

# Words from Wilmot



Volume 25 Issue 1



## Our Lenten/Easter Worship and Special Events Schedule

Sun., March 2, 11:00 am: Worship with Rev Ellen Beairsto  
2:00 pm: Duo Cantilena Concert in Sanctuary

Wed., March 5, 7:00 pm: Ash Wednesday Service in the Parlour

Sun., March 9, 11:00 am: Soup Lunch following worship

Sun., March 16, 11:00 am: The Very Rev. Peter Short will be guest preacher

Sun., March 23, 11:00 am: Communion Worship Service; Soup Lunch following worship

Sat. & Sun., March 29 & 30: Celebration of Faith and Diversity  
with St. Thomas University

Sun., April 13, 11:00 am: Palm Sunday Worship Service

Fri., April 18, 11:00 am: Good Friday Service

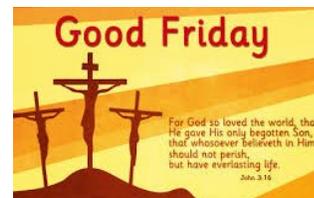
Sun., April 20, Sunrise Service and 11:00 am: Easter Communion  
Service

Wed., April 23: Scott Woods Jubilee Concert

Fri. & Sat., April 25 & 26: UCW Spring Rummage Sale

Sun., April 27: Choeur Beauséjour and Trio Sambucca Concert

Sun., May 4: Soup Lunch following worship



March, 2014

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Check our website and weekly worship bulletins for additional events and information.

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Volume 25, Issue 1  
March 2014

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### Words from Wilmot

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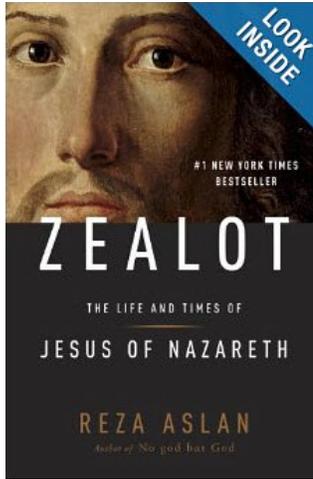
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## Words from Wilmot

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

## Book Review Zealot; the life and times Of Jesus of Nazareth



Members of Wilmot's Seekers Group, which meets once a month from September to May under the guidance of Rev. Don

MacDougall, will begin to discuss Reza Aslan's book, Zealot; the life

and times of Jesus of Nazareth in March.

This book hit the New York Times and Amazon Bestseller list in July 2013 and remained there for some time, following a controversial Fox News interview with Professor Aslan who was confronted with the credibility of a practising Muslim writing about the central figure of the Christian faith. Aslan says that his book is "not a book about Christianity." That is a misconception. "Jesus was a Jew, so it is a book about Judaism" under Roman rule in the first century CE.

Aslan was born in Iran, immigrating with his parents to the United States at the age of seven following the Iranian revolution. He was brought up in a nominal Muslim family in the U.S., became an evangelical Christian in his youth, was jolted out of the latter when in university he studied the history of religions and Jesus as a historical figure, and most recently, as he puts it, has "reconnected with the Islamic faith and culture of his forefathers". He holds degrees from Santa Clara University, Harvard University and the University of California at Santa Barbara. He is a scholar of the sociology of religion.

Aslan relies upon his two decades of research to place the "in-the-flesh" Jesus in the context of his times. "In the end," he says, "there are only two hard historical facts about Jesus of Nazareth upon which we can confidently rely: the first is that Jesus was a Jew who led a popular Jewish movement in Palestine at the beginning of the first century CE; the second is that Rome crucified him for doing so." He succeeds in giving the reader a vivid look at first century Palestine, using a casual narrative style, placing his fifty-two pages of research notes and ten pages of bibliography at the end of the book rather than in footnotes throughout the text. If you have found that the author J. D. Crossan is too academic, Marcus Borg has too many "thin places" and N. T. Wright is intransigently orthodox, then you will find that Aslan is like a breath of fresh air.

