

# LAKESHORE LINES

December, 2008

Free – and worth every cent!

## Deer Lake Invaded on First Advent Sunday

By Garry F

Worshippers at Deer Lake United Church had a bit of excitement on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. As they sat in quiet contemplation, a loud voice from the back of the sanctuary suddenly broke the silence. Heads turned to see the imposing figure of a Roman Legionnaire in full military regalia striding to the front of the church.

You could feel the tension in the air as this messenger of Caesar Augustus confronted the gathered worshippers, insulting them and challenging them to cease their prayers, go home, and worship only Caesar. Despite his stern admonitions and authoritative demeanor, however, the faithful remained in their seats, and the intruder eventually left to report back to his superiors.

Incidents like this have been on the increase lately as stories of a coming savior persist. No-one is sure who this savior will be, but the great Caesar Augustus in far-away Rome is obviously displeased and has ordered his troops to harass our scattered congregations. They call us fools to believe in a God other than theirs, and they enslave us and crucify us. Will a savior come?

All we can do is wait and hope the stories are true.



### 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

Support for the Homeless .....	2	Marguerite Dixon Transition .....	5
Upcoming Services .....	2	Women's Christmas Breakfast ....	5
Deer Lake 'Night at the Theatre' .	2	Men's Christmas Breakfast .....	6
Drawn to Church.....	3	Walking in her Sandals .....	6
Western Women's Conference ...	4	Church Decorating Party .....	7
Reading Recommendations.....	4	Naramata .....	7, 8

## Support for the Homeless

By Paul A

Deer Lake United Church continues to reach out to the homeless of Burnaby.

### Naked Tree

The Outreach committee has set up a "Naked Tree" in the narthex again this year. Please help us to dress this Naked Tree with donations of the following items that we hope will make a homeless person's winter more bearable: new underwear, socks, band aids, gloves, individual size shampoos, lotion, combs, tissues, towels

If anyone would like more information on the Naked Tree they can contact Bill H or any other Outreach Committee member.

### Homeless Lunches

When Deer Lake began to prepare lunches for the homeless just over a year ago, we were asked to provide 50. Earlier this year, this was increased to 60, but the need is still growing and starting in November we will provide 70 lunches every month. This means that our expenses are also growing and we would welcome donations. If you wish to donate through your offering envelopes, mark the amount under "Other" and specify "Outreach."

We normally provide lunches for the homeless on the fourth Thursday of the month. However, in December, the fourth Thursday is Christmas day. Therefore, for December we will be providing a lunch of non-perishable items, including cookies generously provided by the Church Mice, to be delivered the week of Dec. 15.

Merry Christmas and many thanks to all Deer Lake United Church members for your continued support of the Outreach programs!

## Upcoming Services

**Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Children's Christmas Pageant and DLUC Kidz' Band.**

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we look forward to the leadership of our Children in the Christmas Pageant as well as our awesome DLUC Kidz' Band.

**Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.**  
**All Ages Christmas Eve Service.**

A service designed for all ages to explore the Christmas message.

**Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Candlelight, Carols and Communion**

A traditional Christmas service that includes the leadership of our Deer Lake choir.

**Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Worship with Nick Judson**

One of our former students, who awaits ordination this spring, returns to Deer Lake to lead the first Sunday in the Christmas season.

**Sunday January 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Worship with Pamela Scott**

Our 2007/08 student returns to lead the second Sunday in the Christmas season.

**Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Worship with Don Wade and Jean McLeod**

Two of our choir directors, lead worship on Epiphany Sunday.

## Deer Lake 'Night at the Theatre'

'A Night at the Theatre' continues to provide an opportunity to gather with friends and enjoy a spiritual message. Now in their 25<sup>th</sup> year, the Pacific Theatre ([www.pacifictheatre.org](http://www.pacifictheatre.org)) is part of the unique ministry of Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Many may be familiar with this wonderful church located at 12<sup>th</sup> and Hemlock which was formerly the site of Chalmer's United Church.

