

Five Oaks

United Church Education & Retreat Centre

... a sacred place

SUMMER & FALL 2007 • www.fiveoaks.on.ca

Contact Us

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Five Oaks is a sacred place providing programs for individuals of all ages, families, youth groups, congregations and community groups, to deepen spirituality, broaden knowledge of the Christian story and develop ways of living faithfully and respectfully in God's world. You are welcome to come to the Centre for personal retreats, congregational retreats, and other kinds of meetings and gatherings. We are able to provide facilitation for these as well as for team building.

Accommodations

Five Oaks provides comfortable accommodation in a peaceful setting. Accommodation is normally two per room with shared washrooms. Single accommodation can usually be arranged. Guests tell us that our home-style meals are excellent. We are able to accommodate most special dietary requests (let us know when you register) and coffee, tea, juice and fruit are always available. Well equipped meeting facilities include satellite internet access. Our grounds are set within a Carolinian forest and include nature trails, three exceptional outdoor labyrinths, a wheelchair accessible playground and large pool. Visit the Facilities section of our website for more details.

Need financial assistance to attend one of our programs?

Ask your congregation and conference office for support. In Toronto Conference, apply to the Cedar Glen Fund: phone 416-241-2677 or (800) 446-4729.

Find our Five Oaks bursary form at: www.fiveoaks.on.ca/bursary.pdf

How to Find Us

Five Oaks is easily accessible by train, air & car. See the Location section of our website for more details.

We are located in Paris, Ontario.

If you are coming from the east or west, take Highway 403 to the Rest Acres Road exit. Turn south, then left at the first cross road (Bethel Road) and continue to the end of the road.

If you are coming from the north or south, take Highway 24. From the north connect with the 403 West at Brantford; from the south use Rest Acres Road.

Grand River Spiritual and Educational Resources Bookstore

A wonderful on-site resource at the Centre: www.avelgrandriver.com and 1-888-668-0871 in Ontario or 519-442-3366.

News from the Centre - NEW LIFE

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

I found this verse with the help of the concordance my grandmother gave me for Christmas when I was a teenager. It warms my heart to see her careful printing of my name inside its front cover, reminding me of her loving legacy.



My heart was warmed by grandparents yesterday too, during an Indian gathering to honour the baptism of Rachel Elizabeth Buttars Varghese. Rachel is the reason Andrea Buttars is taking a year away from her work at Five Oaks, and why Diane Matheson's name is the one you see to the left, responsible for Children, Youth and Family Ministries this year. As you can see, both Andrea and Rachel are enjoying their

early months together. Loving grandparents hosted and spoke to the gathered community yesterday, another legacy given by one generation to the next.

Rachel isn't the only reminder of new life these days. The Rev. Robin McGauley joined our staff in January as Coordinator of Adult Programming. She and Diane are infusing new life and energy into our 2007 programs.



Diane & Robin

Everything has become new – with blessings from earlier generations.

The legacies of those such as Helen Sovereign of Waterford United Church have restored facilities including the Centre's lovely swimming pool. As I am inspired by seeing my grandmother's handwriting on the inside of my concordance, the spirits of this generation of children and teens are lifted through the fun and learning of our summer programs. [It took a village of additional donors to give the funds needed to renew the pool, including the Toronto United Church Council, the FK Morrow Foundation, Dundas St. United Church (Woodstock) and many individuals.] Others are helping with more restorations. These include the Hunter Page UCW unit of St. Andrew's United Church (Toronto) who recently helped purchase new carpet for the Upper Room.

Everything is indeed becoming new, and we are engaged in a ministry of reconciliation from one generation to the next, as the letter to Corinth suggests. There is much more to do. Please join us in God's exciting work!

With blessings and gratitude,

Mardi Tindal
Director



For **alternative Christmas, birthday or anniversary gift ideas**, visit our website www.fiveoaks.on.ca and see how a gift to Five Oaks can **warm the heart** of a friend or relative. Delight them with a Program Gift Certificate or Donation in their Honour.

