

**MINISTER'S REPORT TO
WOODLAWN COUNCIL**

JUNE, 2009

Greetings Council and Woodlawn

Valerie and I have been with you for 15 months. We are excited about the future, as people and programs seem to be falling into place and we are sensing more and more forward momentum. Our 125th anniversary year promises to be a full one!

After a first year of few funerals, we have been kept quite busy with them this year. Stewardship and Community life are continuing to refine funeral policy based on feedback.

Presbytery work for both of us, but especially for Valerie, has been time consuming. She has been working with Crossroads Pastoral Charge in Timberlea in searching for a new minister.

We are excited about John Lindsay- Botten, our new Director of Music beginning in September, even as we say thank you to Terry and Shirley Beal, who have served Woodlawn well for many years!

While we are coming into a quieter time of the church year, there are some emerging themes that you will hear more of from us in the fall, if not before.

In addition to the excitement around “accessibility” plans, we will need to make some decisions around youth ministry, welcoming ministry, the shape of evangelism, the focus of outreach and how much we want to incorporate “Greening” into our life and work. This last one in particular was a major focus of our June Con-ed week in Truro. Woodlawn could well be a leader in this focus as society will certainly become more and more focussed on adapting to climate change and making the dramatic lifestyle changes to ensure a world to pass on to our children and grandchildren.

Worship as always, is a central focus, with something special almost every Sunday, including a Conference focus this Sunday and Ministry of Music focus on the 28th, Terry's last day with us as Director of music.

In terms of governance, as we put back the pieces of the imploded structure, we will continue to tweak and clarify responsibilities and establish communication protocols - always a challenge with so many active and committed disciples doing ministry and mission.

Valerie and I have had a satisfying year to date, with much accomplished and looking forward to rest and re-create in August before resuming in the fall.

Thanks to all for a great year! Enjoy the lighter summer schedule!

Phillip