

THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Date: May 2024

Editor: D. Mills

Hello Bethany!



This is our monthly newsletter. This serves as a snapshot of what is happening for our community of faith.

You are encouraged to share a story or announcement.

Send along an email to office@bethanyunitedchurch.ca or contact us at 902-455-0521, x. 221.

The deadline for June 2024 newsletter submissions: Wednesday, May 22nd by Noon.

*If you or know of someone who would like to receive a hard copy of this newsletter, let us know! We will saddle up our snails!

Guess the Phrase

Send an email with your response: office@bethanyunitedchurch.ca

DOUBT
DOUBT

Answer will be shared in

JUNE 2024 Community Spirit

BULLETIN FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

It's important that the church is a welcoming and safe place.

Our security system helps ensure that our staff, volunteers, and building are kept safe from harm. It is also a benefit for insurance coverage.

In 2005, digital surveillance cameras and upgrades to the perimeter alarm system took place. Keyless entry was added in 2015.

The current system is comprised of cameras, motion sensors, alarms, intercoms, swipe card access points and alarm pads.

Bethany's security system is maintained by Allen Security and monitored by Armstrong Security. Our 2023 monitoring cost was \$240.

In 2024, the BOM is planning on undertaking a review of its security system.

Please let the church office know if you are interested in being a part of this review.

Safe Ministry Update

Fire doors are an integral part of fire safety strategy and common sense would suggest that for them to be an effective barrier against potential toxic smoke and flames, they would remain closed at all times – however, it is, unfortunately, quite common-place to find these vital doors propped open for various reasons in our building!

Please do your part to ensure our building's protection from fire is not compromised and keep the designated fire doors closed. These doors are not on an automatic release mechanism, so if you prop it open, you are to close the door once the need is over.

Guess the Phrase

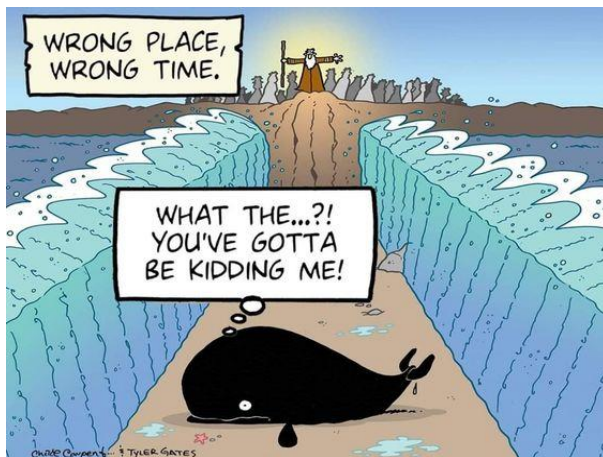
gnikool

ANSWER:

This rebus went unanswered. If you think you know, send an email in!

The right response contributor will be included in June's newsletter.

😊 Holy Humour



Our hearts, minds and spirit are all open. Along with our physical space.

Expect when you visit to continue to adhere to precautionary measures and good health screening checks to occur throughout common areas of the building to reduce exposure to COVID-19 and to assist with safety of all. Please do your when visiting the church for worship or attending a planned ministry opportunity or meeting. The Board of Managers require all to adhere to the procedures in our church complex as recommended by Nova Scotia Public Health and our In-Person Implementation Team (IPIT). **Call 902-455-0521 to reach:**

- **Pastoral Care/Lead Minister: Kevin Little x.222 (or Press 1)**
- **Ministry Resource: Dana Mills x. 221 (or Press 2)**
- **Building Care: James Sweet (Caretaker) & Board of Managers x. 221 (or Press 2)**
- **Finance: Tina Gascon x. 225 (or Press 3)**
- **Ministry of Music: Shawn Whynot x.223 (or Press 4)**
- **Children & Family Care: Louisa Duck x. 224 (or Press 5)**
- **Community Engagement: Ann Bradley x. 227 (or Press 6)**

READ ALL SIGNS AT ALL ENTRANCE POINTS. THEY HAVE BEEN PLACED THERE BY GOD'S LOVE.

CLEAN HANDS – KEEP SPACE FROM OTHERS – SCREEN YOUR HEALTH – BE KIND

Visit our website: www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel: Bethany United Halifax

Follow us on Facebook @bethanyunitedhfx and Instagram @bethanyunited

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday -Friday 10am-3pm.

