



Words from Wilmot

Summer/Fall Worship and Special Events Schedule

	<p>Sunday, June 7 11:00 am Graduation Sunday</p>		<p>Monday, June 8 UCW Dine Out Gathering Call Linda (459-3706) for details or transportation</p>
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	<p>Wednesday, June 10 10:30 am UCC 90th Anniversary Bell Ringing</p>		<p>Sunday, June 14 11:00 am Worship and Picnic in Odell Park</p>
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	<p>Sundays, June 28 to July 26 10:30 am, St. Paul's at Wilmot Sundays, August 2 to August 30 10:30 am, Wilmot at St. Paul's</p>
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	<p>Monday to Friday, August 24 to August 28, 9:00 to 11:00 am Vacation Bible School "G-FORCE" Wilmot, St. Paul's and Forest Hill at Wilmot</p>
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<p>Sunday, September 13 11:00 am Welcome Sunday at Wilmot</p>

June, 2015

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Words from Wilmot
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A Bit of History

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the inauguration of The United Church of Canada. It was on June 10th, 1925 in Toronto, Ontario when The Methodist Church, Canada, the Congregational Union of Canada, seventy percent of The Presbyterian Church of Canada and the General Council of Union Churches came together to form what we now know as The United Church of Canada. This was a brave and historic moment. It was the first union of churches in the world to cross denominational lines and the remarkable story made international news. Then, as now, the church was experiencing difficult times. Canada was a young, vast country, settled largely by small towns and communities dotting the rural landscape. Human resources were stretched thin between denominations. This was especially true in the north and on the western prairies. It was difficult to find clergy willing to serve, and so sometimes one minister tended to the needs of his congregation, but was also called upon to provide pastoral care for additional nearby congregations that might not have a minister. There was also a desire to pool resources in order to provide better overseas mission service in a rapidly changing world.

Our familiar United Church Crest symbolized the movement toward unification. It is in the shape of a vesica piscis, an early

Christian symbol representing an upended fish. The central saltire is the Greek letter Chi, the first letter of the Greek word for Christ. The crest is then divided into four quadrants with a burning bush to represent Presbyterianism, a dove for Methodism and an open bible for Congregationalism. In the bottom quadrant the alpha and omega symbols represent God (Revelation 1:8). The motto *Ut omnes unum sint* recalls John 17:21 "That all may be one".

In 2012 the Mohawk phrase "*Akwe Nia'Tetewa:neren*" translated to "All My Relations" was added to the perimeter ribbon, and the backgrounds of the quadrants were changed to reflect the traditional colours of the First Nations Medicine Wheel.



On May 12th, 1925 the Fredericton Methodist Church answered their last roll call as Methodists and voted on

a new name for the church, choosing Wilmot United Church in honor of the distinguished Lemuel Allan Wilmot.

There are still a few surviving members of Wilmot who might have been present on that historic day. Phyllis Batt, born in 1917 is one. She would have been a young girl of eight years at the time. Phyllis, a long time Wilmot member and



known for her constant presence in the choir, is now a resident of the DVA. During a recent conversation she could not clearly recall the exact day of June 10th, but did remember as a young girl looking out at the church from her position in the junior choir to a full church with many people in the balcony. She remembers that The Rev. Frederick H. M. Holmes was minister at the time of amalgamation. She also recalled an endearing story of her first and only vocal solo performed at St. Paul's United Church at four years of age. She had refused to go on stage until she could safely see her sisters Doris and Bea standing by the doorway to the stage. The Batt family was very in-

involved at Wilmot and both her mother Eunice, and her father C. Edward sang in the choir. She remembers her mother sewing the surplices for the junior choir, and that the Women's Institute frequently met at their home at the bottom of College Hill, as their house had a lovely verandah and plenty of room, with a railing the perfect height and width for sitting.

