



# FORT MASSEY UNITED CHURCH



[www.fortmasseychurch.com](http://www.fortmasseychurch.com)

## *From the Pastor's Desk...*

A story is told about a turkey farmer who was always experimenting with breeding to perfect a better turkey. His family was fond of the leg portion for dinner and there were never enough legs for everyone. After many frustrating attempts, the farmer was relating the results of his efforts to his friends at the general store get together. "Well I finally did it! I bred a turkey that has 6 legs!" They all asked the farmer how it tasted. "I don't know" said the farmer. "I never could catch the darn thing!"

Thanksgiving - a day that for many people is all about the turkey. Thanksgiving is not a religious holiday for them. So what is Thanksgiving about? It is, in the words of one writer, *a day for food and family and possibly for football*. That is a far cry from where it began.

Wikipedia - one computer website, defines Thanksgiving this way: *Thanksgiving Day is a harvest festival. Traditionally, it is a time to give thanks for the harvest and express gratitude in general. It is a holiday celebrated primarily in Canada and the United States.*

A harvest festival, a time

to give thanks. It sounds like a day for the church because exactly who do you give thanks to if not to God? And how does one give thanks to God, beyond singing a harvest hymn and offering a prayer of thanksgiving? We use words that are often inadequate and confusing. We talk about thanking God as if God is an outside force that controls rather than an inside force that propels us forward. The ground of our very being is love, and if we find that we begin to love, we can change the world with love.

An article in The Herald had this to say on the subject: *Generosity is not measured in absolute terms, nor is it reserved for "the wealthy". Often it is the everyday ordinary acts of kindness that have the greatest impact in our world.*

Thanksgiving is about more than food and family, but they are central to the day for most folk. For we eat and spend time surrounded by those whom we care about to remind ourselves of the blessings of our life, the good things, the reasons why we get up in the morning and try to change the world with our

own living.

This Thanksgiving may we find within ourselves a grateful heart and a generosity of spirit.

Blessings,

*Rev. Trent*

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## *Letter from the Moderator*

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Fall holds such paradox. Nature urges us to slow down and prepare for winter as we urge one another to speed up for another busy church year. Let's hold to both in this season, embracing prayerful contemplation and passionate action required of people of faith.

So as summer turns to autumn, I invite you to join me in three particular movements of prayer and action this fall:

First, please explore with me the theme of God's abundant healing of soul, community, and creation. As I listen and speak to you in my travels and through your comments to my blog, the connecting tissue between soul, community, and creation becomes clearer. This 9-minute video is an exploration: <http://www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada?gl=CA&hl=en#p/a/u/0/kzZpZbmDW7k>. I'd welcome further comments.

Most of my Conference visits in the coming year will be by train, the "Spirit Express," beginning with travels north and west from Toronto on Tuesday, October 12. My first stop is North Bay, then through Manitou Conference, the Conference of Manitoba and North Western Ontario, Saskatchewan Conference, and Alberta and North West

Conference. I'll continue with an eastern leg in 2011.

Town hall meetings, focused on responding with hope to climate and ocean change, are a feature of the journey. Everyone in your community is welcome to join these conversations: United Church people; those of other faith communities, and any who want to talk and work with others about these great moral challenges. I look forward to seeing you at these town halls.

As the Spirit Express makes its way from town to town, I expect that a parallel conversation will grow online. I'll be blogging and tweeting as I go, and invite you to participate with comments, photos, and videos. Please stay in touch with the rolling town hall conversations at: <http://www.wondercafe.ca/spiritexpress>.

Second, please join me in participating in a new liturgical movement: Creation Time in the Season of Pentecost.

Christians around the world are joining in this new season of worship focused on Earth's urgent need of our prayers and changed behaviour. Our United Church worship resources for each Sunday of Creation Time (which began on Sept. 12 and continues through October 10) are found at: <http://www.united-church.ca/planning/>

[seasons/creation](#).

On December 13, 2009, during the United Nations climate negotiations in Copenhagen, many of us around the world organized vigils, prayers, and activities, and rang bells or beat drums 350 times. We expressed our concern and commitment to hope-filled action for ecological justice. So we continue.

This year, the World Council of Churches suggests that we join the 10/10/10 campaign (<http://www.350.org/1010>)

with prayers, vigils, and other kinds of action. As it turns out, October 10 is our Thanksgiving Sunday. What better time to work for abundant healing? And thanks to you who have already joined me in writing letters to Canadian senators about the Climate Change Accountability Act, which will come to a vote this fall. See more at: <http://www.wondercafe.ca/blogs/moderator-mardi-tindal/moderator-mardi-tindals-blog-you've-given-me-hope>.

Third, please join me in prayer and action with our brothers and sisters of Pakistan.

Now and in the months and years to come, we must and will find new ways to help one another through the consequences of climate change, such as massive flooding. In a context of tragedy and fear, we show up as a people of love and

bring compassion and practical help.

You have received information about the United Church's response to the crisis in Pakistan, and the work of our Emergency Appeal for Pakistan. For every eligible donation made by individual Canadians to Canadian registered charities, such as our church, the government will continue to match those donations dollar for dollar until October 3. Find out more at: <http://www.united-church.ca/pakistan>.