Watch for **UPCOMING EVENTS** on our website www.fiveoaks.on.ca including weekends with **Amy-Jill Levine April 11-13, 2008 & with Nancy Cocks, June 13-15.**

Let's Live with Respect in Creation

Let us know if you can offer or need a ride to a program when you register.

Contact Mardi if you're interested in helping us imagine how to make the Centre more ecologically sensitive.

A View from Five Oaks

We offer easy ways to stay up-to-date with Centre news and program developments. **A View from Five Oaks**, more commonly known as "Mardi's blog" can be found on our website and at marditindal.wordpress.com. Also, our **Email Notification Program** allows you to receive an email message whenever the sections of the website that you're most interested in are updated. Register on the main page of our website to be notified of changes from programs to facilities and everything in between.

Oops! We didn't know you wanted it, so we cancelled it. Please register early!

www.fiveoaks.on.ca

REGISTRATION FORM

Register by mail, fax, phone, e-mail or at our website. We need the following information and deposit. Please print clearly.

Name: _____ Gender: _____ Tel: (Res) _____ (Bus.) _____

E-mail: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Presbytery: _____

I wish to register for: Name of Program: _____ Date of Program: _____

I enclose \$50 deposit* for each program Visa Mastercard Cheque Card No. _____ Expiry Date: _____

I also enclose \$_____ to support Five Oaks programming, enabling others to attend events

Special Information:

I wish to room with: _____

If vegetarian, please check: strict will eat chicken will eat fish will eat dairy

Please tell us about your allergies and/or other physical needs so that we can plan to accommodate you comfortably (most of our year round facilities are accessible): _____

I'm willing to be contacted if someone coming to my program from my area needs a ride.

* Please note: \$25 is refundable if you cancel at least 2 weeks before the event.

We invite you, your friends and colleagues to a **Check us Out Open House** on the afternoon of Sunday, September 16, 2007 (2:00 pm to 4:00 pm). Please RSVP by phone or email: info@fiveoaks.on.ca to let us know if you're coming. An ideal opportunity to consider our lovely grounds, retreat and meeting facilities.



By the Spirit

Programs which focus on personal spiritual development and renewal



To be The Church

Programs which focus on strengthening the life and work of the church



To Seek Justice

Programs which enable people to seek justice and resist evil as individuals and as communities of faith



In All Life

Programs which support people at all stages of life including children, youth, young adults and families

Day Away

Wed. July 4 (9 am – 4 pm)

A day away for spiritual nourishment. Leadership: **Five Oaks facilitator & Spiritual Guides**

Cost: \$30 (includes light lunch); \$45 includes Spiritual Guide for one session

Summer Writer's Workshop: Writing Your Truth

Sun. July 8 (5:30 pm) – Fri. July 13 (after lunch)

Develop and support your creative self with exercises based on a Canadian classic, *The Jade Peony*, by Wayson Choy.

Leadership: **Helen Carmichael Porter**

EB Cost: \$650 [\$715 after June 15]



Guided Silent Retreat

Sun. July 15 (7 pm) – Sat. July 21 (3 pm)

Be led in conversation with the Holy Spirit.

Leadership: **A team of Five Oaks Spiritual Guides**

EB Cost: \$750 [\$825 after June 22]

Family Camp

Sun. July 29 (5:30 pm) – Fri. Aug. 3 (after lunch)

A week full of fun for the whole family!

Leadership: **Jayne Little, Dave Booth & Day Camp staff**

EB Cost: \$400 (adults), \$350 (12-15 yrs), \$215 (4-11 yrs), \$100 (under 4) [\$440, \$385, \$240, \$110 after July 13]

Day Away

Wed. Aug. 1 (9 am – 4 pm)

A day away for spiritual nourishment. Leadership: **Five Oaks facilitator & Spiritual Guides**

Cost: \$30 (includes light lunch); \$45 includes Spiritual Guide for one session

Come 'Play' With Us: Theatre Encounter

Thurs. Aug. 16 (9:30 am) – Fri. Aug. 17 (after lunch)

Visit the Blyth Festival Theatre with us; experience and discuss a provocative new play (*Reverend Jonah*) with the playwright, cast and others, here at Five Oaks.

