

LAKESHORE LINES

October, 2005

Free – and worth every cent!

Deer Lake Says Goodbye to Gordon Gibb

After a long, generous life, Gordon “Candy Man” Gibb passed away on August 7th. Six days later memorial services were held at Deer Lake United Church and in Chalmers Chapel at Naramata Centre. The former was well-attended and, at times, lively; the latter was small and intimate. Both reflected the love and admiration we and members of the community at large feel for Gordon.

Gordon was known for his determination, his love of gardening, his enthusiasm for photography and his enjoyment of singing, but most of all he was known for his love of people. He expressed that love in different ways with different groups, but everyone knew Gordon for his gingerbread houses and his Werthers or Hugs ‘n’ Kisses.

At choir practice on Thursday evenings, the session often started out like a Lions’ practice session. Gordon would reach into his stash of goodies, pull out a baggie of sweets, call out a name and swoosh...a long pass over the heads of possible interceptors was almost always caught by the intended recipient...usually a soprano or alto.

At the Deer Lake memorial service, baskets of candies were passed around the gathered throng; at the Naramata service, a handful of friends raised Werthers in a loving farewell toast, and on the road, travelers stopped briefly and remembered Gordon with a candy.

Gordon’s life was remarkable in how he touched people on an individual basis. Despite his ailments, he refused to limit his life, and he remained cheerful and giving to the very end.

We at Deer Lake will miss his voice, his smile, his kind words, his candy, the whirl and beep of his scooter, his courage, his determination and his love of life. What an inspiration!



Gordon Gibb
1921 - 2005

Mission Statement

The purpose of Deer Lake United Church is to celebrate God’s presence as a foundation enabling our spiritual growth by service to God through worship; each other through fellowship and education, and others through outreach; in a supportive, welcoming Christian community that seeks to follow God’s call as revealed in the life and teachings of Jesus.

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“Where is God?”

Rev. G. Scott Turnbrook

This fall has proven to be a time where many are asking the spiritual question “where is God?” The tragic events of September 11th, 2001, the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, and (as I write) the coming disaster of Hurricane Rita have caused many to ponder their spiritual roots. Indeed, most are asking the question ‘where is God?’ in some form or other.

Theologically, this area of exploration is called theodicy – the study of the nature and providence of God. While this area was most notably explored in popular theology by Rabbi Harold Kushner in his “When Bad Things Happen to Good People”, it has increasingly been massaged and explored by a diverse range of theologians and humanists in recent years.

The crux of the dialogue in this area stems around the location of God amidst tragedy. Is God present in the disaster? Is God the One bringing on pain and suffering as an act of punishment? Or is God to be found in another place in times of pain and suffering? Where is God in times of pain and suffering?

Some theologians begin by rooting their reflection in the Adam and Eve story (Genesis 3). This passage, considered in this context, is the mythical beginning of free will for humanity. It is a time when humanity left God’s protection and control choosing to fend for themselves. The example of the suffering in Auschwitz would be understood as a horrible portrayal of human cruelty that was allowed through the freedom we have been given.

Seen in this light, God’s presence is found in the many ways in which people and technology are able to provide help, hope and support. Understood in this light, religion alone can affirm the afflicted person’s sense of self-worth.

While, science can describe what has happened to a person, it is religion that names it a tragedy. It becomes God’s presence that guides people to say to the suffering person: “You are a good person, and you deserve better. Let me come and sit with you so that you will know that you are not alone.” Much has been written in this area and it is worth pondering in our own spiritual understanding of God’s presence amidst our free will.

Another area worth exploring is the transformational power of God. Core in our faith is the mystery of God’s transformational power shown at the cross. While there is a diverse array of understanding in this part of our faith, they all converge in their common belief that reality was changed after the resurrection. Through Jesus on the cross, God brought transformation.

In the area of pain and suffering, many have found God’s presence in the transformation that has occurred in the aftermath. Aid has been offered; new partnerships have been struck; friendships have begun; moments have surprisingly been grace-filled.

