



Words from Wilmot

EVENTS AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE - JUNE 9 TO SEPTEMBER 15

June 9, 11:00 am - Graduation Sunday honouring all of our 2013 graduates. Be sure to mark your calendars so that together we can honour these amazing youth!

June 11 - Seniors Mystery Day. Call Janett Kieley at 455.3788; Susan Breen at 455.4072 or Brenda Cameron at 363.3388 for information.

June 16, 11:00 am - Sunday Service In The Park. Come and gather with children, youth, our church family and visitors for a great outdoor service at Odell Park, barbeque lunch and fun activities. In case of rain, we will just have our "Sunday Service In The Park" at the church!



June 30, July 7, 14, 21 and 28. - Combined Sunday Summer Service **at Wilmot at 10:30 am** with St. Paul's United Church.

August 4, 11, 18, 25 and Sept. 1 - Combined Sunday Summer Service **at St. Paul's at 10:30 am** with Wilmot United Church.

Pastoral Care During Summer Months: Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin will be available for Pastoral Care for July at 292.1680. Rev. Ellen Bearsto will do Pastoral Care for Wilmot for July and August, and for St. Paul's for the month of July. For emergencies please call Ellen at 206.1943 or 366.5393, or contact Marlene 458-1066.

August 26 - 30 - Vacation Bible School at Wilmot -- *Everywhere Fun Fair*. Together with St. Paul's, we are planning a week filled with great fun, to be held at Wilmot this year. Watch for updates in your church bulletin and on our website www.wilmotuc.ca.

September 8, **11:00 am** - First Sunday Back at Wilmot.

June 2013

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COMMUNITY PRENATAL CLASSES AT WILMOT

Kelly Ebbett has been a member of the Wilmot community for the past seven years,



having joined the congregation in 2006. "From the very beginning," says Kelly, "I felt that I could be a part of something much greater than anything I could do on my own. Here was a place that allowed me to grow in faith, where I could

offer my gifts and explore different options. Right away I wanted to be part of it." Kelly has never looked back, and has been more than generous with her energy and talents. She has taught Sunday School, was nursery coordinator, led the Vacation Bible School program for two years, organized the children's Christmas Concert in 2011, led the 4 pm Children's Christmas Eve Service for three years and has been involved in the innovative Parish Nursing Program.

Words from Wilmot

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Ministry Team

Rev. Rose-Hannah
Gaskin
506-292-1680
rose-hannah@
wilmotuc.nb.ca

Rev. Ellen Bearsto
506-784-7244
ellenb@nb.aibn.com

Organist

Virginia Leiter

Music Director

Steven Peacock

Church Office

Marlene Phillips
506-458-1066
wilmotuc@
nb.sympatico.ca

Church Sexton

Randy Randall
Kitchen and Hall:
506-452-0219

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(Prenatal continued....)

The history of Parish Nursing is an interesting one, born from the early notion that nursing was “a calling” at a time when there was not much separation between church and state and many hospitals were run by religious orders. Health was seen holistically as a combination of the physical and spiritual. Along the way, healthcare became a state-run entity and lost its connection to spirituality. Parish nursing attempts to reconnect the two, believing that health benefits are derived from a healthy spirit. Parish nursing is not meant to duplicate services already offered in the community or health care system, but rather to fill the gaps and play a supporting role. “A parish nurse can be a listening presence, a guide to resources and a person to pray with. My goal is to journey alongside a person to help them gain the level of health they are seeking.” Kelly is also a birth coach which in a way, she notes, is a similar role of journeying alongside an individual.

It was at a meeting of prenatal professionals that the lack of services in prenatal care for certain individuals was identified. “Immediately,” Kelly says, “I knew a program for expectant moms would be an excellent partnership of my skills and interests, the role of parish nursing, and Wilmot United Church.” For years, Wilmot has been a welcoming place for mothers of young children in the community who use the toy lending library, and now nursing moms, members of the La Leche League, meet in the toy library space with their babies and young children to encourage one another and provide information on breastfeeding. Kelly truly felt God’s call to fulfill this need for a prenatal care program and responded.

The first pilot session of the Community Prenatal Classes Program began May 7th and runs for six weeks. Up to ten expectant mothers and their support persons will be meeting one evening per week in Wilmot Hall to learn about having a healthy pregnancy, healthy birthing, adjusting to parenthood, parenting a newborn and breastfeeding.

