

# Lynn Valley Herald

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March, 2008

## MOLLIE'S MUSINGS

I have just attended the funeral of a colleague and friend. After six years of dealing with ovarian cancer she died peacefully last week, confident that as God has journeyed with her, God would also carry her home to where some of her loved ones wait. But there were times when she struggled with her suffering I am sure. As we look forward to Holy Week, we remember the pain and suffering that Jesus endured on his way to and on the Cross.

Below is something I have kept in my files for some time, written

by a Mennonite pastor, Cornel Rempel who worked for some years as a Hospital Chaplain.

### Nine Maxims of Suffering

1. Suffering is not God's desire for us, but occurs in the process of life.
2. Suffering is not given in order to teach us something, but through it we learn.
3. Suffering is not given to punish us, but is sometimes the consequence of poor judgment.
4. Suffering is not given to us to teach others something, but through it they may learn.

5. Suffering does not occur because our faith is weak, but through it our faith may be strengthened.

6. God does not depend on human suffering to achieve God's purposes, but through it God's purposes are sometimes achieved.

7. Suffering is not always to be avoided at all costs, but is sometimes chosen.

8. Suffering can either destroy us or add meaning to our life.

9. The will of God has more to do with how we respond to life than with how life deals with us.

*Mollie Williams Interim Minister*

## WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN?

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."

*Rebecca - age 8*

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth."

*Billy - age 4*

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other."

*Karl - age 5*

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## ANYTHING BUT BORED

As we look outside and see the snowdrops peeking through the ground, we realize that Spring is just around the corner. For the Board, this means Spring planning season; planning work parties, new budgets, the AGM, planning for next year.

Our **Property Committee**, Ken McKeen, with lots of help from Roger Eastwood and John Bruce, have solved the heating problem and, as those of you who attended the Special Congregational Meeting know, a new boiler for our heating system has been ordered and should be installed by the time you read this. Just in time for Spring, you can now leave your coats at home.

At the Special Congregational Meeting, a motion was passed that converted our long held Manse

Fund into a Contingency Fund. This change was suggested by Presbytery and gives us the ability to deal with larger expenses without having to receive Presbytery's approval for each and every item. We are required to maintain the Fund at a certain level determined by our annual budget, but this will give us much more flexibility to deal with capital issues as they arise.

On the issue of the Property Committee, Ken McKeen has been the lone member of this committee for the past three years. He has requested some help. He is prepared to continue to attend to the myriad of hands-on issues that continuously arise but he needs some additional people to help with coordinating work parties, following up with issues and taking on some of the responsibility. Ken has put in a tremendous amount of work on our behalf and it is time now for

some new people to step in and help out. Please speak to Ken or any Board member about volunteering for this most important behind the scenes work.

The 79th General Meeting of **B.C. Conference** will be held at Capilano College this year from May 22-25. During this time delegates from around the Province will be in town and the organizers will be looking for help with food, driving and those able to provide a warm, comfy bed for the guests. Please keep an eye out for more information.

As we look around and see Spring peeking out and new growth appearing, take the opportunity to look inside and see if there is room for new growth there too; take a new step forward to help our congregation continue to prosper and grow together in faith.

*Myrna Pearce - Board Chair*

## ANNUAL CHICKEN SALE FUNDRAISER

The Annual Men's Group Chicken Sale Fundraiser has just been completed. Although final profit figure is not available at this time all indications are that the fundraiser was a complete

success. Orders increased from 30 in 2007 to 38 this year.

Cases ordered in 2007 were 56 (31 for fresh and 25 frozen) while 2008 were 71 cases (41 fresh and 30 frozen).

The profit for 2007 was \$657.96 on gross sales of \$4,110.26.

The gross sales for 2008 amounted to \$5,662.92 and although the exact profit is not yet known it is expected to exceed \$900.00.

Many thanks to all who participated.

*Alan Mann and Orville Janz*

## BOOK REVIEW

For -5 - 12 year old children.

**"ONE HEN" - By Katie Smith Milway**

This is a story of how changes happen in the world, one family, one community at a time. Kojo lives in a small town in Ghana, West Africa.

Kojo is given a small amount of money. He has an idea and buys one hen, so he and his mother will have eggs to eat, shortly he has eggs to sell.