Phyllis had an interesting life. Encouraged to attend university by her mother who believed that girls should have a good education, she took her Bachelor of Science at UNB and then went on to study nursing in Toronto. She served briefly during the war, going overseas on a hospital ship in March just before V-E Day on May 8, 1945, and she reminisced about being a nurse on a ship bringing back to Canada the wives and children of servicemen. The conditions below deck were miserable, and terribly crowded and the nurses would do everything they could to keep a child on the upper deck as long as they possibly could, even if it was only for a scratched finger, and she recalls there were many hugs and kisses and much fussing over the children on the part of the nurses. These are wonderful stories that inform us about our past.

As we enter a new era and a time of transition in the life of the church, when rural populations are draining into cities and suburbs and the post war baby boom that once swelled congregations and filled Sunday School classrooms to capacity is ebbing, churches are again looking to see how they can best serve the current demographic and perhaps combine resources to find new efficiencies. We need only look back ninety years ago for inspiration to see the bold direction that moved the church forward.

Happy 90th Birthday UCC!

©Kathie Goggin



42nd GENERAL COUNCIL THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

“Behold I Make All Things New”

The 42nd General Council of The United Church of Canada meets at Corner Brook, Newfoundland from August 8th to 15th. Our present moderator The Right Rev. Gary Paterson has announced that the theme is “Behold I Make All Things New”, an appropriate Biblical focus from Revelations 21:15, chosen because it “is a reminder that all creation is in a constant process of change; that the church is always being reformed, called into new ways of being; and that God is at the very heart of this transformation. We are not alone.”

This General Council will receive, discuss and act upon the Report from the Comprehensive Task Group, which makes recommendations for changes in vision, mission, ministry, finances and many other fundamentals in how we are “church” in these changing times. This Task Group has heard from over 600 individual congregations, all 86 Presbyteries and various National and Conference Divisions and Committees.

The 2015 General Council’s logo, an artistic rendition of symbols of the sea is appropriate for the meeting’s Newfoundland venue:

God’s circle of love holds us;
the currents and waves carry us forward,
through storm and in calm;
and the fish, Jesus Christ,
who is in our midst,
who is on the move,
and who invites us to put
down our nets into the deep,
to fish on the other side;
to follow him...even when it means
stepping out of the boat!

Ten candidates have been nominated for moderator from across the nation. Among them is The Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson from Maritime Conference. The following elected commissioners will represent Woolastook Presbytery at the Council meeting: Heather Donnelly, Rev. Jane Johnson and Rev. Kelly Burke. Shirley Cleave will also attend as a National Office appointment. Moderator Paterson asks for our support and prayers as commissioners debate the many issues facing our church today.

☺L. Caseley

WEDNESDAYS @ WILMOT'S WIDER FAMILY

Our vision statement at Wilmot states that we strive to be an open and welcoming presence in downtown Fredericton. We, by our works, put our Christian faith into action. As members of the Outreach Committee we take these words to heart. We endeavour to be welcoming and inclusive in all that we do. Access to Justice, Christmas Mitten Tree project, Fair Trade Coffee, Wednesdays @ Wilmot and the Saturday Night Drop-In are just a few of the things that Outreach does.

The work that I’m most familiar with is Wednesdays @ Wilmot. What started out

years ago as a few hours on a Tuesday morning giving out vouchers has evolved



into a Wednesday afternoon of hospitality and fellowship. We now give out vouchers every second Wednesday. What we're finding though, is that on the days we don't give out vouchers, our clients are still coming to spend a few hours chatting with friends and acquaintances while they have a hot lunch and listen or participate in some of the programs we conduct. It's almost like a Wednesday afternoon drop-in. Every Wednesday there are new people ...whether we're giving out vouchers or not.

We have a really wonderful group of people that come in on Wednesdays and many of them want to lend a hand to assist. There's Rose who comes in every Wednesday to help Elizabeth hand out groceries or do other tasks to help our afternoon go a little smoother. There's Kathy who said to us, "I have a skill I can



offer to help the people who come here...I can give free haircuts!" Kathy comes in once or twice a month and cuts hair. She does eight to ten haircuts in an afternoon. She's happy to be able to help and would come in every Wednesday if she could!

