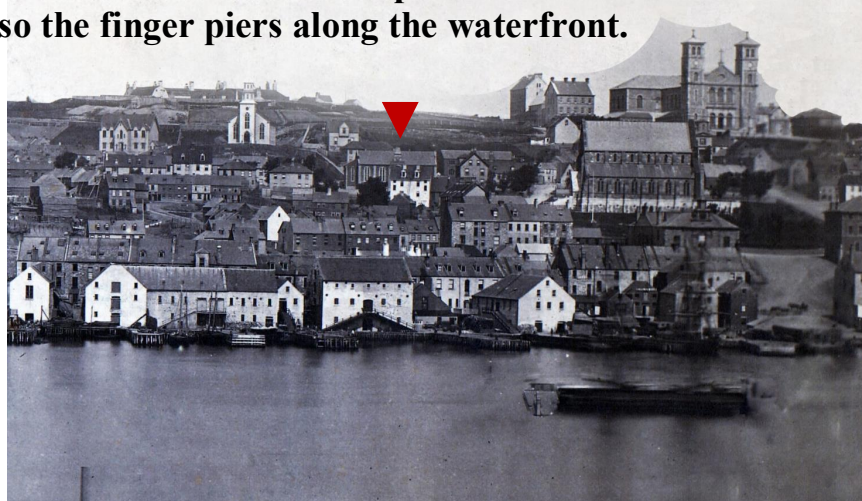


Gower Street United Church
Summer Newsletter 2018



On Our Cover

The picture on the cover is a rare image of the downtown core of St. John's taken sometime before 1876 from the south side of the harbour. Gower Street Methodist Church, the one that burnt in the 1892 fire, is in the centre of the picture, partially covered by the large white building that is located in front of it. It is just under the red arrow head. To the east of Gower is the partially constructed Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Notice that there are no transepts and no apse. Above the Anglican Cathedral is the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. John the Baptist (It did not become a basilica until 1955.) and some of the ancillary buildings that still exist including the earliest portion of St. Bonaventure's College. The white wooden church to the northwest of Gower is the first St. Andrew's Presbyterian, which was built in 1843 and burned down in 1876. The present St. Andrew's is built on that same site. Note also the finger piers along the waterfront.



EDITORS: Bert Riggs & Linda Hogan

Minister: The Rev. Marion Davis

Minister Emerita: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy

Choir Director: Dr. D. Dunsmore

Band Director: Dr. Edsel Bonnell

Custodian: David Noseworthy

Organist: R. Carl Goulding

Office Manager: Linda Hogan

Board Chair: Lorne LeDrew

99 Queen's Road – A1C 6M6 Tel: 753-7286 - Fax: 383-0145

E-Mail: gsuc@nl.rogers.com Website: www.gowerunited.ca

TABLE OF CONTENTS

On Our Cover	2
Find Us On Facebook	3
From The Minister's Desk	4
Footprints In The Sand	5
From the Chair of the Board	6
Leadership Team	7
Narrative Budget	7
Easter Sunday	10
Worship Schedule	11
Flower Service	13
Ushers Schedule	14
Counters Schedule	14
Baptisms, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Deaths	15
Worth Noting	16
Men's Club Activities	19
Did You Know... (UCW)	20
Poetry Corner	21
Gower Affirm	22
For Kids of all Ages	24
Burry Heights Day	26
PAR Information	28



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

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

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

As some of you know I love to walk. Anytime I can walk somewhere I do so – to the supermarket, to work, to the homes of friends reasonably close by. I suppose I come by this characteristic honestly. My dad was a great walker as was his father. In fact my grandfather used to walk every morning in the summer from his summer place near Octagon Pond to Merrymeeting Road in St. John's where his grocery business was located. In the evening, when the day's work was finished, he would walk down to Water Street and take the out of town bus home.

For me, there is such delight in getting out for a walk in the early morning, that is, with the exception of winter mornings when there is ice everywhere. Then I content myself with climbing the stairs in my house multiple times. It's not the same as the outdoor walk but it does get me going for the day

Recently I have been choosing to do an extra walk whenever time allows. I've been walking from my home in the Georgetown area of St. John's to the top of Signal Hill and back. It's quite a jaunt which takes about one and a half hours but I have a particular reason for doing it: I am going to be taking part in a week-long walk in July.

A couple of months ago an email appeared in my inbox inviting anyone who wished to do so to register for Camino NS. This walk, I assume, is so named because of Camino de Santiago which in English is known as the Way of St. James. It is a trail which winds mostly through Spain and so, a camino is a pilgrimage. Camino NS has been organized by the Atlantic School of Theology. I, along with a dozen or so other people will walk a trail in the Annapolis Valley for six days in July. We will begin the day with prayer and also end it that way. I have a feeling that there will be lots of prayer along the way as well. Our overnight accommodation will be in churches on our route. My daughter Nancy, who is also taking part in this pilgrimage and who lives in the Annapolis Valley, says that if we end up being scheduled to sleep in her home church one of those nights, she is going home for the night. I know that will not happen because she would not want to miss out on any part of the experience.