From this small beginning, his egg business grows and grows and soon he is making loans from his profits.

This story is based on a real person Kwabena Darko, who is now

helping others through the Microcredit Lending programme. He was interviewed on CBC radio recently when was in Vancouver for a Microcredit convention.

This is truly an inspirational story.

*Helen Preston*

## 30TH SEYMOUR SCOUTING GROUP

We were pleased to see the Scouting Group hold their annual church parade in February. The parade is similar to many throughout the world and is usually held on the nearest Sunday to the anniversary of the February 22 birthday of Scouting's founder, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, of Gilwell.

The boys, and some girls, with their leaders, were out in larger numbers than we had seen for several years. A very impressive youth colour party ceremony led the way followed by a well prepared church service presented by Rev. Mollie Williams and guest Scouter, Eleanor Oakley.

Thanks to all who supported them in the special preparation -

most impressive!!

Wonderful to see about 30 LVUC adults in attendance rise to their feet and repeat the Scout promise. These adults all were former Youth members or Leaders in Scouting or Guiding.

On Wednesday, February 27, 2008, Roger Eastwood and Alan Mann were invited to the 30th Seymour Baden-Powell Banquet, where Lynn Valley United Church was presented with a "Certificate of Appreciation" which read, "In grateful recognition of your continuing support over the last 43 years, we would like to present the Lynn Valley United Church with this certificate of appreciation on this 27th day of February, 2008." Roger and I were pleased to accept on behalf of LVUC.

In addition, we were surprised (and very pleased) to receive a cheque in the amount of \$500.00,

payable to LVUC, from the 30th Seymour Group members and parents. What a pleasant surprise.

The 30th Scouting Group now has close to 60 youth members - Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. With the eligible older Scouts ready in due course to move up the the higher 'Venturer' level.

Active adults include Glen Capek, Stephen Tresidder, Jim Olson, Warren Ball and Natasha Smith at the Group Committee Level, supported by Scout Leaders, Peter Rennie, Doug Turnbull and Matt Speight, Cub Leaders, Adrian Brennan, Lindsay Bridgman, Nigel Bridgman, Bruce Curry and Ken Woznow as well as Beaver Leaders, Paula Bentley, Jason Haight, Vicki Gogo and Clark Vandermyre.

Well done, 30th Scouting Group.

*Alan Mann*

## SUPPORTING LYNN VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

Supporting Lynn Valley United Church

The number of families (36) using the Pre-Authorized Remittance Program to support Lynn Valley United Church has recently surpassed those contributing by way of weekly envelopes (34). A further 10 contributors support the church through an annual donation. PAR allows you to contribute through a monthly withdrawal from your bank. You can designate your gift to local church expenses, Mission & Service Fund and other special funds just as you would on an

offering envelope. It is a convenient and easy method of meeting your church commitment. It avoids the weekly search for your envelope and the hunt for cash or a cheque to fill the envelope. If you wish to join the PAR program or if you currently do not have envelopes but would like to use them, please see Stan Strilchuk, Envelope Secretary, to enrol. Tax receipts for all donations are issued at the end of the calendar year.

*Stan Strilchuk - Envelope Secretary*

## CALLING ALL PHOTOPHILES!

The United Church is looking for pictures for the bulletins taken by people from across the nation that reflect the spirit, wonder and celebration of the United Church as we journeying together in faith. Details and entry forms are available from the church office.

Deadline to send in your photos is between April 1 to June 27.

*Kelly Jenner*

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Financially, we continue to follow the course we seemed to have set earlier this fiscal year with revenue higher than last year, but lagging slightly behind the year-to-date budget. On the expense side, we have spent more than last year, primarily on staff compensation, but have spent less than budgeted.

The summary of our finances is as follows:

		Y.T.D. % of Budget
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Donations	\$ 66,550	96.5%
Rental Income	\$ 29,905	100.4%
Fund Raising	\$ 8,947	111.8%
Other Income	\$ 866	227.9%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$106,268	99.2%
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Staff Compensation	\$ 72,499	100.2%
Office & Property	\$ 17,968	82.5%
Program & Other	\$ 12,310	94.3%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$102,777	95.9%
 Y.T.D. SURPLUS	 \$ 3,491	

As most of you will be aware, the congregation recently approved the replacement of the boilers that are used to heat the church. This work has now been completed and with half of the approximately \$9,000 bill being charged to our operating expenses, the year-to-date surplus will disappear very quickly.

