

# LAKESHORE LINES

March, 2006

Free – and worth every cent!

## Visioning Process Continues at Deer Lake

Five months ago, Deer Lake United Church embarked on a program called Visioning.

Fifteen years ago, we entered into a Vitalization Program with Rev. Dr. Bud P and Past Moderator, Dr. Marion B. This helped us determine who we were as a congregation and what we wanted to be in the future.

Over the years there have been many changes in personnel and members of the congregation, so the question presented itself again: "What is God's Purpose for Deer Lake United Church today?"

In order to discern that, we discovered we needed to ask:

- Who are we today as a congregation?
- What are our Beliefs?
- What are our Values?
- What is our Vision for the future?
- Is this God's Vision for us?

In November a Visioning Task Force was struck and experienced people were interviewed to help us with this task. The highly qualified Rev. Dr. Brian Fraser was contracted to be our guide.

Brian asked the congregation three basic questions in a questionnaire, which elicited a myriad of answers. The Raw Data which was extracted from those answers gave us great insight into what we, as a congregation, were looking for in a church, how Deer Lake United Church was meeting those needs, and what challenges lay ahead for us.

Again Brian and the task force took this information and distilled it down, looking for the major themes. Rev. Scott and the Visioning Task Force met with Brian several times, listening for God's word through the congregation's data and each other.

We discussed how to retain our small church feel, and the critical issue became "how can we be a viable small church". Some immediate answers were: we need more people involved in the

groups which run our church, and more donated income to maintain our church building and its programs. We moved on as a group, highlighting just 5 major themes addressed by most people in each of the areas of:

- What we value most
- How we experience those values at DLUC
- What challenges lie ahead

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Rev. Scott Turnbrook and his harem (Shirley M, Sharon A, Eileen M, Mary P, Marg M, Carol P and Myrtle C) display the nursery's new wall quilt. (See page 4)

### 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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# Deer Lake Young People Do Us Proud

By Cathy M

In December, our thoughts turned to gingerbread, and to our memories of Gordon G , gingerbread baker extraordinaire. As a tribute to Gordon, 7 children in our congregation worked quietly to produce 4 beautiful houses, using Gordon's recipe and instructions. The dough was rolled, cut and baked, and the houses were constructed over a two week period in our Fellowship Hall. Each was decorated with the recipient and with our friend Gordon in mind, while enjoying hot chocolate, apple cider and a lot of laughter.

The kids then delivered the houses and visited with Peggy A , Frank C , and Gordon's neighbour and fellow baker Lauren, who for many years assisted Gordon with our annual gingerbread event. The fourth house was a gift for Gordon's family, and was picked up by his daughter, Wendy. This project was completed in the true spirit of Christmas, with love, caring and fellowship. Deer Lake is so lucky to have such a great group of kids. Thanks to the Men's Group and especially Arnie B for supporting them in this worthwhile activity.



Kids from top left: Melissa H , Allison M , Mitchael and Jacoline H , Demmery J , John Henry and Thomas M with their gingerbread houses.



These kids make great sound! (From right: Melissa H , Mitchael H , Thomas M , Demmery J , Aaron S and Allison M . Biggest kid of all...Don W , mentor, teacher and inspiration.



Allison, Hugh (with the Santa Clause hat), John Henry, Demmery, Thomas, Mitchael and Jacoline at St. Michaels



Thomas, Allison, John Henry, Hugh, Demmery, Jacoline and Mitchael lift the spirits of Frank C at St. Michael's.

**Where would you like  
to spend Eternity?  
Smoking or Non-Smoking**

# Dusting Off Our Resurrection Glasses

by Rev. G. Scott Turnbrook

**“so [the women] went out and fled from the tomb for terror and amazement had seized them”** (Mark 16:8)

Are you aware of the danger to be found in the last few steps of Lent? The danger is that we will be forever changed through the Easter resurrection.

