



Growing Our Ministry Newsletter

North Bramalea United Church

Fall 2009

Vol 4, no. 2

Fall Dates to Remember

GROWTH!

Our Growth Campaign 2009 rests on the assumption that God has blessed us with capacity--space and leaders--now we can use those blessings to grow as individuals and as a congregation. It aims to help us grow:

- ✍ In our faith
- ✍ In numbers of people participating in our congregation
- ✍ In ministries.

And, of course, the campaign also includes growing in the discipleship of giving.



Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Looking for some ways to grow in your faith? Check out NBUC's new booklet, "*Doing Life with God @ NBUC*". It describes the courses you can take, the groups you can participate in, and the outreach ministries you could be part of.

We all learn in different ways--by studying or reading, by talking with others, by experiencing something new, by forming new relationships, or by learning a new life skill. You'll find opportunities for all kinds of learners listed in the booklet. It's available at NBUC's Information Desk.

There's always a lot going on at NBUC, but the campaign adds a few extra events you might want to know about.

Public Information Meetings

Two have already been held, but you can still catch one of the other two:

- ✍ Sunday October 18 7-9
- ✍ Thursday October 22 2-4

Home visits for families who joined since 2006

- ✍ October 19-21

Leadership Commitment Receptions

- ✍ Sunday, October 25th
- ✍ Saturday, November 7th
- ✍ Sunday November 8th

LIFT-OFF: The All-Church Celebration Event

- ✍ Sunday November 15 6-8:30

Commitment Total Announced

- ✍ Sunday December 13

What the Logo Means



We chose the tree as our logo because it suggests one very large hand to which many hands are connected. It reminded us of what Jesus said about all of us being connected in to God. He used the metaphor of a grapevine with many branches.

For Canadians who live surrounded by wonderful trees, this image suggested Jesus' point: root yourself in God...keep company with me...and you will experience life with a *Capital L*.

Second Financial Campaign: Fall 2009

Giving Back to God

Growth Campaign 2009 is all about growing as followers of Christ...including in the discipleship of giving. Over the next few weeks each of us will be asked to decide what we will commit to financing God's work through North Bramalea, over and above our regular offerings.

Some of our church leaders will be leading the information phase of Growth Campaign 2009 in face-to-face gatherings. These meetings have been planned to give people information about the church's mission and plans before we make our financial decisions. They're not meetings to pressure anyone to give. That just isn't our way. But if you have financial questions, our leaders will be prepared to answer them.

In November all of us will get a commitment card in the mail. We use the card to let the church know what our personal plans are; that information will help our financial folks do their work for the church as a whole. Once we as individuals have decided what we want to commit to, we can either drop off

"How do I define the word, 'generosity'? The world says, 'The more you take, the more you have.' Christ says, 'The more you give, the more you are.'"

Frederick Buechner



"If God owns it all, spending or giving God's money is a spiritual decision."



Is Our Financial Goal Realistic?

Growth Campaign 2009 has a financial goal as well as faith and people goals. Ministry Council has used the same range of goals we used in Campaign 2006:

Challenge goal: \$800,000
Faith goal: \$1,000,000
Miracle goal: \$1,250,000

Are those goals realistic? We think so. From the 2006 Campaign we raised \$1,000,000, including the 10-day over-and-above campaign just before we formally decided to build. And contrary to conventional wisdom, we didn't raise that amount from wealthy donors. We dug into our own small pockets--the pockets of every single one of us.

When NBUC first began in 1983, the experts told us we couldn't create a sustainable congregation because Brampton wasn't a rich enough town. At every point, we've proven the experts wrong. In his time, Jesus heard the same thing about his home town. It worked in Brampton because we followed the Jesus way: everyone pitching in and trusting God to supply our needs.



A Lift-Off for a New Phase in Our Life

More People

Have you been by the church on an evening lately? The parking lot looks like a *mall* parking lot. And inside you'll find many things going on at once-- something we couldn't do just a year ago.

More people come through our doors every day and that's exactly what we prayed would happen!

