

# LAKESHORE LINES

December, 2007

Free – and worth every cent!

## Naramata Youth Conference

By: Mitchael H and Thomas M

Late Friday morning we set off to the Greyhound Bus Depot with a purpose to learn more about our faith and religion. We walked in the front door to see many cheerful people with welcoming smiles. We overheard someone complimenting another on their belt buckle with a picture of Jesus on it. With a large grin, she replied, "Thank you, Jesus keeps my pants up." Then, we heard someone say, "All aboard the Jesus bus." (Our theme for the weekend.) It was then we knew that this wasn't going to be just another relaxing Naramata excursion. This was going to be with youth who were very passionate about their religion; this made us just a little bit nervous for this was unlike what we were used to at Deer Lake – a relaxed easy-going atmosphere.

The weekend was full of songs, peaceful music, good talks about how we viewed our spirituality and how we practiced it, plenty of good food and very spacious accommodations. The abundance of youth and absence of parents made Naramata Centre feel quite different, (we hadn't decided if this was a good or a bad thing).

We both agreed that the best part of the weekend was a calming meditative activity that we did on Saturday night. It started off

with a very quiet, candle-lit chant in the chapel, followed by different stations that you were free to rotate around at your own pace. The stations included: a candle-lit walk in the labyrinth; a table full of paper and lots of different utensils to draw and colour "what Jesus looks like to you"; and a place to read children's picture books. That night made us feel energized, yet relaxed and very much closer to God. We were woken up Monday morning with a howling wind and a storm of leaves. This



Thomas and Mitchael attended the 2007 Naramata Youth Conference

was by far the windiest state either of us had ever seen Naramata in.

The weekend closed with a service and an uplifting farewell message. We were sorry to be leaving Naramata as we got on the Jesus Bus to go back home.

We were very lucky to be able to participate in this event, and we would like to thank the Men's Group for sponsoring us.

### Sanctuary Changes

We have witnessed a number of changes in the sanctuary over the past several months. First, the grand piano arrived and the pulpit was moved to the right side of the dais. A few weeks ago, the left end of the dais was extended to the walls and, more recently, the old Kimball upright piano was moved from the sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall. On November 30<sup>th</sup>, the sanctuary was decorated for Advent and Christmas and the Christmas tree was erected.

As this is written, the carpet on the dais extension is being laid and the front face of the dais refinished. Soon, the biggest change of all will occur: The organ will be moved from the loft down to the left side of the dais and seating in the loft will be expanded. It is hoped the move will happen in time for Christmas. A special thanks to everyone who has worked behind the scenes to make this happen.

### Vision Statement

Deer Lake United Church welcomes you into a Christian community for all ages that explores and expresses spirituality through:

- worship and music
- fun and fellowship
- caring and outreach
- involvement and growth

### INSIDE

Christmas Messages .....	2	Women's Christmas Breakfast...	5
Children's Service .....	3	Future Special Events.....	5
Welcoming & Working Together .	3	A Letter from Jesus .....	6
Upcoming Services .....	4	Youth at Work! .....	6
Caring & Outreach.....	4	Forrest Gump Goes to Heaven...	7
Men's Christmas Breakfast.....	4	Halloween Party .....	8

## From Our Family to Yours. . . Merry Christmas!

By Rev. G. Scott Turnbrook

Merry Christmas from our family to yours. Christmas always provides a great opportunity for families to stay connected and so we take this time to extend our love to your family whether you are in more distant places like Africa, Australia, Chicago, Kelowna, Parksville, Gabriola Island or spread across different parts of Metro Vancouver. To say that it has been another busy year for our Deer Lake family would be the understatement of the year! We have definitely earned a Christmas break. So...where should we begin?

Why not begin with the big news first. We have a new addition to the family! A beautiful baby grand piano now sits on the chancel adjacent to the pulpit. It is a true gift to our worship and comes alive when Donna or Allison play. As we mail this letter off, we are finishing plans to move the organ down beside the piano allowing for more diversity in our music. Actually, we have many new additions to the family. With all the great music seeping out onto the street and members of the Deer Lake family inviting their friends over, word has continued to spread about our church family. As a result, we have welcomed many new people into our church. It gets a little cramped once in a while; but, it's always lots of fun when we gather for fellowship, worship and study.

