



MAIN STREET NEWS!

"We have a large banner in our main foyer that reads 'Living it'. As God's people, what we believe must impact how we live. Jesus said you will know a tree by its fruit, or a disciple by how they live. It is not enough to know the right answers, it must be reflected in the decisions we make with our lives. In this newsletter you are going to hear some really exciting stories about how people are wrestling with God's call on their life to live obediently to Him. Everyone one of these people are learning and growing in their faith and are experiencing excitement in following Him. We hope you are inspired/encouraged/challenged by their stories. If you have a story of how God has called you to step out in faith, or decisions you have made, we would love to hear from you."

- Pastor Rob Nylen

Simply Living - Frances Roderick

The recent sermon series on Live it Out, and in particular the sermon on Living Simply has challenged our family to once again reflect on what we are doing to be responsible steward's of God's creation. I have to admit that when Renee was leading up to this sermon series and she asked me what our family does to live simply, my first reaction was guilt. We live in a too big house, we drive two cars (that are not hybrids), and the list could go on. But as I thought about her question more, the guilt dissipated a little as I contemplated the journey that my husband, Steve, and I have been on in our quest to be more simplistic, realizing that as with so many life changes, it really is a journey, and we will get better.

I grew up in a family that placed a high value on nature and the beauty of creation. Some of my most spiritual moments have not been in a church (gasp!) but have been hiking through the mountains or kayaking along the bay. However, over the past several years, Steve and I have come to a more personal realization that it is not enough to just enjoy the awesome beauty of creation. Every choice we make, what we eat, drink, drive, wear has an impact on the earth, and that as responsible stewards of the earth we need to make conscious, deliberate decisions about our choices and the impact we will make.

We started out slowly with simple things like recycling. We've made lots of mistakes (please don't ask about our worm composting experiment). We've had lots of fun times with our children, learning to cook bread from scratch and make our own soap. We are learning to find a balance between what might be the most eco friendly choice and what we can reasonably do without descending into chaos. We used cloth diapers for the twins, but used disposables for outings. We use a steam cleaner and natural products to avoid chemicals for cleaning as much as possible, but with four kids there are times when the harsh cleaners just need to come out!

Each year as new habits become easier and become part of the culture of our family, we try to continue to challenge ourselves to become better stewards. More recently our focus has been on trying to help our children develop a more personal relationship with the environment, particularly with regards to where food comes from. Last year we grew vegetables at the community garden, and we

challenged ourselves to only buy local produce from July to September, avoiding supermarkets as much as possible. We buy all our meat from local farmers and the children have had the opportunity to see the complete food cycle. The older boys now know how to read ingredient lists, and if they can't pronounce the ingredients, we avoid buying it. (And if I have made it sound like we are always successful with these, please refer back to the balance/chaos comment from the previous paragraph!) This year, our challenge is to continue to look at our purchasing habits, and go beyond food to



our general consumer habits. We realized that so often the messages that we are sending to our children and that they are receiving from our culture is that their value in society is based on what they own. We are now making very conscious decisions to reduce our family's exposure to consumer messages. We tape most TV shows, allowing us to fast forward through the commercials. We only have one TV in the house, and cancel the cable from June to November. We are downsizing our house and we are looking closely at our spending habits, and asking ourselves before we buy more stuff from the StuffMart "Does this support our family's values?" Unexpectedly, instead of feeling denial and deprivation, we have felt quite empowered, as we feel like we have more control and are basing our decisions on what is truly important to us, not advertisers.

It has been enlightening to write this article, and reflecting on our journey so far has been a great motivator for continuing to make changes, for us, for our children, and for God who gave us such an awesome world!

LifeGroup Stories

Afternoon Tea - Linda Naves

The Bible instructs us to "build one another up" and what better way than having a tea. Our Life Group was wanting to move beyond ourselves to encourage others. Janice, one of the ladies in our group, lives in a complex with a community room which was an ideal setting.



We invited a number of people (men and women) to join us. It was an opportunity for all of us to build new friendships or reconnect with those we have not seen for a while. What better way could you connect people than around food! It was so amazing to watch people connect., the room was buzzing with conversation. One woman commented she had not seen a lady who sat across from her all winter because she was not able to be out as much. It was so good to reconnect. There were many stories and lots of sharing and laughter.

We anticipate another tea in the Fall...possibly you will be invited. Hope you will take the opportunity to be encouraged or encourage someone else. It is well worth the time!

