FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

MILESTONES IN MINISTRY CELEBRATION

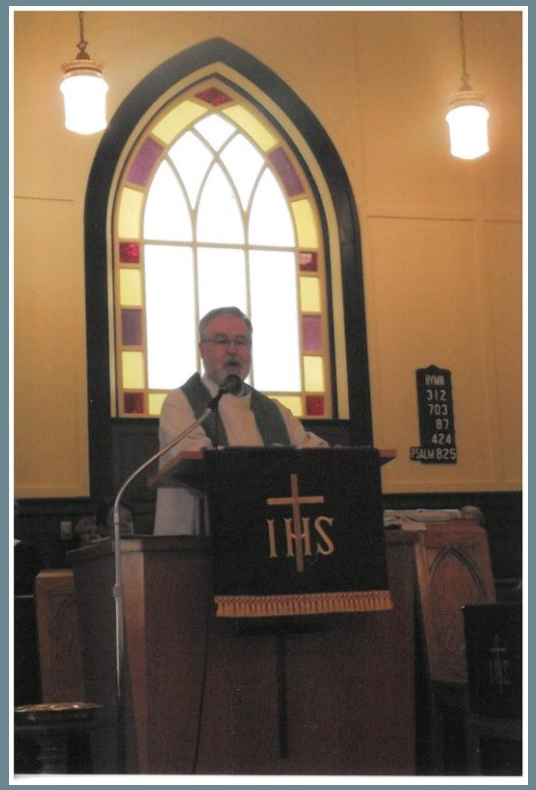
Saturday, June 6, 2026

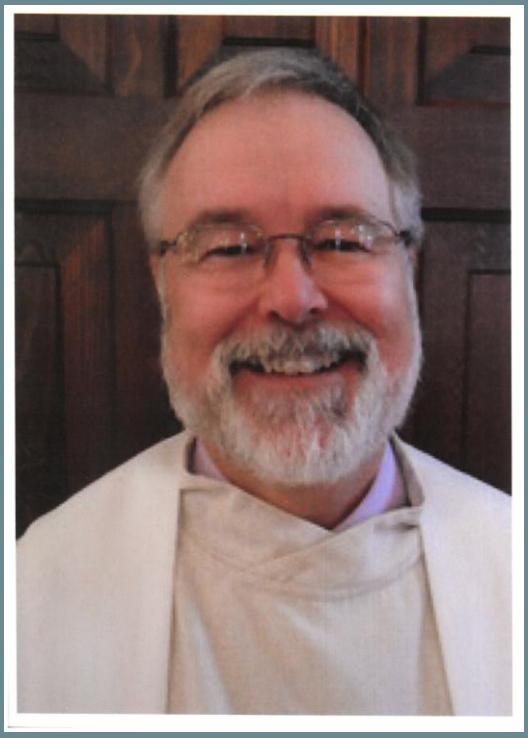
JUBILARIANS

50th Anniversary of Ordination

THE REVEREND
G. ROBERT (BOB) CAMPBELL,
B.A., M.DIV.

Ordained in Sackville NB on May 30, 1976, I began paid accountable ministry in the Plaster Rock/Grand Falls Pastoral Charge. Donna and I were warmly welcomed into the communities of Plaster Rock, Grand Falls, Riley Brook and Grand River. It was here that the faithful folk of the congregations taught me what it meant to be a minister. They were generous; they were kind; they were patient; they were encouraging; and they were understanding. While there, Donna gave birth to our two precious boys. These faithful folk showed me the meaning of Grace, Dedication, Compassion, and Commitment. After five years, we said goodbye to these friends and accepted a call to the Bridgedale Pastoral Charge in Riverview, NB.





Bridgedale Pastoral Charge included the Trinity United congregation in Riverview and the Lower Coverdale United Church in Lower Coverdale. It was a mix of senior members and young families. I have fond memories of children's stories and choir cantatas; memories of potlucks and family weekends at Camp Ta-Wa-Si; memories of Group studies that challenged our discipleship; memories of inspired leadership and dedication to living faithful lives.

While in ministry in Riverview I also became more involved in the work of the larger church (at Presbytery and Conference). After serving in ministry for five years with the people of Bridgedale, PC I accepted a call to serve as Personnel Minister of Maritime Conference.

As we moved to Sackville NB, I began a ministry that would span some 15 years. These were some of my best years in ministry. While the work could be challenging at times, nearly always I was working with others. Often, I was a resource to leaders in Presbytery, assisting with educational programs in support of ministry personnel. resourcing groups like Pastoral Relations committees, the Internship Committee, and the Sexual Abuse committee. This work and some very courageous people required me to stretch and grow and to become committed to an inclusive church, where all are welcome; to grow in my resolve to work for justice, and to embody love as the disciple's imperative.

