

Lynn Valley Herald

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August 2007

Musings From Mollie

In late August a few years ago a woman with about thirty years of experience as a teacher told a friend, "I both look forward to returning to school, and I dread it. So much has changed in my world and things are just not the way they once were. Some of the children know so little about the things that really matter. They have learned to memorize well but they don't know how to think for themselves, or how to apply to real life the knowledge they supposedly have gained.

"Also, since I teach in a private, Christian school, I used to expect that the children would know something about the Bible. But no! If I refer to the walls of Jericho, they don't know what I am talking about. If I speak of Noah's ark or of David and Goliath, of Mary and Joseph or Peter or Paul, they have no idea who I'm talking about. And they have only a vague sense of Jesus.

"Besides all that, there's been tension among our staff be-

cause we face some cutbacks. Just when we most need to be able to turn to each other with kindness and grace, we seem to have so little of that. Sometimes I find it hard to believe that God is really with us. Sometimes I just find it hard to believe at all. And yet, I love the children and I do love teaching."

How many people do you know who have days like that? When the world as they know it seems to be so different from what they have known. Even for people of deep faith, life can be challenging indeed.

One of the readings that shows up in the lectionary (the three year table of weekly Sunday readings shared by the world-wide Church) comes from what is known as "the letter to the Hebrews." This anonymous work from the New Testament section of the Bible was written in the middle of the 2nd century when the second generation of early Christians was facing persecution.

Concerned that the people would turn away from their faith, the author encourages

them to "hold fast" as he recalls for them the strength of previous generations of people who also struggled with their faith. The way he describes those people is "the cloud of witnesses."

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

It's as if the author of Hebrews is saying to his flock.

(Continued on page 4)



In This Issue...

Angels	7
Anything But Bored	3
Camp Fircom Golf	3
Calendar of Events	2
Choir CD Project Update	2
Congregational Life	2
Fall Fair Poster	6
Financial Update	5
Guess Who?	7
Library Corner	4
Message From Mollie	1
Official Thank You	4
What Does Love Mean?	4

Calendar of Events

- Aug. 26 **Helping Hands Sunday** (for ChildFind BC).
- Sept. 2 **Beach Service at Ambleside** at 10 am – don't forget your chairs!
- Sept. 9 **Helping Hands Sunday** (for First United; also Sept. 23) with **Brendan Wanderer** in church.
- Oct. 7 **Thanksgiving Sunday**.
- Oct. 14 **Helping Hands Sunday** (also Oct. 28).
- Oct. 20 **Fall Fair** from 10 am to 2 pm.
- Oct. 23 **Covenanting Service** for Youth Minister **Brendan Wanderer** at St. David's UC at 7 pm.
- Nov. 11 **Remembrance Day Sunday** and newsletter deadline. **Helping Hands Sunday** (also Nov. 25).



Congregational Life

We are about to start a new era in our congregation, after a very loving and memorable run with Sharon. And with that new era, comes a new article in the Newsletter from me. I will try to make sure we don't forget important upcoming congregational events.

With that said, we are looking forward to the Beach Service on September 2, meeting Brendan Wanderer, our new NS Youth Minister, on September 9, and covenanting with him on October 23 at St. Davids.

Also, October 20 is our Fall Fair. We still need more great pies, jams and jellies, etc. If you haven't given either Kelly or Myrna your preferred area to help out in, please do so as soon as possible.

The date of our Covenanting Service with Mollie Williams will be announced shortly.

We are also hoping to have another meal for First United, tentatively in November. And another "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" is in the works.

Darlene Dreger

Choir CD Project Update

Number of CDs requested and produced: 80

Thank you, thank you, thank you: To all the choir members, Lori Chang-Foidl, Rob Fee and Roger Eastwood (production), Tom Burley (photography), David Yan (CD cover design), Christine Davis, Bob Copeman, Alison Gorman and Esther Janzen (solos) AND all the congregation members, your friends and relatives for your support and appreciation of our music. Great job, everybody!!!!

What people are saying about the CD:

- ♦ *"My friends in England heard it and asked me to tell the choir that they did a really nice job."* A congregation member
- ♦ *"Is this really us? Or is it another choir?"* A choir member
- ♦ *"I admire the lovely vocal sound you get from your singers, the unusually clear diction that lets one hear the words (think how rare that is among choral groups), and the musical way phrases are shaped, with effective dynamic contrast that makes everything work. I especially liked what you did with A Kyrie for Our Time."* A retired music professor; Mary's mentor



And how much have we received from your donations? \$1,090 so far. (The money goes toward upgrading the sanctuary's sound system.)

Mary Yan

P.S. If you would like to receive more copies of the CD, just let me know.

Anything But Bored

Well we start off a new year at the church with a look back and a look forward. The last newsletter came out just before we ended our season of Congregational Meetings. The AGM was held in June and followed the new format from last year, combining the meeting with the worship service.

At the AGM the new Board was confirmed and we now have a full slate with the addition of Bob Powers as the Vice Chair. We also approved the appointment of Mollie Williams as our Interim Minister for a two-year period.

