



THE ROCK GARDEN

APRIL 2009



An Alberni Valley United Church Newsletter

From the Minister

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to the, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." *John 20:1-2*

As we find ourselves coming to the end of our journey of Lent and look towards Holy Week, and ultimately Easter, it can be hard to find Christ in our midst. Like Mary, we may find ourselves scurrying about and running right past the very things that give us life.

During the Lenten season, we have been using the imagery of cloth and clothing to help us slow down, and experience God who resides in the Crèche, who brings healing and newness through the stories of Jesus where a simple touch of his robe can lift people up and help them find meaning in their lives. Through our time of exploration as community we have gained tools, insights and ultimately God's blessing to give us strength as we find ourselves confronted with the cross and all it represents.

So as you read this newsletter, I invite you to see many opportunities for Christ to come to you, just as Jesus comes to Mary in the rest of the reading referred to above. Through the worship, through our community of faith, and through God's love, the grace and new life of resurrection will be abundant and like Mary, we too will be filled with the Good News!

Blessings,
Rev. Anna Constantin

From Council



www.albernivalleyuc.com

Have you visited this website today or how about yesterday? Did you know that approx. 20,000 people have since the beginning of the year?

As the economy worsens and insecurity grows for our family and friends more and more people are seeking some steady influence in their lives. It is my belief they want this steady influence to be a loving and secure family whether that family is made up of blood relatives, close friends or a structured environment such as a church family.

Here at Alberni Valley United Church we have created a loving family that embraces all ages and all peoples of every life experience. Over the year we have a wonderful, varied program of services, music and events which we hope will appeal to all. We are using our [Website](http://www.albernivalleyuc.com) to help get this message out to the broader Community and to keep all our members up to date on what our Church family has planned. How about checking it out this week to see what we have lined up for you and your friends and families.

Come and worship with this, your Church family, this Sunday and join us in the special events that interest you. Bring your community friends along as well and let them know about our [Website](http://www.albernivalleyuc.com) as well. 20,000 hits can't be wrong, the interest is **Growing** and Growing. Join us and get on Board our Website train.

Kathy Allen, Council Chair

The Spring Worship Experience

Let God speak to you through Worship as we experience renewal and rebirth in this season of Spring. There are a number of upcoming events and special services:

Easter Services:

Maundy Thursday Service (April 9th): Seder Meal being hosted by Trinity Anglican/Lutheran (TLA) Church from 6-8pm. This is a combination worship/potluck dinner. Seating is limited. Call Katherine at 723-0098 to reserve your spot.

Good Friday Ministerial Service (April 10th): 10:00 a.m. at the Capitol Theatre. There will be a processional from Trinity Anglican-Lutheran Church to the Theatre starting at 9:30 am for those interested.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service (April 12th): Being co-hosted with Trinity Anglican/Lutheran Church. A processional from TLA church to the Harbour Quay for the service is planned. Refreshments will be served at Alberni Valley United Church following the service. The service is co-led by Rev. Anna Constantin and Rev. George Pell. The service begins at 6:30 am.

Easter Sunday (April 12th): 10:30 a.m. Intergenerational service at Alberni Valley United Church. Please join us to celebrate Easter. Please bring cut flowers.

Other Upcoming Special Services/Events:

April 5th at 10:30 a.m. – Cantata – “Come Touch the Robe”

April 5th at 2:00 p.m. – **Palm Sunday Music Celebration-** Handbells, Young Voices and Senior Choir performing. Tickets are \$6.00 each (includes a donation to the Port Alberni Hostel) and available from Doreen Grant, DeWayne Parfitt or the AVUC Office.

April 19th – Holy Humour Sunday—Please bring you Church family appropriate jokes to worship to share. (because laughter is healthy and an important part of religion)

May 1st – Children-led Service (including the children assisting with communion)

May 31st – Young Voices Choir Cantata – Young Voices Choir will present “Oh Jonah”

June 7th at 2:00 p.m. – **Pet Blessing Ceremony** -This will be a wonderful way of showing that God’s love extends to “all creatures great and small.” It will be held in one of the community parks. More details to Follow.

Gail Hadfield and Jan Schlackl
Worship Team Co-Chairpersons

Money Matters

*The Promise
of Easter*



Jan/Feb 2009

Annual Budget 2009

Total Revenue \$ 19,484

\$ 154,852

Total Expenses \$ 31,607

\$ 154,852

Another way that you can support our church is to come out and join the many fund raising activities happening within our walls. A few of the upcoming events are:

- April 5/09 Palm Sunday Music
- April 18/09 Garage Sale
- May 1/09 Spring Dinner

From the Stewardship Team.

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