



belonging, believing,  
*becoming in Christ*

Pertencer, Crer,  
*Tornar-se em Cristo*



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## From the Editor

I quote from the introduction of this month's CBOQ Newsletter "Did you feel an undercurrent of joy this past Easter weekend? It's mysterious how an old Resurrection hymn can stir us, how a child's 'Hallelujah' can light up our face, or how the familiar story can surprise us once again with wonder or tears. There is power in gathering to worship the Victor. And now we live in light of Easter. As Amy Carmichael affirms, "We live from victory, not toward victory." Evil is still prevalent, but it has now been defeated. Death stands on the horizon, but it has lost its finality. The old things that once mastered us now have a slippery grip.

Darrell Johnson avers that because the tomb stands empty, we can look guilt in the face and say, "You are no longer my master." We can face our sinful habits and say, "You no longer triumph. The Great Conquerer releases me from you." On Easter weekend, Jesus accomplished everything necessary for us to walk in freedom. How timid we are to take hold of this! Though the chill of winter may linger this day, spring advances without fail. The Overcoming One longs to offer us far more than we can ask or imagine on this side of his Resurrection."

Over the month of March we celebrated the season of lent and as you read this newsletter we are in the midst of "The Great 50 Days - From Easter to Pentecost." Looking back, in March we enjoyed some stirring and thoughtful messages that looked at "**Believing.**" We examined our beliefs - in Jesus Christ (John 1:1-17); Soul Liberty (Romans 14:1-12); the Bible (2 Timothy 3:10-17 the Essentials (ii Timothy 2:14-26) and on Palm Sunday Atonement (Mark 15:33-39). It was ironic that as we listened to the beliefs of religious liberty of the early Baptist ministers John Smyth and Thomas Helwys the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas was in the news for more of its hate mongering, even as it describes itself as following "primitive Baptist and Calvinist principles."

In the month of April, Pastor Michel will explore "**Becoming**" Christ followers, Disciples, Intercultural, Missional and becoming "Whole."

In this issue of the Newsletter, we get an "uncensored" peek inside Pastor Michel's home through the lens of his daughter Genevieve. We also share the in the experiences of the McBurney's Caribbean vacation. We also look back at our sixty year history of the English Church and the twenty five year history of the Portuguese congregation.

*Yours in Christ!*  
Errol Anderson



## April 2013

Tuesday, April 9	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Mission Fellowship				
<b>Wednesday, April 10</b>				
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Central Youth Board Meetings 7:30 p.m.				
<b>Thursday, April 11</b>				
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Youth and Family Pastoral Search Committee				
<b>Friday, April 19 - Monday April 22</b>				
Central Youth Spring Retreat				
<b>Wednesday, April 24</b>				
7:30 pm - Launch of the English Language Ministry Team				
For complete listing please visit <a href="http://www.cbcoakville.ca/calendar.html">www.cbcoakville.ca/calendar.html</a>				

## To our visitors

**Welcome to the joy of worship and the warmth of our congregation!**

If you are searching for a local church home, we invite you to make your home with us. If you are a newcomer, please include your name, address, e-mail address and telephone number on the Contact Cards. We're glad you're here! We encourage you to feel free to participate in any church activities you read about in this bulletin. If you have any questions, please speak with an usher.

## The Great 50 Days - From Easter to Pentecost

*We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

(Romans 6:4 NIV11)



### Michel's musings

..... journey with the risen Christ and are renewed in our faith. To celebrate this resurrection season of new birth and renewal, I will be focusing on the third part of our vision statement "Becoming in Christ." What are we to "become as a resurrection people"? Join us each Sunday during these great 50 days as we explore what "Becoming in Christ" can look like at Central Oakville.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Alleluia!

