

August/September 2010



Daring Discipleship



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

The Woodcarver - Chuang Tzu

Khing, the master carver, made a bell stand
Of precious wood. When it was finished,
All who saw it were astounded. They said it must be
The work of spirits.

The Prince of Lu said to the master carver:
"What is your secret?"

Khing replied: "I am only a workman:
I have no secret. There is only this:
When I began to think about the work you commanded
I guarded my spirit, did not expend it
On trifles, that were not to the point.
I fasted in order to set my heart at rest.
After three days fasting,
I had forgotten gain and success.
After five days
I had forgotten praise or criticism.
After seven days
I had forgotten my body with all its limbs.

"By this time all thought of your Highness
And of the court had faded away.

All that might distract me from the work had vanished.
I was collected in the single thought
Of the bell stand.

"Then I went to the forest
To see the trees in their own natural state.
When the right tree appeared before my eyes,
The bell stand also appeared in it, clearly, beyond
doubt.
All I had to do was to put forth my hand
and begin.

"If I had not met this particular tree
There would have been
No bell stand at all.

"What happened?
My own collected thought
Encountered the hidden potential in the wood;
From this live encounter came the work
Which you ascribe to the spirits."

By Thomas Merton, from THE WAY OF CHUANG TZU, copyright © 1965 by The Abbey of Gethsemani.
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Resources:

NEW ON HAMILTON CONFERENCE WEBSITE: The Children and Youth Network Resource Site

http://www.hamconf.org/children_youth.html (also accessed through 'conference resources')

Often the individuals working with children and youth in the church feel as if they are working in a vacuum, isolated from others, and uncertain about where to find resource that might be helpful. Available on this web site is an accessible annotated resource list. Each month will feature different resources for children and for youth.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT the Mandate Special edition for May 2010 if you have not already done so.

"Living for the Earth" year two, is an superb resource. Everyone in your congregation should have one!

Worship Matters: Little Current, Manitoulin Island, September 27 - 30, 2010 **Keynote speaker: John Bell**

For more information: <http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/events/worship-matters-2010-little-current>

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Resources cont'd

Mission Trip Leaders Training, Toronto September 25–26, 2010 Toronto
- For people thinking of leading a group on an education and exposure visit to a global partner. Offered by: the ecumenical Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries. Practical and theological issues involved, program, planning the details, and post-trip follow-up. For more information, please contact Pat Elson, pip@united-church.ca, or visit the website of the Canadian Churches' Forum: <http://www.ccforum.ca/programs.htm>.

Canada's 38th Annual Christian Leadership and Stewardship Conference by the Canadian Council of Christian Charities: Sept 28-30
Winnipeg, Manitoba: www.cccc.org/conference

REMEMBER to periodically visit: <http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/events#upcoming> which highlights up and coming events in the UCC such as - **Cultivating a Culture of Generosity: A Stewardship Event with a Twist**, Oct 29- Oct 30, 2010 Atlantic School of

Theology, Halifax, NS, Canada An event for clergy and lay stewardship leaders focuses on what it means to "live" stewardship.

Book of the Month:

The Cosmic Dance: An Invitation to Experience Our Oneness

Joyce Rupp with art by Mary Southard

Published by Orbis Books, 2002

Poetry, pros and story to lighten our path.

Programs:

At Kirkridge Retreat and Study

Center: Bangor PA <http://www.kirkridge.org/>

September 24 to 26, 2010 **Everyone 'Neath Their Vine & Fig Tree** - McAlister, Berrigan & Marvy - forging swords into plowshares and nurturing our food sources as part of our call.

Oct 1 to 3, 2010 - **Callings: In Search of an Authentic Life** - Gregg Levoy
Re-align with your passion and sense of purpose, with your deepest values, with a fit between who you are and what you do. A creative approach to the challenges of listening and responding to these calls.

October 8 to 10, 2010- **When Life Becomes Prayer: A Contemplative Retreat for Engaged Activists** - Martha Campbell A retreat with a community of deep listening, praying for a greater willingness to live from our deep center in the Holy One.

Beyond games and soup kitchens: Nurturing a passionate spirituality in youth ministry with Rodger Nishioka: Oct 1-2 Cole Harbour Woodside United Church, Dartmouth, NS through AST Best Practices Institute: <http://www.astheology.ns.ca/bpi/>.

Traumatic Loss: New Understandings, New Directions: October 4 & 5, 2010 at **Hincks-Dellcrest Centre—Gail Appel Institute in Toronto**. Register on-line at: www.peopleware.net/2323.

LONGER PROGRAMS:

Brief and Narrative Therapy Training – year long clinical extern certificate and Program as well as a 6 day certificate program – visit www.brieftherapynetwork.com or www.hincksdellcrest.org/brief-therapy-training.

Program in Expressive Arts: Haliburton School of The Arts: <http://www.haliburtonschoolofthearts.ca/index.cfm>. 'Expressive Arts offer people of all ages the opportunity to express themselves through art, craft, writing, music, movement, and narrative arts. ... Fleming's Ontario Graduate Certificate in Expressive Arts is a helpful addition to the counselling, teaching, or ministry you currently offer others. As a teacher, artist, nurse, social worker, minister, or someone in a caring profession, you will benefit from knowing how to facilitate the development and transformation of the people in your care, through expressive arts.'

Courage to Lead Seasonal Retreat Series: through Five Oaks with Russ Moxley and Mardi Tindal. Meet in five facilitated retreats with a community of participants who 'develop a rhythm of life together over the year. Apply by Oct 18. 519-442-3212 or www.fiveoaks.on.ca

Certificate in Conflict Management and Congregational Leadership: Develop leadership skills in the prevention and management of congregational conflict and focus more clearly on the mission of the

church. This program is offered by Conrad Grebel University College: <http://www.grebel.uwaterloo.ca/certificate/faith.shtml> and Associates Resourcing the Church: <http://www.arcministries.ca/content/upcoming-workshops>.

Ontario Jubilee Program for Spiritual Formation & Direction. The Jubilee Program invites participants to engage their bodies, minds and spirits as they reflect on their relationships and commitments to spiritual renewal and deepen personal spiritual formation. It is possible to take Year I (sharing sacred stories and learning the art of contemplative listening) by itself or continue into Year II (an experiential program specifically for those interested in offering spiritual direction/guidance.) Huron University College, University of Western Ontario in London. http://www.huronuc.on.ca/prospective_students/nondegree_programs/jubilee_program_for_spiritual_formation

Miriam Frey, Coordinator 519-880-9684 or email: ontjubilee@gmail.com

Building Skills in Transitional Ministry: Calling Lakes Centre Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. Preparation for work in transitional ministries, including Interim Ministry. **Phase 1:** residential event– Oct 3-8/10, **Phase 2:** Oct 2010-March 2011- in ministry learning, **Phase 3:** residential event: Apr. 3-8, 2011. For more information: Saskatchewan Conference Office, c/o Rose Seifert roseseifert@sasktel.net