



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

HAVE YOU CHECKED
LATELY?

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

Words from Wilmot

is available in

LARGE PRINT

for those with
impaired vision.

These will be
available
for each issue.

If you would like to re-
ceive the LARGE
PRINT edition, please
ask your Sunday
Morning Welcomer.



More Children and Youth



Yessica Enriquez guides an enthusiastic group of painters in the creation of "Silent Night" to raise money for earthquake victims in Mexico.



Who is the face behind
the mask?
Only Ellen B knows for
sure. Can anyone else
identify her?



Matthew concentrates as he follows Yessica's
instructions creating a painting for his Mother for
Christmas.

Nancy's Senate 150th Anniversary Medal



John Leroux noted that "the scene on the medal is remarkably close to the interior of Wilmot – the tall gothic arches, the upper seating balcony, the lower seating in boxes, the pair of "throne" chairs, the bust up front, and even the hanging lamp fixture." Nancy describes it as "handsome, heavy, about the size of a hockey puck...it is made of an alloy of bronze, copper and zinc."



Words from Wilmot

Wilmot United Church — Fredericton, New Brunswick



Volume 29 Issue 1

February, 2018

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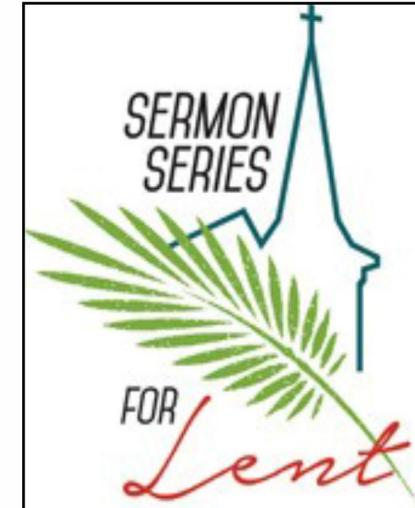
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Sun. Feb 18, LENT I, 11:00 am Worship Service,
Communion, Soup luncheon and Lenten Study following
worship

Sun. Feb 25 LENT II, 11:00 am Worship Service,
Lunch and Annual Meeting following worship

Sun. Mar 4, LENT III, 11:00 am Worship Service,
Lenten Study following worship

Sun. Mar 11, LENT IV, 11:00 am Worship Service,
Lenten Study following worship

Sun. Mar 18, LENT V, 11:00 am Worship Service,
Lenten Study following worship



Thur. Mar 29, 6:00 pm, Downtown United
Maundy Thursday Service at St Paul's

Fri. Mar 30, 10:00 am, Downtown United Good
Friday Service at Wilmot

EASTER SUNDAY, April 1, Downtown United
Sunrise Service 7:00am, breakfast following at
St. Paul's; 11:00 am Wilmot Worship Service

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tue. Feb 13, 5:00 - 6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wed. Feb 14, 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service at Wilmot

Thur. Feb 22, Woolastook Presbytery meeting at Wilmot

Wed. Feb 28, 7:00-9:00 pm "Strengthening Our Welcome Together", Church parlour.
Refreshments will be served.

Fri. Mar 30, 7:30 pm, Fredericton Choral Society and Chamber Orchestra perform
Dvorak's Stabat Mater at Wilmot

Fri. April 27, 3:00 - 6:00 pm, Sat. April 28, 9 am - noon, UCW Spring Rummage Sale

May 12, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm, Mother's Day Tea and Talent Showcase and Sale,
Church Hall

June 1 - Next deadline for *Words from Wilmot*, Summer 2018 issue

Words from Wilmot

Volume 29, Issue 1
Feb 2018

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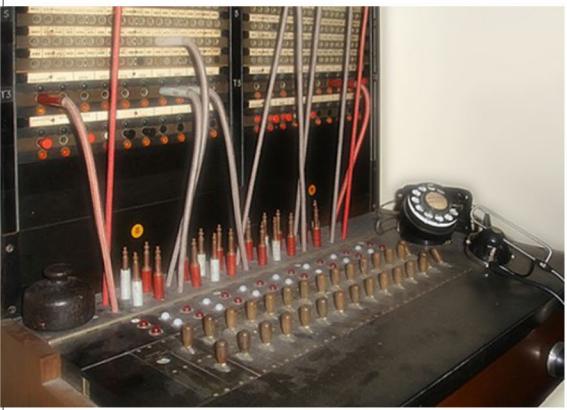
Words from Wilmot
is published several times a year by Wilmot United Church, Fredericton, New Brunswick. Opinions expressed in any issue of *Words from Wilmot* are the views of individual writers, and do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of the congregation.

