

WONDERING HOLY YOUTH

Winter 2010



Hello Again... I've always loved subtitles...

Hello all! Welcome to Wondering Holy Youth! It's been a while, I know, since the last issue, but life happens like that. Things have been a little bit crazy, but we're here now, so here we go.

Here we are, settling in to mid-winter. The excitement of Christmas is over, but spring is still to far into the future to be thought of in more than longing dreams

in a blizzard. It's a time of frost covered trees and scarves and boots and ice. It's beautiful and awful. And it's where we are.

So take a break from the cold, grab a hot chocolate and a snugly blanket, and enjoy our winter issue.

So a great big thank you to all of our contributors! Jess Baird, Hillary MacDonald and Ryan

McNally, I couldn't have done it without you. Like actually couldn't. So, for everyone else reading this, perhaps you to could send some issues to the fantastic WHY email-- wonderingholyyouth@gmail.com, so that the next issue can be just as fantastic as this one!

So, Merry Winter, and happy reading!

Story Time- The Story of WHY!

WHY was started in August 2006 by Charley Switzer and Kathleen Kerr who decided that the Youth and Young Adults of the United Church of Canada needed a way to connect outside of nation wide events. The way they decided to to that was through the

creation of a newsletter- Wondering Holy Youth. Charley moved on from WHY in 2009, but Kathleen continues to put together issues.

WHY is created by youth for youth. If you have anything to contribute- pictures, articles, poems, anything, send

them to wonderingholyyouth@gmail.com. Any requests for back issues or to be added to the mailing list can also be sent to the above address.

Angels Among Us

Maybe I was somebody's angel?

Last fall I began my degree in Child Studies at Carleton University. When I moved to Ottawa I accepted a job offer at a church as the directing staff of nursery programming. On my first day at the church I had an amazingly large number of children under the age of four. However, it was a very successful day and I certainly received the help that I needed from a few parents who were willing to stay in the nursery to help with the activities that I had planned. Although my first day teaching was successful, at the end of the service I was quite overwhelmed. I had a large number of parents and congregational members introduce themselves to me. After everyone left I began to tidy up with the one child that was still waiting for her parents to pick her up. When her mother arrived she immediately introduced herself and then asked me if I was interested in caring for her daughter one day a week. I immediately responded; explaining that I had applied for another child care job, but had yet to have an interview with the family. However, I also explained that I would be interested in meeting with her and her daughter. Shortly after, we exchanged phone numbers and emails and departed our own way.

The next day I headed off for an interview with the other family that I had applied for a job with. At the end of the interview I felt quite confident that it had gone well but had no idea if I had gotten the job because there were a few other individuals also

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interviewed by the family. A couple days later I met with the woman and daughter from the church, which was also a very positive interview, particularly because both of the parents were quite interested in hiring me straight away. When I returned home that evening, there was an email from the other family explaining that they would like to higher me as their child care provider. After reading the email I knew I needed to ask God where I was called. I prayed for quite some time, which had me realizing that the mother who had approached me at the church really needed me. I knew this because her daughter was living with a chronic disease that had their family dealing with regular health care visits that were wearing on the family. However, this family was still extremely positive about life and that on its own made me want to care for their child.

The next day, I contacted the other family that had offered me the job as their child care provider and explained that I would not be accepting the job. Both parents were struck, but I knew inside my heart



Photo's by Gord Spence



Angels Among Us Cont.

they would find someone else because of the other individuals who had applied for the job. Once speaking with this family I contacted the family from the church and told them that I certainly would love to accept the job as their child care provider. Both parents were excited, but the mother was the most excited because to her it was like I had fallen through their roof to help their family. At that time that we spoke, we discussed a day that would work out for both them and me. We decided on Thursday's and quickly our conversation came to a close.

The following Thursday, I began my journey to their home by bus and soon arrived at their house. I was very excited and nervous, exactly like most people starting a new job. Yet in the midst of my feelings I knew that God would certainly be with me on that day because God had led me to this family. My first day was very successful, enjoyable and tiring, and a day that I will not forget because of the little girl's amazing personality that she so willingly shared with me on that day.

Each day that I spend with this child I learn something new about myself because of the positive impact that she has on me. I honestly feel she has a piece of angel inside of her heart that shows every time she smiles, or I look into her eyes, even though some days she can be a little "Monkey".



I truly believe in angels on earth... this little girl is my angel

But maybe to this family I am their angel.....

Who is your angel?

Amen.

Photo by Gord Spence

Like the angel visiting Mary, this little girl is like the angel that visits me every week. I feel deeply loved by this child and her parents because of the positive statements that they share with me each time I am in their home; such as, "you really seem to pop out when families need help!"

I am truly blessed this fall to still be working with this family as I embark on the journey of discernment with the United Church. Through this little girl I feel God's presence; that will certainly impact me as I discern my future in the

church. To me this little girl is exactly like the presence of Elizabeth who helped Mary through her journey of pregnancy.

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Amen.

