



# Seeds of Faith

Nov / Dec, 2011

**Squamish United Church** 38014 Fourth Avenue, Squamish, BC

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## Minister's Message

Fall has surely arrived and Winter is fast approaching. I have cherished the sunny October days this year. The transition of the seasons has been more defined than expected. After a rather rainy summer going for walks in the crisp autumn air surrounded by a flurry of fall colours has given me an opportunity to journey in gratitude for this beautiful place in which we live.

It seems to me fall in a lot of ways is the season of life we are in as a congregation. We are in a time of having to let some things go (or even die) as we prepare for the new life Spring and Summer has to offer.

A poem by Joyce Rupp spoke to me as I read it this week and I would like to share it with you now.

I love the season of Autumn because it speaks so clearly of the need to allow the transitions of life to bring new life to us so that we do not "stifle our future springtime's." I also love how Autumn dances and rejoices in the season summer has brought. The leaves of the trees don't just die quietly, unnoticed. They dance a beautiful 'death dance' making sure that they are celebrated.

That is how I would like us to continue to transition. Not sadly but with joy and celebration, not of death but new life. The homecoming weekend brought that kind of reflection and offering to folks in September and I hope there will be many more celebratory opportunities and we recognize all the gifts Squamish United Church has offered us as individuals and the community of Squamish over the years. This fall and winter season we have much to look forward to. I invite you to take notice of these opportunities put forth throughout the news letter.

Blessings,  
Rev. Karen Millard

Autumn,  
the season of vulnerability,  
when the great arms of oak  
stretch their summer leaves  
to the wild October winds.

all that has been life and green  
is stripped from strong trees,  
and the tall, wide branches  
seem to be deathly wounded.

across the lawns in layers  
lie the near-dead leaves;  
onto the forest floors they fall  
as if to say: "all is lost."

this is the season of  
vulnerability when trees open  
wide to wounding,  
when all the summer security  
is given away to another  
season.

wiser are the trees than  
humans who clutch small arms  
round self, shielding their  
fragile hearts and stifling  
future springtime's.

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## Western Women's Conference 2011 by Grace Halvorson

How great it was to spend a weekend with 100 plus women in 29 degree Fall weather at Naramata Centre!

We were treated to incredibly informative and inspirational discussions, terrific music and great food. The theme was **"How Then Shall We Live?"** Current Moderator Mardi Tindal (2009-2012), and former Moderators Lois M. Wilson (1980 – 1982), Marion S. Best (1994 – 1997) and Marion Pardy (2000 – 2003) were in attendance and the workshops revolved around these leaders and "how then shall we live – for the seventh generation. Former Moderator Anne M. Squire (1986- 1988) joined us by phone from Toronto for the evening panel. The structure of the weekend was spent around interviewing the moderators and then having the participants (us) break into small groups to discuss various issues. We saw first hand the strength of the leadership of these women in their past roles and in their lives today and we were further energized by the ladies in attendance. We recommend that all ladies attend a women's conference at some time to feel the strength of the wider church! Being at Naramata Centre ... "a place of learning, spiritual nurture and renewal" was a real treat!



## Fall Congregational Supper

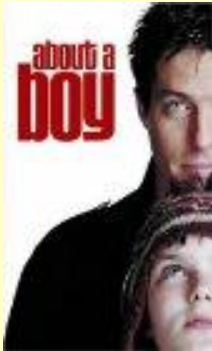
Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> – Doors open at 5:30pm

Supper beginning at 6:00pm

Well it's time again for the men to roll up their sleeves and put on an apron. This annual event is a chance for the men of the congregation to display their cooking skills as they prepare supper. Supper is by donation and you won't want to miss this fun social time.



## Reel Theology.....Wednesday, Oct 26<sup>th</sup>



Starring Hugh Grant. "A self-absorbed man and a troubled boy develop a transforming friendship." The background to the movie and the Bible verses should contribute to a thoughtful discussion.

This will include a Potluck Supper at the home of Trevor and Linda Harris at 40171 Skyline Drive. Potluck Supper will begin at 6:00pm. Bring a Friend!

For more information contact Linda Harris at 604-898-3215

## Men's Breakfast



The popular Men's Breakfast will be starting again this fall on **Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**. The cooking crew starts at 7:30am with breakfast beginning at 8:30am and ending at approx. 10:00am. The theme for this next breakfast is "What is Luck and What is Blessing". Bring your ideas on this topic.

