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On September 14 we celebrate the Triumph of the Cross. On this day in the year 335, the relic of the cross was first honored in Jerusalem. Since that occasion, in the Christian East, the cross has been honoured on this day with prayer and fasting, with flowers and glorious processions. We see the tree of the cross, with its arms spread to the four corners, a sign of that which is all-embracing, all-loving, and all-truthful. As autumn looms with its growing darkness, we raise the shining cross as our beacon and our treasure.

This feast day marks a turning point from summer into fall. It is a splendid day for liturgies for beginning religious education programs and the school year. September is a kind of new year, not just for schools, but for many other organizations idled by summer. ♦

Please remember that we are no longer mailing the Parish Visitor, except by request. Copies are available for pickup in church and on our website.

Peanut Shell



Well, it surely was a hot, dry summer. I seemed to spend most of my time watering my garden. It's great now to see everyone coming back and usual activities resuming. If you are wondering about some items that aren't listed in this newsletter, they will be announced as soon as available.

I finished my second term as a member of National Church Council at our convention in Winnipeg this past July. For me it is the end of sixteen years of continuous service for our national church (eight years previous in communication). I sure built up lots of air miles. I'll certainly miss all the contacts and activities, but other things will fill in with the time freed up.

For me it was sad that most of the energies of our church were forced to deal with one issue these past two years while so much of our ministry had to be set aside. Hopefully now the church can get back to its regular business. You can read full convention coverage on the ELCIC website www.elcic.ca.

Please read Pastor Mills' report on the convention. He attended as a Toronto Conference clergy delegate.

Response to purchase our *Windows* booklet was much lower than anticipated, but I'm now working with a printer to produce a smaller quantity of the booklets at a reasonable price. Those of you who have signed up to purchase copies can get them from me during September. We may have a few extra copies available for those who did not request one previously.

What did you do on your summer vacation? Please share your stories with us in the *Parish Visitor*.

If you have any questions about what the pastor's sabbatical will be like for the congregation, please read Jim Doak's article or ask him any further questions. We also include a letter received from Bishop Pryse.

Judy

WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER...



Summers are always fun. They are a time to travel to different places, meet old friends and make new ones too. This summer was quite different for me. As I was going home on the subway, I met an old co-worker from the company I worked for in Guyana. I had not seen her for over 20 years. Needless to say, I barely recognized her. She said that she was in touch with other co-workers. Most of them are now living in New York and they have had reunions for the last three years.

...And, they were looking for me.
You know – they found me.

I gave my email address, which was forwarded to the group. The next day my email inbox was filled with messages from people I thought I would never hear from again. We are in touch now. They have a website and I received a link to it. The website has a list of names and addresses of previous co-workers. We now exchange pictures, share jokes, and have online discussions. And what's more, I saw two of them on their visit to Canada recently. They are planning a reunion in Canada next year and I look forward to meeting them all.

Indira Beekie

Stamps and Cash Register Tapes

Many thanks to all those members of Advent who have been collecting cash register tapes and saving their used stamps for the past many years. You've been asking about them and the answer is "Yes", we are still collecting and distributing them.

Please note that only supermarket tapes from Dominion Stores and their subsidiaries can be accepted at this time. Complete envelopes will be accepted (we will cut off the corner with the stamps on it and shred the remainder of the envelope) or you can cut off the corner yourself leaving a half-inch border around the stamps if you prefer.

Please continue to bring in your stamps and tapes and place them in the "Cash Register Tapes/Postage Stamps" box on the table inside the front door.

Please be assured that they will all be put to good use.

Thank you again for assisting in this project.

Alex Otten
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Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Adult Forum 9:00 a.m.
(September–June)

The *Parish Visitor* is produced
for our members and friends.

Judy Baribeau, Editor (416) 264-4527

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Advent Lutheran Church

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Report on National Convention 2005

by Pastor Michael Mills
Toronto Conference Clergy Delegate

Our church had its National Convention in July. Delegates from 420 congregations across Canada gathered in Winnipeg to reflect, debate and enact the business of the church. As always, it was a mixed experience for me. On the one hand it was a time to see old friends, meet colleagues with whom I went to seminary, and form new friendships; but the business of the church can be tension filled, and this convention was no exception. I genuinely enjoy the community aspect of National Convention and slipping off site for a beer in the evenings, but eight hours a day of administrative issues, constitutional amendments and corporate reporting is also good hard work.

