

Lynn Valley Herald

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MUSINGS FROM MOLLIE

Greetings to you as we begin 2008. Last Sunday we worshipped God together for the first time in this new year, as we entered into the season of Epiphany. This is the season in the church year when we celebrate the fresh entrance of God's Light into our darkened world in the person of Jesus who comes as Light for our lives and Light for the world.

During Epiphany we read the stories of Jesus' growing revelation to the world. First come the Gentiles (the Magi who came to Jesus from afar), then we meet John the Baptist (who at first, isn't quite sure how to respond to Jesus), and then, those who in various stages and spaces, become Jesus'

disciples. During Epiphany we are reminded that not everyone who came to Jesus knew instantly who he was or what he was about. In her or his own time, each person who met Jesus came to know him as God's Light.

A Benedictine monk, Brother John Main, spent much of his adult life discovering prayer techniques that would later help Jesus' followers to grow in spiritual strength. Before becoming a monk, John Main studied meditation with spiritual teachers of other faiths. Later, he learned to practice a form of centering prayer which enabled him to develop a "state of un-distraction, a state of attention, a state of awareness" so that the truth of Christ's incarnation could be lived "from the centre of our being."

Main also wrote about the challenge of keeping the faith in a multicultural world. "Our challenge as Christians is not to convert people around us, but to love them, and to be ourselves living incarnations of what we believe."

As we begin 2008, I pray that we at LVUC may grow in our capacity to be "living incarnations of what we believe". We live in a world that easily distracts us from this central task. May God grant us grace and strength that we may continually encounter and be changed by the Light that is Jesus.

Happy New Year everyone!
Mollie Williams
Interim Minister

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NARAMATA

Naramata Centre is in the midst of a 3 million dollar capital campaign for refurbishing the buildings, the grounds, the campgrounds and the air-conditioning system for the Great Hall. Over one million has already raised by donations and pledges from across BC and Alberta.

Architects have been hired to oversee the project.

Our Board has designated Naramata Centre as our HELPING HANDS project for the month of January, 2008.

LVUC members are encouraged to give generously to this project by use of the HELPING HANDS donation box that will be in the aisle on designated Sundays in

January. Members may wish to make a larger donation by cheque and receive a contribution receipt in due course.

In this case, cheques should be made payable to LVUC with a notation that the funds are to be directed to Naramata Centre.

Naramata Centre is open year round and is an accepting, welcoming, caring, Christian community, where we discover how to be with others.

It is a safe and peaceful place where people relax and enjoy themselves, renew relationships, make new friends and open themselves to new experiences and learning.

My eldest daughter, granddaughter and I have attended the Naramata Centre

for the past ten years during summer months - mostly in the one of the choral programs.

There are many other summer programs to choose from, such as: Pottery, Stained Glass Mosaics, Canoeing, Spirit Drum, Family Biking adventure and Sea Kayaking, for children, youth and adults, as appropriate.

A full listing of this year's program activities are outlined in Naramata Centre's annual program calendar. You may review a copy in the Church Narthex or you may wish to talk personally to me about the current program calendar.

Shirley Mann, Naramata Representative

ANYTHING BUT BORED

Well as we enter this New Year together, we realize that instead of looking back at what we were working at over the previous few months, the tendency is to instead want to glimpse ahead, to see what this New Year has to offer.

The continuing work of our Transition Team is a big focus as we as a congregation start to realize what and who we are. As each of the hallmarks of our church year pass, we experience them in a new light with new leadership and sense of ownership. Where will we go from here? How will we get there? Who will be with us along the way?

Our next Congregational Workshop is to be held on March 8th. It will look at "Where are we now?". This is also a topic that the Board will be considering over the next few months as this year we will experience a turnover of some of the members of the Board. The positions of Chair, secretary, property counselor and counselor for groups and communications all come available in June. Being on the Board has been a wonderful experience and although I personally will be very sad to see my term expire, I understand why it is important to continue to bring new faces onto the Board, to let everyone have an opportunity to be involved and to make sure that the ideas and insights that

different people have all have the opportunity to be shared.

I would encourage anyone who has not had the experience of being on the Board to consider this opportunity and for those of you who have been on the Board before; this time of transition is a time when wisdom and experience are very valuable assets. If you wonder what a Board meeting is like, anyone is welcome to attend as long as you are willing to listen, laugh and love; all are included.

As we enter this New Year, we look ahead with hope and expectation and take a step forward together holding hands with each other and with God.

Myrna Pearce

Chair of LVUC Board

LIBRARY CORNER

In October I attended the North Shore Chapter of the Congregational Library Association of B.C. held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. We discussed ways of connecting the Library to the congregation. As a result of this, I will be making a presentation on the Library to the various groups in the church.

We have acquired three very good books for the Library which people are lining up to read (a good thing!!). Thanks for the Memories, compiled by Janet Quenneville for Sharon Copeman, Ambitious City by Warren Sommer, covering 100 years in the city of North Vancouver, and The Boom Years by Don Bourden, which is a pictorial history of North Vancouver.

Thanks to Ken McKeen for the new notice board outside the library door. Thanks also to Kelly Jenner for videos for the Library; a list will soon be on the new notice board.

Cicero said that anyone who has a library and a garden, wants for nothing. May we all be so fortunate as to have both.

Helen Preston

Church Librarian

GROUPS

There are several groups at Lynn Valley United. Here is a member list of each group

Seekers

Shirley Mann, Anne Walker, Darlene Dreger, Maureen Bruce, Kathy Stubbs, Marion Kirk, Mollie William, Nicola Whitham, Pat McVicar, Ray Boucher, Joan Eastwood, Sheila Fee, Shirley McKeen, Sue Roy,

Alice Strilchuk, Lanny Backie, Joan Hampton, Margaret Hill, Glenys McMillan, Anita Ridd, Margaret Stenhouse

TWIGs

Barbara Bate, Shirley Baycroft, Jean Bjarnason, Judy Bolam, Celia Davison, Eu Choo Hong, Barbara James, Shirley Lytle, Eu Jeong Mak, Peg McIsaac, Helen Preston, Joyce Roberts, Nancy Saunders

Sunrisers

Gert Baker, Helen Bloom, Mary Burgher, Inez Burns, Gloria

Cherry, Win Cotton, Celia Davison, Goldie Dickson, Sandy Dilling, Elsie Fitch, Mable Fox, Win Griffiths, Dorothy Hamar, Hilary Hawkins, Ruth Howard, Ester Kearney, Rae Lord, Bernice Lynn, Dawn McRitchie, Doris McManus, Lorie Pentland, Ann Rycar, Lil Speers, Dorothy Symons, Lily Wakefield, Ann Walton, Marion Yanciw

She Shares

Myrna Pearce, Kelly Jenner, Mary Yan, Lori Foidl, Anna Sanders, Teisha Focken

KIDS QUOTES

"Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead." Daniel, age 9

"When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. When he lets out his breath, somewhere there's a tornado." Reagan, age 10

"Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it

gets cold, angels go north for the winter." Sara, age 6

"Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his Son, Who's a very good carpenter." Jared, age 8

"My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth." Katelynn, age 9

"Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the child get over it." Vicki, age 8

"What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love,

they shoot arrows at them." Sarah, age 7

KNITTERS

Attention all Knitters! The cold weather is upon us again and it is time to think of the folks downtown who may not be warm enough. In the past we have knitted squares for blankets. This year we are going to knit toques. They don't take as long as a blanket to make and are also more portable! If you can help, please contact Sheila Fee at 604.988.0457. I have plain toque patterns and lots of wool, or you can use your own. Thanks so much!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The regular look at our financial situation this month is as at December 31st, 2007. Our finances are in reasonably good shape at the half-way point in our fiscal year. We have money in the bank to pay the bills and we seem to be mostly on track with our approved budget.

Our total donations (which include envelope, PAR, loose and other donations) are \$605 higher than at the same time last year. Although the month of December did not see some of the anticipated large increase in envelope givings that is normal, we are still running a little ahead of our donations budget of \$1,887 per week. This is good news as our full year budget estimated a shortfall at June 30th of \$2,625. Any additional revenue will help to reduce this potential deficit.

Our Expenses are running considerably higher than last year, but are \$3,000 below the year-to-date budget, due primarily to there being no large facility repair bills so far. This will change in the coming month as the boiler needs a full clean and overhaul which we anticipate being quite expensive. We may also incur additional costs to resolve ongoing drainage issues.

In summary, our financial status is as follows:

Revenue:

Donations	\$ 53,408	98.6%	of Y.T.D. Budget
Rental Income	\$ 22,655	101.6%	
Fund Raising	\$ 8,947	113.2%	
Other Income	<u>\$ 580</u>	<u>200.0%</u>	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 85,5909	9.3%	

Expenses:

Staff Compensation	\$ 52,738	100.6%	
Office & Property	\$ 12,465	82.3%	
Program & Other	<u>\$ 9,637</u>	<u>93.7%</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 74,840	96.1%	

Y.T.D. SURPLUS \$ 10,750

As a result of the tremendous efforts of everyone during October and November, the Fall Fair this year netted almost \$8,051, the best year for some time. In keeping with the wishes of the congregation, 50% (\$4,025.38) will be given to the U.C.W. in the near future. Of this amount \$1,500 goes to the Mission and Service Fund and the balance is normally used for local, national and international outreach projects.

In January, families and individuals often plan their personal finances for the coming year. We would ask that you prayerfully consider Lynn Valley United Church in your deliberations and, if possible, that you increase the amount of your regular donation, even if by a small amount. With a potential deficit looming at the end of June, every extra dollar will help us to lessen the amount of the shortfall. Thank you for your continued strong support of your church, your church family and its work locally and elsewhere.

Roger Eastwood - Treasurer

CAMP FIRCOM UPDATE

Camp Fircom will be partially able to operate in the summer of 2008, however, the camp will not be fully operational to all the usual youth campers. It is expected that the camp will be fully operational to all campers and groups wishing to use the facilities for retreats or special meetings, by the following year. We will keep you posted in future newsletters.

In the meantime, it is time for all LVUC golfers to mark their calendars for this year's Camp Fircom golf tournament and fund raiser, which will again be held at the University Golf Club on Monday, May 26, 2008. Last year's LVUC golfers included: Bill Reid, Don Roberts, Bud Sobotin, Pat Taylor, Linda McLean, Dave Backie, Bob Powers, Alan Mann and Jim McVicar.

We look forward to additional participation from many other known LVUC golfers who were unable to participate last year, including: Rod Pearce, Steve Lund, Len Walker, Sandy Ferguson, Bob Goodall, Ken McKeen and Jason Haight. Other interested golfers can contact me by phone at (604) 986-3596 or by email at <alanmann@shaw.ca>.

We were pleased to help the tournament raise \$22,000 in 2007 for Camp Fircom. We were also singled out by the Camp Fircom Society as being the first church to "sponsor a hole" at the tournament - we

have set a challenge for all other churches within presbytery to follow Lynn Valley UC's example - and we are planning to raise sufficient funds in 2008 to "sponsor a hole" again.

Camp Fircom's "Annual Golf Tournament" summary announcement also stated "Thanks also to the following 4 churches in particular for promoting the Tournament within their congregations: Shaughnessy Heights UC, Gilmore Park UC, Canadian Memorial UC and Lynn Valley UC". We are leaders in good company.

Alan Mann, Coordinator

SURVEY

If you read this Newsletter **electronically**, please send an email to the church at lvuc@telus.net with 'read the Newsletter' as the subject line that is all.

If you read this Newsletter in **paper** form, please phone (604) 987-2114 and leave a message on the answering machine.

NOTE: The deadline to submit articles for the next newsletter is tentative March 9th.

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY - MARCH 2008

- January 13 - Seekers Soup and Bun lunch**
- Helping Hands for Naramata Centre
- January 20 - Sandwich Making
January 27 - Helping Hands for Naramata Centre
- February 10 - Multicultural Pot Luck Lunch**
- Helping Hands for United for Peace Campaign
- February 17 - Sandwich Making Sunday
February 24 - Helping Hands for United for Peace Campaign
February 27 - Cedarview Lodge Service 10:45
- March 8 - Transitional Congregational Workshop- "Where are we now?"**
- March 9 - Helping Hands for First United - 'Miles for Millions'
March 16 - Palm Sunday
- Sandwich Making Sunday
March 21 - Good Friday
March 23 - Easter Sunday
- Helping Hands for First United - 'Miles for Millions'

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