

Words from Wilmot



Volume 26 Issue 3

September, 2015

Fall Worship and Special Events Schedule

Sunday, September 27 - 11:00 am Pulpit Exchange with Rev. Ali Smith, Forest Hill United Church and 1:00 to 4:00 pm Doors Open Fredericton tours of Wilmot with 18 other buildings of interest to the public

Sunday, October 4 - 11:00 am Guest Speaker The Very Rev. Dr. Lois Wilson, LLD and World Wide Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 11 - 11:00 am Thanksgiving Sunday

Sunday, October 18 - Soup Luncheon following worship

Tuesday, October 20 - Seniors Fall Excursion and Lunch

Friday and Saturday, October 23 & 24 - UCW Rummage Sale

Sunday, October 25 - 11:00 am worship with guest musician Tim Blackmore and 2:00 pm Concert with *La Tour Baroque Duo*

Sunday, November 1 - 11:00 am Children and Youth worship service

Thursday, November 5 - UCW Apple Pie making and sale

Sunday, November 8 - 11:00 am Remembrance Sunday worship

Sunday, November 15 - 11:00 am Anniversary Sunday with guest speaker Rev. Kent Horsman and Soup Luncheon following worship

Friday, November 20 - 7:00 pm Deborah Park Piano Concert

Friday, November 27 - UCW Bake Sale and NYT (new to you) Table

Sunday, November 29 - First Sunday in Advent

Advent Issue *Words from Wilmot* deadline **November 13** to be distributed **November 29**

Inside this issue:

Peter's Pilgrimage 2

Children and Youth 4

New Moderator 5

UCW Activities 5

CGIT - 100 years 6

Outreach News 8

Rev. Vic Moriarty Remembered 9

Refugee Sponsorship Team 10

Friendship Pins 11

The Very Rev. Dr. Lois Wilson 11

Affirming Diversity 12

Ministry to Bereaved Families 14

Steven's Guitar 15

Music at Wilmot 16

Words from Wilmot

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Peter's Pilgrimage on the Path toward Truth and Reconciliation

Peter Short was the minister of the Yellowknife United Church for seven years. Because Marie Wilson was going through a family crisis, she was motivated to return to church and chose Yellowknife. In an Observer interview, she said, "The familiarity of the hymns at Yellowknife United took me back to a place of nostalgic safety and made me feel tied to my family in a spiritual way. What kept me there is one amazing



person, Peter Short, who was minister at that time. He saved my life to the extent that he saved my spirit and gave me a new foundation for putting one foot in front of the other."

When Dr. Wilson was appointed one of the three members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), she asked Peter to be her spiritual advisor during her mission. She told him that she needed to stay in touch with her spiritual roots while she was in the public glare. At Wilmot, we can well understand the wisdom of her choice. In his capacity as advisor, Peter had firsthand experience of the work of the commission. He was present at six of the seven public events, listening to the

survivors of the residential schools recount their stories, either publicly or privately.



He was deeply moved by these accounts of overall devastation and loneliness. The storytellers sometimes became overwhelmed while they were remembering. Some had worked through the trauma and

had regained their spiritual balance. A few, but only a few, had happy memories. In between the public events, he and Dr. Wilson communicated by email, phone and in person when they happened to be in the same city.

The TRC was established in 2008 as part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement "to inform all Canadians about what happened" in these schools. The seven national events were large gatherings of three or four days, open to the public, in Winnipeg, Halifax, Saskatoon, Inuvik, Ottawa, Edmonton and Vancouver. The survivors' stories were recorded and are archived at the University of Manitoba, accessible to the public so that nobody in the future can claim these inhumane acts didn't occur.

Peter realizes that some of those who supported the establishment of the schools or who worked in them did so for noble reasons. But some worked in them because they couldn't find other jobs, and some were, as Peter came to know, predatory. The system was invented in order to

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socialize, assimilate, and Christianize the students. Peter understood the motives: Canadians had grown up thinking that the ways of Britain were civilizing, and that Christianizing the world, including our aboriginals, was a good thing. The motives seemed of the highest order, and because Canadians of British descent held power, they could put their beliefs into practice. Listening to these chronicles, Peter felt deeply how much those who had been in the schools wanted to have back the life their people once had. Even more, those who hadn't attended but were still affected by the practice want the return of the well-being that had once been present in their communities. Although they regard Jesus as a brother who has "powerful medicine", they want their aboriginal spirituality back. They also want to recover their languages. "Language makes thought and imagination possible", says Peter. In addition to this loss of spirituality and language, the important skills of becoming a family, of being a parent were lost.