One area that has been keeping us very busy is our call to caring and outreach in the world. Furthest away from home, we have now almost concluded our sponsorship of Chali who has been attending Zambia Business College. In the Downtown Eastside, we continue to support the First United Church Mission at Hastings and Gore. This year, we joined them for worship and have helped them serve food to those in need on several occasions. Here within Burnaby, we have continued to support youth at risk in East Burnaby through the Edmonds Centre. We also continue to work with the Marguerite Dixon Transition Society who support women and their children in finding new beginnings after leaving an abusive home. Most recently, we have become involved with the Burnaby Homeless Task Force and have been helping provide bag lunches for their weekly drop-in hospitality program.

We have now made plans to continue this on a monthly basis through 2008.

Our family continues to grow through its experience of new things. Nick continues his studies in ministry and is now interning in Saskatchewan. (We hope he hasn't become a Roughriders fan yet?!). It has been a joy to welcome Pamela Scott who is now interning this year with us at Deer Lake. We continue to enjoy our new neighbours at the Burnaby Mosque and have shared in several events of learning, fellowship and (great) food. Even our musical family continues to try new things. Whether it is through the choral sounds of our ever-growing choir, the jazzy beat of our Deer Lake Kidz' Band, the children who have led our singing, or Jean on djembe drum, we continue to faithfully sing our praises in wonderful ways!

We did take some opportunities for holiday to 'recharge the spiritual batteries'. Many of our men attended their retreat in May at the Drew's cabin. (The women are planning a retreat for next year!) Many attended the Naramata Music Week in July. Finally, we brought back the Cultus Lake Campout again this past September. What a great time we all had!

Like any family, we have also experienced some areas of sadness and challenge. We have said goodbye to some members of the family. Some of whom will drop in when they are in Burnaby again, others have returned home and will forever remain in our hearts. We have also had some small financial challenges which will be handled well by the generosity and creativity of our amazing family.

In all 2007 has been quite the year revealing God's promise of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. May that promise be revealed to you and your this season and always.

Shalom, Salaam, Peace,

*Scott*

Greetings to All,

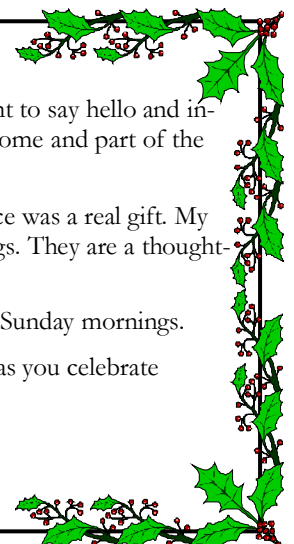
First I would like to thank all of you for the warm welcome I have received. Many have taken the extra moment to say hello and invite me to participate in various ways. Others have offered words of encouragement. I've quickly felt right at home and part of the community. It is a great place to worship and learn.

As you are aware, Deer Lake has incredible youth. Seeing them in action conducting the November 18th service was a real gift. My learning goals focus on youth, grades eight to twelve, so you will see me slip out for their class Sunday mornings. They are a thoughtful group and one can learn much listening to their perspectives.

My other primary goal is to gain experience in leading public worship and so you will see me at the front most Sunday mornings.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a special Christmas where you may be touched anew as you celebrate Christ's birth.

In joy,  
Pamela



## Children's Service

By Elizabeth C

The theme of the November 18<sup>th</sup> Children's Service was God's Creation. The Pre-Sunday School children opened worship with a lively "If you're Happy and you know it, Creation song". This was followed with the older Sunday School children and Youth leading us in the prayers. Scott led us through a reflective sermon using the Godly Play, Creation, Story.

The children made the accompanying art pieces at Cultus Lake Camp earlier this fall. They beamed with pleasure and pride as these pieces of art were presented during the sermon.

The Kidz Band, as always, was brilliant and had us clapping to the beat! A big Thank-you to Rev Scott, Phyllis, Rosemary, Kathy, Kellee and Don for all the amazing work they did with the Children and Youth for this service!