Over the past forty days of Lenten preparation, we have been busily preparing, purging, and cleansing ourselves in order that we might experience the Easter resurrection. But what is it that we prepare for? What is it that we expect? What will Easter resurrection be for each of us and why is it so dangerous?

Resurrection has a long and rich history extending beyond Christian and Jewish spirituality into the belief systems of their neighbouring cultures. As one might expect, the doctrine of the resurrection arose out of one's cultural world view.

As there were a range of world views existing in different cultures, so existed a range of doctrines of the resurrection. Two predominant views are helpful to highlight as we prepare to consider our own view of this core part of our faith.

First, arising from the view of death being regarded as a sleep one undergoes, comes the understanding of resurrection being the inevitable awakening part in this normal cycle of life. (*as an illustration see Daniel 12:2*).

Secondly, arising from a cyclical view of time popular in biblical times (as opposed to a linear view) we find the view of resurrection as the journey of the deceased that proceeds from the present cycle of life. In this view, a new life reality is ushered into being through the resurrection. (*as an illustration see the apocryphal book Ecclesiastics 46:12*).

For the Christian tradition, the doctrine of the resurrection is a foundational one. It is an invisible point occurring on “the third day” where faith and history meet in relationship and existential reality. In 2006, the myriad of world views we might hold extend well beyond those of our ancestors of faith.

They include perspectives such as post-modern, feminist, traditional, and scientific (to name a few). As we form our own understanding of resurrection, these world views all vie for authority in shaping our particular perspective.

So what will the Easter resurrection mean to you? A challenging and important question to ponder before the Easter dinner is prepared?

Theologian Barbara Brown Taylor notes that the Christian scriptures outline our faith story from a post-Easter perspective. As such, we are always looking back from a resurrection perspective.

We look back from the appearance of the risen Christ; back from empty tomb; past the cross and further back into the stories of our faith.

As a result, we need to be aware that we wear ‘Easter glasses’ as a lens in viewing the story of our faith and in guiding our living. Lent, understood from this viewpoint, becomes a time that we have been dusting off our Easter glasses, checking the prescription, and reclaiming our Easter faith.

As you prepare to refocus through

Easter glasses, are you prepared to see things in a new way? To use the image of arising from sleep, what new life will you awaken to in the Easter resurrection?

To use the image of the cyclical nature of time, what new season will become your new reality in the Easter resurrection? These are critical faith questions that are both radical and life-changing.

They are dangerous as they usher in both change and fear in us just as they did in the first witnesses to the Easter resurrection who “fled the tomb with terror and amazement seizing them” (Mark 16:8). Indeed this is a dangerous time. It is literally one of life and death for us.

May terror and amazement seize us all as we are awakened to a new reality this Easter.

Shalom and Peace,

*Scott*

## Holy Week Events

### **Palm Passion Sunday at Deer Lake United Church – Sunday April 9 at 10:30 a.m.**

A gathering commencing with joy-filled, palm-waving Hosannas of welcome and concluding on a somber tone as we look towards the cross. The Deer Lake choir and the Kidz Band will be offering musical leadership.

### **Maundy Thursday at Deer Lake United Church – Thursday April 13 at 6:30 p.m.**

An interactive worship gathering recalling the meal Jesus shared with his disciples in the Upper Room. As this experience includes a pot-luck meal, worshippers may choose to bring food that would likely have been shared at the meal (such as bread, figs, grapes, etc). People are also welcome to bring wine to this event in which Jesus passed the cup (grape juice will also be available).

### **Good Friday at Korean United Church – Friday April 14 at 11 a.m.**

The United Churches in our cluster gather for a shared experience of the passion story at Korean United (formerly known as St. Paul's United - 3821 Lister Street).