From Telecast to Podcast

Wilmot United Church has always been on the cutting edge of technology. Our website has been called the finest site in the Maritimes. We were the first United Church to have a podcast of the worship services on our site. Here is an account of another first.

God Calling

In years gone by, ordinary folk did not dream about long-distance, wireless communication. Their expectations for wizardry hardly exceeded the simple combustion engine, and even that was a stretch for some. So when a newfangled invention called the “telephone” hit the Maritimes, some were speechless, which hindered the promotion of this new device. Others thought it was downright devilish and should be avoided at all costs. Most, however, were intrigued that their voice could be carried over a wire from one end of town to the other.



James Hawthorn was so intrigued that in 1886, he dug into his pocket and laid out the necessary cash to establish himself as owner/manager of New Brunswick's first telephone office in Fredericton. There was nothing fancy about Jimmy Hawthorn's operation. He simply set up the switchboard at the back of his hardware store on Queen Street, and plugged in one line whenever a call came in, then another line to the household they wanted to talk to. He

worked as manager, repairman, and operator for all forty-six telephone customers.

By 1889, there were more than a hundred telephones in Fredericton, and that gave Mr. Knudson, who took over from James Hawthorne, the bright idea to broadcast a church service over the phone lines. That did not go over well with most of the Fredericton clergy, but one of them was courageous enough to give it a try: Reverend William Dobson of the Wilmot Church.

Dobson reasoned that if God-fearing men and women could hear the power of his sermon over the phone line, they'd line up at the door of his church the following Sunday for the real thing. He asked his congregation to spread the word, but they didn't spread it much beyond their own membership.

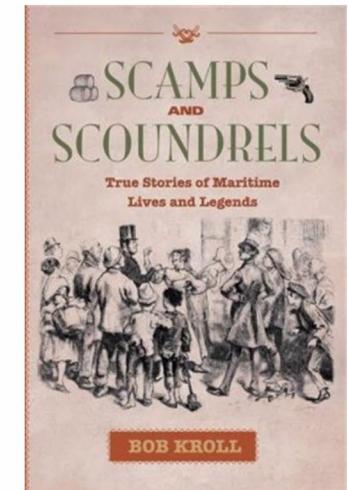
On that Sunday in 1889, Mr. Knudson patched in the lines of the hundred or so subscribers, and placed a transmitter on the pulpit in the Wilmot Church. Then Reverend Dobson raised his voice with the word of God.

As the first few phone subscribers—many not knowing what was going on—lifted their home receivers to answer the call, they heard Reverend Dobson as plain as day. But as more subscribers activated their

receivers, the signal became weaker. The Reverend's voice slowly faded. Soon there was an astonishing assortment of squeaks and electrical noise mixed in with a distant voice that sounded like it was being transmitted from



another world. Since that voice spoke of goodness and faith, there were those who believed it was God Almighty talking to them through the phone lines. Almost at once, more than half of those listening—scared to death over the sins they had committed—hung up!



“God Calling”
SCAMPS AND SCOUNDRELS: True Stories of Maritime Lives and Legends, 2013, by Bob Kroll. Used with permission from Nimbus Publishing Ltd.

Rev. Dobson was quite a man. He served Wilmot (then Fredericton Methodist) from 1886-1889 during an active time filled with joyous social events and thriving art. In her marvelous history of Wilmot United, Anita Jones writes, “There were numerous periods of growth in the congregation that were noted in the local press. ... The *Fredericton Evening Capital* reported that on April 4, 1886, ‘There was an unusually large number of additions to the membership, the result of the special revival work during the last few months’ by Rev. William Dobson.” Three weeks later the newspaper listed the Easter services at the various churches and “noted that 30 to 40 new members would ‘be added to the [Methodist] Church by public admission and confession to their faith.’”

When extensive repairs and renovations were undertaken in the spring of 1887 an elaborate staging was erected from the base of the tower to the top of the wooden hand of the steeple. “The twenty ladders on the staging provided access not only for the workmen but also for adventurous citizens. Among the first of these to experience the

thrill of climbing up to the hand [was] Rev. William Dobson...”

During Rev. Dobson's ministry many other improvements were made, inside and out. When the renovations were completed, a grand worship service was held. “Although the seating capacity of the church was 1200, *The Capital* estimated that some 1500 persons attended the evening service—one of the largest congregations ever seen in the city—and some people had to be turned away.”

