

Finding Delight

By Carl MacMillan

Our community's theme for the year is "Finding Delight." The wording for the theme was inspired by Wayne Muller's book, *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in Our Everyday Lives*. Sometimes people have the mistaken impression that living in a L'Arche community means living a step apart from the mainstream — at a slower, gentler pace. In fact, if anything, I would say that our lives in L'Arche are very busy, sometimes in ways that are quite challenging. My sense is that we can feel every bit as busy as many other people in our culture. Jean Vanier has often said, "Everything that happens in the world also happens in L'Arche."

Happily, while our lives in community are often very full, they are also full of meaning — yet we can begin to truly appreciate that meaning only when we take time to stop, to be still, and to be present to one another. Henri Nouwen talks about this very beautifully in his book, *Adam: God's Beloved*, which is based on his relationship with Adam Arnett, a core member at Daybreak who died just a few months before Henri in 1996. Adam was a man who lived with profound intellectual and physical disabilities, yet Adam knew a great deal about being still, and being present. Henri learned quickly that Adam would not be rushed through his daily routines. Adam had only one speed — slow.



This year's Orientation assistants: back row, left to right: Warren Pot, Assistants Coordinator, Osamu Shinya, Day Program Assistant, Andre Wagner, Franziska Stief, Tina Buettner, Elisabeth Moignard, Nico Stolzenburg, Meagan Blakeman, Kalpesh Kapadia, Friedemann Schaefer, Kei Hasegawa. Bottom row, left to right: Michael Barrett, Rob Altobelli, Laurence Herin, Jarek Maciejowski, Michelle King, Marie-Laetitia Derre. Missing: Stephen Murnane, Kim Radford.

Henri, although he knew quite a bit about presence, also had only one speed — fast. It was Adam's unrelentingly slow pace that triumphed. When Henri was with Adam, Henri had no choice but to slow down. Henri would later recognize and write that Adam became the most significant teacher in his life.

When I take time to reflect on my own experience of community, it is usually the very ordinary moments that I most treasure: chopping potatoes with Peter for the Sunday dinner, planting a tree

with Tim, or simply sitting together in a church pew. Sometimes it is good to stop. Of course, in our community, as in most of our lives, we are really talking more about a pause than an absolute ending. Life will perk along, and there will continue to be lots of things to do in our community — but we are saying with real intention that this year we want to discover new ways to observe the spirit of Sabbath. In doing so we hope that we might claim the fullness of our lives with greater awareness and with real delight. ♣

A Meditation by Henri Nouwen

Here and Now

To live in the present, we must believe deeply that what is most important is the here and the now. We are constantly distracted by things that have happened in the past or that might happen in the future. It is not easy to remain focused on the present. Our mind is hard to master and keeps pulling us away from the moment.

Prayer is the discipline of the moment. When we pray, we enter into the presence of God whose name is God-with-us. To pray is to listen attentively to the One who addresses us here and now. When we dare to trust that we are never alone but that God is always with us, always cares for us, and always speaks to us, then we can gradually detach ourselves from the voices that make us guilty or anxious and thus allow ourselves to dwell in the present moment.

"Prayer is the discipline of the moment."

This is a very hard challenge because radical trust in God is not obvious. Most of us distrust God. Most of us think of God as a fearful, punitive authority or as an empty, powerless nothing. Jesus' core message was that God is neither a powerless weakling nor a powerful boss, but a lover, whose only desire is to give us what our hearts most desire.

To pray is to listen to that voice of love. That is what obedience is all about. The word



Jenna Power enjoys a motorcycle ride at the Brothers of the Blade picnic on June 23rd.

"obedience" comes from the Latin word *ob-audire*, which means to listen with great attentiveness. Without listening, we become "deaf" to the voice of love. The Latin word for deaf is *surdus*. To be completely deaf is to be *absurdus*, yes, absurd. When we no longer pray, no longer listen to the voice of love that speaks to us in the moment, our lives become absurd lives in which we are thrown back and forth between the past and the future.

If we could just be, for a few minutes each day, fully where we are, we would indeed discover that we are not alone and that the One who is with us wants only one thing: to give us love. ♣

Year End Tax Receipts

The end of the calendar year is a time when many of our supporters send a donation to L'Arche Daybreak. The Canada Revenue Agency rules have become very strict regarding the issuance of year-end tax receipts. Donations sent by mail must be dated and *postmarked* by December 31st for a tax receipt to be issued for that year. Of course, tax receipts for all donations will always be issued. Donations that are postmarked after December 31st will be dated for the new year. L'Arche Daybreak is very grateful for gifts from donors that come all year long. ♣

Community Notes



Judith Kennedy, pictured here with Amanda Winnington-Ingram, completed 11 years of service on the L'Arche Daybreak's Board of Directors this year. The community celebrated her on September 14th.