Stephen is one of our regulars. He likes to be involved and wants to help in any way he can. His philosophy is: "If I can help in any way it's the least I can do for what you folks do for us!" He willingly offers to come in and help, whether it's cleaning the oven in the kitchen, assisting

in setup for the rummage sale and book sale, or just offering ideas for us to make our program more successful. He is eager to be able to participate in our planning meetings for the coming year as he has some ideas he thinks will help us. What a great opportunity for us to understand the needs of our clients.

And then there is Sandra. A kind gentle soul—always positive, smiling and happy. She came in one Wednesday and when I saw her I asked her how she was doing she said, "Great ...I'm going in on Monday!" "Oh, that's great news," I said. Sandra was going into the hospital the following Monday morning for lung cancer surgery. But she was still smiling and staying positive! We're very happy to report that Sandra's surgery went very well and she has been in on another Wednesday to visit us and to introduce her sister from NWT who was here to assist her in her recovery.

These are the people who have become our "Wednesday Family". They are part of *our* Wilmot community even though they may not attend worship on Sunday. So when you see them around town, smile and say hello and remember that they are part of our "Wilmot Family"!

©Rita Roach

Cuba Twinning Committee News

Wilmot has had a twinning relationship with the church in Cuba, specifically with the Protestant Theological Seminary (Seminario Evangélico de Teología, SET) in Matanzas, for about 10 years. Wilmot also maintains relations with three or four partner communities in the area of Ciego de Ávila. This coming year, 2016, there are plans to have an encounter with our Cuban brothers and

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WILMOT'S MINISTRY PERSONNEL

Wilmot United Church is indeed blessed in its 90th year of affiliation with The United Church of Canada to have fifteen ordained, commissioned and trained lay persons as part of its Church Family:

Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin

Rev. Ellen Beairsto

Rev. Vic Moriarty (Minister Emeritus)

Rev. Cliff Moase (Minister Emeritus)

Rev. Bob Jones (Minister Emeritus)

Rev. Garth Caseley

Rev. Ian MacDonald

Rev. Don MacDougall

Rev. Ann Morwood

Rev. Gil Todd

Very Rev. Dr. Peter Short

Rev. Robert Stevens

Elizabeth Savoie (Lay Preacher)

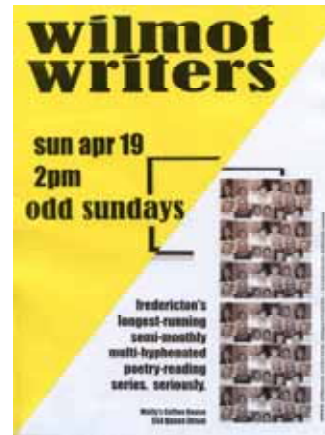
Lucille Caseley (Staff Associate)

Wendy Topolski (Staff Associate)

This year, Rev. Garth Caseley was honoured by Maritime Conference as a Jubilarian for 50 years of ordination, and Rev. Ian MacDonald and Rev. Don MacDougall reached 55 year status. Wilmot United Church sent congratulations which read, "How fortunate we are to have these three men as part of our congregation! May God continue to bless them and make them a blessing."

☺Rev. Ellen Beairsto

WILMOT WRITERS 10TH ANNIVERSARY



Allison Calvern, the impresario of the reading series Odd Sundays at Molly's, asked the Wilmot Writers group to read one Sunday. For her publicity and introduction she asked for a biography of the group, and thanks to Carolyn Atkinson and her daily journals we were able to cobble one together.

Carolyn pinpointed our beginning in January 2005. We were surprised when we realized that we were celebrating our tenth anniversary. I forget just how the group started, but I think Peter Short suggested its formulation to me.

We meet in the parlour on the second and fourth Thursdays at 1:00 pm. I don't remember the reason for Thursday, but I do remember the one o'clock—Peter thought that would be good for people working downtown as they could come on their lunch hour. We have gradually grown in numbers. The members now are Carolyn Atkinson, Nancy Bauer, Rose Burke, Lucille Caseley, Edie and Ted Colson, Jo-Anne Fellows, Kathie Goggin, Sassimint Grace, Norm Laverty, and Elizabeth Savoie. I've been in quite a few writers' groups, and what impresses me about Wilmot Writers is how faithful the members are, how much they write, and how good their writing is.