Those years yielded much art. Parlour concerts were held at the home of David Hatt to benefit the Church Organ Fund. John Edgecombe held a literary and musical entertainment in his home, and Attorney-General Andrew Blair hosted a concert. At a concert at Mr. Edgecombe's house, the audience was entertained by “some rollicking songs by half a dozen of the University students...Mr. Parker convulsed the audience with his comic songs, and Miss Tibbitts astonished everybody by her wonderful facility in handling the violin.” On Dominion Day in 1886 a promenade concert was held on the lawn. Several organ recitals were given. A “Longfellow Social” was held in which “each person brought an envelope containing a cash donation and an excerpt from the poetry of Longfellow.” During Rev. Dobson's tenure the tablet of white marble in honour of L.A. Wilmot was executed.

During those years a successful bazaar yielded \$650, and some young ladies held a chocolate social. In August 1886, the Sunday School picnic at Mauger's Island “went off well.” The steamer *Florenceville* was chartered to transport the group.”

Rev. Dobson reached out beyond the church. “The Fredericton Methodist Church endeavoured to assist the less fortunate within and beyond the church.” In March 1889 Rev. Dobson and congregational member John Weddall “collected funds, as well as promises of lumber and labour, to assist a man in rebuilding after fire had damaged his home.” In October of 1886 with three other

(Rev Dobson, continued from Page 3)

clergymen, Rev. Dobson spent three days in several circuits along the Nashwaak, holding missionary meetings.

His good nature shines through in this account: to allow newly-weds to take the early morning train, he conducted a wedding at 6:30 AM in the church. "After receiving the hearty congratulations of their many friends the bride and groom took the early morning train for St. John where they will enjoy the honeymoon for a few days before settling down to the realities of life."

His ministry was remembered. When the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the church was celebrated December 28, 1902, Rev. Dobson returned to preach. "One of the largest congregations seen in the city for some time attended the evening service to hear Rev. William Dobson, "known as an eloquent and forcible pulpit speaker, deliver the sermon."

Thanks to Anita J. Jones, *The Story of Wilmot United Church 1791-2002*.

© Nancy Bauer

Christmas Hampers 2017 Project

Christmas hampers were prepared and delivered to 33 refugee families who arrived in Canada during the past year. Thank you for the gifts for the children, the monetary donations, for helping to wrap the gifts, and delivering the hampers to the families.

Thank you for the many years of support for this Christmas project. Over the past few years we have not only seen an increase in the number of families arriving but also in the size of the families. We will be meeting with our friends at Fredericton Multicultural Association to reassess this project and to explore other ways we may help refugee families at Christmas time.

© Elaine Kenyon



The Outreach Committee is looking forward to spring with our programs still going strong! We appreciate the congregation's and community's support in helping Wilmot provide services to the church and wider community, particularly the vulnerable among us. A week does not pass without comments of appreciation and thanks. The volunteers who form the various teams are key to the success of the Fair Trade booth, Wednesday @ Wilmot, Drop in, Access to Justice, the Community Kitchen and others, such as the Hamper program.

Please mark your calendars for the final soup luncheons of the year before summer: February 18 and March 25. Your support ensures the continuity of Wilmot's Outreach.

We welcome new committee members and volunteers any time. There is a place for you! Thank you!

© Lynn McKinnon
for the Outreach Committee

Wilmot United Church Pancake Supper

Featuring pancakes, baked beans, sausages and fresh fruit salad!

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Free admission / Free-will offering



Corner of King and Carleton Streets,
Fredericton

Everyone welcome!



Refugee Family Update January 2018

The Al Rahi family are experiencing their first winter in Canada. They find it quite cold as do many of us! Since our last update Fatima, the mother, has started English Language classes at MCAF as Omar, 7 month old baby, is now of age to attend the child minding program at MCAF. Fatima is very happy to be attending classes and meeting more people in the community. While at home in the fall she had tutoring in English three times a week. Leen, 5-years-old daughter, attends the after school program at MCAF as she is in kindergarten at Priestman St. School. Amar, the dad, is interested in volunteering and is in the process of applying to York Care Centre as he has had experience in Lebanon working in long term care.

On January 27 the family went to Mactaquac with the MCAF for Frost Festival activities such as sliding, skiing. They enjoyed this Canadian experience although Fatima said Leen found it cold! They are very appreciative of all the support that people from our three congregations have given them during this period of resettlement into their new home.