Peace

Pastor Michel

## Highlights from Board of Ministry and Outreach

At our March meeting we heard a report from the 60th Anniversary Committee which had, at that point, held two meetings. Considerable time was spent discussing the future of our Youth and Family Ministry and our Music Ministry. The result was a decision to ask the March Church Meeting to appoint search committees for both these ministries with a task initially of writing job descriptions to be presented at our May Church Business Meeting. Kathy, our Chair, was to write the motions and make a presentation to the March Meeting. (These two committees are now in place). Once again we thank the members of the various committees who work for us behind the scenes.

Errol Anderson, George and Audrey Caldwell will be our representatives at CBOQ Convention, together with Pastor Dine and Pastor Michel who is already a member of the CBOQ Board.

Rev. Pat Nowlan

## SPECIAL PRAYERS



“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours”

Mark 11:24

Let us remember our brothers & sisters in our prayers especially:

- Pray for Kathy Waldron, and family, as they continue to deal with Kathy's health issues.
- Please pray for Kerr Street Ministries.
- Pray for Shut-ins even give them a call or visit.
- Pray for the the members of the Music Director Search Committee and the Youth & Family Pastoral Search Committee as they seek God's guidance in discerning God's will for these two significant areas of ministry at Central.
- Pray for the members of the 60th Anniversary Committee as they plan for this milestone celebration.
- Pray for the children, youth, teachers and leaders of our Sunday School and Central Youth ministries that they might sense God's hand at work in their fellowship and ministry together.

*Portuguese Ministry*  
**XXXV**  
**Conferência da**  
**Páscoa**

No dia 29 de Março passado tivemos a alegria de receber os irmãos de diversas cidades do Ontario em nossa Igreja para a celebração da Conferência da Páscoa. Há 35 anos que crentes portugueses e brasileiros se reúnem na tarde da Sexta-feira Santa para celebrarem um culto de louvor e gratidão a Deus pelo sacrifício de Jesus na cruz por nós. Esta é também uma excelente oportunidade para testemunho do Evangelho da graça de Deus.

Este ano tivemos a representação de 12 Igrejas de diferentes cidades (Kingston, Toronto, Richmond Hill, Streetsville, Cambridge, London e Oakville), além de representantes vindos do Brasil e do Estado de New York (EUA). Eram mais de 200 pessoas.

Após o culto foi servido um delicioso jantar para todos os presentes. As irmãs da Igreja trouxeram generosamente comida e sobremesa. O ambiente era de alegria e comunhão.

Por tudo damos muitas graças a Deus.

May God bless you!  
Diné Lóta



*O Culto Infantil ficou sob a liderança de Jacklyn Rondini. O Pr. Jackson Rondini trouxe o boneco “Charlie” para comunicar a mensagem do Evangelho para as crianças. Duas crianças entregaram sua vida a Jesus.*



*O pregador da Conferência trouxe poderosa mensagem, baseada em Hebreus 13:11-15. Damos graças a Deus pela vida do Pr. Diego Lopes, da Olivet Baptist Church, em Toronto.*



*O Coro da Conferência cantou dois hinos. Irmãos da Igreja Novos Horizontes (de London), de Olivet (Toronto) e Central (Oakville) se juntaram sob a regência de Noemi Francisco Rondini, com acompanhamento ao piano de Nelbe Lemos.*

## Whence We Came

# A conversation with Winnie Spencer

As I indicated in the March Newsletter, we plan to take a look at where we came from as a church as part of our sixtieth anniversary celebrations through conversations with some of our members who were either charter members or who were there at the very beginning. Last month I had a very enjoyable conversation with Don Hallford, and this month, I met Winnie Spencer for coffee.

Winnie, as a young woman attended the very first church service that was held by the group that eventually founded Central Baptist Church. I had the most enjoyable time talking to her, and as I listened again and again to our recorded conversation, I realized that it was a huge challenge to condense that conversation to a page or two, and wished I could convey the frequency of the spontaneous laughter that we shared. She brought with her a list of the charter members and a church directory from 1958, and it was fun to identify some of the members from the photographs that she had and to listen to anecdotes about many of them. It seems clear that those people – the foundation of this church, were happy people, who enjoyed a good time and enjoyed one another and enjoyed worshipping together. Winnie's memory is nothing short of incredible!