Opening Worship Experience

The worship at convention is always spectacular. Except that this year a strange thing happened. For the opening worship, convention delegates were bussed downtown to St. Mary's Cathedral because there were somewhere around 700 people in attendance.

When the busses opened their doors in front of the church to let people off, a man in a torn t-shirt and obviously drunk, stumbled up the stairs before the delegates could get off. As you might imagine there was a moment of quiet anxiety before the security guard from the Cathedral spotted the problem and removed the man. But the guard was actually a bit of a problem, himself. He was forceful and he yelled at the man to get out of the way. It was not the sort of interaction you want on the front steps of a church at all. The anxiety level on the bus rose even higher, and one of the bishops spoke to the liturgical director of the convention and asked him if he could reign in the security guard a bit. Eric Dyke said he'd speak to the Cathedral staff, but he wasn't sure what he could do.

Meanwhile, two other people who had been loitering outside and who weren't part of our group also came into the cathedral. One was an elderly woman with a bundle buggy dressed in a heavy coat even though it was thirty degrees in Winnipeg. The other was a young girl with all sorts of piercings, leather, and a grunge haircut. If you think that there isn't a class system in Canada, simply put two or three street people into a convention of Lutherans and you'll change your mind. Their presence was palpable. The woman with the bundle buggy got in the way of the baptismal remembrance when our National Bishop was trying to sprinkle us with water and the security guard removed her, too, again forcefully.

What I found interesting was the small gasp that went up from the crowd when the same guard got up to read the first lesson. He wasn't just a security guard, but part of the worship. Incongruously he read from Acts 1 where Jesus tells the disciples: You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth. Some witness so far.

Bishop Shultz's sermon followed on the text from Matthew 25: I was hungry and you gave me food, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was in prison and you visited me. Again, the actions of the guard, the awkwardness of convention delegates, the response of the crowd and the sermon of the Bishop created a rather ambiguous start to the convention.

The Peace and the Offering

Things smoothed out a bit, though, when guard, bundle-buggy woman, pierced-nose girl and drunken man began sharing the peace with the gathering. They were enthusiastic in greeting people. They kind of melted our hearts a bit. Then the offering was collected and representatives from across the country brought their gifts forward: Smoked

salmon from BC, potash from Saskatchewan, maple syrup from Ontario, cheese from Quebec. It was lovely. Then the drunken man in the ripped t-shirt brought up the bottles of Eucharistic wine – in brown paper bags, no less. And the woman in the heavy coat brought up the Eucharistic bread in her bundle buggy – and it was becoming clear that we were part of a grand tableau – a bit of street theatre staged by the liturgical director of the convention.

These were actors (and church members, by the way) whose task it was, during the liturgy, to challenge us to see if we as Lutherans acted out the grace and hospitality that we prayed, preached and sang about. It was lovely at the end of worship to share the Eucharist as one people of God: bishops, ecumenical guests, bag lady, delegates, drunk, musicians, street punk. Outsiders had become insiders and insiders had had to step out of their familiar expectations and stand on the outside in order to see, once again, the breadth of God's kingdom. It was a fitting start to the work of the church in convention.

The Business Begins

The next morning, Archbishop Andrew Hutchinson brought greetings from our sisters and brothers in the Anglican Church of Canada. and the National Church Council of the ELCIC identified its priorities. These included a desire to move beyond a sort of *institutional chaplaincy model* in the ELCIC to one of apostolic service. This means a shift in our church from the traditional role of pastor as chaplain to a local congregation to a model in which all baptized members of our church would see themselves as active witness in the world. "You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth," says Jesus. This is a big change for our church. But an essential one.

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Report from National Convention Continued from Page 3

The National Church Council also identified the need for the church to speak out on public issues that affect the lives of our community and to commit itself to global Christian action. A high calling. Holy encouragement, you might call it. I'm grateful for the work of Judy Baribeau who has served on NCC for the past eight years. Judy has completed two four-year terms and was not eligible for re-election. Thank you Judy for diligent work in an often thankless task. Unfortunately, members of NCC often get hate mail from the larger constituency when people don't agree with a particular recommendation or direction. I'm saddened by such nonsense.

Renewing Worship Task Force Report

During convention the Renewing Worship task force addressed the floor. We can expect our new worship book to be available next October. It will have some new and some familiar hymns. It will have a new setting of the Sunday liturgy. A Psalter, a rite for the three days of Easter, a daily prayer guide and Luther's small catechism. The purpose of this book is to replace the green book – LBW. I think it will be an excellent resource. We might want to look at budget implications for the purchase of this resource.