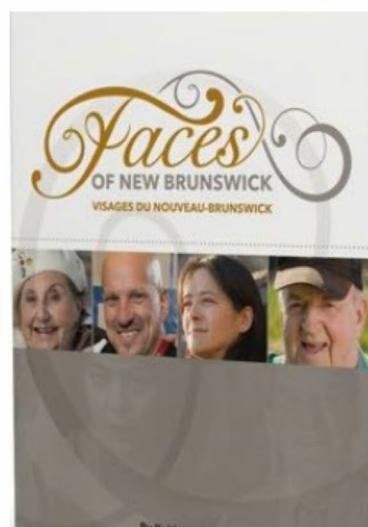
© Elaine Kenyon

Keith Minchin, Photographer

Keith Minchin's passion for photography began as a young boy using a box camera and continued into high school where he took pictures for his class yearbook. As a young man he worked as a freelance photographer while being employed as a lifeguard. Taking photos of various events and accident scenes and learning life saving skills lead him to consider becoming a paramedic. At a turning point in his life he seriously considered three future pursuits: marine biology, paramedics or photography. He chose photography as his lifetime career and as they say, the rest is history. He went on to study his art at Sheridan College studying Commercial Photography from 1978 to 1980.

After a varied career he eventually arrived in Fredericton, establishing his photography business in 1982, and made Fredericton his home. When he and his wife Cyndi decided to marry they became part of the Wilmot Community. Keith was raised in the Anglican faith and Cyndi came from Presbyterian roots, so they thought The United Church of Canada would be a good compromise. Reverend Brian MacIntosh was the minister. They have since raised three boys who are all living in Fredericton, ages 18, 19 and 21.

Along with a busy family life Keith is the owner of Faces of Fredericton Professional Photography and the author of three books: *Faces of Fredericton* published in 1990, *Fabulous Fredericton*, 1995 and his most current book, *Faces of*



(Continued on Page 6)

(Keith M continued from Page 5)

New Brunswick published in the fall of 2015. All three books demonstrate his fascination with people and for portraiture, with his subjects looking natural and relaxed.

One of his many inspirations is well-known photographer Yousuf Karsh, the Armenian-Canadian photographer best known for his iconic portraits of notable individuals. Hoping to thank Karsh for his inspiration, Keith took his first book to Karsh's studio in the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa and by chance was able to spend some time with him. It was an encounter he will never forget. "There were three big prints of portraits I knew well on the walls of the foyer as we entered," says Keith. "I was awe-struck."

About taking portraits, "I try to understand who I am taking a portrait of, by allowing the session to unfold naturally, hoping to catch wonderful moments as they are given to me. I try to communicate with the person and wait for the honest, relaxed moment when they reveal who they are by an expression or look in their eye. That honesty and respect, from the subject and the photographer, can give an extra layer to a likeness, making it a portrait."

Keith loves portrait photography, and though his business is primarily corporate, industrial, commercial photography, he contends that most business oriented photography consists of celebrating the people that make business work, whether it is the CEO or the janitor, as well as showcasing their products and services."

Photography has changed a lot over the years from when he made his first pictures with film in a box camera. Everything is digital now which makes for more creative editing and publishing possibilities. There was a great deal of difference between how *Faces of New Brunswick* (2015) and *Faces of Fredericton* (1990) were done.

Faces of New Brunswick is a collection of more than 180 portraits of notable New Brunswickers and more than a dozen

"Regional Group Hug" photos. "These faces represent a cross-section of the vibrant and vital population of our province." Each page is unique and reflects design elements or tones that exist in the portraits.

Keith is modest about his achievements and is most pleased that his books will leave a record of some of New Brunswick's notable characters over time.

For further information on Keith go to <https://keithminchinphoto.smugmug.com> or email him at keith@facesoffredericton.com.

Copies of Keith Minchin's book "Faces of New Brunswick" will be available at the church office for \$30.00. Keith has generously offered to donate \$15.00 from the sale of each book to Wilmot United Church.

☺ Kathie Goggin



News

The great news off the top of this article is that the UCW has donated \$2,000. toward the sprinkler system in the sanctuary from our



profit of the sales of *Maggie's Muffin Mania* cookbook. Thank you for all the purchases, and to let you know these are still available. The Bake Sale and New to You Sale in December brought in a total of \$2,259. Thank you for all the donations and purchases.

Looking to the future, letters have been prepared to send out to the congregation for the annual Foodless Food Sale. Donations may be mailed to: Wilmot United Church Office, 473 King St., Fredericton, NB, E3B 1E5.

Also, donations can be put in the Sunday offering plate and please mark the envelope "UCW Foodless Food Sale". Cheques can be made payable to "Wilmot United Church Woman". If enclosing cash, please include your name. Gracias, Merci, Thank you!