Winnie arrived in Oakville in November 1952 to work as a nurse at OTMH, the only hospital between Toronto and Hamilton. She grew up in Port Credit and was active in the United Church since high school. Being a friend of the sister of the pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Oakville, she had visited that church many times, which she considered a "good church". When she moved to Oakville she initially attended the United Church but was not happy and gladly accepted the invitation of her friend to visit Calvary where her friend's brother, Rev. McWhinnie was pastor.

One Sunday in March 1953 there was a falling out at Calvary and they "threw the pastor out". She knew nothing of this because she was working. So one Sunday, she was walking to church and as she passed the Snyders' house, the pastor's sister hailed her "Hey Winnie, where are you going? You had better come with us or you will go to the wrong place!" And that is how Central got started.

It appears the falling out at Calvary happened on Sunday. By Wednesday, there was a business meeting, and the following Sunday, a group met above what was then the

Harris Grocery Store on the main drag (Lakeshore Road). They had a piano given by Mrs. Baggot, chairs loaned by the local funeral parlour, a box of Sankey Hymn books given by the guy that owned the store – Mr. Harris.

"They had had a morning service, and I went to the evening service. Incredible! I believe Marilyn Turney – then thirteen years old played the piano that day, and sometimes her mother did. Then later Grace Collett became THE pianist. Grace is an amazing woman; when this building opened, she learned to play the organ and she became the organist. I cannot remember how long we met over the Harris' store, but we eventually outgrew that place then we moved over to



Allan Street where the curling rink is – there was a hall there Victoria Hall, and we continued to meet there for some time until we got the present property on Rebecca Street. So we moved close to it, and met at Morden Public School. We had wonderful times – truly wonderful times!

In the beginning we leaned more towards Fellowship Baptists, and there was a baptismal service in Hamilton at a "Fellowship church, but about a year later we started exploring the Convention Baptists and Marilyn Turney and I were baptized at Kingsway Baptist Church in West Toronto.

Knox Presbyterian Church befriended us and they let us use their church for our recognition service – Frank Rice came out from the Convention to that service. Knox bought new dishes and they gave us their old ones, so we had lots of dishes for lots of eating and there WAS lots of eating. It was marvelous!

We got a lot of generous support from the Convention. Somewhere between going to Morden Public School and the official opening of the current church, Rev. McWhinnie had a car accident and was out of commission for some time. He bought a new red car and we said "this is not a good thing". Anyway, he drove off the QEW and was seriously injured, and the convention was very supportive,

sending people to do prayer meetings on Wednesdays and to conduct services on Sundays”

At this point I made a crack about a Baptist Minister in a red car, and hoped he was not into the communion grapes. Winnie said that was anathema with him and “he did not even approve of us going home and watching a TV show with dancing girls or even going to the movies. (though he did, when he was on vacation)”.



We looked at photographs and Winnie tried to remember who was at the laying of the cornerstone for the new church. We recognized Mr. John Root MPP, and I asked if there was a connection to Richard Root. It was Richard’s grandfather, who became President of the Convention – “we used to call him the Baptist Pope!” As we looked at photographs we recognized many familiar names (Anderson as in the Anderson Room, Ed and Marion Austin, Grace and Doug Collett, the Snyders (as in Snyder Hall).

