Gower Street United Church

# Lent / Easter Newsletter 2019



#### **ON OUR COVER**

Every New Beginning Comes From Some Other Beginnings' End 4 An Abstract Digital Painting by Mark Compton.

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#### Get Updates on News, Events and Other Important Information on Gower Street United Church!

Search "Gower Street United Church" and Join Our Online Community.

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# FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

#### "We are a pilgrim people!"

Life itself is full of beginnings and endings, of pilgrim moments. Many Christian people intentionally create a Lenten pilgrimage for themselves, whether it is to follow a dedicated prayer time during Lent, reflect on small ways they can spiritually create better lives for themselves or commit to some form of daily positive action during Lent. These are all pilgrimages.



For others, the journey to the Cross and the Hallelujahs on Easter Morning begin a pilgrimage of New Life in Christ. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Easter message is filled with hope and unconditional love. How does the word pilgrimage resonate with you and your life's journey? Have you ever been on an intentional pilgrimage? Would you like to begin a pilgrimage this Easter Season, or perhaps during Holy Week? All you need is commitment, physical time and the beginnings of a relationship with Jesus, our Savior and Friend.

Below is a small excerpt from a book I bought many years ago at an International Chaplaincy Conference at Yale University. I frequently use it in my personal and professional life. It is overflowing with wisdom. Here is the excerpt about Pilgrimage. May it give you a little nudge or push to start your own pilgrimage this Easter Season.

"Pilgrimage is traditionally a journey to a holy place—a place where saints have walked, a place where God has met people and blessed them. People through the ages have journeyed with God on pilgrimage--to perform a penance, to ask for healing, to pray for places where there is war or national disaster, to pray for friends.

Pilgrimage is an opportunity to travel lightly, to walk free of daily routines, to meet people, to make friends, to enjoy and celebrate God's creation."

Here is a prayer before setting out on a pilgrimage: God of the guiding star, the bush that blazes SHOW US YOUR WAY. God of the stormy seas, the bread that nourishes TEACH US YOUR TRUTH.

### God the still, small voice, the wind that blows where it chooses, FILL US WITH LIFE.God of the elements, of our inward and outward journeys, SET OUR FEET ON YOUR ROAD TODAY.

May God bless us with a safe journey. May the angels and saints travel with us. May we live this day in justice and joy, Amen. – *This is the Day,* readings and meditations from the Iona Community.

Whatever your journey or pilgrimage, may it always bring you closer to the Holy One.

Safe journeys! Easter Blessings and Hallelujahs!!

Rev. Pamela

# "Just as a caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a butterfly!"

#### *Life Lessons from a Butterfly* Let go of the past Trust the future Embrace change Come out of the cocoon Unfurl your wings Dare to get off the ground Ride the breezes Savour the flowers Put on your brightest colors Let your beauty show

# **BLESSINGS FROM REV. ETTIE**

Voices United, Hymn 595, often comes to mind as I practice pastoral ministry. While I do appreciate the images created by the title "We are Pilgrims" there is something about its alternate title "The Servant Song" that seems to capture more precisely the subtle nuances of pastoral relationships – the love, the listening presence, the mutuality and reciprocity that form part of what we carry in our back pack as we journey side-by-side on our holy expedition through life.

Perhaps the most astounding part of relating as we come upon some of the most intimate moments of life is not so much to be the giver of care but, to be the recipient of care and support. I believe it can be a perspective-changing moment when a person truly realizes their need for and acceptance of supportive care. You can say it is an epiphany moment. Accepting love as passionate care – with grace is, I believe, tantamount, to knowing what it is like to be "in the same mind as Christ… …when he humbled himself…"

As we continue our journey through Lent – As we continue our journey in pastoral relationship together, my prayer is that we know the grace – to be mutually open to the reciprocity of love and support we need, from each other along the way to journey's end...

I leave you with these words to ponder. (VU595 vs. 1&2) The last two lines are my favourite.

