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## Fall Elegant Flea Market

The Fall Sale will be held on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. We are now accepting saleable items. There are some vacancies for Convenor positions. We also need bin movers, sorters and casual helpers. If you can help in any way, call Heather Gates- 604-921-6370



## When the World Stopped Turning by Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart

"Where were you when the world stopped turning on that September day?" asked Allan Jackson in a hastily written song in the days after the twin towers fell in New York City. Artists, politicians, and pastors wrestled with what to say after such a devastating attack on our way of life. Every generation can point to key moments in history that helped shape the world around them – V/E Day celebrating the end of Hitler's madness; the day JFK was shot; those first grainy images of a man walking on the moon; the euphoria of watching the Berlin Wall crumble under the weight of democracy. Every generation can tell of an episode in time that becomes an epoch in history. One of the ways to test that is to ask, "Where were you when it hap-

pened?" September 11, 2001 has become one of those moments in time that so many of us remember exactly where we were and what we were doing. I recall flying back from Africa that day and being diverted to Europe where I spent a week of waiting and watching for a sign of hope amid the darkness. I suspect that many reading this article will also have their own stories of how they responded emotionally, intellectually and spiritually to 9/11.

This month marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks and the day of remembrance happens to fall on a Sunday. We are marking the ten year anniversary at West Van United in our regular 10 am morning service with a litany of remembrance, special music provided by the choir and a

new congregational hymn written for the occasion. We are also welcoming special guests Mayor Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, Chief Constable Peter Lepine and Fire Chief Jim Cook and will honour the work of our local emergency workers in worship. As well, the "Practice What You Preach" Sermon Series continues through next month and on September 11<sup>th</sup> it seemed appropriate to reflect on the Christian practice of forgiveness.

The media coverage of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania will be extensive and questions no doubt will be raised such as "Are we any safer than we were ten years ago?" or "Has the foreign policy of the west in the last decade helped or ...continued on page 2

## A Morning Out by Rev. Laura Lockhart

Erma Bombeck once wrote, "When the children become wild and unruly, I use a nice safe playpen. When they are finished I climb back out." Parenting is hard. We know that but the responsibility of parenthood is also an extreme blessing from God. The Psalmist writes that "children are a heritage from the Lord" and this autumn Caring Ministry is launching the new "Morning Out Program" for parents on the first Thursday morning of each month. With a

warm space provided at the church that includes tasty Starbucks coffee and child care, parents will gather to hear a guest speaker who will explore parenting from a body, mind or soul perspective. In September, our own Dianne Allan will speak to parents on the important topic of nutrition. In October, WVUC Music Minister Gerry Van Wyck will share his wisdom and passion regarding children and music. In November, we are looking forward to

parenting expert Karen Hoffman who will share her experiences of working with young families and answer the most popular questions. In December, St. John's Ambulance is kindly joining us to offer some tips and tricks for basic safety over the holidays. Please pass the word through the community about this exciting new program on the 1st Thursday of the month at 9:30 am.

## When the World Stopped Turning (continued from Page 1)

...continued from page 1 hindered the safety of the world?" In the church we will be exploring theological questions such as "Where is God in the midst

of violence and suffering?" and "If Jesus commands us to love our enemies, how do we practice forgiveness in the wake of such terrible actions?"

Our worship service at WVUC on this September 11<sup>th</sup> is designed to be a community event and I invite you to bring neighbours, family and friends to this

time of remembrance and reflection. I look forward to seeing you there.... Grace and peace in Jesus' name, The Rev. Dr. Ross A. Lockhart, *Lead Minister*

## Christian Vocation by Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart



Dr. Dori Baker

"Why do you *do what you do and love what you love*?" When you ask yourself this simple question, you are exploring the ancient Christian understanding of vocation. From the Latin "Vocatus," vocation involves one's calling in the world that has often been described as the point where "your greatest passion meets the world's deepest need." All Christians are called to wrestle and reflect on their vocation, their calling, their God-given purpose in the world. This autumn West Vancouver United Church is hosting a special day of vocational discernment for young adults on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Dori Baker, a friend

of the Lockhart's from The United Methodist Church in Virginia, USA. Dr. Baker is a scholar, a lay woman, and author of *Greenhouses of Hope: Congregations growing Young Leaders who will Change the World*. The event being held at WVUC is entitled, "Call/Answer" and the goal is to bring together 40 United Church laypeople under the age of 40 to explore God's call in their life. The idea for this event came out of Ross' service at the National Church on the new Steering Group for Recruitment for Ministry. The demographics of ministry personnel are high (more Ordained living over 100 years old than under 30) with more than half of our Ordained clergy set to retire in

the next few years. Ross' concern is actually not primarily the number of clergy but the quality. In a post-Christendom Canada the church of the future will require evangelical and entrepreneurial leaders as we move into a time of constant change and challenge for Christians in the west.

If you know of a young adult under 40 who would benefit from a day of reflection on vocation please speak to Ross or have them sign up in the office for this exciting event. We are especially pleased that Dr. Dori Baker is staying in Vancouver in order to preach a special message to the congregation on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please try to join us for this special service of praise!