The next performance, "*Holy Mo*", is an opportunity to meet the central character of the book of Exodus...Moses. In this play, the audience will experience all the drama and grandeur of Mos-

es' life with the life of King David thrown in for fun.

We hope you will join Rev. Scott, Jen and the Deer Lake Theatre Lovers for this production on **Friday February 13<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m.** This specific performance also includes a 'Talk Back' time following the performance where the audience have the opportunity to ask the actors questions about the performance. Please **sign up by Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup>** to ensure that we can sit as a group. The cost for tickets are \$34 (adults) and \$24 (students and seniors). If you have an Entertainment Book, there is a buy one, get one free coupon.

## Drawn to Church

*By Rev. G. Scott Turnbrook*

I admit it...I am hopelessly drawn to church. Throughout the week, I look forward to meeting in churches and other places of faith to conduct church business. I am magnetically drawn to any church whose open door promises an opportunity for a peek inside. And on Sundays off, I look forward to visiting new churches. (in fact, on some Sundays, I have fit in two churches!) I admit it ... I am unstoppably drawn to church. Having disclosed this atypical quirk in my personality, you can imagine my complete joy to be among thousands of like-minded souls during my November trip to Europe. While my church interest marginalizes me in my native North America context, it merely includes me among the masses of church-loving tourists I found in Europe.

To be in the presence of such awe-inspiring cathedrals is truly that...to be in a state of awe. St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican and St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, for example, are living buildings which tell the story of the church. Constructed during times of high illiteracy their paintings, statues and marble carvings tell a peoples' story of faith. We are invited to look upon the face of Peter as he denies Jesus; to take in Mary's face as she receives her son's body from the cross; and consider the startled look upon the shepherds' faces as the angels announce the Good News; every painstaking detail tells a story of a peoples' faith in the Living God they experienced in the Christ. I, among millions of people, was drawn into the holy mystery that is captured in these sacred buildings and we found ourselves drawn into a sense of awe. I considered the generations upon generations of church goers who had gathered in worship. It was truly an awe-inspiring experience.

As I return home to the reality of ministry in the West Coast of Canada, I continue to be curious about this dynamic of being drawn to church. Statistics report that we live in the most secular part of the world; however, in our own little church, people continue to be drawn to Deer Lake. Over the past three years, we have continued to attract people from many different ages and backgrounds. In fact, our statistical reports show that we have grown by over 10% each year. Why is this happening, we might wonder? I have a few ideas. My ideas begin with the person reading this newsletter. I think you and all the people who make up our congregation is what draws people to this holy place. I think people continue to be drawn to Deer Lake because they yearn for a truly welcoming community in which they can experience Christ's presence. People are drawn to a community that authentically cares for others in times of need; that reaches out to the poor and the homeless; that believes each person is a child of God with dignity, value and worth. People are drawn with a sustaining faith that tells them there is more to life ... there is the grace and wonder of God to be experienced.

As we approach the 2009 Christmas season, I wonder if this same belief is what has drawn people throughout the history of the church. They believed that there was a great light who would come into the world. They believed that while the world did not make room at the inn, there was still room in their hearts. They believed that this light came for all women, children and men – it came for the shepherds working in the fields as well as the ones their world called "wise". They believed that this one came to transform their world into a kingdom ruled by justice and peace. In this belief, they found themselves drawn towards a Bethlehem stable and were forever changed.

May we all be drawn into the mystery of this most holy season. Drawn into its mystery and forever changed.

Shalom, Salaam, Peace,

*Rev. Scott*



Rev. Scott in Saint Mark's Square, Venice, Italy



## Living Rhythms – 2008 Western Women’s Conference

By Carol P

“What will you say when you get home from an experience like the Women’s Conference?” We were asked to consider this question in the last session of the conference. Phrases such as “soul nourishing”, “life transforming”, and “life renewing” as well as many others were shared.

