

Church News

REDEDICATION OF THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH

The weekend of August 5, 2007, the Dawson Creek Society of the New Church hosted a Canadian District Assembly for the rededication of their church on its 50th anniversary. The church building had recently been renovated and insulated and a warm, welcoming front porch entrance added.

Friday evening people gathered in the society hall for a social time and welcome. There were people from all across Canada and the United States. The Church in Canada had invited all the former pastors and their wives to return to Dawson Creek for the occasion, so there was much delighted greeting of old friends who had not seen each other for up to 35 years. The evening was supposed to close before ten, but the happy visiting went on long past the last glow of the late evening sunset.

Saturday morning the crowd gathered in a rented hall for doctrinal papers and discussion. First Rev. Jim Cooper gave an address on Influx. A seemingly simple, introductory talk (with PowerPoint slides) evolved into a wonderful explanation of how all sorts of amazing things seem to happen spontaneously in nature but are really directed by the Lord. After discussing Jim's talk, the group heard from Rev. Bill Clifford about Correspondences, Representatives and Significatives (which is much easier to write than to say!). Along the way he described creation in easily understood terms.

After a coffee break, the group enjoyed a paper by Pastor Mike Gladish about the special uses of the New Church, which is printed in this publication. Then, after a wonderful lunch and visiting time, Bishop Tom Kline spoke at length and led a discussion about the General Church and its exciting future, and Gordon Jorgenson, from Toronto, spoke about the budget and uses of the General Church in Canada. Later in the afternoon

Holy Supper was offered to several dozen who gathered in the peaceful quiet of the church.

In the evening a full day was capped off with a delicious fresh supper and program hosted by Mr. Fred Hendricks punctuated by guitar music and singing from his brother Juste. One speaker was Stephanie Starkey Crampton, reminiscing about her parents' lives as the first New Church residents in the Dawson Creek area. Others were past pastors, Willard Heinrichs, Glenn Alden and their wives Vanessa and Mary. A couple of the men who had worked hard on the new addition also spoke, Marvin Friesen among them reminding everyone that our church is only alive when we give of ourselves to it.

Sunday morning the church seemed too small for the large crowd of over one hundred people. Bishop Kline and Pastor Gladish led the service. During the talk for the children a gift was presented to the society of a beautiful new altar cloth embroidered with the words "The Lord God Jesus Christ Reigns." Bishop Kline asked the society to read these words aloud together, and the room rang with the phrase which epitomizes our faith. Also the General Church in Canada presented a new altar copy of the Word in the original three languages, so the service closed with a new look to the rededicated altar.

All who were privileged to attend this weekend came away with their own sense of rededication to the uses of the New Church in northwestern Canada and around the world.

Nina Kline

The addition designed to welcome visitors to the Dawson Creek Church, in Canada is shown on the following page in a stage nearing completion.



“This beautiful wood carving above the altar in the Dawson Creek Church, was completed in 1957 on a commission for the church, by Mr. Thorsten Sigstedt.” The description and image of the carving shown below, comes from the Banquet Program of August 4th, 2007, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Dawson Creek Society. The Pastor of Dawson Creek in 1957 was The Rev. Roy Franson. That same year Mr. Sigstedt carved also the three wooden offertory bowls now in use in the Cathedral.” (New Church Life, 1957 p. 110). This present issue of New Church Life carries the Address given at the anniversary celebration by the Pastor of Dawson Creek, the Rev. Michael D. Gladish.

