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**ALBERNI VALLEY UNITED CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**AGENDA**  
**February 1, 2009**

1. Open with prayer
2. Call the AVUC Annual Congregational Meeting to order
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Minutes of the Congregational Meetings 2008
  - Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Team Reports
  - Questions and Discussion
  - Adoption
6. Financial Reports including Proposed Budget 2008
  - Questions and Discussion
  - Adoption
8. Nominating Team Report and election of officers
9. New Business
10. Authorization for Church Council to act on behalf of the Congregation
11. Adjournment



# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 2008

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## Present:

Holly Judge	Linda Kenny	Allan Parker
Judy Vatamaniuk	Steve Vatamaniuk	Isabel Parker
Peter Scott	Betty Kreitei	Bev Herd
Michael Villette	Connie Randall	Willard Myrfield
Dawne Mallon	Gordon Blake	Angie Blake
Paul McMillen	Ann McMillen	Andrew Busko
George Pickles	Mary Fletcher	Johanna Dutton
Joyce Howard	Oliver Howard	Corrine Humphries
Isabel Damery	Brenda West	Gail Hadfield
Drew Hadfield	Jean Bishop	Margita Hartmann
Alex Bell	Mary Bell	Hugh Sproule
Dell Wheeler	Tam Villette	Rev. Anna Constantin
Andrea Markiewicz	Jean Sproule	Janet Schlackl
Dewayne Parfitt	Liz Parfitt	Robin Parfitt

Rev. Anna Constantin opened the meeting with prayer.

Alan Parker was named Congregational Chair for the meeting

**ISABEL PARKER/DEWAYNE PARFITT:** Moved to adopt the AGM agenda **CARRIED**

### **HUGH SPROULE/HOLLY JUDGE:**

Moved to accept the minutes of the Congregational Meeting June 24, 2007 as circulated. Motion also includes the minutes of the AGM meeting of Feb. 2007 as printed. **CARRIED**

**JANET SCHLACKL/LINDA KENNY .** Moved that voting privileges be extended to all people present as written in the United Church constitution. **CARRIED**

### **TEAM REPORTS**

Presented as circulated in the Annual report.

Gail Hadfield added a report about the Children's worship and youth music ministry. Was not printed in the Annual Report.

**PAUL MCMILLEN/GEORGE PICKLES .** Moved that all reports be accepted as printed with the addition of the verbal report from Gail.

**CARRIED**

**JANET SCHLACKL/TAM VILLETTE** Moved that Rev. Constantin attend all meetings as an ex officio. **CARRIED**

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***FINANCIAL REPORT:***

**HOLLY JUDGE/ANGIE BLAKE:** moved that the Balance Sheet and the Income and Expense Statement for 2007 be accepted. **CARRIED**

Discussion about deficit budget and money to offset the deficit.

Motion by Angie Blake to apply some of the GIC funds to apply to housing allowance. No one seconded. Motion failed

**JANET SCHLACKL/PAUL MCMILLEN:** Moved that the Stewardship Committee be requested to review the accumulated deficit, explore options to utilize the GIC funds, designation for housing allowance to eliminate the deficit and make a recommendation to Council with a view to seeking congregational approval of the recommendation during the 2009 year. **CARRIED**

Requested that Jean Sproule check into the Presbytery Allocation for our congregation

**GEORGE PICKLES/STEVE VATAMANIUK:** Moved that the 2008 Budget be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

**AVUC GOVERNANCE MODEL:** The AVUC Council recommends to the AVUC Congregation that a new team called Emerging Spirit be included within the team structure.

**HUGH SPROULE/JANET SCHLACKL:** Moved that the congregation concur with the recommendation of Council. **CARRIED**

***NOMINATING TEAM:***

Hugh Sproule presented the 2008 slate of Team Members.

**HUGH SPROULE/TAM VILLETTE:**

Moved that the Officers be elected/re-elected as presented. **CARRIED**

**JUDY VATAMANIUK/LINDA KENNY**

Moved that the remaining slate of Team Members be elected as presented. **CARRIED**

**JANET SCHLACKL/ISABEL PARKER**

Moved they authorize Council to act on behalf of the congregation for 2008. **CARRIED**

**ISABEL PARKER** moved for adjournment.

Respectfully submitted  
Linda Kenny



# ALBERNI VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Alberni Valley United Church is a dynamic community of faith. Service, social justice and healing are at the heart of our life together. We are open to new insights and experiences as we encourage, challenge and joyfully celebrate God's blessings.

## VISION STATEMENT

We intend to pursue this vision of our future vigorously:

- We will free people to build programs, launch and staff new ones.
- We will meet the social, educational and spiritual needs of our congregation.
- We will expand our work in care homes, hospitals and with lonely seniors.
- We will engage qualified persons for leadership positions in the congregation.
- We will continue to develop our ministries of music and children.
- We will share our work and faith with the larger community.



# MINISTER'S REPORT

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*The gifts [Christ] gave were that some would be apostles,  
some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,  
to equip the saints for the work of ministry,  
for building up the body of Christ.*

## **Ephesians 4:11**

It is that time again, where we take a moment in our busy lives to stop, reflect, and appreciate how God has been working in our church and consequently in our lives. As I reflect on the past year, I am grateful for this time to see where Christ is alive and active in the swirl of activity we call church!