About his own work Aslan says, "You're not going to find much that's new in my book. What I've done is take this debate that (New Testament) scholars are immersed in and simply made it accessible to a non-scholarly audience. It's something that I wish more scholars (in all their various fields) would do...." Don MacDougall introduced Aslan's book to the Seekers Group members, saying, "He presents the life and times of Jesus of Nazareth in a thorough and accessible manner, and with his particular 'take' on Jesus raises some challenging questions for seekers interested, from whatever perspective, in getting a better fix on Jesus themselves."

You can listen to an hour long interview of Aslan with Mary Hynes at [cbc.ca/tapestry](http://cbc.ca/tapestry) for a full discussion of how a contemporary scholar of religious studies approaches his work and throws light on people and events that changed the course of history. Aslan's conclusion is, "[Jesus] is, in short, someone worth believing in."

## Celebration of Faith and Diversity Project

For the past few years, each spring, Dr. Alexandra Bain, a religious studies professor at Saint Thomas University,



and her *Introduction to Religious Studies* students organize and implement a “**Celebration of Faith and Diversity.**” The object of the event is to bring students and the public alike from all faith

communities in Fredericton together to get to know one another and each community’s work.

As in years past, Wilmot United Church will be participating in the event on behalf of The United Church of Canada. Rev. Ellen Beirsto and Derek Ness will work with three students—Emma MacDonald, Dominique Jewett, and Michael Smith—throughout the months of February and March to prepare for the Celebration that will be held the weekend of **March 29th and 30th** at Saint Thomas University. This event is open to the public and you are encouraged to attend.

The theme for this year’s event is “Neighbours.” The idea is that each faith community will explore their idea of the meaning of neighbours and how to serve their neighbours.

On Saturday, March 29, you will have an opportunity to listen to presentations, share a meal together, engage in a variety of celebrations of the various faith communities. On Sunday, March 30, you are invited to visit the Synagogue and as the weeks unfold, there will be further learning experiences for everyone

brought to you by the other faith communities.

For more information on this project, please stay tuned to weekly bulletins or contact Rev. Beirsto or Derek Ness.

☺ Derek Ness



### UCW Notices

The UCW would like to thank everyone who has sent in contributions to our **FOODLESS FOOD SALE**. There has been awesome response and we are so grateful to those who have responded to our letters. Remember there is no deadline and it is never too late to support this annual fundraiser.



We would also ask you to circle **April 25th & 26th** on your calendar for our **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE**. When you start your spring cleaning (and we are hoping for an early Spring!) please remember our sale and set aside any clothing, books, toys, linens, and household items that could be donated. This event is not only a fundraiser for our group but an opportunity to put good slightly used items back into the community at affordable prices. Items can be dropped off at the church and left on the gym stage. We will be looking for volunteers as well so watch your Sunday Bulletin for details!

☺ Brenda Cameron

## Communion Ware at Wilmot

Safely tucked away at the back of the sanctuary in a wooden display case is a piece of Wilmot United Church's rich history. Look in the cabinet and you will discover treasure: the silver Weddall communion vessels, gifted to Wilmot by John J. Weddall, a member of the Weddall family that played a significant role in the early history of our community, when it was steeped in Methodist roots and tradition.



The silver communion pitcher and chalices would have been used in communion services prior to 1911. An interesting piece of history regarding a change in the communion practice is recorded in an excerpt from *The Story of Wilmot United Church 1791-2002* by Anita J. Jones:

*At the Official Board meeting on March 5, 1901 Mills Ella Thorne brought up the idea of having individual cups "at the sacramental table". The congregation had always come to the communion rail at the front of the church and had drunk from the same cup. There were individual issues about such a change, and a committee was appointed to study the matter.*

It appears the matter was dropped until things came to a head in 1910 when:

*Susan Squires wrote that some of the women were particularly concerned; one woman who had tuberculosis in her family insisted that a common drinking vessel was not sanitary.*

At a special board meeting Rev. Neil McLaughlan said he felt:

*the general cup kept a good many people away from the Lord's Table.*

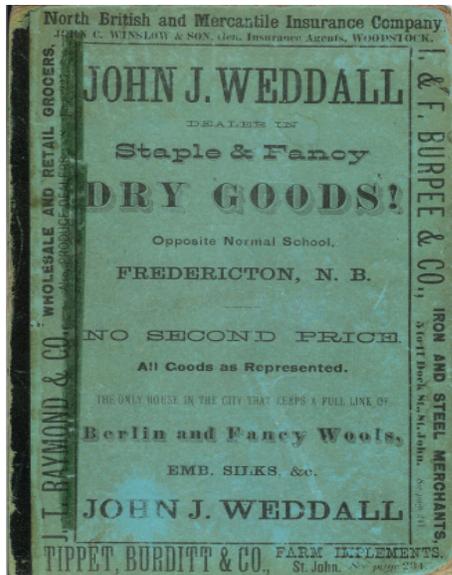
The ladies of the congregation stated they were willing to present a set of individual cups for use, and the Board finally agreed, with one opposing vote.

