



Going on at the Grove!

Forest Grove United Church 43 Forest Grove Drive 416 222 2781

Easter 2010

THE STORY AND THE CHILD

The Child comes, and we dye eggs,
And make a cake and decorate.

“Why are we doing this?” he asks.

“Because,” I answer, “life is about to happen,
and on Sunday morning we’ll catch stars.”

He looks at me, quizzically at first,
And then grins.

It’s then I ask him to ***tell me the story.***

The only way he’ll learn is ***to tell it himself.***

The only way we’ll learn is to ***tell it again...
and again...*** to the child.

Ann Weems,
Kneeling in Jerusalem

Where and when did you first hear the stories of your faith?

I can’t think exactly where I first heard the stories of my faith. I imagine it was from my parents; the ones who took me to Sunday School, who said grace with me each meal, the ones who celebrated Christmas with the Creche and Easter with the Hot Cross buns. I think I first heard the faith stories just about everywhere in my childhood. Growing up in Alberta one was pretty well Christian by association. And if you didn’t hear the stories from your parents chances were good you might just have picked up something from the streets, or what was then the three channel universe, with shows like the popular “Davy, and Goliath” claymation cartoon, a 20 min program produced by the Lutheran Church in the 1960’s..... those Lutherans first the printing press and then claymation, ... always on the cutting edge of technology!

If you were born in Canada before 1965 there was a good chance you would know the basic Christmas and Easter story. Not so anymore, my children go to a school where there are many religious traditions represented and Christianity is but one.

As we prepare for another Easter season and our children, our grandchildren, our neighbors ask us “why do we/you celebrate Easter? We will be called upon to remember what is essential to our faith story and we will be asked to share the story of resurrection and the experiences of when we too have witnessed resurrection in our lives; with our children, our grandchildren, our neighbors, even our enemies

What a wonderful spiritual practice it is to share with our families and the world the stories of God’s care made manifest in the person of Jesus. What a source of hope it is to remember the story of God’s love for us in the promise of resurrection, hope, and unconditional love for us all.

Peace, Rev. James

Easter Services

Good Friday, April 2nd, 10:30 am

With our Immanuel Toronto Korean congregation.

Coffee and hot cross buns to follow

Easter Sunday, April 4th, 10:30 am *

Join with us to celebrate the gift of Christ's resurrection

In a creative worship program of word, song, special music

Communion will be served.

*Easter breakfast is served in the Hearth Room at 9:00 am.

\$6 per person, (\$15 per family). All are welcome.

Moving On to a New Adventure!

Dan and Barb MacLaren, our long time members and good friends were celebrated on Sunday, March 20 on the eve of their move to Liverpool. Nova Scotia. As part of the Forest Grove team of Robbie the dragon, Dan played a role much enjoyed by all in the Sunday morning services.

On this last Sunday Dan was presented with his own little dragon to take to his new home. In return, James was given a stained glass "Robbie" created by Barb to hang in his office. Dragons, everywhere!

Over coffee and cake we had an opportunity to wish the family well in their new endeavour. On behalf of the church council, Ann Foster thanked Dan for his important contribution to the Grove and presented a framed and inscribed drawing of the church which had been done by Marion Benson.

The MacLarens plan to open their B&B this June. It's called Brooklyn Shores and they welcome us all to enjoy this wonderful part of the country. email bgmaclaren@msn.com

MS Walk Once again we are gearing up for our annual walk in support of MS research. Our new captain (he actually is a captain!) is Brian Sowten. Brian has set a lofty goal for this year's fund raising. We would love to have you walk with us or, if that is not for you, a donation toward our goal would be much appreciated. Walk is on Sunday, April 15.

Annual Report for 2009 – Copies of the annual report are available. If you would like one, please speak to Marilyn in the office. Her phone is 416 222 2781 Marilyn's office hours are now 8:30 am to 1:30 pm Monday to Friday.

Unable to get to Sunday Morning Service?

Recording of the Sunday Worship Services is made for shut-ins and any persons who are unable to be present. If you would like to receive a copy of a Sunday Service recording, call the church office. There is no charge. The recording is now on Compact Disc (C.D.). (Cassette tapes have become obsolete.)

Fellowship

The dictionary calls it companionship, friendly association with others. However we define it, the hands of fellowship here at Forest Grove are warm and welcoming.

The Narthex, a space planned 50 years ago by Dr. Woodside and committee to be a welcoming area for those who enter the building, continues to function as a gathering spot and a chance to enjoy a cup of coffee before service. Our Sanctuary has a fresh look with focus on the elegant stained glass and a new AV system to “lift “ our eyes! After service we catch up with each other over refreshments in the Hearth Room.

Other worship groups, especially ITKUC, share our spaces and the church building is used by the community on a weekday daily basis.

As the Forest Grove “family” we reach out to each other, to our little ones as they grow, to our teens as they gain stature in church life, to the weddings, to the funerals, to the milestones in careers and retirements. Being part of congregational Fellowship is a privilege and a joy. All are included – an affirmation of the passing of the peace.

Last year our 50th anniversary celebrations, culminating in our Feb. 1 Anniversary lunch were varied and fun and offered many opportunities for fellowship.

Looking Ahead – This Sunday, April 4 (Easter) we are offering a delicious Easter Breakfast in the Hearth Room. \$6 each or \$15 per family. All welcome.

Our last Mystery Dinner is on Saturday, April 24. Still time to be included. Call Doris Doidge at 416 493 4282.

There’ll be a Congregational Picnic in June TBA, a Blessing of the Animals on the horizon and more.

“Friendships multiply joys and divide grief” Let us work together as we share our ideas for strengthening bonds.

Blessings and Shalom from the Fellowship Committee.

A Gentle Lessons of Life!

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

There’s always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example, think about how nice it is that wrinkles don’t hurt!

A Huge Thank You to Bob Crawford.

The council learned recently that after 25 years Bob is retiring from his role as audio support for Forest Grove.

He writes:

“ My job was to make sure that we had the latest in church sound equipment and to arrange for volunteers to operate it.

Providing recordings of regular worship services year round to shut-ins and to others who wanted to have records of personal meaning has been a rewarding and humbling undertaking. Records indicate just over 9,000 copies of worship services have been made and delivered for worship at home. Most funerals and concerts in the sanctuary have also been recorded for the benefit of families and our congregation.

A strong staff of volunteers is now in place to carry on with this support . Alan Bean will coordinate the significant features of this role, including staffing and the scheduling of operators.

Thank you also to current members John McLaren, Gary Steele and Andrew Yan.

Thank you for the support and the opportunity of serving.”

Bob’s contribution to Forest Grove over these past many years has been steady and sure. As we embark on a new path with our recently installed audio visual system we will be able to build on the legacy of his service . Our thanks and best wishes to Bob.

Palm Sunday Service

This year’s service was made special through a presentation by the youth under the direction of Marianne Zin Orłowski. The drama told the traditional story through a “ TV news report” as the Forest Grove children with the support of the choir and Rev. James enacted the excitement of Jesus’ parade into the city. Lots of palm fronds, costumes and lively music.

Email Addresses

This newsletter has been sent by traditional mail as we do not yet at Forest Grove have a comprehensive email list. If you have an email address and would like to receive this letter by that method would you kindly let Marilyn Bartholomew (secky) know so that you could be added to our developing list

Also, **if this newsletter is no longer relevant to you** would you let us know and we will remove you from the mailing list! A copy of the Newsletter is posted on our web site by Nick Wittenberg.

Please let us know if there is information you would like that is not being addressed in **Going On at the Grove.** Phyllis Barrow pmobrien@sympatico.