

# The Lowville-Nelson United Ministries CommuniPac

Nelson—9:30 am      Sunday Services      Lowville—11:00



**January 1, 2009**

**3rd Edition, Issue 9**

**Jan/Feb/Mar**

*Our Advent Journey continues . . .*

### In This Issue

While it might surprise some, Advent has always been one of my favourite seasons in our church calendar (second of course, to Lent & Easter). But there is something very special about the winter season as the landscape becomes its most stark and bare and we gather together as a community of faith to wait for Christmas. Together we come to discover this Advent journey is a spiritual practice of patience. It's also a gift of silent time to reflect. It's coming to remember God's promise to be with us. And it's a time to reaffirm why we choose to walk this spiritual path.

Advent is a time of prayer and promise. It's a time of expectation. It's a time pregnant with possibilities. And all of this is leading us into the bright dawning of Christmas morn to celebrate the wondrous gift of God birthed among us. Emmanuel. Prince of Peace. Redeemer and Saviour. Coming to us and for us! What more could we ask? What more could we ever need? The gift we receive through the birth of Christ is the only one with the power to fill us beyond our wildest dreams. And for that, thanks be to God!

Rev. Barbara

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### Lowville-Nelson Photo Directory

By now, all who participated in our Church Directory Program should have received their photos.

If you have not received either your photo order, or the free 8 x 10 for participating, then you should contact **Lifetouch** at 1-800-553-8430 and provide them with the details of your order, including the "Sit Number".

The "Sit Number" is an 8 digit number pre-printed on the form you received with the proof sheet when the photos were taken. An automated phone system will give you the status of your order, and if a concern exists, then a Lifetouch representative will handle your concerns.

Our directory is currently in preparation and we expect to receive the proof in the immediate future. If all goes as planned the directory will be available by the latter part of January, 2009.

#### Your Photo Directory Committee

**Lowville**

Linda Jolly                      905-335-5690  
Katherine Ireland              905-319-1408  
Connie Salmi                      905-332-9653

**Nelson**

Dale McKeown                  905-336-2335  
Shirley Bottaro                  905-945-6209

### Special points of interest:

- ♦ Lowville worships at Mt. Nemo Nursing Home 1st Sunday of each month at 2pm. Come join us.
- ♦ "Living The Hope" Workshop for all members of our United Ministries. See page 9 of this newsletter for further information.

# A Report From Our Diaconal Ministry Student

You may have noticed that I was away for most of the month of October. This was one of the requirements of my diaconal education. For 17 days I lived and learned with 20 other students in our Pastoral Care Learning Circle at St. Benedict's Retreat Centre & Monastery, Winnipeg. Our learning environment was tender and sensitive, which was essential considering the subject matter we were focusing on.

For example:

- discussing theologically 'hot' topics such as sin, evil, forgiveness, grace, repentance
- Hearing each other's personal stories of grief, loss, death & dying
- Trying to grasp the difficulties surrounding palliative care & end of life decisions
- Developing our own understandings of eternal life
- Wondering how best to offer pastoral care to people suffering chronic illness or pain
- Considering how to care for people who are questioning their sexuality
- Imagining helpful ways to offer pastoral care to children, youth and families
- Understanding that the contexts of people's lives are often very different from our own and that this will significantly affect the care they need and our ability to offer it
- Understanding our own self-esteem, shame and stress and how best to deal with it

Our learning happened through individual journaling, small & large group discussions and presentations by staff and fellow students. We taught each other through many methods - studying academic readings, drama, music, play, movies, artwork, games and personal reflections. My major leaps in knowledge were in defining "pastoral care" in all its breadth; understanding the intertwining of pastoral care and social justice in our United Church history; the experience of 'listening' as a sacred act; beginning to define and understand my personal and professional boundaries. It was an emotionally charged and richly rewarding time of learning for both my mind and my soul. My body however returned exhausted!

The journey continues as I learn to be a pastoral caregiver among you. Thank you for your continued support and care for me.

Hope, peace, joy & love to all,

*Debra Kigar*

## Annual Reports

It is Annual Report time again and the report deadline is Thursday, January 8th. The Annual Meetings are to be held on Feb. 1st, 2009.

