

Lynn Valley Herald

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May 2007

Message From Sharon

My dear friends of Lynn Valley United Church, what do I say in my last message to you written for the Lynn Valley Herald? That is my dilemma. How do I tell you how much I have been blessed by our time together? It is hard to know what to say when we will continue in ministry together for several more weeks, but this is my last Newsletter, and so I want to say thank you!

Thank you to God for calling us all to be in this ministry together. Thank you to the wonderful people who have served this congregation in various positions, both staff and volunteers, as individuals and in groups and committees, and on the Board, and have contributed immeasurably to the health and well-being of this church family over the years.

As I think back over the years I have wonderful memories of times with every age group and configuration of people, I remember Sunday nights spent with the Youth Group, talking about all sorts of things, playing games, pondering big and little questions, singing carols for seniors and neighbors, serv-

ing dinners to First UC folk.

More recently I remember sleepovers with families and children in the church, and I treasure the opportunity to know these children, to listen to their questions, and their wisdom, to work and play together, and to share their questions and pray with them when Alexander was so badly injured.

I have loved the opportunities to gather with various different groups for long- and short-term study and discussion groups or to ponder what it means to join the church, or celebrate baptism.

With some of you I have walked through the valley of the shadow of death, and together we have found strength in shared awareness of God's nearness.

I remember when Feseha arrived at the church, needing help, and he told me about his daughter in Ethiopia. He captured my heart, and I brought his story to you all, and you responded to our pleas. It was not an easy thing we did, helping him to fill out the forms,

and find work, and finally bring Rahel to Canada. Along the way we had some wonderful Ethiopian feasts, prepared by Feseha and his family and some of you! Surely God was with us in this work.

Over the years I have had the gift of wonderful work mates in ministry here... from the office staff, to the music team, to the leaders working with our children and youths. I have always felt it a privilege and a gift to work with each and every one of these wonderful individuals.

I remember my first weeks as your minister, and the church secretary who could tell me every person's name, just quietly! She



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Calendar of Events

- May 20 **Newsletter** distribution.
- May 26 **Lynn Valley Days** – we'll serve coffee.
- May 27 Farewell to **Alison**, with cake after the service. **Annual Report** distribution. **Sandwich Making** after the service.
- Jun 10 **AGM** during the service.
- Jun 17 **Father's Day. Sandwich making** after the service.
- Jun 23 **Strawberry Tea** from 1-3 pm.
- Jun 24 **Sharon's** last service at LVUC.
- Aug 19 Next **newsletter** deadline.
- Sept 2 **Beach Service** at Ambleside.
- Sept 9 **Helping Hands Sunday** with **Brendan Wanderer** in church.



First Things

Reverend Dr. Ruth Wright is leaving 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 7:30 pm at Mount Seymour United Church, her home congregation. No reserved seats, so come early.

Boots for Working: The Worksafe BC employee charity has given a \$15,000 grant to First for a creative program that will assist clients with a "hand up" to employment. A substantial barrier to employment can be the funds to obtain necessary clothing (such as work boots) or transportation to the worksite.

Shoppers Optimum: Many of us have a Shopper's Optimum card that accumulates points every time we buy something at Shoppers. Those points can now be turned into very practical support for First United by going to www.shoppersdrugmart.ca and following the links to donate online.

Judith Clark

Joint Needs Assessment Committee

A very important process during the coming months of transition from Sharon's Ministry at LVUC to her permanent successor will be carried out by the Joint Needs Assessment Committee.

This committee (commonly referred to as the JNAC) will be comprised of 7 - 10 congregational members along with 2 appointed by Presbytery. The involvement of the experienced Presbytery Representatives can greatly assist the JNAC with its work. This shared membership with Presbytery explains the "Joint" in the JNAC name.

A major task of the JNAC is to prepare a description of the pastoral charge, the community, our relationship to it and the resources available, possibly including budget, facilities, staff and volunteers. This will involve contact with many groups and members within our church family and possibly further a-field. Finally, the JNAC develops the position description that describes the skills, experience and interests that we will be looking for in our next permanent Minister, together with a list of priorities to be accomplished. This work will constitute a vision of where our congregation is heading in the near future.

The Interim Minister will also be an experienced resource for the JNAC to assist them to stay focused and to facilitate the visioning process. Once this process is complete, a Joint Search Committee will be appointed and, using the position description developed, will advertise the vacancy, interview prospective candidates and make a recommendation to the congregation.

If you are interested in assisting with the JNAC process, please contact Myrna Pearce to indicate your willingness to serve. Thank you.

The Board

Anything But Bored

Well what have we been up to since our last Newsletter? It seems like Congregational Meetings. We have had three congregational meetings in the last five weeks. That must be a record for our congregation. As a Board, having to call such meetings often makes us anxious about burdening the Congregation with too much business type work, but the response to each of the meetings has been wonderful. It shows how our congregation understands and supports the important behind-the-scenes work that goes on to keep a congregation and church community alive and flourishing.