-Jess Baird

Advent Conspiracy A bit late... but better than never

One evening when visiting a friend she showed me this YouTube video called 'Advent Conspiracy'. A video that reinforced my views on Christmas, and this idea that everyone wants Christmas to be meaningful but instead it becomes shop, shop, shop, and then we go to church. Sometimes we're just glad to survive the Christmas season. We spend some much time making 'to-do' lists, buying gifts for others, spending money on Christmas parties, cards, and decorations. So I ask, did Jesus celebrate like that? No, He gave of himself relationally, in living form; He gave of his

presence, His time and space. What if you bought fewer gifts and then instead of buying that gift, gave something valuable...your time? And that money you didn't spend, what if you gave some of it away? To the hungry, sick, poor, lonely, thirsty, hurting, those in need. We need to spend less on gifts and more on presence. Tis' the season of Advent; a season about Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. I challenge you to celebrate this advent season, the birth of Jesus, and do so by putting down your cell phones, ipods, blackberries, lap tops, computer games and spend time on, loving, meaningful relationships. That is what advent really is about...isn't it?

- Hillary MacDonald

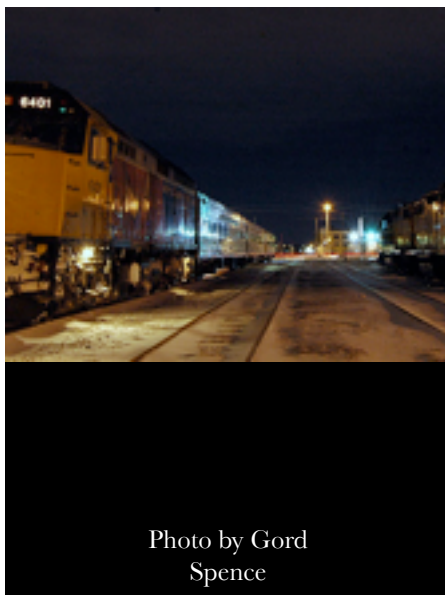


Photo by Gord Spence



<- FQ 2009 Participant Jason Winter, from Kanata United Church, takes a break from paddling.



Future Quest! What are you doing this summer?

By Ryan McNally

In 2003, staff and faculty at Queen's Theological College imagined the possibility of a summertime theological programme for youth. Not a camp, but a university based programme, making use of the schools resources for the benefit of young leaders in the church (and outside). Birthing Future Quest was a risk, but, as past participants have said, it produced a life changing experience, that is now in its eighth year.

Youth come to Kingston, Ontario, from across Canada – from every province and territory – forming a community of learning, sharing, service and fun! Over the two weeks, participants live together in co-op housing, learn from theology faculty and community leaders, lead worship, ask tough questions, and make lifelong friends. Past years have

included talks by marathon swimmer Vickie Keith, presentations on First Nations spirituality, and a trip to the Kingston Islamic Centre. The highlight of the summer is the eco-spirituality canoe trip; a three day wilderness adventure that's fun for the novice and experienced tripper alike.

Since its inception FQ has benefitted from the significant financial support of the Lilly Foundation, the United Church of Canada and private donors. Together these funds keep the programme affordable for youth. Each year, participants in need receive bursary support from QTC, as well as help from their congregations and UCW groups.

Why not join us on this year's adventure? Future Quest 2010 takes place August 7-21. Check out www.futurequest.ca and click on the FQ link. Register before April 30, 2010 and receive a \$100 discount!

I Believe

These are my truths.

By Kathleen Kerr

These are my truths. These are what drive me,
 I believe. What do I believe in?
 I believe in **change**, in **doubt**, in **life**, in **dreams**, in **choice** and in **myself**.
 I smile, I cry, I laugh, I fight, I try, I win, I loose, I deal, I survive, I
 dance, I change, I doubt, I dream, I choose.
 And I be.
I am not perfect but I am growing.
 Some times I believe in God.
I am all that I can be. I am me.
 I believe.



Photo by Gord Spence

The Last Page The Part Where I Convince You To Send Me Stuff

By Kathleen Kerr

This is the end of another issue! Once again I'd like to say a super big thank you to our contributors for this issue, Hillary, Ryan, and Jess, as well as our photographer, Gord Spence (www.flickr.com/rev_aviator). I really could not have done it without you.

So speaking of not being able to do it without them.... I also can't do this without YOU! Send wonderinghollyyouth@gmail.com your articles, your stories, your photo's, your drawings, your ramblings... your anything. I'd really like to have issues going out a more than every 6 months, but to do that I need articles! So send away! Thanks so much.

Another reason for you to email.... Send feedback! Why do you like why? What was your favorite article? Is there something you disagree with? Send feedback! Getting feedback is one of the best parts of WHY!

Anyways, this is it for me! Have a great winter, and I'll talk to you all sometime in the spring! Don't freeze!



Meet Your Editor Kathleen Kerr

What have you been up to lately?

I'm currently in my 4th year of my Bachelor of Commerce degree, at the University of Alberta, and mainly have been doing homework.

What do you do in your free time?

When I get it... well, lately looking for a job for after I graduate in April, but I also do a lot of quilting and reading... and lets not lie, I do love my TV shows.....

What is something weird about you?

I haven't worn matching socks since grade 5.

Contact us!

Wonderinghollyyouth@gmail.com

What is the best part of winter?

Snowboarding and Skiing!! It is really the only reason why I put up with things like snow and being able to see my breath and other nasty winter things.

What did you have for supper last night?

I had pizza. And not pizza from Pizza Hut or anything like that, but pizza that I actually made. Yeah. I'm pro like that. And, yes, it was delicious.

Wondering Holy Youth: By The Youth of The United Church of Canada