

## Delighting in the Beauty of Creation by Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart

“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it...”

- Psalm 24: 1

The lazy, orange sun slipped lower in the sky almost touching the rugged mountains that were getting ready to cast a shadow over hazy Lake Okanogan at sunset. I reclined in my lawn chair, sipping a cool beverage and keeping one eye on my book and the other on Jack and Emily as they splashed in the water. “What a perfect day,” I thought soaking up the atmosphere and delighting in the beauty of God’s creation. The Scriptures reminds us that all of creation is God’s handiwork as the Psalmist declares in

the King James Version, “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell within.” Perhaps it is the warm weather of the summer season that encourages us to take note of God’s creation or maybe it is simply that many of us slow down and take some vacation at this time of year. I trust that you too had an opportunity to enjoy the long sunny days that we will recall with fondness when the rain comes to stay in the month of November! Of course, there is beauty and grace in that too. After all, as disciples of Jesus we live with an attitude of gratitude everyday for what God has done and continues to do in

our lives and those around us. If you have been away over the summer let me be the first to welcome you back to the church family as we move into a new and exciting season of fantastic worship experiences, study groups, walk n’ talk, youth and children’s programs, seniors’ lunches, fantastic worship experiences and much more. May God’s Spirit continue to reveal to us as a family of faith “the Creator in the midst of Creation” as we journey on as disciples of Christ.

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Dr. Ross A. Lockhart

## Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall by Rev. Laura Lockhart

Welcome Back!

I hope that you and your family have had a pleasant and enjoyable summer. This was our family’s first full summer in Vancouver and it did not disappoint! We took the month of July to explore our new province and we now see why so many West Vanners stay around for the summer months. July was a very full month with our guest preacher series, painting the exterior of our home (thank you to our invaluable helpers!), travelling and guest preaching in Penticton.

We are now just wrapping up our first Vacation Bible Camp “Kingdom of the Son”, based on the Lord’s Prayer. Rev. Ross, Simon LeSieur and I are looking to build upon this modest success every year. Many exciting developments are in the plans for this fall at WVUC. As many of you know, AJ Ives our Godly Play Coordinator has started her first year at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario. We are delighted to have Dylon Nofziger step into her position. Dylon is ex-

cellent with the children, brings a deep love of Christ to all his work, and is a fellow graduate of the Master of Divinity Program in South Africa that Simon LeSieur our Children and Youth Minister attended.

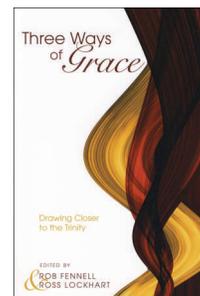
Walk and Talk will make a reappearance this fall as well. Starting Thursday, September 23 and running every Thursday evening at 6:30pm to Thursday October 14, 2010, all women of ...continued on Page 5

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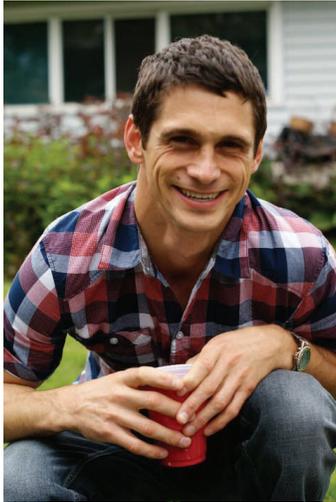
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## Fall Book Study

Explore your faith through the fall book study! Join your church family in reading and discussing Dr Ross' new book on the trinity entitled, "Three Ways of Grace." the book is written for a lay audience and contains essays by united church clergy and professors on how our experience of Father, Son and Holy Spirit shape our life and faith. Six sessions every Thursday evening 7 to 9 pm beginning Nov 4.