The First Nations had also lost their form of governance. Peter described one of these forms, the teepee ceremony when the elderly chief—the pipe carrier—retires and the new pipe carrier is installed. "What we would call ordination."

The only power that the United Church has over the outcome of the commission is through education and communication. The Northwest Territories has developed a curriculum on the residential schools which other jurisdictions are adopting. The municipality of Edmonton has mandated that all employees be educated on the subject. Universities are offering courses. One university president said that the universities had educated the teachers at the residential schools and he wondered what kind of education they had been given.

BACKGROUND

- ◆ The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was given a five year mandate by the Supreme Court of Canada to bring together the partners involved—the government, the churches, and the Aboriginals—to document the history of the Indian Residential Schools (IRS). To that end, the commission produced an interim and a final report, news releases, videos, and pamphlets about "the history, purpose, operation and supervision of the IRS system, the effect and consequences of IRS (including systemic harms, intergenerational consequences and the impact on human dignity) and the ongoing legacy of the residential schools." The schools were instituted nearly 150 years ago, and the last ones closed in the early 1990s. The final report, available on the website www.trc.ca, included 94 recommendations.
- ◆ The 42nd General Council recommitted itself to continue the work of reconciliation by passing a multi-point proposal, including developing educational materials and encouraging congregations to engage in education and actions for reconciliation. To read all five proposals go to www.gc42.ca/news.
- ◆ The only residential school in the Maritimes was in Nova Scotia. From one report: "In 1934 the Shubenacadie principal had nineteen students flogged following a theft at the school."
- ◆ In 1986, the United Church issued an apology to the First Nations for its role in the schools. In 2005, Peter, who was then moderator of The United Church of Canada, was named Shining Rock Chief by First Nations peoples who had attended the 31st General Council in Sudbury, ON where the 1986 apology was offered.

Peter's Pilgrimage ... continued from page 3

- ◆ Marie Wilson was well-qualified to be appointed a commissioner. She was the CBC's senior manager for northern Quebec and the three northern Territories and the first television program host of northern Canada's information program, Focus North. She's married to a residential school survivor. Dr. Wilson was given an honorary doctorate by St. Thomas University in 2012.

©Nancy Bauer

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CORNER

FALL HAS ARRIVED but before we have a look at what lies ahead, I want to first thank everyone for your great support over the summer. In July, with services being held here at Wilmot for what we called "Downtown United", your continued support allowed us to have the Sunshine Room / Nursery opened for the young ones. On most Sundays there were a scattering of children who had their own storytime, activities, games and of course a snack. THANK YOU.



In August, Wilmot once again hosted our combined Vacation Bible School with Forest Hill and St. Paul's. Even though some of our regulars were not able to join us this year, we had around 40 children and youth come together for a program filled with singing, storytime, science experiments, crafts, snacks and just plain fun. Besides our energetic and talented youth, each of the ministers (Ali Smith, Richard Bowley

and Rose-Hannah) as well as many other volunteers joined me in once again making this a very successful week. We are so pleased that our summer student, Amy Foster, was able to fit us into her final week of work here at Wilmot. She, along with our other youth, did an amazing job of leading us in music and games.

Our SUNDAY SCHOOL programming is underway. Although we researched a variety of programs, we returned to *Seasons of the Spirit*, a lectionary-based program that seems to work well for us. However, we are trying a new format this year. Each Sunday, we will begin together in the Sunshine Room with a storytime and music (led by our youth and friends). Then we will break into our various classes for discussions, activities, games and a snack as well as a few surprises. You may recall that last year, we formed a LEADERSHIP TEAM consisting of High School / University students as well as a few young adults. This team approach worked well allowing them more flexibility within their busy lives. We already have a team of 6 and it's growing. One of my former youth from McAdam has joined the team as well.

Our MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SENIOR YOUTH GROUPS will soon be underway. Some of our Leadership Team will lend a hand with activities for the Middle School Youth while Oliver and Katie (Springer) Glencross as well as Alex Good will help out with the Senior Youth. A number of ideas have already surfaced and I am looking forward to some great gatherings. I am also working towards creating a CONFIRMATION & FRIENDS group via internet. Should be interesting.