See the colour version of this newsletter at [www.dluc.ca](http://www.dluc.ca)



## Deer Lake Welcomes...

By Rev. G. Scott Turnbrook

One important component named in our Vision Statement is the call to *welcome* ("Deer Lake United Church welcomes..."). The following letter lifts up how we are perceived by one visitor in this area. Blessings to all who continue to faithfully live out the vision we share as Christ's church.

*Dear Rev. Scott*

*I would like to thank you for the special welcome you gave my nephew into Christ's family last Sunday.*

*Your service was so well organized and well-presented. Particularly impressive was the way you made the two scripture readings and your message relevant to my nephew – and also to everybody else.*

*The anthem, "My Song to the Lord", deploying nearly half the congregation was lovely. I was moved to tears, as were many others.*

*Afterwards, at your coffee reception I enjoyed meeting Mary from Trenton and also Sally from Sudbury.*

*The next time we come to the West Coast, we look forward to joining your worship service again.*

## Deck the Halls

By Carol P

Wow! What a great time we had on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> decorating the church for Christmas. Dozens of people from our own Deer Lake congregation and from our Sunday afternoon tenant Gospel of Peace Church congregation turned out to lend a helping hand.

There was more food than we could eat and hot apple cider to wash it down. We had music thanks to several children and adults, craft tables to make beautiful tree decorations, Christmas stories in the back of the sanctuary, and people everywhere putting up banners, advent wreaths, greenery and lights, the nativity and the Christmas tree. In the narthex, we had a man ironing (thanks Darryl), others hanging snowflakes and putting words on the window while others worked on the bulletin boards. Watch the bulletin boards grow as we approach Christmas Eve and the best piece of all will appear on Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> thanks to Mary C spending a year working on the final piece. By 9:30, the floors were swept, the kitchen cleaned, the empty boxes put away and the church lights off. A big thank you goes to all of the adults and children from both Deer Lake United Church and Gospel of Peace Church who came out for the night.

Be sure to get a close look at the tree to see the decorations the children made. They are all a-glitter!



Congregations working together to bring Christmas cheer into the sanctuary and narthex.





## Upcoming Services

**Christmas Pageant – Sunday December 23 @ 10:30 a.m.**

An all ages gathering where many of our younger members will lead us on story, song and prayer. You won't want to miss this exciting celebration of our communal expression of Christmas!

**Christmas Eve – Sunday December 24 @ 4 p.m.**

### All Ages Service

On the eve of the birthing of God's greatest gift to the world, we present an All Ages Service with Rev. Scott and the amazing Deer Lake Kidz' Band. This interactive service is inclusive for people of all ages especially those who try to get to bed early to listen for reindeer hooves on the roof.

**Christmas Eve – Sunday December 24 @ 7:30 p.m.**

### Candlelight, Carols, and Communion

An elegant service with the Deer Lake Choir and Rev. Scott. This service follows the Oxford tradition of lessons and carols and concludes with Holy Communion and candle lighting.

**Sunday December 30 @ 10:30 a.m. – Christmas Now**

Marie will be our guest speaker at this service focusing on the meaning and expression of Christmas.

**Sunday January 6 @ 10:30 a.m. – Epiphany Sunday**

Our student intern, Pamela, will be our guest speaker for this service focusing on the journey of the Wise Ones to the star.

**Sunday January 13 @ 10:30 a.m. – The Baptism of Jesus**

Rev. Audrey Lans will be our guest speaker for this service focusing on Jesus' baptism. The service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion.

**Tuesday February 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6 p.m. – Shrove Tuesday Meal & Lenten Worship**

How could we begin our traditional 40 day walk towards the wonder of Ester without our great Men's group hosting the traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper? Following the dinner, a service of Ashes and Contrition will be held (roughly 7 p.m.) in the sanctuary signaling our walk towards the cross.



## Deer Lake Cares... Caring & Outreach

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** – Non perishable food is collected during worship for the Marguerite Dixon Transition House who serve women and their children in finding new beginnings after leaving an abusive home.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday** – Worship is led at George Derby Care Centre. A brief worship service is held from 1:30 – 2 p.m. All are welcome to come with Rev. Scott to offer friendship and care.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday** – Bag lunches are assembled in the fellowship hall for the Burnaby Homeless Hospitality project at 1:30 p.m. Donations to the Outreach Committee are greatly appreciated.

