



# Signs of the Spirit

**Canadian Forces Protestant Chapel Guild**

**December 2011**

Welcome to the Twenty Sixth 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 Conference 2012**



**April 25<sup>th</sup> to April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

# Fit for Survival

**Galilee Centre  
Arnprior, Ontario**

**Host Guild:**

Gagetown

**Fee:**

\$325 – includes: 4 nights accommodation April 25 to April 29  
3 meals per day April 26, 27 & 28  
Breakfast on April 29

Dear Guild Sisters,

That exciting time is upon us already! No, we don't mean Christmas, we mean registration for the 2012 National Guild Conference!

We are very excited about the next conference for so many reasons:

Firstly, our themes – FIT FOR SURVIVAL – tell me, are you fit? Spiritually and emotionally? If some days you feel like the weight of the world is on your shoulders, this conference is for you – come and renew your spirit and your survival tactics!

Secondly, our special feature – Pewter Guild Jewellery – you may have seen them at past conferences but we are excited to offer a set of earrings and necklace for \$45. The order form is attached (page 9) and even if you cannot attend conference, you can still order a set to tell the world how much you love and value your Guild affiliation.

We want to see our largest number yet! We want to fill every bed in the place and we cannot do that without your help. As president of your Guild, please make it a priority to invite your Guild sisters to seriously consider attending; do any activity you can think of to raise funds to send your sisters to conference; broaden your invitation to anyone in your chapel or your circle of friends to let them also experience the joy of being part of the Guild family!

Deadlines, deadlines, for our planning purposes we need to have your forms in as soon as you decide who is coming and you can certainly send more later!

Don't forget to discuss it at every guild meeting until everyone who can possibly attend has committed. If you need funds, or have any other concerns, please remember we are here for you and you need to let us know.

Love from your National Executive,

Ute Lamb  
President  
utelamb@gmail.com



\*\*Registration for Conference on page 7 & 8\*\*

## **I know what you are thinking.....Who is your National Executive??**



*Barb Putnam, Debra Poley, Phyllis Chilvers, Karl Maclean, Christopher Ryan, Ute Lamb, Dana Rittenhouse, Valerie Lublink*

Let's try to answer your question:

### **Ute Lamb, President, 2010-2013**

I was born in Offenburg Germany and have been married to my husband Mark for 23 years. We have 3 wonderful children, Michael, Christian and Sonja. Michael is a Pilot and currently posted to Trenton, Ontario. Christian is studying Theology here in Fredericton and Sonja is attending STU and wants to be a teacher. My hobbies are Cooking, Sewing, Gardening and Reading. I do not like cleaning or sports. Usually I'm a very happy person, but I do have trouble with being on time ☺.

I have been attending a Military chapel since we were posted to Kingston, Ontario in 1989. The chapel community has been my family away from home and the Guild Sisters have always been a great support in bad and in good times. I have held all the positions in the local guild over the last 20 years and it is a great honour to be National Guild President now.

I truly believe that the guild can make a difference in the lives of military families and the Chapel community. As we all know "there is no life like it".

### **Dana Rittenhouse, Vice President, 2010-2013**

I have been a pastor's wife for the past 24 years (though I don't feel that old) and have three boys, William (16), Noah (12) and Elijah (5). My husband Howard felt the Lord calling him to the Armed Forces as a chaplain in 2007 and was sworn in early in 2008 (I knew it was God's will before Howard was even sure –or maybe I just love a man in uniform). Currently, we are in Edmonton and Howard is in Kabul until March 2012.

From the first Sunday in Ottawa in 2008, I was warmly surrounded by the Guild women of Elizabeth Park Chapel and saw the strength for military wives who can find a friend in a Guild at many bases when they may not know another person in the area (of course, that ONLY works IF you ATTEND conference!)

I have been employed in bookkeeping and administration throughout my adult life but I am currently remaining at home for my boys and to concentrate on various volunteer opportunities.

