

**Hopewell - Eureka  
East River  
Pastoral Charge**

**2018 JNAC Report**

# **HOPEWELL-EUREKA EAST RIVER PASTORAL CHARGE JOINT NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE REPORT 2018**

## **COMMUNITY PROFILE**

Our rural Pictou County pastoral charge is made up of people living in 15 communities along the East River which have a total of approximately 1100 households. The villages of Hopewell and Eureka are on the west branch, while Bridgeville and Sunny Brae are on the east branch. These communities have gone through relatively prosperous eras only to be downsized as people have moved away to find employment. This scenario is typical of many Nova Scotian communities.

These communities all look to New Glasgow and Stellarton as the major urban centers. There we find the following: hospital, schools, shopping malls, doctors' offices, dentists, lawyers and other professionals, YMCA, The Pictou County Wellness Center, library and museums. The most distant community, Sunny Brae, is less than one-half hour from town.

Elementary school children are bussed to Dr. W. A. MacLeod School in Riverton. High school students attend North Nova Educational Centre in New Glasgow and Northumberland Regional High School in Alma, new schools which opened in 2003.

There is ample opportunity for post-secondary education. Pictou County has a Nova Scotia Community College campus in Stellarton. St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish is less than one hour away (east). The Faculty of Agriculture – Dalhousie University in Truro is less than one hour away (west). Halifax, a two hour drive away, has three universities and numerous other educational facilities. The Robert L. Stanfield International Airport can be reached in less than two hours.

The natural beauty of the area is appreciated by tourists and residents alike. Many of the towns and communities have festivals during the summer, including the popular Hopewell Ceilidh and Parade. In recent years the East River Valley Community Development Association was formed to encourage community development.

The Hopewell-Eureka-East River Pastoral Charge was formed in 1968, consisting of St. Columba United in Hopewell, Wesley United in Eureka, Bridgeville United and Sunny Brae United. This four-point charge continued until 2003 when Wesley United and Sunny Brae United were closed and the buildings sold. Although now a two-point charge, families still come from the areas served by the four originating congregations.

## **RESOURCES PROFILE**

### **St. Columba United**

St. Columba has approximately 53 households, with 30 individuals actively involved. These members live in Hopewell, Lorne, Centredale, Glengarry, Elgin, Marshdale, Foxbrook, Eureka and Island East River. There are 23 regular financial contributors. At present, due to a reduced cost of ministry, St. Columba is in good financial standing and is able to meet all of its financial obligations.

The sanctuary of St. Columba was completely restored in 2010.

The family of St. Columba consists of a large percentage of retired people and a few younger families with children. The women of the charge help when catering is required. There are volunteers from the charge who work at church functions on a regular basis, but the numbers are decreasing due to our aging population.

St. Columba hosts a Jiggs Dinner each year on St. Patrick's Day. On the last Sunday of each month, with the exception of July, August and December, the church or a local community group hosts a Sunday Supper that is held in the Church Hall. The church offers an eight week seniors' program in February and March where local seniors meet for a hot lunch and guest speaker. Every six weeks a Foot Clinic is held. The church supports the Dr. W. A. MacLeod School Breakfast Program as well.

### **Bridgeville United**

This congregation is made up of approximately 14 households, with 23 individuals actively involved, mainly from Bridgeville and Sunny Brae. During the past few years the congregation has had to resort to fundraising to help meet its obligations. A Valentine Supper, Christmas Cookie Sales and the Annual Memorial Candlelight Service provide the opportunity for the congregation to work together. Investments are being used to pay for major repairs and improvements.

The congregation continues to be a strong supporter of Mission and Service.

Members of the congregation actively fill church offices and carry out the duties required.

The church building is structurally sound with new windows, new siding and new shingles on the steeple. The interior has been repainted as well. The furnace is newer and the electrical panel has been updated. The church has a kitchen with hot and cold running water and washroom facilities. Church events are held within the church using both the sanctuary and narthex areas as needed. The church is wheelchair accessible. There is a "Cozy Corner" area for children in the sanctuary.

A display cabinet houses items of historical interest and old artifacts from the former Sunny Brae United Church. Pieces of furniture and a stained glass window were donated to Bridgeville United Church from the former Sunny Brae United. History of Bridgeville United Church was written by Betty MacDonald in 2002, a true labor of love. Bridgeville is fortunate to have this information in print form.

## MINISTRY OF PASTORAL CHARGE PROFILE

### Mission Statement:

We are a rural people of faith in active relationship with God whose spirit works within us and among us. We seek to be a welcoming and nurturing community where all may worship, learn and share individual talents. We strive for a quality of living that shows respect for God's creation and provides justice for all

### How We Worship Together

This is a two-point charge made up of many people from various surrounding areas who worship together as one church family. Under past ministries, we provided both traditional and contemporary family services. Currently, traditional services are held every Sunday at both churches: Bridgeville at 9:30AM and St. Columba at 11AM. On the last Sunday of each month there is one service for the whole pastoral charge, with the place of worship alternating between the two points. During July and August, there is one traditional service each week, one month at each church.

