

**PROFILE- RETIREES****Jamie Bradshaw**

*Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore,  
looking neither for wealthy or wise ones.  
You only ask me to follow humbly.<sup>1</sup>*

When I was a teenager, I spent my summers working at a church camp. It didn't pay much, but every year my friends and I went back. The opportunity to spend two whole months with my Christian friends, friends I didn't see for the rest of the year, was a large part of the draw. It was there I experienced the glory of God...on a sandy beach on the southwest shore of Lake Winnipeg.

It was the day between – a group of campers had left at noon and the next group was expected the following day just before lunch. We had walked into Winnipeg Beach for supper. When we returned to camp, it was much too early to turn in for the night – so we built a campfire on the beach, basking in the soft light and warmth, reveling in our friendship and sharing all our hopes and dreams for the future.

I don't know how much time passed, or when the light started to grow, but suddenly the night sky was ablaze with light. For what seemed an eternity, the northern lights danced and pranced above the calm waters, changing from blue to green and pink and orange, a more colourful, magnificent, and awesome display than I had ever before seen, or have seen since. All of us were drawn to our feet as we watched what we believed was a revelation of God's glory...in fact, we had no doubt at all that just a tiny bit of God's glory was being revealed to us in that time and place. We sang and we prayed together as we basked in the magnificent light of God. That was the night that I knew, deep down, God was calling me to ministry...but my response at that time was much like Jeremiah...I'm too young, God, I don't know my own mind. I'd like to think about it for awhile so I did, almost 40 years! Ultimately, I surrendered.

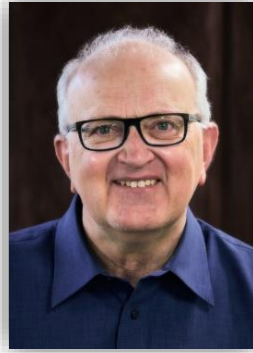
There are so many people who have encouraged and supported me along the way. The staff and faculty at the Centre for Christian Studies and the University of Winnipeg provided guidance, challenge, affirmation, and encouragement. I am so grateful to the good folks at Westminster United Church in Shoal Lake for welcoming me first as a student, then continuing, together with Strathclair United Church, as their minister for the past nine years. It has also been my privilege to serve the wider church...locally, regionally, and nationally. I have been welcomed into holy spaces to share both laughter and tears and I am grateful for friendships made along the way.

I find myself on the lakeshore once more... wondering where this journey will take me next. For now, it is time for a rest.

*Respectfully submitted*  
*Jamie Bradshaw*

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<sup>1</sup> *Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore*, words Cesareo Gabarain, trans. Gertrude C. Suppe, George Lockwood



**Jeff Cook**

I was ordained by Hamilton Conference. I was settled in Saskatchewan Conference. After four years, I came to the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, and now I retire from the Prairie to Pine Region.

Ontario to Manitoba...Conferences to Regions...different places, different structures, but always the church - this diverse, dedicated, frustrating, challenging, blessing, stumbling, dancing, laughing, crying, celebrating, grieving, hopeful, hesitant community of those who choose to be companions of Jesus in God's world.

I have been blessed to share 39 years of ministry with some of Jesus' companions in the faith communities of Transcona Memorial United Church in Winnipeg and the Cutarm Pastoral Charge in Saskatchewan.

I am thankful for the faith, the creativity, the hopes, the vulnerabilities, and the shared ministry of all these faith communities. I am also thankful for the opportunities I've had to participate in Presbyteries, Conferences, and General Council.

I have always served in team ministry, all but two of those years in ministry with Carol Fletcher, whose creativity and enthusiasm, and joyous faith have been a blessing to the faith communities in which we have served and lived.

I have been blessed by family – my parents, Howard and Joan Cook, my siblings Richard and Liz and their families – and I have been especially blessed by our sons, Andrew and Stuart – blessed by their encouragement, humor, and humanity.

I have been blessed by the companionship of friends, mentors, and colleagues – some personally known and some known through their writings, poetry, and music.

Through the heights and depths of life experiences, I have trusted that God was up to something in my life and in this world. In retirement, I anticipate continuing to be surprised and blessed by whatever God is up to!

*Blessings and thanks,  
Jeff Cook*



**Carol Fletcher**

In our moments of turning, God calls us to look in all directions – to look behind us, around us, and ahead.

