



THE FLUCTUATING DATE OF EASTER

Last Sunday during the Children's Time, Draydon Scott asked me: "So... how come the date for Easter keeps changing?" I gave him the brief answer, but I thought he - and you - might be interested in a little more of its history. Rather than being a fixed date on the civil calendar like Christmas, the date for Easter is based on the lunar and solar calendars, and therefore it "floats". In the year 325, at the Council of Nicea, it was determined that "there must be one unanimous concord on the celebration of God's holy and supremely excellent day."¹ And so the Church agreed (at least in theory) to a common method by which to calculate the date for Easter.



While there were those who preferred the solar calendar, and others who held to the lunar, a compromise was reached. **The date would be the first Sunday following the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox.** It was thought that the equinox always fell on March 21 in those days, so Easter can fall anytime between March 21 and April 25 (although it has never - yet - fallen on March 21st!).

For several hundred years the Western church has relied on this method. However, in 1582 when the Gregorian calendar came into use, the Eastern Church did not follow suit and generally had a different (later) date for Easter ever since.

Perhaps not surprisingly, there have been attempts made to arrive at a fixed date for this holy celebration. The World Council of Churches put forward a method for determining a date that would still change each year, but would at least be common to both Eastern and Western church traditions. Guess what? It never happened!

There have been suggestions that we assign it to the second Sunday in April. Others wanted the set date of April 9th (believing this to be closest to the actual date of the resurrection). There has been no serious consideration given to any of the suggestions.

The reality is that the floating date has a long history. Firstly, it allows for the celebration to always be on a Sunday - commemorating the actual Resurrection Day. Too, by keeping with the lunar calendar, we honour the Jewish heritage that was Jesus' - and therefore, ours.

I know - more than you ever wanted to know - right?! But here is what I think is most important of all. Attending to a calendar that is out of step with the rest of our daily lives reminds us that Jesus is forever and always challenging us to be out of step with the ways of the world. As his followers we dance to a different rhythm. The fluctuating date of Easter- 'the supremely excellent day' - can help us recall this powerful truth!

Happy Easter, my friends!

In the Joy of the resurrection,

Rev. Kelly

1. Epiphanius, 4th-century historian who recorded the actions of the Council of Nicea



INTRODUCING DAVID COOK

David was born in Central Cheboque, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia., the middle child of five boys. Their small farm, surrounded on three sides by water and one by woods, boasted a cow, chickens, and a few pigs. The boys always kept some animal from the woods as a "pet", maybe a deer or raccoon, even some pet crows! David's Dad's cousin owned a large dairy farm nearby and it was there where David and his brothers often played with their thirteen cousins.

Electricity had not been installed in the Cook home until the 1950's so its arrival was an exciting time for David and his brothers. He recalls one incident when they tried an experiment of their own, using two nails, an electric lamp cord with a plug at one end, and a wiener. They attached the nails to the cord, poked a nail in each

end of the wiener and then pushed the plug into the electric wall socket. The wiener blew up like a bomb and splattered in countless pieces on the walls, with bits hanging from the kitchen ceiling! Their mother was not pleased.

Another experiment David remembers vividly happened one day when he was peeved at one of his brothers. He knew that his brother would soon be coming home so he hooked up a battery to the metal latch on the porch door. Then he watched out the window for his brother who would get a surprise shock when he touched the latch. Suddenly he saw his father coming up the driveway in the school bus that he drove and before David realized what was going to happen, his father was out of the bus and had grabbed the latch, receiving the electric shock intended for David's brother! His Dad was somewhat peeved!

David attended the local Baptist Church and Sunday School. He always walked to the community's one-room school where he spent his first seven grades. He recalls it being a good schooling system because if he finished the assignment for his grade, he could sit and listen to the lessons being taught to the other grades. From grade eight and on, he stayed with his grandparents in Yarmouth and attended school there. It was in high school where he met his future wife Sandra. By grade eleven he had decided to leave school behind so he walked down the street to the recruiting office and joined the army.

His first experience with the army was with the Canadian Signal Corps. He did twenty-three weeks of basic infantry training in Kingston, Ontario, followed by advanced infantry training, and several months of training officers from the Royal Military College in combat tactics. This was followed by his trades training and then a posting to Camp Gagetown where he worked with the artillery for several years. From there he went to Africa for eight months to serve with the UN Forces in the Belgian Congo. His next posting was to Hammonds Plains, NS where he worked both in Halifax and Debert. Then it was back to Camp Gagetown for several years.