This past year has been filled with grace and abundance. We have worshipped together on Sunday Mornings, through the Care Home Services that the Pastoral Care team facilitates, through our music, and through sharing our tears and our laughter. We have shared in communion through our sacrament during worship, through meals such as our church picnic and our chicken and spaghetti dinner, and through other moments when we have joined together around a table to share in desserts or for coffee and conversation after church.

We have celebrated our diversity as a multigenerational church through Children's worship (coordinated by Brenda and led by Elyse), Friday Youth Group (led by Coreen and Dewayne). We have been led by our children in worship with an environmental theme and followed their lead in other parts of worship throughout the year. We have shared in special worship services such as our traditional service in the fall where we donned our hats, marveled at the choir gowns and sang loudly the traditional hymns. We have celebrated our delightful choir as well as our newly formed hand bell choir, through sharing in a specially created Cantata called "A Journey of Promise" created by Janet on a particularly cold and snowy Sunday. We have walked with each other in faith through team meetings, the UCW Bazaar, silent auctions, and shared smiles and laughter at baptisms and tears at memorials. We have said goodbye to our Minister Emeritus and dear friend, Oliver Howard, and have celebrated the legacy he has left behind with his kind words, quick wit and strong commitment to the Alberni Valley and the United Church.

We have worked together to bring about Christ's vision for us at Alberni Valley United Church through coming together with Theresa Kingston and forming a committee to help us begin our strategic plan that will be shared early in 2009. We have also brought Christ's vision forward through lively conversations at God Talk (where no topic is taboo!), through our video discussion in the fall, and through our times of conversation with each other. We have cheerfully welcomed visitors and newcomers to worship, welcomed our administrative assistant Andrea and Ellen, our church accompanist to our church family.

We give thanks for all those who share their talents and gifts in formal ways, such as our musicians, Graeme, Mike and David; our Choir Director, Janet; and our custodian, Colin. We give thanks for all those who take time out of their busy schedules to be part of the teams, help out with dinners and bazaars, and share their gifts in ways that raise up our Church to what God calls it to be. And through all of this, I cannot help but think we are blessed and it is exciting to think of where Christ's vision will take us in the year to come!

So, as we continue to follow the one we call Christ into the year ahead, let us go boldly in faith, listening to the Spirit, remembering to whom we belong.

Respectfully and joyfully submitted,

Anna Constantin



# COUNCIL REPORT

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Dear Friends,

Where has this last year gone? It seems that only yesterday we had our annual meeting and we charted new directions for some of the teams as well as launching needed ventures.

I would like to recognize the many workers who make everything happen as if by magic. Those of you who are team members, kitchen miracle workers, special event organizers and all those who participate in one way or another, are what make this congregation unique. THANK YOU!

We saw changes; we said good-bye to Jean Sproule who retired as church musician and welcomed Ellen Vander Putten to take her place. We were all saddened to lose a former minister and long-time minister emeritus, the Reverend Oliver Howard. His dry sense of humour and presence will be missed. We launched new initiatives such as Emerging Spirit, which is seeking ways to attract new people from all walks of life and every generation. The “Wonder What Café” is trying to provide us with renewed vision and a mission focus as we try to jump-start the next phase of our church life.

As we leave the year 2008 we find ourselves confronted with a fiscal imbalance. We will be challenged not only by the tough times of 2009, but also by the increasing cost of operating our church and our homes. Let's move ahead prayerfully, diligently and with purpose.

In Christian Service,  
J. P. Hugh Sproule, Council Chair



# **PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE**

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On behalf of Bill Irwin and myself, I submit the following report on the happenings of Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery during the calendar year 2008.

First, we should again mention that the Alberni Valley United Church, based on congregation numbers, has two Presbytery lay delegates. Luckily for us, Bill has stepped up to the plate as our second delegate and has been able to attend all of the meetings this past year while I was away. The least I could do is to make this report on his behalf.

The meetings Bill attended were in Ladysmith, Feb 22/23<sup>rd</sup>, North Vancouver, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and in Nanaimo, Oct 17/18<sup>th</sup>.

The first meeting focused on the formation of what is called “Clusters”. Each cluster (of which there are three: Healthy Congregations, Effective Leadership and Faithful Public Witness) meets, debates and makes decisions on specific topics. If someone in Presbytery Court feels that the whole Court should make a particular decision then they could ask that that topic and decision be raised to the whole Court. Bill attended the Healthy Congregations cluster, where we will continue to participate. The Cluster discussions relate to Joint Needs Assessments, visits to congregations, shared ministries, etc.

The second meeting in Vancouver was Comox-Nanaimo’s sectional meeting as part of the General Assembly meeting. A Nominations slate was presented as well as the setting of dates for two information meetings to discuss the Moorecroft property prior to the final ballot vote taken at the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery.

