

# Lynn Valley Herald

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March 2007

## Message From Sharon

I've just come home from an evening working with some 25 people from our congregation serving a hot dinner to about 150 people at First United Church.

What a time it was! I have served many meals, and snacks, and sat with many folk in that building, several years back when I was a ministry intern there. I wondered if I would see any friends from back then... I saw none.

The neighborhood has changed a lot. There were a few youths among the diners, and some in their 20's, and 30's. In the Downtown Eastside 40 year-olds are senior citizens. Life is very tough... it speeds the aging process.

Bob chatted with a fellow who said he used to live on Dovercourt, in Lynn Valley, and then things went badly for him, he lost everything... "and now I'm down here...!"

It made me think of the story of Jesus... how everything seemed to be pointing to his rising star. People were clambering to find him, to have him touch them

with healing, and teach them his ways, and especially it seemed, they ate with him. He ate in their homes, and he fed them on hillsides. Table fellowship was the center of his relationships. I wonder if it was because so many of the people who came to him needed some place to eat, and he knew they were hungry.

In any case, he was becoming more and more a challenge to the authorities as he lifted up the hopes and lives of the ones who had so little. I suspect the people who gathered around him on those Galilean hillsides may not have been so very different from the people who came for our hot dinner at First United.

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on that long-ago Sunday morning, on a donkey borrowed for the occasion, the people shouted "Hosanna!" It means "Save us!" They had such hope, such high expectations! They put down their coats and palm branches to mark his path... did they know where he was planning to go? Or did they determine his path for him with their gestures?

So Jesus road into town like a hero, thanks to the confidence

of those who received him. For a few days things went relatively smoothly for Jesus and his closest friends, but then things began to unravel. Tensions built gradually but steadily!

At First UC, when the first diners were finished eating and began to leave, others who had been outside the doors looking in gained access to our "dinner party." Others outside waited patiently, but when it began to look like the food would run out before everyone was fed, tensions began to mount. I wondered if things would unravel. When a

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## Calendar of Events

- Mar. 30 **Labyrinth Walk** at St Paul's Anglican Church, Vancouver, at 7 pm. (leaving LVUC at 6:30 pm).
- Apr. 1 **Palm/Passion Sunday** worship led by River City Gospel Jazz Band.
- Apr. 6 **Good Friday** Service at 10:30 am.
- Apr. 8 **Easter Sunday** worship with Holy Communion and special music.
- Apr. 28 **Garage Sale** 9:30 am – 1 pm.
- May 4 **Family sleepover** in the church with Christine and Sharon (more details soon).
- May 6 Worship led by Christine and **Children's Worship** group.
- May 27 **Pentecost Sunday**. Thank you to **Alison** on her last Sunday as our trumpeter!
- May 13 Next **newsletter** deadline.

## Tuesday at the Well

On March 30 this group is going to **walk the labyrinth as St Paul's Anglican Church**, at 1130 Jervis in the West End. We will car pool from LVUC leaving our church at 6:30 pm. **If others would like to join us you are most welcome.**

We are just about to begin to read and discuss Huston Smith's book, *The Illustrated World's Religions: A Guide to our Wisdom Traditions*. It gives an overview of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and the Primal Religions. If this interests you, please join us. Our next gathering date is Tuesday, April 10 at 7:30 pm, in the lounge.

## First Things

*Miles for Mission* is in its second year, with an invitation to runners and walkers to "exercise your soul" by participating in either the Vancouver Sun Run (10 km.) on April 15 or the BMO Vancouver (Half) Marathon (13 miles = about 20 km.) on May 6 and raise funds to support First United Church Mission in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. LVUC is once again sponsoring runner David Turner in the half marathon with its Helping Hands donation during March.

