

Visionary Views



Gibsons United Church

Volume 1, Issue 3—September 2007

Exactly the Right Piece—Rev. Terri Scallon

This summer, Dwane and I took our vacation time to work on the construction of our house. I really looked forward to it. Well, I wasn't so excited about the hard "grunt" work part of it as much as I was about getting to the finished product. Nevertheless, most days I enjoyed the process. Mind you, I had the easy part. While Dwane carried heavy air guns and 20 foot long pieces of lumber up and down the ladder all day, I was staining. My job was to prepare the wood before it could be put in whatever place it was going to live out its purpose – as siding or ceiling or flooring.

At first, I had to learn how to use the stain product properly – when to use a brush, when to use a "foamie", when to use a rag. How not to have it drip all over the floor or get in your hair. Or on your clothes. Certainly not on the dog.

After I became comfortable with the tools and method, I began to actually look at the wood I was applying the stain to. I began to notice the knots, the grain and the density and weight of the wood. I noticed how cedar soaks up a lot more stain than fir does, and rough cut wood soaks up more than a smooth finish.

It even got so I would recognize a particular board of wood I had worked on previously. When it would come around the second time for Varathaning, I found myself talking to it. "Oh, I remember you! You're the one with the gorgeous knots!" Or, "Ah, you're the one with the lovely grain."

Now, I talk to trees regularly, but this surprised me because I never thought I would talk to a wood board like it was an old friend that had come back to visit! Previous to this, all boards of wood looked the same to me, and somehow, once the tree had been felled and milled, I thought of the boards as, well, dead. And since all wood planks have grain markings, really, what's the difference one from the next? But, over and over again, I'd see Dwane pick out a piece of lumber from the huge pile because it was "exactly the right piece." "I think you're nuts," I'd say. "They all look the same to me."

Jesus, they say, was a carpenter. Just like he probably could tell what piece of wood was "just right" for the job at hand, I suspect he can tell which one of us is just right for a much needed job here in our midst. There is a lot of work yet to be done to build God's community. Like unfinished wood, God knows which one of us needs a little more preparation and which one of us is ready to be applied. And when we come back around again for more finishing, as we invariably do, he probably says, "Oh! It's you again! My, you look even more beautiful! Those rough edges are smoother now and your grain is so unique! I know just where to put you!" Or, "Those rough edges are just what I was looking for and those knots will add exactly the character I need here!" The Creator sees each one of us as humans as unique and beautiful, even if, really, we pretty much all look the same.

So, like a piece of wood in the capable hands of the Carpenter, enjoy the process. He is working intimately with you to prepare you to build the Community of God. Soak up the love he paints you with so you can be strong and purposeful. (And, it doesn't matter if it drips on your clothes. Or the dog.)

Terri

Treasurer's Report—January to April 2007

Our finances for the first eight months of 2007, are as follows:-

| <u>Revenue</u> | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Local (loose and envelopes) | 40,167 | 42,599 |
| Other Income | <u>9,809</u> | <u>9,354</u> |
| Total Operating Revenue | 49,976 | 51,953 |
| | | |
| New Initiatives | 16,149 | 15,875 |
| Stewardship & Outreach | <u>4,285</u> | <u>4,754</u> |
| Total Revenue | 70,410 | 72,582 |
| | | |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | |
| Salaries & administration | 39,643 | 40,708 |
| Committees etc. | <u>10,435</u> | <u>12,584</u> |
| Total Operating Expense | 50,078 | 53,292 |
| | | |
| New Initiatives | 12,602 | 15,875 |
| Stewardship & Outreach | <u>4,200</u> | <u>4,981</u> |
| Total Expenses | 66,880 | 74,148 |

Our operating revenue is about \$2,000 or 4% less than budget and our operating expenditures are about \$3,200 or 6% below budget. So far this year we have spent about \$100 more than we have received. However this month will be expensive as we have the insurance and taxes to pay which add about \$4,000 to our regular costs

Submitted by: John M. Paterson, Treasurer



Do you have an announcement or event or picture for our website?
Email webmaster@gibsonsunitedchurch.ca or call Celia at 886-1940.

