

Journey into Learning

Wilmot United Church

A GUIDE TO PROGRAMS AND PEOPLE
FOR THE YEAR 2005 – 2006



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Journey into Learning . . .

Welcome to Wilmot United Church!

This Program Guide, *Journey into Learning*, lists the many and varied opportunities that will be provided by Wilmot United Church for the year 2005—2006 to help you to learn about your faith and share your faith with others. It is our sincere hope that it will help you get better acquainted with others in the congregation and inspire you to delve more deeply into the riches of our congregation and your own spirituality.

While there is much about Wilmot United Church that is steeped in history and tradition and reflection of the past, there is also much that leaps into the future and seeks to serve God and humanity in ever new and innovative ways.

There are many programs and services, groups and committees and activities outlined here for your reference. They all attempt sincerely and faithfully to reflect our Mission Statement and our desire to build upon the already devout community of faith that focuses, geographically at least, on the corner of Carleton and King in the heart of downtown Fredericton—a location we have been privileged and proud to share with the rest of the downtown community for well over two hundred years.

Any programs or activities that develop during the year will be announced well in advance of their initiation. Look for news about new programs or activities in...

- the Sunday bulletin
- *Words from Wilmot*
- our web site www.wilmotuc.nb.ca

If you need further information please contact Marlene Phillips in the church office at 506-458-1066.



Church Staff

Left to Right: Rev. Bob Jones, Rev. Chris Levan, Marlene Phillips, Randy Randall, Eric Tennant. Missing from photo: Rev. Kelly Higgins and Rt. Rev. Peter Short.

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506-458-1391

revkellyhiggins@wilmotuc.nb.ca

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506-458-1067

rjjones@nbnet.nb.ca

Rev. Chris Levan

506-458-1392

revchrislevan@wilmotuc.nb.ca

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506-458-1066

wilmotuc@nb.sympatico.ca

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Organist

506-458-1066 General Office

Steven Peacock

Choir Director

506-452-0170

speacoc1@unb.ca

Randy Randall

Sexton

506-452-0219 Kitchen/Church Hall

Rt. Rev. Peter Short

Peter is on leave from Wilmot United Church until 2006 when his three-year term as Moderator of The United Church of Canada is completed.

His web site may be found at www.united-church.ca/moderator/

A CALENDAR OF SPECIAL SUNDAYS AND CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

2005—2006

September

- 11** **Welcome Sunday**—sign up for church groups, meet friends and begin the year with laughter, Sunday School registration
- 18** **First Sunday of Sunday School Church Welcome Barbecue** at York Centennial Park, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- 23** **6:30—9:30 p.m. The Great Feast**
- 25** **11:00 a.m. Fiddle Sunday** with Ivan Hicks and the Sussex Ave. Fiddlers
- 30** **6:30 p.m. Corn Boil and potluck** at the home of Fran Robinson and Gerry Redmond

October

- 2** **World Wide Communion Sunday**
- 9** **Thanksgiving Sunday**
- 12—23** **“Wine and Wonder” Tour of France**
- 22** **UCW Rummage Sale**
- 28** **9:00 a.m. UCW Bake Sale**

November

- 6** **Remembrance Sunday Service**
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. “Hide and Seek in Mark” - a day long seminar to explore the Gospel of Mark. Open to all.
- 10**
- 20** **Anniversary Sunday** with Rt. Rev. Peter Short as Guest Preacher
- 26** **Fredericton’s Santa Claus Parade** Float construction and join the parade
- 27** **Advent I—White Gift Service**

December

- 4** **Advent II—Hanging of the Greens**
- 6** **Noon** Montréal Massacre Memorial Service
- 6—10** **The Christmas Procession**
Two Journeys to Bethlehem
- 10** **12:00—6:00 p.m. Bethlehem Market**
- 11** **Advent III**
- 14** **Congregational Turkey Dinner**
(supporting Christmas hampers)
- 15** **6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service**

The Montréal Massacre of December 6, 1989, in which 14 female students at École Polytechnique were systematically killed and 13 other students wounded by a lone gunman, is indelibly imprinted on the minds of all Canadians who have struggled to comprehend the worst single-day massacre in our national history. Since then, the date of December 6 each year has been officially designated a national day of commemoration. At noon on Tuesday, December 6 this year, women and men will gather at Wilmot to join with people in many Canadian municipalities to remember this day.

