MWI WEEKEND AT DRUMALIS 15 – 17 SEPTEMBER 2023

A great buzz as I opened the door of the conference centre, lots of chatter as friendships were being renewed from previous MWI weekends. Those for whom this was a first were soon made welcome, especially when we gathered for our first meal. It was a delight to meet representatives from all 3 MCI districts. “Faith over Fear” - Olive Rowe’s Presidential theme was to be further explored.

Rev Maureen Hassard, our guest speaker, encouraged us to think about our fears be they physical. emotional or spiritual, and give them over to God. She shared the idea of Faith as an acronym for “Forward All Issues To Him” reminding us that living by faith takes courage but with God promising that He will not let us go we would have the power to move ahead in our adventure with Him. She suggested the tools we need to grow our faith are making correct choices, having a disciplined lifestyle ie have a set time daily to start the day with God as far as is possible, avail of the means of grace ie Prayer and Bible Study, dig deeper and know more intimately the one we serve. Our worship led by Roberta Bailie and Heidi Wilson, was a wonderful blend of modern and traditional songs; the odd tamburine could be heard!

In the 3rd session, on Saturday morning, we had some practical activities – card making, knitting, singing and meditating in the prayer room; activities that reminded us that Faith keeps us involved with people and always involves action. Faith is not a passive response to what God is doing in our lives. Maureen drew the main elements of her thoughts on Faith over Fear together on Sunday morning as we worshipped, using the story of Naomi and Ruth. So much of the story had modern day comparisons -evacuation and moving to another country as the women of Ukraine are experiencing or applying the statement that “there was no King in Israel and the people did what was right in their own eyes.” Concluding her thoughts, she asked the same two questions she had asked on Friday evening – What does my faith look like to Jesus and What does my faith look like to others?

We are so grateful to the committee who organised the weekend under Olive’s leadership. The Sisters and rest of the staff of Drumalis Conference Centre are to be commended for providing us with extremely comfortable facilities.

Would I recommend the weekend to other ladies? Definitely. Yes, we were challenged to think about our faith but the weekend did much more. Friendships grew. We had a brilliant cookery demonstration facilitated by Ingrid Logan – lots of tasty bakes to sample and a booklet of recipes with devotional thoughts and household hints to bring home and of course Saturday night was party time. Fun and games organized by Maeve Wilson and Heidi. During supper on Saturday night, we rugby fans, even managed to watch the last 30 minutes of the Irish World Cup game against Tonga.

Sadly, as with all good things the weekend came to its end far too quickly. Roll on September 2025.

Leah

Enniskillen Methodist