Message from Executive Board

Welcome to May as we experience more sunny days indicating that Spring has arrived! It is a busy time at Bethany as we undertake the major initiative of reviewing our Community of Faith to produce our Profile for the UCC and launch into our search for our new Pastoral Relationship. As was mentioned at the AGM in early April, we are approaching this with the efforts of key groups: Leadership Team, Profile Team, Supply Team, and Data/Statistical Team. As of this writing the membership of these groups is being established but please feel free to offer your time and talents to serve with these Teams or help out if asked to assist.

Even though we are enjoying the sun and warmer days, we have not lost sight of the need to prepare for the “cooler days” of the autumn and winter by upgrading our heating system. The Boiler Committee of the Board of Managers has worked diligently on our behalf to investigate the options available to replace the aged boiler. Their report was circulated to the congregation by email but also was reviewed in person at a well-attended Special Congregational meeting held April 22nd. The culmination of the meeting was full support to proceed with the Boiler committee’s recommendations, the key first step being the acquisition of a new gas fired boiler. We thank the Boiler Committee for their efforts over the last year investigating the solutions so thoroughly and for their ongoing leadership in bringing their plans to fruition.

At that meeting, Rob Steeves, our Treasurer, outlined key financial concerns and potential ways to address them. Stay tuned for further updates regarding this but obviously continued commitment to our stewardship for Bethany is essential.

Many activities continue at Bethany daily—it is a busy place! One major event occurring in May is the “Bargain Bonanza and BBQ” being hosted by the Bethany Sunday School and held in the Fellowship Hall and Gym. This will be from 10am-2pm on Saturday, May 25th---mark it in your calendars! Everyone has commented on how they have missed the fun of the Fall Fair that was held prior to Covid times. Now is your time to support this endeavour by attending the event, donating items to sell, or helping out with accepting donations. More details are available in this Community Spirit or in the inserts with the weekly bulletins.

Once again thank you to all of the volunteers who help out in so many ways to make Bethany such a wonderful Community of Faith and also special thanks to the Bethany staff who help support us all in so many ways! ~ Charles Maxner & Glen Knapp, Co-Chairs

THINGS TO KNOW FROM THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

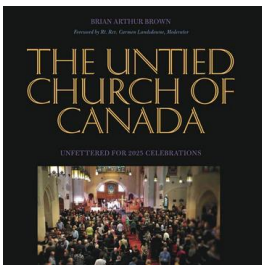
Deep, Bold, Daring – ENGAGE WITH OUR CALL AND VISION

REDUCED PRICE ON THIS BESTSELLER!!!!

“Much like to the Confederation of Canada which preceded it, the glorious church union that formed The United Church of Canada was consummated by straight, white, English, male settlers. On June 10, 1925, there was no vote, no voice, and no participation by women, LGTBQ2S+, Indigenous, Black, and Asian Canadians (or even francophones, in the case of the church). Then in freedom from unnecessarily restrictive credal and social traditions, those in racial, linguistic, and gender bondage got "untied" during the following century and share now in full participation and leadership....”

THE UNTIED CHURCH OF CANADA CAN BE ORDERED IN BULK TO SAVE.

Check out our, “**Did You Know**” page to learn about a historical connection Bethany United Church has with the author. Contact Dana, in the church office, if you might be interested in purchasing this book.



SUNDAY MORNINGS @ BETHANY UNITED CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICE @ 10:30am

In-Person - In Community – In Safe Ministry

The service will be streamed LIVE via our YouTube channel. Subscribe today: “BETHANY UNITED HALIFAX.” The link will also be uploaded to our website for recorded viewing. www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca



SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 10:30am

We are excited to welcome children and their families to our spirit-filled weekly ministry and life-giving learning space.

Register with Louisa @ lduck@bethanyunitedchurch.ca

(Sunday School is for children ages 3 to grade 9)

Entrance to access the Gymnasium is 2669 Joseph Howe Drive (ramp door)

MONTHLY QUOTE

“When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace.”

