest:

- ♦ Card Parties: Lowville 2nd Friday & Nelson 4th Friday, 7 pm \$3.00 (For this month, Nelson will be on Dec 15th due to Xmas)
- ♦ Lowville worships at Mt. Nemo 1st Sunday of each month 2pm. Everyone welcome.
- ♦ Lowville UCW meetings on 1st Wed. of each month

Consumer Alert

Issued by the United Church of Canada

People who are selling vehicles, particularly on the internet, should be aware of a fraud scheme that suggests The United Church of Canada will sponsor the purchase of the vehicle as a thank-you gift for someone who has faithfully served the church for many years.

The seller of the vehicle is contacted by e-mail from an individual who claims to be acting on behalf of a relative interested in buying the vehicle, and the transaction is sponsored by the United Church of Canada. The seller is asked to forward payment information to receive a cheque including additional funds to cover shipping. After receipt of the cheque, the seller is asked to forward a cheque to the agent who will handle the shipping of the vehicle. The agent never returns to take the vehicle and the seller soon finds that the cheque they received was counterfeit.

As of November 2, 2006, the General Council Office of the United Church of Canada is aware of six individuals who were contacted by this fraud artist. All are residents of the United States, and none actually sold a vehicle to them. It is suspected, however, that there may be more potential victims. Thus, this consumer alert is issued.

If you suspect that you have been victimized in such a fraud scheme, you should contact: Phonebusters at 1-888-495-8501.

Nelson United - Pastoral Care

Our Ministry continues to serve by providing care for members and adherents who are unable to attend. Cards are sent out on a continuing basis in hopes of giving support, encouragement, congratulations, etc. letting our parishioners know we care and are thinking of them.

If you know of anyone who would appreciate a card, visit, etc. please contact one of our Pastoral Care Members.

Members include: Lillian Ireland, Doreen Vivian, Barbara Alton, and Velma-Jean Johnson.

Velma-Jean Johnson
Chair, Pastoral Care Ministry

Joint Visibility Ministry

At the October Joint Council meeting, it was suggested that there be a Joint Ministry to handle "Visibility" for the Lowville-Nelson Charge.

The first item for consideration was this newsletter. It was felt that a combined newsletter would satisfy the needs of the charge, result in a more informative product for both churches, and also reduce overall time and effort to compile, publish and distribute. Other items which are also of a joint nature are the website for both churches, as well as advertising for the churches.

At this time, an advertisement in the Post for both churches is costing 1/2 of what we were spending previously. Owen Calhoun from Lowville and Dale McKeown from Nelson will act as the contacts for this venture. At this time the newsletter will carry the current Lowville name, but we will be having a contest to pick a name for the new newsletter.

Let us know your thoughts about this newsletter, and what suggestions you may have for the name.

Owen Calhoun / Dale McKeown

Lowville United Church Women (UCW)

Our Christmas Potluck Luncheon is on Wednesday, 12:00 pm, Dec. 6th in the Zimmerman Room of Lowville United.

All women of both churches are welcome.



Nelson United Property & Maintenance

As winter is about to settle in, we at Nelson have had a busy spring and summer with the installation of the new carpet and also the new furnaces which we hope will cut down on the cost of fuel this year and for some time to come.

This fall, we were pleased that the weather stayed mild so that we could get the parking lot paved.

I would like to thank everyone on the committee for their help and also in keeping "Our Little Church on the Hill" a welcoming place for all.

Don Hunt

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



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**The Lowville-Nelson United Church Ministries
COMMUNIPAC
Newsletter**

TO:

Membership Notes

Make a church membership your pre-New Year's Resolution. Begin the New Year with a membership to the Lowville-Nelson United Ministry.

**Try our Sundays,
they are better than
Baskin-Robbins!**

**Give Pre-Authorized Remittance because your
church is one of your priorities!
Lowville - Linda 905-875-3735
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.

