



# Signs of the Spirit

**Canadian Forces Protestant Chapel Guild**

**May 2008**

Welcome to the eighth 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 2008**



**'Be a Bug' – Build Up Guilds!** This was the theme of this year's conference, held at the Galilee Retreat Centre, in Arnprior, near Ottawa. The 36 Guild members and 3 Chaplains in attendance not only enjoyed themselves, but also had the opportunity to learn, encourage others and be encouraged.



Both construction and garden metaphors were used to explain that, while it is God who causes growth in Guilds, there are many things we can do to make our Guilds places that are conducive to growth. I'm sure we are all busy implementing some of the suggestions that will facilitate growth – numerical growth, spiritual growth and growth in relevance.



We worked on a book together, did a craft, played Guild Jeopardy, shared skits and celebrated a year's worth of special events. Saturday night we were privileged to listen to the 'Good Ol Boys', from Ottawa. In keeping with our 'bug' theme, we

considered how we could take lessons learned from various insects and specifically apply them to our individual Guilds. However, we weren't too busy to think about taking care of ourselves and Karen, using a wonderful object lesson, reminded us not to let our lives become so filled with unimportant or trivial things that there is no room left for the important ones.



We made a 'tree' bear 'fruit', by filling it's empty 'branches' with children's socks, mitts etc to be donated to a shelter and watched a 'butterfly' emerge from its Chrysalis, reminding us of God's transforming power and giving us each something (Forget-Me-Not seeds) to take back to our Guilds to continue the idea of Growth.

There was great food and great music and even a Christian Bookstore to supplement the Kit shop.



Different groups lead devotions throughout the day and Saturday we shared communion together.

Each evening finished with a Vesper service, which concluded the day with prayer.



It was a wonderful experience and for some a transforming one. Thanks to all who made this conference a success! If you weren't able to come this year, you will want to be there next year!

### Venue for Conference 2009

The evaluations from Conference 2008 show unanimous support for a retreat centre setting for our conference venue. Local Guilds are encouraged to research similar venues in your regions and submit all pertinent information regarding cost, transportation requirements, and facilities available for any venue that you wish the executive to consider for Conference 2009. The dates for conference are April 29 – May 3, 2009. All submissions must be received by **June 30, 2008** at the latest. At this time we have a tentative booking at Galilee Centre for 2009.

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

To date, \$1,345.64 has been received in support of this initiative. Thank you to the Guilds from NORAD, Winnipeg, Comox and Petawawa for your tremendous work! There is still time to participate in this initiative. Please forward any donations to the National Treasurer by the end of August. The monies collected will be given to the CDS Military Family Fund in September. You are encouraged to be part of this project that clearly fits our conference topic of 'growth in relevance'. If you have any questions about this project please contact the National President.

### **Post Conference Reflection from One Delegate**

Faith, Fellowship, and Service.

Those three words are now imbedded in my head, and hold more than one meaning. I attended my first Guild Conference in April 2008. Located at Galilee Center, a Christian retreat in Arnprior, north of Ottawa, it was a peaceful, quiet and beautiful location along the Ottawa River; the perfect setting for such an event. I was unaware of how much the conference would affect me. I wasn't sure what I was going to take away from the conference, or even why I had agreed to go, but I think as with all things, there is a purpose to your actions.

We arrived at Galilee, and right away, I was blown away with the setting: the river, the grounds, the building. I think it was at that point that I knew I was in for a real treat that weekend. There were the meetings, the lessons, and the lectures which were very nice to hear. I didn't feel like I was sitting through a boring University lecture where you just look at the time, but rather sitting through an informative session, where you could learn life things from it, or at least take something away from the information.



As the weekend progressed, I started building relationships with the ladies. You get to talk to them during breaks, and after meals. At night, the 'rowdy' crowd were sitting in the dining room and were going to make me "number 1, or number two" (Gagetown, and Winnipeg, you know what I'm talking about!!!)

I should also mention that as a 21 year old, I was the youngest gal there, which was also fun. They would tell me about their daughters, and their grandkids. Or share personal stories and tell me that as long as I don't worry about life, it'll just happen and I'll do fine. I attended with my mom, which was also fun; kind of a mother-daughter weekend. It was very touching hearing from other mothers that they would now like to go to a conference with their daughter because they had seen me there with my mom and would like to experience that.

Hopefully, next year's conference will prove as exciting as this year's! I'm also hoping to rearrange my school schedule so I can travel to be there! I don't think I would trade my experience for anything. I'm not sure that I fully understand the depth of how much I took away from that weekend, but I know for one thing, I inherited about 40 new grandmothers!!!!

God Bless! xo  
Allison Maltais  
Ottawa Guild Member

## **Good News from our Guilds**

### **22 Wing North Bay**

#### **Christ the King Protestant Chapel Guild**

The first annual Storytelling Evening was held on March 28, 2008. It also coincided with the Global Earth Day initiative to turn out lights from 8 to 9 p.m.

Starting at 7:05 p.m. our treasurer, Tina Matheson, read "LOVE YOU FOREVER" by Robert Munch. While a verse was sung by Tina, one of our life time members, Estelle Pelke, did the actions. Most people were surprised to learn that there were actions to the verse.

Next, our member at large, Pam Lennips and her two daughters, Jamie and Julia, performed "Explanation of Mosquitoes (summers pesky problems)." This is an Iroquois legend. Jamie and Julia used hand puppets named Ernie and Fred. Fred has a strong FONDNESS for HOT DOGS! Then Pam read "Legend of the Peacemaker", another Iroquois legend. The tree of peace was explained like this: roots of the tree point to four directions, north, east, south and west. The Eagle sits on top of the tree to warn of any upcoming danger and all the weapons were buried under the tree to end war and for peace to remain forever. The puppets were the fun part of the two stories.