- We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travelers on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
- Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

# FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

### **Open Hearts – Open Minds – Open Arms**

Well once again it seems as if this winter will never end but alas we do see the end in sight. Having said that with the number of activities underway it seems time is just speeding by. The Men's Club Take-Out-Teas was this past weekend – which is always a sign to me that Spring has come!! The second GCB Downtown Pops concert was held on March 10<sup>th</sup> under the leadership of the new Band Director – Ron Collins and I understand it was terrific!! We have a number of events coming up including Rev. Pamela's covenanting service and the Stella's Circle Inclusion Choir (March 24), The Gower Band Celebration (April 24), The Affirm celebration (June 5) plus all the usual Spring events. So it will be busy!!

We held our first Board Meeting on March 6, 2019 and in addition to welcoming Carolyn Anstey-Moore to the Board as the new Vice Chair, we took our first cut at developing our Priorities for 2019. Even though they have not been finalized, nor elaborated upon, I am going to share them with you and invite your comments. Also, should you see an area in which you would like to participate please let us know:

- 1. Ministry of Youth, Children and Young Families
- 2. Develop Strategic approach to Outreach
- 3. Investigate additional revenue sources, including the revenue generating potential of Gower properties including the Memorial Building
- 4. Strengthen connections with other denominations and churches
- 5. Increase engagement of the broader Gower Community

In addition to these specific priority items we will be continuing with a number of initiatives relating to the day to day operations of the church including; conducting Affirm initiatives, continuing the Warm and Dry Campaign, launching our new website, participating in the United Community of Faith committee and undertaking the 3rd year review of Vision 2025.

We also have some exciting news regarding the Warm and Dry Campaign in that we have an anonymous donor who has committed to matching every dollar donated up to \$15,000 per year. So a great chance to make your donation double its impact. The new website is scheduled to be launched within the next month or so and once again I thought I would share the slogan that the Communications Committee has developed to welcome one and all to Gower: Gower Welcomes you with ....Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Arms.

I think it says it all about Gower and its people!! I hope you agree!

Lorne LeDrew

#### Gower Street Pastoral Charge & First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council

March 24, 2019

# Our Covenant With The Reverend Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald The Reverend Ettie Gordon-Murray

We are gathered here in the presence of God to celebrate this ministry and to covenant together for the service of God in this place ...



#### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL – MAY 2019**

Lent Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Fourth Sunday in Lent March 31, 2019	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Fifth Sunday in Lent April 7, 2019	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b- 14	John 12:1-8
<b>Liturgy of the Palms</b> April 14, 2019 <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i>		Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29		Luke 19:28-40
<b>Liturgy of the Passion</b> April 14, 2019 <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5- 11	Luke 22:14- 23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
Monday of Holy Week April 15, 2019	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 36:5-11	Hebrews 9:11- 15	John 12:1-11
<b>Tuesday of Holy Week</b> April 16, 2019	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 71:1-14	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
Wednesday of Holy Week April 17, 2019	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 70	Hebrews 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> April 18, 2019 <i>Holy Thursday</i>	Exodus 12:1-4, (5- 10), 11-14	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
<b>Good Friday</b> April 19, 2019	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16- 25 or Hebrews 4:14- 16; 5:7-9	John 18:1- 19:42
<b>Holy Saturday</b> April 20, 2019	Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1- 9, 19-24	Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4:1-8	Matthew 27:57-66 <b>or</b> John 19:38-42

<b>Easter Vigil</b> April 21, 2019	Old Testament Readings and Psalms   • Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26   • Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 and Psalm 46   • Genesis 22:1-18 and Psalm 16   • Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 and Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18   • Isaiah 55:1-11 and Isaiah 12:2-6   • Baruch 3:9-15, 3:32-4:4 or Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 and Psalm 19   • Ezekiel 36:24-28 and Psalm 42, 43   • Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 143   • Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Psalm 98   New Testament Reading and Psalm   • Romans 6:3-11 and Psalm 114   Gospel   • Luke 24:1-12			
<b>Resurrection of the Lord</b> April 21, 2019 <i>Easter Day</i>	*Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 <b>or</b> <i>Luke 24:1-12</i>
Easter Evening April 21, 2019	Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 114	1 Corinthians 5:6b-8	Luke 24:13-49
Second Sunday of Easter April 28, 2019	*Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 118:14- 29 <b>or</b> <i>Psalm 150</i>	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
Third Sunday of Easter May 5, 2019	*Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11- 14	John 21:1-19
Fourth Sunday of Easter May 12, 2019	*Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9- 17	John 10:22-30
<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> May 19, 2019	*Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1- 6	John 13:31-35
Sixth Sunday of Easter May 26, 2019	*Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29 <b>or</b> John 5:1-9
Ascension of the Lord May 30, 2019	*Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47 or Psalm 93	Ephesians 1:15- 23	Luke 24:44-53
Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth May 31, 2019	*1 Samuel 2:1-10	Psalm 113	Romans 12:9- 16b	Luke 1:39-57

