

The United Church **Observer**

The United Church Observer is the best denominational magazine in Canada

Among 27 awards won in church press competitions for 2009, *The Observer* placed first in the General Excellence category of the Canadian Church Press. Other prizes:

Canadian Church Press

First Place

- General Excellence – Editor, David Wilson
- News Story – Mike Milne, “Reconciled to hard truths”
- In-Depth Treatment of a News Event – David Wilson, Donna Sinclair, David Giuliano, Mike Milne, Kevin Spurgaitis, Andrea Davis, Drew Halfnight and Jocelyn Bell, “Residential schools, the apology and the truth and reconciliation commission”
- Features – Kevin Spurgaitis, “Northern Ireland’s troubled generation”
- Theological Reflection (Devotional/Inspirational) – Trisha Elliott, “Bearing the wait”
- Personal Experience/First Person Account – Lee Simpson, “The trouble with Angel”
- Biographical Profile – Kevin Spurgaitis, “A son rises”
- Poetry – Pier Giorgio Di Cicco, “How to build churches”

Second Place

- Editorial – David Wilson, Observations
- Department – David Wilson, Jocelyn Bell and Kenneth Bagnell, Interview – July/August, October and November.
- Service Journalism – Lorna Day and Jocelyn Bell, “Designing sacred spaces”
- Biblical Interpretation – Susan McCaslin, “The problem with perfect”
- Narrative – Kevin Spurgaitis, “A son rises”
- Colour Photo – Kevin Spurgaitis, “Northern Ireland’s troubled generation”
- Colour Photo Spread – Ken Kerr, “Coffee with a conscience”

Third Place

- Letters to the Editor – Various, April and May

- Layout and Design of an Edition – Ross Woolford, “Learning to live together in a mega-city world.”

Honourable Mention

- A.C. Forrest Memorial Award – Kevin Spurgaitis, “Northern Ireland’s troubled generation”

Associated Church Press (U.S. and Canada)

Awards of Excellence

- Professional Resource – Lorna Day, “Designing sacred spaces”
- Illustration with Article or Cutline – Cuyler Black, “Let there be laughter”

Awards of Merit

- Personal Experience, First-Person Account (Long) – Trisha Elliott, “Eating ethically”
- Theological Reflection (Short) – Trisha Elliott, “Bearing the wait”
- Magazine Design, Spread or Story – Ross Woolford, “Sprawl”

Honorable Mentions

- Feature Article (Short) – Paul Wilson, “A way out of no way”
- Personally Useful Article – Mike Milne, “The new kid in the coffee aisle”
- Biblical Interpretation – Susan McCaslin, “The problem with perfect”
- Photography with Article or Cutline – Carlos Oscar Ruiz, “Sprawl”