According to historian Austin Squires, the Official Board attempted to return the silverware to Mr. Weddall, but he declined, and these items remain as part of our history today. I cannot help but wonder if his was the dissenting vote. Of interest, too, is the fact that the small wooden receptacles for the individual Communion cups now in use were first placed only in alternate pews in the center section of the Sanctuary as this was sufficient for the number taking part.



John J. Weddall left a legacy in other ways—he served as the Recording Steward for 46 years and his signature appears in official minutes from 1880 to 1919. He also served as Sunday School Superintendent.

The Rev. Richard Weddall, father of John J. Weddall and Rev. R.W. Weddall, is the first person to be interred in the Fredericton Rural Cemetery.



John J. Weddall owned a dry goods store opposite the Normal School on Queen Street where he carried “a full line of Berlin and Fancy Wools and embossed silks.” He was known as a prominent Fredericton businessman who was interested in his community and served as an alderman. He was a member of the church for 63 years. His obituary in *The Daily Gleaner* on his death dated June 1, 1925 described him as a “courteous and kindly Christian gentleman” and one of the outstanding figures in the Methodist Church in this city and province. The flag at city hall flew at half-mast on the day of his funeral. His brother Rev. R.W. Weddall assisted with the service.

Take a moment to view these historic vessels that are so much a part of our history and to acknowledge the “kindly Christian gentleman” who left them in our trust.

☺ Kathie Goggin

## Wilmot’s Concert Series Presents Duo Cantilena And Choeur Beauséjour

At the end of the concert by La Tour Baroque Duo, the first in Wilmot’s concert series, a friend, not from Wilmot, expressed to me his gratitude for such a wonderful concert at such a price, \$5 for students and seniors and \$10 for others. The duo went next to Montreal where a ticket was \$50.

Our musical gifts to the Fredericton community continue with two more concerts. On the Sunday afternoon of **March 2** the Duo Cantilena will play. Our organist Virginia Leiter will join them. The duo is comprised of flutist Sally Wright and guitarist Steven Peacock. There will be music for flute and organ as well as for flute and guitar.



On the Sunday afternoon of **April 27** the celebrated Moncton group, the Choeur Beauséjour of nearly 50 women, will perform. The choir has won many awards and is widely thought to be the best in the area. This promises to be an exciting event, a veritable folk music extravaganza. Joining them will be the Trio Sambucca: Steven Peacock, Sally Wright, and percussionist Michel Deschênes.

☺ Nancy Bauer

## Council Chair Craig's Comments

Wilmot has a strong and vibrant ministry that emanates from our church on the corner of King and Carleton in Fredericton. I hope you have been able to partake in the many aspects of our church life. I believe



that God's call to grow in your Christian faith and to act out that faith in service is strong at Wilmot. We certainly understand that the need is there!

Along with following the regular work of the Council, we are hoping you will participate in two particular programs that will begin this year. The first is a discernment process that is based on the question raised in Micah 8:6 (And what does the Lord require of you?). While this process was started out of Wilmot's struggles to balance our operating budget and meet our volunteer needs, it is focussed on the fact that we are a richly blessed community and that we can respond positively to the challenges before us. We need everyone to participate. Everything is on the table for discussion. Everyone's participation will ensure that our re-imagined Wilmot will be better able to meet the needs of the communities we serve and do so in a way that uses our resources sustainably.

The second program is an educational process that will help us grow in our commitment to inclusion and justice for all. It will help us live out our open and welcoming faiths community vision. A vision that welcomes all people, affirms their talents, experiences and opinions, and includes them in the life and work of Wilmot United Church.

Look for more information soon on how you can participate and make a real difference in the future of Wilmot United Church.

