

## Life is Mission. Mission is Life.

**-Rev. Philip Newman**



Each Sunday since arriving at West Vancouver United Church, I have expressed my delight in being here, being part of this community, part of this faith family. The welcome that both Kim and I have received has been exemplary. It has been heartfelt and has come from compassionate folk who met us at the door of our new home when we drove into the

city, who provided food and drink in the fridge, comfy furniture on which to relax, and bedding to snuggle us in at night until our household goods arrived. It has all been very much appreciated. Already, we have learned that this is a remarkable congregation.

It may be helpful to learn a few things about me as we get to know each other. I would appreciate sharing a few key points that I have found helpful in my own life and characteristics that are well in place in healthy congregations. I now realize that the gift of compassion was being grown in me from a young age. I learned about compassion from my mother and other trusted adults in my life, even from my faithful dog, Boots. Boots was an accompanying presence. Compassion is something that is meant to be given away. As it is given away it gets stronger, it multiplies, and it is replenished even as you think you have no more to give. Compassion is active. It does not wait to be invited. Compassion runs. Compassion is nimble. A healthy congregation lives from a deep place of compassion. It longs to give itself away. A community of faith that lives from a place of compassion appears to be giving away its life, yet it is strengthened in the giving.

I was fortunate to grow in a home that was a gathering place. My mother was wise enough to expect guests, friends, and family members, to drop in to our home unannounced. There was always more than enough food and hospitality to go around. The home knew laughter and tears. It was a home in which life was shared. When we have a strong sense of belonging we are able to develop our own gifts and skills and talents that we can offer for the benefit of the family, for the community, and for our congregation. A healthy congregation seeks to help all its parts to feel they belong, to feel loved, to know they matter as individual parts of the body of Christ. A healthy congregation makes space for the stranger, for the person standing on the outside looking in. In the community of faith we claim our gifts that we then freely share to strengthen the mission to which God calls us.

... continued on page 2

### Inside this issue:

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| <i>Bible Studies</i> | Pg 2 |
| <i>Kids Camp</i>     | Pg 3 |
| <i>Family Camp</i>   | Pg 4 |
| <i>Library News</i>  | Pg 5 |
| <i>Opportunities</i> | Pg 6 |

## Covenanting Service

Rev. Philip Newman's Covenanting Service will be on Sunday October 4th at the 10 am service.

The Very Rev. Dr. Peter Short will be preaching. We hope you can join us.



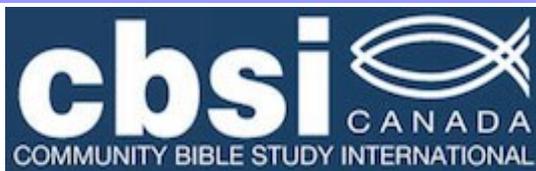
## Life is Mission. Mission is Life.

...continued from page 1

As followers of Jesus Christ we keep the question ever before us "what kind of future am I building?" We look to our rituals, traditions, and celebrations not as ways of looking back and remembering the good old days, but as ways of looking forward in hope to a day that is yet to be fully revealed. This is true when we stand at cenotaphs every November 11th and long for a day of peace for all. Even in the tragedies of life we ask ourselves where is my life headed? Sometimes we lean heavily on those trusted other beloved people who have walked with us through our tears. These are people that God has placed around us to carry us forward in hope. A healthy congregation carries its family members tenderly and in hope. A healthy congregation cares for one another, looks out for one another, stays with one another through the storms that are sure to rage. When we live with the question "What kind of future are we building?" we confirm there is a future to build. We express the confidence that amidst all the troubles and tragedies of this life, God invites us to build a strong, solid future for our families and friends, our community, our congregation, and our world.

I have learned that I live at my best when I lived out of my longings, when I allow my longings to give me clues about my purpose. The longings I feel within have been deeply planted by God. As I discover my longings to help and to serve, I discover my mission, the mission to which God calls me. It's a mission to be of service, to leave this world a better place for my having lived. A healthy congregation discovers its mission. A healthy congregation discovers that it has many longings within it, longings to help people at different life stages, people with varying hurts and hopes. As we serve, as we share help, as we engage the mission that God has in mind for us, there is a spirit of prayer about what we do. We notice a quiet realization of the nearness of God in our lives. A profound sense of serving gives a profound sense of living in the presence of God, of being surrounded by the grace and love of God, of being led forward by the power and hope of God. Life is mission. Mission is life.

I believe God holds before us our best years. Good times are ahead of us. Good times bless us now. God is fashioning a remarkable community of faith at West Vancouver United Church.



