



Burning Hearts

When Della Friesen heard about our burning hearts art walk for Easter, she thought of a time when her heart burned within her for another reason. She wrote this poem in response and shares it with the hope of encouraging others.

Christmas in September 2012

I read the words on the florist card
Looked at my kids as I swallowed hard
Asking silently with eyes shining bright
Smiling, nodding, and hugging real tight.

A Christmas baby, the thought was pure joy
The excitement of waiting—a girl or another boy
Luke Chapter 2 kept coming to mind
Of angels and shepherds, goodwill to mankind

I prayed everyday that God would protect
That sweet tiny life—I asked Him direct
The halfway mark had come and gone
I started to think we'd soon see the dawn

But humans make plans and sometimes forget
That God is in charge, and our path is set
Who could have known that things would go wrong
We can't handle this, we just aren't that strong
Our guts were ripped out, as we hobbled along

Trying to cope with his preemie arrival
At twenty five weeks the hope was survival
Only 2 pounds hooked up to machines
Ventilators, brain bleeds, we learned what it means

Doctors would talk their faces would frown
We held our son as the tears washed down
Days became blurred each one much the same
But Roman kept fighting, living true to his name
Home became the hospital, they drove every day
We waited by the phone to hear what they'd say
He's in the best place—Oh God—we'd pray

One tiny step forward as each day went on
Precious, fragile baby I called him "the prawn"
Pictures would show us what we couldn't see
Our hearts ached to go there, but it wasn't to be

October came—thanksgiving—colours change
My favourite time of year, but this felt so strange
Roman got stronger, gained weight gram by gram
Hard to imagine a grandson the size of a ham

At last I got to see him thru an incubator wall
There he lay with tubes & wires still & small
I couldn't even speak—just smile & stare
Life moved around me but I didn't care

Kangaroo care—touching skin to skin
Feeling mommy's heartbeat the way it should be
November rolled in cold and wet and grey
How much longer can things go on this way?
Snowflakes fell—December was here
How do we celebrate was never quite clear

We tried to be joyful and think of the reason
We gather together for this glorious season
Roman finally came home the 25th of December
We all learned that sometimes Christmas
can come in September

*Written for Roman's 1st Birthday
September 4th, 2013.*



Humans of Emmanuel

Interviewed
by Karmen Sawatzky

1. Share a happy childhood memory.

One happy childhood memory is when my grandfather planted a banana plant and said it was mine. He informed me that the bananas from that plant would be mine to eat, sell or do whatever I wanted with them. He also said that since I lived in a different village, the banana plant would remind him of my presence. Not only that but the banana plant would continuously produce banana plant suckers for many years to come.

2. What is your greatest accomplishment?

Going places. Touring with a theater ministry for six years and performing over 3,000 times. We toured in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and visited all US states but Hawaii and Alaska.....Anyone with connections and means to assist in sealing the deal of accomplishment in visiting those two remaining states, please talk to me :-)

3. What Bible verse helps you through difficult times?

Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd ..."



What's Cooking at Emmanuel

Empty Tombs

A fun Easter treat for the young and the young at heart.



Ingredients: bread dough, marshmallows, melted butter, 6 tbsp sugar, 1 tsp cinnamon

Roll out bread dough thinly and cut large circles. Put a marshmallow in the centre of each circle and pinch dough around it. Roll into balls. Brush each marshmallow ball with melted butter and sprinkle with cinnamon/sugar mixture. Let rise 30-45 minutes. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes, or until golden brown.

Submitted by Leane Winger

He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again."