“There were all kinds of meetings in the Snyder home and indeed everyone’s home”. As we poured over the photos there was so much laughter! “All these people were REALLY INVOLVED. We were involved in EVERYTHING! Richard used to say “All you DID was go to church – and he was right! It was true. It was Sunday school, choir practice, evening service. It is different now”

It is appropriate to reproduce this quotation from one of Winnie’s books:

*When we build, let us think that we build forever.  
Let it not be for present delight nor for present use alone.  
Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for;  
and let us think, as we lay stone on stone,  
that a time is to come when those stones will be held  
sacred because our hands have touched them,*

*and that men will say, as they look upon  
the labor and wrought substance of them,  
“See! This our father did for us.”*

—John Ruskin

Winnie took me through the era and the personalities and foibles of several of the early pastors – Vince Lehman, Frank Rice etc. I asked if it was OK to quote her on the split from Calvary Baptist Church and she quoted a Professor Owen from McMaster Divinity College “Baptist don’t grow by planting churches – they just split”.

We spent at least a half an hour looking over her books and she regaled me with stories about the early members. We talked about several “hot button” issues that are not being addressed realistically by the church community, but that is the subject of a different article and a different day. This gave me the idea that we should do another series of personal profiles. There is so much to learn as we do not really know one another as they did in the early years. Winnie serves good coffee and makes great corn muffins, and I will be back to do a personal profile before long.

Errol Anderson

The title 'MONDAY'S' is rendered in large, 3D block letters. The letter 'M' is blue with white text, while the other letters 'O', 'N', 'D', 'A', 'Y' are white with black text. A large, black, stylized apostrophe and 'S' are positioned to the right of the 'Y'. Below this, the text 'with Pastor Michel!' is written in a bold, grey, sans-serif font.

# MONDAY'S

## with Pastor Michel!

When I was approached to write a piece for this month's newsletter, I had no idea what I would write about, until it dawned on me to write an exposé on my father and your Pastor Michel. When I had brought this idea forward to my family, Pastor Michel gave me his blessing as long as he would have the chance to read it before it went public, to which my Grandmother then told me to inform Pastor Michel about the freedom of the press. Thus brace yourself for an uncensored exposé of your Pastor Michel.

Since becoming a university student I have had the opportunity to take evening classes thus allowing me to really see how my father and your pastor Michel spends his days at home. Having no classes during the day on Monday we have the wonderful opportunity to spend his day off together. Pastor Michel's morning starts shortly before mine, when I get out of bed he is already seated on the couch drinking his coffee and doing his crossword puzzles. Being the caring loving daughter that I am, I immediately begin to ask him about his plans for the day. It only takes about 10 mins of questions before he uses one or many of the following lines: "okay leave me alone", "I'm doing something", "go away", "this is my time to relax", "be quiet", or "SHHHHHHHH." After a good half hour of what Pastor Michel likes to call "harassing" and what I like to call being friendly I retreat to another room to begin my homework. Not much longer after I grant him his wish and leave him alone and start working on my homework the guitar strumming begins. With no regard to what I'm doing

Pastor Michel plays as loudly and as freely as he likes in the middle of our open concept home. Now Pastor Michel has his own study in our home where he may play his guitar, however this just won't do. Apparently practicing in a small room makes "the sound bounce off the walls." Now for any who don't believe that listening to the guitar chords for Swing Low Sweet Chariot on repeat while trying to do homework would be distracting what is even worse is when he decides to play background music for the background music of the TV show I am watching while sitting next to me on the couch.

Finally after hours of hair pulling racket Pastor Michel finally puts down the instruments and agrees to spend the Father Daughter time I have been asking for all morning. Pastor Michel and I will then watch one of our shows together. The shows we tend to watch together are either The Mentalist or The Following as these are the shows Mary Ellen (my Mom and Pastor Michel's wife) refuses to watch.

Following our show I make my way to school for my late night class from which Pastor Michel refuses to pick me up. Apparently classes that run till 9:00 PM aren't late enough to merit a ride home, I will keep this in mind when I make next year's class schedule. After our long day together I make my way to bed as your night owl of a Pastor foolishly stays up when he knows he has to wake up at 6:00 AM. Lo and behold another Monday together comes to an end.

