



Words from Wilmot

Internship in The United Church of Canada

Our charming, smiling intern, Lena (pronounced Lana) Medeiros, was born on one of the Azores islands to a family that had lived there for many generations. She came to Canada when she was five. Twenty years ago she did go back to the Azores for a visit and was impressed with how beautiful it is, green, with orange and tea trees, white-washed houses, cliffs, and volcanic geysers.

Lena grew up in Brampton, Ontario and received her BA in English Literature at the

University of Waterloo. For many years she made her living as an editor, most recently editing telephone installation guides for Nortel. Her husband Peter is a technical writer and completing her family is her 14 year old step-daughter Scarlett and a cross lab/beagle. The dog is here with her.

full M.Div. at Emmanuel College. She laughs, “Everyone around me made the decision for me before I caught up.” She will return to Emmanuel in the fall to finish; her eight month internship here finishes the end of August.

The road to Wilmot was somewhat complicated. She filled out an intern application through her presbytery stating her “learning goals.” She wanted “to experience all the richness of congregational life.” Wilmot applied to host an intern, and the national

“I couldn’t have imagined a more perfect place.” She is sure that what she is learning here is “way beyond what I put in my learning goals. I couldn’t have imagined a more perfect place.”

Work, family and school have left little time for hobbies, but last month she bought a small sewing machine. “I haven’t sewn in years.” She also likes to swim.

We discussed our favorite books. She too likes the novels of Anne Tyler, especially *Ladder of Years*, as well as the work of Sue Grafton. Lately she’s been reading teen fiction because her daughter recommends books to her. She loves *Catcher in the Rye*. “I reread it at least once a decade. But mostly I read theological text books.”

At Wilmot she has indeed experienced the richness of congregational life. She presided over a funeral, goes on pastoral visits, spends time with the children, and attends committee meetings. She has given her first sermon, which the Wilmot writers group agreed was a fine one. “I baked bread with Chris. Marvelous.” She is helping to organize a one-day retreat for women, and she will be leading the Good Friday service. When Chris and Peter are on vacation, she will fill in. She thinks she was lucky to come here. I would say that we are lucky to have her.

■ Nancy Bauer

Lena is sure that what she is learning here is “way beyond what I put in my learning goals. I couldn’t have imagined a more perfect place.”



Inside this issue:

An Easter Tribute to Pearl Searles	2
A Tale of Two Marias	3
What the trip to Cuba meant to me	4
From the Editor Wilmot's new web site	
What the trip to Cuba meant to me (continued)	5
What the trip to Cuba meant to me (continued)	6
“A Study In Flowers” painting by Lucy Jarvis	
Marriage Announcement: Susan Brodie and Robbie Kingdon	7
St. Luke's Chapel, CFB Gagetown Wilmot Winter retreat 2008	8
Living the Questions at Wilmot “The Crucified”	9
From the Moderator Announcement: Women's Retreat	
Announcement: New Organist	10
“What is the meaning of Ministry for Our Church Today?”	
Last Call for 2008 Seminar	11
Want to help with the Soup Kitchen?	
The Back Page AVEL: Audio Visual Educational Library	12

Words from Wilmot

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An Easter Tribute to Pearl Searles

In the funeral service, the church puts aside its sophistication and shouts into the pit of death: "You will not have the last word. This life, and all life, belongs to God."
— Beverly Roberts Gaventa

Dr. Gaventa is a respected New Testament scholar and we know what she means about the deep message of funeral services. We recognize that her reference to shouting is metaphor. Funerals as we know them in our culture are not an occasion for shouting into the pit. They are most often an occasion for quiet tears.

This was true of the funeral service Lena conducted recently for Pearl Searles. Her family's tears were a sign of how much they will miss her. And so will we. Pearl was a vital ingredient in the recipe of our community.

