

# exciting new club to start at VCBC

*"I did not like him; his face looked ill and haggard and unshaven, his clothes were dirty, and he smelt of drink. Nor did I like the way he kept glancing round out of the corner of his shifty, frightened eyes. I stared at him hard, and I think he felt uncomfortable; suddenly pulling his cap down over his eyes, he turned away."*

—Patricia St. John

As if witnessing a sudden traffic accident, I stopped reading. My past and present collided right before my eyes, and it took my breath away. I knew these words because I had lived them! God, what does it mean?

A youth Christian fiction novel written in 1960 may have saved my life. And now, having come across it again accidentally, while reading it to my own children, I realized how God had gone before me, putting words from a book into my being, and saving me from harm. In 1980, a stranger was poised to take me away. I started to memorize his features for the police. He pulled down his cap and let me go.

I have always loved to read. For me, printed words have inspired, developed compassion, broadened perspective, given freedom to laugh and cry, and seared images in my memory that embolden my actions in the present. As a teen, faithful Christian authors made the Second Coming of our Lord more real, and gave me courage to reach out to my unsaved friends. As a university student, reading gave me insight into how an

abortion may have affected a friend, and how God could bring her back to Himself, if only He would let her. As an adult, reading invited me into the mystery of generational secrets and how God could use a faithful grandmother to heal her hurting daughter and grand-daughter. And more recently, as a mother reading to my children, books have taken us into the lives of missionaries, bullied believers, and into the glorious "realities" of Narnia. Books have gotten us talking well into the night of hard choices, courage, and God's faithfulness.

*"Then He told them many things in parables..."* —Matthew 13:3. Jesus spoke to us in stories!

"C.S. Lewis said that a key event in his own journey from atheism to faith was happening to pick up a [fiction] book that caught his eye... He said that reading that book gave him a glimpse of something beyond... a sense of something good and mysterious and powerful, and without his knowing what It was, the book made him yearn for it... As he put it, the book baptized his imagination."

"... stories are helpful in teaching virtuous behaviour, more so than mere abstract precepts. We need to be able to

Kathy Jung



imagine sharp moral distinctions to help us navigate in a morally mixed up world." —Gene Veith

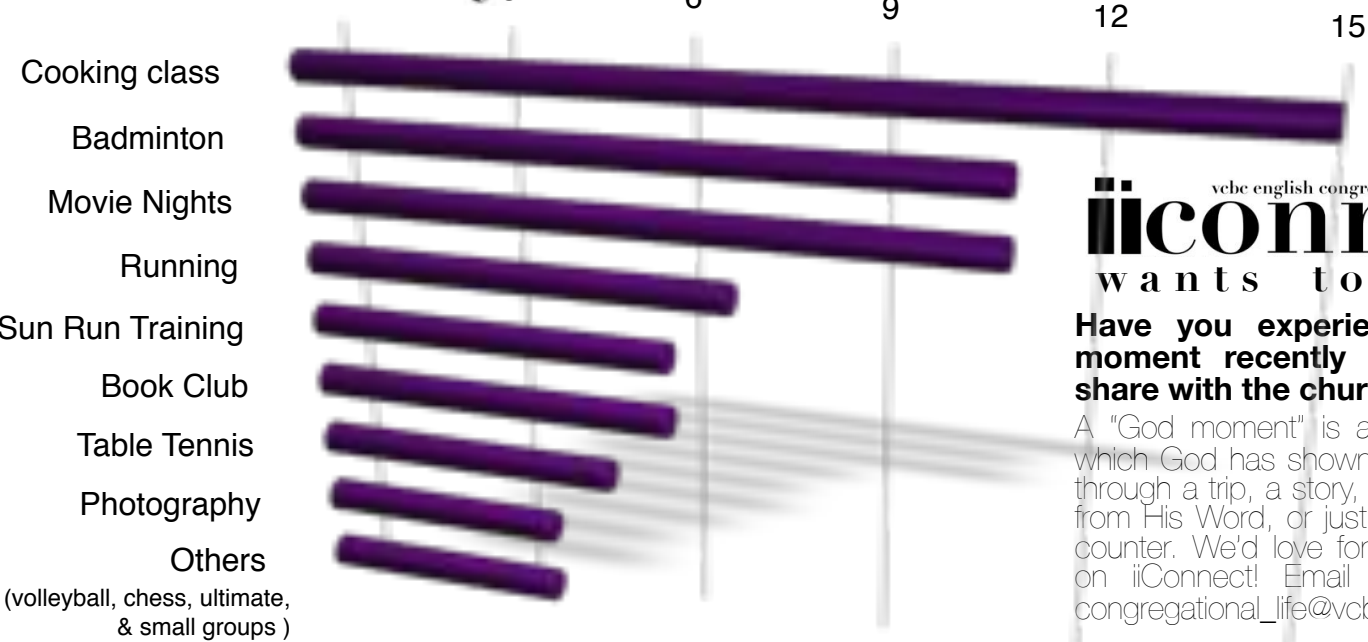
"Through another's art, we get to try on another's being, get to look at the world through another's eyes, which aids our moral imagination, which leads to good."

