

# Fraser Presbytery News

September 2011

www.bc.united-church.ca/fraser

Vision for  
Mission

*Fraser Presbytery is on a "road we've never been before"....*

from Will Sparks



Welcome to a new season for Fraser Presbytery. It is an honor to find myself in the chair. In 2.5 years of ministry in Fraser, I have been delighted to see this court of the church actually trying to open to God's new day for the United Church here. I truly believe we are called to be church in a new way and it is so nice to be together in this new thing. Can you perceive it?

A couple of years ago, Derek Evans boldly called us to re-imagine church and gave us a few hints of what that might look like. He did not give us a road map. And today, we are trying to bring to life that new church, not just imagine it. In Langley, that new thing is just taking shape and involves radical change. At Crossroads it has literally new walls, a community with a clear mission, and an unwelcome mortgage. What does that new church look like in your part of the world? Joint initiatives are taking place in many parts of the Presbytery.

I see Presbytery as the crucial common United Church table where that new thing can be nurtured. I hope we can host the holy conversations between churches and ask the Spirit of God to release us, dis-arm us, open us, and re-make us. Please, come to the table. You have a place here.



**With gratitude, Fraser Presbytery has received a gift of \$29,000 from the sale of the property at Whonnock.**

Websters Whonnock Pastoral Charge has become one and is making plans and exploring its vision. Thanks be to God, who inspires generosity and hope. We can all watch with hope to the small but determined congregation of Webster's Whonnock as they move forward in the name of our loving God. May God bless them on their journey.

## Upcoming Presbytery Meetings:



**October 4th** at Sharon United of Langley churches

Update on the mission of Crossroads  
Laying the foundation for another May Youth Retreat  
Presbytery staff position  
Notice and explanation of Remits

**November 18,19** at the east end of the Presbytery  
Remits on Designate Lay Ministry and Conference meeting schedules

Welcome our new staff person and learning together.  
Engaging the Environics project

**Welcome!** to Rev. Lori Megley-Best, newly ordained, to Cloverdale Pastoral Charge. A Covenanting service will be held on October 16 at 4PM. This is an event for the whole Presbytery. Members are expected to attend. And others are encouraged to come and celebrate this new pastoral relationship.

## The Environics Congregational Report Inspiration and insight into your local context for mission



Contact Dorothy Jeffrey for when it can come to your congregation or regional cluster of churches. [Minister@GladwinHeightsUnitedChurch.org](mailto:Minister@GladwinHeightsUnitedChurch.org)

## Fraser Presbytery Officers:

**Chairperson:** Rev. Will Sparks 604-581-8454  
[will.sparks@northwood-united.org](mailto:will.sparks@northwood-united.org)

**Past Chair:** Rev. Joan McMurtry [jkmcm@telus.net](mailto:jkmcm@telus.net)

**Secretary:** Linda Moore [fpsecretary@telus.net](mailto:fpsecretary@telus.net)

**Treasurer:** Rev. Jim Massey [jim-massey@telus.net](mailto:jim-massey@telus.net)

**Conference Rep:** Murray Gordon

**Pastoral Relations:** Jean Macdonald [ajeannmac@telus.net](mailto:ajeannmac@telus.net)

Rev. Doug Astle [doug.astle@shaw.ca](mailto:doug.astle@shaw.ca)

**Education and Students:** Rev. Cari Copeman-haynes  
[revcari@dccnet.com](mailto:revcari@dccnet.com)

**Property and Church Development:** Rev. Bill Booth  
[billbooth@shaw.ca](mailto:billbooth@shaw.ca)

**Spiritual Care Retreat** for Ministry Personnel of the Presbytery. At the Lodge at Twin Creeks: February 12-14. Contact Will Sparks for more information.

The **Crossroads** congregation of Delta continues to juggle the realities of congregational life without a building - HEARTY THANKS to neighbours Bethany-Newton and

Colebrook who have both recently hosted Crossroads-related ministries - and both the excitement and uncertainties related to building and congregational redevelopment.



The congregation is hopeful that Christmas will be spent in the new building, and is encouraged by the progress on-site, despite a few unanticipated delays over the summer. Please pray for Crossroads folks as they faithfully continue to respond to the vision God set before them, holding their ministry in Christ at the centre of the congregation's life.

## **Vision for Mission Grants** by Oct 1, 2011

The final round of allocation of the 2011 V4M funds is underway! \$10,000 is available for cluster or congregational initiatives! Submit your proposal by **Oct 1, 2011** to Kathy Davies *and* Jean Macdonald at [kadpja@telus.net](mailto:kadpja@telus.net) and [ajeannmac@telus.net](mailto:ajeannmac@telus.net) using the 2011 application format.

Special initiatives which have received grants:

Carman United Church is holding a First Nations cultural awareness and appreciation program on October 5th at 7:30. Special speakers are Cultural Advisor/Historian Albert "Sonny" McHalsie and Senior Archeologist David Schaepe. On October 12th at 7:30 the chair of the United Church of Canada's National Indigenous Justice and Residential School Committee, Alvin Dixon. Alvin is a member of the Heiltsuk First Nation, and was a student at the Port Alberni Residential School. Alvin is a leader in finding resolution and health after a painful past.

Semiahmoo Peninsula Cluster conducted a "postcard" mail out to 30,000 homes, using "Enviro-nics" information to target neighbourhoods. It was a welcoming of people into our progressive Christian churches.

United Churches of Langley funding provided leadership training and coaching by Chris Corrigan, which facilitated the Langley United Churches coming together to share gifts and resources to re-vitalize the United Church presence in Langley.

## **"The Art of Participatory Leadership for the Emerging Church"** with Chris Corrigan and others. [www.chriscorrigan.com](http://www.chriscorrigan.com)

**Sunday evening – January 22<sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday at noon.- January 25<sup>th</sup>.**

- Location: Bowen Island Lodge [www.bowenislodge.com](http://www.bowenislodge.com)
- For ministry personnel and lay leadership within the bounds of Fraser Presbytery.
- Participation limited to 40 to 45
- Subsidized by Fraser Presbytery. Fees for participants to follow.

The leadership event is just one of a number of strategies to support and train leadership for the changing times. We think it can make a great impact on our leaders, congregations and Presbytery life and ministry. More Information and registration will be provided at the October Presbytery meeting. [www.bc.united-church.ca/fraser/](http://www.bc.united-church.ca/fraser/)

Joan K McMurtry, Coordinating contact for the January event.

Fraser Presbytery,  
British Columbia Conference

**"Vision for Mission"**

(Fraser Presbytery Approved: November 24, 2009)

**1. VISION AND VALUES**  
Fraser Presbytery envisions a dynamic United Church of Canada presence and witness in the Fraser Valley, that is alive as followers of Jesus Christ,  
has thriving congregations,  
is vital to the community,  
and is sustainable for the future.  
Fraser Presbytery values the richness of the diversity and honours the capacity of congregations to faithfully make decisions regarding their future.

**2. MISSION**  
Fraser Presbytery's Mission is to mobilize, resource and support the United Church of Canada ministry within Fraser Presbytery.

**3. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**  
Fraser Presbytery commits to the following Strategic Directions:  
1. Develop intercultural and multigenerational ministries  
2. Facilitate collaboration amongst congregations in regions for "vision for mission"  
3. Resource for change and administration management: including staff, volunteers and financial resources

Your Communications team:  
Website: Stuart Lyster [francislyster@shaw.ca](mailto:francislyster@shaw.ca)  
Newsletter: Joan McMurtry [jkmcm@telus.net](mailto:jkmcm@telus.net)