**Any time** – gently used (and new) clothing items are collected. Men's clothing is divided between the Burnaby Homeless Hospitality project and First United Church. Women's clothing is delivered to the Marguerite Dixon House.

## Men's Christmas Breakfast



## Women's Christmas Breakfast



## Spring and Fall Planning

Yes, it's still Winter, but it's time to pencil in a few dates in your 2008 calendar.

### *The last weekend of May*

This is very important for all you men, young and old! It's the annual Men's Retreat. This year it will be at Jo and Sandy Dunn's place in Parksville. You don't want to miss this one! Just ask anyone who was there two years ago.

### *The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in September*

Yes, I know that's pretty vague, but the Cultus Lake Campout will fall on one of those weekends, and you don't want to miss that, do you?

See page 8 for another annual not-to-be-missed event.



## Sunday January 26th (following worship) Reflections on my Journey to Zimbabwe

You are invited to hear from Kathryn L as she shares stories and images of her trip to Zimbabwe (Bill H will be the proud grandpa in the back pew). Kathryn is a UBC student who travelled with other students on a transforming missionary trip last summer. She invites you to come and experience a window into the stories and wisdom of another culture.

## A Day Celebrating ... Love: Worship & Marriage Enhancement Workshop Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

As a people who believe that "God is love" (1 Jn 4:16), we gather to consider how this text calls in our living.

The format of the day is as follows:

- Sunday Worship 10:30 – 11:45
- Lunch
- Marriage Enhancement Workshop 1-3 p.m. with Dr. Gloria McArter

### **Marriage Enhancement Workshop:**

Weddings are a deep honour and responsibility in our ministry at Deer Lake. In our effort to honour this responsibility, we provide significant wedding preparation for all couples. While the wedding lasts for only one (wonderful) day, we also offer support for couples in their life of marriage. The marriage enhancement workshop provides an opportunity for couples to 'fine tune' their marriage. This workshop is for couples who know that a healthy marriage does not happen by accident, but is nurtured with love and intention. This workshop will provide an opportunity to learn with Registered Clinical Counsellor, Dr. Gloria McArter whose counseling practice includes working with couples who desire to nurture and support a healthy life in marriage. Dr. McArter has been in private practice for over 15 years in New Westminster and continues to be involved with the United Church in various roles. Her doctoral dissertation involved research in the areas of spirituality and personality. We are delighted to welcome her back to Deer Lake.



## A Letter from Jesus

As you well know, we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honour and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated.

During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many radio announcements, TV commercials, and in every part of the world everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer.

It is really very nice to know, that at least once a year, some people think of me.

As you know, the celebration of my birthday began many years ago.

At first people seemed to understand and be thankful of all that I did for them, but in these times, no one seems to know the reason for the celebration.

Family and friends get together and have a lot of fun, but they don't know the meaning of the celebration. I remember that last year there was a great feast in my honour.

The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite and there were many, many beautifully wrapped gifts.

But, do you want to know something? I wasn't invited.

I was the guest of honour and they didn't remember to send me an invitation.

The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside, they closed the door in my face .. and I wanted to be with them and share their table.

In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years all close their doors to me. Since I wasn't invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner.

They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a grand time. To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling Ho-Ho-Ho! He seemed drunk. He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying: 'Santa Claus, Santa Claus' as if the party were in his honour!

At midnight all the people began to hug each other; I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and do you know no one hugged me.

Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation. When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for me. What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts and you did not get one?

I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left.

Every year it gets worse. People only remember the gifts, the parties, to eat and drink, and nobody remembers me. I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter into your life.

I would like that you recognize the fact that over two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you, on the cross, to save you.

Today, I only want that you believe this with all your heart.

I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party,

I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party. I'm still making the final arrangements..

Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you.

I want to know if you wish to attend and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters in my great guest book.

Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party.

Those who don't answer the invitation will be left outside. Be prepared because when all is ready you will be part of my great party.

See you soon. I Love you!