Seventh Sunday of Easter June 2, 2019 (If Ascension not observed here)	*Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26
Day of Pentecost June 9, 2019	*Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9	Psalm 104:24- 34, 35b	Romans 8:14-17 <b>or</b> <i>Acts 2:1-21</i>	John 14:8-17, (25-27)

#### **USHERS FOR APRIL, MAY, 2019**

#### **April 2019 – Team 7**

Carl Wright (Captain) Marilyn Rabbits, Geoff Wright, Chris Moulton, Linda Giannou, Lester Barbour.

#### May 2019 – Team 4

Ed Williams (Captain), John Williams, Betty Anne Williams, Ed Moores, Chris Moulton, Andrew Moody, Doug Moody, Linda Giannou, Lester Barbour

#### COUNTERS FOR THE SUNDAYS FROM APRIL 07 TO MAY 26, 2019

April 07	Bruce Nickerson & Peter Nell
April 14	Carl Wright & Lester Barbour
April 21	Albert Spurrell & Richard Pike
April 28	Diane Hogan & Bert Riggs
May 05	Kenneth Peters & Linda Nickerson
May 12	Lorne LeDrew & Doug Peters
May 19	Jordan Wright & Mark Peters
May 26	Karen Butt & JoAnna Bennett

Helen Milley96th on March 18Doris Bursey92nd on March 21Levi Mehaney90th on March 26Robert Hamlyn97th on April 13Emma Wells98th on April 19Ingeborg Marshall90th on May 11Marjorie Pottle96th on May 31

Shirley & Anderson Abbott Diane & Robert Bishop Helen & Alfred Wilson Judi & Verne Somers Shirley & Ralph Moores  $62^{nd}$  on March 30  $61^{st}$  on March 31  $55^{th}$  on April 02  $52^{nd}$  on April 26  $55^{th}$  on April 28



For over 65 years **BURRY HEIGHTS CAMP** has offered camping experiences for children ages 9-15. Crafts, sports, swimming, canoeing, hiking, thinking spiritually, and nature study are among some of the activities offered on a weekly basis, for 8 weeks each summer. Registration for the 2019 camping season will be available on March 28th, 2019 – check the Burry Heights website ww.burryheights.com/summer-camp for more information. We look forward to meeting you!

#### **HOPE FOR A WINTERS NIGHT**

Submitted by Larry Kelly

Hope for a Winters Night reminds me of an expression I heard many years ago, Winter of the Soul, sometimes used to describe a period following a loss that may be characterized by

deep pain, sadness, guilt, depression and grief. Spiritually, Winter of the Soul may be described as a crisis of faith, when one perceives that God has abandoned them. Indeed, many have asked, "where is God when I need him most", or "why did God allow this to happen"? These two Winter of the Soul circumstances are not mutually exclusive and often occur simultaneously.

There is a myriad of strategies for coping with loss and grief. One such approach, as with Hope for a Winters Night is communion with others in inspirational music, quiet reflection and prayer. Hope for a Winters Night was initiated by Rev. Pamela, and supported by the Worship and Sacraments Committee, Choir Director Dr. Doug Dunsmore, Senior Choir, pianist Brian Way, and therapy dogs and their owners from St. John Ambulance. Approximately 30 people attended the service in the warmth of Gower's majestic sanctuary; some, but not all from Gower.

