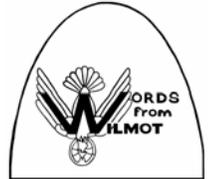


Words from Wilmot



Volume 23 Issue 1

April, 2012

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Easter Schedule

- April 1. Palm Sunday:
Reception New members
- April 6. Good Friday Service 11 AM
- April 8. Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service 7 AM with St. Paul's United
on the river at the end of Carleton Street
(Coffee and muffins at St. Paul's afterwards)



Worship Service, 11 AM Communion.
(No Sunday School, but nursery available.)

Living the Season of Easter

Living truth

After the first Easter morning, nothing for the followers of Jesus was ever the same again. Up until that point, Jesus might have said and done some perplexing things but nothing that couldn't be understood in his role as a teacher and miracle working prophet. Others had come preaching peace and love. Others had come working miracles. Others had travelled as itinerant preachers. Others had died at the cruel hands of the Romans. But on Easter morning all of that changed. Now Jesus was present with his followers in a new and radical way. Each time he was present in those early days, his followers didn't always recognize him at first. He was the same Jesus and yet he was somehow different and he promised to be present with them from then on in a different way than walking alongside them on the dusty roads of Palestine.

In the gospel of John, in Jesus' great prayer, he prepares his followers for this new and radical presence which will transform their relationships with each other so much that they become like the relationship between Jesus and God; united in oneness. He also asks God to sanctify or purify or clean them out with truth so that they might be a community of truth-tellers and truth-livers.

(Continued on Page 2)

Words from Wilmot

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Words from Wilmot are the
views of individual writers,
and do not necessarily
represent the viewpoint of
the congregation.

Living the Season of Easter (continued)

And this is the community to which we are called by God in this Easter season, a community of oneness in our faith in Christ in which truth is our highest aspiration. A community where for the sake of our life together we are willing to see things as they really are, not as we might like them to be, or might fervently wish they were, or as we think they should be, but actually as they are. In the loving care of community we can have the courage to look, clear-eyed at ourselves, knowing that we are loved by God - as we are, not as we wish we could project ourselves to be. We can speak and act truthfully when we see injustice and unfairness in our families, our communities, and beyond.

The presence of Jesus for us this Easter is that experience within, which calls us to live truthfully, hopefully, and deeply in God's abundant creation.

Seasons of the Spirit™
Wood Lake Books
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Submitted by
Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin

Postlude for Wilmot's Organist Emeritus Eric Tennant, 1928 - 2012



Eric Tennant, musician and classical church organist par excellence, will be fondly remembered by all who knew him at Wilmot United Church during the time that he occupied the organ bench from 2005 - 2007, and as Organist Emeritus following his illness until his death on March 14, 2012.

Eric was a Fredericton native son, born into a family of musicians where his father, mother and grandfather all played the finest pipe organs that our city had to offer at Brunswick Street Baptist Church, George Street (later Grace Memorial) Baptist Church and Christ Church Cathedral. Although Eric knew much sadness in his family when he experienced his father's death at age 7, he had an indomitable and joyous spirit, completing university degrees at Acadia University, Union Theological Seminary and Dalhousie University.

(Continued on Page 3)

Postlude for Eric Tennant (continued)

Eric's chosen career was law, but his passion was music, and his ecumenical spirit knew no denominational barriers. He served as organist in Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United congregations and felt blessed to find deep spiritual meaning and beauty in all of their musical traditions and worship liturgies.

Eric and Anna met through music in Halifax at First Baptist Church choir and together they brought up their children, Julie and John, mostly in Ontario during Eric's working life as a lawyer. Today their children and grandchildren are far-flung across the globe from British Columbia, Canada to Hiroshima, Japan. Anna has been Eric's loving spouse for 53 years.

A fine celebratory service of Eric's life was held at Grace Memorial Baptist Church on Saturday, March 17, with Wilmot choir members joining the choir at Grace, and Rev. Garth Caseley bringing the sentiments and prayers of the Wilmot people to all those present.

Eric loved people, no matter what their status or gifts. He was a great story-teller, remembering and relating many anecdotes about his experiences over the years. He could laugh about his own foibles and mis-adventures as well as enjoy a good tale about his family members or peers. Everyone enjoyed being around him.