## Financial Update by Cowan McKinney

The financial results for the three months since the May 31 report have taken a downward turn resulting in a deficit year to date, (August 31) of some \$56,000 which is about \$10,000 worse than our budgeted amount of \$46,000 and \$17,000 worse than last year's actual at this time. We have sustaining faith that there will be significant catch-up by year-end and if we maintain budget for the rest of the year the deficit will

drop to around \$20,000, which is still double our budgeted amount and significantly worse than 2010 when we had a deficit of \$7,000. Our church is indeed fortunate that we have the Permanent Trust Fund (PTF) that we can ask to assist us pay our expenses. The PTF is not inexhaustible so we have to be very careful in our use of it. Also we are restricted to using only income of the fund. The increase in the deficit resulted from a \$5,000 re-

duction in income from Congregational Events and Accommodation, offset partially by the improved Flea Market results. Our givings for the year to date were very encouraging, being within 1% of budget and 12% ahead of last year. Our expenses exceeded our budget by less than 1% but should be closer by year end. Unfortunately the fluctuations in the public security markets have had adverse effects on our PTF and En-

dowment Funds. We were somewhat ahead at June 30, 2011 but the last two months have been very difficult. We hope/pray for recovery by the year-end. The sincere thanks of the Official Board, the Finance and Administration Committee and the Church Treasurer must be given to our congregation for their continued givings and other support which is sustaining us in this difficult financial year. Indeed a bright spot in a difficult financial year.

## Wild About Us by Simon LeSieur

“Jesus really loves children.” Pulled from a book I recently received as a gift, that was the sentence that echoed through my head as this year’s Vacation Bible School team put together the final touches for what was a great week of PandaMania. Time and time again in Scripture, as people tried to get children out of Jesus’ way, he invited them to draw closer. Our church has a great tradition of honoring the children in our midst throughout the year, and it is such a privilege to be able to spend a whole week with them every summer to learn with them at Vacation Bible School.

And so it was that on Monday morning, August 22nd, we opened the doors to 18 children for a week of PandaMania, a program based on various verses of Psalm 139. Each day featured a new animal friend that emphasized that day’s Bible point. On Monday, Fez the Golden Pheasant reminded us that God made us wonderfully complex (Psalm 139:14). Tuesday, we were introduced to Amanda the Red Panda, whose big ears reminded us that God listens to us (Psalm 139:4). On Wednesday, Boomer the Panda’s black and white fur taught us that God watches over us in darkness and in light (Psalm 139:12). Thursday was little mischievous Pogo the Snow Leopard’s turn to show us how God loves us, no matter what (Psalm 139:24). Finally, on Friday, Lulu the Blue-faced Monkey made an appearance to show us that God gives good gifts (Psalm 139:5).

Woven throughout the program were exciting stations to reemphasize and reiterate each day’s lesson. Helen Fisk helped the children bring their colorful crafts - panda magnets, glow-in-the-dark glasses, etc. - to life. Katie McBride led them through challenging obstacle courses and treasure hunts. Meg Penner, assisted by Liz Birnie, sat with the children who listened attentively to her captivating stories. And Dianne Allan coordinated a great team of volunteers to help serve creative and delicious snacks every morning. To all of you, as well as to our fearless and enthusiastic counselors, Vivian Morley-Senkler and Jen Weidner, a big thank you. And to all of you who continue to support, encourage, and pray for the work that we do with children in our community, thank you.

When asked why they were attending this year’s VBS, one of the children replied, “I come to Bible camp to learn about God.” Indeed, while many of the institutions in our culture slowly move away from teaching faith and spirituality to children, I am encouraged that our church remains a vibrant place - and increasingly so! - where the children from our church and its surrounding community can learn about Jesus. By day 3, the children were clamoring for a longer program next year (I even heard amidst the protest calls, “ALL SUMMER LONG!”). The good news is that, clearly, the children are excited and enthusiastic to learn! So again, thank you to all of

you who have taken time to help or pray for what was an incredible week. We all walked away reminded that God truly is “wild about us”!



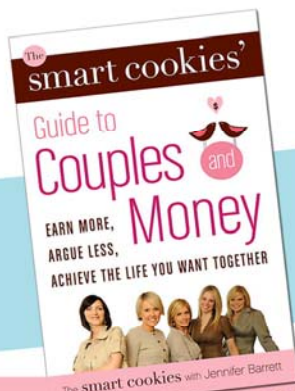
Generously supported by Caring Ministry and the Youth & Family Committee

west vancouver united church

# Couples and Money

A CONVERSATION  
WITH ANDREA BAXTER,  
member of Smart Cookies,  
as seen on the  
Oprah Winfrey Network.

FREE FAMILY DINNER,  
followed by programming  
for children during  
conversation  
with Andrea.



October 1st  
5:30pm to 7:30pm

Sign up at [www.wvuc.bc.ca](http://www.wvuc.bc.ca)  
2062 esquimalt ave, west vancouver

## Godly Play: A New Year Awaits! by Dylon Nofziger

It is with great anticipation that we at West Van United look toward the new year of Sunday School. Oftentimes anticipation of a new year is due to the potential of new friendships, acquiring new knowledge, or gaining new experiences. And while these may be the case, there is something unique to our classroom that is perhaps even more special.