~ Jimi Hendrix

Prayer for May 2024

“Peace Within” by Minnie Louise Haskins

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you

May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us. Amen

Visit our website: www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel: Bethany United Halifax

Follow us on Facebook @bethanyunitedhfx and Instagram @bethanyunited

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday -Friday 10am-3pm.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MINISTRY



Bethany Meditation Group (20 minutes silent meditation, with some preamble...). 8-week session, WEDNESDAYS at noon, April 10 to June 5.

The meditation sessions are led by Yvonne Macor, based on 35 years experience studying Yoga, Vedic knowledge, Buddhist and Christian methods, and meditation retreats.

JOY Luncheon (Just Older Youth) next happens **Tuesday May 7th** at **Noon, in the Fellowship Hall.** Join us for a light lunch and guest speaker for \$10.

Gluten Free option available if you contact Ann by May 5th.

Please sign up or register by email or phone with Ann by May 5th.

Our guest speaker is Bethany's own Thomas Duck. Thomas returned this past December from studying and travelling in Australia.

We look forward to hearing about his exciting adventures!

Piercey Peace Garden Picnic and Prayer - Kevin and Ann invite you to join them in the Piercey Peace Garden for three Tuesdays at 12:00 noon May 14, 21, and 28.

Bring your own picnic lunch as we gather for fellowship, scripture, reflection and prayer. Come and enjoy this beautiful space which is lovingly cared for by Linda and Mark Knechtel. (If the weather is not suitable we will meet in the Fellowship Hall).

YOUTH GROUP Sunday Evenings from 7:00pm – 8:30pm. (September - June)

This is an opportunity for youth in Junior and Senior High School to expand and deepen their faith in a safe and faithful community of peers. Each evening begins with a group check-in and a theme-based discussion with a related activity such as an outreach project; followed by a time of hanging out and eating snacks, which are available for purchase. For the rest of the evening, we play games, everything from crazy run around games to community building games.

ISANS (Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia) Conversation Circle at Bethany: Are you wondering if this volunteer opportunity at Bethany may be a good fit for you? Then drop in to one of our Monday afternoon sessions 1:45 – 3:00pm in the Ladies Parlour and see what it is all about!

The Conversation Circle for newcomers with Julie MacDonald and Roxanna Villacorta, ISANS Instructors, and Bethany volunteers, engage in very beginning level conversation with new immigrants age 45 plus. Come give it a try, this may be something you might like to volunteer for now or in the future! Our Spring Session ends June 3rd. We take a break for the summer months and resume in the fall. Please contact Ann Bradley.

Music Ministry

The Bethany **Handbell Choir** enjoys ringing the wonderful brass handbells that create a rich and beautiful sound. This choir also enjoys ringing a great variety of musical styles from a multitude of time periods. This choir rehearses on **Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM** in the **Sanctuary**.

The **Senior Choir** is Bethany's Adult Choir open to all ages. If you enjoy singing in a group, why not give us a try. Fun Fact: Only a portion of the choir members are able to read music, many of them listen and learn the notes by ear. The choir is a fun, social, and enthusiastic group that likes to explore a variety of musical styles. We rehearse on **Thursday evenings from 7:30 - 8:30 PM** in the **Fellowship Hall**.

If you are interested in joining one of the groups above please speak to Shawn Whynot, Director of Music.

The Spring 2024 session of the **“Bethany Pluckers”** – our very own ukulele group begins **Wednesdays, 6:45pm, April 17 – May 22.**





STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY At Bethany we have many options for members/adherents and visitors to contribute to the life and work of our faith community. All donors are assigned a number when a donation is received and will be eligible for an official receipt at the end of the year. Many regular donors choose to give weekly through our contribution envelopes.

If you are currently set up to receive a boxed set, but either wish to switch to PAR (monthly giving via direct deposit) or stop receiving these sets and simply give as you are able, please contact Tina Gascon, x. 225 so she can assist and make desired changes. Unused envelopes can be returned to the church office.

We try to remain focused with recycling and reduce our impact on Creation.

.....

2023 Financial Report from our accountants have been received and are available for pick up from the church office during open hours. Would you wish to ask questions or provide feedback, please speak to Rob Steeves, our Treasurer, or contact Tina Gascon, our Finance Officer.

Visit our website: www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel: Bethany United Halifax

Follow us on Facebook @bethanyunitedhfx and Instagram @bethanyunited

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday -Friday 10am-3pm.



