

EASTER ROCKS!!

by Rev. Philip Newman



Easter Sunday was, of course, memorable – and for all kinds of wonderful reasons. I admit it ... I did not make the community sunrise service on "The Rocks" with St. Francis-In-The-Woods Anglican Church. It was raining. My bad! Our morning service and its music was glorious. Hundreds of persons gathered to celebrate the victory of life and hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There were long-time friends and first time worshipers together as a family of faith. It was a joy and a wonder to be part of it with you all. Thank you! For all that you do to make this congregation's mission and ministry so encouraging and hopeful I truly cannot express my appreciation enough.

In a way, I'd love just to bask in it all over again. We could meet this coming Sunday, and the one after that as well, and just look back and remember how much fun it was. Wasn't that music amazing? And how about those colourful grave clothes tossed aside on the communion table!

But the grace of God doesn't sit still for long. It doesn't stay in one place, but moves outward and onward. It leads us into new places, new relationships, new discoveries, new mission and ministry. For some that Easter morning it meant stunned silence as they began to discern the impact of a tomb that was empty. For the women that morning it meant not staying at the empty tomb, but going and telling the others what they had seen. It meant that Jesus was not finished with them, or with the rest of his friends and followers. In those first days after Easter he kept surprising them, showing up unexpectedly where they were holed up in Jerusalem, walking along the road to Emmaus, or calling out from the shore when they'd gone back to fishing in Galilee. He kept showing them glimpses of the future to which they were headed.

And he's doing that with us as well. We believe that our congregation's future is built on a generous mission with children and families and an expansive ministry of welcome and caring with our more senior brothers and sisters. Imagine the impact we could have upon the community around us by offering a welcome that includes everyone who longs to discover new life and grow in faith. Imagine the lives that can be helped and enhanced when we claim the gifts God has given us to be a missional force for transformation on the North Shore. What would that look like? How would you like to use your gifts to bring grace and hope to the persons around us? What new mission is stirring in your imagination?

This month our Official Board members will gather in retreat to clarify its identity and strengthen its mission as a group of dedicated leaders. They will begin to imagine the gifts and strengths with which God blesses us and how God is calling us into a vibrant future. I invite you

to hold in prayerful support all our leaders. Pray for their wisdom and their openness to the movement of the Spirit.

Like the disciples, we don't know exactly what the future will hold, but Jesus invites us to follow him there. I look forward to catching a glimpse of it with you.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Philip



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Blessings to The Graduates!!





Our Community Bible Study Canada West Vancouver group aims to fulfill the Mission stated by the national organization: "to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in our communities through caring, in-depth bible study, available to all."

The majority of participants in our group are members of WVUC, but it is non-denominational and we continue to invite new people into our group.

Esther Lee who attends our group, came with her family from the Sunshine Coast to West Vancouver 25 years ago. Her children went to high school in West Vancouver. Esther attends the North Shore Pacific Grace M.B. Church on Windsor Road in North Vancouver. Recently retired from working at the pulp mill, one morning Esther was praying about getting back into the community by joining something where she could improve her English so that she will be able to communicate well with her grandchildren, and to study the Bible. That very same morning Esther was in a waiting room for a medical appointment. Elizabeth who is a participant in our West Vancouver CBS group was also there and they started to chat. Elizabeth suggested that they get together for Community Bible Study and/or for English lessons. That is how Esther joined our CBS group. Esther says, "Thank God. I was praying just that morning and then through the Holy Spirit I met Elizabeth. It was a miracle." Esther says even though she can't do all the lesson questions she understands every moment of our meetings. She has been enjoying studying 1 and 2 Timothy. In Youth Fellowship and Young Adults group in Hong Kong she had studied those books before. Esther says, "It is refreshing my mind and reminds me that we live in the most treasured letters of Paul which is very important for our life and our spiritual growing." We all appreciate that Esther is such a loyal and faithful participant in our group and that she makes tea for us every week.

Participants in our group say:

"My first experience with CBS was also a result of an invitation from a friend. It came at a time of my life when I was desperate, dispirited and spiritually thirsty. The CBS model is very appropriate for me because of the quiet contemplative time I spend preparing for our meeting and then the fellowship and enlightening insights I receive from participants at the meeting."