I see a strong future for the Guilds if they reach out to the families in their chapels and communities with the love of the Lord and seek out the many opportunities for Christian service.

It is my humble wish to serve the Guilds in whatever way they need for the next 6 years (oh wow, that does sound like a long time doesn't it?)

### **Phyllis Chilvers, Treasurer, 2011-2013**

I am a spouse of a retired military member. We have been in Ottawa for 29 years; we enjoyed postings in Trenton and in Summerside.

I keep myself busy in many ways; choir member, active member on chapel committees filling the positions of Chair person, Vice Chairperson and secretary of the Chapel Committee and President, Vice President and Secretary of our local Guild. I co-ordinate catering when the Guild is called upon for our services. I also volunteer as a Head Usher at Nepean Centerpointe Theatre, and am also a member of the Red Hatters.

I enjoy watching cooking shows, I like to read and really enjoy playing cards. I also have 7 grandchildren who live out of town so enjoy visiting them.

### **Debra Poley, Secretary, 2011-2013**

FAMILY: My husband of 27 years is Gordon. We have four daughters: Rebecca who is 24 and married to Mitchell. They are expecting their first baby in November. We are all thrilled.

Robin who is 22 lives with us in Greenwood. She has special needs mentally as well as physically. Robin attends a day program at the Kings Regional Rehab Center in Waterville NS.

Raquel is 20 years old and has entered her third year at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, NB. Raquel would like to pursue Social Work in the future.

Rose who is 16 lives with us in Greenwood, NS. Rose also has special needs. She attends regular school and loves it. She is a precious, beautiful child given to us by God.

My husband's parents also live with us. Yes I live with my in-laws. This has been a wonderful experience and I really love and appreciate all the encouragement they give me.

My job would be keeping everyone in line (ha). I have been a stay at home Mom for most of my married life but also substituted in the New Brunswick schools for 10 years. MILITARY CONNECTION: My husband is a Chaplain and he is CLC here in Greenwood. After 25 years in Civilian Churches he decided at the tender age of 47 he was being called into the Regular Forces. With my full support this has been a wonderful journey!

Our Ladies Guild has been the icing on the cake of military life. What a wonderful time together we have in fellowship, faith and service. After enjoying the conferences so much, I was excited about the opportunity to serve on the executive. I do feel I have a great deal to offer having been a "Pastor's Wife" for 25 years. I would love to see the executive really get to know our individual Guilds. How can we help? I would be thrilled to see our Guilds build in numbers as well.

### **Valerie Lublink, Past-President, 2010-2013**

Valerie loves the Lord with her whole heart and wants to encourage others in their faith. She has been an ordained minister with the Salvation Army for 14 years and has served on the National Executive as Vice President, President and now as Past President. Valerie has been active in the chapels where they have been posted, leading Guilds, Bible Studies, Sunday Schools, fellowship times and VBS's. While in Kingston, Valerie also worked with the families of prison inmates as part of her chaplaincy appointment with the Salvation Army. Valerie and her husband, a chaplain, are currently serving at SHAPE in Belgium. Valerie and Patrick have 5 children and four grandchildren. Valerie has a Master of Theological Studies from Tyndale Seminary, a BA (hons) from York University and Certificate in restorative justice from Simon Fraser University. Hobbies include reading, walking, bird watching and crafts.

Valerie says: "My vision for the guild is to see even more women involved in our guilds as we continue to support our chapels and have an even greater impact on our local military communities. At the same time I would also like to promote continuing spiritual growth in our guild members."