### September 14- December 7:

We will be studying the Book of Deuteronomy emphasizing a Christian perspective. It is a 12 week course, cost \$34.00.

All are welcome.

If you have any questions please contact Lynda Mackay at 778-279- 6857.

Meetings will be held in the Library Lounge on **Mondays from 12:45 – 2:30** (except for Thanksgiving, Family Day and Easter Monday).

## Tuesday Bible Study Group All are Welcome!

Each Tuesday at 1:00 pm in the church lounge, people gather for one hour to review, discuss, and seek to further understand the experiences from the previous Sunday's worship service. We are led again through the scripture reading from the previous Sunday, and freely share insights with each other about what was meaningful. If you missed Sunday's service, this is also a good way to know what you missed.

Philip joins the discussions as his schedule allows, and the informal leadership is shared among several in the group. The table is truly open for discussion in a safe and caring atmosphere.

We close the hour on behalf of the many seeking prayer from our congregation, as we raise these individual names and concerns to God in our earnest prayers. Please join us!

# Stay in Touch

## Reaching for new heights at Summer Kids Camp



In a world of increasingly pre-packaged creativity and disposable friendships, how do we invite children into imagining something different, something that goes beyond themselves? That is one of the questions at the heart of our Summer Kids Camp. The goal of the week then is not simply entertainment, but rather to offer the young people we are entrusted with a glimpse of the worldview taught by Jesus: a deep, unshakeable awareness that God is alive and at work in our world.

How then do we help children turn their eyes to this other reality? Most



of the credit in the case of Summer Kids Camp goes to our crew of volunteers, a group of people who strive to make this world a better place, Jesus' way.

After our first day, some of the teens expressed concern about one child in particular who was causing tensions in his group. The question was never "what is wrong with him?," but always "I wonder what is going on that he is behaving this way?" and "So, what does he need to have the best week possible?" By the end of the week, this particular

young boy was asking whether we could extend the camp by 3 weeks!

Thanks to all of you for your support of the work that we do with young people. Thank you for your prayers, for your encouragement, for your curious questions. A big thank you particularly to **Helen Fisk** for managing the craft station with creativity and gentleness. Thank you to **Meghan LeSieur** for leading the story station with vision and compassion. Thank you to **Dianne Allan** for coordinating the snack station alongside **Donna, Judy, Ally, Helen and Mary**. And thank you to **Will Honcharuk** for heading up the game station with energy and enthusiasm.



# Stay in Touch

## FAMILY CAMP ! Written by Andrea Linsley

What a weekend!! All the Space Cowboys at this year's WVUC Family Camp at Timberline Ranch arrived in good form and ready to reach for the Moon and beyond.

The Family Camp Committee (Heather, Dawn and Simon) put in a lot of hours, time and effort to make the weekend a success - mission accomplished! Every year the weekend gets better. Upon arrival we were greeted by a hip cowgirl who had all the details and the answers to all our questions. After going to Orientation, starting of the traditional Gotcha game, we then all signed up for our activities for the next day. So many options - Horseback riding, Challenge Course, Pool, Crafts, Climbing Wall, Archery, Petting Zoo, and Hayride. We then headed up to the campfire for some songs and evening Worship. Everyone was excited and we all felt blessed as the stars shone down upon us.

Saturday was a jam packed day with all of the activities as well as Worship and session, the infamous Talent Show and camp wide evening game. And yet, there were so many lovely opportunities to spend time with each other and continue to build and grow our community. Whether it's laughs over a meal or learning something new about someone on the stroll back to the cabins, it was quality time together.

The yearly Talent Show - we have many talented members (kids and adults!) in our group. Everyone was authentic, brave, and awesome. Some had prepared for months and some created on the spot. It was an evening overflowing with proud parents, full hearts and laughter. What could be better?

Simon led us over the 2 days in Worship and session with songs and Scripture. Scripture to ponder and reflect in our lives and to listen. Really listen. And to have the courage to step out and follow.

A highlight for our family is always the family session activity. This year we looked ahead at the year before us and thought of things we each wanted to accomplish (or try to). Whether it be places to visit, people to see, an activity to try or ways to include God more, it opened up great family conversation, awareness and goal setting.

To really round out the Space Cowboys theme this year....the evening family game concluded with each team creating their own rocketship.

We then launched all 10 of them (using an air compressor!) in the field on Sunday morning. Oh my, did they soar! It was A LOT of fun.

Our last activity of the weekend was the annual Sponge Wars. Team building at its chaotic finest.

