

The
HEART<sub>behind
the</sub> ART



“BEING MADE”

A very unique exhibit featuring art work that is a work-in-progress. Like each of us, we are being made into the image of God, also a work-in-progress.

The Gallery @ Common Grounds
January 2011

[THE ARTS @ LWCC]

...affirms that, because we are created in the image of God, each person is gifted with some level of creativity. We believe we will encounter Jesus in new ways and will go deeper in relationship with God as we give time to explore and develop— individually, and in the context of spiritual community— the creative gifts He's given us.

Want to hear more?

Contact deAnn
(see info below)

the arts @ living word



www.lwcc-arts.blogspot.com

the gallery @ common grounds

The Gallery @ Common Grounds, Living Word's Coffee Bar, is a venue for emerging and established artists to courageously share their heartfelt creative expression. Exhibits change every six weeks.

We hope you encounter God through interacting with the art on display and we pray that you'll be inspired to discover the artist within yourself.

For more information about *The Gallery @ Common Grounds*, or to submit your work for consideration, contact deAnn Roe, *Director of Creative Arts*, at 755.0089 x126 or at droe@lwccyork.com.

ABOUT THIS EXHIBIT

One night when I couldn't sleep, my mind wandered in prayer to the upcoming gallery exhibits. That's when this crazy idea came to me—a whole exhibit featuring unfinished works of art, everything in a process of being made, just like us. We are all unfinished works of God's creativity—being made into His image with every breath we take.

It's easy to see that some of these pieces are not finished. For a few others, it's harder to tell. But to the artist who created the piece, it's clear to him/her that they are not yet done. In church, we may see someone and think “wow, they have it all together,” but the fact is, they are still a work in progress, just like you and just like me. This side of heaven, we are unfinished, undone, and being made. Messy and mysterious, yet in His hands, we are being crafted into the person He long for us to be...if we aren't resistant to His work in our lives.

As you look upon this unique exhibit, may you sense God's creative handiwork in your life and embrace it as He completes the work He's doing in you. Like the artwork hanging in this exhibit, you too, are being made.

Grace & peace,

deAnn Roe

Director of Creative Arts

droe@lwccyork.com

www.lwcc-arts.blogspot.com



Living Word
COMMUNITY CHURCH

2530 Cape Horn Road

Red Lion, PA 17313

717.755. 0089

www.lwccyork.com

BEING MADE

All pots start out as an unexciting lump of clay. As I work with it, I use various techniques to transform this lifeless material into a variety of products. Trimming off excess clay, adding a carving, burnishing (rubbing the surface with a polished stone to make it smooth), or attaching a handle are among the things that can be done. At any stage in the process I often discover flaws that need adjustment. The shape may need to be trimmed again to correct the line of the pot, the surface may need another burnishing to shine up a dull area, or a carved design might need to be refined. Despite my ministrations, I never make a perfect pot because I am not perfect. Realizing that God gives me the talent to create with clay, I've learned to accept the flaws in my work, acknowledge it as my best effort, and even like what I've created.

My life is a work of clay in progress. I am so filled with flaws that God, the perfect potter, will always be trimming my selfishness, burnishing my rough spots, attaching patience to my impatient spirit, and carving me into a vessel that can serve Him until the day I leave this Earth. Unfinished and imperfect, yet loved and accepted by the One that made me and continues to transform me...how awesome is that!

By Chris Gold

THE INCOMPLETE BOX

I dislike seeing things that are incomplete. A job unfinished causes me stress because I know it will be there until I can bring it to completion. How will it end up? Will it turn out like I wish, or will there be some fatal flaw that I have overlooked? Will others like the finished piece, or did I choose a poor design? Will one mistake damage the project beyond repair?

My life is often like my incomplete project. How will it end up? Will it turn out like I wish? Do others like the project so far? Will one mistake damage the project beyond repair? Talk about stress. I'm glad I don't have to deal with all that myself. Jesus promised to oversee my "life project" and make sure it comes out right. I don't know exactly what that is yet, but knowing He is guiding me through the project and until the end makes all the rest more tolerable, and often enjoyable.

