



FALL ISSUE ~ OCTOBER 7, 2007

Forest Grove News

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1959

THE OBSERVER

When you read the September 2007 United Church Observer, you will quickly realize it is a far cry from the traditional makeup we have seen over the years. This new approach is exciting, well thought out; it measures up in layout, colour photography and editorial frankness, nothing short of miraculous! Editor David Wilson has made the new format brighter, more energetic and contemporary looking.

Hopefully it will appeal to “people of faith and perhaps those on the edge of Christianity but seeking answers to questions relating to faith, ethics, justice and the journey of life”.

The editorial staff asked 30 new Canadians (on the streets outside of Toronto/Toronto area United Churches) to find out what our church can do to attract Canada’s fastest growing population sector. It seems that:

- 66% were born in South and Oceanic Asia;
- 68% were 18 to 49 years old;
- 36% were Protestant, 24% Hindu, 16% Catholic;
- 71% knew nothing about the United Church of Canada;
- 65% had never stepped inside a local United church;
- 50% admitted the United Church had nothing that attracted them; but

- 50% would be attracted by an open house, a special invitation, and a comparative religion program.

Questioned about important qualities if we wanted to attract new Canadians, respondents reported cross dialogue to ask people what their needs were, no forcing our faith on visitors, specific discussion on the human race, not just Christianity. It was suggested:

- we reach out to people no matter what their circumstances;
- teach them that God is one, the same for everybody; and
- because God is love; without love, the church means nothing.

Statistics from the 2006 Census identified at least three major trends the United Church ought to look at when considering its future:

- New neighbourhoods are growing fast but churches are slow to catch up;
- Small towns, especially on the Prairies and in Newfoundland, suffer from young peoples moving West, populations declining to jobs in the oilfields;
- The Alberta oil boom is siphoning away the people under 50, congregations are dwindling and show faces strained by separation.



As time goes along, all of us can ponder what we, the Forest Grove congregation, can do to ameliorate these concerns. Your Editor suggests you do not miss reading the September issue to learn what is actually happening in our beloved denomination.

Phil Foster ~ Chair Communications

Grove Outreach



Forest Grove web pages give a person a lot of information about Forest Grove as well as a copy of the latest issue of "The News". This helps to keep them "up-to-date" with other members. They can be reached through our web address:

forestgroveuc.com

Former members or adherents can get information about their Grove friends and activities. When you are in contact with former associates you might suggest that this is a way to keep in touch. We know issues are read in Florida, other Canadian cities and Singapore too!

Issue for Discussion!



The FG News has run into problems. We reduced our number of issues to four annually, with distribution via congregational pick up with the balance mailed or delivered by the Visitors prior to Communion services. Newsletter content revolves around the four annual Communion services, with emphasis on Advent and Holy Week. Over the years we Council members and/or delegates supply editorial content through articles addressing upcoming events and personal news.

After the editor puts it together he arranges production and distribution. For this summer edition, as in the past, material has been sparse with so many people on vacation. We plan to address this at the next council meeting where it can be assessed and maybe new deadline set.

Forest Grove is clean!



Friday, August 25th, our loyal church secretary, Marilyn, interrupted her vacation to come to the Church to meet with a detail of about 15 RCMP officers, assigned to vet our premises as Prime Minister Harper was to attend the McDonald funeral. Every nook and cranny was thoroughly examined visually, with electronic equipment and finally by a "sniffer" dog. Nothing was missed including the organ, piano, the vestry, offices, meeting rooms and washrooms and all the storage consoles. Fortunately nothing was found! Officers, wearing suits and Kevlar vests, were stationed at every exit and other key areas until the Prime Minister left. Their only complaint was the heat and no air conditioning!

Although time was short, a group of our women assembled to set up and serve at the reception. Many thanks to Tsan Tzu Lee, Elizabeth Britnell, Joan Lago, Jean Crawford and Barbara Megit for their quick response to a request for help. Special thanks to Frances Chambers for operating the sound system and making a tape of the service under RCMP supervision. Please note that the kitchen and dishes were left sparkling clean.



Ann Foster ~ Vice-chair Council



Worship Report

Our Fall Worship Season began on September 2nd, as Rev. James and his family returned from vacation. We were treated to a solo by Madelaine McLaren, accompanied on piano by Dr. Chris Burton, and her brother Garnet helped snuff the candles. The service on September 9th was videotaped and submitted by Rev. James towards his Doctor of Ministry degree. Our hope was that many who have been away enjoying family time at cottages would be back for this service.

Rev. Vivian Yarwood was our minister at Forest Grove for the first two weeks of Rev. James' study leave. The first service in July was held in the hearth room, with Ken and Marion Johnson in leadership roles. Sunday attendance has been somewhat lower during the summer vacation time. Rev. James preached at Oriole-York Mills for four services in July, and we welcomed Rev. Chris Miller and members of Oriole-York Mills, at

Forest Grove during August. A core of "regulars" from each congregation attended on most Sundays.

