



GCPC HIGHLIGHTS

September 2013

What's been happening at GCPC:

Guildwood Day Pancake Breakfast: The Guildwood Day Pancake Breakfast at GCPC was held on Saturday, June 1st. This is the 35th year that our church has hosted this very popular breakfast for the Guildwood community. Over 200 people (and 2 dogs) were served and over \$500.00 was raised for the ongoing ministries of our church. A big thank you goes to Karen Siddall and her crew of volunteers for organizing the breakfast this year.

“Girls Can! - Because I Am a Girl Club”: *submitted by Luna Cardenas*

My mother had brought home a few flyers about “**Because I am a Girl**”*. Curious, I had looked at them while my mom told me the information she had learned at her course. I soon became interested and I wanted to know more about this organization that helped girls and women worldwide. I searched their website to see if there was anything I could do to support this non-profit organization. One of the suggestions on the website was to create a club to teach others about “**Because I am a Girl**” and raise money for the cause. To me this sounded like a great idea and my parents both told me to go for it. I explained the organization to my friends and by 2011 we had formed a club. It started out small but eventually more people became interested and decided to join. Currently our club has 11 people who have kindly donated their time, money, and support to make our club possible. **Jodie Morrison and Cecilia Cardenas** are 2 of the 11 people who have become involved. Thanks to all these generous people we have also been able to hold many fundraising events including bake sales, craft sales, garage sales, and pink lemonade sales all which have been very successful. Since June 2012 we have raised a total of about \$1,000 to help girls and women worldwide. Our success would have not been made possible without people like you who supported our club on all of our fundraising events. Thank you Guildwood and be assured that girls and women will benefit from your support all over the world.

* Plan Canada’s **Because I am A Girl** movement is dedicated to empowering women and girls worldwide by promoting gender equality and girls rights.



“Because I Am a Girl Club” at Guildwood Day Bake Sale where the girls raised \$387.00.
Left to right: Alexis, Mina, Jonah, Jodie, Trishala, Murrlyn and Luna

Evangel Hall Annual Golf Tournament: The 11th annual Evangel Hall Golf Tournament was held on Tues. June 11th at Pheasant Run Golf Club. Since its inception, this tournament has raised almost \$1 million for EHM’s programs and services. Once again, GCPC sponsored a hole as Evangel Hall is one of our ongoing mission projects. Four men from our congregation, Bruce Andrews, Ian Morrison, Les Fincham and Doug Loyst, participated in the tournament this year and their team finished 3rd overall out of 200 golfers. Well done! Better yet, the tournament raised \$140,000.00 for EHM.

Vacation Bible Camp 2013 - “Breathe in In! God Gives Life” *submitted by Laura Alary*

Did you know that there are some gifts that are so big we have trouble seeing them?

One of these gifts is our breath—the air that enables us to live, the atmosphere that protects our planet and makes it habitable, the wind that brings life-giving rain clouds.

During the first week in July we welcomed twenty-eight children between the ages of 4 and 12 to become more aware of and to celebrate the gift of our breath and of the Spirit of God which gives life and vitality to all creation.

Our theme was *Breathe it in... God gives life!* Throughout the week we used the gift of our breath in fun and creative ways: we sang songs celebrating the Spirit of God; we created art by blowing paint and glitter through straws; we heard and wondered about stories from the bible; we wrote and spoke our prayers; we made wind socks and spinners and other crafts connected with our theme; we enjoyed delicious snacks; we blew bubbles and had races with straws and ping pong balls; we filled our lungs with air and poured our energy into all sorts of outdoor activities, including parachute games and a laughter-inducing session of chuck-the-chicken!

Throughout the week we also welcomed special guests who helped open our eyes to some of the ways the Spirit is alive and present in the world around us. On our first day we were introduced to the singing bowl and the practice of mindful breathing which can help us become more calm and peaceful inside so that we can become more peaceful outside too and more able to love God and our neighbours.

On Tuesday Bonnie Horton spoke about Amnesty International. The younger children wrote a group letter to the President of Nigeria to draw his attention to the on-going struggle to clean up oil spills that have killed fish and contaminated agricultural land, destroying the livelihood of local people. The older group learned about a situation affecting the Embera Katio people of Colombia. When a dam was built over the river along which they live and from which they fished and drew water, the fish disappeared and the land was flooded. Rather than helping the local people, the Columbian government threatened them and even planted land mines along the river. The children wrote messages of concern on doves in English and Spanish. These doves were then sent to the president of Columbia.

On Wednesday we welcomed Emily Van der Meer from Presbyterian World Service and Development. She shared with the children some of the work our denomination is doing to support mothers and infants in parts of the world where there are few resources for pre-and post-natal care.

On Thursday Peter Vanderyagt, Dave Senik and Marvin Skripitsky brought their tool kits and hard hats and introduced the kids to the work of Habitat for Humanity. Along with trying their hand at hammering and drilling, the children learned how local volunteers are helping to provide homes for families.

Vacation Bible Camp con'td

All of these guests helped us broaden our vision and see more clearly how we can be part of sharing God's gift of life with others. On Friday we put this learning into action by visiting our neighbours at Guildwood Extencicare, sharing with them many of the songs we had learned throughout the week.

Vacation Bible Camp is truly a team effort. Many thanks to all who gave their time and talents to help the children of our community see and know and feel the life-giving Spirit of God breathing in them and in the world around them.

Upcoming at GCPC:

Christian Education Ministry: After many faithful years serving the children of GCPC, Mary-Ann Loyst has decided to step down as Christian Education Co-ordinator. Thank you to Mary-Ann for your dedicated service to this ministry. And welcome to Laura Alary who has accepted the position beginning in September. The children will be blessed as you share your many gifts with them.

