



Take Out & Take Away

These days a question asked in the corporate realm goes along the lines of, “And what do you expect will be your take away at the end of the day?”

The above question is usually a good one. We need to ask ourselves what the end product will be. We need to know what we will leave with after the day, event or project is completed.

Similarly we should ask ourselves what we took home with us after keeping this year’s Feast of Tabernacles. What did we learn? What still stays with us now that several weeks have rapidly transpired? What life changing experiences did we have either through messages, music, fellowship or excursions? Many of us did have such experiences and pleasantly hold the derived lessons near and dear.

A growing number of congregations hold a Feast Memories social a few weeks after the Feast. The first post-Feast marker is the Blessing of Chil-

dren ceremony. It is a ceremony that at one time took place during the Feast.

Then many congregations have a Feast Memories social where brethren compare notes on where they went, what they learned and who they met. In so doing, everyone at such a social can vicariously attend multiple Feast sites. It is especially helpful for those who had to stay home to keep the Feast.



photo by freestocks.org on Unsplash

Sometimes one aspect of a Feast Memories social is to bring back mementos from Feast sites and then give them away in grab-bag fashion. This is a wonderful way in which to share our Feast travels and experiences with others whether we went near or far.

As each Feast of Tabernacles begins, we have so much hope and anticipation of what is to come. The opening night message sets the tone for the

whole week. The opening night video from the Home Office significantly adds an element to inspire everyone. Then the next thing we know, the Feast is half over and we dread the arrival of day seven and then day eight. Before we know it those days arrive and it is time to pack up, check out, attend the concluding afternoon service and head back for home and our usual day-to-day routine.

Perhaps you have been affected by post-Feast blues a time or two. Such a condition is very real and is quite understandable. After we’ve had a taste of what the World Tomorrow will be like, we don’t want to return to the world today with its trials, troubles and challenges. But we must. We have a job to do. We have to exercise what we have learned during the Feast. We have to be part of the process of preparing a people and preaching the gospel.

May this issue of the *United News Canada* enable you to get in touch with precious Feast memories and help you press on to fulfill your precious calling. Before we know it, the Passover season will be upon us and we will once again be busily cleaning our houses!

Anthony Wasilkoff

In this Issue:

Feast Reports

Osoyoos.....	2
Drumheller.....	2
Midland.....	3
Blainville.....	4
St. John’s.....	5
New Brunswick.....	6
2018 Audit Summary.....	8
News From Across Canada.....	10
Peace Arch.....	16

Feast Reports

Osoyoos, British Columbia

This year the Feast in British Columbia was held in the town of Osoyoos at the Watermark Beach Resort, which was located right on Osoyoos Lake. The view was spectacular and millennial with the mountains and vineyards that surrounded the lake! The high attendance for the Feast this year was 235.



provided by Linda Merrick

A fun Family Day was held on the beach with various fun games and a sandcastle contest. Some of the entries to the contest included: a Lion and Lamb, Moun-



provided by Linda Merrick

tain of the Lord, BB-8 and Millennium Falcon. There was also a family dinner and dance that evening with a delicious meal of beef or fish and music through the decades.



provided by Linda Merrick

Later in the Feast teens went on a hike up Mount Kobau and later stopped by the Spotted Lake that was not so spotted this time of year. But the event ended with gelato and fellowship. The same day young adults and singles went to the Covert Farms Family Estate where they enjoyed a wine tasting of organically made wine and then went on an adventurous hike on the property to see some spectacular views.

Near the beginning of the Feast, seniors enjoyed food and fellowship at the Seniors' Luncheon. Two nights during the Feast seniors also enjoyed many entertaining games at the se-

niors' game nights. There were lots of snacks and various games provided both evenings.

There were museums, lots of scrumptious food, tea, coffee, wine tasting and so much wonderful fellowship this year. It truly was a small taste of the future coming Kingdom of God and a reminder that peace will prevail.

Linda Merrick

Drumheller, Alberta

This is the first time that we have held a Feast in Drumheller. The population of the town is about 8,000, so it made commuting easy for the 124 attendees. There was plenty of hotel space and enough restaurants to satisfy everyone.

The Badlands Community Facility was a great venue. Two sec-



provided by Rainer Salomaa

UNITED NEWS CANADA

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tions of the ballrooms were used, one for services and the other for banquets, a dance, choir practise and youth instruction. There were TV monitors that displayed pages from the festival brochure. The lighting and sound system was state of the art. Garrett Lesh did a great job handling the technical aspects. This was his first time doing this job. Mary Jo Ry-



provided by Rainer Salomaa

dhholm did a fine job organizing the music. As always, the children's choir was a big hit. When they sang, the children wore gold crowns which they made during youth instruction.

The messages were encouraging and were quickly posted online. Instead of sermonettes, John LaBissioniere had young people come up each day and give a millennial scripture reading. Many commented on how much they enjoyed that. Also for the young people, Mr. LaBissioniere went



provided by Rainer Salomaa

through one character trait each day and gave a printed card summarizing them as TREASURE on the last day of the Feast. There was coffee service each day. Also a catered dinner followed by a dance.