Being Healthy—By Phil Lane from the Four Worlds Exchange

Health is a process of being and becoming whole: physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Being healthy is:

- having a vision of who we are as human beings and how we grow and develop,
- living in the experience that we are intimate and related to all of creation, being able to appreciate that our mistakes are as essential and as sacred to the living process as our successes,
- not blaming others for our pain,
- being able to learn from others as well as from ourselves,
- being able to spend time with ourselves in quietness and solitude,
- being able to promptly apologize and change our behaviour when we realize our behaviour and attitudes are inappropriate,
- being able to accept a compliment with true thanksgiving and humility before the Creator,
- being able to laugh at yourself when you behave in awkward ways,
- being able to recognize the wildflowers growing in the garbage dump,
- being able to cry
- not allowing your guilt to become more destructive than your mistake,
- striving to become worthy rather than competing,
- accepting everything that has happened in your life with thanksgiving,
- reflecting on your own faults and considering how you can improve yourself at time when other people make mistakes.

A healthy community:

- is the natural result of healthy people,
- respects and appreciates the diversity within it,
- protects and defends its unity,
- is honest with itself and others,
- makes its own decisions,
- takes responsibility for the outcomes of its decisions and actions,
- realizes there is no wrong way to pray,
- recognizes that every part of the community is sacred, from the youngest child to the oldest elder,
- is engaged in the process of recovery from addictions.



In a healthy community:

- people can make mistakes and be forgiven,
- sobriety is economic development,
- curiosity, experimentation and innovation are supported and encouraged,
- men and women don't abuse each other,
- work and service to the people are regarded as sacred,
- the political process is centred in spiritual principles.

Submitted by Terri Scallon

Coming to Gibsons United this Fall!



Saturday Movie Night—
Saturday, November 3 at 7:00
p.m.

Join with friends for an evening of cinema.

Sunday Matinee—Sunday, November
18 at 2:30 p.m.

Bring a friend! Following the matinee will be
a light supper.

Send your favourite movie title suggestion to

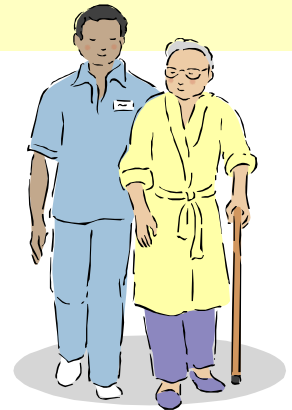
Grace Davis Memorial Fund

There have been a few requests from Home Support for donations from the Grace Davis Memorial Fund recently.

This fund is held in a GIC at the Royal Bank. It is a fund that was started when Grace Davis, who was a member of our Church, was at home suffering from cancer as she did not wish to be in the Hospital.

It is to be used for anyone who is terminally ill and staying at home but needs help with some of the financing.

For further information please contact Betty Paterson at 604-886-4226.



Mission & Service Fund

Our Mission and Service Fund contributions up to the end of August amounted to \$6,442 which is \$102 short of the budgetted amount.

Copies of the "Mandate" magazine are available in the narthex and these contain interesting information with regard to the way in which Mission and Service funds are used at home and abroad.

Submitted by: Betty Paterson

Newsletter Items

This is our third issue of *Visionary Views*. We want to expand our content to include a variety of articles and interesting information such as:

- * Member biographies
- * Poetry
- * Book reviews
- * Inspirations and Thoughts for the Day
- * Updates on projects
- * Short anecdotes or stories

Please submit them any time to Dawn Miller at dawn_miller@dccnet.com or phone 604-886-8278. We will include them in the next issue, space permitting

Worship & Music Committee

As I record activities connected to GUC Worship and Music, I bask in these days of summer, sadly missing up to this point. During Rev. Terri's annual leave we had the following guest worship leaders: Niv Harris, Michel Stobie, Rev. Linda Varin of St. Hilda's in Sechelt, Rev. Esther North of Gibsons, and Rev. Bob Burrows, currently a member of First United's care giving team. Our guest organist, Mary Bittroff, executed the 'music' end expertly and effectively. Thank you, Mary. Choir offerings also added to our summer's worship experience.

As we face the next few months, discussions regarding innovations in music, external choral contributions, joint services that broaden ecumenical moments, and other possibilities, require exploration and assessment. This means an ongoing process of investigation and analysis until we get the feel of where we want to be. It will create some doubts and uncertainties, but with God's divine leadership, we shall all end up on his 'page'.

Our Worship and Music Committee is: Tony Richmond, Donna Forsyth, Betty Paterson, Virginia Young, Stan Robben and Sandra Wrightman – with Rev. Terri as 'Chief Disciple'.