### **Barb Putnam, Chaplain Advisor**

Padre Barb is from Saint John, NB. She is a graduate of UNB (B.Sc) and Acadia University (M.Div). She was ordained to the ministry in 1996 and served several Baptist

churches in the Maritimes before enrolling in the Canadian Forces in 2000. After Basic Training she was posted to CFB Petawawa and served 2 Svc Bn with whom she deployed to Afghanistan on Roto 0 of Op ATHENA. In 2004 she was posted to CFB Gagetown as Chapel Life Coordinator and then to the Language School for a year-long French course. Promoted to her current rank of Major in 2007, she was posted to the Chaplain School and Center as the Senior Standards Officer. In 2010 she once again became a student, moving to Toronto to take the Joint Command and Staff Programme of the Canadian Forces College. Graduating in 2011 she was posted to Ottawa where she is now the Staff Officer to the Chaplain General. Her interests include cruising, playing tennis and squash, and riding her purple motorcycle. She is married to Brad Putnam, her best friend and travel agent. They have one plant, which only occasionally blooms.

# Very Important Piece of Information



A good reason for having a newsletter is to provide your National Executive with the opportunity to pass on information to all the guilds.

This month we need to ensure you have the following information:

1. All cheques sent to our treasurer, Phyllis Chilvers, need to be made payable to : **National Protestant Chapel Guild** - *in the future, any cheques made payable to Phyllis will be considered birthday presents – HA HA just kidding!*
2. All annual dues should be sent to Phyllis after your first fall meeting and before the end of November. This allows our finance report to be accurate and show the correct number of current paid members. Of course, if there is a problem that we can help you sort out, in any way, please do not hesitate to let us know.
3. As voted and agreed upon by the annual conference, lifetime members are now required to pay the \$10.00 fee as well as us newbies.
4. We are very excited that the conference package has been sent out and hope to see lots and lots of registrations in the coming months!

**Your National Executive would like to wish you and your guild and your families a wonderful Christ-filled Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!**

**Ute, Dana, Debra, Phyllis and Valerie**

CANADIAN FORCES  
PROTESTANT CHAPEL GUILD  
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM  
2012

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:(H) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone:(W) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapel (Location): \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first time attending Conference? Yes  No

**TRANSPORTATION:**

Date & Time of Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

Airline, Flight # and Terminal #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Time of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_

Airline, Flight # and Terminal #: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you require transportation from the airport: Yes  No

If travelling by car/bus, expected time of arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be attending Chapel in Ottawa on April 29th? Yes  No

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

There are a few double rooms. Are you interested in sharing a room? Yes  No

If yes, with someone in particular? \_\_\_\_\_

*Please remember that all buildings are smoke free facilities.*

*Due to allergies we request that it be a scent free conference.*

*Towels are supplied by Galilee Centre.*

Are there any concerns or special needs we should know about? (ie difficulty with stairs, sharing a room, medical etc.?)

\_\_\_\_\_

**MEALS:** All meals will be served at the Retreat Centre.

Will you require dinner on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> (cost \$15.75) Yes  No

Are there any special/dietary needs we should know about?

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**MUSIC:** A pianist will be at conference to provide music.

All are welcome to participate in the music program:

Voice \_\_ Piano \_\_ Organ \_\_ Guitar \_\_ Other Instrument \_\_

Will you be bringing your instrument? \_\_\_\_\_

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**SKIT NIGHT:** Will you be bringing a 'skit' to conference? Yes  No

If yes, how much time would you require? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Deadline for Registration: March 01, 2012**

The cost of this Conference is \$325.00. Please make cheques payable to the NATIONAL PROTESTANT CHAPEL GUILD. *Payment is due at the time of registration.*

Please mail your completed registration form and payment to:

Phyllis Chilvers  
54 Downsview Cres,  
Nepean, Ontario, K2G 0A5  
Home 1-613-727-1040  
[tedphyl@magma.ca](mailto:tedphyl@magma.ca)

For more information please contact: Ute Lamb 1-506-357-5357 or [utelamb@gmail.com](mailto:utelamb@gmail.com)

## **The Big Idea for 2012**

**Pewter Jewellery \$25 each or  
\$45 for the set**

**Order Forms arriving with  
Conference Registration**



**SPECIAL OFFER 2012 PEWTER JEWELLERY!!  
GET EM WHILE THEY ARE HOT!!**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Will there be a member of your Guild at conference to pick up your jewellery? \_\_\_\_\_  
If NOT, please complete address for shipping purposes:

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code:\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:(H)\_\_\_\_\_ Phone:(W)\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail:\_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for ORDERS: March 01, 2012**

Earrings \$25       Necklace \$25      Purchase both for \$45

If you are attending conference, include in registration funds but if you are not, please mail your cheque and completed form to:

Phyllis Chilvers  
54 Downsview Cres,  
Nepean, Ontario, K2G 0A5  
Home 1-613-727-1040  
[tedphyl@magma.ca](mailto:tedphyl@magma.ca)

SEE PHOTOS OF JEWELLERY AT [WWW.CHAPELGUILD.COM](http://WWW.CHAPELGUILD.COM)

## **Good News from Our Guilds**

Send us your Guild's good news, big or small and you will encourage others. Other Guilds would love to hear about this.

### **St Mark's Chapel Guild – Greenwood**

The ladies of St. Marks Protestant Chapel Guild are very happy to hear and see children in our chapel. We see our role in the chapel as one of support and service. The children have a growing Sunday school and there has also been a nursery started for our little ones. Some members of our Guild help by teaching Sunday school, as well as providing help to the teachers when needed.

We, as a group saw a need and decided to fill it. The Sunday school and nursery was in need of apple juice. Our president, Debra Poley suggested that at our next meeting we should each bring a can or bottle of apple juice to donate to the Sunday school and nursery. It could also be used for refreshment time after our Sunday service, for those who choose not to drink coffee or tea. The ladies were happy to do their part!

Some of our members are included in the following picture with our "chapel juice!"



*Members in the picture: (Left to right, starting from back row) Carol Richardson, Barbara Baker, Clare MacDormand, Liz Heinrich, Debra Poley, Katrina Vessey, Myra Jesso, Nancy Fleury (in front).*

*Submitted by: Myra Jesso*

## St. George's Chapel Guild - Petawawa



Group picture of the attendees at our first social get together of the fall; Front Row left to right: Eva Brushett: CWL, Dolly Currie: CWL, Katherine Byrne: CWL, Mireille Serre: CWL, Maggie Jacques: Guild, Margaret Noseworthy: Guild, Thelma Hanshaw: Guild, Elaine Chalmers: Guild, Andrea Hill: Guild.

Back Row: Eleanor Crozier: Guild, Shelley Erickson: CWL, Bernice Westgarth: Guild, Julie McBride: Guild, Hilda Young: Guild, Bernice Blimkie our host from Bears Den, and Anne Marie Benoit: CWL

ST. Francis of Assisi CWL and St George's chapel Guild are continuing with the Common ground theme. On Sunday October 16th from 2 pm to 4 pm they had "high tea" at the Bears Den in Deep River.

We had our combined wind up on June at the Bears Den and returned for tea. The atmosphere was welcoming and service excellent. We were fortunate that the own Bernice Blimkie was our hostess for the event. We are planning our Christmas meeting on Monday December 5th with a St. Nicholas theme. It will also be a joint event with the CWL and other ladies of the congregation.

The Guild is looking forward to hosting on many more occasions in the new surroundings at St. Mark's.

*Submitted by:* Hilda Young

## St. Luke's Chapel Guild – Gagetown

### **Atlantic Guild Retreat**

The last weekend in October found nine women from Guilds across Atlantic Canada, travelling to the Falls Lake Recreational Area in Nova Scotia for a weekend of friendship, yummy food, relaxation, and lots of laughter.



*Above picture featuring from left to right: Ute Lamb, Debbie Thomas, Myra Jesso, Sonja Lamb, Carole Richardson, Liz Heinrich, Dee McCabe, Theresa King, and Beryl Dominix.*

Friday night was a relaxing evening of getting reacquainted with old friends and meeting new one. We played an exciting game of "Would You Rather". Some of the questions were thought provoking like, "Would you rather be at the nativity or the crucifixion?" and others were a tad on the silly side, "Would you rather have an elephant's trunk or a giraffe's long neck?"

