

LAKESHORE LINES

October, 2009

Free – and worth every cent!

Living in Thanksgiving

By Rev. G. Scott Turnbrook

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

*Worship the Lord with gladness”
(Psalm 100)*

As most people know, I put significant thought into my newsletter submissions. As I consider my article for each newsletter, I try to balance a variety of facts: the season of the church year, the challenges before our church community and some of our recent celebrations. As I considered the theme for this fall newsletter, I decided to focus upon *Thanksgiving*.

Thanksgiving is a common term used throughout the Biblical cannon. Indeed, it is used over 170 times! On the surface, this might seem to be a surprising way of being for such an oppressed people. As we read throughout scripture, we meet a people who were living in and out of slavery in Egypt, Babylon, then later under Roman oppression. How could they have been so *thankful* amidst such challenges to their daily existence? I believe that they were *thankful* because they knew that they were God’s children. No matter what challenge they faced; no matter what obstacle was placed in their way, they knew (or the prophets reminded them) that God would somehow provide.

They went about their daily lives with a faith that told them (as it does our United Church Creed) that ‘they are not alone’. And so, they were people of *thanksgiving* throughout the good times and the bad.

As I returned from a well-enjoyed sabbatical leave from the church, I rejoined the church with a tremendous sense of *thanksgiving*. I am thankful to so many who made my sabbatical so rich and fulfilling: to the many people at the church who took on my various roles and responsibilities, I give *thanksgiving*; to the many places of faith and individuals who gave me their time and allowed me to enter into their communities, I give *thanksgiving*; and finally, to the congregation of Deer Lake, who so graciously understood and supported this sabbatical, I give thanks. Indeed, there is much that I give *thanks* for!

Of course, *thanksgiving* is a relatively easy perspective to hold when things are going well. It is not so easy to live in *thanksgiving* when we face the more difficult challenges. I often find my perspective challenged when a sad event occurs at the church. While I might be tempted to move towards feelings of sadness, I

Continued on page 2



Discerning Her Call

Following a motion at the September Board Meeting of Deer Lake United Church, we are delighted to announce the commencement of a discernment process for Dona Lethbridge. Dona has been a member of the United Church of Canada for over 50 years. Her career as a professor in nursing took her from her home in Burnaby to teach in the United States. Her passion for ministry was slowly kindled through her service in overseas medical missionary projects.

Continued on page 6

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

Does Deer Lake _____?	2	Epiphany Explorations	5
Greetings from Pamela.....	2	Is the U.C. Anti-Semitic?.....	5
Weekend at Cultus Lake.....	3	Parenting Ideas	5
Take Home Sunday School.....	3	Library News	6
Sissy Visits Guatamala.....	4	Many Blessings.....	7
The LOVE Project	5	Christmas in July	8

Thanksgiving (Cont.)

need to constantly remind myself to be a person of *thanksgiving*. For example, when a church family moves away, we are saddened by the loss and grieve that reality; however, as God's children, we also are called to take an opportunity to be people of *thanksgiving*. We are called, amidst our grief, to give thanks for the life and faith that was shared, for the memories, and for the ways that we have grown.

As I look ahead, I suspect that this fall will be a challenging season for many as we find ourselves without a consistent choir director. Indeed we have been tremendously blessed with the exceptional leadership of our four choir directors over the better part of two decades. The challenge for us; however, is to remain as people of *thanksgiving*. To give *thanks* for the ministries that have been exercised, to give *thanks* for the ways that we have all grown, to give *thanks* for the true gifts that have been exchanged. There is a final gift which we must not forget in all this – we must also offer *thanksgiving* as children of God that 'We are not alone'. As we experience the ebbs and flows of life, we must not forget to give *thanksgiving* to a God who will continue to provide.

As we move into this fall season, I give *thanks* for the depth and richness of gifts that make Deer Lake such a blessed church. I give *thanks* for the faithful service of people over the years and I give *thanks* that as we journey into the future, 'We are not alone'.

And to that good news, I encourage you to shout with me in the spirit of *Thanksgiving* "THANKS BE TO GOD!"

