



Rev. David King and Rev. Jackie Harper join the Bay of Quinte Conference staff team



—REV. DAVID KING
CONFERENCE MINISTER:
PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION
AND RURAL MINISTRY



—REV. JACKIE HARPER
CONFERENCE MINISTER:
CONGREGATIONAL WHOLE-
NESS AND RIGHT RELATIONS

The staff of the Conference Office is pleased to introduce two new colleagues: The **Rev. G. David King**, *Conference Minister: Personnel Administration and Rural Ministry* and the **Rev. Jackie Harper**, *Conference Minister, Congregational Wholeness and Right Relations*.

David was ordained by Toronto Conference and settled to a rural 4 point pastoral charge in Moose Jaw Presbytery, Saskatchewan Conference. He has served congregations in Oshawa Presbytery, York Presbytery, and Toronto Scarborough Presbytery.

Most recently, David was employed by the General Council as its Ministry Personnel Policy Analyst. He was responsible for developing and interpreting policies related to pastoral relations. David also authored a number of interpretive resources covering such topics as maternity and parental leave provisions, salary categorization, and the annual minimum salary and benefits for ministry personnel.

“Even though I’ve lived a fair bit of my life in more urban centres, I’m decidedly rural at heart. My family’s decision to move to Port Hope nearly seven years ago speaks to that,” says David.

David’s work base is the Conference Office with off-site visits to presbyteries, pastoral charges, and other locations as needed.

David can be reached via email at rural.personnel@bayofquinteconference.ca or by telephone at 1-888-759-2444, extension 29.

Jackie Harper will begin duties February first. She brings with her 25 years of experience in a variety of ministry settings. Most recently, she spent six years at the United Church General Council Office as Program Coordinator of Family and Seniors.

She has experience in congregational leadership with strengths in education, outreach, pastoral care and worship. She is also skilled in resource and leadership development.

Jackie has been coordinator of Field Education for the Centre for Christian Studies, while serving at Eden United in Mississauga, She also served at Central Lanark Pastoral Charge, St. Paul’s United in Perth and Channel Pastoral Charge, Port-au-Basques, Newfoundland.

Jackie will be taking on a new position and initiative in the conference with responsibilities in Congregational Wholeness and Right Relations. She says, “I am interested in the position ...because of my commitment to strong, whole, and healthy congregations and my passion for justice and right relations.”

We welcome these two talented members to the team and to our conference and look forward to their leadership among us.

Notes from Nan

Nan Hudson,
Conference Minister
Stewardship and Mission



With the rush of Christmas and New Years behind us, it is a good time to look back on the past year and reflect. Wonderful things in the Bay of Quinte Conference took place and moved forward in 2007... I think of the "You to Youth" Action Group of Conference youth that have taken on raising \$60,000 for youth their age in Tanzania who are HIV positive. We all rejoiced when Bay of Quinte raised \$3 million for the Mission and Service Fund for the first time ever, and the "For Such A Season" Conference that the five central conferences organized for August was surely an example of the United Church at its finest.

Included among the highlights from my perspective personally were some of the opportunities I had to preach and worship with congregations throughout the Conference. In November, I had the joy of visiting Zion United Church just north of Courtice in Oshawa Presbytery. They are a country church a stone's throw up a country road from Mitchell's Corners, and yet on the horizon you can see houses side-by-side in a new housing development. This community, like our United Church, is going through big changes. While I was visiting Zion, the congregation's Mission Enthusiast, Ron Phillips, presented me with a scroll for me to use in telling people about the Mission and Service Fund at work. He unrolled it in front of everyone, and in the colours of the rainbow, it listed ministry after ministry, mission after mission, funded by the 'M&S'. The scroll was over 12 feet long!

At last year's Annual Meeting, our Conference set a new two-part goal for Bay of Quinte related to the Mission and Service Fund... to repeat last year's success of raising a total of \$3 million, but also to increase the number of identifiable givers who give to the M&S Fund from 44% to 50% in Bay of Quinte. We had been surprised and challenged to learn that in terms of the percentage who give to M&S, we were third from the bottom among the Conferences across Canada.

