



November 2012

Dear friend of SPUD,

This is the first, of hopefully many, SPUD e-letters. My plan as SPUD Convenor is to keep in touch with those who have been involved with SPUD over the last number years in any way; as a delegate, as a facilitator, as a Presbytery representative, or general supporter.

This year...

SPUD is taking a break from our **Big Event** and **Mash Up** programmes to concentrate on our **Grow Your Own SPUDs** programme which the SPUD Working Group developed last year. We are not forgetting our Big Event or Mash Up, God has used those events wonderfully over the last number of years, but we want to take time to pause, ask God for His guidance and ask people for their input and thoughts about the events.

In early 2013 you will receive a **short questionnaire** which will be aimed at getting **feedback** about previous events and also seeking ideas and opinions on the future of the events. As a working group and I would love to hear from as many people as possible, in as many congregations as possible. So, get thinking now; what could we do better? What should we get rid of? What should we keep? What should our vision be for the Big Event and Mash Up?

Grow Your Own SPUDs

As I have mentioned above, 2012/2013 is a year focused on the **local church, your local congregation**. **Grow Your Own SPUDs** is a programme that looks at **participation** and will hopefully be a starter point for discussion in the church family as all members walk together in seeking to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ in the communities God has placed us in.

The evening consists of a Bible study and a number of **interactive** group activities. It can be done by a youth group, a Kirk Session, a whole congregation, a small group or even a mix of all of those people! The SPUD Working Group will be running a **training evening in January** for youth leaders and church leaders who may wish to run the programme in their congregation. There are also a limited number of spaces available for members of the SPUD Working Group to come out to your church, or to a group of neighbouring churches, to run a Grow Your Own SPUDs evening. Please **contact** us at spud@pciyac.org and we can go from there.

As I write this email I am feeling the effects of having stayed up until 4.30am to see who would win the US Presidential election (it was President Obama in case you missed it on the news). President Obama's winners speech was interesting, he called America the most diverse nation on the earth and yet all citizens should unite as Americans to face the troubles that lie ahead in the next number of years. How much more true is it that we as Christians are a **diverse** lot, young and old, urban, suburban and rural, rich and poor, **yet we are all united in Christ!**

Our goal is the same, to **glorify Him and enjoy Him forever**; our desire is same, to see the local church be a place where **His grace is found**; our hope is the same, that one day will be **with Him for eternity**. It is with this, and much more, in mind that the Apostle Paul writes,

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ...Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

We unite in Christ as one though many; may God help us to become one more and more each and every day.

God bless,

Andy Downey

SPUD Convenor, on behalf of the SPUD Working Group