

# Lynn Valley Herald

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September, 2009

## MESSAGE FROM BLAIR

Hello Lynn Valley United Church!

Greetings from Vernon. I write this message with mixed emotions. I'm very excited about my coming to join you in ministry. In the wake of a significant two-year interim ministry which led to a number of important decisions about your future, I believe together, we will find many opportunities to serve the people of North Vancouver. This opportunity also presents us with some important challenges as together we let go of that which has been familiar, safe and comfortable.

We'll also have to discover new ways to encourage family and family relationships. I've not ever commuted between home and work before in this way, so

encouraging family, maintaining family is a particular concern for me. But I also think about the transition time you have been through as a congregation. I wonder if encouraging family and relationships of the heart isn't just as important for you. So I can imagine that while we feel excited, we're also all feeling a little nervous.

What I do believe is that Spirit has moved in our time and we have been called to be together, to be the church in North Vancouver in ways we haven't even imagined...and this thought holds for me great promise.

It has been said that the church's only job is to help people remember their goodness. This idea comes from the first story of creation, specifically the story about the sixth day. On that day, all that had been created had been

declared good. The problem with the world is that we have forgotten just how good it all is. If we can help each other, and the people of North Vancouver whose paths will cross ours, remember that each of us and I mean, each and every one of us, has been created in the image and likeness of God, good and blessed, then our mission will have been accomplished. What a difference that might make in how we live in the world.

I wish you well in the coming days. I will hold you in my thoughts and prayers. And I look forward to getting to know you in the weeks and months ahead.

*Blessings, Blair Odney  
Minister.*

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## WEB SITE RENEWAL

Have you recently looked at our web site?

Have you looked at the web sites from other congregations?

Could you help update and refresh our online face?

Please contact anyone on the Board if you can answer "Yes" to the last question.

*Myrna Pearce  
Chair of the Board*



**HAVE YOU SEEN THIS  
MAN HANGING AROUND  
OUR CHURCH?**

**COME AND HAVE  
LUNCH WITH HIM!!**

**BLAIR ODNEY'S FIRST SUNDAY  
AS OUR NEW MINISTER**

**IS**

**OCT 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**IT WILL BE A COMMUNION SUNDAY  
AND**

**FOLLOWING THE SERVICE**

**THERE WILL BE**

**A**

**POTLUCK LUNCH.**

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND AND INVITE A  
FRIEND OR BRING AN OLD-TIMER BACK.**

## WHO'S WHO OR RATHER WHO'S HE?

Blair is a Recognized Designated Lay Minister. He comes from a rich background of experience having led ministry for two congregations for 11 years. In his previous church, he was the Minister of Music as well as the Minister of Sacrament and Word. Before becoming a Lay Minister, Blair worked at Naramata Centre as part of the Management Team and Program Coordinator and Manager of Marketing and Development. He has been a member of the United Church of Canada for 30 years. Blair is a singer, composer, conductor and pianist and as mentioned before believes deeply in the integration of music within the Worship service.

Being a Designated Lay Minister means that Blair is licensed to perform all the sacraments by Presbytery but he is not called Reverend.

Blair was most recently the minister at Trinity United Church in Vernon B.C. This is a large congregation but when he first arrived there, there were only 6 children in their Sunday school and mid-week programs. At the present time, there are 75 children and youth enrolled in their programs. Before ministering with Trinity United, Blair was at Osoyoos United which is a very small congregation so he has experience in working with a small church as well as a large program type church.

Blair will start with us on October 1, 2009. His wife, Sheila, will be staying in Vernon for the time being because of her own personal job commitments. They have two grown sons and the entire family is strongly supportive of this move. Blair has found an apartment in the lower Lonsdale area and will have as his work days, Wednesday through Sunday mornings. He will return to Vernon on Sunday afternoon and spend Mondays and Tuesdays with Sheila. While he is here, he will be available morning, afternoon and evenings and will live and explore our community with us.

### CLEANER NEEDED

We are again looking for someone to clean the church. Ross Joh, the youth leader at the Korean Methodist Church had been doing an excellent job for us but has had to discontinue the service. The work requires approximately 4-4 ½ hours per week and must be carried out on Sunday after the Korean service is over (around 4:30 pm). If anyone in the congregation knows of someone that might be interested in doing this work please give their name and contact information to Ken McKeen or have them contact Ken directly at 604-985-6266. It would be a great help if we can find a responsible person to take on this job.