The Naramata sun shone for the three days, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> to Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, so some participants chose to make the most of the outdoors. Others attended every session, afraid that they might miss the one phrase or experience that could change their lives. The program contained just the right mix or large group sessions and smaller workshops for which people signed up.

Old friends filled in the talk at meal times (which were fabulous as usual) and new friendships were started. There were mother/daughter pairs, sister pairs and three generation groups. We ranged in ages from the early 20’s to early 90’s but the ages did not seem to matter here. Everybody joined in the dance on Tuesday

night. My personal request for the CHICKEN DANCE was met and the floor was filled. It may be an oldie but everyone knows it.

Christina Baldwin and Mary-Jo Leddy were amazing speakers. Christina encouraged us to listen carefully to the stories of others, to tell our own stories and to become “story-catchers” wherever we go. I could have listened to her all day. Her books are equally easy to read and to learn from. Mary-Jo told us of the stories of the refugees she has worked with for several decades.

All of the sessions were tied together by the rituals and dramas provided by Rev. Cari Copeman-Haynes from Delta and by the musical offering by Barb Myers. Allison Rennie and the staff of the centre kept us all on track and even did a little Elvis impersonation at one point!

Trinity United Church in Vernon planned the conference and included several artistically arranged centers for participants to work with during the conference. They contained poetry, quotes, art work and

hands-on activities to do if you wished to. And, one cannot forget the bookstore with its amazing array of books!

It is hard to summarize a conference such as this one. I will end with a few quotes that I took the time to write down (so they must have special meaning to me I guess?)

“If you wait until you are ready, you will never do anything.”

“Just as you are – is enough. Just as I am is enough.”

“Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy. Just to be is living a holy blessing.”

Woman at the Well “Think of me as a theologian not a scarlet woman.”

“God our Mother, We are your daughters.”

Next year’s conference is also going to be at Naramata Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. Is it your year to go? I would be delighted to talk with anyone about the conference. Give me a call.

### The “Rev’s” Reading Recommendations”

I am pleased to continue to share some newer reading resources that I would commend to people’s attention. I would also remind you of our well organized library that Sue M has been working so diligently on. Blessed reading everyone!

**“Monk Habits for Everyday People: Benedictine Spirituality for Protestants” by Dennis Okholm.**

I have been refreshed by several meaningful retreats at Mission, B.C.’s Westminster Abbey with the Benedictine Monks over the years. In this unique book, Okholm attempts to clear up some misperceptions about monasticism and attempts to shed some new light on how this expression of faithful living might inform our living.

**“Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading” by Eugene Peterson.**

How do you read the Bible? As a devotional tool, a history book, a novel, words from the mouth of God? Peterson, author of “The Message”, a unique version of the Bible, enlightens the reader on how they should approach scripture. Wise words for a practice in which we daily find ourselves engaged.

**“How to Become a Saint: A Beginner’s Guide” by Jack Bernard.**

If you are already a saint, this book is not for you; however, if you are still struggling to live a life in line with Jesus’ Way, then you might consider this thoughtful and fun book.

**“Overturning the Tables: Consumerism, Children, and the Church” by Julie Kincaid.**

This United Church author takes a hard look at how the consumer marketplace has taken over every aspect of our lives. One chapter asks parents: are you raising a shopaholic?”

*Rev. Scott*



## News from the Marguerite Dixon Transition Society

*By Sharon A, Board Member, Marguerite Dixon Transition Society*

The Marguerite Dixon Transition Society opened the first emergency shelter for abused women in the basement of Deer Lake United Church in 1982. The current transition house was built in 1985 and continues to operate ten beds for women and their children who are fleeing violence. Women are able to stay for up to 30 days while they search alternative accommodation. They have access to crisis counselling, emotional and parenting support, and information about resources and services available.

The Society also operates five second stage units where women may stay for up to a year while they develop the skills they need to become independent, and continue to receive individual and group counselling as needed.

As women leave the second stage, they may continue to receive support through the Society's Outreach Program.

