

Michael's Musings March 4, 2018

"In the Flesh"



I played hookie last weekend from Port Nelson, but I had a good excuse! Jay Poitras - Developer of Youth Ministry - and I spent the weekend with seven of our grade 9 and 10 youth at Five Oaks Retreat Centre near Paris, Ontario. We participated in a Confirmation retreat with about 45 other youth and their leaders from United Churches in St Catharines, Toronto, Burford, Tara and Beamsville. It was a fun-filled weekend focused around A New Creed.

There were many activities designed to help the youth explore the various parts of A New Creed individually and in groups through art, music, drama, reflection, games and worship. We enjoyed a 2-hour hike around the beautiful Five Oaks property. We ate well. We got some sleep (!)

But most importantly, we spent time with the fabulous youth of Port Nelson. For me, it highlighted once again the importance of relationships. Like most people today, our youth are well connected electronically. Yet, like most people today, our youth greatly value human social interaction. They are a diverse group, yet they share friendship and mutual respect.

I am grateful for the youth ministry of Jay who has built and continues to foster meaningful relationships of trust with and among our youth. I am also thankful to others in our Port Nelson family who nurture and assist with the Confirmation program. We continue to receive inquiries from other churches about our 2-year confirmation model that seeks to engage youth in exploring their faith through experiences.

This coming Sunday - as we make our way through A New Creed in the Sunday services - we focus on Jesus, the one we call the "Word made flesh." We live "in the flesh" every day. Nothing will replace that. Nothing is more significant to our faith.

"The Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1: 14)

"We believe in God: Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new" (A New Creed)

-Michael Brooks