The final meeting of the year for Presbytery, in addition to regular business, included discussion and ballot vote on the Moorecroft proposal, which recommended the Property be divided into two lots, one to be sold by Conference for the benefit of the Camp Futures Program and the other to be held in trust by Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery. The resulting vote was 7 yes and 55 no, resoundingly defeating the motion. A subsequent motion was made to table a proposal supporting the enhancement and upgrading of the current Outdoor Ministry on the Moorecroft Camp property until the February, 2009 Presbytery meeting. A committee of interested people will work with the Moorecroft Camp Society to develop short term plans for camping in the summer of 2009 and bring an interim report to the February, 2009 Presbytery meeting.

Respectfully submitted, on behalf of Bill Irwin,  
Dennis Andow , A.V.U.C. Presbytery Rep



## **TEAM REPORTS:**

### **ADMINISTRATION TEAM REPORT**

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The Administration team's role has changed in the past year as one who helps catch and direct matters of importance to the church to the appropriate team. It has been a blessing to have Bill's, Holly's, Hugh's, and Janet's understanding of Alberni Valley United Church and its policy and governance model in order to bring clarity and attend to details in the function of our church structure.

Anna M. Constantin, Convener

### **STEWARSHIP TEAM REPORT**

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As a fairly new team, we are continuing to find our feet and to discover our place within the church family. We have met throughout the year and have worked on making a yearly work plan for ourselves. We led or assisted in several Worship services during the year and we have spent much of our time addressing the deficit that the congregation has run most of this year. This culminated in the Family of Faith special offering that we ran from the end of November through the season of Advent. We were pleased to the response to our plea which raised an additional \$ 5,180. for our church. We hope to continue building our mandate in this coming year.

We have accepted, with regret, the resignation of one of our members, George Pickles due to other commitments.

Respectfully submitted,  
Holly Judge

### **PROPERTY & MAINTENENCE TEAM REPORT**

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Our committee biggest activity this year was the painting of the Narthex. This took the better part of a week. We had hoped to complete the front of the church but we were not able to get people and resources together during appropriate weather. We will try again next summer.

I am pleased to report that day to day maintenance was not excessive or expensive. We had a few plumbing issues in the downstairs washrooms and we had to stop some mud flows in the back yard that were coming into the day care area. We cleaned the drains on the roof a number of times and we had to fix a burst pipe on the outside of the building.

I would like to thank the gentlemen that took care of the lawns during the summer and the people who volunteered their time and effort to clean up and maintain the flower beds.

Because of insurance company concerns, we brought in people to get proper certification for the furnaces. We have also replaced and increased the number of fire extinguishers in the building.

Snow removal is becoming a major expense. We feel that it is important to clear out the parking lot for both the Sunday worshippers and the day care traffic.

Thank you,  
Bill Irwin



# EMERGING SPIRIT TEAM REPORT

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The Emerging Spirit Team attended our workshop about one year ago. The movement started when the United Church recognized that the age group of the 30 – 45 year olds was often missing from the congregations in Canada. Researchers were asked to identify what this age group wants from an organized spiritual environment and what congregations can do to enjoy growth and enhancement.

Across Canada, messages have been placed in magazines and newspapers and on the Internet through WonderCafe.ca about the United Church of Canada's values and beliefs. The goal of this is to allow non-church goers to discover a willingness to approach a congregation near them by creating a positive identity for the church.

The movement to meet with people like us at workshops is an effort to help congregations be ready for when new people drop by. Our group, although small, has realized that although we want to be ready for new people, we want to appreciate that there are already contributing and valuable people with whom we have both established and developing spiritual relationships.

We are not focused on changing everything but instead strengthen what already works well. Since spring we have cleaned and organized the nursery, and the space at the back of the church so young children who come have a clean and uncluttered environment to play. We are also working to organize the children's worship space.

In the summer, we hosted pre-worship coffee and chats. Each week different topics and questions were available for discussion. These were opportunities to share and grow our spiritual understanding and stay connected to what's happening in the larger church.

Welcoming someone to our church facility hasn't always been easy since to strangers, it isn't always clear where to go, so we also created and hung signs that make it clear where the sanctuary, office and minister can be found. The signs were designed to blend in with the existing décor.

Most recently, we have hosted a series of free congregation family events. These events were designed to strengthen intergenerational relationships and to just be plain fun. The campfire, movie night and game night were fun for those who participated. At games night, it was inspirational watching children play with adults they had maybe never spoken with before and to see adults learning games from the children. Caroling as a hit as well and some suggested it become an annual event (even though we caroled mostly by phone). Sharing, getting to know one another and connecting in different ways were well worth it. Our upcoming events include an afternoon with Robbie Burns & the return to the movies with the *Sound of Music* in February.

We appreciate the support from everyone and hope if you haven't yet attended an event we'll see you at an upcoming event. If you have an idea for an event or a way to make our church even more welcoming, please talk to Anna, Brenda or Peter.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anna Constantin, Peter Scott, Brenda West



# **FAITH, EVENTS AND EDUCATION TEAM REPORT**

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The FEED Team for 2008 included Dell Weiler, Peter Scott, Des Irwin, Judy Vatamaniuck & Anne Gray (catering), Coreen Humphries (youth leader), Julie Zaplotinsky (secretary), Jean Bishop (chair).