Carefully selected prayers such as *O Great Spirit of Hope and Love, We Open Our Hands to You O Tender One* and *Praying our Goodbyes* were interspersed with periods of silence and thoughtfully chosen musical selections, such as *I Can See Clearly Now the Rain is Gone, Be Not Afraid, Walk With me Lord, I Will Never Forget You, and Spirit Open My Heart.* Readings from selected books by Joyce Rupp represented The Light in Tears, The Light in Blessing, The Light in Grief, and The Light in Hope. Each reading was followed by the lighting of a candle. The service concluded with the Senior Choir singing Come, Come unto Me as each person was invited to the front of the sanctuary to light a candle. The collective glow of the candles radiated a sense of tribute, peace and harmony.

Karl and I attended the service, not because we felt a Winter of the Soul but rather to support Rev. Pamela and her group with this new community outreach initiative. During the service I was unexpectedly transported back to a dark 3-year Winter of the Soul in our family, when we lost a brother, niece, father, and grandmother, and dealt with the uncertainty of my mother's cancer diagnosis. The pain and anguish of loss that once lurked just below the surface no longer commanded my emotions. The structure and content of the service helped focus my mind on celebrating those we lost and remembering all the amazing people who supported us throughout that period and beyond.

Loss, and our response to it is individual. Some may never feel a need to participate in such a service, and until now, I included myself in that group. It may be the gift of time, being a part of a faith community, or the personal growth that comes from Winter of the Soul that alters my beliefs, but I think we all can benefit from communion with others as we've all experienced losses at various times in our lives. Even when not deep in grief or crisis, services such as Hope for a Winters Night provides an opportunity to support others by being present, to reflect on our own struggles, to give thanks for those who support us, and to move forward in hope.

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## **WORTH NOTING**

#### COVENANTING

On Sunday, March 24, we celebrated a Service of Covenanting for Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald and Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray to honour the pastoral relationship of our new clergy with our congregation and The First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, represented by Rev. Grant Stuckless. After promises were made by the clergy and in return, by the congregation, symbols of ministry were presented to both clergy. The service was enhanced by a wonderful meditation by Karl Wells and scripture reading by Rev. Dr. Morley Hodder. As a congregation we promised to support both Rev. Pam and Rev. Ettie in their ministry amongst us.

#### GOWER COMMUNITY BAND MEMBERS HAVE EXCELLED ONCE AGAIN IN THE 2019 KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL.

- Reed Tucker (percussion) placed first in piano.
- Evan Natsheh (son of David Natsheh) competed in piano and voice winning a first, second and third in voice.
- Emma Natsheh (daughter of David Natsheh) competed in voice and won 2 first place awards.
- Hillary Connors (daughter of Joanne Pennell Connors) sang in the noncompetitive category (8 years and under).
- Charlotte Head (daughter of Susan Hounsell) competed in piano (11 years and under).

- Noah Collins (percussion) competed in piano and percussion winning 3 first place awards. Noah performed in the Junior Instrumental Rose Bowl as well.
- Hayley Collins (flute) completed in voice, piano, and fiddle winning 3 first place awards and a third. Hayley has been selected to sing in the **Stars of the Festival** Concert on Sunday evening, March 10th at D.F. Cook Concert Hall.

#### 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. 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.

#### **CELEBRATE EASTER IN CHINA**

Written by Caroline Baker

Easter is an International holiday that is celebrated in China as well. Even beyond the religious implications, Easter has many significances in the Chinese culture.

For many, Easter is a mark of the coming of spring. While ancient Chinese generally celebrate the coming of spring with Chinese New Year, the passing of the spring equinox is yet another reason to celebrate.

The three most common symbols that are associated with Easter in the West are: the Easter egg, rabbits, and baby chicks. All hold significance in the Chinese culture as well. In one of the creation stories that comes to us from ancient China, the world was created from an egg of chaos. Rabbits and chicks can be seen in many pieces of art, often there to symbolize life and birth.