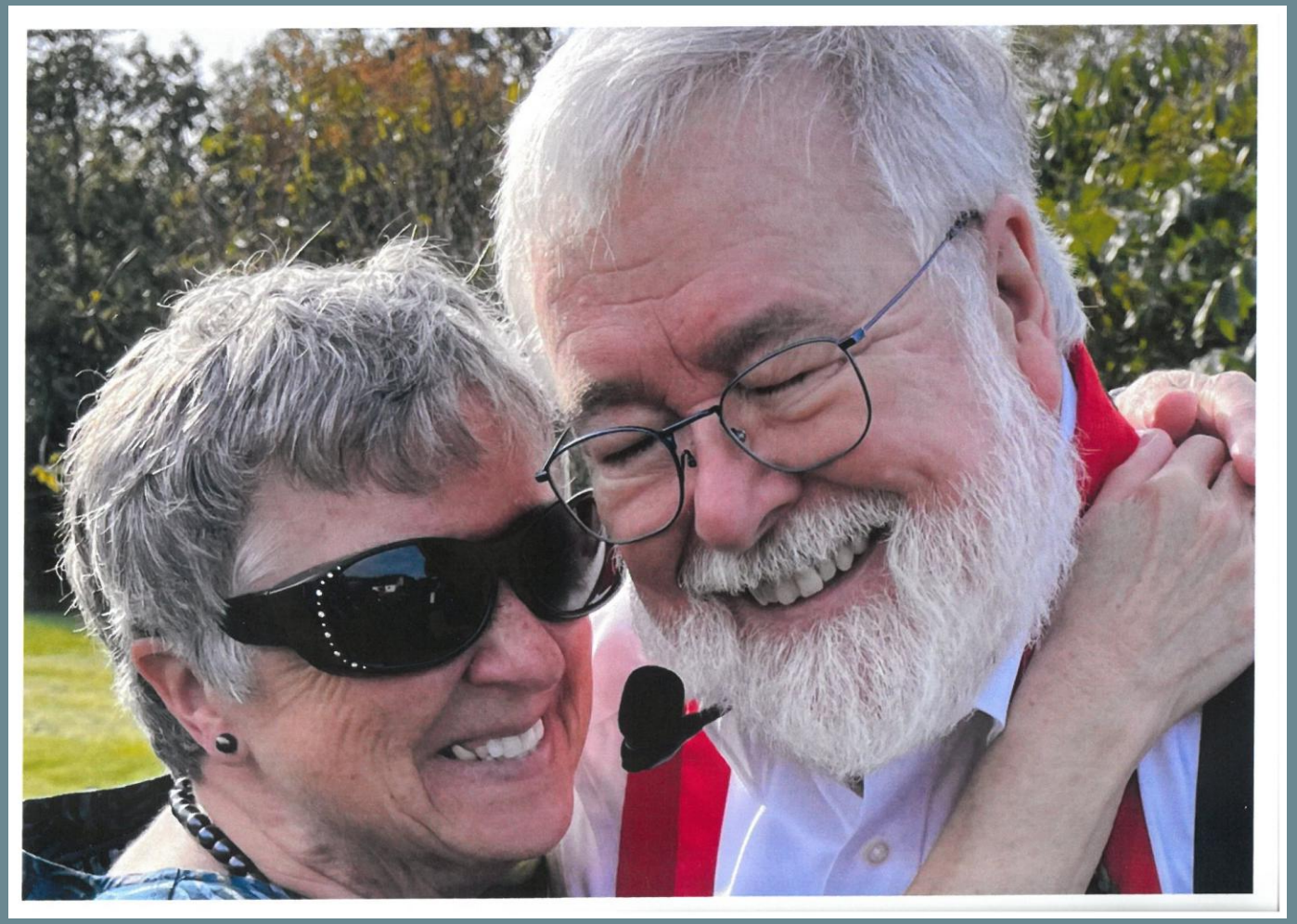
After 15 years in this ministry, I was called to Saskatchewan Conference as Executive Secretary. I understood this to be an appointment for three or four years to assist the conference in dealing with some areas of conflict. Donna and I took this as this as an opportunity for a midlife adventure. As it turned out, Donna and I were seven years in Saskatchewan. During these years I came to experience the rich diversity of the United Church of Canada. While there, I was able to: assist the conference in planning and prioritizing the work of the conference; to coordinate the staff of six program and support staff: to assist the General Council to engage congregations and the membership in the many facets of the Ministry of United Churches Canada. I was so privileged to get to know and learn-from and work-with some of the most dedicated, inspirational, and humble leaders in the church. But the time came when it was important for Donna and I to return to our roots in the Maritimes.