As I pen these words in tribute to Eric, I am reminded of the great 13th century Persian poet and musician, Rumi, who wrote,

"We have fallen into the place where everything is music."

If that be so, then Eric is there.

♪ Lucille Caseley



Looking Ahead... Please mark your calendars for Wilmot UCW's Spring Rummage Sale. We will be holding it on Friday, April 20th from 3-7pm and Saturday, April 21st from 9am-12 noon. Please remember us when you are doing your spring cleaning. Donations of used clothing, toys, books, house wares, etc. can be dropped off on the stage any time prior to Friday April 20th. Please, no TVs or Computer Equipment. We appreciate anything else you can donate to make our sale a success!

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations



I hope you have had a chance to read Robert Schnase's *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. Rev. Gaskin has been handing out copies to members of various committees. The book is chock-a-block full of practical, specific actions a church can undertake to become more fruitful.

I was sold on the book when I read in the first chapter, "Radical Hospitality", about a visiting mother who was self-conscious when her baby began to fuss. "To show support for the young mom, [the congregational leaders] bought a comfortable, well-padded rocking chair." We have just the place for one—in that large block at the back of the sanctuary on the Queen Street side. Another church bought pagers for parents who left their babies in the nursery. It should be explained often that fussing babies are welcome. If a young mom gets up enough energy to come to church with a baby, she shouldn't have to spend her time in the nursery. Who needs the comfort of worship more than a mother of a baby?

Schnase suggests we walk through our church trying to put ourselves in the place of visitors. What impression would they get? Anne Stewart has made sure that visitors would sense warmth and attention to details. She has made what is essentially a cold cinder block building seem home-like and welcoming. How could we make the place appear more kid-friendly? Maybe we should keep both basketball nets down—teenagers would like that. Kids love our gym stage, but we are always shooing them off because we fear they will fall. At Welcome Sunday, Krista Wong made her Sunday School table kid-friendly with bright colours, balloons, candy.

The second of the five practices is "Passionate Worship." You should have good music, he says. We do. Check. Beautiful architecture and stained glass windows. Check. The parishioners should be actively engaged. We fulfil that too with greeters, ushers, choir, and scripture readers. We have newcomer kits to give out.

Make worship for everyone. "Handouts, announcements and signs are free of insider language and acronyms." Newcomers "shouldn't feel like confused and ignorant outsiders." Once at a recent communion a newcomer inadvertently wound up as the first in line. He was obviously confused and maybe a little embarrassed. But a man in our congregation kindly smiled and moved in front to help him find his way. The Communion drill should be explained every time, I decided.

Five Practises (continued)

I yield to no one in my grumpiness about the “new” hymns, those tuneless horrors full of politically correct theology. But I know, deep in my heart, that we have these for a good reason. Not everyone in our congregation is 77, thank goodness. Some people were brought up in an era that values tunelessness. We have to do something about helping young people have an experience of Passionate Worship. We do fall down in that. What could we do? Hold a Friday night worship service for which we hire a band?

The third practice, “Intentional faith development”, involves a deliberate attempt to have the members of the congregation grow in their faith, not only through Sunday worship but in small study groups throughout the week. “People desire fellowship and want to learn about their faith, but have trouble squeezing it into their busy lives.” One church had evening gatherings in people’s homes. Young couples could bring their children. Another congregation had a meeting for university kids at 9 PM on Sunday night after they had come back from their weekend home. They ate, caught up on news, prayed. I abandoned Wilmot for almost a year when my kids were little because St. Paul’s had a Sunday evening worship service, convenient for me.

“Risk-taking mission and service” is the fourth practice, and there we also come out pretty good, with our Cuba mission, our fantastic Outreach program, Saturday night drop-in centre, and voucher program. That is not to say we can’t do more. “Risk-taking draws us to the truth that many of our most uncertain ministries have an uncertain, unpredictable quality.

The only chapter that failed for me was “Extravagant generosity” where the emphasis was on getting people to tithe. In our recent program on stewardship, I didn’t hear the word “tithe” once. Schnase is the Bishop of the Missouri Methodist conference. Midwestern Methodists have an evangelical tinge to them that New England Methodists don’t, nor, I think, do Maritime Uniteds. Talking about money is the most difficult subject a church tackles.