Stephen Petruccelli, L'Arche Daybreak's newest core member, is living at the New House. Stephen is from Richmond Hill. He works at the dental office of Dr. Kirshen and as a volunteer at Mackenzie Health, the former York Central Hospital.

The Brothers of the Blade again hosted their annual picnic for the L'Arche Daybreak community. For many core members this event, with its motorcycle rides and relay races, is a community favourite.

Nathan Ball and Paula Kilcoyne, with their four children, moved to St. Louis this summer. The couple had been part of L'Arche Daybreak for 25 years. On May 4th, the community gave the family a blessing at the Dayspring and hosted a reception in their honour.

Elizabeth Buckley, a long-time member of L'Arche Daybreak, turned 80 in July. Dubbed the "Queen Mum" by John Smeltzer, Elizabeth was celebrated in a regal high tea at the Dayspring where a flotilla of L'Arche boats "floated" around her — a fun occasion for everyone. Elizabeth was part of the original L'Arche community in Trosly, France in its early years. She went on to found two L'Arche communities: L'Arche Inverness in Scotland and L'Arche Irenicon in Massachusetts. Elizabeth joined L'Arche Daybreak in 1990.

Christi Dye, a former assistant and member of the Leadership Team at L'Arche Daybreak, gave birth to a little girl on August 16th. The baby is named Jordan, after Helen Jordan, a core member who was very close to Christi. Helen died in 2001. Christi and her husband Will live in Durham, North Carolina.

Bill Clarke, a friend of the community for many years, was celebrated on the occasion of his 80th birthday on Friday evening, July 27th, at the Dayspring. Bill is a Jesuit priest who wrote one of the first books about L'Arche, *Enough Room for Joy*. Throughout his priesthood, he has remained close to Daybreak and to people in many L'Arche communities in the world.

The Gospel of John will again be the subject of a retreat given by Jean Vanier to long-term members of L'Arche. Now 84, Vanier will give the retreat at the original L'Arche community in France where he still lives. Chris Jarvis and Liska Stefko will attend. Keith Reynolds, a former assistant who is a United Church minister and a faithful friend of the community, will also be among the thirty retreatants.

Community Wish List

Round tablecloths.....	\$100
Plexiglass candle moulds.....	\$200
Art Supplies	\$500
Spirit Mover costumes	\$500
Barbeque	\$650
Reclining chairs	\$1,500
Tree shredder.....	\$2,000
Patio furniture	\$3,000
Sun shade for the Day Program	\$3,000
Fireplace insert/liner	\$6,000
Stairlift	\$7,000
Grounds equipment.....	\$10,000
Sanding machine for Woodery	\$10,000
Mini-van	\$35,000

For more information, please call Colette Halferty at L'Arche Daybreak's Development Office (905) 884-3454 ext. 230.



A significant bequest served as the cornerstone gift for the expansion of the Craft Studio.

Planned Gifts Create an Enduring Legacy

L'Arche Daybreak was fortunate to have a long-time supporter who was committed to building the life of our programs of work and daytime activity. Her generous bequest served as the cornerstone gift for the expansion to our Craft Studio. The gift gave the community the confidence to announce a vision for growth that many other donors could participate in. The project that was realized by the momentum of that single planned gift resulted not only in a bigger building, but also an increased capacity to welcome more people with intellectual disabilities. The opportunities that the gift made possible created a very significant and enduring legacy for many years to come.

What are planned gifts? Generally, they are charitable gifts that are planned through a person's estate, although some forms of planned gifts — annuities, for example — can be made during a donor's lifetime. As a registered charity, L'Arche Daybreak can accept planned gifts and provide a charitable tax receipt for the full value of the gift. Planned gifts, like all gifts to registered charities, can have a favourable tax impact for the donor, or the donor's estate. For many donors, planned gifts are the most generous donations they will ever make. Our donors may want to consider a planned gift to L'Arche Daybreak in their wills.

A will is of fundamental importance for everyone, regardless of one's means. A person's will can make his or her wishes very clear, a great benefit for family members and for the person designated to execute the estate. A well-drafted will is also a significant way to make a statement about personal values and provide an orderly and timely

plan for the settlement of one's estate.

A will is a written document, dated, signed, and witnessed, that provides direction and detail regarding how belongings, real estate, and all financial assets are to be distributed after a person's death. Donors who want to include L'Arche Daybreak in their wills can specify an amount or a percentage of the estate, Registered Retirement Savings Plan, or registered securities to be left to L'Arche Daybreak. In today's ever-changing tax and legal environment, a will is probably the most important way to ensure that one's wishes are made clear. Dying without a will can leave heirs with unanticipated legal problems and tax burdens. Having an up-to-date will can provide real peace-of-mind for everyone.