Mollie has had extensive ex-

perience with interim positions and over the next two years will help us, as a congregation, go through the process of discovering who we have been, who we are, and who we want to be. She is excited at the opportunity to work with our congregation. The Board had an opportunity to meet briefly with Mollie before summer holidays started but our work together will really start the end of August with our first Board Meeting on August 22 and then a Saturday morning Board Retreat on August 25.

The duties of the Board will continue to be the administration of the congregation. I have to thank the members of the Transition Committee: Roger Eastwood, Anna Sand-

ers, Don Preston, Steve Lund and Shirley McKeen, as they will be the group to whom Mollie reports and directly works with through the Interim Ministry process. I want to make a special note of appreciation to this group because when they were asked to join this Committee, it was supposed to be for a brief three month stint, and now it has grown into a two year project. The Transition Committee doesn't get to have all the fun though; the Interim Ministry Process involves the entire congregation and everyone will be included in the adventure we about to embark on.

Happy New Year Everyone!!

Myrna Pearce
Board Chair

Camp Fircom Golf

LVUC continues to lead the way with fundraisers for Camp Fircom. Our golfers and other congregation members contributed \$1,700 this year. Our golfers contributed \$955: \$360 in golf fees, \$120 in muligan fees, \$75 from the putting competition and \$400 in silent auction purchases.

Contributions of \$495 came from LVUC golfers unable to participate this year, and from others in the congregation – to whom we give special thanks (Camp Fircom has issued tax deduction receipts). Also, \$250 was contributed from the congregation's May 2007, "Helping Hands" program.

This \$745 (\$495 plus \$250) enabled LVUC to "sponsor a hole" at the tournament. We were the first congregation to ever do this. Our special "sponsored hole" was dedicated to Sharon Copeman for her years of pastoral service to LVUC, as well as to her service to the Camp Fircom Society, (including being a prior member of the Board of Directors). A sign was placed at one of the hole locations for the golfers to view as they passed. Bob and Sharon were also invited to the post-golf banquet as special guests of the Camp Fircom Society.

We had nine golfers - down slightly from last year. The team of Bill Reid, Bud Sobotin, Don Roberts and Dave Backie won the tournament this year at 10 strokes under par, which

was thought to be a new tournament record. Well done all. Pat Taylor, Linda McLean, Bob Powers, and Jim McVicar made up the second team and Alan Mann golfed for the fifth consecutive year, playing with Shaughnessy Heights United Church.

The tournament raised \$22,000 for Camp Fircom. As a result, Camp Fircom was able to open for two short retreat weekends this year. The first was for the BC Conference Camping Committee, and the second was for Vancouver South and Van-Burrard Presbyteries' Annual Youth May Retreat, which was a smashing success. It was great for Fircom to be overrun with youth once again. Many
(Continued on page 7)

Official Thank You

I am not sure how many of you pop your heads into the minister's office on a regular basis but if you haven't recently, you might consider it. Going to the Minister's Office is not like being sent to the Principal's Office, it is a warm and friendly place—especially now. The Board would like to acknowledge all of the work that went into the refurbishing of the Minister's Office over these past few weeks.

The whole project was spearheaded by a most generous donation from the U.C.W. and of course the ever-present organization and supervision of Roger and Ken. The clean-up crew of Maureen, Darlene, Alice, Joan, Kathy and Shirley took over and found the walls and floor again and prepared the way for John Freeland, Roger and Ken to apply a fresh coat of paint. The Reids donated a desk and now it is up to Molly to add the finishing touches to make it her own.



ing touches to make it her own.

Myrna Pearce
Board Chair

Library Corner

Once again in June, the children took home a "bag of books" for summer reading, 33 in all. My thanks go to Christine Davis and Meghan Wright for their help on that day.

Over the past year 60 books have been added to the collection, most of them donated. Two new interesting books of fiction are:

- ◆ *Away*, by Jane Urquart, a story of an Irish immigrant family.
- ◆ *Random Passage*, by Rebecca Morgan, a story about pioneering in Newfoundland.

A new book in the library is *The Ambitious City*, the history of North Vancouver, written by Walter Sommer for the city's Centennial. I was fortunate to have my letter selected in a contest held by the *Vancouver Sun* newspaper.

In Josie's memory the Jantz family just donated three picture albums about past church activities. I invite you to come in to the library, before or after church—the door is always open! Good reading—

Helen Preston
Church Librarian

Musings from Mollie

(Continued from page 1)

"Of course it's hard to believe! Of course it's hard to trust that God is present with us. But do you think you are alone? Were you thinking maybe that the journey of the Christian faith is a solo run." Just think of all those who have gone before you in the faith. They wrestled deeply with their understanding of God's presence in the world. And sometimes they too ran their race exhausted, hungry and worried about the future of the world as they knew it.

