

THE VOICE

OF TSAWWASSEN UNITED CHURCH



June 2006

Hallelujah — Anyway!

PRESBYTERY REPORT – June 2006

Submitted by: **Marleen Soutar**

Vancouver South Presbytery met for the last time before the summer holidays at the Annual General Meeting of BC Conference May 25 through 28th in Esquimalt. Over 500 participants attended the Conference including the Rev. Mollie Williams, John Gary and myself. Thank you for the opportunity. I've lost track but I think this was my 5th Conference. Folks from all over the province from Bella Coola to White Rock and from Vancouver Island to the East Kootenays came to meet, discuss, sing, pray, vote, sing, worship, sing and, sometimes, to visit old and new friends. It's a wonderful few days filled with new experiences and some old frustrations. We are all seeking to do God's work as we look at the theme of the Conference "Roots and Shoots." "For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, then it will sprout again." Job 14:7.

The National church will be holding a General Council this year August 12 – 19 in Thunder Bay, Ontario and so we elected commissioners to attend that meeting to represent you and me.

We had numerous discussions about the many camps in B.C. owned by the United Church of Canada. Most of them are in great need of renovation and so it has been a difficult time deciding which ones may have to close. One thing is sure, we want a United Church camp experience to be the best possible for children in the future and so we must decide wisely.

We attended workshops on various themes. The one I found the most interesting was on the new music resource soon to be available called "More Voices." I have a sampler available for

the choir to take a look at. Some of these hymns would require a "bigger drum section" in the choir! There are some great, inspiring, lively pieces in this new publication.

One of Mollie's tasks at Conference involved the Settlement Committee. Each person being ordained into the United Church of Canada must spend at least three years in a settlement church as part of their ordination. This year, there were 57 who wanted to be ordained or commissioned and 68 pastoral charges who wanted to be settled. You may be interested to know that Ivy Thomas (Vaksdal) who was with us for her second year field placement, has been settled to Barriere, B.C. Three from Vancouver South, Dawn Hermann, Maggie Watts-Hammond and Sandra Nixon have all been ordained and settled.

The Service of Ministry is held on Sunday morning. It is a very emotional time for the students as well as their families, friends and all others who have walked the journey with them. The committee I serve on, Education & Students, has known all three of the new ministers from Vancouver South for years. We've been delighted to see them grow in faith and ability and we look forward to hearing about their Settlement time. George and Mary Sambell came over for the Sunday church service. If you've never heard a room full of over 500 people from the United Church singing & taking communion together, you don't know what you're missing! You'll have to wait two years though until the next General meeting.

Val Anderson, recently deceased minister and former member of the BC legislative assembly, provided a wonderful quote through the Rev. Bob Smith, former Moderator of the Church. He was giving some advice to a young person embarking on their ministry and he recommended three things: (1) We may always be living on the edge — so get on with life! Change doesn't have to mean loss — it's just different. (2) Go out & meet the people. (3) Know your rules of order — you never know when you might have to chair a meeting!

Bob summed it up as well when he said "Hallelujah — anyway!"

Maybe that should be the new slogan for the United Church as a whole but particularly for Tsawwassen United. Hallelujah anyway! ■

RiverCity Gospel Jazz Service



**Sunday,
June 25th, 2006
10:00 a.m.**

Please bring cookies or squares to be shared with coffee after the service.

Flowers & Bulletins



Flowers are needed for the sanctuary during Sunday worship services. Please sign up on the bulletin board or call Lynne Meinert at 604-943-4082.

My First Pilgrimage — June/July 2006 By Mollie Williams

Soon I am off on my very first pilgrimage with a community of other contemporary pilgrims, all brought together by the Vancouver School of Theology. Our Pilgrimage is entitled: "From Dingle to Cashel: Claiming our Spiritual Heritage."

In the traditions of the Jewish and Christian Bible, religious shrines had both a backward and forward look, a past and a future. In the old biblical tale of Jacob (Genesis chapters 28 and 35) the trickster who flees from his brother Esau after he has cheated him out of his inheritance spends his first night away from home in a lonely place far from human habitation. He sleeps on the ground with a stone for a pillow. During the night he dreams of a ladder with angelic beings coming down to him and returning to heaven.

When he awakens the next morning, he seizes on this dream as a promise of God's presence with him on the journey. In the tradition of his day, Jacob builds a simple cairn to mark the spot — Bethel meaning 'God's house' — where Jacob experienced the powerful presence of God. Years later when he is married and journeying with a large household when another crisis threatens to overwhelm him, Jacob brings his family back to Bethel in the hope of encountering God again. For him and for generations since, Bethel has been known as a sacred place.