Our Sunday School is based on the Godly Play curriculum, which primarily seeks

to help children to realize that they are held in the wonderful care of a mysterious and loving God. The God of Abraham and Sarah is alive and active among us today. And so, we don't only try to understand the (fascinating) stories that we have received through Scripture, but we also hope to create space to discover more about what God might be saying to us through these stories as well as in our lives.

I'm reminded of one time this past year when we were working through some of Jesus' parables. In one of the response times one child's face turned to a thoughtful look and then announced--matter of factly, yet slightly concerned--"I'm selfish". So we were able to discuss as a small group what that meant, as some ideas on being less self centred.

We are always welcoming volunteers to join with us,

both in the classroom and in providing us with a (simple) feast. Don't worry, we don't ask that volunteers be responsible to tell a story.

So whether you view yourself as young or not-as-young, we are glad to have you join in with us. And may we all continue to discover that in the midst of our lives, God is present: loving, bringing peace and making all things new.

## June Sunday School Picnic

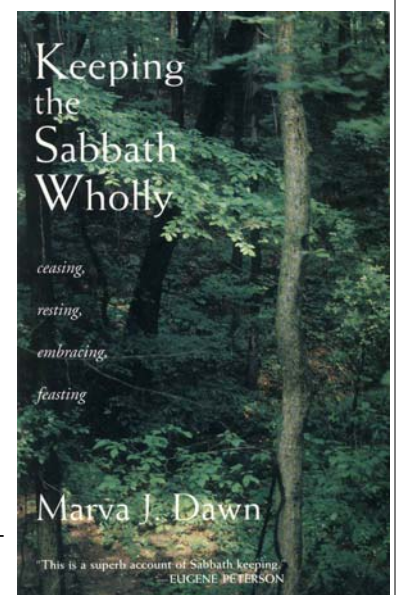


## Practice What You Preach: Sabbath

As we move into the autumn season here at the church Dr. Ross is preaching a sermon series entitled, "Practice What You Preach" exploring the unique and curious practices of our Christian faith. One such practice that Ross has shared with the congregation is Sabbath. What does it mean in this fast-paced and technologically savvy world to "keep the Sabbath holy?" How can one truly

rest in a culture and context that thrives on "busyness?" Join Ross and other members of the church family for an autumn book study exploring Marva Dawn's classic work *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly*. This four part book study will examine this well known scholar's approach to contemporary Sabbath keeping through the four fold approach of *ceasing, resting, embracing and*

*feasting*. The book study begins on Thursday, November 10th (7 - 9 pm) and continues in the same time slot on November 17, 24 and ends December 1st. Perhaps ending on the first day of December will help equip you for the frantic pre-Christmas shopping at Park Royal! Sign up at the Welcome Table during coffee time or in the office mid-week beginning in September.



## Stay in Touch

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If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail or read it on-line, please contact the church office by phone at 604-922-9171 or e-mail: [office@wvuc.bc.ca](mailto:office@wvuc.bc.ca)

## Youth: June wrap up



## Calendar of Events

### Baptism

Once a month on Sunday morning. Please contact the office a month or two in advance.

### Communion

The second Sunday of each month at 8:15 am we will be having an early communion service. We will be celebrating communion at the 10 am service on October 2 (Worldwide Communion) and November 27.

### Congregational Dates and Events

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Thursday September 8   | -A Morning Out Program, for parents with young children   |
| Tuesday September 13   | -Board and Committee Meetings   |
| Saturday September 17  | -Oppenheimer Park Youth Program   |
| Saturday September 17  | -2011 John Gouws Golf Classic, Squamish Golf Club   |
| Wednesday September 21 | -Men's Coffee Group, 10 am  |
| Sunday September 25    | -Fall Waffle Brunch, after 10 am service  |
| Wednesday September 28 | -Fellowship Luncheon, 12 noon   |
| Saturday October 1     | -Couples and Money, A Conversation with Andrea Baxter, A member of Smart Cookies, 5:30 pm, please register online |
| Thursday October 6     | -A Morning Out Program, for parents with young children   |
| Tuesday October 11     | -Board and Committee Meetings   |
| Saturday October 15    | -Oppenheimer Park Youth Program   |
| Wednesday October 19   | -Men's Coffee Group, 10 am  |
| Wednesday October 26   | -Fellowship Luncheon, 12 noon   |
| Saturday November 5    | -Fall Elegant Flea Market, 8:30 to 3:00   |
| Tuesday November 8     | -Board and Committee Meetings   |
| Wednesday November 16  | -Men's Coffee Group, 10 am  |
| Saturday November 19   | -Oppenheimer Park Youth Program   |
| Saturday November 19   | -Fall Fellowship Dinner   |
| Wednesday November 30  | -Fellowship Luncheon, 12 noon   |

### Concerts

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Sunday October 16  | -Pacific Spirit Children's Choir, along with EnChor, directed By Diane Loomer, presents: A Thanksgiving Celebration. 3 pm. |
| Sunday December 11 | -Pacific Spirit Choir presents: Messiah. 2 pm.   |