"Why does this matter?" you may ask.

"Isn't \$3 million good enough?" Unfortunately, across the country our givings to the Mission and Service Fund are not keeping pace with inflation, and haven't been for several years. One of the painful remembrances of 2007 was letting go of over 20 General Council staff following the decision by the General Council Executive to no longer use reserves to balance the budget. They also decided to cut \$900,000 from grants to global partners and \$900,000 from Mission Support Grants, cuts that will hit in 2009. We are already bracing for the impact of the cuts in our own Conference's Mission Support grants to needy and worthy ministries.

Some Conferences have appealed to each member to give just \$5 a year more to the Mission and Service Fund... since just \$5 a year more could reinstate all of those cuts in grants and employees. Here in Bay of Quinte, we agree that there is plenty of room for our support to grow, but we want that growth to be more than a one-time appeal. Using the latest statistics, I calculated that every United Church member in our Conference gives on average just over \$1 a week to M&S (\$57.04 a year), and those figures are bolstered by the givings of those who are not identified. Surely if we truly care about the mission and ministry of the United Church of Canada at home and around the world, we have room to grow in our givings!

In a couple of weeks time, we will know the results of our givings to the Mission and Service Fund for 2007, but right now as we begin this new year, let's resolve to do all that we can to strengthen our churches' understanding of and support for M&S. Please prayerfully consider what role you might play in making 2008 a banner year in Bay of Quinte Conference in our support for the Mission and Service Fund of this United Church of ours. Call if we can help you... we have a network of Mission Enthusiasts and others who can offer their support. And thank you for taking the time to read this reflection.

—NAN HUDSON

Practicing Right Relations



Where's the Theological Foundation?

As members of the UCC Bay of Quinte Conference Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, we are honoured to have this venue to stimulate thoughts and to answer your questions about conflict (which is a natural outcome when people – even Christians -- interact with one another in the landscape of their daily lives), and also to explore this idea of ‘living in right relationship’ – a term we’re hearing more and more frequently these days in the context of our faith lives.

How is this notion of ‘right relationship’ embedded in our faith? One place to explore an answer to this question is in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy itself, which is framed by twelve ‘Theological Affirmations’, some of which include theological expression of ‘right relationship’. In contemplating our relationships together – especially during times when we disagree – the six affirmations can help us put our differences within the context of our faith.

As Christians, we believe that all people are created in the image of God, are of intrinsic value and are worthy of respect and love.

We believe that we are called to a common vision. The Biblical vision of shalom as God's intention for creation is characterized by right relationships with God and with one another that result in harmony, whole-

ness, peace, well-being, joy and justice. Injustice and oppression on either the personal or the social level are contrary to the vision of shalom.

We believe that conflict is a normal part of life and is, in fact, necessary for personal and social development. Conflict is a spiritual issue. When it is addressed constructively, conflict can provide opportunities for growth, new understanding and transformation.

We believe that conflict becomes destructive when, through attitudes, words and actions, it leads to exclusion, wounded self-esteem, broken relationships, loss of a sense of well-being, alienation, distrust, undue stress, misunderstanding, abuse and violation.

We believe that harm and violation are contrary to God's will.

We believe that our response to conflict is a theological statement.

We've called this column, ‘Practicing Right Relations’, in part, because ‘practice’ is really what it takes for us to live into this “vision of shalom”. In this regard we are ‘practicing Christians’. It's one of God's gifts to us as human beings to both challenge, and also enrich us, but it's not always easy! Are you up for the challenge? Are you ready to practice? Do you have practice stories to share with us? Let us know what you think. If

you have examples of right relationship being lived out in your congregation, we would love to hear them. As well, if you have a question about a struggle to live right relationship in your church, please pass that along, too. We would like to highlight questions about the challenge of being faithful through conflict in our column each issue (anonymously, of course!).

Many blessings to you in this new year. May it be filled with the richness of right relationship – even in times of difference.