"I feel that our group is a safe place to ask questions, explore opinions and navigate Christian life together. I love the format of the questions and how they get me deeper into God's word, and how applicable it is 2000 years later."

"Monday afternoons are "feeding time" for me. It's a chance to be in a safe and confidential place with caring people who will listen and hear my questions and concerns without feeling embarrassed or ashamed."

"The encouragement in our faith, the spiritual growth and development, the Christian fellowship and leadership experience that comes from the team method of CBS contributes greatly to our individual growth and enrichment and also to our Christian community."

"We are very grateful for the generosity and hospitality of WVUC for allowing us to meet in the church library."

"The Bible Study group is slowly disciplining me towards daily spiritual devotions."

"It is amazing! We started with prayer and a few people seeking the Lord's will about establishing a class and now we are completing our third year."

We plan to study the Gospel of Mark starting in September 2016. **Please plan to join us** and discover what God's Word is saying to you in our comfortable, caring group of people who are learning from scripture and each other how to follow Jesus in our lives. -Lynda Mackay

On Tuesdays at 1:00, a Bible Study gathering

happens where we share our understanding of our timeless God. This Bible /sermon study is very different from my past Bible experience and it was echoed by a number of our members. Our gentle, diverse group's testimony is that it's a very valuable part of their week. We always hope for newcomers to the discussion.

Our study begins & ends in reverence with lighting the Christ candle representing God's Light in our world. We unite in prayer praying for the Spirit's presence. Following the previous Sunday's scripture passage, we reflect on the Word and the sermon content. There is strong witness at the table of personal understanding and application of the sermon. Recent examples: "the doubting Thomas in some or all of us." "fear that our Christian witness reflects St. Peter's denials in the courtyard." There is a richness of trust and truthfulness in our discussions regarding the sermon content. These personal witnessings help us gain insight through other member's points of view regarding the sermon or Bible passage which enriches our own understanding.

We meet as a collection of spiritual seekers, growing in our faith, Christian conduct, and worship of God. We are mindful of our talents and sharing these gifts. We appreciate each other's efforts, unrestricted discussions, and Gwen Carpenter's and our Ministers' warm, insightful Christian leadership. Newcomers are always welcome!

- Lea Borlick

Dear Friends,

The first thing I look at when arriving in church Sunday mornings is the title of the sermon and my mind begins to rotate itself around the concept of that particular message. Our ministers "pull it apart" a bit, clarifying and presenting concepts on how each message applies equally well for our lives today. It is the timelessness of Jesus' teaching which is so fascinating to live by still. Then we meet Tuesdays at 1:00 with an opportunity to delve into Sunday's message.

I might describe these a little bit by comparing them to the planning of a trip to some far away place. We may have visited there many times before and looked around on our own. Then we returned home and shared our lone experience with friends. Then we begin planning another visit to the same place which fascinates us so much. But now... ENTER A TRAVEL GUIDE.

This time we see areas of the ancient ruins which we had, up till now, entirely overlooked or maybe considered less important. Clarity and renewed excitement is born. We return home and share with friends our new found knowledge and experience together, and maybe our friends join us this next time with our Tour Guides.

THANK YOU to our ministers Rev. Philip and Simon, for your knowledge and inspiration as you guide us through the Teachings of the Bible. "Seek and I do indeed find" understanding and answers which perhaps up till now had been overlooked on my own.

Tuesday gatherings are precious. A time to talk and listen and, yes, gain deeper insight from others' perspective. So valuable.

In gratitude to all,
Ingelise Nherlan

Mondays in May: 12:30—2:00 : DVD Study, Jesus: The New Way, by Dr. Tom Wright



Oppenheimer

Teens in grades 8 and up are invited to join us in the church kitchen at **9:30am on the 3rd Saturday of every month** (except summer months). Together, we prepare lunches which are then served later in the morning to residents of the Downtown Eastside in conjunction with the community centre staff at Oppenheimer Park. You can get on the Oppenheimer Mailing list with our Youth Group: <http://www.westvanyouth.com/portfolio/oppenheimer/>



You are not alone

A small drop-in group meets at WVUC to help and support friends with memory disorders whether it be understanding their own personal concerns or assisting friends with their concerns about loved ones. The group meets in the church Lounge for coffee, cookies and conversation on the **fourth Tuesday of the month from 10:00 am to 11:00am**.