*Ken McKeen - Property*

### NEW KITCHENETTE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

You may be aware from the noise, mess and occasional grumbling in the hallway over the past month that some major renovations have been taking place. Well, as a result, the old dirty utility room is gone and has been replaced by a bright new kitchenette. This was one of the projects in our short term measures plan and one that seems to be meeting with everyone's approval. One of our ladies was wondering why we hadn't done this years ago. It should facilitate Sunday morning coffee and avoid having to boil kettles on the floor of the hall. Thanks to Roger and Ken, with some sage advice and assistance from John Bruce and Al Mann, a fine job has been done. As you

are inspecting the new kitchenette you will note the rest of the hall is rather sad in comparison and could use a facelift - volunteer painters most welcome!

*Ken McKeen - Property*



## DEAR PARENTS

August 23, 2009

Jennifer Eastwood, Christine Davis and Myrna Pearce met this afternoon to discuss the children's program for this coming year. It was time to sign the Contract with Christine and after going through the JNAC and Search Process, the Board really wanted to understand what the plan was for this coming year. Our questions centered around such items as "How much time is really needed: more, less, the same?", "Are the needs of all the young people being met?", "What kinds of support does Christine need to meet her needs?" and "What changes would Christine like to see in the program?".

The Board felt that it was important to establish what we as a congregation want in our Children's Program before the arrival of our new minister so we could enter into a dialogue rather than expecting him to provide our answers. We discussed these issues and have come up with a proposal for this year.

First of all we would like to lay out the issues we tried to address:

- The older children need some one-on-one Christine time separate from the younger kids.
- The children need regular exposure to the entire worship service to understand how worship is conducted.
- Christine needs parental or additional adult help to meet the needs of all of our children.
- The program needs the commitment to attendance from children and parents alike.

This is what we would like to propose:

- The first Sunday of the month would be Communion Sunday and the children would stay in the Sanctuary for the whole service. Christine would provide activity packs for those who need them. The service would be more Intergenerational in nature.
- The second Sunday of the month Christine would take the children into the lounge. The older children may be given projects to work on in the office.
- One Sunday a month, we propose the third Sunday, would be a Sunday for Christine to spend with the children from Grades 5-7 only.
  - In order to make this work, the parents would be asked to sign up to supervise the younger children. The sign up sheets would be sent around in September so everyone would know well ahead of time when they would be required to participate.
  - We would also meet with the children themselves to discuss the nature of the program and ask for their commitment to attendance.
  - Our idea is to set up the topics around "How to make the Bible relevant in the life of a teenager today?" We would like to ask the kids about what issues they would like to look at and look for examples of these issues in the Bible. For example, if they are interested in women's issues, look at women in the Bible, if there are a number of boys and they would like to look at war in the Bible, look at those stories. The Bible has it all in terms of love, hate, good guys, bad guys, it is full of human interest not just boring lectures.
- The fourth Sunday of the month, Christine would take all of the children into the lounge again.
- Christine would meet regularly with Blair in a similar way she did with Sharon in order to discuss the topics of the worship services.
- The Children's Time in the service might be spent explaining that Sunday's sermon topic at a level that the children would understand but might not match with what Christine is discussing in their time.
- We would like to set up a monthly meeting of a support committee to make sure that the programs are running as expected.

Christine is very keen on preparing interesting programs for our children but there are some challenges. There are a wide range of ages, there are a wide range of concentration skills and there is inconsistent attendance. If she knows who she is preparing the program for each Sunday, it does make for a more rewarding experience for all.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Christine, Jennifer or Myrna. We are trying to work towards a church program that will meet the needs of our children and help them to develop a relationship with the church that is positive and nurturing and the foundation for future growth.

Thank you all,

Myrna, Christine and Jennifer.

Contact info:

Myrna- [myrnapearce@shaw.ca](mailto:myrnapearce@shaw.ca) or 604-985-8721

Christine- [macdavis@telus.net](mailto:macdavis@telus.net) or 604-988-7031

Jennifer- [jleastwood@telus.net](mailto:jleastwood@telus.net) or 604-988-5367

## COME JOIN THE CIRCLE!

*(The following is taken from 'The Best of Whole People of God Online')*

September feels like a new beginning – a time to re-gather as faith communities, and to begin new activities in our family, school, and community. In the church year, September is not a beginning but a mid-point – the middle of the Season of Pentecost, a season celebrating the growth of the church. The color of the season, green, reminds us of growth and new life. Growth happens in the church and in our lives as we learn and live out our faith in the world. What new growth is happening in your own life, your family, and your church?



