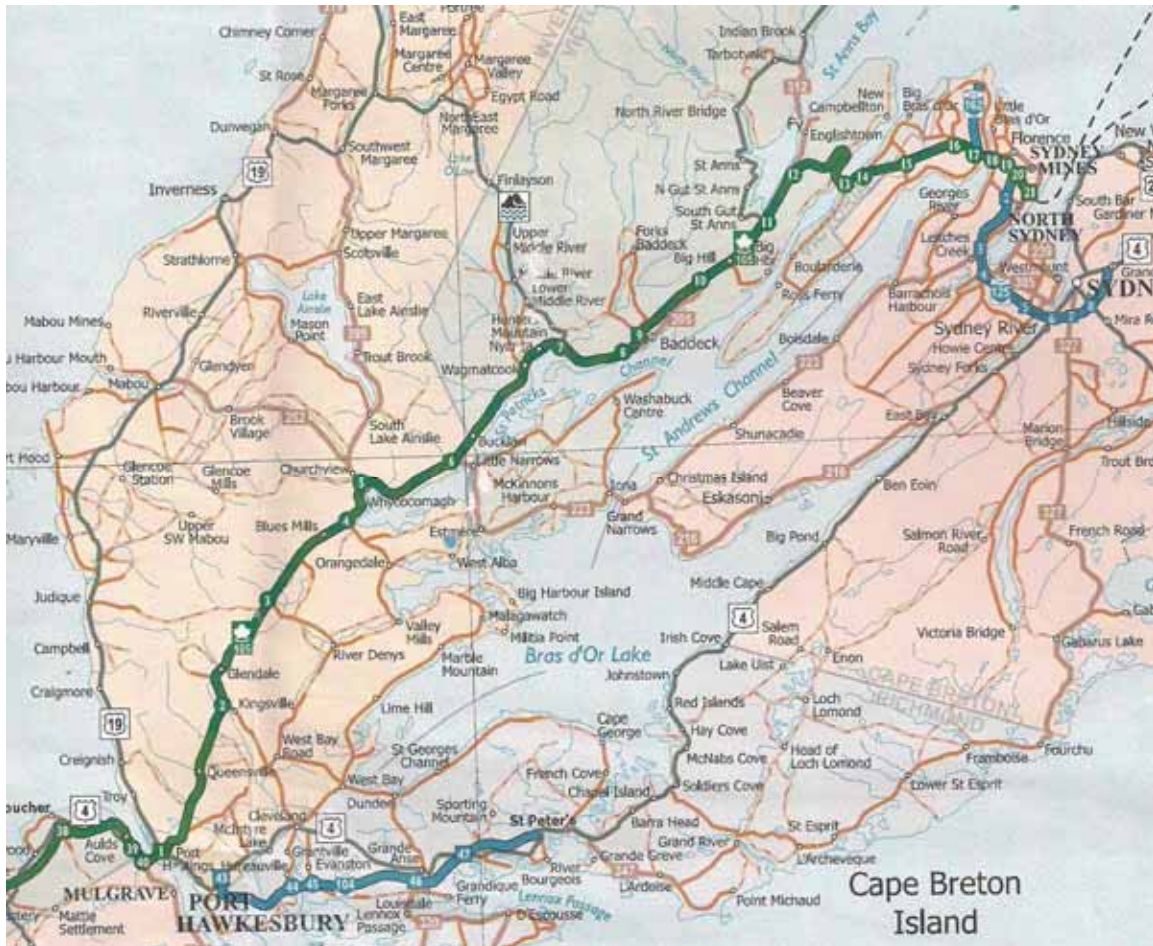


***JOINT NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
RIVER AND LAKESIDE PASTORAL CHARGE
2009***

OUR COMMUNITY PROFILE RIVER AND LAKESIDE PASTORAL CHARGE

Location: River and Lakeside Pastoral Charge is a multi point Charge located on the Bras d'Or Lakes and River Denys. Our Charge is located in a pristine part of Cape Breton, where we are blessed to be able to enjoy nature in all its beauty. Many enjoy the Bras d'Or Lakes (the largest saltwater lake in North America) for swimming, boating and fishing. We are able to take walks along the country roads and sandy beaches, breathing in the clean air and enjoying the peacefulness and serenity of the countryside.



Education, Culture and Shopping

The nearest school is located in Whycocomagh (13km). It is a community centered Primary to Grade Eight facility. The high school our Grade Nine to Grade Twelve attend is Dalbrae Academy in Mabou (45km). Students are bussed to both these facilities.