## Dylon Nofziger, our new Godly Play Instructor



Here is another year at our doorstep. There's a world of opportunity here, with limitless possibility for growth and discovery. For me, entering the role as Godly Play leader is an exciting step. It asks me to move beyond my comfort zone, and allow the creativity that is hidden inside to see the light of day. In doing so, I am delighted to learn the Godly Play curriculum and theology while offering the gifts that I have been given to an upcoming generation.

First let me tell you about my earlier life. I grew up in a remote part of Northwestern Alberta. Our property backed onto government land which stretched all the way to the Rockies. And so I spent most of my time outdoors, inventing or discovering, or chasing after my older brother and sister (who happened to invent their own games which included hiding from me and silently watching me search for them). Once, all three of us were playing out in the field and my brother and sister noticed a black bear at the edge of the trees. In a moment of panic they yelled and ran home, leaving me behind, slowly pedaling toward home on my little red tricycle. Upon their arrival at the house, my

mother was quick to learn that I was still out by the field and came running out to scoop me off the tricycle and carry me home.

In the summers of my high school years I worked on my uncle's farm. I suspect it was here that my love for the forest turned into a broader love for the land. Supported by my Mennonite roots, the boundaries of the forest were expanded such that I could carry something of my childhood exploration into the broader world.

Soon I was drawn to Ontario where I spent four years completing an honours BA in Religion/Theology and Recreation. Following my time in Ontario, I went to South Africa where I joined a diverse and insightful group of students as I completed a Masters of Divinity degree.

After completing my studies in South Africa, I moved to Burnaby where I have since been living with three friends--one of whom is the Minister of Children and Youth here at West Van United, Simon LeSieur. We try to live in a way that takes Jesus seriously. And the more we've shared our lives, the more we keep coming back to the realization that life is better when it is shared with others.

And for the four of us at this point, it has meant living in this kind of community setting.

I now work part time with l'Arche Greater Vancouver: an ecumenical organization which supports people with developmental disabilities. L'Arche is a place where each person is encouraged to discover their particular gifts and encouraged to use them. It's a place where people's stories are actually seen as important to our identity, and where identity is derived from our ability to love rather than to achieve.

To me the greatest joy of being part of the Godly Play program is that it is an opportunity to help people who are already full of wonder to discover that God exists in mystery. And our journey is one of being drawn into the mystery of Love.

Having grown up in a Mennonite home, studied in a Christian Reformed university, and having been influenced by various other denominations, it seems fitting to be joining the United Church. It has been such an honour to be welcomed into this community with open arms. I'm looking forward to the year to come, as well as getting to know you.



## 2010 John Gouws Golf Tournament

Come and join your fellow congregation members for a fun-filled afternoon of golf and a tasty dinner with lots of stories about the fabulous golf played during the day!

The spots are filling up fast but if you have not registered as yet, there is still time to do so. This year we will be using a Texas scramble format. You may enter as a foursome or an individual player. It's time to get out on the course and practice that swing!

Contact Linda Metcalfe at 604-926-2001 right away.

## A CHOIR FOR EVERYONE!

In the last couple of years we have significantly expanded the choir programmes at West Vancouver United Church. Our **Church Choir**, led by a core of young university and professional singers, provides a wide variety of music styles for our Sunday morning Worship Services. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup> at a new time: 6:45 pm to 7:50 pm. A highlight of the fall season will be Pierick Houdy's *Messe Quebeçoise*, for country fiddle, stand-up bass, and choir, presented at World Wide Communion Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The **Pacific Spirit Choir** continues rehearsing from 8:00 to 10:00 pm after Church Choir on Wednesdays: it is comprised of the Church Choir, plus 40 additional members from the community. We present four concerts per year, and travel locally and internationally every couple of years. Our first concert will be our annual **Remembrance Celebration** featuring the lyrical, popular

sounds of English composer John Rutter's *Requiem*. This concert will be held at the church on Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. Tickets are available from choir members or the church office. More information can be found at our website: <http://www.pacificspiritchoir.ca/> We'd love to have you join us, either as singers in the choir, or as audiences at our concerts

Now entering its second, very successful year, the **Pacific Spirit CHILDREN'S Choir** rehearses at our church on Thursday afternoons. Two levels of choir serve boys and girls aged 4 to 18; we present our own concerts twice a year, sing at worship services, perform with the Pacific Spirit Choir, and sing at community events. For further information visit our website: <http://www.pschilchildrenschoir.ca/> or call Music Director Gerald van Wyck at 604 808-5231.

