

# Lynn Valley Herald

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February 2007

## Message From Sharon

My dear friends, I expect we have probably all seen at least one of the WonderCafe.ca ads produced by the United Church of Canada in the past couple of months. Their stated purpose is to create a home for open-minded Christians, particularly folk between the ages of 30 and 45. The interest has been huge! Between Dec. 10 and Jan. 8 (29 days) there were 9122 searches into this virtual UC community.

Last weekend I attended Epiphany Explorations in Victoria. It was a rich time of listening, exploring, and experiencing the presence and wisdom of the Holy, active in our leaders. Two of those leaders were Keith Howard, who is a Victoria writer, minister, and executive director of our Emerging Spirit campaign, and Harry Oussoren, from General Council. I want to share some of what we learned with you, as I think it is very significant and timely for our church.

Keith quoted Rabbi Edwin H Freidman, author of **Generation to Generation**, and work on family systems theory. Freidman writes, "The person

*who can most accurately describe reality without laying blame will emerge the leader, whether designated or not."*

The Emerging Spirit Team, in seeking to understand what is going on, have suggested 3 possibilities: (1) we are in the midst of a temporary blip and in time will return to the old norm; (2) we are in exile, displaced, with no power to create an alternate future; or (3) we are on a pilgrimage. Pilgrimage involves journey, with a time of longing, discernment, preparation, departure, separation, traveling, community, arrival. There is a kind of return to something physically familiar, but along the way we have been changed.

We believe the time is right and we are indeed on a pilgrimage. The research points to signs of God's Spirit emerging in our midst, calling us forward.

The reality is that we are here by God's grace, signified by the rainbow, and we need to be changed, reinvented, as humans created in God's image. Harry reminded us of the image in Hebrews 13:2... *Do not hesitate to show hospitality to strangers, in so doing some have entertained angels unaware.*

Keith and Harry gave us much to think about. The Emerging Spirit initiative has been focused on conversations with people age 30 to 45, raised in the UC but not currently attending any church. These conversations have guided the work of our church in seeking to enter meaningful relationship with this generation of our people, who have opted out of church in recent years.

What these people name as the things they most miss and therefore would long to find in church includes music, a cross-generational experience  
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## Calendar of Events

- Feb. 4 **Communion Service**, followed by **Multicultural Pot Luck Lunch**. Newsletter Distribution today, too.
- Feb. 11 **Helping Hands** donations towards the BC Schizophrenia Society, North Shore Branch. Also Feb. 25.
- Feb. 18 **Sandwich Making** after worship.
- Feb. 21 **Ash Wednesday**.
- Feb. 24 **Board Retreat** (9 am – 5 pm).
- Feb. 25 **Lent** begins.
- Feb. 27 LVUC hosts Presbytery Dinner.
- Mar. 4 **Communion Service**.
- Mar. 11 **Helping Hands** donations towards First United. Also Mar. 25.
- Mar. 18 **Sandwich Making** after worship. Next newsletter deadline.

## Wool Needed!

Ladies (and men?) in our congregation regularly knit squares to be made into warm blankets for distribution to the homeless through First United or the North Shore Lookout.

*We have a problem!!*

Although we have willing knitters, we have an inadequate supply of wool! If you have any suitable wool sitting in your closet/under the bed/stored away for the proverbial rainy day project, please consider donating it to the church. Colour does not matter, and any wool except very fine or very thick is suitable. You can leave it in the office any time and our knitters will be most grateful (as also will the recipients of our blankets).

Thank you.



## Library Corner

In November I attended the North shore chapter of the Congregational Libraries Association held at St. Andrews/St. Stephens Presbyterian church.

It is always helpful to meet with other church librarians and share ideas. Lynn Valley United church will be hosting this meeting in April.

Last fall, I mentioned in a bulletin that there were a few books missing from the Library. Only one book came back after that appeal! Please have another look on your shelves.

I found this parable in the files in the Library – author unknown.

### THE PARABLE OF THE OVERDUE BOOK

“What Librarian having a hundred books, if she loses one of them, doth not leave ninety and nine in the Library and go after that which is lost, until she finds it?