Women who are excluded by age from the VON Healthy Baby and Me program which is for women 24 years of age and younger will be able to attend if they meet at least some of the following criteria: low income or unemployed, access the Fredericton Food Bank, live in subsidized housing or women’s shelter, are new to Canada and are able to understand some English, achieved less than a Grade 12 education or have a disability.

Women can self-refer or be referred through Public Health, the Gestation Clinic at the hospital or through other service providers. Once a woman has contacted Kelly, she will ensure that the program and the expectant mom are a good match.

Already, Kelly’s office is the site of some donated items of baby clothes, equipment, toys and teaching/learning materials. She will also accept donations of good, clean maternity clothes.

Kelly is very excited about the program and the support she has received at Wilmot. She notes how quickly it all fell into place from the initial idea, to receiving approval to pilot the project, to presenting the idea to the Wilmot community during children’s circle time. Kelly knew she was on the right journey when the congregation burst into spontaneous applause following her presentation.

This program is also partnering with the Radical Hospitality committee at Wilmot. Sue McLeod has volunteered to help by assisting with serving a healthy snack to expectant mothers during the class to help them

(Prenatal continued....)

learn about good prenatal nutrition. We all join in wishing Kelly every success with this new program. For more information, or if you have questions, contact Kelly Ebbett at kelly@wilmotuc.nb.ca or by calling 458-1067.

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**ORDINATION OF THE
REV. NICK COATES**



The following is Nick's letter to the editor of Words from Wilmot in anticipation of his ordination in May 2013, along with his greetings and wishes for God's blessing on the people of Wilmot:

Growing up in Fredericton, I did the usual activities of sports, theatre, music, etc., and graduated from FHS. Not knowing what else to do, I went to STU and graduated with honours in history. It was around this time that I started to be interested in theology, thinking that working in a faith-based non-profit might be what I'd like to do. I eventually wound up at Toronto School of Theology to do an MA in Theology. It was there, writing about how worship informs and constitutes church, that I began to discern a call to ministry. Ignoring it for a good year or so, it was Peter Wyatt and a few other close friends who sat me down and affirmed that call to ministry in the UCC. I enrolled in the process that year. It was not always an easy, fun, or supportive process, but by the end of my MDiv I knew this is what God had called me to do, and had found my voice, my calling and place within the leadership of the UCC. I'm honoured and proud to be part of this community of faith and am very excited to see where God takes all of us. We may be struggling, but God certainly isn't finished with us yet.

**2013
GRADUATES!**



HIGH SCHOOL

Amy Foster
Breagh MacDonald-Rahn

Neil Anderson

Megan Thomson

**UNIVERSITY/
COLLEGE**

Emma Secord
Jenna Hamilton
Christopher Smith

Heather Jean MacLean

Heather Ann MacLean

Samantha Cameron

Jennifer Redmond

Kevin Gough

ORDAINED

by Maritime Conference into The United Church of Canada
Nick Coates, BA, MDiv

**CONGRATULATIONS
2013 GRADUATES**

Graduation Sunday will be celebrated at Wilmot on June 9 at 11:00 am. Come and celebrate with our graduates!

For a list of our graduates please see the side bar on this page.

UCW RECENT FUNDRAISERS



The UCW would like to take this opportunity to thank all who helped us with our most recent fundraisers. Thanks to the efforts of all, our Spring Rummage Sale earned \$1926.00 and our Book Sale brought in almost \$1400.00! Funds raised support General Church Funds, M&S, Church Renovations, The Community Kitchen and other local community charities.

Even though the UCW organizes these events it takes major support from the congregation to donate, sort, sell and clean-up. We really appreciate how willing everyone is to give their time.

Thanks-a-million!

(Ordination continued)

Church was always a part of my life growing up. At first it was St. Paul's, and then later at Wilmot. Wilmot still feels like my home church – even now having been gone for close to ten years. It's wonderful to come back and see some familiar faces, all of whom recognize me, and do not know me just as "Judy's son". It was at this church that I learned about God's love, that God loves everybody and calls us to do the same through being kind and just to each other here and around the world. That part of the Gospel was proclaimed loudly, and I took it to heart.