Brand new this year will be

opportunities for **EVERY-ONE** who has ever wanted to sing in a choir, to join our Church Choir for a Sunday morning worship service. This service will be held on Sunday September 26: we will have a rehearsal at 9:00 am that morning, and will also rehearse the week before (Sunday September 19) at 11:30 a.m. Easy, accessible, beautiful music has been chosen: we will abso-

lutely prove that **YOU** are **GOOD ENOUGH** to sing in our Church Choir!

All our Choirs are lead by Music Director Gerald van Wyck, who is a nationally well-known leader in choral and sacred music. His passionate, fun, and profoundly inspiring approach to music builds strong community across all ages.



Some of our Church Choir Members



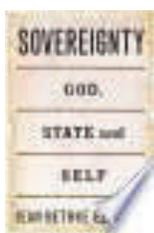
Gerald van Wyck,  
Music Director



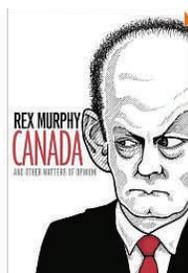
The Junior portion of the Pacific Spirit  
Children's Choir

## Good Books Recommended by Dr. Ross from Summer 2010

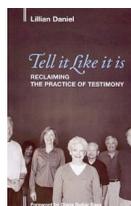
*Sovereignty: God, State, Self* by Jean Bethke Elshtain (Philadelphia: Basic Books, 2008)



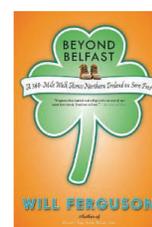
*Canada And Other Matters Of Opinion* by Rex Murphy (Toronto: Doubleday, 2009)



*Tell It Like It Is: Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony* by Lillian Daniel (Herndon: The Alban Institute, 2006)



*Beyond Belfast* by Will Ferguson, (Toronto: Viking Canada, 2009)

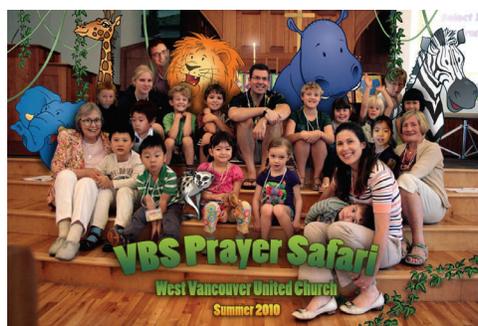


*Tilt: The Skewed Tale of the Tower of Pisa* by Nicholas Shradly (London: Penguin, 2005)



## A Roaring Good Time! by Simon LeSieur

If you happened to drop by the church during the last week of August, you might have found yourself plunged deep into the heart of an African safari. That's because thirteen children from the church and our surrounding community came to explore who God is during this summer's Prayer Safari Vacation Bible School!



And what a wild time it was indeed!

Every morning, after gathering in the sanctuary for songs and a short message by Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, the children made their way through the wilderness to one of three stations in the church. The lounge was revamped into a lush jungle full of animals, an inspiring setting for children to hear and learn stories of Jesus' life as well as a segment of the Lord's Prayer. Upstairs, another group of children worked on lion masks and other colorful safari-themed crafts, while others played different games that reinforced the main theme of the day (my own favorite involved a desert tunnel!). Of course, our time together was only made complete when relaxing by the hippo pond, sipping on chocolate milk, enjoying zebra-striped

ice cream and hippo cookies!

