

Squamish United Church

38014 Fourth Avenue, Box 286
Squamish, BC V8B 0A3
Phone: 604-892-5727

Email: secretarysquunited@telus.net
Rev. Karen Millard: squc_minister@telus.net
www.squamishunitedchurch.org



Seeds of Faith

September / October, 2010



Table of Contents

Minister's Memo.....	Pg 1
Welcome Back Sunday ...	Pg 2
Fundraising 101.....	Pg 2
Book Group.....	Pg 3
Coffee with Karen.....	Pg 3
Bible Study.....	Pg 4
Living the Faith.....	Pg 4
Discovery Weekend	Pg 4
Reel Theology.....	Pg 5
Presbytery.....	Pg 5

Minister's Memo



It has been an energizing year getting to know the folks of Squamish United Church. Squamish has quickly come to feel like home even though I have only been here for a year. Thank you for your welcoming presence. Just yesterday I was having coffee with a newer attendant who shared that she could feel the warmth and love of this community as soon as she walked in the door. Others have told me stories in the last year of how you as a community have carried them through grief and crisis either by assisting them in times of need or simply by welcoming them no matter where they are at in life.

A few months back in worship you were asked to write down what you love about Squamish United Church.

Here are the Top 10 responses:

- Squamish United church feels like home
- The people are warm, welcoming and friendly
- We enjoy the engaging worship music and choir
- We appreciate the theology of the United Church of Canada
- In this church we don't have to be perfect we can doubt and study and grow.
- We love to sing
- We encounter the sacred when we come here.
- We come and find peace and quiet in the midst of our busy lives
- We enjoy the friendship and coffee after the service along with fun community meals
- It's the best place to spend a Sunday morning.

Each of us comes to this place with our individual purpose and longings. As we continue to worship and grow together as individuals and community we will watch that list expand. Now that I have finished my first year with you I look forward to some new programs and visions in and for our community. We are beginning the 2010 fall season by welcoming New Members, with a celebratory BBQ. In the weeks to follow we will begin new study and book groups, reel theology, and some visioning around leadership and fundraising. I invite you to read through our newsletter and set aside all the dates you can.

Rev. Karen Millard



Welcome Back Sunday - Sept 19

We are planning our second annual “Come and See” service for Sunday September 19th. This year’s welcome back celebration will include:

- the welcoming of New Members
- an introduction of Sunday School teachers
- meet the board
- find out what new programs are happening in the fall
 - Book group – B.B. Taylor
 - Coffee with Karen
 - Visioning weekend
 - Stewardship and fundraising projects
 - and so much more



Worship will be followed by a BBQ with games and fun for all.

Let’s make this a Squamish wide community celebration!

That means we will need lots of help with;

- set up and clean up
- advertising
- food organization and prep
- games organization and prep
- worship assistance and more



Let us know how you can be of assistance for this day by either emailing Karen or signing up on the bulletin board in the entrance way.

There will be an initial planning meeting on **Thursday August 19th at 7:30pm.**

Please **RSVP to Karen by Aug. 15th** with how you would like to assist and if you can make it to the planning meeting.

Fundraising 101 – Sept 21 at 7:30pm

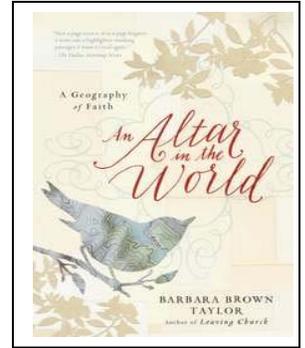
As we continue to work on our dreams and visions for a building project I know one of the largest concerns for folks is around finances. Presbytery has heard this concern and therefore has stated we need to set up a stewardship and finance committee that looks at raising funds. In the fall I attended a Fundraising 101 workshop that gave me numerous ideas – some very simple and others a little more work. In the months coming up we will need people who are willing help send out mailings, others who will set up larger events, and others who will help keep the congregation informed of progress. We need your assistance, come see where you can participate.