In consultation with the appropriate individuals and committees within the Conference, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee is dedicated to developing life-giving, Christ-centred processes that support congregations, leaders, and those working with congregations in conflict. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your faith in the work that we are doing and to welcome your suggestions for this column, your inquiries about this work in the Conference or any concerns you might have. Please contact Wendy Bulloch, Executive Secretary, toll free at 1 888 759 2444 or email. execsec@bayofquinteconference.ca

–Blessings,

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE
RESOLUTION COMMITTEE**

CATHERINE BROMELL, WENDY BULLOCH,
STEPHANIE COWARD-YASKIW,
BIRGIT LANGWISCH, RICHARD PARKER

Conference UCW Midweek Event.

Our host for the Midweek Event on October 30th was King Street United Church, Trenton. The theme was "Women on the Path". Registration was 9:00 am starting with refreshments and a lot of noise. 193 women attended with some arriving by bus. King Street is a beautiful church and the hospitality of the local UCW was wonderful.

Cheryl Mound had requested photos of past events and ran a slide show the entire time. It was delightful to see friends and occasions from the past. And didn't we all look so good! UCW Conference events are seeing an upward swing in attendance with quite a few participants of a younger generation.

A singsong lead by Beth Kinnear and Jane Rathbun put the women in a good mood for a great day. We were welcomed with greetings from Mary MacDonald and Rev. Alan Miller. Winn Steele was our master of ceremonies. Betty Turcott, president of Bay of Quinte UCW brought news from the national meeting. One of the items was the decision to have another book telling of United Church Women stories to be ready for the 50th Anniversary.

Peterborough Presbyterial lead us in worship and Lindsay Presbyterial took up the offering of \$867.40, which was designated for the UCW Bursary Fund. This helps students from Bay of Quinte Conference attending Theological College.

The worship concentrated on Women of the Bible, a theme that was picked up by our theme speaker, Rev Cheryl Watson, an Anglican minister. Cheryl brought to our attention the small number of women mentioned in the Bible and how few were named. In spite of this women had a very large influence on our past. Cheryl also told us about the strength of these women.

Trevor White and Ross MacIntyre brought news from Camp Quin-Mo-Lac, stressing their gratitude for the support of UCW's. Eleven hundred children attended camp this past summer.

The women from the resource centre gave us a book flash to encourage us to visit them in the book room. The Fairly

Traded display brought by Phyllis Symons was an extra bonus. Phyllis has done an excellent job bringing the message of fair trade to UCW's and it has now become the custom to have these products used at our events.

King Street United, served an excellent lunch and dinner. Favours of hand made dish clothes were a nice touch at the table.

Kingston's surprise was a story about one family's experience with cars. This fit in with Betty Turcott's directional experiences although I think she makes more than right hand turns. Betty reminded everyone that the Camp experience is not a five star hotel. She also warned of the danger of breaking copyright laws. Betty spoke about the peace campaign. She informed us about the importance of nurturing our Faith, God, and each other.

The need in Nicaragua is great right now after the hurricane season and Norma Wrightly, our UCW rep asked us to consider this desperate situation

in our prayers. Our close contact with this community makes this a particularly personal tragedy.

Sharon McElroy, Doris Buttars, Christine Wilson, and Cecilia Terpstra gave an informative and humorous MOA lesson.

Rev Nan Hudson was our second theme speaker. We were privileged to have Nan speak with us about her very private relationship with Mother Theresa. Nan first met Mother Theresa before she was known world wide and worked with her in Calcutta. Nan challenged us with questions and statements regarding faith and life.

An inspiring communion was served by intinction presided over by Rev. Alan Miller and Rev. Margaret Goodwin. A delightful concert by the Hastings and Prince Edward County Children's Choir ended a wonderful day.

Cobourg Presbyterial, invited all to next year's UCW Midweek Event on Oct 29, 2008.

—SUSAN LASCH,



Winnifred Steele, President of Belleville Presbyterial, Betty Turcott, Conference UCW President and Mary MacDonald Trenton UCW president cut the anniversary cake at the "...best Conference UCW event in years."

You to Youth event hopes to raise \$60,000.

