

Gower Street United Church



Advent / Christmas Newsletter 2019

On Our Cover

A section of a panoramic print of Gower Street United Church decorated for Christmas.
Photographer: Ken Butt

You can read more about Kens work in the section titled “Getting To Know You” on page 16.

EDITOR: Linda Hogan



Minister: The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Pastoral Care Minister: The Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray
Youth & Family Ministry: Rebecca Pike
Minister Emerita: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parody

Music Ministry: Dr. D. Dunsmore **Organist:** R. Carl Goulding
Band Director: Ron Collins
Band Director Emeritus: Dr. Edsel Bonnell
Office Manager: Linda Hogan **Custodian:** David Noseworthy
Board Chair: Lorne LeDrew

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NOTICE:

Offering envelopes will be available to be picked up in the church vestibule the second week of December. This might be a good time to think about PAR!



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

The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald

This is always an exciting time of year both at work and home. Yet, as I make my way to and from congregational events, fun with my children's activities, Stella's Circle Inclusion Choir practice and performances, the "reason for the season" can often become lost in the hustle and bustle of things.

Advent and Christmas have always been a time when I endeavor to clear my head and heart of all the fuss and messiness of life and to make room for the hope and peace that come with the birth of the baby Jesus.

At times all the clutter of day-to-day life can be lost in the solitude of Christmas stars, snowflakes falling gently in a clear night sky, the sparkle of the moon upon a glistening pond and the gentle touch of someone's hand and heart. During Advent and Christmas, I want these very things to be birthed again in my life and on the journey I make to Christmas Day with my family and friends, all of you here at Gower, and my friends at Stella's Circle.

There is a quote from the Dr. Seuss movie, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" that is one of my favorite this time of year.

*"Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!
What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store.
What if Christmas.....perhaps.....means a little bit more!"*

The Grinch's very words remind me that it is my family traditions of Christmas that I most look forward to amongst all the hustle and bustle and commercialism that too often is Christmas these days! What are your favorite traditions during this season?

One my most favorite traditions of Christmas and the start of the season for our family is the Annual Shallaway Christmas concert. The song, music and magic in the air that night is quite spectacular. A bonus is that the concert takes place at Gower every year.

Each year my mom always treats Julia, Sophie and I to brunch at the Rooms on the Saturday before Christmas Day. We have pictures taken of us at the Rooms from over the years and we love looking at all the spectacular decorations. Our family has also been attending the Ennis Sisters Christmas Concert for many years. I love the familiar music, excitement in the air and traditional dance that is present at that show.

While studying at AST in Halifax my mom would visit during December and we would spend a few days doing some serious twacking. What fun and laughs we had!! This is one of my beloved Christmas memories and now we often do this in St. Johns a few times in December. While the month of December is quite busy I do love to spend much time at home with my children and watching movies (...yes, I am a devoted fan of the Women's Channel and all those lovey-dovey Christmas shows☺).

I love baking and cooking, cozy pajamas and sitting in front of the warm fireplace with popcorn and hot chocolate and my children; Sophie, Nathan and Julia, my husband Scott and my dog Max gathered around. I love long drives with a hot warm coffee in my hand as I look at the Christmas lights around town. We have family visit our home on Christmas Eve for a bowl of chili and some cake and cookies. I love sitting with them laughing, looking to the future and reminiscing about the past. It is also a tradition in my family for our household to host New Year's Day brunch. I spend time through the season anticipating that day and stirring up recipes and special food to eat.

I especially love to attend Mass at the Basilica on Christmas Eve, when I can. The smell of incense in the air as well as the ornate nature of the sanctuary is one of those reminders of the holiness of this season. And now I look forward to both Christmas Eve services here at Gower; especially the late night Communion Service. It is truly a holy, peaceful, quiet time and enables me to focus on hope, peace, joy and love in my heart and life.