The pilgrimage that I am about to embark on with some 30 other people will weave a path through the story of the Celtic church in Ireland from the time of earliest Christian contact until the high middle ages, when for a variety of reasons, the Irish church found itself dropping much that was Irish. We begin our journey at the mouth of the Shannon River in southwest Ireland, and we return 15 days later to the same location. Our pilgrimage proper will begin on the ancient Dingle peninsula, the westernmost point in Europe. There we will explore for several days traces of

the early, heroic era of Irish monasticism, with particular focus on the story of the great local saint, Brendan the Navigator. Then we will move north, up the west coast to Galway Bay, and we'll spend a day on the largest of the Aran Islands, Inishmore, with its limestone face where some early monastic communities eked out a subsistence living.

From there we will journey eastward and through the rich farmlands of the central counties. Clonmacnoise, the greatest of all medieval Irish monasteries lies on our journey. There we will see the remains of the monastery known as 'city of God.' Then from our base in Maynooth at St. Patrick's College, we will make a series of visits to three sites: Newgrange, Tara and Slane. These will take us into the world of pre-Christian Ireland and the mission of St. Patrick. Then we will move on to Kildare to learn more about the abbess St. Brigid and her women's monastery. Next we'll visit Monasterboice to explore the ways in which the Irish imagination depicted the sacred story in stone. In Dublin we will see the Book of Kells and visit the natural splendour of St. Kevin's community at Glendalough in the Wicklow mountains. Our journey will then take us south and west until we reach the ancient holy rock of Cashel and Jerpoint Abbey. Finally we will end up in Limerick and Killaloe on the Shannon where we will meet with some contemporary church leaders to learn about today's Irish church.

A long, long time ago, King Alfred wrote the following prayer — "To see Thee is the end and the beginning. Thou carriest me and thou goest before. Thou art the journey and the journey's end." This reminds of my favourite Psalm, # 139. I wonder if that is what King Alfred had in mind when he wrote his prayer. My prayer as I go is that I will encounter God in ancient places and in ways both old and new. And finally that I will be renewed in my own faith journey. ■

It's spring — almost summer — here are a few hints on:

How to Plant Your Garden

First, you come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses...

For the garden of your daily living:

Plant three rows of peas:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

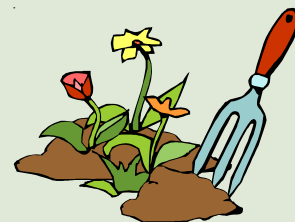
No garden is without turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for Service
3. Turnip to help one another

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.



LIBRARY NEWS

From the Library Gals

— Donna Mullan and Lillian Lewis:

BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!

SIZZLING SUMMER READS

Seven new books of fiction for your entertainment:

LADIES' DETECTIVE SERIES:

By Alexander McCall Smith

1. The No. 1 Ladies Detective Series
2. Tears of the Giraffe
3. Morality for Beautiful Girls
4. The Kalahari Typing School for Men
5. The full Cupboard of Life
6. In the Company of Cheerful Ladies
7. Blue Shoe and Happiness

Alexander McCall Smith was born in Zimbabwe but he has spent most of his life in Scotland. For a time, he was a law professor at the University of Botswana. He returns regularly to that part of Africa.

McCall Smith has such a descriptive telling style of his African characters in Botswana that he makes one feel that you are there with them. A message for all of us in every book!

Thank you for reading.

Library Committee ■

Think About It

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

When you get to your wits end, you'll find God lives there.

People are funny: they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.

FIRE DESTROYS VIVIAN HOUSE

Most of our congregation knows that Outreach Division has been helping Vivian House with donations of food, clothing, bedding and toiletries. We learned of this home for 24 women battling abuse or addiction from our connection with "Food on the Corner" and we have established a strong outreach connection with staff and residents. It is situated at Cordova and Jackson Streets in Vancouver near "Needle Park" in the downtown core. The building is an old hotel, bought and renovated by a Vancouver realtor whose mother, Vivian, died in the streets of Halifax from substance addiction.

In May a fire broke out in one of the rooms and it burned through the roof to the open sky. No one was injured and The Triage acted quickly to find temporary accommodation for all 24 women. The building is uninhabitable and insurance claims are proceeding. The estimated time of re-opening is not clear. One of the more stable locations for some of the women is the Princess Rooms, named after the street it is on near Powell Avenue. The Triage has contacted us to ask if we could support the Princess Rooms in the manner we have supported Vivian House.

