



THE ROCK GARDEN

AN AVUC NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2008

From the minister

*The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.*

Although the autumn season brings promise of colder, wetter days, there is something so majestic about this season! We have made it through the flurry of September beginnings and now we enjoy the beauty of nature, the bounty from our gardens and trees and settle into our fall routines.

There are so many things happening at Alberni Valley United

Important events happening in October

There is a lot happening around AVUC this fall.

We have the **Fall Dinner** on Friday, October 24 starting at 6 pm. There will be a delicious, home cooked meal that includes spaghetti, chicken, salads, dessert and coffee & tea. And of course there will be a presentation by our own Calamity Players, and a Silent Auction will be held as well. Be sure to attend and bring some friends. Ticket prices are: Adults—\$13; Couple—\$25; Family—\$35; Children under 12—\$5. It's sure to lots of fun and fellowship, as always.

October 12 is **Thanksgiving Sunday**. We are collecting donations of vegetables (onions, tomatoes, carrots, zucchini, fruit and flowers to decorate the sanctuary, please feel free to drop any by whenever you are able. The vegetables will be used the following Sunday by the children as they make soup to share for **World Food Day** on Sunday, October 19. That Sunday we are collecting 'healthy' canned foods for Outreach's *Bread of Life* food drive.

Jean Bishop and the **FEED Team** would like to invite anyone who is interested to help at a work party to sort out library books on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 9:30 am.

There is a **Family Fun Movie Night** on October 25th at 7pm. Watch your Sunday bulletin for more details.

We are having a **baptism** on October 26. If anyone else is interested in having a baptism, please contact Rev. Anna M. Constantin

Church that it is time for a mini-newsletter. I hope you have time to prayerfully read through all the life and work of this faithful congregation.

In God's Service,

Rev. Anna M. Constantin

Next is the **AVUC Video Study** on Contemporary Christian Thought, starting Tuesday October 21 and continuing October 28 and November 4 at 7pm. Come and watch a short video on a Christian theologian and stay for a short discussion afterwards.

Happy Times Party is on October 28th at 1pm in the hall.

Doreen Grant has started a **Craft Group**. You are invited to bring your own crafts, bring your bits and pieces and do one of Doreen's crafts, or just drop by for coffee and a chat. They will be meeting Oct. 8 & 29, from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

Court Whist is usually every first Friday of the month, and November is no exception. It's on November 7 at 7pm. If you are interested or would like further information, please call Dorothy Larson at 250-723-6015.

And in November, we have the **Christmas Bazaar** happening on the 15th. Consider donating items for the bazaar or contribute your time.

Aerobics classes are still going on every Monday and Wednesday evening between 7 and 8 pm. It's a great way to get some exercise and contribute to the church. The cost is \$2/session. Aerobics class is for any fitness level, you can go as fast or slow as you like.

Watch for more news in the next Newsletter!

Thank you to everyone for your submissions!





Budget Update—September 30, 2008

In January 2008 we, of AVUC, agreed to a balanced budget of \$158,080. Currently we have met 52% of our budgeted revenue.

Where our money comes from -

In this budget we anticipated that 4% of monies would come from interest, 3% from fund raising activities, 1% from weddings/funerals, 9% from facility use donations and 83% would come from weekly donations.

Where our money goes -

On the expense side our budgeted funds were allocated as 60% salaries and benefits, 20% facility operations, 9% office and administration, 3% presbytery allocation and 8% to actual program expenses.

To date our givings have been 70% of our revenue and therein lies our deficit problem.

Annual Christmas Bazaar

How can you contribute? By: making craft items, finding attic treasures, starting plants, baking, donating used books, making soup, sandwiches or sweets for the light lunch, decorating, setting up or cleaning up.

Volunteer, participate & have fun together! See Betty Kretai for more information.

Upcoming Meetings:

God Talk—every Tuesday at 1pm
 Youth Group meets every Friday @ 4pm
 October 8 - Council @ 1pm
 - Mission, Service & Outreach @ 4:30 pm
 October 15—WonderWhat?Cafe @ 1:30pm

Family Campfire

The Family Campfire which took place on Saturday evening, September 27 was a great success. Many congregation members came and there were loads of children running madly in all directions, and even sometimes in the same direction! After activities led by Rev. Anna, there was delicious hot chocolate, yummy cookies and glowing bracelets for the kids. Then we were led through a magical forest walk lit only by candles along a path. They led us to the campfire where Goofy and Elby entertained us with stories, lessons and even some 'magic'! The fire was big, the jokes were funny, and the singing was lovely! It was a wonderful evening and the rain managed to stay away. Thank you to Brenda West and Corinne Humphries and Dewayne Parfitt for all your hard work in putting the evening together. It was fun for everyone!

How your givings can benefit you -

An annual donation of

\$ 500 gives you a tax credit of \$ 117.

\$1,000. gives you a tax credit of 262.

\$1,500. gives you a tax credit of 407.

\$2,000. gives you a tax credit of 552.

and each additional \$ 500. donation increases the tax credit by \$ 145.

Year to Date as at Sept 30/08

Revenue \$ 81,630

Expenses 110,375

LOSS (\$28,745)

Please prayerfully consider how you may help achieve our budget.

Respectfully, Holly Judge, Treasurer

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

We would like ask all team leaders to regularly check your team file folders in the main hallway under the bulletin board.

If anyone requires a ride to church for services on Sundays, please contact George Geddes at 250-723-5052.

Bread of Life has put out an urgent call for camping gear—tents, sleeping bags, tarps etc. Please call Cindy at 250-723-4049 if you have anything to contribute. They will pick up or you can just drop it off.

The Pastoral Care Group attends Westhaven, Echo Village and Fir Park Care Homes on the 4th Thursday afternoon of every month. We sing the old hymns and Anna shares a short story and prayer with the residents. In September we were fortunate to have some choir members join us. What a difference it made to have those wonderful voices! Everyone—congregation members, family, friends—are more than welcome to join us. See Doreen or Judy.

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