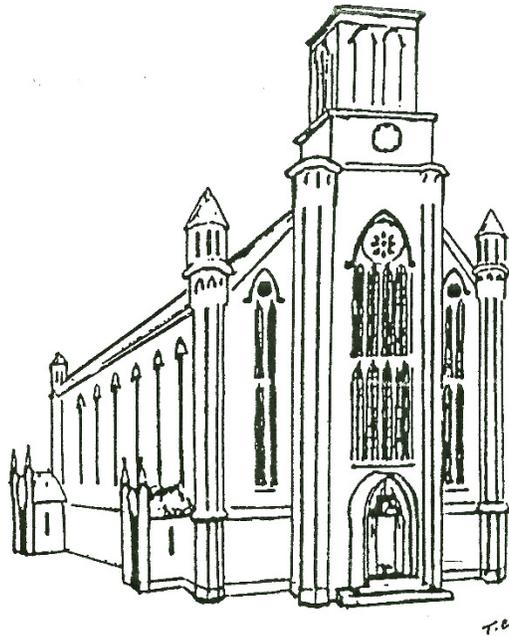


WILMOT UNITED CHURCH
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2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Very Rev. Dr. Peter Short

Rev. Ellen Beirsto

Ministers Emeriti: Rev. Cliff Moase and Rev. Bob Jones
Margaret MacDonald – Organist
Steven Peacock - Choir Director
Marlene Phillips /Tanya Mullin - Office Administrator
Randy Randall – Sexton

Wilmot United Church - Vision Statement

***Wilmot United Church** is an open and welcoming presence in downtown Fredericton, putting our Christian faith into action to be a light in God's world. We welcome all into the life and ministry of our faith community, including persons of any age, ability, race, ethnicity, place of origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, family configuration, and social and economic circumstance.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Ministers	2
Peter Writes.....	2
Ellen Writes	3
Message from the Office Administrator.....	4
STATS 2020.....	5
Church Council.....	6
COVID 19 Team.....	8
Pastoral Search Committee Report.....	9
Wilmot Growing Together	10
Finance and Property	12
Ministry & Personnel.....	13
Faith Formation Committee.....	15
Pastoral Care and Health Committee.....	17
Teleministry	17
Affirming Diversity Committee.....	18
Worship Committee.....	18
Music report.....	19
Hospitality Committee	20
Wilmot Information Team	20
Outreach Committee	21
Outreach Committee Annual Financial Summary.....	22
Quilters' Report	23
Cuba Twinning Committee	23
Wilmot United Church Women.....	24
U.C.W. Financial Report.....	26
Fredericton Rural Cemetery Report.....	27
Fredericton Rural Cemetery 2020 Financial Statement	28
Envelope Stewards Report.....	29
Wilmot United Church Annual Meeting.....	30

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTERS

Ministry Team: Ellen Beirsto and Peter Short

Peter Writes

Dear friends,

2020 brought us the unexpected. Rubbed our noses in it actually. The month of February introduced us to the latest manifestation of human frailty. The whole world found itself in the presence of a microscopic killer with an oddly beautiful name, corona. New anxieties barged into our city, as if we didn't have enough already. New rules restricted our freedom. We have become acquainted with loss in many dimensions.

One of the ways our congregation responded to all this has been the move to virtual worship. It began with two men whose photographic skill and technological expertise made it possible for worship to be shared digitally. Then the capacity to livestream our services was made possible by the generous financial gift of one woman. There was nothing virtual about the gift. It was real, and continues to be real. The gift created new potential and the potential became a reality through the gifts of two more men. One gave his expertise in researching and ordering equipment. The other gave his skill in crafting the cabinetry. Together they ran the cable through the sanctuary, down the stairs, along the hallway and into the office. The reality of the gift deepened again when a small group of people dedicated themselves to giving music, story, prayers and rituals, reaching out through worship to many near and far. And the many through their gifts have ensured that the mission, though hard pressed and diminished, will not fail. In many ways the year of diminishment will be remembered as the year of gifts.

We know that you can watch virtual worship at any time you choose. We know you can watch in your pyjamas. You can pause us when you want a coffee or when what you are seeing causes you to feel the need of a glass of wine. You fast forward when it's not your favourite hymn. We know that. Virtual worship maximizes your freedom and freedom is a good thing.

But there is nothing virtual about the many gifts that made all this possible. Those gifts are real and so is the worship that we prepare. Virtual does not mean unreal. Our gratitude is real too. Thank you.

The year we have been through and the long-term crisis that continues to grip us is real. The loneliness is real. The silence in the sanctuary is real. The deep stress in the life and work of teachers and students and parents is real. Closed business and job loss is real. Missing the touch of loved ones is real. The fact that despite the efforts of a dedicated and talented search team, no one seems to want to come and be our minister is real. There is nothing virtual about any of these things.

Necessity, it is said, is the mother of invention. Clearly the mission of the church was necessary because there was much invention. Wednesdays at Wilmot moved to the parking lot. The children's pageant, done in photos, drama and music, was as touching as any we have ever done. Prayer shawl makers knitted and chatted by Zoom. The Faith Formation Team came up with a new program initiative. Donations and grants to



our work increased. The COVID Response Team guided us through the maze of public health guidelines, policies and directives. Tanya Mullin arrived to join the staff team only to find herself cast immediately into a mostly empty building. Yet she put her diverse talents to work with cheerfulness and determination and has proved to be a valued partner to staff, to volunteers and to the mission.

For me, a gift most special has been the opportunity to work with an exceptional minister for whom I have vast respect. Thank you, Ellen, for your support, guidance, cheerfulness and faithfulness. You are the heart in the work. It wasn't what we had imagined when we began but it has been wonderful.

One of the gifts of this formidable year is that when at last we are restored to one another we will savour more deeply the reality of our life together:

- the taste of the soup after church as we sit shoulder to shoulder at the long tables,
- hearing the chatter of conviviality all around us,
- the beauty of the sanctuary and of the faces that give it life,
- working together in the kitchen, learning, laughing and weeping together,
- the sound of children heard once more in the church,
- the enjoyment we share with our Wednesday friends over food and friendship.

All these precious times we took for granted will be real in a new and more vivid way.

Another gift of this formidable year is knowing that, when challenged, the Wilmot community proves to be strong, generous, persevering and faithful.

Meanwhile we are thankful that the mission has survived, limping maybe, but determined nonetheless to do what we were made for.

Thank you for being part of this. Thank you for your gifts. Thank God for one another and for the work God has set our hearts to. And just as 2020 brought many unexpected challenges, may 2021 bring many unexpected blessings.

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Ellen Writes

Dear friends,

On January 1, Peter and I began our journey together as Wilmot's Interim Ministry Team. We mapped out a few things as the weeks began to unfold. It was exciting and different possibilities came to mind. As we headed towards Easter, the services were on track – even with Ally Aalders preparing to dance for the play, *The Cry of the Whole Congregation*, as part of our Good Friday Service. Then COVID-19 was upon us. Unprecedented times and a new way of being church needed to be envisioned. Thanks to the willingness of an amazing team, the services never missed a beat – YouTube, prerecording and eventually livestreaming helped us bring the service into your home and into many others – around the globe.



As I think back over the past year, many images of the life at Wilmot once again surface for me – but so different than in past years:

- telling a story, preaching, singing or serving communion in an almost empty sanctuary
- watching as our dedicated team makes it possible to serve our friends safely at Wednesdays @ Wilmot
- hanging craft bags on the doorknobs of our children’s homes in preparation for ZOOM Sunday School
- watching the faces of our children and youth as we meet together on ZOOM
- our wonderful children, youth & young adults creating our Christmas concert in a whole new way
- our quilters, our pie makers, our rummage sale volunteers making it work even with the restrictions
- baptizing a precious newborn as the fathers look on (and while we keep our distance)
- officiating at weddings with few in attendance – in the sanctuary, in the family’s backyard and on the top of a mountain
- humbled and yet smiling as the youth try to help me with technology
- meeting with our youth (pre-Covid) to chat about Rendez-Vous 2020, seeing their excitement as amazing plans begin to unfold
- then - sensing their disappointment and yet experiencing their understanding when we decide not to go. *(They are an amazing group of young people.)*

So many unique and spirit-led moments make up a year and regardless of the difficulties, our mission and ministry at Wilmot continues.

I have been blessed to journey through 2020 with a very gifted colleague for whom I have great respect. Thank you, Peter, for your support, inspiration, commitment and your optimism. In a year filled with challenges, you helped make it unfold with ease and with grace.

