



# Words from Wilmot

## 2015 Lent/Easter Schedule

February, 2015

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### Living Ecological Justice

#### Lenten Study on Saturdays

Feb. 28: Our ecological footprint  
 Mar. 7: Changing the climate  
 Mar. 14: We are what we eat  
 Mar. 21: The 6th mass extinction  
 Mar. 28: Toxic exposures  
 (time of day TBA)



Sunday, March 1, 3:00 pm  
 Classical Guitar Duo Concert  
 with Steven Peacock and  
 Gerry Van Wart



Sunday, March 1, 11:00 am Lent  
 Sunday, April 5, 11:00 am Easter

### LONGING FOR HOME



DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR LENT

#### An Invitation from

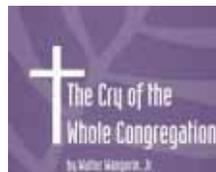
The Right Rev. Gary Paterson to join him for a Lenten study group on Facebook. *Longing for Home*, begins Monday, February 16 and runs through to Easter. You can join up by going to <http://www.united-church.ca/communications/news/moderator/150209>



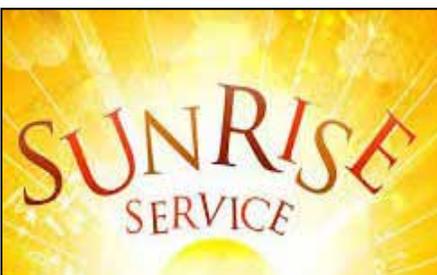
March 15, 11:00 am  
*Music, Message and Surprise!*



March 29, 11:00 am



Friday, April 3, 11:00 am  
 Good Friday Service:  
*The Cry of the Whole Congregation*  
 (by Walter Wangerin, Jr.)



Sunday, April 5, 7:00 am

## UCW



Friday and Saturday  
 April 24th and 25th



Thursday and Friday  
 May 14th and 15th

*Words from  
Wilmot*  
Volume 26, Issue 1  
Feb 2015

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**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.

## Weddings at Wilmot

A precious book is tucked away safely in the church office. It is large, heavy and black, and holding it is like discovering treasure. It felt like a privilege to be able to handle it, and to open the front cover and read the words of William Lemont written in a fine hand with ink pen, dated December 16, 1879. Recorded within these pages is Wilmot history. It is the Book of Burials and Marriages and it also records the names of Trustees. Reading its pages is a walk through time, and one can trace many familiar family names from our Methodist roots.



**Wilmot United Church's sanctuary has provided an elegant location for many wedding in its 163 year history. The photo above is the 2014 summer wedding of Oliver Glencross and Katelyn Springer performed by Rev. Ellen Bearsto. (photo by Colin Swift used with permission)**

With Valentine's Day just past and spring right around the corner, I was most interested in the "happier" pages of the book: the list of marriages. Church, being an important place for socializing especially long ago, often became the starting point of courtship. It is certain that many young, and not so young, people met through church activities and went on to marry. The earliest pages of the registry indicate that romance developed within the congregation and

resulted in matrimony. Many of the names in the early pages of the register are still familiar to members of Wilmot today, indicating our deep and rich history.

An interesting fact gleaned from *The Story of Wilmot United Church 1791-2002* by Anita Jones is that "until the Dissenter's Marriage Bill of 1834 amended the Marriage Act of New Brunswick, only Church of England clergymen, and with permission, Church of Scotland ministers, Quakers and Roman Catholic priests were allowed to perform marriages. The new bill extended this privilege to Baptists and Methodists. Wilmot, having its historical roots in the Methodist tradition, was able to make history by performing the first marriage under this new legislation when Rev. Enoch Wood (1833-36) formalized the wedding vows of Samuel Duncan McPherson and Eliza Ann Segee on a cold winter day on January 3, 1835." p.13