“WINE AND WONDER” TOUR OF FRANCE

2005

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

TO SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

A spiritual pilgrimage through France. Travel with Chris Levan, an experienced tour guide, for a 10-day guided tour through some of Christianity’s ancient centres of spiritual renewal.

The Tour includes four days in Paris, one day in Bordeaux, one day in Lourdes, one day in Lyon, two days in Cannes, one day in Veseley.

Cost: \$3,660. per person (double occupancy)

Included:

- Airfare from Fredericton
- Train Travel (five days in total)
- Transfers to and from Airport and Hotels
- Hotel Accommodation
- Continental Breakfasts on All Days
- Tours through Spiritual Sites around France, with Tour Guide/Translator and Facilitator

Contact: Chris Levan 458-1392

... responding creatively to God’s Spirit.

A CALENDAR OF SPECIAL SUNDAYS AND CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

2005—2006

December

- 16 6:30 p.m. Progressive Dinner
- 18 Advent IV—Special Children's Event
- 24 4:00 Christmas Eve Service for the very young
7:00 Christmas Eve Family Service
11:00 Christmas Eve Communion
- 25 Christmas Day

January 1 New Year's DayFebruary

- 12 Annual Meeting of the congregation
- 17—19 Congregational Retreat with Mary Pratt
- 28 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30 p.m.

March 1 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.April

- 9 Palm Sunday Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
Palm Sunday Service 11:00 a.m.
-
- 8:30 a.m. Bread Making in the Kitchen
(Hot Cross Buns)
- 13 5:00 p.m. Potluck Supper for Children
6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday
Communion Service
- 14 11:00 a.m. Good Friday Service
- 15 Saturday Evening Easter Vigil
- 16 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service
11:00 a.m. Easter Service
- 28—29 Stephen Lewis Seminar
The Politics of Compassion

May

- 7 "Who Is Jesus?" Sunday
- 26—27 Men's Retreat

June 4 Last Day of Sunday SchoolJune 11 Congregational Picnic Sunday

Look for news about new programs or activities in...

- the Sunday bulletin
- *Words from Wilmot*
- our web site www.wilmotuc.nb.ca



A Unique Opportunity for Continuing Education in Cuba

January 31 to February 7, 2006

- Reflection -
— Relaxation —
— Rejuvenation —

Get to know the real Cuba through contact with the church community. See their "mission" work outside the tourist district and enjoy the hospitality of local friends.

This tour is guided by Val Ross and Chris Levan—both experienced in the Cuban culture and Spanish speaking.

Space is limited to only 22 participants. This will be your up-close and personal encounter with the Cuban culture and the Christian movement in another world.

The cost: \$1,780.

Includes:

- Air Fare from Canada
- Transfers
- Dorm Accommodation in the Guest House
- All Meals
- Translation and Morning Seminar

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Groups and Regular Activities

Prayer Circle

The Wilmot Prayer Circle consists of a small group of Wilmoters who pray every day for everyone on our prayer list. If you would like to have some support for any challenge you or your family or a friend are going through—physical, mental, emotional, spiritual—please place a request in the Prayer Box located on the desk outside the door to the Sanctuary, on the second floor. Please include a phone number if possible, so we can contact you to determine if the name needs to stay longer on the list, or if there is any change in the person's circumstances. Be assured that all information given is kept in strict confidence by members of the Prayer Circle.

We pray for anyone who asks; it is not necessary to be members of Wilmot. We've had names on the list from across Canada and the United States and even from the other side of the Globe.

In praying, we trust that God will provide whatever people need for their highest good; we provide support for that process. If you would like to be a member of the Prayer Circle, or wish any further information about the group, please contact Kathy Carr, 457-4177 thepeacefullight@yahoo.com

Other members of the Prayer Circle are:

Eddie Colson, 459-4304

Karen Watson, 459-7456

Colleen Thomson, 450-7126

Guy Vezina, Gary Gill, Kathryn Downton, Dean Fletcher

Senior Choir

The Senior 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 held on Thursday nights from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the sanctuary; "warm-up" on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 10:45 a.m. in the choir room. All voices are welcome; you don't need a

special invitation. As they say, "Come when you can, leave when you must!"

