



# The Shepherd

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September/October 2011



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## *Dates to Remember in September & October*

**Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am.**  
**A Future of Faith - Future directions for  
SDUC**

**Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup> An historic Meeting  
and Congregational VOTE**

## *Reflections...*

Welcome Back! If you were among those away this summer, we missed you! If you were among those who dropped in or faithfully attended worship on Sunday morning, it was great to see you in the more intimate months of July and August.

You might be interested to know that a few of our youth were involved in some amazing opportunities this summer. In July, **Nic Huchet** and **Sam Honer** (grade 9) participated in the **Rendezvous** event organized by the national Church and BC Conference. Rendezvous was a youth and young adult 3-day conference held in Toronto. About 500 participants could be found singing with the group rEvolve, listening to inspiring keynote speakers or attending interactive workshops on topics of great relevance to the world and to the lives of young people. But here's the deal: in order to get to the Rendezvous conference, participants bused in from all around the country. There was a bus that started here in Vancouver, collecting youth from Vancouver Island to Haida Gwaii, Terrace to White Rock. On August 4 Nic and Sam bravely boarded the bus and with almost 30 other youth and adults, headed east. They passed through the Rockies, stopping for hikes and soaks in the hot springs in Banff. Then spent the first night in Calgary, then to Regina, then enjoyed a day in Winnipeg to enjoy a great Folk Music Festival. And all along the way, they picked up other participants heading to Rendezvous in Toronto. Now, for some of us, eight days on a bus across the country may not sound like an ideal summer vacation. But all accounts from various people who participated – youth, young adult, adult leader – all agreed that it was really fantastic. You'll hear more about their trip on a Sunday morning in worship, and if you'd like to check-out the Rendezvous blog, go to [www.rendezvousbus.blogspot.com](http://www.rendezvousbus.blogspot.com).

**Liam Blair**, one of our young adults (and son of Colleen and David), also took a trip of a lifetime this summer. Liam spent the month of August on a Me to We program in Kenya. He reports that the trip was an incredible experience. Liam also will share a few of his experiences with us in worship soon.

So whether your summer was amazing or challenging, filled with travel or filled with work, filled with relaxation or with stressful concerns, welcome back. I write this note just before the Labour Day weekend, and I look forward to seeing everyone back again. The buzz of September, with families returning and Sunday school beginning (September 18th) is always an uplifting and hopeful time.

One new section that we're including in our newsletter is the Tree of Life. If you are aware of a personal milestone and would like to share it with our community, please let us know so we can include this event under our Tree of Life. If someone in the St. David's family is celebrating a significant anniversary or birthday, or is retiring or graduating or getting married, or performing a concert or producing a CD or playing in a championship game or has learned to walk or has died or is born, please let us know so we can mention this important news in our Tree of Life.

For all the life that flows from God, and for this community of faith that holds and blesses significant life events, we give thanks!

*Dan*

## Tree of Life

- **The Rev. Karen Millard**, a Field Ed student and Intern at St. David's (2006) was married on September 3! We send to Karen our blessing and prayers for a long and happy life.
- We remember **Irene English**, who died a year ago September 5. Our prayers continue with Don and his family.
- **Nick Huchet and Sam Honer** (grade 9 and 8) went to Rendezvous!
- **Liam Blair** participated in the *Me to We* program in Kenya (see Dan's article and talk to Nic, Sam or Liam for more details).
- The **Farrell Family** moved in August to New Hampshire. We'll miss Clifton, Michelle, Alicia and Celeste, but send them on their way with our blessing and our love.
- Denali, Claudia and Sophia have moved to Yarrow, BC. May the blessing of God go before them.
- **Mary Zentek**, a long-time and well-loved member of St. David's, died on June 23. We'll celebrate her life and grieve her loss on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00. Our prayers continue to be with Harry, her husband for over 50 years. A reception in the church lounge will follow the service.
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## Worship in September

### Sept. 4, Labour Day Sunday

Worship at Highlands United Church in Edgemont Village

### Sept. 11, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11

The **Karim Family** will be back with us this Sunday. Last June we appreciated their music and stories of their courageous, visionary and generous philanthropic work in Pakistan. This Sunday, we'll hear from Amin how it's been to be Muslim in Canada after 9/11. We'll also consider how our life has changed and will pause to honour those who lost their lives on this tragic day.

### Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> Welcome Back Sunday



First day of Sunday School (please register!)  
Emmanuel and Marion to sing  
Men's BBQ after the service

Sept 18th **Drop-in Choir:** All interested in singing during Worship please meet at 9:15AM for a brief practice before the service. See you there! *Nicole*

## Sept. 25 A Future of Faith

Please enjoy a light lunch and stay for a symposium after the service on future directions for our community of faith. (11:30am – 3:00pm)



Interested in the future of the church? Care about what direction we might go and how we choose to follow the call of discipleship? Stay after worship and a light lunch to consider, discuss, pray and discern the most faithful and fruitful path forward. We need all involved. We need to hear your voice. We'll be talking about whether we should stay at St.

David's or continue exploring the possibility of selling our property and moving in with Highlands. We'll talk about our current challenges and possible opportunities for a viable and vital congregation. What are your thoughts, questions, ideas? Watch the web site, newsletter and bulletins for further information. (... and see page 5)

## *A Note from Nicole*

Our present musical director, Nicole Thomas, has had the honor of being selected to play for the 30th Annual Silent Film Festival in Pordenone, Italy. Pordenone is the world's leading international silent-film festival, Le Giornate del Cinema Muto, presented annually in northern Italy. Nicole's capacity for improvisation and composition as well as her wide musical experience will all be called upon in this festival of images and music. You can see more about the festival at : <http://www.cinetecadelfriuli.org/gcm/>

**Nicole will be away from the 22nd Sept. until the 14th. of Oct.**

**"Looking for a Miracle"** - Nicole Thomas, professional musician/composer is seeking a modest, quiet, independent, private, affordable lodging (cottage, cabin, carriage house - not basement suite) on the North Shore. Needs internet access. Can help with garden and pets. House-sitting could be possible, too. Please contact Nicole at [nicole@stdavidsunited.com](mailto:nicole@stdavidsunited.com).

## *While Nicole's Away...*

We'll miss Nicole, but we have some wonderful musicians joining us for worship:

**September 25<sup>th</sup> Peter Dent** will liven up the service with his gospel/jazz renditions of traditional hymns. Welcome back, Peter!

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> Laurie Beesting** recently from England and now on Bowen will lead us in music.

**October 9<sup>th</sup> Mark Fenster** and his 11 year-old daughter **Zoe** will be back to allow us to sink deeply into gratitude on this Thanksgiving Sunday.



## Upcoming Events

### Bible Study this Fall



We're back up and running! Meet with Dan on Thursday's in the Lounge, 11:30 – 12:30 to explore ancient passages from the Bible that somehow continue to speak to our lives today. Come with your life-experience, with questions, with appreciation for or struggle with the Bible. We begin on **Thursday, September 15.**

## Not to be Missed - Two Congregational Meetings

### **Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> *Symposium on the Future***

Can you spare a Sunday afternoon to discuss the future of St. David's?

After a light lunch, we'll meet from 12:00 – 3:00 to:

- See our challenges and realities in light of the broader North American context.
- Review where we've been in our congregational conversations and how we've arrived where we are
- Briefly review our current challenges
- Consider some options for our future together as a community of faith and what will be the most faithful and practical response.
- Discuss, listen, ask, learn.

### **Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> *Congregational Meeting***

Based on information given and conversations shared on September 25, we'll take a vote on this Sunday to determine our direction for the future. Don't miss this historic meeting. (But please, this October meeting will make no sense if you miss the symposium on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. We cannot make a good and faithful decision together if we're not well informed. If it's impossible to attend the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>, please take the initiative to talk to Dan Chambers, Colleen Blair or Emmanuel Huchet to find-out what you need to know. One of us will be glad to meet with you. 922-3961)

## *In Conversation with the Dalai Lama*

For almost two weeks this October, Janet Gear, Professor of Pastoral and Public Leadership at VST (and close personal relation to Dan), will accompany Prof. Sally McFague on a trip to India. There, they will attend a conference with 14 other scholars meeting personally with the Dalai Lama on the relation between faith and our relation with the environment. They will be staying at the residence of the Dalai Lama in Dharmasala and will no doubt return with much to ponder, much to share. Please hold Janet and Sally in your prayers as they prepare for this journey of a lifetime.