*Genevieve Belzile*



# Caribbean *Spring* Break

Half Moon Cay - Holland America's own paradise in the Bahamas - was at its azure best when we landed there from the "Nieuw Amsterdam" on a sunny afternoon in March. We had come ashore on a large double deck tender, and Warren was ready for some snorkeling, and then a walk for the two of us in the powdery sand and some sunny relaxing. Somehow, this last was not difficult there. Earlier in the week, we had docked at Grand Turks, in the Turks and Caicos. What a beautiful spot for paddling along the shore, sitting under the shade of the palms and buying the first of several souvenirs of the Caribbean. San Juan, the capital of Puerto Rico, offered a tour of the city in a small bus with an excellent guide. We saw an impregnable fort - he referred to it as the Gibraltar of the Caribbean - and the magnificent capital building with its soaring dome and sea view prospect. Philipsburg, St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles, was really warm, but here we found the only quasi-nativity for June's collection - a Delft angel on a Christmas tree ornament. Montego Bay was really hot, as you said it would be, Joyce, but we found a delightful little mall with good post cards and several easy-to-pack souvenirs. A stormy day kept us from tendering in to the harbour at Georgetown, Grand Cayman Islands. This situation was a disappointment for

June who had had a Cayman Islander in one of her grade two classes, and she had wanted to see some of the immense turtles for which the islands are famous. Cozumel was our last port of call. Its shops were really sophisticated, but they gave us another glimpse of the charm that is so pervasive in this part of the Americas.

As usual, we were impressed by the friendly and courteous service of the Indonesians who made up most of the crew. We shared in an interdenominational church service, heard several stimulating lectures and kept in touch with world events through CNN. Naturally there were culinary treats - breakfast on our verandah, daily choices at dinner, and the Lido and its buffets which we tried to use sparingly. We walked miles on the decks of our ship, from dinner at the stern to entertainment at the bow. We became good clients of the library, with its sea view windows right in the bow. And who can forget the pool, the midnight chocolate extravaganza and best of all, the chance to be together for an early celebration of our fifty-fifth anniversary.

We enjoyed several days in Fort Lauderdale before and after the cruise - a welcome change from the long drive up and down in our PT Cruiser.

*Warren and June McBurney*

*Highlights from the*

## Annual General Meeting March 24, 2013

- Acceptance of Minutes of November 11, 2012: The minutes were accepted as printed and posted.
- Acceptance of the Annual Report for 2012: The Annual Report for 2012 as prepared and corrected and made available was accepted.
- Acceptance of New Members: Darcy and Jacira de Oliveira were accepted into membership of Central Baptist Church
- 2012 Membership Review: Ruth Bayley-Mead, Gordon Glenn, Shannon Colucci, Ulisses De Santana, Christine and Gordon Ruff, Maria Natal Silva, Ana Maria Simões and Ariadny Tacchi were moved to the inactive roll. Marcus Bowman, Erica Lombard, Jen and Sean Nielsen, Jennifer Skinner, Adam Vanden Broek and Christopher Vanden Broek were removed from the membership roll.”
- Youth and Family Ministries: Katherine Geisler moved, “that a Search Committee be struck with the initial purpose of re-defining the position of Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries with the mandate to write/amend the job description having ascertained the merits of the following: ½ time, ¾ time or full time. The job description should contain a focus on the Family as it is felt anyone who works with our children will also need to be involved with our parents. The Search Committee is to report back with their findings to the May 26th Church Business Meeting for further consideration and approval before commencing the search process.” The Search committee for a Youth and Family Ministries will be made up of the Chairs of Council, Board of Ministry and Outreach, Board of Christian Education and Board of Finance plus 3 other members of the church. The Pastors shall sit as non-voting members of this committee. The BMO is seeking interested parties to form the Search Committee. Francisco Braz, Mario Rebelo, and Ruth Glenn volunteered. Carolyn Anderson was not at the meeting but had volunteered to serve when Steve Elshaw resigned.
- Director of Music Ministries: Katherine Geisler moved “that a Search Committee be struck with the initial purpose of revising the current job description for Director of Music Ministries with the mandate to amend the job description taking into consideration the feedback provided from the initial roundtable process in 2010 and the Big Ideas feedback from 2013. The Search Committee is to report back with their findings to the May 26th Church Business Meeting for further consideration and approval before commencing the search process. The Board is also seeking interested parties to form the Search Committee who will work with the pastors. We suggest the membership include those who are currently involved in our music ministries; Ana Paulo Simões, Marianne Hallford and Suzanne Houser with the addition of Virginia Fletcher if she is able to. When asked after the meeting, Virginia said that she would like to be part of the committee. Katherine Geisler moved “that the above people be the Music Search Committee.
- Proposed Changes to Central Baptist Church Constitution: Rev. Michel Belzile went through the proposed changes and explained the purpose of them.
- Financial Update: Suzanne Houser reported that for the year ending December 31, 2012 we had a Surplus of \$48,017 mainly because we did not have a full time pastor for 10 ½ months.
- Capital Projects: Dwight Nowlan presented an update of Capital projects and provided details
- Joint presentation of Finance and Property Maintenance Committee: details were provided