LOCAL OUTREACH

THANK YOU for your **continued support with our efforts to collect items that are needed throughout the greater community**. Your donations are greatly appreciated! The following donation items can be placed in the main entranceway of the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings or at the Joseph Howe entrance through the week during office hours 10:00 – 3:00 PM

Dignity. Period. A campaign to help people with periods in Nova Scotia afford the menstrual products they need. Donations of pads, tampons, and menstrual cups are welcome and will be disbursed to local food banks.

Food Bank Donations: Non-perishable food items with a particular need for nutritious items such as canned beans and legumes, vegetables and vegetable soup, canned fruit, pasta, canned tomatoes, rice, rice noodles, nut butters and whole grain breakfast cereals. Any donation you are able to make would be greatly appreciated.



Support our SUNDAY SCHOOL “FUN”draiser!

Don't forget to purchase your SUNDAY SCHOOL QUILT DRAW tickets in support of “Out of the Cold” during Coffee Hour or from the church office during the week.

Tickets will be sold until May 19th!

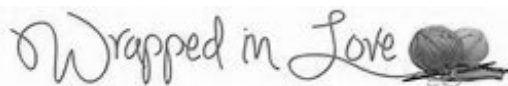
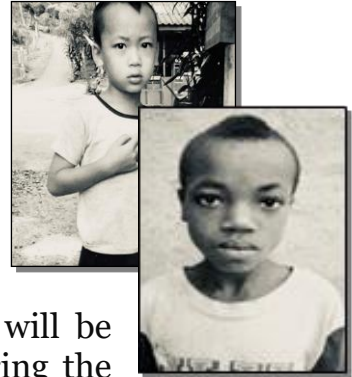
Price: \$10.00 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$20.00

Children and Family Care Ministry

Contact Louisa Duck for more information.

FOSTER FAMILY

Bethany United Church sponsors two children for Plan International Canada Ltd. Our Sunday School welcome all contributions in support of these beautiful beings over the year. Because of our care both, **Bayene & Phongsaphak**, and the community they live have a better life with access to quality education, clean water, latrines and sanitation systems, basic healthcare, and family livelihood. We do hope you will consider giving to this cause. Every cent collected will be counted. Please consider regularly giving to this ministry during the 2024 year. Our Sunday School appreciates the support of all who have donated to date.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Did you know Bethany United Church has a prayer shawl ministry? These are distributed over the year to those in need of support, celebrating an achievement, or to those we baptize. We often hear from those who have received prayer shawls attesting to the comfort they bring. We are always grateful for donations of these as well as materials and supplies needed to make these. Louisa Duck is the contact for this ministry, and she also has materials and supplies if you have the time and talent to share.

Funeral Reception Ministry

The Rev. Ewen Moase Fellowship Hall provides a beautiful space for a reception. At Bethany we have a ministry offering to grieving families. This ministry is funded entirely by donations and members of our community of faith volunteer to serve. If you feel called to contribute to this important hospitality ministry and taking part on a funeral ministry team might seem like a good fit, please contact Louisa Duck, for more information on how to lend a hand.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY – Earl & Janet Reid Scholarship

In memory of the late Earl & Janet Reid, dedicated Bethany members, this fund is to help United Church parishioners in the Halifax area attend post-secondary education. Visit Community Foundation of Nova Scotia for details. **Deadline to apply – May 15th!**

<https://cfns.ca/earleandjanetreidscholarship/>

Visit our website: www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel: Bethany United Halifax

Follow us on Facebook @bethanyunitedhfx and Instagram @bethanyunited

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday -Friday 10am-3pm.

Minister's Ministry (Kevin Little)

I have been sharing with you, in several blogs, my intention to retire in June 2025. That decision changed a few months ago, when a colleague urged me to consider working another five years. In prayer and reflection, I realized this was the right path forward. But serving another five years here, would mean a 15-year relationship with you. I am on record as saying, 15 years is too long, for the church, for the minister. I have never served anywhere longer than I served Bethany.

My departure will be 11 months earlier than expected. But it will follow eight and a half years of being your minister, certainly as long as the Search Committee who selected me were hoping in 2015. We were together for the traumatic COVID experience, and I believe this deepened our relationship. I have never shared a daily blog before, this provided me with many responses from you. I was honoured to receive these.

