

# *Gower Street United Church*

## *Advent Newsletter 2018*



**A PICTURE OF GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH TAKEN FROM THE SCAFFOLDING THAT WAS IN FRONT OF THE ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL DURING THE FALL OF 2018. THE PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN BY THE RECTOR OF THE CATHEDRAL, ARCHDEACON ROGER WHALEN, D. MUS, M. DIV.**

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## FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

*“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, Favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.” Luke 2:26-29*



How often our eyes skim through these verses as we read them? How often do our minds begin to wander as we hear them? It is the beginning of a story likely heard so many times over the course of our lives that it has begun to lose its meaning, a story told and re-told that may be difficult to experience anew. I will admit, it happens to me too. How can we find meaning in a story we know by rote? Where can we find something beautiful, powerful and true for us today?

Reading these verses, I found myself wondering about Mary’s reaction to the arrival and proclamation of Gabriel; “But she was perplexed by his words....” God cares deeply for her. God is with her.

Putting ourselves in Mary’s place in the story, we can appreciate that she would be confused for any number of reasons. I think the main source of her questioning is the source of our questioning – if God is with me, why can’t I see God? Why don’t I at all times experience God walking with me on the way? Why don’t I always feel God is with me?

Mary, just like you and me, has spent her life hearing about a God who interacted with God’s people, who liberated them from Egypt and exile, who spoke and interceded on their behalf, reacting to the cries of the oppressed. But Mary in her lifetime, has not experienced God in this way – a God who lives and breathes and speaks and moves in a plainly visible way.

And yet! An angel of God appears to her and speaks on God’s behalf. Her confusion increases as she hears that she is to bear a child through the power of the Holy Spirit, a baby who will be called the Son of God.

We move from one extreme to another—a God who interacts with God’s people, to a God who appears silent and distant, to a God who pitches a tent among us,

dwelling with us in our own form. A God willing to take on vulnerability, the limitations and pain that come from being human in order to be in closer relationship with us. And Mary exclaims, “How can this be?” We nod and wonder, “How indeed Mary?” We are oddly resistant to Mary’s later words, “Let it be according to your Word.”

Mystery for us is something to be solved, fixed, or figured out. We struggle with mystery that is simply “unknowable.” In our world today we find ourselves wanting more of the concrete things in life rather than those things that are not tangible. We find it difficult to wait. This is often propelled by consumerism and greed. We want Christmas now and when ADVENT, the time of intentional waiting before the birth of Jesus, is nowhere to be found. As well, we look at Mary and all those adjectives our tradition has ascribed to her such as favored and pure. And we may think that if I am not those things, then why would God come to me?

What does that mean for us common, everyday folk full of flaws and imperfections? Can God be in the daily realities of our lives, from the mundane to the difficult? Can there be birth, rebirth, new life moving in us and among us, individually and as a community of faith?

That, I believe, is part of the Advent season – waiting, wondering and watching. As we hear these old familiar stories being told, perhaps re-telling them ourselves, we sit and wait in the mystery of it all while catching glimpses of God in movement in our lives. We may wonder... if God has come to a poor young girl, a carpenter, some outcast shepherds on a hill, their sheep, kings of the East, a couple of cows and perhaps even a donkey, then maybe there is room in there for us too. Reach out to those who are lonely, sick or shut-in, say hello to a stranger as you walk about downtown, say hello and ask that person who is panhandling how they are, have a conversation with them... maybe buy them a hot coffee... take note and be thankful. We are indeed truly blessed.

May you and yours be filled with the Mystery and Wonder of that first Christmas!

Rev. Pamela



# FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Gower has made another important step in our journey with the welcoming of Rev. Pamela. The energy and spirit that she brings is an inspiration to us all and we so look forward to working with her into the future.

As many of you have witnessed, the first Gower Community Band (GCB) Downtown Pops concert was a resounding success. Thanks go out to so many people to enable this to happen. First to Ed Moores and the Property Committee and especially to David Noseworthy who actually made the changes to provide space at the front of the Sanctuary; to Dave Robbins and Edsel Bonnell who created the concept and spent months planning and preparing for it; and of course the individual members of the Band who as usual put on a wonderful show. Thanks also go out to the Stella's Circle Inclusion Choir and emcee Karl Wells who rounded out the whole production.

The Band will continue to be very busy over the next few weeks leading up to Christmas and these will particularly be memorable as the Band Director, Dr. Edsel Bonnell, has just recently tendered his resignation effective January 1, after 45 years with the Band. We all wish Edsel well in his retirement!