The focus is on memory disorders at all stages of development, from the very early stage when forgetfulness occurs, to the later stages of severe memory loss. The group consists of congregation and community members who are anxious and fearful with their own early forgetfulness, or are also worried, sad and angry about losing their friends, family members or immediate loved ones who are in the middle and late stages of severe memory loss. We are just friends supporting friends.

Who helps in the group? Every participant who comes has a great deal to offer to each other. The facilitator encourages participants to talk about why they came, who they are concerned about, what their feelings are about their concerns whether it be for themselves or others. The hope is that no one feels alone.

The group helps each other by listening to what is said, concerns, feelings, and worries. Listening is important and everyone attending can understand, sympathize, encourage and support the person speaking and offer guidance.



Syrian Refugee Sponsorship

September 15, 2015, seven North Shore United churches connected for the purpose of sponsoring a Syrian refugee family. MOSAIC (Multilingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities, 1976) was very helpful in our selection of the 7 member Kawa family.

John Mendes presented an interesting detailed report during our church service giving voice & compassion about the human condition of the Syrian refugees. It was followed with the reading of the mother's letter detailing their escape & camp life in Erbil, Iraq. She expressed gratitude for the HOPE we are extending to them. It's an extensive screening process. Currently the family is waiting for medical & Canadian consular screening. The NSUCRR (North Shore United Churches Rescue

Recovery) completed the application efficiently. We are waiting for the product---the Kawa family. We care about their lives, their children, their health.

The funds raised exceeded the Federal Gov't. requirement & their household goods are in readiness upon their arrival. Housing proves difficult because the Immigration Dept. at times gives notice of the refugee family arrival when they are in flight. Hopefully communication improves to allow time for accommodation arrangement. NSUCRR are ready for the Kawa family to help them in their new transplanted culture. As of date they & we are waiting. We in the comfort of our homes, they in the camp in Erbil, Iraq.

Recently I attended a Syrian Refugee Meeting sponsored by MOSAIC. Janet Dench, Div. of C.C. , Ottawa, informed the audience that the allocation of sponsorship agreement for 2016 is 10,500 refugees. She touched on the depressing legacy cases, 6320 still waiting since 2012. The speakers encouraged the public to keep up the pressure with Immigration Minister John McCallum who has been to Vancouver twice meeting with the Law Society.

Our challenge is action from the Immigration Department.

The Lower Mainland Coalition, NSUCRR, and Or Shalom are lobbying for Specific alternative arrangement to be made for the Erbil, Iraq families. There are a total of 100 privately sponsored refugee people. David Berson was to meet with John McCallum, requesting that CIC consider using the UK Consulate who have presence in Erbil.

The Syrian refugee committee welcomes help in this humanitarian work. We are thankful for our energetic youth for their good will and impressive fund raising, and gratefully acknowledge all donations from our church members and friends. Indeed, this could not have been accomplished without you, but we especially need your continued dedicated skill-support upon the family's arrival. My tear jerker was Kai O'Krane, Mary Grant's 11 yr. old grandson who collected beautiful clothing to cloth several families!

We are connecting with two unknown families offering a warm welcome, friendship, insight to their and our lives. We hope they feel the freedom that our great Canada offers.

—Lea Borlick

For more information regarding our theological background and convictions on this project:
<http://wvuc.bc.ca/refugee-sponsorship-theological-background-convictions-assumptions/>



Godly Play

For the past six years I have had the privilege of leading Godly Play for children from age 4 through grade 3. Along with a fantastic team of support from the Youth and Family committee, and other willing hearts, we have watched children's faith grow. It is wonderful to see diverse generations and people working together to hear the voice of God.

Seasons are important. They not only help us to understand ourselves and God's world, but they are also entry points by which we can find our truest humanity: children of a loving God. Long ago the church discovered that we all need time to get ready to enter into big mysteries: God becoming human, God suffering and dying then overcoming death, and God's Spirit coming and filling us. So the seasons of Advent,

Lent and Eastertide serve this greater purpose of preparation.

In Godly Play we have opportunities to learn about different seasons in the church year and hear stories which correspond to them. We cross from Lent into Easter and the colours change. They welcome us. In the season of Easter we talk about knowing God in absence (the empty tomb), knowing God in the breaking of the bread (the road to Emmaus), knowing God in making him known (the sermon on the mount) along with other stories.

