



Words from Wilmot

Events and Worship Schedule for the 2014 Advent and Christmas Season



Sunday, Nov. 23, 11:00 am:
Anniversary Sunday
Guest Speaker
Very Rev. Dr. Peter Short
Soup Luncheon
Following Worship



Friday, Nov. 28
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
UCW Bake Sale and
New-To-You Table



Saturday, Nov. 29
7:30 pm
Concert



Sun. Nov. 30, 11:00 am:
Hanging of the Greens
and White Gift Sunday
(Delivery of Grandmothers
Helping Grandmothers
Wreaths)

Tues. Dec. 2:
Seniors Christmas Buffet Lunch at Aggies

Wed. Dec. 3, 12:10 noon: Contemplative
Space for Advent

7:30 pm: Interdenominational Advent Carol
Festival, St. Paul's United Church



Sun. Dec. 7, 11:00 am:
Worship with Communion

Mon. Dec. 8, 6:00 pm:
UCW Annual Pot Luck
Christmas Dinner

Wed. Dec. 10, 12:10 noon:
Contemplative Space for Advent
(Last day for receiving Christmas Hamper
gifts from Mitten Tree)

Fri. Dec. 12, 6:00 pm:
Annual Christmas Progressive Dinner



Sun. Dec. 14, 11:00 am:
Children and Youth Sunday
Sunday School Pageant,
Music by Children and Youth

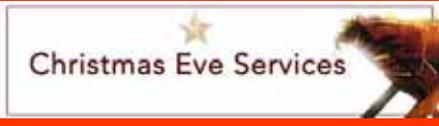
Wed. Dec. 17, 12:10 noon:
Contemplative Space for Advent

Thurs. and Fri. Dec. 18 and 19:
Wrapping and delivering gifts for Hamper Project



Sun., Dec. 21,
11:00 am:
Worship with
special Senior
Choir Music and
Baptism

7:00 pm: "Blue Christmas"
(Longest Night Service)
St. Paul's United Church



Wed., Dec. 24:
4:00 pm - Children's "Journeying to Bethlehem"
7:00 pm - Family Service with special music
11:00 pm - Christmas Eve Communion

Sun. Dec. 28, 11:00 am: Combined worship service with St. Paul's at Wilmot

November, 2014

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FOR INFORMATION ON ALL EVENTS AND WORSHIP SERVICES GO TO
www.wilmotuc.nb.ca

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CORNER

We have had a great couple of months with the children and youth. We are gradually building teams of volunteers to work with various age groups. It is exciting to see our older youth working together to teach the Grades 1 to 4 Sunday



School program: Amelia Secord (UNB), Emily Burns (UNB and coming to us from St. Paul's United Church in Riverview), Jacqueline Young (UNB and coming to us from Quispamsis United), Madeline Messenger (FHS) and Claire Vezina (UNB). This teamwork approach allows us great flexibility and so during competitions, exams, assignments and travelling home, we are able to have at least 2 to 3 teaching each week. Through emailing, texting and good old fashioned telephoning we are in contact weekly. The children are certainly enjoying the team.



On September 21, both Middle School and Senior Youth Groups headed off on a Scavenger Hunt. Where did we go? To the Fredericton Rural Cemetery on Woodstock Road. Blue sky and warm

temperatures were certainly a gift as we headed off with paper, pencils and cellphones in hand. We searched out a part of our history as this cemetery was maintained by the Fredericton Methodist Church whose name was changed to Wilmot United Church in 1925. This cemetery continues to be one of our ministries. The youth walked the various paths, and found the well-worn stone belonging to The Hon. Lemeul Allan Wilmot and his wife Margaret (Black) granddaughter of Rev. William Black "pioneer of Provincial Methodism". After about an hour, we headed over to the adjacent property to sit around a bonfire, cook hot dogs, s'mores and wade in the St. John river. What a great day!



On November 2, we had a great Youth Service led by Lucie and Claire Vezina, Holly Hagerman, Rose Messenger and Laura Coon with the musical support of Steven Peacock and Virginia Leiter. The service was indeed a great success. Check out the podcast! <http://wilmotuc.nb.ca/podcast.php>

Don't miss our next Children and Youth Sunday to be held on December 14 at 11:00. There will be singing, a Christmas Pageant and a few surprises. So mark your calendars!

