



**Bicentenary Celebrations Committee Celebrating our Methodist and  
United Church of Canada Roots and Faith in the Northeast Avalon  
1815 – 2015**

**Second Report to Congregations, December 7, 2014**

As noted in our previous report, this Committee has been established under the auspices of United Church congregational boards to celebrate 200 years (1815-2015) in the life and work of the Methodist and United Churches in the Northeast Avalon.

The first Methodist congregation was established in 1815 with a chapel near the present Victoria Street, St. John's; after a burning of the chapel the next year, a move of the congregation was made to Gower Street. In 1816 to 1925, Methodist churches were established outside St. John's at Topsail, Portugal Cove, Pouch Cove, Upper Gullies, Long Pond, Bauline, Bell Island and Biscayne Cove (Cape St. Francis). During this period new congregations were established in St. John's at Alexander Street (later Wesley), Cochrane Street and Southside St. John's.

In 1925 the Methodist Church joined with The United Church of Canada following which new United Church congregations were established at First United in Mount Pearl and at St. James, Cowan Heights, Bethel (Portugal Cove Road), Grove's Road, Blackler Avenue, Shea Heights and Fort Amherst in St. John's.

The United Churches today in the Northeast Avalon are at Gower Street, Portugal Cove, Topsail, Pouch Cove, George Street, Bauline, Cochrane Street, Wesley, Bell Island, First United (Mount Pearl), St. James and Cowan Heights. The latest census shows that there are approximately 26,000 followers of the United Church in the Northeast Avalon.

The planning committee has commenced work on the special bicentenary joint worship service to be held at Gower Street from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, 2015, with the Right Rev. Gary Patterson, Moderator, as special guest preacher. Planning is also underway on a banquet planned for the Royal Canadian Legion, Pleasantville, on the evening of April 25, 2015.

-2-

Tickets for this event will be available for sale around January 15, 2015, and will be distributed initially amongst our congregations on a pro rata membership basis. An announcement to this effect will be made in each church bulletin in early January, including the name of the contact person in each congregation for tickets. Individuals who may be away for extended vacations from early in the new year can contact your congregation's representative and reserve/obtain tickets in advance.

Work is well underway on a bronze plaque commemorating the 200 year church presence in the Northeast Avalon. It will be dedicated at the joint worship service to be mounted at an approved suitable site close to the location of the first Methodist chapel near Victoria Street.

Your Committee has also undertaken considerable research on the early history of our churches throughout the Northeast Avalon and the continuing work of existing congregations. This will be captured in a special commemorative booklet to be published shortly after the celebrations. Work has been done on a number of the founding men and women in the original congregation with special interest in finding descendants of any of them. Information about them can be found on the St. James United website (*see below and follow "See Bicentenary Committee" on their home page*).

It is the Committee's hope that the upcoming bicentenary celebrations will provide the opportunity for joint fellowship and renewal amongst all 12 United Church congregations throughout the Northeast Avalon.

Your representatives on this committee are Les Dean, Rev. Bill Bartlett, and Jan Winsor.

*Garfield Fizzard, Chair; Leslie Dean, Associate Chair*  
*Mail address: St. James United, 330 Elizabeth Avenue*  
*St. John's, NL A1B 1T9*  
*Web Page: [www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)*

Contact [leslie\\_dean@hotmail.com](mailto:leslie_dean@hotmail.com) if you have further information.



**Bicentenary Celebrations Committee Celebrating our Methodist and  
United Church of Canada Roots and Faith in the Northeast Avalon  
1815 – 2015**

**Second Report to Congregations, December 7, 2014**

As noted in our previous report, this Committee has been established under the auspices of United Church congregational boards to celebrate 200 years (1815-2015) in the life and work of the Methodist and United Churches in the Northeast Avalon.

The first Methodist congregation was established in 1815 with a chapel near the present Victoria Street, St. John's; after a burning of the chapel the next year, a move of the congregation was made to Gower Street. In 1816 to 1925, Methodist churches were established outside St. John's at Topsail, Portugal Cove, Pouch Cove, Upper Gullies, Long Pond, Bauline, Bell Island and Biscayne Cove (Cape St. Francis). During this period new congregations were established in St. John's at Alexander Street (later Wesley), Cochrane Street and Southside St. John's.

In 1925 the Methodist Church joined with The United Church of Canada following which new United Church congregations were established at First United in Mount Pearl and at St. James, Cowan Heights, Bethel (Portugal Cove Road), Grove's Road, Blackler Avenue, Shea Heights and Fort Amherst in St. John's.

The United Churches today in the Northeast Avalon are at Gower Street, Portugal Cove, Topsail, Pouch Cove, George Street, Bauline, Cochrane Street, Wesley, Bell Island, First United (Mount Pearl), St. James and Cowan Heights. The latest census shows that there are approximately 26,000 followers of the United Church in the Northeast Avalon.

The planning committee has commenced work on the special bicentenary joint worship service to be held at Gower Street from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, 2015, with the Right Rev. Gary Patterson, Moderator, as special guest preacher. Planning is also underway on a banquet planned for the Royal Canadian Legion, Pleasantville, on the evening of April 25, 2015.

-2-

Tickets for this event will be available for sale around January 15, 2015, and will be distributed initially amongst our congregations on a pro rata membership basis. An announcement to this effect will be made in each church bulletin in early January, including the name of the contact person in each congregation for tickets. Individuals who may be away for extended vacations from early in the new year can contact your congregation's representative and reserve/obtain tickets in advance.

Work is well underway on a bronze plaque commemorating the 200 year church presence in the Northeast Avalon. It will be dedicated at the joint worship service to be mounted at an approved suitable site close to the location of the first Methodist chapel near Victoria Street.

Your Committee has also undertaken considerable research on the early history of our churches throughout the Northeast Avalon and the continuing work of existing congregations. This will be captured in a special commemorative booklet to be published shortly after the celebrations. Work has been done on a number of the founding men and women in the original congregation with special interest in finding descendants of any of them. Information about them can be found on the St. James United website (*see below and follow "See Bicentenary Committee" on their home page*).

It is the Committee's hope that the upcoming bicentenary celebrations will provide the opportunity for joint fellowship and renewal amongst all 12 United Church congregations throughout the Northeast Avalon.

Your representatives on this committee are Les Dean and Jan Winsor.

*Garfield Fizzard, Chair; Leslie Dean, Associate Chair*  
*Mail address: St. James United, 330 Elizabeth Avenue*  
*St. John's, NL A1B 1T9*  
*Web Page: [www.stjamesuc.org](http://www.stjamesuc.org)*

Contact [leslie\\_dean@hotmail.com](mailto:leslie_dean@hotmail.com) if you have further information.