### **Easter Sunrise Service at Simon Fraser University - Sunday April 16**

As the light ushers in a new reality on Easter morning, we gather with our friends from Ellesmere United Church for a celebration of Easter worship and Holy Communion. This is an exciting time to celebrate with our neighbouring church friends who are in the midst of selling their building and beginning a full time on-campus presence! (time and location yet to be confirmed at the time of printing)

### **Easter Sunday at Deer Lake United Church - Sunday April 16 at 10:30 a.m.**

A peak of our worship gathering as we embrace and explore the resurrection of Easter in word, music and Holy Communion.

### **First Sunday after Easter at Deer Lake United Church – Sunday April 23 at 10:30 a.m.**

We continue our Easter season considering the joy and meaning of the resurrection upon our lives. This important service will be led by the Rev. Audrey L., the Kidz Band, and others!

# Visioning Process

*Continued from Page One*

At the last meeting, we took those major themes and spent considerable time writing a draft Visioning Statement. When completed, this statement will be rich in meaning and encompass all we are. It will be used to describe DLUC to your friends.

It will be used to guide us in all of our decision making. It will be used as the litmus test in every committee, at Board level, in planning retreats or the AGM, worship, Christian education, etc.. The question will be asked, "Is this intrinsically in line with our Visioning Statement?"

This statement has been written out and posted in major areas used by our congregation. You have been encouraged to add to, change, re-word, and make it your own by using stickies. We will take your suggestions and re-write it using as much we can reasonably incorporate, realizing that it needs to be succinct enough to be memorized, yet meaningful to the majority. The draft Visioning Statement reads:

Deer Lake United Church welcomes you into a multi-generational Christian community that explores and expresses spirituality through:

- Worship and Music
- Fun and Fellowship
- Caring
- Growth
- Involvement
- Outreach

The Vision continues as we look for the word of God through all we see hear and do as a congregation.

*Our Visioning Task Force: Gloria F , Carol P , Rev. Scott Turnbrook Pat Y .*

# Nursery Quilt to be Dedicated on Palm Sunday

The nursery has a new wall quilt and matching lap quilt thanks to the efforts of a group of church women. A request was made by Don W to put something up on the wall to stop the echo from the new speakers. A call went out for donations of fabric and then for a group to sew the blocks together.

