

ANNOUNCEMENTS - May 20, 2012



Lectionary Readings for May 27, 2012

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24 -34, 35b;
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

CRESCENT NEWS

★ OUR INTERIM JOURNEY.....

On May 13th we were happy to be able to announce that, at the request of Crescent Council, Fraser Presbytery has appointed the Reverend Scott Swanson as Interim Minister at Crescent for a two year period commencing July 1, 2012. Scott was ordained at Vancouver School of Theology in 1998. He was originally settled to a three-point charge (Birtle-Isabella-Miniota) in rural Manitoba, and then was called to Langley United Church where he served for six years. In 2008 Scott received designation as an Intentional Interim Minister and has subsequently served two congregations in transition, most recently Gilmore Park United in Richmond. Scott says that he sees Interim Ministry as a potentially fruitful time for a congregation; a time when there can be an openness to unknown possibilities.

I am hopeful and excited for the opportunities the Congregation will have to engage in the work of Interim Ministry over the next two years, and I'd like to thank the Congregation and the Council for the faith and trust placed in the Transition Team, and for their support and prayers as we worked to find a minister to lead us on this journey. Thanks to Grant Bracewell, Jean Macdonald, Doris Mowat, Paul Pieron, Elizabeth Winkler, and the Rev. Norm Pettersson for their insight, wisdom, and commitment. We look forward to Scott's arrival in July, and getting to know him better as he walks with us in ministry here.

~ Val Austring – Transition Team Chair

★ **JUNE COURIER** - We are planning for our next edition of the Courier. Please have any submissions into the office by **Mon., May 28th**. Also, if you would like to receive your copy of the newsletter by email, please contact Joanne in the church office 604-535-1166.

★ **BUILDING SECURITY** - We would like to remind all key holders to please ensure that you follow the opening and closing procedures you were given when the key was issued to you. It is especially important to make sure that all doors are locked when you leave.

★ **PENNY DRIVE UPDATE** - Our annual penny drive for the White Rock/South Surrey Food Bank ends on Sun., May 27th (2 weeks to go). Add your pennies and loose change to our large glass bottles placed in the Church Narthex (entrance way). Amount received to date now totals \$328.50.

★ **UPPER ROOM GALLERY** - Now on display: Eleanor Bracewell's beautiful quilts.

FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP

★ **PREPARING FOR PENTECOST** - Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday and we invite everyone to wear red to celebrate the birth of the church with the coming of God's Holy Spirit. Our service will include the celebration of Communion.

★ **NEWCOMER'S LUNCHEON** - Newcomers to the congregation are invited to a luncheon after church on May 27th at the home of the Susan & Brian Zwick. We are doing our best to identify and contact as many newcomers as possible, but if we have missed you, please leave your name & phone # at the guest book table if you would like to attend. This is a warm, welcoming event where you will meet some great people. For more information phone Betty Lou Douglas.

★ **CHURCH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP EVENING!** - On **May 26th**, beginning at 5:30 pm, folks are invited to join together for food, fellowship & worship. Email Gabrielle@crescentunitedchurch.com or call the church office to let us know if you are planning to attend so we will be certain to have enough food prepared. For further information please speak to Gabrielle.

★ **A CALL FOR COOKIES** - Crescent United has been asked to provide 25 dozen cookies for BC Conference Coffee Time. If anyone is willing to provide 2 dozen cookies please call Winnie Kowalewich. Cookies are to be delivered to the Church on Wednesday, May 30, 2012.

★ **SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB MEETING- Thursday, May 24th** at 1 pm in the church library. We will be discussing "Sing You Home" by Jodi Picoult. Our discussions are informal. Join us. We look forward to meeting new members. For more info, contact Lynda Ecclestone.

★ **PRAYER CIRCLE** - On Tuesday mornings from 10:30-11 we invite all who are interested in gathering together to hold the Crescent Community in prayer to join us at the church. Please place any prayer requests in the prayer request box found towards the back of the sanctuary on the large wood table that also contains a number of candles and the bible.

OUTREACH AT CRESCENT UNITED



MISSION & SERVICE FUND - *How are we doing?*

Our goal to December 31/12 \$ 45,000

Our gifts to April 30/12 \$ 13,734

This is \$653 less than last year.

With 34% of the Sundays gone we have achieved 30.5% of our goal.

***We Need Some people to Give More and More People to Give Some!
Thank You for Your Gifts!***



★ **FREE COMMUNITY DINNER PLANNED FOR THE FALL!** First United Church in White Rock is embarking on a very exciting and much needed program to provide a Free Community Dinner on Thursday evenings twice a month beginning in September. Much of the preparation has been done. The Food Bank has agreed to provide most of the food so the main expense will be for the meat. Crescent United Church has received a grant of \$650 and First United has received a grant of \$1450 to help pay the expenses. A lady who is a caterer has agreed to help plan the menus. ***What is needed now is: 1) Someone to coordinate these dinners and, 2) 3 teams of 4 people (4 to cook, 4 to serve and 4 to clean up). If you will help, please sign up on the sheet on the round table in the Narthex. Thank You!***

★ **SOCKS FOR FATHER'S DAY** - Thanks to Jean Roe's "Socks for Father's Day" program we have sent 400 pairs of socks to First United Church in Vancouver where they are given out free at the Foot Care Program. **Please place your gifts in the basket in the Narthex! THANK YOU!**

★ **THANK YOU TO THE 54 PEOPLE WHO SIGNED THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PETITION!** It calls on every member of the United Nations to set up an ARMS TRADE TREATY that effectively prevents arms from fuelling terrible atrocities and abuses! Amnesty will present these petitions to the United Nations in July 2012 when an ARMS TRADE TREATY IS BEING NEGOTIATED. **THANK YOU EVERYONE!**

★ **FIRST UNITED CHURCH MISSION DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE** -The Thrift Store at First is in need of men's pants, men's shoes, **and towels** in a desperate way. First United Thrift Store is located at 340 East Hastings Street, (four doors east of the Church). Donations can be dropped off in the cupboards by the coat rack Narthex.