All through the year we have opportunities to enter into the story of God's redemption. We have stories that are comforting and others that are challenging. Jesus often used parables to teach his followers and those curious, on-the-verge believers.

We learn and wonder and struggle through all sorts of stories and ideas. And as we do, we pray that the Spirit will continue to guide us. As we wonder together through story, parable, and mystery, may we all be met by Jesus who then became a parable through which we have been offered new life.



-Dylon Nofziger, Leader



Summer Kids Camp at West Vancouver United Church

July 4-8, 2016
9:00am to
11:30am

Register at:
<http://wvuc.bc.ca/summer-kids-camp-2016/>



Welcome to THE PRAYERFUL STORK

For expecting moms & dads,
and parents of young children.

Tuesdays at 10am.



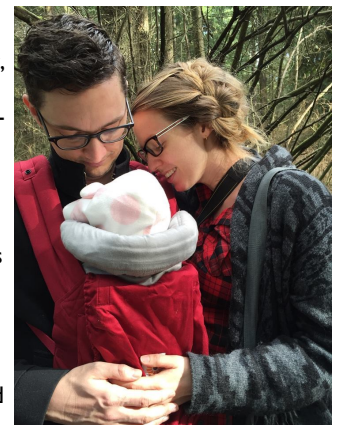
Welcome Evangeline Joy LeSieur

Our darling little daughter was born at 8:30pm one evening in February, and after a rather smooth delivery, we were offered the choice to either stay in the hospital overnight or go home. "GO HOME?!" we exclaimed! Here we were, brand new parents, entrusted with a delicate new life. How on earth are we supposed to simply go home? And so it was that we stayed overnight, with nurses ready at the push of a button.

After that first wild night, we carefully brought Evie to our car. As we left the hospital, we jokingly asked the parking attendant what time the police motorcade was coming to escort us home. "You are on your own," she quipped.

Except from the start, before Evangeline was even an idea, we never were alone. One of the many beauties of belonging to the Church, Christ's body, is being in relationship with one another: daring to let ourselves be known, and daring to know others. When someone asks you what you need, you're faced with a choice: do you answer the easy way ("oh not much, we're good!") or do go a bit deeper ("we could really use some prayer figuring out how to be a couple through all of this")?

We can't thank you all enough for the support, prayer, and love you've showered upon our little family and our household. We hope that you yourselves experience the same kind of love from those sitting in the pews around you on a Sunday morning. Continue to get to know one another - we're a pretty fantastic group of people!



-Meghan & Simon and Evie

Journaling Workshop

Monday, May 16, 7.30-9.30pm, in the Lounge

I recently came across a forgotten letter from an Aunt, long dead, written to me in 1977. Her handwriting was so familiar that it gave me a blast of nostalgia even before I began to read it. She was writing to me in response to questions I had about her faith, as I had recently made a decision to follow "The Way" and was curious about her journey. But it was the PSs that really grabbed me, for she wrote some family history that I hadn't paid attention to when she first wrote. There were details about how my Grandfather had built a grocery business, the picnics they used to have with servants taking care of their needs, the entertainment they used to share around the piano, billiard games, winter sledging and activities they all enjoyed as a family.

It made me think about what I might leave to the next generation, now that email, texting, face-time and more immediate forms of communication have taken over from letter writing, which was the only way to keep in touch in these days - long distance calls to Scotland were only for emergencies! Currently, I keep a journal, but it's "for my eyes only" - maybe it's time to write more intentionally?

That's why I'm looking forward to the Journaling/ Writing workshop with **Cathy Sosnowsky**. I've experienced a previous workshop with her when she inspired us to write our own Psalms. She's an easy-going, warm-hearted, retired teacher, (Langara College), has published her writing and, most importantly for her role with us, seems to have the knack of releasing the inner thoughts and memories of participants, resulting in an effortless flow onto paper.

I hope you'll make the time to join us for this stimulating event. It will be useful too, for those who are considering contributions to the church's newsletter, "Stay in Touch", the Advent Devotionals, have to make presentations, compose prayers, or just want to write a little of their family history and pass it on to the next generation. Almost forty years on, your voice may still be heard!