And then, there were the songs. Oh the songs. Every morning, and still today, I woke up with a chorus of "I AM SO FREE 'CAUSE THE FATHER LOVES ME!" roaring through my head. Based on the account of more than one parent, I know I was not the only one! "Oh, we get a full production of the day's happenings every evening!" exclaimed one parent. Another parent expressed to me how touched and impressed they were that we were able to create a safe space in which the children could learn about love and forgiveness - such foundational aspects of what it means to be human.

And that's exactly what we endeavored to do - to teach the children about God and prayer in a way that ignited their imagination. For some of them, the Lord's Prayer

was something new. For others, this was another opportunity to go deeper into the meaning of every line: God listens, God provides, God forgives, God protects, and God rules. (As an aside, on the last day of VBS, I paused for a moment because I couldn't seem to remember all five of the daily themes - I forgot "God protects" - which prompted one of the children to anxiously proclaim, "Aren't you supposed to be a Christian?") Regardless of whether these were new themes or familiar ones, I think Ross best captured the essence of this week in his VBS-themed sermon on the Sunday following the Prayer Safari. On the importance of learning and repeating the Lord's Prayer, he said, "We say the Lord's Prayer until it becomes part of who we are."

So, thank you to all the  
...continued on Page 6

## Finance and Admin. Update by Graham McIsaac

First of all, a big thank you to Larry Matrick and his team of helpers who put on the Lobster Dinner on Saturday June 5th. Thank you also to all those who came and supported the dinner, as well as those who generously

donated, or bid on auction items. This was a great evening of fun and fellowship, which raised over \$14,000. Update on our Church Finances to July 31, 2010. From January 1st to the end of July total revenue is roughly \$10,000 below

budget. Most of this shortfall in revenue comes from envelope givings and the open collection.

The deficit to the end of July is \$15,000. The forecast deficit for the year is \$19,000. The Finance and Admin Committee contin-

ues to ensure that our expenses are within budget. I realize that many of us are already giving to our Church all that we can, but it would be a worthy goal to see if we can all consider what we can do to help the Church finish the year with no deficit at all.

## The Elegant Flea Market by Heather Gates

The Fall elegant flea market will be held on Oct 30, 2010. We are now accepting items for sale. There are many positions that require helpers- bin movers, sorters, convenors and salespeople to work on the actual sale. You can do as much or as little as you would like. It is such a fun event to get involved in, so please call Heather Gates- 604-921-6370 and see how you can get involved.



## New Arrivals in the Church Library!

by Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart

Donna Simons, our new Church Librarian, has been hard at work this summer updating our collection and preparing the space for you. Working with Dr. Ross, Donna has been adding some exciting new titles to our church library and invites you to drop by before or after worship to select a good book to take home.

Two new titles now available are Marva Dawn's *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: ceasing, resting, embracing, feasting* and Daniel Migliore's *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*.

In *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly* Dawn recognizes the challenges that contempo-

rary Christians face in the practice of rest and recreation. She does not advocate a strict legalism but playfully leads the reader through a process that encourages us to rediscover the joy of setting time aside each week to refresh the mind, body and spirit.

In *Faith Seeking Understanding* Princeton Profes-

sor Migliore thoughtfully escorts the reader through the basics of Christian theology. If you have always wanted to get a better grasp of what the church teaches this is a helpful guide. Keep an eye out in the next "Stay in Touch" for a sneak peek of other new additions to your church library!

## Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall (continued from Page 1)

the congregation (and their friends) are welcome to join me for a 45 minute walk (there will be a slow group and a faster group again) and then we'll return to the church for a nutritious snack and a devotional/reflection time.

The Caring Ministry is also

working on a seminar this Fall that will appeal to families with younger children. We are in the midst of inviting a parenting expert to lead a workshop on parenting in November. Please stay tuned for this exciting development.