For upcoming breakfasts this season, themes will be from the book by Richard Rohr, "From Wild Man to Wise Man". I recommend that all men who participate in the Saturday Men's Breakfasts to get a copy of this book if you do not already have one as there are

many themes to pick from in this book.



MISSION AND  
SERVICE FUND

## Mission & Service

The Mission & Service Committee are enthusiastic supporters of the work undertaken and supported by the national Church within Canada and overseas. We share the Minutes for Mission with you each Sunday to remind ourselves that the Church is at work in so many different ways and places. Nationally, while donations for disaster relief are up this year, (over \$1,000,000 was given for African famine relief) giving's from congregations for the ongoing work under-written by the M&S Fund are down 13%. The need hasn't diminished - ask First United! Please keep the M&S Fund in mind and keep the support coming.

## Facility Development Update

The second phase of the Capital Campaign concluded in mid-July with enthusiastic support for the new building project. \$300,000 was raised (pledged over the next three years) from the congregation through the every member visitation. Together with the existing monies from the Manse sale several years ago, we now have over \$1 Million in committed funds for the project. The next phase of the funding campaign involves both seeking financial support from outside church - environmental and other support organizations - together with a series of individual events designed to close the gap towards total funds required for the project. At present, we are expecting the final cost to be on the order of \$1.5 Million for SUC's portion of the building project.



Agreements with Sea-To-Sky Community Services have been initialed, which permit both parties to collaboratively move forward with more detailed design tasks, selection of project managers and building contractors, and other preparatory tasks needed prior to sod turning. As noted in earlier discussions, the initiation of the building phase will not commence until both partners have full funding in place.

Ongoing administrative tasks, such as rezoning and seeking Squamish Council's support, continue. The Squamish council recently directed their staff to continue the application process for the necessary municipal approvals, setting the stage for an endorsement by council of both zoning and cost waiver recommendations when the new council takes its place after the election next month. Overall we are pleased with their enthusiasm, albeit we recognize that a new set of faces may be around the council table come the new year.

We remain optimistic that we will be in a position to commence the construction of the new building mid next year, and we continue to be on pace for that. We appreciate all the support from the congregation for this initiative, and look forward to everyone's participation in the coming months as we close in on the sod turning moment.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Building Committee.

## Healing Pathways



Experience the wonderful healing hands that the spirit of Christ has. For more information contact Judi Rhodes 604-892-5436, Christine Tribe 604-898-4810 or Glenn Rupertus 604-849-3344.

**Next get together will be Monday, Oct 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:30pm and Walters place.**

## Secretaries Update

Having had a year and a half changes have been made. You around the office but our computerized, and you will notice



It has been quite a challenge to get everything moved over and set up but I have enjoyed the work and really appreciate all the assistance that I have received. I am very excited about the possibility of setting up a brand new office when our new facility is finished. I am always interested in improving the efficiency in the church office and welcome any suggestions you may have, I can be reached by email at [secretarysqunited@telus.net](mailto:secretarysqunited@telus.net) or by phone at 604-892-5727.

working in the church office a lot of may not see them when you look bookkeeping system is now fully quite a difference in the look of the

## Homecoming 2011

Old friends, new friends, former clergy and current congregants all came together on a beautiful sunny Saturday and Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> for a great time of reminiscing, looking at memorabilia, enjoying food, singing and worshipping. The wonderful bond of our faith was evident throughout the weekend! Thank you to all who came, all who helped plan the weekend and all who took part in the worship service. The combined choir of current and former voices was wonderful and supported the very meaningful service planned by the worship committee and Reverend Karen Millard.

**Thank you all!**



## Warm clothing for First United and Helping Hands

We will be collecting warm winter clothing for First United and Helping Hands from **November 27th to December 11**. Items that are appreciated at this time are mitts, gloves, toques, warm jackets, socks, etc. Thank you for being part of this ongoing Ministry. For more information contact Marilyn Caldwell – 604-898-5844



## Quilting and Sewing Group

The sewing and quilting group meets in the sanctuary each **Wednesday from 10:00am – 2:00pm**. If you would be interested in joining these ladies or just would like more information contact Arlene at 604-898-1251.



## Quilt Show and Tea Saturday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm

Being held at the church, admission is \$10 which includes beverage, dessert and viewing of beautiful quilts and handiwork. A "Mini Market" and Bake Sale will be happening for the many shoppers among us. Bring along your friends from the community.