- Liz Birnie



Pacific Spirit
CHOIR

THE PACIFIC SPIRIT CHOIR & ORCHESTRA
GERALD VAN WYCK, CONDUCTOR
-PRESENT-

An epic work of
soul-enriching hope

Johannes Brahms
German Requiem

with Soprano, **Bahareh Poureslami**, Chicago
& Baritone, **Max van Wyck**, Toronto

Sunday, May 15th • 2pm
West Vancouver United Church
2062 Esquimalt Avenue

Tickets: \$35/\$30
pacificspiritchoir.com
604-922-9171

Crafts at Lunch

**Bring your lunch and join us
Wednesdays at noon
for fellowship while making crafts for the
needs of the Caring Ministries of WVUC.**



Summer Sermon Series: "Faith In The City"

For many years, our community of faith has had the tradition of bringing in new faces over the summer time - a tradition that allows us to focus more closely on a particular theme pertaining to our shared faith. This year, we had the opportunity to reevaluate why we do what we do, and whether it was worth continuing. After all, we are now blessed by not one but two ministers who love articulating the good news on any given Sunday. As we revisited series past, we remembered that one of the blessings of our year between ministers was the gift of hearing from so many voices in the pulpit - 18 in fact! And our understanding of our faith is richer for it. And so it is that we decided to breathe new life into our Summer Series one again! Here is a glimpse of what you can look forward to this summer.

July 3rd - Rev. Philip Newman (Lead Minister, WVUC) - Introduction to Summer Series

July 10th - PART 1 - Dr. Jason Byassee (Butler Chair in Homiletics and Biblical Interpretation, VST)

July 17th - PART 2 - Rev. Dr. Brian Thorpe (Minister Emeritus, Ryerson UC)

July 24th - PART 3 - Rev. Dr. Keith Howard (Adjunct Professor at Vancouver School of Theology, VST)

July 31st - PART 4 - Rabbi Dr. Laura Duhan Kaplan (Director of Inter-Religious Studies and Professor of Jewish Studies, VST)

Aug 7th - PART 5 - Rev. Sally McShane (formerly of First United Church, Vancouver)

Aug 14th - PART 6 - Rev. Dr. Richard Topping (Principal, VST; Professor of Studies in the Reformed Tradition)



The Men's Group as it is simply called, was started by long-time church member, Bill Mann in 2008, who recognized there were various gatherings for women within the church and throughout the year---but not for MEN. He questioned why not a regular morning gathering of men without an agenda, simply for relaxed conversation over coffee, tea and fresh muffins? A SOUND IDEA....but would it work? With determination, Bill planned for a monthly get-together, and booked the small comfortable room behind the stage for **10:00 am each third Wednesday of the month**. There are three comfortable sofas and folding chairs as needed, along with small low tables for cups and plates. With the same regular notice of invitation in every Sunday bulletin along with word of mouth, would it bring together enough interested men for this monthly informal gathering simply for conversation? THE ANSWER HAPPILY, A POSITIVE YES !!!



**Coming this Fall:
Men's Retreat
planned for
Saturday, October 1st.
SAVE THE DATE!**

Away to a strong start, the Men's Group became the place to be on each and every third Wednesday for regulars and newcomers. They fill the room with chatter and conversation, as they enjoy each other's company, coffee, tea and especially Bill Mann's muffins, brought in fresh that morning. The Men's Group was established, and has grown, and will no doubt continue ever-on, with 15 to 20 regulars - (not just senior men but any who choose to drop by to enjoy the experience at that time). The MEN'S GROUP is a SUCCESS !!! Thank you Bill.
-Written by Michael Foster

Community Lunches

happen on the last Wednesday of each month in our church Fellowship Hall. There are speakers who give presentations after the meal. These events allow a wonderful chance for some who aren't always able to get out, to get together for a time of companionship, learning and sharing. \$4 at the door.

Lunches will continue through June, then resume in September.



Annual Strawberry Luncheon

**Noon
Wednesday
June 29
\$4 at the door**



"Happy Birthday"

"Happy Birthday" is the most sung melody of all time, with "Auld Lang Syne" a close second. It would require an actuary to count the number of times it is sung in one day, let alone one year.

On **May 25**, we will celebrate the birthdays of those who have reached ninety years or more. The annual event gives so much pleasure and happiness, not only to the honoured guests, but to everyone who participates in making it a joyful experience. It is a time of reflection and sharing.