*©Ellen and our children,
youth and young adults*

Words from Wilmot

Volume 25, Issue 4
Nov 2014

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Words from Wilmot

is published by the Information Team of Wilmot United Church

Web Site:

wilmotuc.nb.ca

Words from Wilmot

is published several times a year by Wilmot United Church, Fredericton, New Brunswick. Opinions expressed in any issue of *Words from Wilmot* are the views of individual writers, and do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of the congregation.

Christmas Hamper Program



Each year Wilmot provides Christmas Hampers for refugee families who

have moved to Fredericton. This year the families are from Bhutan, Myanmar, Iraq, Congo DR, Cote d'Ivoire, Burundi, Ethiopia, Jordan, and Ukraine. The families who receive hampers, including gifts and food gift cards, have left their extended families behind, along with the support network that extended families represent. So aside from the fact that they need the warm items that we provide for them, the warmth that they receive along with our gifts is very much needed and appreciated.

We work in partnership with the Multicultural Association of Fredericton to make this a reality. MCAF provide us with the family list and some donations. We always have help from others in the community but Wilmot people have always been very generous in supporting this project.

The mitten tree is set up in the gym on each Sunday, Nov 23 - Dec 7. There are paper mittens on the tree and each mitten provides information about a gift. The gifts range from toys, games, clothing such as indoor winter tops. We ask that the gifts be new and returned no later than Dec 10. Monetary donations also may be given through envelopes marked for the hamper program.

Volunteers are needed to help with the preparation and delivery of the hampers on Dec.18 and 19. Sign-up sheets are available at the mitten tree.

Thank you for your support.

Elaine Kenyon and Rita Roach
Outreach Committee

PAYING ATTENTION TO YOUR LIFE (The Retreat)

The weekend retreat at the Beulah Campground was a great success. Thirty-eight people signed up for it, and those I talked to were happy and inspired. Peter and Sue Short as retreat leaders function together like a coffee and a donut.

Inspiring talks from Peter, creative uniting by Sue, fun and games from Ann



Kennedy, lively singing led by Kelly Ebbett's mother Lynda-Jean Coffin were accompanied by both thoughtful dialogue among us and joyful chats, walks along the river and early morning yoga.



The Faith Formation Committee did indeed help us to form our faith. The theme was "Paying Attention to Your Life." Peter explained the difference between the three Theological Virtues — Faith, Hope and Love — and the four Cardinal Virtues: Fortitude, Prudence,

WILMOT'S DOWNTOWN GARDEN OF LOVE

In order to thrive and remain vital, a faith community requires the energy and talents of many people giving freely of their gifts. Volunteering is a gift that gives back in larger measure. Studies have proven that those who volunteer are generally happier and healthier, more fulfilled, have increased self-esteem and report a deeper social connection to their community and to others. Bert and Jeanette Jarvis are two Wilmot seniors who are living proof of this.



Have you ever wondered who tends the flowers, shrubs, ornamental trees and annuals that enhance our beautiful building? For the past fifteen years Bert and Jeanette have taken on this task, maintaining Wilmot's green footprint in the downtown core that includes a Memorial Garden. Bert keeps a record of the plant donors, in whose memory the donation was made, and the exact location of each plant. For example, in the garden are two peony plants given by daughters of Rev. Brian McIntosh, Lydia and Sarah, in memory of their mother Debbie. Tending the grounds has been a labour of love, but now at ages eighty-eight and eighty-six, they are looking for others to take on this volunteer opportunity.

Although Bert still hunts and fishes regularly and is very active outdoors, he admits that maintaining his home in Fredericton, his family homestead in Stanley, and the grounds of Wilmot is

becoming more difficult. Their two daughters, Jaye and Nancy live in Ottawa, and they like to be able to get away to visit them during the summer.



Years ago, I first met Bert and Jeanette during a Creative Spirit event in the Wilmot gym. They had set up a display of one of their other passions, rockhounding. They had stones of all colours and shapes, some of which had been polished and were ready to be made into jewelry. My daughters Emma and Amelia were enthralled and spent most of their time at this display. Grown up now, they still remember this — and Emma went on to have her own rock collection. “I remember they were so fascinated by it,” says Jeanette.

