



## Kimberley United Church

December 2011

Phone (250) 427-2428

email [office@kimberleyunited.ca](mailto:office@kimberleyunited.ca)

website [www.kimberleyunited.ca](http://www.kimberleyunited.ca)

### Minister's Message

During the season of Advent we are encouraged to "prepare the way" and open our hearts to the miracle of God's love manifest in our lives and in our world. This is a time when we intentionally prepare ourselves to receive the blessing of Christ and to rededicate our own lives and gifts in his name. The hope and promise is that God is always present and that Christ came, and is with us still, as a tangible sign of God's love and presence in the world. This is the stubborn and persistent hope that has inspired and sustained Christians throughout the ages.

In her book, *Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas*, Jan Richardson writes,

***"Hope becomes easier to recognize when we learn that it rarely comes from outside us. More often it comes from within, emerging from the place where our deepest longings meet our willingness to make them real. In that place hope sheds its disguises, moving with grace and freedom to point us beyond our delusions toward the landscape of possibility."*** (pgs. 64-65)

There is much to ponder in that statement. Hope has little power unless it is believed into being. If we are hopeful people this will be reflected in our words and actions. There are many things that indicate that we, as a community of faith, are hopeful people. In my time with you thus far, I have been encouraged by the ways in which the ministry of care for others is offered both within our church community and in ways that reach out into the wider community. We worship together with faith in the present and with hope for the future. We take seriously Christ's call to love our neighbours as ourselves. We care for and offer the gifts and resources of our congregation and our church structure in ways that reflect the vitality and purpose of the ministry that we share as followers of Christ.

At this time of the year when we remember that God is known in humble and miraculous ways, may we take time to enjoy the ordinary, but yet extraordinary, pleasures of daily life. In the smile of a baby, may we see the face of Christ; in the wisdom of an elder, may we hear the voice of God; and in the love that we share, may we know that we are all beloved children of God.

**May hope, peace, joy, and love, be our gifts in this Advent/Christmas season.**

***Rev. Christine Dudley***

---

### **Dates to remember**

**December 6: 5:30 pm  
Women's Potluck and  
Candlelighting**

**December 18: 10 am  
Choir Cantata**

**December 21: 7 pm  
Service of the  
Longest Night**

**Christmas Eve: 8 pm  
Christmas Eve Choir  
and Candlelighting**

**Christmas Day:  
Worship at 10 am in  
the sanctuary and at  
Garden View at 11 am.**

---

## **Kimberley United Council**

### ***Isaiah Chapter 9 Vs 6***

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Over the next few weeks each of us is given the opportunity to experience the “gifts” of Christmas. As we are all aware gifts come in different ways, different sizes, different packaging and often from unusual and sometimes unexpected places. As Christians we know and believe that the words from Isaiah describe our “top of the list” gift. We know the gift of God himself will sustain us long after our other gifts are gone.

Webster’s dictionary writes for gift “something voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation”, the act, right or power of giving. During Advent and through the Christmas Season at Kimberley United everyone will be able to receive gifts just by being present. We will hear gifts from the choir, we will see gifts through the medium of acting, we will share gifts through Outreach giving and we will experience the gift of the “Christmas message” from Rev. Christine in all our Advent and Christmas services.

Know that in using the gifts given to each of you by God, and by being willing to share these gifts you empower each other. God created community for support, encouragement, enrichment and sharing and at Kimberley United we encourage everyone to play a part. Take some chances, share your gifts, and know always that the Prince of Peace goes with you.

**Seasons Blessings  
Diana Semenchuk**

## **Worship Committee**

The busy Advent, Christmas season is here!

Great things were accomplished at the Advent-Christmas work-shop Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.

The choir, joined by some folks from the Community Choir, will present a **Cantata, written by our very own Terry Macham**. The choir will share this special gift of music with the congregation of Invermere on December 11th, Dec. 18 at KUC at 10 am and in Grasmere at 2 pm..

Christmas service at the Pines Special Care Home on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. The residents really enjoy the fellowship of visitors who come to share in our church services—everyone is welcome.

The popular Christmas Eve service will feature special music and candle lighting.