The Nova Scotia Community College, Strait Campus is located in Port Hawkesbury (51km). Cape Breton University in Sydney and St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish are approximately 100 km away.

Locally or within an hours drive, there are golf courses, bowling alleys, curling clubs, a provincial park and privately owned campgrounds, sailings clubs, hiking trails, arenas, wharves, opportunities for boating, fishing, swimming, cross country skiing, snowmobiling and four wheeling.

Cultural opportunities abound in this part of the world. There are several museums located in close proximity. Of particular interest are the Orangedale Station Museum and the Nova Scotia Highland Village in Iona. Historical societies are also active in the area.

First Nations communities exist in Waycobah and Malagawatch. These communities are rich in their culture and its expression. There are countless opportunities within driving distance to learn and experience the language and culture of the Scottish tradition. We have also welcomed a number of German, Swiss and Austrian families to the area.

Strathspey Place in Mabou and the Inverness County Center for the Arts in Inverness are beautiful performance centers where many cultural events take place. The Port Hawkesbury Civic Center in Port Hawkesbury also offers cultural events, as well as a wide range of recreational activities.

A well stocked general store is located right in the community of Orangedale. A CO-OP store, pharmacy, bank, post office, restaurants, service stations, Sears outlet, insurance office, Service Canada Site, Library Links, gift shop, garden centers, esthetic services and bakeries are found in Whycocomagh. Large grocery stores and shopping malls are located in Port Hawkesbury.

Health Care and Social Services

Doctors, dentists and medical clinics are available in Port Hawkesbury (51km), Baddeck (45km), Inverness (50km) and Whycocomagh. Hospitals are located in Evanston, Baddeck and Inverness. Regional hospitals are in Sydney and Antigonish. Nova Scotia Public Health offices are located in Port Hawkesbury. Homecare and homemakers services are available in our communities. Ambulance and paramedic service is provided by EHS. A Social Services summer camp is in operation just minutes from Orangedale.

Service Clubs

Clubs supported by people in our community include the Lion's Club, Royal Canadian Legion, Masonic Lodge, Shriners and Eastern Star

Volunteer Services

Fire Departments are located in Valley Mills, Blue's Mills, Waycobah and Whycocomagh. Both the Valley Mills and Blue's Mills department have well equipped kitchen facilities for catering to community events.

Special Homes

We are very proud of the L'arche community which has several homes and work opportunities for people with special needs in Orangedale and Iron Mines. Our communities have a very special relationship for they are an integral part of the fabric of our area. Core members and assistants attend church services and when asked, will lead us in very meaningful worship. A senior citizens complex is located in Orangedale. Nursing homes are in operation in Port Hawkesbury, Baddeck, Inverness and St. Peter's.

Churches in the Area

There are Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, United and Gospel Hall Brethren in the local area. We work together in time of need for the betterment of families of all denominations.

Industry and Economic Base

Many of our jobs revolve around our natural resources- gypsum and marble mining and forestry related work. Local businesses, healthcare and education professions employ numerous people in the area.

OUR PASTORAL CHARGE PROFILE
RIVER AND LAKESIDE PASTORAL CHARGE

WHO WE ARE

River and Lakeside became a pastoral charge in 1954 and is comprised of three country churches with three active congregations. These congregations include St. Matthews in Marble Mountain, Forbes in River Denys and Orangedale United in Orangedale. The individual histories of these churches go back many years. Christian witness has been evident as early as the 1830's.



St. Matthew's (Marble Mountain): Marble Mountain, nestled in the rolling hills of the North Mountain range overlooking the beautiful Bras d'Or Lakes, is noted for its scenic beauty. It was once the industrial capital of the Bras d'Or when its quarry was in operation. The remnants of these bygone days add to its beauty and have created a white sandy beach with blue and white marble chips which attracts thousands of visitors each summer. Several community groups work actively to improve the facilities, the knowledge of and the attractiveness of the area. Many improvements have been made to the wharf and beach in recent years. New permanent and summer residents continue to build homes in the area. In 2008, the congregation of St. Matthew's celebrated 105 years of ministry in the community. St. Matthew's presently serves 17 families of 28 people. The church can seat approximately 150 people and the community hall is available for church functions.

St. Matthew's Mission Statement: We, in the St. Matthew's United Church, in the pristine village of Marble Mountain, are a caring and accepting community reaching out spiritually and socially to all.