The Seniors' Reception was a potluck and featured background music and Feast photos projected on a screen. All the left-over food was used for a group lunch on the Eighth Day. The collections more than covered the cost of the meals.

A donation of \$500.00 was given to the Rosebud School of the Arts to help with their fund-raising efforts as they try to move from famine to feast. About 40 attended a dinner theatre production of Mark Twain's "The Diaries of Adam and Eve" and many went to the Royal Tyrrell Museum and did the Atlas Coal Mine Tour. Some took advantage of the breakfast area at the Ramada to socialize and play cards in the evenings. Comments were made that it would be nice to come back here again sometime in the future.

Rainer Salomaa

Midland, Ontario

The Feast site in Midland continues to draw people from near and far. Nestled next to picturesque Georgian Bay (an extension of beautiful Lake Huron), Midland provides an ideal setting for the Quality Inn to host the Feast of Tabernacles year by



provided by Amy van Zant

year. Midland is the next best thing to an all-inclusive site because most brethren stay in the main hotel and have breakfast with each other each and every morning in the attractive naturally-lit atrium.



provided by Paul Wasilkoff

This year's activities included the "Meet & Greet" event on the evening of day one, a Ladies Seminar entitled "Fun, Fad & Fashion" on day two, a Games Night (also on day two), a bus trip to Algonquin Park on day three, a Variety Show on day four and Bible Study on the evening of day five! Also on day five, families were invited to visit the Elmvale Jungle Zoo where many exotic animals awaited to be readily seen from the winding forested pathways. Members en-

joyed having llamas, goats and giraffes eat out of their hands. Also of special interest was the nearby Wye Marsh National



Wildlife Area where chickadees boldly dined on bird seed held in the steady open hands of generous patrons.

Teens enjoyed two activities. The first was bowling and the second was a tour of scenic caves. Since the Church of God International had a Feast site close by, the two groups combined and hosted one activity each.

The Seniors' Brunch on the weekly Sabbath and the Last Great Day Luncheon were both well attended. The hotel restaurant catered both occasions providing a variety of food from which to choose in their buffets. Even generous seconds were not able to exhaust the fare abundantly placed on the serving tables.

As is the norm at this site, food was collected for the local food bank. Three bins were overflowing by Friday when they were picked up. This was very much appreciated by the community since they expect a greater need than usual this year.

There were 133 registered for the site. Attendance began on the opening night at 122 and went to 163 the next day. The highest number registered on the weekly Sabbath at 183. One family was attending UCG for the first time. They had been keeping the Feast on their own for the past few years.

The special music was inspiring throughout as were the many messages. It was especially gratifying to have many US transfers present along with a number of staff from the Home Office! They assisted in many areas of service throughout the Feast.

Anthony Wasilkoff

Blainville, Quebec

For the second year in a row, we were blessed to have a satellite Feast site in Blainville, Quebec, for seniors and others who because of health problems were unable to travel long distances to attend the Feast.

Even though it was a small site with a high attendance of 23 and a low attendance of 16 the atmosphere of camaraderie,



service and unity was highly visible.

The Days Inn, where services were held and many of the brethren lodged, has a small restaurant on site and gave everyone staying there a coupon for \$4 off their breakfast for the duration of the Feast. Because of this many enjoyable breakfasts were spent together before services.

There were also a host of other restaurants in the area to choose from where attendees could gather and share a meal and lively conversation in the evenings.

The weather was beautiful for most of the time and the colour was beginning in the fall leaves.



We were blessed to have live sermons for four out of the eight days. Our pastor Michael Caputo was with us for the first half and Ed van Pelt was there for part of the Feast. The sermons for the other four days were broadcast to us from Panama City Beach and for the most part came through with no major problems that Jonathan Chiwa, our computer tech, couldn't handle.

We were also privileged to be able to have three evening Bible studies – two live and one from the webcast.



provided by Bruno Leclerc

Besides Jonathan Chirwa, our computer tech, we couldn't have had this site without our two translators Conrado Garcia and Bruno Leclerc who were there to translate for every service and every Bible study. We were very glad for their serving hearts.

Planned activities included a ladies craft afternoon that was put together by Therese Gagnon to show the ladies a variety of different techniques in painting using various tools, paint textures and our imagination. The congregation presented Harold and Sharon Descoteaux a gift of appreciation that the ladies had made during their craft afternoon.

There was also a social and games night where everyone just came together to have fun playing various games and enjoying one another's company. Coffee, juice and homemade cookies were available for extra energy and everyone had a great time!

On the Eighth Day, a group meal was served in the restau-

rant on-site between the morning and afternoon services.

Sharon Descoteaux

St. John's, Newfoundland

This year nine individuals gathered to keep the Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day "at home" in St. John's, Newfound-



provided by Arnold Egbert

land. We were joined by one visitor from Spokane, Washington.

St. John's is our provincial capital and it claims to be the oldest city in North America.



provided by David Squibb

Good weather and warm temperatures greeted us each day.

