

TAKE FIVE WITH FIVE OAKS

SEPTEMBER 2011 EDITION

Five Oaks is a United Church Education and Retreat Centre located on a beautiful piece of property near Paris, Ontario

Summer Celebration

"It was the best night out of the whole summer" one person said to me after the Summer Celebration we held here at Five Oaks in August. About 70 people gathered to hear the talented songstress Kirsten Jones sing some of her beautiful and poetic songs. The evening was also an opportunity for those who took part in the arts based programming that week to share and showcase their work. Readings of poetry and prose were offered by the Writers in Residence, participants of the Spirituality through Photography program created a slideshow of their images taken during their program and the painters displayed their creations. The surprise of the evening was when Kenny Kirkwood, a Juno award winning jazz musician and good friend of Five Oaks, offered to play his saxophone to accompany Kirsten.

Thank you to all who came out to share in this event with us. If you weren't able to make it this year then mark your calendar early for 2012 – the dates have already been scheduled for the summer creativity programs (August 20-24). These will include the leadership of Ray McGinnis (Writers in Residence), Phil Irish (Painting & Collage), Richard Choe (Photography) and others.



Kirsten Jones and Kenny Kirkwood courtesy of Richard C. Choe ©

Adult Program Update

I am extremely excited that Andrew Root will be at Five Oaks from November 1-3 to offer lectures for our program titled "Identity & Meaning of the Church in Changing Times". Andrew relates the shifts in culture, using examples mostly from youth culture, to a change in meaning and identity of the church within today's contemporary society. Discussion around questions like what is "real"?, why is 'belonging' so important to people today? and what theology is most applicable to the culture in which we live? This will be an exciting conversation with Andrew Root—you do not want to miss it!

Keeping us on Track



To be a Financial Administrator you need a sense of humour. That's especially true if you work at Five Oaks. "Otherwise, you'll be left out! I hope I'm not stuffy," declares Marilyn Parr.

Two things Marilyn likes most about working at Five Oaks: the staff, who are "lovely to work with", and the spiritual ambiance: "What a wonderful atmosphere there is here!" Marilyn takes time to enjoy it, most lunch hours walking with Jenny along Bethel Road out to the mailbox, and sometimes heading to her favourite spot by the river. Marilyn describes Five Oaks as "a place that invites you to let go of the world and find a sense of peace." Being mindful of the spiritual is a conscious practice for her.

Marilyn is a patron of the arts, enjoying ballet, theatre and the symphony. She especially loves choral music, singing soprano in the choir at Harcourt United Church in Guelph, and usually in a community choir too.

Her favourite day of the week? Friday. That's the day she spends with her 16 month old granddaughter, Natalie, her pride and joy.

Thank you Marilyn for all that you do!

Words to Ponder

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.

~Albert Camus

CYF Program Update

What a great summer we had at Day Camp. Roughly 200 families from the community came through our camp this summer. They played games, sang songs, swam, had visits from many different special guests and made new friends along the way. Thank you to all who supported the camp this summer. For information on next summer visit our website early next year.

The office is now much quieter but still just as busy. We are getting ready for our Fall Family Camp – October 21-23, as well as our Youth Retreat Weekend – October 26-28. For more information on both of these please visit our website. We hope to see you there, and hope you are enjoying the start of another school year.

Upcoming Programs

Adult

- The Eleventh Commandment: Honour the Children – and help the planet while we're at it, October 11, Cost: \$35
- Spiritual Dimension of Ecological Questions, October 12-13, Cost: \$245
- Labyrinth Walking with Lauren Artress, October 22, Cost: \$115

Children, Youth, Families

Fall Family Camp

October 21 – 23

Cost:

Adults \$160

Youth (12-15) \$110

Children (4-11) \$75

Children (under 4) \$25

Five Oaks subsidizes the cost of this camp by 40% to assist families. In addition, financial support may be available through Five Oaks Bursaries.