Submitted by Tony Richmond

Dinner Theatre—Putting on the Blitz—Oct. 19-21/07

Don't miss this exciting dinner theatre presentation! There will be three performances, featuring a different menu each night:

- Friday evening—seafood kabobs
- Saturday evening—chicken
- Sunday evening—roast beef

The play was written by Rory MacAskill and is directed by Linda Norris. Linda Mayhew and Dawn Miller have been helping with stage management duties and Lee Haffner is on board for costume assistance. Set design and construction by Rory and Terry Connor will help to set the scene.

This farcical one-act play takes place during the Second World War in a bomb shelter. Meet the characters who turn up at the Strand when they take refuge from the bombs.

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Bill, the Air Raid Warden | Dave Hurtubise |
| Elsie | Dianna Barton |
| Betty | Sam Mills |
| Walter | Ian McInnes |
| Lady Margaret | Tony Richmond |
| Bessie | Doraleen Stucky |
| Wilma | Niv Harris |
| Neddie | Ed White |
| Heddie | Terri Scallon |
| LaLa | Michele Stobie |

Tickets are \$30.00 per person. Call Marie Connor at 604-886-7040.



In Touch Visitations

The "In Touch Leaders" visit personally or by phone monthly to make sure all is well with our members and adherents. We try to deliver the flowers on Sunday to cheer someone up or to celebrate a happy occasion. We are thankful for the members who place flowers in the church so that they may be used in this beneficial way. If you know someone who is ill or has not been communicated with, please let Phyllis Hurschman know, 604-886-1378, and we will remedy the matter. Also, if you know of someone who needs a friendly visit, let Phyllis know.



IGA and Super Valu store tapes are redeemed by

Phyllis and Bea to provide gift certificates to assist our minister with the benevolent fund for our church. For every \$5,000 worth of store tapes, we receive a \$20 gift certificate. Make sure the date is left on the tape when you turn them in. There is a box at the front of the church for these tapes or just give them to Phyllis or Bea.

IGA coupons are being saved by members so we may accumulate place settings of dishes for our church. So far, we have five place settings. Either pick up the place settings yourself or give the completed card to Phyllis.

UCW Report

Back in **May**, ten members attended our regular meeting. Devotional theme of "Child of Love, bring your Gifts of Love" was led by Phyllis Hurschman, with Laurie Haynes reading from scripture.

The Plant, Book & Bake Sale report was heard and a copy filed for future reference. It has been suggested that we stay open longer but this is not practical as when there are no people to buy, the staff will leave and we need them there to help with the clean up. It was a very successful sale just as it was. A card of thanks will be sent to Cathie Roy for two ads in the Coast Reporter.

Treasurer Phyllis Hurschman reported a book balance of \$3,290.04 and gift certificates worth \$240 for Rev. Terri's benevolent fund.

We received a thank you card from Trudy Ruck, February's guest speaker on the Mercy Home in Kenya.

IGA stamps are being collected towards a knife or knives for the kitchen.

Val Boyes reminds us that soup labels are used by the Eastern Star/Shriners for money towards a bus that takes sick kids who can't be treated here to a hospital in the U.S. So keep bringing us those labels.

In **June**, our luncheon was held at Robbie's Pancake House .

This month, on the 26th, we are having a regular meeting, which will be chaired by Phyllis Hurschman.

In **October**, we hope to have a program meeting on "Habitat for Humanity."

If anyone is not saving **IGA coupons** for dishes for their own use and would like to help us put some matching dishes in the church kitchen, please fill your cards and either redeem the cards yourself and bring the dishes to the church or give the filled cards to Phyllis Hurschman. It would be greatly appreciated.

Submitted by: Donna Forsyth

Book Studies

September 18 for 6 weeks—Darwin, Divinity and the Dance of the Cosmos—Bruce Sanguin

January—Blessings of the Cosmos—Neal Douglas Klotz

January—The Last Week—Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan

Pastoral Care Team

Contact Members:

Marie Connor (886-7040),
 Jackie Halsey (886-1505),
 Phyllis Hurschman (886-1378)
 Marilyn Richmond (886-0289)

Average Church Attendance: June--77; July--59; August--40.

I hope everyone had a good summer in spite of the fact it was not exactly the sunny warm summer we were hoping for after the lengthy rainy weather we had over the winter and spring. We are grateful for the recent sunny warm days.

The Car Boot Sale on Saturday June 23rd, chosen because people did not want it with the church picnic, was not as well participated in as when it was on the same day as the picnic last year.