In 2008, I was contacted by the Petitcodiac Pastoral Charge and invited to accept a call to that congregation. This was truly a call to come “home”. As a young boy, from the ages of 8 to 16, I spent the summers in Petitcodiac. As I was growing up, this was my second Church home. My maternal grandmother lived in Petitcodiac and as she grew more elderly my aunt Mary and uncle Don moved in with her to help care for her. Uncle Don was a schoolteacher. One of his loves was gardening. Another of his loves was fly fishing. So we struck a deal: “if I helped him in the garden for a couple of days, he would take me fishing for a day." I couldn't pass it up. Aunt Mary and Uncle Don were very active in the United Church. He was envelope steward, chair of trustees, etc. As a result, I knew many of the people in the congregation from my teenage years. I regard it as an enormous privilege to be able to share ministry with those folk and in some small way give back some of the care they showered on me as a boy.

While it wasn't part of the plan, after only three years I took early retirement due to significant developments in my Parkinson's disease. It was with huge regret that we said goodbye to the good folk in Petitcodiac and retired in Riverview NB.

This is a privilege to look back on 50 years since ordination. I believe I may have overstepped my bounds and rambled on. The guidelines given the Jubilarians were to write a brief biography of 2 to 4 paragraphs. My apologies for exceeding those limits.

However, now living in Sackville NB, I need to share the other half of the story. You see, it all started here in Sackville. While attending Mount Allison I met a beautiful young teacher who was sharing an apartment with three other new teachers living in Sackville while teaching in Port Elgin. Her name is Donna and she has been the love of my life. We were married in the Mt A chapel as we left for AST. We were together as I was settled to Plaster Rock, in the middle of the woods, in the middle of the province. Donna gave birth to our two boys, Adam and Ian. From Plaster Rock, to Riverview, to Sackville, Donna has been my constant companion, my inspiration and my love. With our boys involved in masters level education, we left Sackville for Regina. For Donna, it meant leaving behind family and friends and her teaching. It was a whole new chapter in our life and she was amazing. In the 50 years since ordination Donna has been my best gift in ministry. It's been a wonderful journey. And we have been filled with Grace, getting to know the wonderful partners who have shared the road.



