



Quon Stothers Journey

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Newsletter December 2013



Commission
TO EVERY NATION

Living to a
higher standard.
MEMBERS SINCE
1997



Thank full, Advent, and Christmas . . .

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We 3 in the Together Stronger Community Choir, assisted by the Ards Choir w/director Diane Petherick-Holt 2nd from rt

I posted on Facebook that we had kale (stir fried organic community garden, fresh), roasted chicken, and a sort of Pad Thai on Thanksgiving Day.

We then we went to the first of the holiday celebrations. This was a Parkinson's UK fundraiser at a hotel where the 35 member Seven Towers Male Voice Choir,

Margaret Keys, a singer, and a Dixieland band entertained us for over two hours after minced pies and coffee.

The President and CEO of Parkinson's UK attended, over from London. We are delighted with the generosity of people to help us and others, living with this disease. A recent call to the Parkinson's UK free hotline

yielded a textbook diagnosis for Ward, and a tip for overcoming the lethargy.

Marda and Kate set up crafts tables at the Going Green Christmas Fair to benefit the community garden at the Hosford House homeless hostel at Skainos/EBM. We took home fresh kale for our trouble and sold a few



My porcelain pottery made a sale debut at EBM for the Going Green Xmas Fair

. . . Christmas to come

pieces. Marda saw Maitiu (Matthew in English), her teacher, for her feeble five lessons in Irish language, and gifted him with one of her porcelain vessels.

We have been to many Christmas lunches and dinners. There are poppers and silly paper hats, turkey,

stuffing, cranberry sauce, ham, Brussels sprouts, carrots, parsnips, mashed and roasted potatoes and gravy. All roasted, boiled and plain like we had in the 1950s. Our Together Stronger Community Choir sang in a joint evening worship, in a Festival of Trees, and on the Carlisle

Special prayer points

- PRAISE for special gifts and kindnesses. PRAY for sustained monthly gifts. **We are \$400/mo short.**
- PRAY for Jon Kennedy who joined us in March 2013, for sustaining the work of The Loom
- PRAY for a call for Donna Quigley a gifted rector.
- College Avenue Presbyterian Church, in Oakland, Pastor Monte and congregational growth.
- PRAY for poetry to flow and the Book
- PRAISE for new friends and weaving relationships
- PRAISE Sunday morning prayer continues
- PRAISE for team building relationships
- PRAISE for discussions about walls coming down.
- PRAISE for expansion of Townsend church vision and the people to implement it.



Ward and Marda among parishioners at Townsend ST

rather than divide us.

This Friday we will go to the local Primary School Christmas show and find a way to encourage the Principal. Rev Jack Lamb is on the Board of Governors and he is over in England meeting Rev Andy Kelso also known as Rev Elvis to prep for a Belfast concert in April.

We have sent the email invites out to 100 people for a Christmas Open House Marda style. Invite a couple of key friends and send out a mass invitation, buy and make food and see what happens.

We hope new and stronger relationships will be forged. The work is very satisfying and heartwarming as people change one heart at a time.

Circus roundabout. We sang our hearts out and the weather was dry.

With a wee Advent book Marda is trying to be mindful during this run up to Christmas. She noted the following story in one recent meeting where they were using Brother Alois, the Prior of the Taize Community's "Passion for the Unity of the Body of Christ", on appreciating the gifts of other traditions.

During this meeting, a nun who said she was in an order for 46 years, shared when she was in Teachers College, she became friendly with a girl who was a Baptist.

When she walked in on her one day, her eyes were closed, and they startled each other. When she asked what her friend was doing, the girl said, "I was talking to Jesus." The Sister said she had known

about "saying her prayers" but not "talking to God." In another time we would be critical and say the Sister didn't know God, but who are we to judge the faith or relationship to God of another person?

It is worth quoting from the Taize material: Reconciliation, an Exchange of Gifts

We sometimes have the impression that, over the centuries, Christians have become accustomed to being divided, as if this were something normal. To prepare reconciliation, it is up to us to emphasize the best of the different traditions.

Then an exchange of gifts can take place: sharing what we have received from God, and also seeing the gifts that God has placed in others. And this exchange is possible precisely because we have the foundation that

unites us, baptism, in common.

So it is that we are delighting in the unity of believers and our ability to bring reconciliation. We enjoy the richness of tradition and let it unite



At Campbell College, a warm fire greeted us and a new friend