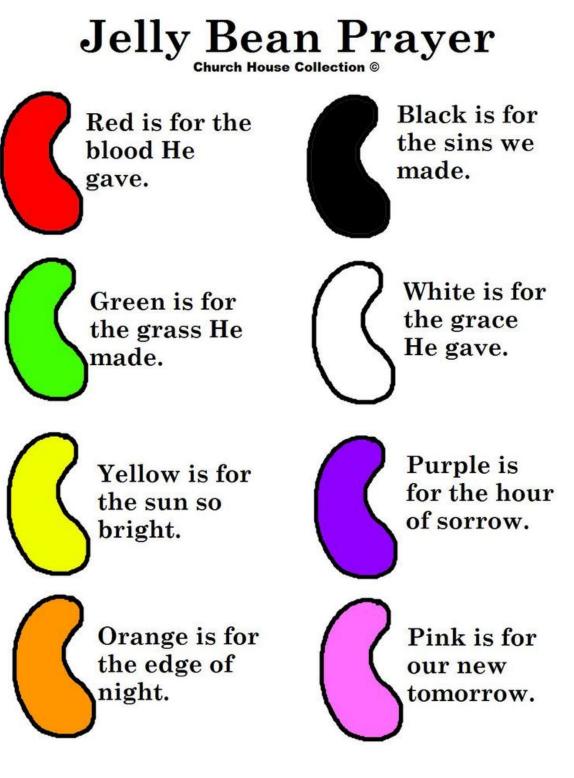
From olden times, the art of painting on eggs has been part of the Chinese culture. Eggs would be drained and then fine line art depicting women, sceneries, and other images of beauty would grace the exterior. Jade and wood would be smoothed and carved into eggs to symbolize the "dragon egg". All these would be given as gifts in wishes of growth and many children.

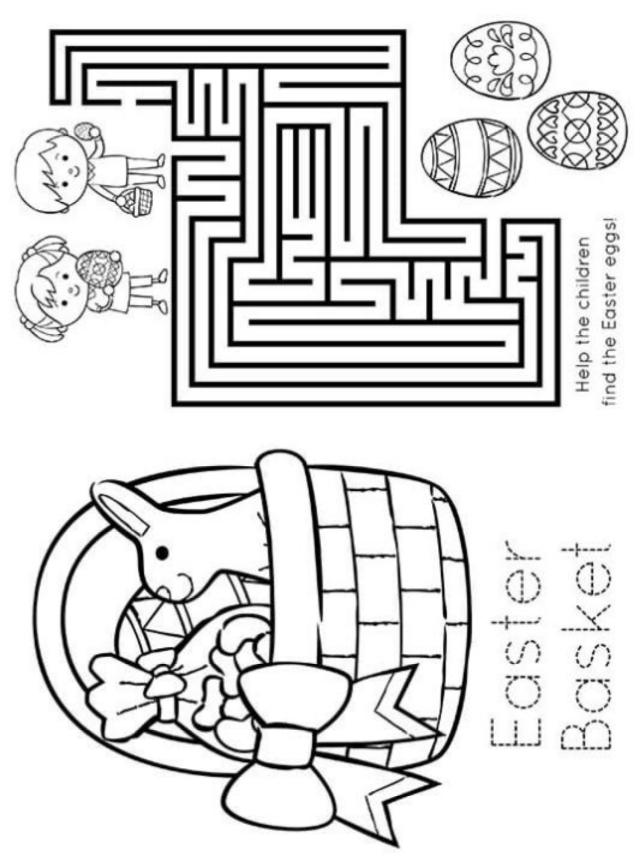
But even beyond the commercialized aspects of Easter today, Chinese also celebrate the Christian rising of Christ. Perhaps even before the United States became known as the melting pot of cultures and religions, China held many, if not all, the known religions of the world. Much of these other religions entered China by way of the Silk Road and trade with other countries.

Thus, from very early on, Christianity has been part of the Chinese Culture, as many other religions of the world.

In order to wish someone a "Happy Easter" in Chinese, one of the ways you might say it is: *fu huo jie kuai le*. Literally translated it means "happy festival for the sign life".

## FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART





CONTACT INF	ORMATION FOR	THE GOWER	BOARD AND STAFF – 2019
Continuing & New Members		Telephone	Email Addresses
<u>CLERGY</u>			
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Vice Chair	Carolyn Anstey- Moore	754-6922	carolynansteymoore@nl.rogers.com
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Property and Finance	Ken Peters	722-3262(h) 631-0041(c)	kenpeters709@gmail.com
<ul><li>a. Finance Chair</li><li>b. Property</li></ul>	Ken Peters Ed Moores	364-4084(h) 690-0325(c)	ed.moores@eastportproperties.ca
c. Rentals d. Fundraising			
e. Stewardship	JoAnna Bennett	689-7125	joannamabennett@gmail.com
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Sacraments	Angeline Anstey	576-6360	a.anstey@live.ca
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b. Pastoral Care	Karen Thorne	764-6205	ktrbthorne@hotmail.com
c. Outreach	Judi Somers	579-6299	jsomers@warp.nfld.net
d. Religious Education	Patrick Griffin	579-8920	patrickgriffin@yourmax.ca
Church Groups	Angeline Anstey	576-6360	a.anstey@live.ca
a. Men's Club	Peter Nell	437-6843	pnell@nl.rogers.com
b. UCW	Karen Tuck	747-3324(h) 488-2709(w)	karen.tuck@easternhealth.ca
c. Heritage &	James Hiller	579-1332	jhiller@mun.ca
Archives	Lorne LeDrew	745-5765 (h)	lorneledrew@hotmail.com
d. Communications		689-3077 (c)	

ELECTED BUT NOT	ON CHURCH BOA	RD	
Nominations	Gail Wideman	691-6220 (c)	gwideman@mun.ca
Trustees	Edward Roberts	726-7545	edwardmroberts@gmail.com
East District Delegates	Pat West	753-0349	pwest100@nf.sympatico.ca
	Roy West	753-0349	roywest@mun.ca
<u>STAFF</u>			
Office Manager	Linda Hogan	753-7286 (o)	gsuc@nl.rogers.com;
		739-4006 (h)	mini_m2@hotmail.com
		687-2628 (c)	
Custodian	David	753-7286	
	Noseworthy	ext. 206 (o)	
		726-0484 (h)	
Choral Director	Douglas	754-2478 (h)	dunsmore@mun.ca
	Dunsmore	727-0120 (c)	
Organist	R. Carl Goulding	368-1020	carlgoulding@icloud.ca;
			carlgoulding@me.com
Gower Community	Ron Collins	747-2024 (h)	roncollins@bellaliant.net
Band		740-4286 (c)	
Junior Choir	Dana Collins	726-2012	djmcollins331@gmail.com
<b>OTHER</b>			
Senior Choir	Roberta Gill	745-2615	brmvgill@gmail.com
Cemetery Board Rep	Vernon Simmons	582-	n/a
		2759/3183	
PA System - Sanctuary	Brady Lawrence	Contact	velvetf@hotmail.com
		<b>Ruth Francis</b>	
		754-0557	
Bridges To Hope -	Doug Moody	753-4277	dmoody@bellaliant.net
Board			

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT GOWER

April 09	Men's Club Appreciation Dinner	Lecture Hall	6:00 p.m.
April 10	UCW leads worship	Tiffany Village	2:30 p.m.
April 14	Band Musicale Palm Sunday Worship	Sanctuary Sanctuary	10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
April 17	Maundy Thursday Service	Sanctuary	7:30 p.m.
April 18	Men's Club leads service	Cambridge	10:30 a.m.
April 19	Good Friday Service Office closed	George Street	
April 21	Easter Sunday	Worship Communion	11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
April 24	GCB Appreciation Dinner	Lecture Hall	7:30 p.m.
April 28	Baptism	Sanctuary	11:00 a.m.
April 30	Seniors' Dinner	Lecture Hall	6:00 p.m.
May 7	Flipper dinner	Lecture Hall	6:00 p.m.
May 8	UCW leads Worship	Tiffany Village	2:30 p.m.
May 11	UCW Morning Tea/Sale	Lecture Hall	10:30 – 12:00 p.m.
May 16	Men's Club leads Worship	Cambridge	10:30 a.m.
May 21	Men's Club Dinner	Lecture Hall	6:00 p.m.
May 28	Seniors' Club Dinner	Lecture Hall	6:00 p.m.