The encouragement of the congregation and others over the past year has always been greatly appreciated. Thank you for all you have done to make Wilmot a reflection of God's love and compassion. Blessings.

We wish to acknowledge the exceptional leadership given to our congregation this year by our Council Chair Shirley Cleave. Shirley has guided us with discernment, diligence and grace. On behalf of the congregation, we thank you, Shirley. We are grateful for your devotion to the mission and people of the church, and for your skill in leading us through so many changes and challenges.

Ellen and Peter



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MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

As I write this message I reflect on the significance of today, February 10th as my one-year work anniversary; what a year it has been! I had barely begun when the global pandemic was upon us and overnight my role changed as the office needed to adapt to the ever-changing times. Thank you to everyone who took the time

to offer words of encouragement as I felt like I was stumbling my way forward. Thank you to Craig Frame for your patience and encouragement as I learned Wilmot's bookkeeping.

2020 will be marked as a year of changes; we moved to MailChimp, started Zooming, Live-Streaming, focussed on online donations and began the first in-house photo directory.

Thank you to everyone who made me feel welcome, I hope to actually see more faces in the coming year, or at least eyebrows.

Tanya Mullin

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STATS 2020

MARRIAGES

- 1. Jochen Schroer and Frances Robinson
- 2. Bradley Doherty and Tammy Moreau
- 3. Peter Hicks and Amanda Malek

BAPTISMS

- 1. Julia Bautista Le Bonhomme
- 2. Yoann Le Bonhomme

DEATHS

- 1. Dorothy (Dot) Steen
- 2. Ella Marion Scott
- 3. James Robert Batt
- 4. Harry Charles Pridham
- 5. Marguerite Patterson
- 6. Carvell Antworth
- 7. Edward Walter Martin

TRANSFERS: (from Wilmot United)

- 1. Nancy Crossman - Redwater, Alberta

There were no transfers into Wilmot United in 2020.

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CHURCH COUNCIL

Our Council met on these dates: January 29 (in person) and the following dates by Zoom: April 15, June 9, July 16, September 23, October 29 and November 25. Our Annual Meeting was held on February 23rd. The Executive met by Zoom on August 23 and December 7. Electronic polls were held with the Executive on March 23 and with the Council on March 24 to approve changes to the budget necessitate by consequences of COVID.



January - As we began our year, we said goodbye to Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin, who had been Minister with us for ten years. We thanked Rose-Hannah for her ministry at Wilmot and wished her well as she began her retirement.

Council sent letters to our NB elected officials asking to discuss environmental issues in a positive form. The Care of the Earth group at Wilmot prompted this request and will continue to seek avenues to discuss environmental issues and possible solutions.

The Treasurer presented the proposed budget. Fundraising for the year was discussed. We thought that additional rental income for the second floor of the Old Manse and the possibility of an Auction later in the year would be helpful for our budget.

On March 15, a Congregational Meeting was held following worship to appoint the members of the Search Committee: Deborah Bradbury, Mary Lynn Cameron, Nancy Chase, Haley Keyser, Dana Hanson, Reg Sherren, Guy Vezina.

April - The Final Report for the Visioning Phase of Wilmot Growing Together was received by the Council on behalf of the Congregation because of COVID restrictions preventing a Congregational Meeting. The report will be shared with the Congregation for approval as projects are developed for implementation.

In response to the Heritage Report, we approved the creation of a working group by Finance and Property to develop a strategy for implementing the recommended capital projects.

The Search Committee began its work by developing the materials to be posted on ChurchHub, the national database used to support the search processes in congregations.

Due to the seriousness of the Covid 19 virus, program changes were made for in person worship – virtual services were offered online. Outreach programs were affected as well and food gift cards were given out to participants at our W@W program. The United Way offered funds to Outreach which provided top up food and gift cards which were given to participants in our parking lot under the guidelines of Public Health. This helped to support the vulnerable in our community.

June -The Search Committee has been meeting and beginning the call for new ministers. The Living Faith story was circulated and revised after input. The Financial Viability report was approved. Both of these documents were posted in ChurchHub following the meeting. The congregation will be asked for their suggestions as we begin the search.

Craig Frame continued to care for the finances of the church in his role as Treasurer. Thanks were expressed to Craig for the diligence given to his role. In addition, he has spent many hours training our Office Administrator which will lead to less time for the Treasurer on the accounts.

After mid-March, we began to provide the services to the congregation virtually. This required the efforts of a team to video the service, our music team to organize the musical contribution and our Ministers to provide the spiritual part of the service. Many thanks were expressed to all – the team included for music: Steven Peacock and Margaret MacDonald plus choir soloists; for filming the service: Doug Beirsto, Jeff Beirsto, and John Leroux; and of course, our Ministers: Ellen Beirsto and Peter Short.

The COVID Team (Judy Coates, Shirley Cleave, Craig Frame, Beth Paynter, Greg Black, Ellen Beirsto, Peter Short) continued to meet to provide guidance and monitor compliance with Public Health guidelines for all activities and programs within the church. Although the church building remains closed, we look forward to a time when we can return to worship in the Sanctuary.

July - We welcomed Deb Bradbury and Guy Vezina from the Search Committee. They provided an update of their work and their proposed Position Description. The Council approved the Position Description with the revisions suggested during the discussion at the meeting.

We asked any groups who wished to use space at Wilmot to prepare Operational Plans and submit these to the COVID Team for approval. This team has provided us with guidelines on use of the space as the province has returned to Yellow.

The Youth Group sent in a generous donation to Wilmot's Operating Fund. They had been raising money to attend a Youth Event but of course it had been cancelled due to Covid restrictions. A thank you note was sent to the group for their thoughtfulness.

September - The Clergy Search Committee provided an update and requested permission to extend the advertisement in *Broadview* at a cost of approximately \$200 which was approved.

The COVID 19 Team reminded all groups they must prepare an operational plan before they can meet in person. In person worship will not be held until we have the equipment necessary for livestreaming so that everyone can participate. Cameras are currently on backorder.

October - In October, we made a motion to increase the hours of our Office Administrator to 35 per week in response to additional financial work that Tanya has taken on in this position.

We returned to worship in the Sanctuary in October, and adhered to Public Health guidelines for numbers and spacing.

The Council approved the re-appointment of Ellen and Peter who have agreed to continue as our Ministry Team until the end of June. We thank them for their commitment to Wilmot. We are fortunate to have them continue in this role.

November - Guy Vezina and Reg Sherren attended to provide an update from the Search Committee on its work. It has been more of a challenge due to COVID. The advertisement has been revised and placed on *Indeed* and *Broadview*. We hope for a positive response from these sites.

We were so pleased to have Nancy Bauer as our guest speaker for Anniversary Sunday. We all enjoyed listening to Nancy and thanked her for a thoughtful and inspiring sermon.

This has not been a normal year for us at Wilmot or for our world. We have responded well to this health crisis and hope that in the coming months we can begin to return to normal. We grieve the loss of life in our world and the challenges to all in response to a continuing health crisis. We are so thankful to all at Wilmot who make it a positive place to worship and to help those in need in our community. Wilmot has found ways to be a positive force for the downtown's vulnerable community. As well, we are fortunate to have many who respond to our requests for volunteer assistance. The Care of the Earth group look for ways to solve environmental issues by working with the community and political leaders. We give thanks to all who find ways to be active here at Wilmot. We do make a difference and look forward to finding ways to continue to do this in the future.

Submitted by, Shirley Cleave, Chair Terri MacLean, Secretary



COVID 19 Team

As COVID 19 was appearing on the horizon, we struck a small steering committee to develop a response to the virus that would protect the health and well-being of our congregation and the other members of our community that access our facilities and services. Issues were identified and preliminary plans were put in place. We held worship in the sanctuary on March 15. Then the province declared a state of emergency and New Brunswick was locked down.

All churches were closed on March 17 and all programs and activities in the church came to a halt. We moved to pre-recorded worship services, telephone contact with the congregation, and modified programs for children and youth. The treasurer monitored our financial situation carefully, encouraged donations by PAR, Canada Helps and e-transfers and kept the congregation apprised of our financial situation. We acquired a Zoom account so we could hold meetings virtually. From the beginning of COVID pandemic, there was a special concern for the vulnerable members of our community who rely on support through our outreach programs. Due to the tremendous effort of the Outreach Committee and several volunteers who planned and re-planned their programs, we have been able to provide ongoing support to those most impacted by COVID in the community.