He left the military in 1968 and worked as a cook on the scallop boats out of Yarmouth and later on the CN Marine car ferry from Yarmouth to Bar Harbour. From there he went into the funeral business. After spending three years as an apprentice in NS, he received his embalmer's license, becoming an Embalmer Funeral Director. The following year he moved to NB where he received his NB license. He worked for twenty years at McAdam's Funeral Home in Fredericton until a back injury forced him to retire from the business.

David has received various recognitions for his military service: The UN Medal for his posting to the Congo; the Canadian Peace Keepers Medal; the Canadian Decoration Medal for his twelve years of service; and two years ago he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize given to those who served on the United Nations Peace-Keeping Forces up until 1988.

David and Sandra were married in 1963. They have lived in Rusagonis for 36 years, have two daughters, Cindi and Emma Lou, and three grandchildren, Sevanna, Nathaniel (Nate) and Megan.

David enjoys hunting, trout fishing, and boating in his 16-foot Glastron boat on the St. John and Oromocto Rivers and at Mactaquac. He and Sandra have been on two cruises, one from Miami and one from New Orleans. They explored New Orleans three months before Hurricane Katrina had destroyed much of the city.

David has taught Fireman Safety and Hunter Education courses for twenty years. He and Sandra both belong to a Black Powder Rendezvous group which has become a fun hobby for them. They travel to Orland, Maine and turn back the years to before 1840, setting up camp, living in replicas of early canvas tents where, with the other members of the group, they shoot their muzzle loading muskets and cook as the people did in those early years. David adds, "If you want to see this type of camping, just go to 'The Pioneer Days' in Oromocto where we set up six or seven of these camps and you'll see us in action, all dressed in pioneer clothing. You will see musket firing, knife and tomahawk throwing demonstrations, and observe cooking skills over an open fire".

David enjoys writing poetry about special events in his life. One poem, featuring their Black Powder Rendezvous, was published in "The Muzzle Blast" magazine. He has also composed a hymn which was set to music by Fred Brett.

New Maryland United has been the church home for David and his family. He has served on the Session, the Ministry and Personnel Committee, the Nominating Committee and at one time enjoyed singing in the choir. His many friends at NMUC wish him and Sandra many years of continued happiness.

Congratulations!

Rev. Kelly's friends at NMUC congratulate her on her acceptance at the Chicago Theological Seminary where she will be studying towards her Doctorate. She is wished every success in her new venture as she continues to lead her flock at New Maryland United!



SPRING FUNDRAISER

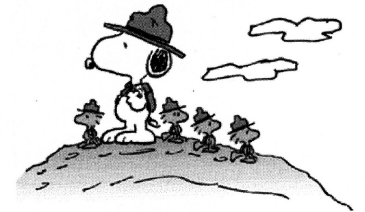
Spring is here and so is our annual Spring Fundraiser, often referred to as the "Hamless Supper". Just a reminder that this is our main fundraiser for the year. Monies raised go towards the daily running of the church. Any donation that you can make above your regular donation would be appreciated by the Stewards. Simply mark the amount in the "Special" category on your church envelope and write "Spring Fundraiser".

A LESSON

The following is the philosophy of Charles Schulz, the creator of the 'Peanuts' comic strip.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world. **2.** Name the last five Heisman trophy winners. **3.** Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant. **4.** Name 10 people who have won the Nobel Prize. **5.** Name the last six Academy Award winners for best actor and actress. **6.** Name the last ten years of World Series winners.

How did you do? The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten.



Now, here's another quiz. See how you do on this one: **1.** List a few teachers who aided your journey through school. **2.** Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time. **3.** Name three people who have taught you something worthwhile. **4.** Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special. **5.** Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Was the second quiz easier? The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money or the most awards. They simply are the ones who care the most!



A GENTLE REMINDER

No scents makes good scents! This way, even with allergies/sensitivities, we can all gather together. Thank you for caring and for helping to make our sanctuary a scent free area.

CHURCH ACCESSIBILITY

A sub-committee of the Board of Trustees has been formed to look into the possibility of making the church more accessible from the parking lot, and the basement more accessible from the sanctuary. If you have any thoughts or concerns, please speak to any member of the committee: Ralph Brannon, Paul Lister, Jim Merrill, Don Ostaff, Sheila Power and Dorothy Webster.



'YARD DAY' HELPERS NEEDED

The NMUC congregation is invited to a general 'Yard Clean Up' on Saturday morning, May 14th at 9 a.m. Please come with your rake and shovel to help tidy the church grounds.

"Many hands make light work."



BOOK EXCHANGE



The Green Committee has set up a book exchange for interested readers. Contributors are being asked to bring in no more than six used books, in good condition, preferably paperbacks, for the exchange held every second Sunday. Children's books or magazines are not being included at this time. The next exchange will be May 1st. Look for the display in the area near Kelly's office. Please help yourself to a couple of books at no cost and help in NMUC's recycling program.