As I build boxes, the work is enjoyable because I can see the rough wood being shaped into a smooth, finished piece which is added to another and another until a box appears. Work is performed to make each piece as perfect as possible, with the growing excitement of the possibility of a beautiful box. Work never progresses without mistakes, but maybe a little sanding or sometimes a new piece of wood and the project continues. The stresses of the project are overcome by the pleasure of completing individual pieces and the promise of the completed box. As I sit here and reflect, I am grateful for the way Jesus is shaping the individual pieces of my life into forms I could never make, and is sticking with this often difficult project to bring me to completion.

Philippians 1:6 (The Living Bible)

And I am sure that God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in His grace until His task within you is finally finished on that day when Jesus Christ returns.

By Ken Davidson

VIBRANT EXTERIOR

The painting I am currently working on, which is a work in progress - *incomplete and in the process of being made* - is inspired by the bark of a rainbow eucalyptus tree. Without knowing this, the work stands alone as abstract, taking on a whole new character as seen by the viewer. The entire process of creating a painting can be defined by how God intricately created each and every one of us. I took the wood and built a frame and stretched the canvas to a unique size, just as God “built” each of our structures uniquely. Then it comes down to painting the canvas and figuring out what character, expression, mood, and message the canvas will take on when the paint or media is applied to it. Each of us has a very unique personality and character that is shaped and refined with life experiences God puts before us. We each are *incomplete and are in the process of “being made.”* There is always an abundance of lessons for God to teach us that will mold us into the person He desires us to be. In a sense, God is our paintbrush and we are the canvas!

By Stephanie Rudisill

LANDING

It's terrible the number of projects I start and never finish. This is one of them. I took a watercolor lesson from Pam Rolf and this is the painting I started. With every intention, I planned to finish it, but it's been sitting in my drawer for over a year now. I think about it from time to time and wish I “had time” to get back to watercolors as I really found it to be a peaceful art form. I am very thankful that as I'm being made daily by God, that He doesn't get lost in time and put me aside for a rainy day. He's always willing to work on His master creations...but are we willing to be molded or do we resist His work...?

By deAnn Roe

PAPA BEAR'S CHAIR

I started this painting in memory of my late husband, Buck. He was known for his big, warm bear-hugs, complete with growling sounds, whenever he enthusiastically hugged his grandchildren. This painting will depict an antique reclining chair that he had repaired and lovingly refinished and was very proud of. A strangely shaped stuffed bear called a Cough Buddy stands at friendly attention to supply comfort to me whenever the need arises. Buck never used the bear that he had been given as an Open Heart ICU patient in York Hospital because of the complexity of his illness. The bear did, however, bring some much needed comfort to my own broken heart!

This line drawing is obviously in its infancy stage, being a mere outline of a future piece of artwork: a work in progress. It will require patience and many steps to bring it to completion; much like the Lord finishing the good work He has started in us. I look forward to that day!

At present, just a pencil drawing; someday to be completed with acrylic or oil paint.

By Renee B.

THE CLAY

This is my rendition of a painting titled "The Clay" by Ron Di-Cianni. It was a small sample painting to help me prepare for creating a large 3' by 5' banner with the same design. I thought it was fitting for the exhibit as it depicts the hands of God still forming the vessel in the background. The woman at the potter's wheel represents each of us as a "work in progress" being formed by the Master. It is unfinished because it lacks many of the refining details that would add depth, color, and beauty. I thought it was interesting that the vessel had a missing piece and that there are pieces of broken clay and a potter's tool on the potter's wheel. God uses even the broken pieces of our lives to create a likeness of Himself. It is my prayer that I will become the woman He created me to be.

For this painting I used acrylic craft paint on cotton canvas.

By Renee B.

SEA

This tapestry is a work in process. The background was created first with no particular subject in mind, just creative abandonment. When I cut the large cloth down to fit the frame, I began to see the ocean.

From the swirls of color I saw various fish and sea urchins develop. Painting in this way reminds me that I have to live my life always trusting God. Like developing the tapestry, I only see my life in pieces, until the full work of art is completed.

I thought a scripture that would encapsulate the power of this piece would be psalm; 65:5-7.