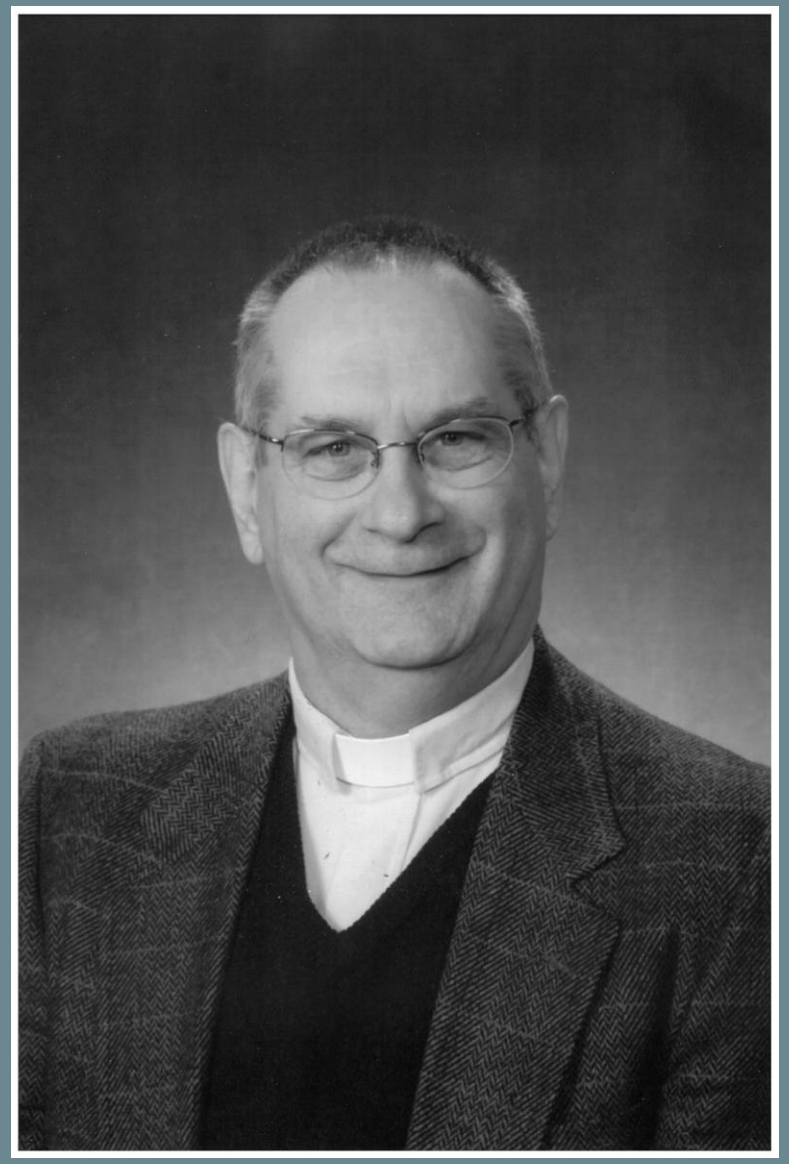
50th Anniversary of Ordination

THE REVEREND
ROBERT JOHNSON, B.A., M.DIV.

Forty-one years of active ministry saw me serve eight congregations in Nova Scotia and four in New Brunswick, first with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and then with The United Church of Canada. Journeying with people through the ups and downs of life was both the tremendous privilege of my life and the exhausting burden that led, in part, to my decision to retire in 2010.

It was an honour to serve a term as President of Maritime Conference and to do so as an openly-gay, settled minister. A truly enjoyable aspect of my later ministry involved the supervision of ministry students. It was both one of the most rewarding and most challenging aspects of being in ministry. I am tremendously indebted to the men and women with whom I shared the journey of ministry preparation.

Travelling, health and aging issues, gardening, and being able to choose when I want to be more active as an ordered minister have been aspects of my retirement years. The decision to remain inactive with the regional church has been a blessing. It is a joy, and a concern, to watch others doing that work and making those decisions.



50th Anniversary of Ordination

THE REVEREND
BLAIR E.H. LEWIS, B.A., M.DIV.

Following my graduation and ordination, I was accepted into the Post Baccalaureate Diploma in the practice of ministry program. After that year of study, I was settled by the Maritime Conference Settlement Committee on the Cavendish Breadalbane Pastoral Charge. I then accepted a call to the Maritime Conference chaplaincy ministry in the Halifax hospitals where I served as a hospital chaplain for the United Church for 11 years.

I went on to do studies at the Interfaith Healthcare Ministries in Providence, Rhode Island as part of my one year of study requirements for Specialist Certification with the Canadian Association for Pastoral, Practice and Education. In 1990 I became Coordinator of Pastoral Care at the Camp Hill Medical Center, which was followed by my transition to becoming a Staff chaplain at Capital Health in Halifax. I served in the provincial chaplaincy ministry for 19 years. At this point in my ministry, I accepted a call to the Bathurst Pastoral Charge where I served in the ministry position for nine years.

During my years of ministry, I have volunteered as co-chair Pastoral Relations for Halifax Presbytery, Chair of Pastoral Relations for Miramichi Presbytery, member of the Nominating Committee for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and as an educational and a pastoral charge supervisor. I have served as a volunteer leader with Scouts Canada, and as a Therapy Dog handler with St. John Ambulance Therapy dog program. Following my retirement, I served as a member of the Credentialing Committee for the General Council of the United Church for six years. I am presently serving as a Royal Canadian Legion Chaplain.

Ruth and I have four adult children and one grandson. Ruth has provided me with ongoing valuable support for my ministry, and we are currently living in Bathurst.

50th Anniversary of Ordination

THE REVEREND
KEITH LYONS, B.A., M.DIV.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY!

50th Anniversary of Ordination

THE REVEREND
MURRAY MCFARLANE,
B.TH, B.A., DIP.MIN.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY!

55th Anniversary of Ordination

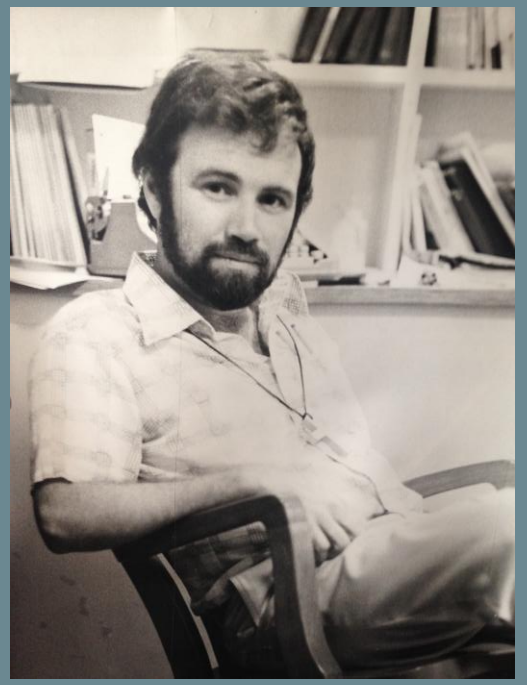
THE REVEREND
ROBERT LOCKHART,
B.A., B.D., M.A., M.TH.