THE 2011 MS WALK

Please join Pam Gonnason in her efforts to end Multiple Sclerosis! As a member of the 'Team Crazy Legs', she wants to see her team keep the status of Top Fredericton Team for the 5th year running! The Fredericton MS Walk takes place on May 29th. Since 2006 their little team has raised over \$30,000! Every donation, big or small, can make a difference. See Pam for more details.



WARNING!!

Let this be a warning to all UCW ladies. When at a meeting, if you remove your shoes, hide them!



OUR WEBSITE



The NMUC Website will soon be constructed and available to computer users. Because The United Church of Canada is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information, we are requesting your support in allowing us to use certain personal information about you on our website. Without this consent we cannot use names or any other personal information. Questionnaire forms have been distributed and many have been returned. It is hoped that the remaining ones will soon be completed and returned to the church as soon as possible.

CALLING ALL LADIES!

The UCW will be ending their meeting year with a social outing to the Fredericton Inn. Reservations are being made for dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11th. Any women in the congregation who may wish to join us for this special time of food and friendship would be more than welcome. Please let Dorothy Webster know if you plan to attend by calling 457-9795. Dorothy is currently in the position of UCW president and has agreed to act as president for the next year. The next UCW meeting will be held on the second Wednesday in September.



FROM THE CHOIR LOFT



Our organist and director, Jennifer, remains out on sick leave. We are grateful to Karen for coming to our rescue and providing music for our services during her absence. Get well, Jennifer.

"OLD QUILTERS NEVER DIE ... THEY JUST GO TO PIECES!"

The quilters are presently working on their 41st quilt, with three more waiting in the wings. They quilt year round and sometimes when the opportunity presents itself they quilt for the day, bringing a potluck lunch. If you are so inclined, they would love to have you join them!



REACHING OUT TO HELP OTHERS



On the 3rd Monday of each month, people from our church volunteer at Christ Church Cathedral to offer sandwiches and fellowship to assist in their weekly outreach efforts. On the 4th Saturday of each month, volunteers from our church help from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in preparing and serving lunch for the clients at the Fredericton Community Kitchen. If you would like to assist with either of these outreach programs, please contact Peter Dickinson.

EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW, I LEARNED FROM NOAH'S ARK!



1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat!
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask YOU to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on higher ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- 9: When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

(Submitted by Sue Harris)

DID NOAH FISH?



The Sunday School teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"



The Friendship Group's May luncheon will be held on Monday, May 2nd at 12 noon. Reservations have been made at the Swiss Chalet, Prospect St., Fredericton. Meet at the church for car pooling at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to join us for fun, fellowship and food. For information please contact Ruth Landers (459-8304) or Marjorie Olmstead (459-7328).

FROM THE GREEN COMMITTEE



Mardi Tindal was elected Moderator of the United Church of Canada in 2009. She knew that managing her carbon footprint would be difficult with all the travelling she would be expected to do during her three year term. So she challenged the Church to help her reduce the impact of that travel. She chose to do as much of her travelling as possible by the 'green friendly' form of transportation, the train. Thus the 'Spirit Express' was born.

In the Toronto/Ottawa area, she is scheduling Town Hall meetings focused on environmental concerns and the care of creation. She sees these Town Hall meetings as opportunities for 'soulful conversations' about how we can find ways to live abundantly within the natural limits of God's creation.

In May she will be in Halifax to meet with the Maritime Conference. In October she will again board 'The Spirit Express' to visit the Hamilton and London Conferences.

Tindal has remarked on the number of faith communities that are responding to the challenges of climate change. There's Elliot, a university student, who believes in the strength and responsibility of church communities to take environmental action. Then, there's Paul, an engineer in sustainability studies, who said, "Science isn't enough to change minds. We need people of faith to change hearts."

Those who wish to follow the Moderator's travels on the Spirit Express can do so by visiting:

www.wondercafe.ca/spiritexpress

(Taken from article by Mary-Frances Denis, Program Coordinator, Media and Public Relations, United Church of Canada.)

HOW TO PLANT YOUR GARDEN

First, you come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses. Then

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

1. Peas of mind.
2. Peas of heart.
3. Peas of soul.



PLANT THREE ROWS OF LETTUCE:

1. Lettuce be faithful.
2. Lettuce be kind.
3. Lettuce really love one another.



PLANT THREE ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip.
2. Squash grumbling.
3. Squash selfishness.