By Ange Bentevegna

LIFE INTERRUPTED

Yes, you really are seeing my not-so-lovely crochet-in-progress. Be sure to look closely ... it's got it all ... dust bunnies ... dog hair ... not sure what else is in there ... oh yeah ... time passing ... (can you see it?). Seemed like such a good, yet simple, idea. Get the ball of yarn ... have the instructions nearby for that quick refresher (especially since I was going back to the stitch my grandmother taught me as a little girl) ... and the crochet needle ... then place it all in a handy basket and put it in an obvious spot. That way any time there's a nugget of time (like when everyone else is watching TV or sitting around doing nothing ... wait does that happen anymore? ... well, anyway, the point is) I could crochet and get something done. Oh, and I could make blankets to take into the NICU for the babies I volunteer to cuddle. What a GREAT plan!

For days ... weeks ... no, months ... well, actually a few years now ... the basket has been ready ... waiting. Life interrupted. Family ... friends ... errands ... chores ... work responsibilities ... ministry activities ... the gift of remarriage ... step-parenting ... and all of this takes time. I haven't completed a scarf, yet let alone a blanket.

To some, the basket (and its contents) may be a rather pathetic look at a failed plan (I know that's how it felt to me at first), but after prayerfully considering the "interruptions" it's become a gentle reminder that every time I have chosen *not* to crochet I have made space for another memory instead. I know what my stepson's eyes look like when his face lights up with a big smile. I love to hear my stepdaughter's laughter or my husband's deep voice. I know what makes my mom rejoice, my sister relax, and even how our dog gets excited as soon as she hears the jingle of a leash. Life interrupted? No ... life engaged with living.

One day I will crochet again ... but today is not that day.

By Connie Milchling

UNDONE YET COMPLETE

There were two paintings Brad was working on when the Lord called him home – one I tucked away so safely I have yet to find it (it'll surface one day) the other one was in the fine-tuning phase ... that's the one you are viewing in the Gallery. Brad liked to have one nearby (just getting started) at the exact same time he had another one on the easel almost done ... it was in that last phase of being tweaked, fine-tuned, having the addition of little accents. Brad would "sit" with a painting for a while before saying, "okay ... it's done" ... never rushing the final phase of the project.

What did it need? More trees? Animals? Activity in the water? In the air? A walkway to a house? A driveway from a garage? Smoke coming out of a chimney? (that always made it feel more "homey" as if someone was sitting inside with their family or friends enjoying the warmth and glow of a fire in the fireplace). I titled this entry *undone yet complete* because from a very literal sense the painting isn't finished ... and it never will be since the "artist" has been called home to heaven for eternity. Brad is now in a completed state ... no more questions regarding life ... and in the presence of his much-loved Savior ... enjoying Glory. Heaven must be amazing!

At the same time, when someone we love is called home to heaven, we are undone. Yet in the process of loss ... as we journey through grief ... we come to realize that although we may be undone we are still complete – because of the triune God! What an amazing discovery. It is the Lord who brings purpose and meaning and beauty to life here ... and to life hereafter.

If you happen to be feeling a bit undone with your life journey my prayer is that you will sit with this painting for a little while and reflect on how you can be complete in the Lord. He really is all you need for life and living.

Connie (Leachman) Milchling

THE GAP BETWEEN CONCEPT & CREATION

I was so excited about the October 2010 Gallery opening in conjunction with *encounter* (our tri-annual evening at LWCC dedicated to worship and encountering God in fresh and new ways). Our team had chosen the theme: *at the name of Jesus* and deAnn was commissioning LWCC artists to create around that same theme. Finally, an art project I could participate in! You see, I am not an artist who works with paints (having to choose between acrylics or oil), or one who creates with plaster or clay or jewels ... I am an artist who works with words. I hear them in my heart, write them in my journal, and see them in designs ... words are my art form.

During my time alone with the Lord (just a few days after we made our theme decision), I had a clear visual of what to do. Grabbing my sketch book I envisioned the passage of Scripture and how it could be accented around the very name of Jesus, which needed to be at the center. Then scrolling out from there could be all of the names of Jesus (yes, all 100+ of them) ... wow ... this would be powerful to have in the Gallery and then on our wall at home as a reminder of all Jesus is to our lives!