Wanting something different as my needs changed as a teen, I spent about 10 years in other churches around the city and became more active in them. That was a very formative time for me, not only because I met others my age who saw in Jesus something beautiful and divine, but because I started wanting to chase after that something beautiful and divine. It was there I learned about the other part of the Gospel, of God's grace and the call to try to be the kind of people God created us to be. I eventually, however, found myself back at Wilmot and found there people asking the questions I was wondering about, and found there such a diverse yet unified community. And again, it's lovely to call it home and be part of it whenever possible.

Important people throughout my life who helped point me in the right direction: Peter Wyatt and the rest of the Emmanuel Faculty, Bill Kervin, my thesis director, Chris Levan and Peter Short, both of whom mentored me along the way and played a huge part in affirming my call and gifts, Eglinton St. George's United Church where I first began my ministry as the youth and college/career minister, and many, many others such as close friends like Chris Orme, Mike Ashfield, Matt Sears and others. And my family obviously, who were perhaps as surprised as I was that God called me into this, but who have been affirming and supporting from the get-go.

My sense of call was specifically to the UCC. I felt that strongly. But within that, while to the general prophetic and pastoral ministry of the church, it is to help this church be just that, a church. We are a church trying to catch up with the changing world and we must learn to ground ourselves in the Gospel, and yet keep being inclusive, hospitable and justice makers. I believe my calling is found within that – of being a voice to help try to move forward yet not lose our history, our heritage, and those people who have been in the pews for longer than they care to remember. It's a challenging time for us as we discuss new forms of worship, language, dress, etc., and talk about new ways of doing ministry, and I am excited for it and while it will be hard for us, I believe and take comfort in the fact that God is always for us, which means God is always with us.

My first official ministry will be at a call I have accepted to Red Deer Lake United Church in Calgary, AB. It's a growing church in the south west suburbs, and a community of faith that is focussed on being diverse in their unity, and reaching out to the young families in the area with innovative, sincere, and transformative outreach and worship. I'm thrilled to be their lead pastor, and am excited to see where God takes us.

Excerpt from email from Nick Coates,
May 21, 2013

OUR CHURCH IS ACCESSIBLE

Wilmot Church, which stands on the downtown corner of King and Carleton streets, was built in 1852 in the Gothic style with a sweeping Gothic staircase rising ten feet from the entry doors to the sanctuary above. Ascending this long staircase is often difficult for some people who are a vital part of our church family, or our visitors whom we want to feel welcome to our beautiful building. The good news is that we have had a lift/elevator with room for two people and a wheelchair to

GREETINGS FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Craig Frame. At the AGM in



February I was given the honour of chairing Wilmot's Council. My wife, Barb, and I have been members of Wilmot United Church for some 20 years. Barb is a retired teacher and I

am a forester with the provincial government. We have two boys. Geoffrey is 24 and lives and works in Calgary as a geomatics engineer. Christopher is 27 and works for the Canada Revenue Agency in Halifax. Christopher's wife, Amanda, is graduating this spring from dentistry at Dalhousie University. Amanda is in the military and has been posted to Edmonton so they are packing up for the big move across the country.

I have grown up in the United Church having attended a number of churches, mostly in western Canada, where my father was a United Church minister. My grandfather was also a United Church minister and although he ended his ministry in western Canada, he was ordained in Nova Scotia in 1928 and his first congregation was in Norton, NB. My great-grandfather was a Presbyterian minister and joined the United Church when the United Church was formed in 1925.

Barb and I attended Nashwaaksis United Church for a number of years prior to joining Wilmot. We were heavily involved in youth programming and I first experienced a Council system there as a member of the Worship Committee. Since coming to Wilmot, I have participated in a number of areas with the Ministry and Personnel Committee and Stewards being a couple of examples.

I believe that the Council system we have adopted has some distinct advantages for Wilmot at this stage in our congregational life. Today people's lives seem busier and with fewer members able to participate on committees we need to be as careful as possible about the amount of committee time we ask of our volunteers. The Council system has streamlined the number of committees and meetings as opposed to our previous Official Board system. The Church Council is really a coordinating body, a forum for some decisions, and a place where committee plans and actions can be shared. Another big feature of our Church Council is the consistent attendance at Council of a representative from each committee who is appointed for that specific purpose. This greatly enhances the efficient work of Council and improves the line of communication between Council and each committee.

Under the new Council system there is no longer a Session. The Session was the body under our Official Board responsible for the spiritual leadership of the congregation. All aspects of the former Session's responsibilities have been taken over by the Council itself or by other committees. One of the positive and unforeseen, at least by me, benefits of this change has been a concerted effort by committees to see their decisions and mission work through a spiritual lens and not just a temporal one. Rose~Hannah and Ellen have facilitated this but a committed effort by committee chairs and members has really made this blossom.