© Craig Frame

## Mark Your Calendar Now for Wilmot's Fall Retreat

Set aside time to attend the **Wilmot Fall Retreat on November 14 - 16, 2014** with leadership offered by Rev. Dr. Peter Short and Sue Short.



Peter says, "A retreat is stepping away from daily demands, a stopping place where we can regain our bearings and be connected again to sources of faith and vitality. A retreat is not a meeting. Its outcomes are not in

metrics or policy but in people. Its movement is in music and contemplation, art and prayer, food and laughter, silence, encouragement and community. Its purpose will be to provide opportunity for doing the spiritual work that each life must do in its own unique way and for restoring the soul. You are invited to come and join us."

Keep an eye out for further information!



## Our New Pantry Products Program! Wednesdays@Wilmot

Wednesdays@Wilmot is excited to be piloting a new program on Wednesday mornings. One of the recommendations from our Social Workers' survey that was done before Christmas was to provide dry goods similar to what our visitors would receive at the Food Bank.



On February 12<sup>th</sup> we had our first Wednesdays@Wilmot Pantry Day. We were able to offer pasta, pasta sauces, breakfast cereal, peanut butter, soups and canned vegetables to those people who received vouchers. The recipients were very grateful for the extra food and left with suggestions from our volunteers on how to make their purchases at Victory Meat Market go further with the goods they received at our Pantry.

We are very excited about this program as it enables users to spend their vouchers on fresh meat, fruit and vegetables which are more reasonably priced at Victory Meat Market than at other grocery stores. As supplies allow we will continue to run the Pantry Program on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. We welcome donations of canned and dry goods so that we can fill our Pantry cupboard and continue to offer this service. Your non-perishable donations brought to the church the first Sunday of each month for the Food Bank will be re-directed to this Pantry Program.

Thank you for your continued support.

## 2013 Annual General Meeting Highlights

- We celebrated the following initiatives and improvements: roof repair; new gym floor; outreach vouchers, transportation fares and pool table; Teleministry program; prenatal class program; fire safety plan and sprinkler system upgrade; church directory publication; three social work students mentored for work placement.
- Our Treasurer of 12 years, Bob Lutes, was recognized for dedicated Olympian service to the financial affairs of our church family.
- Volunteers who serve on committees that report to Council, representing in total about 75 people, were recognized, and in particular those whose terms have ended.
- A Steering Committee to work toward a Welcoming and Affirming of Diversity process has been appointed. Wilmot's commitment to justice and reputation for inclusion is acknowledged in the wider community and the committee is tasked with developing a strategy to move forward so that people of all abilities, class, age, culture, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, physical and mental well-being are included.
- A motion passed to accept an operating budget for 2014 for \$356,400 and to declare a Year of Discernment to determine a sustainable use of volunteer and financial resources.
- Isaac's Way was recognized for continuing to provide lunches for the Saturday Night Drop-In following their fire and relocation, and a letter will be written to affirm this.

## A Family for Fair Trade



The MacDonald/Rahn family have been responsible for over five years in the promotion of fair trade products at Wilmot. This has involved ordering and tracking stock, invoicing the church, keeping track of sales, setting up displays, promotion and sales of JustUs and Zatoun fair trade products. They took over from Judy Loo.

Gayle found this a valuable way for her teenage children to be involved at Wilmot. Eris, the eldest, took on the initial responsibility with his mother. His role and responsibility grew and he was always reliable, paying attention to detail and record keeping. We saw Eris' business skills develop as well as a proud ownership for doing a job well. It is no surprise that Eris found part time work in retail for several years through high school and after.

Breagh was always present at the Fair Trade Table, assisting either Eris or Gayle and eventually taking over from Eris for the past 2-3 years. Breagh and Gayle have added a few special touches to our Fair Trade Cupboard – seasonal gifts such as extra chocolate at Easter and doing special Xmas gift orders and wrapping. We have been so fortunate to have this family provide this consistent service over so many years. Now that Breagh and Eris are both attending St. Thomas University, it is time for new Fair Trade Sales managers to take over.