Contact: Steven Peacock 452-0170

Intermediate Choir

Teenagers gather for song . . . (It's still cool to sing in church!) This group meets for rehearsal after worship on Sunday, anytime after 12:15—12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This choir performs regularly for public worship and all teenagers of middle school age are welcome to join in.

Contact: Susan Connors 450-0999

Junior Choir

Flowing from a now well-established history, the Junior Choir is making a name for itself as 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 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Sunshine Room.



Contact: Heather Noseworthy 455-1421

Bell Choir

Got the beat? Perhaps you'd like to express it with bells. Every Thursday night from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Sunshine Room, members of the Bell Choir join in a round of bell-ringing melodies. There are always more bells than people, so come along—for all the bells and whistles.

Contact: Steven Peacock 452-0170

Wilmot Worship Band "SPHERICAL AVOIDANCE"

This is a group of young people who enjoy playing music, mainly Christian Rock Music, as heard on the airwaves. Any young person is welcome to join in, either as an instrumentalist or a vocalist.

We will be gathering on a regular basis to jam and to practise for worship services.

Please watch for dates and times for these gatherings.

Contact: Mark Burnett 459-5310

. . . responding creatively to God's Spirit.

Healing Ministry

Healing is an ancient practice of the Christian faith and Wilmot United Church is blessed with several streams of healing in its midst.

The **Healing Pathway Program** is designed to train and mentor people to develop the gift and skill of healing hands within the Christian tradition. It teaches a method of energetic healing by means of laying on of hands, practicing the presence of Christ and praying for the wholeness of the recipient. It is a practice deeply rooted in our Christian faith, and continues the healing ministry of Jesus.

Sue Short, Kathy Carr, Kathryn Downton and Dean Fletcher have completed Phase III of this program. Karen Watson RN, uses the Therapeutic Touch technique. With both practises, God is always the healer; the practitioner is merely the human facilitator acting to perform the prayer and touch.

These five members of Wilmot have been involved with different members of our ministry staff in the ongoing development of Wilmot's Healing Ministry. From 2003 to the present, several evening healing services have been held, with Healing Touch/Therapeutic Touch being offered at the end of each service.

Watch for more information about this Healing Ministry as it continues to develop and grow.

For further information, contact any of the people mentioned above.

Outreach Committee Soup Sunday

At regular intervals (usually the last Sunday of the month beginning in October) the Outreach Committee of the church provides



soup following morning worship. Held in the gym and open to all, the proceeds of these meals support projects of the Outreach Committee. Come to church, stay for soup—you won't be disappointed!

Contact: Sandy Coutts Sutherland

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 members and volunteers from the Congregation act as hosts for each clinic.

Contact: Darrell Mesheau 455-2702

Women's Spirituality Groups

Evenings: Third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Noon: Second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

A gathering of women who come together to explore their relationship with God through prayer, meditation, the scriptures, books, sharing, laughter, tears and friendship. These are open groups and women are invited to be present when you can.

Youth Group

The Wilmot Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We invite all young people of the church from Grade VI and higher to come and join the fun. If numbers are sufficient we will split into two groups (middle school and high school).

This is a time to get together for fun and friendship and our program will be diverse and never boring (e.g. capture the glow stick, bowling, retreats, scavenger hunts, cooking, food).

Contact: Nathan Zwicker 454-4979

Men's Breakfast Group

Need your caffeine before you can think in the morning? Each month on the first and third Wednesday morning, men of the church gather for chemicals and conversation (okay, it begins at 6:45 a.m.—but the fellowship is well worth the loss of sleep and we end by 8:00 a.m. sharp). Discussion topics are chosen as the year progresses and range from theological questions to political or spiritual issues. All men of the church are welcome for one or all sessions. First meeting will be Wednesday, September 21—at 6:45!

Contact: Chris Levan 458-1392

Lectionary Bible Study

Meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room, this group reads through the weekly selections of scripture used in the preparation of worship. Lively discussion and a comforting spirit characterize this group. Beginning on Sunday, September 18. Participants will receive the scripture readings for the following three months on that day.