All Ministries are advised to have a look at the previous year's Annual Report and it will show you what your report should contain and how it should look. If you are not able to find a report, check with Lou-Ann in the Lowville United Church office and she will provide you with a report.

It is best that you do this sooner than later if you are unsure of the time-frame required to gather the information necessary for the report. You must also allow enough time for Lou-Ann to put all the incoming information together in time for printing by the date scheduled for the report.

## 2009 Church Calendars

Both Nelson & Lowville United Churches have the 'Canadian Church Calendar' for sale at a very reasonable price of \$5.00 each. This calendar would make an ideal Christmas gift for the person that is hard to buy for or for the one who has everything but a calendar.

Quite often in the fast pace in which we live, we forget little things like getting a new calendar and besides, there is always room for one more somewhere in the home. This calendar has some very nice photo shots of several very fine Canadian churches throughout Canada.

We can be very proud of the architecture that was built into many of our Canadian churches and still being preserved and protected. Calendars such as these become a keepsake just for the sheer value of the photos that they contain. Be sure to get one before they are gone.

**LOWVILLE-NELSON WORSHIP MINISTRIES**  
**CALENDAR FOR JANUARY THRU TO EASTER 2009**

January 4, 2009	Epiphany Sunday
January 11, 2009	Guest Minister - Rev. Keith Knill
January 18, 2009	Student Minister - Debra Kigar
January 25, 2009	Sunday Service
February 1, 2009	Communion Sunday
February 8, 2009	Annual Meeting Sunday
February 15, 2009	Sunday Service
February 22, 2009	Transfiguration Sunday
<b><u>LENTEN SEASON BEGINS</u></b>	
February 24, 2009	<b>Shrove Tuesday</b> (at Lowville United)
February 25, 2009	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> ( <b>Joint service</b> at Nelson United at 7 pm)
March 1, 2009	Lent 1, Communion Service
March 8, 2009	Lent 2
March 15, 2009	Lent 3
March 22, 2009	Lent 4
March 29, 2009	Lent 5
April 5, 2009	<b>Palm/Passion Sunday</b> - ( <b>Joint Service</b> at Lowville at 11:00 am)
April 9, 2009	<b>Maunday Thursday</b> - ( <b>Joint Service</b> at Nelson at 7:00 pm)
April 10, 2009	<b>Good Friday</b> - ( <b>Joint Service</b> at Lowville at 11:00 am)

**EASTER SEASON BEGINS**

April 12, 2009	<b>Easter Sunday</b> - Lowville Park Sunrise Service at 7:00 am
	- Nelson Service at 9:30 am - Communion Service
	- Lowville Service at 11:00 am - Communion Service

## Message From the Chair of Nelson Council

As I write this message to be included in the December Newsletter I can't help but think of the many blessings we have at Nelson. Not the least of which is our Ministerial staff, Rev. Barbara, Rev. Jansen, and more recently, our student Minister Debra Kigar. Their leadership, their compassion, their example and their caring are just a few attributes that come to mind for which we are very thankful.

Our partnership with Lowville has developed into a collegial, cooperative ministry. I think we truly are one Church with two buildings. We still have our differences but those differences allow us to be unique and accepting of one another. We are extremely proud of the Sunday School students at both churches and how well they work together as they prepare for the Christmas concert. A special thanks to the teachers and parents who let this happen.

I personally want to thank the many people who do so much work, contribute so much time and talent, in and around the church. I would have to copy the membership list just to name you all. It can certainly be said the sum of the whole is greater than the individual parts.

So often we hear complaints:

That Christmas decorations are up too early, be thankful if we can see.

That radio and stores play the Christmas music too early, be thankful if we can hear.

That parking lots are too full, be thankful if we can walk.

Most of all be thankful that we live in a country that allows us to Worship and always remember the work that we do is for the Glory of God.

On behalf of Steve and I, we wish you and yours a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Shirley Bottaro

Chair

### Lowville Fundraising At It's Best

We have just gotten over our annual Christmas Craft Show and it was just a great success. The amazing thing is how everything and everyone fits together and runs like clockwork. Everyone is so happy and busy at the same time and everything is being looked after. If something is mentioned that needs doing, three people step up to the plate and it gets done immediately.

