

APRIL 2010



Daring Discipleship

A HamPack mailing from Lorna MacQueen,
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resources, workshops, and opportunities

Resurrection Awe

I have very clear memories of Easter as a child.

I betray my age when I admit to memories of my spring coat, Easter hat, and gloves!

These things were minor... except... that they communicated to me something important about the occasion. It was clear from the moment we arose from our beds that this was an important celebration. The sweetness of the hot crossed buns signified the sweetness of the good news... which would be like honey in our mouths. I knew Easter was about something profound, life changing, joy bringing. It quickly became my most beloved day of the year.

The celebration began the moment we awakened and continued in worship. Music was uplifting, joyous and awe inspiring. The communion table (off limits to me as a child) was covered in white linen and signified something mysterious and wonderful.

Awe and joy were awakened in my child's soul.

I do not speak of these memories to imply we should (or could) retreat to past practices... but rather to ask the question... does our communal worship bring these kinds of connections to our children and youth? Is worship a place where joy is obvious? Mystery is present? Awe is born?

How can we enable our special occasion and weekly worship to be a place of connection with the Divine? How do we communicate and transmit the good news in ways that our children and youth will never forget, ways that will be written in their souls?

It cannot be about entertainment—they have plenty of that. The question is not, how can we keep them interested? The question is how can we communicate the resurrection message in ways that will enable all of us, of whatever age and stage, to draw closer to the mystery. If we have a faith to celebrate... how can we share that celebration with joy? How do we build a foundation of hope that will undergird our lives?

Programs:



PREPARING FOR EARTH DAY: Living with Respect in Creation - Hamilton Conference Office- April 15 9:30-3:30 with Nelson Rosales. Register in advance through Elenore at 905-659-3343 or elegrand@hamconf.org Bring your own lunch and carpool!

EARTH DAY: April 22, 2010

COMMUNITY JUSTICE CAMP: "LIVE the *change* you want to see". Hosted by the Anglican Diocese of Niagara at McMaster University in Hamilton, **May 9-14, 2010**. "You are invited to a great

opportunity to learn how to integrate justice-making into our lives and our parishes; to a time of powerful, experiential learning and training for community development; to a gathering of adults of all ages and diverse levels of experience." Cost: \$350 **including** accommodation and food. See www.justicecamp.ca

YOUTH FORUM AND CAYTS to be held at the Annual Meeting of Hamilton Conference, June 4-5, 2010, Woolwich Memorial Centre, Elmira. Please check our website for applications and more information: <http://www.hamconf.org/AM.html>

Programs Cont'd

Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center,
Bangor, PA www.kirkridge.org

- April 9-11: **Compassionate Listening** with Leah Green
- April 30-May 2: **The Gospel According to John** with John Dear
- May 14-16 **Writing the Sacred:** A Psalm- sacred Poetry with Ray McGinnis
- May 21-23 Kirkridge **Holistic Weekend** with Stacey Hotchikin

Resources:

We Are Camp: National Camping Awareness Campaign

The national camping awareness campaign has begun. Campaign kits have been mailed to all camps, presbyteries and Conference offices. Learn more at www.united-church.ca/exploring/camping/resources/campaign. Additional resources will be posted online throughout 2010.

Contact: Judy Sullivan;
jsulliva@united-church.ca; ext 4151

CAMPING SUNDAY: April 25, 2010
2010 Camping Sunday Service available to download at <http://www.united-church.ca/planning/seasons/camping>

Free Newsletter: **United Action for Justice:** <http://www.united-church.ca/justice>

Bullying (and other children's resources): <http://www.united-church.ca/allages/children/themes>

National Church Funding

Youth and Young Adult Vision Fund:

- Oct 20-28 **Pilgrimage to Northern New Mexico**
- Sept 19-29 - **Iona Pilgrimage**

MUTUALITY IN MISSION: Learn more about global relationships and about ourselves as church. Welcome a global partner for three years to share in ministry in team or in solo ministry. Usually the partners work in local pastoral charges, although there have been partners who worked with other programs

<http://www.united-church.ca/local/loans/vision>

Watkins Funds for Senior Adults:
<http://www.united-church.ca/local/loans/watkins>

Church/Manse Modernization Grant:
<http://www.united-church.ca/local/loans/capital/capgrants>

Technology Support Grant: <http://www.united-church.ca/local/loans/capital/techgrants>

Capital Assistance Program: <http://www.united-church.ca/local/loans/capital/caploans>

CONFERENCE LEARNING GRANTS for 2010

See the Conference website for criteria and application forms for Individual Learning Grants for 2010. Please note that there are two separate forms: one to be used for lay persons and the other for ministry personnel and the criterion and maximum amounts differ for each. Application forms must be received by the Hamilton Conference Office **prior to the event** in order for funding to be considered.

on Presbytery or Conference levels.
<http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/global/host> or Tel: 416-231-7680, ext. 4017 or 4018.

Joint Mission Action Team in Guyana

The Caribbean and North American Council for Mission is sponsoring a mission placement on a six-month Joint Mission Action Team. Candidates should be between the ages of 18 and 30. E-mail People in Partnership: pip@united-church.ca for more information.

United Church Resource Distribution (UCDR) Showroom – now open - Wednesdays from 9:30 – 12:00 and 2:00 – 4:00 or by appointment through Esly Alvarez at 416-253-5456 or 1-800-288-7365 X 229 or Pat Gilmore at X 224; 25 Connell Court Unit 2 located in Etobicoke at Horner Ave. and Evans Ave

EcoWatch: Working toward a sustainable world: <http://www.ecowatch.org/pubs/mar10/earthwise.htm>

GraceNet: Spiritual Leadership for Christian Congregations and the site for 'Unbinding the Gospel' resources and community - <http://www.gracenet.info>

Book of the Month: *Teamwork and Teamplay* by Jim Cain and Barry Jolliff: "a challenge and adventure education book, that combines ... new activities with classic ...with simple, portable equipment." Excellent for Youth work or team building events. Cain and Jolliff, *Teamwork and Teamplay*. Brockport: Kendall/Hunt, 1998.