



## More than just paperwork

Many of you may not know but I passed a milestone at Wesley United in 2020; ten years as Church Treasurer. Wow! And as the saying goes, a lot of water under the bridge. Within that time frame, I retired, became a tour guide, 3 of my 4 children married, my father died, and I was blessed with 3 grandchildren.

My faith too has certainly grown and changed. And today I look to the title “church treasurer” as my spiritual practice. My thinking is so different than it

was 10 years ago. Moments when I sit in the church office are perhaps when I am closest to God. Sometimes, I jokingly say “I’m going to talk with God today” knowing I will be at the church office later and honestly that is close to the truth of it. There is something about that space that lends itself for me to be in the moment. It is not a big space and it is rather bland with frosted windows; however, it balances me as I try to communicate the financial side of church to our beliefs.

I push paper around, pay bills, learn new technology, read about church programs - one such resource I use often is titled “Called to be the Church”, then I push more paper around on-line this time, I think (*which some days can be a dangerous thing*), I challenge myself to stay focused, I read, I talk to my God and someday I may even silently pray.

Seriously though, being treasurer is part of my stewardship at Wesley United and it is very much a big part of my faith journey. This together with you and others (*whom I have had the opportunity to meet on this journey*) have nurtured my spiritual landscape. Faith is a personal thing and not something we express well verbally. *In fact, it is downright hard!* Is faith something that is learned, where does the passion come from, is it something that grows, did someone plant a seed or is it something that fills a need deep from within? How did I get here?

Well, what began as a need at a Board meeting a decade ago has deepened and nourished my spiritual being. Today my spiritual landscape offers me a connectedness to community, accountability to church and God, joy, pride and a deeper sense about myself. I hope I have grown in peace, patience, kindness and gentleness - (*with maybe a few lapses here and there*).

Being a church treasurer does have its highs and lows and challenges however together we share the load strengthening our beliefs in creating a better world - small steps at a time. You see, I am not alone in the church office but surrounded by companionship of community and God. Stewardship is not just a word but given a chance lends itself to a much deeper meaning. For me, this lesson continues.

In closing, I certainly miss seeing many of you, giving you a hug, sharing a coffee and visiting with you. For today, however I wish you a safe and reflective Lenten season.

As always, yours in stewardship,  
Barb



Apologies to Barb for putting a photo of her on – I am sure she is mortified. Each week, I try to put a picture on that relates to the content of the message. All I could envision with this message was Barbs smiling and welcoming face whenever I visit the Church/Office – even in her voice on the phone. Jennie x (*ps I had help finding the photo!*)

## What to Do About Climate Change?

Dare I say that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel on Covid? It seems that perseverance is what's called for now. And so my anxiety shifts from Covid back to climate change, arguably a more dangerous phenomenon...

The scientists warn us that the average annual temperature in New Brunswick will rise by about 5 degrees C by 2080. Goodbye snow. Hello ice. Goodbye birch and spruce and fir. Hello air conditioning, ticks and blue-green algae. Beyond temperature increases, we can expect significantly more rain, coming more and more as violent storms. That means flooding and coastal erosion. And, who knows about impacts on refugees and the food supply...?

I'm a "boomer", and even if I might be able to get out before the worst of it, do I have moral obligation to change my behaviour in an effort to slow climate change for future generations? I'd also like to be a grandfather someday. However, if my daughter-in-law were to ask me about the wisdom of bringing a child into the world, I wouldn't know what to say. All the predictions of the state of the environment in 20 or 50 or 100 years are pretty bleak. Do I care about the kind of world I'll be leaving my children and grandchildren to deal with, and if so, am I willing to work now towards fixing the problems largely made during my generation? Am I willing to take on some inconvenience in the hope of slowing climate change?

A few of us in Charlotte County have been talking about these issues (mostly via Zoom), and we all share feelings of frustration, ignorance and hopelessness. Climate change is such a big problem. What can I do about it? We decided that, even if we can't save the whole world, we might be able to act locally. We liked the idea of focusing on New Brunswick, because we know it, we love it, and we like to think our politicians in Fredericton care about what we think.

So we have formed Climate Action NB. They say that politicians pay attention to letters from voters. That's why, as a first step, we are organising a letter-writing campaign to politicians and media. The more letters we can generate the more likely we will effect change.