RUMMAGE SALE

Our Spring Rummage Sale will be held Friday, April 27th

from 3 – 6 pm

and Saturday the 28th from 9 to 12 noon. Donations can be placed on the gym stage as usual and marked Rummage Sale.

Last year, Ed Topolski with his daughter Erica, formed a Scholarship Fund in memory of Wendy Topolski. This is a \$1,000. scholarship and is available to all churches in our Presbytery and intended for post secondary education. Ed and Erica have asked the UCW to oversee this process. The 2017 recipient was Samantha Landry from Wilmot. 2018 applications will be available at the church office from June 1st and can be returned there upon completion on or before the deadline of July 4th. Winners of past years may reapply. Thank you, Ed and Erica, for this generous opportunity for students to apply for a Wendy Topolski Scholarship each year. Wendy will be remembered thankfully and fondly for her many contributions of time and talent to our church. We have lost a fine woman.

Thought for the day: *Lord God, you lead me through the seasons, and whether I'm laughing or crying I know you are with me. May I reach out to someone with Your love today.*

☺ Lorie Nielsen

Strengthening Our Welcome Together An Evening of Possibilities

As a faith community, we strive to be a welcoming presence, where people feel safe and comfortable in participating in the life, work and worship of our church. Sometimes we

can see ways to strengthen this welcome that are simply about the context that we create: physical limitations of our building, how we set up or run meetings, expectations that are perceived or real, established ways of doing that may make people uncomfortable or uneasy. Collectively, we are experts in identifying these aspects of our church environment that make it more difficult to participate. We know what welcome, comfort and safety look like to us.

The Affirming Diversity Committee is sponsoring a workshop on Wednesday Feb. 28, 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Wilmot Church Parlor. Refreshments will be served.

This workshop is about tapping into our experience to identify those structures or ways of doing that create barriers and to brainstorm for actions that can be taken to strengthen our sense of welcome, comfort and safety.

Format: After an introductory exercise to set the context for the workshop, participants will be invited to select one of five working groups listed below for the evening. Instructions will be provided for the group task:

- How we meet and grow in faith
- Taking care of each other
- How we talk about money and share resources
- Our engagement in the greater community (local and global)
- Not listed above, but important to you

Outcome: Results of brain-storming on problem spots and potential solutions (without-judgement).

Contacts for more information:

Norm Lavery (455-3349),
Deb Bradbury (366-3100),
Maureen Toner (457-2954) or
Elizabeth Savoie (454-1945)

☺ Maureen Toner
for the Affirming Diversity Committee

Cuba Twinning Committee 2018

What is there about the address 473 King St in Fredericton New Brunswick? It is the address of Wilmot Church. The opportunities are many at this address including the Cuban Twinning Committee. This committee has a relationship that has grown over the past many years with the Semenario Evangelico De Teologia in Matanzas Cuba. During the course of developing the relationship we have built skills on how to work with government and religious groups outside of our normal relationships. We have experienced, different legal systems, environmental considerations, economic issues, community support and family roles. These experiences are valuable as we continue to develop the relationship with the Seminary and potentially other opportunities outside of the Church address on the corner of King and Carleton St. Fredericton.



Late in 2017 a severe hurricane hit Cuba and caused serious damage to infrastructure and buildings in the east and north areas of Cuba. These areas are also where the Committee has developed friendships. The most important philosophy in Cuba is the importance of family and community. We continue to be sympathetic to our friends and communities where we have developed the relationships and to the Island of Cuba in general. The Cuba Committee has an ongoing fundraising program where we were able to support the rebuilding efforts through our relationship with the Seminary.

In April 2018, Wilmot Church has been invited to attend a celebration of music in Matanzas. The celebration is a result of a

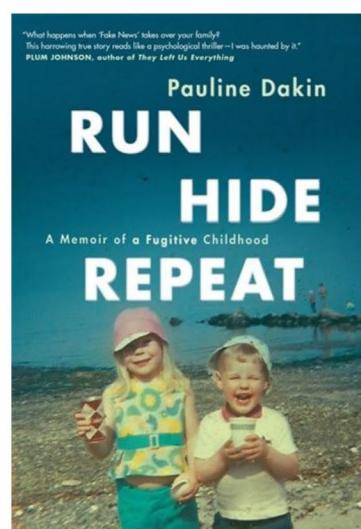
program developed by College Street United Church and the Baptist Church in Matanzas. This opportunity is a result of the evolution of the relationship with the Seminary and Wilmot's longstanding support of this relationship.



If you have any questions about the Cuba Twinning Committee, or opportunities in Cuba please contact the Cuba Twinning Committee. We are open to your questions and comments, these are important to our ongoing evolution.