From Friday, November 23 to Sunday, November 25th, 34 youth and leaders gathered at Pickering Village United Church from across the Bay of Quinte Conference. The reason was to learn about the global pandemic of HIV/AIDS and to prepare for fundraising of the \$60,000 goal proposed by the Youth at Conference last year.

We chose to support a project of the Christian Council of Tanzania - a program called the *Positive Youth Alliance* which supports HIV positive youth in ways such as working against the stigma of being HIV positive and helping them to start income-generating activities. These youth in turn will spread the word to groups in schools, churches and the wider community, speaking against the discrimination experienced by HIV-positive people and encouraging youth to be tested and receive any necessary treatment.

During our weekend, we heard of the devastation that HIV/AIDS has caused in many African nations. We participated in lectures, workshops and interactive activities to illustrate the extreme effects HIV/AIDS has on the world.

On Saturday morning the Abbey North Drummers led us in a drum-

ming workshop. They use drumming as an expression of spirituality and as a means of supporting social justice; they have left us their latest CD, *On the Frontline* to sell as a fundraiser for **You to Youth**. For more information, see their website at: www.abbeynorthdrummers.com.

On Saturday afternoon, we divided into four groups to develop resources that could be used in our fundraising efforts: a children's storybook, a Powerpoint presentation, a skit, and a short video. All will soon be available on the Pickering Village United Church website <http://pvuc.ca/content/view/67/77/>. There was plenty free time as well for sports, games and connecting with great new friends.

At the Sunday service, the youth presented the resources we had prepared, and received a wonderful response from the congregation. At Pickering Village United Church we have already started with fundraising through Fair Trade products, envelopes for collection, as well as the Abbey North Drummers' CD. We hope that youth will soon start fundraising projects of their own throughout the Conference.

—MARIKO BOWN-KAI

Historic Hope Chapel part of Canton's 175th

In the summer of 1832, a band of God-fearing pioneer men and women of Canton built the first Methodist Church in Hope Township, in present day Cobourg Presbyterian. This was a modest wooden structure which they dedicated to the glory of God under the name of Hope Chapel. In 1876 the Hope Chapel was moved to its present site and the present brick church replaced it. A stage and kitchen were added to the original structure and it is now used as the Community Hall.

The 175th anniversary of this congregation was celebrated on September 30th, 2007 with members of Canton congregation, former members and members of Hope Township Pastoral Charge attending. The service was conducted by the minister, Rev. William Service. He was assisted by several lay people dressed in period costume, who performed "vignettes" of the early days of Canton Church. The Anniversary guest speaker was the Reverend Wendy Bulloch, Executive Secretary of the Bay of Quinte Conference.

After the service a luncheon was served in the original chapel, now the Community Hall. A 175th anniversary cake was cut by Mrs. Ethel Bickle, who is a great granddaughter of James Hawkins, Hawkins donated the land on which Hope Chapel was built and on which the present brick church now stands.

—JUNE DUNDAS



You to Youth event in Pickering designed to plan HIV/AIDS fundraiser.



Ethel Bickle cuts the Canton cake.

Youth group brings hunger home in support of Foodgrains Bank

Almonte, Ontario, United Church Youth hosted a *Hunger Banquet* in October, to bring awareness to the global problem of hunger and to raise funds for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The event was a great success, bringing community members of all ages together. Participants were randomly allocated to high income, middle income and low income status within different continents. Their meals (and seating arrangements) varied according to their status – from plush chairs and shish-ka-bobs to mats on the floor and a bowl of rice. Status was not secure – events such as “War” or “Foodgrains” could take a participant mid-meal from good food to no food and vice versa.

Guest speaker Madut Majok captivated his audience with his first hand experiences of war, hunger and displacement from one’s homeland. Majok was forced at age eight to flee his village in Sudan while it was under attack during the Sudanese Civil War. Separated from his family, he spent his childhood and teen years in refugee camps, until he was sponsored by WUSC (World University Service of Canada) to attend university in Canada. Now graduated, he works as Alumni Liason Officer for the Student Refugee Program at WUSC’s national office in Ottawa. Narrating his harrowing story with simplicity and often humour, Majok brought not only reality to the theme of hunger - he brought a sense of how we as individuals can make a significant difference to the life of those who are hungry.