The Rev. Marion Davis &
The Rev. Miriam Bowlby

As I reflect on and look forward to this walk, I am reminded of how much time Jesus and his disciples spent walking. Other than when he rode into Jerusalem on a colt, I cannot think of any other time when he had any other means of conveyance than his feet. No doubt as we walk Camino NS, there will be moments when we will remember the journeys of Jesus and so many others in our Christian scriptures as we move along.

My hope and my prayer for each of you as we head towards summer and make plans, is that you will experience much joy in whatever you do and wherever you go. Knowing that God is with us in each moment of this walk called “Life”, may there be peace within as you travel.

Marion

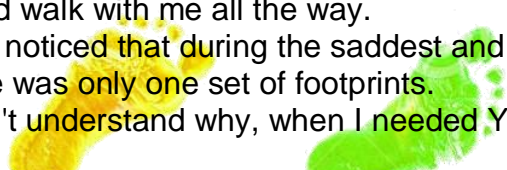
FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."



FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Summer is almost here again – at least that’s what the Calendar indicates. Since our Annual Congregational meeting your newly formed board has been working hard to keep things moving and to ensure we are moving forward as we prepare for a new minister. The Search Committee is continuing its work and will continue to do so until we have someone in place. In the meantime Rev. Marion has agreed to stay on until that happens.

We are still getting used to the new Board Structure and on the next page you can see how it is depicted. For those of you who have read John Pentland’s book *Fishing Tips* you will see that it is similar to the structure that Hillcrest United in Calgary implemented. Although coincidental it does, I think, indicate that we are on the right track. Please review the chart on the next page which depicts the Board and its relationship to the other groups and committees.

We are in the process of establishing our Priorities for 2018. The difference this year is that we are developing them ensuring we incorporate and work towards Vision 2025. Gola is leading a process to develop an action plan for each of the following broad priorities:

1. New Board working well
2. Roof/furnace campaign
3. Communications within and without
4. Pastoral care
5. Digitize the church
6. Affirming church
7. Grow the church

On May 27 we hosted a combined service at Gower coordinated by the United Community of Faith (previously Downtown Church Committee). Although we were a little disappointed with the attendance it demonstrated again how much we have in common and how supported we feel when we come together like this. The next shared service will be in the Fall at Cowan Heights United. Please plan to attend - you will be glad you did!

We are endeavouring to increase the frequency and the ways we communicate with you. We will be increasing our use of Facebook and email to not only keep you informed of what is happening but to advise you of any changes in schedules, services and upcoming events. So if you haven’t already done so please provide us with your email address and “like us” on Facebook.

Last but not least, if you haven’t already made your donation to the Warm and Dry Campaign please consider it now.

Thank you and I wish you all a safe, enjoyable and blessed summer!

Lorne LeDrew
Board Chair

Gower Street United Church Leadership Team 2018

Elected but not on Board:

Trustees
Edward Roberts

Nominations
Rev. Marion Pardy

East Dist. Reps.
-Roy West
-Karen Tulk

BOARD

Chair	Lorne LeDrew
Vice-Chair	Gola Roberts
Secretary	Ruth Francis
Treasurer	Fred Earle
Ministry & Personnel	Darryl Pullman
Property & Finance	Ken Peters
Worship & Ministry	Patrick Griffin
Church Groups	Angeline Anstey
Member at Large	Dave Robbins
Minister	Rev. Marion Davis

Groups and Committees

Financial Review Committee	Fred Colbourne
Finance Property (Rentals & Fundraising) Stewardship	Ken Peters Ed Moores - JoAnna Bennett
Worship and Sacraments Pastoral Care Outreach Christian Education Affirming Church	Judi Sommers Patrick Griffin Gail Wideman
UCW Men's Club Seniors Club Heritage & Archives Communications Prayer Shawl Ministry	Karen Tulk Peter Nell Gola Roberts Jim Hiller Lynette Hillier Marina Orsborne

GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH NARRATIVE BUDGET THE STORY OF OUR CORE VALUES AS REFLECTED IN 2016 -2017 EXPENDITURES

This Narrative Budget was developed as a collaborative initiative between the Stewardship Committee and Vision 2025. It presents financial information contained in the 2017 Annual Budget to our Gower Faith Community in an alternate way to better inform you as to how those funds support all aspects of services and programs of our Gower Ministry. Your feedback on this document is very much appreciated and can be forwarded by e-mail (gsuc@nl.rogers.com) or in writing to the Gower Office, 99 Queen's Road, St. John's, NL, A1C 6M6.

In 2017 Gower updated its Core Values Statements to publicly celebrate what is most important to us as a congregation and faith community. As we prepare for the 2018 fiscal year, it is helpful to consider if we are actually supporting these Core Values. Did our expenditures last year and the year prior follow through on what we profess to be most valued? Are we living out our mission and ministry as a United Church congregation? The intent of the information presented below is to help you find the answers. It is presented as an adjunct to the annual budget you normally review at this time.