Crafters are busy with customers, customers are busy shopping, kids are on St. Nick's knee, young children are in awe speaking with Mrs. St. Nick while others are having their faces painted, some even for the first time. The crafts are amazing and there are so many to see, upstairs, downstairs and in the nooks and crannies. Christmas cheer is everywhere!

Spectators were in awe at the carvings of antlers, bone, and wood, and shoppers of that unique Christmas gift were hopefully placing their bid at the Silent Auction.

A huge vote of gratitude is extended to workers, helpers, crafters, staff and visitors for helping to make this event as successful and outstanding as it was. Owen & Marilyn

### A Lowville Fundraising Target

Quite often, our fundraising events do not have specifics in mind as far as where or how the money is spent. There is a target in Lowville United Church however, that is attracting the attention of many fundraising volunteers. This item is the carpet in the Sanctuary which has been deteriorating for quite some time.

To begin this fundraiser, we require a committee to look after the selection of a carpet supplier/installer, carpet quality, color and price. Anyone interested?

Then we require ideas for fundraising and the first one that comes to mind is a Springtime Street Sale along Britannia Road from Walker's Line to Cedar Springs. Any other ideas would be seriously considered.

Donations of funds also dedicated to this fundraising target would be very much appreciated and a tax receipt would be provided. Please make donations payable to the Lowville United Church at 5800 Guelph Line, RR#2, Milton, Ontario L9T 2X6.

Volunteers are invited to climb aboard this project with their help & ideas.

## Stewardship - Fundraising At Home - All Year Long

A Fundraising Idea was found lying on the kitchen counter in the Zimmerman room at Lowville sometime in the past month. It had originally been submitted to a Home & Country Magazine in the summer of 2000. It is unique and all it takes is some spare change, lots of pennies and a bag.

There is a day calendar for one month that can be applied to any month and it can be for each member of the family or it can be for the whole family as one. If you run short on change for any given day, We are sure that God will forgive and forget.

The bag can be emptied at the church weekly, monthly or whenever you wish to. It is entirely up to you. The funds can also be designated equally among the General Fund, Mission & Outreach, and the Mission & Service Fund unless you have a specific preference.

For all of you who would like to take part in this venture, have fun and God Bless You!

1. One cent for each year of your age.
2. Ten cents if it is sunny, five cents if it's raining, snowing or cloudy.
3. Five cents for each meal you eat today, ten cents for each meal that you eat outside the home.
4. Two cents for each number in your shoe size.
5. One cent for each inch in your waist measurement.
6. One cent for each letter in your full name.
7. Twenty-one cents if your hair is blonde, sixteen cents if it's black, ten cents if it's red, nine cents if it's brown, six cents for all other colors and add ten cents if your hair is dyed. If you have no hair, it's free!
8. Ten cents if you can play a musical instrument (even a comb & tissue paper).
9. Five cents for each cup of coffee you drink today.
10. Five cents for each time you used your car today. Ten cents if someone drove you, five cents if you didn't go out.
11. Two cents for each living plant in your home.
12. Five cents for each brother and sister you have.
13. Fifteen cents if your eyes are brown, ten cents if they are blue, eight cents for all other colors.
14. Ten cents for each TV in your home, five cents for each radio.
15. Five cents for each bed in your home.
16. Ten cents for each telephone in your home.
17. Ten cents for each piece of mail that you received today.
18. Ten cents for each bathroom in your home.
19. Write down the last two digits of your phone number & put that amount in your bag.
20. Three cents for each clock in your home.
21. Five cents for each of your children & two cents for each grandchild.
22. Ten cents if you own a dog, nine cents for a cat, five cents for a bird, three cents for a fish, fifteen cents if you ever owned an animal that you loved.
23. Five cents for each bone you have broken, twenty-five cents if you have never broken a bone.
24. Five cents for each ring that you wear regularly.
25. Two cents for each electrical appliance in your kitchen.
26. Two cents for each light bulb in the room you're in right now.
27. Five cents for each phone call you received today.
28. Two cents for each button you're wearing right now.
29. Five cents for each dessert you ate today.
30. Five cents if your first name starts A to L, eight for M to Z, five cents if you go by a nickname.
31. Five cents if your last name begins A to L, eight cents for M to Z.

