

Kindle a Flame By Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart

“Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and drive all fear away...”

Voices United #19

Over 1500 years ago the season of Lent was drawing to a close when a young missionary climbed a wind swept hill and lit a paschal fire to mark Easter Eve. The brave one kindling a flame that night was named Patricus and the hill was called Slane. St. Patrick, the former Irish slave turned missionary Bishop, lit the

flame in defiance of the High King of Meath and his druid priests across on the nearby Hill of Tara. King Laeghaire drove his chariot in anger to the Hill of Slane to arrest this rebel but St. Patrick was so eloquent in his preaching, and explanation of the Holy Trinity us-

ing a shamrock (according to Legend) that the King and his army were soon converted and Patrick allowed to ...continued on Page 5



Thank You From The Gouws Family...

John, Joan and Mark give their heart felt thanks to their church family for their prayers, love and support these past several months.

Thank you for all the beautiful cards, letters, emails and phone calls with wonderful words of encouragement.

Thank you for the delicious casseroles and baking that just kept on arriving. John has never eaten so well!

Thank you to our Ministry and Caring Ministry Teams and all those wonderful volunteers that drove John to the hospital every day to spend time with Joan. John really enjoyed all those special lunches afterwards.

Thank you all especially for your prayers and your friendship. We just do not know how we would have managed without you.

May God bless you all... John, Joan and Mark

Training our Future Leaders by Rev. Laura Lockhart

While Rev. Ross and his travelling companions were traversing Ireland following St. Patrick's footsteps, I was traversing my way to rainy Burnaby taking a course offered by our Conference! Believe me, there were no visits to local distillers! The course, Ministry of Supervision, provides training to suitable lay and clergy who feel called into this specialized ministry. In the United

Church of Canada, there are many ways to become a minister; in fact, there are many different ministry designations (ordained, diaconal, designated lay minister etc.). For some studying for the ministry, there is an eight-month or four-month internship, for others they work within a congregation for a couple of years alongside their academics. Regardless of ministry

stream, student ministers require a supervisor. I now have my supervisor designation and am able to supervise students training for ministry.

Supervised ministry education is an opportunity for West Van United to form a teaching/learning community where all members can ...continued on Page 3

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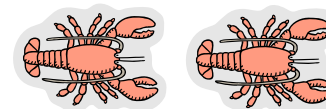
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Lobster Dinner

Your hard working Admin committee is pleased to once again present the fabulous, entertaining, ever popular annual Lobster dinner at the Hollyburn Country Club on Sat., May 28th. Put together a table of friends, family and neighbors for a fun filled evening with entertainment, good fellowship, silent and live auctions and a sumptuous dinner. The live auction would appreciate your generous donations of cabins, condos, dinners, gift certificates, golf and lunch, boat trips, restaurant meals, special wines, hotel evenings, cooking classes or other items that will help to delete the deficit. Any personal items, art work, jewelry, etc. for the silent auction would be appreciated. Tickets will be available soon in the office or in the gym.

Mexico Outreach 2011 - This is Love by Simon LeSieur

God is so, so good! It is indeed with great enthusiasm and a very full heart that I can sit here writing about the incredible and transformative experience that was this year's youth outreach to Ensenada, Mexico. During this past March break, 11 of us made our way down to a community on the outskirts of Ensenada to build a home for a family in need - Jaqueline, her 10-year old son Joan, and her father Rosario. Their story is a sad, tragic one, marked by a fatal car accident 8 years ago in which Jaqueline lost her husband. However, the joyful dedication of the home we built together not only marked the end of the 2-year wait that it was for the Gutierrez family to obtain proper accommodations, but the beginning of a new phase in their lives. As someone on the team mentioned, "we went to Mexico to build a home and share our love, but we never expected to receive such love in return."

It is that love that, in the end, made this trip unforgettable. Indeed, "simply seeing God's love shine through everyone had the most impact on me," says Lee (Dylon's brother) who joined us, a sentiment echoed by Ben Morley-Senkler. "We were all supporting each other," he says. "Everyone helped build, even the family members. It was a real community effort, even though they didn't have to help - a huge sense of community." For Alex McCarter, one of the defining moments took place during the Spanish worship service we attended in a local church. "The thing that impacted me the most," he says, "was seeing that beautiful, abandoned child at the church, and hearing that the minister and his wife have taken care of her...a huge responsibility."