In October, while I was in Calgary, I took the opportunity to visit Hillhurst United Church, the home of Rev. Dr. John Pentland, who was here last summer. It was both inspirational and a rewarding visit. I gathered some material from them that we will be adapting for ourselves relating to our work in becoming an Affirming Congregation. You will be seeing and hearing more as a lead up to a special Congregation Meeting early in the New Year wherein we will be holding our vote.

The Warm and Dry fundraiser is going fairly well in that we have approximately \$80,000 committed of the \$150,000 goal. So we still have a ways to go.

We will be sharing the update on our Action Plan following each Board meeting via the weekly congregational email. This email will be sent each Thursday, so if you haven't received it please let the Office know so that we can ensure your email address is included. We also provide regular updates and announcements on our Facebook page so if you haven't already, please "like us" on Facebook.

The Communications Committee is also undertaking a major overhaul of our web site which we hope to launch by the end of March. It will continue to provide yet another source of information about what's going on at Gower.




Finally, on behalf of the Board I wish you all a Merry Christmas and peaceful and happy New Year.




Lorne






## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 02, 2018 – 2019

<p>December 02</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</p> <p><b>Birthdays &amp; Anniversaries</b></p>	<p>Jeremiah 33: 14-16 Psalm 25: 1-10 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 Luke 21: 25-36</p>	 <p><b>Gower Remembers</b></p>
<p>December 09</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>Malachi 3: 1-4 Luke 1: 68-79 Philippians 1: 3-11 Luke 3: 1-6</p>	 <p><b>White Gift Sunday</b></p>
<p>December 16</p>	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>Zephaniah 3: 14-20 Isaiah 12: 2-6 Philippians 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 7-18</p>	<p><b>Gower Remembers</b></p>
<p>December 23</p>	<p>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>Micha 5: 2-5a Luke 1: 47-55 Psalm 80: 1-7 Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1: 39-55</p>	

December 24	Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9: 2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-20	
December 25	Christmas Day	Isaiah 62: 6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3: 4-7 Luke 2: 1-20	
December 30	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas	1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3: 12-17 Luke 2: 41-52	<b>Gower Remembers</b>
January 06	Epiphany Sunday	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12	
January 13	Baptism of the Lord Sunday	Isaiah 43: 1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8: 14-17 Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22	<b>Gower Remembers</b>
January 20	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 62: 1-5 Psalm 36: 5-10 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 John 2: 1-11	
January 27	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a Luke 4: 14-21	<b>Gower Remembers</b>

February 03	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	Jeremiah 1: 4-10 Psalm 71: 1-6 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13 Luke 4: 21-30	
February 10	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 6: 1-13 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 Luke 5: 1-11	<b>Gower Remembers</b>
February 17	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	Jeremiah 17: 5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20 Luke 6: 17-26	
February 24	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	Genesis 45: 3-11, 15 Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50 Luke 6: 27-38	<b>Gower Remembers</b>
March 03	Transfiguration Sunday	Exodus 34: 29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4: 2 Luke 9: 28-43	

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## **GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**December 02 to December 30, 2018**

<b>December 02</b>	11:00 a.m.	Advent 1
<b>December 09</b>	11:00 a.m.	Advent 2     White Gift Service, Pageant
<b>December 16</b>	11:00 a.m.	Advent 3
<b>December 23</b>	11:00 a.m.	Advent 4
<b>December 24</b>	4:00 p.m.	Family Service with Children's Choir and Pageant
	10:30 p.m.	Candlelight Communion Service
<b>December 30</b>	7:00 p.m.	United Community of Faith, Joint Service, TBA



UShers for DECEMBER 0000, January and FEBRUARY 0000

**December 2018- Team 6:**

Karen & Bradley Smith (Captains), Lloyd Gill, Robert Cameron,  
Lester Barbour, Chris Moulton, Linda Giannou.