© Greg Black, Chair 209-5546
© Norm Laverty, 455-3349

A Maritime Memoir “Run, Hide, Repeat”



Because I teach memoir writing and give workshops on the topic I am always on the lookout for good examples of this genre of writing. I have come to the conclusion that memoir never goes out of fashion because we are endlessly fascinated by the lives of others,

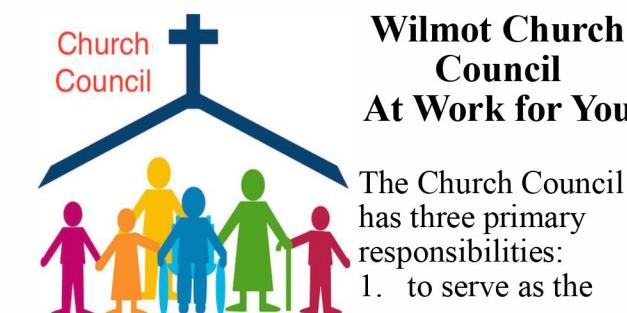
and I have yet to meet anyone whose life would not make for an interesting read! Over the years I have gathered quite a collection of memoirs, some signed by the authors, many known to me, and I am particularly interested in ones with a local or Maritime flavor.

Pauline Dakin, former producer, journalist and radio host, will be well known to CBC listeners. She currently lives in Halifax where she is an assistant professor at the University of King's College School of Journalism. Her first book *Run, Hide, Repeat: A Memoir of a Fugitive Childhood* was number one on the *Globe and Mail's* Canadian non-fiction best-seller list, and an insightful interview with her was featured in the January 2018 *United Church Observer*. I read the book as a book club choice and it made for great discussion.

While it tells the story of a family caught up in the paranoid delusions of Rev. Stan Sears, a United Church minister from Grand Manan Island, it really is a story about forgiveness and the capacity of the human spirit to overcome bitterness with love. Ultimately, this is a tribute to the tender love of a daughter for her mother.

Published by Viking Press, the book features a photo of Pauline and her younger brother Ted on the front cover, and the Bluebird Motel in Sussex, the place where she first learned the reason behind her fugitive lifestyle growing up, on the back cover. The story fascinates as her past slowly unravels, and she comes to terms with the impact that a rare psychiatric diagnosis had on the life of her family. The book is well-written, evenly paced and hard to put down. Pauline left me reflecting on questions about the line between delusion and reality, the impact of religious doctrine, the seduction of cults, and the irrational imbalance of power that one person can have over others when a life is tilted by adversity.

© Kathie Goggin



The Church Council has three primary responsibilities:

1. to serve as the

2. governing body for the congregation,
3. to address matters of concern to the whole congregation, and
3. to provide a communication network for the various committees of the church.

At our January meeting, we had a lively discussion on the report of the Boundaries Commission that was created following the adoption of Remit 1. The Commission has identified the 17 regions to replace the 13 Conferences in the United Church. The Commission is proposing to divide Maritime Conference into two regions: one consisting of New Brunswick and PEI and the other of Nova Scotia and Bermuda. The National Remit Implementation team is hard at work developing plans and strategies to implement the remits that have been accepted by the Church. Information about their work can be found at <http://www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/remit-implementation>. We also reviewed the draft budget prepared by Jeff Bearisto, the church treasurer and recommended it be adopted at our Annual Meeting to be held on Feb. 25.

The summary reports prepared by each of the committees for each meeting helps to ensure that everyone is aware of the various activities that are happening at Wilmot. At our January meeting the Affirming Diversity Committee explained the workshop they have planned to help us understand how we can be a truly welcoming community to all members of our society. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, February 28 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. All members of the congregation are warmly invited to participate. Further information will be provided during worship services and in the bulletin. (See also this Newsletter, page 7.)

If you have questions or are looking for more information about the Wilmot Church Council, please feel free to contact Shirley Cleave, Chair.

scleave@nb.sympatico.ca or 459-7743

© Shirley Cleave, Chair



FRONT left: (1) Reg Sherren, (2) Joan MacDonald, (3) Pam MacDermid, (4) Maureen Toner and (5) Matthew Chase and from BACK left: (6) Susan MacLeod, (7) Linda Gough, (8) John Leroux and (9) Claire Vezina.