## Joint Worship Ministry

Rev. Barbara will be away during the week of January 11th through to January 18th, on a continuing education program and we will have Rev. Keith Knill, recently retired from St. Stephens United Church, leading us in our service on January 11th, 2009.

\*

On January 18th, we will be led in our services by Debra Kigar, our student minister.

\*

**One more important note:** We will be adding back 'Passing The Peace' which some have missed in our services. Having confirmed copyright for the music and words, we will be purchasing the music, **Passing The Peace** and it will be added as part of our service commencing on Easter Sunday thru to Peace Sunday.

## Card Nights Together

Please be reminded that the Lowville United 'Card Night' is always on the 2nd Friday evening of each month and the Nelson United 'Card Night' is on the 4th Friday evening of each month. Both begin at 7 pm and a shared snack is requested along with a \$3.00 gratuity.

All are welcome to take part in this evening of friendship and conversation.

### Lowville

### United Church Women (UCW) 2009 Programme



All women from both churches are welcome. Bring a sandwich to share. Join us at 12 noon, on the 1st Wednesday of each month for an interesting and enjoyable program,

January 7th

March 4th

May 6th

September 2nd

November 4th

February 4th

April 1st

June 3rd

October 7th

December 2nd

## Nelson Board of Trustees

The annual meeting of the Nelson board of trustees was held on November 5th, 2008. Our financial advisor presented our portfolio which was not as good as we had expected due to the market collapse. The board voted to maintain our financial advisor, hold our positions and allow the market to rebound.

The board agreed to have Don Hunt get a quotation to repair the cut in the Sunday school room floor and to replace the washroom floors.

The ceiling in the sanctuary is needing repair and it was agreed to have Professional Painting (who did the last decorating) give us a quotation for the repair.

The new sign for the parking lot is still under consideration pending the placement and size allowed by the region.

The board will convene again in early February.

Bill Vivian

## Lowville - Nelson Notes

**Food Banks** are in urgent need of your help. Gifts of non-perishable food items or cheque donations will help get them through this lean period.

**Pop Can Tabs** are being collected at both Lowville & Nelson Churches for a worthwhile charity. Look for the large jar with the 'Tabs' label. For further information, contact Norma Copeland at Lowville or Joan Hunt at Nelson.

**Save your Campbell Soup Labels.** The front of the label & the bar code must remain intact. Deposit them in the CE room of Nelson or the Zimmerman Room of Lowville.

**Save used stamps for Leprosy.** There is a container in the CE room of Nelson or the Zimmerman Room of Lowville. These stamps are sold to stamp collectors and the funds turned over to the Leprosy organization as an outreach mission.

**Mission & Outreach** is calling those with a heart for outreach to contact Bev at [bbalch@cogeco.ca](mailto:bbalch@cogeco.ca) at Lowville or Bev at [bevrlygreer@yahoo.ca](mailto:bevrlygreer@yahoo.ca) at Nelson.

**Scripture Readers** are required each week at Lowville and Nelson, There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at Nelson. Those at Lowville, please speak with Linda J.

**Refreshments** are required each week for fellowship after service on Sunday. Sign-up sheets are available in both churches if you would like to provide your favorite tidbits or creations for the congregation. Bring milk & cream for the coffee and juice for the children or others not wanting hot beverage. Don't forget to prepare and turn on the coffee urn. We'll see you at fellowship!

**Ushers** are required each week at the Sunday Service. Contact the Worship Ministry to find out how you can help in this way. Get to greet your friends and neighbors on their way in to service and assist in taking up the collection during the service.

**Milk Bags (4L)** are being crocheted into sleeping mats to be sent to Africa and volunteers are required for cutting the bags into strips. If you are interested in cutting or crocheting the mats, contact Bev Balch of Lowville United or Bev Greer of Nelson United.



## A Service of Memory & Hope

As the world celebrates joyfully during the Christmas season, it can also be a time of sorrow and sadness for some of us. On Thursday, December 11th, 2008 we gathered as a community to worship together amidst the rush of the world around us. We took time together to hear the words of comfort from scripture - from the book of Isaiah, and from the psalms. We prayed and sang together. We sat together in silence. We took time to be with our sadness and sorrow, to remember our losses, and to light candles for those we love. In the midst of our grief, we remembered the promises of hope, love, joy and peace that were born in the baby Jesus. We returned to our homes wrapped in God's love, knowing that the light of that love will continue to glow through all dark days.