Transformation has occurred in the response to the pain and suffering and things will never be the same. They may not, in the short-term seem ‘better’; however, things will forever be different

and in this transformation this difference will lead us closer to being God’s people.

Transformation also can occur from the perspective of the individual. We find ourselves personally transformed as a result of pain and suffering, whether it has directly or indirectly been experienced. The transformation occurs in how we are moved to offer care and receive it, how we value things/ approach life differently, how we will ‘be’ in the world as a result of our experience.

A vivid example is found in the life of children’s writer Robert Munsch who, with his wife, grieved the loss of two babies that were stillborn. His grief resulted in writing the book “Love You Forever” along with many other children’s books.

These books have helped parents and grandparents alike value the time they have with their children as they cherish story time together. Much has been written in this area of God’s transforming presence and it is worth pondering in your own spiritual understanding of God’s transforming presence in your own life.

As your pastor, I regularly witness God’s presence in your life. I witness how God’s transformation has moved you/ us in ways of faith and mission. God is indeed present at the lake! These are indeed confusing times we live in. May we all uncover God’s loving presence in them and be reassured by the opening and closing words found in our United Church Creed “we are not alone”.

Shalom/ Peace,

Scott

A Few Resources for further reflection include:

“A Cry of Absence: Reflections for Winter” Martin Marty

“Lament for a Son” Nicholas Wolterstorff

“Why God?” Burton Cooper

“The Transforming God” Tyron Inbody

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation in the United Church of Canada is the act of confirming the baptismal vows taken by their parents or guardians. In baptism, two things occur: Firstly, the gift of life found in one of God’s children is celebrated. Secondly, vows are taken by the parents/ guardians and the church pertaining to the spiritual upbringing of the child.

When the person comes to an age where they wish to explore these vows in their own life and come to ‘own their faith’ confirmation is offered. We currently have a small group of teens and adults who will be taking confirmation classes this fall. If you wish to be included in this group, please contact Rev. Scott.

E-Mail Has its Uses

These days it seems, the computer and e-mail messaging has become as popular and important as the telephone when it comes to communication. Most of us who have embraced this wonderful technology have received (and likely sent) hilarious jokes, gorgeous photos and inspirational messages.

In a previous edition of Lakeshore Lines we published such a message of an individual who realized that his time was slipping away and by throwing one marble away per week, he was able to focus on the importance of the time he had left.

Today we have another.

Keep Your Fork

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things "in order" she contacted her Pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes.

She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in.

Everything was in order and the Pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. "There's one more thing," she said excitedly.

"What's that?" came the Pastor's reply.

"This is very important," the young woman continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The Pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say.

"That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young woman asked.

"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the Pastor.

The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say: 'Keep your fork.'

"It was my favourite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie...something wonderful, and with substance!

"So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?'

"Then I want you to tell them: 'Keep your fork ..the best is yet to come.'"

The Pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice

★ NEW! ★

DEER LAKE PARENTS' GROUP

Do you ever feel confused as a parent? Do you ever wonder how you can best nurture your child's spiritual growth? Do you have questions like: 'how do I teach my child to pray?'; 'how do I talk to my child about death?'; along with many other questions with spiritual implications.

You are not alone; however, many parents find themselves feeling alone with these questions as they raise their children. The church has long since known that the spiritual growth of our children will only occur within a community of support and this newly forming parent's group seeks to be an extension of that. This group will not necessarily provide quick solutions to problems; however, it will be designed as a time that supports parents in uncovering the 'right' answers for their family.

This newly forming group geared for our young families will provide a regular opportunity for parents to gather in community, support one another, and learn together in their common goal of the spiritual upbringing of their children. The first gathering of the Deer Lake Parent's Group will be Tuesday October 25th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the church library and will continue on a monthly basis. I invite you to come out and realize that you are not alone in the joys and challenges of parenting.

her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She *knew* that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the young woman's casket and they saw the cloak she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand.

Over and over, the Pastor heard the question, "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the Pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come.