I went out immediately to purchase a canvas, brought it home (full of excitement and enthusiasm), and placed it in a safe place so it could be ready to go. Now, all I needed was a block of time to work on it. I planned the design in my mind, prayed over it, and prepared for what I thought would be the right steps to go through to get it done... and missed the whole thing.

Ah ... the gap between concept and creation ...

THE GAP BETWEEN ... CONTINUED

For some incredible reason it makes me wonder how long God thought about us as a concept before He decided to create us? I imagine Him planning our design, praying over us, preparing what would be just right, and then one day leaning over to Jesus and the Holy Spirit and saying, *"Today's the day to create something amazing"* and *"in the beginning"* began! *"... let us make man in our image, in our likeness."*

I haven't abandoned the idea of creating this work on the names of Jesus. One day it will hang on the walls of our home, but in the meantime it hangs in the center of my heart.

By Connie Milchling

A TALE OF TWO BRIDGES

It is amazing how God works. After a few turbulent years, my daughter and I decided some time spent together would be a good idea. Both being artistic, I suggested painting the Wrightsville - Columbia bridge over the Susquehanna river.

What's so amazing is that God in His supreme wisdom inspired the perfect symbolic image for time spent with my daughter. God knew I needed a bridge in my life. I am the painter, God is the divine builder. It's a bridge that connects the failures from the past to the hope of the future.

I will continue to work on "The Bridge." It will be built, and it will be beautiful.

Small painting: Tom Robbins, Watercolor on Paper

Large painting: Hannah Robbins, Acrylic in Canvas

BEING MADE

I never fully comprehended the scripture that speaks of God being “the potter” until I started working in clay over a decade ago. Now, though I’m sure some nuances of the imagery still elude me, I do basically “get it.” Put simply, He made us, and we are His. When we try to shake God’s hands off our lives, we get off track. In pottery terms, He wants to “center” us by pushing hard on the peripheral of our lives to ensure that we don’t “fly off the wheel.” He wants to “open” us by exposing our deepest secrets and longings. He wants to “pull” us into what He has purposed us for; “trim” us by taking off the rough, ugly edges; “fire” us through suffering and trials so that we become stronger; and “glaze” us, which transforms us into sanctified followers of Christ.

“Being made” is tedious and time-consuming work, but the process is necessary and good. God is full of wonderful and holy mysteries, but this one, that He would take me, a lump of unformed and dirty clay, and make a “work of art,” continues to astound me. GLORY!

By Connie Rae

attention writers & poets

inklings



celebrating the art of written expression -
composed by people from the Living Word Community Church family

Summer Edition: July - September 2009

We are collecting written pieces for the April Inklings publication. If you are a writer or poet, please send your piece via email to deAnn, droe@lwccyork.com.

Deadline is Monday, March 21

Hurry and submit your work. April’s edition will be out before we know it and you don’t want to miss it!

WHY KNIT?

I began knitting when I was eight years old. It became an immediate fascination for me and a lifelong hobby. Through the years I have knitted blankets, scarves, sweaters (including fisherman's cable sweaters), and my most recent craze is socks. I am always on the hunt for new types of sock yarn, evaluating the percentage of wool (warmth), synthetic materials (for strength and durability), and variations in patterns and colors.

While socks appear complicated to make, they are really quite simple once one gets accustomed to using four or five needles at one time. They can be "whipped up" in a matter of a few days and make a wonderful gift. Most of my socks have been given as gifts, except for the sets my three children have claimed even before I was able to finish knitting them.

The pair of socks displayed are my twentieth pair since starting to make socks a year and a half ago. This particular wool is a little scratchy for socks, but certainly warm with a beautiful pattern.

This craft has a multitude of wonderful benefits for the knitter. Reducing blood pressure and stress, as well as processing mental acuity by using both sides of the brain simultaneously are just a couple of the many benefits.

I encourage you to try knitting.

By Jackie Dommel

BEING MADE

Have you ever baked cookies with a child? And, I mean the old-fashioned way with eggs, flour, and such. It's an event that will test your patience... and your kitchen will, quite possibly, never look the same! In my house, there's a big, yellow Labrador poised and at-the-ready to assist in any way - invited or not - especially with all of those run-away sprinkles that never cease to hit the floor in vast quantities. There is the dough on the walls due to the curiosity of a child who found it just too hard to keep the beaters in the bowl while it's running. And, there may be an errant egg shell needing to be fished out to avoid future catastrophe.