CORE VALUE 1: MEANINGFUL WORSHIP OF GOD AND CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT IN A SACRED GATHERING PLACE: \$ 221,300

Gower Street United Church is perhaps most recognized for its stately presence in the core of the city so it is important that our sacred space is welcoming to all. In 2017 almost 45% of expenditures, up from 41% in 2016, were invested in maintaining a safe and comfortable building that allows for key activities directly linked to worship and Christian development to take place. The long list of contributions include traditional activities (such as **Sunday services, Sunday School events, weddings and counselling, baptisms, funerals, confirmation and other special services**) through to the logistical happenings that go beyond the basics (**the preparation and issuances of bulletins, dedication to greeting and ushering, installation of seasonal decorations, and other expressions of welcome**), along with equally important representations of our faith commitment (such as expressed through **the Prayer Shawl ministry and VOWR services to shut ins**). Gower Street United Church can take pride in knowing that worship and Christian development exist today, and will continue to be possible into the future, because of the very significant investments made in the care and protection given to worship in a cherished building.

CORE VALUE 2: COMPASSIONATE, RESPONSIVE OUTREACH: \$ 74,500

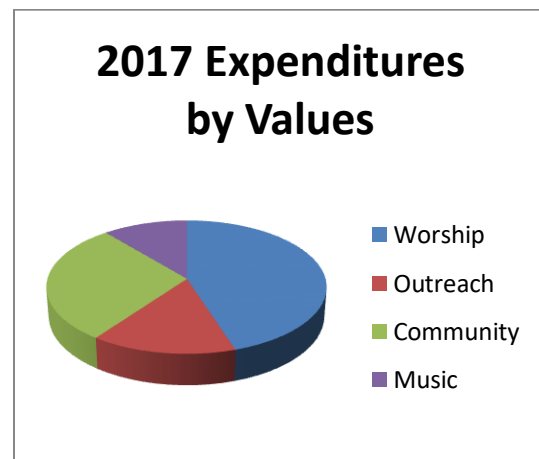
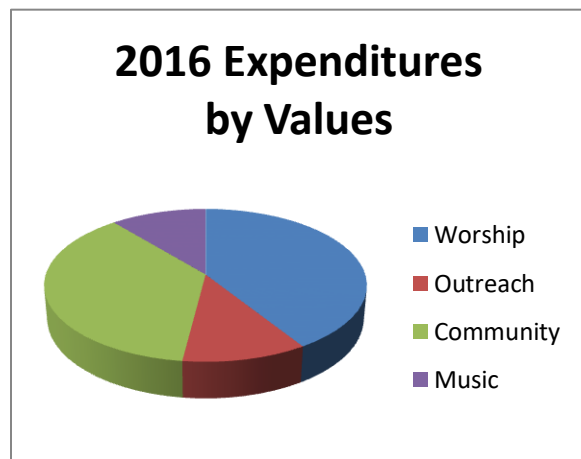
Faith in action is important to the Gower community. Whether it is remembering our own members in a time of need (**pastoral care, visiting hospitals and care facilities, memorial profiles in *Gower Remembers*, new member support, Seniors Group**) or extending a hand of kindness to those around us (**Gower Feeding the Community, contributions to the Bridges to Hope Food Bank, refugee family sponsorship, Street Reach, social justice movie viewings, and usage of the Benevolent Fund**), or working in cooperation and coordination with the **Downtown Church Coalition Committee**, there are expenses involved to meaningfully put outreach into practice. In the past year, Gower Street United Church cumulatively committed 15%, up from 11% in 2016, of its expenditures towards activities and commitments that impact those beyond our building walls.

CORE VALUE 3: LIVING IN A CHRISTAIN COMMUNITY THAT IS RESPECTFUL, DIVERSE, AND INCLUSIVE: \$ 144,440

Respect, diversity and inclusiveness speak to the community values that we expect of ourselves and others. On a daily basis the activities of the **Men’s Club** and the **United Church Women** have long reflected the foundation of our church community values. On the global level, ongoing support to **Mission and Service** allows us to extend our faith further. In the past two years greater local participation was shown through various **inter-faith and inter-denominational activities**, along with continued **participation in NL Conference, East District and the Downtown United Church Committee**. Our achievements are carefully documented and maintained through dedicated **Heritage and Archives** work. As we look forward we anticipate formalizing our **Affirming status**. Collectively these actions have amounted to 29% (2017) to 37% (2016) of our annual expenditures. Although the expenditures have decreased from one year to the next, many of these activities and associated costs within this category are multi-year in nature.

CORE VALUE 4: MUSIC AS A CHERISHED PART OF OUR WORSHIP, OUTREACH AND CHURCH CULTURE: \$ 54,700

Music underlies much of the joy and spirit of worship, outreach, and community. Thus it is fitting that Gower Street United Church has directed 11% of its expenditures in both 2017 and 2016 to choirs (**Senior Choir, Junior Choir, joint choirs with other groups, visiting choirs**), **guest soloists, guest musicians, choral scholars, the Gower Community Band, various Sunday School music activities, and special fund raising performances**. The **Wendy Stevenson Choral Bursary** has been instrumental in supporting music student enhancements to our senior choir. In 2017 we celebrated the early **retirement of the major loan** taken out to refurbish the beloved **Casavant organ**. Our annual investments in maintaining our ability to produce first class music performances has enhanced faith, worship, outreach, and the building of community. With the pay back of our organ loan, the option is open to consider new and greater music possibilities. As we reflect on where Gower can go next with its music programs, we are positioned to continue this legacy of excellence into the future.