Our modus operandi is to chat, serve tea and goodies—often a cake made by Mecca Laverty. Each one then reads what they have written the previous two weeks: poetry, including haikus, essays, journals, memoirs, novels, short stories and even a sermon. Rose, Elizabeth, and Sassimint have recently published books.

We are a gentle, caring assembly, each one enjoying the camaraderie. Everyone is welcome.

☺Nancy Bauer

CHILDREN AND YOUTH UPDATES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Where does the time go? As the children and I look back over the year, we remember our story times, crafts, games, cooking as well as our friends. All ages appreciate and enjoy spending time with each other and our leadership teams have been a bonus for sure—teams that will be in search of a few new members as some have moved or are moving away. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming involved in our Sunday School program, please let us know.

On June 14, at 11:00 am in Odell Park, we will be having our Annual *Worship in the Park* Service. There will be singing, storytelling, games and a great barbeque. Come and join us. Bring your children, grandchildren and a friend or two (and your own lawn chair). If it rains, we will be holding it at the church.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 24 - 28 from 9:00 – 11:30 am.



Once again this is a combined effort between St. Paul's, Forest Hill and Wilmot (held here at Wilmot). This year's program is **G-FORCE: "In God we live, move and have our being."** (Acts 17:28a). It looks like a great program. We will learn from the amazing stories in the scriptures through great music, storytelling, games and crafts. Of course, we also have delicious snacks! Mark your calendars.

(Children can be dropped off earlier if that is more convenient for you. Just let us know.)

YOUTH

First, I want to thank the youth and young adults for sharing their time, talents and energy at worship on both March 15 and May 10. Both services were awesome and the feedback amazing. I also want to thank STEVEN, VIRGINIA and CAROLYN as well as our fiddler, SIDNEY, for supporting us so graciously. Music is such an important and vital part of any service. We could not have had the service we had without their support.



Two of our youth, LAURA COON and MATTHEW CHASE, attended the Maritime Conference Weekend May 28 - 31. They had a great time. It is wonderful to have our youth participate in such events, connecting with youth from across the Maritimes as well as Gaspé and Bermuda (all part of the Maritime Conference).

Last month, the Senior Youth were sad to say "So Long for Now" to MONICA COLL and MATT LEVAN who were such an asset to our group as their leadership was filled with both passion and energy. Matt and Monica have relocated to Vancouver—a gift for the folks of Vancouver for sure! All the best, Matt and Monica!

FUNDRAISING



To help cover our expenses as well as to plan for future adventures, the youth are continuing to raise funds

(Continued on Page 8)

(Children and Youth continued...)

through our GARDEN LIGHTS (\$20.00) as well as bottle refunds. We even collect CO-OP Dollars from time to time. In my office, there are several beautiful garden lights just waiting to find a home (thanks to Greg Black and the folks who have so generously donated china teacups). Have a look, select your favorite and simply leave the money at the office. Also, we will even collect your RECYCLABLE CANS AND BOTTLES if you just give us a call (206-1943) or you can drop them off at my office as well.

The children, youth, young adults and I wish you a very restful and fun-filled summer. Blessings from all of us!

☺Rev. Ellen Beirsto

Gail Wylie: Our Champion for Access to Justice



Gail Wylie spends many hours for the Wilmot Access to Justice Committee. We can be grateful that she has taken on this difficult task on our behalf. She and Norm Laverty are also the co-convenors of the larger Access to Justice Coalition, associated with the

Woolastook Presbytery, the Maritime Conference, and numbering among its members several distinguished experts.

One of the many issues the coalition is dealing with is the Payday Loan problem. Lenders prey on the most vulnerable of our citizens by giving them emergency loans to carry them through to payday but at exorbitant rates. Typically the loan sharks, three or four in the Fredericton area, charge as much as \$25 for a \$100 short term loan, an annual rate of 651%. The people relying on this thus can never get ahead. The coalition is peti-

tioning the government to mend the problem, but the issue is complex and the remedies must be well thought out. As Gail writes in her comments on the proposed legislation, "As Co-Convenor of the Access to Justice Coalition, I am aware that with per capita funding of Legal Aid in New Brunswick being the lowest in Canada and unable to cover even the critical services such as Divorce, there will be no help for those with limited financial means in challenging any Loan company's practices." She spends many hours researching ("digging" she calls it) the possible remedies and consulting with the coalition's experts. She finds out how other provinces deal with the problem. What is needed is a short-term, reasonably-priced loan, offered either by a financial institution, an NGO, or the government.