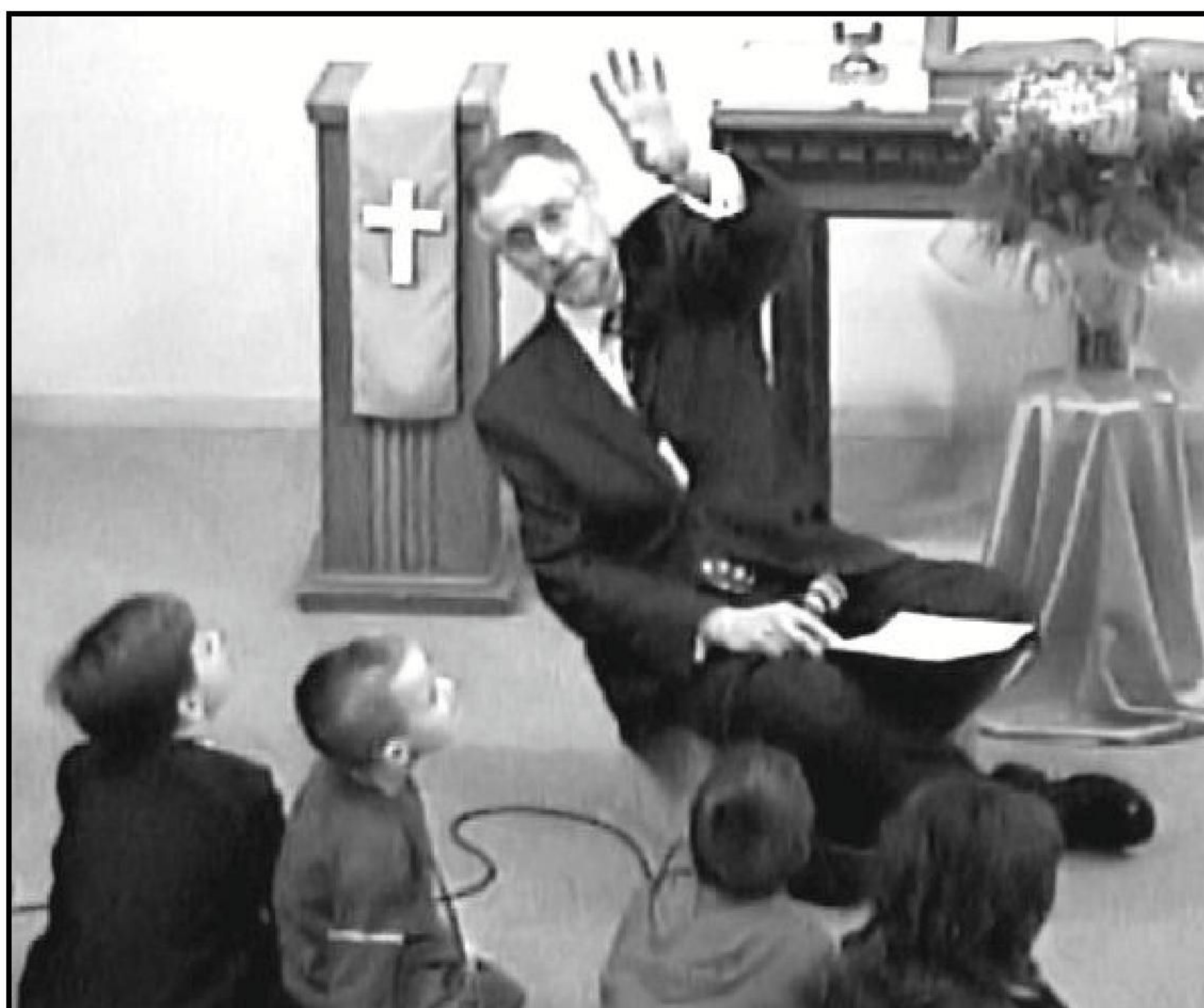
On Friday, Feb. 17 Jean M , Sharon A , Mary C , Eileen M , and Shirley M met at Carol P 's home for sewing, chili and conversation. By the end of the day, most of the blocks were together. Then on Wed., March 8 the quilt was tied by Mary P , Sharon A , Eileen M , Shirley M , Marg M and Carol P .

Carol finished off the border and hangers. Alan put up the pole to hang it in the nursery. This was truly a group effort and could not have been done without all of the people who volunteered their time and skill. Drop into the nursery and have a look when you have time.

# New Banners and Wall Hanging for Easter Sunday

Spring has arrived with a flourish in the sanctuary this year. The creative talents of the congregation were stretched again by the request of pieces of fabric to be adorned with flowers and butterflies.

Once again, many people stepped forward to do this project: Michele C , Barb K , Sharon H , Shirley M , Sharon A , Eileen M , Marg M , Cathy M , Lorie S , Mary C and Carol P . A big thank you to all of the women for their amazing, creative works.



Nick J (student minister) defies gravity for children's story



Rev. Scott Turnbrook tries to flog a roll of kitchen towels during a recent service

# AGM Sunday – A Message from Board Chair

by Garry F

AGM Sunday was certainly a day that many at Deer Lake United Church will not soon forget. The format was a combined Sunday service and Visioning workshop, followed by lunch and the Annual General Meeting. The service and workshop progressed well until the end of the Visioning workshop.

At that point Tony W stepped up to the microphone and made a statement informing those present that although Scott has done a wonderful job as our minister, he is “inexperienced” and has made some “huge mistakes”. Furthermore, Tony stated that in his company if someone made these mistakes more than once they would be “fired”. He said that these issues had not been adequately resolved by M&P or the Board, and that they must be fixed. (I am paraphrasing.)

Few individuals reacted openly to this statement and everyone proceeded to lunch and the AGM. It later became apparent that many were confused, upset and hurt. Tongues were soon wagging and the phone lines and internet glowed with people’s questions, criticisms and expressions of support.