We were able to enjoy spiritually-filled sermons and sermonettes via the cybercast from the Feast site in Panama City

Beach, Florida. We especially enjoyed the Feast greetings before each service hosted by Mr. Jonathan McGee and his family. Also, we enjoyed being together as a family, enjoying meals in local restaurants and taking in a musical concert by a local entertainer.

A highlight was a social afternoon when we were able to cook up a traditional Newfoundland Jiggs Dinner (fresh and salt meat with boiled vegetables). The fresh vegetables were supplied by our deacon and his wife



provided by David Squibb

from their home garden. We had a wonderful afternoon of food and fellowship.

On the Eighth Day we were able to have a fine meal together at the hotel restaurant on site.

For those of us who, for various reasons were not able to make the long journey to the nearest Feast site, being able to receive the cybercast was truly a blessing.

Many thanks to all who made this possible for us.

Ellsworth Stanley

New Brunswick: A Hidden Jewel

Canada is a vast country with many hidden jewels tucked away in areas that the majority of Canadians rarely ever get to see or visit.

As the pastor of the United Church of God in New Brunswick, I have the distinct privilege to visit some of those hidden jewels. But the “jewels” that I speak about are not the geological ones; they are the brethren that live in this area. Since having the privilege of pastoring the New Brunswick area, my wife and I have had opportunities to visit and get to know the brethren there.

The very first thing that is noticeable about visiting this unique part of the country, is just how scattered the brethren truly are. As a result of this distance, physical interaction is not always easy or even practical, especially during the winter months.

I would like to introduce you to a part of the family that you may not have had the opportunity and privilege to meet. I will also share with you some of the comments that were recently made by a member of the Council of Elders, Jorge De Campos, after visiting his daughter, Michelle, on the Day of Pentecost last year (2017). Michelle lives in an area about one hour from Moncton.

In the Sussex area we have six individuals: Keith and Joyce, Doug, Sean, Aline and Gulidor.

In the North Shore area we have six individuals: Réjean and Hilda, Paul, Michelle along with her children Joshua and Lydia. On occa-

sion we also have Samuel and Chantel along with their children for a total of 11.

Here are Mr. De Campos’s comments from his recent visit. He writes:

“Hi Patrick,

Good evening. Just to let you know that we had an excellent Sabbath in Michelle’s home and an equally excellent Pentecost at the YMCA in Moncton. After a lovely pot-luck we had an interactive Q & A. Some people commented that they would be prepared to come once a month to Moncton - but I guess what they are crying for is for a live minister rather than just a webcast or taped sermon. I understand it is quite difficult with the limited resources and the territory that you all carry here in Canada. We also attempted a Skype call with another new couple but we had some technical issues with their mic.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve here.”



provided by Patrick Read

My wife and I also had an opportunity back in November of 2017 to conduct an open house. Almost 200 letters were sent out to subscribers in the area. The results

were as follows:

- 21 total were in attendance.
- 7 of those were regulars
- 2 came out as a result of the letters.
- 2 were the pastor and his wife and the remainder of 10 were former friends of our regulars that do not necessarily attend but stay in touch.

Because we have brethren from both the North Shore area as well as the Sussex area and most recently from the Fredericton and St. John area, it is hoped that everyone will try and get together once a month at the YMCA in Moncton which is approximately one hour from each area.

Our last visit was for the Feast of Trumpets (2018) and the Sabbath before when we once again enjoyed the deep commitment and fellowship of those who faithfully work out their salvation under the difficult reality of often times being alone.

As Mr. De Campos stated, “but I guess what they are crying for, is for a live minister rather than just a webcast or taped sermon.” As a result of that, their dedication is to be admired and I am also equally sure that they would appreciate the prayers of their brothers and sisters scattered across this vast country we call Canada.

I would also encourage anyone that may have the opportunity to travel, to visit your church family members in New Brunswick as I am sure that they would not only enjoy it, but would deeply appreciate it.

Patrick Read

National Council Meeting

The September National Council meeting is held immediately following the annual meeting of the National Conference. This year the meeting was held on September 15. Paul Wasilkoff was welcomed as a new Council member. Outgoing member, Michael Erickson, was thanked for his service.

As is the norm, the minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and then were adopted as recorded. The T3010 form that all charities are required to file

each year was reviewed and the National Office was authorized to submit it.

Each year an audit of the books is required. The conduct of the audit and the fee charged by the auditor were discussed.

A resolution for assigning the responsibility for policy compliancy was approved. The Compliancy Task Force will now be responsible for this task.

The Strategic Plan for the

2019-2020 year was discussed and the Council determined to present it to the National Conference for their approval in March.

Because there was a change in the National Council make-up, the committees had to be realigned. A list of current Council members and the Council committees can be found at: <https://www.ucg.ca/about/national-council>.

National Council Secretary

National Conference Meeting

An annual meeting of the National Conference is required to take place before the end of September each year. This year it was held by WebEx on September 16. We are able to book WebEx through the Home Office, which greatly appreciated by Canada.