The Board was recently asked how the coffee and tea donations are going. Since July 1, 2007, we have collected \$385 - an average weekly donation of \$11.69. These funds pay for the supplies used each week at coffee time and, if there is a surplus, they help cover other refreshment costs incurred during the year.

The Helping Hands collections this year have resulted in donations of \$338.25 to Naramata Centre and \$174 to the B.C. Schizophrenia Society.

As always, my thanks to all of you for the generous financial support you provide to our church and its work locally and elsewhere.

*Roger Eastwood - Treasurer*

## PROPERTY

The major item of interest as we write this newsletter is that the new boilers have been successfully installed. It was a major effort, and a major item of expenditure, but we now have a fully functioning heating system. It has been less warm than usual in the church over the past few weeks, and we thank you for your patience.

Spring is almost here and it is again time for work parties to clean up around the church. We will be looking for people who can sweep, rake, prune, weed and maybe even paint, so look out for the announcements in the bulletin.

We are committed to replacing a number of trees behind the church and may also be doing this over the next period. We have a source for the trees and now have to agree with the District what to plant and where. We will keep you advised.

*John Bruce - Property*

## KNITTERS

Feel free to keep knitting toques over the summer and we will give them to First in the fall. If you don't want to keep them till then, just give them to Sheila Fee for storage.

*Sheila Fee - (604) 988-0457*

## OUR CHILDREN

The children and I are busy exploring together the biblical stories using "The Best of Whole People of God" curriculum, which follows the lectionary readings that are set out by the church. We have now completed four units,

- Real World/Real Faith
- Learning the Way
- Come Walk with Us
- Holy Ground

We are currently completing our Lenten unit, *A Tree of Faith* and I am preparing the unit entitled *Moving with the Spirit*. Through art, music, games and discussions the children are growing in faith in leaps and bounds.

The children were pleased to help me lead a service in the fall and enthusiastically presented the Christmas pageant during Advent. The children have also been involved in our Saturday workshops and have explored who we are as a church and what path we might follow on our journey as we explore ourselves and our congregation. It has been my pleasure to

provide an age appropriate to our children as I believe that their input is also important as we travel together on this journey.

In the fall our children's choir flourished and they very maturely and successfully presented a hymn on each Sunday of Advent. This gave the children opportunity to become comfortable getting up in front of the congregation, something that they have struggled a small bit with in the past. Lately, due to the busy schedules of our children and families we have been sparse on singers at our rehearsals but have several pieces in the works that we hope to present after Easter.

Some concern has been expressed over a few missing faces from our children and families. Busy schedules with sports and activities as well as winter colds and flu have kept some families away on Sunday mornings but I have been keeping in touch with everyone and look forward to their return in the near future.

The children are excited and interested to become more

involved in the volunteer aspects of the church. They did help out at the Fall Fair and are pleased to be helping out with our Spring Sale and helping to serve our after church coffee later this spring.

Events coming up for children and families include participation in the May 11th church service and at the beginning of June, '*The Amazing Ambleside Adventure*' - an evening of beach games, scavenger hunt and hopefully hot dogs and marshmallows around the campfire.

On a personal note, Mark, Sarah and I are pleased to announce an upcoming addition to our family, expected to arrive in early September. Sarah is very excited and has started to announce to people, "I be big sister!"

It continues to be a blessing to work with the children and families in this congregation and Lynn Valley United has certainly become our home. Thank you for all the love and support that you all so freely give.

Blessings, *Christine*

## LIBRARY CORNER

Since Christmas I have been giving presentations on the Library to the various women's groups in the church. I hope by displaying and discussing the topics of the books in the Library to increase the circulation. We

have some great books, don't let them collect dust on the shelf!!!

Some book new to the Library are:

"I Can't Stop Crying"-by John Martin- consoles a person going through the grieving process

"Raising Your Spirited Child"-by Mary Sheedy Kureinka- some advice for parents

In April I am going to attend the Spring Conference of the Congregational Libraries Association of B.C. which is being held in Richmond, B.C. I hope you have a good book to read this week- if not I know where you can find one!!

