



Signs of the Spirit

Protestant Chapel Guild

August 2007

Welcome to the second edition of the Protestant Chapel Guild newsletter, “*Signs of the Spirit*”! This newsletter is intended to be a forum for sharing, celebrating, supporting, and encouraging one another. It is also hoped that the newsletter will be a vehicle for spreading God’s word and sharing information about our Guild to the military communities we live in and our broader communities as well. You are encouraged to distribute this newsletter by email and hard copy as widely as you are able.

National Guild Initiative – In Support of the CDS Military Family Fund

The National Guild Executive is excited to share the following information regarding the new National Guild Initiative in support of the CDS Military Family Fund.

Goal: To generate funds for the CDS Military Families Fund

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2007

NR 07-004

CDS Military Families Fund

OTTAWA --The Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS), General Rick Hillier, in recognition of the outpouring of support from Canadians, announced the creation of the CDS Military Families Fund today, adding a new vehicle to support military families.

“When our families call out for help, we must be able to answer that call immediately and substantially,” said Gen. Hillier. “Our families have been here for us through our enrollment, our training, our deployments, and our homecomings. The military life places significant demands on our loved ones. They did not volunteer for service – but serve they do, and with great distinction. It is our turn to be there for our families.”

The CDS Military Families Fund will be an agile and responsive means to provide support to military families. Base Commanders, partnered with Military Family Resource Centres across the country, will be able to assist military families within hours of being advised of the need.

The CDS Military Families Fund will grow through the contributions of private citizens and corporations. Contributions can be accepted by phone or mail, as well as through participation in upcoming fundraising events that will be announced later this year.

The Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency (CFPSA) – the morale and welfare arm of the CF that provides programs and services for the well-being of the CF community – will administer the CDS Military Families Fund.

Process:

- ⇒ Each local Guild is encouraged to develop its own fundraising plan (the National Executive will provide support and guidance as requested)
- ⇒ Locals Guilds are encouraged to involve the Chapel congregation and other groups within the Chapel as much as possible in this project – the Guild will be the lead for this initiative
- ⇒ Local Guilds will be encouraged to share their fundraising ideas and progress with other groups through the newsletter, Signs of the Spirit
- ⇒ Local Guilds will forward their donation to the National Executive for disbursement to the CDS Military Family Fund

Timeframe: Funds to be turned over to the CDS Military Families Fund by the National Guild in April 2008.

The National Executive is aware that our Guilds vary in size, as do the congregations at our Chapels. We encourage each Guild to participate as it feels led to do so, and as it is able. Although the primary goal of this initiative is to raise funds for the CDS Military Family Fund, it is not the only desired outcome. Participation in this project will elevate the profile of the Guild within the military community and help to educate others about the Guild and its role in our Chapels and communities.

This initiative provides each Guild with an opportunity to work along with other members of their congregation, and also with other Guilds across the country towards a common goal that is of immediate relevance to the military community at large.

The National Executive encourages you to embrace this project as you have enthusiastically embraced many other projects and ideas in the past. We look forward to working with you on this project.

National Guild Conference 2008

April 23 to 27, 2008 – Galilee Centre, Arnprior, ON

Following the interest expressed by delegates at Conference 2007 to explore the possibility of having Conference 2008 at an “all under one roof” facility, the National Executive polled all local Guilds and received resounding positive support for this option.

The Galilee Centre has been chosen as the venue for Conference 2008. We will have use of the Centre’s main building including bedrooms, dining room, large conference room, chapel, music room and several other meeting rooms as needed. The large conference room has a long wall of windows looking out over the grounds and the Ottawa River. There are extensive wooded grounds, walking paths, gardens and a labyrinth for your enjoyment. Further information and pictures can be found on the Centre’s website.

Complete conference information will be sent to all local Guilds in November. You are encouraged to mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend Conference 2008!



www.galileecentre.com

Good News from our Guilds

St. George's Chapel Guild Petawawa Adopts a Unit at Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre

St. George's Chapel Guild celebrated a year of growth and change at their year end Wind Up dinner on June 5th. The Guild, as a lark, asked each attendee to pay \$10 towards a NO BAKE BAKE Sale. This was a good way to raise money, be calorie conscious and have fun! The money raised will be used to fund Guild start up events in the fall.

