

SouthWinds

DECEMBER 2023

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Welcome to Advent Season

*Join us for
Advent and Christmas Eve!*

Sunday, December 10 @ 10:30 a.m. — Second Sunday of Advent — "Peace" led by Rev. Teresa Moysey

Sunday, December 17 @ 10:30 a.m. — Third Sunday of Advent - "Joy!" led by Rev. Ken DeLisle

Wednesday, December 20 @ 7 p.m. — Longest Night Service — online only

Thursday, December 21 @ 7:30 p.m. — "Christmas Eve Choir" practice

Sunday, December 24 — NO MORNING SERVICE

Sunday, December 24 — CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE at 6 p.m. - "Welcome Love!"

**Join us in person at 1062 Autumnwood Drive
or via livestream @wpuc7570 on YouTube!**

www.CreativeCertificates.com

*Windsor Park
United Church*

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Visit us at:
windsorparkunitedchurch.com

We are on a Journey

The Group of Five

2023 has been a year of change for WPUC and especially with the ministerial charge and the restructuring of the church board.

Meet the Executive Team

This is your executive team for 2023-2024.

Name	Position
Alana Davis Caitlin Trias Dorothy Read Howard Ashdown John Lwiwski	Members-at-Large
Doug Waldron	Treasurer
Sue Turley	Recording Secretary
Flo Olson	Corresponding Secretary
Leo Grandy Margaret Grandy June Kaan	Ministry and Personnel
Bill Belsham Don Hunnie	Finance and Property Cluster
Prairie to Pine	Patricia Todd
Rev. Phil Read	Pastoral Charge Supervisor

The Group of Five

In previous years, we have always had a Chair of the Board to head up the Executive Team. It was recognized that the Chair of the Board position is a time-consuming and daunting task. A proposed solution was to have a committee of “5 members-at-large” who would share the responsibilities of the Board Chair.

This solution was executed at the WPUC AGM this year and we are excited to have Alana Davis, Caitlin Trias, Dorothy Read, Howard Ashdown and John Lwiwski (also known as the Group of Five) as your co-chairs on the Executive Team.

For the interim, we are working with Rev. Phil Read from St. Mary’s United Church as our supervising minister.

2023 Initiatives

Here are some of the activities we have been busy with this year.

Community of Faith Profile

The first step in hiring a new minister is to submit a document called the **Community of Faith to the Prairie-to-Pine Council**. The purpose of this document is to outline why a minister would want to make a career move to WPUC. Back in February, the Executive Team had appointed a Community of Faith Profile committee consisting of **Edna Cechvala, Sarah and Trista Closen, Amber Cottreau, Heather Karavas, Pat Lumsden, Dorothy Read and Doug Waldron** with the mandate to create and submit the profile. The profile has been submitted and we are waiting for the financial situation approval from Prairie-to-Pine.

Upon approval, we carry on to the next step which is to form a new Search committee to pursue recruiting a new minister. This would be a new committee that will be initiated in the first quarter of 2024. We encourage anyone that would like to be a part of this team to come forward and let one of our members know.

Sanctuary Renovations

Sanctuary renovations involve removing the current pews, changing the flooring and replacing the seating with stackable chairs. This would give WPUC another alternative to providing space for events to service both the church and the community.

We are currently evaluating proposals for the construction with **Howard Ashdown** taking the lead talking to the contractors. Once we have decided on a contractor and timeline, we will also be looking at purchasing new chairs. More information to follow in the New Year.

Worship Update

Worship has been a combination of live and on-line services this year.

Pulpit Supply, along with several members of the congregation have been leading the “Live Services” from June through December with no worship services during the month of July. **Alana Davis** has taken the lead to arrange the guest ministers.

In addition to the live service, we have been using “technology” to “Livestream” the service concurrently over the Internet with **Judi Olson, Doug Waldron and John Lwiwski** taking the lead on the implementation.

Special thanks go out to **Laura Steidl and Sue Turley** for organizing the Worship Services this year.

In the meantime, the Worship team is working with **Atlantic Garden City United Church** on joint worship planning of January’s services. We will use their video sharing technology for both congregations to share the delivery of a single service each week. This will be a test to see if we are interested in using their Live Stream Service. Alana Davis, Laura Steidl and Sue Turley will be working with Rev. Don Schau and their worship team to explore what worship could look like.

The current plan is to use Pulpit Supply again for the months of February and March. The Worship Cluster has been tasked with planning worship until Easter of 2024.

Rental Update

Caitlin Trias has taken the lead in being the liaison between the Church Office and our clients that rent space from the Church.

Here are some of long-term clients:

- ★ Our largest client, **Le P’tit Paradise**, is the daycare that utilizes the basement Monday through Friday during the day.

- ★ **Sparks and Embers** (formerly Brownies) meet Monday nights

Property Cluster Update

The property team has been busy looking after the maintenance of the church.

Some of key repairs done this year include:

- ★ Oven repairs
- ★ Dishwasher repairs
- ★ Boiler repairs
- ★ New doorbell at the main entrance
- ★ Pending replacement for the office air conditioner

We Are Blessed

Our Staff

We are thankful for our dedicated staff who have been working tirelessly over the year in keep the church running.