## *Looking Way Ahead*

**Evolve @ Highlands United.** Every year senior youth from around BC congregate for a huge and inspiring youth event called *Evolve!* This year, everyone's meeting at Highlands United Church in Edgemont Village. Talk to Colleen Blair for more details! **Nov. 10 - 13**



### **Advent Retreat: Pregnant Waiting**

No, you don't have to be pregnant to attend; only know something about the challenges of waiting. We'll make distinctions between waiting in anxiety and despair, and how to practice waiting in trust and hope. **Rivendell Retreat Center, Bowen Island**

Both nights are required; 15 rooms available. \$30-50 donation per night per room plus fee for catering. *No one will be turned away due to cost; talk to Dan or Colleen!* (We're on a waiting list again, so the date is yet to be finalized. In pencil, please mark your calendar for Friday through Sunday, December 2-4).

## *Postcards from Afar...*

See Kiva's website at: [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org) or Jane's blog

Check it out at [www.greenangels.com](http://www.greenangels.com)

Look under Pender Jane.



## *Investing in St. David's...*

### *From our Finance Committee Chair*

As you know, we are reaching out to the congregation for 250k in financing. We have had a reasonably good response -- 6-7 people have offered to loan approximately 135k at 3%. Our back-up plan is to borrow from the bank (RBC) at 4.75%. Given the difference in rates, the gap between the congregational loans and the 250k we need to complete the project, and our preference to pay the interest to the congregation, the committee has decided to **up the interest rates on the congregational loans to 5%**. As well, the lenders would have a registered security on the property.



In summary, if you have investments in GICs, money markets, etc – returning market rates of between .5 and 2% - you should consider redirecting those funds to the capital project. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, which will more than double your returns, **contact Craig Campbell (604- 913-0595) or any trustees/board members.**

### *Property Update re: Capital Projects*

Have you seen our new roof? Work began on Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup> and by Tuesday, the Taylor Way side of the roof had been stripped of the old cedar shakes, covered with 3/8" plywood and then covered with a waterproof membrane. By Friday, the new asphalt shingles were in place on the Taylor Way side. Excellent weather and a few more workers on site than initially planned has made progress on the roof swift -- along with 11 hour days (the roofers begin at 7.00am and work to 6.00 pm.) By the time you read this newsletter, it's quite possible the whole roof will be completed except for some detailed finishing work.

You can view the progress on our roof and the workers in action at St David's website:

<http://www.stdavidsunited.com/2011/08/status-of-new-roof/>

Our roof comes with a 10 year RCABC warranty (from Roofing Contractors Association of BC). The RCABC inspector comes each day to inspect the work. He also approves design details and inspects all interface tie-ins to the skylights and end flashing. Only a few roofing companies and approved roofing materials qualify for this warranty. The good news is that although the cedar shakes were in very poor condition with lots of cracks and gaps, the water proof tar-paper beneath was very high quality and had stood up to the elements. However, only that 1/8 inch thick layer of tar-paper was protecting our sanctuary from the rain! Fortunately, our internal wooden roof is still in excellent condition. The contractors are impressed by the quality of materials used in our building and how solidly it is built; they tell me "you don't see wood like that now".

#### **North wall repairs:**

At present, only the sloped roof replacement has been approved by our board and trustees. Repairs to the north wall of our building and the Acorn centre await the final details and confirmation of our funding. We are hopeful that this can be achieved shortly and we can proceed with those repairs. We have done some initial investigative work on the windows, wall and beams and the building permit application is ready for submission.