## Lowville Christmas Carol Sing

Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm the Lowville United Church Choir met at the Mt. Nemo Nursing Home. The residents had been brought in to the sun room and congregated in anticipation of singing along with joyous Christmas Carols. Our Choir Group and invited volunteers vocalized anthems that we had practiced for services and also sang a selection of carols along with the residents. Smiling faces were everywhere and glistened with the cheer of Christmas.

At the beginning of each month, a group of Pastoral Care volunteers join Rev. Barbara in a Sunday Service at Mt. Nemo. Joining in hymns and looking back at the smiling faces of the residents is definitely inspiring. They look forward to our group coming for Sunday Service as much as we look forward to being there for them. Our first Sunday of December was an inspiring full house with all chairs filled with a happy heart.

Our time with them for the carol sing quickly came to an end and we offered best wishes for the season and said our goodbyes. The next stop was the Lowville United where we resumed our scheduled choir rehearsal for the festive Christmas Season of Advent Services and season holidays.

Lowville Mt. Nemo Carol Sing 2008

## Nelson Mission & Outreach

These unsettling financial times are on all our minds but what if unsettling financing was always on your mind? We at Nelson have always thought of others regularly . . . Unselfishly . . . We have always been generous with our money, like our givings to Mission & Service weekly, or giving of food for our Food Bank, even when its an extra giving because we want to do as Jesus has asked us to love others.

We show our love of others at this special joyous time with our gifts to an unknown family to make them more joyous too. Even the milk bags show that we are aware of others by trying to save our environment, besides the end results that those milk bags will provide . . . A sleeping mat for another human being that we do not know. Please keep remembering Mission and show how that little bit more . . . 10 cents a day . . . Almost nothing to us . . . can help show our love for others.

## Nelson Finance and Stewardship

We are almost into a new year with just one month left to balance our budget.

Our expenses are approximately \$3500.00 over our income. December is usually a catch up time for many of our members and I hope that this year will be no different. The hard work and dedication of our congregation is so vital to our success. We thank you for your continued support and participation.

Bill Vivian, Chair

## The United Church of Canada Welcomes You

Information boxes have appeared in our Lowville-Nelson United Ministries from the United Church of Canada. This box contains 12 brochures and each one containing different helpful and interesting information for everyone; *Belonging; History; Worship; Attending; Children; Unique; Baptism; Meaning; The Bible; Donations; Money; & Helping.*

Be sure to look through the brochures in this box. You will be sure to find one that suits some situation in your life or helps you through a new awakening in your lifestyle.

Here are answers to questions that you may have had in the past or to those that may arise as you read your way through this treasure of information.

This is where it begins.

## Lowville Pastoral Care Report

The Pastoral Care Ministry met in September with Deb Kigar and Rev. Barbara Morrison. We discussed the major role that the Newsletter deliverers play in keeping our members and adherents connected to the church.

We met with these faithful volunteers after church to offer our thanks for their help in this endeavor. We requested that a contact be made by phone or in person to the people on their list when Newsletters are being delivered.

These volunteers can give the minister and pastoral care team invaluable information . . . . e.g. someone on their list has moved or the person/family has suffered a personal loss, be it death, a job loss or illness and would appreciate a ‘caring call’ from the minister or pastoral team member.

So once again, we thank you for your service in this regard.

\*

A “Friendship Luncheon” was held in the Zimmerman Room on Oct. 9th. A delicious lunch of chicken pot pie and salad was served, catered by St. George’s Anglican Church ‘Outreach’ group, followed by apple crisp and ice cream made by our members.

Lorretta Bailey entertained us delightfully, singing “**Somewhere Over The Rainbow**”, “**When You Wish Upon A Star**” and two numbers from the “Sound of Music”.

Everyone seemed to enjoy this opportunity to visit with each other and it was a joy to see some of our shut in seniors once again joining us in food and fellowship.

\*

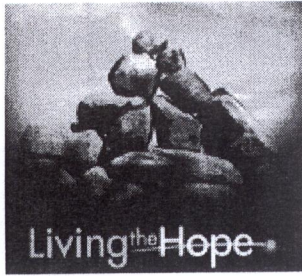
**December 18th at 2 pm**, the PastoralCare Team is hosting a short “Christmas Carol Service” with Communion served in the pews. This will be followed by a “Christmas Tea” with ‘sweets’ served in the Zimmerman Room.