Gower Stewardship Committee in collaboration with Lorraine Busby, February 2018

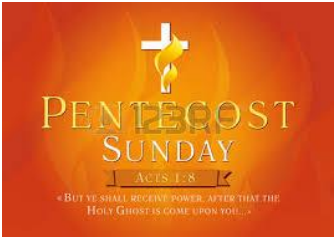
EASTER SUNDAY, April 01, 2018




The Gower Street United Church furnace warmed its last person in March 2018. Sunday services were relocated to the Lecture Hall on an interim basis until a new furnace could be installed. On Easter Sunday we were kindly invited to share in the morning service at Cochrane Street United Church. It was an inspiring occasion, with a joint choir comprised of singers from both congregations, musicians on trumpets, piano, percussion and organ, and Holy Communion. It was a heartwarming and hallowed morning in which two congregations joined to celebrate the mystery and awe of the risen Christ.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MAY 20 – SEPTEMBER 02, 2018

May 20	Pentecost Sunday	Acts 2: 1-21 Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Psalm 104: 24-35b Romans 8: 22-27 John 15: 26-27 & John 16: 4b-15	
May 27	Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 6: 1-8 Psalm 29 Romans: 12-17 John 3: 1-17	
June 03	2 nd Sunday after Pentecost	1 Samuel 3: 1-20 Psalm 139: 1-6; 13-18 2 Corinthians 4: 5-12 Mark 2: 23 – 3: 6	Birthdays & Anniversaries Sunday, Gower Remembers
June 10	3 rd Sunday after Pentecost	1 Samuel 8: 4-20 Psalm 138 2 Corinthians 4: 13 – 5:1 Mark 3: 20-35	
June 17	4 th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Samuel 15: 34 – 16: 13 Psalm 20 2 Corinthians 5: 6-17 Mark 4: 26-34	Gower Remembers

June 24	5 th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Samuel 17: 1-49 or 1 Samuel 17: 57 – 18: 5, 10-16 Psalm 9: 9-20 or Psalm 133 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13 Mark 4: 35-41	Sacrament of Baptism
July 01	Remembrance Day 6 th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Samuel 1: 1, 17-27 Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15 Mark 5: 21-43	 Gower Remembers
July 08	7 th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Samuel 5: 1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10 Mark 6: 1-13	Gower Remembers
July 15	8 th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19 Psalm 24 Ephesians 1: 3-14 Mark 6: 14-29	
July 22	9 th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Samuel 7: 1-14a Psalm 89: 20-37 Ephesians 2: 11-22 Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56	Gower Remembers
July 29	10 th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Samuel 11: 1-15 Psalm 14 Ephesians 3: 14-21 John 6: 1-21	
August 05	11 th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Samuel 11: 26 – 12: 13a Psalm 51: 1-12 Ephesians 4: 1-16 John 6: 24-35	Birthdays & Anniversaries

August 12	12 th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130 Ephesians 4: 25 – 5:2 John 6: 35, 41-51	Gower Remembers
August 19	13 th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 2: 10-12, 3: 3-14 Psalm 111 Ephesians 5: 15-20 John 6: 51-58	
August 26	14 th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 8: 1, 6, 10- 11, 22-30, 41-43 Psalm 84 Ephesians 6: 10-20 John 6: 56-69	Gower Remembers
September 02	15 th Sunday after Pentecost	Song of Solomon 2: 8- 13 Psalm 45: 1-2, 6-9 James 1: 17-27 Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21- 23	



2018 FLOWER SERVICES

Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Hamilton Avenue Extension
Monday, July 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

General Protestant Cemetery, Topsail Road
Monday, July 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Please note that in the event of inclement weather,
the services will be moved ahead to 7:00 p.m. the next evening.

-

-

Ushers for June, JULY and August

June 2018 - Team 7:

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

July & August 2018:

Rotation of Team Captains. July - Joan & John Lane; August - Ed Williams



Counters for the Sundays FROM
June to August

JUNE 12	LORNE LEDREW & DOUG PETERS
JUNE 19	JORDAN WRIGHT & MARK PETERS
JUNE 26	KAREN BUTT & JOANNA BENNETT
JULY 03	BRUCE NICKERSON & PETER NELL
JULY 10	CARL WRIGHT & LESTER BARBOUR
JULY 17	ALBERT SPURRELL & RICHARD PIKE
JULY 24	DIANE HOGAN & BERT RIGGS
JULY 31	KENNETH PETERS & LINDA NICKERSON
AUGUST 07	LORNE LEDREW & DOUG PETERS
AUGUST 14	JORDAN WRIGHT & MARK PETERS
AUGUST 21	KAREN BUTT & JOANNA BENNETT
AUGUST 28	BRUCE NICKERSON & PETER NELL



BAPTISMS

Olivia Joyce Warfield

April 08, 2018

BIRTHDAYS

JEAN ADEY
RUBY MATTHEWS
CHESLEY LAMBERT
GLADYS KNIGHT

91ST ON JUNE 15
94TH ON AUGUST 07
90TH ON AUGUST 20
96TH ON AUGUST 28

ANNIVERSARIES

Linda & Henry Whalen
Mely & Kim Hong
Roberta & Lloyd Gill
Lily & Hubert Mercer
Ruth & James Churchill
Bernice & Claude Robbins
Marilyn & Doug Peters