As the COVID situation improved and we moved to Yellow, churches were allowed to re-open with restrictions and we restructured the committee and moved from planning to implementation. Over the spring and summer, the COVID 19 Team met once or twice a week to develop protocols and to implement strategies to meet the Public Health requirements and United Church guidelines. We secured appropriate supplies, established standard policies and procedures, and developed a template for operational plans. Every organization must have an operational plan for each of their programs and activities so the Team worked with Wilmot groups and outside users to develop and approve individual operational plans.

During the Fall as committees began to meet and programs to resume either in person or virtually, the Team met weekly to monitor the situation, to review operational plans, and to make adjustments as required (e.g., moving into Orange). We also conducted a survey to determine how members wanted to connect with Wilmot under these unusual circumstances. Feedback received was very helpful for planning. We provided regular updates in the weekly announcements.

While congregations were permitted to hold in person worship with limited numbers beginning in the fall, we agreed that we would not resume in person worship until we could livestream from the sanctuary so that everyone could participate. This meant installing internet access in the sanctuary and purchasing the necessary cameras, hardware and software to support livestreaming.

The COVID 19 Team extends a special thank you to all of those who have taken on special responsibilities, found new ways to do things, and committed countless hours as Wilmot has responded to COVID 19. Your dedication has helped to keep our congregation physically healthy and spiritually nourished during these challenging times.

COVID 19 Team: Greg Black, Judy Coates, Craig Frame, Beth Paynter, Ellen Beairsto, Peter Short, Shirley Cleave

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Pastoral Search Committee Report

Results of the Search Committee from May 2020 – December 2020

- We have met 17 times.
- We published our position profile and supporting documents on ChurchHub.
- We published an ad in Broadview for 4 months at a cost of approx. \$250 / month.
- An ad was posted on our Facebook site and our website.
- Our position ad was posted to the Regional Council vacancy list.
- Our vacancies were shared with our congregation, to invite feedback or referrals. We did an initial review of the list of ministers looking for a call on ChurchHub and contacted the most promising ones from that list. Unfortunately, none of those contacted showed interest in our call.
- Some applications have been received and reviewed.
- We continue to search for the best match for Wilmot United Church.

In the new year we plan on reaching out through our networks for additional applicants to consider.

Respectfully submitted
Guy Vezina
Rotating Chair
Pastoral Church Committee

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Wilmot Growing Together

The Wilmot Growing Together workshop was held on February 1st. The feedback from the workshop was used in developing the final draft report.

At the Annual Meeting in February 2019, the steering committee for the Visioning Phase of Wilmot Growing Together presented the final draft of their report to the congregation. It including the new initiatives that had arisen through the work and a proposal for approval and implementation of the initiatives. At the end of the formal meeting, the participants broke into discussion groups to provide feedback and to identify individuals who might be willing to form a development group for each initiative.

The Steering Committee used the feedback to develop the final report and identify members for some Development Groups. Before the final report could be presented to the congregation, the church was closed in response to COVID 19. Instead, the Church Council received the report on behalf of congregation at their April meeting so preliminary work could begin on the initiatives. Major decisions for the various initiatives (e.g., commitment of resources) will come to congregation for approval as the initiatives are developed. Below is an update on each of the initiatives.

Housing First Initiative - As the homelessness situation in Fredericton continues to manifest itself on our streets and out-of-sight places, a good news aspect is that the Wilmot congregation has not only maintained, but strengthened, its position to use its physical and social resources to help find a tangible solution.

Congregation member, John Leroux, has spearheaded the initial efforts to explore the viability of reconfiguring the upper two floors of the old manse on King Street into four individual housing units that comply with the aims and design aspirations of the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness established several years ago. An ad-hoc committee of around ten Wilmot congregation members met several times via zoom, acting as advisors and a solid sounding board for the initiative. So far, the results have been extremely positive. The action steps over the past year include:

- the close association of the church's Housing First plans with Jason LeJeune of the United Way. Jason has advised the group of the social and financial benefits of the old manse refurbishment scheme, and will continue to act as a connector for funding and client social programs that apply. He has agreed to speak to the members of Wilmot whenever we need.
- John and Gerhard Dueck carefully measured the existing configuration of the upper floors of the old manse, and John drafted them on Autocad, so as to have an exact plan of the building for the redesign.
- Nationally-respected and Fredericton-based code consultants R.J. Bartlett Engineering Ltd. volunteered to do a pro-bono (and very thorough) national building code and fire safety analysis of the old manse in order to determine the ability of it to serve as four housing units for the new plan. The plan was received mid-year and was extremely helpful.
- John executed a detailed design of the four units on each of the upper floors, all concurring with the R.J. Bartlett requirements. These will be used to get a detailed pricing estimate for the work, which will ensure the capability of Wilmot to afford the desired scheme.
- On the advice of Judy Coates, an application was made in December to a federally-funded grant program called "Reaching Home" which funds elements of the physical aspects of Housing First projects. John, Jason, and Shirley Cleave assembled the application. We found out in early January

2021 that we were awarded \$47,465 in a capital funding grant. These funds can go directly to the planning and actual construction costs of the project. This is very good news so the Council Executive committed \$2,000 to engage a pair of independent contractors for costing estimates for the construction scope to move the project forward.

- The goal over the winter of 2021 is to gain a solid understanding of the renovation costs. If viable (which we foresee), and if the congregation determines that it will pursue the project, John and Lynn Fullarton will establish detailed construction plans and Wilmot will establish a programming mission in conjunction with Jason and the housing authorities.

Respectfully submitted,
John Leroux, January 2021

Radical Hospitality - The Hospitality and Affirming Diversity committees met by Zoom to discuss combining their work in keeping with the concept of offering Radical Hospitality at Wilmot. They hosted a Christmas Story Telling event by Zoom that provided an opportunity for the congregation to connect. They will be bringing a recommendation to the annual meeting.

New Worship Formats – We have certainly adopted new formats for worship this year, but not quite in the way expected. When churches were closed in March, we moved to pre-recorded services so that we could worship together virtually. During the fall, the cameras and the appropriate hardware and software were installed in the sanctuary to enable livestreaming of our services. When we were in the Yellow phase of COVID recovery in the fall, some people worshiped in person in the sanctuary and others joined from the safety of their homes. When we moved back to Orange, everyone participated in worship through livestreaming. A very sincere thank you to Peter, Ellen, Steve, Margaret and the team of very dedicated volunteers for their commitment and dedication that made worship at Wilmot possible in 2020.

The Works – This was a community-based initiative to increase social inclusion within our community. The potential partner in this project has taken another route which resulted in opening of Phoenix Learning Centre in November 2020. No further action will be taken at this time.

Greening of Wilmot – Formal work on this initiative has been on hold, but COVID has helped us to be a little more green as we have reduced our use of paper considerably since we aren't producing weekly bulletins. Work in this initiative will be especially important as we undertake the maintenance work identified in the Heritage Engineering report.

Volunteer Coordination - Work on this initiative, which began while the Visioning process was underway, has been suspended until we can gather again as a congregation.

Community Hub and Enhanced Relationship with Arts Community - On further reflection, the Steering Committee recommended that the Community Hub and Enhanced Relationship with Arts Community initiatives be combined as they both deal with engaging with the community to make better use of our space. Many of our outside user groups and renters have continued to use our space through COVID, but no new work has been undertaken on this initiative to date.

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FINANCE AND PROPERTY

The work of the Finance and Property Committee was carried out by the various sub-committees as reported below.

The Property and Maintenance Committee was successful in completing several projects in 2020. Due to the COVID situation, several projects originally planned did not occur. Priority projects including ongoing roof repairs were accomplished. The floor of a washroom in Wilmot Hall was replaced, and some lighting was repaired in the Sanctuary. Some major projects included the replacement of the roofs on the spires, and upgrading the lighting in Wilmot Hall. Upgrading technology with the purchase of a new projector was completed. A major advancement of technology occurred with the design, purchase and operational changes to accommodate the Live Streaming project.

The project list and budget for the ongoing capital projects could not have been possible, without the generous support of current and past donors. Thank you for this support.

The success of the projects is as a result of input, technical capability, and passion of the Capital Project committee members, as the chair of this committee, I say thank you to the members and adherents of this committee. Please contact us at anytime, if you have any questions about projects or wish to bring forward any suggestions.

Greg Black, Chair

Finance and Investments - 2020 began with the objective to move all our bookkeeping to our new QuickBooks Online software and have our office administrator take over these duties. Wilmot's financial procedures were reviewed and streamlined and a procedures manual was developed. Tanya Mullin began as Wilmot's office administrator in February and began her training. Then the pandemic hit.