BTW, we are hoping to have a CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICE on Sunday, November 1. Stay tuned for some upcoming announcements. As always, thank you for your continued support.

©Rev. Ellen Beairsto

Meet the New Moderator of The United Church of Canada



The Rev. Jordan Cantwell

On August 15, 2015, in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, The Rev. Jordan Cantwell became the 42nd Moderator of The United Church of Canada, with the affirmation and applause of 356 Commissioners to General Council, “We believe Jordan is worthy! Glory to God!” Rev. Cantwell is the minister of Delisle-Vanscoy United Church, a rural Pastoral Charge in Saskatchewan and is married to Laura Fohse, a diaconal minister at McClure United Church, Saskatoon.

Shirley Cleave, from our congregation, attended the 42nd General Council meeting as chairperson of the Bakeapple Commission, one of three decision-making bodies of the Council, and comments that Jordan is an “engaging and dynamic speaker”. The Right Rev. Cantwell is committed to “Sabbath economics” which she defines as “God’s new economy of justice and right relationship between people, the land and God”. She says, “Those who most benefit from the political and economic structures of the day—folks with privilege want everyone to believe that the only way to do things is the way they have prescribed....(Jesus reminded his followers) that they were a people constituted by an alternative vision of how the world might be, a whole different set of principles and values, and therefore a whole different set of possibilities than the ones offered by the dominant culture.” This she calls Sabbath

economics, referring to God’s gift of manna in the desert for the Israelites and Jesus’ offering of loaves and fishes on a hillside in first century Palestine.

Dr. Shirley Cleave held a very responsible position at General Council, hearing the many sides of the debates on such issues as Goldcorp shares in Guatemala and divesting holdings in fossil fuels versus investing in renewable energy resources. Commissioners’ views ranged from wanting a firm position on withdrawing current investments in corporations that fail to support human rights and environmental standards, to the alternate of making a difference by remaining at the corporate table to have their voices heard. The other two Commissions reporting to the 42nd General Council meeting were named Partridgeberry and Blueberry, a nod to the indigenous wild fruits of Newfoundland. Shirley remarked that all of the proposals that the Bakeapple group dealt with “were very green”, from plastics to pension plans. Wilmot United Church is honoured to have such a dedicated member taking a leadership role in the highest court of our church as it debates the critical issues that come before it.

☺L Caseley

UCW Activities

The UCW is gearing up for another busy fall season. There will be our Rummage Sale October 23 and 24. November 5th is our apple pie work day and sale. There will be a table in the gym after church to take orders for pies, small and large, on October 11, 18 and 25 and November 1. Then on November 27 there will be a Bake Sale and New-To-You Sale.

October 31 is the deadline for applying for the Helen A. Young annual Scholarship of \$200.00. The applicant is to be from a family connected with Wilmot United Church. It is

(Continued on Page 6)

(UCW Continued from page 5)



to be used for education beyond high school level, i.e. University, Business College, Technical School, Nursing School. Consideration will be given to a student's academic standing and participation in church activities. A student may re-apply even if he/she has already received this Scholarship.

At our first meeting after the summer break, September 14th, we welcomed four new members: Mary Lynn Cameron, Kathie Goggin, Judy Pope and Colleen Thomson. What a great beginning to the season!

©Lori Nielsen

100 Year Anniversary of CGIT

On Monday evening, September 14th, the UCW met in the Wilmot parlour for their monthly meeting. There was a tangible "buzz" in the air as approximately thirty women gathered to celebrate the 100th anniversary of CGIT. A table display of CGIT memorabilia and photos provided the focal point for reminiscing. Shirley Cleave wore her CGIT midy for the occasion, the uniform that all members proudly donned on their "CGIT night" so many years ago. Jeannette Jarvis provided a history of CGIT and introduced the guest speaker Sandra MacBean, who was enthusiastically welcomed. Sandra has been involved with CGIT in various capacities for over sixty years.

Research on the CGIT movement reveals that following the Boer War of 1899-1902 there



(L-R) Shirley Cleave, Janet Culligan (former leader of CGIT at Wilmot), and Sandra MacBean (guest speaker)

was a great deal of interest initiated by Lieutenant General Robert Baden-Powell, author of the 1908 publication *Scouting for Boys* and father of the scouting movement, to encourage and foster youth to become good citizens, devoted to God, Queen and Country. Many organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and CGIT were founded to develop young people of good character with a moral compass and skill set that would help them navigate the challenges of life.