JustUs (our signature coffee with the same name at Wilmot) is the umbrella organization for the Breaking the Silence a campaign in solidarity with Guatemalan coffee union organizers. BTS has been an essential part of maintaining safety for coffee farmers in that country, where the growth of coffee is constantly under threat from the state, which does not approve of unions. JustUs, based in Wolfville, NS, processes the beans and sells them to a Canadian market. JustUs also works with cuisine Camino, which processes chocolate from around the world using



fair trade practices. We order all coffee, chocolate, organic sugar, and teas from JustUs. Zatoun is a Palestinian solidarity organization, also fair trade, from which we order olive oil, thyme mixture and olive oil soap. We sell nearly all products at wholesale prices, so that people at Wilmot can afford quality food at fair prices. Any profit after paying for stock and shipping goes into the Debbie MacIntosh scholarship fund.

Gayle says, “When families do this together it can be a very useful way for those involved to begin a conversation with their children about fair trade, to constantly monitor fair trade products in supermarkets for price, and to become more aware of the larger world and where we get our food. It also teaches basic accounting, dealing with the public, keeping track of stock and of how ‘marketing’ at Christmas can be

countered by encouraging people to buy consumable goods.” Eris says, “It definitely helped me get my first job, as I could talk about my records keeping, organization of stock and dealing with the public. It also gave me the first people I could use as references to get work” (such as Judy Coates and Jilanna Eagles, both of whom have helped over time). Breagh says, “It helped me understand the JustUs motto, ‘people and the planet before profits’ which is now something I believe in.”

Our Wilmot church family will follow Breagh’s and Eris’ future with pride in their accomplishments and extend thanks for the contribution that they have so willingly given to us and the larger world community.

☺ Judy Coates and Lucille Caseley

## WILMOT MEMORIAL FUND

Wilmot’s Memorial Fund is a special way to honour your friend or loved one who has died. Attractive memorial



acknowledgement cards are available from our Church Office at any time that they are required. Our Memorial Fund is used for items of a lasting significance, such as furniture, music and sanctuary furnishings. Memorial Gifts will be acknowledged in our Church Bulletin as well as personally to the family of the deceased.

## Children and Youth Update

### Our visit to the Synagogue

Since our last issue of *Words for Wilmot*, the children and youth have been busy. On Sunday, December 1, we headed off to the synagogue which fortunately is only a couple of blocks away from Wilmot. We were greeted by Rabbi Yosef Goldman and as we entered through the front door our eyes



began to take in as much as possible. The Rabbi showed us a mezuzah which was on the doorpost. It was so small and it had a piece of parchment rolled up in it with some Hebrew scriptures written on it. There was so much to see and to learn. In the Orthodox synagogues, it is a custom for males to wear skull caps and although our boys were ready to put one on, the Rabbi said that we were fine (but we did see a basket filled with caps of all sizes by the entrance). The Rabbi had his skull cap on out of respect for God and he also wore a Tallit Katan—a piece of rectangular cloth with a hole large enough for his head and with some tassels hanging on each of the four corners. We could only see the tassels below his clothing and he explained that he wore this so he would always be reminded of the commandments of God.

We listened in silence as the Rabbi read in Hebrew from the Torah Scroll

(Continued on Page 10)

(which is written from the right to the left). The scrolls are kept in an Ark and the words are written by scribes. It takes a lot of training and a steady hand to be a scribe. The Rabbi's brother is a scribe. The Rabbi told us that to create a Torah Scroll is a Holy act and one must go through a cleansing ritual before beginning each time.

We noticed that there was no organ or grand piano; none of the things that we see in our sanctuary. There was a continually lit lamp called the "Eternal Light" and a large Menorah on the wall with the Star of David at the top. On one wall, there was a Memorial Board with the names of people who had passed



away with a small light beside each name with the Hebrew and English dates of their death. The lights were turned on at various times to remember them.

Our time at the synagogue went by so quickly and there is still so much to learn. A special thank you to Rabbi Goldman for taking the time to talk with us. As one of the children said, "It was fun."