Leadership: **Robin McGauley** & others

EB Cost: \$175 includes theatre ticket [\$195 after Aug. 2]

Day Away

Wed. Sept. 5 (9 am – 4 pm)

A day away for spiritual nourishment. Leadership: **Five Oaks facilitator & Spiritual Guides**

Cost: \$30 (includes light lunch); \$45 includes Spiritual Guide for one session

The Art of Storytelling

Mon. Sept. 17 (9:30 am) – Tues. Sept. 18 (3:30 pm)

Learn how to tell stories that heal, give insight and entertain.

Leadership: **Nora Zylstra-Savage**

EB Cost: \$240 [\$265 after Aug. 31]



Common Life Community Discernment Day

Fri. Sept. 21 (9:30 am – 4 pm)

Consider how Common Life could help you discern and do God's healing work (also see www.fiveoaks.on.ca/common.htm).

Leadership: **Five Oaks Common Life Leadership Team**

Cost: \$40 (register by Sept. 12)

New Common Life Community groups will be launched in mid-November.

Guided Silent Retreat

Fri. Sept. 28 (7 pm) – Sun. Sept. 30 (3 pm)

Be led in conversation with the Holy Spirit.

Leadership: **A team of Five Oaks Spiritual Guides**

EB Cost: \$290 [\$320 after Sept. 14]

Wired Worship and More

Mon. Oct. 1 (7-9:30 pm)

Expose yourself to a variety of technologies and learn about their faithful and effective use in worship and faith formation programming.

Leadership: **Pat Morrison**

Cost: \$20 or \$15 each if 3 or more from a congregation (register by Sept. 21)

The Gifts We Hold as Trustees & Stewards

Mon. Oct. 1 (7-9:30 pm)

Explore the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, Stewards, Finance and Property Committees.

Leadership: **Fred Monteith**

Cost: \$20 or \$15 each if 3 or more from a congregation (register by Sept. 21)



Day Away

Wed. Oct. 3 (9 am – 4 pm)

A day away for spiritual nourishment. Leadership: **Five Oaks facilitator & Spiritual Guides**

Cost: \$30 (includes light lunch); \$45 includes Spiritual Guide for one session

A Circle of Trust Retreat for Clergy & Congregational Leaders

Wed. Oct. 3 (3 pm) – Fri. Oct. 5 (3 pm)

A unique retreat-based approach to renewing personal identity, professional integrity and vocational vitality, offered by Parker Palmer's *Center for Courage and Renewal*.

Leadership: **Rick Jackson & Jean Haley**

Cost: \$395

Note: This extraordinary opportunity is an initiative of Bay of Quinte, Hamilton & Toronto conferences in partnership with Five Oaks. Generous support from these partners has made it possible to offer a subsidized price. Consequently, places for registrants from these 3 conferences will be held until Sept. 12 after which we will accept registrants from any conference. Please call if interested.



Licensed Lay Leaders/Lay Preachers Program

Fri. Oct. 12 (5:30 pm with supper) – Sun. Oct. 14 (after lunch)

One of six units offering training in Licensed Lay Worship Leadership.

Leadership: **Peter & Olga McKellar**

EB Cost: \$250 [\$275 after Sept. 21]



Leading Worship for Head, Heart & Soul

Mon. Oct. 15 (9:30 am) – Tues. Oct. 16 (4 pm)

Explore how to be more inclusive in worship by focusing on song, prayer, word and image.

Leadership: **Alison Adam**

EB Cost: \$250 [\$275 after Oct. 1]



A Big Sing in the Iona Tradition

Mon. Oct. 15 (7:00-9:30 pm)

Join in songs from around the globe, new hymns, old psalms, chants – for everyone regardless of age or experience!

Leadership: **Alison Adam**

Cost: \$20 or \$15 each if 3 or more from a congregation (register by Oct. 5)

Give to Us Laughter: Women's Retreat

Sat. Oct. 20 (9:30 am - 6:30 pm, supper included)

Come away for a day of laughter and prayer; silence and community; music and nourishment.

