



THE ROCK GARDEN

JANUARY 2009



An Alberni Valley United Church Newsletter

From the Minister

*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD
has risen upon you.
Isaiah 60:1*

Happy New Year and welcome to the Church season of Epiphany. The term *epiphany* means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal." This is the time in Christianity when we remember the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King in a way the world has never experienced before!

So during this season, I invite you to look for how Christ is revealed in your life. Does he come gently and lovingly during your prayer time and through sanctity of worship? Is he revealed through the laughter of a joke and the love of community? Does he come through the wisdom of a stranger or by connecting with a good book? Does he disturb you in an experience that you cannot get out of your head? Just like the Wise Men were surprised to find the new King not to be a dignified man in a palace but a baby in a humble manger, we too may find God being made known in the most unusual and surprising of ways.

So together, let us follow the light and see where God is calling us to during this time of revelation, as we continue to journey as a community of faith and explore who we are called to be as Alberni Valley United Church. If we, like the wise men, faithfully follow, we cannot help but also be overwhelmed by joy. That's the promise of Epiphany!

Rev Anna Constantin

ATTENTION!

**AVUC
Annual General Meeting
11:30 am,
February 1st, 2009
Please consider attending
this very important
meeting, your input is
valuable and necessary.**

**Your Annual Reports are
ready and can be picked up
in the hallway by the office
or printed from our
website.**

www.albernivalleyuc.com

Upcoming Events



- February 1st at 6:30 pm, "Disciple", an Old Testament Bible study program.
- Happy Times Party—February 24 at 1 pm.
- Care Home Services—February 26. Westhaven @ 2pm; Echo Village @ 3pm; Fir Park @ 3:45pm
- Church Family Event—The Sound of Music Movie and Potluck Extravaganza, Feb. 28 at 3:30 at the church. Bring a small casserole to share and your own dishes/cutlery.
- Funeral Workshop—Tuesday, March 3 at both 10 am and 7 pm. Presented by Rev. Anna, Carol Hastings and Jean Bishop. A time to talk and explore resources for funeral planning. For more information, contact Jean bishop at 250-724-5450.
- **Spring Dance** - Saturday March 7 from 8pm—1 am. Add this very important FUN date on your calendar. If you want to be in on the fun from the beginning contact Garry Korven 250 723-5265 or gkorven@shaw.ca . You can purchase tickets from Carol Korven and Lois Andow. So find those leather soled dancing shoes, shine them up and get ready to dance to all your favourites. Cost will be \$12.50 per person.

Worship Team

With 2009 now upon us, we are trying to achieve a balance of tradition and innovation in terms of the worship experience.

The Worship Planning Team will incorporate traditional hymns in upcoming services and we are making use of various versions of the Lord's Prayer.

We will also endeavor to keep everyone informed of decorating decisions that are made so congregation members understand the rationale behind these decisions and the atmosphere we are trying to achieve.

We also hope to keep connecting with the children and youth of our congregation as they are the future of our church and have so much energy and

excitement to add to worship.

An exciting cantata is being envisioned for Palm Sunday as well as a unique focus for Lenten services.

We are also in the initial planning stages of Vacation Bible School for early July and have some exciting ideas for how to make the experience welcoming and fulfilling for potential participants.

We invite you to come and participate and we encourage you to keep giving us your ideas and feedback regarding the worship experience.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hadfield

Worship Team Chairperson

Congregation Envelopes

Giving envelopes for the year 2009 are in the Narthex. Have you picked yours up yet?

I am asking everyone to please use your **2009** envelopes (and not ones from past years), some of you have a new envelope number for the year 2009, and we want to make certain everyone is receipted correctly.

I would also ask you to write on the outside of your envelope the amount of money that is inside the envelope, this assists the weekly offering counters and makes for less chance of an error. Your attention to this is much appreciated.

Your envelope steward,

Carol Korven

14th Arrowsmith Cub Scouts

The Cub Scout Group will start on Tuesday Feb. 17, 2009 from 6:30 – 8:00pm. Meetings will be held on each Tuesday and is open to all boys and girls ages 8 – 11 years. This is an active outdoors oriented group to be led by Dewayne Parfitt and Coreen Humphries. Meetings will be held in the basement of Alberni Valley United Church.

If interested call Dewayne at 250-731-6555 or Coreen at 250-731-6556.

Hospital Visits

Please note that, since the change in the computing system, the Pastoral Care Team no longer has access to the information that you are in the hospital. You can assist us in making sure that you are not missed by: Phoning or asking a relative to call the church office to let us know; Asking the desk clerk at admitting, the x-ray department or the lab to add Alberni Valley United Church as a religious preference to your permanent record.

Thank you, Your Pastoral Care Team

Alberni Valley United Church
3747 Church Stree, Port Alberni, BC
Phone: 250-723-8332/ Fax: 250-723-9829
E-mail: albernivalleyuc@telus.net
Web page: www.albernivalleyuc.com

"See what love the Father has given us,



that we should be called children of God."

1 John 3:1