54th on June 01
54th on June 06
51st on July 01
61st on July 08
57th on August 14
64th on August 18
53rd on August 18

DEATHS

Delilah Isabelle White (95)
David George Pitt (96)
John Rooney (83)
Phyllis Elizabeth Butler (84)
Susie Smith (94)
Delores C. Kennedy (79)
Roberta Snow (87)

February 16, 2018
March 22, 2018
March 24, 2018
April 05, 2018
April 21, 2018
April 24, 2018
May 19, 2018



Delilah White



Elizabeth Butler

WORTH NOTING



Winners of the Governor General's Innovation Award (l-r): Dr. Sean Connors, Dr. Kathleen Hodgkinson, Dr. Terry-Lynn Young and Dr. Daryl Pullman.

Dr. Daryl Pullman, Chair of Gower's Ministry and Personnel Committee, is one of a team of four Memorial University Faculty of Medicine researchers and doctors, to win the Governor General's Innovation Award, a first for Memorial University. Over the past 20 years the team has worked to identify and develop treatment for a cardiac muscle disorder known as arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC). Their trailblazing research will be instrumental in saving the lives of those affected by this deadly genetic disease. The award was presented by Governor General Julie Payette in a ceremony held in Ottawa on May 23, 2018. (Photograph courtesy of Memorial University)

A long-serving member of Gower Street United Church passed away on March 22, 2018, at the age of 96. **David George Pitt** was a son of the manse, his father Thomas, having ministered to a number of pastoral charges during his 38 years in Newfoundland. David Pitt was born in Musgravetown on December 12, 1921. He attended Memorial University College, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB (BA Hons., 1946), and the University of Toronto (MA, 1948; Ph.D., 1960). He joined Memorial's Department of English Language and Literature in 1949, served as its Head from 1970 to 1982, and was named Professor Emeritus in 1993. A distinguished scholar, his major publications include a two-volume biography of poet E. J. Pratt (*The Truant Years*, 1984; *The Master Years*, 1987), the first volume being awarded the University of British Columbia Medal for Biography shortly after its release. He was awarded honorary degrees by Mount Allison University (1989) and by Memorial University (2005)



Pitt's service to Gower Street United Church spanned several decades of membership on boards and committees, including ten years (1965-1975) as Recording Steward. He is especially remembered for his comprehensive history of the church entitled *Windows of Agates*, which was published in 1966 and covered the first 150 years of the church (1815-1965). He also authored a second edition of the book, which appeared in 1990, which included the history of the church's 25 years since the first edition.

On a personal note, Dr. Pitt was one of my professors at Memorial, where I was fortunate to study the English poet William Blake under his tutelage. In those halcyon days of my youth, he brought Blake to life, bearing witness to Blake's words: "In the universe, there are things that are known, and things that are unknown, and in between, there are doors." He was one of those doors for so many people. (BR)

The Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy, who served as minister at Gower Street United Church from 1990 to 2000, and was elected for a three-year term as the 37th Moderator of the United Church of Canada in 2000, has been a passionate champion for ecumenism, justice and peace at local, national and international levels for many years. She has put her beliefs into practice through her involvement in the Canada Council of Churches (United Church Representative on the Governing Board 2004-2005; a Vice-President 2005-2009) and in the St. John's and Area Council of Churches, where she served two terms as President (2005-2013). For her work in this area and with these organizations she was presented with Honorary Membership in the St. John's and Area Council of Churches at its Annual Meeting held on May 04, 2018. Marion also celebrated her 50th anniversary of ordination in March. Congratulations Marion!



Front row, (l-r): Deborah Mercer, the Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, the Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy, the Rev. Marion Davis; back row, (l-r): the Rev. Ian March-MacCuish, the Rev. Bill Mercer, the Rev. Bill Bartlett.

Earlier this year, **Drs. Leslie and James Rorke** were named 2017 winners of the WONCA 5-Star Doctors for the North America region in recognition of their "life's work as family physicians and their significant contributions to family medicine over the past 35 years, including the development of the Rourke baby Record." (*The Telegram*, January 03, 2018, p. A5) WONCA is the World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians and the award is one of the most prestigious international awards bestowed upon members of the medical profession.



Congratulations to **Lauren Peters**, daughter of Lisa and Ken Peters and granddaughter of Marilyn and Doug Peters, who graduated at Memorial University's Spring Convocation with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours); to **Luke Busby**, son of Lorraine and Len Busby, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science; to **Liam Robbins**, son of Kim Larouche and David Robbins and grandson of Bernice and Claude Robbins, who graduated with a Bachelor of Music (Honours); and to **Kelsey Arsenault**, who sang in the alto section of the Gower Choir, who received a Bachelor of Music.

REV. DR. NIAM ATEEK

VISIT TO ST. JOHN'S



Carrying a message of non-violent resistance to the Israeli occupation, Palestinian Liberation theologian Rev. Dr. Niam Ateek came to St John's to promote his latest book 'A Palestinian Theology of Liberation - The Bible, Justice and The Palestine-Israel Conflict. The 'Canadian Friends of Sabeel' (CFOS) sponsored and promoted his cross Canada tour.

