

Dinner, Drumming and a DVD

Drummers carry outreach story ...

It was an interesting drive. Being on the 401 going east out of Toronto on a Friday evening is not on many people's lists of the top 10 things to do. I turned off on Westney Road in Pickering and drove through all the new development - houses after houses. And then I passed Taunton Road and suddenly it was rolling hills and a dirt road, and trees and a small rural community - Greenwood. Ah! Awe! Beautiful! I realized I hadn't been out of Toronto for a while.

I arrived at Mt. Zion United Church, a rural church. Lots of cars. People were gathering for a potluck dinner, drumming and a DVD. We were greeted warmly and given help to bring in our big load of drums and other musical instruments. Children, youth, parents, and leaders from the Guiding/Scouting movement were also there. Sixty five of us sat down for supper – I learned about some of the badges the youth beside me had earned.

Upstairs we gathered for a drum circle. The children sat in the first pew – curious and excited about all the drums and musical instruments in front of them. The elders sat right at the back!

The *Abbey North Drummers* led us in a participatory drum circle – we all got to choose an instrument. One young boy, wide-eyed, chose the biggest drum; it was as big as him! He told his Dad that he wanted to try every instrument before he went home!

What a fun night. Even the elders made a little bit of music. We can learn so much about freedom and joy from the young!

We told the story of "The Dondi Project", a Men's Ministries Network initiative of the United Church of Canada. We saw the 20 minute DVD that invites us to raise \$1 million for the Lutamo School, part of the Dondi Mission in central Angola. This will be done working with our long time partner, the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola. We are also raising \$100,000 for our Mission & Service Fund. We are holding events like the one in Mt. Zion across Canada this year. We will be in the West in May; in Newfoundland in June; and in the Maritimes and Quebec in September.

What a fun evening we had together. And the event raised \$718.00 for the project and with all the drummers that night we are confident Mt. Zion will be one of our host congregations for our national Drumathon on October 1st and 2nd.

For more information about when we will be in your neck of the woods check us out at www.dondiproject.com. I would love to hear from you.

(Written by Lloyd Paul, Men's Ministries, The United Church of Canada, lpaul@united-church.ca.)