Wilmot adopted the following as our vision statement: *Wilmot United Church is an open and welcoming presence in downtown Fredericton, acting out our Christian faith to be a light in God's world.* We are an indeed an open and welcoming presence in downtown

(Continued on Page 6)

(Church Council continued ...)

Fredericton and we continue to examine how we can expand that welcoming spirit. I am constantly amazed at the variety of ministries at Wilmot. Many of these are rooted in the downtown location of our church. Wednesdays @ Wilmot, the UCW rummage sale, and the Saturday Night Drop In are but a few examples of these.

Involvement in Wilmot's ministries is how many members nurture and sustain their Christian faith. It is part of what we are called to do as beloved children of God, to act out our faith. I hope you are able to join in one or more of Wilmot's ministries, if you haven't already. You just have to ask. I am sure you will find a rich sense of fellowship as you act out your faith to be a light in God's world.

☺ Craig Frame
Chairperson of Council

(Church is Accessible...)

assist people attending our worship services and many concerts and community events since 1997. Our friendly monitors, on duty at the Carleton Street entrance, assist young and old to operate the lift whenever requested, with a smile. A large bequest from the estate of Miss Helen Chappelle provided a substantial portion of the necessary funds, plus memorials and other financial gifts, made the lift/elevator, and renovations to accommodate it, possible and it is now enjoyed constantly in our historic and beautiful facility.



☺ L. Caseley with references from
"The Story of Wilmot United Church"
by Anita Jones

**WILMOT'S FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL SWIM**

Our First Congregational Swim for children, youth, families and folks of all ages was held on May 11 at the Fredericton Indoor Pool. Unfortunately it was a very busy weekend for most but those who were able to attend had great fun. It was neat to see the range of ages from 2 ½ months to 90 years. In the picture, we see Pearl and Evelyn Bearsto with their cousins, Charlotte and Nell, as well as Uncle Steve and Ellen. (Sorry, Evelyn, that I did not get the life jacket pulled down far enough!)

☺ Rev. Ellen Bearsto

THOUGHTS ON BANGLADESH

On April 24th, the images coming from Bangladesh were somehow almost eerily beautiful. Picture a bright, sunny day, hundreds of handsome, dark-haired people in colourful clothing, a pile of what looked like white stone, and streaming from it, festive bolts of brightly coloured cloth, hanging like the banners and bunting you see on parade days. The difference was this was a scene of unspeakable horror. Young women emerged from the pile of rubble the factory had become, to cling to and slide down the bolts of fabric flung from windows and crevices. Many young women were still trapped inside in the stifling heat, crushed, suffocating or dead.

I went to my closet and touched the sleeve of a sweater hanging there. The label said *Joe Fresh*, one of the many companies

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GUESS WHO CAME TO DINNER

On March 20th, 500 people filled the St. Anne's Point Salon of the Fredericton Convention Centre, including an impressive representation of Wilmot folks who came to support Fredericton's Community Action Group on Homelessness (CAGH). The Outreach Committee of Wilmot United Church is a member organization of CAGH along with 24 other non-profit, governmental and civic-minded liaisons committed to ending homelessness in our city. Wilmoters filled two round tables of eight in the centre of the venue that evening, plus several Wilmot members dined with other sponsoring organizations throughout the room. A menu of salad, beans and "franks", brown bread, apple cobbler and beverages was served at tables crowded with centrepieces, flatware, stemware, dinnerware and table linens, at \$175 a ticket, part of which could be used as a charitable donation receipt.

Tim Ross, co-ordinator of CAGH, announced that the event raised nearly \$160,000, which included a donation of \$100,000 from keynote speaker, former NB premier Frank McKenna. Proceeds will be used to create affordable housing opportunities in Fredericton based on a "Housing First" initiative to provide immediate safe housing and support networks to chronically homeless individuals. Ross said, "No one knows how many people in Fredericton are homeless but about 300 people accessed Fredericton homeless shelters last year." Tim Richter of Calgary and CEO of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, another guest speaker, emphasized, "You can take a chronically homeless individual and put them in housing and provide them with support for between \$15,000 and \$18,000 a year. If left on the street, a chronically homeless



individual can consume up to \$130,000 in services per person per year. It's a more efficient use of scarce public resources."