Greetings from Visitors

Rev. Dr. Randall Lee of the Department for Ecumenical Affairs, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America addressed the convention. His words were prophetic and confessional. As an American he publicly criticised the war in Iraq and asked for Canadians to pray for our sisters and brothers to the south that they might find ways in the current climate of silence and intimidation to be faithful disciples of Christ.

National Bishop Raymond Schultz was re-elected. He begins his second four-year term as Presiding Bishop of our Church.

The National president of the ELW,

Betty St. Onge, spoke. Did you know that every year the ELW donates \$100,000 to our national church? That's \$100,000 from ordinary women in ordinary parishes like ours. Women from across the country, who put their few dollars together every month and make this exceptional gift to the national church. What a witness that is.

Resolution on Local Option for Same-Sex Blessings

There was also time and attention devoted to the National Church Council motion that the ELCIC allow pastors to perform blessings for same-gender couples who want to make a lifelong commitment to one another in the presence of God and their community of faith. This motion required 66% majority of the voting delegation to pass and was resoundingly defeated. The final vote was 46% in favour, 54% in opposition.

There was excellent discussion on the floor. Except for two people who were just plain silly, the conversation was respectful and even gracious. But it was one sided, in that those who spoke in favour (34 people) embraced a wide range of social concerns, biblical insights, confessional issues, personal stories and a vision of the reign of God which was related to Bishop Schultz's opening sermon and the inclusion we experienced at the opening worship.

The 'no' side (24 people spoke) spoke almost with one voice, in that it was primarily a voice of fear: If we bless same-gender couples will we be the church anymore? If we go forward here, what will the future hold? They are good questions, but I'm not sure they are questions that grow out of the heart of the scriptures. Every delegate had to wrestle with their own conscience and in the end the motion to permit blessings was defeated.

From my perspective, the motion was defeated because Lutherans in Canada, at least at the level of this year's National Convention, do not know the scriptures. It is that plain and clear to me. Lutherans do not know the parables. We do not know the essential teachings

of Jesus. We do not know what Luther meant by grace trumping fear.

If you listened to the conversation at this convention, and had to say, which church do I want to be a part of, a church that is open, welcoming, inclusive, risk-taking, humble, uncertain, but willing to try to follow Christ in an ambiguous world or would I rather be part of a church that in an ambiguous world plays it safe, lays out new guidelines for behaviour, reduces the amount of fear that we experience on a daily level and generally keeps the status quo, you would have to say that people were moved by this second vision of the church.

But this is not the community of disciples described in Acts who risked their lives to feed, nurture and bless others. It is not what Jesus envisioned when he spoke about feeding the hungry and visiting the prisoner. It is not the faith that we see in our Old Testament lesson today where Jacob wrestles with God at Peniel, nor does it reflect the abundant blessing of the loaves and fish.

It is my opinion that this Convention is a wake-up call for our church. And I point again to the National Church Council's urging that we move beyond institutional chaplaincy – that is we move beyond taking care of the church for the sake of the institution and move toward apostolic service where we become witnesses, servants and disciples of the who was crucified for the sake of the world.

Where does our Church go from here? Well, we recommit ourselves to reading the Bible. We recommit ourselves to being a church for all people – not just gay and lesbian Christians, but also refugees and bag ladies and drunks, and ordinary Lutherans, and hoity-toity Anglicans and everyone else who is seeking to meet God in this ambiguous, often fearful, wide-open, wonderful world. And we speak in a language of hope, not fear. We bless, because God blesses. We pray. We sing. We break bread. We seek to discover again that vision of God's reign that animated Jesus, we said:

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Mission Report

Here is an update on Brian Rude's work (from his report) in El Salvador with prison inmates and HIV/AIDS sufferers and their families.

"Life and ministry continue to be rich and diverse. In El Salvador we continue to concentrate on the gang 'homeboys' in prisons, though a tumultuous past couple of months, starting with the arbitrary transferal of 17 gang-leader inmates to a maximum security prison, leading to sit-ins and hunger strikes, leading to a sharp restriction in visitation rights and special permission required of programs like ours, leading to a high level of discontent among inmates and their families, has meant that the continuation of our Quetzalcoatl program has become a day-to-day uncertainty, a day-to-day challenge. We continue to work in four prisons where our presence is more important to local directors than official permission. We are also working to develop a network among organizations working in prisons and on prisoners' rights and another network among families of inmates.