The Society also offers separate counselling programs. Stopping the Violence Counselling is available for local women who have been subjected to violence in their relationships, sexual assault or childhood sexual abuse, while the Family Counselling Program is available for low income families with children, either individually, as couples or for adolescents or children.

While all of these programs receive support from various ministries, United Way and Gaming funds, they also depend on community donations to function to their full capacity. Please remember these brave women and their families during the hol-

iday season and other times of the year.

The most exciting undertaking for the Society this year is the construction of a much needed nine-unit second stage facility, which began in October. It is located next door to the transition house, which will reduce travel time and costs for both clients and staff, and enable some sharing of operating costs. We anticipate the opening in the fall 2009.

Watch for additional information about our **major fundraising event on May 17, 2008**. I extend a personal invitation to each of you to attend this concert and silent auction. Donations for the silent auction would be most welcome, and volunteers are needed for the event. Please contact me or Phyllis S if you are willing to help.

I would also like to thank all of the women who have been volunteering to keep the clothing donations room at the transition house neat and organized. It is much appreciated by the women who overnight find themselves without a home or a change of clothing for themselves or their children. It would be a real help for them if we can keep this going, so if you or any of your friends would like to join the team, please contact me. We have scheduled Friday mornings for this, and other times can be arranged if Friday is not suitable. If we have lots of volunteers nobody will be overworked!!



### Women's Christmas Breakfast

Thirty-three women attended the Women's Christmas Breakfast, hosted this year by Marilyn R on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Looking at these pictures you can see the ladies had a wonderful time. It's no wonder! Look at the male interloper below. How could they not enjoy themselves with butler Ken R serving them hand and foot? The men are contemplating a French maid for their Christmas breakfast next year.





## Men's Christmas Breakfast

This long-time annual event was a bit different this year. First, it was held in the Fellowship Hall. Secondly, although the number of attendees was fairly consistent with past years, at 25, there were a lot of new faces in evidence. In particular, the Men's Group was happy to welcome several of our youth. (Amazingly, there was food left over!) Lucas P, shown below with father Roger, did more than anyone else to significantly reduce the average age of the group.

As is the custom, regular members of the Tuesday morning Men's Group cooked up and served a delicious meal of eggs, ham and pancakes. Applications are being accepted for a French maid to help out with these duties next year.



## WALKING IN HER SANDALS

By Carol P

Who are the women in the Bible? We know something about Mary, the mother of Jesus and of Elizabeth, the mother of John and even of Mary Magdalene, from her own gospel as well as several others. But most of the women of the Bible are not even known by their own names (the woman at the well for example). Others are never spoken of in the 3 year lectionary or at best are given a glance only (Tamar, daughter of David). And yet their inclusion in the Bible is essential to the stories.

During the women's retreat, we will meet some of these women by using the Jewish tradition of **MIDRASH** (the retelling of a story in the first person in light of what we know or believe today). Each woman attending the retreat will have the name of a woman and be asked to read and learn about her and then to assume her identity and share her story. Through putting ourselves in her sandals we can better understand the role and life of the women in the Bible.

Check the women's notice board area in the hall to see some of the names of the women in the Bible. Do you know who they all are? Do you know their stories and why they are in the Bible? What lessons can they teach us? Who would you like to be for the retreat **"WALKING IN HER SANDALS"**?

Sign up for the retreat will begin in mid January and will be limited to the 15 rooms that we have booked. Rooms can be for individuals or shared. That will determine how many spaces we have. Are you free for May 1-3, 2009?

## Pastoral Care Photo Board

Gary H and the Pastoral Care Committee thank all those who have had their photos taken or who have sent a photo to Gary. We aren't taking any more photos at church, but if you know you and your family don't have your picture on the Photo Board, you can still email one to Gary at [sghamer@telus.net](mailto:sghamer@telus.net) before Christmas.

If you are unable to email a picture, but have a suitable print, you may give it to Garry Forwood or drop it off at the church for him before Christmas. He will scan it and return it to you.

We would like to have EVERYONE'S photo, as Garry will be creating a church directory using the same pictures. PLEASE send in your pictures today!

