

## Letter from the President

Hello All,

On Saturday July 29, I joined family and friends to celebrate the life of William K. Campbell at Hillcrest United Church, Montague, PEI. William 'Will' is the son of Rev. Beth Brehaut and Kenneth Campbell and big brother to Laurie. On behalf of the FSLDW Region I extend our heartfelt sympathy to William's family and friends.

Driving home after the funeral I thought about what had just happened. With Spirit's presence, officiant Timothy Wisnicki created a safe welcoming space for William's loved ones to stumble along the valley of death. Those gathered, appeared safe to share their grief - be it through tears, word, song or silence. Timothy reflected on how one of Will's gifts was that he 'showed up' when friends or family were in need. And so, on this very sad day, his friends and family responded. They 'showed up' to offer support and comfort to one another.

It was amazing to witness how, on a hot Saturday, July afternoon, when most people are cooling off under a tree or hanging out at the beach, over twenty choir members showed up to share their gifts and led us in worship. Thank you to music director Anne White and the choir.

This is church at its best. We show up when the world is doing other things, to offer a Holy space to gather. We show up to share ancient words of wisdom that may offer comfort and understanding. We show up for one another. We share each other's joys and sorrows.

Personally, singing hymns in community takes me to a healing place - opening the crack to let Spirit do Spirit's work. For others, my prayer is that the experience of being surrounded in song provides comfort.

It is worth noting that Timothy is a student minister from Quebec in his first year of Supervised Ministry Education, one of the steps toward ordination. Hillcrest United and the Montague Pastoral Charge serves as a learning site. I can only imagine the learnings for Timothy on that Holy Saturday.

Thank you Hillcrest United of opening your doors and hearts to a grieving family. Thank you for serving as a learning site. Thank you Timothy for answering the call.

In peace,  
*Elizabeth*

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