Bethany is the friendliest church I have served; coffee hour attendance and activity proves this beyond all doubt. Initially I know there were concerns I was not traditional enough for Bethany. Most ministers start with a honeymoon, eventually that wears off. In my experience I feel it was the opposite, people were a little wary at the outset, but over time things really began to warm. I feel I am leaving at the warmest moment.

There are still 104 blogs to write, many Sundays to preach, a faith study to complete, many visits to share. I look forward to these, though please don't wait till June 23rd to arrange a visit. As I have said before, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with you. I have many, many great memories. I am proud of so many things we did together.

God bless you and the gifts you share, to build community, to embody the kin-dom. Your loud companion. Peace, Kevin (Blog from... Sunday March 17, 2024)

MINISTER MUSINGS is a daily blog by Kevin...

<https://www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca/ministers-blog/>

Pastoral Care If you need to see him in-person, he is available, "I am always here for you... well until June 30th (nudge, nudge, wink wink!)" If a phone call would be helpful, let him know. If you email him, you will receive a response quickly. He is not hard to reach. His cell number is 902-817-2782.



**MackInnon Unit of the United Church Woman
will meet on Thursday, May 16th, 2024, at Noon**

The UCW MacKinnon Unit final meeting for this spring will be a lunch at Ela Greek Restaurant in Bayers Lake on Thursday, May 16 at 12 noon.

We will be in the Private Dining Room. All women are invited.

For further details call Kathy Brown, 479-3115



God's Love Is Wider

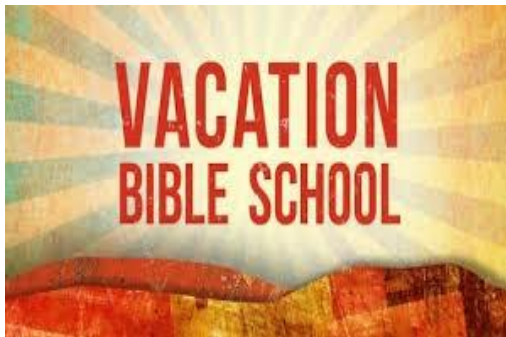
Bethany's Affirming Working Group will be hosting workshops and events in the upcoming months as we continue our journey of exploring what it means to be an Affirming Congregation. Please stay tuned for further details. For more information regarding Affirm United, available resources and upcoming events, please visit our **Affirming Ministry** page on our Bethany website **<https://www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca/affirming-ministry>**.

The Affirming Working Group can be reached at:
bethanyaffirming@gmail.com.

We welcome new members and questions, opinions or concerns you may wish to share with the committee.

Bethany's Affirming Working Group invites you to *Words of Affirmation*, an evening of uplifting music, a short documentary film, Q&A and refreshments. Tuesday May 14th 7:00 – 9:00 PM Fellowship Hall. A good will offering will be received at the door. Please give as you are able.

*We are pleased to present **The Women Next Door**, a Halifax based lesbian feminist a cappella choir. They sing to support each other, to have fun, and to address issues such as women's empowerment, lesbian visibility, queer rights, peace, love, and other social justice issues. They believe that song and harmony can deliver a powerful message. Join us as we seek to understand through music and word what it means to live more fully into God's way of welcome, love and justice for all creation.*



SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School

July 8 -12, 2024 @ 9am - 12pm

For ages 4 to 11 years old

Theme to be announced soon! Contact Louisa for information or to offer your support.

2024 Transfer of Membership

We welcome all who are interested in joining the UCC or in transferring their membership to Bethany from another community of faith. If anyone would like to know more, please contact Kevin Little, 902-455-0521, x. 222 or kevin.little@eastlink.ca and you can discuss the specifics. It is an easy process. All people who gather at Bethany United Church for their spiritual care are part of our church family.

Visit our website: www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel: Bethany United Halifax

Follow us on Facebook @bethanyunitedhfx and Instagram @bethanyunited

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday -Friday 10am-3pm.

Bethany's "Bargain Bonanza & BBQ" is fast approaching!

It's that time of year, folks! The Bethany Sunday School is getting ready to host the "Bargain Bonanza & BBQ" on Saturday, May 25th, from 10 AM - 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall and Gym. The children are excited to get started, and we need your help! Please keep us in mind as you're sorting through things this winter and as you begin your spring cleaning.