Our Worship Committee did meet until September 18th and as such, Fall plans are not yet finalized. It is anticipated that there will be opportunities for shared worship services, as well as alternative services. Watch the bulletins for details.

World Wide Communion will be celebrated on October 7, at 10:30 am, and newsletters are to be taken to members, by visitors, along with the communion cards, prior to that service. Our prayers go out to those who are recovering from illness or surgery and to those who have recently lost family members. We look forward to seeing many familiar faces in church soon.



Linda Meyer ~ Chair

Fellowship Report

Our Annual Picnic in June was a delicious event, as always, with a sunny day to boot. Games were, as ever, a very welcome time.

Shirley McDonald was recovering from her much needed hip repair, so special thanks to the Beecrofts, Elizabeth Britnell and Ann Foster for stepping in to provide juice and cookies over the August worship services at Forest Grove.

With cooler evenings and shorter days, Autumn is beckoning, and with it a return to all those fall and winter activities that give our lives a continuum.



Phyl O'Brien has resumed providing her much appreciated pre worship coffee service. Bouquets to Phyl for this special touch to our congregational life. However, our Sunday coffee sign up sheet is very hungry for people to fill the empty spaces. Don't be left out of this much appreciated service, especially for the chance to host those we haven't met before.

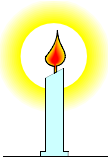
For those of us young and young at heart, Susanne Stark is once again planning her delicious hot dog luncheon on Sunday, September 23rd after morning worship. No sign up is required. Just plan to be there.



Our Annual Pot Luck Supper will be on Saturday, October 27th. Keep the date for this annual fun event. Remember, a new Forest Grove friend is just waiting to meet you!

Shalom,

Eliz Elliott, (for Phyl Barrow and Susanne Stark)



Obituaries

DR. MURRAY HUNT - The Hunt family: Murray, Grace, Nancy and Jane joined "The Grove" in March 1958, a month after the church was constituted and were active members that day forward in all aspects of the congregation: church boards, committee work, Sunday school and the women's groups. You never had to 'hunt' for them. Murray became interested in bridge as a youth and he never lost his interest but honed his skill through the years and was part of The Grove group that helped others improve their game. He had a shy smile with his apparent shy demeanor which disarmed his social contacts. He had a natural empathy for people making him more interested in hearing their story than telling his own. He was always helping someone.

After graduation as a dentist from the University of Toronto, and service as a Dentist in the Canadian Army in World War II, he practiced dentistry in Stratford when The Shakespearian Festival was established. Then Murray returned to U of T for further study leading to a Master degree in science, after which he joined the staff of the Dental Faculty serving until retirement as Professor Emeritus. He became assistant Dean of Dentistry, a Member of U of T senate, served as a representative to The World Health Organization and The Canadian Public Health Organization. A modest man he did not say much about these activities but over the years a little 'here' and a reference 'there' made you aware that here was a man who made a difference. He was a great friend to many of us.

To wife Catharine, his daughters Nancy Rose (Bill) Jane Wright (Bob) four grandsons, Brian (Kirsten) Gregory Rose, Matthew, Nigel Wright and great-grandson, Scott Rose and the Mullaly family, we extend the comfort of our prayers and Christian Fellowship. Cathy Mullaly spoke

on behalf of their family and told how Murray became a part of their family life. All of us have many happy memories of times with Murray to bolster our spirits now.

GROUP CAPTAIN KENNETH McDONALD, OBE, DFC, RAF (RET.'D) - Ken, borne in Bristol, England was a commissioned pilot in the RAF in 1936. He had two tours of duty: Canada, and Commander of the RAF main base in the Far East, stationed in Singapore. He retired in 1957 to Canada where he met his wife Ruth when stationed at Camp Borden, and was a Senior Sales Executive with Canadair in Montreal until 1969 when he retired again to write. He was a regular contributor on the political economy to *Report on Business*, *The Toronto Star* and *Executive* magazine, and author of several books on the economy. He wrote his autobiography, a *Wind on the Heath* and edited the newsletter of the National Citizen's Coalition from inception in 1967 until 1987. His 'Wind on the Heath' was a delightful read experiencing life with Ken. Long time associate at The Citizen's Coalition, Stephen Harper, spoke at his memorial service at Forest Grove on Friday, August 24th. He leaves Peter (Keith), John (Susan), Martha Simmons (Gordon), four grandsons, one granddaughter, 3 great-granddaughter, 6 great grand sons. To all we extend the comfort of our prayers and fellowship.

DOUGLAS ROBERT BRITNELL, husband of Elizabeth, an active member of Forest Grove for some years, died on September 7th and a Memorial service was held at Forest Grove on September 10th. To wife Elizabeth, six children, eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren we extend the support of our Christian fellowship and prayers.