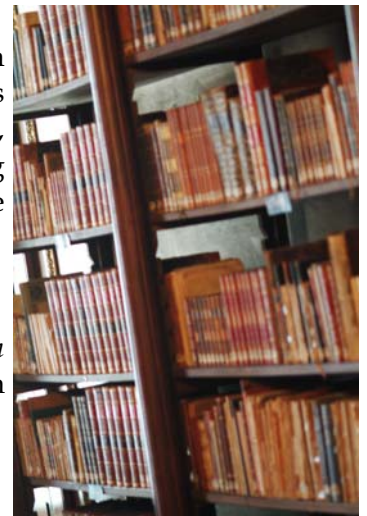
And when she cometh back to the Library, she calleth to the people saying unto them, rejoice with me for I have found my book which was lost.

I say unto you, joy shall be in the Library over all overdues that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons who returneth books on time.

Therefore I ask, hath thou or thine charges in thy possession any wrongfully detained books?

I ask that thou beareth with me and my foibles and returneth to the fold, such items as belong thereto, that there maybe much joy in the Library.”

Respectfully submitted,  
*Helen Preston*  
Church Librarian



## Financial Update

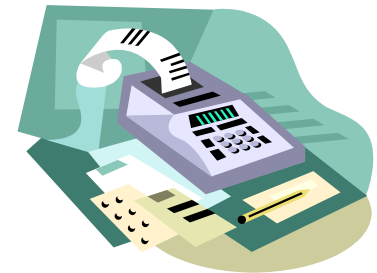
At the end of December, our financial position looks quite favourable, but this is a somewhat deceptive picture. In terms of our Revenue, the Fall Fair produced \$7,932, an increase of \$14 over last year! Our regular donations are \$1,000 ahead of last year, but \$1,250 below our budget, not including any increase to accommodate our commitment to the North Shore Youth Ministry.

On the Expense side, we have spent about \$4,000 less than last year, mostly on our property operating costs. Some of this is due to the repairs and maintenance that were carried out last year to the boiler and heating system. This has contributed to a reduction in our heating costs of about 25%. However, we are facing some large bills in the next few months when we complete work to correct some drainage problems and remove the dangerous trees at the back of the property.

Our financial situation, as at December 31, 2006, is as follows:

### Revenue:

Donations	\$ 52,803	54.5%	of Annual Budget
Rental Income	\$ 21,509	52.6%	
Fund Raising	\$ 8,960	75.9%	
Other Income	\$ 375	9.4%	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 83,647</b>	<b>54.4%</b>	



### Expenses:

Staff Compensation	\$ 46,371	45.3%
Office & Property	\$ 10,324	29.9%
Program & Other	\$ 4,958	43.0%
UCW Share of Fall Fair	\$ 3,966	99.2%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 65,619</b>	<b>43.0%</b>

**OPERATING SURPLUS**                    \$ 18,028

Our current operating surplus is \$4,700 better than last year at the same time, mostly due to reduced expenses, as mentioned above. However, with the cost of the tree removal expected to be well over \$5,000, this present advantage may be short lived.

Our donations always peak in December, with annual donors often contributing around Christmas, and as the deadline for annual tax receipts draws near. On a weekly basis, we have received an average of \$1,755 per week in offerings during the first 6 months of our fiscal year. Our budgeted amount was \$1,803, so we are a little behind our projected total. If this rate of shortfall continues until June 30, we could see a \$2,500 shortfall in our offerings total.

Our congregational objective in 2006 for the Mission & Service Fund was \$14,000. I am happy to report that we remitted a total of \$14,325.75 to our national office, including \$1,500 from the U.C.W. Thanks to everyone who helped us achieve this fantastic result!

*Roger Eastwood*  
Treasurer

## Sandwich Making

Thank you to everyone who helped out with Sandwich Making last time. We beat all records in getting done early!! And that is because of you.

As well, we were getting quite low on sandwich making supplies, and yet, by the time the morning was over and all the donations of food collected, we find ourselves in terrific shape. Thank you for the tremendous donations of ham, salmon, chicken salad, peanut butter, jam, cheese whiz and your time!!! Thank you for the help in set up and clean up too!

Also, Save-On Foods has not only met Costco's reduced bread pricing but beaten it - so, while it is not free, it is bought at a substantial reduction of costs, AND it keeps our donations spent in our own community.