During this year our Church librarian, Gail Cruikshank, resigned. We thank her for her years of service to the library. As a team we felt that our library needed some sorting and disposing of books that were very outdated. We have spent one session at this task with another scheduled in the new year. We will dispense with the “card” sign-out system and simply use a notebook. Tapes of Marcus Borg and John Crassan have been purchased and are available for the congregation to borrow.

In February, a morning and evening “Funeral Planning” workshop was offered and well attended. In the Fall, five video/discussion study sessions were offered. The honesty and sharing among participants was enriching for everyone. We thank Rev. Anna for her insight and guidance.

Our Friday Youth Group, coordinated by Coreen Humphries, continues to provide a great program for our youth. The FEED Team approved the age limit be extended to 14 years to accommodate the present members. When a request went out to Church members for sports equipment the tremendous response was very much appreciated. Coreen’s separate report follows.

In June, an aerobics program was started by Julie Zaplotinsky. It takes place in our gym on Monday and Wednesday, every week, at 7 PM. This fun fitness program is well attended. Thanks to Julie for all her enthusiasm and hard work.

The Catering Group, co-chaired by Judy Vatamaniuck and Anne Gray, have again done a fabulous job of feeding us, whether it be our Church dinners, funeral teas or organizing pot-luck events. We love our catering group! Their specific report follows.

The FEED Team continues to set the schedules for the After Church coffee, and Sunday greeters. Thank you to everyone who participates in these activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Bishop

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## **FRIDAY YOUTH GROUP**

The Youth Group has had a busy autumn, doing various activities. Of course there have been games, from Family Feud to charades, and badminton to floor hockey. We have visited the Port Alberni Heritage Society and saw many interesting vehicles in various stages of repair, from small pieces stacked in a pile, to beautifully completed trucks. In December we made gingerbread houses, with lots of icing and candies. The youth were very happy to take them home. The last meeting in December was a Christmas party, with games and refreshments.

Changes the past year include a couple of the youth that attended regularly last year now have other commitments and cannot attend this year. We also have a couple of new members and look forward to continuing to grow. We now have Dewayne Parfitt joining us each week, which adds depth to our leadership and helps with risk management. We also appreciate his wealth of ideas and energy.

The New year will be interesting as we plan for more fun activities and look forward to having a guest speaker come in.

Respectfully submitted,

Coreen Humphries, Alberni Valley United Youth Group Coordinator

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## FAITH, EVENTS & EDUCATION TEAM REPORT ... continued

### CATERING TEAM REPORT

Social events are a major part of our church family life. During 2008 we were involved in the following events:

February 13 - Pancake and Sausage Luncheon	\$213.00
February 17 - WonderWhat Café	Pot luck
April 18 - Spring dinner	\$1414.44
June 22 - Picnic	Pot luck
September 14 - Round-up Sunday Luncheon	\$195.52
October 24 - Fall dinner	\$1411.31
November 15 - Bazaar Luncheon	---
	<u>\$3234.27</u>

In 2008, we catered to five memorial teas and received	\$2307.50
June 10, Stella Bailey	
August 16, Andrew Busko	
September 13, Elaine Hardy	
October 17, Eva Andow	
October 26, Oliver Howard	
Total for 2008 -	\$5541.77

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of the enthusiastic and willing folks who helped and offered food donations when approached for all of these various events. Our job is made much easier due to your help. We would like to extend a special thanks to all who attended and supported our events.

Due to the fact that there is no extra money, Catering submitted a '0' budget. Whenever we need something, we use the money from the Sunday morning coffee donations.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anne Gray and Judy Vatamaniuck, Co-chairs



## **MINISTRY & PERSONNEL TEAM REPORT**

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The Alberni Valley United Church has experienced a wonderful year due in part to the permanence and quality of our minister. Reverend Anna Constantin has been a true blessing to our congregation. She displays a great deal of compassion in her work and handles church policy most eloquently.

Anne Gray and I attended a Ministry and Personnel Workshop in Duncan. This workshop provided insights and training on our committee positions. I felt after attending a greater understanding of my role and hoped to be a more effective member of the team.

A heartfelt," thank you for the music" to our past accompanist, Jean Sproule. Presently in the music accompanist chair we welcome Ellen Vander Puttan. Her instant dedication to music was apparent and very much to our delight and benefit.

Our continued gratitude goes out to our Administrative Assistant, Andrea Markiewicz, Custodian, Colin Baker, and our Sound Technician, Robin Parfitt.

In closing I am reminded of the words of Reverend Anna who said in the 2007 Report, "What a blessing to be part of this journey!" She reminds me that our Church is on an exciting journey and that we are in it together. I have felt this in my short time on the Team and thank Anne Gray, Drew Hadfield, Carol Korven, Steve Vatamaniuck and Rev. Anna Constantin for their kind support and excellent work.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angie Blake, Chair  
Ministry and Personnel Team

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## **MISSION / SERVICE & OUTREACH TEAM REPORT**

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Fundraising activities/sponsorships of the Mission, Service & Outreach Team for 2008 include the following:

- Guest Speaker Jordan Cooper (in place of Al Tysick), \$155.00
- 2 Scholarships students, \$500.00 each
- Lasagne luncheon on June 29, \$300, to Bread of Life and Ty Watson House.
- Coin Drive during summer, \$140.15 for the Bread of Life
- Guyanna Luncheon (Guyanese food) on November 2, \$465.
- White gift Sunday in December, gifts went to Bread of Life and Transition House

TOTAL MONEY DONATIONS: \$2,060.15

In God's Trust, Sandra Simpson



# PASTORAL CARE TEAM REPORT

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The Pastoral Care Team for 2008 included: Doreen Grant (Secretary), George Geddes (Transportation), Dorothy Larsen (Contact person), Betty Kretai, Elsie Reynolds, Mary Fletcher, Gwen McLellan, Johanna Dutton and Judy Vatamaniuck (Chairperson). We were aided and supported by our Minister, Anna Constantin.