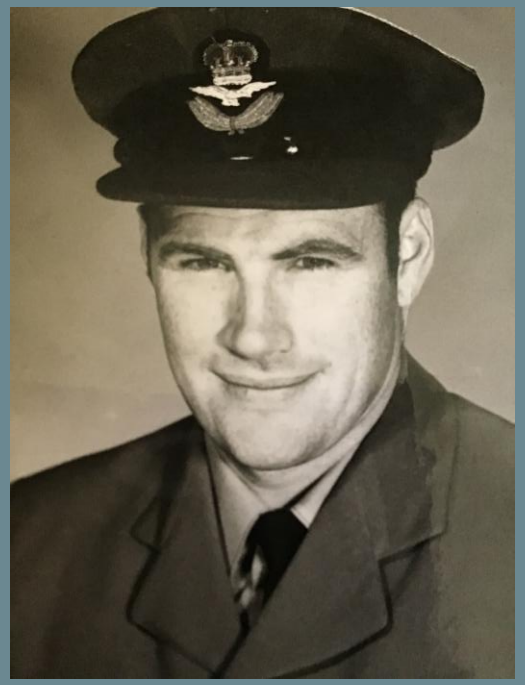
Recognized as a candidate for ministry from West Devon United Church, O'Leary Pastoral Charge by PEI Presbytery in Sept. 1964.

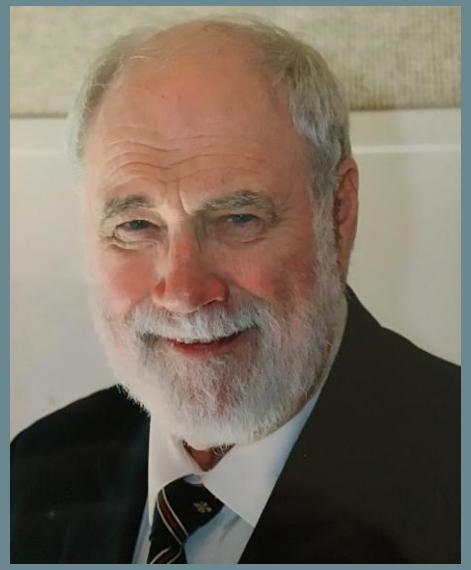
Ordained to further study by Maritime Conference in 1971 with a B.A. from Mount Allison and a B.D. from McGill/United Theological College.

In 1972 received an M.A. in Christian Education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond Va. and a M.Th. from the Atlantic School of Theology in 1992.

Served as a student chaplain with the Royal Canadian Air Force 1966-68; and student minister at Windsor- Vaughan, N.S. (1969) and St Columba House, Montreal (1970).







Served as ordained minister with at Glebe St James, Ottawa 1974-77; Executive Director of Iona College and Chaplain to the University of Windsor 1977-82, Conference Officer with Montreal and Ottawa Conference 1984-92, Rideau Park United Church 1992-99, Trinity United Church, Charlottetown 1999-2006.

Since retiring in 2006, I have served as a consultant and transitional minister to a number of Pastoral Charges across the country.

My enduring passions in ministry has been Christian Education (Biblical Studies and Ethics), Pastoral Care, Congregational Development, and the development of candidates for ministry.

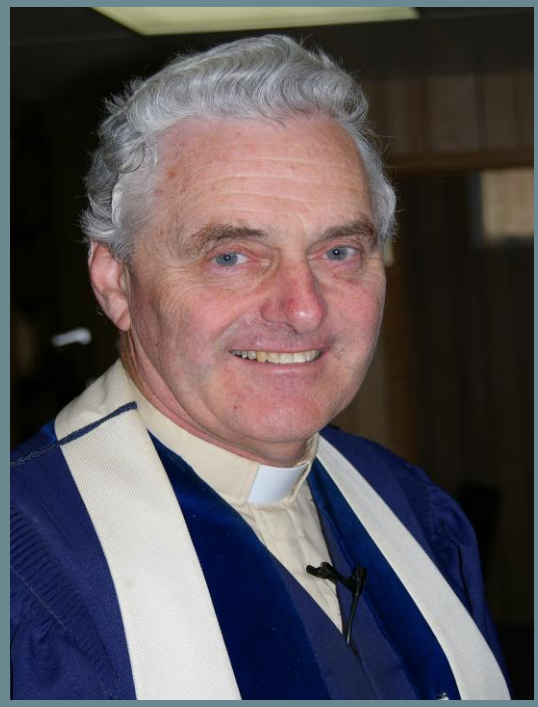
55th Anniversary of Ordination

THE REVEREND
JACK SPENCER, B.A., M.DIV.