Leadership: **Janet Norman**

EB Cost: \$80 [\$90 after Oct. 5]



Young Adult Mini-Retreat

Sat. Oct. 20 (5 pm) – Sun. Oct. 21 (2 pm)

Ages 18-30. Take time out of your hectic schedule to connect with friends, relax, worship and learn ways to discern the big decisions in your life.

Cost: \$85

Junctions

Sat. Oct. 27 (9 am) – Sun. Oct. 28 (after lunch)

A training event for church camp directors, board members and senior staff.

Cost: \$140 for double or \$175 for single occupancy (register by Oct. 19)

Ethical Investing Workshop

Mon. Oct. 29 (7-9:30 pm)

Learn how to invest your money responsibly for the sake of justice, peace and creation.

Leadership: **Kyle Thomas**

Cost: \$20 or \$15 each if 3 or more from a congregation (register by Oct. 19)

Church School Teachers Evening

Tues. Oct. 30 (registration from 4:30 pm; optional resources workshop at 4:45; program begins with supper at 6:00; ends 9:30 pm)

Enhance your church school program and get fresh ideas for the Advent Season.

Leadership: **CD Network in Hamilton & London Conferences**

Cost: \$30 or \$25 each if 3 or more from a congregation

Nuts & Bolts of Youth Ministry

Fri. Nov. 2 (7:30 pm) – Sun. Nov. 4 (after lunch) **NEOS**

Explore the foundations of intentional youth ministry and how to develop and lead a vibrant, meaningful youth experience.

Leadership: **Fred Monteith, Lance Wright, Carol Young and other outstanding leaders**

EB Cost: \$225 [\$250 after Oct. 12]

Day Away

Wed. Nov. 7 (9 am – 4 pm)

A day away for spiritual nourishment. Leadership: **Five Oaks facilitator & Spiritual Guides**

Cost: \$30 (includes light lunch); \$45 includes Spiritual Guide for one session

An Evening with Maude Barlow

Mon. Nov. 12 (7-9:30 pm)

A great opportunity to be introduced to Barlow's upcoming book, *Blue Covenant: the Global Water Crisis and the Fight for the Right to Water*, while exploring the mission theme focus on water.

Leadership: **Maude Barlow**

Cost: \$25 or \$20 each when 2 or more register together



Dis-covering Spirit: Retreat with Peter & Susan Short

Wed. Nov. 14 (4 pm) – Thurs. Nov. 15 (6:30 pm, supper included)

Breathe deeply, clear your eyes and listen carefully to what whispers from within, as fuel for passionate living and leadership.

Leadership: **Peter & Susan Short**

EB Cost: \$150 [\$165 after Oct. 24]



Partners for Peace

Mon. Nov. 19 (7-9:30 pm)

Learn about the new United Church Partners for Peace campaign.

Leadership: **Wendy Gichuru & Choice Okoro**

Cost: \$20 or \$15 each if 3 or more from a congregation (register by Nov. 9)

Day Away

Wed. Dec. 5 (9 am – 4 pm)

A day away for spiritual nourishment. Leadership: **Five Oaks facilitator & Spiritual Guides**

Cost: \$30 (includes light lunch); \$45 includes Spiritual Guide for one session

Journey to Bethlehem

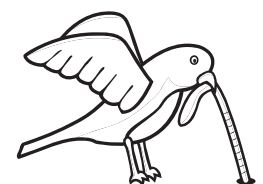
Tues. Dec. 4 & Wed. Dec. 5 (6-8 pm)

All ages are invited to Five Oaks' 11th annual Christmas program.

Cost: Donation and non-perishable food item

Adult Program Prices are set to cover costs including accommodation, meals and leadership. All prices have had Retail Sales Tax applied.

Please ask for bursary support when that would make it possible for you to attend! (see other side for more information)



EB – Early Bird

Prices normally increase by approximately 10% after given date