I came away with the clear sense that although we are doing some things well, we should be concentrating on welcoming young couples, teenagers, and university students. I appreciated too Bishop Schnase’s caveat that we should do this without driving away our regular faithful congregation.

If you haven’t read the book, you will get another chance. A new round of reading and discussing is going to start up soon. Speak to Rev. Gaskin.

☺ Nancy Bauer

Easter FAQ

Where does the word “Easter” come from?

It is believed to come from Êostre, the Germanic goddess who was celebrated during the month of April, and who was known as a goddess of sunrise or light, hence growth and fertility.

How is the date of Easter Sunday established each year?

Unlike Christmas, Easter is a “moveable feast”. It falls on the first Sunday on or after the first full moon after the Spring (vernal) equinox in the Northern hemisphere. It can happen anywhere on or between March 22 and April 25.

When does the liturgical celebration of the Easter season end?

It ends 50 days after Easter Sunday on Pentecost Sunday.

Why is Easter celebrated on two different dates around the world?

The Eastern Orthodox churches use the Julian calendar and the western churches use the Gregorian calendar. The two calendars have different dates for the beginning of Spring.

How is Easter associated with the Jewish Passover?

The Christian Gospels state that Jesus’ resurrection took place on the first day of the week following

Passover and the Jewish Passover falls on the day of the first full moon following the Spring equinox. Sunday is the first day of the Jewish week so Christians have chosen Sunday for their celebration.

Why is the lily the flower of Easter?

*The lily is the flower mentioned repeatedly in the Bible. The white trumpet lily’s scientific name is *Lilium longiflorum* and is native to the Japanese southern islands. It is considered the traditional Easter flower because it symbolizes resurrection, life, hope and purity.*

Why coloured Easter eggs?

Eggs are a traditional pagan symbol of Spring and rebirth. Originally all Easter eggs were red (and still are in the Eastern Orthodox tradition) to symbolize the blood and death of Jesus.

Where is the world’s largest Easter egg?

*It is in Vegreville, central Alberta, Canada, where a large percentage of the population is of Ukrainian descent. It is 31 feet long and 3½ stories high, weighing 5,512 pounds. Ukrainian decorated Easter eggs are called *pysanka*.*

(Continued on Page 7)

Easter FAQ (continued)**When did the Easter Bunny become associated with Easter?**

The Easter Bunny does not have an exact age, but the first mention of a hare being associated with the Easter season was in Germany in the 1500s. Hares have always been a spring fertility symbol among ancient religions.

When did the Easter Bunny cross the ocean and come to America?

The Pennsylvania Dutch told their children about the “Osterhas” (Easter hare) early in the 18th century. According to legend he only brought good children coloured eggs in the nests that they set out in their caps or bonnets the night before Easter.

When and where did the first Easter Parade take place?

It started as a spontaneous event on Fifth Avenue, New York City in the 1870s. People, dressed in their Sunday finery, strolled on the Avenue after church to visit other churches to see their elaborate floral displays for Easter. Poorer people watched the more affluent people stroll about to see the latest fashion trends.

When did the tradition of wearing an Easter bonnet begin?

The Easter bonnet is a later addition to the tradition of wearing new clothes at Easter to be in step with renewal and spiritual redemption. It became a part of popular culture with the Easter Parade song by Irving Berlin in 1933.

When did the Easter Egg Roll on the White House lawn first happen?

In 1878 President Rutherford Hayes agreed to let children roll hard-boiled coloured eggs with a serving spoon on the south lawn of the White House after they were banned by Congress from Capitol Hill for making too much noise playing an egg rolling game on their day off school. The Easter Egg Roll is held each year on Easter Monday.

When did the tradition of hot cross buns begin?

The first recorded use of the term was not until 1733, but it is believed that buns marked with a cross were eaten by the Saxons in honour of the goddess Êostre (the cross symbolizing the four quarters of the moon). Traditionally Christians eat them on Good Friday and the cross symbolizes the crucifixion.

Why is Good Friday called “Good”?

Some say “good” is an Old English synonym for “holy”, others say it is a corruption of the word “God” like “Good Bye” was originally “God be with ye”. Christians believe the day is “good” because of “Christ’s victory over sin and death”. The term “Good Friday” is only used by western Christians, as Orthodox Christians refer to this sacred day as “Great and Holy Friday”.