Almonte United Church has participated in fundraising for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank for several years. Members Donna and Allan Lowry (Penlow Farms) lead the local project, planting several acres each year with the harvest income going to Foodgrains.

Attending the harvesting each fall is a highlight for many in the congregation, especially the children.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of Canadian church-based agencies, including the United Church of Canada, working to end hunger in developing countries. For suggestions on how to get involved, go to:

www.foodgrainsbank.ca/getinvolved

— CATHY YOUNGER-LEWIS



Laurie Blackstock photo

Guest Madut Majok escaped war-torn Sudan as a child.

Seed Money germinated a successful Country Fair at Trinity Peterborough

Trinity United in Peterborough held a successful ‘Old Country Fair’ on Saturday, October 13, 2007. Yes, of course, it was a fundraiser for the church. However, what ‘fun’ there turned out to be in the fundraising event. It gave the Finance Department in the church approximately \$6000 to put towards the church’s budget for the year.

Early in June ‘seed money’ was offered to those in the congregation who wished to participate in The Old Country Fair in October. They could, of course, buy seeds with it, and watch

them grow - some brought garlic, even pumpkins. The seed money was \$5 per participant, and over 40 vendors asked for table space in Trinity Hall for the event. There was literally everything for sale, corn stalks for decorating outside and some wonderful baking, knitting, preserves and art cards.

It was a very successful, ‘new’ idea for our church, but overall, it proved that once again, give church members a good idea to share with each other and the community - and it can’t help but turn out well!

—MARJORIE SHEPHARD,



Marjorie and Walter Shephard dressed up (or down) for the Trinity fair.

Lay Ministers Training

Designated Lay Ministers, supervisors, and lay training teams, gathered for a training day at Marmora United Church. Presbytery and Conference representatives were present including the Rev. Wendy Bulloch, Executive Secretary, and the Rev. Steve Willey (Ethnic Ministries Unit) from the General Council Office.

The training day included discussions, prayers, worship, seminars on time management and taking personal time for God. As well there was further learning about the Designated Lay Ministry Program (DLM). The program is a congregationally based training program for persons over 40 years of age who feel called by God to serve but who do not wish to pursue the traditional university route to ordination.

DLM's are appointed by a Presbytery to a ministry of word, sacrament and pastoral care, and they are trained within congregations, offering their gifts to the service of the church, while participating in a three year field based educational program. They attend a learning institution for several weeks of the year, and the remainder of the time serve in a church setting.

An intense process of discernment precedes the training and the candidates must be church members for at least five years prior to entering. A distinct decline in the number of persons seeking the university route to ordained ministry has created an exciting opportunity for The United Church of Canada (UCC) to pursue alternate ways of training ministers and to embrace new styles of ministry giving birth to fresh possibilities that are a gift from God.

The candidates will be recognized at the Bay of Quinte Conference in May 2008 at the Strathcona Paper Centre in Napanee. These mature students are to be congratulated and kept in our prayers as their recognition-graduation time gets closer.

The United Church of Canada continues to pursue various and alternative methods for the training of persons who feel called by God to serve in a formal way in a church setting.

—REV. JEAN BROWN

Spring into Nature

This past March break Quin-Mo-Lac hosted *Spring Into Nature* – a Christian-based event for youth ages 12 to 15. The event was extremely successful and participants concluded three busy days with experiences in snowshoeing, teambuilding initiatives, water colour painting, and much more. The *Spring Into Nature* event aimed to mix the development of skills such as leadership and conflict resolution with the more traditional camp activities. This combination of programming left participants with some new friends and also some new skills for their everyday lives.

