

The Church Mouse

The Newsletter of Oxford Presbytery in the United Church of Canada

December 10, 2008

Volume 27, Issue 10

Moderator's New Book Traces the Path of an Unwelcome Blessing

Toronto: The United Church of Canada's Moderator David Giuliano is entering what he describes as the "home stretch" of his three-year term of office. It has been a period that early on was marked by the unexpected challenge of facing a personal journey "through a valley of shadows carved out by cancer."

This journey is celebrated in a new book entitled *Postcards from the Valley: Encounters with Fear, Faith, and God*, published by United Church Publishing House.

The book features a collection of David Giuliano's previously published articles and more recent writing, including his regular blog postings on *WonderCafe.ca*, the United Church's public online discussion forum. It is both a personal reflection on his journey toward the heart of God and the journey being made by many mainline churches.

"I dreamed of leading our church for a time from a place of strength, wisdom, and creativity. Instead I have been offering my weakness to the church," says Giuliano. And although he admits this journey is not one that he would have chosen, "I cannot deny that it has been a gift to me and to others."

Giuliano's book invites readers to reflect on fear, faith, joy, and the encounter with the Holy One in their own lives and within the common life of the church.

"Personally, this journey through the valley has been a source of deepening my experience of the presence of God and of the Way of Jesus," writes Giuliano in the foreword to his book. He describes the journey as a breaking open of the heart that has been an unwelcome and unasked-for blessing. For the church, he says, his "wound near the temple" has become a lens through which he has tried to speak to the woundedness of our temple.

"As a community we are learning about the 'valley

of shadows' after a history spent primarily on top of the world. We are experiencing tremendous change and loss as a community. The church we have known and loved is dying," writes Giuliano. "Death is always part of transformation. We don't know where it will lead, but we do know that we no longer claim special authority and place in our culture. For a long time we rode a great white charger. Now we are learning to ride the donkey. There is confusion, denial, and pain, as well as hope, in our body. I think we are closer to Jesus."

Postcards from the Valley: Encounters with Fear, Faith, and God is published by United Church Publishing House. The book can be ordered online at www.chapters.indigo.ca or by contacting United Church Resource Distribution at 1-800-288-7365 or 416-253-5456 or e-mail ucrd@united-church.ca.

Look Inside:

A Christmas Reflection	Page 2
Oxford FoodGrain Growing Projects	Page 3
Mozambique - Bruce Whitmore	Page 4,5
Oxford Youth	Page 6
25 in 5 Poverty Reduction	Page 7
Linea Good 2009 Ontario Tour	Page 7
Operation Sharing	Page 8
Workshops	Page 8
Five Oaks	Page 8

New Book Asks Parents, "Are You Raising a Shopaholic?"

Julie Kinkaid's newly published book, *Overturing the Tables: Consumerism, Children, and the Church*, takes a hard look at how the consumer marketplace has taken over every aspect of our lives.

The book can be ordered by contacting United Church Resource Distribution (1-800-288-7365 or 416-253-5456, e-mail: ucrd@united-church.ca) or online at www.chapters.indigo.ca

A Christmas Reflection

I have just received from Lenore Reeves the news release informing us of the Moderator's new book entitled, "Postcards from the Valley: Encounters with Fear, Faith, and God," published by United Church Publishing House.

The following are a few personal reflections gleaned from the words in the title and news release. I look forward to reading the book.

The reason for this epistle is not to highlight the challenges in my life during the last two years because all of us at one time or another discover God within what I call, "the joy of suffering." I share my thoughts with you as we together get ready to experience again the coming of the Christ child and the realization that his parent knows the deep, deep meaning of sorrow.

This is the second Christmas since surgery was performed in August 2007 to replace the mitral valve in my heart. While going through this venture in my life it became dramatically apparent that the words David Giuliano poses in his book such as fear and joy as well as the questions that kept creeping into my mind like "why and why now" became the very fibre of my daily thoughts.