"Within the past month we have begun extending our program to working with gang clicas in their own neighbourhoods or barrios, a long-time vision finally coming to fruition – one which brings its own challenges with respect to police and the rival gang. Our new street-gang friends have already hosted a group of 17 Swedes and a group of four Canadians. The Swedes' parting reflection: "If this had been our only visit, our trip would have been worthwhile." (Perhaps they said that to every group they visited.) Hearing a 16-year old explain, in all seriousness and with numerous real-life stories to offer as examples, that friendship means being willing to give one's life, can't help but leave an impact, whether on a first-time visitor or on one offering long-term accompaniment and solidarity.

"In October 2000 I began accompanying a youth/young adult HIV/AIDS education team from the rural area of

Santa Marta, in the Department of Cabanas. Their name is CoCoSI or Comité Contra el SIDA (Committee Against AIDS). The play on words also means "Brain (Head) – Yes". They have grown from six to 24 members, ranging in age from 14-24 years. Several of the men of their group joined our Quetzalcoatl prison team as apprentices in two prisons in their area (Sensuntepeque and Ilobasco) and now continue to work independently in both settings. While HIV/AIDS awareness and accompaniment is their focus, they have taken on other challenges either as a group, or individually, volunteering as journalists and commentators for the local, alternative radio station Radio Victoria launching a community program to overcome domestic violence; leading awareness workshops on national political reality; and launching a local news bulletin which also provides political analysis of broader, even global, themes.

"The first weekend of January saw this group back to work in Los Enriques – yet another typical rural setting, at the base of Guazapa Hill, a guerrilla base during the armed conflict, and a repopulation area following the war which ended in 1992. This weekend came with a twist, however. The youth from this community were as dynamic and enthusiastic as in any other, but some older members of CoCoSI were drawn to the

parents and the elders of the community. It turns out that the residents of both Santa Marta and



Los Enriques had fled to Honduras during the war, where they had spent several years together during the 80s at Mesa Grande refugee camp before being repatriated to their separate communities in El Salvador. These people had not seen each other for 17 years. The younger people did not recognize each other as some were born at Mesa Grande and others on their return to El Salvador. The older youth did recognize the adults of Los Enriques and shared some precious moments of reminiscing together.

"The youth from Los Enriques have focused their energies on artistic development – contemporary and folk dance, as well as music both performance and composition. The youth from Santa Marta have focused on the variety of social and political issues mentioned."

Brian Rude would ask you to pray for his work in El Salvador with the various aspects of his work, especially with those who are in prison and those suffering with HIV/AIDS.

Joan Fox

Mission Representative

Report from National Convention Continued from Page 4

But I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. (Luke 6:30-35). ♦

Stewardship Matters



Stewardship in September... A Challenge

Summer's over – it's back to work or school and perhaps the rest of our regular routine. Will it be any different or will life go back to business as usual? We always have opportunities for new or renewed ways to serve. Sometimes we do it without even giving it a thought, while at other times it can be as bad as pulling teeth to get something done.

When we are invited to visit someone, or just drop in, many times we take something with us. If we are invited to a party or to dinner, we ask, "what can I bring?" In the community where I grew up, and everyone knew each other and most people were related to each other – when there was a death, the bereaved family would be inundated with food from people in the community. It must be why after the burial everyone was invited to stay for a meal – probably just to eat some of the excesses. Talk about stewardship! It shows giving of time, talent and resources without any thought about receiving something in return. The people care.

When I thought about our social practices, I wondered how we could translate that attitude to our church practices. Yes, we are always happy to bring something to a potluck dinner. As Lutherans we keep our names taped to the bottom of our casserole dishes and serving plates so they are always ready and we can ensure we get them back to fill up again. But what about other areas of our church life? Do we call or visit our elderly members, or those who are ill, or for other reasons are unable to get out, or send a card to say, "I am thinking of you"? Do we offer to help those who are not physically able to do some of the things they once did – like assist them with shopping, take them to an

appointment, or do something around their homes? Do we take an interest in volunteering to take care of some maintenance function, like getting rid of cobwebs in the church corners?

In the fall there is always the renewed call for Sunday School teachers, to help bring our offerings up to date after the summer slump, and to assist with the renewed social schedule of the congregation, to name a few. The choir could use more singers. The ELW would like more women to participate. The men invite other men to join them for their monthly breakfasts. Are we always as eager to make a church commitment as we are to bring a plate of brownies?

