



**“Christ has indeed been raised
from the dead, the firstfruits of
those who have fallen asleep.”
Alleluia!**

Campus Ministry at the University of Northern BC
Neil & Virginia Lettinga • UNBC Chaplains serving under the
direction of the Christian Reformed Church and
with the support of many friends. APRIL 22, 2011

Exams finished at UNBC on Thursday and the halls are now shut for the long Easter weekend. The students have scattered. Most Easters we rejoice in rising before dawn, climbing over the snowdrifts to a garden on the edge of campus, and standing with a chilled crowd of students and local church people. As the sun struggles to break through the mists over the distant Fraser River, we start to sing. Neil & I love the diversity of the crowd: sleepy students who tumbled out of the rez hall in slippers with coats over their pajamas, others dressed to the nines for some service later in the morning, three carloads of all ages from First Baptist, a harassed-looking faculty family with four children munching chocolate bunnies, a set of students in jogging clothes prepared to run after our sunrise service, and more. Here is the Church – quirky and colorful. These are women and men of all ages, races, social classes, and levels of sophistication and commitment. And early on Easter morning, we come together. We read aloud the story of Jesus’ crucifixion and then the account of the women who found the tomb empty on Sunday morning. We are awed sing loud praises to God – and the sound evaporates down the hillside. Then people thoughtfully return to their cars or dorm rooms or jogging. “It gives me this funny sense of everything being different, though everything seems the same,” a student said last year. May the great miracle and mystery of the resurrection fill you, too, with wonder and hope. Because of it, everything is different.

We invite you to pray with us:

- A wonderful crew of students organized and led a worship service last Sunday night -- a charming and quixotic mix of modified hymns and indy rock musicianship. **Thank the Lord for our students and pray that they continue to grow in service and leadership!**
- Through some snag in the postal system, the Campus Ministry Association’s job offer to Dr. Bryan Burton only arrived this week. **Pray with Bryan and his wife Caroline for wisdom as they consider accepting the chaplaincy position at UNBC.**
- Neil and Virginia and students Jessica Lum and Meghan Horlings will be travelling to Halifax next week to attend a CRC campus ministry conference. **Thank God for the grants that make this trip possible and pray that this will be a growing time.**
- Laurel Koopmans, who as a student worked with us through an Emerging Leader grant, has accepted a position as a health program advisor with the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee in Cambodia. We are thrilled at her courage and vision for this work. **Please pray with us as Laurel prepares to pick up this job, as she prepares to marry Dave Brown (who has accepted at teaching job in Cambodia), and as she raises the CRWRC budget to cover her transportation and living costs.**
- “What’s next for you?” people keep asking – and we’re not at all sure. We don’t know whether or not the Burtons will find God calling them to the UNBC chaplaincy. And we don’t know how quickly whoever comes to be the next chaplain is prepared to pick up things. **Pray that we’ll have patience and that we’ll have wisdom about how to share projects and responsibilities.** At this stage, Virginia is planning to help lead major portions of the UNBC orientation week in September, and Neil is scheduled to teach two classes in fall of 2011, but we’re willing to rearrange plans if that seems best.