We originally set out to grow our congregation about 5 years ago when we realized how big our city was going to become. That's when some of our leaders floated a dream for us: that 1000 people would call North Bramalea their spiritual homebase. People would come into this place, connect with God and go out to work alongside God in the community. *People!* It's so simple--through people we would have an impact for good on Brampton.

Most people get the courage to come into a church because someone asked them to come along. That's why NBUC has a Connectors Team that works on events and activities focussed around Sunday morning worship. This team aims for events that will create the environment to which we can invite friends and relatives.

Remember the Father's Day Tailgate Party last June? That was their work! (Photos below) And, yes, Jamie has heard all the female voices--he assures us there WILL be a Mother's Day event in 2010!

If you've got ideas this team could use contact Jamie Holtom at jholtom@nbuc.ca. Meanwhile, all of us can label ourselves as Connectors--people who invite others into the faith community, introduce them around and help them take their place among us.



Rampant Hospitality

A friend of NBUC recently wrote an article in an Anglican newsletter, which described our church as "The Most Welcoming Church Ever." On her first visit to NBUC, the author found herself slogging through our muddy parking lot with two little children and a newborn in arms. And, oh yes, it was raining!

Just as the toddlers' shoes sank into the mud, a member of the Parking Team came along with an umbrella and some help herding the family out of the muck and the rain and into the church. The author says that with every visit she found that in this church the welcome is "rampant". She goes on, "If you could talk about a church having a spiritual gift..then this church's gift is hospitality."

Wow! Unsolicited feedback. Aren't we glad this family visited us? And aren't we glad that everyone from the Parking Team, to the greeters, to the KFC folks, to the hospitality folks, to absolutely everyone else was making NBUC a place with such a wonderful spiritual gift.



"You can do something other than working with God in His purpose, but it will always be something lesser, and you couldn't come up with something better." - Steve Hawthorne



Lift-Off: A Night to Remember

Lift-Off is the All-Church Event scheduled for Sunday evening November 15th. This is an event for everyone in the NBUC family--from the littlest ones to the oldest. Watch for an invitation in the mail.

Why Lift-Off?

Well, one of our NBUC folks suggested that it feels like the church is ready to take a great ride in a huge balloon. It takes work to get the balloon ready and to get all the people to the launching site. But when the fire is lit, the balloon takes off and everyone experiences the ride of his or her life!

In our case, the fire is the Holy Spirit, filling our hearts with God's Great Dream for our congregation and for each of us as individual followers of Jesus. That's where the event symbol came from--a giant balloon lifting off with all of us in the basket.

What Will Happen?

An important part of Lift-Off is helping all of us get to know each other better--whether we've been here 20 years or 2 weeks.

Many will remember The Great Adventure in 2006. That event was over in just a few hours, but the friendships we made and the inspiration we got sustained us for a very long time.

With Lift-Off, we're bringing everyone together under roof--but this time it's our own roof, rather than someone else's. We'll gather at the church at 6:00 for beverages and a time of reconnecting with old and new friends. The program for the night will take place in our beautiful sanctuary. It won't be a worship service; instead it will be the very best program we can put together to help us remember and celebrate all that God has done for and through us. We'll also share the excitement of the new things growing up among us.

And of course we'll spend a chunk of time eating. Our planners have found a caterer who specializes in delicious desserts that make events memorable! So all you calorie-counters, it's time to start leaving room for the good stuff to come at Lift-Off!

A special program is also being planned for children from Jr. Kindergarten through Grade 5. Not babysitting, but an excellent program. Watch for your kids' invitation in the mail.

LIFT-OFF

WHEN: Sun. Nov. 15th

6:00-8:30

WHERE: NBUC

WHO'S IT FOR?

Absolutely everyone!

"There was once a group of people who were radically committed to God, irrationally committed to each other and relentlessly committed to sharing Good News. If it happened then, why not now? If there, why not here?" Gilbert Belzikian



If you need more information about Growth Campaign 2009, you can contact one of the members of the Steering Committee through the chair, Janet Stockton or through one of our ministers.



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