

# BALANCING THE SACRED

A GUIDE TO PROGRAMS AND PEOPLE  
FOR THE YEAR 2008- 2009

WILMOT UNITED CHURCH  
FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK



Madge Smith Photo

# Balancing the Sacred...

Are you busy yet?

It's September, the ready-aim-fire month.

In July and August we rehearsed all the timetable crunches, the day-timer squeezes of 2007-08 and we vowed we wouldn't repeat them in 2008-09. That's right. This new year will be different. This time our resolutions are to be more balanced. As we begin September we will set aside more time for family, work more economically, and enjoy both recreation and spiritual renewal.

We have planned this program guide to help you keep those resolutions. Our role as a community of faith is not to add more headaches to an already overcharged daily routine. No. We hope to give everyone the time they need to find a sacred balance in their lives.

All that we do as a church, big and small, is found in this guide so you can plan carefully, knowing what is coming next.

We have designed our special events and services to give both flexibility and choice. If you're looking for a full plate of study and worship. It's here. If you want a more reflective and quiet space, you can find that too. There are new programs for young families and children and even a few hints of how we can gift real time to each other during our holy high days.

This guide is your tool to balancing the sacred in your life, a way to keep those well-intentioned promises you made to yourself and your circle.

Enjoy ...

## **The Information Team**



**Very Rev. Dr. Peter Short**  
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506-452-0219  
Kitchen/Church Hall

# Balancing the Sacred. . . .

## A CALENDAR OF SPECIAL SUNDAYS AND CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

2008—2009

### September, 2008

- 7 Welcome Sunday—sign up for church groups, meet friends and begin the year with laughter; registration for Circle of Life.
- 13 Jazz Festival Event Featuring "Testimony"
- 14 First Sunday of "Circle of Life"
- 21 Peace Sunday
- 24 Official Board Wednesday at 7:00 pm
- 26 Corn Boil Friday at 6:30 pm—at the home of Fran Robinson and Gerry Redmond.

### October, 2008

- 5 1st Meeting of "Wonder Café"-9:00 am
- 9 Bread Day-7 am
- 12 Thanksgiving Sunday and World Wide Communion Sunday
- 16 Spanish Lessons begin-7:00 pm
- 18 UCW Rummage Sale—Saturday, 9:00—11:30 am (please bring items for sale not later than Friday evening)
- 24 UCW Bake Sale and New to You Shop (please bring baked goods for sale not later than Thursday evening)
- 24 Family Square Dance-7:00 pm

### November, 2008

- 2 UCW Sunday
- 8 Wilmot Auction- 9:00 am-2:00 pm
- 9 Remembrance Day Service
- 13 UCW Pie Day-Apple Pie Making in the kitchen—Thursday (be sure to order yours early!)
- 16 Anniversary Sunday Guest Preacher Rev. Brian McIntosh
- 20 Seminar on the Gospel of Mark—Thursday 9:00 am-4:00 pm
- 29 Santa Claus Parade Float Construction and join the Parade Saturday
- 30 Advent I—White Gift Service

### December, 2008

- 7 Advent II—Hanging of the Greens
- 16 Congregational Turkey Dinner (Supporting Christmas Hampers) Tuesday 5:30 pm-7:30 pm)
- 19 Progressive Dinner-6:30 pm

## Words from Wilmot

Several times a year the Information Team of the congregation produces *Words from Wilmot* as well as other public information items such as this Program Guide. To submit articles, pictures and/or announcements for *Words from Wilmot*, contact Owen Washburn @ [owenw@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:owenw@nbnet.nb.ca) or phone 472-3842



## Wilmot United Church Web Site



Wilmot United Church's web site at [wilmotuc.nb.ca](http://wilmotuc.nb.ca) contains information about the congregation. If you have comments or suggestions about what you would like to see that is not already on the web site, please contact the web site Administrator, Garth Caseley 457-2642 [garth@caseley.net](mailto:garth@caseley.net)