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

Show your friends how much you care. Remember to always be there for them, even when you need them more. For you never know when it may be their time to "Keep your fork."

Cherish the time you have, and the memories you share. Being friends with someone is not an opportunity but a sweet responsibility.

A Deer Lake Summer in Naramata

Music week at Naramata was once again attended by a good representation from Deer Lake United. Under the capable direction of conductor Allison Nixon the choir was challenged by and guided through a nice selection of music.

The resulting concert on Friday night was wonderful and included the voices of many of the Deer Lake children as well. It was a delightful sight to see our own Elizabeth Woodruff working there this year and many visits and meals were shared with her as the week unfolded.

Several members of our congregation enjoyed other weeks at Naramata this summer and were able to spend their time drumming, biking, singing and reading. The centre is also hosting the United Church's Western Women's Conference in October and there's nothing like the Okanagan in the fall.

You can practically smell apples in the air. If you've never been or you used to visit occasionally but haven't for some time, look over the 2006 Naramata calendar. This retreat centre truly does hold something for everybody, and be sure to make your plans early. While other weeks are less busy, this year's music week filled up in little more than a day!



Naomi, one of the most popular women on the beach, attracts kids like clover attracts bees.



Peggy Annesley takes on the task of judging sand castles.



Garry and Gloria Forwood are obviously contemplating their upcoming trip to Italy and the carefree lifestyle that is in their future. Best of luck to a couple of super recent retirees.



Garry Forwood, forgetting he is now an old age pensioner crashes on the beach. The bruise on his right arm, his banged up left leg and the puncture wounds on his lower legs are the result of Garry pushing his walker off a cliff. "That's the last time I let him out alone," Gloria declared.

Celebration of Life for Rev. Marjorie Murdoch Held at Deer Lake

Rev. Marjorie Murdoch's life was celebrated both on October 4 at Deer Lake as well as on October 1 at Smither's United.

Marj began her ministerial career as a student minister at Deer Lake. After leaving VST, Marj served an eight-month internship in Prince Edward Island then ministered for three years in Edmundston, New Brunswick. In March of last year, Marj returned to B.C. and began her ministry in Smithers United Church.

Marj's death came much too early. The memorial service, however, provided an opportunity to reflect upon what an impact her life made.

Pastoral Care Committee and Care Ringers Request Face-to-Face Meeting with Congregation

The members of the Pastoral Care Committee and all the Care Ringers want the pleasure of a "face-to-face" meeting with the congregation at the next Lunch on the Run on Sunday, October 16th. The purpose is to put faces to voices on the phone, in order to create a stronger bond and community in our church.

Each Care Ringer will sit at a table with the people that he/she calls on a regular basis. Good food and fun make for good fellowship, and this will, in turn, lead to better Pastoral Care. Please try to join us for this brief time of fellowship.

Newsletter Submissions

Lakeshore Lines will be published five times per year. Submissions may be made to one of the Communication Committee members (preferably by e-mail):

Garry Forwood:
gforwood@telus.net

Jim Young:
jimyoung@shaw.ca

Ellen James:
eljam@shaw.ca

Next Issue: December, 2005
Submission Deadline: Nov. 27th, 2005

Deer Lake is Reaching Out to Seniors

Rev. G. Scott Turnbrook

May I share with you a wonderful story that unfolded in the process of our ministry in visiting care homes? 'John' is an 82 year old man. His smile is infectious and his faith is deep. 'John' can not get out to a worship service. He has no family to take him and he regularly finds himself confused and disorientated in his battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Over the past year, I have come to know 'John' as a man of deep faith. He may not always remember his name; however, he knows the words to the old hymns, he prays the Lord's Prayer, and he loves worship time. There is a deep sense of peace that settles upon him as we worship together. When we leave, I shake hands with 'John' and others, offer a departing blessing "God bless you 'John'" and he smiles and says to us: "Thank you so much for coming".