May I indulge?

My first Sunday School class gathered in a small ante room of the church hall. There my feet did not touch the floor while I was perched on a solid oak chair. I loved my teacher, a gentle lady who read Bible stories to the younger children. Sometimes my attention would wander and focus on a sepia coloured picture hanging on the wall. This must be Jesus, thought I, fascinated by the image of a gentleman with a shock of white hair, his moustache and beard framing his kindly face and smiling eyes. Yes, this is Jesus, I assured myself each Sunday.

Today, I am privileged to hear the messages given by the Youth minister to the assembled group of young people before they leave the Sanctuary for Sunday Club.

I am reminded that I volunteered to teach in the 1960's. The Christian Education Building was filled to capacity. Team teaching was the "In" thing. We dutifully followed the system, but when the regular church service went on longer than anticipated, and the clock on the wall nudged closer to lunch time, the team lined up the class, put a phonograph record on the turn table, placed the needle in the groove and marched the children round the room to the strains of "Onward Christian Soldiers". This hymn is not politically correct today and considered to be long past its "Best Before Date". However, wars continue.

Now we humbly ask God's help to keep Christianity alive.

Thankfully, we have our youth who will carry on the faith for generations to come, hopefully singing "Happy Birthday".

Christine Gardner, (not quite ninety)
April, 2016



If you know anyone 90 or older, please let Madelyne know.

Do you want to use The Vine?

WVUC has worked in partnership with a software vendor named Church Community Builder and created an online community which we have called "The Vine". All membership information is kept on "The Vine" as well as calendars for church events and community events. It is a great tool for managing our committees within the church plus the rooms and resources.

I am responsible for supporting and training people on how to use "The Vine". If you are interested in learning more about "The Vine", contact the office and they will forward your request to me. I will schedule a convenient time for us to meet. Looking forward to requests!!

—ALF (Ann Louise Filbert)



Church Board Welcomes Youth Corresponding Board Members

Corresponding Board Members are non-voting, and appointed. They can fully participate in all discussions and receive correspondence. This is an opportunity for youth to learn more about leadership in our congregation as well as for the Board to have youth contribute their important voices to our discussions. Mariam Toma and Will Honcharuk, members of our church, have agreed to act in this capacity.



I'm Mariam. I have been going to WVUC for at least 3 years. I started with coming to the Sunday service. I heard the choir sing such beautiful songs then I went to Sunday School where I learned new things and made good friends. It's amazing that when I go to church the teachings I am taught become very useful and help me become a good Christian. I started going to youth group and became a

happy volunteer at the church. I volunteered for summer kids camp and the flea market. WVUC has been a great part of my life and I am happy to be a part of such a great church family.

Q: What was your first Board meeting like?

A: It wasn't as serious as I thought it would be. It was more like a gathering, and the "good news minute" was fun.

Q: What's life like away from church for you?

A: I love my family, and life would be boring without my little sister, Josy. She's really creative. I have a goldfish, Ryan, and right now I'm reading the book, "All We Have Is Now" for school. It is really making me think!

Mariam attends West Van Secondary School, where her favourite electives are Information Technology and Drama.

Will is extremely excited to be part of the WVUC Board, building on his church service with the 2015 Mexico mission build, the Oppenheimer Project, the WVUC Youth Group, his participation in and support of Sunday services, and the WVUC summer Kids Camp.

Will has volunteered for many community and social events over the years, particularly those involving human rights and social justice, and has been a strong voice for over four years as a member of the WVPD's Student Work Advisory Team. Will is a Grade 11 student at West Vancouver Secondary School and has been active as a member of the WVSS Student Council and West Vancouver District Student Council. Will loves performing in theatre productions through the school and even the Youth workshops with Bard on the Beach.

When the church was looking for volunteers to learn how to operate the new AV equipment during worship services, Will and his Dad, Terry, stepped up, and they work together in the booth.

Will works the cameras about once

a month for our livestreaming.

Q: Why do you want to be a part of the Church Board?

A: It is a really important thing to understand because it's where the church makes its important decisions.

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Financial Update

Thank you for providing your approval for our 2016 Budget at the Congregational meeting in March. I wanted to provide you an update on the financial position of the Church after the first quarter of 2016. Our envelope and open givings are running \$15,000 below budget and \$2,000 behind last year.

