

Yellowknife United Church Newsletter

February 2010



Go Deep!

The liturgy during worship on February 7 used the phrase "Go Deep" a couple of times. It evoked an interesting reaction for me. I can still recall cool Autumn weekends when we would leave right after school on a Friday afternoon and head north to our family cottage. Invariably my brother and I would be out on a Saturday afternoon throwing a football back and forth. We would take turns being quarterback and pass receiver, and one of the most common calls in this little game of run and catch was to "Go Deep". For non-football fans - that means that the pass receiver should run straight and fast and expect a well thrown football that one can catch on the fly and keep going. It's one of the most exciting plays in a football game to see a receiver catch a pass and then keep on running towards the end zone for a touchdown. Later on when I was working co-op work terms in Ottawa, we had a little workplace flag football league. Once again, this time in a game situation, a common call was to "go deep" for a long pass. The phrase is so firmly implanted in my brain in that context that I can't help but think of it that way even if only for a fleeting second.

Of course, the liturgy was referring to something else, and coincidentally this other meaning has also come up in conversations over the past couple of weeks. I've used the idea of "going deep" in marriage preparation and baptism preparation sessions lately. I find that it is a term that helps me describe the idea of "spirituality" especially for people who have little or no contact with a community of faith. "Going deep" seems to evoke some positive response from people who are struggling to find some connection with their spiritual selves.

As is usually the case I can find a connection between these two different contexts for the phrase "going deep". I think those autumn weekends at the cottage have had quite a lasting impression on me, for they conjure up warm memories (despite the often crispness of the air). Perhaps it was just the quiet slowness of those late September or early October days. There was no phone at the cottage and almost immediately upon arriving time seemed to slow down (in a good way). We had lots of days at the cottage in July and August, but it is the September and October days that I recall more vividly. Perhaps because it was in the middle of "fall colour" country, but probably more because those weekends represented time away from our other weekday school lives (my parents were both teachers - so all of us had these weekends as breaks from school). In other words, even as we were "going deep" in our pass and catch game, we were subconsciously "going deep" in our inner selves as well. We were touching a part of the spirit world and planting connections with that space where we want to go to "get away from it all". Why else would I recall them with such warm nostalgia?

As we head into the season of Lent, the theme of the season established over many centuries of observance is to also "go deep". The Lenten journey is an inner journey, often buttressed by a discipline of one kind or another - a discipline that helps us to focus on the journey. Lenten disciplines are often most well known as ones of denial - the discipline of "giving something up for Lent", but they can also be a discipline of addition - an extra practice or routine added to daily life - as another way of helping us to focus.

Either way, the call of the Lenten journey is to "go deep". Who knows what memories will be laid down in this year's Lenten journey? Who knows what we will discern as we "search our souls" or get in touch with the Spirit?

Peter Chynoweth, Minister

Important Dates

Lenten Study and Contemplation:

Sunday evenings during Lent at 7:30 pm
(Feb 21, 28, Mar 7, 14, 21, 28)

Easter Drama Day Camp:

Thursday, March 18 - 10 am to 3 pm - Northern
United Place - Room 205

Palm and Passion Sunday:

Sunday, March 28 at 11:00 am - Northern
United Place Auditorium

Maundy Thursday:

Seder Supper – hosted by the Youth Group
Thursday, April 1 - watch for information about
the time

Good Friday:

Friday, April 2 at 11:00 am - Northern United
Place Auditorium

Easter Sunrise Ecumenical Service:

Sunday, April 4 at 7:00 am - Pilot's
Monument

Easter Worship:

Sunday, April 4 at 11:00 am - Northern United
Place Auditorium

Yellowknife Youth Group

The Youth Group would like to thank the congregation for supporting their recent fundraising events. You helped us raise over \$350.00 at our Christmas bake sale. This money was used to buy socks and all the items to stuff them with for the Outreach Committee's "Warm Feet For the Street" program. To raise money for the recent earthquake disaster in Haiti we had another bake sale on January 31 and this time we raised \$500.00. The government of Canada will match these funds so that means you've helped raise \$1000.00 for Haiti!

In February we helped with babysitting at the annual budget meeting of the congregation. Later on this month, on Saturday, February 20th, we'll be helping the local Amnesty International group host a coffee house. We'll be providing some baked items and will help with the afternoon set up.

Seamus Daly
Paige Elkin
Martha Hamre
Stuart Hamre
Johanna Stewart

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 25 – 29, Lorne Gushue spoke in the basement of the Yellowknife Anglican Church to everyone gathered from the Christian churches in Yellowknife. Lorne based his talk on witness through faithfulness to the scriptures. He mused about his life long enjoyment of science fiction and the scenarios it presents in communication with extra-terrestrial civilization. He acknowledged that scripture is a living message from God.

“As followers of Christ, we have an amazing opportunity to know Jesus and to know God’s love for creating through the gift of scriptures. Scripture provides us with lessons, examples, affirmation and trust in God’s infinite love as we journey along a path to God.

Yellowknife United Church Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday February 16th, 2010 at 5:30 - 7:00pm

Northern United Place Auditorium

\$5.00 per person, children under 5 free



Offering Analysis

At the congregational meeting, Stewardship was asked to do an analysis of offering trends for the past few years. Included below is a table showing total offering amounts from 2005 to 2009 including the number of envelope holders during that time.

The last Stewardship Campaign was held in the fall of 2007. This led to a 13% increase of givings in 2007 over those in 2006 and an additional increase in 2008 of 5%. Unfortunately in 2009 there was a decrease in givings of 7% which may have been due to the downturn in the economy.

ANNUAL OFFERING 2005 TO 2009					
Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Identifiable Givers	72	67	75	70	71
Total Givings	\$67,686	\$71,763	\$80,570	\$84,518	\$79,341

Here is some information regarding the givings for 2009.

Yellowknife United Church Offering Analysis 2009

Range	# of Givers	Yearly Givings	Avg./Week	% of Givers	% of Total Amt.
\$1 to \$10	27	\$5,263	\$4	38%	7%
\$11 to \$20	20	\$16,116	\$15	28%	20%
\$21 to \$30	10	\$12,856	\$25	14%	16%
\$31 to \$40	4	\$7,350	\$35	6%	9%
\$41 to \$50	2	\$4,500	\$43	3%	6%
\$51 to \$60	3	\$8,425	\$54	4%	11%
\$61 to \$200	5	\$24,830	\$100	7%	31%
Totals	71	\$79,340		100%	100%

Here are a few interesting facts:

- The number of identified givers increased by one although there were five people who moved away and another five who did not contribute through envelopes. To offset that, there were ten new envelope holders.
- 26 envelope givers increased the amount they gave in 2009 while 32 decreased the amount.
- 8 envelope givers contributed 42% of the total amount received.

If you have any questions or concerns about this information or would like to know more, please contact Marg Henderson at 873-4428 or via email at margh@theedge.ca.