Luke 24:6-7

Newsletter theme for May

MOTHERS

The maximum suggested length for submissions is 800 words. Submissions may be edited for length or clarity, and due to limited space, less time-sensitive submissions may also be held over to the next issue. To ensure we have a well rounded publication each month, you are invited and encouraged to submit your news, stories and photos to karmensawatzky@yahoo.com



Creation Care Chat

With Stan Olson

If you have curb-side waste pickup in Abbotsford, note these important changes that took effect April 3, 2017

RECYCLING. NOTE THESE IMPORTANT CHANGES Local Drop-off Depots. See www.recyclinginbc.ca

The following are now allowed in blue bags -

- * All plastic containers (those labelled #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7);
- * Paper gift wrap and greeting cards

The following are recyclable but not allowed in blue bags – must be taken to a drop-off depot:

- * Glass bottles & jars, light bulbs;
- * Batteries, computers, electronics;
- * Stretchy plastics (shopping bags, sandwich/freezer bag, bread bags, plastic wraps, etc.);
- * Foam packaging (Styrofoam)

As before, put these out in blue recycling bags (they can also be taken to a drop-off depot):

- * Office papers & envelopes, post-it notes, magazines, newspapers, flyers & phonebooks;
- * Aluminum foil, foil-lined paper packaging, aerosol spray cans, tetra-paks;
- * Tin cans (flatten), concentrate juice cans;
- * Milk cartons & jugs (rinse and flatten);
- * Cardboard (flattened, tied & bundled), Boxboard (cereal, packaging, detergent boxes);
- * NO motor oil containers;

Abbotsford-Mission Recycling Depot

33670 Valley Rd, Abbotsford

Abbotsford Bottle Depot

33226 Walsh Avenue, Abbotsford

R&T Recyclables and Bottle Depot

Unit 23 – 31550 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford

Aldergrove Return-It Depot

27482 Fraser Highway, Aldergrove

GARBAGE. As previously, picked up once every two weeks.

- * Diapers (bagged); Cigarette butts & ashes; Rubber bands;
- * Chip, cookie & pet food bags; Wax paper
- * Cotton balls, cotton swabs, dental floss, make-up pads & sanitary products;
- * Lint, dryer sheets & vacuum cleaner contents & bags (bagged);
- * Kitty litter (feces removed & bagged – max 5 litres per container);
- * Clothing, textiles & shoes (unless okay for MCC Thrift Store!).

Still have questions?

Go to www.abbotsford.ca/collection or www.abbotsford.ca/wastewizard
OR email me at creationcarechat@gmail.com

Update: Greg Sawatzky Youth Unlimited



Thanks to the many in this church who partner with me in ministry. Through your faithful prayers and generous support, God continues to give me opportunities and open doors to love and care for youth and families in the community of West Abbotsford. Thanks for making a difference in our city!

I want to share a little about three of the youth I know (I have not used their real names).

- 1) Cal* is a boy who sits alone in a classroom at lunch time with groups of kids laughing and enjoying themselves all around him. Out on the playground, he often stands by himself at the edge of the basketball court. God has given me opportunities to step into Cal's* life, get to know him, see him smile and watch him start to come out of his shell.
- 2) Nick* played on both my volleyball and basketball team this year. He is very competitive and loves to win. During several games, he got down on himself

and spoke harshly against his teammates. I got to coach him on the importance of being a team player (whether winning or losing) and learning to relax and have fun.

- 3) Gina* is one of the girls who comes out to most of our events and is a leader among her friends. If I feel out of the loop on something, like social media, she is always happy to fill me in. She is extremely outgoing and loves to talk about the boy she likes. She is growing up without a father. I recently got to give her a reference for a job she is starting on some weekends.

Please pray for continued depth in relationships with youth, families and the school. Please also pray that the Indo-Canadian community of Abbotsford would know and experience the love of Jesus!"

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EMMANUEL

To see all meeting and events, check out our [online calendar](#)

Sunday, April 2: 9am—Youth Fundraiser Breakfast—in the gym! Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, while supporting the youth Service Trip this summer, and making it possible for all youth to experience outings and trips regardless of financial restraints.

Tuesday, April 4: 11:30am—Lunch at Garden Park Tower—All are welcome to join us!

Friday, April 7: 1:30pm—Memorial Service for Mary Hubensky in the Sanctuary, with reception to follow in the gym.