Christmas Day – there will be a short service at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary followed by a service at Garden View Village at 11 a.m. Plan to attend one or both of these services.

Thank you to all who so generously share your gifts with our church family, our local community and with the wider world.

**A blessed Christmas to all  
Esther Jacobson**

### **Advent Services**

**November 27: Advent 1- Hope  
December 4: Advent 2 - Peace  
December 11: Advent 3- Joy  
December 18: Advent 4 - Love**

**Children’s Program every  
Sunday during Advent**

**December 12 at 2 pm: Christmas  
service at The Pines**

**Service of the Longest Night  
December 21<sup>st</sup>: 7 pm in the  
Sanctuary**

A quiet reflective service with candlelighting, readings, and songs.

This service is for anyone who wishes to pause from the busyness of the pre-Christmas season for an hour of quiet reflection with others.

It can be an especially meaningful time for those who are in the midst of change or who are experiencing some kind of loss in their lives.

**All are welcome**

### **Outreach Committee**

As this joyful season of celebration approaches, we rejoice in the benefits our church has passed on to others through the Outreach program.

Some of the blessings we have enjoyed this year include: a surprise visit from Chanthavouth Hy who brought his glorious voice to our May 29<sup>th</sup> worship service; a team effort from the entire church to result in \$2,900 worth of needed funds from the garage sale; the end of many years of support to the Khmer Women's Voice Centre in Cambodia, knowing that our efforts helped them to become self-sufficient; and, last but not least, great music, food, costumes and fellowship at another successful Hallowe'en Fellowship Tea.

As the Outreach Committee makes plans for an exciting 2012, we extend our warmest wishes to everyone. May you enjoy all the blessings of Christmas and have a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

**Graham Mann**

### **Faith Formation**

Our program, **United for Kids**, is our way to reach out to the families and children of the community. On Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> we hosted "Advent" activities for the young ones with crafts, games, sing-along and lunch.

**This Advent season we are providing Sunday School for children during church time, focusing on the Christmas story.**

Our Hallowe'en family fun day was well attended. Pumpkin carving created many "spooky jack-o-lanterns" much to the delight of the young ones.



Rev. Christine Dudley, our minister, led a five-week study this fall of Desmond Tutu's book "God Has a Dream". Those who attended enjoyed it very much.

Weekly Bible Study at Garden View continues under the leadership of Christine Dudley.

God's gift of Baby Jesus who represents, LOVE, HOPE, PEACE & JOY is our Christmas Blessings to you.

**Blessings to you  
Eileen Dean**

## Pastoral Care & Fellowship

We have had a busy fall assisting with the Halloween tea, lunch for United for Kids Halloween pumpkin carvings, refreshments for funerals, as well as hosting our regular social time following Sunday services. We will be helping with the Women's Candlelight Service and the Advent United for Kids event.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is important to our congregation. Prayer shawls are an expression of our concern for, and love of, those who receive them. We always have a need for new shawls. Thanks to the many knitters.

*Betty Wilkinson*



**Prayer Shawl  
Wrapped in Love**



## From Your Treasurer

Christmas 2011 – how time goes by. First, I'd like to compliment those dedicated K.U.C. members who planned, organized, and carried out three recent, very successful fund raisers: apple pies sale cleared \$2,976, Purdy's chocolate sales cleared \$531 and calendar sales cleared \$139. Two fund raisers remain in 2011: Fall Fowl Supper and Cookie Walk. Fund raisers have considerable impact on our budget. We are doing reasonably well with regard to budget 2011. We hope and trust that our Church members and friends will, as is traditional here, respond strongly to the Special Christmas offering request, and I thank you in advance for this.

I am going to repeat my (Stewards' Chairman & Treasurer) Christmas wishes message, first submitted for the 1988 Kimberley United Church Newsletter.....