Dr. Sean McGrath of the Philosophy Department at MUN organized two events - the first, a luncheon meeting with students from the Religious Studies and Philosophy Departments. Rev. Ateek had an informal dialogue with approximately 12 people, discussing the situation in Palestine/Israel from a Biblical perspective.

The second event was an evening lecture hosted by Queen's College, with approximately 130 people in attendance. Rev. Ateek addressed the audience by first talking about his book. Everyone appreciated hearing his personal lived theology, as well as interpreting some contradictory scriptures of the Old Testament. A Q & A followed with appropriate questions, which led to thoughtful and challenging responses.

Rev. Ateek's books emphasize the proud history of partnership among Jews, Muslims and Christians of conscience. CFOS are grateful that so many people in St. John's and indeed across Canada came to engage with these issues. Copies of his book sold out at all his lectures.

Kathy Bergin, coordinator of the tour, said that she was proud to be providing an opportunity for people to hear Rev. Ateek for themselves and to hear about and hopefully support the quest for justice, peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land.

For more info on Rev. Dr. Niam Ateek go to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naim_Ateek

Submitted by Patricia Mercer

Men's Club Activities

April 17: The Men's Club held its annual Appreciation Dinner in the Lecture Hall and invited all those who helped with the Take-out Teas: selling of tickets, food preparation, assembly and filling of the dinner boxes, making cookies and jellies, and delivering the teas. Approximately 60 people attended. The menu was a roast turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Jim Hiller was scheduled to give a visual presentation on Elijah Hoole, the architect who designed Gower Street Church, but a malfunction with the projection system prevented that from happening. Instead Jim gave a very brief account of Hoole's life and work.

May 08: The Annual Flipper Dinner was held in the Lecture Hall. Over 250 dinners were served (209 guests; 20 cooks and servers; 22 take-outs). Once again, this was a stellar success.

May 23: The last regular monthly dinner meeting for the 2017-2018 year was held in the Lecture Hall. The menu was a cold plate (turkey, ham, potato salad, cole slaw, corn salad, carrot salad, sliced tomato), with tomato juice, an assortment of pies and tea or coffee. The Rev. Morley Hodder led the devotions and he made it a memorial service to those members of the club who have gone to the great church kitchen in the sky. He read the names of 42 members that he and others contributed to compiling and which are reproduced below. If anyone knows of any person whose name is missing from this list, please let us know.

Ross Adams

Dave Andrews

Walter Auchenlick

Carl Barbour

Lorne Barbour

Bruce Bauld

Bob Bolander

Harold Bradley

Les Bradley

Hal Butler

Bruce Butt

Marston Cameron

Hubert Chafe

Ern Clark

Frank Cramm

Ken Denny

Doug Driscoll

Lloyd Driscoll

Bill Garland

Ralph Janes

Jabez Jones

Austin LeDrew

Auburn Lethbridge

George Montague

Donald Nickerson

Lonz Normore

Herb Noseworthy

Doug Osmond

Billy Ping

Fred Pollett

Clarence Roberts

Ron Roberts

Selby Short

Lester Snelgrove

Graham Snow

Cec Soper

Cyril Stokes

Tom Pomeroy

Robert Taylor

Norman Tiller

Jim Tizzard

Jesse Way

Royden Young

A business meeting followed the meal. Highlights from that meeting include the following. The Men's Club will again this year be donating the proceeds from its Flipper Dinner to a number of local charities and church-related activities. A cheque for \$250.00 will be sent to the Agnes Pratt Chaplaincy Fund, Bridges to Hope, Burry Heights Camp, Emanuel House, the Vera Perlin Society, and VOWR. A donation of \$250.00 will be made to the Gower Mission and Service Fund; one for \$350.00 will go to the Gower Benevolent Fund; and one for \$500.00 will go to the Gower Heritage and Archives Committee for student summer employment.

A major funding commitment approved at this meeting was the purchase and installation of a new audio and projection system for the Lecture Hall. This will cost approximately \$22,000.00, with the Men's Club contributing \$15,000.00 and a private donor contributing \$7,000.00 to cover the audio portion of the project.

Did you know that the Gower United Church Women (UCW):

1. meets regularly on the second Tuesday of each month. They usually meet in the Lecture Hall; however, in March, they met in the common room of a condo building where some of the women live. They billed it as a 'Bring a Friend and Buy' evening, which combined a lovely social time with fundraising. Their fundraising enables them to contribute financially to Gower and also to the wider church. There is an open invitation to anyone who would like to attend a UCW meeting. Come and see what they are about and join in the conversation. There is sure to be a cup of tea as well.
2. holds a church service at the chapel of Tiffany Village on the second Wednesday of each month. They had a communion service during April. June 13 will be the last service before their summer break and they will resume these services in October.
3. that on April 29, three members were able to attend the East District UCW AGM, which was held at Burry Heights.
4. that UCW members are faithful in connecting, either in person or by phone, with those who need to stay close to home.
5. held their Spring Tea and Sale on June 02. Many women of the congregation supported them by bringing baked goods, handmade crafts, serving on tables and helping with cleaning up.