Tony and Scott met to discuss the matter and came to an understanding. The following Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, Tony read a prepared statement of explanation to the congregation, he and Scott shook hands and passed the peace, and Scott presented a meditation. In my absence, Vice-Chairman Bob C then sent a letter of explanation to everyone who was not in attendance at the March 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday service. Tony’s message and Scott’s meditation were enclosed. Unfortunately, the nature of what Tony named as “mistakes” was not spelled out in the letter, and questions and concerns remained in the minds of those who received the letter.

As Chair of the Board and a member who values our family at Deer Lake, I think it is important to clarify this situation and hopefully set people’s minds at rest. The “mistakes” were of a purely administrative nature; however, they deeply hurt and angered some members of the Board and resulted in a lack of trust between the parties involved. The matter was referred to the Ministry and Personnel committee who worked hard to resolve the issue. Despite this effort, tensions remained and the issue resurfaced.

Tony saw two members of the Board feeling minimized. While Tony failed to first voice his expectations through the proper channels of the Ministry and Personnel Committee, the Board, or the minister, prior to making his public statement, I understand his statement came from a deep concern for Deer Lake.

Tony’s action succeeded in galvanizing M&P and the Board into further action to mend the situation at the heart of Tony’s concerns; however, the confusion, conjecture and angst caused to large numbers of congregants by his statement in a public forum far exceeded the seriousness of the issue he wanted resolved.

Members of the M&P committee and I have spent countless hours since the AGM trying not only to resolve the administrative issue that precipitated Tony’s action, but to reassure the congregation that things are not as bad as they sounded.

This incident has highlighted for me the fact that, above all, it is

important to keep the channels of communication open, and to participate in open, constructive and respectful dialogue when issues arise – as they inevitably will!

The appropriate process in the face of conflict is for the two parties to try to resolve the situation themselves. Failing this, they may call upon the Ministry & Personnel committee to work with them to resolve the situation. If this fails, they or M&P may refer it to the Board for resolution.

However, M&P and the Board can only do so much if the parties are unwilling to talk, so open, constructive and respectful dialogue is the key. Making what is a private matter public is not an appropriate course of action.

I am happy to report that the parties have met and come to an understanding of each other’s position. Although complete healing will take a while, the issue has been resolved and reconciliation has occurred.

In any family, disagreements and mistakes will be made; feelings will be hurt; tempers will flare. In strong, loving families like our Deer Lake family, these matters are worked through and the family bond often grows even stronger as a result. I am confident this will be the case with the current situation.

## Red Hat Society Hits DLUC



Carol P and Shirley M, seen at the 1991 DLUC Fashion Show reunion, attempt to start local chapter. Myrtle C and Pat Y look as beautiful today as they did in the original fashion show.

Though the fashion show reunion and potluck dinner attendance was less than hoped for (there was more than one dish) those of us who were there were delighted to see folks from days gone by.

Garry F was most irritating in that he can still get into those clothes that he wore 15 years ago. \$75 was raised for Project Chali.

# A Much Too-Soon Au Revoir

Bruce and Jaime F -P and family packed their belongings into a truck and moved up to Yellowknife on March 30<sup>th</sup>. We gathered at coffee time on the 26<sup>th</sup> to say goodbye to this wonderful family who have been with us for less than a year. During the service, Jaime read a personal story that symbolizes their short stay at Deer Lake. Here it is:

by Jaime and Bruce F -P

By Seven months ago, after we nervously trotted down to the Sunday school area with our son, Zam, we were given a seed to plant in a small plastic cup. Now, I'll let you know there are absolutely no green thumbs in our family. So, as much as I didn't want Zam to know it, I had little hope that the seed would germinate, let alone thrive. In fact, I didn't even know what we planted – and still don't know, to be honest. (The choice was catnip or something else.)