<p style="text-align: center;">Worship Ministry of Lowville–Nelson ... and you're invited! <i>9:30 a.m. At Nelson 11:00 a.m. at Lowville</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>A Joint Service of Memory And Hope</i></p>
<p><i>Through Advent...</i></p> <p><i>December 3rd Communion Sunday</i> <i>Angels bring messages of "HOPE"</i></p> <p><i>December 10th White Gift Sunday</i> <i>Angels bring messages of "PEACE"</i> <i>bringing gifts for others.</i></p> <p><i>December 17th Christmas Pageant Sunday</i> <i>Angels bring messages of "JOY"</i> <i>Our own "angels" offering the</i> <i>Christmas story.</i></p> <p><i>December 24th Communion Sunday</i> <i>Angels bring messages of "LOVE"</i></p> <p><i>And Christmas comes...</i></p> <p><i>December 24th - Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.</i> <i>at both churches</i></p> <p><i>December 31st - JOINT SERVICE at Lowville United</i> <i>at 11:00 a.m. celebrating Christmas</i> <i>through story & song.</i></p> <p>Barb McKeown - Nelson Worship Chair June Trenwith - Lowville Worship Chair</p>	<p>The Christmas Advent season is fast approaching. We hope you will enjoy the season worshipping with your friends and family.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>December 14th, Thurs. 7:30 pm at Nelson United.</i></p> <p><i>For those who are feeling sorrow and sadness as the Christmas season approaches, we offer a quiet service of remembrance and hope, celebrating the Light born into this world's darkness.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Is Christmas Hard For You?</p> <p>As it fast approaches, some may be finding this season of joy difficult, especially those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Christmastime has a way of raising memories of past seasons and brings with them, the grief of missing them deeply in this Christmas coming.</p> <p>If you are seeking a way to connect with the gifts of Christmas in your grieving, we invite you to join in our</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Service of Memory and Hope</i> At Nelson United Church <i>(on the north side of Dundas, west of Guelph Line)</i> Thursday, December 14th At 7:30 pm</p> <p>We will gather to remember the lights of love who have blessed our lives and give thanks to the One who comes to be with us. Come. Share the Love. Share the memories. Share the hope.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Nelson United - Mission & Outreach</p>	
<p>Faithfully every month, you remember to bring your food offerings for the West Burlington Food Bank. Every time that we deliver to their depot on Fairview, there are people picking up their groceries, young and not so old, singles, families with babies, and teenagers alone. Paul, the Director, always gratefully thanks us whether we have a trunk load or a few bags.</p> <p>We delivered boxes and boxes of mugs, towels, toiletries and books to the Wesley Urban Ministry. Again, the men and boys outside the building are eager to help and the receptionist always takes our church name and thanks us.</p> <p>These words of thanks come from many, many to all of you. You never forget to give.</p> <p>Also, please remember the right side of your envelope or your P.A.R. to help world wide to let others know that they are not alone. We send teachers, and news of Love.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bev Greer</p>	
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Nelson United - Stewardship and Finance

Over the past three years, we at Nelson have seen our budget increase by 10%. To meet the day to day expenses, we need Approximately \$1,000.00 per week.

With about 69 families in our ministry and only about 40 contributing, it means that each family on average would have to give \$1,250.00 per year.

We fully realize that some families cannot afford this amount but fortunately some can and do contribute more than the \$1,250.00 per year.

How can we address the solution to this problem?

“PAR”

Prearranged remittance was introduced several years ago but for some unknown reason has not been accepted at Nelson nearly as well as other congregations.

Maybe it was because we did not explain or introduce it

properly or people do not trust the banking system that is used by the United Church of Canada.

In all of the years since existence, not one case of misuse has been reported. I can assure you that you have 100% control of your givings, being able to cancel any monthly donation or the entire contract with one phone call to Judi Reibot.

The advantages of this program are twofold.

- 1) It allows the church to have an evenly distributed income for the entire year rather than very low in summer and high at year end as it now happens, making it difficult to pay the expenses every month.
 - 2) “PAR” is a good personal business approach to satisfy a year long need and makes giving a planned approach to what God wants each one of us to give **FREELY** and **WILLINGLY** for his work in Nelson United Church.
- Bill Vivian, Chair of Finance

Mount Nemo Christian Nursing Home

The Nursing home is planning a Bake Sale and Silent Auction on Saturday, December 16th from 10:30 to 3 pm. The funds raised will go towards their continuing project of refurbishing the home for the comfort of the residents.

They are looking for donations of baked goods or items (new or slightly used) for the silent auction. Baked goods should have an ingredient list and a suggested price, dropped off the morning or day before.

Silent Auction items can be dropped off at any time with a suggested minimum bid. Please give the items to a Life Enrichment Staff member or the Charge Nurse with the name of the donor.

Lowville Church Flowers

The flowers and flower arrangements that you have been admiring in the church are the creations of Katherine Ireland. As we approach Advent and Christmas, colors will change, seasonal decors will appear, and an abundance of tinsel and ribbon.

It's a season of wonder and awe through carol singing, decorating, and preparation as we approach the birth time of Jesus.

Katherine has also applied her talents to the making of wreaths and centre-pieces to be used and sold at the Bazaar and Bake Sale on December 9th. It may be a good idea to get there early to view and purchase the one of your choice.

Pioneer Church Tour Report

The 2006 Pioneer Church Tour has come and gone for 2006 and was a successful endeavor. Seven churches participated in this year's tour. All participating congregations should be made aware that the tour was not meant to be a money-making venture, but a public awareness event. The real purpose of the Church Tour was to make the communities-at-large aware of the pioneer churches that exist in this area of Halton.

The income from the sale of Tour Passports and from the sale of advertising in the passports amounted to \$1,833.14 less the printing expenses of \$125.16. This left a net income of \$1,707.98 for the 2006 Tour.