About his interest in rocks Bert explains, “When you are in the field you see different stones—hard, soft, different colours. I started collecting and polishing them. At one time we lived in Nipigon in a company house that had an amethyst fireplace. I think that is how my interest first got started. When we travelled to places like Montana, Nova Scotia and Bancroft, we would look for rocks to add to our collection.” (As I write this I am still thinking about that amethyst fireplace and how beautiful it would have been with dancing firelight reflected in it!)

Bert was the oldest of six children. He recalls as a young, single man he was in charge of wood operations north of

Cochrane, Ontario and living in a small camp at Mileage 62 when he came home for Christmas one year. At the time Jeanette, oldest of five, who was born in Boston and grew up in Saint John, was working in Fredericton after attending Vocational School. She happened to be working at Mutual Life with Bert's sister, who invited her to a New Year's Eve party. Bert was there and what followed was a long distance romance largely fueled through correspondence, resulting in a marriage proposal two years later. Bert was working in a bush camp sixty-two miles from the nearest town. If Jeanette would agree to marry him, he said, they could have a home in town to make life easier. Jeanette accepted the proposal but insisted on living in the camp so they could be together. There were seventy-five men living in various bunkhouses, married quarters and a cookhouse for meals. There were only two women to welcome Jeanette, the wives of the foreman and the log scaler. Although the location was isolated and primitive, Jeanette remembers this experience fondly and recalls that she learned to bake bread under the guidance of the camp cook. All supplies had to be brought in by train.

During their married life they lived in nine different locations, eventually returning to Fredericton after forty-three years. Jeanette says that it seemed natural to return to Wilmot where she had attended church in earlier years, and recalls that on the first Sunday, Marjorie and Ted Atkinson were greeters. This was especially welcoming as Marjorie had sung at their wedding.

They speak with great affection for Wilmot Church and this community of people. They particularly mention how much they like the beautiful stained glass windows. Perhaps the light in the sanctuary reminds them of that amethyst

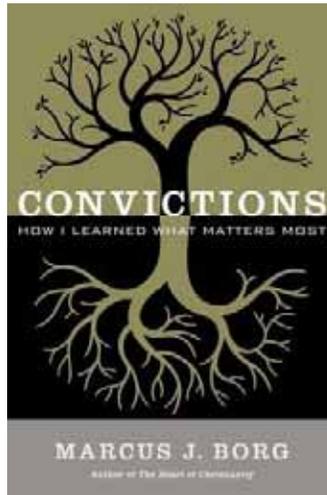
fireplace from long ago?

If you are interested in continuing the valuable work of maintaining the Memorial Garden please speak to Bert and Jeanette. They assure me it is a gratifying volunteer experience for anyone who loves plants and the outdoors.

☺Kathie Goggin

New Book for Wilmot Seekers Group

Marcus J. Borg's recently published book *Convictions: how I learned what matters most* is the book of choice for members



of Wilmot Seekers Group to discuss for the next few months, starting in December.

In this book Borg reflects on his life and how he developed his most bedrock convictions and why they matter. One

reviewer says that it is "rich in wisdom and insight (and) is sure to become a classic of contemporary Christianity."

The Seekers Group welcomes all who are anxious to share the current theological scholarship about our Christian faith making it relevant for our times to join them one Thursday afternoon a month from 4:00 to 5:30 pm. Check with our leaders Don and Lois MacDougall (455.2157) to verify the monthly dates.

☺L. Caseley

A Voice from the Past

Stephen Atkinson

Stephen Atkinson, wearing a Junior Choir blue gown with the white surplice, began



his spiritual quest on the left side of the balcony of Wilmot United Church. His earliest memory was viewing the service from that unusual angle, looking down at the senior choir members—his mother Marjorie,

father Ted, aunt Phyllis, uncles Bruce and Hubert. He was a member of one of the choirs from age 6 until he went to Mount Allison University at 17. The first time he was allowed to stay up late to sing in the choir for the Christmas Eve service he felt grownup. “Harry Currie wished me a Merry Christmas, and I felt so special.” Once when his mother was too sick to sing a solo he took over her role.