## Knitting Group

Our Prayer shawl Ministry continues to thrive! We meet Friday afternoons, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in member's homes, for a time of knitting and conversation. Our sessions end with the blessing of completed shawls, which are then ready to be given to those in need of support. We'd love to have some new knitters join us— yarn, needles and lessons available. If you'd like to start with a bit smaller project, we also knit plenty of toques for First United, and baby hats have been sent to a maternity hospital in Kenya. Information from Sue at 898-9372.

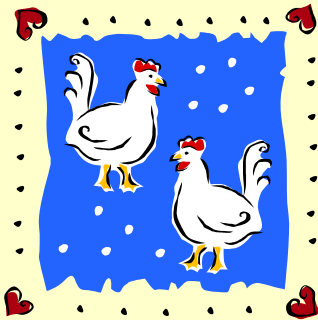


## Squamish United Church Reads - Going Missional



Starting Tuesday Jan 10<sup>th</sup> for 5 weeks 7:30pm we will have a book study and Discussion group on the book *Going Missional* by Karen Stiller and Willard Metzger. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you would like us to order a book for you. If you are already in one of the book groups of congregational members and cannot meet on Tuesday evenings perhaps your group might enjoy this read and discussion. We will spend time as a congregation reflecting together on its message so I encourage you to read it even if you cannot attend a group.

## Bethany Unit Annual Chicken Sale



The Bethany Unit chicken sale fundraiser occurs twice a year, in the spring and fall. We order the chicken from a supplier in Vancouver/Fraser Valley. After placing our order, the chickens are "prepared" (nicer word than slaughtered!) and delivered to us immediately. The chicken is very fresh, and the prices are reasonable, as there is no intermediate retailer. There are numerous options for what kind of chicken you can get, from roasters to wings, breasts with bone-in and skin on to a box of individually "flash-frozen" boneless skinless breast (our most popular seller due to the ease of pulling one, two or three out of the freezer at the last minute).

People place their order by filling out a form and providing it to someone in the Bethany Unit. Chicken must be picked up at the specified delivery location on the specified date. It is necessary to take the chicken home and bag it into the quantities that you want to put away in your freezer.

The Bethany Unit is also blessed to have Pat Yendall of Golden Crust Specialties in our unit. Pat always generously offers her delicious pies at the same retail price as you would pay at her shop. She provides them to us at cost, and we make an additional profit from these sales.

This is an excellent fundraiser for the church, and people who order it seem to really love the chicken. We are often asked pleadingly, "When is the next chicken sale? My freezer is almost empty!"

**The deadline for orders for the Fall Chicken Sale is Saturday, October 29, with delivery on Tuesday, November 1 between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. at the church.** For an order form and/or more information, see the website, or talk to a Bethany Unit member.

## Let's Talk Turkey Luncheon

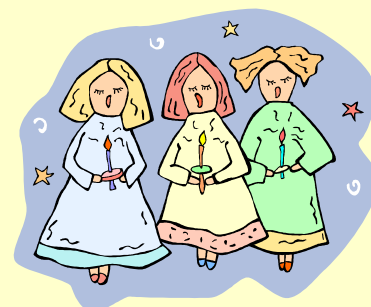
It's time once again for the "Let's talk Turkey Luncheon!" For the past years or so the Bethany Unit and Helpers have sponsored the Let's Talk Turkey Luncheon. The purpose of the luncheon is to raise funds to purchase 8 turkeys for First United. Every year we have been able to fulfill this ministry because of the generosity of the congregation.

So...here's what you can do to support. On **Sunday November 27** plan to come to church for the first Sunday of Advent and plan to stay for lunch. A delicious soup and sandwich luncheon complete with desserts will be served. Lunch is by donation.



## Advent and Christmas Service

- November 27 - 10 am  
First Sunday of Advent "Hanging of the Greens"  
- an Intergenerational Service. This Sunday we will decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. This is a tradition in many churches and this year we will set the scene together for the Christmas season.
- December 4 - 10 am  
Second Sunday of Advent
- December 11- 10 am  
Third Sunday of Advent – White Gift Sunday. Please bring your donations for First United
- December 18- 10 am  
Fourth Sunday of Advent – An Intergenerational Service- Pageant Presentation
- December 18 - 7 pm  
"Quiet Christmas"- a service of contemplation.
- Christmas Eve – 7 pm  
Christmas Eve family service of Carols and Readings
- Christmas Day – 10 am  
Christmas Morning Worship



### Christmas Pageant "The Evening News, Christmas Edition"

We are excited to announce Squamish United Church will be putting together a Christmas Pageant this year. We will perform it on **Sunday December 18th** during our regular service.