We are pleased to be running this event again in 2008 during the first three days of the March break. The program is led by experienced outdoor education directors. All meals and accommodations are provided. At the end of the three days, participants are presented with a certificate of achievement for completing the skill development sessions as a lasting reminder of the time they enjoyed at Quin-Mo-Lac. For further information about the 2008 event or to register do not hesitate to contact us. Thanks to all who helped make last year's event so enjoyable and we hope to see you, as well as some new faces, in March!

kids@campqml.org
613-473-2877

ABRAHAM FESTIVAL

honours three great faith traditions

co-hosted by George St. United Peterborough

Feb. 29th to March 9th

This is a gathering of spiritual descendants of Abraham of the Torah, the Bible and the Qur'an. We are Jews, Christians and Muslims in Peterborough Ontario

and have been meeting in a spirit of joy and wonder as we explore our similarities and differences. It has been described as rediscovering our spiritual cousins.



The Abraham Festival will bring guest speaker **Dr. Khaleel Mohammed**, Professor of Religion at San Diego University - an international speaker from the Muslim tradition. A series of events with Dr. Mohammad include a public Sunday Service of Worship Sunday March 2nd, interactive workshops and his keynote address.

Registration \$15. Deadline Feb 25th
For information contact: George Street United Church 705-742-4162

e-mail: gbe@georgestreetunited.ca
or go to www.georgestreetunited.ca



Designated Lay Ministers Christina Hague (Marmora Pastoral Charge) Ann Austin-Cardwell (Baillieboro-Springville Pastoral Charge) Jon Williams (Denbigh, Matawatchan-Schutt Pastoral Charge) at training event.

Keep The Faith releases CD

From the first, pitch-perfect vocal to the last simmering chord, the newly released, self-titled CD of *Keep The Faith*, a Belleville, based trio caught my full attention. It is a wonderful and evocative collection of 11 original songs from the popular Quinte-area group from Eastminster United Church: Kathleen Manderville, Roli Tipper and John Brannen. "We wanted to capture the fun and emotion and diversity of musical styles that we experience at our live fund-raising concerts on our CD" says Tipper. We believe that people will really enjoy the range and diversity of musical genres."

And diverse it is. The songs range from pop to folk to country to jazz to driving rock and roll and Motown but always with a consistent theme expressing their faith and beliefs. The opening song, *I Found God Today* sways over a steady Latin beat. Recorded in the spring of 2005 and released as a radio single across Canada. It has received airplay on 14 stations nationwide and enjoyed very strong success in the Quinte area.

This is a CD worth owning. It's been expertly produced by Ken Harnden of Pinnacle Music Studios in Belleville. The songs are catchy, engaging and well within reach as they are inevitably about ourselves.

John Brannen put it nicely: "One day we stood back and looked at all of our songs and realized that they're



Ministry with the Whole Youth: From White-bread Programs to Whole Grain Ministry

January 18-20

Participants will be empowered to imagine, risk and create ways of engaging and transforming our church through holistic ministry with youth with

Jessie Negropontes and Chris Giffen.

Winter Family Camp

February 1-3

A winter escape with something for everyone!

Male Spirituality: Strength in Weakness

February 11-14

Grow in spirit, wisdom and understanding as we explore times of transition.

about life, love and our families."

The *Keep The Faith* CD is available for sale at their fundraising concerts at area churches this winter and spring, at selected retail outlets or by e-mail request to johnbrannen@cjbq.com

— ANNE CHARLES

Faith Formation: Moving From Welcoming to Belonging

February 29 – March 1

Be equipped and empowered to deepen discipleship and broaden community in your congregation.

Things They Never Told Me About Jesus

April 1-3

Be led by John Bell in an exploration of essential aspects of Jesus' life which are lacking in the witness of the Church.

Gospel of Matthew: Story, History & Tradition

April 11-13

Learn about the Gospel in its original context & interpretations through the centuries with Jewish New Testament Scholar Amy-Jill Levine.

For more information about these and other programs, and to register,

phone 519-442-3212 or log on at www.fiveoaks.on.ca

Deadlines

Please send your CR material for the
 March issue by January 20th
 May issue by March 20th
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Belleville singing group "Keep the Faith" members Kathleen Manderville, Roli Tipper and John Brannen.