On the fourth Thursday of each month we gather for a service and hymn sing at Westhaven at 2pm, Echo Village at 3pm, and Fir Park at 3:45 pm. We are so thankful to Jean Sproule for her beautiful music. All of us that attend these services appreciate the thought and care invested by Rev. Anna and Jean. We had fun presenting these services. A special thanks to Janet Schlackl and the Young Voices Choir and those other folks who attended, for enhancing our services by your presence and participation.

Many thanks to George Geddes who is responsible for co-ordinating the Transportation Ministry. Thank you to all of you that pick up members of our church family for services and other events in your personal vehicles.

Over the last year, many cards were mailed or delivered with your greetings, get well wishes, sympathy and congratulations. The 2008 graduates of our church family were recognised with congratulatory cards. Honourable mention was given to those students progressing to new schools. Doreen sends cards to our newly baptised member on the anniversary of their special day.

Each week we try to visit our members who are in the hospital. Our prayer list is long. Dorothy regularly contacts our shut-ins by telephone and we thank her for this ministry.

The Pastoral Care Team is also the nucleus of the Catering Team, so we are kept busy baking, donating food, cooking, serving and doing dishes. At Christmas, 43 'Goodie bags' containing an orange, shortbread, fruitcake, cookies and our home made chocolates were distributed to shut ins and others in our church family. Many thanks to all of you who donated to these special gift bags, helped prepare them and delivered them.

Court Whist is still carrying on with thanks due to Dorothy Larsen's organization. Thank you to all who attend, provide refreshments, set up, clean up and carpool the players. A huge thank you to Dorothy Larsen for planning these fun evenings. \$200.00 was raised at these socials and turned over to Council.

Financially, we received \$20.00 from coffee donations, so we did not need to ask for funds from council. Many cards have been donated and we thank you for those. Personally, I wish to express my appreciation to all members of the Pastoral Care Team for all of you help, cooperation and participation in the many events held during 2008. This team is a group of loving and caring individuals who are working on your behalf. With our singing, visiting, services and serving we are doing what we cant help our church family.

Yours in Christ's Service,  
Judy Vatamaniuck  
Pastoral Care chairperson



# U.C.W. FRIENDSHIP UNIT TEAM REPORT

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The Friendship Unit held ten meetings throughout the year, meeting on the 1st Wednesday of each month at noon for a bag lunch. This is a time of personal sharing and fellowship, a meaningful devotional time with resources such as the Observer and Mandate that make interesting program materials.

During the year we served in various ways:

- Assisted with greeting and the fellowship coffee social on Sunday mornings.
- Several of our members were part of the Pastoral Care Team and shared in the services at the Care Homes and in funeral receptions.
- Assisted in March in the planning of the World Day of Prayer service and attended the service at the Nortre Dame Catholic Church.
- Happy Times has been a very meaningful part of our yearly activities. It is a real pleasure to welcome these seniors and shut-ins to our church home. Five parties were held through out the year.
- Assisted at the Church Garage Sale in May.
- Our June luncheon was held at the Alberni Valley Golf Club - most enjoyable food and surroundings.
- Two of our members attended the Presbyterial Day Apart at Moorecroft Camp in September.
- Our Annual Christmas Bazaar in November was a wonderful event - thanks to the hard work and dedication of our members and the terrific response of the congregation. Thanks to each and every person who contributed in any way. We could NOT have done it WITHOUT YOU.
- Our Christmas luncheon meeting was held at the Barclay Hotel. A special offering was taken and donated to the Women's Resources Centre.
- The U.C.W. continues to collect Campbell Soup labels and pop can tabs.
- Canadian Church Calendars were sold in 2008.

Financial donations were made to the following:

Alberni Valley United Church

First United church Mission - Vancouver

A continuing sponsorship of a foster child in Togo, Africa through individual donations.

Our Friendship Unit looks forward to a new year of continuing good fellowship and service, and may God bless you everyone.