In addition to learning Wilmot's finances, filing system and new software, everyone also had to learn how to work remotely from home. We had to develop new financial procedures for online donations (i.e., e-transfers, CanadaHelps) in addition to PAR and weekly cash and cheque donations.

Cash flow quickly became a real problem and various methods to manage finances now that the church was closed had to be developed. Deferring United Church national assessment payments until the fall, an internal loan from the capital fund monies to cover property tax and update letters from the treasurer to the congregation explaining Wilmot's financial position all helped.

Wilmot's financial situation at the end of 2020 is healthy in large part to the very generous support of our faith community. The Finance and Investment committee extends a huge thank you to all of Wilmot's donors.

The finance and investment committee continues to oversee our invested funds. They meet regularly with our advisers at TD Wealth Management, manage the intake of bequests and transfers of unrestricted funds or earned interest to the operating fund.

A special thank you to the thoughtfulness of the late Marguerite Patterson who generously remembered Wilmot in her will. In addition, a portion of a generous “Living Gift” from Nancy Gilbert provided funds for Wilmot to purchase live streaming equipment that allows for in-person attendance and virtual streaming of our church services.

Craig Frame, Treasurer and Blair Kennedy, Investments

Facilities Management - At this time (January 2021) the Old Manse has one tenant with a lease (Cinnamon Café), one empty unit (second floor) and the unit on the top floor that has been rented out as an Air B&B. Efforts have been made to occupy the second floor, but with the uncertainty of a lease, it has remained empty. New patio blocks were installed along the front of the building.

A Housing First Initiative was presented in the spring to the church through Jason Lejeune and John Leroux where the top two floors of the Old Manse would be converted to affordable housing. Details on this initiative can be found in the Housing First report in the Wilmot Growing Together report on page 10. It seems the Café on the first floor will not be affected by the Housing First initiative and the tenant has indicated interest in staying on.

The Big Brothers/Big Sisters lease for space in Wilmot Hall was renewed for one year.

Graham Allen, chair

The Stewardship Education and Recognition Committee met in the spring to discuss a number of initiatives including an Annual Plan, protocols for Memorial Gifts, and the development of a Planned Gifts program for Wilmot. Other priorities due to COVID impacted further work on these projects this year. However, letters of appreciation were prepared for the congregation to accompany tax receipts and for Anniversary Sunday. In addition, thank you letters were sent to family members for bequests and special gifts received throughout the year.

Shirley Cleave, Chair

Cemetery – See detailed report on pages 27-28 of this report.

Peter Curtis, chair

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MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Scriptural groundings for these roles are: “And [Jesus] said to them, ‘Take care!’” (Luke 12:15) “So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.” (Galatians 6:10) “And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, ‘It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task.’” (Acts 6:2–3)



Although our activities and meetings were curtailed somewhat due to the pandemic, there have been a few significant responsibilities, activities and decisions carried out by your M&P committee during this ‘COVID Pandemic year’.

The first 3 Sundays of 2020 brought inclement weather causing 3 postponements of Rev. Rose-Hannah's Retirement Celebration. Thankfully, we didn't postpone it to the spring since COVID19 hit us mid March and soon our doors were closed for 8 months!

Thanks to the Office Administrator interview and hiring committee Terri MacLean, David Chisholm, and Judy Coates for their quick work to fill this position. We were able to bring Marlene Phillips back to fill in over January and February as well as provide training.

February 10, 2020 we were excited to welcome Tanya Mullin as our Office Administrator. We are grateful to her for her adaptability, capabilities, technical knowledge, initiative and personable nature that helped her navigate through learning her job. She has had to become familiar with Wilmot leadership and people, office procedures and our ministry while working from home during several months of church closure and eventually back into the office with COVID guidelines and little semblance of past activities occurring. Council approved a recommendation made by M&P after completing Tanya's probationary review to increase Tanya's hours from 30 to 35/week.

We are so much more fortunate than we knew at the time of appointments, for Rev. Peter Short and Rev. Ellen Beirsto's ministry with us over this year. They knew our community and past, making it easier to maintain connections within our community and our mission while dealing with new avenues to do so, such as video taping, live streaming, email newsletters, masks, physical distancing and zoom zoom zoom meetings!

We are thankful that they were willing to renew their appointments until June 30, 2021 as the clergy search process continues.

The pandemic also resulted in some adjustments to our staff's employment hours and responsibilities. We are pleased that we didn't have to lay off any of our permanent staff. After a period of time when it became evident that the church was going to remain closed for a several months, we did lay off our casual door supervisors which allowed them to claim EI.

The Federal Government's Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) Program was adapted to meet the needs of those organizations who had been awarded a grant but were 'shut down' over the summer months. Thus, we shifted from hiring a youth for 280 hr summer employment to a job description focusing on assistance with office administration, producing a Photo Directory and helping with Outreach programs. After job postings, screening applications, conducting interviews, Thomas Burleigh was hired and worked a combination of full-time and part-time hours from September 14 to December 18. Thanks to Tanya Mullin who took on the major supervisory/mentoring role with Thomas and Terri MacLean who supported both of these employees.

It is with much gratitude that I thank the committee members for their time and valuable contributions. Committee members are: Terri Maclean (Office Administrator, Tanya Mullin's rep), Ruth Breen (rep for our door supervisors and sexton), Susan MacLeod (rep for Rev. Ellen Beirsto), Gordon Cameron, Kirby Keyser & Graham Allen (M&P financial matters).

M&P would like to have 2 more members - someone to 'shadow' the work that Kirby Keyser and Graham Allen do managing and overseeing the financials of M&P; and we need a music representative for our music staff.

Over 2021, M&P will continue the work of supporting our staff, listening and connecting to the congregation, preparing budget submissions, and providing letters to the staff outlining compensation, roles and responsibilities for 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Coates, Chair M&P Committee

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FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

The Faith Formation Committee is committed to the development, encouragement, oversight and, when called upon, the delivery of faith formation programs fostering fellowship and engaging the spirit of the Wilmot Community.

The 2020 committee members included: Ellen Beirsto, Greg Black, Mary Lynn Cameron (chair), Jilanna Eagles, Elaine Kenyon (Council representative), Susan Kulesza, Don MacDougall, Darla MacNaughton (secretary), and Elizabeth Savoie.

The committee met regularly throughout 2020 despite the COVID-19 pandemic, meeting in person until March 10, 2020 and then meeting via Zoom for the remainder of the year. It was with great pride that the committee witnessed that many of its regular activities were able to continue, in accordance with Public Health Guidelines. This was largely due to the energetic and tireless support of Ellen Beirsto.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Conversation continued each week under the leadership of Don MacDougall. This group relates the Bible to life and life to the Bible using weekly readings. Conversation starts where we are, not where we should be. It is for people who are interested, curious, and want to deepen their faith and understanding through an open and unassuming conversation. Don reported that the topics discussed this past year (e.g. creationism, the environment, humanity and nature) produced rich and deeply meaningful conversations that have proven to be a satisfying and helpful experience for those who participated.

An Adult Faith Formation Subcommittee was formed as a result of a recommendation from the Adult Faith Formation Working Group called: "A Vision for Adult Faith Formation at Wilmot" (January 24, 2020) which the parent Faith Formation Committee accepted and went on to set up a subcommittee to carry forward, eventually renamed the Adult Faith Formation Development Group. Don MacDougall and Ellen Beirsto were designated the contact people for this subcommittee. The Adult Faith Formation Development Group met multiple times and is an open space for conversation aimed at developing a method to implement a more deliberate approach to adult faith formation.

We continued to work closely with the Cuba Connection group with the support of Greg Black. A request for donations of sewing supplies in the church bulletin was so well received by the congregation that Norman and Meca Laverty had a suitcase full to take with them on their trip to Cuba the end of January 2020.

We were able to support the Seniors group with the assistance of many volunteers. Barb Frame hosted an information session about oral health on February 18, 2020. The guest speaker, Dr. Kate McMillan, gave a well-prepared presentation to over 20 attendees. It was a very helpful topic and was well received by those in attendance.

In partnership with the Hospitality Committee, the annual Pancake Supper took place on Shrove Tuesday (February 25, 2020). It was a very successful event due to the large number of volunteers. The net proceeds supported Rendez-Vous 2020 and the Youth Fund.

Graduation Sunday took place on June 7, 2020. The service was pre-recorded and honoured 10 graduates from high school, community college, and university.

Rendez-Vous 2020 was held on August 11-14, 2020. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, it became a virtual conference. With the aid of technology, the youth, young adults, leaders, and special guests were able to safely connect with each other from within their own homes. Jamie Heard and Ellen Bearsto attended via Zoom. Jamie Heard spoke about his experience at Rendez-Vous 2020 during Sunday worship on September 27, 2020.

