



HEMLOCK HAPPENINGS



Christmas Edition December 2012



It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you ... yes, it is Christmas time every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand ~Mother Teresa

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Merry Christmas to Berwick Campers 2012

"Tis the season to be jolly," Around our house it is jolly for two reasons. The first is the season and what it brings – the majesty; the celebration; the special services and concerts; the time with family and friends; the time to reflect on the year gone by; and needless to say, the food (especially the cranberry pudding).

The second is that it is just about the midway point between camps. For those who like to know the specifics, on Christmas morning we are 7 months away from camp opening!

Every year many things happen to each of our own families. As well, much happens to the members of our Berwick family. This year has seen our family grow as we have added many more places or "rooms at the inn". The generosity we have received from many more than the three wise men has allowed us to perform much needed maintenance as well as improve our facilities and programs. There has been more than one baby added to our family. And the shepherds in our executive and those in camp leadership watched over our flocks and we hope all are safe.

Yes, it "'tis the season to be jolly!" It is my heartfelt wish that each one of you has a safe, healthy, happy and blessed Christmas, shared with those you love.

Gordon Cameron, President



PROGRAM PREVIEW 2013

Let's just take a peek at what is in store for this summer...

Berwick is pleased to welcome our **Evangelist ...The Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence**. Anna has degrees from Yale (B.A.) and Princeton Theological Seminary (M. Div. and Ph.D.) and is an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She is interested in historical, theological, aesthetic and performative dimensions of preaching and the ways preaching engages other fields and different traditions. Her research focuses on testimony, feminist theology, the role of experience in preaching, and the history of preaching women.

She spends her days listening to student sermons, talking with pastors and churches about preaching, and thinking about exactly what it is that we have gotten ourselves into. She speaks and presents throughout North America and is widely published in commentaries and periodicals. Her first book was entitled, *Preaching as Testimony* (2007), Westminster John Knox Press.

She and her husband, the Rev. David Carter Florence, have two lacrosse-playing sons, Caleb (20), and Jonah (16). They also have two dogs and a flock of chickens. This is all excellent counterpoint for sermons, and as Anna has learned, you can get a lot of knitting done at sporting events.

Berwick also extends a warm welcome to **The Rev. Dr. Robert Fennell** who will be leading the **Theology for Today**. Rob holds a Th.D. in Theology and historical Biblical Studies from Victoria University, UofT, and M. Litt. From St. Andrew's (Scotland) and his M. Div from Emmanuel College, U.Vic, UofT.

Rob grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba and served for 10 years in ministry with United Church congregations in Saskatchewan and Ontario. Passionate about encouraging thriving churches and effective leaders, Rob teaches historic and systematic theology at Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, NS. His academic research focuses on the theological interpretation of scripture.

He recently published, *Three Ways of Grace: Drawing Closer to the Trinity* (2010, UCPH) and is currently working on, *Intercultural Visions: Called to Be the Church*.

Rob has worked extensively at all levels of the United Church developing innovative programming for people of all ages through such programs as "The Go Project" and sits on the editorial board of "Touchstone", the theological journal of the United Church of Canada. Rob is married to The Rev. Sally Shaw and together they delight in raising their boys Dexter and Noah.

And that is just a glimpse at some of what we have to look forward to this year! Stay tuned for more!

PROPERTY AND GROUNDS

We continue to have busy elves working away at camp. Take a look at the pictures of the upper campground. It is looking fabulous. Thanks to Eric and Tim and all others involved with this transformation. Amazing job!



And...some more good news from P&G on funding for Berwick...On Nov 29/12 RRFB Nova Scotia sent us the following email: *We are pleased to tell you that your application for Community Sponsorship Funding to support the purchase of green carts for the United Church Camp in Berwick has been approved for up to \$500.00.*

FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

As you know, the Royal Mint has stopped making pennies. Wondering what to do with those last pennies jingling in your pocket or purse?

Well, we have a helpful suggestion:

- Save one for posterity
- Take the others to the bank and have them converted into a cheque or money order
- Send the cheque or money order to Berwick Camp's treasurer:

Dawn Wood

9191 Highway #7

Head of Jeddore, NS B0J 1P0

A big thank you to Chrissie Crooks and the team who put together yet another successful Coffee House last month! Great entertainment, fabulous food, and a wonderful chance to visit with Berwick campers. Great job!!

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Words of Worship

Imagine our beloved Open Pavillion with snow drifting down through the hemlocks. Imagine the echoes of our summer singing, among the silent cottages. Imagine the chipmunks curled up for

the winter, and the falcons hunting happily where no pesky campers interrupt them. This is Berwick in the winter.

For many of us, our worship time at Berwick is the height of our year: the amazing preaching, the exciting music, the joyous choir, the hordes of children, communion at a sky-washed table.... We feed on these memories in our hearts when we go home.

May your Christmas worship be a blessing and a joy to you, where ever you are, in which ever community you play a part. May the Christ child draw close to us all. See! Our redemption is dawning again! ~ *Kate Crawford*

Merry Christmas to All! ~*Jack and Donna Spencer*

Wishing all Berwick Campers a Christmas full of love and laughter and lots of good things in 2013! ~ *HH Editors Nancy Creighton and Lynn Woolliscroft*

CHRISTMAS CHUCKLE



CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through!