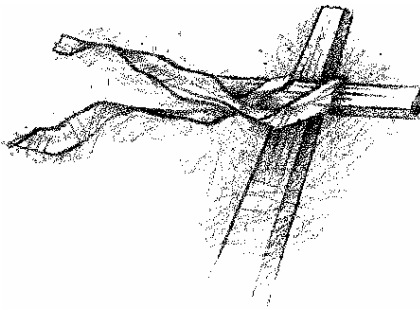
Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Kretai



## U.C.W. FINANCIAL REPORT TO DECEMBER 31, 2008

Opening Balance -	\$1872.42
<u>Receipts</u>	
Unit Givings	\$ 281.65
Bazaar	\$3543.90
Calendars	\$ 148.00
Special Offerings	\$ 88.00
Interest	\$ 0.66
Foster Child	\$ 145.00 (Went through the Treasurer)
Total Receipts	\$4207.21
<u>Disbursements</u>	
Bank Charges	\$ 5.95
Calendars	\$ 100.38
Flowers for Happy Times	\$ 11.96
Donations	
Comox- Nanaimo Presb.	\$ 160.00
Fir Park Village – mem.	\$ 50.00
A.V. United Church	\$3500.00
Mission and Service	\$ 100.00
United Church Mission	\$ 100.00
Women’s Resources	\$ 108.00
Foster Child	\$ 145.00
Total Disbursements	\$4281.29
Closing Balance	<u>\$1798.34</u>

Treasurer – Belle Damery



# WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

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## WORSHIP

2008 saw the worship experience at Alberni Valley United Church continue to evolve and grow.

Baptisms – A number of individuals were welcomed into Alberni Valley United Church this year. This included an infant - Bryn Mae Walter Parker as well as four adults – Dennis Andow, Coreen Humphries, Gail Hadfield and Drew Hadfield.

Transfer of Membership – Jim Phillips was welcomed into Alberni Valley United Church from James Bay United Church in Victoria.

## Worship Services and Related Matters

Communion – Eileen Tremblay worked diligently to ensure we had servers for each Communion Sunday. Thank you, Eileen, for your commitment to this important worship task.

Bev Herd and Joanna Dutton were instrumental in making sure the communion elements were prepared. Thank you, Bev and Joanna, for your continued diligence in this regard.

Communion continues to be held approximately once per month, with it being served twice each year and intinction on the other Sundays.

PowerPoint (PPT) Usage during the Summer – A roster was developed of willing participants who ran that PPT to give Jan a break during the summer months. Thanks to Hugh Sproule, Des Irwin and Drew Hadfield for helping out with this important task. Thanks also to our very capable secretary, Andrea, for building the PPT presentations during the summer months.

Cataloguing of Banners – Denny Hackett did a marvelous job of photographing our current repertoire of banners (which total 20) and filing these pictures in a binder by liturgical season. Thanks so much, Denny – it will make our worship experience more organized.

Decorating Committee – We attempted to strike a separate committee to oversee and undertake decorating of the church for various church seasons. After limited success, we have decided to ask for volunteers on an “as needed” basis.

## Special Services

- a) Easter – The Good Friday Ministerial Service was held at 10:00 a.m. at the Capitol Theatre on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Decorating for Lent and Easter – A cumulative theme was utilized with a path, backlighting for screens, ferns and crosses. Various elements were added each Sunday culminating in fresh flowers on Easter Sunday

- b) Remembrance Day – A traditional service with hymns of remembrance, wearing of poppies and placing of wreaths was held on November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- c) Traditional Service- Held on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Attendees were encouraged to wear traditional church attire, favorite hymns were sung and PPT was not used
- d) Advent Services – A Jessie Tree Service was held on November 30<sup>th</sup> with children holding up symbols of various facets of Jesus’ life.

- White Gift Sunday plus presenting of the Boxes of Hope to Alberni Community & Women’s Services and Port Alberni Shelter occurred on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Christmas Services – Christmastime 2008 is not something that anyone will quickly forget. Due to the substantial amounts of snow that fell from mid-December onwards, both services



## **WORSHIP TEAM REPORT continued**

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- e) on Christmas Eve were cancelled. It is hoped that congregation members were able to connect with the Baby Jesus in a personal way when we were unable to gather as a community of faith that evening.

There was also no service held on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>.

We would like to thank:

- Alex Bell – for acting as candle lighter for the services.
- Worship Assistants – for doing the announcements, reading psalms, reading lessons and doing a million other tasks that we always fail to thank you for.
- Anyone else who has contributed to worship services and/or sanctuary decorating. You are many and we feel so blessed that you share your gifts and expertise with us.

Respectfully submitted

Jean Sproule, Janet Schlackl, Brenda West, Bev Herd, Shirley Fuller and Gail Hadfield

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## **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP**

Children's Worship was blessed with deeper connections in 2008. Although our numbers stayed the same, the children who attended regularly were treated to a program of meaningful projects and special Sundays. I continue to create the lesson plans (guided by Seasons of the Spirit Multiage Curriculum). Elyse Villette works with the children through the lessons and activities each week. Hailey and Shaylene Balle were our preschool program leaders. Late fall brought the addition of Madyson Williamson to the preschool team. Our Sunday programs have allowed each of the children to participate in their own way...in leadership, artwork, musically, reading and/or Children's Worship activities on Sunday's. The middle school youth are finding unique ways to contribute to worship when they are not in Children's Worship. The children create their own meaning for the focus each week. When appropriate, they are given the opportunity to share their learning when they return to the larger worship service.

In Spring 2008, the children presented a creative worship service that encouraged all of us to treat the earth with respect, recycle and make thoughtful choices. Round-up Sunday was the beginning of a new year and with a drama, created some excitement about what was to come for the following year. The lesson series about the journey of the Israelites and Moses allowed the children to connect with props and storytelling and share a short drama about the gift of water in the larger worship service.