He remembers the suppers in the basement, jolly but crowded before the addition was built. The children would sneak upstairs to the sanctuary to play hide and seek in the dark. He was proud that he went to Wilmot. Was it because Wilmot was big? Had a hand on the steeple?

An important part of his spiritual journey was the Sunday School class taught by Andy Gibson, “a fabulous teacher.” Gibson urged discussion. “I was fifteen when I asked him a question that troubled me. If only people who loved Jesus went to heaven, what happened to Hindus and Jews?”

His mother says that he was always interested in the arts, especially drawing and music — he was in high school musicals. His “other mother” Wilmoteer

Jessie Hudson would take him to the art gallery and on nature walks. Margaret Beirsto often looked after him, and he became good friends with her daughters Ellen and Peggy.

At Mount Allison he continued his quest, discovering the Bahá’í faith. He liked their inclusiveness, a religious community that not only revered Jesus but also incorporated many other beliefs.



Stephen went on to Dalhousie University to become a doctor and then a psychiatrist. Marjorie says that just seven weeks after opening his Toronto

office, his psychiatry practice was full. Every Wednesday he would have a free clinic, even travelling to the homes of the clients who needed him.

Around the time his dad died, 1999, Stephen, at 46, moved back to Fredericton to continue his spiritual journey. “I was done with psychiatry. I wanted to do something different.” During that time he had “a powerful spiritual experience.” It seemed to be calling him to do something, but he didn’t know what. He started on a period of spiritual discernment. He took English courses at UNB, wrote stories, and made films. He wondered if he could be an actor or a writer, but those “didn’t feel serious enough”. He discovered the twelve step spiritual healing method. He could no longer believe in some of the conservative tenets of the Bahá’í faith, but he realized that he did need a spiritual community.

Continued on page 7

He began to attend Fredericton's Unitarian church. The minister there urged him to go into the ministry, but he understood that he had to go slowly, one step at a time. After he graduated from seminary at the University of Chicago, he interned in a parish in Dallas, Texas. He loved Dallas, but he wanted to return to Canada. Only one opening in Canada existed at that time, the parish of the North Shore Unitarian in West Vancouver. It turned out to be the perfect place for him. He is now in his eighth year there.

He says, "I realize how much Wilmot taught me—the power of the religious community, how a church functions. How to be a good person. I look back at Wilmot with fondness and appreciation."

☺Nancy Bauer



Be certain to mark Friday, December 12th on your calendars for Wilmot's Annual Pot Luck Progressive Dinner. We will begin at 6:00 pm with appetizers at the home of Lorie and Flemming Nielsen located at 366 Aberdeen Street between York and Westmorland. We will then travel to Kirby and Gill Keyser's, 337 University Ave, where we will have the main course. Dessert will be hosted by George and Barbara Cross who live at 126 Waterloo Row. This is a planned pot luck, so if you would like to take part, please call Susan Breen (450-4072) or Brenda Cameron (363-3388) to let them know what course you wish to bring. This is always a wonderful evening of fun, food and fellowship so be sure to give Susan or Brenda a call.

☺Susan Breen and Brenda Cameron



HURRY!
**Order Your Fresh Double Sided
Evergreen Wreaths Now!**

Did you know that there are over 13 million grandmothers in Africa raising children orphaned by HIV/Aids? Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers is a Fredericton based organization working in solidarity with these African grandmothers both to *raise awareness* to this desperate plight and to *raise funds* to be distributed between The Stephen Lewis Foundation and Help Lesotho that are engaged in direct support with a variety of resources including food, school fees, medicines, counselling and even coffins to allow for a dignified burial of loved ones.

Again this fall our organization is raising funds through the sale of beautiful, fresh, double sided Christmas wreaths: undecorated 12 balsam fir for \$12 each and decorated ones for \$14 each. SUNDAY, November 23rd is your last chance to see us at our table at coffee time after worship, or contact Susan Breen (450-4072) or Ann Price (455-7660).

For further information about Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers visit our web site:

www.grandmothershelpinggrandmothers.ca.