Fredericton's "Housing First" strategy began with "The Next 26" campaign, as a response to the 26 people left homeless on Thanksgiving Sunday at Isaac's Way, next door to Wilmot United Church. It was a challenge to re-house these individuals because of lack of decent affordable rental housing, but the Fredericton community responded to the crisis in a resourceful manner. However the chronic issue is that for each one of the 26 roomers displaced on Thanksgiving Sunday there are currently an estimated 30 to 60 individuals experiencing homelessness or overcrowded, unstable living conditions.

The Very Rev. Dr. Peter Short sent an email before the March event encouraging Wilmot United Church and St. Paul's United Church people to stand behind the "Housing First" initiative. His message on "Redemption is a Home Address" is included in this newsletter on page 8. We, at Wilmot, are proud of the people who serve on our Outreach team and who work towards advocacy and education, as well as all who volunteer on a weekly basis, providing assistance through our many community programs. As

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(Guess Who continued ...)

church people we know that philanthropy is not enough, but large social goals can be achieved only by changing systems that work against the dignity of the weakest members of our society.

The day following the “Let's get Frank about Homelessness” dinner and dialogue event, the Nobel Prize winner Chinua Achebe died, leaving the legacy of his most quoted literary line, “*While we do our good works let us not forget that the real solution lies in a world in which charity will have become unnecessary.*”

☺ L. Caseley

Redemption Is A Home Address

The following is an excerpt from an email from The Very Rev. Dr. Peter Short, sent on March 4 to those who have concerns around affordable housing for our downtown friends who have special difficulties with a secure place to live:

Dear Friends,

Early each morning (even before coffee) I offer a prayer of gratitude that I have been brought safely through the night. I thank God for the home that has sheltered me and my loved ones. There are other people and things to be prayed for, but somehow this gratitude for safety and shelter always comes first.

There are people in our city who do not have this essential foundation for life. That is why I write to you now about what it means to have a place called home, and what it means to have no such thing.

The first purpose of any community is to be a home for its people, and one of the fundamental tasks in providing a home for all is a practice called redemption.

To redeem is common work. It's what you are doing, for example, when you take bottles back to the redemption centre. You are taking that which has been used and discarded to a place where it can be refitted for useful existence. When you do that you have redeemed those old containers.

To redeem is an important word in the spiritual tradition too. In the sacred text, people who have fallen upon hard times often lose their homes and end up as slaves. They hope that someone in their community will come to relieve the debt and secure their release. When this happens they are said to be redeemed. That is, they are freed and refitted for useful existence. They have a place of belonging in the community again.

In our city, affordable housing is the source and the headwater of this work of redemption. The living of a free and useful life each day begins from a starting place of safety and self respect. And at the end of the day? Imagine having the dignity of a destination and a place to belong. Home.

Every time we find a way for someone or some family to have a secure and affordable home we are contributing to the vital community work of redemption. This is why an approach called “Housing First” is the best response to the problems that afflict homeless people in our community. How to fill out a job application if you have no address? How to prevail in the struggle with addiction if you have no decent place to sleep? How to succeed in school if you're too hungry to concentrate? Housing First doesn't eliminate the challenges but it does give people half a chance at addressing them.

The congregations that have sustained my spiritual life in this city - Wilmot United Church and St. Paul's United

(Continued on Page 9)

(Redemption continued ...)

Church have, each in their own way, been responding for many years to the challenges of homelessness and affordable housing. I have been inspired by the people who make this important mission possible.

Other cities (Calgary comes to mind) are experiencing significant success in providing affordable housing as an essential step toward a healthier community. It can be done here too and we can do it. But it doesn't happen without focused goals, deliberate effort and community involvement.

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CAKE POPS FOR HONDURAS!

On three consecutive Sundays in April during coffee and conversation, Amelia Secord offered a variety of baked goods including colorful cake pops at her display table in support of Global Brigades, a student-led global health and sustainable development organization.



Entering into her third year of studies in arts and science, Amelia is a member of the UNB Leadership Team for Global Brigades. In early May, she and twenty-four other students travelled to Honduras, taking with them much-needed medical supplies and medicines, a healthy dose of enthusiasm and

a willingness to learn. Once there, the students assisted doctors and dentists with basic medical care, and observed firsthand how generosity and hard work can help a community.