*Youth Group Dinner* – First United regularly invites congregations and community groups to provide a cooked dinner at First on a Saturday night. Lynn Valley last did this 10 years ago with the CGIT and Youth Groups; the tradition was revived on Saturday, March 24 by our Youth Group under the leadership of Ryan Corbett. Twenty-five members of the Youth Group and Congregation and friends turned out to serve the chili dinner cooked by twenty-five others (okay, there is some overlap). Approximately 140 people came to First to be served a hot sit-down meal; a few had to be turned away when the chili and sandwiches ran out. Costs of the dinner were paid by the generous donations made at Talent Night, organized by Mary Yan and Bob Copeman. These events go beyond providing calories and comfort; they give us a broader understanding as we consider the question "Who is my neighbour?"

*Rev. Ruth Wright* is retiring at the end of June from the position of Executive Director of the Mission, after ten years of dedicated service. She will be honoured at an evening of "Music and Musings" on June 1 at Mount Seymour United Church, her home congregation.

Watch for more information.

Judith Clark



## Anything But Bored

Much has happened since our last newsletter. We were all taken by surprise when Sharon announced her plans to retire this June. We understand this to be a good time for changes in her life as Bob is retiring as well, and we all wish her so much happiness and rest. The past 13 years have been filled with love and caring and wonderful ministry from Sharon and although we do wish her well, we feel a sense of loss.

This also means that as a congregation we have entered into a new and very exciting time. I say exciting because a large part of excitement is fear and uncertainty; if you think about riding a roller coaster, you will know what I mean. This will be a time where, as a congregation, we will be asked to look inward to consider what our personal needs are; we will be asked to look beside us to see what the needs of the other members of our congregation are and we will be asked to look outside our doors to consider what the needs of our community are. We will need to work together in a way we have not had to

for 13 years to discover what the direction of our congregation will be. Exciting, scary, hopeful.

At the time of our last Newsletter, our Board was about to engage in another Board Retreat. We spent an entire Saturday together looking at issues that we just don't have time to work on during our regular monthly meetings. We accomplished so much in the short time and it was a wonderful experience. One of the issues we discussed was the Wonder Cafe initiative as introduced by the National church. We read through the material provided and considered why this was such an important project for our church personally and our national church on a larger scale. The church has identified that there are a large number of 30-45 year old people who were brought up in the United Church but no longer attend. This initiative is designed to reach out to them. Please keep an eye out as we endeavor to be a part of this movement to reach out to this segment of our community.

Another matter that has been discussed at our meetings is the need for additional help with the maintenance of our

church building. Our building is aging and at times is requiring a lot of work to keep it going. Ken, Roger, Stan and John have been working at all hours and for many long hours to deal with property issues as they arise. While these men are retired and therefore available, alone they cannot keep up with the demands of the building. Please consider how you, your spouse, or offspring might be available to help with some of these ongoing tasks.

There will be a Special General Meeting on April 1 right after the service. At this meeting the Board will be recommending that we request Presbytery to appoint an Interim Minister to serve our congregation for the period of one year. We will also be asking the congregation to approve a Transition Committee that will be charged with analyzing the present needs of our congregation in terms of selecting an Interim Minister to help us through this next year. They will interview and determine which candidate they would recommend for appointing to this interim position.

Thank you for your time and continued support for the work of the Board,

*Myrna Pearce*

## Garage Sale

Now that we finally have a bit of sunny weather, we are thinking about spring cleaning! Our annual Garage Sale is coming on April 28, so let's get ready!

Please search your closets for old GOOD stuff, including clothes. We are also looking for pricers and movers on Thursday and Friday before the sale, sales people for the sale and movers for after.

*Ray Boucher*



## Financial Update

The financial picture as of the end of February is something of a mixed bag! Our total Revenue is almost \$3,800 ahead of last year's pace and our total Expenses are \$1,000 less than last year. This has resulted in a healthy Operating Surplus, but all is not as it seems!

Facility rentals and fund raising are \$4,200 ahead of last year, but donations are \$600 behind, and \$3,100 below the year-to-date budget. Property costs are \$500 less than last year and include about \$2,000 of costs associated with drainage repairs. However, there is another \$1,200 to be paid out in March, and more to come before the problems are fully resolved.