Forbes (River Denys): River Denys is located in the serene countryside of River Denys. Nestled beside the River Denys, in September 2009 we will be celebrating the 175th anniversary of the congregation and the 155th of the church building. Forbes is the largest congregation serving 28 families. At Christmastime we celebrate with a community Christmas concert and a family potluck supper. Young faces in our congregation look forward to their time with the minister on Sunday morning. The church has a Yamaha digital piano and is equipped with an effective sound system. It is also wheelchair accessible. We use the facilities of the Blue's Mills and Valley Mills Fire Departments for church functions requiring kitchen facilities.

Forbes' Mission Statement: Forbes is a caring community oriented church working in a rural setting. We welcome one and all, endeavoring to give expression to our faith through Christian witness, fellowship and service.



Orangedale United: The church was built in 1930. It will seat 200 people and has a full basement with hall, kitchen facilities and a bathroom. There are 23 families served by the church. The church is wheelchair accessible and a new roof and furnace have been recently installed. There is a wharf located on the Bras d'Or Lakes where boating and swimming are very popular. The Orangedale Station which was built in 1886 is of great pride to the community. It has been completely restored through community efforts.

Orangedale's Mission Statement: We, in the Orangedale United Church, as praying believers, minister to the needs of the community, the environment and the people within and beyond Orangedale, according to the way God leads us.



The Manse: The manse is located in Orangedale. It was built in 1954 and is a two storey home. It is located 0.06 km from the church. It is on a hill with a view of the water and the mountains to the north. It has a full basement suitable for storage. The first floor consists of the kitchen, dining room, living room with fireplace, laundry room with washer and dryer, small powder room and a good sized study with a window facing the lake. The manse has had major work done since 1993. Downstairs hardwood floors have been refinished, bathroom redone and the interior completely repainted. In 1998, all windows and exterior doors were replaced and new siding installed. In 2008, a new furnace was purchased and installed. As of May of 2009, a Presbytery inspection of the manse found it to be in good condition.

HOW DO WE FUNCTION

We have the basic structure of the United Church of Canada in place. Each congregation functions individually but we come together as a whole under the governing body of the Church Council. The executive includes a Chairperson, Past Chair, Chair Elect, Secretary and Treasurer; with representatives from all points of the Charge on the following active committees:

Worship

Ministry and Personnel

Stewards

Manse

Mission and Service

Session

Trustees

UCW

Church Services

Sunday services:

We have joint services each week, alternating among the three points of the charge. Services are currently held at 10:30am. We have been open to various changes in our worship in the past. Each clergy person has used the order of worship with which he /she is comfortable. Changes were made in consultation with the Worship Committee.

Other services: Ecumenical Holy Week services are held in cooperation with the Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and United Church congregations in Whycocomagh, Little Narrows, River Denys, Orangedale, Waycobah First Nations and Lake Ainslie. We also have an Easter Sunrise Service, an Ash Wednesday Service and a Christmas Eve Service.

Anniversary services: Anniversary services are held every five years in each congregation. One special celebratory service is held each July in the Malagawatch Union Church at the Nova Scotia Highland Village, Iona.

Membership:

Our combined membership is predominantly middle aged and seniors with a small percentage of children and young adults. Rural Nova Scotia is currently suffering from the out migration of young people for study and work. Being a rural area we are not immune to declining population which has some impact on our membership numbers and givings.

OUR RESOURCES PROFILE
RIVER AND LAKESIDE PASTORAL CHARGE

Revenue and Assets

Our money is received through envelope givings, plate collections and donations from friends of the congregation. A certain amount of fundraising is also done.

We have three churches and a manse which are all debt free.

Disbursements

Money is spent to cover operating expenses incurred in the Charge. We make donations to special appeals from the local communities as well as the world wide community.

Major repairs to the buildings are usually contracted out. Most minor repairs are done through volunteer labor. Janitorial services at each church are provided by volunteers.

Mission and Service

Mission and Service is an important part of our pastoral charge. For the last several years we have exceeded our commitment.

****Annual reports of the three churches and the Charge are enclosed. They contain the financial reports and committee reports which reflect the work of our congregations.**

The People

People are our greatest resource. There are capable lay persons in each congregation who currently read Scripture, Minutes for Mission and lead church services when necessary. Volunteering is what keeps our Charge functioning at the present level. Our people are aware of each other and each other's needs and respond when difficulty arises. In fact, the rural way of life is such that we reach out in personal ways to the community at large when a need exists. This more personal approach of rural living has enabled us to work effectively with those who were beginning their call to ministry with us.

Church Music

Our congregations very much enjoy the musical components of Sunday services. We are fortunate to have volunteers in our congregations who provide instrumental and vocal leadership. Each church uses Voices United and More Voices.