"[Books are] an effort to render the world truthfully, to bring to speech that which is often left unspoken because it is too painful, or too wonderful, or too beyond the range of most of our pitiful powers of description."

—William Willimon

Have I got your attention yet? Christian Fiction Book Club to start at VCBC! Stay tuned!

## iicommunity Interest-level survey results from summer conference 2010



## iiconnect wants to know

**Have you experienced a God moment recently and want to share with the church family?**

A "God moment" is an experience in which God has shown Himself to you, through a trip, a story, a new revelation from His Word, or just an ordinary encounter. We'd love for you to share it on iiConnect! Email us for details: congregational\_life@vcbc.bc.ca

# vcbe english congregation newsletter iiconnect

PASSIONATE. COMMITTED. GENUINE.

..... issue: october 2010



by Alfred Lu

Jesus challenges us to walk the extra mile, and parking a few blocks away at Ross Park or Moberly School (Ross & 59th Ave.) and walking to church is a great way to help relieve traffic, congestion and parking woes in and around our church. Although it is true you can legally park on the street in front of a house, it's not necessarily a polite thing to do. It can frustrate our neighbours who wish to park or have their guests park in front of their own house, and it prevents us from developing good relations with them. Sadly, our neighbourhood would be happy if our church would disappear since parking spots would open up and traffic congestion would disappear.

**I'm worried about my safety if I park so far away.**

Let's begin by focusing our efforts on the daylight hours of Sunday mornings. Walking extra blocks also helps us see our church neighbourhood and interact with neighbours even if it's a simple nod or hello. The neighbourhood children, teens, and adults live and walk around these blocks every day—the least we can do is walk a few minutes in their shoes once a week.

**I have elderly relatives or small children who can't walk that far.**

It may require a little more effort, but there is a pick-up/drop-off system at church. You can temporarily stop at the back of the VCBC parking lot, next to the stairwell for this. For those elderly who drive or a parent coming with small children, there are spaces on the church parking lot available for these special exceptions. (ask at the church office for a reserved space).

**I don't like to walk in the rain and parking far away will make me late for church.**

As Christians we are called to give. In addition to money, we can also give our time and give up some of our comfort level for the sake of others. Waking up a bit earlier and tolerating the rain for a few minutes are just little sacrifices we can make.

**My car is more likely to be broken into when it's so far away.**

Even if this is true, it would appear to be human nature to be more concerned about our personal possessions than being a good neighbour. Part of the Christian message is to place less emphasis on our belongings, and more on hospitality and helping those who live near our church.

**Only a few vocal neighbours are upset, most don't mind the parking.**

Even if this is true, the sacrifice for those few neighbours is worth it. Changing our parking habits isn't about trying to make certain neighbours happy, it's about changing our mindset. It's a commitment to do what we can to love our neighbours and to be considerate for others. In addition, relieving traffic congestion will also be a tremendous help in terms of safety and noise. Walking by a house with a parking space available may seem like a 'missed opportunity', but there is also the satisfaction of seeing a homeowner happy that a strange car is not taking up room in front of their house.

Changing our 'me-first' parking culture will take the combined efforts of all of us. If you are determined to park in front of someone's house, there is nothing anyone can say or do to stop you. But collectively, when we work together, we can make a small difference. If everyone were to relocate our cars every Sunday morning, the neighbourhood will notice. The positive effects and good will generated can only improve our relations. If you've never been on a mission trip, you can view this as a whole church mission to our neighbourhood.



# who's who at vcbc

In every issue, we feature people from the English congregation community.



## Betty Yuen

Age: 56

Betty Yuen is a current VCBC deacon who also serves at church as usher, writer of weekly prayer items and baptism assistant. In her past 37 years with VCBC, Betty's fondest memory is the hike to Mount Baker for Summer Conference. She admires her sister for being a prayer warrior and describes her family members as talkative. In her spare time, Betty is a fan of gardening, reading and is an appreciator of antiques. If time were not an issue, she wishes to meet Hudson Taylor because of his dedication for Christ and his love for China. Other aspirations include hoping to see all her family and friends become Christians, to see a revival within the church and an influx of young people towards full-time ministry for the Lord.

What are others tidbits about Betty? She loves the independence she experiences as an adult but misses the worry-free moments of childhood. Her favourite movie is *Sense and Sensibility* because it paints a realistic picture of human foibles and personalities.

## John Yuen

Age: 61

A congregational member for the past 21 years,

John serves the church through ushering and assisting with baptism. His fondest memories are of the VCBC Christmas parties. A family man, he describes his family members as kind and honest and enjoys gardening and restoring antiques in his spare time. However, he does have a pet peeve: people who waste good food (I agree). Of the characters in history that John would wish to meet, he would want to meet Deng Xiao Ping because he promoted economic and social reforms in China. Along those lines, if John was given three wishes granted, he would wish for world peace, eliminate religious persecution, and eliminate poverty.

Like his wife, he loves being an adult because of the independence but misses the care-free times of childhood. Favourite movie? *Inherit the Wind*. Favourite book? *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Why? Because it allows you to understand what it feels like if you put yourself in the positions of others.