As I go for walks downtown during December and other places around the city I am also acutely reminded that December is an extremely difficult and painful time for so many people. My volunteer work with Stella's Circle continues to remind me of this reality. As well, there are those amongst us for whom Christmas holds the pain of grief, loss and sorrow. Do at least one special something this season to bring joy and love to someone's heart and life. And say hello!, how are you? to the people whom you meet on the streets of our city. We all carry burdens. Every human being despite their circumstance of life deserves compassion, care and above all HOPE.

Whatever your circumstance during this Advent season I invite you to once again read the nativity story.... intentionally with eyes and ears open to God's Spirit of healing, hope and love as you make room for the baby Jesus in your home and your heart.

May you all have a wonderful Advent and Christmas filled with old traditions, new awakenings and many moments of the Holy being rebirthed in your life's journey.

Here's to an abundance of joy, peace, love and many blessings for the New Year ahead!!

Rev. Pamela





FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Open Hearts – Open Minds – Open Arms!

Hi All

Well to say the least it's been quite a year and as we near Christmas I think it a good opportunity for us to reflect back and in particular on two accomplishments that demonstrate how fortunate we are to be where we are at this time. Becoming an Affirming Congregation was a major step in the life at Gower as we find more ways to ensure that we are a meaningful and relevant congregation accepting and inviting all with open minds, open hearts and open arms. The hiring of Rebecca Pike as our Youth and Family Minister has also demonstrated our commitment to the future and the people that will make it be. I hear that the recent Children lead service was a delight to be hold!

I have been out of the loop all Fall as I have been on a sabbatical of sorts and Carolyn Anstey-Moore has been doing a great job taking over the reins. I am truly indebted to her for doing so.

Early after Christmas we will also be looking at the ways we serve our community through an examination of our Outreach programs. We need to step back and determine where the needs are and determining which areas we are able and willing to fill. To start the process we will be holding a session, being facilitated by Tracy Sullivan-Critch, at which we invite members of the congregation as well as members of our community to identify potential areas and initiatives. Stay tuned for more information regarding date and time. By the way I was delighted to see Tony Chadwick step up and take the lead on continuing the Seniors' Club dinners. Thank you Tony!

After a year with our new constitution and the changes to our Board structure we are reviewing it to see what changes may be required to make our governance more effective. If you have any comments please pass them on to any Board Member. Also you may recall we committed to assessing where we are with Vision 2025. To this end Dave Robbins will be undertaking a project to determine how we are doing and will be reporting his findings to the Annual Congregational Meeting.

I trust you have had the opportunity to visit our new webpage and hopefully will make it a regular part of your browsing activity. Ken Butt continues to do a great job of developing and maintaining the site. The Communications Committee is currently preparing a Communications Policy and Procedures to make it clear to everyone how committees and groups can make use of the site for their activities.

I wish to express a special thank you to Rev. Pamela who continues to amaze me with her energy, enthusiasm and ideas. With Rebecca and Rev. Ettie at her side I think we have a winning combination that augurs well for the future of Gower.

Finally as we head into the Advent season I wish you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas season.

Lorne LeDrew

Intergenerational Service

**On November 17th the Youth Group and children lead our worship service!
It was planned by the Youth over their meetings since September.
We explored the communities we are part of and how we can share our faith with those communities.**



**Have you seen a Paint Rock?
These rocks were a project of
the Sunday School during
Stewardship Month!
If you find a hidden rock, reflect
on its message or meaning for
you, then re-hide it in the church
or community or keep it!**



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

“Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!”

— Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*



Dr. Seuss and Christmas both hold very special places in my heart!! As long as I can remember Christmas has been my favorite holiday. As a child it was full of magic and wonder, as an adult I have some years struggled to feel that magic and wonder. I know it is still there, the entire season of Christmas between myself and my parents is kind of a HUGE deal. We have many traditions, as a family unit of three and also with extended relatives. I think though for each of us we have a different favorite. Here's my guess if you were to ask my dad his favorite tradition, he would say that the start of Christmas for him is coming home to a house that smells of Christmas pickles. I think my mother's is Christmas Eve going to church and coming home after to start the meal prep and just

be together. We may not always get along this night, but we are together and that is special. My favorite is decorating our tree, it is massive, it is probably overfull of decorations and although my father will disagree, I believe it needs more lights. To me our tree is our Christmas, I have so many memories of the tree and our family.