**January 2019 – Team 8:**

Carl Wright (Captain), Les Barbour, Ashley Wright,  
Jordan Wright, Evan Nash, Chris Moulton, Linda Giannou,  
Lester Barbour



**February 2019 - Team 1:**

Douglas Peters (Captain), Angeline Anstey, Jim Churchill, Chris Moulton, Gola  
Roberts, Linda Giannou, Lester Barbour

**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES ARE NOW READY FOR PICK-UP IN THE  
CHURCH VESTIBULE.**

Counters for the Sundays FROM  
DECEMBER 00, 0000 TO FEBRUARY 00, 0000

DECEMBER 02	JORDAN WRIGHT & MARK PETERS
DECEMBER 09	KAREN BUTT & JOANNA BENNETT
DECEMBER 16	BRUCE NICKERSON & PETER NELL
DECEMBER 23	CARL WRIGHT & LESTER BARBOUR
DECEMBER 30	ALBERT SPURRELL & RICHARD PIKE
JANUARY 06	DIANE HOGAN & BERT RIGGS
JANUARY 13	KENNETH PETERS & LINDA NICKERSON
JANUARY 20	LORNE LEDREW & DOUG PETERS
JANUARY 27	JORDAN WRIGHT & MARK PETERS
FEBRUARY 03	KAREN BUTT & JOANNA BENNETT
FEBRUARY 10	BRUCE NICKERSON & PETER NELL
FEBRUARY 17	CARL WRIGHT & LESTER BARBOUR
FEBRUARY 24	ALBERT SPURRELL & RICHARD PIKE



## BAPTISMS

JAXSON PATRICK WHELAN  
AVERY MARIE BRENTON  
LYLA SCOTT ULIPIKA KING

SEPTEMBER 09  
OCTOBER 14  
OCTOBER 28



## BIRTHDAYS

BLANCHE BYRNE  
DORIS VERGE

NOVEMBER 10, 1925 (93)  
DECEMBER 26, 1915 (103)

## DEATHS

ROSE FOLEY  
LILLIAN D. BROWN  
HARRISON NOSEWORTHY  
ETHEL JEAN ADEY  
BARBARA MOULTON  
KEITH JAMES HENDRY

SEPTEMBER 25 (82)  
SEPTEMBER 26 (72)  
OCTOBER 01 (97)  
OCTOBER 07 (91)  
OCTOBER 11 (86)  
NOVEMBER 10 (37)



HARRISON NOSEWORTHY



JEAN ADEY

## WORTH NOTING

For the first time, one of the Gower Community Band's own members is an award-winning composer! Percussionist **Liam Robbins**, son of David Robbins and Kim Larouche, and grandson of Bernice and Claude Robbins, won a Silver Award from the Adjudicators for the Band's annual Terra Nova Program Composition Competition with his work "Overcast", a tone-poem inspired by our Newfoundland and Labrador weather! Liam also made his GCB conducting debut, wielding the baton for the Band's premiere performance of his work at the D.F. Cook Recital Hall at MUN's Music Building on October 28.



**William Ping**, son of William and Violet Ping, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) at the Spring Convocation of Memorial University on October 20. William received a Chinese Association Scholarship several years ago and was a member of the Dean's List at the time of his graduation. He is currently working toward a Master of Arts degree in English at Memorial.

**Susannah McKenzie-Sutter**, from the alto section of the Gower Choir, received a Master of Music degree at Memorial's Fall Convocation.



**Marie Beth Wright** has been appointed to the Standards for Accreditation Committee of the United Church of Canada's new Board of Vocation. This board and its committees represents the new governing structure of the National Church and will work in tandem with General Council. It comes into effect January 2019.

The Office of Vocation will be supported by this national-based Board of Vocation. In addition to Marie-Beth, the **Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray** has been appointed to the Candidacy Board for the Atlantic Region. There will be two Western Regions, two others exclusive to Ontario, another encompassing Eastern Ontario and Québec and our own Atlantic Region, newly named, *First Dawn, Shining Waters Region*. In addition, there is currently a provisional Indigenous Candidacy Board. The newly appointed Ministers of Vocation (in the Atlantic Region, the Rev. Faith March McCuish) will be responsible each for their own region.

The Standards for Accreditation committee will busy itself with preparation and training for ministry, accreditation points, policy and ethics; all in all, educational training and best practices to ordain and keep ministers in good standing. Other committees of the Board are Credentialing, Response and Remedial.

The makeup of the Board of Vocation and its committees is approximately 80% ordained members, 20% lay members. There are five representatives from Newfoundland/Labrador. Training occurred in Toronto in early November.



During a recent visit to Ottawa, the **Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy** had lunch with (l-r) **Henry Andrews, Shirley Andrews, Deanna Matthews, the Rev. Guy Matthews** and **Heather Hemming**. The Rev. Guy commented on the event: "The Church Beyond Bricks and Mortar. When we can't get to Gower, Gower comes to us. Such a joy to break bread in Ottawa."