## SEEING WITH IRISH EYES



A 10 day tour of Ireland  
May 12 – 22, 2009

HOSTS: Christopher Levan, Darrell Mesheau

Here's your chance to see Ireland from the inside. Catch the beauty of the "Emerald Isle," listen to the stories of the recent "troubles, visit Dublin, Belfast and all points in between. We'll have our own transport and will be able to bend the tour to suit the interests and needs of the participants. You can count on good food and good fellowship. This year we leave and return to Halifax. Space is limited to 16 participants  
Cost \$3475 (double occupancy) includes, airfare, accommodations, transfers and travel while in Ireland, all breakfasts, some dinners, tour guides, some entrances to local sites and a whole lot of fun.

Contact: Rivendell Communications at [rivendel@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:rivendel@nb.sympatico.ca) or call Chris Levan at 454-7303 for more information.

# Balancing the Sacred...

## A CALENDAR OF SPECIAL SUNDAYS (continued)

2008—2009

## Regular Church Group Activities

### December, 2008 cont'd

- 21 Advent IV-Special Children's Service
- 24 Christmas Eve Services (Monday):  
4:00 pm—Christmas Eve Service for the very young  
7:00 pm—Christmas Eve Family Service  
11:00 pm—Christmas Eve Communion

### January, 2009

- 25 Robbie Burns Night, Pot Luck 6:00pm

### February, 2009

- 6-8 Congregational Retreat at Beulah Camp
- 14 Congregational Curling-Capital Winter Club
- 22 Annual Meeting of the Congregation-Sunday  
Creative Spirit Sunday
- 24 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper-5:30pm
- 25 Ash Wednesday Service of Ashes-7:00pm

### March 2009

- 21 Bread Day-7am

### April, 2009

- 5 Palm Sunday Breakfast-9:00am  
Palm Sunday Service-11:00pm
- 9 Hot Cross Buns-bread making in the kitchen-  
Thursday 7:00am
- 9 Maundy Thursday Upper Room Meal for all  
generations-6:00pm
- 10 Good Friday Service-11:00 am
- Easter Sunday
- 12 Sunrise Service-7:00am  
Easter Service-11:00am
- 24-25 Wilmot Seminar- "Good News for a Change"

### May 2009

- 8-9 Men's Retreat
- 31 Last day of "Circle of Life"

### June 2009

- 7 Congregational Picnic-Sunday Morning
- 12-13 Family Camping Retreat-Friday and Saturday
- 14 Celebration of Graduates-Breakfast and Service  
Sunday morning 9:00am

### Coffee and Conversation

Each Sunday during the church year you will be welcome at the coffee and conversation hour following regular Sunday worship. Sometimes there is soup prepared by the Outreach Committee to support the local mission; sometimes the library of the church is on display; often there are Fair Trade goods for sale and promotional material for activities of the congregation. Coffee and conversation: where the hospitality of worship continues! To volunteer to be a host of Coffee and Conversation Contact Lois Campion 459-1354.



### Wilmot Senior Choir

The Wilmot Senior Choir, an SATB choir, is a vital part of public worship and a fun-loving group of singers. If you like to sing and want to join a circle of support and friendship, this is the group. Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm in the sanctuary and warm-up on Sunday morning from 10:30 am to 10:45am in the choir room. All voices are welcome and you don't need a special invitation. As they say, "Come when you can, leave when you must." Contact: Steven Peacock 452-0170



### Wilmot Junior Choir

Flowing from a now well-established history, the Wilmot Junior Choir is the heart-beat of youthful praise and spirit at Wilmot United Church. Singing regularly at worship and joining in the processional with the senior choir, this group of young voices is a delight. Juniors of any age are welcome. Great training and good fun. Rehearsals take place on Sunday morning from 10:00am to 10:30am in the Sunshine Room. Contact: Steven Peacock 452-0170



# Balancing the Sacred. . . .

## Wilmot Hand Bell Choir

Got the beat? Perhaps you'd like to express it with bells. Every Thursday night from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in the Sunshine Room members of the Wilmot Handbell Choir join in a rehearsing music in a variety of traditions, in preparation for regular appearances during Sunday worship. There are always more bells than people, so come along for all the bells and whistles.