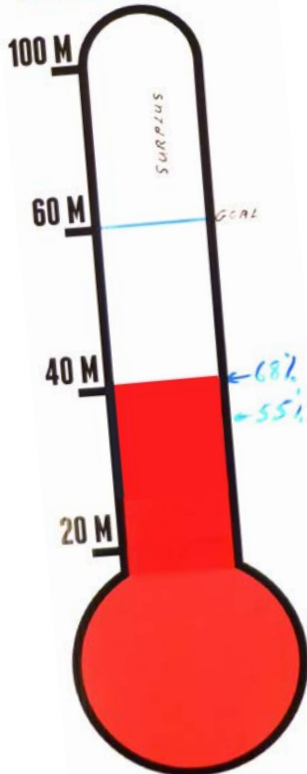
The next BIG IDEA/GRANDES IDEAS meeting will take place Sunday April 28 at 11:30 a.m. The topic will be “English/Portuguese Cooperation.”



# MISSION moment

The latest report from Ruth Monyao tells us that earlier this year, a workshop was held to the Main causes of the chronic food insecurity conditions in Africa. High levels of post harvest losses are a major concern, and soils have been seriously depleted due to continuous cultivation with little or no land left fallow. Unless farmers change the way they farm, it is evident that the food yields will continue to dwindle year after year. CBM is making deliberate efforts to promote holistic farming practices by teaching and encouraging conservation agriculture. The biggest challenge that remains is to change people's attitudes from the way they have been farming for decades. Please pray that this challenge will be overcome as more and more farmers see and reap the benefits of an outlook of conservation.

## 60TH Anniversary FUND RAISING



60th ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER (English Congregation), and 25th ANIVERSARY FUNDRAISER (Portuguese Congregation)

### ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Objective .....	\$60,000
Donations received to date.....	41,500
Additional amounts postdated &/or pledged.....	<u>2,000</u>
Total Received or Committed.....	<u>\$43,500</u>
Amount still to Raise .....	<u>16,500</u> or MORE
SPENT ON PROJECTS TO DATE.....	<u>\$40,000</u>

Folks, our fundraiser has virtually STALLED. ONLY \$1,500 RAISED SINCE DECEMBER 31ST, 2012. We need to Pray about this programme and see if we can regenerate enthusiasm towards the fundraiser. Does one or more of the congregation want to issue a Fundraiser challenge to other members, similar to the one held in December. Let us try to develop some Fundraiser competition. We need momentum to push the Fundraiser over the top. Let us put our prayers into action. Thank you all for your cheerful participation to this point and it would be nice to see our next project Foyer and Vestibule, commenced before the start of Summer.

Dwight Nowlan

Chairperson of Finance and the 60th Anniversary Fundraising Committee