The start of the new Free AVUC Family Events create opportunities for our young people to connect with the wiser congregation members and for everyone to just get to know one another better. The campfire experience, movie night, game night and caroling drew our regular children, some extra children and lots of adults. These events, although not a Children's Worship program, have enhanced the relationships for those who attended.

Late fall brought some special mission and service programs for our children as other leaders in our congregation made soup and organized a special giving campaign for the members of our community who find themselves in transition. Both of these events created meaningful understanding of how important it is to share what we have and recognize that we have enough.

We are looking forward to more opportunities for intergenerational fellowship and meaningful children's programming. Thank you for your support!

Brenda West

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## **WORSHIP TEAM REPORT continued**

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### **MUSIC**

What an exciting year of music! We added some new music to the choir repertoires, to our congregational singing and Worship Services. The diversified Worship styles used this year presented several interesting opportunities to incorporate new music as well as some of our old favorites. The choirs worked diligently to prepare for weekly services as well as special events. The adult choir participated in the Ministerial Lenten Service held at the Capitol Theatre and added special music to the Palm Sunday Service. In the spring both choirs participated in the Annual Choir concert at the Church of Latter Day Saints.

The Young Voices Choir prepared some challenging music to add to our Worship and in the spring (supported by the adult choir) presented a drama “Life of the Party”. The commitment and enthusiasm of our young people was certainly evident as they worked week after week on a difficult work. The final result was amazing and enjoyed by all. The choirs joined together on several occasions to present anthems at Easter, Mother’s Day, and Christmas. Several of our young musicians shared their talent with us, playing the piano during prelude times, or singing solos during Worship.

Our much loved Church pianist, Jean Sproule, retired this year. Our anxious prayers for a new accompanist were answered when Ellen Vander Putten joined our team in the fall. What an answer to our prayers. We are grateful for Mike and Graham Vilette’s talents that they share each week on guitar and drums, adding much richness to our music.

We were especially excited this year to see the advent of an adult hand bell choir. Through the generosity of the Orchestra and Chorus Society, we have been given the use of the community Dr. A. P. Miller Memorial Handbells. With only eight practices under their belt, the choir joined the voice choirs for the Christmas Cantata, adding a new and exciting dimension to the music. The children’s hand bell choir continues to enhance our music experience as well and they played with the adult choir this Christmas for the first time – Wow!

The Music Team continues to prepare what we hope is inspirational and meaningful music for all to share. The choirs, musicians, and congregation sharing their musical talents are truly a blessing at AVUC. It takes many people to develop and implement a music ministry and I am grateful for those who give so freely of their time. It is difficult to thank everyone, but in addition to the choir members I want to express appreciation on behalf of us all, to Bill Irwin, Dewayne Parfitt, Drew Hadfield and Austin Padjen who help with the risers, setting up and taking down equipment and running the PowerPoint; to Graham Vilette who faithfully and expertly provides us with rhythm; to Brenda West and Lois Andow for their strong support of the Young Voices Choir; to Rev. Anna for her enthusiastic support and flexibility and to those in the congregation who are so appreciative.

We are grateful to those “Calamity Players” who continue to “ham” their way through our Church events. We look forward to more antics in 2009! Plans for 2009 are shaping up to be exciting and challenging for the Music Ministry at AVUC.

*“Come let us sing for Joy to the Lord”! (Psalm 95:1)*

Respectfully submitted

Janet Schlackl



# 14TH ARROWSMITH GROUP-SCOUTS CANADA REPORT

The Scouting history at this church goes back to the mid 1960's, around the time the Church was built. Over the past 40+ years many adult leaders and youth have been part of the very active programs offered by Scouts Canada, owing in part to the excellent support the Church has given. During the past year there has not been any youth programs offered by this group, as all previous leaders have left the organization and we have been unable to recruit new leaders.

Scouts Canada offers the following youth programs;

- Beavers – ages 5-7
- Cubs – ages 8-10
- Scouts – ages 11 – 14
- Venturers – ages 15 – 17
- Rovers – ages 18 – 26

Note: Scouting programs are co-ed and open to both boys **and** girls

These programs are age specific, and youth can pass from one level to another as they grow older. They can start at any time in the youth program designed for their age. We are very outdoors oriented and seek to get the youth outside for activities, hikes, camping etc., specific to their age level.

While there has not been a youth program over the past year, we are hopeful to start a Cub Pack (youth ages 8-10) in the early part of 2009. If you have any questions or wish further information, please contact us.