Our tree is placed in the centre of our home for Christmas, partially because it is the only place it will fit in the house, but I honestly believe it's because it also holds the most of our memories. I love a lot of our decorations but the Hallmark ornaments that are placed on our tree are the most precious to me. We have so many I could never count them, but we have some that are part of a series and random ones. Each year new ones are found under the tree, and they are truly the gift I look forward to the most. I cannot remember a Christmas where there wasn't a Frosty Friends and Mary's Angel under the tree for me or my sister (in case you are not familiar with it Hallmark has two series of decorations with a new one available each year). We keep all these decorations in the original packages, thus they all have a little box to come out of. It is a tedious task, that I really should help my mom with more when it comes time to put them away. Taking them out though I cannot get a chance to do it fast enough! They will come out and live on the floor for a few days while we slowly get the tree decorated. They held the magic when I was little. My sister and I would come home from school each day and play with them, creating a whole world with them. More often than not, we would act out different Christmas stories from our imaginations or even sometimes the story of Christmas!

These precious afternoons with our little Hallmark family though hold my fondest memories of time spent with my sister. When we were young most afternoons would be filled with fighting over what show to watch but not in the beginning weeks of December. Those weeks the house was full of magic, and every year as I unpacked those little boxes and now as adult I look at each one and welcome it to a new Christmas. That's when I start to feel that magic. The season, as an adult, can often be very busy, hectic and stressful. I know I have often lost sight of the magic but when I think of my family, of our

tree and of the little world it is, I know it is full of magic. A magic that is love, the love of family, the love of God and the love of Jesus.



As the quote I placed at the start of this article from Dr. Seuss says, Christmas isn't about the gifts or the shopping or even really about the Hallmark decorations on the tree, but about the time with the people we love and with God. So, as I wish you all a Merry Christmas season, I want to encourage you to take some time this Christmas to feel the magic of love with those in your life! To slow down and be present with them and know that the time and love is the greatest gift we are ever given by God.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year – Rebecca



Gower Community Band **“Love of Music, Joy of Service”**



Our third Downtown Pops concert presented alongside the Stella's Circle Inclusion Choir on November 24th was a resounding success. The GCB is proud to be a part of Gower Street United's outreach ministry and also to contribute to our collective goal of being a welcoming church to all. It truly is a collaborative effort and we would like to thank our financial sponsors Ev and Marlo Kearley, Reverend Pam for her guidance, the Men's Club for decorating the sanctuary, Ken Peters for welcoming our guests, Dr. Doug Dunsmore and Bradley Lawrence for audio

support, and Linda for her administrative efforts. In attendance in the audience was Dr. Edsel Bonnell, Director Emeritus of the Band who had this to say:

DEAR GCB COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS:

When “Christmas Spirit 2019!” ended with two (2!) standing ovations, Gower friends and others kept coming up to me and asking what I thought. I said simply that I was going to go home and cry for a while. Not in sadness, mind you, but in tears of joy for a magnificent performance and tears of love for the “shout-outs” from MC Heather Barrett to beloved Anthea and me for our happy and willing work in creating and nurturing the Gower Band Program. THANK YOU FOR BOTH!

I'm sure you will hear (or have already heard) from Director Ron and others commending your performance today. That, for me, is putting it mildly. I have often sent notes of commendation starting with "Bravo" and adding "Bravissimo". Tonight I'll begin with "Bravississimo" (if there is such a word, see "fortississimo" FFF) and go up from there! The program was well planned and well-designed, the MC was fabulous, and the "Inclusion Choir" were phenomenal, as I have already indicated to Helen Murphy. I was sitting in the "special needs" pew, and had the best seat in the house for the choir numbers... they were about 10 feet away singing directly at me! Wow! I was really impressed with the initiative of "breaking bread" with the choir during the past week. Bravo. The "Downtown 'Pops' Concerts at Gower is a program that Band and Church can treasure.