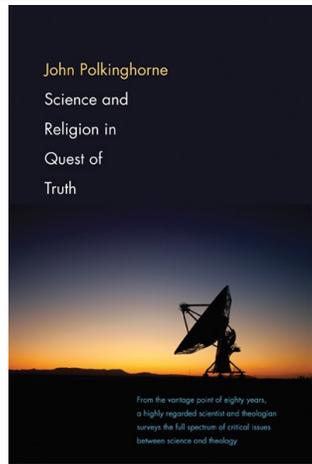
Thank you to our WVUC Family Committee team, Timberline Ranch, Meghan, Katie, Nova, Dylon, Sarah, Julie, our teenage counsellors and every single family member who came. Family camp is a highlight in our year and everyone makes it a very special weekend.



## Book Review:

### Science and Religion in Quest of Truth

by John Polkinghorne



“People sometimes say that science deals with facts but that religion simply trades in opinions”... The opening sentence of John Polkinghorne’s latest book: *Science and Religion in Quest of Truth*.

The author is uniquely competent to explore the potential conflicts between science and theology. In his first career he was a renowned scientist in the field of elementary particle physics. Latterly he has been an Anglican priest and fellow and former president of Queens’ College,

Cambridge. In this book he undertakes a survey of major issues concerning the interface between the studies of science and theology.

In the past there has been major conflict between scientists and theologians. The problems erupting from the findings of Copernicus and Darwin are perhaps the most famous incidents of serious controversy. The author’s view is that while the opening statement (above) might have had some validity a century ago, when the universe was generally agreed to conform to the accepted theorems of Newtonian physics, developments in the twentieth century have dramatically altered this comfortable assurance.

The first major event was the development of Einstein’s theory of relativity (travelling clocks run slow) and now more importantly the concept of Quantum Mechanics. The Quantum world is, to the lay reader, immensely complex and is still not universally accepted by scientists. It is generally agreed, however, that the use of quantum theorems has produced accurate results 100% of the time, and has led to the development of major new products such as laser beams, MRI’s and others that we take for granted today.

However the answers that are produced often make difficult understanding. Electrons can be in two places at once or may not exist at all until observed. Einstein called these results “spooky”. At the conclusion of Schrodinger’s famous experiment, the cat involved could be proven to be both dead and alive. (No actual cat was used). The author muses that perhaps results like this make the concept of Christ being totally divine and totally human less problematical. As yet Quantum Theory can be applied only to the subatomic world. It does not impact our relations with the macro world we inhabit. However ongoing experiments continue to strive to explain the world we are used to in Quantum terms.

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOR CHURCH LIBRARY

**On Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>,** we invite you to join us at coffee time in the gym to celebrate with a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake.

The first book was entered into the library records on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1965. Allison Martin and Emma Williams were librarians in later years. The library was in what is now the office and later moved to a partitioned area at the back.

Shirley Whyte assisted Allison and became librarian for eight years. The library was moved to the basement and Shirley says she and Allison threatened to resign as no one knew where it was. A decision was made to move the library to the lounge.

The beautiful shelves we now have were hand-crafted by Art Eberwein in his workshop at home. They were transported to the church by Bart Reemeyer who made several trips with the shelves strapped to the top of his vehicle.

Shirley was succeeded by Pat Hayward who retired in 2010.

At present we are in the process of computerizing the collection with the technical assistance of Christopher Frigon and Laura Ellan.

Polkinghorne’s book is crafted so that the reader does not require a deep understanding of the science discussed to appreciate that science is not the tidy set of factual material that it was 100 years ago and the problems faced by scientists today are increasingly similar to those that have faced theologians for the last 2,000 years.

The author then goes on to bring his experience to bear on major elements of our Christian faith. He addresses the unfathomable topics of: the nature of God; the Trinity; the Divinity of Christ; the nature of the Soul; and the afterlife. It is seldom that we get succinct, well thought out discussions of topics of this importance to our religious beliefs addressed by a person that combines extensive scientific training with deeply orthodox Christian convictions.

Polkinghorne concludes that there is increasingly very little conflict between the disciplines of science and theology. Both disciplines are working in a world with similar mysteries and both

*-continued on pg 6*

# Stay in Touch

## Crafting and Praying

**Most Wednesdays 12 noon**  
Bring your lunch!

After our women's retreat last year, we identified a need to gather together over lunch, and read a scripture, pray, and stay connected. This group gathers and also makes cards and gift boxes that are used through our Caring Ministry for people in hospitals, homes or just needing a lovely card made with prayer and love by the women of WVUC.

This group will meet from September 16th in the lounge from 12-1pm on Wednesdays (except for the end of the month when it falls on the luncheon).