During this time of emotional ups and downs laced together with the knowledge that the medical institution was about to change the way I normally lived my life, a spiritual question kept invading my mind. What does it mean to "walk through the valley of the shadow" and how can I do this? As a minister I have been sharing with people how to move through the valley for several years. I have met many who have been lifted up by the realization that God does not leave them alone. This was time when I again came to a renewal of my faith in God's promises.

God helped me to do this in three ways. The first took me into Psalm 27. It is about a man called David chosen to be king of his country. And yet, when he was being surrounded by difficulty and fear, he believed and expressed it in words like, "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The

Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Then I read, "Wait for the Lord, be strong, and 'let your heart' take courage; wait for the Lord!"

According to the noted medical missionary *Albert Schweitzer*, "Example is not the main thing in influencing others...it is the only thing." God's second example took me into a beautiful relationship with the people of God. God gave me the privilege of receiving care and affection from the people to whom God had brought me to serve and lead. It became clear that God's people are a people of positive value that reach out to those in need and I was indeed in need. They prayed, they sent cards, they e-mailed, they phoned, they visited. They did what disciples of Jesus do. They expressed their love to me.

I said there were three ways that God helped me again to renew my faith.

The third is based on the joy of knowing God personally, having a relationship with him/her. This joy surrounded me in waves of knowing in the depths of my very being that I am loved, I am valued and that I am God's child.

So this Christmas 2008 will be quiet for Joan and me. It will be one both of us will know again that this child called Emmanuel is truly with us all no matter who we are and in what state we find ourselves God stands beside us.

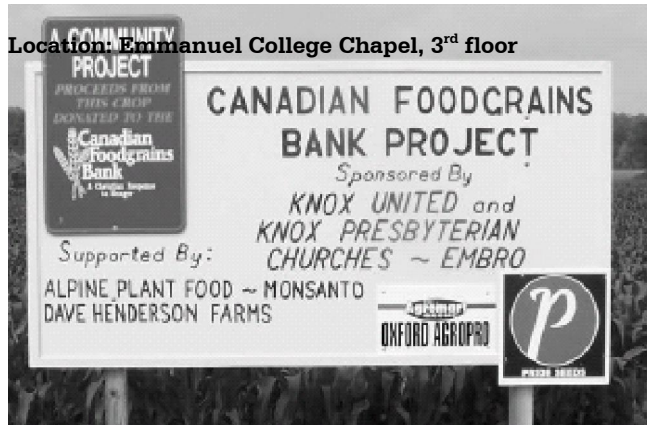
Kent Garrett

Canada is looking to sign a Free Trade deal with Colombia Days before the deal was signed, over 20,000 Indigenous peoples and their supporters arrived in Bogota to protest policies that threaten their livelihoods including the Canada-Colombia FTA. "We call on Canadian Parliamentarians to oppose this deal at this time," said Fr. Fernandez.

KAIROS calls on the government of Canada to conduct a Human Rights Impact Assessment before proceeding any further. United Church people are asked to contact their members of Parliament to express their concerns and reservations about this action. Dave Mackenzie, (519)421-7214 Fax:(519)421-9704 e-mail macked1@parl.gc.ca 208 Huron St. Unit 4, Woodstock, N4S 1G1 Page 2.

TRUSTEE WORKSHOP

Including Finance, Stewards, Board Chairs
at Innerkip United Church 7:00 pm
No cost January 5, 2009



Location: Emmanuel College Chapel, 3rd floor

CFB Embro

5 acres - 855 bushels of corn - \$8,000 !!

In late March, Knox United and Knox Presbyterian Churches in Embro joined forces to grow their first crop for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. A joint committee issued a request for a donation of land and within a few hours a local farmer, Brad McNiven, had offered 5 acres to be planted in corn. Brad approached the companies he dealt with and soon we had a commitment of their services as well!

While those folk took good care of the real crop, our committee challenged the congregations to match what we expected the proceeds to be through a "Sow A Row in Embro" campaign. Aiming for \$4,000, we invited people to buy a row of our own imaginary 400-row crop for \$10. Through support of this project as well as a freewill offering at the Embro Fall Fair joint service, a very generous and unexpected donation of the proceeds from the crops grown at Fanshawe Pioneer Village, and the freewill offering from our celebration Soup and Sandwich lunch, Knox and Knox and Friends have indeed managed to meet that goal.

