



We are not alone. We live in God's world.

United Church of Canada Creed

Pass It On...

What's Happening at Little Britain United Church

February 2022

Minister's Message

Greetings to all on this frigid February morning. As I write I am sitting in a very comfortable and warm office here at Little Britain United. As always, I am grateful to all who help in so many ways around the church and hall and today I was reminded of that as folk helped to clear a way for me to navigate out of the driveway.

Even though Covid and now its variant have caused us to rethink what being the church means in these trying times, we have continued to support the work of the church with our gifts of time, offerings and food items. We know that being together virtually is not like being together in a pew amongst the reminders of God's great faithful to us and the history of Little Britain, but it is the safe and responsible way to worship. Having said this, Little Britain United Council has met and the decision was made to extend our re-opening of the church to **April 3, 2022** and the re-opening of the hall to **May 1st**. These dates are subject to change as we live in uncertain times.

In order to allow all members who wish to attend Little Britain's Annual Meeting to be present, the meeting will be held outdoors once weather permits.

I will continue to be present to you whether by telephone, email or in person during my announced office hours. Two years has passed and in faith we have met the challenges of this pandemic and for this we are grateful that the steadfast presence of God has sustained us to this time and will sustain us into the months to come.

Peace and Strength to All,

Beth McLean, Minister



Little Britain Heritage - February 21 – 27 is Canadian Heritage Week and in Manitoba, Louis Riel Day is on Monday, February 21

These are times to reflect on the past. One of our Values in Little Britain's Mission/Vision/Values statement is that we Honour our Heritage. So, we invite you to think of a short story, event, or memory about life and happenings at Little Britain Church in the past, either from years ago or the more recent past. We can share these with the congregation during check-in time at our Sunday, February 20 service.

The following is a little piece of our heritage from our Little Britain United Church History Book done in 2012 in celebration of our 160th Anniversary.

The congregation of Little Britain Church began in 1852 in a Log Meeting House on Donald Gunn's land. The land where the church is now was granted to the congregation by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1863.

The church immediately prepared a burial ground. The record of burials in our cemetery tells us much about life in the old days. Ten or twelve children in a family was not uncommon however many children, often several from one family, were laid to rest in the cemetery, some with markers, most without. So many infants died in their first few days or months, and so many young wives and children. Records indicate that tuberculosis, whooping cough, typhoid, diphtheria and pneumonia were common causes of death. The heartbreak caused by these premature deaths; we can only imagine! Still, many survived well past their allotted span of three score and ten years, the cause of death frequently being stated as "old age" and occasionally "frozen to death". According to records the oldest person buried in the cemetery was 107.

The oldest part of the cemetery is between the church and the river. One of the oldest plots is the McKenzie plot, which was refurbished and rededicated in 2018/2019. Roderick McKenzie was the Chief Trader at the Hudson's Bay Post at Lower Fort Garry. It is enclosed with a limestone wall and wrought iron fence.

In 1928 Mr. Chris Johnstone 1881-1953, an active member of Little Britain Church for over 50 years, was appointed secretary-treasurer of the cemetery. He began the process of creating written cemetery records, spending much time in the cemetery speaking to visitors, to produce a map. He was able to fill in most of the gaps in the records and draw up a pretty complete map. In the 1950's the cemetery was expanded to include the area between the church and the highway. Later Cemetery Administrators were Mamie Lloyd, John Porhownik (Judy Rekrut's Dad), Ray Tallin, Bob Cyr, and Lowise Hamilton.

In 2010, a 64 niche Columbarium was added alongside the East Cemetery. The preceding years had seen a definite change in burial style. There are now fewer full casket burials and more cremations.

Our current Cemetery Administrator, Judy Rekrut, began in 2002. She has continued the tradition of excellent record keeping and has spent countless hours over the years filling in gaps in the records. Under Judy's leadership an updated map was created, and in 2011 a kiosk was built to hold a map of the East and West cemetery sections.

A list of names and burial sites of all those interred in our cemetery is included and is accessible by all visitors to the church yard. It is updated as needed. A map and all 1,381 burial records are now also listed on Little Britain's website at <https://littlebritainunitedchurch.ca/church-cemetery/>. Burials, record keeping and map refinement for the cemetery continue to this day.

Submitted by Shirley Froehlich