



Church Camp - Listening

Cold wintry weather did not deter the 40 or so people who gathered over the weekend of 24th-26th May to spend some time listening to ourselves, to each other, to creation, to God.

Friday evening is a time for early campers to settle in and enjoy the first night away from the city and wake up to Alistair Hunter's magical porridge.



Ian's opening workshop on Saturday morning helps to shape the theme for the camp. We began by drawing breath to listen within and then again to listen to the sounds around us. It was so still outside at that time of the morning all we could hear was the heater keeping us warm. One lucky camper heard a bird sing ever so briefly. Then we listened to each other in pairs and fours followed by an invitation to move around the space weaving between and around each other as we did so. Gathering in five groups Ian invited us to listen to John 14:23-29 from which he identified Jesus' five gifts to the disciples then and to us now: the Holy Spirit, the breath of peace, love, courage and joy. Each group created a moving picture of these five gifts.



After morning tea we set off on a bush walk with maps and Ray Cameron's invitation to identify the contours and waterways as we walked the 3.6km track through the bush around the camp.

A delicious lunch of soup & rolls - tomato and beans, pumpkin, potato & leek - warmed us up again for a relaxed afternoon of free time. Some of us braved the chilly weather to enjoy archer, ultimate frisbee and tennis. Others chose to stay inside for board games, reading, knitting, chatting and the always popular Werewolves.

Taize in the bush became Taize in the chapel as the rain set in at 4pm. It was peaceful and heartwarming to gather in this small space, to sing the chants together and listen to the readings as the rain alternated between heavy downpour and gentle drizzle.



After a delicious meal of pasta followed by the traditional camp desserts of sticky date pudding and apple crumble it was time for the concert - so much fun. The program offered us magic tricks, political poetry, levitation (of sorts), clever skits, clapping rhymes, music, a game of 'guess that song' and children's stories.



Listening to the wall!!





Back to the dining room for more games, a fabulous jam session with Alistair and a very late night for some people.

Next morning we enjoyed more magical porridge of course. Ian explained the process for preparing worship and invited everyone to join one of four groups to write the call to worship & prayers of adoration & confession, prepare the presentation of the Word (John 14:23-29), write prayers of the people or to prepare for Janet's celebration of ministry and Holy Communion.



We worshipped in the hall and it was lovely. We used the Jesus' gifts to shape our worship. Celebrating Janet's ministry and the children handing over symbols of ministry to Dave Hall was very special. See C&FY&YA news for the story.



A game of Ultimate Frisbee and more game playing preceded lunch. An indoor sausage sizzle complete with salad and potatoes was a delicious last meal at camp. During the meal everyone was invited to write down aspects of the camp they had enjoyed. See next page for the impressive outcome. The auction of leftover food was hilarious as always and a fun way to end the camp.



Many thanks to Anthony Hinds (co-ordinator), Shawn Whelan and Courtney Rohde for their organization, to anyone else (especially Alistair Hunter) who contributed along the way and everyone else for coming along.



Save the dates for next year's camp: **22nd-24th May.**

Saide Cameron



Responses to the invitation 'Write down some of the things that you enjoyed about camp ...'

- Taize
- Developing worship
- Morning session on Saturday
- Taking to people
- Playing werewolves
- Knitting squares
- Having space
- Playing Cthulhu pandemonium
- Ray's raccoon rendition
- Concert
- Jam session - kids got involved
- Catering
- Ice cream (made by Alistair)
- Sleeping
- Impromptu discussions
- Bush walk
- Conversations
- The looseness of the program (lots of free time)
- Bagpipes
- Ray's physical comedy
- Workshop - exploring the ideas from the Bible
- Taize in the chapel
- Kids enjoyed werewolves
- Intergenerational games
- Absence of phone connectivity
- Kids engagement in workshop
- Visitors coming to visit
- Welcoming eg Trish
- Community
- Ultimate frisbee
- Involvement of children
- Good conversation
- Late night jam session
- Open program and more free time
- Good food
- Bushwalk
- Worship service - all contributed
- Taize service
- Concert
- Ultimate frisbee
- Werewolves
- Touch NFL
- Archery
- Baseball
- Church service
- Playing football on the oval
- Frisbee (& learning to throw in the right direction)
- I liked getting to know people a bit better and feeling part of a community
- Archery and apple crumble
- I liked eating the brownies, mango ice cream, cookies and apple crumble. I also liked archery, playing werewolves and a buncha other stuff that I can't remember
- Jamming and creating and connecting with old friends and new friends - strengthening my community
- Sticky date pudding
- Alistair's icecream and soups