## Esther Yuen

Age: 17

Born and raised in the church, she describes her family members as optimistic. She enjoys mom's hugs and dad's excellent food. In her spare time, Esther likes listening to music, reading, watching dramas and animes. She dislikes people who talk loudly or eat with their mouths open. If Esther

# Betty, John & Esther Yuen

could travel through time a meet a figure in history? She would pick the Christian Dr. Sun Yat Sen because he was a revolutionary for democracy.

Esther enjoys being an adult because she can drive (!!!) but doesn't like the responsibilities associated with adulthood. Her favourite movie is *Breakfast at Tiffany's* because it's a classic and her favourite songs include Fireflies and Vanilla Twilight by Owl City. Animal Farm is Esther's favourite book because of its allegorical tales. What would Esther do if she won a million dollars? Vacation in as many places as possible at the best hotels ever, of course! What about if she could have three wishes granted? 1) less homework 2) more holidays 3) easy grading on lab and exams.

## Sharon Moy

Age: 22 (or 28, depends...)

Favourite passages of Scripture: 1 Peter 5:7; 1 Corinthians 4-13

Sharon has been at VCBC for the past three years, serving on the Welcome Team and helping to name tag people. She likes how this serving opportunity allows her to meet more people at church and put a name to a face. She also serves on the Congrega-

## Interviews by Emily Ho

tional Life team and recently helped out with the Summer Conference registration. She admires and has great appreciation for the duties, responsibilities and roles members at VCBC play ("we have a lot of really amazing people at our church!"). Sharon's fondest VCBC memory is her first Summer Conference in 2009 where she stayed up until "the wee hours" playing board games.

During the day, she's a grade 6/7 elementary school teacher, which is actually her dream job. Her mother still has a picture Sharon drew of herself in grade one as a teacher wearing a purple cardigan holding a ruler. In her free times, she enjoys catching up with family and friends over coffee/meal, spending time outside, reading the newspaper (and celebrity news), and watching Law & Order with her husband Ray.

The last book Sharon read? *Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Cunxin. She enjoys the narrative style of writing and learning about Chinese traditions, superstition and old wives' tales. A culture fanatic, she enjoys stories that explore different cultures and traditions. When Sharon is not being fascinated by her most recent read, she enjoys watching drama movies as well as listening to an eclectic mix of music (which includes her favourite Whitney Houston). Touching on her travelling aspirations, Sharon hopes to one day go to Europe and hopes that Ray can read this and bring her there next summer! She wishes to see the wonderful architecture and eat the cheeses of France.

We've discussed so much about Sharon's interests that we forgot one of the most important interests of all! Her husband. Ray and Sharon met when she was working at her part-time insurance job. They chatted about teaching and he made a comment about how elementary school science experiments are so lame (gasp!) and offered to help her with better experiments...and the rest is history. She loves that Ray is kind, generous and thoughtful. He is so loving to his family. But what about something that no one knows about Ray? His guilty pleasure is listening to Spice Girls, watching *Transformers* and eating old-school (pink and green paper packaging) haw flakes. Lastly: Everybody Loves Raymond.

## Raymond Moy

Age: 36

If you could visit the world, where would you visit? Then entire continent of Europe. It's amazing (the people, the food, the history and the architecture!)

Raymond has been at VCBC for 13 years and serves on the Welcome Team as a greeter. He also looks forward to helping out with the Community Life ministry and hopes to start up interest groups: "VCBC Sun Run Team anyone?" Raymond's fondest memories at VCBC involve sharing with his brothers and sisters in Christ, which often occurs in his small group.

A passage of Scripture that Raymond holds dear to him is 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, where it teaches us what love is and how to apply it to everyone in our lives.

Raymond works as a high school counsellor, but his dream job is to be a pro golfer, travel the world and be invited to play on the most beautiful golf courses on the planet. Likewise, if he was granted a superpower, he would love to read minds (which would make his job as a school counsellor so much easier). Because it is a dangerous power, he thinks it might be nice to have it for just a day.

His enjoyments include a film with

a great story, super script and amazing acting (triple threat!). Examples? *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, and the first Austin Powers movie. Now if you're scratching your head about his last choice, think about his criteria for what makes a great film; he believes that you'll agree. Other hobbies include going for long jogs while listening to great tunes on his iPod, and Swiffering the house (which he finds very relaxing and therapeutic...)

Who does Raymond respect the most? His parents, for what they did for him and his brother. They sacrificed a lot for him and his brother and gave so much of themselves so that Raymond and his brother could have a good life. Raymond also respects his mentor, a teacher in a public school, for his boldness in sharing about his Christian faith.

What does Raymond love about Sharon? He loves how she takes care of him (not just cooking and laundry). She encourages him to be better through her supportive and patient nature. She's loving, patient, forgiving, kind and loving (which needs to be mentioned twice because it's her greatest strength). Share something that no one else knows about Sharon? When Sharon doesn't want to do the dishes, she uses Saran wrap—he'll let you figure out how that's a solution.

# Sharon & Raymond Moy