Merry Christmas to All!
David Robbins
General Manager GCB



LECTIONARY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER - FEBRUARY

November 3

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 or Isaiah 1:10-18
Psalm 119:137-144 or Psalm 32:1-7
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

November 10 - Remembrance Sunday

Haggai 1:15b-2:9 or Job 19:23-27a
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98 or Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

November 17 - Children's Sunday

Isaiah 65:17-25 or Malachi 4:1-2a
Isaiah 12 or Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

November 24 - Reign of Christ

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Luke 1:68-79 or Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

December 1 - First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

December 15 - Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 15 - Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1–10
 Psalm 146:5–10 or Luke 1:46b–55
 James 5:7–10
 Matthew 11:2–11

December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10–16
 Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19
 Romans 1:1–7
 Matthew 1:18–25

December 24/25 - Christmas Eve/Day

Isaiah 9:2–7
 Psalm 96
 Titus 2:11–14
 Luke 2:1–14, (15–20)

December 29 - First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 63:7–9
 Psalm 148
 Hebrews 2:10–18
 Matthew 2:13–23

January 6 - Celebrate Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1–6
 Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14
 Ephesians 3:1–12
 Matthew 2:1–12

January 12 - Baptism of Jesus

Isaiah 42:1–9
 Psalm 29
 Acts 10:34–43
 Matthew 3:13–17

January 19 - Second after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1–7
 Psalm 40:1–11
 1 Corinthians 1:1–9
 John 1:29–42

January 26 - Third after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1–4
 Psalm 27:1, 4–9
 1 Corinthians 1:10–18
 Matthew 4:12–23

February 2 - Fourth after Epiphany

Micah 6:1–8
 Psalm 15
 1 Corinthians 1:18–31
 Matthew 5:1–12

February 9 - Fifth after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1–9a, (9b–12)
 Psalm 112:1–9, (10)
 1 Corinthians 2:1–12, (13–16)
 Matthew 5:13–20

February 16 - Sixth after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15–20 or Sirach 15:15–20
 Psalm 119:1–8
 1 Corinthians 3:1–9
 Matthew 5:21–37

February 23 - Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12–18
 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
 2 Peter 1:16–21
 Matthew 17:1–9

USHERING FOR DECEMBER 2019, JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2020**December 2019 - Team 1:**

Doug Peters (Captain), Angeline Anstey, Jim Churchill, Chris Moulton, Hazel Milley, Linda Giannou, Lester Barbour

January 2020 - Team 2:

Tom Strong (Captain), Lester Barbour, Bruce Nickerson, Robert Bradley, Judy Strong, Matthew Strong, Chris Moulton, Linda Giannou

February 2020 - Team 3:

Joan & John Lane (Captains), Ethan Luedee, Noah Luedee, Henry Whalen, Fred & Aune Colbourne, Chris Moulton, Linda Giannou, Lester Barbour



**COUNTERS SCHEDULE FOR THE SUNDAYS FROM
DECEMBER 2019 TO FEBRUARY 2020**



Team	Date	Date
1. Kenneth Peters & Linda Nickerson	November 24	January 12
2. Lorne LeDrew & Doug Peters	December 01	January 19
3. Jordan Wright & Mark Peters	December 08	January 26
4. Karen Butt & JoAnna Bennett	December 15	February 2
5. Bruce Nickerson & Peter Nell	December 22	February 9
6. Carl Wright & Lester Barbour	December 29	February 16
7. Albert Spurrell & Richard Pike	January 5	February 23

GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH WOMEN MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES DECEMBER 2019	
DATE	PROGRAM
December 10 7:00 PM	Meeting
December 11 2:30 PM	Lead worship at Tiffany Village
POTTLE CENTRE LUNCHEON – December 12	

GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH MEN'S CLUB DINNER MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES DECEMBER 2019 TO FEBRUARY 2020				
DATE	PROGRAM	DEVOTIONS	MEAL	SET-UP & COOKS
Dec. 3 6:30 PM	Christmas Dinner Program: TBA	NA	Roast Turkey	Executive plus ALL Teams
Jan. 21 6:00 PM	Program: TBA	TBA	TBA	Team 1 (L. Barbour)
Feb. 18 6:00 PM	Invitational Dinner Program: TBA	TBA	Salmon	Executive plus Team 3
Dates to remember:				
Take Out Teas – Mar. 21, 2020		Restaurant outing – June 2, 2020		



BAPTISMS

Rhodie Samuel McLean-Head, child of Rebecca Head & Joanne McLean
Maddie Elizabeth Rose Smith, child of Stephanie & Dylan Smith
Ollie Sadie Violet Clyde Earle-Burke, child of Raelene & Laura Earle-Burke
Felix Douglas Arthur Mercer, child of Sara & Thomas Mercer

CONFIRMANDS

Hayley Collins and Noah Collins - October 6

BIRTHDAYS

Mary King	November 2, 1929 (90)
Viorene Hoyles	November 6, 1925 (94)
Blanche Byrne	November 10, 1925 (94)
Doris Verge	December 26, 1915 (104)
Hubert Mercer	January 4, 1930 (90)
Kwan Song Hong	January 11, 1916 (104)
Morley Hodder	February 13, 1929 (91)

MARRIAGES

Brittany Barrett & Kevin Broderick – October 26

DEATHS

Cyrus Clarke – September 6
Cyril Foley – October 2
Winnifred (Pearl) Dalton – October 20
James John Lucas – October 23
Vernon Roy Simmons – October 25
Gladys Smith – October 30
Lillian Andrews – November 26

WORTH NOTING

Keith Wiseman – We are proud to say that Keith Wise has accepted a call from St. Peter’s Church in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. His ministry begins November 18, 2019



Members of Gower Street United Church will be pleased to learn that two of our friends will soon be appearing separately on the Rogers TV show, Karl Wells Point 2 Point. Karl will interview our Choir Director and Minister of Music, Dr. Douglas Dunsmore, on Tuesday, October 29th at 8 p.m. and our former minister, Rev Guy Matthews, on Tuesday, January 21st at 8 p.m. Dr. Doug will speak about his life in music and Rev. Guy will speak about the profound effect of undergoing a heart transplant. There are three platforms

available for viewing these episodes. If you’re a Rogers subscriber you can view them on TV Channel 9. Otherwise, you can see the programs live on Facebook by going to the Rogers TV St. John’s Facebook page, or, the day after broadcast you can see them on the Rogers TV website by going to the Karl Wells Point 2 Point page and clicking on the episodes. Don’t miss these thoroughly engaging and informative interviews.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

Every Sunday we share the Peace, pray together, have coffee together, generally just chit-chat. Have you ever asked or wondered what sorts of things others do outside of church? Curiosity getting the better of me I decided to ask a few people what their *Hidden Talent* is, what do they like to do? I sent out a request to a handful of people, asking them each the same set of questions. This is what they shared with me, and now you!

DOREEN RICHE

What is your hidden talent?

I do Felting Knitting using a combination of wet and needle felting.

When did you start doing it?

I started doing this for my daughter's craft store about 15 years ago.

Where did you learn it?

I have been knitting since I was a child. The felting process was self-taught.

Do you sell or exhibit it?

I sell only when I get a request, which is usually for slippers. I did one fair about 6 years ago and will be doing another one soon.

Do you have a photo of some of your work?



Yes, these are photos of a Christmas wreath and Nativity set I made. To make the cover for the wreath and bow I felted a wool sweater that belonged to my late sister-in-law, Nancy Riche.



SADIE ELIZABETH MARIE (MARIE-BETH) WRIGHT

What is your hidden talent?

I have written freelance articles and op-eds since the late 60s for newspapers and magazines. I also have 2 books published.

When did you start doing it? Where did you learn it?

English was always my strongest subject in school, and my B.A. major. My interest in writing for magazines etc. is probably linked to my study of history, French business and political science.

