

April 27th 2008



Celebrate Camping Sunday!

Sponsored By
Outdoor Recreational Ministries Unit

Camp Sunday in Milford Lantz United Church

For the last several years this congregation has celebrated Camping Sunday by building on camp themes within the sanctuary and the service.

People are invited to “dress down” and come in their camp clothes. Most folks opt for jeans and tee shirts. The choir sheds its gowns in favour of more informal dress. Children who have attended the local presbytery camp, Camp MacLennan, wear their camp tee shirts and can tell who went to camp in which year by the colour of the annually produced shirt.

The church is decorated with tents, camp chairs and stools, evergreen boughs, picnic paraphernalia and other trappings of outdoor life.

The service usually features hymns that speak of creation or the natural world. This theme is reflected in the other parts of worship as well. The children’s time may focus on camping in general or expose the children to the presbytery’s camp.

The sermon has been delivered in the last few years by a member of the congregation who is an advocate of the local camp and the camping ministry within the United Church. It often provides an update on what is going on at the presbytery, conference or national level in support of camps and discusses the ability of camp communities to reach young people spiritually.

Camp Sunday usually caps a fundraising and/or goods drive for the local camp. The pennies that have been gathered in each Sunday for camp over the preceding several weeks are totaled and the amount is presented to a representative of the camp committee. Kitchen, crafts and cleaning supplies that have been similarly collected are also presented.

The church has been very good about supporting children to attend camp through bursaries and private sponsorships. These acts are often acknowledged and celebrated.

Coffee after church takes on the flavour of camp mug ups and feature camp favourites like s’mores, marshmallows, rice crispy squares etc.

Each year, the final Sunday in April is designated as National Camping Sunday. The worship services and activities on this Sunday are designed to: increase visibility of the church’s ministry of residential camping; give visibility to local United Church camp(s); and help people recall their memories and experiences of church camping.

For Worship Suggestions visit: <http://www.uccancamping.org/RES/NCS/>



Outdoor Recreational Ministry
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Camp Sunday in Sackville United Church

Here the congregation was also invited to dress casually – and to bring a flashlight! Several Camp Ta Wa Si t-shirts were sported! Ushered into the basement rather than the sanctuary people were greeted by the sight of circles of 6-8 chairs; these were our cabin groups and we sat in small groups. At least one member had a flashlight. There was a “campfire” near the centre where the children gathered. We don’t know how but marshmallows were successfully “toasted!”

Each group had a flashlight! It wasn’t dark but the flashlight was offered to each participant in the small “cabin” group. While one held the flashlight others listened while stories of camp memories or creation moments were shared. We were also asked to name for each other some gift of creation for which we were thankful. During the prayers of the people voices rang out with thanksgivings as the gifts were recalled and shared in voice or in silence. We were reminded that God is like a flashlight and we sang about it!

It was crowded in the basement but spirits were high!

Maritime Conference Camps

The Outdoor Recreational Ministry Unit invites you to celebrate – and support – a camp near you!

For complete contact information check out the web site:
www.marconf.ca/muccamps.htm or www.uccancamping.org/CMPLST/index.html#nb