Currently Gail is trying to arrange a meeting with the new Minister of Justice. She knows how precise the agenda must be to attract the minister to a meeting.

The Wilmot Access to Justice Committee and the larger coalition speak for the vulnerable and the illiterate, in making sure they have the ability to use the law to obtain fairness. Here at Wilmot we host a legal advice clinic for those without the financial means or the knowledge to participate in the law. Custody and child support are two problems where people need help navigating the law system.

Gail is compiling a list of helping agencies and a list of church ministers, condensed so that the lists can be handed out to those who need them. She is cognizant of the work of other organizations, several in Nova Scotia, the Saint John Human Development Council under Randy Hatfield, and web sites such as "The Face of Poverty". thefaceofpoverty.com/

Gail's passion, dedication, and hard work on behalf of the vulnerable and in our name can make us proud.

☺Nancy Bauer

The Fourth Gospel:

Tales of a Jewish Mystic

by John Shelby Spong

John
Shelby
Spong

The Fourth
Gospel:
Tales
of a Jewish
Mystic

For two days in April a number of Wilmot folk and friends of Wilmot, participated in a United-in-Learning Webinar with Bishop John Spong, to discuss his most recent book *The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic*.

Many will remember

Bishop Spong's visit to Wilmot United Church in April 2004 when he was our featured guest for our Seminar, *Christianity Revisited and Renewed*. "Webinar" is a term coined from "World Wide Web" and "seminar" for conferences made possible through Internet service from one sender to many receivers. Spong's webinar was made possible by the organization United-in-Learning, an interactive distance education institute, along with College Hill United Church, Toronto.

Our Wilmot Seekers group will be using this latest book by Bishop Spong as their study guide, starting September 2015. This is the 83 year old's twenty-fourth published book, and a pinnacle in his amassed historical research of the Gospels and the deep soul-seeking of his spiritual journey. He says,

"Throughout most of my professional career I was not drawn to the fourth Gospel; indeed I found it almost repellent." However while he was writing his book *A New Christianity for a New World*, "several things happened which nudged my mind



open and invited me to look at the fourth Gospel in a new way."

This "new way" approaches the reading of this Gospel as a literary (not literally), interpretive retelling of the events in Jesus' life through symbolic fictional characters, some who were given bit parts in the synoptic Gospels, from Nicodemus to "the Beloved Disciple". Spong begins by tracing the development of both the third century creeds and imposed dogmas of the church founded upon the literal interpretation of the fourth Gospel, which was written (possibly in three different revisions) sometime after 90 CE, twenty years after the fall of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem in 70 CE, a time when the followers of Jesus struggled to survive as a religious community.

He goes on to meticulously justify his claim that "the fourth Gospel, I now believe, challenges literalism at every point and invites the reader into a strictly non-literal encounter with Jesus of Nazareth." The book has a nine page bibliography of related research, and each of the thirty-two chapters is short and concise, encapsulating a section of the Gospel and each theme or story vignette within, making it an excellent book for group study.

Karen Armstrong, author of *A History of God*, commented that scriptures are now approached with "a literalism that is unparalleled in the history of religion. This new and imaginative book [by Spong] will liberate many people from this unnecessary complication of the religious life."

©L. Caseley

The Frank T. Pridham Handbell Choir

In 1981 the family of Frank T. Pridham donated a three-octave set of 37 handbells to Wilmot in honour of their father's 90th birthday. The bells have increased substantially in value since then and have been well-maintained. Very few churches in the area have handbells. The ringers are dedicated and faithful musicians who cherish the collegiality of playing in a group. A number of the ringers have been lured to Wilmot just so they can play in the choir. In a handbell choir, each individual knows their presence is necessary because only they can play that set of bells. Each of the ringers handles three or four bells. Three of the ringers are in the senior choir, resulting in their having to change costumes in the middle of the service.