Contact: Steven Peacock 452-0170

## Wilmot Chime Choir

The Wilmot Chime Choir is the place to be for young and young-at-heart hand-chime players. No previous experience is needed--everyone is welcome. Weekly 30-minute rehearsals are every Sunday morning in the choir room directly after worship (during coffee hour).



## Youth Group

The Wilmot Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm for middle school and high school teens. We hope that all the young people of the church from Grade VI and higher will come and join the fun. This is a time to get together for fun and friendship and our program will be diverse and never boring (e.g., planning for trips, capture the glow stick, bowling, retreats, scavenger hunts, cooking, food). We open with a session to find out what you want to do...watch the bulletin for start up times and dates. Contact: Andrea Black, Greg Black 454-5546



## Lectionary Bible Study

Meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room, this group sometimes reads through the weekly selections of scripture used in the preparation of worship. Lively discussion and a comforting spirit characterize this group. Beginning Sunday, September 14, 2008 participants will receive the scripture readings for the following three months.



Contact: Don MacDougall 455-2157



## United Church Women



A key organization in the church, the United Church Women host many receptions and contribute to the ongoing life of the congregation. Meeting on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, the women of the church gather for program and planning. The first meeting will be September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in the parlour. What a great round of activities are being planned! There will be a fall bake sale, apple pie making in November, and the spring and the fall rummage sales. We also continue to be involved in the Women's Inter-Church Council and the Fredericton Soup Kitchen. For firm dates for some of these activities, please see page 1 & 2 of "A Calendar of Special Sundays and Congregational Events."

Contact: Irene Forbes 454-6545 or Linda Gough 459-3706



## Men's Breakfast Group

Need a caffeine before you can think in the morning? Every first Wednesday morning of the month the men of the church gather for chemicals and conversation. It starts at 8:00 a.m. sharp...come when you can and leave when you must. First meeting will be Wednesday October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

Contact: Peter Short 455-5377 and Ed Topolski 452-0171

# Balancing the Sacred...

## **Circle of Life: (Sunday School)**

The Sunday School is an active and vital part of the Wilmot Church. Aimed at creating open and exciting community learning, the circle of life features weekly singing, prayers and crafts, a bible story and activities. Each month we feature special Sundays for baking, sports and role plays. We have neat ideas this year for building and deepening fun family life and Christian Education program. See the special article on their program of activities listed separately in this guide. Sunday School classes for all age groups run every Sunday from September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to May 31st, 2009 with unique programming on special Sundays. Usually children attend worship at 11:00 a.m. and then go to their classes after the children's time in the service. The first Sunday of every month, children begin Sunday School right at 11:00 a.m. and come up to the sanctuary to sit with their families for communion at 11:45 a.m.

Contact: Priscilla Geisterfer 455-2108



## **Saturday Night Drop In**

Every Saturday night, Wilmot Church hosts a drop in for people in the downtown core of the city. Cards, ping pong, computer games and refreshments are the order of the day. Volunteer teams rotate through their regular shift at the drop in.

Join a team and spend a Saturday night to remember.

Contact: Chris Colwell 455-1782, Norm Lavery 455-3349, Gord Holloway 472-3373 or Dan Foster 455-5795

## **Dinner Out at Wilmot**

On the last Wednesday of each month, we will be gathering with guests of the drop-in to prepare a dinner for each other. While the guests of the drop-in are the primary cooks, we'll need help! Teams of volunteers will be formed to help with the meal and merry making.

Contact: Norm Lavery 455-3349, Ed Topolski, 457-0171, Chris Levan 458-1392



## **Spanish Anyone? ;Español Cualquiera?** **Spanish Lessons**

To further our relationship with the seminary in Cuba, we have regular Spanish lessons. This year they will be offered on Thursday nights beginning Oct. 16th, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. The lessons are open and offered free....Mecca and Norm Lavery are in their third year of this program. Everyone is welcome to join.