Don't be misled by the name. The Princess Rooms were not built for royalty. There are 45 rooms occupied 50% by men. With the addition of the women from the Vivian, for now, there are more women. Most of the rooms have cooking facilities but pretty well every person there is on low income. The needs of these people are still food, clothing and toiletries but, in the absence of a communal area, there is less a sense of community, at least, at first glance. We have met the on-site supervisors who are there 24 hours, seven days a week. They would appreciate any help we can give and told us they have not received much in the way of donations in the past. Our first delivery of hamburger patties and tomatoes was a big surprise.

Outreach has decided to support the Princess Rooms and will work with their

staff on the most effective way to assist. We plan to stick to donations of food, clothing and toiletries and we invite the congregation to continue the support we gave to The Vivian by placing donations in the Outreach corner. Please label clothing male or female.

It is difficult to picture what the fire meant to the Vivian residents. Some have had such hard lives that they may just shrug it off as bad luck again. Others trying to straighten out may be set back and demoralized and will need a period of adjustment to start trying again. Our support may make a difference to their recovery.

We believe we are carrying out the work Jesus asks of us – feed, clothe, and love one another, just as we would do for him.

Archie Mullan,
Outreach Committee ■

WORSHIP NOTES — SUMMER

On June 18th, today, the Reverend Ivy Thomas, recently ordained, will be leading us in worship. As you may know, Ivy completed some of her internship with us.

On June 25th, Tsawwassen United is responsible for leading the worship service at the Kinsmen Centre at 9:30 a.m. Please come along and help the folks sing and find the hymns.

Also on June 25th at 10:00 A.M. we have the pleasure of welcoming RiverCity Gospel Jazz offering us something a bit different in worship style. Bring a friend!

The Reverend Doug Graves will be our worship leader from July 2nd to July 30th. Sara Ciantar (sometime organist with St. David's Anglican Church) will be our accompanist while Leona is away on July 2nd and 16th. Rod Asher, from All Saints Anglican in Ladner, will be playing the piano on July 9th and Pat Rogers, from Ladner United, on the 23rd and 30th. Rod has played here before. ■

RiverCity Gospel Jazz Service

June 25th, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

This group of eight provides an entertaining worship service of Gospel Music in modified Dixieland Style.

Come and sing old favourites like "Shall we gather at the River," "Precious Lord, take my hand" and many others.

If you have friends who like something out of the ordinary bring them along. They just might like this unusual worship style.

Here are notes from the group:

RiverCity Gospel Jazz is a group composed of amateur musicians who play Gospel Music in a kind of Dixieland style. The service includes much congregational singing, special numbers by the group, and appropriate readings.

All members of the group have a faith orientation. Gordon Laird, on clarinet and our music director is a retired United Church minister, as is Alan Reynolds, founder of the group, trombone; Franklyn Hills on trumpet, is a lay leader in the Brethren church; Mike Collins, on guitar and Anglican, plays each Sunday at a Roman Catholic church in North Van; Bill Buck, our lector, is a member of University Hill United, and Bob Copeman is a member of Lynn Valley United.

Here are two reviews from other congregations:

Knox United Church, Vancouver

People of all ages came and many brought friends or relatives who don't usually come to church. Everyone felt they had a wonderful time, and appreciated the opportunity to sing some of the wonderful gospel music along with the band. From young adults who got fully involved to seniors who danced down the aisle, everyone was touched by the simplicity and sincerity of the music. It warmed our hearts, and people are hoping we will have the band come back to Knox again.

University Hill Congregation — Ed Searcy

The sound that the RiverCity group makes is wonderful ... they make pain feel sweet when shared between players and they make a joyous sound of praise together. In fact, I began to feel that the sound of their playing is what a Christian community "sounds like" when it performs the gospel in its life ... shared pain and lament, shared joy and jubilation ... with each player of the gospel having a unique "voice" ... together making a traveling pilgrim band of saints, marching in. I hope that we can bring the RiverCity Gospellers back sooner than later. ■

HOPE INTERNATIONAL WORKING IN INDIA

On Friday, April 28th, Agnes Bolivar and Ted Church presented a most interesting show of pictures they had taken on their travel with Hope International Working in India. They joined with others learning about life in rural India, meeting with the people there, and even staying in their homes. They attended meetings with women in some of the villages and actually worked in the fields, picking ground nuts (like peanuts) and watching how the Indian people spent their days. Some of the villages were very poor, but we could see in the pictures how beautiful the people are, beautifully dressed and the children in their school rooms looking healthy and bright.