I was ordained by Maritime Conference in 1971 and settled on the Souris -Bay Fortune Pastoral Charge in PEI Presbytery. Our two sons Jeff & Stephen were born during our time there. In 1979 I accepted a call to the Kensington Pastoral Charge and remained there until my retirement in 2012. My wife Donna and I continue to live in Kensington and participate in the life of the Kensington Congregation where I serve as Minister Emeritus.

Beyond the pastoral charge I have served as Chairperson of PEI Presbytery and President of Maritime Conference. I have served two terms on the General Council Executive, two Terms on the General Council MEPS Permanent Committee and one term on the United Church Pension Board.

I served a total of 12 years as Secretary and have chaired many Presbytery & Conference Committees.



65th Anniversary of Ordination

THE REVEREND
DAVID HAMILTON, B.A., M.DIV.

Rev. David Hamilton
Celebrating 65 Years of Ministry
1961-2026

David Hamilton grew up in Campbellton, N.B. His formal education took place at Campbellton High School, Mount Allison University and Pine Hill Divinity Hall. Through the years he completed three units of Clinical Pastoral Education which has been most beneficial in self-understanding and in development as a Pastor. He fondly looks back on his experiences in three summer mission fields in Saskatchewan; Neidpath-Burnham (east Swift Current), Foote Copeland (in the Dafoe Wynward area) and Kingsland Rowena (near Rosetown).

During his Pine Hill days he served as the last of the boys' Work Secretaries of the Maritime Religious Education Council doing youth leadership in the Maritime conference and within the Atlantic Baptist Convention. Summers were busy staffing and directing boys' camps and through the school year, weekends were taken up with Boys' Conferences and Model Parliament.

Following ordination, 38 years were devoted to five pastoral charges: O'Leary, Bloomfield, the Brae and West Devon, PEI; First United, Trenton NS; Spring Park, Charlottetown, PEI; Portland United, Saint John NB; and twelve years at Trinity United, Summerside PEI.

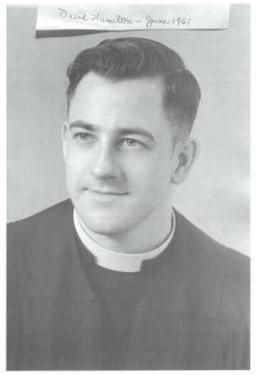
In retirement, a year was enjoyed as Minister of visitation for Trinity United, Charlottetown, followed by three years on the Cavendish-Breadalbane PC as well as six years chairing the Board for Camp Abegweit.

I look back with a chuckle to my first day in my first Pastoral Church. It was a very hot day, so I decked out in a clerical collar vest and suit coat, but not shirt. Wanting to make a good impression, I headed to the Hospital to make some visits. All went well until I reached the last room. There my vest came loose and hit my knees. There I stook clerical collar and bare chest. Thereafter whenever I met Flossie Hunter, she would chuckle and I would blush. The first of many chuckles along the way of Ministry.

David was married to the late Diane Hiscott, Trenton NS. They have two children, Lori, married to the late Mike McKendry of Ottawa, and Scott, working in Fort McMurray, Alberta. The Hamiltons have two grown grandchildren, Coady and Tyker McKendry, of whom they are very proud.

The Highlight in my Ministry was finding my wife, who through the years has been my helpmate and best friend.

While serving in my second pastorate in Trenton, I happened to look up during the Pastoral Prayer (used to be called, The Long Prayer) and near the back sat this lovely young lady in a fur coat. While my lips continued to say "Our Father, which art in heaven", my mind was thinking "Ooh lala". That week we had our first date to a Christmas Eve candlelight service and eight months later we were married and the years blessed with a beautiful daughter and loving son.