When we think of the story of the five loaves and two fishes, it seemed like an impossible task to feed 5,000 people. Yet, the young boy didn't say no to offering all that he had. And when the meal was over, more was left over than there was at the start. How can we put the miracle of that story to work for us? Let's put our energy into unselfish giving so that we can generate leftovers, too. I encourage everyone to be a bit creative – where can we do something without being asked and make a difference. And we will!

Update on 40th Anniversary Projects

The main focus on the 40th anniversary celebration is now to raise the remaining committed funds to meet our \$40,000 goal. We encourage you to continue to make donations to this fund. In addition, we'll continue to have bake auctions, the silent auction at our anniversary dinner, progressive dinner, the ELW cookbook, and any other projects anyone may want to initiate to raise funds.

Progressive Dinners

Since we're Lutherans, we enjoy eating. One way to enjoy a good meal, fellowship and at the same time raise funds for our 40th anniversary fund is by holding a progressive dinner – or two. We need volunteers to be hosts to serve one course each: appetizer, main course, or dessert and coffee. The dates suggested are Saturday, September 24, and/or Saturday, October 1. The cost will be \$15 a person (hosts \$10 each). If you would like to participate, please sign on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or speak with me. On the sheet you can indicate your preferred date, whether you can be a host and which course you would like to serve, or if you would just like to be a guest – we need hosts and guests. This is an opportunity for a fun-filled evening to support our anniversary project.

Bake Auctions

So far we've had two successful bake auctions during coffee hour. If you would like to contribute one of your baking specialties to auction off, please let Judy Baribeau or Rebecca Taylor know. We will schedule an auction on various Sundays and will give advance notice so that you may come prepared to take home a specialty for your enjoyment or to serve to your guests. You don't have to be the auctioneer – we will provide one.

Silent Auction at Anniversary Dinner

Looking ahead, as part of our program for our anniversary potluck dinner on October 30, we will hold a silent auction. Please let Judy Baribeau know if you would like to donate an item and the starting amount for bidding. We're looking for nice items, not rummage sale stuff. For example, Pastor Mills will be donating one of his paintings for \$\$\$\$. So, if you have a good white elephant (rather than re-gifting it to one of your relatives), or would like to donate a sample of your creativity, please let me know.

Judy Baribeau
Chair, Stewardship

Sabbatical Journey

“How does our church work?”

Quite well. Thanks for asking.

“No, I mean – when Pastor Mike goes on sabbatical next year, how will things work?”

Pretty much the same as they do today, only Pastor Mike won't be there and somebody else will be doing his pastoral duties in his absence. Things like communion and baptisms, marrying and burying, Sunday services, Council meetings, and so on.

Our church operates, to a large degree, on the volunteer dedication of our members. That is a big part of what is called our stewardship to our church – looking after things. Worship and the Arts Committee volunteers look after our services and music, for example. Christian Education looks after Sunday School and the adult education series. ESO volunteers look after welcoming, special lunches and dinners, services at the seniors home, and more. Just look at the Annual Report to see all the things we do within our committees. Each

committee has a few members – people in our congregation like you and me. Our stewardship campaign each autumn asks every one of us if we will contribute some time and talent to help in one or more of these committees. And that is how most things happen at Advent. Volunteers do much of what needs to be done.

My point is that whether Pastor Mike is here or on vacation or on sabbatical, it is our members on these committees, or just freelance volunteers, who keep things running. That will be how our church will keep running while Pastor Mike is on sabbatical.

Congregational Council is the *super committee* and it meets eight to ten times each year to receive reports and make decisions about our parish. It will continue to do so.

“So what about pastor?”

Pastor is a member of all these committees. He provides guidance in many ways, most importantly by bringing the context of our Lutheran church to what we do and how we do it. He spent four years in seminary studying this before he became a pastor, and he constantly continues learning. That's part of what he will be doing on his sabbatical.

Now, we all realize that our pastor wields a lot of influence wherever he is involved. We want him to. That's part of the reason we *call* (hire) a pastor. We also want a pastor to lead us in the Sacraments; to talk with us as a counselor in times of need and to be someone we look up to as our spiritual leader.

When Pastor Mike is on sabbatical, another pastor will be providing this spiritual leadership and guidance to us, and (s)he will be present most Sundays to lead us in the Sacraments. I expect this means there can be a bigger role for our members who want to get more involved. Today the ELW and men's group take the service once or twice each year. Our members preach some times when Pastor Mike is away. Others lead adult education sessions, teach Sunday School – oops, I am back to where I started.