Do you sell or exhibit it?

Yes, I write commercially.

Do you have a photo of some of your work?

Photos come from my current book, Saku's Great Newfoundland Adventure, which is for readers 4-14 years old. The other is from a magazine article on Greenspond, Bonavista Bay that appeared in October 2019 issue of Downhome magazine.

Do you want to add anything else?

I spent over 25 years as a volunteer/ Board member with Canadian Parents for French. Bilingualism, both personal and as developed for schools, has been a life-long passion. In addition to singing with Gower Senior Choir, I am a long-time member of the only francophone choir in NL, la Rose des vents!



KEN A BUTT, P. ENG. (RETIRED)

What is your hidden talent?

Photographer specializing in panoramic and 360 degree Virtual Reality productions for digital visual presentation. Web site designer. Active user of Photoshop and related pano/VR development software

When did you start doing it?

1975 for serious photography; 2006 for web design; 2008 for VR design

Where did you learn it?

Self-taught with parental mentoring; On-line courses; Specialized conferences

Do you sell or exhibit it?

Sales and services through direct contact. Exhibits at local craft shows and selected spaces on consignment

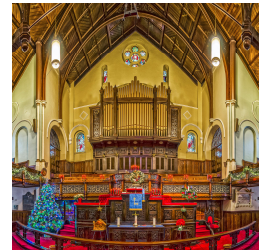
Do you have a photo of some of your work?

View works at www.newfoundlandpanoramas.com and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NL.PANOS/> and on Google Street View eg. at <https://goo.gl/maps/AMCrtZmYBq3jAEgZ8> and on Gower's Web site at <https://gowerunited.com/virtual-tour/>

Do you want to add anything else?

Most work is done in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, but many world panos and VR tours have been produced, as well. Ken and his wife, Karen, both native Newfoundlanders do most travels together. They enjoy exploring and showcasing the beauty that Newfoundland has to offer.

Greatest enjoyment comes with meeting folks in the communities that we visit and Hearing customers' stories about the places we showcase as well as the places we still hope to visit.



LINDA HOGAN

What is your hidden talent?

I am an artisan. I use discarded items to make jewelry, artwork and other functional items.

When did you start doing it?

Creating pieces of art from items that have been discarded has been a passion of mine since I was a child. Instead of restoring or refinishing items, I prefer to repurpose them, leaving a little of the life history of the piece still visible. Some items are utilitarian, others, like the jewelry, appeal to the heart, and still, others are just beautiful to look at.

Where did you learn it?

I am self-taught.

Do you sell or exhibit it?

Yes, I currently sell it from my office at Gower. Primarily because the stained glass used in many of the pieces come from the Rose Window that was original to Gower St. Methodist Church - 1896. It was located at the north end of the sanctuary and was replaced by the current Rose Window in 1992. My daughter decided I should graduate to the 21st century and has designed and manages a website of my jewelry. newlifejewelryandartworks.com



A Labour of Love at Christmas The Story of “The Christmas Prayer Bear”

At the age of 97, Emma Wells is a blessing to us all. A member of the Prayer Shawl Group since its beginning, over 10 years ago, Emma has contributed more prayer shawls and prayer bears than we can count. Last year, Emma brought and idea to the group. She wanted to make Christmas Prayer Bears for people who might need a little reminder of God’s love for them. We were so delighted with Emma’s idea that she set off to make over 100 bears, beautifully finished in bright green, red and white. This Christmas a Prayer Bear will be placed in each Christmas basket for shut-ins and the remainder will be kept at the church office for people in need. Indeed a fabulous example of God’s love amongst us. Thank you Emma!