Children's Worship Centres: *submitted by Laura Alary*

Now that summer is over we are ready to welcome the children of the congregation back to their own special places of worship.

The Worship Centre and the Following Jesus Centre have been cleaned and inventoried and the story-telling materials, books, and art supplies are ready for another year of exploration and wondering.

Both centres use a Montessori-based programme called *Children and Worship*. In a beautiful environment created especially for them, children encounter God through story-telling, prayer, singing and silence. They are invited to wonder freely about the stories and to respond to them in their own way, bringing their own life experience into conversation with the stories and symbols of their faith. All of our worship leaders and greeters are trained for this ministry.

The Worship Centre is meant for children from age three to six or seven (grade one), while the Following Jesus Centre is intended for children from grades two through six.

If you would like to learn more about *Children and Worship* please speak to Laura Alary. If you have skills in sewing or woodworking and would like to help make materials for the centre, please let Laura know. Or if you are simply curious about what happens down the hall on Sunday mornings, just ask and Laura will be happy to give you a tour of the worship centres.

NEW in September - Youth Class *submitted by Rev. Hugh Donnelly*

Guildwood Church's ministry with children and youth continues to grow. We invest in our children because they are worth investing in!

Earlier this year, parents of youth in middle and high school were invited to a visioning meeting; the purpose of this meeting was to discuss ideas for ministry with youth in this age-range. There was agreement that the church would benefit from the creation of a Youth Group to meet on Sunday mornings.

Beginning in September (on a date to be announced) a Group, for youth Grade 7 and up, will meet at the same time as our Worship Centers presently meet. Leading this group will be team: Victor Cardenas, Trevor Ellis and Mary-Ann Loyst. The curriculum they will be using is called *Seasons of the Spirit* (seasonsonline.ca), a lectionary-based resource long supported by The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

I am grateful for the energy, conversation and commitment that has led to this meaningful development in our congregation.

Nursery Renovation: In April of this year, a suggestion was put forth to Session to renovate and update the existing Nursery and make it more welcoming to the youngest of our church family and their caregivers. The first step was to remove the old shelving and cabinets, a task which was quickly completed. Session then formed a sub-committee consisting of Karen Siddall, James Kosa and Stacey Roth to oversee the remainder of the renovations. As of September, the Nursery has been repainted and new curtains, new bright red chairs and a new toy storage bin have been purchased. A new change table was also donated. The committee is still deciding on how to decorate the walls. Be sure to stop by and take a look at our new, improved Nursery.

A big thank you goes to Cindy and James Kosa, Karen, Melanie & Alyssa Siddall and Karen Wood, a friend of the Siddalls who took time out of their busy summer schedules to paint the nursery.

Does your child love to sing?: Under the direction of our Music Director, Michael Morgan, this newly formed Junior Choir for children ages 8-12 years will begin rehearsals in September at GCPC on Thursday evenings from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Michael at music.speaking@gmail.com or via phone at 905-725-9516.

VILLAGE FAIR NEWS – The countdown begins!

What will we need? Put aside donations of the following:

nearly new gold & silver jewellery, including brooches, rings, & necklaces plus costume jewellery; new and gently used Christmas items such as wreaths, decorations and ornaments; empty baskets and only **new** items that can make up a gift basket such as glassware, candles, hostess gifts, stationery, coffee mugs, perfume, soaps, shower gels; **gently used** paperbacks only (no yellowed or ripped pages) and hardcover books **less than 5 years old**, such as fiction, cookbooks, sports books; antiques, fine china, silverware, crystal, collectibles, figurines, art prints, sculpture, paintings and original works of art; higher end **new** items, such as sporting event tickets, gift certificates, unique pieces of art, electronics and handcrafted items; gently loved or new children's books, DVDs, Hot Wheels, Lego and costume jewellery suitable for children

WANTED NOW: 1. Broken Jewellery: Do you have one gold earring and can't find the other; a gold necklace with a broken clasp that has been sitting in your jewellery box for the past 10 years? Have odd pieces of sterling silver cutlery that you no longer use? Then bring them into church and give to Al Harris, Susan Harris or Sandra Robertson. We are accepting donations of 10k to 24k gold jewellery or sterling silver jewellery and/or cutlery which we will trade in with proceeds going to the Jewellery Shoppe.

WANTED NOW: 2. Gift Baskets & Jewellery Donations ONLY: We are accepting donations of **small** gift baskets as well as **new** items to go in the baskets (see list above). Donations can be given to Linda Rouhinen. Also, donations of nearly new jewellery will also be accepted now. Give to Kay Galbraith or one of the conveners.

Thank you from your Village Fair Conveners:

Al & Susan Harris 905-839-8949 susanmharris1@rogers.com and
Sandra Robertson 416-282-1031 srob23a@rogers.com

Upcoming at GCPC:

Sun. Sept. 8th – service begins at 11:00 a.m. & Welcome Back Barbecue following service

Sun. Oct. 20th following service – Taste of the Fair Pie Event

Fri. Oct. 25th to Sun. Oct. 27th – Women's Fall Retreat

Sat. Nov. 2nd – Village Fair

With thanks: A special thank you goes to the following who have given of their free time to help GCPC in some way:

- Bob Money, who attends one of the groups that meet in our church, came in and repaired the lectern that the visitor book sits on in the lobby. He noticed it was quite loose and decided that it needed to be fixed.

How can I Serve my Church: Volunteer on one of the following committees:

Nurture & Education

Fellowship

Care Team

Communications

Stewardship

Finance & Maintenance

Worship

Mission & Outreach