As part of the Guild growth, two chaplain's wives attended the dinner for the first time. Jill Wright is the wife of the new Chapel Life Co-coordinator, Padre Don Wright. She has joined the Guild and contributed to the Guild's new outreach project. Jeanine Friesen, wife of the new Brigade Chaplain Major Doug Friesen, is also an Anglican priest. She was invited as a guest to meet the Guild members. She quickly learnt how lively the Guild events can be with plenty of laughter. She joined in a Guild tradition by having "dessert" at the Dairy Queen after the dinner!

The growth in the Guild's stewardship support was evident in the on-going interest in contributing to the Perley and Rideau Veteran's Health Centre. The Guild is the first group to officially adopt a unit at the Centre. According to Sharon Tremaine, the Recreation Therapist at the centre, "Adopting a unit can mean different things but generally it means providing items for residents on that unit, giving special attention to those who have less family but generally providing supplies and gifts that are not normally available. It also means providing birthday recognition through cards and for other special occasions."



St. George's Guild prepares "Crosses in a Pocket" for the residents of the Perley and Rideau Veteran's Health Centre

The Guild visited the Centre on April 29th as a group. They enjoyed a tour of the centre and meeting the veterans. In keeping with the spirit of adoption they brought their own refreshments for tea, gifts of "Crosses in a pocket", crossword puzzles and personal care items. The Guild looks forward to continuing support of our veterans - through acts of faith, fellowship and service.

Submitted by Hilda Young, St. George's Chapel Guild, Petawawa. This article appeared previously in the Pembroke Observer and the Petawawa Post (Right) Maggie Jacques, St. George's Chapel Guild President visiting with a Veteran



Prayer Focus

"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers." 1 Thessalonians 1:2



Later in this same chapter Paul reminds all Christians to pray continually. I'm sure we would all agree, with Paul, that praying for one another is extremely important, but it can be difficult to pray for people when we don't really know what their needs are.

In order to encourage and facilitate mutual prayer support, each issue of our Guild Newsletter will have a prayer focus on one or two Guilds. In this way Guilds will have the opportunity to share, with other Guilds across the country, their particular blessings and their particular challenges. At our Guild meetings, then, we will be able to pray in an informed manner for the Guild(s) featured that month.

Please remember the Bagotville Guild in your prayers.....

We have an average of about 10 at each monthly Guild meeting. We are looking to have our meetings more often than once a month, starting in September, so that we can incorporate more Bible study, crafts and cooking into our program.

Our greatest reason for thanksgiving that we would like to share is that we *have* a Chapel Guild after so many years without one and that it is growing. We also had a very successful spring tea and sale in May - our first fund raiser and we hope to do something similar in the fall, perhaps with a support your troops theme.

As an item for prayer, we could ask that other Guilds pray for our Padre, who is deployed for six months to the military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany and for the Chapel in his absence. We would also ask for your prayers as we prepare for our first Guild Sunday this fall.

From the Desk of the National Guild President – Karen Kettle

I had the privilege of meeting with each protestant denominational group at the Chaplain Branch Retreat in June 2007 along with the Principal Chaplain (P), Padre Dave Kettle. The Guild presentation included Guild history, information about the Guild and its role in the Chapels and community, along with the offer of support and guidance for Chapels interested in developing a Guild. The presentation included the following comment: *“Your Chapel Guild can be a source of great spiritual strength and nurture for women and the wider chapel family. With the Guilds' focus on Faith, Fellowship, and Service it provides a significant spiritual building block for chapel growth and vibrancy.”* The presentation was well received and many Chaplains expressed their support, interest in, and appreciation of the Protestant Chapel Guild. It was an uplifting and educational experience. I am very grateful to all the Protestant Chaplains for allowing me this opportunity.