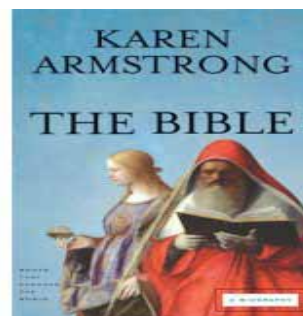
Contact: Norman Lavery 455-3349



## **Revolutionary Readers**

This study group meets several times a year on Wednesday evenings. Selected thought-provoking texts by authors such as John Dominic Crossan and John Shelby Spong are read and then discussed in an inviting, hospitable, and open atmosphere. The first meeting will be held in October with date, time, and location to be announced in the Sunday bulletin. We will be reading Karen Armstrong, *The Bible: A Biography (Books That Changed the World)*

Contact: Diana Hall 450-1180 or dihall@nbnnet.nb.ca



# WILMOT'S FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



# Balancing the Sacred...

## **Bible Studies**

Throughout the year there will be bible studies on various topics will be held in the church or at people's homes. Watch the bulletin for times and places. All these studies are open to everyone, and even if you can't make all the sessions, you won't be lost. First bible study that is planned: Thursday November 20th from 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m. on Mark's gospel. Watch the bulletin for updates and new topics.



Contact: Chris Levan 458-1391

## **Outreach Committee Soup Sunday**



Occasionally the Outreach Committee of the church provides soup following morning worship. Held in the gym and open to all, the proceeds from these meals support projects of the Outreach Committee. Come to church, stay for

soup—you won't be disappointed! Contact: Chris Colwell @ 455-1782

## **Quilters Group**

Wednesday morning at Wilmot is Quilters Day. Join us for stitching and tea beginning at 9:00 am. And even if you only want to watch the magic of quilting come alive, you're still welcome. Contact: Anne Stewart 459-5992

## **Wilmot Writers Group**

The Wilmot Writers meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 11:30 am in the parlour. Everyone who wants to write is welcome. We would be happy to change the time to accommodate prospective members. We read what we have written the previous two weeks, get feedback from the group, and have a mug of tea and a muffin. The first meeting will be Thursday, September 11, 2008 at 11:30 am.

Contact: Nancy Bauer 455-8169



## **Seniors Group**

Meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, beginning at 1:30 pm: activities, outings, games, meals and speakers on special topics. What more could anyone ask for? This group is open to all those who are mature in body and mind - an excellent opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2008 with a pot luck beginning at 12:30 pm. All meetings are held in the church parlour. Contact: Sue Breen 450-4072



## **The Wilmot Book Club**



Open to all. This group meets once a month, approximately. Dates for the actual meetings will be chosen at the first meeting, to be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the parlour. Join in the lively discussion of a variety of popular books—including

*Prisoner of Teheran* by Marina Nemat  
Contact: Nancy Gilbert 455-8627



## **Library Sunday**

The Wilmot Lending Library is open the last Sunday of each month at the Coffee and Conversation hour. For further information contact Sue Short 455-5377, Joyce Trites 472-8186 or Wendy Topolski 452-0171



## **Fredericton Toy Library**

The Fredericton Toy Library, located in Wilmot Church, re-opens on Wednesday, September 3, 2008. Family memberships are available for those with children 8 years of age and under. Toy Library hours are Wednesdays and Saturdays 10:00 am to noon.

Contact: Karen Flinn 474-1534

## **The Prayer and Healing Ministry**

The Prayer and Healing Ministry at Wilmot United Church consists of three primary components:

- the Prayer Circle
- contemplative services focusing on quiet reflection, prayer, and meditation
- the laying on of hands and the offering of Healing Touch treatments.