Our financial situation, as at February 28, 2007, is as follows:

### Revenue:

Donations	\$ 65,847	67.9%	of Annual Budget
Rental Income	\$ 28,574	69.8%	
Fund Raising	\$ 8,960	75.9%	
Other Income	<u>\$ 525</u>	<u>13.2%</u>	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 103,906	67.6%	

### Expenses:

Staff Compensation	\$ 63,949	62.4%
Office & Property	\$ 18,509	53.6%
Program & Other	\$ 7,203	69.1%
UCW Share of Fall Fair	<u>\$ 3,966</u>	<u>99.2%</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 93,627	61.4%

OPERATING SURPLUS \$ 10,279



Our current operating surplus is \$5,800 higher than forecast, but this due to property costs being \$3,000 below budget and other expenses coming due later than anticipated. As mentioned in my last report, we anticipate the cost of tree removal at the rear of the property to be well over \$5,000, so our present surplus will be much needed in the near future. At June 30, we still anticipate being close to balancing revenue and expenses.

Our donations to outreach projects continue to amaze. In 8 months since July 1, 2006, we have received over \$8,000 for the Mission and Service Fund and over \$4,000 in Memorial donations. In addition, donations to First United, our Sandwich Making project, the Harvest Project, Alexander Allcock Trust and the B.C. Schizophrenia Society have exceeded \$4,300. We also received \$1,060 from the Guess Who's Coming To Dinner and Helping Hands donations for our Youth Group. And then we raised an additional \$743 at our Talent night in early March to provide dinner at First and \$658 from the Men's Club Chicken Sale that will help reduce our Roof Loan! Wow!!

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to our work and mission in Lynn Valley and beyond.

Roger Eastwood  
Treasurer

## Sandwich Making

### LVUC Sandwich Making Project Breaks All Records in March 2007!

On March 18, members of our congregation came downstairs to help prepare sandwiches for street youth in downtown Vancouver for Ellen's Ministry. To our overwhelming surprise, we found ourselves overflowing with incredible donations from the congregation, from many jars of peanut butter, cheese whiz and jam, to donations of ham given in lieu of gifts for **Hannah Focken's** birthday, donations of roast beef from **Bett Proseri-Porta from Windsor Meats**, donations of tuna from **Rosemary Postlethwaite**, donations of a pickled baloney mix from **Rachel Lord** as well as finding ourselves with lots more gloves to keep us "food safe" from **Myrna Pearce**. Thank you as well to **Lorie and Waring Pentland** who always bring in two loaves of home-made sandwiches to add to our collection! It was absolutely incredible to gather up all the

sandwich making goodies. WOW and Thank you!

In the end, we had **776 sandwiches** ready for delivery in just **ONE** hour! Not only did we break our record in the time it took to set up, make sandwiches and clean up but we also made more meat and fish sandwiches than ever! (And our sandwiches were really filled - no thin sandwiches for anyone!)

	Feb.	Mar.
Peanut Butter	74	120
PB and Jam	124	10
Cheese Whiz	213	0
Baloney	0	31
Ham/Ham&Cheese	140	173
Salami	44	0
Roast Beef	38	290
Salmon/Char	117	0
Tuna	0	132
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>756</b>

PLUS 2 loaves of home made meat filled sandwiches - 20

**A total of 776 sandwiches were delivered to Ellen's Ministry on Sunday, and of these 776 sandwiches, 646 were either meat or fish!!**

I thank you as well for continuing to make **financial** donations. Thank you for **collecting bottles** and donating the money earned to our sandwich-making project. Thank you to the **special teacher** within our congregation who has a unique jar in her classroom which she collects money from students for various tasks and which she donates to us. Thank you to those of you who **roll up your spare change** and help our sandwich-making fund grow. Thank you to many of you - who are making **substantial financial donations**. All of you are ensuring the future of our project. Thank you.

While I personally long for the day when there will no longer be a need for us to gather together to make sandwiches for street youth, the fellowship is something I would greatly miss. No matter what is going on in my life, being a part of our monthly sandwich making always humbles me and gives me the belief in goodness and love.