Weddings were often performed in the sanctuary but also at private homes or in the manse. Mavis and Frank Ryder were married sixty-four years ago on October 13, 1951 in the manse. Reverend Harry M. Davis (1948-1955) officiated. Mavis was living at home on Albert St. and working at Harvey Studios when the young Frank came from Moncton to study Mechanical Engineering at UNB, boarded with a family and literally married "the girl next door". When they decided to marry, Frank's graduation was drawing near, and they knew he would be leaving for work in the spring. They decided on a small, private wedding with just a few friends and family attending. Mavis remembers that she bought "a smart navy blue suit for the occasion and wore rust-coloured shoes and hat and, of course, gloves and a camellia corsage. Mrs. Davis had the parlour of the manse decorated with flowers and candlelight for the Friday evening ceremony, it was really beautiful. We had our wedding photos taken by Harry Pridham at Harvey Studios." They arrived separately by taxi she recalls, as it wouldn't do for the groom to see the bride before the ceremony. A house





What a great couple of months we have had – busy but full of fun. I want to begin by saying how proud I am of our children and youth. I sat there on December 14th, and watched their Christmas Service unfold as they shared their gifts with us. The play, the singing, the amazing range of musical instruments – awesome. What a wonderful way to begin the Christmas Season. Thank you, children and youth.

**Samantha Landry** has joined our team of Sunday School teachers. Welcome, Sam. All our youth leaders are such a great boost to our programming. I so appreciate their energy, their ideas and their willingness to be involved. Our weekly lessons follow the



*Seasons of the Spirit* but with some variation including Games, Movie and Cooking Days! The coming months will unfold with a few more surprises, so stay tuned!

Our Youth continue to have the two groups (Middle School and Senior Youth) that occasionally come together as one. Exams, sports, work, dance, music and so on make it a little more challenging but we do remain connected. This month, we welcome **Bethany Young, Monica Coll and Matt Levan** who have joined with me for the Senior Youth Leadership Team. We have already gone skating, to the Chinese Gala and are looking forward to a Pot Luck Supper. The Middle School Youth have done a variety events as well including a night at the play *Willy Wonka*. We are looking forward to some outdoor as well as indoor activities in the coming months. The Middle School Youth welcome **Samantha Landry** as a member of our leadership team. A Confirmation Youth

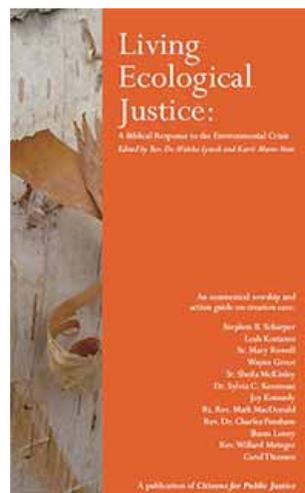
Weekend will soon be held for Grades 7 and up.

Our next **Youth Service** is March 15, a service that will be filled with music, message and a few surprises for all ages!

☺Blessings, Ellen

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## Living Ecological Justice Are We Living With Respect In Creation



A two-Part Lenten and Creation Season Study

Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin and Janice Harvey will lead a Lenten study, starting on Saturday, February 28 (time of day to be announced) based on the book *Living Ecological Justice; a Biblical response to the environmental crisis*, edited by Rev. Dr. Mishka Lysack and Kari Munn-Venn. Ecological justice issues will be explored through scripture with reflections, discussion questions, activities, and prayers by Canadian Christians from the Anglican, Catholic, Christian Reformed, Evangelical, Lutheran, Mennonite, Presbyterian, and United Church traditions.

There will be five sessions on Saturdays, February 28 to March 28, plus a summer component of personal study and reflection, returning in the fall for another five sessions starting either September 12 or 19. Watch for further details in the worship bulletins or Rose-Hannah's weekly newsletters. If you wish to purchase a book, leave a message with either Rose-Hannah or Janice to be part of a group discount purchase. For further information go to [www.cpj.ca](http://www.cpj.ca).