Following the presentations:

- ❖ The Baptist denominational group offered financial support to enable me to travel to the west coast to meet with the women in Esquimalt.
- ❖ The CLC in Comox has expressed a desire to assist me to travel to Comox as part of this trip and meet with the women there.
- ❖ The Churches of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada have issued an invitation for me to spend a half day with their group at the Chaplain Branch retreat in 2008.

- ❖ Several other CLCs expressed interest in the development of a Guild in their location. These opportunities will be explored this fall and support provided as appropriate.

Executive Update

- All Guilds are reminded to please update your Guild's contact information at the September meeting and forward any changes to Karen Kettle.
- The Guild Handbook will be revised this fall with a target distribution date of November. Local Guilds will receive a CD with an electronic copy of the handbook following the revision. In the meantime, an updated version of the handbook will be distributed by email to each Guild for their use until the revised handbook is available. Significant changes in the updated version will be highlighted for your review. Local Guilds may wish to postpone printing the updated version of the handbook until the revised version is available.
- The National Executive will be meeting in Ottawa on October 20, 2007.

From the Desk of the Guild Chaplain Advisor – Padre John Organ

As is evident with the recent creation of this newsletter, there are many impressive signs of the Spirit at work in our Guild Movement across the CF, calling us to seize opportunities to uplift our members, inspire our Chapel communities, and reach out in service to our military family.

Working hand in hand with the Principal Chaplain (P) in his hopes and efforts to revitalize our chapels across the CF, our National Executive is providing local Guilds with new initiatives and ideas designed to honour the past, energize the present and claim the future.

These creative efforts are generating a rising tide lifting Guild and Chapel life. With the winds of the Spirit moving us forward, we are uniquely placed to nurture faith, widen our fellowship, and expand our service. It is an exciting and inspiring time to be members of the Guild Movement!

Godspeed.
Padre John Organ

**What you are is God's gift to you.
What you do with yourself is your gift to God.**

Danish Proverb

Breaking Bread

You are encouraged to submit a favourite recipe along with a story and pictures of your Guild.

Devotional Corner

I love having plants in my home. Depending on our posting and the kind of house we have lived in I have had great or sometimes not so great success with house plants. Our PMQ in Baden had perfect windows, but no window ledges. After my husband built me wide window ledges on my living room windows, I filled them with plants, especially African violets, in every colour imaginable. The light and humidity was perfect and I had flowers all year. I took cuttings and started new plants, which also did well. One birthday my husband gave me a beautiful planter in the form of a hollowed out log and into this I transplanted five of my most beautiful violets.



Once the existing flowers faded no new ones grew, despite the fact that the plants seemed really healthy. I waited patiently, but no flowers came. Finally I asked the florist, explaining exactly what I had done. She told me that the plants were healthy, but that they would not flower for a long time, because of the container in which I had placed them. Apparently, an African violet will not flower until it has filled its pot with roots. Then and only then will it produce flowers. Because there were no flowers and because I could not see the root growth, I mistakenly assumed that my violets were not doing well.

I thought how our walk with Christ is sometimes like this. We want to see the flowers. We want to see visible, tangible evidence of our spiritual growth, whether in the form of showy spiritual gifts or outward evidence of change. However, depending on where we are 'planted', God may be giving us time to grow stronger, deeper roots. It may be that what we need at that point in our walk is to spend more time in God's Word and in prayer, practicing the spiritual disciplines. We should not be discouraged at these times, or think that we have stopped growing. Building strong healthy roots *is* growth, important growth and essential if we want to see the visible outward 'flowers'. In time, in God's time, we will see the outward signs that our roots have made possible.

And by the way, I was able to get my violets to produce flowers even in the large pot. On the advice of the florist, I put the plants back into their small pots and buried these in the large planter. There are, however, no tricks like this in our spiritual walk. When we are going through a period of root growth, we must be patient and work with God to grow the deepest, strongest roots possible.



Contact Us

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Your questions, comments, and concerns are always welcome and encouraged.