As we enter the climactic days near Easter, we are preparing liturgies, music, ceremonies, food, flowers and all the "accoutrements" of the season. These preparations indicate that Easter is essential to our spiritual life. At the same time, the known rhythms of such preparations can create a sense of security that isolates us from the dying of Jesus—its terror and horror. Our religious customs make of the season a manageable and predictable cycle of events. The original was anything but manageable and predictable. Shouting into the pit of death is a good metaphor because it brings us to face the awful power that death is—for Jesus, for Pearl, for

our loved ones, for us.

All of which leads me to suspect that the only way to face up to the awesome power of death is to face up to the awesome power of life. Ann Lamott, in her book *Traveling Mercies*, speaks of a friend who, while battling cancer, has taken up the great powers of living, "...he's so savoring the moments of his life right now, so acutely aware of love and small pleasures that he no longer feels he has a life-threatening disease: now he says he's leading a disease-threatening life."

"...the only way to face up to the awesome power of death is to face up to the awesome power of life."

Pearl's granddaughter Andrea spoke at the fu-



death as if it were some kind of accomplishment. I think he lived a death-defying life, a life which has the power to touch ours. This is what resurrection must be about. It must in some mysterious and wondrous way be open to all.

The events of Easter are vivid in the mind of one who has looked into the pit. The events of Easter are even more vivid in the mind of one who has seen the power of life.

May the coming days bring us to life.

And may the mystery of God's powerful blessing find its way to your Easter door.

■ Peter Short

A Tale of Two Marias

Maria is nine. She was sitting in the living room of the parish house when I came out for breakfast. It was early and it was already hot. She smiled slightly, a bit shy. Maria didn't look me in the eye and when I made small talk, she fidgeted with her flowered blue dress, straightening out the belt and bow that tied it. She was watching an American soap opera (dubbed into Spanish). Much more entertaining than a big stranger.

It was the Sunday of our team's trip to Cuba and I was in Holguin, a large city in the eastern end of the island. My role there was to research some social programs that the Matanzas seminary had initiated with a little community of Quakers. The night before, they had toured me through a very courageous project in which parish members raised chickens and pigs to support their work with children and seniors from a dirt-poor neighbourhood near the church building.

My guide was a second Maria. She was a recent graduate of the seminary and was eager to share the mission of her very creative church family with a friend from Canada. Everywhere we went there were two common denominators: strong coffee and tremendous determination. With nothing more than a few scraps of cloth, some play toys, and truck loads of good will, they had established educational initiatives to support young families, restore lives broken by alcohol or disease and infuse hope back into despairing lives.

It was an amazing and hum-

bling experience that our group of 19 young people and 10 adults had already experienced in Cuatro Esquinas. In that town in the middle of nowhere (its name means Four Corners) wonders abound. People with nothing—literally nothing—were able to make miracles happen.

At Cuatro Esquinas the little Anglican church had a mission to feed breakfast to their seniors—every day! To finance that work they had formed sewing circles. They preserved fruits and made cooking oil. All to pay for their program of helping the more vulnerable members of their community.

And it's not like they had a wealth of resources. They furthered this important ministry using what little they had: scraps, bits, pieces and castoffs. And out of so little, came so much compassion and care. There was no other word for it: Amazing! And it was in the recognition that we have been given so much more than they and yet not achieved as much ...well, that's when the bus goes quiet as a humbling feeling settles over us.

And as difficult as such emotions might be, we're on the bus to learn and to grow. Wilmot Church established a twinning relationship with the seminary in Cuba so that we could experience how another culture and Christian community goes about God's work. And it is only as we build trust and friendship between the people of these two institutions that we can appreciate how much they can teach us and what we have to offer them.

Back to Holguin.

The young Maria was intent on her TV, so I passed through into the sun porch where the older Maria was waiting for me. When I asked about her young namesake, Maria the pastor told me that Maria the child was all alone. Her mother had died of cancer and the father was in another country. The dress she was wearing has been supplied by the church's sewing circle and her family was quite literally the church family. "She's shy," Maria said, "And very sad; but she has found a place here at our table."