*Jesus*



Last year the Youth Group outgrew their Sunday School room by having the weekly attendance hover around 10. Since the Grade 4-6 room was larger, we swapped. In gratitude, on a lovely September afternoon, the Youth

covered over the old silhouette images of our youth with paint. Those images had been painted on the walls a few years ago. Now the Grade 4-6 Sunday School can decorate their room with images that reflect them.

Our youth contribute to our church community in so many ways.



## Forrest Gump Goes to Heaven

The day finally arrived. Forrest Gump dies and goes to Heaven. He is at the Pearly Gates and is met by St. Peter himself. However, the gates are closed as Forrest approaches the gatekeeper.

St. Peter says, "Well, Forrest, it is certainly good to see you. We have heard a lot about you. I must tell you, though, that the place is filling up fast, and we have been administering an entrance examination for everyone. The test is short, but you have to pass it before you can get into Heaven."

Forrest responds, "It sure is good to be here, St. Peter, sir. But nobody ever told me about any entrance exam. I sure hope that the test isn't too hard. Life was a big enough test as it was."

St. Peter continues, "Yes, I know, Forrest, but the test is only three questions. First: What two days of the week begin with the letter T? Second: How many seconds are there in a year? Third: What is God's first name?"

Forrest leaves to think the questions over. He returns the next day and sees St. Peter, who waves him up and says, "Now that you've had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answers, please."

"Well," Forrest replies, "the first one – which two days in the week begin with the letter T? Shucks, that one is easy. That would be Today and Tomorrow."

The saint's eyes open wide and he exclaims, "Forrest, that is not

what I was thinking, but you do have a point, and I guess I didn't specify, so I'll give you credit for your answer. How about the next one?"

"Now that one is harder," replies Forrest, "but I think and think about it, and I guess the only answer can be twelve."

Astounded, St. Peter exclaims, "Twelve? Twelve? Forrest, how in Heaven's name did you come up with seconds in a year?"

"Shucks," Forrest replied, "there's got to be twelve: January 2<sup>nd</sup>, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup> . . ."

"Hold it!" interrupts St. Peter. "I see where you're going with this, and I see your point, though that wasn't quite what I had in mind. However, I'll give you credit for that one, too. Let's go on with the third and final question. Can you tell me God's first name?"

"Sure," Forrest replies, "It's Andy."

"Andy?" exclaims an exasperated and frustrated St. Peter. "I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with the name Andy as the first name of God?"

"Shucks, that was the easiest one of all," Forrest replies. "I learnt it from the song: 'ANDY WALKS WITH ME, ANDY TALKS WITH ME, ANDY TELLS ME I AM HIS OWN.'"

St. Peter opens the Pearly Gates and says, "Run, Forrest, run."



Pamela weaves her magic with the children



M & P Committee members in action



### Happy Halloween at Deer Lake United!

Thirty spooks and goblins attended our Spooktacular Halloween Party October 27<sup>th</sup>. There were many wonderful costumes...cute witches in spider boots, scary Dracula's and ghouls, charming Little House on the Prairie gals to name a few. The evening began with a delicious Pot Luck Dinner and time of fellowship. This was followed with an opportunity to burn off some Halloween excitement and energy through Halloween games, a Costume Parade and candy toss.

Thanks to all the families who attended the Party, it was a fun evening!

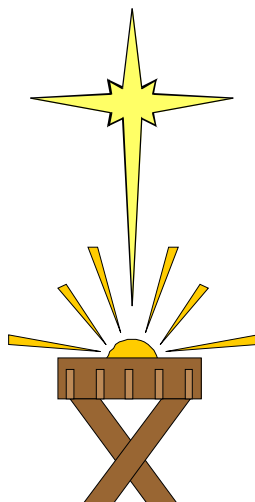



**naramata centre**

Choir members and hangers-on, please take note that the Naramata Summer Program will be posted on the Naramata Centre website on Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. That will be the time to start thinking about registration for Music Week. Check the website for the dates (in August this coming year), and mark the registration date on your calendar. You don't want to be late!

If you're not interested in Music Week (how can that be?) you might want to check the website for Naramata Centre's many other summer programs..

[www.naramatacentre.net](http://www.naramatacentre.net)



## Submissions

**Lakeshore Lines** will be published four times each year. Submissions may be made to one of the Communications Committee members (preferably by email):

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