



Signs of the Spirit

Canadian Forces Protestant Chapel Guild

February 2009

Welcome to the eleventh 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.

It's Almost Conference Time!!!



Wednesday, April 29 @ 1900 hrs until Sunday, May 3 @ 0800 hrs

Galilee Centre, Arnprior, Ontario

Host Guild: Edmonton

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you..."

2 Timothy 1:6a NIV

Conference will include the return of Guild Jeopardy, Message Buckets, Bookstore, and Kit Shop as well as some new and exciting activities!

You are reminded to bring the following with you to conference:

- ⇒ 3 new pairs of socks or underwear (for men or women) for our servant opportunity
- ⇒ One wrapped item to be auctioned at our Mystery Auction conference fundraiser
- ⇒ Name tag
- ⇒ A "conference" bag
- ⇒ Lots of enthusiasm!

We look forward to seeing you there!!

Deadline for Registration is March 24th

CDS Military Family Fund Donation

It was my pleasure, as National Guild President, to present our cheque to General Walter Natynczyk, Chief of the Defence Staff., on December 17, 2008. I had an opportunity to share with General Natynczyk about our Guild, our members, our work, and how our Local Guilds raised the money to make this donation. General Natynczyk expressed tremendous gratitude for our work and presence – both in this project and on a day to day basis. I am pleased to share his letter with you.

Chief of the Defence Staff



Chef d'état-major de la Défense

National Defence
Headquarters
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2

Quartier général de
la Défense nationale
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0K2

16 January 2009

Mrs. Karen Kettle
President
Canadian Forces Protestant Chapel Guild
167 Granite Court
Kanata ON K2M 0A3

Dear Mrs. Kettle, *Karen!*

I want to thank you for the generous donation the Canadian Forces Protestant Chapel Guild recently made to the Military Families Fund (MFF).

As you are well aware, the men and women of the Canadian Forces rely on the support of their families to effectively meet the demands of military service. In return, it is important that those families be supported in times of emotional and financial difficulties. Your generous donation will help ensure that we provide that same unflinching support when they need it most.

Your personal involvement in helping raise these funds is greatly appreciated, and serves as yet another example of the level of contribution that our military families bring to the military community.

On behalf of our men and women in uniform and their families, please accept my heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,

W.J. Natynczyk
General

*Your leadership and
tremendous generosity are
truly appreciated!
God bless!*



National Défense
Defence nationale

Canada

Good News from our Guilds

How do you build up a brand new Guild? You would think that the best thing to do would be to send as many delegates as possible to the annual conference. This would really jumpstart a new guild, with encouragement, enthusiasm and new ideas. It's the perfect way, especially if it turns out that the new president of the new guild is only going to be there for 1 year. But how can it be done? Even if the new Guild works really hard and really successfully, raising funds, there simply wouldn't be enough. How do you build up a brand new Guild? If you're a Guild that has been around for a few years, you just might decide to send some of your hard earned funds to help the new Guild send delegates to the conference. Shearwater's new Guild would like to say a huge thank you to the Ottawa Guild for their generous and most appreciated help. Thank you Ottawa!

Devotional Corner



Have you ever been treated rudely or unfairly, perhaps by a cashier or even a total stranger? It happens to all of us from time to time and it can easily leave us with a very negative opinion of the person who treated us inappropriately.

This happened to me when I was at seminary. I was given the names of two professors whom I might ask to serve as the academic advisor for my thesis. I called the first professor on the list, explained who I was and that I hoped he would serve as my advisor. He was quite abrupt, saying only: "I'm sorry, I don't have time." He gave no explanation and didn't suggest an alternative. I was not impressed. I had expected more from a seminary professor.

Six months later I had to take a course with this same professor and I was not looking forward to it. On the first day of the course, before class, I overheard the professor talking with one of the other students. The conversation went something like this:

Student, "How is your wife doing, professor?"

Professor, "Perhaps a little better, thank you. The chemo seems to be helping, but it has been a long and difficult six months?"

Six months! That meant that the cancer had been diagnosed just at the time I had called about my thesis, perhaps the very same day. I had been so quick to judge, without knowing the whole story. I had never stopped to think that the phone call before mine might have contained bad news. It turned out the man was an excellent professor and a caring person.

Since that time, I have been more careful. Whenever someone seems rude or unpleasant, I ask myself what their day might have been like, what difficulties they might be facing that would cause them to behave in such a way. I also ask God to help them through those difficulties. It's next to impossible to be judgemental after that!

Try it. You'll see!

"Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." Luke 6:37

Submitted by Valerie Lublink

More Good News From Our Guilds

Shearwater



Shearwater's new Guild took part in Operation Christmas Child in December and prepared 29 boxes filled with useful and enjoyable presents for children who have very little.

Ottawa

The Ottawa Guild recently visited the national headquarters of Victoria's Quilts Canada to learn more about this organization for whom the Guild members handwrite thank you cards, stamp envelopes, and insert the cards into the envelopes. These cards are then addressed at the headquarters and sent to all individuals who make donations to this organization.



The mission of Victoria's Quilts Canada is "to provide handmade quilts to people with cancer in Canada". By providing these quilts the many volunteers of this non-profit organization hope to bring comfort to those dealing with cancer as well as spiritual comfort in knowing that they are not alone in their struggle. For more information please see www.victoriasquiltscanada.com

The Ottawa Guild members were able to make a donation of fabric, see how the quilts are prepared for both local delivery and mailing. And meet some of the many volunteers who work for this organization. The Guild members returned home with another supply of blank cards which they will write and prepare for Victoria's Quilts.

Petawawa



We reached out to the community by decorating a Christmas tree for the local library's tree festival and entitled it "Faith, Fellowship and Service". The white tree donated by a Guild member was decorated in Guild colours of blue, white, and silver with decorations donated by Guild members. We draped a silver ribbon with all the Guild members names written on it as a garland over the entire tree. We won \$50 as the second place winner of the People's Choice voted on by the hundreds of people who saw the many trees.

Karen Kettle, National Guild President, was pleased to present the Petawawa Guild with a plaque commemorating their "win" – way to go Petawawa!!



Gwen Rutland, Public Relations from the Bernadette McCann House (our local Women's Shelter) spoke at the January meeting of the Petawaw Guild. Doris Graves, our Guild President, presented Gwen with a donations of mitts, hats and other household items donated by Guild members. The Guild supports Bernadette McCann house during the year with donations of needed items with advice from McCann house.

St. George's Chapel also presented Gwen with a cheque for \$800.00

Submitted by Hilda Young

Kit Shop – New Shirts!

The Guild Kit Shop is proud to have two new items for your shopping pleasure! We now offer a polo shirt and a v-necked t-shirt. Both shirts come in blue or white and a variety of sizes. Information about these items has been sent out to all Guilds. Be sure to pre-order the shirts you would like and avoid disappointment at conference!

Strong Woman vs. a Woman of Strength

A strong woman works out every day to keep her body in shape...
but a woman of strength kneels in prayer to keep her soul in shape...

A strong woman isn't afraid of anything...
but a woman of strength shows courage in the midst of her fear...

A strong woman won't let anyone get the best of her...
but a woman of strength gives the best of her to everyone...

A strong woman walks sure footedly...
but a woman of strength knows God will catch her if she falls...

A strong woman wears the look of confidence on her face...
but a woman of strength wears grace...

A strong woman has faith that she is strong enough for the journey...
but a woman of strength has faith that it is in the journey that she will become strong...

Contact Us

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