"There are so many good writers of Christmas themes – Clement Moore, Charles Dickens et al. I have found a relative unknown, Esther Wood, to express my Christmas wishes for members and friends of Kimberley United:

**God bless your home and the people there.**

**Your hearth burn bright, and your candle shine,**

**And the snowflakes sparkle on your pine.**

**May you have stars when the night is old,**

**And a muffler warm against the cold.**

**May health and joy attend the cook,**

**And laughter live in your breakfast nook---**

**Your roads be clear and your fortune wide,**

**The friends that you love be at your side,**

**A child to laugh, and a tree to cheer,**

**And a golden bell to sound your year.**

**All of these things may Christmas bring,**

**And may your heart have songs to sing!"**

**I wish you all a Most Joyous Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!**

*Jack Ratcliffe*

## Presbytery Report

Gerda Mann, Ted Giesbrecht, Barbara Langton, Rev. Christine Dudley and Sandra Warner enjoyed an informative Kootenay Presbytery fall conference October 14 to 16, hosted by Knox United Church in Fernie.

An excellent workshop on Building Trust and Sacred Relationships, both with one another and within our church communities, was presented by Treena Duncan from B.C. Conference. On a lighter note, we even got to observe the filming of a Christmas movie, "Santa Pups," happening in Fernie that weekend, complete with fake snowbanks!



During the Covenanting service the Ministry Team promised to work together as partners in ministry..

**Following the fall conference, many Presbytery representatives travelled to Kimberley for the covenanting service between Kimberley United Church, Rev. Christine and Kootenay Presbytery. Presbytery Chair, Jean Daniels, hosted a very meaningful service. Rev. Barbara Langton offered a thought-provoking sermon, comparing and contrasting the church of old with today's church and highlighting some funny and not-so-funny historical facts.**

Gerda has announced her resignation from Presbytery. We thank her for all her hard work over the years.

Sandra has served as the lay Presbytery rep for Cranbrook United Church's JNAC process, and was appointed to continue as lay rep on the Cranbrook congregation's Search Committee.

**We are looking forward with great anticipation to the spring conference in Kimberley April 13 to 15, 2012, especially since United Church Moderator Mardi Tindal will be in attendance.**

*Sandra Warner*



## Legacy Fund Committee

We rejoice in the blessings of this wonderful season. Unfortunately, everyone is faced with increased financial stress in the current economic climate. Through the efforts of your Legacy Fund Committee (in partnership with our Church Council, the Trustees and Treasurer) we are taking steps to lessen the financial burden wherever possible.

When our congregation uses PAR (pre-authorized remittance) rather than weekly envelopes, our income is less likely to fluctuate from month to month. Jane Harding has been providing us with monthly inserts, reminding us that we are not giving to a faceless "church", we are supporting one another, both present and future. We ask you to include the Legacy Fund in your estate planning.

**Merry Christmas and blessings.  
Graham Mann, Barbara Langton  
and Jim Andrews**

## Rock Lake Camp

Our July 2011 junior camp, dubbed Camp Praise, was extremely successful with 20 boys and 14 girls participating. There were two boys and three girls who took part in the Junior Leaders in Training program. As usual, Kevin and Melissa Travis did an outstanding job of co-directing this camp with the assistance of their wonderful crew of assistants.

In September, the East Kootenay Women's Retreat took place with 14 participants. At the end of the program the ladies donated \$800 in camperships to Rock Lake Camp. To ensure that all children are able to attend camp, we keep our registration fee very low at \$120 per child. But even at that, there are still children whose families are unable to afford this amount. The camperships we receive guarantee that we are able to welcome all children to camp, regardless of their financial circumstances.

**It may be winter, but we can dream!**



**Rock Lake Camp is open from  
May 15 to October 15**

Are there any plans in your future for which Rock Lake could be an ideal location? Are you planning a children's camp, retreat, training seminar, workshop, wedding, reunion, ....? If so, contact us – **we'd love to share our little piece of heaven with you!**

**May the blessings of this most holy season be with everyone.**

*Gerda & Graham Mann*



## Women's Potluck Supper and Candlelight Service

**December 6 at 5:30 pm**

Please bring your own dishes and cutlery. If you need a ride contact the church office at 250 – 427-2448

## Cookie Walk

**December 10: 10:30 am to 1 pm**

**Fill a box with home-made  
Christmas cookies for just \$10.00**

**Coffee, tea, and a goodie with  
donation to Mission and Service**