During the final Tour Committee meeting for 2006, it was decided that the funds would be left in the Tour bank account as seed money for the Pioneer Church Tours. If a presently participating church withdraws from any future tours, that church shall receive 1/7th of the above receipts.

It was decided by the committee to hold the next Pioneer Church Tour on May 3, 2008. Moving the date forward from October to May would make it necessary to not hold the tour in 2007 due to the time required for preparation.

For the Pioneer Tour to continue being financially viable, we would truly encourage each member of all participating congregations to try and sell at least 2 of the Tour Passports to their friends and neighbors.

The Tour Committee is planning to invite a total of 12 churches to participate in the 2008 Tour and producing a 2008 Calendar of historic churches within our area of Halton Region.

Rosemary Dixon, Church Tour Representative

What God Is Calling Us To Be

There may be many who do not fully understand this question and are finding it difficult to answer. You could answer this question every time that you had a decision to make and the question actually becomes clearer each time that you consider it. It relates to any situation and helps to reach any decision that must be made.

At this time, we have many questions that need answering, some personal and business related, and some community related. In our community, we have two churches that have the need to consider the possibility of coming together to ease the financial burden, to lighten the work load and to 'be' as Christ's Church in this place.

Both churches were flourishing in the past with large congregations planning and providing for community and church related events that brought families together as one. Life was a little simpler then and was not on the fast track as it is today. There are more outside activities taking up our time in the present day, making it more difficult to come together in support of any church

activity.

Perhaps we should ask ourselves, "What does church mean to us?" Reflect on the blessings that we receive from coming to church. It is sharing with others the joys and blessings, along with challenges and changes that happen to us when we belong to a family of faith? Coming to church can be our own time to be with God, a time to gather our thoughts, to remember those departed. It can be a time set aside to be together with family or friends, or a time that we have set aside to serve others, a quiet time of solitude, or just a way that we would like to start our day. Do you have friends or family coming on Sunday for a visit? Have them come earlier and bring them to church. What a memorable way to start the visit. A purpose is being served in church and that is a blessing.

Contemplate on what we have received from God and turn our attention to the gifts that we offer Christ in return. Is there a balance and are we fully doing and being as God wants us to be? Is there more that we could do or be? Something to think about!

The Lowville Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has had members drop out and was down to a membership of two. After the Sunday Service on November 26th, a nomination meeting took place and new nominees were introduced by Alan Salmi, Chairperson of Council. The nominees were Connie Salmi; Irma Coulson; Nancy Ramshaw; Ed Jansen; and Al Burbidge.

A motion was made by Keith Copeland to accept all of those nominated and it was seconded by Ries Beyer. The motion was carried and all nominees were welcomed into the Board of Trustees.

Carol Singing

Beginning Sunday, December 3rd, carol singing will take place 10 minutes before the service. The carol singing will continue for each Sunday of Advent through December 24th.

If you enjoy singing or hearing the carols, come out to our Sunday and holiday service and join in this joyous time of Advent. More voices united enhance the beauty of the carols and make the season merrier. Bring a list of your favorite carols and join us in singing them with you.

Lowville Church Activities

Do you have suggestions for what you would like to see taking place in the church? Perhaps a Prayer Group, meeting at the church on a week day or evening for discussing the readings of the coming Sunday scripture, or learning personal prayers.

Maybe the younger members of the church would enjoy learning the Lord's Prayer or the 23rd Psalm. Senior congregants and neighbors may enjoy having a Drop-in Centre for gathering and sharing ideas, interests, and making friends. Programs could include speakers of interesting topics, games, social functions, or short trips to restaurants and local attractions.

In comparison to all other meeting places for match-making, or friendship clubs, etc. there is no

better place for meeting others for friendship, companions, or for enjoying mutual interests, than in church.

People of all ages come to church, from mere babies to the eldest of family members, and they are open to friendship and conversation. Everyone has a need, everyone can fill a need, and this fulfillment can be found in church.

There is also a need for a Pastoral Care Chair Person and others to take participation leadership roles for the formation of the various groups. If this is something that you would like to consider,

please **contact Owen or Marilyn at 905-681-0864.**

The past several years have been trying ones for our congregation, our givings have been decreasing such that we have had to use the Kerns estate monies for our day to day expenses.

In 2005 our givings were approximately \$6,000.00 less than our expenses even though our ministerial and secretarial expenses were significantly less than they will be this year. We have approximately sixty-nine families on our register with only about forty families contributing regularly.

We require \$50,000.00 per year to operate the ministry and with forty families contributing that relates to \$1250.00 per family per year or \$25.00 per week. It is very understandable that some families cannot afford this amount but fortunately we have many who can and we are thankful for them.

Several years ago we introduced "PAR" or pre-arranged