A cheque for at least \$8,000 will be sent to the CFGB and, when matched with CIDA's commitment of 4:1, will translate into \$40,000 in aid and support for our sisters and brothers elsewhere in the world.

Lynne Dunlop

Tri County Growing Project

have completed their 2008 activities. The bean crop brought in \$5,814, plus corn roast & interest 213, plus donations from 8 denominations \$2,730, difference in beginning and ending bank balance \$37 for a total of \$8,794 income. Expenses crop inputs \$2,419.

Eight acres of land was donated by Ken and Mary

McCutcheon, as well as bean seed and spray material. Sent to Winnipeg \$6,375. Which when matched 4 to 1 translates into \$31,875, which will feed 2.345 people for one month. We think that our food prices have increased. In the past it took \$7 to feed a person for one month in Ethiopia but as of July/08 the calculation was \$13.40 a month to feed one person for a month in Ethiopia. We now have 8 acres of winter wheat planted and inputs paid for from this year's income.

Ber Slater.

Woodstock Growing Project

There was 70 acres of corn harvested and 17 acres of soya beans for a total of \$41,153. Pork and Bean Supper net \$3,654, pumpkins \$900, honey \$76. Donations from member churches and foundation \$19,217. Amount sent to Winnipeg is \$65,000. when matched 4 to 1 amounts to \$325,000. There is 17 acres of winter wheat planted.

Ruth Skillings

For the **Ugali project**, there was about 23 acres of soya beans which yielded 29.5 tonnes and sold for \$12,268 and 10 acres of corn which yielded 43 tonnes and was sold for \$4,800. The annual Hunger Awareness dinner netted about \$2,000, Stone Croft Concerts donated their collection of \$847 and our urban partner, Wellington Square United Church donated \$1,500. After expenses, it looks like the Ugali project will be able to forward about \$15,000 for 2008. They have 23 acres of wheat planted for next year. Thanks again

David Mayberry

Take Care: Safe Space for Dialogue with a focus on Self Care and the Family. participation is wide open for clergy who are interested in exploring this topic. The event is taking place at Crieff Hills Community

Monday February 2nd to Friday February 6th. More information is available at our website www.caringforclergy.ca

LOCAL SINGERS WELCOME!!

Here's one Christmas event you won't want to miss!! Saturday, December 20 at 7:30 pm is the date set for "Mother and Child," a benefit concert at the Norwich United Church in support of the Maternal Child Wing of the new Woodstock Hospital. If you decide to come to our rehearsals or if you have any question about the concert, please contact: Karen McSpadden 519-424-9601 e-mail mcmusic50@execulink.com

Mozambique Mission Exposure Report Oct—23-2008

August 17- Sept 1, 2008

When we retired—Africa was one of the places on our "TO DO" list.. A safari or a tour of Egypt—a tourist excursion.

The phone call from Sheila on July 14, 2007 changed all that. It is hard to believe that I have been to Africa twice since then and not on a tourist excursion.

I'll always be indebted to the two people from Huron-Perth who put my name forward. It has been life-changing.

I'm certainly glad that the United Church had the foresight to send me last year so that I'd be comfortable with a group this year.

I believe we were very lucky to have Patti Talbot here with me last year to report on the first trip..

Then Bill and Karen Butt came home in January to meet with the prospective group.

Then Gary Kenny gave a workshop in March and Rivkah Unland in June. This lineup of very qualified people made us as well prepared as possible considering everyone's busy schedule. As a result of schedule conflicts not everyone got to every session. However, with such a strong, diverse group there was much support among the group all along the way.

We were very lucky when this group struck a strong committee—Curtis, Celia, Dave and ourselves. I'd say this group did the impossible because we were told that it would take a minimum of 12-18 months to mount such an endeavour. We did it from early December to the end of January!!!

I have to admit I was surprised that enough people came forward to fill the quota of 10 —people who were willing to put up \$4,500 of their own money for a trip that was not a tourist excursion. But a learning experience it certainly was.