Our expenses are also running slightly behind budget with our Personnel costs \$6,000 below budget and all other expenditures combined running \$7,000 below budget.

I am reasonably confident that our expenses will come in close to budget and therefore our revenue shortfall is a concern although it is early in the year. We will continue to monitor this situation and I will provide quarterly updates. A summary of our General Fund results follows in table to the right.

—Glenn Ives, Treasurer

General Fund - January 1 to March 31, 2016 Summary

	Actual 2016	Budget 2016	Actual 2015
Receipts			
Envelopes and open	\$ 103,000	\$ 117,000	\$ 105,000
Other receipts	23,000	25,000	26,000
	<u>126,000</u>	<u>142,000</u>	<u>131,000</u>
Expenditures			
Personnel	114,000	120,000	95,000
Other expenditures	46,000	52,000	45,000
	<u>160,000</u>	<u>172,000</u>	<u>140,000</u>
Net Receipts less Expenditures	<u>\$ (34,000)</u>	<u>\$ (30,000)</u>	<u>\$ (9,000)</u>

Events Calendar

Grateful for Last Month!

The annual conference of the Church Librarians' Association of BC was held at WVUC in April. The theme was **"Building Bridges."**

The Key speaker was Jason Byassee, chair of Homiletics and Hermeneutics at VST. He spoke in affirmation of the role of church libraries as tools to build bridges between different sectors of society, and within the church, for example to different generations, immigrants, refugees, or people with special needs.

Simon LeSieur and a panel of three of our youth also spoke and were interviewed. One of the youth made a statement that summed up the day beautifully, "We can really learn from people like you, but you can learn from us, too."

We are thankful for the faithful work of our volunteer librarian, Donna Simon, who hosted this conference at WVUC, and the work she does to help us build our own bridges through God's gift of books.



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facebook page:
West Vancouver United Church**

West Vancouver United Church

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If you would like to receive this newsletter by email or read it online, please contact the church office

Office hours through June:
Mon-Thurs 8.30-4pm, Fri 8.30-12 noon
Summer Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs 9-12a.

Up and Coming Calendar of Events

Baptism

Please contact the office a month or two in advance to arrange celebration of sacrament of baptism.

Communion

We will be celebrating Communion on May 15

Congregational Dates and Events

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Mondays | DVD study, through May, 12:30 – 2:00,
Jesus: The New Way |
| Tuesdays | The Prayerful Stork, 10 – 11:30 am, ongoing |
| Tuesdays | Bible Study, 1 – 2 pm, through May 24 (pg 2) |
| Wednesdays | Craft group, 12 – 1 pm, ongoing (pg 5) |
| Thursdays | Youth group, 6:30 pm, through June 16 |
| Mon May 9 | Oikoumene Unit, 7:30 pm |
| Mon May 16 | Journaling Workshop, 7:30 – 9:30 pm (pg 5) |
| Wed May 18 | Naomi Unit, 10 am |
| Wed May 18 | Men's coffee group, 10 am (pg 6) |
| Sat May 21 | Oppenheimer Park Youth Project, 9:30 am |
| Tues May 24 | Small group ministry – You are not alone, 10 am |
| Wed May 25 | Community Luncheon, 12 noon, 90 and 90+ Birthday |
| Sat June 4 | Celebration of Ministries (Simon's ordination) |
| Sun June 12 | Bronwen's garden dedication of new names,
following 10 am service |
| Mon Jun 13 | Oikoumene Unit, 7:30 pm |
| Wed June 15 | Naomi Unit, 10 am |
| Wed June 15 | Men's coffee group, 10 am |
| Thurs June 16 | Last Youth Group meeting of the summer |
| Sat June 18 | Oppenheimer Park Youth Project, 9:30 am |
| Tues June 28 | Small group ministry – You are not alone, 10 am |
| Wed June 29 | Community Luncheon, 12 noon, Strawberry luncheon |
| July 4-8 | Summer Kids camp, 9:00 – 11:30 am
See page 4 for details |
| July 3 – Aug 14 | Summer Sermon Series: Faith in the City,
Sunday mornings, 10 am
See page 5 for details |

Upcoming Concerts

- Sunday May 15** Pacific Spirit Choir and Orchestra present Johannes Brahms German Requiem, 2 pm. See page 5 for details

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