Contact: Don MacDougall 455-2157

United Church Women

Meeting on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., the women of the church gather for program and planning. The first meeting will be held on September 12 in the church parlour. What a round of activities are planned: the fall bake sale, apple pie making in November, spring and fall rummage sales, continuing involvement in Women's Inter-Church Council and Camp Woolastook. A key organization in the church, the UCW hosts many receptions and contributes in many and varied ways to the on-going life of the congregation. Some members also gather on the last Tuesday of every month at 8:30 a.m. in the kitchen to make soup for the community kitchen.

Contact: Brenda Cameron 457-0849

Sunday School

Sunday School is an active and vital part of Wilmot United Church's Christian Education program. (See a special list of Sunday School activities at the bottom of page 8.) Sunday School classes for all ages of youth run every Sunday from September 18 to June 4, with unique programming on special Sundays. Usually children attend the first part of Sunday worship at 11:00 a.m. and then go to their classes after the children's time in the service.

Contact: Krista Wong 458-2619

Saturday Night Drop-In

Every Saturday night, Wilmot Church hosts a drop-in for people in the downtown core of the city. Card games, ping pong, computer games and refreshments are the order of the day. Volunteer teams rotate through regular shifts at the drop-in. Join a team and spend a Saturday night to remember!

Contact: Ed Topolski 452-0171
Chris Colwell 455-1782
Norm Laverty 455-3349

Seniors Group

Meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, beginning at 1:30 p.m. 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 21 with a pot luck beginning at 12:30 p.m. All meetings are held in the church parlour.

Contact: Sue Breen 450-4072

Coffee and Conversation

On all Sundays during the church year you can find a welcome at the coffee and conversation hour following the regular Sunday worship service. Sometimes there is soup, prepared by the Outreach Committee to support local mission; sometimes the library of the church is on display; often there are Fair Trade goods for sale and promotional material for other activities of the congregation.

Coffee and conversation: where the hospitality of worship continues!

Bible Studies

Throughout the year there will be Bible studies on various topics that will be held in the church or at people's homes. Watch the Sunday 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.

Bible studies that are planned: Thursday, November 24, December 1 and December 8 at noon in the church parlour; "Two Journeys to Bethlehem" early in December; and on March 7, 14 and 21 at 7:30 p.m.: "Paul's Take on Death and Resurrection", location to be announced.

Contact: Chris Levan 458-1392

Quilters Group

Wednesday morning at Wilmot is Quilters Day. Join us for stitching and tea beginning at 9:00 a.m. Even if you only want to watch the magic of quilting come alive, you're still welcome.

Contact: Elsbeth Gibson 455-4388

The Wilmot Book Club

Open to all, this group meets approximately once a month. Dates for the actual meetings will be chosen at the first meeting on Tuesday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlour. Join in lively discussion of a variety of popular books.

Contact: Nancy Gilbert 455-8627

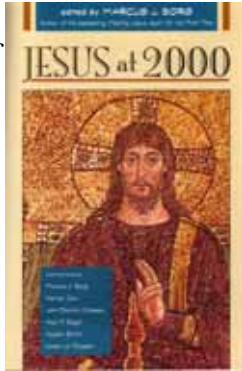


Revolutionary Readers

This year, the Adult and Christian Ministries committee has organized a study group focusing on three helpful theological texts: Henri Nouwen's book, *The Return of the Prodigal*, to be studied on Wednesday October 26 and Wednesday November 2, 2005; John Spong's book, *The Sins of Scripture* will be studied January 25 and February 1, 2006; and the collection of works entitled *Jesus at 2000* will be the text for a group meeting March 29 and April 5, 2006.

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and places will be announced in the Sunday worship bulletin.

Contact: Diana Hall 450-1180



Hope comes alive.

Last course: The quiet and majestic late night communion service. It begins at 11:00 p.m. and features light and laughter. Ring in Christmas morning among friends and family.



— Holy Week 2006 —

Maundy Thursday (April 13)

Holy Week reaches its high point on Thursday, April 13. At Wilmot we host a pot luck for children and youth beginning at 5:00 p.m. Parents are asked to drop off their children for a unique program of song and sacrament. Some parents go out for a meal and then return to the Maundy Thursday Communion Service beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Open to all, this service re-creates the last supper event of Jesus and his followers.

Good Friday (April 14)



The sombre and still service. It begins at 11:00 a.m. on Good Friday, April 14. 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 16)

Get up early for the sunrise service at 7:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 16. We meet at the foot of Carleton Street by the river. Just follow the crowd of shivering sojourners. We'll sing and pray, offer thanks for those who have died and give thanks for the days that lie ahead. Then we return to the church for a light lunch.

