

NOVEMBER 27th, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The *Upper Room* booklets for NOV/DEC are now available at no charge. (They are on the wall near the piano.) Copies of the NOVEMBER Observer are in the same magazine holder as the *Upper Room* and are also free.
- The Centering Prayer sessions are on Wednesday at 1:30pm.
- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY** - Do you have a few hours a month to give to Ellesmere? We are looking for volunteers to be a presence in our church on **Tuesdays, 10 am to 2 pm**. We have a loyal team in place, but a few more volunteers would make the rotating schedule much lighter! Help us keep our doors open to the community! Please speak to Joanne if you can assist.
- **Thank you** for attending the meeting on Saturday November 26, 10-3. Your support is appreciated!

November 27 — Hope Is a Star

Letter from Deborah Elliot and Don Gibson, overseas personnel in Nicaragua

In the Book of Luke, Mary's cousin Elizabeth learns that the impossible becomes possible. In Nicaragua you have to believe that the impossible is possible: How do we live out this constant hope?

Despite extreme poverty there is joy here. I witness the impossible every Sunday: people love their church, are fervent in their prayer, and value giving their time to the church.

The municipality rarely picks up garbage; an older gentleman comes with his trusty horse to collect it. The store has started getting glass Coke bottles instead of plastic...One step at a time... The impossible is possible.

The church Christmas tree is decorated. A star hangs from the ceiling. There are no ladders: How on earth did they hang the star? A young man climbed into the attic and lowered the star from a hole in the ceiling...The impossible is possible.

There was a young unmarried girl. An angel told her she would have a baby. The baby is sent from God and brings a revolutionary message. The impossible is possible. Advent: a season of joy and expectation. We prepare to believe the impossible is possible.

During this time of giving, please remember a gift to the Mission and Service Fund. M&S brings a health clinic in Managua; a ramp for a church; a presence to stand in solidarity with Nicaraguans.

Together, we carry out the work of our United Church. Make a difference! Join the partnership! Support the work of the Mission and Service Fund today.

Donations for Emergency Food Bags. First United would greatly appreciate donations for the community: canned fish, tuna, salmon, sardines, canned meats, 9-grain pasta (except lasagne), rice, pasta sauce, stovetop stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, canned fruit, canned vegetables, pork and beans, canned ravioli, dry noodle soups, cake mixes, cooking oil, canned milk, table condiments, mayonnaise, and just-add-water pancake mix. Please call Linda Ostrom (604) 290- 8417, lostrom@firstunited.ca.

A Phoenix Christmas. The Phoenix Chamber Choir will entertain you on two evenings on Saturday and Sunday December 17 and 18 at 8:00 p.m. Saturday's concert will be held at New Westminster Christian Reformed Church, 8255 13th Ave., Burnaby. Sunday's concert will be held at Shaughnessy Heights United Church, 1550 W. 33rd Ave., Vancouver. Roy Campbell is the organist and the Director is Patti Fletcher. Tickets may be ordered in advance at www.phoenixchamberchoir.bc.ca or (604) 584-4755. Tickets are \$25/\$20.

Ellesmere United Potluck. It's time to celebrate another wonderful year of togetherness! We will have a potluck on **Sunday December 18** after the service. Please sign up on the sheet at the front office for what you would like to bring. We hope to see you there!

Christmas Worship. The United Churches in Burnaby are coming together to celebrate Christmas. The joint service will be held at West Burnaby United Church on **Sunday December 25** at **10:30 a.m.** for a hymn sing with service commencing at **11:00 a.m.** A potluck soup and sandwich lunch follows the worship. West Burnaby United Church is located on 6050 Sussex Ave., close to the intersection Nelson St. and Grange St. (Nelson St. turns into Grange St.). Please click the link below for the map.

<http://maps.google.ca/maps?q=West+Burnaby+United+Church,+Burnaby,+British+Columbia&hl=en&ll=49.230602,-122.997522&spn=0.006782,0.013711&sll=49.891235,-97.15369&ssp=28.868934,56.162109&vpsrc=6&hq=West+Burnaby+United+Church,&hnear=Burnaby,+Greater+Vancouver+Regional+District,+British+Columbia&t=m&z=16>

Remit 6. The revised date to respond to the remit is due **May 15, 2012**. This will allow you as much time as possible for consideration of the remit. Your votes will be counted regardless of whether you use the original forms or the revised forms as long as they are received by **May 15, 2012**. Thank you for your participation in this important work of the church!