

June 2010



Daring Discipleship

A HamPack mailing from Lorna MacQueen,
Minister—Faith Formation for Discipleship: 905-659-3343, x223



resources, workshops, and opportunities

Appreciating ‘volunteer’ ministry

Last evening Canadian Blood Services had an appreciation gathering for those people whose commitment to blood donation had meant that they had given in serious numbers. They honored those individuals who had given from 50 to 400 personal donations.

Warren Johnson from Westdale United was present to receive formal appreciation for 400 donations to the blood bank. Congratulations Warren! I would speculate that the frequency of your gift means a deep commitment to this work.

His partner, Judith from the Conference Office, shared with me the meaningful nature of this evening of appreciation.

Not only were those honored given a plaque, but each level of participation was specially noted. In the forefront of the evening was the constant reminder of what the donor’s gift and dedication meant. Appreciation was offered not only from the organization but from recipients, and the connection between those who had given and those who had received... sometimes found in the same person... was deeply felt.

It led me to think of how we honor, or do not honor

our many volunteers in the church. They are deeply involved in the ministry and mission of the church. They ARE the ministry and mission of the church! In the same way that there would be no blood services without those people who are willing to give blood and committed to offering that gift to strangers... there would be no church without the work, witness, ministry and prayers of the laity of our congregations.

How do we as communities demonstrate our thankfulness for that work?

How do we acknowledge that these people are the Body of Christ in the world?

How do we recognize the profound meaning of what may seem a small gift of time or effort, but is participation in the work of the Reign of God?

How do we help people understand their lives outside of the walls of the church building as the place where the work of the church, the work of faith, and the work of the Spirit of God is changing the world? How then do we offer our deep acknowledgement and appreciation for that commitment?

Programs:

From the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre: Gail Appel Institute (www.peopleware.net/2323):

Navigating Stress: Caring for Oneself While Serving others
Ryerson U, TO June 28 with Gabor Mate author of *When the Body says NO: The Cost of Hidden Stress*.

Children Caught in the Crossfire - July 5 & 6, 2010 - Toronto, ON

Rendez-vous 2011: A Meeting Place for Youth, Young Adults, and Their Leaders

Aug 11-14, 2011 - University of Toronto. An opportunity to connect with UCC youth and young adults from across the country, this event offers opportunities for worship, learning, growth and service. www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/events/rendez-vous-2011. Rick Garland ext 4027; Amy Crawford ext 4186; rendez-vous@united-church.ca

...and

(over)

Resources

'The DISCIPLE Bible Study program is designed to develop strong local churches through the in-depth study of Scripture. Through DISCIPLE, persons are strengthened in their faith and guided into service and ministry. Strong, biblically nourished leadership will help your church grow in vitality and Christian discipleship'. This is a resource out of the United Methodist Church in the US. <http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/dynamiccontent.aspx?pageid=202&id=17> or order through Grand River Bookstore 1-888-668-0871

It includes four studies:

1. BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY.
2. INTO THE WORD INTO THE WORLD
3. REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE
4. UNDER THE TREE OF LIFE

Worship Central: <http://www.worshipcentral.org/> "Our vision is to **encounter God, equip the worshipper and empower the local church**". Non-denominational, it is an interesting resource for worship leaders looking for ways to be 'current'.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin: <http://www.flc.net.ph/> is 'world-wide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Through this movement Christian women around the world seek fellowship with each other and are reminded to live a reconciled and forgiving life with others.'

Seekers church Liturgy Archive: http://www.seekerschurch.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=166&Itemid=75

Riding the Waves – An ecumenical news magazine published by the Women's Inter-church Council of Canada. 416-929-5184 or wicc@wicc.org; www.wicc.org

BOOKS

BORDERLAND CHURCHES: A Congregation's Introduction to Missional Living. By Gary V. Nelson. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2008. In his review Bob Cornwall writes "The image of the borderland helps give life to this new understanding of church. Borderlands tend to be wild and untamed. Borderland areas are often inconvenient and uncomfortable. For the church to live out its mission in the borderlands, and that is where most of our churches now sit, we will have to understand that the mission field isn't over there, it's in our back yard. Borderland ministries, to be successful, must move from a "come to" understanding, that is, a "build it and they'll come," to a "go to" one. The challenge is that while missionary work may sound romantic, for us to engage in it requires a great deal of willingness to embrace radical change."

The Equipping Church Guidebook By Sue Mallory & Brad Smith (Zondervan, 2001) 'is a practical manual designed to prepare churches to live out their faith not only in a church setting, but also in every aspect of their lives. It describes the biblical mandate to "equip the saints for the work of ministry" and also provides practical steps and resources to help move congregations from knowledge to action.'

Part One - build a vision for for equipping the congregation , Part Two - implementing the equipping ministry vision

BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Wing by Ray Buckley.

This is an illustrated book for people of all ages about struggle and healing. Distributed by Abingdon Press, 2002.

CHECK OUT:

350 VERSES <http://www.liveforpeace.org/node/59> (Lovely for a worship service!)

WORLD RELIGIONS SUMMIT 2010 http://www.faithchallengeq8.com/home_en.html

FAITH SHORTS FILM COMPETITION <http://www.tonyblairfaithfoundation.org/pages/faith-shorts/>

G8 INTERFAITH DINNER TORONTO <http://www.noorculturalcentre.ca/?p=2195>

NOOR CULTURAL CENTER – Center for Islamic learning <http://www.noorculturalcentre.ca/>

THE GREEN RULE - <http://www.greeningsacredspaces.net/images/greenrule/greenrule-full.jpg>

COMMON TABLES - <http://www.commontables.com/>

Copyright and You (York University) - <http://www.yorku.ca/univsec/documents/copyright/text1.htm>

VST Summer School Courses (<http://www.vst.edu/main/programs/continuing-education/summer-school/courses>):

God and Evolution- Dr. Michael Bourgeois

Canadian Narratives and Moral Wisdom- The Rev. Dr. Marilyn Legge
Ancient (Celtic) Gifts for Modern Times - John L. Bell

Ignited by the Spirit - The Rev. Emilie Smith

Circle of Courage: Reclaiming Youth at Risk - The Rev. Dr. Martin Brokenleg

This is Your Brain on Prayer: Body, Mind and Soul in Dialogue - The Rev. Dr. Therese

Understanding Islam: Demystifying the Passion and Politics of Islam - Ms. Raheel Raza

Digitally Divine: Projecting the Liturgy - The Rev. Dr. Richard

A Meaningful Life: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives - Dr. Christopher Ocker