POETRY CORNER

“Daffodils” by William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

*Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.*

*The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:*



*For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.*

Meaning of the Poem

Through the narrator's chance encounter with a field of daffodils by the water, we are presented with the power and beauty of the natural world. It



sounds simple enough, but there are several factors that contribute to this poem's greatness. First, the poem comes at a time when the Western world is industrializing and humanity feels spiritually lonely in the face of an increasingly godless worldview. This feeling is perfectly harnessed by the depiction of wandering through the wilderness “lonely as a cloud” and by the

ending scene of the narrator sadly lying on his couch “in vacant or in pensive mood” and finding happiness in solitude. The daffodils then become more than nature; they become a companion and a source of personal joy. Second, the very simplicity itself of enjoying nature—flowers, trees, the sea, the sky, the mountains etc.—is perfectly manifested by the simplicity of the poem: the four stanzas simply begin with daffodils, describe daffodils, compare daffodils to something else, and end on daffodils, respectively. Any common reader can easily get this poem, as easily as her or she might enjoy a walk around a lake.

Third, Wordsworth has subtly put forward more than just an ode to nature here. Every stanza mentions dancing and the third stanza even calls the daffodils “a show.” At this time in England, one might have paid money to see an opera or other performance of high artistic quality. Here, Wordsworth is putting forward the idea that nature can offer similar joys and even give you “wealth” instead of taking it from you, undoing the idea that beauty is attached to earthly money and social status. This, coupled with the language and topic of the poem, which are both relatively accessible to ordinary people, make for a great poem that demonstrates the all-encompassing and accessible nature of beauty and its associates, truth and bliss. (<http://classicalpoets.org/10-greatest-poems-ever-written/>)



Gower **A**ffirm **U**ppate

A few weeks ago we introduced you to Gower Affirm and the steps we are taking to finalize the process of becoming an “Affirming Ministry” as set out by the United Church of Canada. “The Affirming Ministry program is a justice-seeking organization that strives for full participation for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.” (United Church of Canada). While its focus is on issues of gender identity and sexual orientation, the program seeks to follow a vision of inclusion for all God’s people.



On April 29, 2018, the Gower Affirm committee hosted an education event to revisit the learnings of the Year of Conversation and to determine next steps. To set the stage for the event, the film “Affirming Congregations: Three Stories” was viewed during the time set aside for the sermon. The film tells the stories of three churches that chose to become affirming: Centenary Queen Square United in Saint John, NB, Southminster Steinhauer United in Edmonton, and Trinity United in Vancouver. Each of these congregations is very different but each undertook steps to welcome gay, lesbian and transgender people more openly, becoming changed and revitalized in the process.

About 30 individuals stayed to participate in a luncheon discussion about the film followed by a series of interactive activities including:

- A Bible passages activity that focused on the role and significance of scripture in discussion of issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. Participants explored what they believe about the Bible, what the Bible says about this topic and how it has been interpreted.
- A case studies exercise where participants were asked to consider several scenarios and discuss questions like: If Gower were an affirming ministry what would change? What would stay the same? What are you afraid of in relation to Gower becoming an Affirming Ministry? What are you most hopeful about?
- A Vision Statement Gallery Walk where participants considered vision statements from United Churches across Canada and were asked to comment on: What do you like about this statement? What would you like to change? And, what are the most important things for our vision statement to communicate?



The discussion notes from the meeting will be compiled in a brief report. Stay tuned! If you have any questions, comments, or feedback from the film, please contact a member of the Gower Affirm working group (Gail Wideman, Larry Kelly, Jill Handrigan) or the advisory group (Gola Roberts, Barb Myles, Ken Peters, Florence Sanna, Lorne LeDrew, and Rev. Marion Davis).