In the last few years under the direction of Steven Peacock, the dedicated ringers have honed their skills so that they have been able to branch out in their repertoire both in the quality of its musicality and of its difficulty. One recent Sunday the ringers used the technique of “singing bells” where each member circled the rim of the bell with a piece of wood, creating a lovely, if somewhat spooky, sound. They used another technique, “martellato”, literally “hammering”, but not really hammering, only setting the bells down firmly on the padded table. The choir is able to do a run of eighth notes, a difficult maneuver, but they do it with ease.

Because of their practice and coaching, the choir can now do all manner of such tricky things, adding to the ringers' pleasure in playing and to the quality of the music. For variety Steve creates arrangements, as he did for the Leonard Cohen song “Hallelujah” and for “Amazing Grace” with the senior choir singing it accompanied by the handbells, much to the excitement of the individual musicians as well as to the pleasure of the congregation. Steve's extensive training and informed musicianship allow him to get the most out of the choir.

☺Nancy Bauer

Wilmot on the Move ...a Brief Update

“Adversity is like a strong wind. I don’t mean just that it holds us back from places we might otherwise go. It also tears away from us all but the things that cannot be torn, so that afterward we see ourselves as we really are, and not merely as we might like to be.” Arthur Golden, *Memoirs of a Geisha*

Even though this quote is from a piece of secular fiction, it seemed to me an apt description of the process of self-examination Wilmot has been engaged in for the past several months. Not so long ago Wilmot was facing adversity. Expenses were up, investment returns declining and weekly offerings were not keeping pace with budget needs.

Alarms were sounded and in response, a committee was formed with the intent to be proactive. A team of people, perhaps not fully aware of what they were getting into, came together, and looking for a positive framework to explore this difficult time, came up with the name “Wilmot on the Move”. To soothe jangled spirits, the emblem of a peaceful dove was chosen as an overarching symbol. It must have worked.

Many meetings were held and the committee sought and received input from the congregation on revitalization. Through some staffing adjustments, finding efficiencies and an increase in offerings, the immediate financial crisis was averted.

Champions were sought for the newly suggested initiatives and some of these

have been put in place; others are still waiting. Some committee positions were filled, some are still looking for volunteers. We are on a path to find our way in changing times. This is nothing new. Ninety years ago several denominations in crisis came together in a bold initiative to form The United Church of Canada. Now, there are preliminary meetings underway between some United Churches in Fredericton to examine possible ways to share time, talent and resources.

A second committee has recently been formed to examine possibilities for our downtown footprint. A large part of this process will be “seeing ourselves as we really are, and not merely as we want to be.” This committee will be examining our mission statement and



intent as a congregation to ensure that any future development or initiatives are in keeping with our core values as a faith community.

Wilmot is indeed feeling the “strong winds” that ultimately will help us to “see ourselves as we really are.”

The Wilmot on the Move committee thanks everyone for their thoughtful input and ongoing support as we continue this journey of discovery.

©Kathie Goggin



UCW NEWS

Wilmot UCW would like to take this opportunity to say a big “Thank You” to the congregation for all their support during their recent fundraisers. Because of all your combined efforts we raised \$1,876.20 at the June Used Book Sale, as well as \$2,708.65 at the May Rummage sale. This success is because of your support and we all reap the benefit with the donations that have been given back to the church’s annual budget.

One reality we must face, however, is the dwindling numbers in our UCW membership over the past few years. This is due to people moving away, passing away, as well as long-time dedicated members with health issues that prevent them carrying on their usual work load. If God has ever placed it on your heart to become involved with UCW, but you didn’t ever receive a personal invitation to join us, please consider this a personal invitation. It doesn’t matter how old you are, how long you’ve been coming to Wilmot, or if you feel you have nothing to contribute, we would love to have you come to our next meeting in September. Our meetings are normally the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the parlour.

EVERYONE can do something, and it is in the strength of numbers that we will continue to thrive. There’s never a meeting that doesn’t have spiritual fellowship, touching moments, good decisions and a few fun laughs...as well as yummy food. Please join us in September and if you have any questions or comments, call me at 206-1400 and I would be happy to talk.