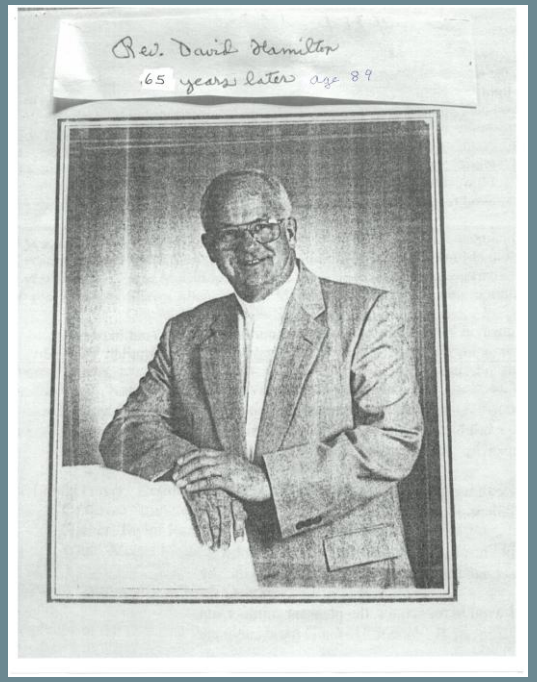


1961 - age 24

My big regret is that through the years of ministry, they have too often taken second place to the calls and demands of congregations. If I were to live my years over, I would hope that there would be more balance and their needs considered more.

Regretfully for her last five years, Diane had Alzheimer's disease, she died on March 7, 2025, leaving us with sadness, but also with so many happy memories.

Diane, Lori and Scott have been such a blessing over the years, where would I be without them.



65th Anniversary of Ordination

THE REVEREND
IAN MACLEAN, B.A.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY!

70th Anniversary of Ordination

THE REVEREND DR.
DOUGLAS MACEACHERN
B.A., M.DIV., LL.D.

Doug MacEachern, known to many of his day, and since, as "Stretch", grew up in Trenton, NS, graduated from High School there, Mount Allison University, and Pine Hill Divinity Hall. Having served on student fields in Saskatchewan and NS, he was ordained in June 1956.

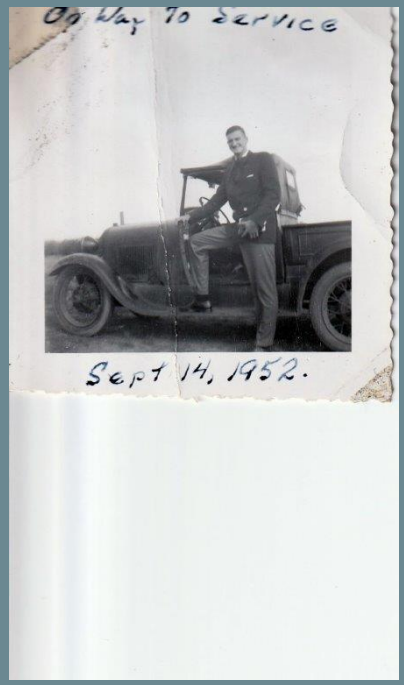
70 years in ministry took him to Pastorates in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. -- Rawdon, Hants Co., Hopewell, Pictou Co. and Brunswick Street in Truro, St. John's United in Moncton, from where he retired in 1995, and now serves as Minister Emeritus. In addition to these ministries, he served as Chaplain, Dean of Students, and Associate Professor of Sociology at the (then) Nova Scotia Agricultural College. now Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University.

Ministry for Doug has been both fulfilling and rewarding. Among many activities he was honoured to serve as President of Maritime Conference 1984-85 and humbled to receive an honorary Doctor of Laws from Mount Allison in 1994, "for service to Church, Community, and University/College". He was also recognized as the first person to receive a Distinction Service award from the Atlantic Association of College and University Student Services.

Looking back on 70 years, Doug would say that "life has been good!" Many people from different paths of life have made it worthwhile, and despite many changes we still sing "A Mighty Fortress is our God."

In September of 2021, Doug and June moved to Royal Court in Riverview, independent living, a Shannex facility. After hospitalization in 2025 Doug moved into Monarch Hall, long term care on the same campus.

Doug and June are the parents of three and grandparents of five. Recently two great grandsons have been added to the family.



RETIREES

THE REVEREND
DAVID ATWOOD, M.DIV.

I entered ministry in The United Church of Canada as a second career, a calling I had felt persistently for many years. In 2016, Margaret and I moved to Canada so I could complete my Master of Divinity, trusting that this long-held sense of vocation was leading somewhere new.

In 2018, I found myself on a committee exploring what might charitably be called an ambitious idea, holding the Annual Maritime Conference on a cruise ship en route to Bermuda. It may have seemed improbable, but the best things often begin that way. Through that committee I met Sheila Gallant, and what emerged from that connection was an invitation to apply for a call to York–Covehead Pastoral Charge in Prince Edward Island. I accepted it with gratitude. Coming from our island home in Bermuda, Margaret and I quickly felt that PEI was a good fit. The rhythm of island life, the closeness of community, and the deep care people show for one another felt both familiar and like coming home.

