



September 2011

Some Mohr Jottings

Newsletter from Bishop Dr. Gregory Mohr of the BC Synod
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Special Interest Articles:

- Back to Church Sunday
- Transitions

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Back to Church Sunday

In May, we were excited to have Michael Harvey join us here in BC where he led workshops in Kelowna, Vernon and the lower mainland on "Back to Church Sunday." I have since received a report from Augsburg Fortress Canada indicating that 22 congregations from the BC Synod have ordered the promotional and instructional materials!

Quite a few congregations are going to be hosting a Back to Church event. Many are using the suggested date of September 25, while others are selecting dates in October. One congregation is even holding a Back to Church Month!

For more information and to access resources about Back to Church Sunday, check the BC Synod website at www.bcsynod.org. There you will find the "12 Steps for Back to Church Sunday" plus a link to Michael Harvey's website where he has posted 12 five-minute films. These videos will help church leaders remember the key 12 steps to becoming an invitational church.

In addition, you will find a promotional poster from Augsburg Fortress Canada and information about ordering resources.

If your congregation was unable to participate in the workshops and would like to talk to someone from our synod about this initiative, call us at the synod office and we'll put you in touch with some congregations who attended the workshop.

Surrey Urban Mission Day Camp

What do you get when you take 100 children, add a dozen leaders, stir in a full measure of volunteers, and top it off with one executive director? You get SUMS' Day Camp – a ministry that is committed to making sure that no child is turned away. I had the privilege of attending the season-ending talent show and barbeque on August 25. As always, it is a delight to be there for that event. The MLA and the MP were both there as well!

If you haven't had time to send a financial gift to SUMS to assist with day camp, please do so as soon as possible. While they receive funding from the government to assist in hiring young people as camp counselors, that funding only covers 70% of the salaries.

SUMS 10th Anniversary Celebration

On Friday, Sept 23, from 5 to 9 pm, SUMS will be holding a 10th Anniversary Celebration. Entitled, "Soup de Jour," you are invited to join friends and family of the Surrey Urban Mission for an evening of great food, music and a few Mission surprises.

In keeping with the Mission's tradition, there will be no cost to attend. A free-will offering will be taken for those wishing to contribute towards the meal and Mission activities.

Confirmation Camp

At the end of August I was privileged to attend a couple of days of Confirmation Camp. This year, the camp marked its 30th birthday! I continue to be impressed with the dedication, enthusiasm, and giftedness of the pastors and lay leaders who give so much of themselves to make this camp such a success.

If your congregation has not been able to participate in Confirmation Camp, consider calling some of the pastors who lead camp in order to find out more about it. Their enthusiasm for this ministry is catching!

Congratulations and God's Blessings . . .

. . . to Rev. Erik and Marla Bjorgan (Deo Lutheran, Salmon Arm) on the birth of their first child, Noella Liv, who was born on August 4th. There is delight and joy palpable in the proud father's voice and the pictures have a very high "awww" factor.

. . . to Rev. Courtenay Reedman (Benediction, Delta) and Rev. Erik Parker (St. John, Golden Spike, AB) on their engagement. The wedding will take place in Saskatoon on September 1, 2012.

. . . to Barbara Groote (BC seminary student from Mt. Zion, Smithers) has accepted the call to serve Ascension, Edmonton. Please continue to lift up in prayer Barbara's husband Martin, whose health is rapidly fading due to extensive cancer.

. . . to Dorothy Chu (parish worker, Oakridge, Vancouver) who completed her MDiv degree at Carey Theological College, UBC

Transitions

Rev. Roland Ziprick (Our Saviour, Prince George) has accepted the call to serve St. Paul, Maple Ridge, beginning Oct. 1st.

Rev. Murray Halvorson has resigned his position at Trinity, Delta, effective September 15th. He and Tami will be returning to Regina in order to be closer to family. We pray for continued healing for Tami and know that being around her two grandsons will also bring much joy and life to her.

Rev. Walter Johanson is retiring from ministry at St. Peter's Estonian, Vancouver, effective September 1st.

Rev. Ed Chell (from the Synod of Alberta and the Territories) has begun his work at the Vancouver Island Regional Corrections Centre in Victoria.

Congregations in various stages of the Call Process

Delta	Trinity
North Vancouver	Gloria Dei
Prince George	Our Saviour
Sechelt	Living Faith (1/2 time position)
Vancouver	First (2 nd pastor)
Vancouver	Oakridge (1/2 time position)
Vancouver	St. Peter's Estonian



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We're on the Web!

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www.bcsynod.org

Bishop's Schedule for FALL 2011

- Sept 7 Conference of Bishops' meeting, Winnipeg
8-10 National Church Council, Winnipeg
13 Call Committee meeting, Gloria Dei, North Vancouver
16-17 NW Conference convention, Christ, Terrace
18 Worship, St. Paul's, Prince Rupert
23 SUMS' 10th Anniversary Celebration
24 Greater Vancouver Conference convention, Benediction, Delta
25 Worship, Shepherd of the Valley, Langley
26-27 Joint meeting of Officers with Alberta & Territories synod
30 Southern Interior Conference convention, Hills of Peace, Kamloops
- Oct 1 SI Conference convention continues
2 Worship, Hills of Peace, Kamloops
3-6 First Call Program, Saskatoon
(7-11 tentative; Thanksgiving at The Farm ... and in Edmonton and in ...)
14-15 Vancouver Island Conference convention, Grace, Victoria
16 Worship, Grace, Victoria
21 CTEL meeting
22 Lower Fraser Valley Conference convention, place tba
22 50th Anniversary Banquet, Gloria Dei, North Vancouver
23 Worship, Gloria Dei, North Vancouver
- Nov 3 Stewardship/Planned Giving planning meeting
6-8 Board of Governors' meeting, Lutheran Theological Seminary
16 Deans' retreat
17-19 Synod Council meeting
21-24 Conference of Bishops' meeting, Ontario
- Dec 4 Worship, Emmanuel, Surrey