Our stewardship opportunities may grow while Pastor Mike is on sabbatical, so each of us can have a more important role to play if we want to grasp the opportunity. And we will have a pastor to work along with us and to give us guidance.

Advent will continue to run much like it does today when Pastor Mike is on sabbatical. There will be a different face above the clerical collar, and we will add another petition to the Sunday prayers – to pray for his health, well-being and growth in grace. Time will go by quickly (as it seems to do these days) and we will soon be making plans to have Pastor Mike back.

Jim Doak
Sabbatical Committee

25 August, 2005

Rev. Michael Mills
Advent Lutheran Church
2800 Don Mills Rd.
North York, ON M2J 3B6

Dear Michael:

I am writing in response to your letter of July 12, 2005 wherein you inform me of the plans that have been put in place for your forthcoming sabbatical.

I am delighted that Advent congregation is supporting you in this worthy venture and welcome the level of detailed planning that has been put in place to support it. I pray and trust that this time of sabbatical rest will be beneficial, both to you, and to the ministry of Advent congregation.

Peace be with you!

Bishop Michael J. Pryse

People and Events Summary

Worship Services and Meetings

Worship services are held every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Men's Breakfast Group – meets at 9:00 a.m. the first Saturday each month at the Wexford Restaurant, northeast corner of Lawrence Avenue East and Warden Avenue.

Seniors meet September 6 and 20, 1:30 p.m. at the church.

Congregational Council meets Monday, September 19, 7:00 p.m. at the church.

ESO Committee meets Monday, September 26, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

We remember

■ Evelyn Arnett who is home recovering from surgery.

Baptism

■ Phoenix and Harlie Ymeri, daughters of Katherine Ymeri and Bradley Berry, were baptized on July 17.

Thank you

■ Erna and John Krause for hosting the congregational picnic at their home on July 17.

■ Members of the ELW for conducting the worship service on August 14 and the Men's Group for conducting the service on August 28.

Confirmation classes begin Wednesday, September 14, 6:30 p.m. in Pastor Mills' office.

Please remember to turn the ringer off on your cell phone while we worship.

Treasurer's Report

Commitments	Received to August 29, 2005	Received to August 28, 2004	Required August 29, 2005	Surplus/ Shortfall
Current/Loose	\$48,566	\$54,124	\$61,485 *	\$(12,920)
Mortgage	3,697	5,778	5,778 **	(2,081)
Sunday School	130	117	117	13
Sub-total	52,392	60,019	67,380	(14,988)
Facilities	30,133	29,638	24,600 ***	5,533
Regular Benevolence	7,016	7,467	7,467	(452)
Total Commitments	\$89,540	\$97,124	\$99,447	\$(9,907)
Other Giving				
GHDA	\$3,399	\$3,153		
40th Anniversary	\$2,208			

* 2004 Current and Loose increased by 13.6% as per Budget

** Same as 2004

*** 2004 x 83% as per Budget

*Fred Roth
Treasurer*

September 2005 Volunteers

Volunteers assist with the worship services. The *Parish Visitor* lists those who have agreed to assist each Sunday as a reminder and a thank you for serving. In addition to the areas listed below, we invite you to provide altar flowers for special occasions in your lives. If you have questions about them, please speak to the Altar Guild person for the particular Sunday.

Altar Care	Greeter	Assisting Minister	Reader	Ushers	Counters	Coffee Hosts
September 4 Brenda Kroeker	Judy Baribeau	Nalini Beekie	Judy Baribeau	Jenny Persaud & Kamaludin Khan	Walter Rothenburger	Brit Missirlian & Cynthia Stewart
September 11 Sonita Dillon-Rhodijs	Adele Buckley	Gabi Schickedanz	Martin Gangadeen	Rosemarie Gardow & Sophia Liu	Judy Baribeau & Martin Gangadeen	Nerissa Jones & Marva Frank
September 18 TBA	Mihiri De Silva	Robert Wraith	Jonathan Roth	Fred, Jonathan, & Eric Roth	Tara Lindemann & Kristin Doak	Erna & John Krause
September 25 Brit Missirlian	Delasia Khan	Jackie Fromme	Joan Fox	Nerissa & Laquesha Jones	Bernd Brandt & Gladys Ammattil	Astrid & Torsten Walther