The following appears on every card attached to each of the bears:



Prayerfully made by EMMA WELLS

GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH

Prayer Shawl Ministry

I am a little Christmas Prayer Bear
and this is what I do
I help remind you of God’s love especially for you
If you need a small hug
or a great big embrace
I will always be here
to put a smile upon your face

If this season brings you sadness,
turmoil or distress
This bear shares the love
that Christmas does express
So when you need a reminder of God’s great love
Hold tight to your bear
and feel the love given from above.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE FALL REPORT

Christmas Greetings

Following a six month hiatus the Stewardship Committee came back together in September to work with Rev. Pamela on the Stewardship Campaign that ran weekly from October 6 thru November 3, 2019. Loving our Neighbors: Season of Gratitude presented an umbrella under which we could profile Stewardship at Gower. Following some discussion as to how to do this, the decision was made to present our Stewardship Committee's working philosophy of the six Best Practices as identified by the United Church of Canada.

Over the next five Sundays, these Best Practices were presented to the congregation from both the pulpit and in a special Sunday Bulletin insert. This included a description and clarification of the Best Practice as well as information on how well Gower was doing with these activities or not. As well, the Finance Committee presented associated financial information to inform the congregation on their givings and how these were being used to operate Gower and all the services provided in this home community of faith.

It's a pleasure to report that while some challenges were identified and we know now where we can do better, it was most informative to find out that overall we are doing rather well with being good Stewards here at Gower. It was also interesting to profile all the ways we demonstrate Stewardship that might not have been realized up to this point. At this point anecdotal feedback has been positive. Thanks to Rev Pamela, Linda Hogan, Ken Butt, Fred Earle and all those who helped us write and present to make this Campaign happen.

We'd invite you to go to the Gower Web Page and check out what was presented on Stewardship here at Gower over the course of this Campaign. You'll find it on the menu under Stewardship. Your feedback to the Committee is very welcome.

Merry Christmas!
Your Stewardship Committee,
JoAnna, Ruth and Cheryl



A New Year of Gifts with Vision



A new year of giving through *Gifts with Vision* has now started! This year, along with our new catalogue, *Gifts with Vision* has a new and improved website showcasing new gifts for our partners in Canada and across the world, along with bringing back some of your favourite projects from previous catalogues.

Gifts with Vision help you lovingly celebrate special occasions and make a difference in the world –with no excessive packaging and no exchanges. Give a memorable and meaningful gift through Gifts with Vision and help change the world!

For more information or place an order go to giftswithvision.ca

PAR

For Your Information and Thoughtful Consideration

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE GOWER BOARD AND STAFF – 2019

Continuing & New Members		Telephone	Email Addresses
<u>CLERGY</u>			
Minister	Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald	753-7286 (o)	revpamela@nl.rogers.com
Pastoral Care minister	Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray	693-3696 (c)	rev.ettie@nl.rogers.com
Minister of Children, Youth and Young Adults	Rebecca Pike	753-7286 ext. 204 (o)	Rebecca.pike@nl.rogers.com
<u>OFFICERS</u>			
Chair	Lorne LeDrew	745-5765 (h) 689-3077 (c)	lorneledrew@hotmail.com
Vice Chair	Carolyn Anstey-Moore	754-6922	carolynansteymoore@nl.rogers.com
Secretary	Ruth Francis	754-0557	rfrancis48@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Fred Earle	738-3333(w) 745-4585 (h)	fred@fredearleca.com
Ministry & Personnel	Daryl Pullman	437-7456 (h)	dpullman@mun.ca
<u>COMMITTEES, GROUPS AND LEADERS</u>			
Property and Finance	Ken Peters	722-3262(h) 631-0041(c)	kenpeters709@gmail.com
a. Finance Chair b. Property c. Rentals d. Fundraising e. Stewardship	Ken Peters Ed Moores JoAnna Bennett	 364-4084(h) 690-0325(c) 689-7125	 ed.moores@eastportproperties.ca joannamabennett@gmail.com
Worship & Ministry	Patrick Griffin	579-8920	patrickgriffin@yourmax.ca
a. Worship & Sacraments Committee b. Pastoral Care c. Outreach d. Religious Education	Gwen Alcock Angeline Anstey Doug Dunsmore Karen Thorne Judi Somers Patrick Griffin	364-1746 576-6360 727-0120 764-6205 579-6299 579-8920	alcock.gwen@gmail.com a.anstey@live.ca dunsmore@mun.ca ktrbthorne@hotmail.com jsomers@warp.nfld.net patrickgriffin@yourmax.ca
Church Groups a. Men's Club b. UCW c. Heritage & Archives d. Communications	Angeline Anstey Peter Nell Karen Tuck James Hiller Lorne LeDrew	576-6360 437-6843 747-3324(h) 488-2709(w) 579-1332 745-5765 (h) 689-3077 (c)	a.anstey@live.ca pnell@nl.rogers.com karen.tuck@easternhealth.ca jhiller@mun.ca lorneledrew@hotmail.com