☺Lorie Nielsen

WILMOT WALKERS FOR HOSPICE

Wilmot Walkers raised \$1,500 for Fredericton Hospice, with the UCW team raising \$920 of that amount.



(l to r) Valerie Moore; Gil Keyser, Ellen Beairsto, Nancy Chase, Susan Upton, Brenda Cameron, Sue Breen, and Linda Gough.

Living with Respect in Creation

For the month of May a group of about a dozen people under the leadership of Janice Harvey has been meeting to learn and talk about living with respect in creation. The book “Living Ecological Justice: A Biblical Response to the Environmental Crisis” has been one of our resources.

As one participant noted, it is hard to believe we have lived on this planet for so long and yet we do not realize how little we know about our home planet and the



impact of our actions and lifestyle choices on its health. Even those of us who thought we had a light impact have had our eyes opened to the heaviness of our

footprints. Though we have felt overwhelmed with the depth of the damage already done, after each session we have left feeling moved to action and hopeful somehow, that we can make a difference in our communities.

The sessions have been extremely informative. Each topic has been well researched and presented with lots of links to enable us to further our own knowledge. We have looked at our individual ecological footprints, discussed the huge impact of climate change, reviewed the impact of industrial agriculture and the current mass extinction of species.

We hosted a film and potluck for the entire congregation on June 5, World Environment Day, which gave others a chance to participate in this conversation. The film presented was “Home”. We have been so inspired by what we have learned

we are considering ways to continue this conversation and learning into the fall under the theme “A Faithful Response: Towards Abundant Life for All Creation”.

☺Guy Vezina and Anne Colpitts

GRADUATES for the Year 2015



The Wilmot Family heartily congratulates all 2015 graduates from High Schools, Colleges and Universities. If you can add to our list below of those who have reached this milestone, please let Rev. Ellen Beairsto know, and we will acknowledge them with our pride in their achievement and offer prayers for their future as they take the next step in life's journey.

FREDERICTON HIGH SCHOOL

Rachel McQuade
Madeline Messenger
Griffin Higgins

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Emily Burns
Stefan Dubay (December 2015)
Shaundell Dubay (December 2015)

ST THOMAS UNIVERSITY

Amelia Secord

CONGRATULATIONS

Kathleen Taylor – Accepted into the MD program at **Dalhousie University**

RINGING IN OUR 10TH DECADE

Whenever Seniors at Wilmot reach their 90th birthday we celebrate with joyous pride in the blessing of their longevity among us. On Wednesday, June 10, 2015, The United Church of Canada will turn 90 years of age, and our moderator The Right Rev. Gary Paterson is inviting all United Church congregations to make a joyful noise by ringing their church bells 90 times at 10:30 am in



each of the time zones across our nation. The inaugural service of our denomination took place at 10:30 am on June 10, 1925 at Mutual Street Arena, Toronto. Special worship services across Canada to mark this year's event will take place on either Sunday June 7th or 14th with birthday cakes served on downtown streets, anniversary guest speakers, old-fashioned rural church picnics, plus many other creative congregational activities.

In the greater Fredericton area there are eight United Churches that will acknowledge this anniversary in their own unique way: Forest Hill, Gibson, Marysville, Nashwaaksis, New

Maryland, St. Paul's, Wesley (Lincoln) and Wilmot. If you hear the pealing of bells on Wednesday morning, the 10th, you will know that Wilmot is making its presence known within our



Fredericton cityscape with something to celebrate! We have a volunteer team, and are looking for others, to help ring the heavy bell, which is 163 years old and was cast at the Henry N. Hooper & Co. Foundry in Boston. According to archival records this firm had a high reputation for building bells of strength and excellence of tone, and they are considered highly prized artifacts today.