We would like to **acknowledge Laura Steidl, Merna Hague, Sue Turley, Gina Grant** and our newest employee, **Catherine Smallwood**.

Our Volunteers

The heartbeat of the church is measured by the participation of its church volunteers. Without our volunteers, we could not support many programs like the Cookie Walk, Craft Sales, Christmas Hampers, Mitten Tree, to name a few. On behalf of the Executive, we thank all of our volunteers for their time and talents.

The Journey Continues

2024 looks promising with several initiatives in play. We look forward to continuing this journey with you, our congregation.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Warbling For Winniepeggers

WPUC Office

When what to my wondering eyes did, I spy outside my office door but this wonderful donation to our Christmas Cheer Hampers.

The Sparks and Embers troop that meetings at Windsor Park United Church on Monday evenings warbled for Winniepeggers and collected items for our Christmas Cheer Hampers.

The items were provided by the Girl Guide families and by the lucky Windsor Park residents who were entertained with the wonderful warbling.



Thank you, Embers Troop 232 and Sparks Troop 300 for your generosity! Your cheerful giving will brighten the hearts of many this Christmas Season.



Winter Winnipeg

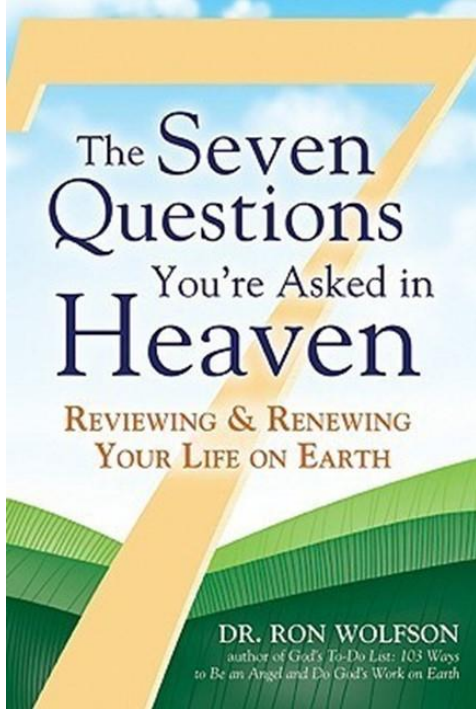
Catherine Smallwood



When winter visits Winnipeg, it's full of wonders and hardness
It's an icicle wind snacking on frozen faces
Snowballs crashing into unsuspecting places
leaving sprays of white flakes and inviting uprisings . . .
It's the click click of cleats as we navigate icy streets
A misty morning fog that dresses the city in elegant sleek
It's the brilliant cool sunlight that burns through thin blue sky
A symmetrical track that points your skis to the horizon
It's the warmth and camaraderie of family and friends
Radiant comfort of furnace and food
plowing through muted shroud of dull gray mood . . .
Winter is a time of reflection and flexion
It's a season that suits our Winnipeg complexion

The Seven Questions You're Asked in Heaven

People have asked Susan Spindler for the seven questions you're asked in heaven from her November 12, 2023 reflection.



The Seven Questions You're Asked in Heaven by Ron Wolfson

1. Did you deal honestly with the people in your life?
2. What is your legacy?
3. Did you set time apart for spiritual study to enhance your spiritual maturity?
4. Did you/do you choose to live with hope in your heart?
5. When you look at your life, did you get your priorities straight? Paying attention to what has heart and meaning.
6. How much did you love and enjoy God's creation? ... what you have been given, how you helped others enjoy their lives, recognizing the blessing in your life and the lives of others.
7. Were you ... you?



LEAVING A LEGACY, TOGETHER.

ROBERT AND MARY HARRISON

Robert and Mary Harrison met for the first time at the Winnipeg Roller Rink in 1949 and were married that same year. Robert would always joke that he 'picked the right Mary' as Mary was with her friend, also named Mary, when they met. Robert grew up on a farm outside of Orkney, Saskatchewan, and Mary grew up in Niverville; the values of a close-knit community were part of their lives from an early age.

The Harrison's both came from humble beginnings and built a fulsome life and family through perseverance and hard work. Although the two raised five children of their own (Tracey, Tannis, Trent, Todd, and Tyler), their warm, open household was a home away from home for children from the neighbourhood.

Robert, also known as "Bobby Radio" by his customers, had a strong background in technology and was considered a pioneer in his field. Alongside his business partner, John Nowell, Robert started Harrison-Nowell Mobile Radio and Paging Services. The company installed some of the first mobile radios in police, fire, and taxi vehicles in Winnipeg, effectively ushering our city's communications landscape into a new era.

Mary was quite a good seamstress, and her children remember her as "a fashion plate," albeit a thrifty one. In keeping with her modest upbringing, Mary would find designer pieces at used clothing stores and was ahead of her time when it came to altering and recycling clothing. She was a dedicated homemaker and partner who cared for her family and supported Robert in his career.