Sunday School resumed on September 25, 2020 via Zoom. It is held on Friday evenings at 6:30 p.m. A craft bag is delivered on Friday afternoon that ensures all children have the necessary supplies to participate. During their time together, the children hear a Bible story from Ellen and then there is time for music and a craft. The committee is thankful for two regular volunteers who help make Sunday School enjoyable for the children. Heather MacDonald helps the children with the music and Jacqueline (Young) Connors facilitates the craft. It is an enjoyable time for all involved, especially the children who anxiously await the delivery of their craft bag every Friday.

Youth Group resumed on September 27, 2020 for middle school and high school students via Zoom and whenever possible, in accordance with Public Health Guidelines, in person. It is a time of conversation, mentorship, and fellowship. In person activities included gathering outdoors at Odell Park and indoor rock climbing at the Fredericton Bouldering Co-op.

The Seekers Group was working on a book study of [A Dream of the Earth](#) by Thomas Berry when the pandemic shut it down. This group is an open group that accepts new members at any time and provides a safe space to raise faith-based questions. It is a forum for deepening faith and broadening the understanding of Jesus' way in the 21st century. The group meets under the guidance of Don MacDougall and the conversations are based on the current book which raises central questions about the human journey in Christian perspective. A second book study, to begin in early 2021, will be [Between Heaven and Hell: A Dialogue Somewhere Beyond Death](#) by Peter Kreeft.

The Children and Youth Christmas Concert took place on December 20, 2020. It was a pre-recorded service that featured the faces and talents of many of our children and youth. Many positive comments were received after the service.

Thank you to the many volunteers who support the various projects and activities planned by this committee!

Respectfully submitted,
Darla MacNaughton

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PASTORAL CARE AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

As the pandemic closed around us in March of this year pastoral care became an even more important focus for our congregation. We realized the devastating impact that loneliness and isolation could have on our lives both spiritually and physically. Our role as Christians to walk with each other and the community in need around us became even more important.

We have been striving to do that in several ways.

Teleministry

Our existing teleministry was dramatically expanded during the first lockdown and has continued. The enlarged team contacted almost all adherents. This contact was frequently at first and has continued on a more focused basis.

- Our other ministries have diligently carried on behind the scenes within the Covid guidelines
- Prayer Circle - the silent support of prayers
- Prayer Shawl Group – warmth, thoughts and prayers
- Quilters - distanced fellowship
- Circle of Care - providing a warm masked smile and food

As we continue supporting each other let us look forward a safer, healthier future with less isolation and loneliness.

Respectfully submitted;
Dana Hanson, Nancy Chase, Guy Vezina, Cristin Muecke, Kelly Ebbett, Steven MacKenzie & Ellen Beairsto

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AFFIRMING DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Though we exchanged ideas via email and phone, the Affirming Diversity Committee did not meet this year. We maintained our church membership in Affirm United but, as was the case for many committees, we had to cancel plans for events due to COVID. We are now partnering with the Hospitality Committee, under the banner of the new Radical Hospitality Committee. In December we worked together to host our first combined effort, a Zoom meeting where we invited folks to share a favourite Christmas decoration, story or memory.



Deb Bradbury, Norm Laverty, Elizabeth Savoie, Maureen Toner.

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WORSHIP COMMITTEE



The Worship committee continues to meet monthly, though now largely via Zoom. The committee reviews services, makes suggestions and receives/approves baptism and wedding requests. Although we enjoyed a brief return to socially distanced, in-person services in the fall, due to Covid restrictions we are back to on-line services only.

The committee wishes to thank all those involved with the successful production of these services:

Thank you to Steven Peacock and his team for the lovely music they provide each week.

Many thanks to Doug Beirsto, Jeff Beirsto, Chris Colwell, Don Daye, Craig Frame, Peter Gough, John Leroux and Reg Sherren who are the technical wizards behind the camera and sound system. Because of them, our services reach beyond our own congregation to people across Canada and beyond.

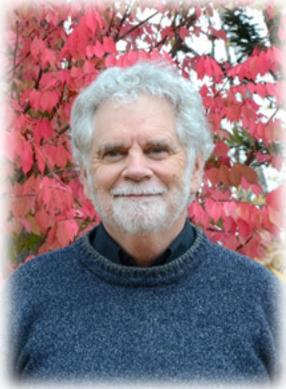
Last but not least, heartfelt thanks to Ellen Beirsto and Peter Short who bring these services to life with faith and hope. Your light shines out to us all at a time when we greatly need it.

Angela Wrobel

On behalf of the Worship Committee: Nancy Bauer, Peggy Brodie, Pam MacDermid and Ellen Sherren.

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MUSIC REPORT



2020 was a difficult year for the performing arts generally, and certainly for the two music ensembles for which the Director of Music is responsible--the Wilmot Senior Choir and the Frank T. Pridham Memorial Handbell Choir.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the Wilmot Senior Choir, a four-part (SATB) chorus of 32 voices, was able to contribute to our weekly services of worship only until March 15th--a total of 11 Sundays. The Senior Choir sings music in a range of classical and contemporary sacred styles, and 2020 had begun with much promise in terms of a continued musical evolution, thanks to new and returning choristers in the soprano and tenor sections in particular. Here's hoping we'll be able to resume our rehearsals and Sunday-morning worship participation sometime in 2021! We were able to acquire two new titles for our music library in early 2020. Further, we used archived performances from previous podcasts for two of our videotaped services. I realized, though, that the recording quality of the podcasts, because of microphone selection and placement, did not represent the Senior Choir very well. We now have better large-diaphragm "area" microphones and a much-improved digital soundboard at our disposal here at Wilmot, so one of my priorities when we resume "regular" worship with the choir is to work to ensure an improved podcast/livestream choral sound.

Despite the pandemic, the 11-member Frank T. Pridham Memorial Handbell Choir performed at four services of worship in 2020 (once before March 15th and in three of our December videotaped services) and has continued to improve both technically and musically. Unlike the Senior Choir, the Handbell Choir was able to resume rehearsals in November, following Wilmot's COVID-19 Committee's guidelines. We were also able to acquire three new titles for our handbell music library.

Once we began videotaped services as of March 22nd and livestreamed services in the fall, my energies as Director of Music changed focus; there was no Senior Choir to direct, but I needed to coordinate vocal soloists (many of whom came from the ranks of the Senior Choir) and play a much-expanded role as a guitar soloist and accompanist and in planning the musical elements of our services. My heartfelt thanks go to our vocal soloists--Heather Neville, Carolyn Munro, Amy Foster-McAllister, Brian MacDonald, and Rose Messenger--as well as to our many musically-inclined Youth participants who blessed us with their support.

Throughout 2020, Margaret MacDonald has performed her duties on organ and piano with much-appreciated skill, creativity, flexibility and professionalism, and it is a great privilege and pleasure to be her colleague. In addition to the instrumental support on organ, piano, classical guitar and djembe which Margaret and I have been able to provide for worship, including the youth-oriented services at various times in our Wilmot calendar which we coordinated with Ellen Beirsto, Wilmot was able to welcome cellist Emily Kennedy to one of our video services and one of our live-streamed services this past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Peacock
Director of Music

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HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Hospitality Committee is to foster a welcoming environment amongst our Congregation and the community it serves. The work of the Hospitality Committee is supported by event champions, as well as the help of other committees that we work together to implement events with.

In 2020, we held only three events as a direct result of the challenging times we are living through because of COVID-19. We had a fun-filled bowling gathering on late January, a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper in February, and our first-ever virtual event – a congregational Christmas conversation.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the volunteers and committees who have helped to make the hospitality events a success in 2020. It is wonderful to witness a strong sense of hospitality within our Wilmot Community; without volunteers it would be a challenge to extend the warmth of fellowship amongst our networks.

We are looking forward to the coming year as we continue to work towards a variety of events that promote hospitality and fellowship with the hope of reaching the interests of all congregational demographics. We are always welcoming of new committee members or event champions/coordinators.

Respectfully submitted,
Derek Ness, Committee Chair

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WILMOT INFORMATION TEAM

Ordinarily, the Wilmot Information Team (known as WIT), under the leadership of the Rev. Ellen Beirsto, meets 4 times a year to take care of business and to plan the newsletter *Words from Wilmot* published in September, Advent, Easter, and June. But we had just got the Easter issue out, with Lucille Caseley as editor, when the pandemic hit. Fortunately, Rick Patterson could put it on the website. Rick also put the Christmas issue on the website, printing a few large-print paper copies upon request. Many Wilmoters contribute to the success of *Words from Wilmot*, and we thank them.

