

**BERMUDA-NOVA SCOTIA
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**MILESTONES IN MINISTRY
CELEBRATION**

Saturday, May 30, 2026

JUBILARIANS

THE REVEREND
JEFFRO BURSEY, B.A., M.DIV.

50th Anniversary of Ordination

Thank you for your Ministry!

**THE REVEREND
DONALD MACPHERSON, B.SC., M.DIV.**

50th Anniversary of Ordination

Thank you for your Ministry!

THE REVEREND
R. DIANE MACVICAR, B.A., M.DIV.

60th Anniversary of Ordination

Sunset, sunrise, sunset, swiftly pass the days...” and suddenly a young woman, who found herself on the threshold of walking forward into the fulfillment of her calling since childhood, finds herself looking back at six decades!

My ministry has been enriched, enlarged and encouraged by all those who shared ministry with me. It has been sprinkled with laughter and salted with humour. I have always considered myself a ministerial GP: my love and comfort zone has encompassed the wonder of infants, the curiosity and exuberance of children, the challenging and questioning mode of teens. One of my greatest challenges and delights is to have shared faith exploration groups with adults as they were struck with new and exciting “Ah Ha” moments of faith. And to share a multitude of journeys together until we shared the privilege of travelling through the valley of the shadow of death. Our welcome presence and participation in all these journeys and life events have not so much to do with us as individuals, but rather who we represent.

I feel privileged to have been entrusted with ministry during some of the most divisive and hurtful times of challenge and change in the life of our church. During the 60's and 70's, many of our growing number of women in ministry were finding it an uphill journey to have their ministry received, celebrated and valued on an equal basis with their male counterparts. Periodically, the church struggled with the lively word of God in a different and difficult time, understanding and interpreting eternal truth in an ever-changing world. Inclusive language presented a major stumbling block for many.



During the 70's and 80's, harsh and hurtful times, saw persons of many, and no, faith communities learn, grow, and share together in realities of gender identity, diversity and equality. We continue to grow and heal, to be and to become the whole people of God...each of us, and all of us, in every aspect of the Church's life.

60 years!! What would I rather have done with my life? NOTHING!...but the privilege to be called and enabled to answer this Call to the best of my ability in the faithfulness of Gods' presence.



THE REVEREND DR.
NORMAN MARPLE,
B.A., M. DIV, M.TH, D.MIN.

60th Anniversary of Ordination

I extend my gratitude to our Region of the United Church of Canada for the recognition of my 60 year milestone in ministry. I believe that we owe much to our denomination and its support of colleges for our theological training and support through the years. I so appreciate their introduction and promotion of progressive and inspiring theological thinkers, past and present. It is uplifting to belong to a Christian denomination that risks dealing with complex, controversial issues. I receive hope knowing that our United church, through its General Council, is presently offering guidance to the church at large facing changing demographics, dwindling numbers, as well as fostering ways for greater relevancy within community and the world.

Ministry continues for Joan and I, however in a limited way but nevertheless important and meaningful. Due to health issues, Joan and I find it necessary to participate in weekly Online Church. While we miss the “in house” worship experiences, our loyalties and financial support remain with Trinity United, New Glasgow, NS. Living in a large apartment complex, there is always time to engage in active listening and discussion of faith issues.

At some point, Joan and I decided to branch out and join other United churches for Online worship on particular Sundays. As it is said, “variety is the spice of life!” It is heartening to observe different roles carried out by lay persons; to be moved by the enhancement of the worship experience by talented musicians as well as presentations of secular music with lyrics in keeping with the worship theme; listening to clergy expound on chosen scripture, offering reflection out of their reading, personal travels and life experiences while making connection with scripture and present day. It is always good news to hear about the various forms of outreach carried out in their communities.

We live in troubling times. Such worshipful experiences, conducted by talented and sincere individuals give us hope. Knowing that many churches are involved in outreach ministries is reassuring and in keeping with the words of our creed, “to love and serve others”.

THE REVEREND
NEIL F. MACDONALD,
B.A., B.D., TH.M.