The central tenet of CGIT (Canadian Girls in Training) established in 1915, was to encourage young women to cherish health, seek truth, know God and serve others and to become "the girl God would have me be".

Imagine a time 100 years ago, so different from our present experience, when families were large, mothers stayed home, almost all families were regular church-goers and rural communities were thriving. Disposable income was minimal or non-existent. There was no television, internet, video games and few organized sports. Church and school were at the center of community and family life. Parents were looking for wholesome activities for children and youth that did not require a huge outlay of money. CGIT fit the bill for girls, and there were many mothers

and women who gave freely of their leadership skills and volunteer hours.

“I remember CGIT well,” says Connie Steeves. “It was a wonderful time. I attended downstairs in the Sunday School area here at Wilmot, and Helen Squires was a wonderful



UCW members enjoying display of CGIT memorabilia.

leader. She would come in wearing her brogues and carrying a basket and we all just loved her.” Connie remembers wearing her heavy twill cotton middie, starched and ironed for CGIT night, and her mother carefully rolling the bottom three times and pinning it in place. There was never any question about attendance, it was something Connie looked forward to, especially the camaraderie with the girls. “It was just CGIT night and nothing would make me miss it.”

Debbie McMillan was also a CGIT member and like Connie and many others, went on to become a leader. Her three daughters also went through the organization. She believes the program helped develop a sense of confidence in its members, especially when speaking in front of church and participating in services.

“CGIT taught us how to conduct a meeting, keep minutes, lead worship, read scripture,

maintain treasury reports and serve tea,” laughs Sandra MacBean, “as well as have a lot of fun at camps, rallies, and regional events.” She remembers that camps were full, with enrollment waiting lists. Many others remembered campfires, songs, friendship, candlelight Christmas Vesper services, games and camp nicknames. The spirit of CGIT days gone by was rekindled when Lucille Caseley played the piano while everyone sang the CGIT Hymn. The closing verse, “We would be strong, for life is all before us, Nothing can daunt us, guided by His hand, Eager to serve, we seek to follow Jesus, Giving our best for God and for our land.” was especially poignant when looking around the room and seeing so many women who had been CGIT members and gone on to take leadership roles and membership in UCW.

But things have changed. “The 100th anniversary is really a swan song for CGIT,” says MacBean. Beginning perhaps in the 1980s, a societal shift began and involvement in the organization faced a rapid decline. The rise of team sports, busy two income families, increased disposable income and a more secular lifestyle eroded membership in CGIT to the point where there are now no CGIT groups in New Brunswick, and less than a handful in the Maritimes. The national CGIT organization disbanded in 2002.

However, for one night at Wilmot, celebrating the 100 Year Anniversary, CGIT was alive and well. The pleasure it had brought, the friendships and memories and seeing the middies and photos made everyone feel like a young girl again.

©Kathie Goggin

Outreach Committee News

It was a pleasure to see so many people at coffee on Welcome Sunday interested in what is going on at Wilmot! If you didn't get that opportunity, this is to update you on some of the main priorities of the Outreach Committee. First, "thank you" for supporting the ongoing work of the Outreach Committee. Your financial and in-kind contributions, as well as your personal volunteering, enables Wilmot to reach out to people in our community in many different ways.

Outreach is considering some new activities this year and is also continuing most of the existing ones. Below are some of the happenings and we invite you to get in touch with us if you are interested in becoming more involved.

The main programs delivered by Outreach are the Fair Trade booth, selling a range of products including tea, coffee, olive oil and chocolate on Sunday mornings; the Hamper Program which delivers food, clothing and gifts to newcomer families at Christmas; Saturday evening Drop-In; Wednesdays@Wilmot, lunch, skills programming and food vouchers; the Inter-Church Refugee Committee; Access to Justice; and the Community Kitchen.

Monthly, after worship Soup Lunches and donations to the Benevolent Fund support Wilmot Outreach programs. We have been richly supported by a number of corporate and community sponsors including Isaac's Way for the Drop-In; the Fredericton Community Foundation, M&T Deli and Superstore for their generous support to Wednesdays@Wilmot program. It is not uncommon to receive words of appreciation from those participating in our programs.