\*

Often people are unable to attend Lowville’s Christmas services due to family commitments. This service is for EVERYONE to join us for lots of carol singing and communion with God and each other surrounded by lighted candles, our beautifully decorated tree and longtime church friends

Hope to see you there with your singing voices!!

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosemary Jackson (Chair)



## "LIVING THE HOPE" WORKSHOP

For all members of our United Ministries

From 2007 through early 2008, Emerging Spirit held 32 training events across the country attended by teams from nearly 1000 United Church pastoral charges. These trainings helped to equip congregations to connect with those people interested in a church with the characteristics of The United Church of Canada.

In Fall 2008, Emerging Spirit is launching a new congregational training event called "Living the Hope." This event takes the learnings gathered through the first round of training events and focus on three areas which have emerged as critical to the work of nurturing welcoming congregations which are faithful, relevant, and vital:

- Stream 1: Re-imagining Sunday Morning
- Stream 2: Building Connections in Community
- Stream 3: Exploring Leadership

Living the Hope also offers new opportunities to engage the Emerging Spirit research findings.

### Upcoming Scheduled Date

Feb. 20-21, 2009      Eden United Church, Mississauga, ON

**Price:** \$300 per congregational team of six people, \$40 per additional person. The price for individuals is \$75 each. Travel and accommodation is not included. Childcare will be provided as needed, just let us know, in advance.

### Living the Hope Study Streams

Emerging Spirit is about change. The study streams offered at Living the Hope follow three levels of change that a congregation may encounter when seeking to increase the effectiveness of its welcoming ministries:

- Developmental change focuses of congregational "welcoming etiquette," including skills, knowledge, and acts of welcoming newcomers.
- Transitional change focuses on redesigning strategies and programs.
- Transformational change is a change in organizational culture involving an overhaul of strategies, systems, behaviours, and mindsets.

The particular focus for a congregation will depend upon its life, history, and current understanding of its mission. Emerging Spirit's congregational training events offer congregational teams the tools they need to guide change and help nurture an environment of welcoming.

A Living the Hope trial event was held in Waterloo, Ontario on May 9-10, 2008 which offered the presenters and writers the invaluable opportunity of receiving feedback from workshop participants. These perspectives and insights will continue to hone this exciting new material.

Please consider joining the team from Lowville-Nelson United Ministries.

Just let Rev. Barbara know that you'd like to come!

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 RR#2  
 Milton, Ontario L9T 2X6  
 Phone: 905-335-0911  
 Fax: 905-335-4134  
 lowville@pathcom.com  
 www.lowville-nelson.ca

Nelson United Church  
 2347 Dundas Street West  
 Burlington, Ontario L7R 3X4  
 Phone 905-335-9394  
 www.lowville-nelson.ca

As stewards, we walk  
 by faith!

Give your Communipac to a friend  
 or neighbor when you're finished  
 with it. It's good recycling!

**The Lowville-Nelson United Ministries  
 COMMUNIPAC  
 Newsletter**

**TO:**

Praise the Lord! From God's  
 fullness we have all received  
 grace upon grace.

UC Seconds

**Give Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)  
 because church is one of your priorities!**

**Lowville - Linda 905-875-3735  
 Nelson - Bill 905-332-8885**

**Business Card Advertising**

If anyone is interested in having their business card  
 placed into the COMMUNIPAC as per the previous  
 issues, please contact Bonnie Fay at 905-335-0911.  
 The cost is \$10.00 per issue.

**No one is alone on the journey through  
 life. God is with us as we are called to  
 be with each other.**

**Newsletter Publishing - 2008/09**

Article Deadlines	Delivery Dates	Covering:	Topics
Dec. 1st	Sunday, Dec. 14th	January to March	(Summer Events & Sept. Start-up)
Mar. 1st	Sunday, Mar. 15th	April to June	(Fall season to Christmas)
June 1st	Sunday, June 14th	July to September	(Annual Meetings to Lent)
Sept. 1st	Sunday, Sept. 13th	October to December	(Holy Week to end of June)