I grew up in Winnipeg and was a candidate from Westworth, where I was deeply inspired by faithful and faith-filled leadership. After studying at the University of Manitoba and Queen's, I interned with Walter Farquharson which, like my experience at Westworth, gave me inspiration and lifelong family friendship.

Jeff and I were married in 1985 and our life partnership turned to embrace our partnership in ordered ministry, which has taken us from Saskatchewan to Transcona Memorial. I particularly appreciate Jeff's compassion and commitment, as well as his humour, humanity, and holiness. I cannot imagine this shared ministry in any other way!

Serving Transcona Memorial in Winnipeg with Jeff since 1988, I know that TMUC is an exciting and enlivening congregation, with a genuine place in the community; and a faithful and faith-filled sense of God's presence. My deepest thanks to the TMUC community for sharing this vision and living love with us for these 35 years.

TMUC embraced our family, our now adult children Andrew and Stuart, and our whole household as it grew to include my Mom in the years before her death and our friend and family Sylvia and now Stuart's partner Kailyn.

The path of ministry has brought many interesting twists and turns. In commitment to the wider church, I took a turn in Presbytery leadership. And then celebrating TMUC's partnership with the community I shared leadership with the Transcona Council for Seniors, the Transcona Community Network, the Healthy Together Now Committee, the Transcona Food Security Network, and more.

With TMUC we have lived a ministry where 'All are Welcome'. This has included opportunities for creativity and fun: everything from the flash mob dance of 1HopeWinnipeg – now 1JustCity to Messy Church and the Pandemic puppetry voice of Esther in our Esther and Emmett videos.

I embraced the wisdom of Julian of Norwich that 'All shall be well...' as TMUC undertook a call to a major accessibility renovation of the building with all the meetings and grant writing and fund finding that work entailed. Now it is 'greening' projects on the horizon for TMUC just as I am turning a new page. I am confident that this faith community will continue to share the light of Christ in all they say and do.

Undoubtedly, there will continue to be moments of turning on the path ahead. I am grateful for the people, the experiences, and the stories that have become a canopy of stars to light the way.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Fletcher*

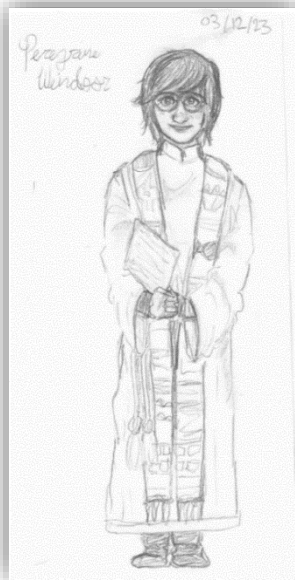


**Karen Kuzek**

I came to this vocation as a well-seasoned soul and have been truly blessed. I was given the opportunity to provide leadership in two communities throughout my ministry calling. It was somewhat of an adventure as one is never, really, quite sure what to expect when you get to plant your feet in a new community. The highs and lows, the stories one hears, the heartaches one shares, the joys that one gets to participate in, all have helped to shape me into a more accepting, compassionate, welcoming individual.

I am very grateful to have spent my time in the communities of St. Paul's UC in Gilbert Plains and Grandview UC. These folks will forever remain in my heart and my prayers.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Karen Kuzek*



**Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd**

(Sketch of Loraine was made by Peregrine Windsor,  
grandchild of Dorcas Windsor and a youth member at  
Westworth United Church)

I have had the privilege of walking with congregants in rural and urban United Churches in Manitoba (Westworth and Augustine in Winnipeg, Oakville, and Stonewall), Ontario (Thornccliffe Park and Toronto Korean in Toronto; Little Britain) and Saskatchewan (Semans, Raymore, and Punnichy). As my call has been bi-vocational to congregational ministry and teaching, I have also had the privilege of walking with students at the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, the University of Winnipeg, and the United Theological College in Montréal.

What have I learned during all of this walking? Sensible footwear is a must. But seriously, the first thing that comes to mind is humility. I am very aware of my many faux pas and near disasters, some of which I'll be relating in my reflections at the retirement banquet.

The second is how tremendously dedicated so many lay people are to the welfare of the church. Their tireless commitment and countless volunteer hours inspired me to do my absolute best.

Third, in my cross-Canada sabbatical tour of thriving United Churches, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that there are many more than I had time to visit. Don't believe the pundits announcing the imminent death of the United Church! The key to success for these thriving churches was relationships—to God, to one another, and to the wider community. It goes hand-in-hand with the new call and vision of The United Church of Canada: deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice.