There were 20 people from Tsawwassen United there and we enjoyed lovely Indian refreshments, thanks to Lee Gary. Delicious Indian candy and cookies with vegetables and yoghurt dips were complimented by the colourful table cloths and dishes Lee had provided. Everyone had a lovely evening of fellowship, and we were encouraged to ask questions as the pictures were presented.

Thanks Agnes and Ted for an enjoyable evening which added \$64 to the church. If you have some interesting pictures or stories you would be willing to share with the congregation please leave a message with the office.

Marilyn Merry ■

Musical Notes

Once again, we hosted Magee Secondary School Chamber Choir and Ensemble under the direction of Mr. John Trepp on Sunday evening June 4th. We have had a 15 year association with this school and Mr. Trepp. Proceeds from the concert have been shared; Magee providing bursaries on behalf of Tsawwassen United Church for students attending summer music camps. A most enjoyable evening.

The Hymn Sing held on May 28th, led by Melanie Williams, was well-received by the congregation. Some weeks prior to May 28th, people submitted requests of their three favourite hymns and the top ten choices were woven into the service. Melanie read a brief commentary about each hymn. More of the favourites will be selected over the summer and incorporated into the worship services.

Choir rehearsals have wrapped up until September. However, the music will not end. While Leona is on vacation for the month of July, the congregation will be "treated" to guest musicians — Sara Ciantar, Rod Asher and Pat Rogers. Please give them your warm wishes. Leona will be back at the organ and piano on August 6th.

Leona Prowse ■

THE MARRIAGE PROJECT

NEWSLETTER EXCERPTS



The Marriage Project is an interdenominational agency created some years ago by the Anglican and other churches in the lower mainland. Several times a year they offer workshops called 'Preparing for Marriage' and 'Marrying Again'. Mollie always recommends these workshops to anyone who comes to our church for a wedding. Most couples report having found them worthwhile and more helpful than they expected. If you are interested in more information about The Marriage Project, check out their website www.themarriageproject.com.

On Cleaving and Leaving

There is an archaic word in the English language that has two meanings that are complete opposites. The word is "cleave." The meaning most commonly used is to cling, to attach, to stick fast. The other meaning is to chop, to break, to split — as with a meat cleaver.

The source of this dual imagery is the Genesis creation story where the writer reflects on the marriage relationship. The job of the husband, we read, is to leave (cut off from) his father's house and turn in the opposite direction to cleave to his wife. On the one hand he is to be independent from his family and on the other hand, he is to be united with his wife.

The man and woman are still two separate individuals who have broken off and split from their families, yet somehow they are to join together and to "cling, attach, stick fast" to each other.

Entering into marriage means that a couple is taking on the almost impossible task of learning how to be separate individuals who will together form one family unit. This balancing act of being separate but yet together is at the heart of good relationships. Being an independent person, yet being part of that most intimate community, marriage, is a balancing act that is at the heart of marriage.

Cleaving as in "united" and leaving as in "separating" are concepts that are very much a part of the teaching of the Marriage Project. They represent important work that marrying couples need to do in order to have a successful and long-lasting marriage.

The topic of how couples have to engage in the task of forging a strong "togetherness" from the material of two very

different personalities, backgrounds, needs and wants is one that is at the core of our *Preparing for Marriage* and *Marrying Again* workshops.

When I asked Heather and David (not their real names), who were about to be married, to describe their relationship to me, one of the things they said was that they were "soul-mates." They felt incredibly fortunate to have found each other — it was their destiny to be together because of this.

Intrigued, I questioned them as to what being and having a soul-mate meant to them both. Speaking in turn, David and Heather quickly responded that they had found in each other a partner who understood their deepest longings and they had found someone with whom they could be connected in a deep and spiritual way. They had found someone whose innermost being really seemed to fit with their own.

Do these responses ring a distant bell for you? They did for me. I went on a trip down memory lane and remembered the early years after meeting and marrying my own "soul-mate." I wish from the bottom of my heart that my husband and I could have held on to the feelings a lot longer than we did. Being "in love" was all so effortless. It was such a jolt when the truth of the T shirt we found in a souvenir store — "Nobody's perfect" — hit us between the eyes.

So what happens? Is it really a hopeless cause to expect to hold on to the feelings of having found one's soul-mate past the few months and years of marriage? In the grind of every day living, is it possible to reconnect with the soul mate of young love?