✓ **FIRST UNITED CHURCH'S 5TH ANNUAL GOLF FOR THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY TOURNAMENT** takes place on **Mon., May 28th** at the University Golf Club with a Shotgun start (Texas Scramble) at 1pm. The cost to attend is \$200/golfer and includes a bucket of balls, light lunch, pull cart, green fees, barbeque dinner, silent auction and a tax receipt for \$60. To register, visit www.firstunited.ca. For more information please contact Corinne Dahlo at (604) 681-8365 ext. 120 (golf@firstunited.ca).

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

★ **"12 STEPS TO A COMPASSIONATE LIFE"** by Karen Armstrong is a practical guide offering concrete ways to live compassionately following the core teaching of all faiths. Facilitated by Vi Parker & Alyth McDougall, we'll discuss compassionate action in our lives on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, **May 23, 30**. Come as you can - Refreshments served. Please contact Kathy Booth for information.

✓ **YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO A RICH EASTER SEASON series each Thursday in May from 1 - 2.30pm** at First United Church WR. Donna Dinsmore will facilitate a conversation in a "circle of trust" (Parker Palmer style) around "The Shape of Living" by David Ford. For information visit www.donnadinsmore.com (exploring the aliveness).

MEANINGFUL LIVING

✓ **WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME AND SEE WHAT'S REALLY HAPPENING IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL?** Our partners through the 2011 Bethlehem Call have invited us all to COME AND HEAR at Lakeview Multicultural United Church, 2776 Semlin Dr. on **Thurs., May 31st**, 1-4 pm. Explore Palestine through the experiences of Jan McIntyre who lived for 3 months in Yatta, Palestine, in the fall of 2011, serving as overseas United Church personnel and working as an Ecumenical Accompanier with the World Council of Churches. For more information, contact Maggie Hosgood at 604-738-6150 or mhosgood29@gmail.com.

✓ **THE IMAGINE FUND - Silent Auction & Awareness Campaign** - at the General Meeting of BC Conference (June 2nd), supporting individuals & youth groups. Make a donation, donate items for Silent Auction. Forms available from the Church office - 604-535-1166.

✓ **BC CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS** - If you are able to give a few hours of your time during the upcoming AGM of the BC Conference of the United Church (evening of Thur., May 31st to Sun. morning, June 3rd at the UBC War Memorial Gym) please contact one of the following people for more information: Lorraine Beckett (lorraine.beckett@ubc.ca or 604-730-9772) to help with billeting; Trenor Tilley (t_b_tilley@hotmail.com or 604-538-3457) for volunteering with transportation needs; Brian Tucker (drbriantucker@hotmail.com or 604-568-5844) for hospitality work (greeters, coffee and cookies, information desk); and Esmeralda Cabral (esmeralda@shaw.ca or 604-722-5214) for general help. **Thank you! Together we can make this Conference a great success.**

✓ EVENTS BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION ✓

✓ **SUPPORT WHITE ROCK SURREY STROKE RECOVERY** - Laura Langton is looking for pledges for the **Strides for Strokes Walk** on **June 9th** at Peace Arch Park. Please contact Laura if you can help support this cause.

✓ **A TASTE OF SILENCE - Centering Prayer Retreat** - A personal retreat day: an opportunity to be alone with God in the presence of others. **Sat., May 26th**, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm at First Lutheran Church 5745 Wales St., Vancouver. Cost: By donation.

✓ **MUSIC FROM THE MOVIES!** - Annual Variety Show at Cloverdale United Church, 17575-58 A St. Great fun for all members of your family. Fri., May 25 and Sat., May 26. Doors open at 7, show starts at 7:30. Adults \$15. - Kids 5-15 are \$5. - Seniors \$10. - Family of 4 \$25. Refreshments included. Tickets available at the church or at the door, come early to get a good seat.

✓ **SPIRIT CIRCLE** - First United Church, Vancouver - Every Wednesday night a community of residents and non-residents gather for a time of music, prayer and discussion; we talk about the world around us, the Spirit of God that moves within our lives and our future hopes. Please join us on **Wednesday nights** from 7 to 8:30 pm at First United Church. You are always invited! **We are looking for musicians** who would like to volunteer to lead music for one Wednesday night. If you are interested please call Sally McShane at First United 604-681-8365 or 778-875-0311.

✓ **SOUNDS OF THE SOUL: AN EVENING OF INTERFAITH CHANTING** - **Sat., June 9th** 6:30 to 9:30pm at Crossroads United Church, 7655 120 St., Delta - Ten faiths. Ten sounds. One universal experience. Join us in celebration of the history and power of prayer as it relates to the rich spiritual traditions of British Columbia's Lower Mainland! Open to people of all ages and faiths, this is a participatory event in which attendees are encouraged to sing along to a medley of chants and prayers representing ten diverse spiritual traditions. The evening of chanting will be followed by a reception, offering complementary refreshments and plenty of opportunities to socialize and explore interspiritual connections. Admission: By Donation. For more information or to RSVP, please contact: Multifaith Action Society at admin@multifaithaction.org or 604-321-1302.