



# THE ROCK GARDEN

OCTOBER 2009

An Alberni Valley United Church Newsletter



## From the Minister

This past month we had a Council meeting, ably chaired by Kathy Allen, Pastoral Care meeting, FEED meeting, M&P meeting, and Worship meeting. There was good participation, and good decisions made. Alberni Valley United has strong committed leadership and an exciting future in view. Our worship, music and children's ministries are vibrant. Our pastoral care and faith formation/Christian education ministries are well supported and active. Our M&P team are supportive and engaged.

I want to give thanks for our staff – Andrea at the front desk who keeps us and the building all together; Robin on sound who is a super-technician with a complicated piece of equipment; Ellen at the piano who makes our worship lively, passionate and beautiful. Thanks to our choir and music leader Janet who, all together, make our worship a celebration of praise and thanksgiving. There are at least two other musicians who will be joining us Sunday mornings. I am very grateful for your gifts and commitment given to the gospel of Jesus Christ through the church in this place, in this time.

Our governance structure is one I've been dreaming about for a few years now. My past experience has been with pastoral charges struggling to make changes in their governance, and so I'm excited to move into a congregation where you've worked out the 'wrinkles' and have a healthy working administration.

As we get to know each other, I hope you will feel welcome to visit, email, or phone. I look forward to a happy ministry together for years to come,

Yours in Christ,

Sandra McMillan  
[avucrev@telus.net](mailto:avucrev@telus.net)  
250-732-8332

## News

## October

- Rev. Sandra McMillan is available Sunday through Thursday at 250-723-8332 or [avucrev@telus.net](mailto:avucrev@telus.net) In an emergency, 250-730-0691. When Rev. Sandra is on holiday, call the office, 250-723-8332 ext. 1 and listen for the on-call information (name and phone #).
- The Minister's Discretionary Fund—a small amount of funds have been put aside by the congregation for emergencies. Rev. Sandra's preference is that people come to the church during office hours. Grocery vouchers/gift cards can be donated to this fund and will be gratefully received.
- Care Home Services—October 22.  
Westhaven @ 2pm;  
Echo Village @ 3pm;  
Fir Park @3:45pm
- The Fall dinner will be held on October 23rd. Watch your bulletins for more details.
- Happy Times Party scheduled for October 27 at 1:00pm.

### Worship News:

- October 4th will be a Communion Sunday. And as Rev. Sandra will be away at Presbytery meeting on October 18th, Denny Hackett will be our guest preacher for that day.



## From the Treasurer

Our financial position, at the end of August 2009, is not looking very rosy – in fact it is downright dismal. Our revenue from all sources averages at 55% of budgeted projection. Most sources are at projected levels, some such as fund raisers are ahead of schedule, but our weekly givings are falling far short of our actual needs. Our expenses are running at projected budget amounts.

	Aug 09	Year to Date
Revenue	\$ 9,868	\$ 85,204
Expenses	<u>15,958</u>	<u>112,130</u>
LOSS	<u>\$(6,090)</u>	<u>\$(26,926)</u>

***From Stewardship Team***

A topic that has recently been raised is the “*What do we do for the stranger who knocks on our church door asking for help*” question? The answer may lie within the Minister’s Discretionary Fund. In our budget, we allocated \$ 500.00 to this fund. The money is usually used by the minister to offer short term aid – frequently in the form of small gift certificates to various local grocery stores. As the title says, this money is given at the discretion of the minister, so should someone approach you asking for help you can direct them to the minister.

***Worship Team***

We are happy to be back in the routine that school brings. It always seems very busy at first but we’re adjusting. I continue to prepare the lessons each week for Children’s Worship with Janet and Rev. Sandra’s help, we work on ways to integrate the children into services. Elyse has gone to further her studies so I am going to be working with the children for their lessons this year. I am hoping to share this joy with a few other people who might like to share their talents or prefer to follow the prepared lesson once or twice. We continue to be blessed and hold Children’s Worship in the chapel. The Young ones will be sharing their space with *Music for Young Children*, but we have streamlined and re-organized the space so it’s actually quite lovely. Glad to be back!  
Brenda West

***FEED Team Announcement***

The FEED Team has accepted, with regret, the resignation of Coreen Humphries as our Friday Youth Group leader. We thank her for 3 years of leadership to this program. The youth participated in a wide variety of programs including crafts, games, discussion, GPS search, a progressive dinner, and just plain ‘socializing’. Thank You Coreen, for the leadership of our youth.  
The FEED Team

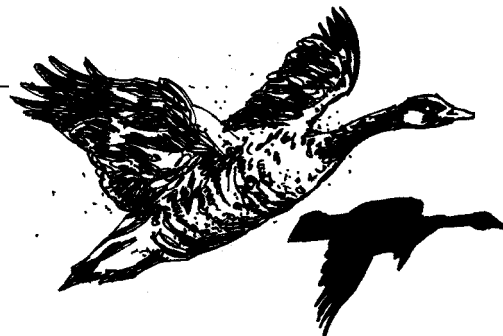
***14th Arrowsmith Cub Scouts***

The Cub Scout Group has had their first meeting on Sept. 22 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.

***Bazaar News***

Now is the time to begin thinking of what you could do for the November 21st Christmas Bazaar. Some suggestions are: Baking (jelly or jam), Crafts (sewing, kitting, woodwork, cards, candles, ornaments), Plants (indoor, outdoor, baskets), Books, Attic Treasures and Golden Oldies (quality 2nd hand and collectibles). Use your imagination and have fun!



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