*Helen Preston Church Librarian*

## WHAT'S UP??

## SOUP & BUN LUNCH

Date	Event
Sunday, March 16	Palm Sunday Sandwich Making
<b>Friday, March 21 @ 10:30</b>	<b>Good Friday Worship Service</b>
<b>Sunday, March 23 @ 10:30</b>	<b>Easter Sunday Worship Service</b> Helping Hands- First United Church through Miles for Millions
Sunday, April 13	Helping Hands
Sunday, April 20	River City Jazz Gospel Quartet will be leading worship, Mollie is away. She Shares Sandwich Making
<b>Friday, April 25</b>	<b>Garage Sale organizing day</b>
<b>Sat, April 26 @ 9:00-12:00</b>	<b>GARAGE SALE</b>
Sunday, April 27	Helping Hands
<b>Sunday, May 4 @ 11:30</b>	Congregational Budget Meeting
Sunday, May 11	Helping Hands
Sunday, May 18	Annual Report Submissions Due Newsletter Reports Deadline
<b>Sunday, June 8</b>	<b>AGM</b>

### Support for North Shore Lookout Shelter

The Seekers Soup & Bun Lunch that was held in the downstairs hall after the service on Sunday, January 13, 2008 raised \$348.26. The proceeds were used to buy supplies for the North Shore Lookout Shelter. Purchases included:

- 36 underpants
- 10 undershirts
- 8 thermal underwear
- 6 T-shirts
- 36 pairs of socks
- 3 sweat pants
- 2 sleep pants
- 3 fleece jackets

Thank you to all who supported this event.

*Alice Strilchuk - Seekers*

## FIRST THINGS

Lynn Valley United is a supporting congregation of the First United Church Mission in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

First has two fundraising activities this spring: **Golf Fore the Homeless** is a brand new venture, organized by Bob Burrows, and taking place at 1 pm on Monday May 5th at the University Golf Club. Like the Camp Fircom golf tournaments (also organized by Bob), it promises to fun for the golfers and a great help to First. To register, contact Bob at 604-681-8365.

This is the third year for **Miles for Mission** and I have found it so inspiring I have signed up for the first athletic thing I have ever done in my adult life. No, I am not instantly converting from a totally sedentary lifestyle to run a half marathon, but I am going to do the 8K on Sunday May 4th with as high a run/walk ratio as I can manage.

Jason Haight is a real runner and is doing the half marathon to raise funds for First United for the first time. My son Dave Turner (who worked the door at our last LVUC chili dinner at First) will be running the half for the third time..

We would all appreciate your support with pledges. Funds given through the church will go to support the three of us in our pledge goals (\$500 due April 19). Cheques can be made out to LVUC, designated Miles for Mission, and will be included in your regular tax receipt from LVUC.

First United has a great newsletter, First Things First, now available from the web site at [www.firstunited.ca](http://www.firstunited.ca), or by an email subscription on request from [mission.office@firstunited.ca](mailto:mission.office@firstunited.ca). If you are presently receiving a paper copy, please consider switching to email.

*Judith Clark*

## TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

As most of you will be aware, we held our second Interim Ministry Congregational Event last Saturday. We were delighted that 42 people joined us for the occasion and much lively, good-humoured and thought-provoking discussion was enjoyed. Based on the evaluations we received, it is clear that most attendees enjoyed the time spent - and many wanted the session to last a bit longer!

The morning started with hymn singing and prayer. This was followed by an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the demographics of our Lynn Valley community, School Board projections on enrolment and the results of our recent congregational surveys. This latter information was then digested by the seven table groups and the highlights were discussed. We were then challenged to think about the key issues that Lynn Valley United Church needs to address within the next few years. The topics that garnered the most attention were :

- 1) A hope that we might develop effective systems for welcoming and integrating newcomers;
- 2) A longing for clarity as to who we are as a congregation, unique to Lynn Valley yet very much a part of the United Church - our Identity;
- 3) A willingness to look with respect and care at issues associated with use and future of our building,
- 4) A desire that LVUC might become a more active and known presence in the LV community.

After lunch, we brainstormed ideas around the theme "What is God calling L.V.U.C. to do differently in the future?" Those ideas generating the most interest included:

- 1) replace the existing building to incorporate church needs and housing,
- 2) improve the quality of our welcome to newcomers
- 3) accomplish change while respecting the needs of the present membership,
- 4) cover the bricks behind the choir pews, and
- 5) replace the uncomfortable pews with padded chairs.