☺L. Caseley

## Craig's Comments



The Council system Wilmot implemented several years ago had a number of goals:

- Streamline an administrative structure to make better use of volunteer time
- Empower committees to make decision within their mandates
- Improve communication between and within committees, Council and the congregation
- Encourage all committees to develop a spiritual lens to use during their decision making

One of Council's activities this spring will be to review the success in meeting these goals and look for ways to improve.

Changing our financial management system was another priority of Council during 2014. Bob Lutes, our former treasurer, talked often about the need to align our spending with our revenue. Dale Chase, our current treasurer, along with the Stewardship and Finance Committee and Trustees, worked very hard to make this happen over the past year. There is more work to do but I believe there is a much better understanding within Council and the congregation of our financial situation. The changes made will allow us to better monitor our situation.

While our financial circumstances this year may seem more stable we cannot become complacent. Operating costs continue to increase, the need for the

ministries we offer continues to grow and our ability to raise sufficient funds to support those ministries is not unlimited.

Wilmot focussed on the financial side last year primarily because of the immediate need. However, during the Wilmot on the Move discernment process we were asked to re-imagine how Wilmot might respond to God's calling. It is this work of discerning our discipleship that Wilmot should now concentrate. This discernment is not easy and results may not come quickly but I believe the effort will be very rewarding. Our changing church demographic and the changing world around us means we cannot continue to operate the way we have in the past. We must continue to look for new ways to carry out the ministries to which we are called.

Partnerships with other churches and outside organizations may be part of how we re-imagine Wilmot. Several possible initiatives were put forward in the Wilmot on the Move ideas letter distributed last December. Each of these requires participation by members of the congregation if they are to move forward. Please consider the role you can play in this work.

Whatever our re-imagined Wilmot will look like we are reminded of Wilmot's vision to put our Christian faith into action to be a light in God's world and to live more fully into our desire to be an open and welcoming presence in downtown Fredericton.

On a personal note I want to thank all of those people who have supported me during my time as Council chair and wish the new Council all the best in the coming year.

☺Craig Frame

## Maggie Clarke

It's a Privilege to Sit and Talk with Her



I wish every Wilmoteer could have a heart to heart talk with Maggie Clarke. Her passion for Wilmot, for its outreach and for its stewardship would stir every heart.

Maggie's zeal for life began when she was 15. She was taken into a foster home in Wolfville, Nova Scotia by a wonderful woman who loved her unconditionally. "I am what I am today because of her." Maggie worked hard because she didn't want to let "my mom" down. Her mother encouraged her to finish high school and to go to business school. She began her career as a secretary at Acadia University, "the first of many universities I was associated with."

In her first stint in Fredericton she was the secretary to Dr. Alfred Bailey, UNB Dean of Arts. She admired him greatly. When she bought a motor scooter, Dr. Bailey was sceptical. One rainy day Maggie looked out the office window and saw that Dr. Bailey had put a piece of plastic over the scooter.

She met her Cape Breton husband Don in Toronto. In their 47 years of marriage, they've lived all across Canada. She maintains friendships with people in all these places. Every Sunday afternoon at 2 pm she phones her friend in Vancouver, who

is waiting beside the phone with her cup of coffee.

In Prince George she was one of the first secretaries to be hired at the University of Northern British Columbia where she stayed for nine years.

Her second stint in Fredericton has lasted 16 years. For eight years she was the executive assistant to Ian Lumsden, director of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery. She retired when she was 64; she's now 72.

She and Don have three children, a son in London Ontario, the executive director of the Ivey School of Business, a daughter in New York City, and Sarah, adopted when she was six weeks old. "I wanted to adopt to pay it forward for what was done for me." Sarah lives in Fredericton and owns Extreme Dance Studio. Maggie has six grandchildren from 24 to 5. Another "pay it forward" happened when the friend of her eldest daughter was having trouble at home and moved in with them. Maggie and Don treat her like their daughter.

She has been involved in church wherever she's lived. When they lived in Halifax and her children were little, she was chair of the stewards of a small church, and her husband was chair of the building committee. They were able to build an addition to the church. In one church for her extensive work with the UCW, she was given a life membership.