We made the following numbers of sandwiches:

- ◆ 180 Peanut Butter
- ◆ 180 Peanut Butter with Jam
- ◆ 120 Cheese Whiz
- ◆ 98 Salmon
- ◆ 80 Ham and Cheese
- ◆ 80 Ham alone
- ◆ 12 Chicken

We also included caring messages with just about all of them too!



There is a CHALLENGE that was discussed during this sandwich making session - so... for next time -

**The Challenge:** On February 18th—Youth versus Mature Adults—Who can make the most sandwiches in the least amount of time?

So rally your friends now and let's see who can make the most sandwiches in the least time on February 18!!

Thank you everyone - for your time - your caring hearts and your donations, financial, in food offerings, and time!

*joy Fai*

## Golf Tournament

Golfers all - mark your calendar now - the coming golf tournament in aid of Camp Fircom will be held on Monday, May 28, 2007, again at the University Golf Club in Vancouver. Although the fee hasn't been announced yet, it is expected to include the usual free pull cart, luncheon vouchers, golf course fee and banquet fee.

Last year's tournament saw the following players representing LVUC: Steve Lund, Alan Mann, Bob Powers, Bob Goodall, Len Walker, Bud Sobotin, Sandy Ferguson, Don Roberts, Linda McLean, Pat Taylor and John Fleming.

Additional interest for this year's tournament has been expressed from Rod Pearce, Bill

Reid, Ken (and possibly Shirley) McKeen, Dave Backie, Ralph Castagna, John McCreery, Pat McKillop and Jim McVicar.

Other known golfers may be able to attend if they can reschedule their work time, including Richard Murray, Doug Sanders, Peter Birrell and Doug Graham.

If you know of other golfers (whether in the congregation or not) who may be interested in participating please advise Alan Mann at (604) 986-3596, or alanmann@shaw.ca.

Final detailed planning information and fee will be sent to our participants when known.

*Alan Mann,*  
coordinator



## Money, Money, Money

This appeal to the congregation is for an upward adjustment in offerings to your church, Lynn Valley United. The Board approved an increase in the pay of our hard-working staff effective January 01, 2007. Additionally, the Youth Group Initiative will soon be implemented and it requires a modest budget allocation. Other operating expenses are also rising. To meet these added costs requires more funds to flow to your church. Please consider this appeal and advise Stan Strilchuk what you can do. Some PAR participants have already increased their monthly deductions. A heartfelt thank you to the people that have responded so positively.

*Stan Strilchuk*

## Anything But Bored

The Board has been very busy dealing with many challenging and interesting issues.

Thank you to all you volunteers who work so diligently and sometimes invisibly to keep our church and congregation alive and functioning. I am not even going to make a list because people will surely be missed. Your time and enthusiasm is much appreciated.

Another thank you to all who participated in the First Gifts Appeal in December. We sent First United more than \$2000. At this time of year when we feel the crunch of Christmas spending, it is so important to realize that the people in the Downtown Eastside feel the crunch of daily living.

The work for the North Shore Youth Ministry is progressing along well. Jennifer Eastwood and the Search Committee have been working out the details and have begun to receive applications. The dead-

line for applications is early February so interviews will begin soon.

Our Board members will be on retreat on February 24. We spent a Saturday on retreat last year discussing issues that we don't have time for at our monthly meetings, and found that it gave us a strong sense of purpose and helped organize our thinking. Let's see if you can spot the things we've learned this year!!

Our congregation will receive our triennial Vancouver Burrard Pastoral Charge Presbytery Visitation this spring. This is an opportunity for the Board, Staff and members of the congregation to meet with Presbytery representatives to review our congregational life and work. Afterwards, they will provide us with a report for guiding future planning.

We are very pleased to report that our Rainbow Daycare is doing very well. They now have 18 families and have been licensed and approved for infant care, which is the backbone of a successful day-

care. The Daycare and its success are vital to our survival as a church. We have a large building and a small but wonderful congregation. Sharing our space with others helps keep our congregation afloat.

We have also been renting out spaces in our parking lot, which brings in income to help offset the annual parking lot maintenance bill. There is nothing that can be done for the lot at this time of year except to remember that, it too, will be brought back to health in the spring.

The last note I have is a bitter-sweet tribute. Anita Saari is moving to the Sunshine Coast at the end of January. Anita has been such a vibrant member of our congregation and the President of the UCW for I don't know how many years. This is a wonderful move for her and we wish her all the best and our blessings for her new life. But we will miss her! Thank you, Anita!

Thank you for your time,  
*Myrna Pearce, Board Chair*

## Chicken Sale

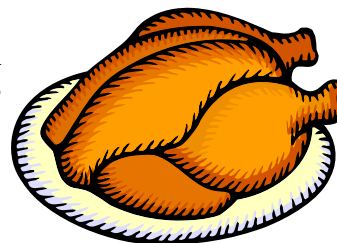
The LVUC Men's Group annual chicken sale will be held again this year. Order forms will be available through the church office - or in the narthex - within a week's time.

Prices look to be increasing slightly over last year. We look forward to an even greater interest than last year when we had our highest profit since the program started.

Order pick up date is tentatively scheduled for on or about Feb 12, 2007.

For information in the meantime please contact Orville Jantz (604) 987-0109 or Alan Mann (604) 986-3596 or email at alanmann@shaw.ca for more information.

*Orville Jantz and Alan Mann, Coordinators*



## Garage Sale

That's right! It's that time of year again when we start thinking of spring-cleaning and our Annual LVUC Garage Sale. April 28 is the big day this year.

We need your surplus saleable quality merchandise but most importantly we need you. Your help has always been the backbone of our success and we are looking for volunteers to help set up the space, price, oversee the tables during the sale, clean-up, etc.

So please keep April 26 to 28 open. As the time approaches, sign up sheets and advertisements will be posted. Also let your family, friends and neighbours know to save their items as well. If you can offer storage space, or you need help with storage of items, please call the church office, as some space in homes is available and more would be helpful.

*Darlene Dreger*

## Naramata Centre

Naramata Centre has recently completed their 2007 program planning calendar. Copies can be obtained in the narthex or through the church office.

The centre is anticipating a rich and full year of programs and wishes to thank everyone who has agreed to offer leadership this year.

Registration for summer programs are being accepted now by mail (Naramata Centre, Box 68, Naramata, BC V0H 1N0), fax (250-496-5800), e-mail ([info@naramatacentre.net](mailto:info@naramatacentre.net)), by phone (877-996-5751 (toll free in BC) or 250-496-5751), or online ([www.naramatacentre.net](http://www.naramatacentre.net))

My daughter Chris, granddaughter Laura and I will be attending a singing program in August.

For more information, please contact me at (604) 986-3596 or [shirleymann@shaw.ca](mailto:shirleymann@shaw.ca).

*Shirley Mann, Naramata rep*

## Presbytery Dinner

Each month, one congregation within the Vancouver-Burrard Presbytery hosts the monthly meeting and provides dinner for the attendees. Our turn has arrived and we will be serving dinner to 50-60 Ministers and Lay Delegates on Tuesday, February 27. This is a congregational responsibility and we need your help to assist with set-up, serving and clean-up.

We need volunteers for the following tasks:

- ♦ Monday evening: move chairs from downstairs
- ♦ Tuesday afternoon: table and chair set-up, table setting and decoration, food preparation
- ♦ Tuesday evening: servers/dining room staff, clean-up, move chairs back downstairs

If you can assist with this event, please add your name to the sign-up sheet that will be on the table at the back of the church, leave your name with the church office or call Joan or Roger Eastwood at 604-980-6140.

Let's give our Presbytery friends a really good Lynn Valley welcome!



## Talent Night

Get out your dancing shoes, tune your guitar, memorize your lines, exercise your fingers, start looking for music (and practice, of course) and get ready for the big **Talent Night** in a few weeks – **Sunday, March 4 at 7 pm at the church.**



We need dancers, musicians, readers, actors and actresses, all kind of performers AND audience to make this night a success and a "funraiser" for all. Contact Bob Copeman (604-263-9917) or Mary Yan (604-980-1124) for sign up and/or questions.

## Children's Worship

During Children's Worship Time we continue to share the stories of Jesus using the Godly Play curriculum. In this new year we are looking specifically at the stories of Jesus - Holy Baptism, The Parable of the Good Shepherd, The Parable of the Good Samaritan, The Parable of the Sower and the Parable of the Mustard Seed. We will follow the Faces of Easter story through Lent and learn about the United Church of Canada M&S projects.

Each Godly Play story has a parent page to send home so the children can share what they learned in Children's Worship with their families. Each page has info on the Godly Play methodology and purpose. What follows is from this resource.

### Understanding Play (Part 1)

To fully enter into Godly Play, we need to be deeply aware of what makes *real* play and what distracts or detracts from it.

- ◆ So many activities that we choose for leisure aren't

really play but *working* at play. For your own personal exploration, choose an activity that feels like wasting time.

- ◆ That's right. Set aside 30 minutes and "waste" it. That runs counter to everything our busy, pragmatic culture believes in, so don't multitask and don't do anything you feel you "should" do. No product, just deep concentration.
- ◆ You may discover that "wasting time" this way draws you into a creative process. You may connect with language in a new way, and you may not even want to use language at all.
- ◆ When you make "room" in your day for something like this, it is an invitation for God, the Creator, to come and play too. It also opens you up again to what you did by nature as a child. Play, then, is an experience you, God and children have in common.

The children are again meeting before the service to sing together. We hope to have some singing to share with the congregation at the beginning of March.

Towards the end of February we are planning to meet for a time of crafting where the children will make something to display in the church.

Our older children (grades 6 and 7) continue to get together once a month outside of church for a social activity. This month we went ice skating. If you know of any Junior Youth who might be interested in joining us for this monthly activity please ask them to contact me at 604-988-7031.

The children's ministry thrives on us adults and older youth sharing our talents and knowledge with the children. If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, through helping on Sunday morning or helping at a special event we would be blessed to have you.

Blessings,  
Christine Davis



## Biblical Bumper Stickers

compare me to his mother.

Abraham: I'm goin' not knowin'.

Noah: Honk if you believe in treading water.

Moses: From a basket case to the promised land.

At the Sinai desert: Winding road next 40 years

Adam: You are what you eat.

Eve: At least he doesn't

## Office Hours

Lynn Valley United Church

Office Hours

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

## Message from Sharon

*(continued from page 1)*

and relationship (especially in an era of extended families living far apart), and supportive values like generosity, and the feeling of being in a global village which lives out of the awareness that it really does take a whole village to raise a child.

The barriers named by those who are no longer attending church were the following: conflict between members and ministers; dwindling numbers;

lack of children's programs; and a sense of a community that is already complete so there is a silent message felt, *"Newcomers need not apply!"*

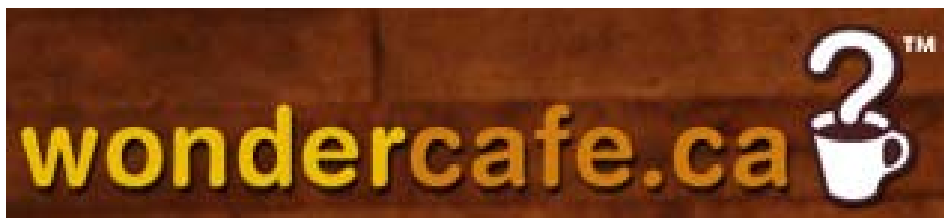
Some have asked, "What is the point of welcoming newcomers into a faith community? Too many are feeling tired and old, what's the point? It's the question about new life... the experience of bringing a new baby into the home. A new baby - new life - involves change and loss, but new life is an immeasurable gift, which makes us rejoice and fills us with thanksgiving! God will

reshape us. God has purpose for our household with all its changes.

Abraham and Sarah saw the strangers who came to them in the desert, and recognized them as bearers of God's presence. What do we see in the strangers who come to us?

God comes to us still! The Emerging Spirit campaign, and WonderCafe.ca give us the opportunity and the challenge to prepare for new life here in our midst. My prayer is that LVUC folk are ready to welcome the next phase of this pilgrimage together, saying with unreserved enthusiasm... *Newcomers joyfully welcomed!*

Blessings, *Sharon*



Lynn Valley United Church  
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