☺Susan Breen and Ann Price

WILMOT'S STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Somewhere, way up high in Wilmot's bell tower lies our historic Star of Bethlehem,



fragile and covered in dust. Rev. Ellen Bearsto remembers coming into church as a small child and feeling the rise of excitement and expectation in her heart when she saw the shining star hanging high on the banner hook in the left-hand corner of the sanctuary. Along with her five siblings, children of Walter and Marg Bearsto, it was a promise that Christmas, with all of its joys and mysteries, was about to arrive. She believes that her father, Walter, told her that he also remembered it with excitement as a child, as a sign that it was time to prepare for the Christmas season.

Marjorie Atkinson was delighted to hear from Ellen that Wilmot's Star of Bethlehem still exists. She and her sisters were equally awe-struck when it appeared. It was not until the 1980s, when The United Church of Canada moved to a lectionary-based curriculum, that Advent was widely celebrated across the church. But the children of Wilmot always knew that when the star appeared, and their special White Gift service took place, then their "journey to Christmas" had begun. What memories does Wilmot's Star of Bethlehem awaken in you?

The Star of Bethlehem has been a symbol of hope for Christians the world over, as well as a strong symbol stirring peoples of all faiths. It is ubiquitously portrayed in great works of art in every form: music, poetry, drama, sculpture and painting.

Sunday School Children inevitably paste a Christmas Star over the stable



that they have painstakingly handcrafted during Sunday School activities before Christmas. While walking to our car after worship one Advent Sunday, I spied a glue-y

star that had blown off a Wilmot child's work of art and become trapped in dry grasses and drifted snow by the sidewalk. Here is my poem, wondering what hope this soggy paper symbol might bring to some unknown person in the days to come before it bio-degraded.

Advent Sunday School Remnant

A paper star
fell to earth
torn by a chill wind
from a glue-smear'd stable
clutched in a mittened hand.

Brown withered blades of grass
trapped a point
to claim its jagged silhouette
hailing all disinterested unbelievers
to make a wish.

☺L. Caseley

Council Chairperson Craig's Comments...



The information meeting after church on November 2nd created a great deal of conversation among members of the congregation. Of great concern was the projected 2015 deficit. The effects caused by the possible need to reduce staff cost in order to balance the budget became very real. The fears expressed by many were an understandable reaction.

My own reaction to this information was also based on the fear that having to make very difficult decisions might cause irreparable harm to both Wilmot Church and people whom we love. Stories abound about churches that shrink, turn inward and wither away.

However, there was a second part to the message. It may have been difficult to see at first but I believe it has slowly come to the forefront over the last two weeks. It was a message about our future based in hope, trust and love. Wilmot Church has a history of persevering through tough times in a thoughtful and loving way. It is that hope, trust and love that has and will allow our Wilmot faith family to put our Christian faith into action and be a light in God's world.

I have seen many signs of hope over the past few weeks. Individuals and groups are taking time to think about the effects of possible staff reductions and sharing solutions that might mitigate those effects. A number of people have volunteered to organize an appeal asking "Friends of Wilmot" to make a donation over and above their normal giving level. There is more talk about partnering with other churches, groups and business to support and share Wilmot's ministries. People are actively talking about what Wilmot's future as a faith community might look like.

The take home message, as someone reiterated to me this week, is not "cuts to staff" but rather "new ways of meeting our mission". Have you read The United Church of Canada's statement of beliefs called *A New Creed* lately? It was used in worship last Sunday as we welcomed Beverly Harper and Darrell Mesheu by membership transfer. That statement provides for me an understanding of how to deal with troubled times. We are not alone when we believe and trust in a loving God who has created and is creating. I hope that the faith we share and the conversations we have begun will help us to hear and live out God's call for Wilmot United Church both now and in the future.

©Craig Frame

Hope

"Hope" is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all...

Emily Dickinson

Seniors' Seasonal Activities

Wilmot Seniors have so much fun, thanks to their group leaders, Susan Breen and Brenda Cameron. These two dedicated



volunteers organize outings, games afternoons, mystery tours, guest speakers on many and varied subjects, and of course lunches, pot lucks and parties. Susan and Brenda take time to learn about each Senior's circumstances, family members, concerns and special transportation needs. There is always a cheerful smile and a word of encouragement. It is good to be counted in the company of such outstanding Wilmot leaders and motivators.