On Saturday, we awoke to an absolutely beautiful morning. We enjoyed a wonderful breakfast followed by a devotion focusing on the theme, "It's in the Bag", taken from the perspective of items found in your purse relating to your relationship with God. We did not want to waste the lovely weather so headed out for a walk to the beach. Some ladies followed the path; others chose the rocky way at the end, we all ended up at the beach for more fellowship and a time to soak in the rays of sunshine.



After lunch it was time for our craft, paper purses of course, we had lots of fun creating our little bags. A little while later some of the ladies went to explore the nearby communities; while other stayed back to relax (and start dinner).

Saturday evening was more visiting, knitting, crocheting, and playing a game of "Doodles". There was more laughter and cheering.

Sunday morning found us in the midst of a flurry. Fortunately we had a wonderful devotion where the theme, "In the Bag", was shared from the viewpoint of "Everything is taken care of". It was very moving and a great inspiration to all; especially with the thought of travelling home was ahead of us. It was sad to say good-bye to our friends, but there were rumblings of another retreat next year, and most of us would meet again at the National Conference.



*Submitted by: Dee McCabe*

### **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 to send in your prayer requests so that we can print them here.

This month we will focus on the following:

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heal all your diseases. Psalm 103:2-3*

### **God Will Take Care of You (1904)**

J.C. Penny, who descended from a long line of Baptist preachers, was well on his way to establishing a successful career when the 1929 Great Depression threw him into crisis. His business deals turned sour, and Penny became overwhelmed with anxiety and insomnia. He developed a painful case of shingles and was hospitalized, but tranquilizers and drugs only made things worse. His mental state deteriorated until, as he later said, "*I was broken nervously and physically, filled with despair, unable to see even a ray of hope. I had nothing to live for. I felt I hadn't a friend left in the world that even my family turned against me*".

But one morning he heard signing coming from the little hospital chapel. The words of the song said, *"Be not dismayed whate'er betide / God will take care of you"*.

Entering the chapel, he listened to the song, to the Scripture reading, and to the prayer. *"Suddenly – something happened. I can't explain it; I can only call it a miracle. I felt as if I had been instantly lifted out of the darkness of a dungeon into warm, brilliant sunlight."* All worry left him as he realized more fully than he had ever imagined just how much the Lord Jesus Christ cared for him. From that day J.C. Penny was never plagued with worry, and he later recalled those moments in the chapel as, *"the most dramatic and glorious twenty minutes of my life."* He later became one of America's greatest retail merchants.

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On a Sunday in 1904, Civilla Martin was in Lestershire, New York, where her husband Walter was compiling a collection of hymns for the Practical Bible Training School. They were planning to travel to another town that day, for Martin had a preaching assignment. Civilla woke up sick and Martin was about to cancel his plans, when their young child piped up and said: *"Oh, Daddy, you don't have to stay here because of mother – God will take care of us."*

Martin proceeded to the train station and fulfilled his appointment. When he returned Civilla handed him the words of *"God Will Take Care of You"*, which she had written in his absence. Going to his little organ, Martin

composed the music, and it was first published in the songbook he was compiling for the school.

Above story copied from "Then Sings My Soul" – Robert J. Morgan

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In May 2007, I also sojourned through a tunnel. I have always been a person of doing to learn something and not just explanation of this is how it is. My 3<sup>rd</sup> day in ICU I had an experience of being in the light. It was not the hot light of a bright summer day or a burning/touching of a lit lamp. I can describe it only as a child the warmth /as having been out in the bitter cold – making hot chocolate and wrapping my hands around the mug – of letting the heat from the cup travel through my finger tips to the palm of my hand and up my arms. And as I sip the warmth touches the deepest of my insides and radiates to my outmost being.