In the United Church, healing ministry is seen primarily as the continuance of Jesus' ministry-concerned with the restoring of "balance and wholeness of body, mind, and spirit, not only within the individual, but also with relationships, community, and creation" (Ross Bartlett - Imprints, 2005). The United Church's Healing Pathway program teaches the use of Healing Touch in a Christian setting, and some of our members have completed the first 3 levels of this program.

In the Christian setting using an energetic healing technique (originally developed and taught to nurses to facilitate relaxation, healing and to ease discomfort and anxiety), the practitioner focuses on the presence of Christ-and then through prayer and the use of touch, Christ's healing is directed to the recipient. God is always the Healer; the practitioner merely acts as a channel through which this healing occurs.

Recently a generous donation has made it possible to begin to arrange training sessions for others who may be interested in the Christian use of Healing Touch. Individuals interested in more information, training possibilities or appointments for Healing Touch treatments may contact Karen Watson 366-5432 or Sue Short 455-5377.



## **Prayer Circle**

The Prayer Circle consists of a group of people who offer prayers every day for those on the prayer list. If you or someone you know needs support for any challenge- physical, emotional, medical, or spiritual, please contact Edie Colson at 459-4304 or [ediecolson@rogers.com](mailto:ediecolson@rogers.com), or Karen Watson at 366-5432 or [moonset2@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:moonset2@nb.sympatico.ca), or one of the Ministers at Wilmot United Church. Clergy names, phone numbers and e-addresses can be found on the Wilmot website or by phoning the Church Office-458-1066. The information on the Prayer List is completely confidential. Each request will remain on the prayer list for a period of 3 months. Edie Colson, List Organizer.



## **Contemplative Services**

Contemplative Services offer a quiet space for rest and restoration through prayer, meditation and various dimensions of healing. Please watch the Sunday bulletins for announcements about these services throughout the fall and winter.

## **Women's Spirituality Circle**

This is an invitation to women interested in nourishing their own spiritual development. Take time out of busy schedules to refresh and renew your spirit. Together we will create an atmosphere of discovery and growth as we explore the sacred in our lives. Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month beginning Sept 16, 2008. For more information please feel free to contact Sue Short @ 455-5377 or [shorts@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:shorts@nb.sympatico.ca)

## **THE CIRCLE OF LIFE / YOUTH / FAMILY MINISTRY AT A GLANCE**

### **2008**

- September 7<sup>th</sup> Welcome Sunday ...time to sign up
- September 14<sup>th</sup> Fall term starts and meetings with potential leaders for the circle of life program
- October 10<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving program with the Chris in the kitchen
- October 24<sup>th</sup> Family Square Dance
- Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> Family Pizza night
- Saturday Sabbath Times: Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, Dec.6,13, 20 1:00 pm- 4:00 pm programming for young people
- December 16<sup>th</sup> Turkey Dinner in support of the Hampers
- December 28<sup>th</sup> Craft Sunday for the children

### **2009**

- January 3<sup>rd</sup> Bottle drive for Cuba program
- January 4<sup>th</sup>, No circle of life program
- January 11<sup>th</sup> Winter Term begins
- January 25<sup>th</sup> After church outdoor winter sports party
- January 25<sup>th</sup> Robbie Burns Dinner
- March 21st Bread day for families
- April 9<sup>th</sup> Jesus meal dinner
- May 31st Last class for circle of life
- June 7<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving for Sunday School children in church at the Congregational Picnic
- June 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Family Camping
- June 14<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Graduates



## WonderCafe

Got questions you can't answer? Looking for a safe place to ask them? Want to explore deeper questions of spiritual growth or ethical conduct? On Sunday mornings beginning October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 9:00 am we're beginning our Wilmot version of the national church's Wondercafe. The program will feature an open program for adults, using the resources of the United Church, the Wondercafe website and local leadership. Of course, there will be specialty coffees and teas for all. In addition, to support families, the Wondercafe will have programmed and intentional lessons for young people. According to stated requests the church will provide 1 hour piano/guitar/chimes/pottery/painting/dance lessons. Parents can relax with their questions and children can get creative skill building lessons. We begin at 9:00 am and we end at 10ish ...Come to talk, come to listen or just come as part of our Church Family. All are welcome and Coffee is always on.