Many of us are very concerned with the recent crises facing so many Syrians and other

refugees. There is more information on this effort in this newsletter. Elaine Kenyon at 455-7954 ekenyon@nbnet.nb.ca is the Outreach contact for the Inter-Church Refugee Committee.



Lunch at Wednesdays@Wilmot,
photo credit Gene Campbell

We are always looking for volunteers to be part of the Saturday Night Drop-In and Community Kitchen teams, among others. Chris Colwell at Chris.Colwell@gnb.ca or 455-1782 would love to hear from you if you have time to share on Saturday evening, as would Beth Paynter at 454-5581 if you are interested in volunteering with the Wilmot team at the community kitchen, including as a spare.

Wednesdays@Wilmot offers a safe and supportive environment for people living in poverty. Every Wednesday afternoon Wilmot volunteers provide a welcoming place to socialize, a nutritious meal, and access to community social workers who help with education, employment, housing and personal matters. Presentations and skill-building activities such as foot care, managing stress, living with diabetes, and cooking classes are held periodically. W@W welcomes donations of fruit, snacking vegetables, cookies, coffee, etc. and donations of money to the Benevolent Fund from which food vouchers are purchased (\$20/family every 3 months when needed). Hearty thanks to the Wilmot congregation and volunteers and to our community partners: Fredericton Community

Foundation, Atlantic Super Store (Smythe St.), Victory Meat Market and Shoppers Drug Mart (Kings Place). Please contact Rita Roach for more information: reetie2012@gmail.com.

Before long, we will have the Mitten Tree identifying needs of Fredericton's newcomer families in the gym. Wilmot works closely with the Fredericton Multicultural Association to support families in this program. Elaine Kenyon is also coordinating this program.

Wilmot Community members are essential to the success of our endeavours. You are welcome to be involved in one or several Outreach activities as your time, interest, and skills allow. We would appreciate your participation at any time! Feel free to contact the Outreach co-chairs—Terri MacLean at tmaclean@unb.ca or Lynn MacKinnon at mlmack@nbnet.nb.ca if you would like further information.

☺Lynn MacKinnon

The Rev. Vic Moriarty Minister Emeritus

Those who were part of Wilmot's church family before 2001 will fondly remember our



Minister Emeritus, The Rev. Vic Moriarty and his wife Jean before they moved to Moncton to be near their family. Vic was honoured with the position of Minister Emeritus in 1997 because of

the strong support that Vic and Jean faithfully gave to many initiatives and projects after

they joined Wilmot's congregation following Vic's retirement in 1983. In particular they gave leadership in starting our Seniors Group in 1988. The group was very popular and doubled in membership within two years, and is very active to this day.

We said goodbye to our rich association with Vic this summer when The Rev.'s Cliff Moase, Bob Jones and Gil Todd attended his funeral at Central United Church in Moncton on August 27. The Rev. Dr. Jim MacDonald conducted the funeral. It was a life affirming celebration, expressing the love and esteem that family, friends and former church colleagues felt for his fine character and dedication to his calling. The Invocation Prayer asking for reassurance and hope for Vic's family and friends closed with the words, "May the spirit of life which shone so abundantly through Vic Moriarty ignite a warm and caring energy among us, and leave us with a lasting legacy of faith, hope and love."

Jean, who has been equally missed by our congregation, died in 2004. She was actively involved with CGIT since her girlhood and CGIT continued to have a significant influence throughout her life. Her obituary states, "She felt her faith had been deepened and broadened by the relationship she enjoyed with the young people in her life." Both Jean and Vic found deep spiritual significance in the church camping experience and their family named Camp Wegesegum as a recipient of memorial donations for both of them.

Wilmot United Church will always remember the lasting contribution of Vic and Jean in its annals of history.

☺L. Caseley

Our Refugee Sponsorship Team

Our Interchurch Refugee Committee, which has representatives from Forest Hill, St. Paul's and Wilmot United Churches, works under the National United Church Sponsorship Agreement with the Federal government (Citizenship Immigration Canada). The largest number of our sponsorships has been in family reunification. We work with families now in Canada who are seeking help for family members – who are at present refugees – to come and live in Canada, and provide continued support after their arrival for a period of one year.