As we continue on with our lives on a busy Sunday afternoon, we know that our church has made a BIG difference to the lives of others in that half hour of worship we shared and we know that we have received so much more than we have given. God was there. "Thanks for having us to your home 'John'. Hallelujah!"

We have been truly blessed this past year in the beginning of our new ministry of outreach to two of our neighbouring care homes. I would invite you to consider joining us on an upcoming Sunday as our ministry continues.

Currently, we lead worship at the George Derby Care Home (ever 3rd Sunday from 1:30 – 2:00 p.m.) and the New Vista Care Home (every 4th Sunday from 3:00 – 3:30 p.m.). The latter group requires a musician as well as an officiant and I am deeply appreciative of our talented musicians Melissa Hamer, Allison Milne, and Kellee Mulhern who have so willingly offered their time and talents. In addition, a number of Deer Lake folk have brought their warm hearts and big smiles to provide a welcome from the outside.

Deer Lake Young Families Social Group

Dear Moms and Dads,

Are you keen to meet other Young Families?

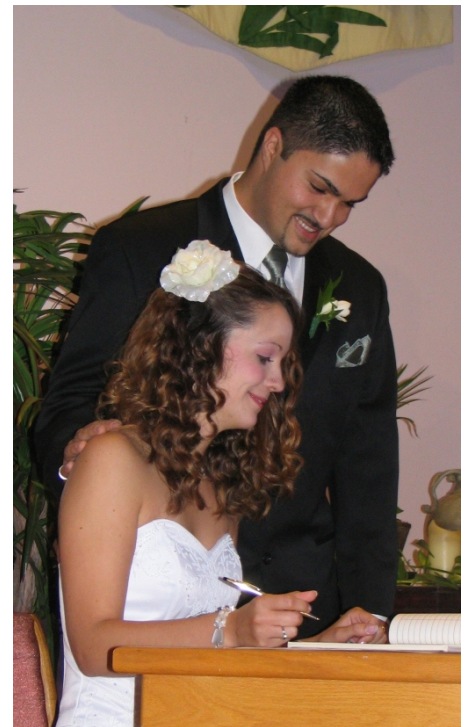
This fall we have established a social group for Families with young children to come together for Fellowship and Play!

We shall meet every 6-8wks for an event, e.g.: swimming, visits to the parks, pot-luck dinners or parents only nights!

If you are interested or have any suggestions for a family activity please call Elizabeth Cottam at 604-759-9357.

Our first get together will be a Halloween Party, October 30th, from 5-7:30 pm in the Church Hall (see October Church Bulletin for details).

Hope to hear from you soon!
Elizabeth Cottam



Congratulations to Carli Travers and Michael Hejazi on their wedding day at Como Lake United Church on Saturday, September 24, 2005.

Shannon McLean and
Glen Carpenter
on their wedding day,
Saturday, September 17, 2005
at Deer Lake United Church



The Deer Lake United Church Men's Group
is pleased to announce the

2004 Fall Supper

A delicious turkey dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall
Saturday, November 5th at 6:00 P.M.

To help with the planning of this popular event,
please purchase your tickets **in advance**
from members of the Men's Group, or call Wendy

Adults: \$20 — Children: \$6
(maximum \$52 per family)

Net proceeds will go to the Building Contingency Fund
BRING YOUR FAMILY!!! BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!!

The Deer Lake Choir and Social Club and MacWade Productions present
Sax Among Friends, Part II



Don Wade will be on the business end of his saxophones joined by many friends:

- Donna Phillips • Jean MacLeod • Pieces of 8 • The Family Cool
- Naomi Scott • Garry Forwood • Kathryn Small
- The Deer Lake Young Folks Band • More to be announced!

Joining these folks will be very special guests:

- Patrick Dubois (professional jazz piano player)
- Dan Parker (professional bass player)
- Debbie Webb (semi-professional alto sax player)

Saturday Evening, November 19th at 7:30 p.m.
Deer Lake Church Sanctuary

Tickets: \$10

All proceeds to complete the upgrade of our sound system.