Marriage Conference - Christine Reevey

Over the past 9 years, my husband Ed and I have belonged to a "LifeGroup," previously known as "The Young Marrieds." Our LifeGroup consists of 5 couples- Rob and Jill Nylen, Rob and Melissa Hetherington, Scott and Denise Kilpatrick, Geoff and Alana Cook, as well as ourselves. We feel very blessed to be a part of a LifeGroup who meets each Tuesday night, and who "does life together." As we regularly share our experiences with one another, it's neat to see God at work in everyone's lives. As a group, we decided to attend a couples retreat in Fredericton called "A Weekend To Remember" run by "Family Life" back in April. We had a wonderful weekend away together, enjoying one another's company, as well as having an opportunity to focus on our spouses without children for an entire weekend. The weekend consisted of seminars geared toward getting the most out of our marriage with God at the center. There were two sets of married facilitators who were both entertaining and thought provoking. They brought some practical tools that were very beneficial to all. Our Church Group would strongly recommend "A Weekend To Remember" to any couple no matter the health of their marriage. Our LifeGroup continues to grow closer to one another, especially with experiences such as these.



Reaching Out To A Graduate - Sue Clark



A couple of our life groups have had the opportunity to help a deserving young lady have a full graduation experience. It came to our attention a few months back that a young lady who has grown up in our neighbourhood was going to be the first in her family to graduate. I was ecstatic to hear this wonderful news, as I knew this family quite well and spent many hours hanging out with the kids.

School was often a struggle for this girl, yet she persevered, and, against many odds, made it to grade twelve. With such an accomplishment, our life groups wanted to help make her graduation one she would remember for a long time. We have had the privilege of helping her financially with many of the costs that come along with graduating. Buying a dress for prom, having pictures done, and buying a grad ring are all things that help make graduation special, yet are costs that quickly add up.

It's an amazing thing that, as Christians, we can be a blessing to others as we are blessed by God. Giving financially so this young lady could have a wonderful graduation was an honour for us. I also think it shows that God can use each of us to touch the lives of our neighbours in practical ways, so they can see the love of Christ through us.

This amazing ministry opportunity has led to discussions within our groups about other ways we could help young people in the neighbourhood continue their education, such as starting a college fund for students through ONE change. God works in such wonderful ways and we are so blessed to be a part of all He is doing.

Mission Trip to Newfoundland 2010

This summer, from July 30th to August 11,th a group of youth from Main Street are travelling to St. John's, Newfoundland. In partnership with West End Baptist Church, they will be serving at Newfoundland Adventure Camp for a week – teaching children about Jesus, leading in cabins, working in the kitchen and fixing things around the camp. They will also be leading in the Sunday service at West End Baptist Church. They will be stretched on the trip to serve in new ways and experience what it is like to be used by God.

The team is excited about using their gifts to teach others about Jesus. They are asking you to pray that they'd be brave in sharing the good news and stepping outside their comfort zones. The team's prayer has been that the people they meet in Newfoundland would be able to see God's power through them, jars of clay (from 2 Corinthians 4:7). This trip is a significant leadership development opportunity for these youth, so pray God would give them the wisdom and strength they need as leaders. They are excited about travelling, partnering with youth from West End Baptist Church and hopefully seeing a moose! You will see "Buddy the Moose" around the church to remind you to pray for the team.

Please pray for:

Zack Winchester-Bigney
Adam Malcolm
Emily Ricketts
Missy Whitney
Renée Embree

Deveney Page
Ashley Eagles-Mackenzie
Hannah Martin
Scott Kilpatrick

Springforth By Jonathan Knight

"God is truly amazing" is the phrase that I spoke over and over again in my head after Springforth this year. Springforth is a weekend of loud worship, great speakers and tons of fun for youth that takes place every year on May 7th-8th in Moncton. Springforth provides an escape for youth to experience God whole-heartedly without the distractions of everyday life. It is an experience like no other.



The worship at Springforth may be the most memorable thing for me every year. The experience of 800 people your own age, with similar life struggles, lifting their voices, their hands and all that they have to Jesus is a moving experience. The band this year was "Atlantic". They were a stellar band, with true talent and a heart for God. One of my fondest memories this year was during the last songs when everyone was standing up, dancing, and singing their hearts out. The sheer joy on youth's faces was incredible, at that moment the presence of God was so clear and purely awesome.

