

WEEKLY E-LETTER - Jan. 9, 2018

Grace and Peace to you this sunny day in our new year 2018!

I hope you are managing in this extreme cold weather. Hopefully we'll get some respite this week. You will remember that in the winter months, we keep the blue doors to the sanctuary on Carleton Street closed, and ask you to come into the building through the glass doors to the parlour and hall. This is to try to preserve the warmth in the sanctuary and not "waste" heat.

I wanted to update you about the changes moving forward in this United Church of ours.

As we prepare to move from four courts of the church to three councils, people across the church have been wondering where the regional boundaries will be, and which Regional Council they'll be in.

General Council Executive appointed a Commission to make those decisions. The Commission's preliminary report will be issued on January 10th, 2018. There will be a YouTube broadcast on January 15th to provide an opportunity to hear directly from Andrew Richardson, the Chair of the Commission. Host Lauren Hodson will ask him questions such as: What factors did you use in deciding the new boundaries? How did you try to take into account competing interests? We'll introduce an interactive web-based map, so that you can see exactly where the boundaries fall in your part of the country. We'll also take time for questions, using the "chat" feature on YouTube. Church members are invited to review the report and send in responses and concerns before the end of January through their church boards, Presbytery or Conference Executives.

We celebrated Epiphany last Sunday and two groups met today to get the planning underway for the next month of worship services at Wilmot. Lent seems very early this year with Ash Wednesday falling on February 14th. That is an interesting combination: Valentine's day and Ash Wednesday!

There are two new ministers in town at our sister United Churches of Gibson Memorial and Forest Hill. We welcome Rev. Kelly Higgins and Rev. Deborah Ambridge Fisher to our Fredericton community, and wish them many blessings in their new ministries.

Please remember that Ellen and I are always open to hearing from you if you would like a visit at home.

I look forward to seeing you soon,

Blessings,

Rose~Hannah