In peace,  
joy Fai

## Library Corner

Thanks to all who have donated books to the Library recently. I do accept donations of books as long as they are not too old and not a duplication. Suggestions for your spring reading enjoyment:

*A Sundog Moment* by Barbara Baldacci—a moving story of a

woman's struggle to accept a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis.

*Walking In A Relaxed Manner* by Joyce Rupp - a woman's growth of faith while on a pilgrimage in Spain.

*Walking The Way* by Terence Anderson

New books for children:

*A Very Special Me* by Carol Balderston



*Barney-A Sharing And Caring Treasury*

Plus poems and short stories by Anne Marriott, books about Christian Education and many more. Remember, like fine coffee, a good book is satisfying to the very end.

Good reading,  
Helen Preston  
Church Librarian

## Naramata Centre

Restore • Refresh • Create

I have gone to Naramata Centre each summer to participate in a variety of programs, from large choirs, to gospel singing, to humour programs and more. My daughter has participated in writing, singing, drumming, marimba band, and art programs, to name a few. My granddaughter has attended youth programs with children her age as well as intergenerational programs and choirs. Each time we have stayed in humble cottages and enjoyed the fellowship of many wonderful folks from BC and Alberta, who gather to share activities in the spirit of fun and friendship. Naramata has been running for over 60 years, and we have even met people who have come consistently for over 25 years in a row! We are among many other families who attend with

3 generations in tow!

This year, for the first time in over 30 years, Naramata Centre is asking United Church members and friends to support the Centre in order to restore the sagging facilities and to provide a place where people from all walks of life can continue to enjoy this centre for generations to come.

Andrew Church, the Centre's director, has written to many participants to let us know about the new Capital Campaign currently underway: "In the spirit of an old fashioned barn-raising, we invite you to be part of realizing this dream... so that we will be able to carry out the significant upgrades necessary."

It is easy to support this important United Church facility.

Send a cheque to Diane Ransom, Director of Development, Naramata Centre, Box 68, Naramata, BC V0H 1N0

OR, better yet, to make an ongoing pledge to Naramata Centre. Contact Diane and ask for a campaign pledge form. Besides her mailing address, she can also be reached at 1-877-996-5751 ext 208.

The pledge forms make it easy to donate to Naramata regularly over a period of time. Some people are pledging a monthly amount for the next few years. Others are more comfortable pledging an annual gift for the next three years. Many are making a donation right now, and others are making provisions in their wills to include Naramata. Still others are donating volunteer time. Let's show our warm



Lynn Valley support for a centre which meets the needs for learning and spiritual nurturing for families and individuals of all ages.

*Shirley Mann*  
Naramata Rep

## Chicken Sale

This year's LVUC Men's Group annual chicken sale was a great success, with a net profit of \$657.96, compared to \$569.67 (2006), \$451.41 (2005), 415.89 (2004) and \$379.51 (2003). The proceeds will be used as a repayment to the church's roofing repair loan.

This year 56 boxes of chicken were purchased (30 orders), up from 42 boxes (17 orders) in 2006.



Many thanks to Mac & Louise Porter for the annual chicken form, to Don Roberts, Alan Mann and Roger Eastwood for sorting and distribution and to Orville Jantz for organizing and distributing the order forms as well as compiling the orders. Orville also handled the ordering and receiving (over an hour early).

Chicken sales started in 1987 - so this is our 21st year. Many people have reported that they love the chicken, but sometimes run out after about half a year. They have asked for consideration of a mid-year chicken sale. If you would like to consider a mid-year chicken sale please advise Orville at 604-987-0109 or Alan at 604-986-3596 or email to alanmann@shaw.ca.