Easter, the central celebration of the church, is marked by a special service at 11:00 a.m. with 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 Services

Services of Healing

Throughout the year, some members of the congregation plan and host services of healing and comfort. Held Sunday nights at 7:30 p.m., these services are moments in which to find peace, to explore how God heals our hearts and to join with others who are seeking comfort in the pressures of modern life.

The first service will be held on October 23.

Contact: Chris Levan 458-1392

Christmas Eve (Saturday, December 24)

Christmas Eve at Wilmot is like a three course meal. It begins at 4:00 p.m. with a service for the very young. At this worship service we move—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 course: The Christmas Eve Family Service at 7:00 p.m. 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.

Special Events

Welcome Back Barbecue

On Sunday, September 18 the congregation will gather at York Centennial park for a Welcome Back Barbecue— 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. All, of course, are welcome!

Come to the Banquet (September 23, 2005)

Normally part of our commemoration of the Lenten season, the Committee of Stewards hosts a nine-course feast which uses the meal fellowship of Jesus to explain the gospel story. This year, instead



of being part of our Lenten journey, the banquet is set for Friday, September 23, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the gym.

The three-hour program includes great food, Bible study, role plays and dancing. “Come to the Banquet” and get a manual and recipe guide to take home.

Costs: \$30 per person and \$75 for families of three or more. Children are welcome.

Contact: Chris Levan 458-1392

Corn Boil

Look for a Friday evening of fun— September 30—when a pot luck corn boil will be held for adults of the congregation. It’s an autumn tradition not to be missed. At Fran and Gerry’s farm in Keswick Ridge—look for further information and directions in the church bulletin.



Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner

Every year Wilmot United Church sponsors “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” to help mix and mingle new and old members. You can sign up either to host a meal or to be a guest. The organizing committee will match you up with others in the event for an evening of fun. Dates and times for this delightful event will be announced in the church bulletin.

Contact: Sue Breen 450-4072

The Progressive Dinner

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. This year it will be held on Friday, December 16, 2005, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Keep your eyes and ears open for more details.

The Congregational Retreat February 17-19, 2006 with Artist Mary Pratt

This year we’re in for a treat at the retreat. Internationally recognized artist Mary Pratt will be leading participants into an exploration of the creative side of our spiritual journeys. As has been our custom, the retreat will be held at Beulah Camp, Friday, February 18, 2006 beginning at 6:00 p.m. until Sunday February 20 at lunchtime.

Watch the church bulletin for themes, costs and registration procedures.

Contact: Monica MacDonald 472-6439



The Men’s Retreat (May 5—6, 2006)

Grab your gear, a canoe if you have one and a bag full of good cheer and come along on the third annual men’s retreat. We will travel to a lodge on the Tobique River (north of Plaster Rock) for two days of recreation and reflection. Beginning Friday, May 5 at 3:00 p.m. and ending Saturday, May 6 around supper time, this event includes time for discussion, walks in the woods, a canoe trip down the river and great meals. Open to men of all ages.

Contact: Chris Levan 458-1392

The Christmas Procession December 6—10, 2005

Imagine a new way of hearing, doing and being a part of the Christmas story: walking through each of the two nativity stories (Mark's story and Luke's story) separately. What would Luke and Matthew tell us about the two journeys to Bethlehem presented in the New Testament?

Early in December, 2005, as part of our Advent celebrations, Wilmot United Church will provide these unique journeys over the span of several days, concluding with a Bethlehem Market in the gym and spilling out onto the parking lot on Carleton Street.



Look for detailed information about how to volunteer, buy tickets and be part of this special presentation of the Christmas Story. Updated information will be provided on the Wilmot United Church Web Site at www.wilmotuc.nb.ca, in Sunday worship bulletins and in the next issue of *Words from Wilmot*.

Contact: Chris Levan 458-1392

Contact: Garth Caseley 457-2642

Publications

Words from Wilmot

Several times a year the Information Team of the congregation produces *Words from Wilmot* as well as other publicity items such as this Program Guide. You are invited to submit articles, pictures or announcements for *Words from Wilmot*.



Space is limited for each issue and sometimes the editor has to match submissions to available space.