The above logo (taken from Unit One of 'The Whole People of God' curriculum) invites us to "come join the circle." A circle is a symbol for God and for God's unending love. It also symbolizes wholeness and reminds us of the world God made. The circle of God's love – proclaimed through creation – is expressed in images of farmland, open sea, sun, and moon. The stalk of corn

symbolizes the gifts of nature as we move into the fall harvest, a time when we acknowledge the circle of the seasons, from seeding to harvest to winter's sleep and back again to planting and renewal. Life, death and resurrection are key parts of our circle of faith. The corn reminds us that the fruits of the earth are to be shared with others. Corn was a gift from the North American Indians to the first European settlers and then to the world. The fish remind us of Jesus, the one who "fished for people," while the tree reminds us of the cross – also known as the "tree of life." Finally, the bear represents all the living creatures God has given birth to. In some aboriginal legends the bear is also the creature that gave his life for the sake of humanity and was raised from death. The humans join with all creation to sing and dance our praises to God.

The circle has historically been an important symbol for Aboriginal people. Many believe that when we are born each of us is given a beginning place on the circular "Medicine Wheel" of life. There are four possible beginning places – wisdom, innocence, illumination, and introspection. As time goes by, we move along the circle and experience the world around us through that particular lens. Only by experiencing and understanding all of the "Four Great Ways" can we become capable of balance and wisdom – the wholeness our Creator intended. On the last Sunday in September the lectionary gospel reading (Mark 9:38-50) calls us to be open to

people of faith whose experience and response to God may be different from our own.

It is important to notice that the circle has many openings and points of entrance. The danger of a close circle of friends is that it becomes only inward focused, and others cannot find a way into the group. That can also be a danger in church congregations. Notice that the child is reaching out looking for others to welcome. Being in relationship with all of nature and not just with human creatures also helps us to be open to a broader vision of God and God's way. We are all welcome in the circle, regardless of age, ability, colour, or background. So step right in and join the circle!

*Christine Davis  
Children's Worship*

## SILENT AUCTION

Time to put your thinking caps on for silent auction donations for the Fall Fair (October 24). Contributions to congregational baskets (spa and garden themes) can be left in the baskets in the narthex or given to Anna Sanders (new or unused items, gift cards). Other items are being collected by Marion Kirk or Judith Clark. Think about your unused points and what goodies or gift certificates they might buy, or take advantage of special offers (Shoppers will give you \$10 gift card this weekend if you spend \$50), or ask your friend with a local business for a contribution.

*Judith Clark*

## MONEY MATTERS

The 2008-09 Fiscal Year is now behind us and I can report that our income almost matched our expenses - the final result being a very small deficit of \$258. However, this was achieved as a result of our Children's Worship Coordinator being on maternity leave for the entire year, thus saving us an expense in excess of \$10,000. For the coming year, our income will need to increase significantly for us to again break even

Overall our June 30, 2009 results are as follows:

**Revenue:**

Donations	\$ 96,928	89.8%	of Budget
Rental Income	\$ 46,373	98.8%	
Fund Raising	\$ 15,975	112.6%	
Interest & Other Income	<u>\$ 15,975</u>	<u>96.3%</u>	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 162,454	99.4%	

**Expenses:**

Staff Compensation	\$ 106,515	90.6%
Office & Property	\$ 35,324	102.1%
Program & Other Expenses	<u>\$ 20,873</u>	<u>128.7%</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 162,712	96.6%

ANNUAL DEFICIT                   \$    -258

The fund raising total is inflated by the inclusion of U.C.W. Fund Raising. We do not include this item in our budget as the income and expense amounts for the U.C.W. are usually almost identical i.e. they typically spend whatever funds they raise within the same year. This also applies to the overspent Program & Other Expenses which includes U.C.W. expenditures and, for the past year, costs associated with our centennial celebrations. The special centennial offerings are included in the Donations line.