The next step will be to encourage members and adherents who are interested in exploring these ideas further to work with Mollie in very specific ways in order that later this year, some concrete proposals can be presented to the congregation. Obviously these next steps will need to involve more than the members of the Transition Team.

As many of you are aware, the work that we have begun during our two Interim congregational gatherings is designed to point us to the future that we are yet called to discern under God and in Christ. While no decisions have been made on any of these ideas, as we continue in our Interim process we will become clearer about our vision and our mission for the future. This will help us to prayerfully discern which Minister will offer the best fit as we look to new ministerial leadership for the summer of 2009.

*The Transition Team*

## SURVEY

If you read this Newsletter **electronically**, please send an email to the church at [lvuc@telus.net](mailto: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 May 18th.

## CAMP FIRCOM GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

A reminder to all past and present Lynn Valley UC golfers and supporters that the annual Golf Tournament will be held at the University Golf Club on Monday afternoon, May 26, 2008, with the usual banquet and silent auction in the evening.

We participated last year for the fifth consecutive time. In 2007 \$22,000.00 was raised for the CAMP FIRCOM SOCIETY.

More information to come over the next two months.

*Alan Mann, LVUC coordinator*

## More Voices

(Reading the title, you may think that I am appealing for more voices for the choir. Of course, we are always hoping for more voices. So do think about that!)

*More Voices* is the title of the United Church's newest hymn book which is a supplement to our red *Voices United*. I want to let you know that the Worship Committee has acquired enough copies of *More Voices* for the choir to explore this new hymn book. So in the coming months, you will be hearing songs from *More Voices* that the choir and other musicians in the church will be presenting.

In case you don't know, more and more United Churches across the country have acquired this hymn book and are using it on a regularly basis. *More Voices* is so well-received that they are now doing the second printing.

To quote from the Introduction of *More Voices*, this supplement has 225 songs which were "chosen from among the hundreds of pieces that the *More Voices* development team sang together, prayed over, and considered for inclusion." It offers "more diversity: more styles, more genres,

and more liturgically special music" and also has "global and contemporary Christian music alongside a large Canadian and Euro-American repertoire."

Coming away from our recent congregational meeting on March 8, I think many of us share the common belief that in order for our church to grow, one of the more important things is to respond to the needs of the wider community and to welcome new members and younger families. Indeed, one of the ways to accomplish these goals is through the use of more contemporary music in worship. I feel that it is timely that we explore *More Voices* from this perspective.

As for those of us who have been singing *Voices United*, I think you would find many of the hymns in *More Voices* refreshing and inspiring. (Guess what? *More Voices* is a lot lighter than *Voices United* too.) I have gone through quite a few hymns in this new supplement and had also attended a workshop presented by Bruce Harding who was the Managing Editor of *More Voices*. I look forward to presenting some of the music in *More Voices* to you as well as hearing your feedback.

*Mary Yan - Choir Director*

## SHE SHARES

The ladies of She Shares continue to meet to discuss a variety of topics in a casual forum. At our last meeting we made a list of what we could do in the Narthex and how we might work to incorporate some of the ideas that came up at the congregational gathering on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

It is our hope to take some steps towards making the space more inviting, and to make more efficient use of the space. If you are equally enthusiastic about making these changes, please come to our next meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> in the Narthex (entrance) at 7pm (both boys and girls are allowed!!). If you have seen something in another church that you could see working here, please let one of us know (currently, our members include Mary Yan, Myrna Pearce, Kelly Jenner, Lori Chang-Foidl, Christine Davis, Teisha Focken, Sarah Wood and Anna Sanders).

We are very excited about the future, especially with Sarah's baby expected here any day, and Christine's baby expected in the fall! There is much to celebrate, and lots of work ahead.

*Kelly Jenner - She Shares*

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF LVUC STATS FROM 2007

Age Groups	Total Number of Persons	Average Attending per Sunday
Under 3 years	5	2
Ages 3 - 5	3	2
Ages 6 - 11	12	10
Ages 12 - 18	19	2
Ages 18 and over (Young Adults)	2	1

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