There will be an initial meeting on Tuesday September 21st 7:30pm

An Altar in your World by: Barbara Brown Taylor

Last spring I had the privilege of listening to a couple lectures by Barbara Brown Taylor at VST. Her words and wisdom have taught me so much throughout the years. During the lecture series I picked up her new book "An Altar in the World."



In her critically acclaimed book "Leaving Church" Barbara Brown Taylor wrote about her experience leaving full-time ministry to become a professor, a decision that stretched the boundaries of her faith. Now, in her stunning follow-up, "An Altar in the World", she shares how she learned to encounter God far beyond the walls of the church. Taylor reveals meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see, from simple practices such as walking, working, and prayer. Something as ordinary as hanging clothes on a clothesline becomes an act of meditation if we pay attention to what we're doing and take time to notice the sights, smells and sounds around us. Making eye contact with the cashier at the grocery store becomes a moment of true human connection. Allowing yourself to get lost leads to new discoveries. As we incorporate these practices into our daily lives, we begin to discover altars everywhere we go, in nearly everything we do. Through Taylor's expert guidance and delicate, thought-provoking prose, we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down and practice reverence.

I would like to encourage you to read this book together. If you are already in a book group feel free to choose this as one of your books. If you are or are not in a group already we will meet at the church on Tuesdays in October – 5th, 12th & 19th – 7:30pm for book discussion. You can join us for as many of the discussions as you like.

Sign up to have us purchase the book for you. We will put in a book order on Sept. 14

Coffee with Karen - Tuesdays at 2pm



Coffee Fellowship

It's been a year that we have been together now and some of us know each other well, others of us only a little. Coffee time with Karen has two purposes. The first is to spend time with you talking about the things that are important to you. During our coffee times we may discuss what moved us in worship on Sunday, or what is happening with our church family and friends - the list of topics is endless. The second purpose is to spend time together within the wider community of Squamish. Every piece of church research I read says - get outside your church doors. Spend time together with people in the community. At a workshop some of us attended in the Spring the minister told us that his coffee time with church members at the local coffee shop has sparked new members as they have overheard conversations of faith, and seen what church community can look like. This sounds like a fun easy thing for us to try so let's meet at **Starbucks on Sept 21st** and **Sunflower on October 5th** and we will take it from there.

(Please note this suggestion was given to me by a male minister so do not think this is just a ladies tea - it's for everyone - young, not so young, male, female - whoever you are Come and See).

Bible Study – Sept 23

When I began to feel the call to ministry one of the things that drew me towards the work was spending time with others talking through the Bible to discover who God is calling us to be in our lives and world. I look forward to resuming a weekly Bible study group to look at the scriptures for the coming Sunday. The tentative time for the group will be Thursdays at 1:30pm beginning September 23rd. *(If you would really like to attend this weekly group but cannot make this time please let Karen know and we can try to get the best time for the majority of people).*



Living the Faith – Emerging Spirit Workshop – Sept 25th



A new round of congregational learning events offered by The United Church of Canada's Emerging Spirit initiative. Living the Faith's relevant and inspiring learning events are an opportunity for your congregation to explore your calling, gifts, and mission in a new way. This is an event targeted for both ministry personnel and lay leaders who are interested in addressing the challenges and discovering the opportunities in this time of radical ecclesial change.

Building on previous Emerging Spirit learning events, Living the Welcome and Living the Hope, this new, customizable series offers in-depth exploration of welcoming ministry, congregational vitality, leadership, and more. We will wonder together what worship might look like for a church at the beginning of the 21st century. We will ask how does a congregation get clear about their deep purpose and live into that purpose? How does a clear understanding of mission direct the life of a congregation? How do leaders help guide an organization unnerved by significant transition (which includes loss, a period of unknowing, and hope for new life)?