Rev. Scott

This edition of *Lakeshore Lines* was generously printed courtesy of Mike Kyer, owner of

METRO PRINTERS

604-685-2927

<http://www.metroprinters.net>

Does Deer Lake _____ ?

I was recently approached by a newer member of our church who had a specific request for spiritual help. As I shared my, and the church's, openness to help, she replied "Wow! I didn't know that the church would do that."

As I reflected on her reply, it prompted this brief submission to the newsletter to remind members and friends of Deer Lake of our openness to serve you spiritually. These days, spiritual needs may take many different forms and I am delighted to be part of a church who seeks to meet people where they find themselves "exploring and expressing" their spirituality. I have experienced Deer Lake as an incredible resource of deeply gifted spiritual people. At times, I have connected people who are going through similar situations, helped a family following the loss of a pet, pre-planned funerals. Another way that I seek to be a resource to people is by maintaining a good network of professionals who can help needs that are beyond my expertise. The formation of new church programs often comes about as a result of one or two people wanting to explore a particular area.

In these interesting times to be the church, I am glad to be the minister of a church who seeks to serve people meaningfully in new and innovative ways. So...if you are wondering "Does Deer Lake _____ ?" Why not run your question by me and see how your church can help.

Rev. Scott

Listen to a selection of Sunday Anthems at
<http://www.dluc.ca/main/?Music>

See this newsletter and past editions at
<http://www.dluc.ca/main/?newsletters>

Greetings to the Church at Deer Lake

It has been a good year. I completed three more classes over the terms and am one small bit closer to finishing my degree. Was at Nick's ordination service and was happy to see so many Deer Lake folks there. Was good to reconnect and to give all our well wishes to Nick as he prepared for ministry on the prairies.

I had a great summer. My holidays took me to Montreal to be a tourist, Ottawa to visit a friend, Combermere to witness a good friend's final promise ceremony as she completed her eight year formation and committed to the Madonna House Community, and to Barrie to visit my Aunt. All that happened early in June which left me in Vancouver for the summer. As such I was able to do pulpit supply for two weeks at Deer Lake in July and for three weeks at Como Lake in August. This is the first year I have taken so many summer services, and certainly grew from the experience. Thank you for inviting me to be part of your summer worship experience. I also enjoyed the fantastic summer weather we had taking in local wonders and activities – Stanley Park, Theatre Under the Stars and Bard on the Beach, not to mention more than a few BBQ's.

This fall I am taking a short trip to Alberta to visit with family, participating in my first ever triathlon in Lacombe September 7, returning to the coast to be at VST orientation September 10. I have registered for two classes this fall, a language class and denominational studies, and in the spring term a Hebrew Bible class which will include my major exegesis paper.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. Every good blessing as you prepare for all the activities September brings with her.

Pamela Scott



Weekend at Cultus Lake

By Dona Lethbridge

The annual DLUC camping trip to United Church Cultus Lake campground was a sparkling success. Forty-two (20 adults, 22 children) arrived at the lake Friday evening, September 25th and stayed until mid-day Sunday.

The first evening everyone settled into their assigned cabin. The cabins each have 10 little beds, and generally families grouped together. Several of the “unattached” people stayed in one cabin, which was a fun alternative. The highlight of Friday night, though, was the campfire with roasted marshmallows and s’mores. The children loved having their own stick; the s’mores chocolate was all used up the first evening.

On Saturday and Sunday, it is difficult to say what the highlight was—the food was fantastic. Brought and prepared by campers, the meals were bounteous and sumptuous. Dessert was superb. Sunday brunch was leftovers, including the previous night’s dessert—probably a perfect breakfast.

On Saturday, as well, a lot of the campers went out in kayaks—“down the lake, way past the middle,” report the children. Five of us sat in the sun around a picnic table and read—definitely an alternative. Crafts were ongoing; a number of unclaimed painted rocks came back to decorate someone’s garden. During the second campfire, more marshmallows, and then we sang—at least 42 verses of “My eyes are dim,” a verse for every person present. That was a good 45 minutes.

Having Rev. Scott with us, as always, was a bonus. He opened meals with wonderful blessings, one based on the Superman song, with actions, another our Addams Family sung prayer. The Sunday service at the shore of the lake in the autumn sun was moving and energizing. The children of DLUC were reminded of children of the world as they offered different signs of peace: the Hebrew Shalom, the Muslim Salaam, and the Peace of Christ to all the campers. The service reminded us, and especially the children, that the Spirit was with us at this beautiful place as it is always.