65th Anniversary of Ordination

Thank you for your Ministry!

**THE REVEREND
DONALD F. MURRAY, B.A., B.D., TH.M.**

70th Anniversary of Ordination

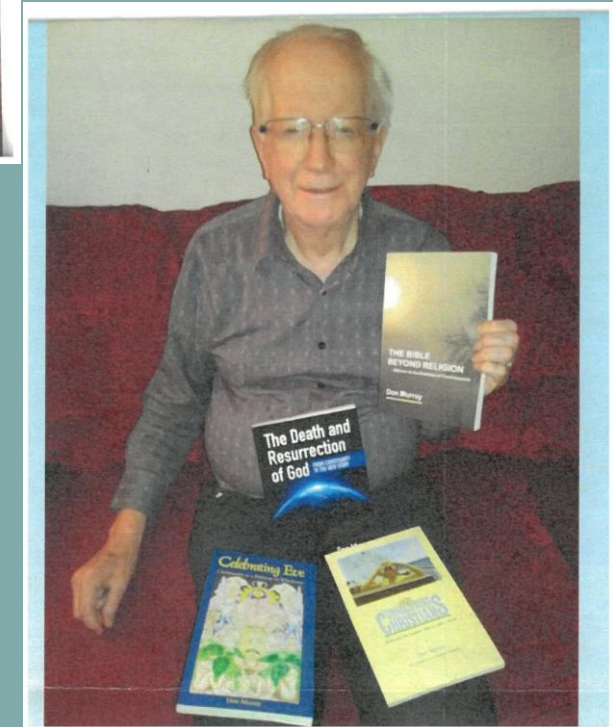
B.A., M.Div., M.Th.; further training in Transactional Analysis, Education Design, Group Dynamics, The School of Sacred Psychology (Jean Houston's "Mystery School"), Jungian Psychology.

Minister, educator, workshop facilitator and author, enjoying life with his partner Emily Kierstead, in Truro, Nova Scotia.

Now retired, he has served pastorates in the Maritimes for 32 years and as Program director and then Executive Director of Tatamagouche Education and Spirituality Centre for 8 years.



Having awakened to “the-death-of-God” in the early 1960’s, Don has been an avid searcher. He has authored four books, For Unbelieving Christians (1987), Celebrating Eve, (2001), The Death and Resurrection of God: From Christianity to the New Story (2014), and now the bible Beyond Religion: Witness to the Evolution of Consciousness.



With Emily he enjoys their families, eight children (two deceased) and eleven grandchildren, along with fiddle playing, singing, and a passion for the emerging Universe Story.

My success was getting the people into leadership who knew what they were doing.

In retirement the joy was supplying many places and doing workshops with Emily, my second wife and soul partner.

My legacy is five wonderful offspring and four books.



**THE REVEREND
EDWARD P. THOMPSON, M.A., B.D.**

75th Anniversary of Ordination

Thank you for your Ministry!

RETIREES

**THE REVEREND DR.
I. ROSS BARTLETT,
B.A., M.DIV., M.A., TH.D., D.MIN.**

Ross Bartlett received his early university education and training for ministry at Queen's University (Kingston, ON) and St. Andrew's, Scotland (B.A., M.Div., M.A.). He began serving congregations as student supply, a leadership journey that lasted for thirty-eight years in seven rural, urban core, and suburban congregations in Ontario and Nova Scotia. As a minister, he was known as a strong preacher, a caring counselor, and a committed educator.

When the church turned to him, he responded by serving at all levels of the church. Nationally, he was a member of the Theology and Faith Committee, co-chaired the Liturgy and Music Committee, served on the General Council Executive, and as a commissioner to nine General Councils. Closer to home he served a variety of roles including President of Maritime Conference, chair of two Presbyteries (Kingston and Halifax), as well as a number of other committees and task groups.

