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Sorrento Centre • Autumn 2009

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"The Barn" Nears Completion!  
(See page 2)



A letter from the Chair of the Board of Directors  
Dear friends,

As most of you know by now Barbara Andrews will be leaving Sorrento Centre at the end of September after seven and a half years as Executive Director to take up her new appointment as Bishop of APCI.

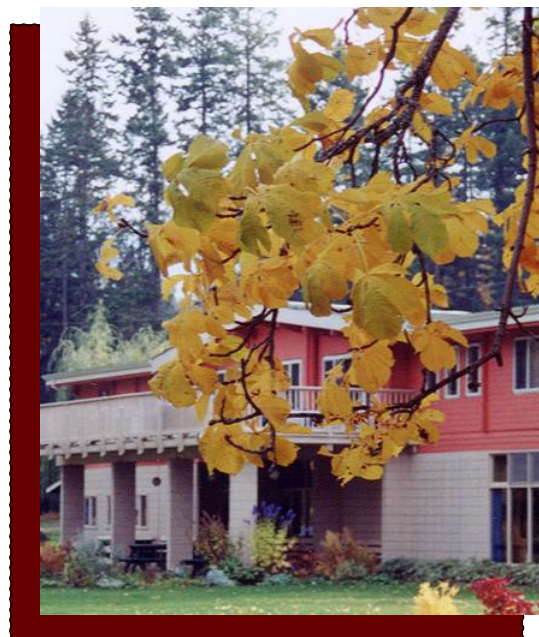
At this time I would like to give you a brief update on the search for a new Executive Director. We received a total of twenty-three responses to our advertisement, many of which were from strong candidates and several of which were, for one reason or another, not suitable. As of the closing date for formal applications we have received submissions from seven candidates.

The Board will be meeting by conference call in mid-September to draw up a short list and to plan the interview process. We do hope to have a new Executive Director in place by mid-November, but of course this will depend on several factors, including any prior commitments the successful candidate may already have.

I would also like to mention that we are still accepting gifts for Barbara's Ministry Fund. Please make your cheque payable to Sorrento Centre and be sure to mark it clearly as designated for the Barbara Andrews Fund. I hope that you will be able to join us during the Associates Thanksgiving Weekend for a special thanksgiving dinner in Barbara's honour on Saturday, October 10th.

As always, thank you for your support of the Centre and its ministry.

David Crawley  
Chair of the Board of Directors  
President of the Society



# Associates' Thanksgiving Work/Study Weekend

October 9-11

The Associates' Thanksgiving Work/Study Weekend is one of the highlights of the year at Sorrento Centre. This is a time when Associates of the Centre gather to work, pray and celebrate life together as we ready the Centre for winter. There is plenty of fun work for children and families too, including the chance to enjoy our traditional pig roast. The study portion of the weekend takes the form of short morning and evening sessions. This year's study section will be led by Louise Peters and Bruce Chalmers.

Throughout the course of history, voices have arisen calling God's people to a radical reorientation in their understanding of God's will and purpose.



These are the voices of the prophets, some well-known, some less so. Are we too called to be prophets? What does it mean to be prophetic? Does the Church speak with a prophetic voice? Or is it even possible for the Church to be prophetic? Come and explore this theme in a gentle yet provocative manner, reflecting on God's invitation to be voices of radical reorientation.

Our August Associates' Work Week went very well; even on such short notice we had a good turnout and –as always– an enormous amount of work got completed in a fun and convivial atmosphere that sums up the "Sorrento Experience".



The fascia on The Barn was repaired and the outdoor siding was put up (as you can see from the photos on page one). We are still looking for more donations toward The Barn construction so that the interior can be finished off over the winter months. Staff and volunteers also constructed a beautiful new pergola running from the deck on Nova Vita and providing a covered outdoor area for people to sit at the picnic tables. And, of course, there was also a lot of painting done around the site. Thanks to everyone who came out and helped!



# The Summer Youth Staff 2009 Report

by Melissa Green,  
Alec Longiaru  
and Sarah Barr

We believe that we had an amazing Summer Youth Staff team this year.

Twelve young people from the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior, the Diocese of New Westminster, and from Alberta joined the Summer Youth Staff team this year. We worked well together and comments from guests were very positive. Our staff gave their positive energy and their leadership skills to all guests on site, not just the children and youth. They were present and active in events, conversations, worship, and regular parts of our scheduled weeks.

Sorrento Centre summers are ones of learning, facing challenges, explorations, fun and a lot of work. The Leadership Team gathered together in May to begin a

summer of working together. The team consisted of: Summer Staff Coordinator Melissa Green, Day Camp Coordinator Alec Longiaru; and Sarah Barr, Children and Youth Program Coordinator. We worked closely with Executive Director Barbara Andrews, as well as with the chaplains who joined us for the summer: Jay Koyle and David Taylor, both of whom were vital to the enjoyment and learning we all experienced in worship.