Preteen, Corrine Giorgetti, read "Hooray for Diffendofer Day". This is a Dr. Suess book. During this story there were plenty of laughs and giggles by the children and adults. Estelle Pelke read her version of "Little Red Hen." The audience said the following verse: The duck said "quack, not I", the pig said "oink, not I," and the frog said "no way no way no way." As the verse was read each time, the enthusiasm got louder and louder.

A young reader by the name of Robyn Meldrum, read "one fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish", another Dr. Suess book. She did an excellent job of reading. Estelle Pelke then read "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" while Domonic Giorgetti made tea. We then took a break from reading to prepare for the Global Earth Day initiative.

At 8 p.m. one flashlight was turned on while all the lights were turned off. Six candles were then lit and each one was placed with a family. Domonic then read an excerpt from "Two Towers", book 2 from the Lord of the Rings Trilogy.

Then our famous Russell Harvey told his story of his church experience with his best friend Matthew Robarts while they were in Petawawa. Russell and his friend Matthew attended St George's Chapel on base. Russell and Matthew learned that the Catholic Church on base had money stolen from its Heart. The Heart held coins and bills and the money was then donated to an overseas mission. So Russell and Matthew gave their allowance to Padre Kevin Klein to pass on to the Catholic Church to help replace the money that was stolen (this was the third time money had been stolen from the Heart). Russell and Matthew had their picture taken and there was an article printed in the Petawawa Observer, the local newspaper, and it was also aired on the radio, which many of their classmates and teachers heard. Then their friends and neighbours were giving them "bags of coins" to be donated.

"This little light of mine" was the first candle song sung. Everyone knew this song and sang it very loud. Then we sang more songs that the old and young learned at Church camp and Girl Guide Camp. During Kumbya our president, Geraldine Harvey, and a guest Beverly did the actions for the words. I was surprised for being 37 that I remembered all the actions! For the final song we sang our regular church Choral Blessing. It is also known as Johnston Choral Benediction. "As our path wonders onward to the rising of the sun, may the wind that moves among us help us travel through all harm, till the evening of life shines forth into dawn, may God be with us as we go, as we go, into peace."

Yes, we were still in candle light mode. Then as the each family left, they were given a bible that was donated by the Canadian Bible Society. Even though we started in light we ended in darkness. We are going to be doing this fundraising event again next year. An awesome time was had by all.

*Submitted by Geraldine Harvey, President and Tina Matheson, Treasurer*

## **Devotional Corner**

Some people complain about being a middle child - not having the responsibility and privilege of the oldest and not having the babying and spoiling that the youngest inevitably receives. In fact, you have probably heard people speak of a 'middle child syndrome', along with its possible effects on personality and behaviour, including everything from lacking drive, to not liking being in the limelight; from feeling ignored to not being able to finish projects they start.

I grew up a middle child – I have a sister about 18 months older than me and another sister about 18 months younger than me. (I also have a younger brother, but he is ten years younger than my younger sister, so we were three for a long time.) I loved being the middle child, because that



position avoids special treatment and is simply a comfortable place to be. It wasn't me who was told, "you need to be an example to your younger sisters" and no one was envious of me for being spoiled, because I never was. More importantly for me – I didn't have to always be the pioneer.

First day of school – no problem, my older sister had already done that and told me just what to expect

Brownie Camp – not a problem – my older sister had already been there. High school – not to worry - she showed me where the classrooms were, how to find my locker and the cafeteria and so on. My older sister did almost everything before I did, so I had a guide and advisor, someone who had

already been there and done that, to show me the way. For me, it was a comfortable place to be.

Jesus faced death, which is, for many people, the most frightening experience this life holds, but he rose again that first Easter Sunday morning. He came back from the grave and spoke with his followers. They saw Him and touched Him. He told them he was going to prepare a place for them in heaven and that they didn't need to be afraid. Like an older brother, He has already walked the path we will walk, told us what to expect and assures us that we have nothing to fear, because he will walk it with us.

Jesus said: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

(John 14:1-3).

*Submitted by Valerie Lublink*

## Support the Troops

St. Mark's Protestant Chapel Guild, Cold Lake shared their beautiful quilt at conference. This quilt was handmade by the Guild and will be donated to a member of the Canadian Military who has been injured while serving out of the country. Congratulations on this great project Cold Lake!

*(L to R: Padre Dave Kettle, Joanna Gilkinson, Debi Stahn, Padre Karl McLean)*



## Next Issue of 'Signs of the Spirit'

Will.....

- be out in late August
- have news about the new Guild website
- have lots of exciting news from local Guilds (Send stories and pictures please!)

## Executive Update

Local Guilds will be receiving a letter outlining decisions taken during the AGM at conference in the near future. Please watch your chapel mailbox.

We wish you all a warm, relaxing, and blessed summer!



As we learned from Bernie and Ert – nothing much is going to happen if we stay in our seed bag. To quote our good friend Bernie, *“Come on Ert, let's hit the dirt!”*

If you weren't at conference and would like to learn what Bernie and Ert have to share with us – check out this website to read the skit: [http://archive.elca.org/christianeducation/programplanners/2003ceprogramplanner/mod4/ImGonnaMake\\_skit.pdf](http://archive.elca.org/christianeducation/programplanners/2003ceprogramplanner/mod4/ImGonnaMake_skit.pdf)

## Contact Us

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