The answers are a qualified "yes." It is possible — but to my mind, whether or not you have a soul-mate depends less on whom you choose to marry than it does on the journey you've taken in your marriage. Rather than finding a soul-mate to marry, couples have to choose to *create* a soul-bond between themselves in the thousands of small choices they make each and every day. If a couple is working towards finding meaning in their marriage in this way, they are doing soul work. Soul work is relationship work. My background as a pastor leads me to believe that because we have been created in the image of God who seeks relationship, the desire for relationship is deeply imbedded in us.

To *have* a soul-mate means you have to work on *being* a soul-mate. Equally importantly, you need to recognize your partner's potential for being your soul mate. Start by recognizing each other's natural resources — gifts, interests and motivations. Help each other define, develop and value those resources. Support each other in the pursuit of shared and individual pursuits.

If couples choose to do the work required to connect at the deepest levels, the likelihood that they will be able to bond together as soul mates becomes more of a probability. Is it worth the effort? Absolutely! Do we all long to reconnect with the soul-mate we once knew? Beyond a shadow of a doubt! Let's get going then! My husband and I are planning to attend a marriage enrichment workshop in July to work on rekindling our soul-mateness. Perhaps we'll see you there?

Written by the Reverend Beryl Mussar, Administrator/Counsellor ■

TRANSITION TEAM May Report

The Transition Team wanted to share with you the wonderful meeting that was held on Saturday, May 6, 2006. We feel that this meeting has given us a great boost for our tasks. Under the leadership of Rev. Mollie Williams we have been meeting regularly to tackle the job set before us. Marleen Soutar was elected Chair; other members from our church are Jim Moore, Murray Swayze, Bob Tarlton and Marilyn Merry. Presbytery representatives are Jim Short and Jon Jessiman and we are very grateful for their guiding presence.

One of our tasks is to look back on our history to reflect and learn from the past as we prepare for the future. Council Chairs from the past 20 years were asked to join us and help us learn from their experiences. Jerry Hoerber and the team of Barry Ainslie and Pat Sadkowski were unable to attend, but graciously sent letters which were read at the May 6th meeting. Chairs that were able to join us were Bob Tarlton, John Glover, Rick Soutar, Mary Sambell, Sheri Brekstad Obera, George Sambell, and Marleen Soutar.

We were welcomed by George Sambell and a short worship service was presented by Jon Jessiman. Chair, Marleen Soutar, introduced the team members and Mollie Williams guided us into our day.

We were amazed and came to realize how blessed we are to have had the truly dedicated members of Tsawwassen United Church who felt strongly enough about our church to want to serve as Chair, in spite of the knowledge that we had some very difficult times. The Team met again on May 16th to reflect together and read the workshop responses. We feel very excited about our progress and want to share with the congregation our enthusiasm and ongoing dedication to our task. We feel we need to take time to evaluate our congregational life, remember our many resources and press forward for a renewed mission. We sincerely ask for your prayers.

Marilyn Merry ■

TRANSITION TEAM June Report

The Transition Team met in the church lounge June 7th. As you know, we have been meeting on a regular basis with our Interim Minister, Mollie Williams, trying to complete the tasks set out for us pertaining to the Interim Ministry Goals. There are five main subjects — our healing, conflict resolution, our organizational structure, our relationship to the larger church and defining our vision and direction at Tsawwassen United Church.

As you can imagine this is quite a task, and we are determined to present to the congregation a plan that will help us determine the outline of our call for a new minister. We are taking a holiday for the month of July but will be meeting in August to continue our work. We ask for your prayers.

Marilyn Merry ■

PASTORAL CARE — THANKS TO DONNA MULLAN

Pastoral Care reached a new level of commitment and dedication recently when Donna Mullan set up a large roster of volunteers to be with our dear friend, Marling Kilgour, during the last weeks of her life. Donna and Archie were with Marling much of the time.

Donna is always thinking of others and ensures people who need sympathy, encouragement or cheering-up are sent cards on behalf of the congregation. Donna is also dedicated to regular visiting and her positive outlook is appreciated by all. She is a very giving person and a very important part of the Pastoral Care Division at Tsawwassen United Church. Thanks, Donna.

Jean Ryan,
Pastoral Care ■

Duct Tape or Nails

A man dies and goes to heaven. Of course, St. Peter meets him at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in."

"Okay," the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart." "That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth three points!"

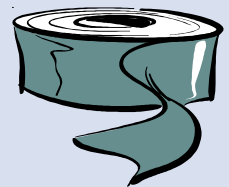
"Three points?" he says. "Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service." "Terrific!" says St. Peter. "That's certainly worth a point."

"One point!?!?" "I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans." "Fantastic, that's good for two more points," he says.