**Sam Addison** celebrates his fourth birthday with his Gower family.





## Gower's Got Talent II

Submitted by JoAnna Bennett - Chair

**Gower's Got Talent II** took place at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 4 in the Lecture Hall. It was truly an enjoyable evening of entertainment and fellowship. The performers from Gower and friends of Gower ranged in age from 5 to 80. A wide variety of talent included groups and individuals singing, playing, dancing and storytelling. We even had a singing minister: Rev. Marion Davis sang a duet with Dr. Dunsmore! Bert Riggs emceed and entertained the audience between performances.

During the intermission the Men's Club served refreshments while those in attendance took the time to view the four fancy cakes made by Sharon Moores and Linda Hogan and to make last minute bids on the framed picture of "Christmas in Gower Sanctuary" donated by Ken Butt.

Prior to starting the second half of the show the winner of the door prize: a framed print donated by Carl Stevenson was announced, followed by the winner of the sealed auction of a panoramic print of the "Gower Sanctuary at Christmas" donated by Ken Butt. Lloyd Gill then hosted a friendly auction to see who would take home the beautiful cakes.

At the end of the show, the audience took part in a good old-fashioned sing-along.

All in all, a good time was had by all while raising a total of **\$1,292** that will go towards Rev. Guy Matthews' recovery fund and the Wendy Stevenson Choral Bursary program.

A sincere thank you to all who participated and to members of the organizing committee; Karen Butt, Dr. Doug Dunsmore, Roberta Gill and Bert Riggs, who all worked together to ensure this event was such a success.





## Gower Affirm

On January 27<sup>th</sup> 2019, Gower will be holding an important congregational vote as we continue our work to become an Affirming Ministry within The United Church of Canada.

The motion for the vote will be as follows:

- 1) that Gower Street United Church become a member of Affirm United – meaning that as a congregation, our policies and practices will be intentional, specific, and explicit in the affirmation of same sex love and marriage and other experiences that continue to marginalize individuals or groups in society; and,
- 2) to accept the revised vision statement that reflects this intention.

Revised Vision Statement:

*The people of Gower Street United Church are committed to doing right by Jesus' teachings: loving, serving, giving generously in our local, regional, and global communities. We envision a vibrant and evolving community where tradition is honoured, change is embraced, and injustice is challenged.*

*We are dedicated to being welcoming and affirming, engaging participation of all, including people of any age, colour, race, ethnicity, faith, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, marital status, family composition, and social or economic circumstances.*

For further information about Gower Affirm please contact Gail Wideman at [gwideman@mun.ca](mailto:gwideman@mun.ca) or 437-7456

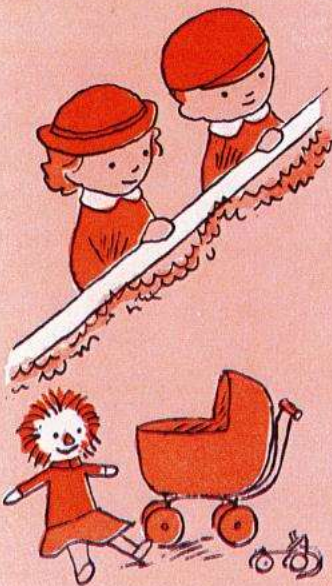




FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART!



**REMEMBERING THE WOOLWORTHS ESCALATOR**



*Up we go, and then down we go,  
On the gliding, sliding stair,  
Looking at all the Christmas things  
All over and everywhere.  
We can choose the presents we want to buy  
As easy as Christmas pie,  
But there's just one thing  
We never can do, no matter how hard we try.  
We never remember to just get off,  
We keep riding up and down,  
Till it's time for the Christmas store to close—  
And for us to go home from town!*