In British Columbia she introduced a program in the Sunday school to help children understand the meaning of stewardship. She put a McDonald's kid meal on one tray and a five dollar bill on another and showed them how much food that would buy for a refugee child.

She had offering envelopes printed for the children. Her oldest daughter encouraged the youth group to start an outreach program.

In Fredericton she first went to a Baptist church, but seven years ago a friend, Bob Jones's cousin, came to visit her. The friend wanted to go to Wilmot to see Bob. "I've never looked back. I felt very much at home. I've been here long enough to be involved in three auctions!" One reason she is optimistic about the future of the church is the rising success of the auctions. The first one she had to do almost on her own. The second one she had eight helpers. By the third one "we had more people than we could use!" People feed off her passion for stewardship. The auction is a labour of love for the workers with much laughing and kidding around. One person told me he was impressed with Maggie's ability to organize the troops.

She has been an amazing Chair of Stewards in a difficult time. Because of the illness of her husband she was going to retire from this burdensome job, but no one stepped forward to fill her place, so she will offer again.

Maggie feels good about the state that Wilmot is in now. "We have to go through the study — Wilmot on the Move — before we can get out the other side. We have to decide what kind of church we want to be." She believes that will include embracing our position as a downtown church and so getting more involved in the community. "Only good can come out of our study, but we have to be patient, move slowly."

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## News

The UCW would like to thank everyone who has sent in contributions to our FOODLESS FOOD SALE. There has been awesome response and we are so grateful to those who have responded to our letters. Remember there is no deadline and it is never too late to support this annual fundraiser.

We would also ask you to circle April 24th and 25th on your calendar for our SPRING RUMMAGE SALE. When you start your spring cleaning (and we sure are hoping for an early Spring!) please remember our sale and set aside any clothing, books, toys, linens, and household items that could be donated. This event is not only a fundraiser for our group but an opportunity to put good slightly used items back into the community at affordable prices. Items can be dropped off at the church and left on the gym stage. We will be looking for volunteers as well so watch your Sunday Bulletin for details!

Again this year the UCW will be having a Book Sale in May. Your books can be dropped off at the church and Randy or Dylan will store them for us. The Book Sale will be May 14 and 15 from 10 am to 6 pm each day. A great way to recycle all the great books we read.

©Linda Gough, UCW  
Co-Chairperson

A 2014 collage  
of Wilmoteers fulfilling our Vision Statement  
“putting our Christian faith into action  
to be a light in God’s world.”



## MEMOIRS

### *There is a Story in Everything*

Have you ever thought about writing your memoirs? Several members of the Wilmot community have, to the delight of their family and friends, including Bob Jones, Ernie Forbes, Bob Young and Joanne Fellows to name a few.

Kathie Goggin, who for several years has taught classes in memoir writing through UNB Extension programs, notes that people often get to a stage in life where they want to put their stories down on paper, often at the urging of their children or grandchildren.

Memoirs are not autobiographies, she explains, but personal stories and reflections put together to highlight a certain aspect or time period in a person's life. They do not need to be linear and all-encompassing in scope, but are often most compelling when they provide interesting anecdotes or scenes centered on a theme. They usually tell about a certain segment of a life such as travels, career, or school years, rather than the whole life.

When writing memoir you do not need to be overly concerned with facts and dates, but rather stories and impressions. Your memoir is most interesting if it is both entertaining and meaningful, connected to a universal truth about the human experience that readers can relate to. Some examples of universal themes are:

following your heart, searching for belonging, learning tolerance and seeking justice.

Memoirs give voice to our stories, help us find our place and bring clarity to our lives. Writing memoirs can be therapeutic, a form of emotional purging and can open up the doors to greater understanding and personal awareness. Someone once said "How do I know what I'm thinking if I haven't written about it?" "All kinds of amazing things happen in my classes," says Kathie, "and a special kind of bond forms when people share their stories."