On a recent Sunday following the morning service we chatted with 9 randomly selected Wilmoters over Coffee and Conversation. Pamela MacDermid and John Leroux have attended Wilmot for less than 5 years; while Linda Goff and Susan MacLeod have graced Wilmot's hallways for 50 and 65 years, respectively. For all nine folks we interviewed, it is the welcoming community of Wilmot that either drew them here in the first place and/or what they currently like best about Wilmot. The Church building was cited as special by Linda Gough who loves the sanctuary as it is where she finds peace, and as for John Leroux, an Architect, he is naturally attracted to our historic structure.

Our group of 9 is involved in a wide variety of committees and activities at Wilmot. On a Sunday morning you will often find Matthew greeting you at the Carleton Street entrance or playing his clarinet during a service; Joan singing in the choir; Reg working in the sound booth; and Claire helping with Sunday School and afterwards selling Fair Trade Products in the gym as an outreach project. At other times Pamela might be found at a Prayer Shawl or Book Club meeting at Wilmot; Joan and Susan are key members of the pastry crew on Apple Pie prep day each fall; Maureen is a member of Wilmot's Affirming Diversity Committee and volunteers for Saturday Night Drop-In; John serves on the Property Development Committee; Susan is a member of the Ministry and Personnel Committee and has served on many other committee over the years; and Linda is co-chair of UCW and is a Wilmot Quilter involved in planning the Tea & Talent Showcase and Sale scheduled for May. What a talented and giving group!

- A. Once ran over their ski instructor during lessons
- B. Avid amateur birder
- C. Asked to be a guide for HRH Prince Charles
- D. Eldest in a family of seven children
- E. Has been a member of 11 different United Churches!
- F. Family lived 2 memorable years in Scotland on "shoe string budget"
- G. Played goal keeper on a "very" recreational soccer team
- H. Cleanliness and order are second nature to this former OR Nurse
- I. Attended Rendezvous National Youth Forum

To learn a fun fact about each of the People of Wilmot above, try matching each person to a fact on the left. You will find the answer key to this puzzle on our Web page and on Facebook!

© Hugh Ellis and Judy Luton
photo by Jack Oudemans

Children and Youth Corner

Another year has begun and with it our children and youth continue to be an active part of our ministry here at Wilmot. The lead up to Christmas was marked by an uplifting Children and Youth Service that brought both smiles and tears. (even a few surprises!) to everyone. It always amazes me how they can practice their parts and then with a great spirit put it together for the first time on that special Sunday. The youngest ones did the poem "Mittens" and proudly wore the hand knit mittens that members of our congregation so graciously donated. Those mittens have been packed up and sent with our love to Yellowknife to keep their hands warm. A wonderful mission to which our children can relate. Also, the gathering of the various items each Sunday in Advent – from food to warm socks, from soap to baby wipes – were great additions to our Wednesday @ Wilmot program. THANK YOU.

Christmas Eve, when families and young people gathered, was filled with special moments, none more powerful than when the gathering of some 50 children at the 4:00 service came into the sanctuary and saw a 'live' baby in the manger. Tate McMillan played the role as baby Jesus perfectly. Then at the 7:00 service – the Family Service that is so well attended – saw many of our youth participating. What a



Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus at our 4:00 Children's Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 2017...aka Brooke and Jeff McMillan with Tate, Shea and Vale.

wonderful Christmas Eve filled with such joy to help celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

Our four Sunday School classes – Nursery, Sunshine Room, Elementary children & Youth – have grown in numbers over the year. We are so thankful for the dedication of our leaders and the faithfulness of the children and youth. We have sung songs, played games, enjoyed crafts and even had cooking days to enhance the learning of stories from both the Old and the New Testaments.

Our Middle School & Senior Youth generally alternate weekends but at times we gather as one group. They often meet at the church but we have also managed to go bouldering at Base Gagetown as well as a couple of evenings of skating.



We are looking forward to lending a hand at the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, creating an Intergenerational Service as well as participating in some outside activities – wheelchair basketball, swimming and snowshoeing to name a few. Our Leadership Team together with other Senior Youth – University students or those out in the work force - have begun to gather outside their weekly contribution to our ministry at Wilmot. Our aim is to meet once a month and we look forward to the coming months.

With the winter Olympics being held in South Korea, I can't help but think of Laura McCartney – one of our young people living in Soeul. Last March, Laura was once again offered a one year teaching position. With

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her contract soon up, she is wondering what comes next. In her last email, she said that she misses Canada but has settled into life in South Korea – even traveling a bit. We will await news of what path Laura's journey will take. Let us keep Laura in our prayers in the coming weeks.

Thank you for all your support of our young people.

Blessings from Ellen, our children, youth and young adults.



Skating outdoors at night.
What could be more "Nada"???"
That should be "Canadian."