Amelia was amazed and grateful for the interest shown in her project by Wilmot members and by their support. Almost seven hundred dollars was donated toward her expenses. All funds for both supplies and travel must be raised by the students themselves through a variety of fundraising efforts in the months leading up to the brigade.

She will be giving a visual presentation of her experience in Honduras and an explanation of the range of work that Global Brigades undertakes in communities to help meet basic needs on a date soon to be announced. Watch the bulletin for further information.

About her experience Amelia says, "Not only did I realize my potential to positively affect a community, but I learned that it takes a community of people working together to raise and sustain a healthy individual." For more information about Global Brigades contact www.globalbrigades.org

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INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR WILMOT WRITER



Wilmot Writer, Rose Burke, received some exciting news from the editor of *The United Church Observer*, David Wilson, recently.

At the "Best of the Church Press 2012 Awards" competition of the Associated Church Press, the oldest interdenominational religious press

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2013 WILMOT PHOTO DIRECTORY

At press time, photos continue to be taken for the 2013 Wilmot Photo Directory. The end result will be over 170 photos. The Universal Portrait Studios want me to pass on their thanks for the warm reception they received, both in the booking of photos and for Tony, the photographer and his assistant Anna. My personal "thank you" to the greeters; to Garth Caseley for the design of the front and back covers; and to Jack Oudemans, our favourite Wilmot photographer. Last but not least, to the Wilmot family for taking the time to dress up in their Sunday best and come out to support this project. The directory will be ready for distribution on Welcome Back Sunday in September.

☺ Maggie Clarke, Co-ordinator

(International Award continued ...)

association in North America, at ACP's convention held in Indianapolis in April 2013, her article, *Birth Pangs*, published in the December 2012 issue of The Observer received Honourable Mention in the Seasonal Article category. In fact, the 21 awards that The Observer received at this event were more than any other magazine in the competition. Judges chose from more than 1,000 entries from U. S. and Canadian publications in roughly 60 categories. Rose says, "I opened the attachment listing the awards that The Observer won, there I was under Honourable Mention, all thanks to the Wilmot Writers. I so appreciate everyone's encouragement and suggestions." Nancy Bauer, our group's mentor, exulted, "Do we rock or do we rock!" Because this is an international award it is of high significance for one of Wilmot's Writers. Congratulations, Rose.

☺ L. Caseley

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 26 to 30 - "*Everywhere Fun Fair* takes children to a global celebration with the look and feel of a world's fair. Children will make friends with neighbors around the world and discover that God's love can be found everywhere, including their own neighborhoods. Children will be introduced to special places from all over the world and discover that we are all neighbors and all children of God." The week will be filled with interactive Bible storytelling, global games, rockin' music, cool crafts, and more!

Note: Vacation Bible School children will be the first to use the new floor in the gym. We will be undertaking a huge project of replacing the worn tile floor in the Dr. G. M. Young Memorial Hall during the early part of the month of August. When we return to worship in September the renovation will be a fine upgrade to our facilities, thanks to an anonymous donor and the faithful attention of our trusty trustees!

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM FOR 2013



Seasons of the Spirit is the curriculum of choice for Wilmot school-age children and adults for the coming 2013 Fall Term at Wilmot, and we are going to introduce the program *Godly Play* for the pre-school class, reports Rev. Ellen Beairsto. *Seasons of the Spirit* is a lectionary based teaching and resource tool that follows the church year, integrating education, worship and outreach ministries of the congregation. September finds us in the Season of Creation, celebrating "Earth as a sacred planet filled with God's vibrant presence".

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(Sunday School continued ...)



Godly Play for our youngest members is a whole new approach to experiencing and growing in faith by building on the innate spirituality of little children, encouraging their curiosity and imagination through stories and play-acting in keeping with their daily experiences, and helping them to express joy and wonder in their relationship with God's world.

Andrea (Black) Stewart has volunteered to be the Sunday School Coordinator and will work along with Rev. Ellen Beairsto in the coming year. They would like to have enough teachers so that they can work in blocks of time, such as Fall, Christmas, Lent and Easter sessions. We need volunteers to carry out this important program for our children under the enthusiastic guiding hand of Ellen. If this ministry calls to you, please speak to Ellen 206.1943 or 366.5393 or email her at ellenb@nb.aibn.com.