Saturday, April 8: 10:30am– 1pm—Rental—Banquet room

Tuesday, April 11: 7:30pm—Worship committee meeting—library

EASTER SERVICES

Holy Thursday Communion, April 13, 7:30pm

Good Friday, April 14, 10am-Noon – Burning Hearts art-walk. We're excited to display art pieces created by members of the congregation that relate to Luke 24:13-35. Come any time on Good Friday between 10am and Noon, pick up your map, booklet, and reflect on Jesus' walk on the Emmaus road. At 11am we plan to gather in the sanctuary for more art, singing, praying, and hearing from some of our artists.

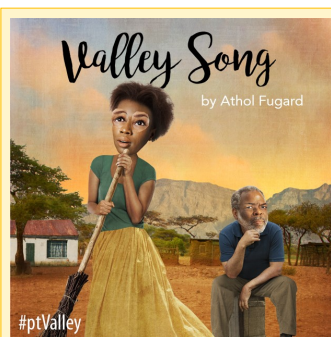
Vietnamese Christian Church Easter Celebration, April 15, 5:30 pm in the gym

Easter Sunday, April 16, 10am - *Surprised by Easter*—Pastor April Yamasaki



Monday, April 17: Office will be closed

Wednesday, April 26: 10am—Chai & Chat—fireside room



Pacific Theatre presents Valley Song. Torn between the hope of the new South Africa and the familiarity of all he has known, Abraam "Buks" Jonkers tills land he will never own while his granddaughter dreams of the Johannesburg stage. A heartfelt story of tradition, change, and the resilience of the human spirit. **March 24-April 8th at Pacific Theatre. Tickets \$23.95-\$34.95.** Call 604.731.5518 or www.pacifictheatre.org

AROUND TOWN

April 8 & 9 —Camp Squeah Paddle-a-thon—Hope to Fort Langley. Each year the Paddle-a-Thon raises funds for Camp Squeah's Summer Staff Bursary Fund by paddling from Hope to Fort Langley. To join in the weekend of fun, each participant must raise at least \$500. To learn more go to: squeah.com/camps/paddle-a-thon/

April 7 - 22—Ten Thousand Villages Langley (20525 Fraser Highway) will be holding its annual Rug Event April 7th to 22nd. Come learn more about our skilled, fairly paid makers who create heirloom quality pieces of art at with a Special Evening Presentation Friday, April 7th at 7pm. Visit rugs.tenthousandvillages.com or call 604-534-3868 for more information

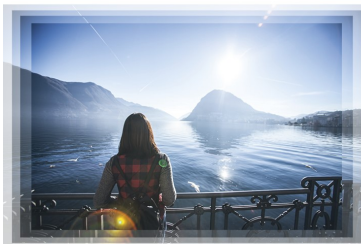
April 25, 28, 29: 7pm (April 29 1pm also) - Mennonite Educational Institute Middle School *presents ANNIE Jr.!* —Tickets \$10—available at the MEI Middle School Office.

WOMEN'S INSPIRATIONAL DAY

Saturday, May 6, 2017

Who Am I Now?

Trusting God in Life's Transitions



Location: Emmanuel Mennonite Church
3471 Clearbrook Rd., Abbotsford

When: 10:00am – 2:30pm
(Sign-in & coffee at 9:30am)

There will be a morning & afternoon session this year.

Cost: \$20.00 (includes lunch)

Register at the door or at:
mccb.ca/womens-ministry

This year *Marlene Kropf* – author of the "Faith Travels" Bible Study Guide will walk us through an exploration of *Lamentations 3:22-24*.



Mennonite Central Committee

Summer Internships for Students

Various Locations

Are you a student under 30 looking for a summer job? Intern with MCC in British Columbia! Work with Homelessness Prevention & Outreach, Volunteer Engagement, Indigenous Neighbours, Thrift Shops and more. Find your perfect fit at mccb.ca/serve under "Short-term openings." Application deadline is April 15, 2017.

Volunteer: Refugee Resettlement

Abbotsford: MCC Centre

Are you passionate about refugees? Volunteer with MCC BC's Migration & Resettlement Program in Abbotsford. The perfect person will be someone who enjoys data and computer work and is able to commit to a half-day per week with a preferred commitment of 6 months. For more information, contact Bridget at 604-850-6639 or VolAdmin@mccb.ca.