*Help the shepherds find the path to Jesus.*

**Start**



**Finish**

Merry Christmas



WORD SEARCH

W	U	L	L	N	J	D	K	E	Q	D	K	E	Q	Q
S	Q	I	O	L	C	F	B	R	A	F	B	R	A	A
R	A	O	I	D	N	O	I	T	A	C	A	V	N	N
T	N	N	U	I	K	K	M	M	X	Y	M	F	S	X
F	X	G	T	U	L	L	I	J	D	A	N	J	L	D
J	D	K	E	A	I	L	L	C	F	D	L	C	O	E
C	F	B	R	A	Y	I	D	V	J	I	D	V	R	C
V	A	I	T	N	T	U	I	K	K	L	I	K	A	O
K	K	N	F	X	G	W	U	L	L	O	U	L	C	R
L	L	N	D	D	K	E	Q	I	O	H	Q	I	O	A
I	O	L	C	Y	B	R	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	T
S	I	G	V	J	I	T	N	T	U	T	N	T	U	I
A	U	I	K	S	T	N	E	M	A	N	R	O	X	O
M	W	V	L	L	N	J	D	K	D	J	D	K	D	N
T	E	I	I	O	L	C	F	B	F	C	F	B	F	S
S	R	N	G	I	D	V	J	I	J	V	J	I	J	J
I	T	G	H	Y	R	R	E	M	K	K	K	M	K	K
R	F	X	T	W	U	L	L	N	G	L	L	N	L	L
H	J	D	S	E	C	I	S	U	M	I	O	L	O	O
C	C	F	B	R	A	O	I	D	I	O	F	D	I	I
D	V	J	S	H	O	P	P	I	N	G	U	T	U	U
I	K	K	M	F	X	G	W	U	A	G	W	U	S	A

Created by Sue Lindhorst, Grand Forks Herald, 2013

See how many of these words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- |              |                |               |             |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Merry     | 5. Friends     | 9. Candy      | 13. Holiday |
| 2. Christmas | 6. Gifts       | 10. Giving    | 14. Music   |
| 3. Vacation  | 7. Decorations | 11. Ornaments | 15. Lights  |
| 4. Family    | 8. Shopping    | 12. Santa     | 16. Carols  |

# POETRY CORNER

## "Love Came Down at Christmas" by Christina Rossetti

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love Divine,  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and Angels gave the sign.  
Worship we the Godhead,  
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,  
Worship we our Jesus,  
But wherewith for sacred sign?  
Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.



"**Love Came Down at Christmas**" was written by Christina Rossetti, and was first published without a title in *Time Flies: A Reading Diary* in 1885. It has been set to music as a Christmas carol by many composers and is sometimes sung to the traditional Irish melody "Garton".<sup>[3]</sup> More recently, the poem was given a modern treatment by Christian band Jars of Clay on their 2007 album, *Christmas Songs*. It was repeated by the Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree on 11 December 2014. It has been described as "simple, direct and sincere", a rare example of a carol which has overcome the disadvantage of "not having a tune (or two or three) which has caught the imagination of holiday audiences."

## A CHRISTMAS TRUCE - 1914



During World War I, on and around Christmas Day 1914, the sounds of rifles firing and shells exploding faded in a number of places along the Western Front in favor of holiday celebrations in the trenches and gestures of goodwill between enemies. Starting on Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and at certain points the Allied soldiers even heard brass bands joining the Germans in their joyous singing.

At the first light of dawn on Christmas Day, some German soldiers emerged from their



trenches and approached the Allied lines across no-man's-land, calling out "Merry Christmas" in their enemies' native tongues. At first, the Allied soldiers feared it was a trick, but seeing the Germans unarmed they climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the enemy soldiers. The men exchanged presents of cigarettes and plum puddings and sang carols and songs. There was even a documented case of soldiers from opposing sides playing a good-natured game of soccer.

**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES ARE NOW READY FOR PICK-UP IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE.**

**OR FOR AN EASIER WAY TO DONATE TRY**

**PAR**

On behalf of Gower, the Stewardship Committee extends a sincere thank you to all who contribute regularly through PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance). Your consistent offerings help ensure that Gower continues to meet its ongoing commitment and services to our Gower family and to our greater United Church family.

PAR givers confirm the convenience of having their regular church offerings taken care of. Once PAR is set up to make monthly donations from your bank account, you avoid the hassle of trying to find money each Sunday and then decide how much that offering will be. However, PAR also allows you to make special offerings for events such as Thanksgiving, Advent and others by providing special envelopes for these occasions. Any time you'd like to add more to your offerings you can do so with the envelopes provided. Plus, for those who want to contribute to the offertory at Sunday Service, you can put your PAR Card in the collection plate indicating your offering has already been given.

PAR offerings are managed through the church office and are completely confidential while being readily accessible for any changes or information you might need.

If you aren't already on PAR, the annual distribution of envelopes is an opportunity for you to consider it. Your annual contribution envelopes are ready to be picked up soon. There will be a package for current contributors and for those who decide to join PAR this year. Many of us use direct deposit in our personal lives...why not consider it for your church family this year.

**PAR information is readily available at the church office or by contacting any member of the Stewardship Committee.**