The Annual Seniors Christmas Buffet Lunch will take place on Tuesday, December 2 at Aggie's Restaurant. (See Below.) Be sure to let Susan Breen (450.4072) or Brenda Cameron (363.3388) know if you wish to attend, and what your transportation requirements are. As in the past, it will be a very special event to remember.

☺L. Caseley



Advent Carol Festival



Be sure to mark your calendars for Wednesday December 3, 2014, 7:30 pm when St. Paul's United Church will host the 25th annual Advent Carol Festival. If you are unfamiliar with this event, it is an occasion when a number of church and community choirs join together to present music of the season along with carols for everyone to sing. There is no admission fee, but an offering will be taken with all proceeds going to support the Fredericton Community Food Bank. Since its inception in 1990, the Carol Festival has raised over \$100,000 for the food bank! Come along and bring a friend!

☺ Garth Caseley



HEARTFELT THANKS FROM THE UCW

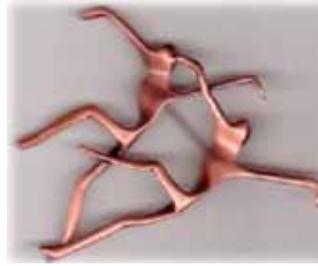
Our UCW group had a banner year in 2014, and we would like to thank all those who helped us with our many projects and activities. Our Fall Rummage Sale income surpassed \$2,500.00, and it would not have happened without all who donated, sorted, sold, and purchased. This activity was not only a financial success but provided a venue for re-cycling and re-using many worthy items that should not be discarded.



Our sale of 325 Apple Pies was a huge project of organization and dedicated workers, and we realized \$1,834.55, a gain over 2013. Again we say thank you to our pastry cooks and purchasers. We know that Wilmot has many good cooks in our church family, and you will be getting a notice or phone call about our



Annual Bake Sale and New-to-You Table to be held on November 28 between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, just in time for purchasing Christmas baking needs. Food can be dropped off on Thursday, November 27 all day until 9:00 pm.



A new order of Friendship Pins has just arrived, and many have been asking for them.

They are a perfect Christmas gift for a cherished friend, along with an original poem expressing gratitude for friendship. Contact Nancy Chase at 450-2978 or dpc@nb.sympatico.ca.



Every year we remember our shut-ins and those in hospital with a Christmas gift bag. This includes many small items to brighten the Christmas season. If you wish to add someone to our list who would

appreciate a bit of cheer, please contact Lucille Caseley at 457-2642 or lcaseley@caseley.net.

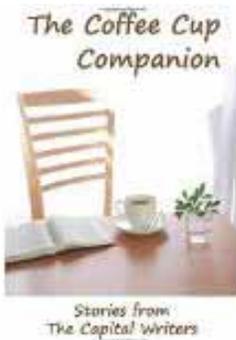


UCW members and friends will be holding their Christmas pot luck on Monday, December 8 at 6:00 pm in the Parlour. We wish all members of our Church Family a Merry Christmas and hopeful and healthy New Year.

©L. Caseley

WILMOT WRITERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS

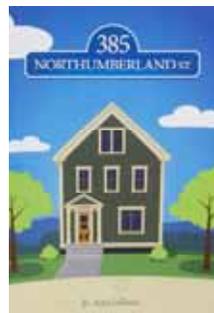
Rose Burke, a member of Wilmot



Writers Group, and her friends have published *The Coffee Cup Companion*. As the title suggests, these 42 stories are the perfect companion for quiet moments of relaxation. In these stories you will find

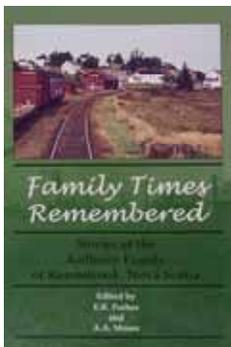
a mixture of fiction, humour, rhyme, essays and creative non-fiction ensuring interest for every reader. All profits from the sale of this book will go to Fredericton Women's Shelters.

