

Words from Wilmot



Volume 20 Issue 2



Wilmot church is growing a ministry of bread ...we have bread day. We regularly bake our own bread for communion and we use bread often to teach in our circle of life and middle school groups. Bread R us. I want to thank all who help with this ministry. It has been a welcoming and inviting way to grow the Wilmot Church circle wide.

Over the next few months the church will be focusing on the world's need for bread and the reasons people are hungry. The Outreach committee, with help of two student interns from St. Thomas University Social Work Program has been designing a day-long seminar on the need for bread on Tuesday November 24th. (See the ad on page 5.) We invite you to take part in that event as you can. There will be a place at the table for you...bread making, discussion groups and interactive presentations will be sprinkled throughout the day.

As a further extension of this ministry of bread, Wilmot Church is participating with the national church in its 85th anniversary celebrations and helping to include bread for the world as part of the message all congregations will celebrate in June of 2010. Details are unfolding as this edition of Words from Wilmot rolls out, but we are thinking of preparing a bannock recipe for all congregations to use...so that in some sense we are all sharing from the same loaf on that day we celebrate the birth of a uniting church.

Watch for more news of the bannock bread making as the New Year arrives. Call Chris for more information 458-1391.

“Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed by Thy Name. Give us this day our daily bread....”

November, 2009

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The Call of Creativity: A Journey for the Soul

“The original sacred text is the creation itself. Long before the Bible, or any other written words, our forbearers read from the original text.” Freeman Patterson

Wilmoteers are going to have a rare privilege the weekend of November 20 and 21. World famous photographer, teacher and writer Freeman Patterson is coming to speak, but not on photography. Instead he is going to share his thoughts on the interchange between creativity and spirituality, a subject he has been passionate about all his life. In 1962 he received a Masters of Arts in Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in NYC; his master's thesis was *Still Photography as a Medium of Religious Expression*. In 1998 he published *Odysseys: Meditations and Thoughts for a Life's Journey*.

In his artist statement on his web site he writes, “For me there is a close connection between art and religion in the sense that both are concerned about questions of meaning -- if not about the meaning of existence generally, then certainly about the meaning of one's individual life and how a person relates to his or her total community/environment....Creation and creativity are inextricably linked.”

Friday night Freeman will speak and show slides on that relationship between our own creativity and our place in creation. Murray McFarlane says he knows this connection to be there because “my time at the easel feeds my ministry.” On Saturday morning he will speak on the holistic impact of dreams and the visual arts. In the afternoon you can choose among two-hour workshops led by people from Wilmot, two on photography and one reflecting on the connection between spirituality and creativity.

The cost is \$60, which includes Saturday lunch. You can also register for either Friday or Saturday sessions for \$30.

Register at the church office, by mail or fax, or online at wilmotuc.nb.ca.

☺ Nancy Bauer



VISITS TO OTHER CHURCHES

No. 3

St. Dunstan's Roman Catholic

"MY IMPRESSIONS"

Rev. Bob Jones

With a snowstorm threatening for Sunday morning, I decided to attend the Saturday 5 PM service. I had previously felt that these Saturday evening masses would, lack some of the "Sunday feeling and atmosphere". But once the service was underway, the day of the week was irrelevant.

This downtown church, consecrated in 2003, bears all the markings of a contemporary edifice - comfortable, modern pews with lots of leg room - a first class PA system and excellent music. Unfortunately there was no choir and the hymns, two of which were sung to familiar old tunes, were written in melody lines only. But the violin and trombone accompaniment was of excellent quality. The trombone solo, "Panis Angelicus" would have prompted applause in some churches.

Unlike the much smaller Base Chapel and Unitarian congregations of the two previous Sundays, anonymity here is no problem. No smiles were proffered, and only two handshakes, (one from my companion), during the passing of the peace.

I noted with interest, that at the conclusion of the mass, the officiating priest went down the aisle and quickly disappeared before I could reach the door to introduce myself. No doubt, as shepherd of such a large flock, he had more important matters requiring his attention.