Some tips for writing your memoirs include keeping a small notebook with you at all times; you never know when an idea may come to you and you can't rely on remembering it later. Allow yourself to rapid write—let the words spill across the page and edit later. Write simply and clearly, tell the good and the bad, show your strengths and foibles. Be truthful yet gracious if writing about others, and while a memoir is not an historical account, do your best to get any dates and place names right.

"There is a story in everything," says Kathie. "Start with the things you most want to tell and go from there. Soon you will have several short pieces or scenes that can later be compiled. Some examples of good starting topics are: things my mother said, places I have lived, my first car, the smell of fresh baking... anything can be a starting point. The main thing is



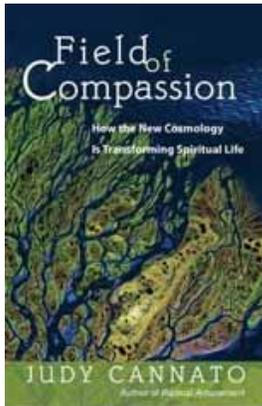
Kathie Goggin in front of the 62 foot long time line that she created for Wilmot United Church. She says, "Delving into the history of Wilmot United Church has given me a wonderful appreciation for my church and makes me proud to be a member."

(Continued on Page 10)



## Wilmot Seekers Group

Embarks On A New Book



In March, Wilmot Seekers Group will tackle a new book: *Field of Compassion: how the new cosmology is transforming spiritual life*. The author, the late Judy Connato, an

American Catholic writer, retreat facilitator and spiritual director, concentrated her spiritual odyssey on the relationship between science and religion. In her writings she invited spiritual seekers to embrace a way in which an understanding of religion and the spiritual path is informed and illumined by cutting-edge science.

Don MacDougall, our group's mentor and facilitator, says, "...this book could be understood as a follow-on from John Philip Newell's book *The Rebirthing of God* in that it is another intriguing effort within the world-wide community, at least within English-speaking cultures, to re-language and re-birth our understanding and practise of being followers of Jesus in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

Readers who have commented on *Field of Compassion* admit that science and religion have not always lived comfortably together, but Connato finds the words and demonstrates how the new cosmology and the Christian story can be understood in harmony with one another. Her ideas lead to a conviction that major scientific discoveries, such as the expanding universe, black holes, and holograms, can illustrate through parable great theological and spiritual understanding that will continue to evolve as we delve deeper into cosmological discovery.

Fundamentally, all life is connected and humankind participates in the unfolding of the universe and our understanding of it.

Don MacDougall adds that this new spiritual paradigm of recognizing "that we humans are an integral part of a 13.7 billion year adventure [reveals to us that creation's] energizing power is love. The Christian story of that adventure is centrally focussed for us by Jesus and the way he lived his life and [in his] death, and his central teaching of the emergent reality of what he called the kingdom of God."

Reading and discussing this book is bound to stretch our spiritual journey, as well as enrich our reverence and compassion for all God's creation.

☺L. Caseley

### ***From Handout to Hand Up***

(see insert)



Tim Fox, Executive Director of The Fredericton Community Foundation presents a cheque for the ***From Handout to Hand Up*** project at Wilmot United Church to Rita Roach, co-coordinator of the [Wednesdays@Wilmot](#) group.



WE'RE ON THE  
WEB AT  
[WILMOTUC.NB.CA](http://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  
receive the  
LARGE PRINT edition,  
please ask your  
Sunday  
Morning Welcomer.



## **New Church Office and Sexton Hours Starting March 2, 2015**

### **CHURCH OFFICE**

The Church Office will be CLOSED on Mondays  
Tuesday to Friday the Church Office will be open 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

### **SEXTON HOURS**

Dylan Sweeney will be on duty on Mondays 6:00 to 9:00 pm  
Randy Randall will be on duty Tuesday to Thursday 9:00 am to 12:30 noon,  
and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
(There will be no Sexton on duty on Fridays)

Church groups/activities that meet on Mondays before 6:00 pm will have to make  
prior arrangements to access the building.

Our Office Manager, Marlene will be on vacation from Thursday, February 19 to  
Tuesday, March 10.