We are not sure whether we will have it next year unless members of the congregation tell us that we should have it again and perhaps offer suggestions as to when we should have it. The time chosen the last two years was because we felt there was a better likelihood the weather would be better. In fact this year the rain held off until we had packed up and all the other weekends had been rainy, so in fact our choice had been correct we just

didn't have all that many people come by. The people who did, did learn that we have a Thrift Store as we had it open while the Boot Sale was on. It was ably manned by Niv, who had made the suggestion and offered to look after it. Thanks Niv.

Saturday the 21st of September will be the Community Dinner featuring a Salmon dish. Unfortunately, we will be in town for our nephew's wedding so I'm not sure we will be back in time to take part.

Oct. plans for the Dinner Theatre are on the 19, 20, & 21, and the title is Putting on the Blitz. It is a play written by Rory and is about England during the war.

The Holly Tea and Bazaar will be in November and the Angel Tree and Potluck meal will be Dec. 1. In the Church calendar this is in fact NEW YEAR'S Eve. and there was a suggestion that after the Potluck meal we have a games night.

I'd like to point out for those who might have missed the notice in the Coast Reporter that the Malaspina Coach Lines has a new schedule leaving Gibson's Depot at 7:45 a.m. and will be making drop-offs at St. Paul's Hospital, The General and Children's. as well as going to the Airport by 10:30 am. It has an early

afternoon return but it doesn't say if it picks up at the same locations so you would have to phone and check that out but it is useful to know there is another option that is more convenient than it had been.

Reminder: If you have concerns or need a visit or someone to talk to give one of us a call.

Thank you to everyone who visits and delivers the Newsletter, Puts the Newsletter together and gets it ready to be delivered. Thank you also to all those people who take a turn in the Coffee Setup and Serving and Cleanup on Sundays. Many hands make light the work. Coffee Time is a wonderful time for fellowship, sharing ideas, and getting to know new people and visiting with visitors to our church. Comments from visitors in August were that we were a very welcoming church. A group of young people said if they lived here they would be coming to this church.

ust as the poem "Footprints in the Sand" tells of the times when there was only one set of prints it was because GOD was carrying you, so too when you're feeling alone know that God's Arms are around you, comforting you with HIS LOVE.

Marilyn Richmond, Chairperson.

My face in the mirror
 Isn't wrinkled or drawn.
 My house isn't dirty,
 The cobwebs have gone..
 My garden looks lovely
 And so does the lawn.
 I think I might never
 Put my glasses back on.

Sandi V - www.wackywits.com Submitted by Michele Stobie

GIBSONS UNITED CHURCH

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2007/8 Coffee After Church Roster

Each team of the Board is responsible for providing coffee and goodies after church according to the rotation below.

When it is your team's turn, please discuss it and determine which team members are responsible for which Sundays. If you have a small team, please ask for volunteers from the congregation to help. You don't need to do it alone—many people are happy to help.

Each week during your team's month, you will need to start the coffee brewing at 9 am and get things ready before the service starts. There is a detailed list of instructions in the kitchen for setting up. You will need to bring enough baked goods to provide 6 dozen servings.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| September | Spiritual Development |
| October | Worship & Music |
| November | Property |
| December | United Church Women |
| January | Choir |
| February | Pastoral Care |
| March | Social & Environmental Justice (need extra help) |

If you would like to be called when extra help is needed by a committee, please call Jackie Halsey to let her know—604-886-1505.

Our Vision and Mission

Vision: Through God's love, we lead, support and serve, which means to love, accept, care, inspire, motivate.

Mission: To celebrate diversity by being inclusive and by providing a safe oasis in time and space as a loving community which:

- shows compassion and acceptance to all ages
- inspires through spiritual gatherings, learning and friendship
- respects and encourages a variety of views, opinions and approaches to faith

Strategies: We will accomplish our mission by:

- involving the congregation in the ministry of everyone
- demonstrating leadership in responding to community needs
- reaching out with compassion through the following ministries:
 - * social justice
 - * music
 - * studies
 - * children and youth

Coming Events

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Sept. 18 | Book Study: Darwin, Divinity and the Dance of the Cosmos |
| Oct. 5 | Recovery Café Gratitude Groove—music and goodies |
| Oct. 19, 20 & 21 | Dinner Theatre —Putting on the Blitz |
| Nov. 3 | Family Film Night |
| Nov. 17 | Holly Tea and Bazaar —1:00 to 3:00 pm |
| Nov. 18 | Sunday Movie Matinee & Light Supper |
| Dec. 1 | Angel Tree and Games Night |