There are, of course, many more stories to be told, some of which can be found on our website at www.wvuc.bc.ca. Thank you again for all your support and prayers - it was an honour to go to Mexico representing such a life-filled congregation, and such an awesome, good God!

Please join us in church on Sunday, May 1st at 10 am as we share more stories from our trip and celebrate the good things God has done!



Godly Play Update: Play Like it's Lent! by Dylon Nofziger

During Lent we are invited to enter into the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus. It tends to be a reflective time, governed by a sombre tone. In this time of reflection, we often can see our own frailty and the brutality of the world.

This year I've been given a slightly different perspective on the lenten journey: through children's eyes. We had been working through the parables that Jesus told, and we've been

reflecting together on the deeper meanings of the parables, but now the children are being invited into the story of Jesus life, suffering and death. There is something remarkable in watching children discover the story for themselves. It's interesting to see that for children joy so often trumps the sorrow. Those silent moments of identifying with pain and suffering are interspersed with bits of laughter and joy from parts of the story that I miss simply be-

cause I'm not looking for joy in it. It's almost as though I've begun my journey into Lent with the expectation of it being sombre and now have been surprised to find great joy in it as well.

All this makes me anticipate Easter even more. Week by week our calendar marker gets closer to the end of "God's time" and nearer to "our time" or (in Godly Play terms) the "green, growing time". And so I continue to

pray: Jesus, guide us towards your looming cross. In the shadowy places be our Shepherd. And grant us the grace of laughter and joy all through our lives. Amen.

A quick note from the Youth and Family Committee. Youth confirmation classes will run Monday evenings May 9 to June 6. For more information, please contact Simon LeSieur at lesieur@wvuc.bc.ca

Training our Future Leaders by Rev. Laura Lockhart (continued from Page 1)

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grow together in faith, theological understanding, and the practice of ministry. When people are open and willing to risk learning and growing together, surprising things can occur. Supervised ministry education provides an opportunity for students to practice ministry and reflect on their experiences. In doing so, they learn and grow in their pastoral identity, self-knowledge, and understanding of their response to God's call to ministry. Congregations have valua-

ble resources to nurture individuals preparing for ministry leadership: a particular context for ministry, pastoral needs, people of faith open to teaching and learning, a commitment to future leadership for the church, a willingness to participate in the formation of leaders for the church.

I believe West Vancouver United Church would be an excellent learning site for a student. We are a large church with many different ministry opportunities... preaching/worship, pastoral care, outreach, youth and

children's ministry, Christian education, administration etc. I really see this as an excellent opportunity to form future leaders in the United Church of Canada. When I was studying for ministry, my eight-month internship was just outside of Sussex, New Brunswick (Millstream Pastoral Charge). It was a transformative experience for me and the congregation (I was their first intern ever!). We were co-learners over the year and bonds were formed that continue to this day. Millstream Pastoral Charge

is a very small, rural four-point charge that never really considered they could actually help train God's servants and in turn be renewed in their ministry of service, justice and evangelism. Over the coming months, I invite you to pray and discern whether you believe West Van United would be a good fit as a learning site for a student...I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Grace & Peace in Christ's Name,
Rev. Laura Lockhart

Canadian Cancer Society - Community Support Programs

The Canadian Cancer Society offers community support programs. Two of the programs are mentioned below. For more information please visit www.cancer.ca

Cancer Connection

Cancer Connection puts you in touch with someone who's been there. When you call you'll be matched with a trained volunteer who has

as much in common with you as possible, including the type of cancer you're experiencing, the course of treatment, and lifestyle similarities. All conversations are confidential. The phone number for the program is 1-888-939-3333.

Cancer Information Service

The Canadian Cancer Society's Cancer Information Service provides you and your family with credible information about cancer including prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatments. Our qualified staff can also direct you to resources in your community. This bilingual, confidential service is available

Monday to Friday, 9am to 6 pm. Interpretation service available in over 100 languages. To contact the Cancer Society's Cancer Information Service phone 1-888-939-3333 or e-mail: cancerinfo@bc.cancer.ca.

From the brochure *Community Programs*. Canadian Cancer Society 2010.

The North Shore Hospice - A New Chapter in End-of-Life Care in Our Community

The North Shore Hospice has opened its doors. The large, bright, airy, new facility just east of Lions Gate Hospital provides the communities of the North Shore with a place to support patients and their families and friends when the end is near.