Have you ever enjoyed a warm cookie with a child? And, I mean sit down with a glass of milk and re-live the day's adventures and laugh with each other and sneak a cookie to the dog. It's an event that will warm your heart and nourish your soul.

Have you ever felt like you *are* the cookie dough and God is the baker? And, I mean that you feel unfinished and mixed up and not altogether a part of a whole. You're not alone. Our lives are in the process of "Being Made." It is not until all of the ingredients have been added and mixed and blended that we start to feel as if we are part of something bigger...something that will bear fruit and sweetness. God wants this for us. He is the master pastry chef tossing in a bit of sugar, a bit of leavening, and sometimes a little bit (or a lot) of bitter chocolate. He is bringing our growing process forward with a loving hand.

In the end, if we choose to be baked in His light and warmth, we will have the privilege of living in His Kingdom for eternity. It takes discipline, study, and faith beyond measure. But, can you imagine the joy of sitting down at the kitchen table with God re-living the adventures of a lifetime and laughing with each other? Now, that's an event that will warm your heart and nourish your soul!

Happy baking!

By Pam Rolf

UNFINISHED IN GOD'S EYES

Recently I went through my house to look for unfinished work and realized that pretty much nothing is finished. There are so many projects I haven't finished, and even if I did consider them finished before I could now see ways in which they could be improved. Going through pictures I took in Sendafa it came to me that in God's eyes we are never finished. There is, however, a base on which we all can build on and He builds on us. The base is rough and needs continuous fine tuning. There is always something new He can create with us or through us, always improvements to be made, something to be made better than before. At the same time, looking at how the people of Sendafa build things without modern tools, I know that God doesn't need the newest tools to work on us. His tools have not changed since He began "building" us. It might seem primitive to us how things are done, but guess what? They are getting done and are working just fine. I see God working in my life every day, hour, minute, second. Don't you see Him working in or on you? Without modern tools it takes a bit longer to finish, but the end result is pretty much the same.

My Father has blessed me with the ability to use my hands and be good at whatever I start. He also instilled in me the drive to do the best I can and, quite frankly, my standards are high, but I know that when I'm finished I did the best I could. Maybe that is why I consider things never to be done, because they can always be done better. God is never finished with us either. Every day He gives us something new which makes us better than we were the day before--more to learn, a heart more geared toward His ways, a longing to spend time with Him and not worldly things. How does the old saying go? Good things take time. So why do we always want to make or get things done faster? God has created us and is constantly working with us. It takes a lifetime for us and even then we are not finished. In the meantime, I need to ask God to show me how I can get closer to the finished

Continued...

UNFINISHED IN GOD'S EYES

product He wants me to be. I want to be able to respond better and do His work here on earth, even in my unfinished state. I pray that God will never stop working within me and that I will comply with whatever He does in my life without complaining.

By Jutta Stallman

GOD IS MY WIRE

God gives me hope and serenity. My life is not set in stone. Therefore, like the wire that hold the beads of the necklace in their arrangement, God holds me together. As my life gets rearranged according to His plan, ultimately it's His masterpiece.

By Ellie Geiman

JUST USE THE TOOLS

I started this carving a couple of years ago. I was led to carve this set of praying hands. At some point, I put the unfinished carving away. I used "lack of tools" as the excuse. If I am really honest, it was a lack of confidence to finish well with the expectations I placed on myself. I am glad God doesn't give us on us. He supplies us with many different tools—each other—and His expectations of us are simpler than we realize. Five simple words: Well done my faithful servant.

By David E. Roe

WITH CHRIST

Without Christ, I believe our hands and feet were pointed in every which direction, no purpose or reason to utilize our faculties. With Christ, I believe our hands and feet are given a direction or purpose. I think this image of body parts is symbolic of life before Christ, and all parts work well to create a holistic composition.

