



Signs of the Spirit

Canadian Forces Protestant Chapel Guild

September 2008

Welcome to the ninth 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 2009

Our last newsletter started with news about Conference 2008 – so I thought I'd start this newsletter with our upcoming Conference 2009!

Conference 2009 will be held at Galilee Centre, Arnprior, ON starting with a Meet & Greet the evening of Wednesday, April 29th, 2009 and finishing with breakfast on Sunday, May 3rd, 2009.

The theme and particulars will unfold over the next couple of months. Keep tuned for more news!



Guild Sunday 2008

Guild Sunday will be held on Sunday, October 26th, 2008. The order of service has been circulated to all Guilds. Many thanks to the Petawawa Guild for preparing this order of service for our corporate use.

Please send pictures and stories about your Guild Sunday Service for publication in future issues of *Signs of the Spirit*.

Last year the Principal Chaplain (P) encouraged Chapel congregations to split the offering from Guild Sunday three ways; 1/3 to the local chapel, 1/3 to the local Guild, and 1/3 to the National Guild Executive. This proposal was well received and proved to be a success. Again this year, Chapel congregations will be encouraged to embrace this practice. The National Executive is very grateful for the support, financial and otherwise, extended to the Guild by Chapel congregations.

Items of Note arising from the Annual General Meeting 2008

The following items of note were included in a letter to all local Guilds in late May. We are including them here as a reminder:

- Dues will now be payable in September each year. For 2008 please send \$7 per member and \$2 per associate member (this amount is prorated as you have already paid until the end of 2008). For 2009 you will send \$10 (or \$3 for associates) in September. The “Guild year” will be September to August.
- The newsletter will no longer be mailed out in hard copy. Electronic copies will be sent to each person on the Guild distribution list and also to each Protestant Chaplain. You are encouraged to work with your CLC to establish a system to ensure that each member of your Guild has access to the newsletter. You are also encouraged to make it available to others in your Chapel and community.
- New mission project – it was agreed that each Local Guild work to improve, add to, or to establish a working partnership with their Family Resource Centre. This partnership will look different in each community – but each partnership will benefit the local military community (growth in relevance); raise the profile of the Guild in the community; and generate potential for numerical growth both in the Guild and the Chapel as we make more connections in our communities.
- Conference 2009 will include a “Chinese Auction” with the proceeds going to the National Guild account.
- Following a positive discussion a motion was passed unanimously that the constitution be amended to include the following ‘Best Practice’ pertaining to the National Executive position of President. *The Vice President will automatically move into the position of President unless the VP is unwilling/unable to do so. The position of President will only be open for nomination in the event that the VP is not able to fill the position.* This best practice is in the organization’s best interests. Succession planning should be reviewed at all executive meetings.

Devotional Corner

Most of us have worked at least one needlepoint or counted cross stitch picture. I have done several in wool on canvas, including one that was based on a picture of my husband. Several counted cross stitch pictures hang on the walls of my home and while the better examples have been done by my daughter or my sister, some are my work. I have even started, with the aid of a magnifying glass, a tiny needlepoint cushion cover for my doll house. While I am not by any means an expert, I am happy with the finished works I have produced and have enjoyed working on the various projects.



However, if you were to turn any of these projects over and look at the back, what you would see would not be quite so pleasing. Instead of a beautiful picture, you would see, at best, a vague outline, some loose ends and possibly even a few knots. You would certainly not see any details or know for certain the appearance of the other side. The back of a needlepoint picture lacks all the beauty and clarity of the front.

At this time of year, some of us are in new postings. Some of our children will be attending new schools. The end of the summer and the beginning of autumn seem to bring us more changes than a new calendar year and our lives can seem like the vague outline, loose ends and knots of the reverse side of a needlepoint.

The Bible tells us that God is with us wherever we go, whatever we do and all the time. He is there, beside us as friend, before us as guide and behind us as support. God is outside of time and because of this He already knows how we will fit into our new communities, what our new neighbours will be like or our new job or our children's schools. He can see our lives as beautiful, clear and complete, like the front of the needlepoint picture. He does not see only the knots and loose ends, but the beautiful finished picture and he walks with us.