You may recall that the invitation from CCM requested that the group consist of pastors, women and youth.

God works in mysterious ways—that is exactly what we got—2 pastors, a male youth age 20, and a female youth age 32, 5 women and 5 men from a cross section of occupational backgrounds. The bonus was that 2 of the men were engineers.

The group from London Conference were a very diverse group of very capable people.

The group was comprised of

Jacob Evoy, student, age 20 from Kent Presbytery;
Krista Fisher, warehouse manager in textiles, age 32, Lambton Presbytery;
Donald Hilborn, Agricultural engineer and farmer, age 53, Oxford Presbytery

Robert Hockin, telecommunications engineer, age 54, Middlesex Presbytery

Moira Kerr, Partner in Kerr Farms, age 62, Kent Presbytery

Janet McAllister, mental health hospital staff, age 46, Middlesex Presbytery

Mary Stewart, candidate for ordination, age 55, London-Middlesex Presbytery

Carey Wagner, Candidate for Diaconal Ministry, operations manager, age 54, Lambton

Margaret Whitmore, retired teacher, organist, age 63, Huron-Perth Presbytery

Bruce Whitmore, retired teacher, lay minister, age 63, Huron-Perth Presbytery

As this list confirms a large portion of London Conference is included and a wide age group and many occupations are represented.

This group had some very well traveled persons, some with considerable experience in the Third World. As a result there was no evidence of culture shock. The fact that we were 10 people sharing language and culture allowed us to talk regularly to share our feelings about this life changing experience.

Another feature of the group was the fact that we represented 5 different Presbyteries. Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford and Huron-Perth.

All of these people are capable of getting up in front of an audience to share our Mozambique story. If one or two of them choose to go back at a future time, that also would be a bonus. I hear from the grapevine that several of them are already on the speaking circuit and giving great presentations.

Don in particular was the real bonus because his field is agriculture. Right away he could see a number of improvements that could be made to help them become not only self-sufficient but be in an export position. Don could see that the new big bridge being built high above the Zambezi River will open up the interior of the country and enable the farmers to get surplus produce to urban markets. When this occurs the beginnings of a money economy should develop so that with money in circulation, life should improve.

Speaking of money—you may recall that when I sat here last year I described the experimental medicinal

garden that we saw under the management of a young agronomist. I was so impressed with that project and hoped that we might be able to help them duplicate that garden in some other villages.

Using the fact that we have 8 presbyteries and the fact that we'd visit approximately 8 villages and someone suggesting that \$1,000 would get a piece of land, tools, seeds, plants, train an agronomist and possibly get them an irrigation pump—I set a goal of \$8,000. I actually thought I might be putting myself out on an impossible limb. However, I did believe that I could sell the concept of "SEED MONEY" to people in Southwestern Ontario.

First, we set the example at our house—changed the focus of our Christmas and sent our \$1,000 from our family to London Conference—then asked other people to help us.

But one thing lead to another—invitations came to go from church to church speaking from pulpits, to men's groups, friendship groups, to Presbytery and to UCW groups, Rotary clubs, agricultural societies, masonic lodges—as I recall about 25 outings all together. My goal was too low—Huron Perth very generous—nearly \$23,000.

Then Jacob's church added \$5,000 from drama profits and Mary Stewart's church added \$3,900 with soup and sandwich lunches after church.—\$32,008 TOTAL

Since returning I am aware that one church where I spoke sent in \$5,000. As well, Margaret and I have shared speaking duties and raised another \$2,000. We only have 2 more speaking engagements in December and January. We have a tentative request from Algoma Presbytery for a date to be determined in April to address a UCW Rally and a church service. I expect that the other 8 participants will report similar results.

Bill Butt promised that 100% of the money would go to gardens. When people heard that promise, they responded where often there is a lot of scepticism out there about where our money really goes.

We got our Christmas present this summer in Mozambique. We saw gardens...lots of gardens. In particular, we were in one village that had established 3 nursery gardens, spread around the community. Herbs and vegetables. Local people were brought to the gardens and taught to make some of the basic medicines. Then they took the started plants to their own plot. New seeds were then planted in those spaces at the nursery.