## Children, Youth & Families

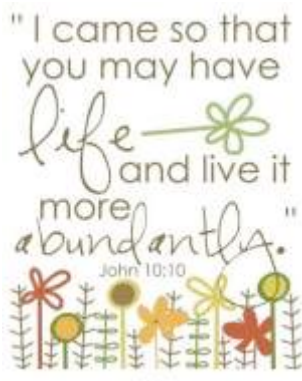
As happens every September, I am drawn back into the routines of Fall with some hesitancy but I am learning, however slowly, that the fading gifts of summer's abundance are replaced by opportunities for new directions and focus...an abundance of another sort, and it's up to me to let go and embrace what lies ahead. Far more than the start of a new year in January, the start of September for me signifies new beginnings and renewed optimism and hope and this is particularly true as we head into this autumn season. The Fall theme for the children and youth is "Life Abundant" – and it's a theme well worth all of our community exploring given the times we live in in general, and the specific decisions we face about where we will gather and worship together and be a community of faith, going forward.

In a culture where the meaning of life often revolves around earning more, being more and getting more, the purpose of the 'life abundant' session is to remind children and youth that the meaning of life, the point of our being is that we are created for God....created for love. If we can develop an awareness and appreciation for how we are blessed, and if we can live out of that gratitude and awareness by looking after one another and the earth, then our life will have deep purpose and beautiful meaning. Life abundant has little to do with what we have in the material sense and everything to do with how we live, the everyday choices we make, what we say yes to, how we spend ourselves....what we give our self to...how we do God's love. So as the Sunday school children and youth grapple with these questions for their own lives, we as a community will ask the same things. As a people of faith, what will we give ourselves, our energy and our resources to? How will we be a community going into the future? What is the most faithful response to how will we do God's love together in this ever changing world?

While I find it difficult to actively embrace change, I have found that preparing to teach the 'Life Abundant' curriculum has been both challenging and comforting. I've found that when I focus on what we have as a community...the spirit of compassion and generosity that exists, rather than dwelling on what we could lose, I am excited and encouraged and deeply hopeful about the future. The building holds the memory of that spirit but in truth, that spirit lives in us...not in the building. I hope that when we come together on September 25th to talk very concretely about where we will do and be church in the future, that you will be part of that conversation!

*Blessings in this time of transition and change, Colleen*

*In the human world, abundance does not happen automatically. It is created when we have the sense to choose community, to come together to celebrate and share our common store. Whether the 'scarce resource' is money or love or power or words, the true law of life is that we generate more of whatever seems scarce by trusting its supply and passing it around. Authentic abundance does not lie in secured stockpiles of food or cash or influence or affection, but in belonging to a community where we can give those goods to others who need them – and receive them from others when we are in need. Here is a summertime truth: Abundance is a communal act, the joint creation of an incredibly complex ecology in which each part functions on behalf of the whole and, in return, is sustained by the whole. Community not only creates abundance – community **is** abundance. If we could learn that equation from the world of nature, the human world might be transformed.*



Parker Palmer, [Let Your Life Speak](#), quoted from [The Impossible Will Take a Little Time](#).

## *Families*

### **Sunday School and BBQ Lunch... September 18<sup>th</sup>!**

Mark your calendars and plan to join us on September 18<sup>th</sup> for Sunday school registration and the start of the Fall programme. Sunday school and worship will be followed by a delicious BBQ lunch. We look forward to seeing you there! Please bring in or mail registration forms.

### **Discipline That Doesn't Divide... ..Tuesday, October**

Parents and Teachers are invited to gather and watch session 3 of Dr. Gordon Neufeld's *Twelve Practices of Safe and Natural Discipline*, from the DVD **Making Sense of Discipline**. We'll gather at 7 for refreshments and begin the DVD at 7:15 for this one hour session. Conversation to follow. Please RSVP to [colleen@stdavidsunited.com](mailto:colleen@stdavidsunited.com) or call the church at 604 922 3961.