Jesus' Abba

Don MacDougall has announced that the latest book chosen for the Seekers Group for 2018 is *Jesus' Abba; the God who has not failed* by John B. Cobb.

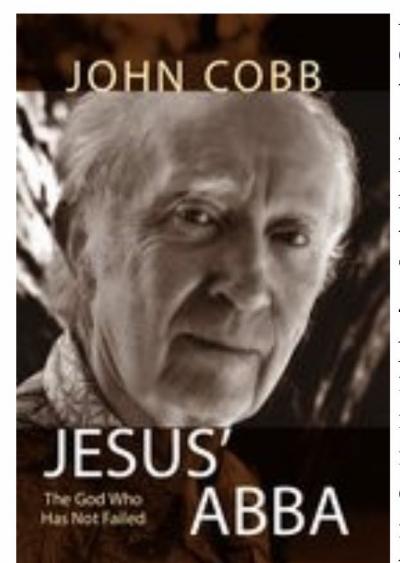
Cobb is an American theologian, philosopher and environmentalist and cofounder of The Centre for Process Studies in California.

Cobb has a wide-ranging background in many disciplines including social ethics, biology, economics, ecology, philosophy and theology and he disavows the academic silos that these studies have fallen into. He believes that insights from all of these disciplines help to break open an understanding

and reconciliation of religion and science. He expands this into a practical application of interfaith dialogue and religious pluralism for affirming the formative truths of centuries of many beliefs which can complement each other.

In his latest book *Jesus' Abba*, the author hypothesises that the historical Jesus understood God in a personal and familial relationship, which he extended to others and the cosmic world around him. Jesus' life exemplifies that one's time on this earth is an experience in understanding and growing, not for salvation from sin and a hope of heavenly reward (which Cobb says is a test of one's morality), but for transforming one's relationship with the whole of creation, which then motivates for outreach in compassion and love.

Cobb's sweeping genius of thought is sometimes hard to follow, and his considered definition of, and reason for using the word "Abba" as a gender free term based on the transliteration of the Aramaic, will be problematic for those lately striving to use inclusive language in Christian worship. However the book should open up rich insights and good discussion for Seekers from all persuasions.



All are welcome to join the Seekers group which meets once a month, usually the third Thursday, at 4:00 pm in the parlour. The format lends itself to joining in discussion or just listening and questioning.

☺ L. Caseley



Wilmot Mother's Day Tea & Talent Showcase and Sale

Saturday, May 12 2018

Wilmot photographers, writers, potters, painters, quilters, knitters, rug hookers, sewing enthusiasts, wood and metal crafters and all other Wilmot artisans are invited to display your handiwork at the Wilmot Tea & Talent Showcase and Sale being held from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 12th at Wilmot United Church.

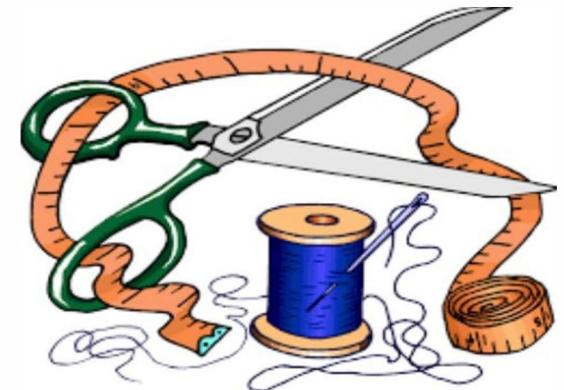


A project conceived by the Quilters Group, Wilmot Tea & Talent will feature an impressive quilt display, a variety of exhibits showcasing the many other talents that Wilmot folk have and many of the items will be available for purchase. The tea will feature fancy sandwich-



es and sweets. Both the congregation and the general public will be invited to attend to sip, eat, browse and even buy! To register as an artisan, please contact Shirley Cleave: 459-7743

To prepare their inventory for Wilmot Tea & Talent, the Quilters have scheduled two work days for anyone interested from the congregation. There are jobs to cut, pin, sew and iron



as they prepare dozens of items for the sale from lovely fabrics. Join in the sewing bees for part or all of the day on Monday February 26th and/or Thursday March 22nd. An enjoyable day of work, socializing and lunch is promised for all who attend! For more information on these work days, please contact Linda Gough: 459-3706.

☺ Judy Luton

DEFIBRILLATOR

Wilmot is installing a DEFIBRILLATOR on Feb. 10th on the recommendation of the Pastoral Care and Support Committee. A training session is taking place on that date. Watch for further details! (Not necessarily this model.)