My vitals began to fall again and the alarms went off and the medical staff worked to revive me. Through my week in ICU the alarms periodically went off and the nurses would call *"Breath Joyce"*. The male nurse, when I was responsive enough, asked me

where I had been. I answered *"in the light"*. They were a little worried and called the lead trauma doctor but were never sure what happened.

I believe I was in the arms of our Lord and knew that I was safe. Communion reminds me of that experience – the wine warming me from inside out – a light that is always there – but sometimes in the shadow of our day to day activities.

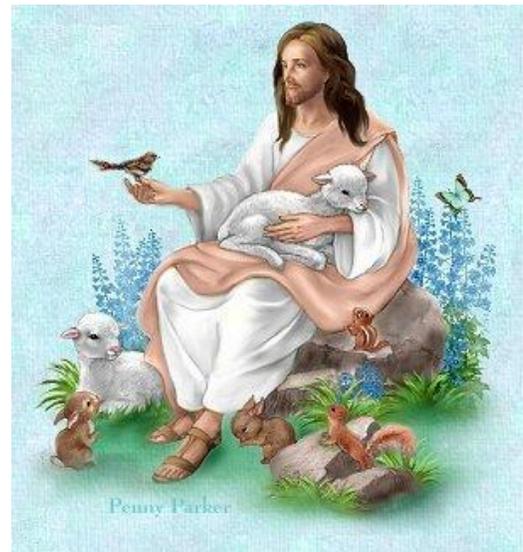
Thanks Be to God for all your shining lights  
Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Wilmot

## **Devotional Corner**

### **His Eye Is On The Sparrow (1905)**

Most people have a hobby of some sort to provide a healthy diversion from the rigors of work. Long ago, there was a woodworker in Nazareth who counted bird-watching among His diversions. We can make that assumption, because Jesus later referred to bird-life in His sermons, saying things like:

*"Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will". – **Matthew 10:29***



*"Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" – **Matthew 6:26***

*"Consider the ravens..." – **Luke 12:26***

*"Do not fear ... you are of more value than many sparrows." – **Luke 12:7***

It was this theme that caused the author of *"God Will Take Care of You"*, to write a year later, another great hymn on God's care: *"His Eye is on the Sparrow"*. Civilla Durfee Martin was a Canadian by birth, born on August 21, 1869, in Nova Scotia. She became a school and music teacher, but when she married Dr. Walter Martin, an evangelist, she gave up teaching to travel with him and assist in his meetings. This is her account of the writing of this song:

*"Early in the spring of 1905, my husband and I were sojourning in Elmira, New York. We contracted a deep friendship for a couple by the name of Mr. & Mrs. Doolittle – true saints of God. Mrs. Doolittle had been bedridden for nigh twenty years. Her husband was an incurable cripple who had to propel himself to and from his business in a wheelchair. Despite their afflictions, they lived happy Christian lives, bringing*

*inspiration and comfort to all who knew them. One day while we were visiting with the Doolittle's, my husband commented on their bright hopefulness and asked them for the secret of it. Mrs. Doolittle's reply was simple: "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me". The beauty of this simple expression of boundless faith gripped the hearts and fired the imagination of Dr. Martin and me. The hymn "His Eye is on the Sparrow" was the outcome of that experience."*

The day after writing the song, she mailed it to the famous Gospel composer, Charles Gabriel, who penned the music.

Above story copied from "Then Sings My Soul" – Robert J. Morgan

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One of the hardest things to understand in life – how much can we bare? It is said in the bible that God gives only what we can bare and it is also written that we leave all of cares and worries with him. If we could do that it may be possible for us to soar as the birds – free – energized – looking for nothing but enjoyment in the moment.

As we move from fall to winter toward the birth of Christ may we remember to stop and as I tell friends when I am with them when they get stressed – I say b-r-e-a-t-h. Take time to see what is around you and especially who is around you – God gave us friends for a reason – share whatever you can whenever you can and I promise your burden will be lighter and your soul uplifted and your faith confirmed.