The local pastors had done the head count. Those three gardens were serving 25,385 men, women and children in that one community alone. Last night (Oct 21st) at

Clinton United Church we spoke to the Huron-Perth UCW Rally—approx 175 women present—Marg and I presented—we said Merry Christmas to them too—most of the money we raised came from Huron Perth—they responded all over again—the offering for Mozambique gardens last night was \$1,165.

In the audience was a group of ladies from Calvary in Listowel. They reported that after I was there in January—they reached their goal of funding a well.—\$3,750—they got applause.

I might add that Janet McAllister's mother and aunt were in that audience last night—they got applause also. I believe that Janet is booked to speak in her home church of Bayfield.

We were present at the commissioning of a new well to the care of a local community—I don't know if it was the Calvary well but it was clearly labelled in the cement CCM—UCW. Those local village folks thought they had died and gone to heaven. Having a well right in their community was a dream come true. No more going to the river for water that their goats also walked in.

Those gardens enabled the people to help themselves, but in resettlement communities where people were sent when they got flooded out in the lowlands of the Zambezi River—they couldn't wait for a crop. They wanted to eat every day, while they waited for that crop. We saw Canadian Food Grain bags of split pea beans being rationed out—2 kg per person in a family. Then from the American stock pile we saw them carry away a 55 pound bag of corn meal. This had to last them a month. But we saw how Food Grains and our Garden Project went hand in hand. Food Grains for survival today—Gardens for tomorrow. Both projects are vital.

WE also saw that education is a priority. We saw new schools, we saw schools under construction, we saw plans for schools. The locals had to commit to providing labour, carrying the stones, making the bricks, then CCM would provide tin for the roof and mortar to bind the bricks. That gave them ownership—they would build it their way—they'd protect it and use it. MUCH BETTER THAN US BUILDING IT FOR THEM. They have the skills and the know how—now also the pride of doing it themselves.

(Next month we will finish our visit)

We have had no word from Bill and Karen Butt this month. Keep them in your prayers. We hope things haven't gone too badly wrong. We all wish them the very best for this Christmas season, for them and all those they work with.

OXFORD YOUTH

“The Swell is a rocking worship service that runs about twice a year. The place is usually packed, so bring yourself, bring your friends, and feel the spirit move you through music, prayer and reflection.” For teens - held at Wesley-Knox U.C., London Mon. Dec. 22 7 p.m.

THE SWELL For Teens
Monday, December 22, 2008 at 7 p.m.
Wesley-Knox United Church, London

Oxford Presbytery will pay for a school bus to transport youth and youth leaders (free of charge) to the event on Mon. Dec. 22. There will be a pick up at The Quality Inn, Woodstock (lower parking lot) at 5:30 p.m. and a pick up at 5:45 p.m. at the commuter parking lot at 401 and 19. After the service, there will be a stop at a fast food restaurant for conversation and back to the drop off spots by 10:30 and 10:45 p.m. Youth must be accompanied by a youth leader but we can work something out if we know ahead that a youth leader can't make it. We would like to know approximate numbers a few days ahead - please email Lynne Dunlop lynndunl@execulink.com with details (approx. numbers and where you will be waiting) by Fri. Dec. 19.

The Natuashish Innu Youth
are Coming to London for one-night only
for their performance
"THE DANCER."
WOLFE PERFORMANCE THEATRE HALL
London Central Library Site (Downtown London)
251 Dundas Street (at Wellington).
(approximately 370 seats available)

Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. sharp.
Admission is by Donation -- Door Prizes!

Note from Jack Frimeth, High-School Teacher from Fergus, ON: "Last year myself, Mary Johnston and 16 students from Centre Wellington District High School in Fergus, were fortunate enough to take part in an exchange trip with Natusahish, Labrador. This is the new community (2002) of Davis Inlet. They are a remarkable people who are fighting back from a history of suicide and substance abuse. As part of their self-healing process, 8 students and 4 supervisors have written, choreographed and produced a dance representation of their history. Last March, when we were in Natuashish, the students performed this dance for us. Many of our students were in tears. It is a very emotional and honest depiction of the

Innu history at Davis Inlet.