As for the service itself, the opening hymn, announced without a call to worship or any similar formality, gave me unqualified assurance that this was a far cry from the old days. The opening hymn was sung to a tune credited to the Lutheran Book of Worship; a hymn later in the service, "Lift High the Cross", was well known to me from both the Anglican and United Church hymn books. The lengthy readings, from the same lectionary that we use, did not seem overly long because they were punctuated by beautifully sung responses (obviously, their choir talent was distributed, among the congregation). Likewise the litanies were quite singable even for this "Baptist-turned-United".

(Continued on Page 4)

The homily was brief, more like a lecture than a sermon, but helpful for the beginning of lent.

As to overall impression - if all signs and labels were removed, this could have been an average Anglican service, or even high-church United!

It was a far cry from a wedding I attended in the early 1950s and a family funeral in the same period, when everything was in Latin, except for a brief epistle for the benefit of the non-Catholics.

My companion, Anne Poirier, was helpful in answering questions at various points. When it came time for communion, I stepped aside while she went to the altar. The question as to who's in and who's out is far from final. But as for now, the Romans, as well as a few other denominations, cannot accept the fact that I love the same Christ.

But "not to worry", when I was a young Baptist we didn't usually take communion in the United Church, and it was a while before we were comfortable kneeling at the Anglican altar.

Perhaps a couple of Popes from now we'll all be welcomed at the Roman Catholic sacrament.

All in all, I came away glad that I had worshiped in the "house of the lord."



Dunstan (c. 909 – 19 May 988) was an Abbot of Glastonbury, a Bishop of Worcester, a Bishop of London, and an Archbishop of Canterbury, later canonised as a saint. His work restored monastic life in England and reformed the English Church.

a candle flickers
in the cold sanctuary
my eyes feel the warmth

E. J. Colson

St. Thomas University Social Action Placement

St. Thomas University has chosen Wilmot to be the social action placement for two student interns, Meaghan Smart and Erica Young, both in the university social work program. They will be here for three months doing research on hunger to facilitate our bread project. Their research will result in day-long workshops to raise awareness of food security. One will be held in late November.

As part of their project, the two women have been interviewing local experts: the leaders of the Conservation Council, the Food Bank, the Community Kitchen, and the Falls Brook Centre, among others. Food security, they tell me, has four aspects: food availability, affordable accessibility, nutrition adequacy and safety, cultural acceptability, and the government policies that make all these possible. Canada has committed itself to the principle that freedom from hunger is a basic human right. How that principle should be implemented is one of the subjects the two students are researching. Should this freedom be a responsibility of government or of private charities? They found that the private charity Food Bank had 2172 visits in August and that in 2006 the Community Kitchen served 139,942 meals.

Chris Levan envisions a program where everyone who needs them is given government coupons for free bread. He would like to tie Wilmot's province-wide bread campaign to the free bread campaign the whole United Church has adopted to celebrate its 85th anniversary.

.... if food trucks were for some reason to stop coming into New Brunswick, the province would run out of food in four or five days.

Meaghan and Erica are impressed that Wilmot already does make free bread a priority with our bread making days, our drop-in centre, monthly meal and voucher program. The two women say that the people who come to our centre and monthly meal have achieved a sense of belonging and of family.

One of the duties that they find special is giving out food vouchers to people who need them. This puts a face on the subject they are studying. The people are truly grateful and willing to share the intimate details of their lives. Both said they were sad when the Benevolent Fund ran out of money and they had to turn people away.

Social Action Placement

(continued from page 5)

One of the shocking facts they discovered about food security is that if food trucks were for some reason to stop coming into New Brunswick, the province would run out of food in four or five days. This they think suggests we should try to eat locally.

Erica has an historic connection to Wilmot. She is the daughter of Chris and Karen Young, the granddaughter of Gordon and Carol Young and Fred and Dixie Beairsto, and the great granddaughter of Roy and Clara Young. Roy had a grocery store on Aberdeen Street—the generations have come full circle.

© Nancy Bauer



A Charter for Compassion

When we view the evening news night after night we are struck with the overwhelming feeling that the world is in a mess. The now familiar topics flash before us one after another; wars, climate change, terrorist bombings, nuclear proliferation, corporate greed are but a few examples. In spite of this, we as a Christian community subscribe to the Golden Rule as do all major religious faiths. In fact Jesus said

that it was the second greatest commandment.