Here at LVUC, I am pleased to be among you as your Interim Minister. One of the things we will work on together this fall has to do with looking back in order that we might learn from those who formed and shaped and reformed what has become LVUC. From them we will learn of the challenges they faced. And we will discover what gave them their direction and strength. As we open ourselves to hearing from them we may well have a sense of being surrounded by "a cloud of witnesses" as we prepare not only to look back but to examine the present and then look forward to the future of LVUC.

For now, let us resolve to "run the race" that lies before us together. And may God grant us joy in our journey. Thanks be to God!

Mollie Williams
Interim Minister

What Does Love Mean?

- ◆ "Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy - age 6
- ◆ "Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny - age 7
- ◆ "Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)



Financial Update

For 2006-2007, we enjoyed another good year from a financial perspective. We covered all our costs and maintained all of our existing programs and outreach projects. As predicted, we ended our year with a surplus, although at close to \$6,000, this was larger than expected.

The additional surplus was caused by the carry-over of \$2,000 of expense that the U.C.W. approved for the renovation of the Minister's office and a delay in the replacement of trees at the rear of the property. This will take place later this year and could cost around \$2,000. Downstairs drainage problems also remain to be fully resolved and additional expenditure is anticipated.

As at June 30th, we had \$15,716 in the bank, although more than half of this amount was held in trust for the North Shore Youth Ministry project. As you will probably recall, Lynn Valley accepted responsibility for the financial administration of this project that gets going in September. Our Sandwich Making, after more than a year without any specific fund raising, still has \$837 to its name. Many thanks to those who have continued to support this outreach project with donations and gifts of supplies.

Our financial situation, subject to the annual audit, as at June 30, 2007, is as follows:

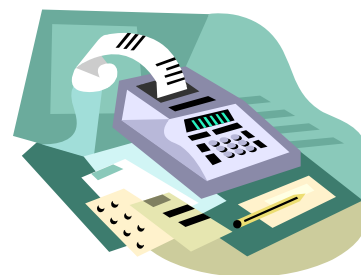
Revenue:

Donations	\$ 97,374	100.5%	of Annual Budget
Rental Income	\$ 42,641	104.2%	
Fund Raising	\$ 12,109	102.6%	
U.C.W. Income	\$ 4,587	-	
Other Income	<u>\$ 3,352</u>	<u>83.8%</u>	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 160,063	104.2%	

Expenses:

Staff Compensation	\$ 99,322	97.0%
Office & Property	\$ 37,556	108.7%
Program & Other	\$ 10,175	106.9%
U.C.W. Expenses	\$ 3,072	-
U.C.W. Share of Fall Fair	<u>\$ 3,966</u>	<u>99.2%</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 154,091	101.1%

OPERATING SURPLUS \$ 5,972



The audited Financial Statements are expected to be available by the end of September, and will be published with details of all trust and other funds.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way to help us achieve this relatively strong financial position. This has allowed us to employ Rev. Mollie Williams as our Interim Minister for the next two years. It also gives us a good base from which to move into the future, wherever we may feel the hand of God leading us.

Roger Eastwood - Treasurer



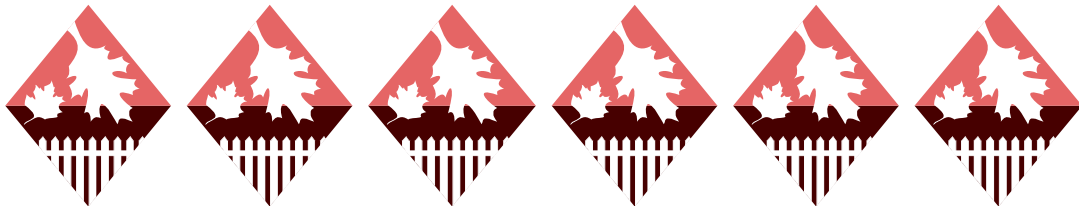
Fall Fair

Lynn Valley United Church

3201 Mountain Highway
North Vancouver, BC

Saturday, October 20, 2007
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Home baked bread, crafts, pies, cookies,
farm fresh produce, pony rides,
fish pond, tea room



Camp Fircom Golf

(Continued from page 3)
thanks to all. We look forward to Camp Fircom soon being in full operation.

Next year's golf tournament and banquet will be Monday, May 26, 2008, at the UBC Golf Club. All golfers—past, present, and future—are always welcome.

Alan Mann, Coordinator



Angels

- ♦ "I only know the names of two angels. Hark and Harold." Gregory, age 5
- ♦ "Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it." Olive, age 9
- ♦ "Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else." Mitchell, age 7
- ♦ "My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science." Henry, age 8
- ♦ "All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and the boys didn't go for it." Antonio, age 9

Via email

Guess Who?

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner on Saturday, September 29, at 7 pm? That's the mystery. Would you like to be a host and find out? Would you like to be a guest and dine at a new "bistro?"

This event is always a wonderful time for food, fun and friendship. Fundraising is a side benefit and this time the sound system will be the beneficiary.

Check your calendars and please give me a call. I look forward to hearing from you.



Sue Roy
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