

ELIM VILLAGE VOICE

A Newsletter by the Residents and for the Residents of Elim Village † A Caring Christian Community

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Sunday Worship Hits Major Snag

The “church” in the Emerald at Elim has encountered a major problem: IT’S TOO BIG! When Sunday morning worship services started in February 2007, a surprising average of 50 residents came that first year. The blessings of a non-denominational, well organized and an interactive style of worship, along with the wonderful musical guests every week, rippled throughout the Emerald. Before long the chairs in the multi-purpose room had to be squished together to accommodate everyone.

Then the Harrison opened. Staff accompanied new residents through the underground tunnel over to the Emerald on Sunday mornings. But church became too full – a wonderful problem!

So the discussion started. Sunday services were originally planned so that Emerald and Harrison residents who can no longer attend their own churches would still have a place to worship. Holding services in the Oasis is not an option because many residents would not be able to attend because of transportation logistics.

The solution: start worship services in the Harrison as well. Now every Sunday afternoon the multi-purpose room in the Harrison transforms into a sanctuary. The services allow fluidity between the two buildings. No one has to travel far to attend and those who wish to visit each other’s services can do so. Many family members and friends join in worship too.



Till the Harrison gets its own church furnishings, the multi-purpose room transforms to a sanctuary on Sunday afternoons with plants, flowers, decorations, a table and a cross – all borrowed from other parts of Elim.

So far five churches, along with an ecumenical Bible Study group and a family group, all from the Surrey community, take turns leading the services. Elim residents are also willing to give of their time and talents when help is needed.

The mission is to provide Harrison residents and their families with an opportunity to worship the Lord on Sunday. Already an average of 48 residents, guests and volunteers attend Sunday services at the Harrison. Soon that room will also be too small.

May the growth of Sunday services at Elim continue to be a problem! □

Worship Services

The Emerald - worship services begin at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday in the multi-purpose room of the Emerald. Communion services are on the first Sunday of every month.

The Harrison - worship services start at 2:00 p.m. every Sunday in the multi-purpose room of the Harrison. Communion services are at 11:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month, also in the multi-purpose room.

Volunteers Needed

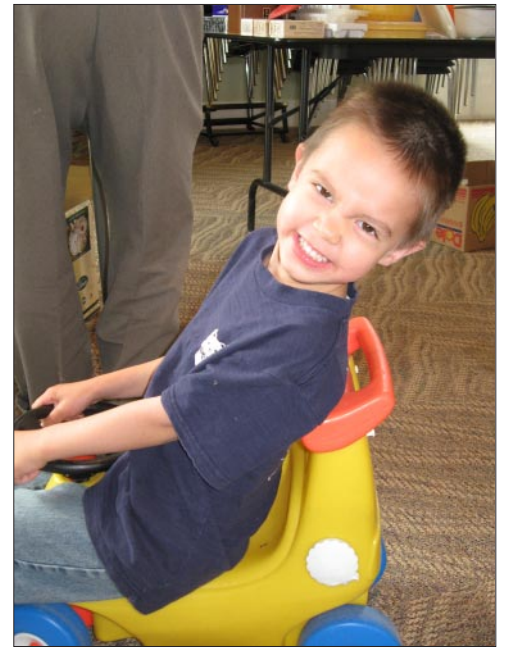
Volunteers are always needed at both services to help as ushers, distribute and collect song-books, etc. Exchanging a chat as residents disperse after the service or helping them back to their neighborhoods is a great way to spend an hour of your Sunday afternoon. It’s an opportunity for independent living and Emerald residents to be a blessing, while making Harrison residents feel part of the larger village. If you would like to help once in a while, call Terri-Anne at 604-589-7976.

“Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees, so they camped there by the waters.” Exodus 15:27 (New King James Version)

Garage Sale Anomalies

While the recent Elim Community Garage Sale was a huge success, not everyone was impressed. This poor man-off-the-street was bored to pieces. He paced and paced outside the Oasis and finally peeked through the window. When, oh when, was his family coming out so they could go home?

Little kids, however, had no problem keeping themselves entertained. The little guy had such a fun time that no doubt he will be hooked on garage sales the rest of his life. □



Rudy and Jim are not amused about the dreary landscape at the Harrison. The new shrubs planted last fall took a big hit over the winter. These men went out to inspect one day, then went back inside to map out a possible solution. They'd love to see pansies because they're durable, colorful and cheap. Rudy wouldn't mind seeing some sunflowers. Residents have no lack of ideas about what they would like to see out there, but they need a little help with their plans.

Jeanne Sommerfield, Wellness Coordinator at the Harrison, is putting the call out for ideas, donations and gentle labour to transform the stark patios into lush, sensory stimulating, therapeutic spaces—colorful umbrellas to see, raised planters to feel, herbs to smell, flowers to pick, herbs to taste, birdbaths to keep filled,

Tom Thumb tomatoes to munch, feeders to attract humming birds, houses to attract birds, a water feature to add sound and bring a sense of calm, a fire pit to roast marshmallows. Someone will have to check the legalities on that last one, but even so, imagine the possibilities...candlelight evenings outdoors...



Help Wanted!

If friends, families or other residents of Elim Village would like to help or if anyone knows of a horticultural group that would like to help the residents in giving those bland patios a significant splash of life, call Jeanne at 604-587-8999, ext. 4004. Just by word of mouth, some residents have already donated birdbaths. Can *you* help out in a small way? □



One Saturday morning we found an Elim resident with a large rock on an orange dolly right in the middle of a big parking lot.

Sometimes we just take the picture and let you, dear reader, make up the story...□

Lunch on the patio anyone? Now you can dine outdoors at the Oasis under a lovely new canopy. □