

**WEEKLY EMAIL** -- Jan. 14, 2015

Grace and peace to the congregation at Wilmot United Church!

Here we are at January 14th already! Last week we marked the Baptism of Jesus in our scripture and music; this week we'll begin a series called Stories of our faith. Throughout the next several weeks, we will focus on biblical stories that are the building blocks of our Christian faith tradition. We begin this week with two stories of being called: 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 and John 1: 43-51.

What has been your own sense of God's calling? I'd be delighted if you wrote and told me a bit about that.

Saturday we began our book reading group and we'd love it if you have read the book and wish to join us. We're reading *The Rebirthing of Christianity* by Phillip Newell. This will continue each Saturday in January at noon in the Parlour.

Worship Committee met yesterday and we reviewed the Advent and Christmas services and agreed to make use of a variety of worship liturgies as the year unfolds. Steven, Virginia, Ellen and I will meet to look ahead for an overview of the season.

I am most appreciative of the January 2015 United Church Observer. They have made some changes to their format and content and I notice there are many helpful articles which help one understand the place of our United Church in today's world across Canada. For example, there is a great ad for the church on page 6. The heading says " Behind these doors, people are making a difference in your community." Have a look at the full page ad and tell us what you think of it. There are copies of the magazine in the church for you to borrow. One letter to the editor says this "...the church needs to worry less about trying 'to save itself' and more about stepping outside itself to be the church in the world." (Rev. Mark Giuliano) What's your reaction to that? Seems to me it could be the start of a great conversation!

Certainly our Wednesdays@Wilmot program - in what it has done and in what it proposes to work towards with its new grant from the Fredericton Community Foundation - is a good example of being the church in the world, to my way of thinking.

Blessings this week friends, I encourage you to read these scripture readings for Sunday and ponder the meaning of God's call for you today.

In Shared Ministry,

Rose~Hannah

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