Now someone has decided to do something about the apparent disconnect between this fundamental principle and actions of governments and individuals. Karen Armstrong has been described as “Arguably the most lucid, wide-ranging and consistently interesting religion writer today”. She has written more than 18 books on religious topics including such diverse topics as the Bible, Islam and the Buddha. Her most recent book is entitled ‘The Case for God’.

In addressing herself to the task of injecting the Golden Rule into the behavior of governments and individuals Ms. Armstrong has developed the concept of a Charter for Compassion. To assist in this task she has enlisted the participation of leading religious thinkers from the major religions of the world. The core group titled “The Council of Conscience” has been meeting since late February in Vevey, Switzerland to develop the Charter for Compassion. They have formed partnerships with organizations around the world and invited contributions from interested individuals.

The Charter is to be released on November 12, 2009. Its release will be accompanied in many countries around the world by lectures, art displays and discussion groups on the theme of compassion. Organizations including congregations such as Wilmot are encouraged to be aware of the Charter, help publicize and work towards its application.

(Continued on Page 8)

A TIME OUT OF TIME

**TASTE THE BREAD AND WINE OF NORTHERN ITALY
AND SOUTHERN FRANCE**

MAY 28TH - JUNE 13TH 2010

A 15 day Tour to Northern Italy and Southern France, two weeks to find a time outside of time, delight in the beauty of the country side, relax in our private villas and see the sites with minimal stress and maximum delight.

This tour is designed to bring people close to the beauties of northern Italian lakes and southern Provencal villages. Our 15 days will be divided between two villas (seven days in northern Italy, six nights in Provence) and we will travel out from each location to visit the country side and famous cities. Together we explore Milan, Verona, Aix, Avignon, Arles and many smaller mountain top towns. We enjoy breakfasts and some dinners in our private villa and design our daily excursions according to participants' needs and energies.

This tour will be escorted by - Christopher Levan and Darrell Mesheau. They are experienced as tour leaders and as traveling teachers. They will take care of all the travel arrangements in Italy and France, design outings each day to match our tastes and prepare breakfasts and dinners at our Villas so that you can do as little or as much as you like. On the tour we will be using our own personal van and station wagon. We can get off the beaten track whenever we like. Stop or go - it's all up to us. We suggest traveling "light". There will be some walking. Provision will be made for those who are unable to walk easily.

A Time Out of Time (continued from page 7)

May 29th - June 5th will feature a week in Italy at Villa Laveno + Guest House: a gorgeous home on the shores of Lago Maggiore...with a private swimming pool, and extensive grounds ...enjoy northern Italy in style. Explore the lake by early morning light and bring back wine for dinner. Web at: <http://www.rentavilla.com/property.php?no=ITLAK00301>

From June 5th - June 12th we stay at the Saint Castor estate (built on the site of ancient monastery) near Orange in southern France. Again we enjoy our private swimming pool, Jacuzzi and cooking facilities. We'll visit local markets and wineries and take our time enjoying this time out of time. Web at: <http://www.saintcastor.com/index.html>

For more information call Chris at 476-2014 or e-mail at chris.levan4@gmail.com

A Charter for Compassion (continued from page 6)

Although the Golden Rule has been with us for thousands of years there has never been a greater need for countries as well as individuals to live by its principals. The Charter for Compassion is being modeled after the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms which was once considered a humble ideal but now has been enshrined in the constitutions of many countries. We can only hope that one day the Charter for Compassion will gain sufficient credence to influence the affairs of mankind in a similar way.

More information about the Charter for Compassion and events following its release can be found on the web site <http://charterforcompassion.org>.