So we are looking for adult volunteers for several speaking/acting parts for a short play. Sunday School children interested in being a part of this wonderful event are asked to attend regularly starting Nov 6. Some extra rehearsal time may be involved but your time and energy will help make Christmas extra special at Squamish United Church!

Please see or email Julie Murakami at [pianosushi@yahoo.ca](mailto:pianosushi@yahoo.ca) or Sonja Addis at [sonja\\_lynn30@hotmail.com](mailto:sonja_lynn30@hotmail.com) if you can help out! Adult rehearsal times will be set up in late November



## Carol's Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30PM

This annual event is a church favorite! Come and sing-along with Carol Grolman and other performers. Refreshments will be available by the UCW for a donation to Community Christmas Care.

## Community Christmas Care

Community Christmas Care has started up again this year. At this point we need some dedicated volunteers for some specific roles. The coordinator of CCC this year is Barclay Mayo.

**Here's how to help:**



### Go GROCERY SHOPPING.

Buy what is on this list, bag it and place it in the large box labeled "Community Christmas Care".

List of items include:

Nov 13th - Canned Meat, Fish & Stews

Nov 20th - Canned Fruits & Vegetables

Nov 27th - Canned Soups & Pastas

Dec 4th - Dried Pasta & Sauces

Dec 11th - Cereal, Jams, Treats, & Beverages

**It's that easy!**



### Other ways to help...

Volunteers are needed on the following days...

Wed, Dec 14th to pack the hampers

Thurs, Dec 15th to deliver the hampers (teams of 2 with an SUV, vans, or trucks with a cover)

If you are able to participate in any way please contact the office or let Karen know and she will put your name on the list.

### A Passion for Pinks.....by Hugh Kerr

#### Pinks

I lean over the railing of the Mashiter Bridge  
Looking down to watch nature's wonder—

The pinks -

Slowly making their way

Against the current.

Ten abreast they come

With hardly space between each row,

Filling the width of the creek

Like stepping stones,

Some with whitened dorsal fin

Just as the white beard of an old man

Showing their age.

They flick their tails

Wiggle their bodies

Pushing forward

Nudging each other

Continuing their struggle

Further

Looking for the perfect place to spawn.

On the bank a young family

Mom, dad, son, daughter

With dog straining at the leash

Two front paws in water

All silent

Seeing for the first time

On this sunny cloudless day

The clear water enveloping

The slow show

Of determination

Returning together

To their birthplace

To start the cycle again.

A little further down the stream

A great blue heron alights

On the stony bank

Then watches the procession

Surely thinking these are far too big for him

But also hoping to see a weak one flounder

Finished with her exhausted effort

And then surrendering.

It takes two years for this wonder

To happen again

Only on the odd years -

No one can say when or how

It started

One can only hope

It's always there

The column of pinks -

Like the charge of the light brigade

Moving surely to their deaths

Crowding together towards it

Unafraid

Relentless

To the end.

## Sea to Sky Singers

Our holiday concert this year is entitled, **A Child's Christmas**, featuring excerpts from Dylan Thomas's "**A Child's Christmas in Wales**", narrated by Don Dewar. Traditional carols enhance the readings. The concert also features holiday favourites for the kid in all of us and a traditional sing-along.

**Saturday, Dec. 17th at 7 PM and  
Sunday, Dec. 18th at 2 PM at St.  
John's Anglican Church**

Adults: \$12, Students/Seniors: \$10



## Website

The church website is the perfect place to check on upcoming events and activities, as well as to review past sermons.

**[www.squamishunitedchurch.org](http://www.squamishunitedchurch.org)**



### November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Chicken Sale Pick up 4 – 6 pm	2	3	4	5 Quilt Show and Tea 1 – 4 pm
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Advent 1  Lets Talk Turkey Lunch	28	29	30			

## December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Advent 2  Carol's Carols 6:30pm	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Advent 3	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Advent 4  Christmas Pageant  Quiet Christmas	19	20	21	22	23	24  Christmas Eve Family Service 7:00pm
25  Christmas Service 10am	26	27	28	29	30	31