After only a short time, however, on Zam's south-facing window sill the plant not only germinated but began to thrive. We



Jaime and Bruce F -P with children Zam, Hizze and newborn Zikomo. Photo at left: Bruce and Zam cut their farewell cake.



were absolutely thrilled about its growth; with each new leaf it produced we only wanted to care for it more.

We bought a special pot, some plant food enriched soil, and moved it out of its tiny plastic cup and into its new "home". We made sure it had water and was not exposed to too much sun. By Christmas time the vine-like plant had wound its way across Zam's window sill, twisting itself around the cartoon figurine toys that rested there. And last week, just in time for our farewell to our

home, it BLOOMED – a bright yellow flower that we sadly do not know the name of!

What a perfect analogy to our time at Deer Lake! You have cared for us so dearly during the short time that we have been here. You watered us, cared for us and gave us plenty of sunshine and love. In return, we truly feel like we have grown and blossomed, thanks to your love and care.

What a beautiful place to come to each week. Our children came to meet each Sunday morning with much joy and anticipation. You made us feel part of your community. You gave us a "home" and yet, like our flower, we know so few of you by name. However, just as not knowing the name of our flower takes nothing away from its beauty, not having had the chance to get to know many of you by name does not take away from the beauty of seeing your smiling, welcoming faces each week.

The perfect ending to this story was supposed to consist of me presenting you with the beautifully blossoming plant that we so lovingly cared for. However, in our haste to pack up our home yesterday, we accidentally left the plant on the window sill where it was exposed to hours of unexpected sunshine. This overabundance of heat and light caused our plant to shrivel up into a rather sorry-looking thing.

This is where the analogy of the plant to our time at Deer Lake ends, for while your "sunshine" has most definitely been abundant, it has not caused us to shrivel. Instead, the light of Christ, which we have seen in this church – that "sunshine" – will travel with us and continue to help us blossom as we take the next step in our journey.

Thank you so much for your warmth and kindness. May God bless you all.

## Three New Recruits Bolster Christian Ed.

by Elizabeth C.

I would first like say thank-you to Pat Y , Peggy W and Judy I who have stepped forward to assist with this important Ministry.

Special services to look forward to are:

- Recognition of our Mothers, May 14<sup>th</sup>
- Recognition of our Fathers, June 18<sup>th</sup>
- Graduation of the Sunday school, cumulating with the Church Picnic, June 11<sup>th</sup>

We extend a warm invitation to church members who may wish to join our Nursery (0-4yrs) or Sunday school (5-12yrs) teams as the number of children continues to grow!

A big thank-you goes out to those who have helped in the Nursery and taught Sunday school this year. Sunday School Teachers for the next three months are Marie, Julie and Sarah and Elizabeth in the K-2 class and Cathy, Ellen and Judy in the 3-6 class.

We have an appeal out for a Rocking Chair in the Nursery and a CD player for the Sunday school. If you have a spare one or one no longer needed, we would gladly take it off your hands!

For more information about the Christian Education Committee, please contact Elizabeth Cottam at 604-759-9357.

## Church Office Gets New Computer



Our secretary, Wendy H , is very happy with the acquisition of our new computer. The old one had all but outlived its usefulness and will now be relegated to running our Sunday morning PowerPoint presentations.

## Prayer Writer's Gathering Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7-9 p.m.

Deer Lake is deeply blessed to have a creative and dedicated group of individuals who write the Sunday morning pastoral prayers on a rotational basis, once every twelve weeks. Each week, these carefully crafted prayers are included in the "Prayers of the People" section of our liturgy. The diverse spirituality of the writers add to the richness of our worship experience.

Twice per year, this group has found it helpful to take an opportunity to check-in with one another, support each another in our challenging task, and find ways to further grow and blossom as a writer of prayer.

Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> will be our next gathering. As you read this newsletter, we would ask two things of you.