Contact: Garth Caseley 457-2642

Wilmot United Church Web Site

If you have a computer with access to the Internet you can visit Wilmot United Church's Web Site at www.wilmotuc.nb.ca to discover information about the congregation as well as an annual Calendar of Events that is kept current by Marlene in the church office. If you have comments or suggestions about what you would like to see that is not already on the Web Site, please get in touch with Garth Caseley, the Web Administrator.

Contact: Garth Caseley 457-2642

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR AT A GLANCE

| | |
|--|--|
| September 11 | Welcome Sunday—time with the minister |
| September 18 | Fall term begins |
| October 9 | Thanksgiving program with the Committee of Stewards |
| November 6 | Special Remembrance Sunday program with Gordon Hagar |
| November 20 | Fall term ends |
| November 28 December 4 and 11 | Special Advent program organized by Virginia MacDonald |
| December 18 | The Sunday School presents the morning worship |
| December 25 | Christmas Day—time with the minister |
| January 1 | New Year's Day—time with the minister |
| January 8 | Winter term begins |
| April 2 | Winter term ends |
| April 9 | Palm Sunday |
| April 16 | Easter Sunday—children in worship |
| June 4 | Last Day of Sunday School |
| June 11 | Congregational Picnic |

Stephen Lewis

Seminar: April 28—29, 2006

This year's two day seminar features Canada's ambassador of compassion Stephen Lewis. Known for his work confronting the AIDS pandemic in Africa or as a regular journalist with CBC or as a provincial politician, Stephen Lewis has lived out the best traditions for justice and mercy.

Stephen Lewis will be the keynote speaker in a conference that will feature biblical, theological and pastoral responses to the current need for global justice and compassion. Wilmot Church is indeed fortunate to have such a well known speaker leading us through such a vitally important topic.

During the two days, there will be opportunities for small group discussion, organized workshops and informal debate. Westminster Books will offer books for sale and our community will have the chance to host participants from across the province and around the country.



Wilmot United Church Contact persons, phone numbers and e-mail addresses

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| Chair, Information Committee | Garth Caseley | 457-2642 | garth@caseley.net |
| Ministry Team | Rev. Kelly Higgins | 458-1391 | revkellyhiggins@wilmotuc.nb.ca |
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| | Rev. Christopher Levan | 458-1392 | revchrislevan@wilmotuc.nb.ca |

. . . responding creatively to God's Spirit.

Published by
The Information Team
Wilmot United Church
473 King Street
Fredericton, NB E3B 1E5

September, 2005

Printed in Fredericton, New Brunswick, CANADA by MAIL BOXES ETC.



For a congregation that is well over two hundred years old, Wilmot United Church in downtown Fredericton, New Brunswick's capital city, has undergone a lot of changes in personnel in the past couple of years. Those changes will continue during the year 2005 – 2006 as the congregation extends a welcome to our new minister, Rev. Kelly Higgins, following the departure of Rev. Isabel Black in June, 2005. Also, the organist's position is being very capably and pleasantly fulfilled on a temporary basis by Eric Tennant, following the departure of Stephanie Burgoyne in June, 2005.

One thing that has not changed at this historic church is the welcome it extends to its members and visitors, as well as its commitment to an attitude of inclusiveness. As seen in the variety of photos on the outside covers of this Program Guide, this congregation has become a spiritual home for people of all ages and all interests, and a beacon of learning—hence the title of this year's publication, *Journey into Learning*.

From a tour of France in October, 2005 to visit some of Christianity's ancient centres of spiritual renewal, to a unique opportunity beginning in January, 2006 for continuing education in Cuba, to the much-anticipated visit of Stephen Lewis to the city of Fredericton and to Wilmot United Church in April, 2006, this year is certain to become a milestone in any serious Journey into Learning. Add to those special events the ongoing regular worship services and learning events offered by this historic congregation—as outlined in this Program Guide—and you have a recipe for learning that will tempt the taste-buds of anyone willing to venture on this journey.

If you care to participate in any of this congregation's many and varied faith traditions and faith ventures, please be assured that you will be welcome. We believe that every person is welcome, and that every person's contribution is valued. Our ministry staff's names are printed on the inside front cover of this Program Guide. Feel free to contact any of them about your own *Journey into Learning*.