Jo-Ann Fellows has written *385 Northumberland Street*, a light-hearted look at Fredericton in the period from the end of the Second World War to the end of the 1960s. She generously donated profits received to Wilmot United Church when



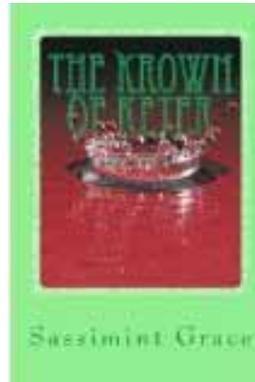
she sold copies at Coffee and Conversation after worship on November 16.

Ernie Forbes has painstakingly researched and written the story of the maternal side of his family, *Family Times Remembered; stories of the Anthony Family of Kennetcook, Nova Scotia*. He takes us back in time to this



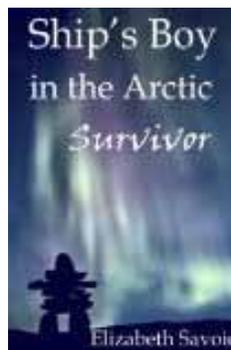
rural settlement which began as a well known First Nations trail across the peninsula from the Atlantic to the Bay of Fundy, and later settlement by disbanded British troops who fought in the Revolutionary War. Ernie's cousin, Priscilla, says of her history, "What a pot of stew we were!"

Sassimint Grace's book *The Crown of Keter* is a book to be shared by adult with child. It is a magical story about a brother and sister of long ago or long-to-come, and their adventures in the woods. She



writes about the woods she knows and their sacred enchantment to be preserved for all the world to enjoy and cherish. Sassie also sold copies at Wilmot's Coffee Hour and gave the profits to our church.

Elizabeth Savoie worked on *Ship's Boy in the Arctic* for many years in her research and imagination, and was about to publish it when the *Erebus*, Franklin's ship, was discovered this year in the Arctic. With perfect timing it is now ready for purchase as an up-to-the-minute 2014



Christmas gift for adult or youth readers on your list. She made it available after worship on November 9 and donated \$2.00 from each purchase to The Benevolent Fund.

TRULY GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS!

Fair Trade Gifts Give Twice Over

Christmas is coming! Do you have far too many people to buy for? Are you busy, on a budget, and have you run out of ideas? We have the answer for you at the **Fair Trade Cupboard!**



Are some of your folks little ones? We will have **chocolate stocking stuffers** in time for Christmas.

Do you have family and friends living away that miss the Maritimes? Then give them a “Maritime” flavoured gift bag...some **JustUs Rise Again Coffee** in



COFFEE ROASTERS CO-OP

honour of the music of Stan Rogers, **Maritime Breakfast tea** or **Coady’s coffee**, to commemorate the inter-nationally known co-operative training institute at St. F. X. University.

Have someone on your list who likes to bake? We have **cocoa and organic sugar**.



Someone who likes to cook? We have **olive oil and thyme** from Zatoun, a Palestinian support agency.

We have over 10 types of **coffee** (including Medium and French Roast decaf!) and over 5 types of **tea**, 6 types of **chocolates** and speciality ones for Christmas.

Do you do Secret Santa at work or in a social group? How about our luscious **creamy mint chocolate bars**?



Spend your dollars the way they should be spent, on Fair Trade products that we sell, including **JustUs, Cameo and Zatoun** and know that you are supporting both local industry (JustUs is based in Wolfville, NS) and that you are supporting coffee, chocolate and olive oil growers from around the world.

Truly give this Christmas. Make your dollars ‘count twice’ and support projects that help sustain people around the world. Drop by our booth at Coffee and Conversation and put your order in for Christmas. And don’t wait! We sell out of our more popular items. And have a Christmas that is everything you need it to be, with peace, love, light and joy and those whom you love.

☺The Fair Trade Gang:
Lucie, Claire, Janice, Laura,
Holly, Gayle and Breagh.