Teaching and learning have always drawn Ross, leading him to doctoral degrees in history (Th.D., Toronto) and ministry (D.Min., Princeton) and to an involvement in theological education for ministry candidates and lay people since the mid-1990s. Beginning at Queen's and continuing with AST in 2001, he has regularly been a sessional lecturer and workshop leader in a variety of settings. He also taught through his writing which includes a number of published articles on a variety of subjects and six books.



Education became the primary focus of his ministry when he was appointed United Church Formation Director at AST in 2018, the position from which he retires this summer. He calls that his “dream job” as it draws on many different skills and knowledge of the church and ministry gained over four decades of service and involves him regularly with individuals on an exciting path of faith and growth.

Throughout his time in ministry the loving support of his family has been crucial and being invited into significant moments in peoples’ lives a tremendous privilege and blessing.



**THE REVEREND
ALEX CONSTABLE, B.A., M.DIV.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY!

**THE REVEREND
PHILLIP KENNEDY, B.A., M.A., M.DIV.**

I had my first experience in paid ministry as a student 52 years ago and have been ordained for 41 years. How does one sum all that up in a few paragraphs? I was settled in Eastern Guysborough PC, followed by Marysville-Penniac (Fredericton), St. Andrews, Calgary, and then, Harvey Station, NB. I then spent 6 years at UTC in Montreal as the Director of Lay and Continuing Education, 12 years at Woodlawn United in Dartmouth and lastly Old Barns and Hilden united in the Truro area for the last 5 years. I encountered faithful and loving people in all these places. I love my parishioners, my family and friends and colleagues.



Through all of this, my passion has been faith formation and life long learning. People describe my preaching as "educational and Biblical with a passion for social justice." I haven't been afraid to be political (but not publicly partisan). Having grown up Baptist, I joined the UCC in 1980. The social justice and questioning of the UCC has been a great fit for me.

My church business card says what I think I have tried to be about for the most part: "Seeking to help people remove obstacles so that they can experience the unconditionally loving God known in Jesus by following his Way for transformation of self and the world".



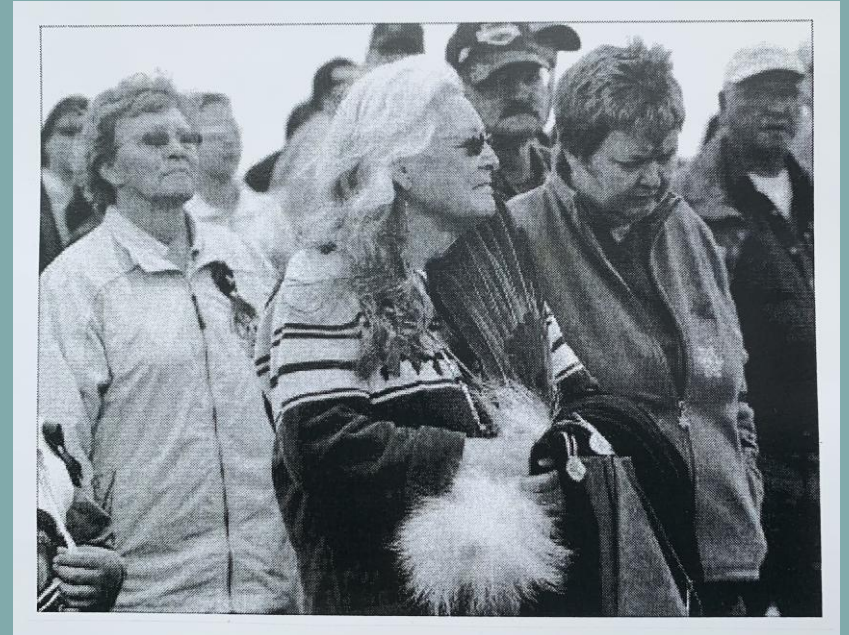
As I look ahead to a part time teaching ministry with lay folks and speaking truth to power, (especially theology in the service of the power of the Empire, I see three areas where I might be able to offer some help; areas of growth in my own life long faith formation. 1. the Bible- 2. grace and reconciliation without God needing blood sacrifice and 3. Theodicy- god and evil

My prayers will continue to include the thriving of the progressive United Church. The community and world needs us more than ever!



