

WEEKLY E-LETTER --

Oct. 3/17

Grace and Peace to you this week!

At last week's Council meeting, we had a discussion regarding the new "No Loitering" signs by the King Street steps.

The situation is complex with several competing values. Wilmot United Church is well known and much appreciated for its social outreach programs. We work hard to make our church welcoming and inclusive for all. Perhaps because of that, people around the downtown area who attend our programs often gather on summer evenings with their friends around the steps on King Street.

Sometimes it can be a large gathering of people, bikes and dogs which spills out on to the sidewalk. From time to time, especially if there are many people, folks walking by on King Street, or getting into cars parked there, can feel uneasy or even threatened.

The City of Fredericton wants the downtown to be walkable and safe. They approached us and asked if we might put up the 'No Loitering' signs they provided which would allow the police, when necessary, to ask people gathering on the steps to move along.

Trustees have discussed this matter for several years. It is often a difficult situation in the summer, due to smoking and litter accumulation, which is also against City bylaws.

We can see the contradiction with our values of welcoming and Trustees are in discussion once again, looking for a balanced solution. I wanted you to be informed of this.

See you Sunday for our Thanksgiving service.

Rose~Hannah