From December 2 to 4th, they are performing at the First Nations and Inuit Suicide Prevention for Quebec and Labrador (Dialogue for Life) Conference in Montreal (sponsored by Health Canada). Health Canada on behalf of the Natuashish Dance Group contacted me and asked if they could come to Ontario to share their story. There was no hesitation on my part. This is a tremendous opportunity for the people of southern Ontario to witness this story and to dialogue with these students from a very remote part of Canada."

For more info. on Davis Inlet please see:
<http://archives.cbc.ca/society/poverty/topics/1671-11509/>

Future Quest at Queen's Theological College
Greetings from Kingston -

As you know, Future Quest is a summer programme for youth held for two weeks in August here at Queen's Theological College. High school youth explore theology, community, and leadership during the programme and have a lot of fun. Future Quest is in the process of gearing up for our promotion of the 2009 Summer Experience.

Your application must be submitted to the presbytery by **February 1, 2009.** <http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/events/youthforum>

25 in 5: Network for Poverty Reduction www.25in5.ca November 26 in Woodstock

Warden Paul Holbrough welcomed about 45 people to the County Council Chambers on Wednesday afternoon, November 26th to hear a presentation by Mike Balkwill on poverty reduction strategy. It was only one month after Oxford Presbytery members Celia Orth and Marg Murray had attended a similar presentation in London Council Chambers. From the first, Celia and I were impressed that both mercy and justice were paramount in the details that we heard. We could feel the energy of a movement with people agreeing to pool their resources for solidarity, the possibility of holding the government accountable for promises. It may seem like a no brainer but the just released Environics poll shows – that even in a recession, 77% of Canadians think that it more important than ever to make helping poor Canadians a priority (Centre for Policy Alternatives in October of this year).

The goal of the strategy is ambitious: to reduce poverty by 25% in 5 years – and a subsequent reduction of 50% in 10 years but it is doable. Poverty reduction makes social and economic sense. Serious action on poverty reduction has already taken place in the United Kingdom, Quebec Newfoundland. There must be a plan. Mike Balkwill is one of several people who have traveling the province holding constructive consultations with communities like Oxford. In the last election, the Provincial Government promised to develop a strategy to reduce poverty. This campaign is helping to monitor and hold the government accountable to their promise. They have developed 5 Tests to evaluate the next provincial budget (March 2009).

The attendees came from many different sectors: county councilor, Thames Valley Board of Education, social services and housing, administration and staff, clergy, recipients of Ontario Works and Disability Pension, participants of the Women's Employment Resource Centre, community service leaders, faith leaders, labour, public health. Following the Blueprint presentation, there was discussion about the experience of poverty in Oxford: the

homeless shelter which is open for 6 months of the year; the increasing number of people using the Soup Bowl even on days when 'the cheques' come in; more working poor coming for assistance and applying for disability; very few jobs at the Women's Employment Resource Centre; the disappointment that the Toyota plant will operate only 1 shift; the increasing number breakfast/lunch/dinner programs in schools; the high number of people without a high school diploma.

In Woodstock, Operation Sharing currently helps 250 families a month regularly and 300 families in a difficult month. They are concerned about this winter, with the economic forecast. There has already been a dramatic increase in the numbers of people served a hot meal at lunchtime at the Adelaide Soup from 45-50 a day to 60-80 a day.

People were encouraged to endorse the "25-in-5" campaign both personally and as organizations. Oxford Presbytery has endorsed it. Thames Valley School Board has endorsed it. The County of Oxford has been asked to endorse.

There was discussion about what people could do to reduce poverty at the local level. Seven people agreed to meet with Mike Balkwill and the Social Planning Council to re-focus it's direction and to incorporate the principles in the "25-in-5" campaign in developing a local strategy to reduce poverty here in Oxford.

Marg Murray

**"Momentary Saints" Tour — Ontario 2009
celebrating Linnea Good's newest album**

April 24 through May 10/09

Learn more about what is involved in **Hosting a Linnea concert** (including a 4-part downloadable Organizer's Package) at:

<http://www.linneagood.com/main/04media/Howtohost.htm>

Sponsored by the Centre for Research in Religion and Continuing Education at Emmanuel College...

