

June 2009



Daring Discipleship

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

Celebrating Creation

*Apprehend God in all things,
For God is in all things.*

*Every single creature is full of God
And is a book about God.*

Every creature is a word of God.

*If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature—
even a caterpillar—*

*I would never have to prepare a sermon
So full of God is every creature.*

Meister Eckhart (1260-c. 1328/9) wrote these words. Eckhart was a German theologian, mystic, poet, author and spiritual teacher. (Fox, Matthew. *Meditations with Meister Eckhart*. Bear & Co.: Santa Fe, 1983)

Resources:

☞ **Books:** David Shepherd in *Seeking Sabbath: A Personal Journey* allows us to accompany him in his own reclaiming of Sabbath. It is a thoughtful read for those of us seeking to redeem Sabbath in our lives.

Children's Book: *God's Dream* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Abrams, illustrated by LeUyen Pham, published by Candlewick Press, Cambridge. "Dear God, What do you dream about in your loveliest dreams?"... "God dreams that every

Eckhart invites us to understand ourselves and the cosmos as images of The Creator. If we take that journey with him, we are brought to realize that elements of that creation can no longer be seen as objects for our exploitation. Nor are they 'things' separate from ourselves. Instead we are called to acknowledge the elements of creation (including ourselves) as 'God-bearing sacraments.' (Fox p. 4) We can experience God in the beauty and power, the fragility and strength of creation.

As Christians we are clear that nature is not God, but God is the author of creation. Too often in separating ourselves from the worship of nature, we have devalued and even demonized the work of God's hands and heart. To learn to celebrate and cherish God's creation as *sacramental* may be to draw closer to the passion of the heart of God.

one of us will see that we are all brothers and sisters" . . .

☞ **Curriculum REMINDER:** Hamilton Conference Office now has available for loan a selection of Sunday School Curricula samples including One Room Sunday School, Rock Solid, Seasons of the Spirit, Gather Round, Power Xpress, an Introduction to Godly Play and Live B.I.G. Call Barbara at the Hamilton Conference Office to book it. (over)

Resources Cont'd:

☞ **FREE CURRICULUM** - the office has been given a limited supply of 06-07 'Seasons of the Spirit' curriculum packages. We have one full package (all ages) and extras for ages 6-8, 9-11, Congregational life and Multiage packages. These are free for the taking, first come first serve. Pick them up at the office or call Barbara to see if there are any left.

☞ **Youth Resource Package:** We are also developing a package of youth resource samples available for loan from the office. So far it includes Veracity, eMerge, Claim the Life and Live It! Call Barbara at the office to book it.

ONLINE:

☞ **Eco Curriculum:** If you are looking for a Sunday School or Youth Group curriculum that has an ecological standpoint, Eco Justice has 66 titles in its data base:

<http://www.eco-justice.org/CurricReview.asp> They are of various lengths, some being only one lesson, and some being an entire curriculum. Many are 4-8

sessions in length. The site includes reviews of the noted curricula.

☞ **Helping Youth understand conflict and their response to it:**

YOUTH Peace Resources through the Mennonite Church USA <http://peace.mennolink.org/resources/conflictyouth/index.html>. Includes a Conflict style inventory and a leaders guide.

☞ **Rideau Environmental Action League** web site has a wealth of information for those interested in educating themselves further around issues of sustainability and ecology (and Green Gardening) <http://www.realaction.ca/greengardening.htm>

☞ **CANGRANDS** is a national internet support group for kinship families raising 'other people's children'. According to Stats Canada, 70,000 grandparents are raising grandchildren with no biological parent in the home, and little government support. There are 20,000 kinship children in

Ontario. CANGRANDS invites grandparents and Kinship families raising grandchildren or extended family members to their site on-line where they answer frequently asked questions of a practical nature including legal and health questions. Their aim is to support grandparents and Kinship families. <http://www.cangrands.com/>

☞ **Camping Angel Tree** has partner with CANGRANDS this summer and has agreed to cover ALL the kinship and grandchild (ren) you are raising for the 8th annual conference and camp! Contact - Tara Bishop tara@prisonfellowship.ca 1.888.470.2748 ex.227 PO Box 19510 Toronto, ON M4W 3T9

☞ **The H1N1 Virus outbreak** reminds us that it is important to be aware of maintaining safe places of worship and work. It is helpful to have a plan and to think seriously about how to ensure the safety of our people in the church context. Please look to the GC website <http://www.united-church.ca/local/duty/emergency> for more information on how we might do this best as church.

Programs:

☞ **Sabbatical or further study - The Flora Jane Baker Fellowship MINISTER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM**, Queen's Theological College will support up to 4 Persons Annually with grants up to \$10,500.00. It will support 2-3months of CPE, Transformational Leadership, Restorative Justice Instruction, Youth Experience OR Theological Studies with faculty mentoring, office space, living expenses, travel & tuition. 613-533-2110 or holmesp@queensu.ca Website: www.queenstheologicalcollege.ca

☞ **Supervision Course** - from Emmanuel. October 26-30 2009 and February 15-19, 2010. The deadline for registration is June 30. 416-585-4539 ec.office@utoronto.ca

☞ **Intensive Clinical Workshop for persons struggling with ministerial demands and professional boundaries** -

Aug 16-Aug 28. A two week clinical intensive addressing boundaries and ministerial conduct, managing the demands

of ministry, and sexuality and intimacy. Prior to registration confirmation applicants will be interviewed. Southdown Institute, Aurora: tel: 905-727-4214 or email: administration@southdown.on.ca <http://www.southdown.on.ca>