I looked back at Maria and was filled with awe and gratitude. Here's a little kid who is growing up on her own, alone in the world and yet she found a way to do it through her own personal courage and the compassion of a tiny church. And I was so grateful for those Quakers, for the very real salvation they are giving to this young Maria. I was grateful that I could be a small part of her story as our church helps the seminary that helps her.

God works through many people, of course. But I couldn't help but think that back in Nazareth so long ago God had once chosen a Mary to do a tough job. And God had chosen another Mary to do the same again.

■ Chris Levan



What the trip to Cuba meant to me...

Being among the Cubans really brought me out of myself. The energy of the young students we befriended at the seminary expressed itself through song and dance, and in open conversation with our group. Every one seemed easy to get to know, never hiding anything about themselves. None of the young Cubans lacked a sense of what they were doing with their lives, which was refreshing, and unlike so many young Canadians. They seemed to suck us into the collective energy that they all shared, and in doing so immersed us in the beauty of their culture.

■ Cameron MacLean

a difference.

What a wonderful opportunity this was for our young people to see the Church in action!

■ Sally McAllister

What I found most touching about our trip to Cuba is the way that the people there look out for one another. We were treated with nothing but warmth and hospitality while we were there, but this treatment does not seem to be reserved only for foreigners.

For me, the best part of the trip was definitely spending time with a group of Cuban university students. Just like everybody else was, they were very

will remain vivid in my mind forever.

■ Jennifer Redmond

The Cuba trip really meant a lot to me. It taught me so much and now I see the world in a different way. The one thing that really changed my outlook on life was how they lived there. A lot of them didn't have all that much but they were ok with that and they were all so happy. They used what they had and didn't let things go to waste. It didn't matter either how many people were coming to visit or eat, they were just pleased to have the company. It also made me realize how much material things matter to us in our society and how only 90

miles away from American Civilization material things aren't the center of life. It's almost like a different world and

After the group returned from Cuba to Fredericton, Chris asked some of them to write a brief paragraph on what the trip to Cuba meant to them. Their comments are in these pages.

My visit to Cuba left me with many thoughts. I must say how impressed I was with our young people and the courtesy and respect which they showed to our hosts. The Cubans are a very proud people and they believe in the importance of equality. There are many things that we can learn from the way that they treat elders and one another.

That being said, we have the luxury of a history of parliamentary government without any major wars or enemies. Their system reflects the challenges that they have faced. The Cubans have so little and perhaps we have too much. If we are able to assist them as they develop their own economy then we are truly making

welcoming towards us and eager to speak to us, and I really enjoyed learning from them!

■ Rachel Smith

The trip to Cuba was a truly incredible experience. The warmth and humbleness of the Cuban culture has inspired me to learn the Spanish language and further my knowledge into the culture. The music has captured me and the memories I have taken from this trip will never fade and

it's one that I'm very thankful that I had the chance to visit.

■ Lori McKnight

Continued on Page 5



From the Editor...

This will be my final issue as Editor of *Words from Wilmot*. It has been four years since I began this assignment, and I wish to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you in the Wilmot United Church family for giving me the opportunity of collecting your information, ideas, photos, poetry, prose,

articles and announcements in this simple newsletter format.

The new Editor will be Peggy Scott, who has enthusiastically accepted the challenge. She will be editing the next issue. Any submissions for *Words from Wilmot* can be sent to peggyscott1@gmail.com. Her phone number is 458-9799.

I also express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of the Information Team, under whose umbrella *Words from Wilmot* is published. Your constant support and encouragement has made the task of Editor a joyful and rewarding experience.

■ Garth Caseley

Coming soon to a computer near you!

Wilmot United Church will soon have a new web site. It will be located on the World Wide Web in exactly the same place as before:

<http://www.wilmotuc.nb.ca/>

All the former information will be there, plus some new items.