These are the kinds of issues that will be addressed in the 4 workshops offered at Ryerson United Church, 2195 W. 45th Avenue, Vancouver, BC. The event begins at 9:00 with worship and a plenary session led by Keith Howard and Leslie Harrison, the top dogs of Emerging Spirit. We will break into the first workshop session, eat lunch, have a second workshop session, regroup for closing plenary, and finish around 3:30.

Lunch is provided, along with coffee, tea, muffins, fruit, and you'll leave with a very helpful Living the Faith workbook produced by Emerging Spirit.

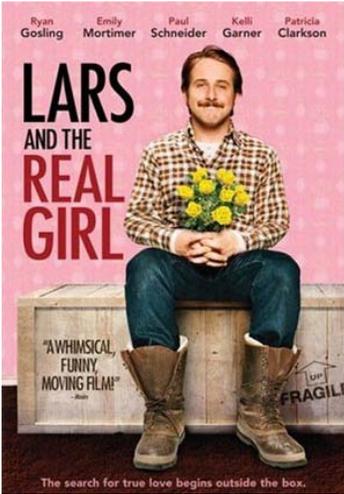
Discovery Weekend – October 1-2

The Rev. Debra Bowman will join us Friday evening (6-9) and Saturday all day (9-4) as we dream and vision our ministry and mission together. Debra comes to us with 15 years of ministry experience both as pastor and executive secretary for BC conference. Debra is a leadership mentor to many. Her skills will bring tools and opportunity for continued vision and growth within Squamish United Church.

Please set aside this time to discover more about who we are as individuals and community. More details to come upon registrations for this event.

Please register for this retreat weekend on the sign-up sheet in the entrance way or by emailing Jody at secretarysqunited@telus.net

Reel Theology – Lars and the Real Girl – Friday, Oct 8 at 7:00pm – Location: TBA



Written by Six Feet Under scribe Nancy Oliver, *Lars and the Real Girl* is a heartfelt comedy starring Academy-Award nominated Ryan Gosling as Lars Lindstrom a loveable introvert whose emotional baggage has kept him from fully embracing life. After years of what is almost solitude, he invites Bianca, a friend he met on the internet to visit him. He introduces Bianca to his brother Gus (Paul Schneider) and his wife Karen (Emily Mortimer) and they are stunned. They don't know what to say to Lars or Bianca – because she is a life-size doll, not a real person and he is treating her as though she is alive. They consult the family doctor, Dagmar (Patricia Clarkson) who explains this is a delusion he's created – for what reason she doesn't yet know but they should all go along with it. What follows is an emotional journey for Lars and the people around him.

At a time when romantic comedies seem to have exhausted unique ideas, along comes Lars, an original, amusing and heartfelt tale sharply written by Nancy Oliver.
USA Today | Claudia Puig

Presbytery October 26th at Squamish United Church



The monthly Vancouver Burrard Presbytery meeting will in Squamish in October. The meeting will be held at the church so presbytery can become familiar with our facility and our vision and mission. Trevor Harris, Rev. Karen and others from the facilities development team will be doing a presentation. We will also lead worship and provide a meal for the evening. Please let Karen know how you are able to assist as we welcome churches from our presbytery.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug. 19 – Welcome Back Sunday Planning Meeting – 7:30pm
Sept. 15 – Board Meeting – 7pm
Sept. 19 – Welcome Back Sunday
Sept 21 – Fundraising Meeting – 7:30pm
Sept 21 – Coffee with Karen at Starbucks – 2pm
Sept 23 – Bible Study – 1:30pm
Sept 25 – Living the Faith Workshop, Ryerson United – 9am

Oct 5 – Book Group Discussion – 7:30pm
Oct 5 – Coffee with Karen at Sunflower – 2pm
Oct. 8 – Reel Theology
Oct 12 – Book Group Discussion – 7:30pm
Oct 19 – Book Group Discussion – 7:30pm
Oct 26 – Presbytery at Squamish United Church