The first meeting was the Special General Meeting to discuss which direction we would take in the Ministerial Selection Process. The Board through much thoughtful deliberation recommended the appointment of an Interim Minister for the period of one year and made suggestions for appointment to a Joint Transition Committee. The Congre-

gation supported these recommendations and the Transition Committee has been hard at work ever since.

The next meeting was to hear about and approve the candidate recommended by the Joint Search Committee for the North Shore Youth Initiative. Lynn Valley United has been asked to be the hiring congregation of record so we needed to formally approve the hiring of our new Youth Minister, Brendan Wanderer. There was a wonderful turnout for this meeting which confirmed so very strongly just how supportive our congregation is for the youth in our community. This program will start up in September 2007 with more details of the actual program to follow at a later date.

Our most recent congregational meeting was to preview the budget for the coming year. This is our second year of trying this format and we believe that with each successive year, it will become more and more relevant. In the past, the Budget, with a capital B, was always presented at the AGM as a *Fait Accompli*. The

Budget was done, that was that. The intention of this meeting is to let the congregation question the Budget, challenge the Budget and therefore feel like it is a relevant document that can be supported. There was a moderate turnout for the meeting and there were good questions raised. Thankfully, nothing earth shattering.

We now move on to planning the Annual General Meeting since we have had so much experience with meetings lately. This year we will again follow the format that we introduced last year which was to have the AGM as part of the worship service. The first part will be a Celebration of the past year's work and the second part will be looking forward to the work of the Church in the year to come. There is a rumor that there may be a report from the Transition Committee regarding a recommendation for the Interim Minister which would be a very exciting way to wind up our AGM and just might save us from having to schedule yet another Special Congregational Meeting!!

Myrna Pearce,
Chair

Ralph Milton's Rumors

We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull, Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box. *Author Unknown*

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

Mark Twain

I have one life and one chance to make it count for something . . . I'm free to choose what that something is, and the something I've chosen is my faith. Now, my faith goes beyond theology and religion and requires considerable work and effort. My faith demands -- this is not optional -- my faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.

Jimmy Carter

From Ralph Milton's RUMORS, a free Internet e-zine for Christians with a sense of humor.

Financial Update

The financial picture at the end of April, and my outlook as at June 30 (as presented at the Budget Review on May 6), are both positive. Our Balance Sheet says we have money in the bank and our Operating Statement now, and at the end of June, should reflect a surplus position.

Lest we start to feel too complacent, we have some sizeable bills to pay in the next two months, and our projected surplus is only around 2% of our total expenditures - not a huge margin.

Year-to-date, our Income is \$6,327 ahead of the same time last year, but two-thirds of this is accounted for by increased Rental revenue. Donations are \$1,380 ahead of last year, but \$1,097 behind the budget. Interest Income is \$560 ahead of 2005-06.

On the Expense side of the equation, we have spent \$2,356 more than last year, but are still below budget. Staff Compensation is \$2,923 higher than last year, primarily due to the inclusion of the Youth Group Leader's contract in our operating Expenses.

In summary, our financial situation, as at April 30, 2007, is as follows:

Revenue:

Donations	\$ 81,933	84.5%	of Annual Budget
Rental Income	\$ 35,864	87.6%	
Fund Raising	\$ 12,096	102.5%	
Other Income	<u>\$ 661</u>	<u>16.5%</u>	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 130,554	85.0%	

Expenses:

Staff Compensation	\$ 81,696	79.8%
Office & Property	\$ 26,634	77.1%
Program & Other	\$ 8,316	72.2%
UCW Share of Fall Fair	<u>\$ 3,966</u>	<u>99.2%</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 120,612	79.1%

OPERATING SURPLUS \$ 9,942



Although the current operating surplus looks large, we have yet to receive the invoice for the cutting of dangerous trees at the rear of the property, a \$4,800 bill. On the brighter side, we have been advised that our Insurance Premiums, due in June, will be dropping by around \$1,400! This helps me to project that the surplus as at June 30 should be close to \$3,000.

Thank you all for your continued generous financial support.

Roger Eastwood
Treasurer

P.S. The Garage Sale was a great success – we netted approximately \$2,800. A very large thank you to everyone who helped with this annual event.

Message from Sharon

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drove me around the community, helping me to know all the places where I would be expected to go.

I remember being invited to join the choir... what a joy and blessing it has been to sing, and pray, preach and worship with you!

All of these memories fill me with thanks for the blessing of our time together. I will always remember you with love, and hold you all in my prayers.

Blessings - *Sharon*

Kids' Bible Quotes

- ♦ Adam and Eve were created from an Apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pairs.
- ♦ Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
- ♦ Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
- ♦ Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
- ♦ Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
- ♦ The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.
- ♦ Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.
- ♦ The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
- ♦ David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
- ♦ Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- ♦ When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
- ♦ The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.

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