Gifts have been part of L'Arche since its very early days. When Jean Vanier first lived with Raphael and Phillippe, they had to depend on gifts and support from family and friends to sustain their fledgling community. Nearly fifty years later, Jean Vanier continues to challenge us all to "create a world where everyone belongs."

L'Arche Daybreak began with an extraordinary gift from Our Lady's Missionaries: several acres of land, a rambling old house and a barn on a farm property in Richmond Hill. Our community has thrived and grown with the generous support of donors all along the way. Planned gifts have been a significant source of support on our journey, and they will continue to be important in the years to come. If you have any questions about planned gifts, please contact Colette Halferty, Director of Development, at (905) 884-3454 ext. 230. ✦

L'ARCHE DAYBREAK

The first L'Arche community in North America, L'Arche Daybreak began in 1969 and now includes eight homes in Richmond Hill, as well as *The Woodery* wood-working shop, *The Craft Studio*, and the *Dayspring* spiritual centre. The L'Arche Daybreak community is a dynamic example of how people of different intellectual capacity, social origin, religion, and culture can live and learn together.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 8:30 at Dayspring.

Friday evenings at 7:30 at Dayspring.

L'ARCHE

L'Arche is an international movement of over 130 communities where people with intellectual disabilities and those who care for them live, work and learn together. Canadian Jean Vanier founded L'Arche in France in 1964.

L'ARCHE MISSION STATEMENT

- *To make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities revealed through mutually transforming relationships.*
- *To engage in our diverse cultures, working together towards a more human society.*
- *To foster an environment in communities that is inspired by the core values of our founding story, and that responds to the changing needs of our members.*



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The Barn Dance for Solidarity, A Daybreak Tradition

by Trish Glennon

"The barn door is open!" declared Mike Arnett as the music started and everyone got dancing for Daybreak's Barn Dance for Solidarity which took place on September 8th. The Barn Dance has become an annual tradition at Daybreak, a festive way to begin a new year together in community and a fun way to support our L'Arche communities in Honduras. The event brings together family, friends, and community members for an evening of dancing, socializing, and just good fun. This year's theme, 'Old Time Barn Dance,' had almost everyone decked out in plaid shirts, blue jeans, and cowboy hats. Steve Ellis, who has been the event's DJ for the past eight years, kept the dance lively by playing lots of requests and old favourites. And his now famous 'Plate Dance' was once again a crowd favourite.

The Barn Dance is truly a community event beginning with the preparation leading up to the dance. People from the Woodery clear out the barn



Namju Baek and Linda Martin take the floor at the beginning of the Barn Dance.

and core members and assistants together sweep, clean, decorate, sweep, sweep, and sweep again until everything is ready.

The spirit of togetherness generated by the Barn Dance has prepared us as we live into our community theme for this year: "Finding Delight." For any-

one attending the dance, it was hard to miss the joy, the delight found in all those present — a reminder of the importance of celebration, and how in celebration, we connect and discover our common delight. ✦

Trish Glennon is the Day Program Leader.

L'Arche Daybreak Celebrates with Ralf Schmitz



Peter Porter and Ralf Schmitz lived together at the Green House in 1996-1997. Peter has visited Ralf three times at his home in Germany since then.

Ralf Schmitz began visiting Daybreak in the early '90s. A priest in Germany, Ralf had read about Daybreak and decided to stop and visit the community during a holiday trip to Canada. He returned the following year and spent his holiday time serving as a volunteer at the Green House. When Ralf had

the opportunity for a sabbatical in 1996, he joined L'Arche Daybreak as an assistant for the 1996-1997 year. Ralf has visited us every year since then, and he has welcomed many assistants and core members from Daybreak to his home in Trier, Germany.

It was only a few weeks after Ralf

arrived that Henri Nouwen died. His funeral was one of the first large community events that Ralf had experienced, and it would have a lasting impact on his priestly ministry. Ralf recognized that even though people were grieving the loss of Henri, the funeral was truly a celebration of Henri's life. It was a time of gratitude for all he had meant to his many friends, colleagues, and readers. Of course, it was Henri who had mentored us in how to turn "mourning into dancing." In 2009, when Bill Van Buren died, it was Ralf to whom we turned to officiate at Bill's funeral.

This year is the 25th anniversary of Ralf's ordination, so when he visited this summer we planned a special gathering to celebrate the occasion, and his nearly twenty years of friendship with us. On August 25th Ralf celebrated the Eucharist at Dayspring, and we enjoyed a beautiful potluck dinner with him afterwards in the Pond Room — a lovely experience of community with a very dear friend. ✦