For more information please feel free to contact Chris Levan@ 458-1091 or [Chris@wilmotuc.nb.ca](mailto:Chris@wilmotuc.nb.ca)



Balancing the Sacred...

**WILMOT'S FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM**



## Other Activities

### **Chronic Pain Support Group**

Affiliated with the Chronic Pain Association of Canada (CPAC) this group meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The first meeting is October 7th, 2008.

Contact: Krista Wong 458-2619

### **Wilmot Legal Advice Clinic**

The Outreach Committee, working with several lawyers, hosts a clinic twice monthly at the church from September until June. Free legal advice is provided in short private sessions by lawyers and UNB law students for people who might be unable to afford such advice otherwise. Much of the work concerns family law. Outreach Committee members and volunteers from the congregation act as hosts for each clinic.

Contact: Darrell Mesheau 455-2702

### **Narcotics Anonymous**

This group meets every Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

Contact: Connie 458-9414

### **Food for Life**

A health and wellness weight loss program, Food for Life meets every Friday in the choir room at noon. It works! Open to men, women and children needing help with creating healthy lifestyles.

Contact: Natalie Treadwell 444-0983

### **Heart and Stroke Foundation**

This group meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the fireside room.

Contact: John Serkiz 363-5868

### **Special Olympics**

Two special Olympics groups meet at Wilmot Church in the evening in the gym.

Monday night the contact is David: 472-9642

Thursday's group contact is Peggy: 454 5149

### **Toastmasters**

Toastmasters meets Monday nights at 7:00 pm in the Board room.

Contact: Lori O'Brien 458-8599

# Balancing the Sacred...

## WILMOT'S FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



## Special Services

### **Christmas Eve (Wednesday, December 24, 2008)**

Christmas Eve in 2008 at Wilmot is a three act play.

**It opens** with an intergenerational story-time service at 4:00 pm. At this worship we move around the church, usually finding our way past biblical characters who are stationed around the church building. It has the twinkle and magic that every young heart knows is integral to the Christmas story. Hands-on and interactive.



**Next act:** the Christmas Family Service at 7:00 pm. Come early or you won't get a seat. This is the most popular service of our church year. It features great music, good stories and high spirits. Hope comes alive.

**The closing act:** the quiet and majestic late night communion service. It begins at 11:00 pm and features light and laughter. Ring in Christmas morning among friends and family.

### **Maundy Thursday (April 9, 2009)**

As Holy Week reaches a high point on Thursday, at Wilmot Church we have two major events.

**At 7:00 am**, members of the church family gather to make hot-cross buns. The buns are baked all day and are ready to be picked up from 3:00 pm onward.



**At 6:00 pm** we gather as a family to celebrate the Upper Room Meal—Bring a pillow. We'll share in the re-enactment of the Jesus meal on which our sacrament community is based.

### **Good Friday (April 10, 2009)**

This somber and still service begins at 11:00 am. We recognize what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. The sanctuary is draped in mourning and for that day we bury our hallelujahs.



### **Easter Sunday (April 12, 2009)**

We begin with the sunrise service at 7:00 am. We'll meet at the foot of Carleton Street by the St. John River (snow/sleet/rain, we'll be there). Just follow the crowd (okay—it's more like a small circle). We'll sing and pray, offer thanks for the lives and miracles of those who have passed on. We stand in hope for the days that lie ahead. Then we return to the church for a light breakfast.

Easter, the central celebration of our church, is marked by a great service of celebration at 11:00 am: music, trumpets, stories and song—all speak of our joy in God who walks with us and stands by us in life, in death and in life beyond death.