*Orville Jantz and Alan Mann,*  
Coordinators

## Golf for Camp Fircom

A reminder to all golfers and friends of Camp Fircom: the Golf Tournament will be on Monday, May 28, at University Golf Club - 5185 University Blvd, Vancouver (Near UBC). Tee times will be between 11 am and 1 pm with a Texas Scramble format. The entry fee of \$175 (payable by Visa, MasterCard, cash, or cheque) includes the green fee, pull car, light lunch, barbecue full dinner and silent auction, and a tax receipt from Camp Fircom for \$40. Mulligans will be available for purchase at the tournament and we are expecting the popular putting competition from last

year to be back. (We had three finalists last year.)

Since this is a fund raiser, those unable to participate - golfers and others - are invited to make a donation to Camp Fircom for which a tax receipt will be issued. Please make cheques payable to "The Camp Fircom Society."

Yes, you may invite your friends to join with us. The more the merrier. Last year we had 11 golfers and we hope to reach about 20 this year.

Jim and Pat McVicar have just returned from vacationing in Arizona and have brought their golf clubs back with them this year - good news!! More good news: Bill Reid and

Rod Pearce missed last year's event, but they plan to rejoin the group this year. Dave Backie plans to play, too, and newcomer members Ralph Castagna and John McCreery are interested. Ken and Shirley McKeen are on vacation and will test their golf skills. We hope they will be able to join us, too, this year.

Alan Mann will be contacting all returning golfers and prospective new golfers in the next week or two. To register, or if you have any questions please contact Alan at 604-986-3596 or alanmann@shaw.ca. Remember this is a worthy fundraiser - be generous.

*Alan Mann*  
Coordinator

## Property Report

As indicated in the report from the Chair of the Board, the maintenance of the church property has posed a number of challenges in the past few months; the major concern being with drainage. During the month of February, a new storm water drain was installed from the back of the church to the stream. Some problems still remain, and we are about to embark on installing internal piping to improve drainage into an existing sump.

Other ongoing work included replacement of a concrete path at the back of the church which had to be lifted during the drainage work; repair and replacement of the church sign

which was vandalized; and making arrangements for removal and replacement of some of the larger trees behind the church. We are working on the tree issues with a certified arborist, and have the approval of DNV.

The drainage installation was hard work, and landscaping and seeding is still required in the area. It would be much appreciated if we could have some additional volunteers to help with this, and with the work parties which will be needed to take on the spring and summer tasks.

Finally, special thanks to Ken McKeen for spearheading the maintenance work, which is an onerous responsibility, and to the others who have put in so much effort. *John Bruce*

## New Hymns?

Hymns for the Over Fifty Crowd:

- ◆ Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up
- ◆ It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt
- ◆ Nobody Knows The Trouble I Have Seeing
- ◆ Just A Slower Walk With Thee
- ◆ Go Tell It On The Mountain, But Speak Up
- ◆ Give Me That Old Timers' Religion
- ◆ Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah; I've Forgotten Where I've Parked



*via the Internet*

## Message from Sharon

*(continued from page 1)*

few were turned away without even a sandwich while others may have eaten enough for two, I felt bad! The ones we could not feed would likely be hungry for the night. Among the last, who went away empty, were two women in wheelchairs whom I had not even seen until it was too late. We had nothing left to give!

"The poor you will always have with you!" That's what Jesus said when the woman used the whole jar of oil to anoint his feet and Judas suggested something "better" should have been done. She also had nothing left to give, and Jesus blessed her.

We had nothing left to give because we had already fed 150 hungry souls! It was as if we had broken the alabaster jar of nard and anointed Jesus over and over, 150 times, right there at First United!

The Risen Christ is among us in the life of this community and congregation. Let us rejoice, and respond with acts of loving kindness.

Easter Blessings, *Sharon*



## Inner Strength?

- ◆ If you can get up without caffeine or pep pills
  - ◆ If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
  - ◆ If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
  - ◆ If you eat the same food every day and are grateful,
  - ◆ If you understand when your loved ones are too busy for you,
  - ◆ If you can take criticism without resentment
  - ◆ If you can relax without liquor and sleep without drugs,
  - ◆ If you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend,
- ...then you are probably the family dog! *via the Internet*

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