If you have any suggestions about new items to be added to our web site, please send them to the web site administrator, Garth Caseley at garth@caseley.net

What the trip to Cuba meant to me... (continued)

Continued from Page 4

For me, the trip to Cuba with the Church was the most amazing and funnest trip I have ever been on! The group of people that went down were wonderful and I just loved them all to bits. Also, Cuba and the people in Cuba are so friendly and welcoming. I have never met such accepting people. I made so many great friends on the trip (Cubans and Wilmoters) that I will never forget and will hopefully stay in touch with forever. I can't wait until I can visit again and I think that it changed my perspective on life and that I should live life to the fullest because life and

the people in it are truly wonderful!!! So to sum up what I just said: I love Cuba, I love Cubans, and I love the people I travelled with so much!!!

■ Carolyn Redmond

What we saw and learned on our trip to Cuba was truly eye opening. We saw how loving and welcoming and kind the people there are. Their happiness with so little made us all realize the excess of our lives in Canada. How they look after each other and share what they have was a real lesson. We learned how the churches are behind many of the social programs and how they can do even more with our help.

This was an amazing trip for all of us and may have had a life changing effect on all, but especially on our young people who have so much of their lives in front of them.

This was also an amazing group of young people who eagerly took part in all activities from lectures and visiting social projects to loving the food and just hanging and communicating with the Cuban youth. Not one complaint about anything! It was a privilege to act as chaperones on this learning experience. This group of young people made us proud as they represented our Wilmot family.

■ Bob and Susan Breen

What the trip to Cuba meant to me... (continued)

What comes to your mind when you think of friends? When friends arrive on your doorstep what is your first thought? During the recent trip to Cuba for 29 people associated with Wilmot Church, friendship was demonstrated by acceptance and invitation to sit and have a meal with new-found friends and acquaintances.

On March 3 the group of Cuban visitors from Wilmot Church ventured to the island of Cuba once again and we were greeted with hospitality becoming of any Maritime home. During the week long visit many sites and locations were explored by various groups of the Wilmot delegation. We had opportunities to visit an orphanage, hear about the AIDS situation, meet with crafters, visit with people in rural settings and finally have some fun and welcomed time on the beach in Varadero.

Thanks to your support, the group carried 1200 lbs of gifts and basic necessities to our friends in Cuba. The children enjoyed candy coated Easter eggs, the women enjoyed receiving sewing machines and fabric, a new project was started for the purpose of crafting dolls, clothes were delivered to individuals, and fresh home made bread was the talk of the town.

The Theological Seminary in Mantanzas is the connection between Wilmot Church and the opportunities in Cuba. This seminary was founded in 1948. The Seminary's primary focus is theological education for the Cuban protestant communities. The seminary also supports humanitarian projects in the communities where the students serve their respective congregations. The seminary hopes to provide a training forum for cross training on the

successes for projects such as organic gardening, pig farming, sewing, fruit and vegetable preservation and nutrition education.

What does the future hold for Wilmot and the Seminary? No one knows for sure what the future will bring. Continued efforts to support projects, both large and small will bring satisfaction to the Wilmot and Cuban communities.

■ Greg Black

Clichééd though the comment is, Cuba really is another world. Everywhere I saw reminders of my 1950s childhood because that is when time stopped moving normally in Cuba. I learned about a Cuba I'd never known; I was deconstructing and reassembling a reality that had never before existed for me. The real Cuba is much different than the image that drizzles across the border from the US; Cuba struggles to be heard over the monolithic rumble of American political rhetoric, an ignorant media, and the distortions of propaganda.

I was struck by the disjunction of workers travelling to the fields in the back of an open truck—under the heat of the tropical sun—being passed by a shiny new air-conditioned bus whisking winter-weary foreign tourists to the escape of ocean-front resorts. I had to wonder about the differences in necessity for those two travelling groups. For the foreigners, it was obviously considered a necessity to sit in the comfort of plush cool air; for the field workers, it was a necessity to get to their work—to eke out a living. The images of those two vehicles haunt me still—as do the contrasting images of a beautiful old Spanish-colonial beachfront hotel and her garish younger

sister sprung up next door; a beautiful historical building



Cuba: Contrasting Images of Old and New

and an ugly modern necessity built to accommodate the tourist trade.