To learn more about *Seasons of the Spirit* and *Godly Play* go to: <http://www.seasonsonline.ca/files/2012%20Bulletin%20insert-gs-2up.pdf> and <http://www.godlyplayfoundation.org/newsite/WhatIsGodlyPlay.html>

© L. Caseley

QUILT PROJECT

This past year, the Middle-School Youth have had a great time doing a variety of activities. Our latest project was helping make 4 quilts – a project that we completed in partnership with the Quispamsis United Church. Three

of our quilts headed to Happy Valley / Goose Bay and the fourth to Romero House in Saint John. Matthew Chase and Nathan Gorey can be seen concentrating



on the task of tying the quilt. Although it was certainly a new skill for both boys, they definitely were fast learners and we look forward to participating in this project again next year.

© Rev. Ellen Beairsto

(Bangladesh continued ...)

whose clothing is manufactured in Bangladesh. I bought this sweater on impulse one day when I was grocery shopping. It wasn't anything I really needed but it was cheap, and a pretty pink color. Now, I wonder about whose hands may have touched this sweater in its making. Was that person now buried in the rubble? A person who is someone's daughter, someone's sister, someone's mother?

My own mother was a professional seamstress. Growing up, my sisters and I were always very well dressed. I remember standing impatiently as mom carefully checked the placement of a shoulder seam or dart, the care and attention she put into everything she made, and how I wanted to be outside playing, or doing anything other than slowly quarter-turning as she pinned the hem of my new fall coat. "Turn," she'd say, straight pins held firmly in her pursed lips.

Because my mother made my clothing, I developed the habit of sensing a personal

(Continued on Page 12)



WE'RE ON THE
WEB AT
WILMOTUC.NB.CA

HAVE YOU CHECKED
LATELY?

This newsletter can
also be read online on
our website.

Words from Wilmot

is available in

**LARGE
PRINT**

for those with
impaired vision.

These will be
available on a limited
basis for each issue.

If you would like to
receive the LARGE
PRINT edition, please
ask a Sunday Morning
Welcomer or pick up
one at the
church office.



(Bangladesh continued ...)

connection to the hands that have cut, stitched and guided the fabric I am wearing through the pressure foot of a sewing machine, turning it into an article of clothing. Who sewed the buttons on? That was a job sometimes left for me. Were they happy while they were doing this, or grim with concentration like my mother?

Several years ago a toy factory in China burned to the ground and no one could get out because the doors were locked from the outside. Most of those who died were children. This happened just before Christmas, my girls were small then, and I had been reading them stories about Santa's workshop and willing, happy elves. I realized with horror that yes, there were elves, but they weren't living at the North Pole at all; they were child labourers in foreign countries.

My daughters are young women now. They have so much more than they really need, stuffed into drawers and closets and yes, sometimes piled on the floor. Jeans, scarves, jackets, boots, shoes, costume jewelry, makeup, bathing suits, exercise outfits. They are not unlike most North Americans who have an overabundance of cheap, disposable clothing. All these things are made by someone else's hands, someone who lives far away and is paid very little for their labour, someone who has perhaps been sent from their village to work in a factory in the city.

The same thing occurred in New Brunswick, occurs everywhere. Country girls were sent to live in a dormitory in St. Stephen to work in the Ganong chocolate factory. They wore hair nets and bent over vats with chocolate up to

their elbows as they hand-dipped. They were young farm girls living away from home and looked nothing like the glamorous women who posed on the front of the chocolate boxes to encourage people to purchase a fleeting moment of luxury.

In times of economic downturn, or when life has been difficult or when horrible things happen, designers bring out the next season's clothing in brighter colours to cheer us and to encourage us to keep buying, keep spending and keep the machines humming and the profits coming in. I wonder what the fall line of clothing will look like at the Superstore this year. Neon? What will encourage us to forget the collapse of the factory in Bangladesh? The thousand and more lives needlessly lost? These are complicated issues. People need to work, regulations need to be put in place and reinforced, and we need to pay more for our clothing. These kinds of battles are hard fought, hard won and hard kept. In Canada we struggled to form labour unions, and have only recently recognized the unfair treatment and sacrifice of foreign labourers brought in to build our transcontinental railroad.

I am going to keep wearing my *Joe Fresh* sweater, not tuck it away in a drawer because the facts surrounding its existence are too painful, too unspeakable to think about. I will continue wondering whose hands may have touched it and I will not forget them. I will join with others as we pray for fairness, and solutions, for better working conditions and greater equality.

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