Along with required business items, each year the conference members hear an address from the Director of Operations, Treasurer and Chairman.

Anthony Wasilkoff (Director of Operations) used the theme of fishing for his presentation quoting several passages in the Gospels about those apostles who were fishermen. Our work is that of fishing for men.

Edwin van Pelt (Treasurer) gave updates on the financial

position of the church. He outlined the guidelines and procedures used for processing donations. He also reported on online donations and their growth.

Rainer Salomaa (Chairman) used the theme of the importance of details. He noted the specific details given to the children of Israel for constructing the tabernacle and noted occasions when some (such as Uzza)



provided by United Church of God, an International Association

thought that details weren't that important to follow. It is also important for the church to carefully adhere to details.

The National Conference approved having the next annual meeting on September 15, 2019, again by electronic means. It approved using the same firm to conduct the audit next year. By ballot, Peter Corrigan, Anthony Wasilkoff and Paul Wasilkoff were selected to a three-year term on the National Council to start immediately after the conclusion of this meeting.

The meeting ended with general questions, comments and input from the National Conference members. One suggestion was to promote the use of online donations more.

National Council Secretary

2018 Audit Summary

The Bylaws of United Church of God-Canada require that the annual audit of the church's finances be published and made available to all congregations of UCG-Canada. If you would like to see the complete printed version of the report please contact your local pastor.

UNC

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA							
Statement of Operations and Fund Balance							
For the year Ended March 31st, 2018							
	Operating Fund	Festival Fund	Assistance Fund	Building Fund	Other Funds	2018	2017
Revenue							
Tithes and offerings	\$1,550,788	\$ 28,258	\$ 10,805	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,589,851	\$1,541,190
Interest and other income	2,610	-	-	143	-	2,753	5,513
	<u>1,553,398</u>	<u>28,258</u>	<u>10,805</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,592,604</u>	<u>1,546,703</u>
Expenditure							
Salaries and benefits	727,672	-	-	-	-	727,672	838,479
Travel	107,371	-	-	-	-	107,371	101,454
Festival costs	-	21,412	-	-	-	21,412	21,368
National conferences	25,302	-	-	-	-	25,302	17,347
Office and general	138,650	-	-	-	-	138,650	118,557
Insurance	18,336	-	-	-	-	18,336	17,647
Telephone	7,805	-	-	-	-	7,805	9,784
Advertising	151,911	-	-	-	-	151,911	163,348
Professional fees	41,607	-	-	-	-	41,607	10,999
Hall rentals	137,176	-	-	-	-	137,176	132,961
Church supplies	10,195	-	-	-	-	10,195	8,146
Tape duplication	1,218	-	-	-	-	1,218	1,137
Rent	45,675	-	-	-	-	45,675	44,295
Equipment rental	14,403	-	-	-	-	14,403	5,046
Assistance	-	-	12,961	-	-	12,961	13,071
Bank and interest charges	3,336	-	-	-	-	3,336	5,137
Amortization - (Notes 2(b) and 3)	4,892	-	-	-	-	4,892	5,962
	<u>1,435,549</u>	<u>21,412</u>	<u>12,961</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,469,922</u>	<u>1,514,738</u>
Revenue over Expenditure for the Year	117,849	6,846	(2,156)	143	-	122,682	31,965
Fund balance at beginning of year	1,222,877	37,825	85,459	38,371	1,898	1,386,430	1,354,465
Fund Balance at End of Year	<u>\$1,340,726</u>	<u>\$ 44,671</u>	<u>\$ 83,303</u>	<u>\$ 38,514</u>	<u>\$ 1,898</u>	<u>\$1,509,112</u>	<u>\$1,386,430</u>

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD - CANADA
Statement of Financial Position
 As at March 31st, 2018

	2018	2017
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,540,004	\$1,312,013
Bequest receivable	15,000	56,136
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	26,244	23,992
Supplies inventory	8,415	5,489
Prepaid expenses and deposits	<u>22,838</u>	<u>37,143</u>
	<u>1,612,501</u>	<u>1,434,773</u>
Capital Assets - (Note 3)	<u>18,930</u>	<u>23,822</u>
	<u>\$ 1,631,431</u>	<u>\$1,458,595</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balance		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 122,319	\$ 59,478
Capital lease obligation - (Note 4(c))	-	12,687
	<u>122,319</u>	<u>72,165</u>
Fund Balance	<u>1,509,112</u>	<u>1,386,430</u>
	<u>\$ 1,631,431</u>	<u>\$1,458,595</u>

MARSH GOULDING

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AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of United Church of God - Canada:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of United Church of God - Canada, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31st, 2018, and the statements of operations and fund balance, and changes in cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of United Church of God - Canada as at March 31st, 2018, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.



July 5th, 2018
North York, Ontario

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
(Licensed Public Accountants)

News From Across Canada

Combined Campout

Across Southern Ontario, members from the Kitchener, Toronto, Barrie and Ottawa congregations packed up their closets, fridges, pantries and even their kitchen sinks for a weekend of camping and fellowship July 13-16.