Podcasting and the Copyright Act

In September, 2008, at the request of the Session, Wilmot United Church began podcasting parts of our worship services on our web site at wilmotuc.nb.ca and from time to time since then the question of possible copyright infringement has arisen among our church membership. This is because the weekly podcast has included music played by the organist, anthems sung by the choir and hymns sung by the congregation.

The Wilmot Information Team conducted research on this early in 2012. We referred to the Copyright Act (C-42), and specifically section 32.2 (3) which relates to “infringement of copyright” and the exemption for “religious organizations” (among other similar charitable organizations, including educational and fraternal organizations).

Based on the research, it was agreed by the Wilmot Information Team that we do not consider Wilmot United Church to be in violation of the Copyright Act of Canada in podcasting parts of our worship services.

This conclusion was reinforced by SOCAN (the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada) when that organization responded to a query from the Wilmot Information Team for a ruling on our

podcasting. Having evidently scanned the podcasting portion of Wilmot’s web site, the SOCAN representative who responded to our query replied as follows on January 25, 2012:

“According to what I saw, we would not charge a worship service even if it was broadcasted via a podcast. If popular music was used, then it would be an entirely different story. But according to what I saw you have nothing to worry about.

Here’s a sub section of the decision taken in 2008 by the Copyright Board of Canada:

“In a majority decision, Mr. Justice William J. Vancise and Mr. Stephen J. Callary also decided not to impose a tariff on a number of disparate sites for which the main activity is not related to music. These include, for instance, restaurants, hotels, bars and any other business websites that use music. It also includes amateur podcasts”

Should significant changes occur in the Copyright Act in months and years ahead, the Wilmot Information Team will continue to monitor them.

© Garth Caseley

Parish Nursing at Wilmot United Church

On March 18 after church Kelly Ebbett and Karen Watson launched their Parish Nursing program with



an open house and a blood pressure clinic. The numbers attending suggest that the program is being greeted enthusiastically by our congregation, an excellent addition to our ministry.

Their brochure states that the parish nurse is a Registered Nurse “who in response to God’s calling, applies nursing knowledge and healing gifts within a faith community.” Parish Nurses work closely with the ministry staff and in partnership with the congregation to offer this program. Our new Pastoral Care and Health Committee will oversee the ministry and help them choose priorities. Eight parish nurses are currently ministering in New Brunswick churches.

I sat down with Kelly and Karen to ask what kinds of activities they were contemplating. They are meeting with many different groups in

the church to ask their opinion of what the congregation might find helpful. They have already recognized a need for pastoral care such as visiting the sick, shut-in and those in nursing homes and the hospital. They see opportunities to work with our existing Outreach programs and hope to be able to offer programs geared toward the children.



Kelly Ebbett and Karen Watson

They are now going through their training for this ministry, taking two courses and doing a practicum of 100 hours each to prepare themselves. Both are Registered Nurses with a BN and in addition with much experience. They are looking to combine this education with their interest in the spiritual—a holistic approach to health with a focus on integrating faith and health.

I had ideas of my own. How helpful it would have been for me to have someone knowledgeable but

Parish Nursing (continued)

impartial to talk to about the hospitalization of my husband. How comforting it would have been if I could have asked them to explain what at the time seemed to be mysterious. Yes, they replied, they do hope to help people understand the health system. They know what resources there are in the government, how the complicated nursing home admittance works. They can help with the transition to a nursing home or with other challenging life transitions. They want to practice advocacy on our behalf.

Their office is in Wilmot Hall (under the sanctuary) and will be open after Sunday church service. They will also be able to take appointments for other times, either at the office or in your own home, nursing home or the hospital. Each of them will be available for four hours a week.

Their involvement will be through the minister, through self-referral or perhaps through a family member during a health crisis. They do caution against making a referral on someone else's behalf. In other words, they want to insure the privacy of anyone making use of their services.

You can leave phone messages at 458-1067, or email them at:

Kelly@wilmotuc.nb.ca or
Karen@wilmotuc.nb.ca

A brochure of their services is available.



UCW Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Sunday, May 6, plan to join our UCW in celebrating 50 years of service, support and fellowship to Wilmot United Church and the greater Fredericton community.