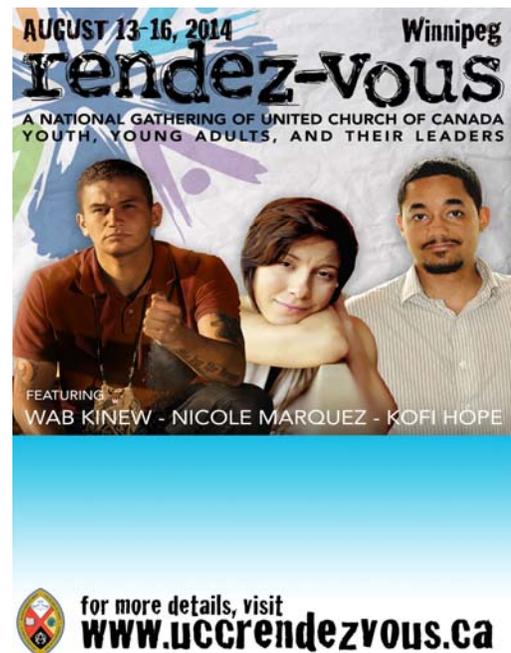
### More News from the Children and Youth

With the help of Garth Caseley and Jeff Beirsto we put together our Christmas Presentation via technology (most of the scenes were taken at Ron Vaughan's place). Thanks to Garth, Jeff and Ron and his daughter, Susan. It was a great hit and very powerful.

With a new year now underway, we are looking ahead to other events including our **YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS**. Please let Ellen know if you are interested in joining us.

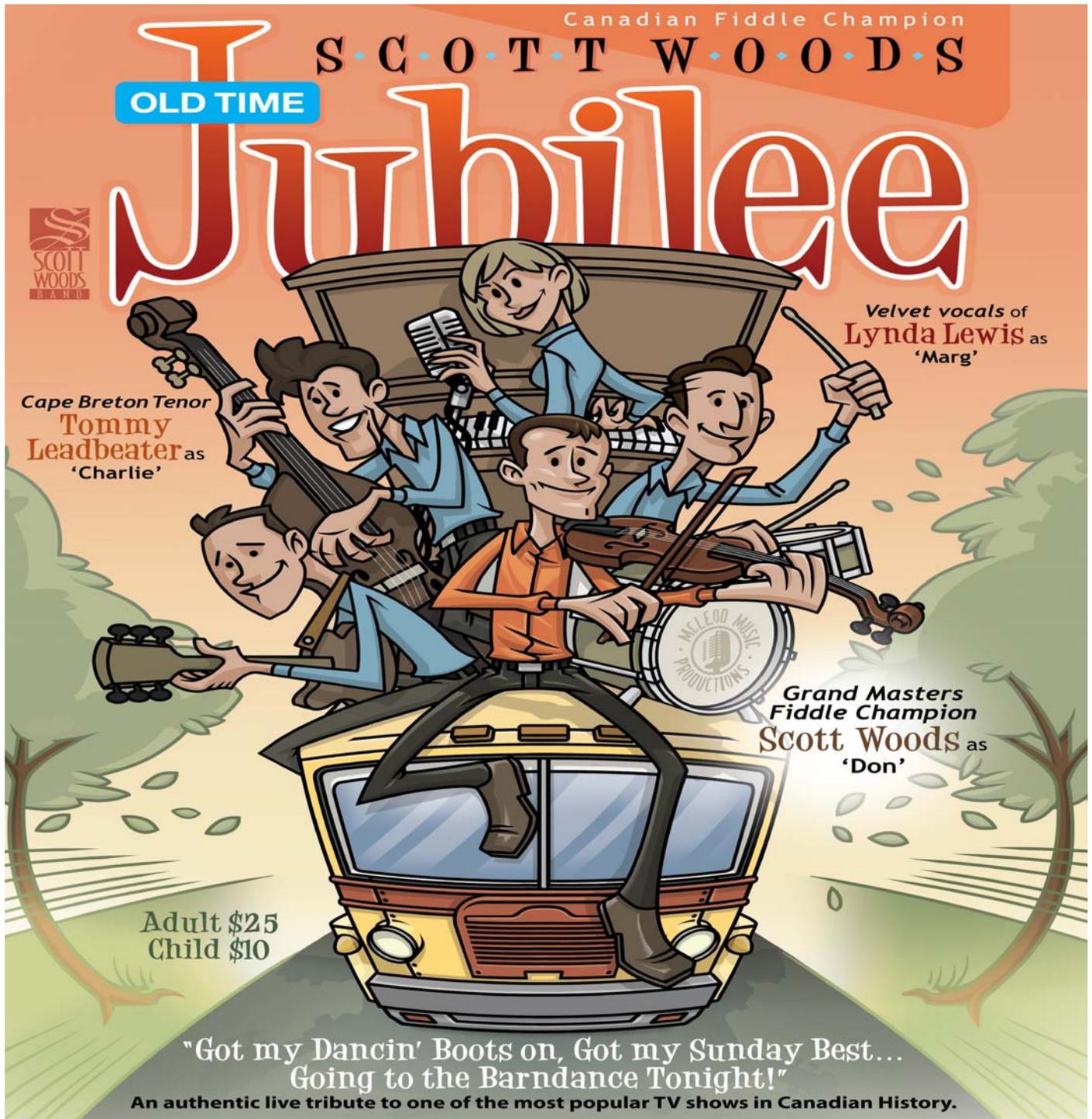
[ellen.beirsto2@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.beirsto2@gmail.com) or 206-1943.