"Two points!?!?" Exasperated, the man cries. "At this rate the only way I'll get into heaven is by the grace of God."

"Bingo, 100 points! Come on in!"

We often try to fix problems with WD-40 and duct tape. God did it with nails.



YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Youth Garden Project 2006

You may have noticed at the back of the parking lot two plots of dirt that do not contain rhubarb. These are the sites of the youth garden project. The youth have been working hard each week tending these plots, growing all sorts of vegetables like beans, potatoes, carrots, radishes, spinach and lettuce. They are learning about new methods of gardening without using any unnatural products (pesticides, fertilizer or herbicides). By not using these unnatural products, we are learning how to use God's natural creation in growing our vegetables. All proceeds will be donated to First United Church to help the people there get fresh produce that is often difficult to obtain. Over the summer months, Brianna Almond has volunteered to tend the garden when she is out of school.

Youth Group Update

Since the last issue of *The Voice*, the youth have been a very busy bunch. Every month, the Junior Youth Group has been picking up garbage on the church property, keeping it clean for all to enjoy. The junior youth group also had a pet day in which they brought in

their favorite cat or dog from home. However the most exciting day by far was our go-carting adventure in Richmond with Gilmore Park United youth, followed by a fun dinner at Boston Pizza!

The Seniors had a great time viewing the Da Vinci Code at Silver City theatres as many of them were eager to go after reading the novel. The Seniors also had their annual Easter Sunday youth sleepover the night before the sunrise service down at Boundary Bay dyke. There was a great turn-out at the sunrise service despite the cool weather and the sleepless night before! The Seniors, along with two Junior members, were also out in force at the annual TUC Garage Sale. They prepared chocolate, apple, and cinnamon and sugar crepes for all to enjoy. They were a big hit as usual!

This year of youth groups will be wrapped up with a sleepover party for ~~the Juniors~~, hosted on June 16 at TUC, and a beach BBQ at Boundary Bay dyke for the senior youth on June 17.

John Gary

Staff Associate in Youth Ministry ■

Sincere Congratulations to Genevieve Dunkley on Receiving the Duke Of Edinburgh Gold Award!

You will remember Genevieve as an accomplished trumpet player and dancer who has enhanced worship services with her trumpet accompaniments and attended some of our social activities to dance for us.

On June 7, at a ceremony held at the Waterfront Hotel in Vancouver, Genevieve received a Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. Gold is the highest level of achievement in the Duke's programme of excellence. The Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward, presented Genevieve with the award. In working towards the award, participants must achieve levels of excellence in athletics, an expedition, community volunteering, skill and master classes. Genevieve's accomplishments in those sound extremely interesting. She chose her military reserve experiences for the expedition component; in physical activity (athletics), her Highland and Irish dancing; volunteering to perform at community functions was another; her skill set was her fine trumpet playing and in the master classes category, Genevieve conducted workshops at schools.

When I spoke with Genevieve the day after the presentation ceremony, she was still high on the excitement of this very special occasion. As it turned out, the military band performing at the ceremony was the one in which Genevieve plays and the Prince had his photograph taken with the band. Genevieve also had opportunities to speak with the Prince - indeed, a highlight of her day. Photo opportunities were numerous and the photographs will be posted on a web site in the near future.

The awards are presented to young adults between the ages of 14 and 25; Genevieve received her approval of the award just two days prior to her 25 birthday!

If you happen to meet Genevieve while you are out and about, do give her a pat on the back for this auspicious achievement. ■

EVERYTHING WE NEED TO KNOW, WE LEARN FROM NOAH'S ARK

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are both in the same boat.

THREE: We should plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When we're 60 years old, someone may ask us to do something really big.

FIVE: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: We should build our future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety's sake, we'll travel as a pair.

EIGHT: We should keep in mind that speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

NINE: If we get stressed, we should float a while.

TEN: No matter the storm, when we're with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.



No Pun Intended

- 1) Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.
- 2) A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."
- 3) Two peanuts walk into a bar, and one was a salted.
- 4) A dyslexic man walks into a bra.
- 5) A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says: "A beer please, and one for the road."
- 6) Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: "Does this taste funny to you?"
- 7) "Doc, I can't stop singing 'The Green, Green Grass of Home.'" "That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome." "Is it common?" Well, "It's Not Unusual."
- 8) Two cows are standing next to each other in a field. Daisy says to Dolly, "I was artificially inseminated this morning." "I don't believe you," says Dolly. "It's true, no bull!" exclaims Daisy.
- 9) An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.
- 10) Deja Moo: The feeling that you've heard this bull before.
- 11) I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.
- 12) A man woke up in a hospital after a serious accident. He shouted, "Doctor, doctor, I can't feel my legs!" The doctor replied, "I know you can't — I've cut off your arms!"
- 13) I went to a seafood disco last week...and pulled a mussel.
- 14) What do you call a fish with no eyes? A fsh.
- 15) Two termites walk into a bar. One asks, "Is the bar tender here?" ■