**Thank You to Our Teachers...**As parents and as a church community, we are deeply grateful to the teachers committed to sharing the "Life Abundant" curriculum with our children and youth this Fall. The Kindergarten-Grade three group will be taught by Pam Meneguzzi and Jenny Woodfield, and assisted by Pegah Sadegh. The Junior Youth, grades 4-7 will be taught by Janet Gear and Kris Stead, and Colleen Blair will lead the Senior Youth. If you are interested in looking at some of the readings the teachers have done to prepare for teaching this session, you are welcome to borrow the "Life Abundant" binder in the library. Also available in the library is a bibliography of the children's books that are used alongside the biblical texts used for the Life Abundant theme.

### **Resources for Parents...**

We have obtained two of Dr. Gordon Neufeld's DVD videocourses. Please be in touch with Colleen if you would like to borrow either of these excellent resources. Dr. Neufeld is an internationally renowned, Vancouver based developmental psychologist with over 40 years of experience with children and youth and those responsible for them.

***Making Sense of Play:*** why children need to play and what they need for true play to result.

***Making Sense of Discipline...*** This course speaks to the question of what to do when.... But does so in the larger context of what is required to raise children to their full potential as human beings.

## *Outline of Youth Events*

***Junior youth (grades 4-7) and senior youth (grades 8-12) meet at St. David's every two weeks. Junior youth from 4:30-6 and senior youth from 6:30-8:30. Newcomers are welcome!***

***For further information, please call Colleen, 604 922 3961 or email [colleen@stdavidsunited.com](mailto:colleen@stdavidsunited.com)***

***The following outline is confirmed via email a few days beforehand, so please be sure you're on Colleen's youth group email list!***

**Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** We'll reconnect with one another and welcome new friends to the youth groups, talk about our hopes for the Fall, including our meeting times, and invite senior youth to share their experiences at May retreat, Rendezvous, the leadership event and Naramata.

**Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>** We have a tentative plan to join with Cata Velecia to hear a presentation from a life coach. Confirmation of this event and details regarding time can be checked on our website or email in the week prior to the event.

**Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>** Liam Blair will be our guest to talk about his leadership and service experience in Kenya this summer and we'll plan our own response to the drought in East Africa.

**Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>** Out of the Cold...Senior Youth are invited to help serve dinner at First United Church along with other members of St. David's, to people living in the downtown eastside. Please be in touch with Colleen if you plan to attend and if you need a ride.

**Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>** Both groups will prepare to host a Halloween lunch and pumpkin carving event for the following day.

**Thursday – Sunday, November 10-13** **EVOLVE!** A celebration and conference for youth, young adults and youth leaders, being organized by BC Conference staff, and held this year at Highlands United Church in Edgemont Village. St. David's will be the host 'sleepover' church for the grade 7-9 participants. Older youth will be accommodated at another North Shore United church. We hope to have many youth from St. David's participating! Details to come. *Here am I....*

**Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>** Pizza and Games night!

## *Outreach*

**Out of the Cold** is back up and running on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Please call, e-mail or talk to Cynthia Sedun to volunteer.

### **Korogocho**

Through our Outreach Committee, and donations from others in the community, we continue to support the children of Korogocho, an impoverished community in Nairobi, Kenya. David Okech, the staff member of the Korogocho Children and Youth Network, continues to send emails of appreciation, and reports and pictures of how our money is used. Watch for more information in the fall – as our own children and grandchildren go back to school, we will again raise money to help send African children and youth in Korogocho to school, which otherwise would not be possible for them financially. As David last wrote: "Thanks so very much and be blessed abundantly".

### **Helping those who live in the Horn of Africa**

The United Church of Canada is providing humanitarian relief in the region through its partners, including ACT Alliance, the National Council of Churches in Kenya, and the Organization of African Instituted Churches. All donations to The United Church Emergency Appeal for the Horn of Africa will be matched by the federal government. To qualify for the matching grant program, gifts must be received no later than **September 16, 2011**. Remember, *100% of your donation goes directly to emergency relief; people on the ground who need support. There are no administrative fees at all.*

Members of the United Church and the general public are encouraged to contribute to the work of ACT and the United Church's partners on the ground in East Africa by making a donation today at **[www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)**.