## Special Events

### **Jazz Event- "Testimony"-Sept. 13, 2008**

If you haven't seen "The Rev" Peter Woods in this particular musical incarnation, there's a good chance you've seen him in another. In addition to Woods & Browne, he is a member of the Trinity Jazz Ensemble, Saints'n'Sinners, and the classic rock outfit ESP. He is also heavily involved with the Church music community, and has performed United Church worship events during the Ottawa International Jazz Festival and the Montreal International Jazz Festival. Brian Browne has been on the local, national, and international jazz scene for some time now. From sharing the stage with Bill Evans, to having his own CBC programme, to studying under the great Oscar Peterson, Brian Browne's resume list is long and impressive. His is "a unique natural gift for music that is manifested through a highly individual sense of musical artistry."



Contact: Chris Levan@ 458-1091 or Chris@wilmotuc.nb.ca

### **Corn Boil**

Friday, September 26th, 2008 @ 6:30 pm  
Look for an evening of fun! This is a pot luck corn boil for adults of the congregation. It's an autumn tradition not to be missed. Place: Fran Robinson & Gerry Redman's farm. Watch and listen for more information.



Contact: Cheryl Smith 459-4085 or Michelle Gunn

## **Bread Day**

Thursday, October 9, 2008 and Saturday, March 21, 2009. Come and join us in a celebration of God's abundance as we bake bread to give away. We begin at 7:00 am in the church kitchen and bake bread until 5:30 pm. The bread is free and given to any who need it: neighbours, church members, friends and those who ask. A great time! This year watch for the *special outdoor oven* provided to us by Speerville Flour Mill.



Contact: Chris Levan 458-1391

## **Family Square Dance**

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7:00 pm Get a partner and come to an evening of dancing. No experience is required and everyone is an expert on the square dance circuit. Light refreshments and good times for everyone. This event is designed for all ages, particularly young families. Contact: Chris Levan 455-1391

## **The Auction (Saturday November 8th, 2008)**

Every two years we host the best auction in the city of Fredericton. This year being held on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Back by popular demand on the children's room, the silent and live auction items, beverages and good food from the kitchen and so much more. Come and enjoy the fellowship and fun. Contact: Pam Campbell 453-9794

## **The Progressive Dinner**

Friday, December 19, 2008 beginning at 6:30 pm: take a crowd of people, three different homes with separate courses, Christmas Carol singing and good cheer and you have the annual progressive dinner event. Keep your eyes and ears open for more details.

Contact: Cheryl Smith 459-4085 and Michelle Gunn 454-6034

## **Robbie Burns Night Pot Luck**

Sunday, January 25, 2009: a night of good food, poetry and pipes. Come to an evening when we celebrate the Scottish bard Robbie Burns. We'll try haggis, make a speech to the immortal memory of Robbie Burns and recall how the Scots brought civilization to the world through his lyrics and language.



Contact: Chris Levan 458-1391

## **The Congregational Retreat**

Friday to Sunday, February 6—8, 2009 it's mid-winter—take a break and relax and read at the congregational retreat. As has been our custom, the retreat will be held at Beulah Camp, beginning Friday at 6:00 pm until Sunday at lunchtime. Watch the weekly bulletin for themes, costs and registration procedures.

Contact: Nancy Gilbert 455-8627



## **Congregational Curling (Capital Winter Club)**

Saturday Feb. 14, 2009: What can be more Canadian than a curling tournament? This year the Wilmot church family will be part of that tradition. Don't worry about having experience—and you don't need team-mates: we teach and match up groups on the fly...or should we say "on the ice". A great event to stave off the winter blues. Details and times for this delightful time will be announced in the weekly bulletin.

Contact: Jim Nicholson 455-5376



## **Creative Spirit Sunday (Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009)**

Every few years we host a celebration of God's creative Spirit as it is made manifest in the work of local artists, members of our church circle. This coming February we are set to enjoy the talents of o many in such varied mediums: paint, clay, cloth, quilts, rugs, wood work...the list is almost endless. Watch for announcements and get a few of your creations ready to display on this Sunday. As has been the case in the past displays will be accompanied by interactive workshops and food.