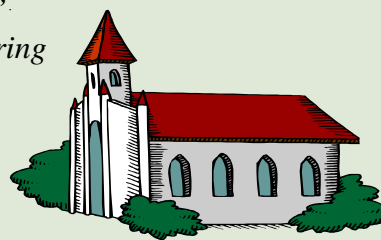
Do I really want to attend one of these services?"

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names with small flags mounted on either side of it.

The 7-year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time. So the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning Alex. "Good morning Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?" he asked.

The pastor said, "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked, "Which service, the 9:45 or the 11:15?"



Who's Who!

The church office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The following staff persons are at your service:

Interim Minister: Reverend Mollie Williams
 Director of Music: Leona Prowse
 Staff Associate: John Gary
 Secretary: Mary Almond

Council Executive

Chair: George Sambell
 Vice-Chair: Marilyn Merry
 Past-Chair: Marleen Soutar
 Interim Minister: Reverend Mollie Williams
 Secretary: Lee Gary
 Chair of Finance: Glen Stanger

Division Chairpersons

Congregational Enrichment: Shelby Delaney
 Finance: Glen Stanger
 Membership: Geri Pryputsch
 Ministry & Personnel: Albert Knudsen
 Outreach: Jean Stuart
 Pastoral Care: Jean Ryan
 Presbytery: Mary Sambell & Marleen Soutar
 Property & Manse: Mary Jackson
 Trustees: Bill Williams
 Worship: Melanie Williams

The following is adapted from an article Lillian Lewis found several years ago in *The Christian Home*. This reading has been a great inspiration for Lillian, so she offers it to readers of The Voice.

BELIEF IN GOD

It is one of the oldest, deepest and finest convictions of the human spirit. It has been a great motivator of great art, great deeds, and great character. It runs like a golden thread through the pages of history and of literature, the shining link of all noble endeavours.

Some there are, who shrink from expressing their faith in God. They feel that religion is a highly personal matter, and that everyone should form his or her own opinion, and keep those opinions locked up in the recesses of the heart. But God is not an opinion. There is no such thing as a Pagan God or a Jewish God, or a Protestant God. There is only one God. God is One, and those who have faith in God - while they may differ in their insights - are seeking to obey the same Supreme Reality of the Universe.

The values of our faith must not be lost to future generations because of our neglect. We have an obligation to express it, so that others may be uplifted by it as we have been. It is our responsibility to pass on the faith to those who come after us. This is the responsibility of parents, of the home and of the church. It is also the responsibility of the schools to recognize the values of religion and to help the young to see that it has a place in all the worthy thoughts and enterprises of the human race.

This is not to say that the schools should teach any creed or the doctrines of any sect. What they surely must not do is to convey the impression either by what they teach or by what they leave unsaid, that faith in God has no real place in the affairs of life.

From *The Christian Home*, 1966. ■

Many people have asked for recipes after recent social events. Here are two favourites:

GREEN GAZPACHO



Makes eight to ten servings.

Empress Room chef Candace Penrose says the key to smoothness in this simple-to-prepare summer soup is the avocados — they need to be really ripe. Control of the texture is in the hands of the cook and depends on how long you whirl the soup in the blender and whether or not you strain it. It was tested twice in The Sun kitchen, once strained, once not. Both versions were fine. Joanne Harris served this at the Bridge Club's dinner and it was a big hit!

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 English cucumber | 1 cup coarsely chopped cilantro (about one bunch) |
| 1 red onion | 1/3 cup coarsely chopped chives |
| 5 green onions | 4 cups apple juice |
| 2 green bell peppers, seeds removed | salt and freshly ground pepper to taste |
| 4 celery stalks | |
| 1 Jalapeno pepper, seeds removed | |
| 4 avocados, pitted and peeled | TOPPING: |
| ¼ cup lemon juice | 1/3 cup whipping cream |
| 3 Tbsp. lime juice | 2/3 cup dairy sour cream |
| | Mint sprigs for garnish |

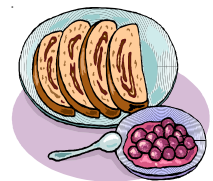
FOR SOUP: Coarsely chop all the vegetables; set aside. In food processor, puree avocados with lemon and lime juice. Add vegetables, cilantro, chives and apple juice, in batches and puree. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Pour soup into large bowl; cover and chill in refrigerator.