Approximately 30 members arrived at a large group campsite in Emily Provincial Park either Thursday or Friday evening to spend the weekend together. We shared delicious group meals, walked the trails, played volleyball or hung out relaxing at the beach.

During the Sabbath, Gary Ridi and Ed van Pelt conducted an interactive Bible Study covering our fundamental beliefs. Heidi St. Thomas did a study with the children on the miracle and wonders of the monarch butterfly to highlight God's amazing creation.

Thankfully, we had an adjacent site with a covered pavilion for the study and our lunch for shelter from a Saturday noon shower. Although we had shelter, the children preferred the natural shower and ran and played in the rain.

On Sunday, Marian Stockdale taught the children about skills and equipment required for true wilderness camping.

There was a fire ban in place all weekend, but it didn't prevent evening fellowship as we gathered around a lantern-filled fire pit, talking and laughing into the night.

Again, it was a truly wonderful and bonding weekend and we are now

looking forward to getting through the winter to enjoy next year's campout.

Almeda Lucas

Camp Wildrose

Camp Wildrose in Alberta was held on July 18 – 22. Families from three western provinces attended. Campers ranged in age from 5 to 15, with five tag-alongs and four Junior Volunteers (age 16 – 18). In total, 71 people attended the camp. Thank you to all our volunteers!

We truly believe that Godly intervention protected us from some of the severe weather that happened in surrounding areas during camp. We did not suffer any major weather problems or changes to our schedule. There were a few showers, but nothing serious.



provided by Susan Davis

Each year the add-ons enhance the camp experience and this year we introduced a few new items and events. The generous donations from many brethren allowed us to purchase the big dining room tent. The additional space was much appreciated! We improved our outdoor

showers with a hot water on demand system and a new and improved dishwashing station. We received a generous donation of a three-person tube that the older campers got to enjoy on Lac Ste. Anne. It was amazingly fun, they said!

We added to our Sabbath day by cybercasting from camp! Many of our children were a part of the service, saying prayers, leading songs and singing special music. We also added an evening event of special worship music performed by various people. We enjoyed a variety of performances, including a harp and flute duet, a guitar and piano duet, vocal solos and a sing-along with ukulele accompaniment. And, of course, a Jelly video for the kids!

We were able to use a 10-foot projector screen this year and scheduled a movie night (with no rain in sight!). The theatre setting was lots of fun as we enjoyed hot chocolate with the movie.

Friday prior to sunset, we all gathered for an evening of dancing. The Poffenroth family prepared a great music set, dance games and prizes. The youngest children had great fun whacking piñatas. Musical chairs included participation by all ages, even the adults. We also added a hamburger barbeque and ice cream sundae bar during the dance.

The teens thoroughly enjoyed their Bible studies and fireside

talks. They requested there be more scheduled for next year! Thanks to Jim Cartwright and Mike Christian for encouraging our teens! Carolyn Berendt and Colleen Foster developed Christian living lessons for our younger children. Our theme this year was “Growing in God’s Garden – Bloom Where You Are Planted.” Two compass check sessions were planned by Susan Davis on Thursday and Friday morning to begin the day of activities. One focused on the theme, “Bloom Where You Are Planted” and featured a slideshow of plants growing in unusual places, thereby illustrating that we do not always find ourselves in ideal situations, but must always grow as God has instructed. The second session was inspired by ants and the Proverb “Go to the ant, consider her ways and be wise.” Six lessons could be learned from this natural hard working team.

Campers crafted nature inspired wind chimes with inspirational messages, thanks to the hard work and preparation of Brenda Thompson from Grande Prairie. Her husband, Lorne, was a wonderful instructor in the archery sessions. He brought balloons and animal targets which added to the shooting fun!

Many people had prepared lessons and activities prior to camp. This distributed the work load and added variety to the instruction. The children enjoyed canoeing instruction with Heidi Poffenroth and Rob Eckert. They learned how to portage a

canoe, and besides rowing skills, played some fun games in the canoes. Holly Bussey developed teamwork challenges to promote team building skills and working in unity. Kevin Spahich



provided by Susan Davis

and his team prepared outdoor education lessons that involved knot tying and lean-to building.

On the last day, the children ran a relay race that involved many of the skills and activities they had learned during camp. This was so much fun, they ran the race twice! Our youngest campers enjoyed hands-on activities such as bubble blowing, Play-doh, and parachute games.

The children participated in a number of sports – volleyball, softball, kickball and soccer. Informal basketball was available on the court during free time. Thank you to our Junior Volunteers for being leaders in these sports activities and to Bev MacPherson and Kevin Foster for teaching volleyball.

Fireside time with fire-roasted treats was always a highlight at the end of the day. Another important aspect of camp must be acknowledged! Our kitchen staff

provided delicious meals and kept us all happy and healthy. Thank you!!

Our photographers, Wayne and Warren have documented our happy memories. A brief slideshow was prepared using this year’s pictures and viewed on the last day of camp. It was fun to see what we had just enjoyed doing! Can’t wait to see the promotional slideshow this spring!