Dewayne Parfitt – Group Commissioner – 250-731-6555

Coreen Humphries – Group Administrator – 250-731-6556

Website - [www.scouts.ca](http://www.scouts.ca)



# Moorecroft 2008 Annual Report

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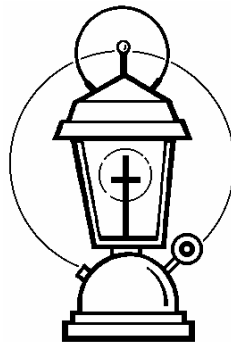
Two Thousand Eight was a pivotal year in the life of Moorecroft Camp. Under the threat of closure and property sale, planning went ahead for a summer program. By all accounts the two thousand and eight programs were well run and positive influences in the lives of the participants. There were new programs such as one which provided a time out for Mothers and Others as well as the traditional summer camping programming. The shoulder season was busy with community groups, craft retreats, school groups using the facilities. The camp was ably managed by Chuck Jensen, assisted by Alyson Lanfear, and this talented management team is returning to run the camp for the two thousand and nine season. The 'Matching Funds' campaign was a great success, ensuring adequate funding for the two thousand and eight season and allowed us to enter two thousand and nine in a positive financial position.

The recommendation from the negotiating committee to sell the north section of the property and retain the south section of the property with limited use was put forward in the spring. This document brought out an out pouring of support for the outreach ministries that take place at Moorecroft Camp and for the environmental protection of the property. Meetings were held by Presbytery in the fall with the vote at the October Presbytery meeting not to support the recommendation of the Negotiating Committee. This brought the opportunity for operation in two thousand and nine pending Presbytery support. Planning is well under way for the two thousand and nine operational season.

It is possible that Moorecroft Camp will face the sale of the whole property in the future by Conference in order to implement the Camping Futures Project.

Are you interested in the ongoing work at Moorecroft Camp? The best way to be informed is to become a member of the Moorecroft Camp Society. You will receive news letters, elect the board members and have input into the operation of Moorecroft Camp.

Joe Skipsey,  
Chairman,  
Board of Directors,  
Moorecroft Camp Society



**ALBERNI VALLEY UNITED CHURCH**  
**NOMINATING TEAM REPORT**  
**February 2009**

TEAM	TERM	TEAM	TERM
<b>OFFICERS</b>		<b>WORSHIP</b>	
Congregational Chair – Dewayne Parfitt - Elect	1 year	Brenda West (Youth Worship Coordinator) appointed	
Council Chair -Kathy Allen – Elect	1 year	Gail Hadfield	1 year
Secretary - Lois Andow – Re-elect	1 year	Bev Herd	2 years
Treasurer – Holly Judge – Re-elect	1 year	Shirley Fuller	1 year
<b>TRUSTEES</b>		Denny Hackett - Elect	3 years
		Janet Schlackl ( Music Team) appointed	
Bill Irwin	2 year		
Willard Myrfield – Re-elect	3 year		
Carol Korven	3 year	<b>PROPERTY &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>	
George Geddes	1 year		
Bert Simpson	2 years	Bill Irwin	2 years
<b>PASTORAL CARE</b>		Lois Andow	2 years
		Garry Korven	2 years
Judy Vatamaniuck	1 year	Paul McMillen	1 year
Johanna Dutton	2 years	Sandra Simpson	1 year
Mary Fletcher	1 year		
Betty Kretai	1 year	<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>	
Doreen Grant	1 year		
Elsie Reynolds	1 year	Holly Judge (Treasurer) appointed	
Dorothy Larson	2 years	Garry Korven	1 year
George Geddes	2 years	Allyn Parker – Elect	1 year
Gwen McLellan	2 years		
<b>MISSION / SERVICE &amp; OUTREACH</b>		<b>FAITH, EVENTS &amp; EDUCATION</b>	
		Jean Bishop Re-elect	3 years
Sandra Simpson	1 years	Dell Weiler	1 year
Des Irwin	2 years	Des Irwin	1 year
		Judy Vatamaniuck- Carol Korven - Elect (Catering co-Chairs)	1 year 1 year
<b>EMERGING SPIRIT</b>		Coreen Humphries (Youth Drop-in Coordinator) appointed	
Brenda West	2 years	UCW Rep - TBA	
Karl Driese	2 years	Julie Zaplotinsky	1 year
Robin Parfitt Isabel Parker	2 years 2 years	Anne Gray	1 year



1 – Only those being presented for re-election or to be elected will be voted on when the nominations are presented. Those without the election designation are completing terms to which they were previously elected.

2- Nominations from the floor for office or to the teams are permissible.

3 – Teams are encouraged and authorized to add to their numbers throughout the year. Such appointments will need to be ratified by the Council.

4 – If you were not asked, and have a desire to serve, please contact one of the nominating team members listed below or a member of the team on which you would like to serve.

Nominations are as follows:

Congregational Chair – Dewayne Parfitt	Elect	1 year
Council Chair Kathy Allen	Elect	1 year
Secretary - Lois Andow	Re-elect	1 year
Treasurer – Holly Judge	Re-elect	1 year
Trustees Team – Willard Myrfield	Re-elect	3 years
FEED Team- Jean Bishop	Re-elect	3 years
FEED Team - Carol Korven	Elect	1 year
Worship Team – Denny Hackett	Elect	3 years
Stewardship Team – Allyn Parker	Elect	1 year

Respectfully submitted,  
2009 Nominating Team,  
Linda Kenny, Tam Villette, Janet Schlackl



The grace of the  
**Lord Jesus Christ,**  
the love of **God,**  
and the communion  
of the **Holy Spirit**  
be with all of you.  
2 Corinthians 13:13