Contact: Chris Colwell 458-5735

## **Women's Retreat (Date and place TBA)**

We are *hoping to plan* a retreat for the women of the church and wider community: a time to reflect, recreate and refresh ourselves. Keep your eye on the weekly bulletin for the announcement of when and where this retreat will take place.



**The Men's Retreat:**  
**(May 8<sup>th</sup> to May 9, 2009)**

This is our tradition... taking time for fellowship and frank conversation. An event for men of all ages. Grab your gear, a canoe if you have one and a bag full of good cheer and come along on annual men's retreat. We travel to a lodge on the Tobique River (north of Plaster Rock) for two days of recreation and reflection. Held from Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3:00 p.m. and ending Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> around supper time, this event includes time for discussion, walks along the river, late night beverages, a canoe trip down the river and great meals. Open men of all ages.  
Contact: Christopher Levan 458-1391

**The Congregational Picnic**



Sunday, June 7, 2009: the last Sunday for our children's program. Come and join us at 11:00 am in Odell Park (just beyond the parking lot) and we will

combine worship, hot dogs and games. There is no cost and the food is all provided. Just bring a lawn chair and your good will.  
**Contact:**The Christian Development Committee and Cheryl Smith 459-4085 and Michelle Gunn 454-6034

**Family Camping**

Friday, June 12, 2009 to Saturday, June 13, 2009: we're out in our tents, come rain or shine, at the Provincial Park on the head pond at Mactaquac. Bring your water craft, your tent or trailer and the church will supply the fun. Games for the kids, campfires for all and the best of times. Cost \$10 per tent.  
**Contact:** Chris Levan 458-1391



**Twining with the**  
**Evangelical Seminary of Matanzas**  
**Building Bridges of Companionship**

For the last two years Wilmot Church has benefited from a "twining" relationship with the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas Cuba. This is a co-operative effort to grow community across theological and political boundaries, a chance to make friends and to learn of the Christian mission in other lands. In 2007, The Session of Wilmot church put together a team of 15 people to travel to Cuba to begin building bridges between our two institutions. In 2008 we sent 29 young people for the same purpose. In both those years we invited members of the faculty in Matanzas to join us in Fredericton for our annual lecture series. And in co-operation with St. Thomas University we are sending students for 3 month internships to work more intensively with social programs of the seminary. Quite the bridge!  
In this year, we are organizing a major educational event at the seminary. Dominic Crossan, the founder of the Jesus seminar will speak there in February of 2009 (Call Chris 454-7303 for more information on this event) and we are continuing to explore ways we can leverage our resources in Canada to find support for the seminary's work. Our relationship with the seminary is organized by a Cuba committee which reports to the session and is chaired by Ann Kennedy. Anyone is welcome to join the committee and share in the governing of this program.  
Contact: Ann Kennedy 453-9302



## **Wilmot United Church Seminar April 24th-25th, 2009**

### **Good News for a Change**

How does the Bible transform our lives and our world? That's the featured question of this year's seminar. We have planned a conference for those who want to ask about religion and social change from the perspective of the bible. We feature two key note speakers; **Dennis Dewey, a biblical story-teller** will present the scripture as you have never heard it before. Beginning from the premise that the first audience read the bible with their ears, he will tell us the good news. Drawing on insights from Paul and the gospels, we will experience the transforming power of the scriptures. Dennis is a American Presbyterian pastor and full time biblical story teller.



Priscilla Geisterfer, **a scholar of the Hebrew Scriptures**, will balance the seminar with reflections on the transformative challenge that is presented in ancient Israelite wisdom stories. Priscilla is a member of Wilmot United Church and an academic who works with an international group of scholars known as the Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity group to develop the dynamic relationship between the biblical texts and the hearers/readers of those texts.

As always, we will round out the seminar with workshops, displays, good food, good fellowship, good graces and ...of course ...good news for a change.

Contact: Chris Levan 458-1391

## Wilmot United Church

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