**Sounds of the Season
Saturday, November 29, 2014
7:30 pm Wilmot United Church**



Wilmot United Church will come alive with songs, instrumentals and dance in a Celtic Christmas show entitled "Sounds of the Season". The evening will feature Carolyn Holyoke (piano, accordion), Katherine Moller (fiddle, cello) and Tom Richards (vocals, guitar) along with special guests Susan Kennific (vocals), Sarah Clarke-Rowinski (dance), Saint John native Marilyn Inch (Tin Whistle), Oromocto teen band Sona and Ron Buck (narrator).

Spirited melodies, haunting arrangements and memories of Christmas past combine to make for 'a more than pleasant' evening of entertainment. Mark the date on your calendar and get the season off to a joyful start.

With support from the Wilmot congregation in past years, this show has been able to make a substantial donation to the church, a tradition we hope to continue. Pass the word on to family and friends in the church and Fredericton community.

Tickets are \$20; students with ID \$15; and children 12 and under \$10. They are available at Westminster Books, the church office or at the door.

**Embracing Advent
Annual Advent
Retreat in Harvey**

Advent is a rich and powerful season of the year. We often miss Advent's power because December weeks are full of secular Christmas parties and preparations for Christmas. Each year, the busyness of this season serves to distract us from having an Advent season that truly prepares us for the celebration of Christmas, with all its meaning.

The intent of this retreat is to help us experience the fullness the Advent season has to offer.

You are invited to join us at St. Andrews United in Harvey on SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29 from 9am - 3pm for a retreat day. Our theme this year is "Embracing Advent."

Theme Presenter: Susan Short
Registration Fee: \$15. (includes lunch). For more information contact: Rev. Kay Clowater at 366-3220 or kayc@nb.sympatico.ca or Marilyn Henry at 366-3599.

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“The Retreat” - continued from page 3

Justice and Temperance. The three theological virtues come to you through grace, but you have to work at the four cardinal virtues. Fortitude is the enabler of the others. Synonyms are courage and bravery, but I realized that the word



fortitude has the better nuance for me. Peter asked us what the bravest thing we had ever done, and most often the reply was not connected to physical bravery but to ordinary life moments—getting married, accepting a job that required more of us than we thought we had. Souls are not formed by good times, he reminded us.



Peter recommended the novel *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*. Emphasizing the importance of curiosity and closely observing what is around us, he read the poem “First Reader” by Billy Collins: “Alphabetical ourselves in the rows of classroom desks,/we were forgetting how to look, learning how to read.” We pondered Matthew 7: 7 and the first verses of John 14.

Those who have heard Peter talk know that a summary of what he says doesn’t reproduce the effect that the words have on you. Any account of the retreat’s activities can’t recreate my profound experience.

☺Nancy Bauer



CELEBRATE A GREEN CHRISTMAS

Celebrating a green Christmas isn’t about going without; it’s about being thoughtful and considerate of not creating waste at a time of celebration, as a show of respect for the occasion and for our environment. The benefits of cutting back will positively impact your wallet, your bank account, your sanity, and your happiness, as well as our environment, so there are plenty of good reasons to celebrate a green Christmas this year and ever more.



Green Christmas
How to Have a Joyous, Eco-Friendly Holiday Season



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

HAVE YOU CHECKED
LATELY?

This newsletter can
also be read online
in colour
on our web site.

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 re-
ceive the LARGE
PRINT edition, please
ask your Sunday
Morning Welcomer.



Is Christmas losing its meaning for you?
Are you looking for some peace and tranquility?
Come and Find the Quiet Centre
offers sacred moments
of contemplation and renewal
during the Advent Season.

Wilmot United Church
Corner King and Carleton
Wednesdays at 12:10 - **Dec. 3, 10 and 17.**
30 minutes of silence, candlelight, music and word

Volunteer Fair



A Volunteer Fair was held at St. Thomas University in the fall and our church had a display on Wilmot's various programs and activities, particularly our OUTREACH programs. This display served to increase awareness of our downtown Wilmot United Church as well as interest new volunteers to become involved. Breagh MacDonald was on hand to speak to potential volunteers.

This same display was also set up at two other Volunteer Fairs over the past month at UNB and the Fredericton Intercultural Centre (FIC). As an outcome from these displays, three potential volunteers are currently exploring involvement with Wilmot.

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