We will begin accepting donations starting

Sunday, April 14th ending May 19th, in the gym,

use ramp door at 2669 Joseph Howe Drive side of building for delivery.

Drop Off Times:

9:30-10:15 am (before Sunday Worship)

11:30am - 12:30pm (after Sunday Worship)

10am - Noon (Wednesdays)

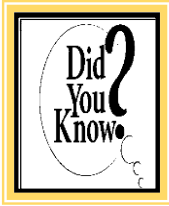
Keep an eye out for volunteer sign-up sheets and look for a way to help! We're looking forward to hosting this fun event. Thank you and stay tuned!

Items to donate:

- **Small electronics and appliances:** clock radios, coffee makers, toaster ovens, Instant Pots, bread makers, slow cookers, etc.
- **Outdoor and Sports gear:** camping, skiing, hockey, baseball, croquet sets, boules, etc.
- **Tools:** hand tools, small power tools like saws, drills, etc.
- **Wall art**
- **Kitchen essentials:** dishes, cutlery, utensils, serving dishes and platters.
- **Linens:** sheets, pillowcases, bathroom towels, tea towels, tablecloths, cloth napkins, runners, table toppers, doilies, etc.
- **Books:** children's books; adult novels
- **Retro and Curio:** small home décor items such as lamps, vases, figurines, throw cushions, etc.
- **Accessories:** luggage, backpacks, purses, wallets
- **Christmas decorations**
- **Children's toys**

We ask that everything be clean, and in working order when it is dropped off. As you may remember from previous flea markets, there is a cost to the church if we have to dispose of items.





In the new book, ***THE UNTIED CHURCH*** Bethany United Church is mentioned in a significant way on page 88. A copy of the book is in the church office, would you like to check it out. Here is a letter from the author, who has strong ties to our community of faith...

Dear Friends at Bethany

About 75 years ago I joined the TYRO boys' group at Bethany, also got confirmed there 70 years ago, and then became a candidate for ministry from that wonderful congregation before ordination in 1966. With internships, ordained appointments, and many years as Retired Supply, I have spent sixty years now in pulpits across Canada but became known as much as an author as anything else.

That is how we renewed acquaintances about ten years ago when I came to Halifax on a speaking tour, and was privileged to preach at Bethany, which I still think of as my "home church," on the Sunday morning. There was a Nova Scotia book launch that evening at St. Andrew's United Church, before a good crowd, about half of whom seemed to be from Bethany, and many of you bought copies of my book, *THREE TESTAMENTS: Torah, Gospel, and Quran*, which sought to address problems we still see in the world today.

There will not be a Nova Scotia launch for my latest of 20 books over the years, but those of you who read the United Church *Broadview* magazine may have seen many features about it under the title *THE UNTIED CHURCH OF CANADA* – with another reference in the next issue. That is not a spelling error in the title; it is a book about our denomination shaking off certain shackles that have been holding us back in recent years, getting "unfettered" for the 100th anniversary of the United Church in 2025, and moving forward into our second century with confidence. Bethany is mentioned in the book on pages 44 and 45.

Among other things, my new book describes how The United Church Foundation is sponsoring anniversary celebrations next June for congregations gathering in clusters of six or eight churches. In Halifax they hope to organize two such clusters, and asked my opinion about which two congregations should be asked to act as hosts for the two clustered evening services on next June 8. I suggested St. Matthew's (which heard about this, quickly agreed, and seized the opportunity), and Bethany (partly because I love that church, but also because you are at the other end of the city).

The foundation will be contacting you this summer, to make arrangements, if you are willing, and I urge you not to miss this chance to experience our denomination in strength, and on your turf. To give you more information about this opportunity, the United Church Foundation has sent ten copies of *THE UNTIED CHURCH* to your church office, for passing around among your congregational leaders. I think The Rev. Kevin Little already has a copy, and I am guessing that his future congregation of Woodlawn United Church may become the host church for the Dartmouth cluster.

Best wishes to you all in your great ministry to that section of my old hometown.

Brian

Brian Arthur Brown, Niagara Falls, Visit his website: www.BrianArthurBrown.com

Visit our website: www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel: Bethany United Halifax

Follow us on Facebook @bethanyunitedhfx and **Instagram** @bethanyunited

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday -Friday 10am-3pm.