What we in Canada think of as the necessities of life are undreamed of luxuries for most Cubans. The wonderful farming family we visited—who had literally built their home with little but their own energetic hands—could not put screens on their windows and doors because screening is unavailable. How can the United States be threatened with screens on windows in a place where malaria and West Nile virus can still pose a danger?

I was struck by the care and love between people—the importance of family and community. People are Cuba's largest natural resource. In fact, Cuba exports people to help other struggling nations; Cuban doctors, nurses, and scientists are sent to South America and Africa, sometimes in return for much-needed oil. Whatever it lacks, Cuba makes up for with people power.

I never once heard a child whine anywhere in Cuba. Perhaps this is because the necessity of love isn't dependent on money.

■ Kitty Elton Beal

“A Study In Flowers”

In the Church Parlour, just to the right of the door into the kitchen, there hangs a painting with a story behind it. The painting, “A Study In Flowers” shows a profusion of daisies. It was created by Lucy Jarvis in 1943. Among many other distinctions, Lucy was co-founder of the Art Centre of the University of New Brunswick. At that time the Art Centre was located in one of the Army “huts” on campus, before it was moved to Memorial Hall.

In the 1950s, Lucy Jarvis lived across the street from where I lived on Shore Street. I recall her as a very cheerful person. She had a room at the Gor-

Smith were both daughters of the Sexton of Wilmot Church, Edwin Smith. There was also a third daughter, whose name was Dorothy.

“In 1943, Lucy Jarvis painted the ‘Daisies’ painting for Daisy.”

hams, next to the Bliss Carmen House; I had a Kitchen “L” in the ancient house next to Premier McNair’s home.

Lucy was a friend of Madge, who ran a gift shop across from the County Court House. Daisy Smith had a dress shop on Regent Street. It seems likely that Madge donated the painting to Wilmot Church sometime after Daisy died, inasmuch as the plaque on the painting indicates that the painting was presented in 1966 “in memory of her sister Miss Daisy Smith”.



Lucy Jarvis

■ Phyl Batt



One night Lucy came over to my place to borrow one of my Army Nurse “veils” that we wore in those days. Lucy said she had a project: to paint a nun.

The “Daisies” painting that hangs in Wilmot Church’s Parlour was painted for Daisy Smith. Daisy and Madge

Lucy Jarvis died in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in May, 1984 at the age of 88. Her remains are buried in Saint John, New Brunswick.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Who/What: Robbie and I are getting married
When: Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008 (time is yet to be decided, sometime in the afternoon)
Where the ceremony will be held: Robbie's church, Christ Church Cathedral
Also: The Wilmot community are welcome to attend the ceremony, and can ask Susan for more details as the date approaches
 Susan Brodie
 and
 Robbie Kingdon

Sunday morning, Feb. 3, 2008

We met at Cora's for breakfast then went for a walk to the North side via the walking bridge. Robbie led me to a park bench under one of the willow trees in the park beside the walking bridge where he proposed. The scenery was quite beautiful with the sun glistening off the ice-encrusted snow, and the sky was clear, the weather, warm, yet crisp.

Actually, it was a little more complicated than that, with a bunch of plans being modified the whole way along. It ended up not being how either of us had imagined, but it was a lot of fun and very characteristic of our unusual relationship. For example, Robbie had planned to get me some flow-

ers, however, I unexpectedly visited and stayed until after all of the shops had closed. Instead I received a plastic flower, which Robbie had managed to find left over from decorations from an event that some men had put on for the women for a Valentine's Day supper a couple years back. It was creative and still worked, especially knowing the extra bit of trouble I had caused.

Both of us were given a sense that God is working in our lives, modifying our plan to make the moment so much more special, memorable, and enjoyable than our imaginations would have limited it to otherwise. A sense of peace lay reassuring on my heart that this is on the path in life that God has placed me on.