**THE REVEREND
HEATHER D. WRIGHT, B.A., M.DIV.**

I don't remember a time when I didn't feel called to ministry. From the encouragement I received as a young teen playing my guitar at the 5 points of Eastern Guysborough Pastoral Charge, to the confirmation of call at Sharon St. John in Stellarton, to the tremendous support and sacrifice of my young family that allowed me to follow my dreams through a Sociology degree at St.FX, and M.Div at AST, and an incredible year-long internship in Grande Cache AB, I have always felt a deep sense of the Divine hand in my life. When I experienced an unjust ordination process, my call was deeply affirmed and supported by the former mighty little Pictou Presbytery and the beautiful folks of St. Paul United in Westville NS.



I also don't remember a time when a strong sense of justice and deep compassion did not rule my heart. It led me into such rich and diverse experiences of ministry across this beautiful country that they are more than these paragraphs or indeed my heart can hold. I understood my ministry as grounded in love and justice, always working toward right relationship. This took the form of my involvement in the former Conference Right-Relations Working Group and Education & Students; in the GC Intercultural Ministries; and in leading congregations in Sambro/ Jollimore, and Hopewell Eureka East River in NS, St. Paul United in Thunder Bay, and both Trinity United and the former United on Whyte in Edmonton in the Affirming process, developing inclusive marriage policies. It also led to being a part of the development of Roots for Youth House in Pictou County following the break-in of our church by unhoused youth in the area.



The most formative part of my ministry came in being invited into Healing Circles with the Aseniwuche Winwak Nation in AB; attending the National Apology to Indigenous Peoples as part of the MCCR Working Group along with the development of the Peace and Friendship Circle at Tatamagouche Centre; working in support of the Nishnabe Aski Nation's Northern Communities' children, schooled in Thunder Bay, while at St. Paul's United; focussing our work on Reconciliation as Chair of the former Cambrian Presbytery; the honour of sharing our UCC Apology at the TRC with the Rt Rev Dr. David Giuliano; being guided by the wisdom of the Very Rev. Hon. Dr. Lois Wilson, as the minister of her childhood church; and learning in community with the Maya of Guatemala through Breaking the Silence, then educating our church of our own complicity in their oppression. In all of it I have been deeply humbled, shaped and forever changed by the experience.

In what became the final decade of active ministry for me, I was drawn into the work of Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM) quite by happenstance, but found in it, a hand meet glove form of ministry for me. I delighted in working with congregations who were seeking guidance and care through change. As one of only two designated IIM's in ANWC at the time, I found myself at the helm of a major amalgamation project, transforming four city of Edmonton congregations into a brand-new entity, unifying it around a new identity, values and purpose, in the creation of Spirit of Hope United Church. This project also resulted in locating the Korean United Church into their own building for the first time. I was honoured to be invited as guest preacher at their inaugural service. It was from this work that I was invited back home to Nova Scotia to work with the wonderful folks of United Heritage Church in Sydney, just prior to the great upheaval of the pandemic. In the midst of major structural changes, we had to pivot with the rest of the church in transforming into an on-line community of faith, which will remain as one of the greatest challenges & accomplishments of ministry for me. I was also at that time honoured to be invited onto the faculty of the Interim Ministry Network who provides the training for UCC designation as an IIM.

Having now retired back to Pictou County since the precipitous end to my work due to health challenges, I have been enjoying the gift of reconnecting with my six grandchildren, old friends & colleagues, writing of my experiences of ministry and continuing to engage in the rewarding Ministry of Supervision with a local student minister. God is Good. All the time. God is good!



**THE REVEREND
MARY LYNNE WHYTE, B.MUS., M.DIV.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY!

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

15th Anniversary of Service

40th Anniversary of Commissioning with UCC

DAVID HEWITT
REGIONAL MINISTER



15th Anniversary of Service

**SARAH WALLACE
ARCHIVIST**



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