We managed to meet once in person before the pandemic hit, but after that we carried on as a Committee by email and telephone.

In addition to producing the newsletter, the committee inserts ads in the Daily Gleaner three times a year: September, Christmas, Easter and occasionally for special worship services. This year we skipped September but had a Christmas ad. We maintain a website with the assistance of Dylan Sweeney. Tanya Mullin as well as Nancy Bauer and Heather Allaby maintain the Facebook page.

In ordinary circumstances WIT produces the *Welcome to Wilmot* folders, the Wilmot Tour brochure, the tourist bureau handouts, the ministers' business cards and the pew cards. These were put on hold until 2021. Ellen is our representative to the Church Council and Nancy to the Worship Committee.

We thank our chair emeritus, Garth Caseley, for being a visionary. Under his guidance, we became one of the first churches to have a website. He designed it and maintained it. We also thank Lucille Caseley for having been the editor of *Words from Wilmot* for many years. At the beginning of the pandemic, Rick Patterson stepped in to produce the weekly newsletter that kept us close to our interim ministers, Peter Short and Ellen Beairsto.

For several reasons, we will be revamping the communication strategy in the coming year. We have learned a lot in the ten months of the pandemic. The website will be redesigned and maintained by the office administrator, Tanya Mullin. We will print fewer paper copies of *Words from Wilmot*, relying on people to read it on our website.

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Bauer

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OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Again in 2020, the Outreach Committee worked with staff, members of Wilmot congregation and the community to offer various programs and activities for those in need of our assistance. We very much appreciate the generosity of our Wilmot congregation and others who support our efforts – **thank you!**

The pandemic, announced so early in the year, caused the committee to adapt what we do. Despite this, unexpected and generous support allowed Outreach to continue to provide as much as we could through **Wednesdays@Wilmot (W@W)** and **Saturday Evening Drop In** (Drop in). W@W provides lunch, bus tickets, haircuts and food vouchers to people who are living in difficult conditions. Drop-In provides people a safe place to gather and a light meal. The annual summer excursion had to be cancelled, unfortunately. We hope that in 2021 we will be able to resume and even improve how we support our friends and neighbors in the downtown area.

On a limited basis, we were able to continue the **Fair-Trade booth**, selling a range of products including tea, coffee, olive oil and chocolate on Sunday mornings or by special arrangement. Thanks to the congregation, the annual **Mitten Tree project** evolved to providing cash contributions to the Multicultural Association of Fredericton, which was then able to provide gifts to children of newcomer families. **Access to Justice and Care of the Earth** initiatives continued to be encouraged and monitored. The **Community Kitchen** had to adapt its meal service, however, volunteers coordinated though Outreach continued to support this program where possible.

Normally, funds are also raised to support activities from several after service ‘**soup luncheons**’ and donations to the **Benevolent Fund**. The soup luncheons had to be placed on hold however, Outreach continued to be richly supported by the congregation, corporate, faith and community sponsors including the Abbey for Drop-In; the Fredericton Direct Charge Co-Op and Victory Food Market for the W@W program. The United Way ‘s Atlantic Compassion Fund as well as the Emergency Fund provided welcome financial support. We enjoy an excellent relationship with St. Dunstan’s parish. The Downtown Community Health Clinic’s student nurses are available to do minor health tests and outreach workers from the John Howard Society often attend. Four Y’s Men’s groups of Fredericton, St. Dunstan’s and the City Transit Fare Assistance program also contributed

towards bus tickets. We welcome new members to any our activities or the committee. Please contact Lynn MacKinnon or Sally McAllister, if you would like further information.

Appreciatively, Sally McAllister and Lynn MacKinnon, co-chairs.

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Outreach Committee Annual Financial Summary

January 1, 2020 Outreach Committee Bank Statement opening balance: \$35,040.07
 Minus December 2019 outstanding cheques total: \$3,369.72 = \$31,670.35

Projects:	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Transportation	\$672.00 (fr: Biggs Fund bequest)	\$335.00
Campus Ministry	\$672.00 (fr: Biggs Fund bequest)	\$672.00
Saturday Night Drop In	\$0.00	\$1,164.90
Mitten Tree	\$995.00	\$995.00
Fair Trade	\$1,203.90	\$1,662.75
Wednesday @ Wilmot		
- Benevolent donation / memorials	\$16,872.92	\$22,648.44
- Community Donations	\$4,800.00	(Victory Meat vouchers)
- Bequests	\$1,450.52	\$3,480.45 (lunch food & pantry supplies)
Grants:		
- Fredericton Co-op	\$6,000.00	\$5,924.68** (food, haircuts, bus tickets)
United Way Central NB	\$5000.00	\$4,579.00 (food)
Covid-19 Atlantic Compassion Fund (5 week grant – April 2020)		\$421.00 (protective equipment)
United Way Emergency Fund	\$7000.00	
(4 month grant – Nov – March 2021)(food, bus tickets & phone cards)		\$2,050.00**
General A/C	\$50.00	\$1,437.20
	\$192.00	(Covid-19 protective supplies)
(Debbie McIntosh Investment Annual Interest)		\$1,065.97 (admin /charitable donations)

TOTALS:	\$44,908.34	\$46,436.39
Forwarding Balance for January 2021	<u>\$30,142.30</u>	

**\$75.32 – held in reserve related to Fredericton Co-op Grant
 **\$4,950.00 – held in reserve related to United Way Emergency Fund

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QUILTERS' REPORT

We had a wonderful five weeks of quilting on Wednesday and Thursday mornings and finished two quilts before everything shut down. We averaged from 3 to 10 quilters a day. We enjoyed our visitors and always have tea and a snack. In September we put on two quilts so we could start quilting again following the COVID-19 rules. We were able to quilt another eight weeks for those who felt comfortable coming out. We shared our snack and tea with Tanya, Thomas and Randy but had to maintain our distance. We started the year with \$3,729.61 and ended the year with \$3,909.61 which the UCW holds for us.

Linda Gough

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CUBA TWINNING COMMITTEE

Brief Historical Background

The twinning relationship was inspired by a presentation by John Dominic Crossan, which presented Jesus' mission as a "clean up" of the world (i.e., the Roman Empire). In order to explore such a mission in today's world, the Session at the time (2006) established the Committee to share stories between Wilmot and the Theological Protestant Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba, where Chris Levan had already some contacts. The Seminary was of interest because it did not just teach its students to preach the gospel, but also to realize the good news in the communities where the church was. Over the years participants from Wilmot have benefited from hands on experience in a number of communities beyond the Seminary: Four Corners, the Clearing of Avila, the town of Bolivia, the Kairos Centre in Matanzas. They also have had the opportunity to dialogue with the Martin Luther King Centre in Havana, the Centre for Dialog in Cardenas, several small private and coop farmers as well as government officials at the national, provincial and professional levels. Some Canadian young adults have stayed for longer period of times, and have used their experience to enhance their careers.

The Year of the Pandemic

At the end of last January and the beginning of February participants from Wilmot joined with others from Eglinton-St. George's United Church in north Toronto to encourage the music program at the Kairos Centre in Matanzas. They also met with friends who traveled from the Clearing of Avila (i.e., Ciego de Avila) to inform themselves about projects in that city and province. They celebrated the publication of a thesis on theology and colonization by a friend who had just completed his doctorate at Emanuel College in Toronto. A report

of the visit was made in a Power Point presentation to the congregation after the last full service in Wilmot before the shut down.

When travel became impossible, attempts were made to organize a study group on the doctoral thesis, but the US government prevented it happening by outlawing Zoom carrying on business with Cuba. Cuba has been affected by the pandemic, but seems to be dealing with it more or less successfully. The Seminary is closed, but they were planning to switch most of their classes to distant learning mode anyway. A dearly loved cook at the Seminary, Mamita, and the Seminary's young administrator, Farfan, have passed away, but from other illnesses.

Meca Lavery has maintained contact with a number of professors and friends during the pandemic. Spanish classes were not held this year. A young people's excursion for people in the eastern regions of the United Church was not possible. There will be more opportunities for travel and study in the future, but the Committee could always use more members, if you are curious.