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



Volunteering at Gower Street United Church
Expression of Interest

Gower Street United Church (and all Churches) is dependent upon its volunteers (members and friends) in order to function as a faith community and in community outreach. This “expression of interest” form will be a huge help in enabling the Board, groups and committees to know who to call upon when the need emerges.

Contact and General Information

Name

Address

Tel. No. ()

Alternate Tel. No. ()

Email Address:

In what ways are you presently involved at Gower Street United?

Your Interest in Volunteering

Below are some specific areas of need. Please put a check mark beside the volunteer need for which you would be available.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Spring UCW Sale

Fall UCW Sale

Server 2 – 4pm

Server 2 – 4pm

Baking (done at home & brought in day of sale)

Baking (done at home & brought in day of sale)

Assist with Sale Table

Assist with Sale Table

Guest Speaker at UCW Monthly Meeting 7-8pm

If Guest Speaker, what is your area of interest/specialty?

GOWER SENIORS' CLUB

Dress the Tables for Evening Meal (2 ½ hours in the morning)

Serve the Tables, 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (invitation to stay for the meal; evening ends at 8:00 p.m.)

Drive Seniors to & from Gower St. United Church (4:30pm & at 8 p.m. – invitation to stay for evening meal)

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Extra people required to Greet on Sunday morning (arrive at least half an hour before worship to welcome people as they arrive for the worship service)	
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HERITAGE AND ARCHIVES

Cataloguing, Research and Document Scanning in Archives (a single person a minimum of 2 hours per week)	
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Interviewing older members of the congregation: (a future task with training provided)	
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Tours of Gower Church (by appointment) – knowledge of church’s history and architecture important	
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GOWER OFFICE

Data Entry – contributions (1 hr per week)		Data Entry – membership rolls etc.(continuous)	
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Data Entry – membership rolls etc.(continuous)			
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Bulletins – proof reading, folding, mailing (2-3 hrs per week)	
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Quarterly Newsletter – production & editing (15 hrs per edition)	
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Quarterly Newsletter – labeling, sorting, inserting, distribution and coordination (15 hrs per edition)	
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In Memoriams & Miscellaneous Donations – logging, acknowledging, receipts (1-2 hrs per week)	
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OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST


From time to time additional needs arise for volunteer action. Please specify any other areas of interest/expertise you have from which you and the Church might benefit:	
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Please submit your completed form to:
 Gail Wideman, Chair, Gower Street United Church Nominations Committee
 99 Queen’s Road, St. John’s, NL A1C 6M6
 or email: gwideman@mun.ca

Your expression of interest will be acknowledged and then forwarded to the appropriate person/committee for further action

December 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Of Advent Parent & Youth Meeting after worship	2	3	4 Gower Community Band	5 Pottle Centre Luchean	6	7
8 White Gift Sunday	9	10	11 4 PM Stella's Circle Alternative Service Gower Community Band	12	13	14 Basket Filling 10 AM
15 Childrens Parent Sunday	16	17	18 Gower Community Band	19 Youth Group 6-8:30 Board Meeting 7 PM	20 Lessons and Carols with Carl Goulding	21
22 Gower Community Band in Worship	23	24 Family Service 4 PM Communion Service 10:30 PM	25 	26	27 Office Closed	28
29 Baptism No Jr. Congregation	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6 Notes					