What a comfort to have present with us the one who knows which way our path is going, who understands all of life's complexities and who will never leave us. Matthew 18:20 reminds us of this as we read these familiar and comforting words: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Submitted by Valerie Lublink

Good News from our Guilds

RELAY FOR LIFE - ST LUKE'S GUILD, Gagetown (submitted by Sylvie Jobin)



St. Luke's Protestant Guild teamed up with Saint Mary's CWL and other members of both congregations to form a team for the Relay for Life. Our team was called the "Super Sisters", and our goal was to raise \$3,000 in our fight against cancer. The team was lead by two Sylvies... commonly named "Sylvie 1 and Sylvie 2" by the rest of the team. One Sylvie from the Guild and one from the CWL.

The Super Sisters did a terrific job in their fight against cancer. They raised a total of \$3,942.64!! WOW!!



I would like to personally thank all of the members of the Super Sisters Team: Sylvie Archambault (co-captain), Pamela Cloutier, Ute Lamb, Sonja Lamb, Helene Boyko, Charleen Rooney, Helen McKinnon, Tawnya Stringer, Sharon Sudsbear, Marie Majors, Trudy Healey, Linda Aubie, Marie-Claire Savoie, Sue Penny, Judith Wheaton, Cheryl Minkoff, Toni Read, and Anastasie Mukarwego. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone.



All of you did a great job in fundraising, baking, crafting, barbecuing, yard saleing, and just being yourself. Both chapels can be proud of such wonderful cooperation between our two congregations. As for myself, I say... "Congrats!" to an exceptional team.

Until next time...

Sylvie Jobin, Team Captain 2008
St. Luke's Protestant Guild

Executive Update

Your Executive will be meeting in Ottawa on October 31st and November 1st. Your prayers are encouraged and appreciated! Planning for Conference 2009 will take place during this meeting.

If you have any business that you would like the executive to consider at their meeting, please forward this to the President as soon as possible.

On Guild Sunday, Karen Kettle will be visiting and speaking in Edmonton; Valerie Lublink will be visiting and speaking in Greenwood.

What do you want to see in Signs of the Spirit?

Please let us know what you would like to see in Signs of the Spirit! Let us know and we will try to accommodate you. We are counting on you to send us your pictures and news so that we can share them with all Guild sisters.

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.

You are encouraged to submit your Guild's information to be included in future Prayer Focus articles.

“A Miracle In You”

The story is well known. A very large group of people, over 5,000, were following Jesus one day. They were listening to His teachings. The day was getting long, mealtime was past. Jesus and His disciples began discussing the question of feeding the crowd. Andrew spoke up saying, "There's a little boy here with a lunch of 5 barley loaves and 2 small fish."

Jesus replied, "Tell everyone to sit down." Then He took the lunch, gave thanks to God and gave it to His disciples to pass out to the people. When everyone had eaten and was full, the disciples gathered up twelve baskets of leftovers! A miracle was performed that day on the hillside because one small boy gave the little he had to Jesus.

How often we too possess a potential miracle. But, unlike the little boy, we do not yield it into the hands of Jesus to bless and use.

Have you ever felt like you have no talents? Or the talents you once used and enjoyed now seem lost somewhere in the busyness of car pools for the children, meals, diapers and dirty laundry?

Just as Jesus took those few loaves and fish and fed a multitude, He can also take our willingness to be used and touch other lives through us.

The little boy could have thought it absolutely pointless to ever offer such a small lunch when there were so many to be fed. He could have eaten the entire lunch himself and never known what a miracle was missed.

Let us be challenged by this small boy to offer to Jesus our talents, no matter how small WE feel they are. Let us not deprive ourselves, or others of seeing Jesus bless and use them.

John 6:8-10 - Then Andrew spoke up, "There is a youngster here with five barley loaves and a couple of fish..." "Tell everyone to sit down," ordered Jesus...Then Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks to God and passed them out to the people....and everyone ate until full. (Living Bible)

by Gail E. Rodgers. Excerpt from "Meditations of a Homemaker."

“What To Know” _____ by Julia Bettencourt www.creativeladiesministry.com

"To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding." Proverbs 1:2

1. Know God.

*"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen,
I will be exalted in the earth. " Psalm 46:10*

2. Know That Christ Lives.

*"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall
stand at the latter day upon the earth." Job 19:25*

3. Know The Love of Christ.

"And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." Ephesians 3:19

4. Know Who You Believe In.

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." 2 Timothy 1:12

5. Know The Greatness of God.

"I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee." Job 42:2

"For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods." Psalm 135:5

6. Know That You Have Eternal Life.

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." 1 John 5:13

7. Know God Is In Control.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

8. Know That Christ Is Coming Back.

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." 1 John 3:2

Contact Us

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