At present there are four families for whom we are waiting: one family in Uganda originally from Rwanda – process started in 2012; two Iraqi families in Lebanon – process started in Sept 2014; and one family in Damascus, Syria originally from Somalia – process started in 2015. Reports of refugee families arriving in our communities at this time that have been recently highlighted in the local media have been in the works for some time.



In the summer of 2012 our committee co-sponsored two Iraqi families who had fled to Syria. They came to us from Damascus and have settled well in the Fredericton area.

The Multicultural Association of Fredericton provides the CIC's (Citizenship Immigration Canada) resettlement and settlement services



programs for refugees and immigrants. They are helpful in providing guidance in the resettlement and settlement process for the families that our committee has been successful in bringing to Fredericton.

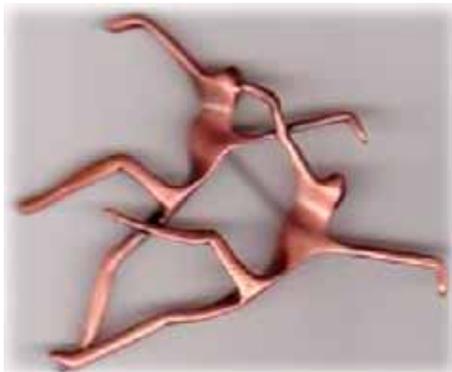
What you can do: WRITE LETTERS to our Prime Minister and our Minister of Citizenship Immigration Canada; and TALK TO YOUR INCUMBENT MP and all party candidates in the coming election about your concerns. Guidelines can be found at <http://united-church.ca/getinvolved/takeaction/status>.

Thanks to all for your expressions of support for our committee and our waiting refugee families. When we know what is happening we will seek your assistance and involvement in hopefully settling another family. Wilmot members on the Interchurch Refugee Committee are: Elaine Kenyon, Norman Laverty and Maggie Clarke

For more information go to <http://www.united-church.ca/files/humanrights/refugees>.

☺Elaine Kenyon

UCW Has New Shipment of FRIENDSHIP PINS



Popular Friendship Pins are available from UCW members. The price is \$12.00 and they are the perfect gift for a cherished friend, which includes an original poem expressing gratitude for friendship. Contact Nancy Chase at 450-2978 or dpc@nb.sympatico.ca.

Wilmot UCW thanks the congregation for supporting all of its projects this past year. Because of you the group has been able to support our church financially as well as its many service projects.

Fire Safety



At Wilmot we are extremely conscious about fire safety. Please regularly check the evacuation diagrams posted at all exits of the building, and follow the procedures

and designated directors to the prescribed assembly area at the sound of a fire alarm.

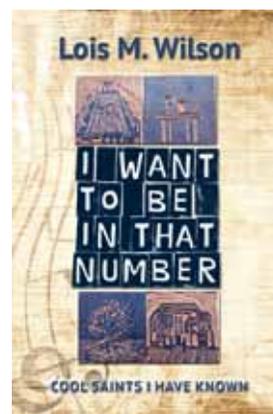


The Very Rev. Dr. Lois Wilson Guest Speaker at Worship on October 4th



The Very Reverend Doctor Lois Miriam Wilson will be our guest preacher on October 4. Now eighty-eight years old, Rev. Wilson has led a remarkable, distinguished life and has given much to the world. She is the first woman moderator of

the United Church, serving from 1980-82. She was co-president of the World Council of Churches from 1983-89. She is a Companion (the highest level) of the Order of Canada, a recipient of the Pearson Medal of Peace and of many other honours. She served in the Canadian Senate from 1998 until 2002. She is currently Ecumenist in Residence at Emmanuel College of the University of Toronto. Rev. Wilson is the mother of four, grandmother of twelve, and great-grandmother of one.



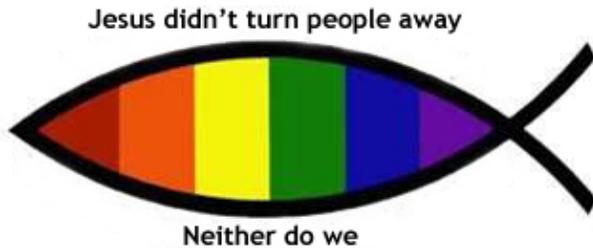
Rev. Wilson will also be giving a reading from her recent book, *I Want to Be in That Number: Cool Saints I Have Known*, on Friday October 2 at Westminster Books at 7 PM. The book is a collection of her reminiscences of 40 friends and colleagues she believes were “cool”

saints. The book “resists mawkishness. It leapfrogs eulogy to articulate a wisdom that is the hallmark of a life well lived.”