Thanks, Shirley McG





## Church Decorating Party

Nov 28, 2008



Pat Y agonizes over which cakes to bid on at the recent Cake Walk to raise funds for the Naramata Centre Capital Campaign. See below and the next page for ways you can help support much needed renovations to this very special place that is so meaningful to so many of us.

## Naramata bottle drive

Please remember to save your recyclable bottles and cans over the holidays for our ongoing Naramata bottle drive. Recyclable containers may be left in the bin in the fellowship hall at the church. This bin will be available until the end of May, so please make bringing recyclables to church on Sunday a regular part of your church routine. Cans and bottles can also be dropped off by the garage of the Milne's house at 6238 Brantford St. 604-433-9732.

**So go ahead and celebrate...but remember us when the last guest finally goes home!!**

**Thanks!!**

## Christmas Families

This year Deer Lake is sponsoring two families with children and two senior families. Wendy K, who is coordinating this important outreach, would like to thank all of those involved in making Christmas happier for these families. It would not be possible without your financial support and the assistance of those who purchase, sort and deliver the items. Thank you everyone and Merry Christmas!



restore refresh create

## Pay it Forward – Naramata Centre Capital Campaign

**As faithful stewards, we are called to help sustain Naramata Centre's vibrant ministry. Deer Lake United Church's contribution to the Capital Campaign will help restore, refresh and create the Centre's future!**

### How to Give

**Through Deer Lake offering envelopes** Use one of our dedicated **Naramata offering envelopes**, or use the "Other" section of your **regular Deer Lake envelope**, and be sure to specify "Naramata".

**Through Pre-Authorized Remittance or PAR** Designate a portion of your monthly PAR donation to Naramata. Please speak to Cathy Milne or Mary Cazalet to contribute this way.

**Directly to Naramata Centre** Donations can be mailed to the Centre, or be made securely on-line at [www.naramatacentre.net/contribute-capital-donate.asp](http://www.naramatacentre.net/contribute-capital-donate.asp). If you donate directly to the Centre, please let us know, (anonymously, of course) so that we may add your donation amount to our Deer Lake total.

**Planned Giving** This includes opportunities to make a gift to the Centre through a bequest in your will, a gift annuity, charitable remainder trust or life insurance. Please contact the Centre for more information on their Planned Giving program.

Your contribution will be received with heartfelt gratitude and the Centre's commitment that it will be used for the purposes of the Capital Campaign. You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes, either from Deer Lake United Church or from the Centre, if you contribute directly to them.

Please do your part to help the environment and save Deer Lake the cost of postage by receiving your copy of *Lakeshore Lines* via email. Just send an email to Garry or Jim (email addresses under **Submissions** on this page) asking to have your email address added to the distribution list.



**The Pay it Forward Naramata committee is organizing a gala event in the Spring to help raise funds for Naramata. A silent auction is being planned along with music, appies and a generous helping of fellowship.**

We are actively looking for donations for the silent auction. If you or someone you know is in a position to contribute we would gratefully accept your contributions. We are looking for not only retail certificates but perhaps less tangible items others would really value. How about a weekend in a cabin, a boat ride, two hours of computer help, a TELUS phone package? Maybe you know someone who works in the hospitality industry and has access to hotel room or restaurant vouchers or perhaps you know of someone who has a special talent that others need or enjoy, like carpentry, yard clean up. If everyone could really think outside the box and come up with something unique and valued it will be sure to make our silent auction evening a successful event! If you require a "donation request letter" one can be obtained from either Sharon or Gary H.

We are actively collecting items now so it's not too soon to help us out. Let's all give it some serious thought and see what we can come up with!

## Submissions

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

Garry Forwood: [gforwood@telus.net](mailto:gforwood@telus.net)  
Jim Young: [jimyoung@shaw.ca](mailto:jimyong@shaw.ca)

**Next Issue: March 2009**

Submission Deadline Sunday, Mar 1<sup>st</sup>