Robert Berendt attended as our resident minister. His advice, wisdom and support is always needed and appreciated.

Thank you to all the families for bringing their children and supporting the work to help strengthen our children in God’s family. With the work of many hands, the prayers of many hearts and the love of many brethren, Camp Wildrose is maturing into a truly spiritual experience of growth in Godly character for everyone who attends. Thank you to all!

Susan Davis

First Summer Camp

It was my first experience at Camp Seven Mountains in Pennsylvania. The camp is organized by my church. The United Church of God rents the camp each summer for pre-teens from Canada and the United States to come together to have fun, to make new friends and to learn more about God.



The camp lasted three days and three nights and was filled with fun things to do. There were ongoing sports and lots of fun games. There were water sports like swimming, boating and kayaking as well as field sports and games like foosball, volleyball and archery. A really fun game I liked was Capture the Flag. There were two teams and each team had to capture the other team's flag. It was fun competing with opponents and putting them into jail. It was even more fun getting teammates out of jail and working together to capture the flag to win.



provided by Rachel Massie

We also had the opportunity to do camp crafts. I made a box in wood shop, a necklace, the first letter of my name and a tie-dye shirt. Of all the camp activities, boating was my favourite.

By going to camp I made new friends from different places. There were all kinds of staff who helped with different things like cleaning and teaching us activities and kitchen staff who prepared our delicious meals.

Each day, after breakfast, began with Bible Lessons. We were learning about Elisha's and Elijah's miracles. We read stories about the miracles they performed in the Bible. I connected with God more. In the evenings, everyone in the camp came together for campfires. One of the campfires was the funniest – we got to make our counsellors look silly.

Going to Camp Seven Mountains was an experience outside my comfort zone, but it turned out to be a new and fun-learning experience for me. I made new friends, I did exciting things I don't usually do and I spent time with lots of people who believe in the same religion as me. Going to the camp we all grew together in God's community.

I look forward to going back next year.

Charles Lappage Jr.

Edmonton Teen Canoe Trip

On Sunday, August 12, our first teen activity for the Edmonton area took place: a 24-kilometre canoe trip down the North Saskatchewan River. There were 16 people participating with 10 teens in attendance.

We cannot say it was a particularly nice day weather-wise. It was only 10 degrees and raining! However, everyone bundled up with warm layers, rain gear and a few extra doses of

perseverance. We set out with prayers for safety and hopefully a change in the weather!

The river valley scenery is quite spectacular with high rock cliffs in some areas. Bird nests could be seen built along the rocky outcroppings. The river winds and twists its way through woodlands and farming areas. Even a herd of cows grazing by the river watched our progress!



provided by Susan Davis

The trip took the group four hours to complete, which was excellent record time! While very wet and chilled, the teens displayed excellent attitudes. Everyone had a good time and enjoyed being together. Sometimes challenging circumstances can build very strong bonds as you work together to accomplish the mission.

Susan Davis

New Hire

One topic of discussion repeatedly raised by the National Council is the need to train younger men as pastors to prepare for the upcoming retirement of some of the current pastors. Over the past few years



provided by Michael Erickson

three younger men have been hired and are now pastoring.

On October 22, Sheldon Sitter was hired as a ministerial trainee to work in Saskatchewan. For now, he will continue his current job while working part-time for UCG-Canada.

Sheldon grew up in the church. He attended Ambassador College after High School. While he was a college student, he spent a year teaching in Thailand. After Ambassador College, Sheldon returned to Edmonton to earn an Engineering degree. He has worked as an engineer for various corporations including Amazon.

When the difficulties arose in the mid-90s, he stopped attending church for a while. Then, through his family physician (Dr. Berendt,) he found United.

While Sheldon lives in Edmonton, he mainly attends in the North Battleford congregation to be with his father.

We are thankful that Sheldon

is willing to step up to “prepare a people” for the coming Kingdom of God.

UNC

Bates Obituary

Peggy Bates died on September 30, the seventh day of the Feast. Having reached the age of 96, Peggy continued to brighten our services and lunch each Sabbath with her wit and humour, a unique and unforgettable child of God who will be sorely missed by all in the Edmonton congregation.

She showed true loyalty to the Word of God in her life and was a strong supporter of the United Church of God. Every member in Edmonton had some rapport with Peggy, but little children in particular would flock to her.

Sometimes we think that when we grow old we just fade away, but Peggy Bates proved that is not true. Her funeral service, performed by retired pastor Robert Berendt, was held on October 7, Canada's Thanksgiving weekend, and was well attended by UCG



provided by Rick Berendt

members back from the Feast. Friends from the Devon Community Library spoke during the service about the impact she had on all of them.

Peggy was predeceased by her husband, Len, who also attended God's church and earlier by her son, Tim, who was killed in an accident. Her four living children (Joan, David, Reg and Philipia) and grandchildren attended the service along with her younger brother.

Peggy lived on a few acres just outside Edmonton where she and her husband had built a house and raised their children - her own “bit of Paradise”. Gardening was a lifelong joy for her.