This leads to my fourth learning—that the development of relationships with Indigenous communities, as well as ecumenical and interfaith leaders, is crucial for the relevance of the United Church and its contribution to the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam*—the mending of the world.

In my work with the World Council of Churches, I learned the Lund Principle, which urges us to do separately only what we cannot do together. As our moderator Carmen Lansdown says, "We are better together."

And this leads me to the last learning that I have space to name (an entire book would not be large enough to contain all that I have learned!): justice work is messy and complicated. Rarely can issues of justice be simplified as a clear-cut right and wrong. When we do this, we inevitably create us-them divides, do not do justice to the full complexity of the issue and only entrench opposing sides. But we should never despair of trying to find a third way through the divide—which seems to be the loving-enemy way of Jesus. This is a more lonely, longer path to take, but I believe that it will lead us to lasting peace and justice for the marginalized and colonized.

I am deeply grateful to all of those who have walked with me on this journey. Within this region, I give thanks to Westworth, Augustine, Oakville, and Stonewall, each of whom taught me the meaning of beloved community. I am most indebted to the sacrificial, unwavering support of my beloved partner of 36 years, Nancy Pinnell.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd*

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**Shirley McLaren**

***REMEMBERING...***

If you want something, go get it!  
Change takes courage.  
Work hard for each other.  
It's always good to be early.  
You have to earn trust.  
Inspiration is all around us.  
Fate has a way of putting certain people in your path.  
Everyone has a story you know nothing about.  
Don't fear difficult moments – learn from them.  
Embrace the storms because it is the rain that makes things grow.  
God always sends the sun after a storm.  
Everyone makes mistakes but most are worth a second chance.  
Sometimes you have to sit with the hard things.  
People get so caught up in looking to the future that they miss the here and now.  
Life is full of moments when you have a choice – to smile or not to smile.  
The road goes both directions.  
When one door closes, God opens another door or window.  
Remember the past but live in the present.  
If someone needs help, help them.  
The choices we make set our path in life.  
We should leave places better than we found them.  
Don't be so busy making a living that you forget to make a life.  
There's more to life than working.  
Don't put off being happy.  
Be true to yourself and walk with God.  
Sometimes you have to choose between career and family.  
One of the hardest things you'll ever have to say is good-bye.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley McLaren*



**Teresa Moysey**

“My cup runneth over ...”

What more is there to say? I have been richly blessed – in life and in ministry.

From a very young age, I understood that life is a gift and that the world and the universe are filled with wonder and mystery. For that and so much more, I am deeply grateful.

Though unaware of it in my earliest years, I grew up in Treaty 6 and Treaty 4 territory. Later I lived in the territory covered by Treaty 2 and there began to learn about the history of the Birdtail Sioux, who are not part of any treaty with the Crown. I have now long resided on land included in Treaty 1. Learning the history of our land, our nation, and our relationships continues to be a significant and important journey.

To the communities of faith in Dauphin, Birtle-Miniota-Isabella, Elginburg-Odessa, Regents Park, and Harrow – what an extraordinary privilege to learn with you and from you, to be invited into the most sacred moments of your lives. Thank you. And thanks be to God.

#### **Thanks be to God ...**

For family and community who nurtured me in the ways of faith and hope, adventure and curiosity  
For mentors in life and in faith, opening my mind and heart, my eyes and ears to new revelations and wisdom, to love and joy and hope, to walking the path of justice and reconciliation

For my colleagues, my friends, the faith-filled and faithful, the curious and the questioning

For the gift of music

For companions and partners in ministry – Jack, Bruce, Eleanor, Paul, Norman, Dennis, and all those with whom I have served in congregational ministry, community engagement, national and regional bodies of governance

For family – grandparents, parents, siblings, Bruce, husband and partner in life, our daughter, Trish, son, Paul, daughters-in-law Caralynn and Jamie, for grandchildren, Nora, Georgia, and Bennett, for the richness, beauty, depth, and delight you bring to every day

For all the ways I have been marked by encounters with you, with God, with strangers, encounters with love and hope, fear and joy, thanks be to God.

“My cup runneth over ...” I conclude my years of active ministry with deep gratitude, with energy, and hope, looking forward to more time for outdoor adventures, family, and friends, and continuing to explore the questions and challenges of living in right relationships with all.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Teresa Moysey*