

## FIVE OAKS EDUCATION AND RETREAT CENTRE

*~A Sacred Place to Seek God in the Heart of all Life~*

People come through the doors of Five Oaks carrying bags, burdens and busyness, laying them down as they cross the threshold. Here, there is space for one's own soul and for silence, and time for deep conversations with others and with God.

In 2009, the nomination and election of Mardi Tindal as moderator initiated some transitions for Five Oaks. We celebrate the leadership gifts she will offer to the whole church. I am pleased to be serving as director until her return.

### Adult Programs:

- interwove leadership formation, spiritual practice and justice-seeking
- retreat opportunities facilitated deep conversation in a safe and spirit-filled space
- highlights included theologians Rita Nakashima Brock and Matthew Fox, Kathy Galloway of the Iona Community, Courage to Lead® and Neos Youth Ministry Training

### Children, Youth and Families:

- In confirmation weekend retreats teens explored the importance of community, self care and spiritual practices including walking the labyrinth, yoga and prayer
- Day Camp included children with special needs and Children's Aid Society sponsorship and successfully passed accreditation by the Ontario Camps Association
- Grant monies from the Sharing Bread Initiative will make it possible to subsidize camp registration fees in 2010. We are grateful for this support.
- At a new camp for pre-teens aged 10 – 12, campers learned orienteering skills, how to cook over an open fire and how to build emergency shelters. Coming again in 2010.

### 2009 Numbers:

- Over 5600 adults and children, over 700 of them from Toronto Conference, came as program participants, campers, and members of hosted groups including 116 churches, plus social and environmental organizations, family reunions, quilters, writers ...
- They consumed 11,930 meals – some with fresh produce from our own garden!

### Facilities:

- The main building was fitted with a solar pre-heat domestic hot water system, a dual boiler system, new flooring and painting in the conference room
- New roofing was installed on ½ Chalet (other half done in '08), Francis Sandy Theological Centre and other maintenance buildings
- In 2010, the Chalet is being made accessible on the lower level with a new bathroom and other upgrades

These opportunities, programs, and improvements are only possible with your support, both financial and prayerful. For that, on behalf of all who come here, I am grateful.

Respectfully submitted, *Pegi J. Ridout*, Director