©Nancy Bauer

Affirming Diversity in All its Dimensions

In October 2013, Wilmot Church Council passed a motion to develop a process by which we would affirm diversity in all its dimensions and an Affirming Diversity Committee was formed.



As a committee we have tried to identify the priorities of the congregation, and so we piggybacked onto “Wilmot on the Move” in their group meetings in 2014 to get feedback on ways in which we wanted to be particularly mindful of how we welcome and affirm. This is what we heard:

- ◆ We see ourselves as community.



- ◆ We place a high priority on affirming and supporting youth and what they bring to our community of faith.
- ◆ We are aware of the very real challenges faced by people in poverty. We are aware of and are



impressed by their strength and courage. We seek to work in partnership for justice and dignity for all.

- ◆ We wish to be vigilant in ensuring accessibility to our building, and identifying impediments to participate in our worship and life of our church, whether the potential barriers are physical or financial.



- ◆ We wonder about our awareness of cultural differences in our interactions.



- ◆ We welcome but are still seeking the path we wish to take to affirm the Rainbow community: that is the LGBTQ or lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community.

The most noticeable outcome of our work has been the introduction of Affirming Moments, short elements in worship that offer the opportunity of affirming diversity within our congregation and that would invite discussion and sharing. We were seeking a way of inviting people to think about the lens through which they see

diversity and to share that with us. It could be a short talk, a symbol, a story...there are many possibilities. We have heard from a number of groups: the Outreach Committee affirmed the gifts of the people who participate in Wednesdays@Wilmot; the Prayer Shawl group affirmed the care and the value of participants of all skill levels in the knitting of prayer shawls, and in return the gift received in grateful response from shawl recipients; the Pastoral Care and Health Committee affirmed the diversity of gifts with which we care for each other. We have also used hymns, prayers and children's time in worship that express diversity. Our hope is that all groups and committees of Wilmot would offer an aspect of our community they would like to affirm in worship.



It is worth writing a few more words on affirmation of the Rainbow community because it has the potential to be a difficult question for people. Wilmot is a welcoming place. We have an inclusive marriage policy and have hosted several Rainbow brunches over the past few years. Even though many people understandably believe this is all clear, there are pieces that are unresolved and our committee would like to invite the congregation to reflect on how we wish to address these as a community:

- ◆ There are still many challenges for members of the Rainbow community.

Because issues may not be obvious we have invited a guest speaker to make a presentation after worship on November 1 to tell us about her work with gay-straight alliances in New Brunswick and very real difficulties faced by LGBTQ youth.

- ◆ Some Christian churches are vocal in spreading a negative message about diverse sexual identities. It is worth considering what we wish to see as our role in what is said in the name of Jesus about the Rainbow community.
- ◆ Some members have learned of Wilmot through word of mouth. Is that enough? How do we wish for people to know this is a safe place? This is where a Rainbow symbol is a very meaningful sign of welcome.



The United Church supports a process by which congregations discern how they wish to respond to these issues. At the end of this discernment a congregation can decide whether or not to become officially affirming. Over the course of the next months we will be offering information, providing opportunities for you to raise your concerns or support (a listening session is planned for October 25) and inviting you to reflect on this possibility for Wilmot. And of course we would welcome your input at any time.

Affirming Diversity ... continued from page 13

What would it mean to be an affirming community?

- ◆ We would develop a vision statement or statement of inclusion (which can be as simple as adding a sentence to our current vision statement). This statement would be reviewed by Affirm United, the national justice-oriented organization of people in The United Church of Canada.
- ◆ There would be a congregational vote.
- ◆ We would have the affirming symbol on our website and other places that we choose.
- ◆ We would mark this decision through an event open to the public.
- ◆ We would pay an annual fee of \$100 to Affirm United.

☺Affirming Diversity Committee
Norman Laverty
Elizabeth Savoie
Maureen Toner

Peter Gough's Ministry to Bereaved Families



Did you know that thanks to funds provided by the Walter J. Beirsto Service Recording Ministry in remembrance of Rev. Ellen Beirsto's father, and the expertise and volunteer time of Peter Gough, families of

deceased loved ones can receive an edited audio copy of their loved one's funeral conducted at Wilmot United Church?