The Summer Youth Staff learned a lot about themselves this summer. For many of them this was the first time they were away from home for an extended period of time. Sorrento Centre is a great place for young people to have that "first". We built a community and supported, challenged and bonded with each other in a meaningful, life-changing way. Eleven girls lived upstairs in Spes Bona and five boys lived together in the Farmhouse.

The Children and Youth Program this summer was titled "The Journey Begins with a Single Step". The program looked at the stories of Jonah, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, and Jesus in the Wilderness. Through these stories we explored our own personal journeys. We engaged with the program theme through songs, games, crafts, stories and discussions.

As we leave we remember the journey we have taken this summer. We have done many things for the first time, learned more than we could have asked or imagined, and taken spiritual and emotional risks. We all leave Sorrento to continue our journey – equipped this time with many great memories and a new set of skills!



# A Message from Barbara Andrews

Dear friends,

When I moved to Sorrento Centre in the spring of 2002 to become its Executive Director I was leaving behind a rewarding and challenging ministry in Winnipeg's inner city. In the intervening years Sorrento Centre has not only been my vocation, it has also been my home, one which I have shared for part of that time with my daughter Patricia. Sorrento Centre has become such a cherished place in my life, and the life of my family, that it is even more difficult to leave than I had ever imagined.

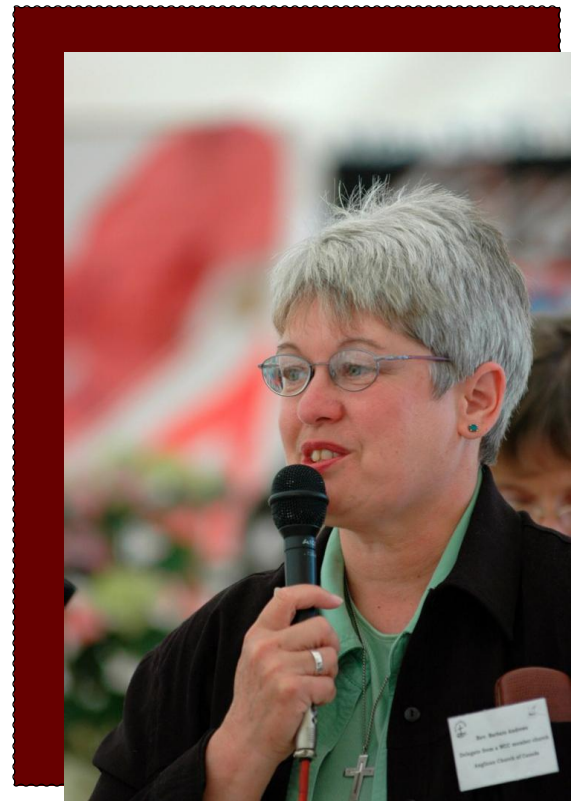
But just as moving from Winnipeg to Sorrento was a transition full of both joy and trepidation, I now have equally mixed feelings about leaving the Centre for the next chapter of my life, as the Bishop responsible for the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior. I prayed often over the decision to let my name stand, and worked hard to discern God's call to me. Excited and humbled as I am, I still feel a deep sadness at leaving a place that has meant so much to me professionally, spiritually and personally.

The last few weeks of Anglican programming this summer were poignant for me as the reality of my decision started to become more real to me each time I realized that I was in for a week of "lasts" – the last Sunday night Orientation; the last Director's Party; the last meeting with course leaders; the last Closing Eucharist.

As I leave Sorrento Centre I want to thank everyone who has made my time here so fulfilling. I especially want to thank all of the Associates of Sorrento Centre who have given so much of their time, energy and care to the Centre and who have made my job so much easier. Without the guidance and concern of the Associates Sorrento Centre would be a much diminished place, and I am deeply grateful to all of you. I hope to be able to personally thank as many of you as possible during the Thanksgiving weekend or in the course of my duties as bishop. I have no doubt that the new Executive Director of Sorrento Centre will be just as blessed by your assistance and wise counsel as I have been.

Blessings,

Barbara



## Notch Hill Fire Threatens Sorrento



It was a very hot and dry summer in Sorrento this year and like many other places in British Columbia we were menaced by a nearby forest fire throughout August. The Notch Hill fire, just over the ridge south of the village of Sorrento eventually reached over 3,000 hectares before being contained. The Centre itself was never put on an evacuation alert, but we did have some very smoky days and the glow on the hilltop was a constant reminder of the unpredictability of nature. Two of our employees who live near the fire line were evacuated from their houses and spent a couple of weeks as guests of the Centre before they were allowed to return home. We are very grateful that despite the imminent danger there was no loss of property and everyone who was evacuated has now returned home safe and sound.