Palliative and Hospice Care

The North Shore Hospice was the result of a community partnership between the Lions Gate Hospital Foundation, Lions Gate Hospice Society, Family Services of the North Shore and Vancouver Coastal Health. More than 5,000 donors contributed to the campaign to build the Hospice, raising \$8.5 million. Vancouver Coastal Health has committed an annual \$1.7 million to cover ongoing operating costs.

The North Shore Hospice will be available for clients who are in the North Shore Palliative Care Program. Priority use of the Hospice will be given to North Shore Residents and will be based on assessed needs. Clients will be referred to the Hospice by their family doctor, social worker, community nurse or hospital physician. All clients will be charged a daily fee based on income. The average length of stay in Hospice is 24 days.

Acute palliative care services will continue to be provided on 7 West of

Lions Gate Hospital. The team of palliative care staff will rotate between 7 West and the North Shore Hospice to provide the highest level of care. Volunteers will continue to be an integral part of the Hospice and the care and attention extended to clients, families and friends.

The New Hospice

Every element of the new Hospice has been designed to optimize client comfort and care. There are 15 large private client rooms complete with ensuite washrooms. Each room has a double sleeper couch for guests and a recliner for clients. Room windows are lowered to allow clients to look outside while lying in bed. An outdoor space allows clients and guests to enjoy sunny days and warm evenings outdoors and the healing garden provides a place for quiet contemplation and a chance to revive in the peace, serenity and beauty of nature.

The Hospice also has its own dedicated chef who will prepare fresh, home-cooked meals and snacks for clients on site. These will also be available to family and staff for a reasonable cost. In addition, there are spa and hydrotherapy rooms in the Hospice. The vaulted Great Room is designed for comfort and accessibility for clients and visitors. Its high ceilings and tall windows provide an open airy feel to help reduce the feelings of claustrophobia that clients may ex-

perience at end of life. The Hospice also includes a Sacred Space which has now been blessed by nine different religions and which will act as a place for peace and introspection. The Hospice also features a new Resource Room sponsored by the Lions Gate Hospice Society. The Resource Room will be home to a new innovative program to help move hospice care into the community.

The Palliative & Hospice Care Day Program

This new Palliative Care Day Program will be offered to palliative patients who are living at home and experiencing the difficulties that serious illness can bring. This program is currently outside the operating budget of Vancouver Coastal Health, but with financial support of the Lions Gate Hospice Society, the Day Program will be introduced to provide social and medical services for clients and respite for caregivers.

A client may be referred to the Day Program for any of the following reasons:

To meet other clients in similar situations

To provide the opportunity for family or caregiver to have a day off from caregiving

To meet other members of the clinical team or for the Day Program nurses to monitor symptoms

To use the Hospice bathing facilities if this is a problem

due to access difficulties at home.

A 12 week placement will normally be offered, but can be extended if goals are not achieved or new problems arise.

The Day Program will be based in the Hospice's Resource Room and will be open 4 days a week from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Up to 8 clients will be welcomed each day on an outpatient basis for monitoring and treatment of physical, emotional, spiritual and social needs. The Day Program will be led by an experienced Registered Palliative Care nurse who works closely with palliative care on-call physicians, the client's own general practitioner and community nursing team.

Each week, clients will spend their day at the Hospice for medical monitoring, bathing, if needed, and organized activities. They will enjoy a delicious cooked lunch and afternoon snack prepared by the Hospice chef. While clients are at the day program, caregivers are free to enjoy a respite.

There will be a nominal charge of \$6 per visit (\$72 for the 12 week program). Clients will pay for additional services (eg hairdressing etc) directly to the service provider.

The vision of the Day Program is to build the idea that Hospice care promotes living life and making every moment count.

Kindle a Flame By Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart (continued from Page 1)

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preach Christianity across the land.

Just last month during the season of Lent a brave procession of pilgrims from West Vancouver United Church climbed that same hill of Slane where Patrick kindled a flame to lighten the dark. Huddled at the top in the ruins of the old Abbey we recalled Patrick's brave witness and joined our voices together surrounded by ancient stones that whispered the praise of saints and angels from long ago. The view from this site of Celtic Christian worship is breathtaking with views to the Irish Sea to the east, Ulster to the north and the Wicklow mountains to the south. You feel at once that you are both at the ends of the earth and the centre of it all.