Our Sunday School continues to meet every Sunday and we are working on a short video to show to you in church (with Jamie Heard (7) as our producer). Our Middle School Youth meet every other week with the Senior Youth meeting on the alternate weeks. These gatherings are usually on Sunday but not always. We continue to stay connected via e-mail. Some of the youth will be participating in: **May 22-25 Youth Forum and IAC** (Intermediates at Conference) to be held in Sackville;



**August 13-16 Rendez-Vous 2014** to be held at the University of Manitoba This will be an energy-filled event with hundreds of United Church Youth coming together from across our country.

☺ Ellen and Wilmot's Children & Youth



**Scott Woods Jubilee Coming April 23rd, 2014**

**7:00 pm**

**Advance tickets available at Wilmot Church Office and Westminster Books.**



Scott Woods Jubilee is coming to Wilmot on Wednesday, April 23. "Got my Dancin' Boots on, Got my Sunday Best...Going to the Barndance Tonight" An authentic live tribute to one of the most popular TV shows in Canadian History, Don Messer's Jubilee. Expect to see 'Charlie', 'Marg' and the Grand Masters Fiddle Champion 'Don'!

**To help us promote this fundraising concert please tear off this page and use it as a poster. Place it in a prominent public place of your choice to get the word out. With thanks, Maggie Clark.**



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## CD Updates

Congratulations to **Carolyn Holyoke**, a member of Fredericton's music scene and frequent collaborator with many of the city's top talents, who earned her first ECMA nomination for *Collage*, a Celtic collection that she released in 2013. She



will be competing against those in the roots/traditional solo Recording of the Year category. She said that be-

cause the album was a passion project, it's nice to know it resonated with people in the East Coast music scene. "I still haven't had a chance to process it all," she said. "It's pretty exciting. It was a really personal project, something that I felt so pleased to make with all the people



Carolyn Holyoke

Collage

I chose to work with. To have this come out of it is surprising. But it's great company to be in."

Our director of music, **Steven Peacock**, will launch a new CD, *Luminosa*, at St. Thomas University,



**March 21**, in collaboration with guitarist Gerry Van Wart.

The music, chosen for its affirming qualities, ranges across styles and countries, emerging into light, hence the title *Luminosa*.

We congratulate both of these artists and thank them for their musical contributions to Wilmot. Carolyn donated a portion of sales of her CD to Wilmot's Outreach fund, and Steven donated a portion of his sales to the United Church's relief efforts in the Philippines.

©Nancy Bauer plus files from  
*The Daily Gleaner*

## A Welcoming Church Begins with Transportation

**Transportation to worship is a hassle and expense to carless people in a city that doesn't have Sunday bus service! Could you provide a drive to Sunday Worship?** Our intent is to match a driver or drivers to each individual who needs a ride and lives in a neighbouring area, making this transportation service as convenient and flexible as possible. Judy Coates will compile and coordinate the list of volunteer drivers as well as a list of individuals who require transportation assistance.

At present we need drivers for the following areas: Island View; Skyline Acres; North Side - Sunset Drive; University/Hill; ideally we would like to have volunteer drivers to cover the city.

***If you or someone you know needs a drive to church on Sundays, please let us know.*** Also, if you are already giving someone a drive, **thank you and please continue. We can't be a welcoming church if people can't get here!** Contact Judy Coates 454-5631 [judycoates@rogers.com](mailto:judycoates@rogers.com)