It didn't take much to learn that the provincial government has a "Climate Change Action Plan", which has support across the parties, and which lays out 118 action items for the Government to tackle, all related to climate change. A Progress Report has just come out, and the whole Plan is to be revised this year. We all know that governments promise a lot more than they can deliver, and now we know that implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan is way behind schedule. So, our timing for action appears to be excellent, and we are looking for others to join us to encourage the Government to get on with it. Of course, while the Government's Action Plan may be our primary focus, there may be other climate issues that demand our attention, and it would be nice to find others with whom we can share concerns and action.

If you want to do something about climate change in New Brunswick, please join us and contact any of Sharon Hannan, Lance Howard, Bob Johnson, or Joanne Raye. We can put you on the emailing list, send you a link for our next Zoom talk, and invite you to the new Facebook link. We're all trying to tell the NB government that climate change is important, not only for us, but for the generations behind us.

Lance S Howard  
Bocabec - January 2021

**Erin Tweedie** is raising funds for the Oceans of Love Orphanage in the Philippines in memory of her Uncle William who recently passed away. If you wish to help her, please visit the link at  
[gofundme.com/f/oceans-of-love-orphanage](https://gofundme.com/f/oceans-of-love-orphanage)

## Lenten Study Opportunity

Anyone wishing to be part of a **Lenten email study group** [possibly supplemented with Facebook live or Zoom times depending what people would like] please email Jane [jvdoull@gmail.com](mailto:jvdoull@gmail.com).

## **Events:**

Please visit our website for the bulletins for our ZOOM services and our At Home Worship along with any other virtual or in person gatherings <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>

**Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> February**                      **7:00 – 7:30 pm**                      **Jane on Facebook Live**

**Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> February**                      **10 – 11 am**                      **Zoom Coffee Break with Jane**

Please email Wesley and ask for ZOOM link; [wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com)

**Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> February**                      **10 am**                      **ZOOM Sunday Worship**

Please email Wesley and ask for ZOOM link; [wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com)

**Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> February**                      **Home Worship**

A Home Worship service provided as an alternative to In Person Worship [provided by email](#) or please see our website for at Home Worship and other virtual gatherings <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>

**Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March**                      **2 - 4:30 pm**                      **Wild Wisdom**

We will be reading the book, "Coming Back to Life", by Joanne Macy, and reflecting on its themes of enlightened and compassionate environmental activism. Led by Carole Martignacco, the group is a wonderful source of inspiration and support. This is open to all, please email Wesley and ask for ZOOM link; [wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com)

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**                      **7-9 pm**                      **Wesley Board Meeting**

**Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> March**                      **7:00 – 7:30 pm**                      **Jane on Facebook Live**

**Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> March**                      **10 – 11 am**                      **Zoom Coffee Break with Jane**

Please email Wesley and ask for ZOOM link; [wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com)

**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> March**                      **10 am**                      **ZOOM Sunday Worship**

Please email Wesley and ask for ZOOM link; [wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com)

**Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> March**                      **Home Worship**

A Home Worship service provided as an alternative to In Person Worship [provided by email](#) or please see our website for at Home Worship and other virtual gatherings <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>

**Please check our calendar on our website for any upcoming events or changes to events**  
<https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/events/>

**Dedications are most welcome remembering, honouring, celebrating a special person, event or season! Please email [wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com) with your request. Thanks!**

Photos or any other requests to go with dedications – favourite flower or season etc.....

**Please send all announcements to: [WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com](mailto:WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com) State if you wish them to go on the Bulletin, the COOP, Facebook page, Website, or all four! (photos can be placed on all but the bulletin) Thank you!**

**PRAYER REQUESTS: may be given to our Prayer Circle by**

- 1. contacting Barb King [davebarbking@gmail.com](mailto:davebarbking@gmail.com)**
- 2. contacting Sharon Hannan [retired@xplornet.ca](mailto:retired@xplornet.ca) or phone 466-1435**
- 3. by asking any of us from Wesley/St James community to pass on a request**

Sent to you by

Wesley United Church, 77 William St, St Andrews NB E5B1W8 and  
St James Pastoral Charge, 731 Route 745, Oak Hill, NB E5A3C7

**In case of pastoral emergency, contact Rev. Jane Doull**  
**[call 529-3474](tel:529-3474) [text 467-1494](tel:467-1494) [email jvdoull@gmail.com](mailto:jvdoull@gmail.com)**

Any other matters please contact Barb Sheen, Chair of the Worship Committee on 469-4631.

**Office email: [WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com](mailto:WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com) Website: <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca>**

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Wesley-and-St-James-United-St-AndrewsOak-HillScotch-Ridge>**