■ Susan Brodie

Didn't make it to church at Wilmot last Sunday? Wondering what's happening in your church? You can find the announcements each week at our web site: <http://www.wilmotuc.nb.ca/bulletin.pdf>

St. Luke's Chapel, CFB Gagetown

Editor's note: During his recent sabbatical Bob Jones has been visiting congregations of different denominations for worship. His reports on these visits will be presented in Words from Wilmot from time to time. This first report is of his visit to St. Luke's Chapel, CFB Gagetown, on January 27, 2008.

The members of this relatively small congregation are well acquainted with each other. Before the service began there were numerous pockets of animated conversations with friends meeting friends and sharing news both good and bad. Naturally, I heard frequent references to spouses either departing for, or returning from, Afghanistan. I witnessed this closeness later at prayer time when both officiant and members of the congregation mentioned various names and concerns. The small size of this congregation

could be explained by the fact that the major denominations—Baptist, Anglican, United, Roman Catholic—are represented by churches in Oromocto that are closer to the military community than the chapel.

The music in this service left something to be desired; there is no choir and the hymns—in this service, at least—were not particularly well known to me.

The large number of announcements made by the officiating chaplain as well as members of the congregation confirmed that this is an active community.

The sermon, although a bit lengthy, showed thorough preparation and was well presented.



A highlight of the service was the presentation and dedication of a large painting (mural size) in memory of military members who had lost their lives in Afghanistan. The fact that the artist was a Roman Catholic chaplain—

Hugues René Bouchard—made this an appropriate gesture for the Octave of Christian Unity.

The gathering concluded with a Pot Luck Lunch; further evidence of the group spirit that predominates in this congregation where both triumphs and tragedies are shared.

Of interest to the Wilmot Church is the fact that the Chaplain in charge on this particular Sunday was Sheila Firth-Worland, who with her partner John, has become a participant, whenever possible, in Wilmot activities.

■ Bob Jones

Wilmot Winter Retreat 2008

A retreat is a time-honoured way to step back from daily demands, providing the setting and support for participants to deepen spiritual life and relationships in community.

February is an ideal retreat month and knowing this, 27 adventurous and thoughtful individuals traveled to Beulah Camp and Conference Centre in Brown's Flat, NB to participate in the 7th annual Wilmot Winter Retreat. Our own Peter Short artfully wove the theme of Prosperity in Our Lives through a carefully constructed program of meditation, conversations, long walks, reflective workshops, and play. Helping us see the ways our lives are

prosperous beyond the usual measure of money and success, Peter also reminded us that where gratitude lies, happiness is not far off. We were encouraged to remember we have what we need to take the next step in our lives and we were given a variety of ways to reflect on this and more.



Craig Schneider, a meditation instructor, teacher and artist gave leadership and balance to the theme work through patiently teaching the group the first steps in how to meditate in the Buddhist tradition. There were opportunities to relax and try some clay work with potter Chris Colwell, music making using hand chimes led by Steven Peacock, creating prayer flags to carry prayers and blessings on the wind with Sue Short and Ann Kennedy, early morning yoga with Kathryn Downton, praying in the night with icons, led by Don MacDougall, a wonderful book display from the United Church Resource

(Continued on page 12)

OTHER WEB SITES YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN:

Woolastock Presbytery <http://www.woolastock-presbytery.ca>

Maritime Conference <http://www.marconf.ca>

The United Church of Canada <http://www.united-church.ca>

wondercafe.ca <http://www.wondercafe.ca>

Living the Questions at Wilmot

*11:30-1:30 Noon
Wednesdays
April 2-May 14, 2008*

Living the Questions at Wilmot is an opportunity for adults to explore the faith questions you've always had but never dared to ask, their fit with everyday life, and their implications for being a follower of Jesus Christ in the 21st century. This is a program based on small group conversational response to DVD input from various Christian leaders in the English-speaking world such as Bishop John Spong, Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan. It will take place over seven Wednesday lunch hours, 11:30-1:30, April 2 through May 14 at Wilmot United Church. Bring your lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided.