ECMA Nomination



Congratulations to Wilmot's choir director, Steven Peacock (guitarist) along with Sally Wright (flutist) for their ECMA nomination of Duo Cantilena - The Green Bushes: Dances, Airs and Lullabies. Their nomination is for Classical Recording of the Year. The East Coast Music Awards take place April 11-15.

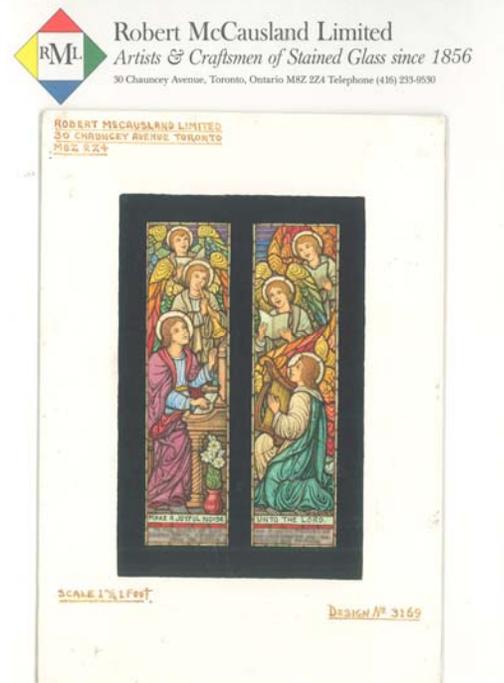
Glorious Heavenly Light

The stained glass window heritage of Wilmot United Church is not only of utmost historical significance for Fredericton, but embraces some of the most unique stained glass craftsmanship in all of Canada. You can go on line to our website wilmotuc.nb.ca and click on *Our Windows* to read the story of each of our eleven windows.

On Sunday, March 25, our worship service was enriched by two presentations from John Leroux, who researched Fredericton's stained glass and authored the book "Glorious Light", along with splendid music from guest flautist, Sally Wright, guitar duets with Stephen Peacock, our bell and senior choirs, and piano and organ solos by Virginia Leiter.

John spoke about the light shining through the coloured glass of the windows as being our direct link with the Source of All Light. When our present building was built in 1852 following the great fire of 1851, only the rondels at the top of the gothic arched windows, plus the wonderful round window above the entrance, were paned with coloured glass. They were a sign and symbol of the commitment of the people to add beauty through art and music to the urbanization of our downtown architecture.

We are now about to embark on increasing our treasure of glorious art



work with a new window on the right side of the chancel. A preliminary sketch prepared by Robert McCausland Ltd. of Toronto, depicting the patroness of music, St. Cecilia, at a harpsichord along with other figures with lyre, horn and voices, accompanies this article.

A perpetual fund to underwrite a fitting window of equal beauty to the existing windows for the last unornamented window in the church has been well established. With the advice and expertise of John Leroux along with Bob Willis, our chairperson of Trustees, our new window should become a reality in the coming year. Just as our forebears in the past contributed a transcending sacred space for us, we are contributing one more piece of ethereal sacred art for future generations.



emergingspirit.ca/

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**HAVE YOU CHECKED
LATELY?**



Wilmot welcomes the Scott Woods Band again this fall on Friday, September 21



The Scott Woods Band travels extensively throughout Canada each year helping to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for churches, charities and other community organizations. The show changes twice every year to a brand new theme so there's always something new to see.

Scott combines his masterful playing ability, a wonderful sense of humour and an incredibly talented group of musicians and puts it all together into a top notch fiddle variety show that is sure to delight audiences of all ages.

Bring your family and friends and join us for some toe-tapping fun, lots of laughs and some good old tunes. We'll put a song in your heart, a bounce in your step and a smile on your face. Tickets will be available by June at the Church office or contact Lois Campion for more information.

Public Forum on Access to Justice Held at Wilmot

On Saturday, February 24th, Wilmot United Church opened its doors to over 100 people for a Public Forum on Access to Justice. Fourteen exhibiting organizations and a distinguished key-note speaker from Dalhousie University's Law School focussed on the legal challenges that people face when they do not have the means to understand or access the judicial system.

Our UCW catered to this large group and Wilmot's support staff, Marlene and Randy, contributed many amenities to add to the success of the event. This important social issue for which two key members of our Outreach Committee, Gail Wylie and Norman Laverty, have dedicated their expertise and time will be featured in a more comprehensive article in our next publication of Words from Wilmot.

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