Prepared by
Gail Wideman
June 1, 2018

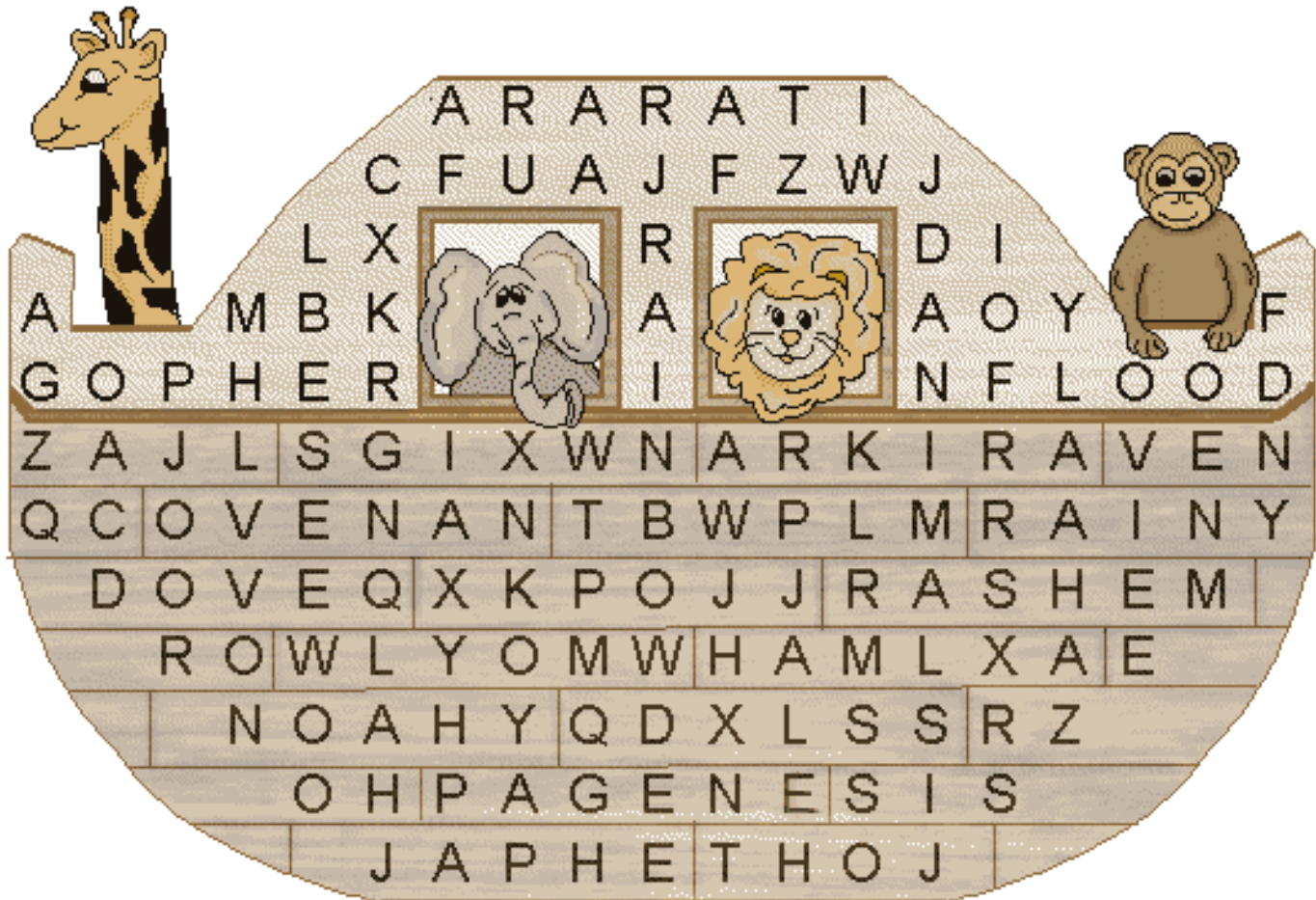
**FOR
THE**

FAMILY!

noah's ark



Noah's Ark



animals
Ararat
ark
covenant
dove

flood
Genesis
gopher
Ham
Japheth

Noah
rain
rainbow
raven
Shem

RIDDLE ME THIS!

What kind of lights did Noah have on the ark? *Flood lights.*
 Why couldn't they play cards on the ark? *Noah was sitting on the deck.*
 Where did Noah keep the bees? *In the ark hives.*



Mark your calendars -
BURRY HEIGHTS DAY

September 15, 2018

A day of fun, food, friendship, and song
Reminisce with old friends - meet new
Enjoy lunch and/or supper (for the first time - this year **Dinner Theatre**)

This year **side-by-side**, the usual silent auction and pantry stalls, delight in the works of the **next generations** of Burry Heights enthusiasts as they offer their wares in the main-hall, Balm and Burry rooms



During supper (dinner) our next generations will not only
✓ Serve your supper they will
✓ Entertain you while you enjoy your meal

Come - invite family and friends to experience the
"SPIRIT" - *shhh! our youth call it MAGIC* of Burry Heights

12:00 -noon - 1:00 P.M.

Lunch - \$5.00 for soup, tea/coffee OR BBQ hot dogs, burgers, beverage

1:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Sale of goods - silent auction - live entertainment
- rent your own table

5:00 P.M.

Dinner Theatre

Dinner (stuffed chicken breast with all the trimmings - \$20.00)

Around **6:00 P.M.** - *after dinner*

Entertainment by our youth and camp fire



Tickets are available, in advance, until September 1, 2018
Email: burryheightsday@gmail.com Tel: 709-754-8824

Come September, we would welcome your support in ways such as these:

- ✓ Donations for the silent auction
- ✓ Donations for our pantry stall (fish, baked goods, preserves - jams, jellies, pickles - as you preserve the goodness of summer consider keeping Burry Heights in mind...)
- ✓ Creations from your sewing room/workshop - Arts - Crafts - whimsical or practical
- ✓ Gifts of time and talents for our talent show - keep those instruments in tune and come September - share your gifts with the Burry Heights family
- ✓ This year - **RENT YOUR OWN TABLE** - to promote your creations

On the 3rd Saturday in September, we look forward to greeting you.

Enjoy a safe joy-filled summer,
Burry Heights Board of Directors burryheights@hotmail.com;
burryheightswebsite@gmail.com; 709- 229-7883



PAR

For Your Information and Thoughtful Consideration

On behalf of Gower Street United Church, 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.