Services are led by the minister and worshippers enjoy a more traditional format with lectionary readings, sermon, organ and choral anthem. For any restless wee ones, a kids' corner continues to be available. Currently, there is no formal Sunday School in either congregation. **Both congregations have musically gifted people who contribute to the life and work of the church.**

There are approximately 67 households in the charge, with a total of 53 actively involved. Of those actively involved, the majority are seniors. Regular services have an attendance of about 25 people.

### How We Work Together

Church government is a council system. St. Columba meets monthly except during the summer months. Bridgeville meets as needed and issues are mainly dealt with in church. **The Pastoral Charge Council meets as needed.**

As part of our outreach ministry, we cater the Shepherd's Lunch Room in New Glasgow once a year, visit the four local area seniors' homes, support the local food bank, make hospital visits as needed, support the Dr. W. A. MacLeod School, Roots for Youth and Viola's Place. A Peruvian family, through the work of Rose Gordon, is supported by both congregations.

### Financial

Each congregation pays a monthly allotment to the Central Treasurer to cover the minister's salary and pastoral charge expenses. Each congregation pays 50%. Proceeds from the sale of the manse in 2003 were invested. We have relied on regular giving and fundraisers to meet our yearly budget. PAR (Pre-authorized Remittance) was introduced in 2005.

Awareness of the Mission and Service Fund is raised with the reading of the Minute for Mission at each service. The pastoral charge has an M&S objective of \$ 3000 for the year. In 2017, \$4700 was raised across the charge for the Mission and Service Fund. In 2017, St. Columba received local support from 7 givers; \$2090.05 contributed to the M&S. Bridgeville received local support from 7 givers; \$2586.88 contributed to M&S. A copy of our 2017 Annual Report is available.

## POSITION PROFILE

### **Plan and Lead Worship** (60 % Approximately 12 hours/week)

- The minister is looked to for assistance in choosing music appropriate to the worship theme **and will collaborate with the organists at each point of the Pastoral Charge**
- Preside at marriages and funerals and celebrate the sacraments.
- Challenge us in making our faith relevant to our lives today.

### **Pastoral Visitation** (25 % Approximately 5 hours/week)

- Visits to hospitals, nursing homes, and the elderly at home are a priority to our ministry.
- Our charge is made up of a significant number of seniors to whom home visitation from the minister is of particular importance

### **Church Administration:** (5% Approximately 1 hour/week)

- Meet regularly with Ministry and Personnel Committee  
**Attend meetings of the Church Council and other committees of the Pastoral Charge**
- **Keep pastoral charge records of baptisms, weddings, funerals and membership up to date.**

### **Outreach and Wider Church Involvement** (10% Approximately 2 hours/week)

- To be a strong promoter of Mission and Service.
- To be a supporter of current outreach projects.
- To challenge in identifying other opportunities for local and global outreach.
- Attends regular meetings of the Pictou Council County of Churches
- Support and continue local ecumenical traditions, e.g. occasional combined services with the local Presbyterian Church, **conduct 3-4 nursing home services per year**

## SKILLS PROFILE

- We, the people of Hopewell-Eureka-East River Pastoral Charge, are seeking an enthusiastic spiritual leader with strong pastoral skills particularly in relation to seniors.
- It is important that this individual challenge us in making our faith relevant today. This minister will be sensitive to the needs and diversity of our two-point charge.
- The minister should be committed to personal and professional development, while maintaining an awareness and recognition of social issues.
- We are seeking ministry personnel who possess the above named gifts and skills.
- **We are open to being a Supervised Ministry Education Program site.**

## **WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER -- TERMS PROFILE**

The Hopewell-Eureka-East River Pastoral Charge offers the following terms for a 20-hour position:

1. Salary -50 % of Candidate's Increment Category (according to United Church of Canada New Compensation Model) and is negotiable.  
All federal and church assessments for EI, CPP, pension and group insurance.
2. Travel - travel for ministry-related work will be reimbursed at the rate specified in United Church of Canada guidelines.
3. Vacation - 5 weeks including Sundays. Vacation dates will be determined in consultation with the Ministry & Personnel Committee.
4. Continuing Education/Book Allowance - According to United Church of Canada Minimum Salaries for Ministry Personnel 2018 Schedule.
5. Moving Expenses - to be covered by the pastoral charge (based on three reasonable estimates and receipts).
6. Secretarial Support - preparation of weekly bulletins, two hours per week.
7. Telephone - basic telephone, work-related long distance charges plus \$50 monthly toward home internet service.

\*\*In consultation with the Ministry and Personnel Committee, maternity, parental, compassionate, bereavement and sabbatical leaves as appropriate.

\*\*It has been our custom that ministry personnel make arrangements with neighboring pastoral charges for emergency coverage while on vacation or other leave.

### **Recommendations of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee to Pictou Presbytery**

1. That Pictou Presbytery be requested to declare a vacancy for a 50% ministry position for Hopewell-Eureka East River Pastoral Charge.
2. That this Joint Needs Assessment Committee be disbanded.

This joint Needs and Assessment Report was compiled in November 2018 by the following committee members:  
Rev. Dr. Mary Taylor, Jack Canning, Gary Campbell, Pat Matheson, Ken Pugh, Marlene Hoeg, Beulah Martell and Christie Wilson