Just a little more than a couple of weeks before Peggy died, she was moved to a senior residence and although she knew this was necessary, it seemed to be too much for her. Her old beloved cat, Denny, likewise died shortly after she moved.

Peggy had hosted a number of Night to be Much Observed in her home and was generous in support of various events like the Wildrose children's camp. She was an example of loyalty, concern and dedication to God and His way of life.

Her history included producing navigation instruments and driving tanks during WWII. She married Len, a soldier, immediately upon his return from the war, and the family moved

to Canada in 1956. Now Peggy is resting and waiting for her call to eternal life. What a remarkable person she was!

Robert Berendt

Erickson Obituary

Mary Erickson died in Prince George on September 18, 2018. She was predeceased by her husband, Wilfrid, and her sister, Margaret McKee. Funeral services were conducted in Prince George on October 7.

Mary was born on December 14, 1921, in Kinistino, Saskatchewan. The family moved to the Prince George area when she was eight years old. Her family settled on a quarter section four miles up the Wright Creek Road and fourteen miles north of Prince George.

Mary fondly remembered the first time she unknowingly set eyes on her future husband. Mary's whole family was driving to Prince George for groceries when they saw a boy swooping down a steep hillside on skis, dodging trees and stumps on the way. "I had never seen anyone ski before, and with such skill, and I was very impressed," Mary would say. The families became acquainted and Wilfrid's oldest sister was soon Mary's best friend, although Mary remained equally interested in her best friend's brother, Wilfrid.

The Ericksons were a musical bunch, Wilfrid the most

talented. He could play any instrument he could get his hands on and also had a good singing voice. Wilfrid played the piano, pump organ, harmonica and the guitar together, violin and accordion. He was once asked to play with the Old Time Fiddlers but declined as most of the concerts were performed on the Sabbath. Mary remembers him picking up and playing her dad's auto harp, which he had never seen before.



provided by Richard Erickson

Mary said, "I was not talented in any way, consequently Wilfrid never noticed me until, in my late teens, I beat him at target shooting." And if you know the Erickson pride when it comes to being a good shot, you'll understand this was no small accomplishment.

Before their marriage, Wilfrid and Mary decided to search for a church which taught according to both of their beliefs. Wilfrid, whose parents owned the Golden Rule poultry farm, was brought up as a Seventh Day Adventist. Mary's religious upbringing was unusual. Her mother was Church of England, her Dad, a Methodist and her grandparents who lived with them were Baptists. "We were only given instruction

regarding the Ten Commandments, the seven things that God hates, the fruits of the spirit, and the whole duty of man. If I remember correctly, I did not realise there were different church organizations until I was in my teens. If we had not been so isolated, we girls would have learned about churches in school, but we received our education from the Correspondence School in Victoria, a slow business as mail came only once in two weeks," said Mary.

In 1939 Wilfrid became the owner of the trap line at Summit Lake. It is on the west end of the lake and at that time the only access was by boat, or in the wintertime, by snowshoes.

Wilfrid and Mary were married September 25, 1946. If the war had not intervened, they might have married sooner. As the trapping season was about to begin, they went straight to the main trap line cabin to begin their marriage. Mary recalled, "It was a beautiful place for our honeymoon even if it was a working one."

As previously agreed, they began at once to study churches. Mary took the Seventh Day Adventist correspondence course and they both studied with the Jehovah's Witnesses. One evening after returning home from trapping and while relaxing on the bed, Wilfrid turned on the radio. Suddenly he sat up, exclaiming; "Now there's a Seventh Day Adventist who talks sense." It was the World Tomorrow program and Herbert W. Armstrong broadcasting. It was

the first and only time they heard that program for several years. Freak airwaves had brought it to them just that once. But they wondered about that. They immediately sent for literature, and a year later began keeping the Feast Days.

In 1948 Wilfrid bought another trap line which was on the east side of Summit Lake and joined the two lines. When their first two children, Earl and Dorothy, became of school age, they moved permanently to the east side of the lake where they lived in what was previously the local store. After their third child was born, Mr. Erickson purchased property on the east side of Summit. During 1957 and 1958 with a little help from the neighbours who came to pour the cement foundations, Wilfrid built the house they lived in until recently.

About then, Wilfrid also bought a guiding area and qualified to be a big game guide. However, that enterprise was always a struggle, as the best time for hunting always came during the Feast of Tabernacles season, and he ultimately sold the guiding territory.

Late in 1949 Mary was baptized by the Pentecostal minister who had married them. He willingly followed Mr. Armstrong's direction, saying he had never believed in baptising into a church. Mary wore her ski suit, hood and all, for her baptism as the water in the lake was extremely cold. Wilfrid had previously been baptized in 1935 by a Seventh Day

Adventist minister. As he had been baptized by immersion at the Adventist convention, he believed it to be valid. In the early 1950's, they both had hands laid on them by James Friddle.