While we may be tempted to, somewhat fortuitously, congratulate ourselves on achieving an almost balanced year, we can feel good about our level of support to other causes outside our own congregation. Donations for some of these areas included:

Mission & Service Fund	\$ 13,027
First United	\$ 2,554
Nicaragua Building Project	\$ 811
Camp Fircom	\$ 411
Lookout Shelter	\$ 273
Harvest Project	\$ 199
Sage House	\$ 194

We have many members who provide generously for our own needs and those of others both near and far. During the recent time of financial uncertainty and difficulty for many, it is indeed heartening to see the response that we have for those in greater need.

As always, my special thanks to all who have contributed to the financial well-being of our congregation during the past year.

***Roger Eastwood - Treasurer***

## ANYTHING BUT BORED

Oh the start of a new year, the anticipation, the qualms, the wonder! This year is particularly full of emotion as we look forward to the arrival of Blair Odney in just a few weeks. Part of him has already arrived as his office is full of boxes of books. Now Sheila, his wife, claims with a straight face, that the boxes that hold all of the books came from the liquor store not from their own supply. I guess being the Minister's wife, we have to believe her!!

The Board has been busy preparing for the New Year ahead. We held our first meeting in August and Marianna Harris from St. Andrew's was kind enough to stand in as our Presbytery representative. We really do owe her such a debt of gratitude for all her help and support this summer. She not only provided Sunday morning Worship leadership in both her home church and while bringing her flock to our home, but she covered many pastoral emergencies some of which she visited on her own initiative without having to be asked to first. There has been a card and small token of our appreciation purchased for Marianna and a card to thank the folks from St. Andrew's for sharing their building, their minister and themselves with us this summer.

In September, there was a joint retreat held for the Board and the M&P Committee. During the process of interviewing candidates for the ministry, it became apparent to the Joint Search Committee that the function of the M&P Committee and its relationship with the Board was paramount to a healthy relationship with a new minister. On the recommendation of the Search Committee, this retreat was set up. At the retreat, we had two members of Presbytery discuss with us the roles and functions of the M&P Committee. They came from two different congregations who run their committees by two very different models. After the formal workshop part, we were able to discuss Lynn Valley's own situation and we came up with some very concrete recommendations for the M&P Committee and the Board to follow through with.

The role of the M&P Committee is both supportive and supervisory. All staff members are ultimately accountable to the Board through the M&P Committee. The members of the M&P Committee are there to help support staff members in the case of conflict and they also perform annual performance evaluations, review of job descriptions and setting of annual goals and

objectives. The M&P Committee acts not only as a support for the staff members but also for members of the congregation, but you will be greatly relieved to know that they will not be conducting performance evaluations or goal setting exercises for congregation members.

The Board looks forward to a very busy and fulfilling year together. I do want to point out that this will be Roger's final year as Treasurer of our Board. This is a vital role to the healthy functioning of our congregation. I would like to encourage anyone who has some interest or skill in managing finances to consider taking on this role. If you decide early on that this is something you might consider doing, Roger would be pleased to show you the ropes throughout this year and maybe even share some of the duties next year in order to make the transition smooth.

Enjoy the rest of the sunshine this Fall and we look forward to a bountiful New Year with God's blessing.

*Myrna Pearce  
Chair of the Board*

## FIRST THINGS

Lynn Valley United Church has a long history of providing support for the First United Church's mission church in Vancouver's downtown eastside. First has been experiencing many changes; they value our support as much as ever.

For more information on any of the following, visit First's web site at [www.firstunited.ca](http://www.firstunited.ca)

First continues to provide emergency clothing to those who are in need. Socks and towels and blankets are needed more than ever as there are many more people sleeping at First than ever before and there is a greater need for all the services that First has always provided. The web site also has a detailed list of foods needed for the emergency and volunteer food program.

Our September Helping Hands offering goes to First United. You can bring your contributions of clothing, jewelry and household wares, towels, socks, bedding (no pillows), and food supplies to LVUC and they will be delivered to First.

### **Vancouver Premiere Dee Daniels performs the Sacred Music of Duke Ellington**

*Friday, November 20, 2009 8:00 pm at St. Andrews Wesley United Church*

After six months of exciting planning we are announcing a major fund raiser for First United Church! We will be kicking off the celebration of First's 125 Anniversary for 2010, Duke Ellington's 110 th Birthday with a performance of Ellington's Sacred Music.

This is the first time this important music has been performed in Western Canada and we have an all star line up of talent to showcase this amazing music: Dee Daniels, the Fred Stride Orchestra, Phoenix Chamber Choir, James Caddell and Troy McLaughlin.