☺ Owen Washburn

**leaden morning sky
hints of winter's wind and chill
maple leaves shiver**

E. J. Colson



Christmas At Wilmot

Date	Activity	Location
Sunday □ Nov. 2 □	Advent I □ White □ift Service	Church
Sunday □ Dec. 6	Advent II □ Hanging of the □reens	Church
Sunday □ Dec. 6	An Old Fashioned Christmas – crafts □ carol singing and turkey dinner	□ym □ Hall □ Church
Thursday □ Dec. 1 □	Dress Rehearsal for “The Christmess Pageant”	Church
Friday □ Dec. 11	Performance – “The Christmess Pageant”	Church
Sunday □ Dec. 13	Advent III	Church
Friday □ Dec. 18	Progressive Christmas Dinner	See the Bulletin for details
Sunday □ Dec. 2 □	Advent IV 1 □ □ 3 □ am – concert by the children 11 □ □ □ am – Sunday Service □ith special musical pieces	Church
Friday □ Dec. 24	4 □ □ □ pm – Christmas Eve Service for the very young 7 □ □ □ pm – Christmas Eve Family Service 11 □ □ □ pm – Christmas Eve Communion	Church

emotions jagged
my hand touched where their blood soaked
the slab of the Wall

E. J. Colson

A Re-Fashioned Christmas Celebration

December 6, 2009

Let's celebrate with an old fashioned Christmas party at Wilmot. Our day begins with a worship service in the church and the beautiful Hanging of the Greens. At 2:30 you are asked to return to the Sunday School hall to begin making Christmas crafts – this is open to all ages. At 4:30 we will return to the church for carol singing led by Steven Peacock and Virginia Leiter

When the turkey dinner is ready, we'll be called to the gymnasium for a buffet dinner prepared by members of Wilmot. We'll be calling for volunteers as we come closer to the date. Please let Shirley Cleave (459-7743) or Terri MacLean (457-1851) know if you are willing to help with the crafts or dinner.

The Progressive Dinner

Friday December 18th

Take a crowd of people, some festive homes, good cheer and you have the annual progressive dinner event. This year it will be held on Friday December 18th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Keep your eyes and ears open for more details.

Contact: Cheryl Smith 459-4085, OR
Michelle Gunn 454-6034

The Christmas Play

“The Christmess Pageant” - Thursday December 10th, and Friday December 11th at 7:30 p.m.

This is the “third” bi-annual Christmas “play.” Not like anything you have ever seen, this two act performance features a jaded director who must write a new Christmas play for the most unusual assortment of actors you can imagine. In the process he meets his own miracle. Christmas comes in spite of the mess we make of it! There is a role for everyone and plenty to do behind the scenes. You can come and watch during one of the performances or you can help out.

Contact: Chris Levan 458-1391

Christmas Mitten Tree & Hamper Project

In partnership with the Multicultural Association of Fredericton, Wilmot provides newcomer families with gifts and groceries at Christmas time. These families do not receive assistance from the Fredericton Community Christmas Hamper program. The spirit of generosity fills Wilmot as members provide & wrap gifts, pack and deliver the groceries. Contact Elaine Kenyon 455-7954



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 18th at 9:30 a.m. 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 lessons for young people according to stated requests. 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 Priscilla Geisterfer at 455-2108 or Chris Levan at 458-1391 or Chris@wilmotuc.nb.ca

Robbie Burns Night Pot Luck

Sunday, January 25, 2010

Come for the annual Robbie Burns pot luck. It happens every January 25th. To attend, you don't have to eat haggis, play the bag pipes or even be Scottish. It's a fun time when we hear poetry, watch dances, tell tall tales and listen to the nobility of human creativity. Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. The fun goes forever.

Contact: Chris Levan 458-1391

variegated yarn
crocheted into winter toques
warms their heads and me

E. J. Colson



<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 re-
ceive the LARGE
PRINT edition, please
ask your Elder.

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

**HAVE YOU CHECKED
LATELY?**



Christmas Carol Cross Word Puzzle For the Young at Heart

Across

2. God Rest Ye Merry ____
5. What ____ is This?
7. Hark, the Herald ____ Sing
8. Ave ____
9. Good ____ Wenceslas
11. Joy to the ____
12. Go Tell it on the ____
13. Silent ____
14. O Little Town of ____
15. O ____ Night

Down

1. We Three ____
3. The First ____
4. It Came Upon a ____ Clear
6. Angels We Have ____ on High
10. O Come All Ye ____