Celebrating the endeavors and accomplishments of their children, and remaining supportive to each other and their community was a constant and important part of their lives. They also both valued education and were eager to learn new things, picking up hobbies like skiing and cycling later in life, with Robert continuing to hit the downhill ski slopes until he was 85.

Throughout their lives, the couple contributed to the community in many ways, from volunteering at their local community club and church to installing lifeline medical alerts on behalf of Victoria Hospital into local seniors' homes. Robert and Mary were thankful for what life provided them and their legacy will continue to show their gratitude For Good. Forever.

After 73 years of marriage, Robert and Mary peacefully passed away just 16 hours apart in January 2023. Leaving a gift to The Winnipeg Foundation in their will ensures their generosity will continue to support the community through one of their many interests, education.

Left and right: Robert and Mary Harrison

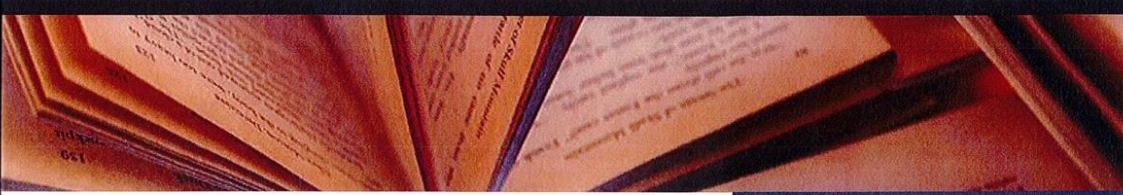
Bottom right: Steve Wright, John Nowell, and Robert (Bob) Harrison.



Book Review - Dewey

Susan Turley

For the past few years, I have been doing book reviews for The Lighthouse, a newsletter for chaplains at VA hospitals in Houston, TX. I thought I would share my latest with you. Gwen Polak was the one who lent me the book and she picked it up at our very own book sale.



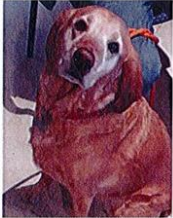
Book Review

BY SUSAN TURLEY

Dewey Readmore Books was deposited into the night return box at the Spencer Public Library in Spencer, Iowa on an extremely cold January night. Dewey was found the next day by head librarian, Vicki Myron.

So began the 19-year relationship of Dewey and the town of Spencer, Iowa. The journey was full of ups and downs yet helped to provide the patrons of the library and the town in general with a much-needed boost. Dewey knew when someone needed a little TLC and was able to provide much-appreciated love. Dewey charmed the people of Spencer with his enthusiasm, warmth, humility (as much as can be expected of a cat,) and his sixth sense about who needed him the most. His fame exceeded his community stretching out statewide, nationally, and even internationally!

This book was lent to me by a friend who shares my love of felines. It helps one to understand just how much small gestures, such as claiming your lap for a nap, spending time scratching a cat's (or dog's) ears, or having a listening ear during this semi post COVID time can overcome a smidgen of the isolation that we may feel.



Related is this photo of Harper, a six-and-a-half-year-old certified therapy dog, who resides in Winnipeg, MB. Harper comes to my workplace for our Wednesday afternoon coffee group at the Holy Grounds Café and does her best to bring some love to the seniors who gather.

While Dewey, the small-town library cat who touched the world can make your heart sing, the ending can provide the catalyst for a good cry. Please give the book a read. It will melt you like Dewey melting into your lap, at a time when we could all use a feel-good book.

Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World

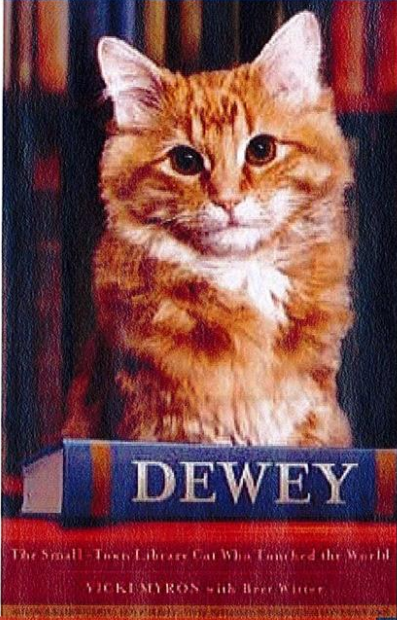
AUTHORS:
VICKI MYRON WITH BRET WITTER

Originally published: 2008

Genres: Animals, Biography

Pages: 277

Publisher: Grand Central



DEWEY

The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World
VICKI MYRON with Bret Witter

THE LIGHTHOUSE • DEC 2023 - JAN 2024

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A Note from the Editor

John Lwiwski



I would like to thank the following contributors over 2023 for submitting their articles for the Southwinds:

Alana Davis, Carol Belsham, Catherine Smallwood, Diena Rodd, Doug Waldron, Laura Steidl, Patrick Woodbeck, and Sue Turley.

A special thanks goes to **Sue Turley** for her assistance in rounding up the contributors and also helping with proofreading of each edition throughout the year.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy Advent season.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