The conversation will include questions such as Jesus as a human being as well as an expression of God; the Bible as a developing story and not a literal document; humanity and religion in an evolutionary context; human life as a journey and not a destination; the reign of God as our engaging the world; spiritual practices in ordinary life; prayer and meditation as intimacy with God; Jesus' third way of nonviolent living; Christian discipleship as individual and social transformation, and so on.

Adult learning approaches will be used such as attention to experience as well as thought, respect for each other's opinions, careful listening to each other, starting from where we are and not where we should be, speak or don't speak as you wish, and a realization that no matter how much we learn in a sense we are always beginners.

It will be led by Peter Short, Sue Short, Don MacDougall and others from the Wilmot community.

More information is available from the church office, or contact Peter, Sue or Don.

■ Don MacDougall

The Crucified

The people population lives
In misery war and woe,
The ruling class has perks and thrives -
Maintains the status quo.

But Jesus joined the people's cause,
Against the Church and State,
Who forced their way with unjust laws
To seal the people's fate.

But power threats are crucified,
When leaders kill to rule.
The few who tried have always died,
Before they gained control.

* * *

They hung a message round his neck,
It said, "King of the Jews"
A sign of social disrespect,
That made the headline news.

But Jewish King was "people" king,
They called him Prince Of Peace.
Because his nohurt world would bring,
A peaceful Human Race.

The Human Being's Holy when,
They live not using "kill to win".

■ Bob Young

From the Moderator, the Rev. David Giuliano

While we were in Nazareth (recently) we met with retired Judge Aboud, Chairperson of Services to Palestinian Refugees—a project of the International Council of Churches. He told our group about a conference they've hosted for transplant recipients, donor families, and surgeons. The families and surgeons spend a weekend together getting to know one another.

Initially, I wondered what transplant surgery had to do with supporting peace in Israel and Palestine. Then, the penny dropped. The donations were made across ethnic divisions. Israelis received organs donated by Palestinians, and vice versa. The surgeons were there to remind everyone that they can't tell the difference between Palestinians and Israelis in the operating room. By the end of the weekend, those who had previously been sworn enemies were bonded by shared heart-

ache and gratitude. The lines of ethnic hatred disappeared.

I carry a signed donor card in my wallet. I hope it will never be used. However, if there is a moment that, as I leave this wonderful world, some aspect of my physical self can be a gift to another person, I would be glad for it. Perhaps knowing that some good came from my death would redeem the suffering of those who love me. My donation might not be a step toward world peace like the Nazareth project, but if it gives someone the gift of savouring this beautiful world, it is one drop in God's ocean of love in which we live.

National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week is an opportunity to talk with family and friends about your own wishes. I hope you will consider obtaining and completing a donor card.

■ David Giuliano

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Come spend a day away from it all in a time of reflection and fellowship

**Saturday, June 7 from 9:00 to 5:00
at Grand Lake, just 45 minutes away**

**If you have any questions, please contact Lena at 458-1067 or
lena@wilmotuc.nb.ca.**

Beginning on April 27, 2008, Wilmot United Church will have a new Organist.

Virginia Leiter has degrees in music and mathematics as well as in organ performance. She has 25 years experience, playing mostly in United Churches but also in an Anglican Church, including Sackville United Church in New Brunswick and Northminster United Church in Willowdale, Ontario.

We warmly welcome Virginia to our congregation. We also express sincere thanks and appreciation to Peter Waterhouse for filling in at the organ following Eric Tennant's illness.

What Is the Meaning of Ministry for Our Church Today?

The 39th General Council, meeting in Thunder Bay in August 2006, directed that a process be developed to “engage the whole church in a time of discernment concerning the meaning of ministry in The United Church of Canada.”

Between now and October 15, 2008, church members are invited to get involved. This is an opportunity to invite the whole church—individuals or groups, designated, ordered, or lay—to take a step back and ask if we are on the right path.

To explore what forms of leadership will best suit our time

and our calling as we participate in God’s mission, the Task Group on the Meaning of Ministry has formulated four key questions. But other important questions may be identified by respondents.