The Cuba Twinning Committee



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WILMOT UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Wilmot UCW began 2020 with many plans but all changed – for every group - when COVID 19 hit us hard! So it was a very different year. We started off the year with thirty-six members and 9 associate members. Two members left and we had two new members join in the fall. Our regular meetings, held on the second Monday of the month from September to June in the Parlour at 1:00 p.m., were put on hold after March but we did restart our meetings in September with meetings held in the Gym. We were so happy to see all our friends once again, even at a distance! We were very much aware of the bad acoustics of the gym and moved to the Parlour for our December meeting. Our programs recently have included sharing many memories of wartime years and Christmas celebrations at our November and December meetings. Our members contribute to a regular offering plus special Thank offerings at Thanksgiving and Easter. We collect The Least Coin (5 cents) and the money goes to the Women’s Interchurch Council to support Women around the world. From our Birthday Box money we are able to provide money for special items like flowers for a member or a guest honorarium.

This year our projects included a Foodless Food Sale in February, and our unit’s Bring and Buy sale in March. When we resumed meetings in September, we made plans to hold our usual fund raisers. In October we held our Rummage Sale. In keeping with Covid-19 regulations we increased our hours and made rules to keep everyone safe! And it went very well! The Apple Pies was another challenge – held over two days to keep the numbers in the kitchen lower! Unfortunately, the Bake and New-to-you Sale had to be cancelled in November. However, although we were unable to complete all our regular fundraisers this year, the funds raised have been very good, surpassing our totals, due to so much support from Wilmot members and friends!

We catered one funeral reception in March but many other events that we normally contribute to were also cancelled this year! In March we catered a reception for the Women’s World Day of Prayer Service which was held at Wilmot. The service was prepared by the Women of Zimbabwe.

The UCW contributed to many Wilmot and Community projects in 2020, including the Wilmot Mission and Service fund; Wilmot General Operating Account; Fredericton Community Kitchen; Women in Transition House; Hospice Fredericton; and we also provided funding toward the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

The Helen A. Young Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Matthew Chase. He is a student at NBCC in Moncton.

We sent out many cards to members of our Wilmot family – for special birthday celebrations, for sickness and bereavement – to show that we are thinking of them. Our Senior remembrances in December have been a visit and a parcel, but none of that this year so Christmas cards were sent out to many of our Wilmot family including a poem written by Lucille Caseley.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks, especially this year, when so many of you have helped with financial contributions, items for the sale and for the many, many hands that make the difference for these projects. We would welcome all women to join our fellowship at our regular meetings. Tea is always served!!

Respectfully submitted,
Gillian Keyser

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U.C.W. Financial Report

Balance January 1,2020	15,217.34													
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		Total
Revenue														
Monthly Offering	213	158.00	233.50						1055.00	338.00	235.00	560.00		2792.50
Foodless Food Sale		2240.00	230.00					60.00				100		2630.00
Spring Rummage Sale														
Fall Rummage Sale									28.00	3171.00		30		3229.00
Apple Pie Sale											2924.00	139		3063.00
Bake Sale & New-to-You														
Bring & Buy			285.00											285.00
New to You									13.00			10		23.00
Donation											255	125		380
Catering-Receptions			350.00											350
Misc. Fundraising														
Least Coin/WICC			308.00											308.00
Quilters'									180.00					180.00
Total Revenue	213.00	2398.00	1406.50					60.00	1276.00	3509.00	3414.00	964.00		13240.50
Disbursements:			Pancake											
Wilnot Church/General			200.00	3200.00										3400.00
Fredericton Community Kitchen												800		800
Wilnot Church/M&S										3200.00				3200.00
Hospice Fredericton												500		500
Transition House Fredericton												500		500
Spring Rummage Sale Expenses														
Fall Rummage Sale Expenses												50.00		50.00
Apple Pie Expenses												785.05		785.05
Help Project/ Gifts													450	450.00
Sundry/Postage	240.27		31.89					205.16		47.13				524.45
Bank Charges/NSF		58.40								7.91				66.31
Least Coin/WICC			308.00											308.00
Total Disbursements	240.27	58.40	539.89	3200.00				205.16		3255.04	835.05	2250		10583.81
Balance December 31, 2020														17,874.03
Held in Reserve for Quilters														3909.61
UCW Funds December 31, 2020														13,964.42
Bank Balance December,2020														17,874.03
Helen Young Memorial Scholarship Fund														
Balance on Hand January 1, 2020	446.84													
Memorial Transfers In														
Donations														
Interest on Matured GIC	330.00													
Interest	1.44													
Balance December 31, 2020	778.28													
Held in GICs	15,000													
Respectfully Submitted,														
Susan L. Kulesza														
Treasurer														

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FREDERICTON RURAL CEMETERY REPORT

Year End Report for 2020 Internments from first of May, 2020 to End of November, 2020.

	Traditional	Cremation	Babies	Sub Total
McAdam's	5	12		17
Bishop's	9	6		15
York	2	5		7
Families & Out of Town	2	14		16
Totals & Grand Total	18	37		55

Our burials are little less than last year 2019 (72), cremation burials were down from past years. We presume because of the restricted size of gatherings due to "covid." These totals put us at a burial rate of just a little over 67% for cremations, down from last year. Traditional burials were up, not as much as last year (19) but still up there. The burial rate for cremations has continuously grown over the past few years except for this year & last. Our traditional burials are \$700 and cremation burials are \$350 (same as last year). We have one of the highest traditional and cremation burial rates in the area.

Last year 13 Niches were sold, this year 16 were sold, of the 37 cremations we had 5 went into niches. Two cremation lots and four traditional lots were sold. As you can see, just like last year the Columbariums have caught on, being the biggest seller for internments.

Our last internment for 2020 was a cremation on November 30th. We also had a late traditional on November 28th. There was no early snow this year to interfere with these late burials.

This year we didn't experience much of a flood; no damage this year. No heavy rock was placed along the cemetery edge this year; hopefully we will get some more done this year coming. We should place rock in three more places this coming year, roughly 15 more loads.

A new mower was not purchased in 2020; we made do with one mower. More whipper snipping was done instead. The city is enforcing a by-law of having no equipment on the side walk, so with transportation also being time consuming, we decided to stick with the one mower and a whipper snipper per trip.

Summer Help

This year we did not ask for extra help. We find it easier for us to not have to wait around for their arrival to work, as in years past. We found without the summer help there is less stress. In the heat of the summer, we like to start working early and stay out of the sun as much as possible. I just come in early and stay later; works better for us.

Other work coming up.

As mentioned in years past, the cedar hedge in the extension cemetery is showing signs of age, probably from the salt and snow being shoved in towards the hedge during snow removal of the Woodstock Road. At least 2/3 of the hedge above the entrance is dying or already dead. This was in the report last year; nothing has been done.

We are still having difficulties keeping people from driving on the graves, we just get them fixed, top soil & seeded, and it happens, same as years passed. We installed a few extra signs in 2017, “don’t drive on the grass,” etc. This was also done last year of 2019, still being ignored. Just don’t know what to do about this problem. We even put-up pylons during burials and they were driven over. There seems to be no respect any more.

Employee, Douglas Cote, is staying with us this year. He turns 65 in April of this year (2021). The arrangements for his retirement have not been discussed, or what to do next year after his departure.

Compiled by Gilbert Farris.

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Fredericton Rural Cemetery 2020 Financial Statement

REVENUE- SALES AND SERVICE	\$ 85,405.90
FROM INVESTMENTS	\$ 49,300.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$134,705.90
EXPENSES	
PAYROLL	\$ 93,287.00
WORKSAFE PREMIUNS	\$944.15
REIMB LOT PURCHASE	\$ 1,380.00
PETTY CASH EXPENSES	\$4,316.43
CLASSIC MEMORIALS	\$ 5,002.50
MARITIME FUEL	\$629.49
ROBERT SMITH (TOPSOIL)	\$1,035.00
GILBERT FARRIS (USE OF TRAILER)	\$ 3,401.00
CAIN INSURANCE	\$906.00
HST EXPENSES (2019)	\$12,120.06
HST EXPENSES (2020)	\$9,780.53
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	\$ 59.40
BELL ALIANT/NB POWER	\$2559.57
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 135,421.13