By Josh Holmes

2011 GALLERY SCHEDULE

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| ◆ January | “Being Made” |
| ◆ February | Photography , a collaborative effort |
| ◆ March | Global Missions Focus |
| ◆ April | Easter Focus |
| ◆ May | Featured Artist: Joe Kelly |
| ◆ June/July | “Meet the Staff” |
| ◆ July/Aug | Featured Artist: John Bergmeier |
| ◆ Sept | “KidsArt 4.0” |
| ◆ October | “Late Summer Beauty” |
| ◆ Nov | Honored to Serve |
| ◆ Nov/Jan | Featured Artist: Joseph Becker |

[Exhibit themes are subject to change. But we hope they don't.]

WRITING DOWN
THE BONES

Freeing the Writer Within

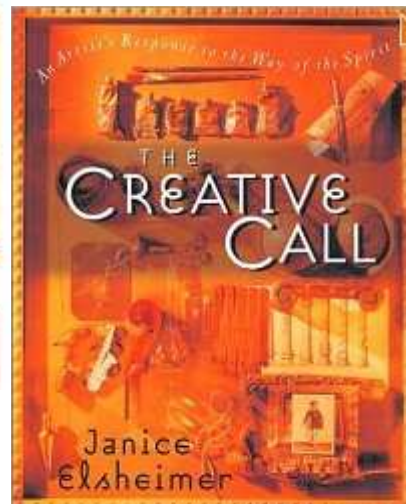
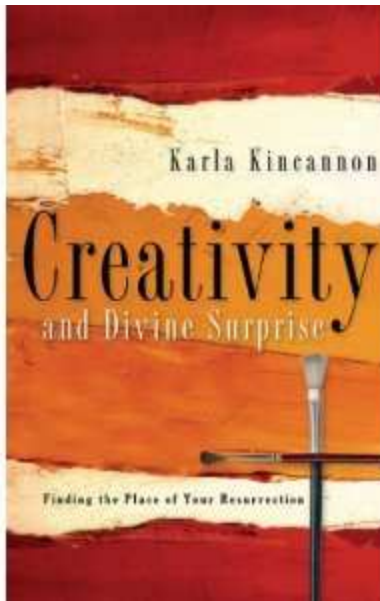


CHRISTIAN LIBRARY

Breath for
the Bones

ART, IMAGINATION AND SPIRIT
A Reflection of Creativity and Faith

Luci Shaw



The Studio Artists' Group

Meets on the third Wednesday of each month, 7:00—8:30 PM in the Coffee Bar rooms E & F at Living Word Community Church.

Contact deAnn Roe with questions:
droe@lwccyork.com or 755-0089 x126.



You can find

The Arts @ Living Word

on Facebook



Thursday Pages

Writing Group

Meets on the second Thursday of each month, 7:00—8:30 PM in the large conference room (across from the church kitchen) at Living Word Community Church. Bring your laptop or notebook and a writing project you've been working on OR we'll have writing prompts for you to choose from.

Contact deAnn Roe with questions:
droe@lwccyork.com or 755-0089 x126.

TRANSFORMING ARTS

Each of us is created in the image of God, the Master Creator and Artist. Therefore, we too, have the ability to create beauty that brings Glory to Him. *That* is the real purpose of art.

Often, our “inner critic” speaks loudly in our mind. We ignore the creative longing buried deep in our heart—the desire to paint, write, sculpt, draw, whatever creative interest He’s given us. When we ignore this longing, we rob ourselves of an opportunity to develop a God-given facet that’s vital to who we are.

Art is an expression of the human heart. Creating can be a form of heartfelt prayer and worship, a time where you encounter the Creator Himself and transformation occurs in the heart of the artist.

Not only does God speak to our hearts through our own creative endeavors, He uses what we create to speak to others who encounter and interact with it.

It’s amazing, beautiful, and mysterious.

deAnn Roe

deAnn Roe
Director of Creative Arts
Living Word Community Church
droe@lwccyork.com 717.755.0089 x126

THE ARTS LENDING LIBRARY

There are many books on creativity and writing available to borrow from **The Arts Lending Library**. Contact deAnn to check one out. Literally.



the arts @ living word



www.lwcc-arts.blogspot.com

This booklet is created as a companion piece to

the gallery @ common grounds

exhibit at Living Word Community Church



Living Word

COMMUNITY CHURCH

2530 Cape Horn Road

Red Lion, PA 17313

717.755. 0089

www.lwccyork.com