Evoking and Sustaining Hope

A Symposium on the *SpiritWork* Research Project

Time: Wednesday, January 7, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Location: Emmanuel College Chapel, 3rd floor



Today's global financial crisis re-enforces how interrelated everything is. Money is important but people are our true wealth.

A couple of weeks ago, I had a strong sense of déjà vu talking with Rev. Bruce Genge of Old St. Pauls', who is the Chair of Operation Sharing. The topic was the '25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction' as I asked Operation Sharing to endorse the Network's Declaration for a poverty-free Ontario (see www.25in5.ca). 25 years ago, I was asking people to support the Meeting Place. This day, I was asking for support because poverty has continued to grow. This is unjust and I believe government action is needed to change that.

For over 20 years, Bonnie Rhea of Operation Sharing has handed out food or more recently Food Cards. Initially, about 80 households a month asked for assistance; today, 250 households are helped on an average monthly basis and 300 in a busy month. With winter and this financial crisis, Bonnie expects requests to increase significantly. In the beginning, most of the households included children; today, households include more singles, more people on disability, more seniors and more working poor.

Help is urgently needed. When churches care and express compassion, we are responding to the biblical imperative. (The recent Poverty and Justice Bible of the Bible Society notes there are 'over 2000 verses in the bible that wake us up to the issues of poverty and justice.') When we give, we are actually doing what Canadians in a recent survey (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, October 2008) believe: 'now is the time for action and 77% say that in a recession, it's more important than ever to make helping poor Canadians a priority'.

Yes. Our financial support for Operation Sharing is still important. We are all inter-connected. God made us that way.

In Christ's service,

Marg Murray on behalf of Operation Sharing Page 8

Two upcoming workshops in **Ontario**. To register <http://www.ctrinstitute.com/winterspring09/ontario.html>

Offered through the *Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute, Inc.*

Threat Assessment - Planning and Response -
Trainer: Randy Grieser, MSW, RSW

London - Feb. 11, 2009

De-escalating Potentially Violent Situations - Trainer:
Paul Carrick, MSW, RSW

Windsor - Feb. 2-3, 2009

Hamilton - Feb. 4-5, 2009

For more information:

Web: www.ctrinstitute.com

Email: info@ctrinstitute.com

Phone: 204-452-9199 Toll Free: 877-353-3205

Katie Friesen

Client Services Representative, CTRI Inc.

katie@ctrinstitute.com www.ctrinstitute.com

CTRI provides professional training and consulting services for individuals, communities and organizations affected or involved in working with issues of crisis and trauma.

Editor: Ruth Skillings 519-467-0187 rtskillings@aol.com

Web Master: John Ross, weboxfordpucc@look.ca 519-469-3320

Web Page: <http://www.oxfordpresucc.ca>

London Conference: 519-672-1930 www.londonconference.ca

FIVE OAKS

* Day Away

Offered the first Wed. of each month 9am-4pm

Jan. 7, Feb. 4, Mar. 4, Apr. 1, May 6, June 3

* Guided Silent Retreat

Jan. 16-18, Fri. 7pm-Sun. 3pm, Cost: \$295

April 17-19, Fri. 7pm-Sun. 3pm, Cost: \$295

*** Discerning God's Spirit with Miriam Frey.**

Jan. 19-21, Mon. 12:30 with lunch-Wed. 12:30 with lunch

*** We are Not Alone: Building a Team Approach to Youth Ministry**

Jan. 23-25, Fri. 7:30pm-Sun. 12:30 with lunch with Spence Edwards, Carol Young & Robin McGauley.

* New Year's Getaway

Jan. 23-25, Fri. 7pm-Sun. after lunch

*** Cosmic Pilgrimage with Tim Scorer**

Feb. 9-10, Mon. 9:30am-Tues. 5:30 with supper

For more information and to register www.fiveoaks.on.ca

There has been lots of material this month!!

Thanks so much!! Best wishes for a Joyous and Blessed Christmas season and a Great 2009.

