

JANUARY 1st, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The *Upper Room* booklets for **JAN/ FEB** are now available at no charge. (They are on the wall near the piano.) Copies of the **DECEMBER 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.
- *Club Day: Wednesday January 18, 2012.* We will have a table on clubs day on **Wednesday January 18** between **10-3** to tell students about our church, our mission on the mountain, and to answer general questions students have about religion. If you are interested in representing Ellesmere United with others, please email ellesmerestudents@telus.net and we will be in touch with you shortly.
- *Thank you* for coming out to West Burnaby last Sunday for Christmas Day worship! It was a big crowd and everyone was very welcoming!

January 1—Water for Gold

We are called to seek justice and to resist evil, and a key to doing so is awareness. Mission and Service partners and global personnel share stories from communities around the world and call us to action. Global personnel Lynn Macaulay writes from El Salvador.

Miguel works near me at the Santa Marta Economic and Social Development Organization. His brother was one of four people tortured and murdered because they campaigned against a Canadian company mining in Miguel's home town. El Salvador has significant water shortage—much of the water is highly contaminated and many people have no access to drinkable water. The Canadian mine would use in one day the amount of water a household uses in 20 years. Claims that the returned water will be clean have proven false in other countries.

“People need water, not gold,” says Miguel. He passionately explains the grave concerns echoed by many civil organizations, churches, and the scientific community. They have had some success but a moratorium on mining has resulted in a \$100-million lawsuit from the Canadian mining company through its American subsidiary.

The United Church asked for a complete investigation into the assassinations and death threats and for increased protection for those who continue to be threatened. We seek the best way to influence change and consider carefully our church investment policies.

Through Mission and Service, we become aware of injustice, and together we speak out against

it. Please give generously to the Mission and Service of the church.

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.

Burnaby Task Force on Homelessness. The Burnaby Extreme Weather Shelter is in need of donations of food. The 2011-2012 Winter Season has begun in full force and the prepared food designated for the Extreme Weather Shelter is quickly diminishing. The shelter is opened between October and April when the weather is deemed to be unsafe for people to be outside. For people in need of a safe, warm, dry place to sleep this Extreme Weather Shelter provides a welcoming supportive refuge.

A hot nutritious meal is an important part of providing comfort to people coming in from the cold. Prepared meals can be frozen at Westminster Bible Chapel, 7540 6th Street, Burnaby, until needed. Some examples of meals previously served are lasagna with bread and salad, hearty soup, ham or turkey dinners with potatoes and vegetables, shepherds pie, pasta and tomato sauce. If you are interested in donating food please contact Kevan Oxley at (604) 515- 2728 or kevanoxley@hotmail.com. Thank you for your kindness to our Burnaby neighbours who are in extreme poverty and homelessness.

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!