Respectfully submitted by: Joyce Wilmot  
St. Luke's Chapel  
CFB Gagetown



## **Christmas Letter from our Chaplain General**

### **THIS WILL BE A SIGN**

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'" *Luke 2:10-12*

We are once again journeying through the season of Advent on our way to celebrating Christmas. The common rituals are upon us; shopping, baking, decorating, visiting, and preparing everything for the special celebrations that are so familiar to us. In the background of all our preparations we hear sacred carols about angels and shepherds, or whimsical songs about reindeer. However, the romantic notions about twinkling lights, walking through winter wonderlands and sleigh bells are sometimes muted by the madness of the crowds on "black Friday", the parking wars at the mall, and the stresses we put upon ourselves to make it all perfect. What are some signs that can lead us to the true meaning of Christmas?

The Advent wreath which adorns our Chapels and many of our homes speaks to Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, the traditional aspects associated with the true meaning of Christmas. Each candle we light both brightens our world and calls us to be a reflection of the (that) Light of the World, the infant Jesus, God's salvation for humankind.

My prayer for each of us is that we will enjoy our families, gifts, food and all the beauty that this season offers and not miss the good news shared on the hillside by the angel. "This will be a sign," the angel says to the shepherds, and it is a message for us today as well. God has broken into our world, into all its unrest, terror, disaster to bring a tiny baby who is our hope and salvation. I invite you to look for the signs of the coming of the Christ Child in all that you do throughout this holy season.

Merry Christmas

K.R. McLean  
Chaplain General



## Editor's *Note*

*by Sylvie Jobin*

### **T'was the night before Christmas...**

*"...Let's have a feast and celebrate." -- Luke 15:23*

This Christmas is a very special one for me. It will be my first since my family reunited. We are planning for a quiet time just the three of us, around a fantastic meal that we will prepare as a family.

Like the father in the Prodigal Son parable, we will have a feast to celebrate the reunification of our family. I thank God to have given me patience and strength throughout this ordeal.

I think it is correct to pretend that there is three kind of Christmas, let me explain:

First of all, Christmas celebrating the birth of our Saviour; the religious meaning around Christmas, the angels singing, the joy and peace in everybody's eyes!

Secondly, Christmas celebrating families... like the one I used to have when I was a child. The cousins, aunts and uncles, all coming to visit and share a scrumptious meal and wonderful fellowship.

At last, the commercial Christmas where some people think that the size or the amount of gifts can measure the love you have for one another.

I sincerely think that a good dose of each can make for wonderful memories. Let's first celebrate the birth of a newborn King, share a meal with family and friends; then give to the less fortunate. I think this is the real Spirit of Christmas!

*May your heart  
be filled with  
God's love  
today on Christmas  
and always!*



As I had mentioned before, I will keep on the schedule for the Newsletter as proposed in the last Signs of the Spirit as followed:

**March** – Deadlines for articles would be the last day of February. This newsletter would include everything we need to know about the upcoming Conference ;) Again, your local Guild input is always appreciated.

**June** – Deadlines for articles would be June 1<sup>st</sup>. This newsletter would illustrate the Conference, any other activities since and the thoughts and blessings for the summer.

Also I'd like to remind you that the Guild manual and forms have been updated and can be found on our website at [www.chapelguild.com](http://www.chapelguild.com) ... have a look and give us your feedback!

Sylvie Jobin  
Signs of the Spirit  
Editor

### **Contact Us**

The editor of Signs of the Spirit may be contacted directly:  
Sylvie Jobin, 15 Hill St Lincoln NB E3B 6W2  
(506) 472-6242

[signsofthespirit2011@gmail.com](mailto:signsofthespirit2011@gmail.com)

Or through the National Guild President, Ute Lamb, at [utelamb@gmail.com](mailto:utelamb@gmail.com)

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