With the above changes, it is best NOT to assume that you can get into the church  
building at any time. It is best to call in advance and to leave a message if there is  
no answer: 458-1066 Office or 452-0219 Kitchen/Hall.

Thank you for your assistance and support as we adjust to these changes.

☺Ministry and Personnel Committee



### **Stewardship Corner**

Whether or not you are there, your church has on-going commitments every week that need your offering. That is why the use of PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) system is able to fulfill your commitment.

If you have automatic debits going from your bank account to pay for insurance, cable TV, taxes, fuel or mortgage, then you understand the PAR principle. It means the church can depend on your regular contributions throughout the year, and allows Wilmot to have regular,

dependable flow of contributions as well as a reduction in the costs of bank overdrafts. This is particularly important during the winter months when some are enjoying warmer climate and again in the summer when some are at the cottage or the church is closed for the summer break.

A PAR Authorization card is available from the church office or stop by the Stewardship table during coffee and conversation. Small cards are available to put in the offering plate in place of envelopes.

☺Maggie Porter-Clarke

## From Handout to Hand Up

Wednesdays@Wilmot has exciting news to share with the congregation.

First a little background. Every Wednesday morning, from September through June, Wilmot volunteers provide a welcoming place to socialize, offer coffee and snacks, and share information on helpful programs and services in our community. Outreach social workers are on hand to talk with individuals about their needs such as education, employment, housing, or personal matters. Participants are welcome every week; however they may access a food voucher for Victory Meat Market only once every three months.

Last year Wednesdays@Wilmot distributed 607 food vouchers. The money to provide these vouchers comes from our congregation's donations to the Benevolent Fund.

Many of the folks who come on Wednesday are either homeless or they are vulnerable to homelessness: if they have a

place to live, rent is greater than 60% of their part-time, minimum-wage income, social assistance allowance, employment insurance or disability pension. They may have very poor conditions at their residence such as recurring bed bugs, poor insulation, mold, inadequate space, or they may not feel safe in their building. Most have ongoing physical or mental health issues. Often they have no family doctor, can't afford medication, and have no way to get to appointments. They may be living with serious addictions; often they have limited literacy and education.

Wednesdays @Wilmot grew from Wilmot's understanding of Christian teaching to serve and care for those on the margins of our society. Our church has shown their steadfast commitment to our most vulnerable neighbours. We are very happy to announce that The Fredericton Community Foundation has recognized the value of this program and has awarded this program a grant of \$3735 that will help us to move to a more comprehensive program



that includes education, information, and support for meeting basic needs and improving health and well-being.

This project, called *From Handout to Hand Up*, will allow Wednesdays@Wilmot to:

- ◆ Provide a more substantial, nutritious breakfast;
- ◆ Offer workshops and presentations on topics such as stretching the food dollar; reading food labels; basic personal budgeting; basic foot care; rental rights and responsibilities; setting and keeping healthy routines; personal safety;
- ◆ Offer opportunities to learn new skills or practice existing skills such as knitting and crocheting, yoga, cooking;
- ◆ Collaborate with other downtown church outreach groups to share information and develop joint programs and fundraising initiatives.

Wilmot’s congregation already

provides hospitality, food, space, clothes, and the funds for food vouchers – that’s a lot and it means so much! Every week we see how great the needs are and how much these services are appreciated.

The individuals and families who attend Wednesdays@Wilmot need us to continue offering this support in 2015. Along with this, we encourage our congregation to participate, share, learn and grow by becoming more actively engaged with the Wednesdays @Wilmot participants.

Please contact Rita Roach or Beth Paynter if you or your church group has ideas for workshops, presentations or other ways you’d like to help. Contact: Rita Roach, 260-6067, [reetie212@gmail.com](mailto:reetie212@gmail.com); Beth Paynter 454-5581, [bpaynter@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:bpaynter@nb.sympatico.ca)

**Sincere thanks to the Wilmot congregation and to The Fredericton Community Foundation.**

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