We rejoice that the faith of Patrick inspired so many to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth and to acknowledge God in Christ at the centre of all. Together, as a church family at West Vancouver United Church we walk the pilgrim road once more towards Holy Week enjoying daily services with our Anglican, Presbyterian and Baptist church partners, gathering in the upper room with Jesus' disciples on Maundy Thursday, worshipping with a reverent hush on Good Friday and dancing for joy while singing the Hallelujah Chorus on Easter morn. I invite you to find your place once more within this life changing story of love and faith. As we approach Easter may we find our

brave witness to the resurrection of Jesus like St. Patrick of old so that once more God kindles a flame to lighten the dark and drive all fear away. Wishing you a dark Lent and a bright Easter,
The Rev. Dr. Ross A. Lockhart, Lead Minister



Above: Abbey Ruins on the Hill of Slane. Below: WVUC tour group at Newgrange, pre-Christian burial site and UNESCO world heritage site predating the Pyramids in Egypt and Stonehenge, England.



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



90 and 90+ Birthday Party

On May 25th we will be having our third annual 90 and 90+ Birthday Celebration. There will be a special program planned for the celebrants and their guest and for all the regular participants who attend the May luncheon.

The Caring Ministry would like your help in identifying people who will be 90 and 90+ in 2011. We know many of these folks but want to be sure that everyone is invited to share in the celebration.

Please call the church office at 604-922-9171 if you know someone born in or before 1921 who would like to attend.

Spring Flea Market

The Annual Spring Flea Market will be held on Saturday May 7th from 8:30 am to 3 pm. We will be accepting items until April 20th. If you are able to help please contact Heather Gates at 604-921-6370.

We have many unusual and interesting items for sale, as well as the usual fine selection of ladies', men's and children's clothing, toys, electrical appliances, books, linens, fabric and sewing items, furniture and sporting goods, fine art and frames, kitchenware and fine china. We look forward to seeing you on the 7th.

Calendar of Events

Baptism

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

Communion

May 29

Easter Service Dates and Times

- Sunday April 17 -Palm Sunday Service, 10 am, featuring the Pacific Spirit Children's Choir 7:00 pm at West Van Baptist combined Holy Week Worship
- Monday April 18 -Holy Week Service, 9:30 am, at St. Francis in the Woods
- Tuesday April 19 -Holy Week Service, 9:30 am, West Van Presbyterian
- Wednesday April 20 -Holy Week Service, 9:30 am, at West Van United
- Thursday April 21 -Holy Week Service, 9:30 am, at West Van Baptist
- Thursday April 21 -Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 pm
- Friday April 22 -Good Friday Service, 10 am
- Sunday April 24 -Easter Sunday Service, 10 am

Congregational Dates and Events

- Wednesday April 13 -UCW AGM
- Thursday April 14 -Walk and Talk, 1 pm
- Thursday April 14 -"Caught in the Net" Play, Kay Meek Centre, 8 pm
- Sunday April 17 -Fellowship Spring Waffle Brunch, after 10 am service
- Wednesday April 20 -Men's Coffee Group, 10 am
- Wednesday April 27 -Fellowship Luncheon, 12 noon
- Sunday May 1 -Plant sale. All proceeds to the Oyiengo School, Kenya
- Saturday May 7 -Elegant Flea Market, 8:30 am to 3 pm
- Monday May 9 -Confirmation classes begin
- Tuesday May 10 -Board and Committee Meetings
- Sunday May 15 -Caring Ministry Seminar "What does Palliative Care look like on the North Shore", 2 pm
- Wednesday May 18 -Men's Coffee Group, 10 am
- Saturday May 21 -Oppenheimer Park Youth Program
- Wednesday May 25 -Fellowship Luncheon, 90 and 90+ Birthday Celebration, 12 noon
- Saturday May 28 -Lobster Dinner, Hollyburn Country Club
- Sunday June 12 -Confirmation Sunday
- Tuesday June 14 -Board and Committee Meetings
- Wednesday June 15 -Men's Coffee Group, 10 am
- Saturday June 18 -Oppenheimer Park Youth Program
- Saturday June 18 -Strawberry Tea, 2 pm

Concerts

- Saturday April 16 -Espiritu Vocal Ensemble presents "Come hear!", At WVUC 8 pm.
- Friday April 22 -Pacific Spirit Choir, Strings & Soloists present: Music for Good Friday Mozart Beethoven, and Haydn. At WVUC 7:30 pm.
- Saturday May 14 -Pacific Spirit Choir presents: Bon Voyage. A combination of jazz, Opera, and song. At WVUC 7:30 pm.
- Sunday May 29 -Pacific Baroque Orchestra presents "Summer: The Sun King" . At WVUC 2:30 pm.