PLANT THREE ROWS OF TURNIPS:

1. Turnip for meetings.
2. Turnip for service.
3. Turnip to help one another.



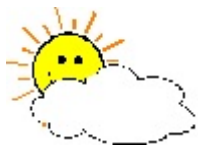
TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN, WE MUST HAVE THYME:

1. Thyme for each other.
2. Thyme for family.
3. Thyme for friends.



WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE.

A GARDENER'S BLESSING



May the bunnies never nibble on your young and tender shoots.
May your transplants settle in and put down hardy roots.
May your weeds come out real easy and your lawn be fungus free.
May you never put your back out or inhale a bumblebee.
May your roses never stab you or your hoses spring a leak.
And may everyone come calling when your garden's at its peak.
May you never grow too weary as you toil for hours and hours.
And may you never be too busy to stop and smell the flowers!



HAPPY GARDENING !

(Submitted by Betty Barker)



AN ARCHIVAL MOMENT - FORTY YEARS AGO



1971-72

The hand-hewn supporting beams in the basement were covered with a tiled ceiling and the walls were panelled.

THE NEW MARYLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE'S FAREWELL



The New Maryland Women's Institute was organized in 1915 with 13 members on the roll. The following year fund raising campaigns began in the hopes of building a hall. In 1917 construction began and a year later it had been completed. It was named the Victoria Hall in honour of Queen Victoria, the longest reigning British monarch. Throughout the years, as money became available, additional work was done on the hall, electricity being installed in 1931.

The W. I. members made donations to the Fredericton Children's Orphanage, Fredericton's Victoria Hospital, the victims of the Halifax Explosion, and to shut-ins in the local community. During World War II, wool quilts, baby clothes, knitted socks, sweaters and scarves were sent overseas. Gifts were given to soldiers returning from overseas duty and baskets of food were given to the sick and elderly. To support these causes, fund raising events through the years included such events as Bring & Buy Sales, Flea Markets, and Free Will donations. The members were always ready to help those in need.

One highlight during the years was an exchange trip, ten of the members visiting a Newfoundland Women's Institute group in 1974. The following year they welcomed the members of that Newfoundland group to New Maryland. In 1976 the members attended the official opening of the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital and donated a

wheelchair to the new facility. The members have enjoyed travelling to various places of interest in our own province, including Campobello Island, Taylor House in Doaktown, and a pleasure cruise on the Pioneer Princess.

In 1993 the Victoria Hall was moved further back from the New Maryland Highway and placed on a new foundation. Ten years later its ownership changed hands from the New Maryland Women's Institute to the Village of New Maryland. The village has since completed a number of renovations to the hall and developed an attractive park on the grounds including a Veteran's Memorial where annual Remembrance Day services are held.

Many members have come and gone since the organization began in 1915. Among the last members are five of our own church congregants: Doris Gorman, Carol Charters, Maudie Boyle, Betty Barker and Ruth Anderson. Former NMUC members, now deceased, Nell and Myrtle Charters, were life members of the NMWI.

The W. I. members continued to meet in the hall until April of this year when after much deliberation it was agreed to disband the group. Sadly, after almost 96 years of serving the community and beyond, the New Maryland Women's Institute has ceased to exist.

POLITICS AND RELIGION: A MESSAGE FROM THE UCC GENERAL COUNCIL

We may be on the brink of seeing the lowest voter turnout in Canadian history. As people of the living Christ, this kind of "business as usual" attitude toward the great privilege of voting is itself a turning away from fullness of life in community.



With other Canadian churches, we have been praying for all who live in Canada and for all who offer themselves for public office. As faith leaders we have also been meeting with parliamentarians of all federal parties, urging them to pay particular attention to matters of poverty, Indigenous concerns, and climate justice in this election.

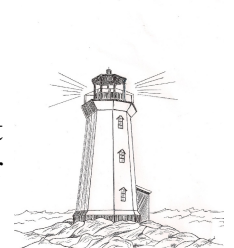
Mostly, though, we encourage you to participate fully in this democratic process through prayer and action. It's wonderful to hear stories of lively all-candidates' meetings, and I commend you for all of these efforts.

If you're looking for help to shape questions for candidates on a variety of issues and concerns, you may find the resources on our United Church of Canada website helpful:

<http://www.united-church.ca/communications/news/general/110325>.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor: I just finished reading the February issue of 'The Beacon' and once again it is an excellent edition. I'm sure we all appreciate the work, time and effort put into this. I especially enjoy all your graphics. Anonymus



A PARTING THOUGHT

Most people walk in and out of your life, but FRIENDS leave footprints in your heart.

A BLESSED EASTER TO ALL

At Easter time new hope awakes
Within our hearts as morning breaks.
Sunshine and lilies breathe a prayer
Of thanks that God is everywhere.