Every year, a speaker is brought in, normally from somewhere outside of the Maritimes, to speak to us about the "theme" of the weekend. This year's speaker was Dave Currie, who talked to us about staying rooted in Christ. With captivating analogies, humour and words of wisdom, Dave's message struck home with many youth - including myself. Basically what being "rooted" in Christ means is giving your heart to God one hundred percent, trusting him with it and basing your life on what he wants for you. A message like this would normally be not so easily digested by a high school crowd. Dave said it in such a clear and relevant way that no eyes could turn away, no little conversations happened on the side, everybody was focused so intensely on his words. Not one youth left this weekend without a head filled with thoughts (or a lot of tree analogies).

Springforth 2010 did not disappoint. To be honest it was the best Springforth I've ever attended. So many youth committed and recommitted themselves to God, it was an amazing sight. My friends and I left Springforth with joy and a fire for God in our hearts; a truly amazing experience for youth.

The days leading up to Sunday, May 16 were particularly difficult for some of our church neighbours. Arson, drugs, violence, unemployment, sickness and other situations were taking their toll – physically, emotionally and spiritually. In response, a Prayer Walk was held that Sunday evening. We formed three groups of three people and prayed as we walked up and down Main, Adelaide and Victoria Streets.

Prayer, in and of itself, is a powerful experience as we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in our conversation with God. We could have prayed for our church neighbours from the comfort of our homes or in the sanctuary of our church. Such prayer is blessed by God and we should continue to pray in this way. However, by walking through the neighbourhood as we prayed, God added another dimension to our prayers.

At times as I walked, I felt a sense of hopelessness, a sense of deep sadness, a sense of defeat. Maybe this was God helping me to understand what some people in the neighbourhood

were going through. But then God began to remind me, that as his children he has given us hope, joy and victory. Even though the prince of this world is powerful, Jesus, the King is more powerful – “the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4b). Even though the prince may win a few battles, the King has already won the war. “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33b)

I don't deny that there will be disappointments and setbacks. We will suffer casualties and lose some battles. At times, we may want to give up. It will be hard. But we have hope of ultimate victory through Jesus Christ and we need to share that hope with our neighbours. “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (1 Peter 3:15).

- Fred Dickinson



**2010 SUMMER SCHEDULE
JULY 4–AUGUST 29**

9:30 A.M. - SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30 A.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE

Children's Summer Day Camp (VBS) July 19th—23rd

This summer all children are invited to come and jump into the "HIGH SEAS" with us. At this morning camp (V.B.S.) children will explore the mighty love of God through songs, crafts, games, drama, stories and more. This camp will take place at Millidgeville North School (500 Woodward Ave.) from July 19th to July 23rd between 8:45 to 11:45 am. A bus will leave Main Street Baptist Church at 8:30 a.m. for those needing a ride. The bus will return to Main Street at noon.



SEE YOU IN THE BOAT!

Community Outreach Sunday – June 13th – Featuring Stephanie Mainville

Next Sunday will be a great day at Main Street! Both morning worship services will be a celebration of what God is accomplishing through our community outreach ministries. The services will be led by people who participate in these ministries, and will include testimonies, special music, and baptisms. But the celebrating won't end there! It will spill out into our parking lot after the 11 AM worship service, as we host the people of this neighbourhood at our annual spring community barbecue. The barbecue will begin at 12:15 PM sharp, with Stephanie Mainville and band waking people up with some great folk music. There will also be lots of fun activities for the kids, free party food for one and all, and much more. We want to encourage as many members of Main Street as possible to come, help out, and enjoy this time with our neighbours. Mark June 13th on your calendars and plan to show up! Pulling the barbecue off right after our morning services will involve changes in how we do things on Sunday. If possible, please find somewhere to park well away from the church building – so the parking lot is freed up for party preparations. Also, Durham Street, between Main and Metcalf, will be blocked off – so that won't be available for parking either. And of course, we need many willing hands: Please speak to Neal Davidson or Pastor John, if you are willing to volunteer your time to set up tables, serve food, or run ac-

Main Street Baptist Church

211 Main Street

Saint John, NB E2K 1H7

506 642-8060

mainstreet@nb.aibn.com

SENIOR PASTOR

Rob Nysten

rob@mainstreetbaptist.ca

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Renée Embree

renee@mainstreetbaptist.ca

PASTOR OF WORSHIP

Joe Page

joe@mainstreetbaptist.ca

PASTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

John Knight

john@mainstreetbaptist.ca

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MOBILIZER

Melissa Hetherington

melissa@mainstreetbaptist.ca

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Norine Long

norine@mainstreetbaptist.ca