For tickets call Nina Matthews 604-681-8365 (ext.117)

General admission \$35; Special reserved seating and reception \$125

**Our Thrift Store is now open at 340 East Hastings St.** - just three doors down from the Mission .

*Our hours are 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.*

We are now able to accept donations of these items: men's and women's clothing, jewelry, accessories, household wares, bric-a-brac and knick-knacks, vases, dishware, lamps , linens & blankets ( *no pillows* ), Seasonal Items - Halloween, Christmas, Valentines etc.

Donations can be made 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday through the front door. If you are unable to deliver within these hours please call and make arrangements through the Mission Office at 604-681-8365. Thank you

### **First United opens its doors at night**

- First United has recently received word from BC Housing and the City of Vancouver that our funding for the Place of Refuge, our night-time shelter, has been extended through to April 2010. This funding will enable us to continue to remain open 23 hours out of every 24 and to provide three meals a day to the

approximately 200 people who continue to make First United their home.

**Shoppers Drug Mart** has made available a great opportunity for all of us to support First through their Shoppers Optimum Program

**A weekly Celebration of Life - every Wednesday.** Service starts at 6pm and ends at 7.30pm (Light supper included) - includes live music and community participation. (Limited parking available under the building)

Help build a community:

*Where* those who 'have' not only are able to give, but also find that there is much for them to receive; And those who are in need not only receive, but discover how much they have that they can give.

*Where* post-modern atheists, traditional Christians and members of other faith communities can make a difference together.

*Where* social class, material circumstance and ethnic differences are all embraced as part of a rich tapestry; And the intentional inclusion of everyone and anyone, helps to create a community with no margins.

*Where* life is celebrated, peace and justice is proactively fostered, and our responsibility for the environment is consciously and actively embraced.

More information at <http://www.firstunited.ca/midweekcelebration.htm>

*Judith Clark*

## WHAT'S UP ???

DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS / RESPONSIBILITY
Sunday, September 27	Helping Hands Sunday	First United
Sunday, October 4	Blair Odney's First Sunday Potluck Lunch to follow	Contact Marion Kirk
Sunday, October 11	Thanksgiving Helping Hands Sunday	Sharing Abundance lunch program at St. Andrew's
Sunday, October 18		
Saturday, October 24	<b>Fall Fair</b>	
Sunday, October 25	Helping Hands Sunday	Sharing Abundance lunch program at St. Andrew's
Sunday, November 1		
Sunday, November 8	Remembrance Sunday Helping Hands Sunday	<b>Do you have a suggestion? (Phone the office)</b>
Wednesday, November 11	Board Meeting	
Sunday, November 15	Possible date for Covenanting Service for Blair Odney	
Sunday, November 22	Helping Hands Sunday	<b>Do you have a suggestion? (Phone the office)</b>
Sunday, November 29	Advent I Anniversary C.G.I.T. Vesper Service Service	

## SEXUAL ABUSE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

At the Board Retreat, we reviewed the Sexual Abuse Policy and Procedures pamphlet published by the National Church. It is important for everyone to know that this information exists and to know that there are contact numbers for anyone to use should they feel that it is warranted.

The pamphlet is posted on the bulletin board outside the

Minister's Office. It outlines clearly what happens once a case of abuse has been reported and also contains the contact information.

It is this information that we wish to pass on to you at this point. For British Columbia a consultant can be reached at:

1. The local Conference office at 1-800-934-0434.

2. The United Church of Canada, Ministry and Employment Policies and Services at 1-800-268-3781 ext 7788 or email: [private@united-church.ca](mailto:private@united-church.ca)

There has never been a case reported of sexual abuse at Lynn Valley United Church and we hope that this information is never ever needed.



**SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 24, 2009  
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.**

# **FALL FAIR**

**Welcome to**

## **Outside**

Fish Pond & Kids Activities  
Pony Rides (weather permitting)  
Farm Fresh Produce  
Live Entertainment  
Hot Dogs/Korean Food  
Halloween Corner  
Community Crafters

## **Upstairs**

Crafts, Jams & Jellies in the  
"Country Treasures Room"  
Gently Used Book Sale  
& the VERY POPULAR  
"Bag Your Own" Cookie Room

## **Downstairs**

Tea Room  
"Ready to Bake" Homemade Frozen Pies

Lynn Valley  
United  
Church

Harold Rd

Lynn Valley Road

**Lynn  
Valley  
Cent**

Mountain Hwy