TOPPING: In small bowl, whip cream until soft peaks form; fold in sour cream. Cover and refrigerate for two hours or up to two days.

Serve soup with a dollop of topping and a sprig of mint.

FRUITED CURRIED CHEESE SPREAD

- Mix together:
- 8 oz. cream cheese
 - 2 Tbsp. sour cream
 - 2 tsp curry powder
 - ½ cup raisins
 - ½ cup chopped walnuts or pecans



Form this into a ball or spread it in a small serving dish.

Top with ½ cup fruit chutney — your choice.

Serve with crackers.



Please note that the church office hours during July and August will be 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL

To receive a copy of the *The Voice* via e-mail, please e-mail us at:
thevoice@tsawwassenunited.org.

THANKS FOR THE LOONIE!

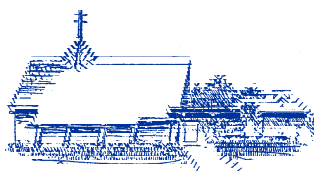
... to help pay for the cost of the newsletter.



SOMETHING TO PONDER:

No doubt every congregation has problems whether it be occasionally, frequently or all the time. As long as there are people meeting together there will be differences in ideas, creativity and opinions. At times we are so entrenched in our own thoughts that we don't give others an opportunity to express theirs. Or, if they do express their ideas, they are ignored. Being a Christian-based organization doesn't give us automatic immunity from disagreement, anger, resentment and all the other human feelings that make us who we are. Mistakes are made.

Some of the thoughts and opinions we have been hearing lately from people in our congregation are disturbing. For one reason or another, people are becoming disillusioned and that is troubling. I think I'm afraid it might threaten my relationship (thinking of myself first) or their unhappiness will cause them to leave us and then I will miss them (thinking of myself again). But, really, I am concerned that they will leave our family here at Tsawwassen United and a hole will be created where they belong. I am already missing people who seem to be holding back their attendance or have left us altogether. I really wonder what is bothering these people. Is it because we are still experiencing unrest? Do we really depend on others so much for our spiritual growth that we put it all in someone else's hands? Can't we be fed through



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Design & Layout: Mary Almond



Editors Lynne Meinert (left) & Lee Gary

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

the joy of music, prayer, and all the other aspects that make up Sunday worship?

A few months ago during Sunday morning worship, Mollie reflected on recent events that have punctuated the life and work of Tsawwassen United Church. One of the statements made was that "it is not a social occasion" when we come together for Sunday worship. That could be argued to the contrary but I interpreted the comment to mean that worship is a serious part of feeding our souls and we must be personally responsible for and ready to contribute to the well-being of this important part of our Christian journeys. While we at Tsawwassen United Church contribute to and enjoy many spirit-lifting social events, we must keep in mind that Sunday worship each week is shaped to feed our spirits and souls.

In the attempt to maintain our Christian beliefs and strengthen our relationship with God, we seek words and events - through various aspects of the worship service - that have meaning for us. There is no one thing for everyone. It could be the words of the hymns, anthems and prayers that are the catalysts. Liturgy is another provocative aspect of worship as we hear the word of God and wonder how it may apply to our lives. I hunch, though, that most people attend church on Sunday to hear the worship leader's reflections or meditations (formerly referred to as "the sermon"). Our beliefs can be strengthened, challenged and maintained just by listening to the

thoughts of the leader. On the other hand, if we do not agree with the worship leader, we tend to stop listening, become annoyed, find fault or make facetious statements. This impedes our ability to hear the very ideas that could lead to our spiritual growth and enrichment.

We can't ever become complacent in our desire to grow spiritually; neither can we allow negative factors to hamper our ability to leave Sunday worship with niggling thoughts that challenge us and interfere with our meditations afterwards. Worship should be something that we will come back to savour week after week.

In his book, *Conversations with God*, Neale Donald Walsch presents this exchange between a man and God. The man says: "How can I best listen to my soul? If the soul is the boss, really, how can I make sure I get those memos from the front office?" God's response is, "The first thing you might do is get clear about what the soul is after - and stop making judgements about it."

We can accomplish this by taking something positive from the various aspects of the worship service, whether it be the music, written word, spoken word or silence of the sanctuary. After each service the power of the message lies within the recipient: in other words, we are responsible for our own spiritual enhancement.

The Editors ■