To participate, you are asked to choose one or more questions, or name your own, and answer in one page or less per question. The questions are:

Within the ministry of the whole people of God, what is the place and authority of those who undertake professional ministry?

How might people best be educated, equipped, and supported for the role of minister today?

How would you define the relationship to the church and its people of those you recognize as your ministers?

How does our current practice of ministry equip us to be faithful disciples in today’s world?

Please see The Meaning of Ministry at <http://www.united-church.ca/renewal/meaning> for more background on the study and the questions, and for details on how to respond.

Last Call for 2008 Seminar with David Suzuki and Heather Eaton May 2 and 3 are the dates

Nearly two dozen workshops and forums are planned, on topics ranging all the way from Hybrid Cars to Soap Making to Back Yard Composting to how to save \$100. and save the planet at the same time.



THE SACRED BALANCE

**See
wilmotuc.nb.ca/seminar08.htm
for ALL the details**



Want to help the Soup Kitchen?

Save your SOBEYS receipts and leave them in the Sobeys Box situated on the book shelf in the Parlour. The UCW through Sobeys turns the receipts into cash, which is used to support the Soup Kitchen.





<http://www.emergingspirit.ca/>

Words from Wilmot

is available in

LARGE PRINT

for those with impaired vision.

These will be available on a limited basis for each issue.

If you would like to receive the LARGE PRINT edition, please ask your Elder.

Retreat Continued from page 8

Centre looked after by Maureen Toner and plenty of spaces for personal reflection, journaling, exercise and of course... napping!

Ed Topolski and Elizabeth Savoie were among award winners for notable contributions to the integral Saturday night fun and games. Then familiar tunes were pulled from the recesses of our minds by Peter Short and Blair Kennedy as they played guitars and led a group in a singsong before the group retired for the

night.

And let us not forget that there were nutritious meals to nourish the body



as well as all these thoughtful activities to nourish the soul. Thanks to Nancy Gilbert who looked after all our food, accommodation and reg-

istration needs, conferring with the Beulah Camp staff to ensure our comfort.

It was a true community effort. Opportunity to experience Sabbath time, reflect on new learnings, meet new friends, deepen existing relationships, laugh and play together...the participants found prosperity for their lives in this weekend!

The space for the 8th Annual Wilmot Winter Retreat is already booked for **February 6, 7 and 8, 2009.**

Mark that right on your calendar now !

■ Sue Short

AVEL = Audio Visual Educational Library

AVEL is the media resource centre of our United Church Maritime Conference and it offers program ideas and resources to all groups and individuals in the United Church. There is absolutely no membership fee and your only cost consists of mailing your video back to the library. Choosing a video and program guide on your subject of choice for your group's age level is as simple as going to the new AVEL web site at <http://www.marconf.ca/avelpage.htm> or phoning the friendly librarian, Marilyn Burrell, for suggestions from among the hundreds of DVD and VHS titles available: 506.364.1990.

Here are some of the NEW items from AVEL's listing:

- February 2008: Challenging Empire: A Call to Community - Two Spirit Connection episodes with two bonus features. Includes study guide. DVD 60 mins
- March 2008: Eclipsing Empire: Join pre-eminent New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan on location in Turkey as they trace the Apostle Paul's footsteps throughout the Roman Empire.
- Coming soon: Tex Mix - Stories of Earthy Mysticism with Tex Sample on DVD. You've heard of tall tales - Tex definitely has a few of those. But these tales are more on the order of deep and wide. 20 tales tailored for your teaching, preaching, and devotional use with Tex Sample - the consummate storyteller.

Combos for Personal Study!

Do you like to curl up with a book? Think there is nothing better than a good movie? Now at AVEL you can order a combo!

New! AVEL Videos/DVD's are paired with books. Take a break! Plan a study leave! Fill your mind and spirit in the comfort of your own home! Call Marilyn at AVEL 506.364.1990 and ask what's available.

AVEL is there as a resource for you - ENJOY!

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

HAVE YOU CHECKED
LATELY?