Firstly, we ask that you consider sharing in this ministry as we do have a few openings. If you are interested in finding out more about this ministry, please contact Dana J at 604- - or [dana.j@shaw.ca](mailto:dana.j@shaw.ca) who coordinates the prayer writers. Secondly, we would ask that you remember this group in your prayers as we meet.

## Local Boys Cook and Entertain



Doug R , Gary H , Garry F , Arnie B , Bruce D , Bob C , Don S and Bill H prepared and served breakfast to the multitudes at Mulberry Retirement Home. Bob then led the group as they warbled a few Chrstimas carols.



Why don't kids get drowsy during Scott's children's story?

# Mary and Bert Woodward Visit Christian Icon

by Mary W

We returned to Burnaby on February 19<sup>th</sup> from an enjoyable three-week cruise/tour of South America from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to Valparaiso/Santiago, Chile. The highlight of our cruise/tour was to stand at the base of "Christ the Redeemer" statue which stands high atop Mount Corcovado, at 2,313 ft. above sea level, in Rio de Janeiro. This was a humbling, soul-stirring experience for us, to stand at the feet of Christ, in front of His open, outstretched arms, embracing all people to come to Him.

We never imagined that we would one day be standing in front of the same statue of Christ that has been often shown on our screen at our morning worship service. This has to be one of the ten wonders of the world as a "must-see" ... an overwhelming experience!

The 100 ft. tall statue sits on a 20 ft. pedestal and weighs 700 tons. Despite its softness, soapstone was chosen as the desired material because of its durability over time and resistance to the severe elements. The statue is beautifully finished in mosaic soapstone. There is a small chapel for 150 people at the base of the statue.

Work began in 1922, by placing the fundamental stone into place. In 1927, the construction of the statue began and was completed in 1931. Its final design was by artist Carlos Oswald and French/Polish sculptor Paul Landowski.

The spectacular view from the base of the statue is of the vibrant city of Rio de Janeiro, Sugar Loaf Mountain, tropical rain forests, Rio's Copacabana and Ipanema beaches, the Atlantic Ocean and a backdrop of the local mountains. We spent two days in beautiful Rio de Janeiro.

Our next ports of call were, Montevideo, Uruguay and Buenos Aires, Argentina. However, we were unable to stop on Falkland Islands because of heavy seas. We visited Ushuaia, Argentina ... the world's southernmost town then cruised around Cape Horn and into the infamous Straits of Magellan, where we sailed into a violent storm with hurricane-force winds at 12 on the Beaufort Scale and swells 30' high at times, causing the 63,000 gross-ton ship to list badly. It was frightening until the captain changed



Mary and Bert at the statue of "Christ the Redeemer"

course and sailed up the Chilean Fjords into calmer waters. Next on our itinerary were Punta Arenas and Puerto Mott, Chile and we disembarked in Valparaiso/Santiago, Chile, spending two interesting days in this beautiful city.

Santiago, with its backdrop of the Andes Mountains, is similar to Vancouver...a very clean and modern city on the South Pacific Coast. It boasts one of the largest grape-growing areas in the world, with over 300 wineries.

This was a very interesting vacation, to be able to visit the different countries in South America, and to view and learn about their various cultures and way-of-life.

## 2006 Men's Retreat

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

Approximately 20 men representing a cross section of young and older alike will engage in another meaningful weekend of fellowship planned this year at the beautiful waterfront property of Jo & Sandi D's at Parksville, B.C.

Some early arrivals will go over Thursday night June 1 and enjoy a Friday cruise up the Port Alberni Canal on a sightseeing tour into Barclay Sound and back. The retreat will start Friday evening featuring a theme on "communications" which will be explored from its origin to what it means and how it is experienced today.

Everyone will look forward to Bob's barbecue Saturday night, worship on Sunday morning and more great fellowship before returning to the "real world" Sunday afternoon.

## 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: [gf @telus.net](mailto:gforwood@telus.net)

Jim Young: [jimy @shaw.ca](mailto:jyoung@shaw.ca)

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Submission Deadline: May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006