ALL are welcome, crafty or not!  
Dawn and Susan



**Saturday,**  
**November 7, 2015**  
Helpers, Sorters, Loaders  
always needed!

Contact Sheila Baxter  
smbaxter@shaw.ca  
Or the church office: 604-922-9171

## Adult Ministry Workshop

Fall seminar - October 2015

The Adult Ministry Committee is putting together an information session continuing with the theme from last Spring's seminar on

### "End of Life Decisions"

There will be financial and legal information presented in the hopes of giving help to families, children, parents, and spouses approaching what can be an uncertain time in one's life. We hope you can join us! Date and time to be announced soon.

*...Book Review continued from pg.5*

searching for truth in ways that may indeed be mutually supporting.

This concise book (135 pages) is an excellent resource for anyone who has ever pondered the dichotomy of Science and Theology. The author has provided a structure for the discussion that will stimulate the reader's own thoughts.

Science and Religion In Quest of Truth is now available in the Church library. Our Librarian Donna Simon will be pleased to assist.

*-Review written and submitted  
by Norman Alban*

# Stay in Touch

West Vancouver United Church  
2062 Esquimalt Avenue  
West Vancouver, BC  
V7V 1S4

Phone: 604-922-9171

Email: [office@wvuc.bc.ca](mailto:office@wvuc.bc.ca)

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email or read it on-line, please contact the church office by phone at 604-922-9171 or e-mail: [office@wvuc.bc.ca](mailto:office@wvuc.bc.ca)

Office hours:  
Mon-Thurs 8.30-4pm, Fri 8.30-12 noon



Like or Share our  
facebook page:

West Vancouver United Church

[www.wvuc.bc.ca](http://www.wvuc.bc.ca)

Youth Group Website

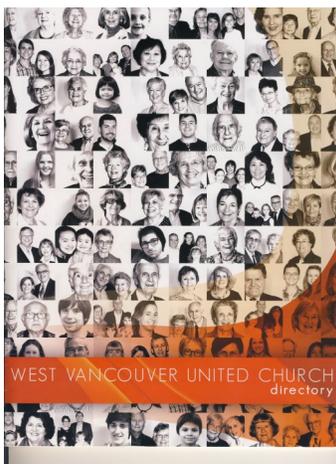
[www.westvanyouth.com](http://www.westvanyouth.com)

## Congregational Photo Directory

Available in the church office.

Contact the church office  
to add yourself to the directory,  
or to edit your current information.

Keep your contact information up to date!



## Calendar of Events

### Baptism

Once a month on Sunday morning. Please contact the office a month or two in advance.

### Communion

We will be celebrating Communion on Sunday October 4 for worldwide communion

### Congregational Dates and Events

- Tue Sept 8 Bible Study starts, every Tuesday at 1 pm in the Lounge.
- Sept 11-13 Family Camp weekend, Timberline Ranch
- Mon Sept 14 Oikoumene Unit meeting, 7:30 pm
- Mon Sept 14 Community Bible Study International begins 12:45—2:30 pm
- Wed Sept 16 Men's coffee group, 10 am
- Wed Sept 16 Naomi Unit meeting, 10 am
- Wed Sept 16 Church prayer and craft group starts, every Wed 12-1pm
- Thurs Sept 17 Youth group starts up, every Thursday evening 6:00-8:00 pm
- Sat Sept 19 Oppenheimer Park youth project, 9:30 am
- Sun Sept 20 Sundae Sunday. The official start of Sunday Club
- Wed Sept 30 Fellowship Luncheon, 12 noon
- Sun Oct 4 Rev. Newman's Covenanting Service 10am
- Mon Oct 11 Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed
- Sat Oct 17 Oppenheimer Park youth project, 9:30 am
- Wed Oct 21 Men's coffee group, 10 am
- Wed Oct 21 Naomi Unit meeting, 10 am
- Sun Oct 25 Waffle Brunch, after 10 am service
- Nov 1-6 Flea Market set up week
- Sat Nov 7 Fall Elegant flea market
- Mon Nov 9 Oikoumene Unit meeting, 7:30 pm
- Wed Nov 18 Men's coffee group, 10 am
- Wed Nov 18 Naomi Unit meeting, 10 am
- Sat Nov 21 Oppenheimer Park youth project, 9:30 am
- Sat Nov 21 Silver Soiree, Hollyburn Country Club

### Upcoming Concerts

- Wed Nov 11 Chor Leoni concert "Brothers in Arms"  
1 pm, Details at <https://chorleoni.org/concerts-events/brothers-arms/>