I look forward to seeing you

as you return from your summer getaways and hearing all about your adventures. May the peace of Christ be with you as you settle back or settle into a new Fall routine.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Laura Lockhart

## 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

## UCW Update by Jean Matrick

The UCW's purpose is to unite all women of the congregation for the total mission of the church in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service.

All members of WVUC are welcome to attend Oikoumene's Unit Meeting September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Dianne Allan, a member of WVUC and Registered Dietician will present the topic "What SHOULD I eat?" Which foods are high on the nutrition list and are the best value for my nutrition dollar? She will have some samples to taste. It should be a tasty evening.

All members of the UCW are invited to attend the friends of VST dessert party on Wednesday Sept. 22nd at 7 pm. The speaker will be the Rev. Canon Herbert O'Driscoll.

The friends of the VST are having a field trip to the Ismaili Muslim Centre on Friday October 15th. For car pool information, please contact Eleanor Reemeyer at 604-926-4604 or Helen McDonald at 604-922-7921.

## Calendar of Events

### Baptism

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

### Communion

Sunday October 3rd -Worldwide Communion Sunday  
November 28th - First Sunday of Advent

### Congregational Dates and Events

Sunday September 12th -Sundae Sunday, kick off for a new Sunday School year  
Tuesday September 14th -Committees and Full Board Meeting  
Wednesday September 15th -Men's Coffee Group, 10 am  
Saturday September 18th -Oppenheimer Park Youth Program  
Thursday September 23rd -Walk and Talk, 6:30 pm  
Sunday September 26th -Guess Who's Coming to Lunch!  
Wednesday September 29th -Fellowship Luncheon, 12 noon  
Thursday September 30th -Walk and Talk, 6:30 pm  
Thursday October 7th -Walk and Talk, 6:30 pm  
Tuesday October 12th -Committees and Full Board Meeting  
Thursday October 14th -Walk and Talk, 6:30 pm  
Saturday October 16th -Fellowship Dinner—Fiesta Mexicana  
Saturday October 16th -Oppenheimer Park Youth Program  
Wednesday October 20th -Men's Coffee Group, 10 am  
Saturday October 30th -Elegant Flea Market  
Thursday November 4th -Six week book study begins with Rev. Dr. Ross  
Tuesday November 9th -Committees and Full Board Meeting  
Wednesday November 17th -Men's Coffee Group, 10 am  
Saturday November 20th -Oppenheimer Park Youth Program  
Sunday November 21st -Fellowship Waffle Brunch  
Wednesday November 24th -Fellowship Luncheon, 12 noon

### Concerts

Sunday October 31st Pacific Baroque Orchestra Concert, 2:30 pm  
Fall: Abundant Harvest - Germany  
This program revolves around Joseph Haydn's famous oratorio; one of the most popular pieces of its time and strikingly alive even for today's audiences. Knight Sigismund von Neukomm, one of Haydn's pupils and close friend of Mozart and Beethoven, arranged the entire piece.

Sunday November 7th Pacific Sprit Choir Concert, 2:00 pm  
**Requiem by Rutter** a lyrical, powerful, popular setting of this favourite text in honour of Remembrance Day. Tickets \$25 and \$20, available from the church office or from Choir members.

Wednesday November 11th Chor Leoni Concert, 18th Annual Remembrance Day Concert, 1:00 pm. Tickets available at chorleoni.org  
From the violence of war, a longing for peace. This common desire as expressed in the compelling writings of Nobel Peace Prize winners will be featured in Chor Leoni's **Noble Peace**. **Noble Peace** explores our common desire for peace while honouring our peacekeepers, soldiers, and those lost to war.

## A Roaring Good Time! (continued from Page 4)

parents and children who helped make this week such a roaring good time! And a special thank you to those of you who volunteered your time: Helen Fisk, Meg Penner, Liz Birnie, Brigitte Matheusik, Cliff Henning, Dianne Allen and her amazing team of snack ladies. Your passion for journeying with children helped make this week such a success. To all of you, thank you. We look forward to next summer!