OUR POSITION PROFILE
RIVER AND LAKESIDE PASTORAL CHARGE

The Position

We are seeking a half time minister for the River and Lakeside Pastoral Charge consisting of Orangedale, Marble Mountain and River Denys in the County of Inverness, Nova Scotia. We are located within the boundaries of the Inverness Guysborough Presbytery and the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada.

The Candidate

The candidate will be a graduate of a course of study recognized by the United Church of Canada or undertaking a course leading to ordered ministry.

He or she will exhibit a personality that is conducive to working with all age groups and gaining their support for church activities and projects.

He or she must possess the ability to communicate clearly with individuals within and outside the Pastoral Charge.

The candidate should possess those qualities that engender confidence in those individuals with whom he or she may have direct contact through visitation, bereavement and crisis situations.

He or she should be friendly, sincere and approachable.

The candidate should have the following skill set:

- the ability to assist people in finding the spiritual depth within them
- the capability to assist people in turning their faith into action
- the insight to bring a sense of purpose to meetings and gatherings
- the willingness to learn from the people of the area as well as the willingness to help members learn from each other
- be self reliant in a rural setting
- have the capacity to put people of various ages and backgrounds at ease in formal and informal settings
- the ability to find humor in the small events and even be able to laugh at one's self
- the willingness to self examine and to admit errors and learn from mistakes

Confirmation classes, baptisms, marriage preparation, funerals and pastoral care to the bereaved are understood to be the responsibility of the minister.

The Charge expects its minister to attend regular meetings of Presbytery and Maritime Conference, but involvement at these levels of church governance should not conflict in a significant way, with service to the congregations of the Charge.

The minister will be required to keep church records up to date. Such information includes records of baptisms, deaths, weddings and information for the preparation of baptism, membership and marriage certificates as required.

In the United Church, we recognize that we are all ministers. However, with the reality of small rural communities where volunteers are called to organize, maintain and/or support activities of many community groups, most of us are taxed to our limits by these responsibilities and the minister is often the only professional available in the area to whom we can turn for advice or help. We need to know that there is someone there to oversee the life and work of the church, so that this responsibility is not left to volunteers as well.

Accountability

The candidate is expected to:

- consult with and report regularly to the Sessions of each congregation on matters pertaining to it**
- consult with and report regularly to the Church Council on matters pertaining to the Charge as a whole**
- consult with the Ministry and Personnel Committee on appropriate matters**

Secretarial Report

For the convenience of the clergy and the pastoral charge the candidate is expected to handle communications, correspondence and typing (i.e. bulletins) with the exception of any correspondence handled by the secretary of the Church Council. There may be occasional volunteer help with typing. Annual reports are written by each congregation and the minister works with volunteers from the pastoral charge in combining these reports into a single booklet. The minister is not responsible for statistical reports. These are prepared by volunteers from the charge.

In conclusion

The foregoing position description is intended to serve as a guide to the candidate accepting a position in our Pastoral Charge. It is not intended to cover all facets of the minister's work. Priorities may change from time to time depending upon the needs of the Charge and the wishes of the congregations. Changes in responsibilities would be made following consultation with the minister, the Ministry and Personnel Committee and then the Church Council.

OUR TERMS PROFILE
RIVER AND LAKESIDE PASTORAL CHARGE

Remuneration

Allowance schedule as per United Church guidelines

Vacation

One month per year including five Sundays

Continuing Education

Three weeks per year and funding for Book Allowance provided as recommended by the United Church of Canada guidelines

Travel

Mileage is paid at a rate of \$0.39 per kilometer

Utilities

Heat, electricity, water and high speed internet are paid by the Charge.
Telephone-Minister is responsible for personal long distance calls.

Other

Such items as established by the United Church of Canada

Mileage

Manse to Orangedale United ----- 0.06 km (0.04mi)

Manse to Forbes United, River Denys

 ~via Eden Road -----18.5 km (11mi)

 ~via TCH -----24.3 km (14.6mi)

Manse to Marble Mountain -----27.2 km (16.3mi)

River Denys to Marble Mountain -----31.3 km (18.8mi)

Round trip from Orangedale through River Denys to Marble Mountain

 ~via Eden Road -----77 km (46.2mi)

 ~via TCH -----83km (49.8mi)

Manse to Whycomagh -----13 km (7.8mi)

Manse to Port Hawkesbury -----51 km (32mi)

Manse to Antigonish (approximately) -----100 km (60mi)

Manse to Halifax (approximately) -----330 km (198mi)

Manse to Sydney

 ~via TCH (approximately) -----130 km (78mi)

 ~via Grand Narrows (approximately) -----100 km (60mi)