Two of Wilmot's "nonagenarians" (those 90 to 99 years of age) who still remain on our church rolls, and who attended Wilmot Methodist Church at the time of the inauguration of The United Church of Canada, are Phyl Batt and Dorean (Pridham) Estey. We also are blessed with a number of others in their 10th decade who have joined our church family over the years, and Rev. Ellen Beirsto is anxious to acknowledge all of them on our behalf this year. Please help us add the names of any that you know to the list. Their memories and devotion to their church families over the years enrich our diversity and our heritage.

☺L. Caseley

Gayle MacDonald has Given Wilmot Many Gifts



Alas, one of our most valued and hard-working members is leaving us. Gayle MacDonald is moving to Halifax where she will be the Associate Vice-President for Research at Mount St. Vincent University, a position she holds at St. Thomas University. The difference is that the new job will be four times bigger. She has many reasons for making the move. She is a Cape Bretoner and this move brings her closer to her homeland, to her mother and to a host of relatives. The last family reunion in Cape Breton was attended by 49 family members. Her sister also lives in Halifax.

She is also happy to be going to Mount St. Vincent. "It is a university with a soul." She likes that the university reaches out to its students, does good things for women, and that its faculty operates as a team. What's more, she feels that she is at a stage when she needs a challenge.

Eris and Breagh will stay in Fredericton. They are both second year students at St. Thomas University, they already have their

own accommodations, and they will be near their father.

Gayle says she will miss Wilmot. She has put down roots in this church. Her stay here began with her singing with Brian McIntosh and the Bel Canto singers. Seeing her name on the United Church roster at the hospital, he came to see her when she was giving birth to Breagh twenty years ago. He came at the right moment, because it was a time when she needed spiritual sustenance in her life. She also knew Bob Breen, because he mediated between the faculty union, of which she was the president, and the university. When she saw him at Wilmot, she said, "Don't blow my cover. At Wilmot I'm a mother, not a professor."

She has worked hard for the church. She taught Sunday School, was on the committee that was the precursor of the Faith Formation committee, and on the selection committee for both Peter Short and Isabel Black. She chaired "good sessions" for ecumenical talks in the parlour with Muslims, Bahai, and Jews. She is on the Affirming Diversity committee and tends to the Free Trade Coffee stand. She was in several of Chris Levan's plays. "I participated in causes that drew me, activities that were different from my everyday life."

Gayle has been impressed with the level of discourse at Wilmot. "People want to discuss things." She was drawn to the caring and generous community we have formed. When she was in the hospital with cancer, people made her food. "I didn't seek help, but when I needed it, help came."

The four Creative Spirit weekends she organized were indeed wonderful. She was inspired to produce them when in



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(Gayle MacDonald continued ...)

Prague she saw an exhibit of the Stations of the Cross. The colours were so brilliant, the message so powerful. The exhibit featured the position of the peasants: "the embodiment of people's place in the world."

Gayle is naturally partial to the United Church. Her father's twin Fraser MacDonald, her sister, and her uncle were all United Church ministers.

Gayle leaves June 22; her job starts July 1 when the school year begins. She is busy cleaning out her basement.

"One of my sorrows in moving is leaving Wilmot."

We will miss her.

☺Nancy Bauer

(Cuba Twinning continued ...)



sisters, during the March break. Encounters in the past have involved a variety of options: visiting different communities, sharing experiences between Cuban and Canadian approaches of serving community, sharing ideas about problems in the wider world, learning about the Cuban culture, along with some sightseeing in Old Havana and visiting the beach in Varadero. In other words there has been a combination of the serious with fun in the sun and the shade. The choices depend on what the Canadian and Cuban participants wish to explore.

If you have been there before, do not expect to experience something new. If you have

not gone yet, be prepared to suffer temperatures slightly above 20 degrees C, while your friends back in Canada are cooling off at minus 20 degrees C.

The Committee would like to know if you have a possible interest in participating, not to get a commitment now, but to learn which aspects of such a trip would interest you most. Such information will permit plans to be spelled out, in order to inform our Cuban hosts. The trip is not limited to people from Wilmot. Invite your friends and neighbours to join in the experience. It is open to any age, and the program can be adjusted to fit your situation and interests. Spanish classes are optional. Please contact Greg Black (454-5546) or any member of the Cuba Twinning Committee, if you are interested or have questions.

☺Norman Laverty