For nearly ten years, Peter has been recording and editing memorial services whenever he receives a request from the minister. "We used to record on cassette tapes," says Peter, "but with modern computer technology and CDs I am now able to take out any long pauses, coughs, distracting noises or places where people might hesitate or correct themselves. The editing process takes time, but it provides a nice memory for families."

Families receive the master recording and as many CD copies as they require. "Often there are family members or friends who cannot attend the funeral for various reasons and we are happy to provide this service," explains Peter.

Because of this important ministry, family members are able to share in the experience of remembering their loved one and celebrating their life. This is just another way that Wilmot so lovingly cares for its members and adherents.

☺Kathie Goggin



**Intricate craftsmanship
on Steven's new Manuel Contreras
2009 Doble Tapa Guitar**

Steven has a New Guitar!

At the end of June, Steven Peacock, our music and choir director, bought a new guitar! Getting a professional instrument is not easy and not to be taken lightly. He had been thinking about a purchase for three or four years. He was looking for one with more “sound” and “definition” across the range of notes.

There are specialized outlets for these instruments. Steven used the *Guitar Salon International* in Santa Monica, California. After making an appointment, he flew to California from Boston. The two proprietors helped him try different ones, starting with a dozen or so and quickly paring them down to



Steven Peacock

two or three that had the characteristics he was looking for. After half a day or so, he settled on one made by Manuel Contreras in Madrid in 2009. (According to Steven, Madrid guitars are a little tougher compared to ones from the warmer south, say, Granada). Its style is *Doble Tapa* which refers to the robust construction of the wood. In a guitar the tension of the strings is supported

differently. So compared to classic violins which can last for centuries, guitars have a shorter lifespan—a few decades.

Flying back to Boston, Steven was careful to get space in the plane’s main cabin closet for the guitar. Driving to Fredericton it crossed his mind that the guitar in the back seat was worth more than his car.

Now that he has had it for a few months he is very happy about it. At Wilmot we have had the opportunity to hear it several times already and certainly more times in the future.

Of course Steven does more (a lot more!) than conduct the choir, hand bell choir and play at Wilmot. Our organist Virginia Leiter and Steven are a formidable team; with the clergy they ensure that the music integrates with the rest of the service. Besides teaching music theory at St. Thomas University, he actively composes and arranges. He is complexly bilingual and frequently adapts French and Canadian French folk songs. Some of these appear on his many CDs. He performs 40 to 50 times a year, both solo and as a member of several musical groups. A characteristic of guitar music is that the player switches between different voices. As he plays, with these groups and solo, he has found the new instrument not only blends in but also switches between the various voices of a piece very well.

At Wilmot we have heard Steven play with flautist Sally Wright many times. Sally and he perform frequently as the *Duo Catilena*. Steven will be playing with her and Michel Deschênes as the group *Trio Sambucca* in Memorial Hall at UNB on September 23 at 7:30 pm.

The next year will be very busy. With violinist Nadia Francavila, the resident musician at UNB, he will be recording in London England. Later on he is scheduled for a performance tour in South Korea.



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Based in the province of New Brunswick on the east coast of Canada, the La Tour Baroque Duo brings together outstanding early music performers Tim Blackmore (harpsichord & recorders) and Michel Cardin (baroque lute & theorbo) to present inspired programs of 17th and 18th century music on period instruments. The Duo will release its fourth album *Something Choice and Excellent*, which will feature works by JS and WF Bach, Telemann, Weiss, JG Graun, JA Hasse and Pezold.

<http://en.latourduo.com/home>

DEBORAH PARK
PIANO CONCERT
FRI, NOV 20, 2015 7 PM



DEBUSSY, LISZT AND ORIGINAL
WORKS FROM CD “I PRAY”
GUEST DR. ROGER LORD
ADMISSION ADULT \$20,
STUDENT \$10

This will be Deborah Park's debut concert as a composer-pianist. She will perform piano solo works from Debussy and Liszt, the Liszt Sonetto 47 “Del Petrarca” which she performed at Carnegie Hall at the Winners Concert American Protégé International Competition. Also included will be her original works and song transcriptions from her new mini album “I Pray”. Piano duets with Dr. Roger Lord include Debussy, Schubert, as well as jazz music from Anderson and Youmans.