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ENVELOPE STEWARDS REPORT

2020 Envelope Givings Report																				
Interval	Local					M & S					Capital					Total Givings				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
1-99	17	33	23	13	15	17	28	31	34	37	21	22	23	21	28	18	37	18	12	15
100-199	11	27	20	19	18	31	23	23	20	25	17	18	21	23	24	11	24	17	14	11
200-299	10	13	17	17	20	14	18	16	15	13	13	19	17	22	16	4	12	10	15	11
300-399	11	13	15	14	16	10	12	9	14	11	8	16	19	14	13	6	11	14	13	14
400-599	17	22	27	29	24	11	11	13	12	9	19	8	5	9	8	14	15	28	18	20
600-799	18	24	23	23	22	4	5	5	6	6	5	6	6	6	6	9	20	16	21	24
800-999	20	21	22	23	17	4	4	4	4	2	1	3	4	2	2	12	9	15	11	13
1000-1499	32	37	35	34	36	6	8	7	7	7	3	2	0	2	2	43	44	41	38	35
1500-1999	22	9	12	16	16	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1		22	23	21	23	23	
2000-2499	16	10	7	7	7	2	1	1			1	1			19	15	17	19	16	
2500-2999	5	4	6	3	5	1		2	2	2					12	10	10	12	8	
3000-3499	4	2	4	4	3								1	1	10	8	2	3	1	
3500-3999	6	5	3	2	2			1			1	1			6	5	7	9	11	
4000-4499		2	1	1	1		1								2	2	2	2		
4500-4999	1		1	1	1	1		1	1	2					1		2	2	3	
5000-5999	2													1	4	3	4	3	3	
6000-6999	1	1	1	1											1	1	5	1	2	
7000-7999	2	1	3	2	2	1								1	3		2	2		
8000+	3	3	1	1	3		1	1	1	1					7	5	7	6	8	
No of Envs	198	227	221	210	208	104	114	116	117	117	90	98	97	101	101	204	248	234	224	217
Total	269492	235188	224863	224022	220528	54480	56795	61045	58967	58537	33286	33172	32253	35913	39046	403438	372038	403464	409744	377574
Ave/Env	1361	1036	1017	1067	1060	524	498	526	504	500	370	338	333	356	387	1978	1500	1724	1829	1740
Percentage Increase 2019/2018																				
Local M & S Capital Total Envs Number Local M & S Capital Total																				
Total 14.6 -4.1 0.3 8.4 % 116 \$1,232 \$384 \$324 \$1,833 envelopes																				
Average/env 31.4 5.1 9.3 31.8 % PAR 82 \$1,544 \$347 \$728 \$2,184 PAR																				
Total givings include donations to all church accounts. In 2020, there were 20 such accounts to which \$403,438.49 given.																				
The table is a summary of donations received by those who have numbered set of envelopes and by those giving by PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance.)																				
Thank-you to Tanya Mullin who records the givings which have been received in several ways. (envelopes, PARs etransfers drop-offs and mail)																				
Respectively submitted																				
Graham Allen																				

WILMOT UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Andrew MacDonald, Joan MacDonald, Jim Nicholson, Lois MacDougall, Derek Ness, Don MacDougall, Mary Anne van Oostwaard, Rita Roach, Deb Bradbury, Barb Frame, Craig Frame, Steven Peacock, Joan Taylor-Lamrock, Johanna Jones, Susan MacLeod, Valerie Moore, Gabe Gibson, Helen Dykeman, Florence Potts, Marg Routledge, Ian Stewart, Maureen Bilerman, Deanna McAllister, Margaret Whitlock, Georgina Baisley, Doug Beirsto, Greg Black, Gerhard Dueck, Kirby Keyser, Haley Keyser, Philip Keyser, Pauline Fraser, Elizabeth Savoie, Irene Forbes, Twila Buttimer, Pam MacDermid, Angela Wrobel, Nancy Gilbert, Chris Colwell, Kathryn Downton, Janice Harvey, David Coon, Iris Page, Beth Paynter, Wendy Wallace, Ellen Wilson Messenger, Claire Buck, Ron Buck, America Laverty, Gillian Keyser, Elaine Kenyon, Norman Sheen, Norman Laverty, Anne Colpitts, Guy Vezina, Carolyn Holyoke, Kathi Zwicker, Kevin Matthews, Garnet Randall, Ruth Randall, Steve MacKenzie, Nancy Chase, Linda Gough, Bob Willis, Jeff Beirsto, John Leroux, Fred Beirsto, Ruth Breen, Gordon Cameron, Terri MacLean, Shirley Cleave

Opening Motions:

1. a) **Appointment of Chair and Secretary of Annual Meeting**

Moved by Peter Short; seconded by Derek Ness, that Shirley Cleave and Terri MacLean serve as Chair and Secretary respectively for this meeting.

b) **Permission of Adherents to vote on Temporal Matters**

Moved by David Coon, seconded by Derek Ness that adherents be permitted to vote on temporal matters at this meeting.

2. **Approval of Agenda as circulated**

Moved by Helen Dykeman, seconded by Steve MacKenzie that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried.

3. **Approval of Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting – February 24, 2019**

Moved by Deb Bradbury, seconded by Joan MacDonald that the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting held on February 24, 2019 be accepted with the spelling of Larry Buick's name as corrected. Carried.

4. **Business Arising from Minutes** – It was concluded that there was not any business arising from the previous Annual Meeting that needed to be discussed.

5. **CELEBRATING 2019**

a) **Reports from Committees** were circulated in the Annual Report. It was noted that the list of Trustees at the beginning of the report should read: Jeff Beirsto, Greg Black, Peter Curtis, Craig Frame, Blair Kennedy, and clergy.

Moved by Ian Stewart, seconded by Chris Colwell that the reports from committees and groups in the 2019 Annual Report be accepted for information. Carried.

- b) **Remembrance of those who died in 2019.** Shirley Cleave read the names of those who had died in 2019. Three names were added to those that were in the Annual Report – William Beattie, Geoffrey Beaney, and David Myles.
- c) **Financial Statement for 2019** – We were pleased to have Mary Anne van Oostwaard here to present the Financial Statement from Daye Kelly. The investment account has done extremely well this year and in addition, there were bequests which helped to put us in a positive financial state. Questions were answered about the money set aside for Cuba project; and in regard to the major repair costs for the manse in 2019.
Motion: Moved by Craig Frame, seconded by Jeff Beirsto that the Financial Statement as presented by Mary Anne van Oostwaard be accepted as presented. Carried.
- d) **Recognition of those completing their term** by Derek Ness – Anne Colpitts, Reg Sherren, Judy Luton, Richard MacTavish and Terri MacLean.
- e) **Recognition of Staff** – Susan MacLeod recognized and thanked the Wilmot staff for all they have done to contribute to the congregation and wellbeing of Wilmot Church. Marlene Phillips will be re-retiring after returning to train our new Office Administrator, Tanya Mullin. Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin began her retirement in January after 10 years with Wilmot. Susan recognized the team leadership of Peter Short and Ellen Beirsto who will lead us through the year as we begin the discernment process. She thanked Randy Randall, our Sexton, for all he does to help with the programs here.

6. Enabling Our Mission in 2019

- a) **Committee Membership for 2019** – Derek Ness
Moved by Derek Ness, seconded by Linda Gough that the Nominating Committee Report be accepted as distributed and that Council have the authority to appoint members throughout the year.
- b) **Budget for 2020**
 - i) **Local Church Expenses** – Our budget for 2019 was presented by Craig Frame, our Treasurer. He explained that this budget is a story about all that happens here at Wilmot. Moved by Craig Frame, seconded by Jeff Beirsto that the 2020 Budget be accepted. Carried.
 - ii) **Mission and Service Fund** – Moved by Marg Routledge, seconded by Andy MacDonald that the target be raised for M & S from Wilmot is set at \$60,000. Carried.
 - iii) **Capital Projects Budget** - Greg Black spoke about the work on capital projects here at Wilmot. He reminded the congregation that there are many projects identified in the Heritage Engineering report that will need to be funded in the coming years.
Moved by Greg Black, seconded by Ian Stewart that the Capital Budget for 2020 is set at \$30,000. Carried.
- c) **Appointment of Accountants** – Moved by Jeff Beirsto, seconded by Gail Wylie that Daye Kelly be appointed as the accountants for Wilmot for 2020. Carried

7. **Other Business** – none brought forward.

8. **Announcements** – tax receipts are available now.

9. **Visioning Project Workshop** – Ron Buck spoke about the process that we have gone through as we have met with churches, community, committees, and congregation to explore the options for our future vision. Today we will be breaking into small groups to discuss a variety of topics. Reports will be compiled from each of these breakout sessions to see if there is interest in developing these ideas further.
10. The leaders and participants were thanked for their contributions and we are looking forward to the completion of the Final Report on the Visioning Project which has been a positive experience as we look to the future here at Wilmot.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Susan MacLeod, seconded by Barb Frame that the meeting be adjourned.

Commissioning by Ellen Beairsto – the Spirit is with us every day, and will help to lead us as we continue our visioning process.

Submitted,

Terri MacLean, Secretary

Shirley Cleave, Chair