I have decided to donate as much for Pakistan relief as I did for Haiti relief, and invite you to consider doing the same.

As I pray the scriptures, I'm reminded not to worry about my life but to strive for God's ways and God's realm of peace, justice, and the integrity of creation. We do so together. We are not alone as we begin another year of prayerful contemplation and passionate action.

Pentecost blessings,

***Moderator Mardi Tindal***



## Introducing Braiden Damien Isaiah Sampson

**"A grandchild fills a space in your heart, that you never knew was empty."**

And suddenly our world is a more wonderful place, when on July 6th we welcomed the newest member of our family!

Our first grandchild, Braiden, son of Dane and Shandelle Pottie, entered the world at 10:37 a.m. at the IWK Health Centre, Halifax, weighing in at 7 pounds, 13 ounces.

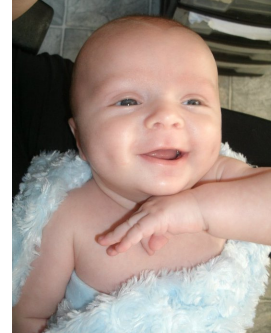
I had the privilege of being asked, by Shandelle and Dane, to be in the room for the actual birth, along with Shandelle's mom, Sheila, and her only sibling, her sister Cheyenne. It is an experience I will remember and cherish forever! Alan (a.k.a. Grandpops) and uncle Brennen (my oldest son) and other family members were waiting just outside the door and joined us moments after the delivery.

Shandelle and Dane are doing very well as first-time parents and Braiden is a happy, healthy baby boy. He is almost three months old and is smiling and start-

ing to verbalize. It is amazing to see how quickly he is growing and changing and we are enjoying every minute we get to spend with him.

I found this quote and I think it sums up how we are feeling: "A grandchild fills a space in your heart, that you never knew was empty."

*~Nana-Tosh  
(a.k.a. Holly)*



## The Humorous Happenstance of License Plates

While out for an amble earlier in the year I happened to notice the license plates of the two cars in a neighbour's driveway.

One started with CHK and the other with EGG.

I could not resist asking the neighbour which had come first – the chicken or

the egg!! Groan.

It turned out that they had not specifically picked the plates – so there **might** be someone in the department of motor vehicles with a good sense of humour.

OK. But this week, again being nosey while out walking, I noted that the EGG

vehicle was absent but that there was now one in the drive with a license plate starting with EUF.

So, of course, I had to ask the neighbour what had happened to his Anglo-phone egg - had it gotten cracked! It turns out the new license plate belongs to

a rental vehicle; and if we had 4 digit plates it should have been ouef! Again 'twas happenstance as they had not specifically selected the car for the plate.

It is so good to have funny neighbours – or at least their cars!

*By Ruth MacKenzie*



## Harvesting Weeds



*Lupins by an old farm house in Nova Scotia*

Do we reap what we sow? When I looked up the definition, I found that a **weed** in a general sense is a plant that is considered by the user of the term to be a nuisance, and is normally applied to unwanted plants in human-made settings such as gardens, lawns or agricultural areas, but also in parks, *woods and* other natural areas. More specifically, the term is often used to describe native or nonnative plants that grow and reproduce aggressively. Generally, a weed is a plant in an undesired place.

But, if a plant seems to overgrow a space, is it necessarily truly a weed?

When I came back to Nova Scotia and was looking for flowering plants which would require minimal care, I asked my sister to plant lupins for me - having seen them along the sides of Nova Scotian roads. My lupins are now happily taking over the plots in which I planted them and are giving great pleasure not only to me but to others who drive by! Indeed, this

spring I saw a 'strange' man lying on my front lawn taking pictures of some lupines that were blooming handily by some miniature lilacs.

Shortly after arriving back here, I also noted that some neighbours had Japanese lanterns growing in their garden. When I asked, they



*Japanese Lanterns - Physalis*

were kind enough to transplant some under my front yard tree. Having subsequently purchased some more of these plants, I learned that these too (Physalis) might be considered by some to be weeds! They are happily expanding and filling the space with their lovely orange colour. And they also provide an excellent dried flower for winter (as I found when I just harvested this fall's crop).

I then thought of the daffodils that grow around the lakes in Cumbria, England. As Wordsworth said: 'When all at once I saw a crowd, A host, of golden daffodils;

Beside the lake, beneath the trees, Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.' Are they considered by any as weeds? I doubt it.



*Daffodils growing in an old cemetery, Cumbria, England*

So what may to some eyes be weeds, to others they are a joy to behold - even if seeming to overgrow a space! What a glorious harvest indeed!

*By Ruth MacKenzie*



**ALL GOOD THINGS COME IN THREE...**

### HARVEST TEA

Saturday  
October 16  
2 - 4 pm  
Fort Massey Church Hall

### PHANTOMS OF THE PIPES

Saturday  
October 30th  
7:30 pm  
Fort Massey Church

### CHRISTMAS TEA & SALE

Saturday  
November 13th  
10:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Fort Massey Church Hall