One of our dearest friends, the late Rev. Bob Mills, often spoke about what a privilege it is to serve in ministry. I have thought of his words many times over these eight years, because they have proven true in ways I could not have anticipated. I have valued this four-point pastoral charge for both its unity and its diversity, and above all for the sacred trust of walking with people through the best and the hardest moments of their lives. Ministry has been, at times, the most difficult work I have ever loved, and I mean that as the highest praise I know how to give it.

I am so grateful to the people of York, Stanhope, St. James, and Central United for walking this journey together. And I am profoundly grateful to Margaret, whose support, insight, and presence made this ministry possible in ways that can't be easily counted. Those shared moments of joy, grief, hope, and faith, with the people of our faith community are something I will always carry with me.

As we relocate to the UK, we do so with full hearts, deep gratitude, and many fond memories that will remain an important and cherished part of our story.

288
366
508

THE REVEREND
GREG DAVIS
C.D., B.A., M.ED., M.DIV

DAVIS
NAVY
MARINE
CANADA

Greg completed a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Prince Edward Island and a Master of Divinity at the Atlantic School of Theology. He was ordained in 1993 by the Newfoundland Conference. Over the course of his ministry, he has served the Green Harbour Pastoral Charge in Newfoundland; Saint Andrew's Pastoral Charge in Vernon River, Prince Edward Island; Spring Park United Church and Trinity -Clifton Pastoral Charge in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; and the Hunter River Pastoral Charge in Hunter River, Prince Edward Island. Throughout his career, Greg has also contributed to the wider church through service on a variety of regional and presbytery committees.

In 1994, Greg joined the Naval Reserve (Chaplaincy), where he served in several administrative roles and as Chaplain to HMCS QUEEN CHARLOTTE. In addition to his military chaplaincy, he also served as a chaplain at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, providing spiritual care within the broader community. Greg looks forward to retiring—"to something ..."- on April 30, 2026.

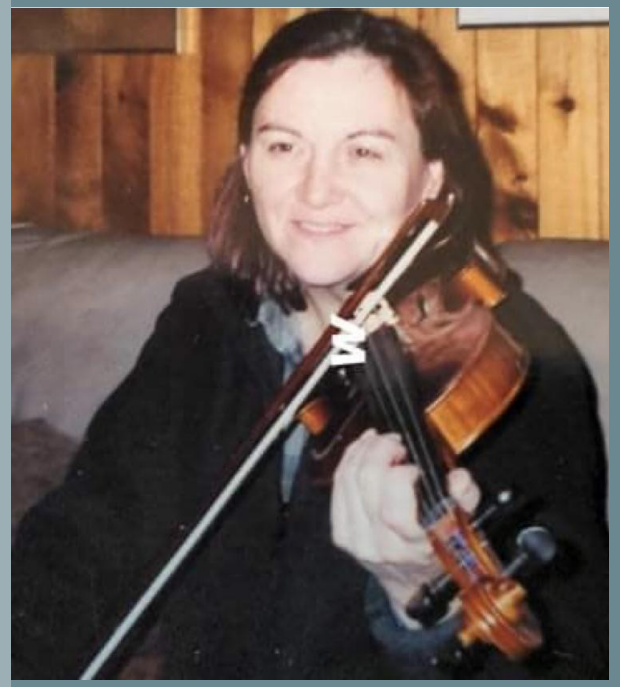
THE REVEREND
CLAUDIA K. KELLER,
M.DIV., M.TH.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY!

THE REVEREND
MARY TINGLEY, B.A., M.DIV.

For myself, Ministry has always represented diversity in people, place and context. There have been many good fits among a couple of not-so-good ones, but I have cherished being along side creative open communities be it through time with youth or through pastoral care with our elders. Following the Spirit has taken me through many charges and my heart celebrates each unique people and place.

Encouraging folks to follow their faith passion and trust what the Divine is encouraging them to move through, or grow within, is a common theme in my faith work experience. I have loved sharing Spiritual practices within a passion for faith learning and preaching. Sharing our stories within our central faith stories has been a nurturing marker.



What I have shared in ministry holds little resemblance to the deep privilege I have had in the lives of many good folks. I am grateful and in hope, I will continue to be a hopeful learner of Divine love.

STAFF ANNIVERSARY

15th Anniversary of Service

SARAH WALLACE
ARCHIVIST

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY

FUNDY ST. LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL