

Lynn Valley Herald

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MOLLIE'S MUSINGS

During the season of Epiphany we encounter the many ways in which God reveals God's own self to the world, especially in and through the ministry and mission of Jesus. The biblical texts for this season point us to the many people who were sometimes surprised to discover where God's good news can be encountered.

Think of unlikely Nathanael and rebellious Jonah, for example.

Some years ago a father who was bringing his son for Baptism exclaimed as we read aloud together "the New Creed" that he didn't think he could say the Creed in worship, because he was not sure he believed all of what is proclaimed there.

I explained that as believers we journey, like the Magi, in faith, and

that while we are not 'required' to believe every word of the Creed, every day of our lives we are grateful to have them because they act as guides to us as we travel the path of faith. I also reminded him that the Creed is not his or mine, to affirm or reject, because Creeds are not about us, they are about a witness to the Christian community working out its faith.

Creeds are historic statements of the Christian faith born out of centuries of our dying to old ways of life and being born into new ones, by the grace of God. Creeds serve to remind us of our call to wonder and question and search for God's truth in our own day and context. The Creeds also remind us of our relationship with those who have gone before us in the faith, who also struggled in their day and context to live out their faith.

Saying the Creed together in worship, or privately as part of

one's own spiritual practice, opens us up to religious memory, and reminds us of the many ways in which God comes to surprise us. The Creed also draws us to the place where God wants us to be, whether we are ready to go there or not.

Recently I found myself engaged by a Creed that was written by the Church in East Nigeria in 1960 at a Council called "The Congregation of the Holy Ghost." Perhaps you can add this to your collection of Christian Creeds:

We believe in One High God, who out of love created the beautiful world.

We believe that God made good God's promise by sending the Son Jesus Christ, a person in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and humanity, and showing the meaning of religion is love.

He was rejected by his own people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died.

He was buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day he rose from the grave.

As we continue in the season of Epiphany may we be open to new revelations of God in our midst while we remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith.

Mollie Williams - Interim Minister

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PROPERTY

There has been a flurry of activities around the church since last fall, mostly associated with the short term measures plan. Specifically:

The church has been painted and is looking much the better for it.

The source of the drainage problems was determined and a work party, including 4 men from the Korean congregation, started the digging and installation of a new perimeter drain line along the south side of the church - snow delayed.

The library has been moved to what was the crèche

The former library has been rented as a full time office for the Korean congregation and the new library has been rented for day time use by the Rainbow Day Care. This rental revenue will go towards funding the short term measures plan.

A multi-purpose area has been created at the back of the sanctuary and is already being used for sandwich making, group meetings and coffee time.

The two lower washrooms have been completely renovated

The heavy snow created problems. The maintenance budget was hard hit for cleaning the parking lot. Thanks to our snow fairies (NJ and others) the sidewalks around the church were constantly shoveled out.

The parking lot was treated to some new gravel but the snow has taken a toll. Our gravel team will have to be recalled.

The flood lights on the cross and parking lot were serviced and repaired

The new sound system was installed with a huge improvement in the acoustics.

The leaky roof has been repaired. No more dripping from the freshly painted Narthex ceiling. The Narthex is a work in progress.

All the carpets in the church were cleaned as an interim measure to having new carpets installed in the spring (subject to funding).

A new cleaner has been retained. New cleaning equipment has been purchased and the downstairs utility room is in the process of being refurbished with new sink and taps, cupboards, linoleum and paint.

New bulletin boards have been purchased and will be installed in the Narthex and rear hallway.

Three fundraisers have been carried out (soup/sandwich luncheon, chicken sale and Purdies chocolates).

New cupboards have been donated for the upstairs kitchen nook (replacing utility room) and construction will start as soon as other projects are completed

The basement floors were stripped, cleaned and re-waxed during the Christmas - New Years break.

In addition to the listed projects there was a

myriad of small tasks such as pruning trees, mowing the lawns, hauling junk and debris to the transfer station, picking up bottles, cans and paper from around the church, electrical and general repairs, etc. All of this work, except for painting the church and cleaning the basement floors, was done with volunteer work. We are indebted to those who give so generously of their time and talents.

Growth of the building fund has slowed significantly since the first round of givings last fall. We have \$600/mo going into the fund from rentals but continued support and contributions are required if we are to complete the short term plan within the scheduled time frame. The chairman of the short term committee notes that we are in a new tax year and another round of contributions would be most welcomed and timely. He is still hopeful that we will be able to have the new carpet installed by this coming summer.

Ken McKeen

Short Term Measures Committee

Installing New Wash Basins



LIBRARY CORNER

Just a few books to report this month.

The Bully and Me by *Helen Carmichael Porter* - a book to help with prevention of bullying.

Growing up with God by *Nancy Cocks*

Read Aloud Bible Stories

Mud City by *Sarah Ellis* - a story about young teens in a refugee camp.

The Birth House by *Ami McKay* - a story set in Nova Scotia.

Come and visit the library in its new setting - remember "*Witout a library history would be silent*"

Helen Preston - Librarian

HUMOUR

Q: Is it common for 60+ year olds to have problems with short term memory storage?

A: Storing memory is not a problem; retrieving it is a problem.

Q: Why should 60+ year old people use valet parking?

A: Valets don't forget where they park your car.

Q: How can a woman increase the heart rate of her 60+ year old husband?

A: Tell him she's pregnant.

Q: Where can men over the age of 60 find younger, sexy women who are interested in them?

A: Try a bookstore...under fiction.

Q: As people age, do they sleep more soundly?

A: Yes, but usually in the afternoon.

Q: Where should 60+ year olds look for eye glasses?

A: On their foreheads.

Q: What is the most common remark made by 60+ year olds when they enter antique stores?

A: 'Gosh, I remember these.'

NEWS FROM FIRST

LVUC responded warmly (both literally and figuratively) to appeals from First United over the holiday season.

Advent is the time of the First Gifts financial appeal to congregations, a very important source of operating funds, on which First relies to keep its doors open throughout the year. LVUC contributed \$1,809.60. Last year the total was \$2,443.25, \$633.65 greater than this year. (This should be considered in light of the increase in the Mission and Services givings of \$921.83. Overall therefore, there was an increase of nearly \$300 --about 2% -- in donations to these two worthy causes.)

We also collected socks (an ongoing need), blankets (especially needed during the cold weather), handknit toques and warm clothing.

A big change, which landed First on the front pages, was an offer from First in response to a request by Gregor Robertson, the

new Mayor of Vancouver, to provide overnight emergency shelter for three months. The doors of First United Church opened at 8pm on Monday December 15th to accommodate 176 overnight sleepers. This arrangement continues for 3 months. This was a massive challenge that required a quick mobilization of staff and volunteers. The funding provided by the City amounts to about \$3/night/sleeper, a far cry from other shelter funding. To help with this initiative, First United welcomes all offers of assistance especially donations of blankets. Volunteers are also needed between 8 pm and midnight to welcome people into the building, to hand out blankets and to provide companionship.

If you are not currently on the email list, you can join from the First United website: www.firstunited.ca, or read the latest news update online. This is a great way to keep up to date with the changes at First.

Judith Clark

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Proposed Mission Statement for Lynn Valley United Church

To nurture our faith by learning about, celebrating, seeking, and sharing God's love in the world

In the Fall of 2008, the congregation developed this over a period of weeks. It is hoped that we can officially adopt this as our new Mission Statement at our next Congregational meeting on February 22nd.

MONEY MATTERS

Some of you may notice that I have changed the name of the "Financial Update" this month. I decided it was time for a change and the double meaning of "Money Matters" is important. It represents my comments on our fiscal situation, but also reminds us that without adequate financing, our future could be challenging - indeed that money does matter together with faith, prayer, good works etc.

The winter snows and cold weather have not only impacted most of our daily lives but have put a damper on our church activities and finances. The cold weather means we use more gas than in warmer winters to keep our premises heated adequately and we have to pay for the parking lot to be cleared when the snow lingers, as it has this year. Also, the bad weather keeps people at home instead of attending church on Sundays, or for Christmas services, resulting in lower offering amounts. We have been seeing fewer people attending regular Sunday services all year. This was exacerbated in December due to heavy snow on Christmas Eve when only 90 brave souls were able to attend the 7:00 p.m. service. The result was donations in December were \$2,790 less than in 2007.

Our December year-to-date envelope and loose offering totals, both of which are impacted by the number of warm bodies in pews, are down significantly and I am appealing to everyone to consider bringing their offering back to the level of last year, as a minimum. I realise that the present economic situation does not make it easy to put church givings high on the priority list but we all need to prayerfully consider what we should do for our faith and for Lynn Valley United Church.

In summary, our December 31, 2008 results are as follows:

Revenue:

Donations	\$ 49,631	88.9%	of Year-To-Date Budget
Rental Income	\$ 24,553	99.6%	
Fund Raising	\$ 9,087	113.6%	
Interest & Other Income	\$ 305	72.6%	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 83,546	94.0%	

Expenses:

Staff Compensation	\$ 51,779	90.9%	
Office & Property	\$ 17,216	95.5%	
Program & Other Expenses	\$ 6,470	63.8%	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 75,465	88.6%	

YEAR-TO-DATE SURPLUS \$ 8,081

\$4,414 of the surplus is due to the U.C.W. for their share of the Fall Fair, impacting the Program and Other Expenses total. So our surplus is really \$3,667 and we still have many of the winter bills to pay. Our donations total is \$237 per week behind our budgeted amount.

However, in case you are feeling that the financial picture is all bad news, we now have \$8,614 in the Property Improvement fund, our Sandwich Making Project is funded for the next few months, we raised over \$1,800 for the First United Mission in December and we exceeded our Mission and Service target for 2008 by almost \$1,400! As always, I am most grateful for the consistent and generous support our congregation receives from so many of you.

Roger Eastwood - Treasurer

DEDICATION OF NEW SOUND SYSTEM

Just before Christmas we gave the new sound system its first outing - and, while we still have a bit of tweaking to do (and some pulpit renovations), it seemed to behave as expected and to work quite well. The new equipment should provide much better reliability and improved sound than the old, benefiting from the technological innovations of the past 25 years or so.

You may have been aware of a couple of new components such as the pulpit microphone and the headset that Mollie has been wearing. For those technocrats who are interested in such things, we have a new amplifier under the pulpit together with a graphic equalizer for improved performance. We also have three remote wireless microphone systems: a handheld microphone with built-in transmitter and two belt-pack units that can transmit from either a headset (of which we have two) or a lavalier or lapel microphone. This gives us 3 roving microphones for use in services, meetings etc.

The funds for this upgrade came from a variety of sources that I would especially like to acknowledge and thank this morning. First, in the Spring of 2007, Mary Yan and Rob Fee compiled a CD recording of music by the choir and some of our more musically talented members. Donations towards this project amounted to almost \$1,500. A Guess Who's Coming To Dinner event organized by Sue Roy raised almost \$900 and we have been especially blessed by two donations. The first was from Helen Preston in memory of Don and the second was from the estate of Lloyd Cherry. We are most grateful to Helen Preston and Gloria Cherry and their families for these very special donations in memory of their loved ones who were so much a part of our worship services in recent years. We are privileged to recognize both the personal and financial contributions made by these families.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the efforts of Rob Fee in negotiating the purchase of this equipment and installing it. Also Harry Boyce of Rocky Mountain Production Services was of immense help with this project.

This has truly been a team effort and we collectively thank everyone who has been involved over the past two years.

Roger Eastwood

CONTACT LIST

In an effort to have the congregational family contact lists comply with recent changes to Provincial confidentiality regulations, our church office administrator, Kelly Jenner, is asking everyone, regardless of how long you have been affiliated with Lynn Valley United Church, to fill in a 'Contact Information Form,' and, in particular, indicate by checking the boxes, **permission to share personal information** and the **level of correspondence you wish to receive**. You only need to send in this information once.



Contact Information forms will be included in the bulletin, at times, through February, but will also be available from the table in the Narthex throughout the month. You are also welcome to send your information by email- just ensure your permission to share your personal information with others, or request for confidentiality, is received by the office by **March 1, 2009**.

If you wish to speak with Kelly directly regarding the information for your family, please call the office during operational hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, between 10am and 1 pm, 604-987-2114.



Our Children

Multicultural Potluck Lunch



TOP TEN

1 Most Favourite Things You Ate at Lynn Valley United Church

- Cookies at Fall Fair
- Rob's bread
- Chicken casserole that Doreen makes
- Communion bread
- Clottie dumpling
- Scalloped potatoes (Lil said her father always went straight to the scalloped potatoes at every congregational gathering)
- Fowl Suppers
- Fall Fair Soup
- Pancakes
- Chips
- Perogies
- Strawberry Tea (Roger wasn't here today but I think he would second that one)
- Pies
- Scones
- Yam buns from Peg McIssac
- Peas in a Pod
- Coffee
- Joan's buns
- Roast Beef
- Potluck lunches
- Joan Eastwood's chicken tarragon croissants

2 "Most Coveted" Volunteer Job (NOT!!)

- Cleaning the ovens
- Trench digging
- Gravel hauling
- Cleaning up from Garage Sale
- Pruning and planting trees
- Silent Auction Coordinator
- Board Chair
- Property Manager
- Greeters
- Dishwashers
- Stewardship coordinator

3 Moments that Brought the Congregation Together

- Painting
- Men's Chicken sale
- Baptisms
- Alexander Allock's accident
- Fall Fair
- Raising money for the Grand Piano
- When all the windows on the south side got broken and the minister used rocks to create a sermon
- Congregational Meetings with Mollie
- Funerals for congregational members

4 Most Memorable People from Lynn Valley United

- Art and Lil Speers
- Syd and Jessie Potter
- Joy and Earl Chase
- Doris Mowat
- Josie Jantz
- Cathy Molinski
- Hazel Boaz
- Margaret Maxwell
- Julia Miles
- Jean Fromme
- Everyone past and present

5 Most Favourite Social Events

- Christmas Eve
- Art remembers his wedding and how the minister ate so much his button popped off during the ceremony and almost rolled down the furnace vent
- Christmastivity
- Potlucks
- Fall Fair
- Strawberry Tea
- Fashion Shows where the men wore ladies clothes
- Dances
- Talent Auction
- Seniors Saturday groups held in the 80's

6 Most Memorable Musical Moments

- Christmas Eve service at 7:00
- Lori and Shirley's piano duets
- Easter Cantata
- Talent Shows
- Choir CD
- Esther Janzen's Silent Night
- Lori playing the piano
- Choir
- Jon Tang's musical evenings
- The first time I heard the choir CD at Judith's house
- Choir and congregation

7 Best Sunday School Moments

- Parents
- Cathy Molinski's volunteering parents for Sunday School duty
- Pieta's taking Youth down to Downtown Eastside
- Lil and Art remember Congregational Picnics where they took the train out to Whytecliffe Park and then walked down to Horseshoe Bay carrying the picnic baskets; another trip was on the ferry up Indian Arm
- Nativity Dress-up and slide show
- Christmas plays
- Storytime from Bible
- Grandpa as a boy crucified a frog after hearing the crucifixion story
- A Day in the Life of Jesus
- Clay and paint

8 Most Inspirational Moments

- Singing "We are Standing on Holy Ground" at Mollie's covenanting service
- After the choir sang "River in Judea" at Hazel Boaz's memorial service, there was silence and then someone said quietly "Wow".
- Lori and Shirley's Duets

TOP TEN - CONTINUED

- Choir singing
- Grand Piano fundraiser
- Women's Day Apart
- Candlelight Services
- Ellen Shonsta's (spelling??) talk about the homeless children

9 Best Outreach Projects

- Helping Hands
- Add Your Light - a program started by a lady who gave up her medical career to help people in the Dominican Republic; she now lives and works out of Calgary
- Sandwich Making
- First United
- Congregational Retreat to Camp Fircom
- Sage House
- Mental Health
- Blind Mission
- Volunteering at First United

CGIT going to East Side with food

10 Ten questions you would like to know about Lynn Valley United Church 100 years ago

- We are still looking for the answers to all of these questions.

OUR CHILDREN

The children presented a wonderful Christmas pageant in December. The children narrated and dressed as angels while a slide show of pictures was shown. For several weeks before the pageant the children met in the basement of the church and dressed up to create picture scenes of the Christmas story. Kim Kilpatrick took lovely photos and set them up as a slide show. Thanks to Kim and all of the back stage helpers!

The children have continued their Sunday morning discussions and activities following the lectionary based curriculum, hearing the same stories as the adults in church. They have been having fun with discussions and art activities. The children also had fun counting out ju-jubes for centerpieces at the Multicultural Luncheon.

On the afternoon of February 14th the Children and Families will be gathering for a Valentine's Party. We will be decorating cookies, playing games and having fun. If you would like to join our children and families for this event, please contact Christine Davis. (604 988 7031)

At this busy time of year there is a lot going on in our church and our community. There are children and families who are away over the next couple of months with skiing lessons and other events. We are still in contact with these families and will see them back in the spring.

Thank you to the congregation, for your support of our children and their programs. Our children love to be a part of this loving and caring community and you all do a fabulous job of creating that community for them. Love and blessings on you all.

Christine Davis

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A special congregational meeting is being called for Sunday, **February 22nd**, immediately following Worship.



The purpose of this meeting will be to receive the report of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee, which has been working for the past several weeks. Included in the report are various "profiles" related to the life of the Congregation at this time. As well, there will be a "position description" for the new Minister. Also at this meeting, we will adopt the New Mission Statement of LVUC and elect Members to the Joint Search Committee.

Although both members and adherents are encouraged to read and study this report, only those who have formally joined the Congregation of Lynn Valley United Church are entitled to vote on it. If you have any questions as to whether you are a member, please contact the church office before Feb. 22.

Printed copies of the JNAC report will be available to pick up at church **Feb 15th**.

NEWS ITEMS

TOP HITS

LVUC's Memorial Committee met this winter for the first time in a few years to review the purpose of the Committee and to remind ourselves of the ground rules for spending the monies in the Memorial Fund. What we discovered is: "the Memorial Fund is to be used for beautifying the sanctuary and to enhance worship, or to assist the church to better carry out its mission." While the focus is to enhance the congregation's worship life, clearly the Fund can be used for other things.

The Treasurer updated us on the state of the Memorial Fund (as of Dec. 2, 2008 it stood at \$13,268.33) and spoke about the proposed new sound system for the Sanctuary. The system was dedicated on Sunday, December 21st 2008. Since then a number of people have commented on how much easier it is to hear. As your Minister I am enjoying the freedom of being able to move around the Sanctuary without having to worry about whether the microphone will work properly or not.

The Memorial Committee agreed to pay for 50 copies of the new United Church hymnbook, More Voices which we will dedicate in worship soon. In recent decades there has been an explosion of Christian hymn writing and with this new collection we will have the privilege of enjoying some newer hymns and songs. Mary Yan has called forth a small group of singers from the Choir who will introduce us to some of the new hymns in the coming months.

The Memorial Committee is also gathering quotes to see what updating the Church sign on the front lawn will cost. As some of you will recall from one of Interim Ministry congregational gatherings, when we divided into teams and looked at the Church from the perspective of a newcomer, the Church sign out front is not situated where people can see it from every direction.

The Memorial Committee - Marian Yanciw, (Chair) Ray Boucher, and Rhelda Nicholson agreed to meet again, normally in October and April of each year, to review the status of the Memorial Fund and to consider how undesignated funds might best be spent. The Committee agreed that it was helpful to have the Treasurer, Roger Eastwood meeting with them. (The "scribe" for this meeting was the Interim Minister, Mollie Williams.)

During the month of November, 2008 the Worship Committee asked the Congregation to participate in a survey of favourite hymn from Voices United. You may recall the blue slips that were inserted in the Sunday bulletin where you asked for your top five hits. Susan Ferguson, the Chair of the Worship Committee counted your votes with care.

LVUC's favourites are as follows.:

Place	VU #	Ttitle
1st 10 Votes	808	On Eagles Wings
2nd 7 Votes	266	Amazing Grace
2nd 7 Votes	375	Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness
2nd 7 Votes	509	I, the Lord of Sea and Sky
3rd 6 Votes	651	Guide Me O thou Great Jehovah
4th	409	Morning Has Broken
4th	625	I Feel the Winds of God Today
4th	675	Will Your Anchor Hold?
5th	288	Great is Thy Faithfulness
5th	352	I Danced in the Morning
5th	365	Jesus Loves Me,
5th	644	I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry
5th	646	Siyahamba/ We Are Marching

So watch in the coming months for the times when we sing LVUC's top hits!

ANYTHING BUT BORED

As I sit and type this afternoon, it is a cold but sunny day. The past few months have seen weather that has had a great impact on the attendance on Sunday mornings for our congregation. On Christmas Eve, many of the larger churches in our community canceled their services but our Worship Committee held the torch high and presided over a most touching Christmas Eve service. We welcomed all those who dared the weather to come out and shared a time of celebration and joy together.

The work of the Board has been times of celebration and times of somber reflection these past few months. We celebrated that arrangements have been finalized with the Korean Congregation and the Daycare for additional rental of space within the church which will help towards our Building Improvement Fund. We mourned the passing of Lloyd Cherry and Don Preston but were honored to receive bequests from their estates which were added to the contributions from the choir

to allow the purchase of the new sound system. This is a legacy that will be enjoyed by all for years to come.

Looking ahead this year, Mollie Christine and others will be meeting with the parents of our children to reflect and consider how best to meet the needs of our children in the context of Worship and Growth.

May 30th weekend has been selected as the official congregational celebration weekend for our Centennial Year. Initial discussions have commenced and ideas abound. Some suggestions have been for a BBQ, a float in the Lynn Valley Day Parade, a musical evening including contributions from any former members who might be attending, and a wonderful Sunday morning service maybe inviting some former ministers to partake. A committee will be set up to decide all the details and to organize the event; it was decided that this group should probably meet starting in February. Keep a look out for the announcement.

February will be a month of meetings as the Long Term

Property Management Committee will be presenting their report to the congregation after the service on Feb 8 and then the Joint Needs Assessment Committee will present their report to the congregation regarding the recommendations for hiring a new minister on Feb 22. These are both meetings vital to the future of our congregation and everyone should attend and be prepared to share in open discussions.

One final item is that at the AGM on June 7, many of the present Board Members terms of office will expire and therefore many new Board Members will be needed. Please look deep within your hearts and see if this might be the time for you to step forward and share in this hands-on ministry. Exciting times are ahead with a new minister, a new carpet, a new century in the life of our congregation to share in.

Look ahead with hope and faith and remember that God calls us to walk with him sharing in the life he has to offer.

*Myrna Pearce
Chair of the Board*



*One of the
Transitional
Workshops*

WHAT'S UP??

Sunday, February 8	Special Cong. Mtg. re Long Term Property Development	Lookout Shelter + Item collection
Sunday, February 15	Sandwich Making	
Sunday, February 22	Special Cong. Meeting to accept J.N.A.C. Report	Lookout Shelter + Item collection
Wednesday, February 25	Cedarview Service @ 10:45 a.m.	
Sunday, March 1	1st Sunday in Lent	
Sunday, March 8	Helping Hands Sunday	Daylight Saving Time begins First United
Sunday, March 15	Sandwich Making	
Sunday, March 22	Helping Hands Sunday Newsletter Deadline	First United
Saturday, April 25	Garage Sale	
Saturday, May 30	Lynn Valley Day Centennial Celebration Saturday	
Sunday, May 31	Centennial Celebration Sunday	
Sunday, June 7	A.G.M	



Christmas Pageant