The Ericksons had eight children: Earl David, born January 16, 1948; Dorothy Elizabeth, born December 30, 1948; Ingrid Ruth born July 31, 1950; Leif Alan, born October 15, 1951; John Douglas, born October 6, 1953; Morris Keith, twin of John, deceased soon after birth; Elsie Marguerite, born September 4, 1958; Richard James born April 28, 1961; and, Michael Edward, born June 26, 1963 (born in a car on route to the hospital).

On their 50th anniversary, Wilfred and Mary were asked what the secret of their marital success was. Wilfred replied, "We've been led to cooperate. The fact is I've always made it a policy of walking with God and relying on guidance from God." In another interview he said, "You learn as you go to give and take and not to force your will upon your partner. Discuss important matters together like partners should." Mary answered, "You have to understand that neither of you is perfect and make allowances and be a bit patient with each other,"

Elsie Mary Erickson (along with her husband) fought the good fight and henceforth there is laid up for them a crown of righteousness.

Hofer Obituary

Sarah (Tschetter) Hofer, a long-time member of the Winnipeg congregation was born on August 21, 1938, in Ethan, South Dakota. She passed away on June 5, 2018, at age 79 after a lengthy illness.

Sarah is survived by her husband of 58 years, David Z. Hofer of Winnipeg, and her children David Jr. (Colleen), William (Ewa), Isaac (Mon-



provided by Hofer Family

ica), Mark (Jodi) and Sharyn and grandchildren Matthew, Riley, Carly, Quinn, Jordan, Zak and Colten. She was predeceased by one grandson, Jordan Hofer.

Sarah worked as a personal caregiver to elderly couples. She had unwavering faith, love for her family and a unique sense of humour.

Funeral services were held in Winnipeg on June 9, 2018, and were conducted by her pastor, Herb Teitgen. She will be missed by many.

The Peace Arch: A Symbol of Unity

Poised above the international boundary of Canada and the United States, the Peace Arch stands between Blaine, Washington, and Surrey, British Columbia. It represents the longest undefended boundary in the world. It literally straddles the Canada/U-S border with one side on Canadian soil, the other on American.

The American side of the Arch is inscribed with the words "Children of a Common Mother." The Canadian side is inscribed with the words "Brethren Dwelling together in Unity." Within the portal of the Arch on the west side are the words "1814 Open One Hundred Years 1914" and on the east side, "May These Gates Never Be Closed."

Excerpts from the official Peace Arch website gives us a little history;

"The Arch was constructed to commemorate the centennial (1814-1914) of the signing of the Treaty of Ghent on December 24, 1814. The Treaty of Ghent ended the war of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain, a conflict that was waged in North America and involved Canadians, as well as Americans and British.

"Standing 67 feet high, the Peace Arch is made of concrete and reinforced steel. Its foundation consists of 76 fourteen inch pilings driven 25-30 feet into the earth. The Arch was said to be one of the first structures in North America constructed to be earthquake proof.

"The 3500 sacks of concrete for the Arch's foot walls were donated by R.P. Butchart, of Victoria, Brit-

ish Columbia's Butchart Garden's fame; and 50 tons of steel were donated by E.H. Gary of New York.

"Two bronze plaques are placed above the exterior foot walls of the Arch. One is of the Canadian steamship the Beaver; the other of the Mayflower. Wooden relics, allegedly cut from each ship, were sealed behind each plaque when the Arch was dedicated in 1921.

"The International Peace Arch is one of the few landmarks in the world listed on the National Historic Registries of two different countries."

Each year the Peace Arch is the scene for a celebration called "Hands Across the Border," observing the anniversary of the dedication of the International Monument. The event takes place the second Sunday in June and hosting of the event alternates between the U.S. and Canada. The celebration began in 1937 as a joint U.S-Canadian Armistice Day observance. This year's event was held on June 10.

Participants traditionally include military veterans, law enforcement (including Canadian Mounties in full regalia and available for photo opportunities) and youth organizations from both countries. Girl and Boy Scouts of America, Campfire USA, Explorers, Girl Guides and Scouts Canada all join in. Annual attendance ranges from 13,000 to 20,000, most of which are youth.

The annual event provides opportunity for young participants to trade flags, pins and souvenirs representing their countries and groups,

while meeting their counterparts from across the border, in an activity which fosters international cooperation and understanding.

The symbolism of the Peace Arch can be summed up with a portion of the lyrics from the song "Standing Tall" written by U.S. recording artist Christina Alexander.

*Standing tall, There for all
A symbol of freedom peace and harmony*

*Our fathers eyes saw troubled times
So, they built a reminder
For all the world to see*

*A sign of hope From sea to sea
It binds together two countries that
are free*

*Let's not forget our precious debt
For the gift of knowing what it means
to be*

*Canadians and Americans are free
To show the world our strong diversity
Dwelling in unity, Canadians and
Americans are free*

*Children of a common mother
We are sisters, we are brothers
Children of a common mother
We are sisters we are brothers
Children of a common mother*

*Sisters, brothers it's all about you
Sisters, brothers it's all about you
Sisters, brothers it's all about you and
me.*

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David Palmer