Those of us who were there certainly want to have it happen again next year. Perhaps there will be more readers and a contributed load of books to read in the sun.



These Cultus Lake campers are so happy, they're literally glowing!



Take Home Sunday School

The church does not have ownership of people’s Sunday mornings anymore. This reality has become a challenge to people who try to fit the church in among their many other priorities. As a parent of a child who now plays on a soccer team, the challenge for our family became finding a way to catch up on the Sunday School classes that are missed when games fall on a Sunday morning. In bringing this challenge to the Christian Education Committee, they have come up with an innovative solution: “Take Home Sunday School”. For families who wish to teach the materials to their children on Sundays they cannot attend, there is now complete access to all the different Sunday School curriculums. What a wonderful blessing to share your faith with your child. Or, to learn together. If you would like further information, please speak with Rev. Scott who will happily connect you with the materials you seek.

Go Green!

Are you are on PAR?

If you are new at church and have offering envelopes you may not know that DLUC offers pre-authorized remittance (PAR). This is a convenient way to support your church on a regular basis. Payment comes out of your bank account once a month. You can start at any time, and you can increase, decrease or cancel your contribution at any time. You get one receipt at the end of the year just as you do with the offering envelopes. We offer “PAR CARDS” to put in the collection plate if you wish.

If you have any questions or would like a form to start on PAR, see Mary C.

An Eye-opening Trip to Guatemala

By Missy T

This Summer I had the chance to visit Guatemala with Doris Kizinna from the conference office & others from St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church. The group of 14, ranging from age 22-78, travelled throughout Guatemala over a 10 day period at the end of July. We travelled with G.A.T.E., Global Awareness Through Experience, a company led by Stephanie Lindsey, a Sister of Charity from the United States. Since the early 1990's she has lead groups throughout Latin America showing tourists the real experience of a developing country.

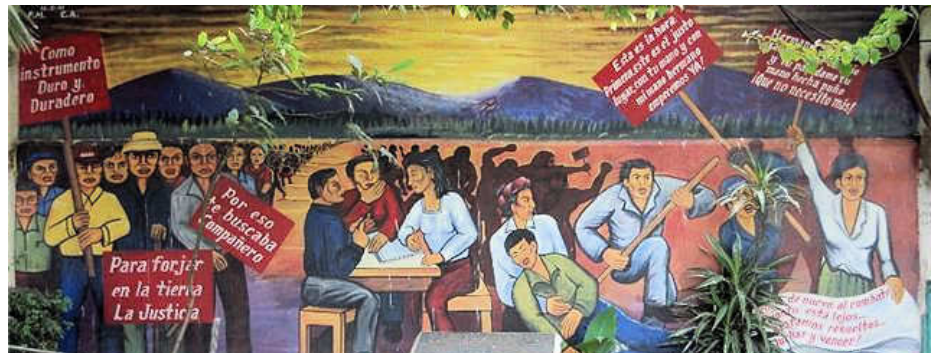
We began the trip by landing in Guatemala City at 8pm after a full day of flying. At first I felt very on edge as we had been prepped that Guatemala City was extremely dangerous to the point we weren't allowed to go outside our hotel after 6 pm, and going outside during the day we had to be in groups of 3 or more. Having that shelter shock definitely stayed with me for the first couple of days we were in Guatemala City.

While there we dived right into our program. We first met with Emalia Gomez, founder of the Mothers of the Disappeared. During Guatemala's 36 year civil war (1960-1996), Mayans and people who opposed whatever government was currently in control had a high risk of



Traditional Mayan ceremony

being kidnapped. Although the exact number is unknown, the guess is that 200,000 – 250,000 people disappeared or were killed, largely those of Mayan descent. Hearing Emalia's story of her 26 year old son who disappeared leaving behind a wife and young baby was extremely emotional. We really began to



Mural depicting the CocaCola union struggle during the war

see what happened during the war that most people outside of Guatemala are unaware of. That knowledge really started to shape the trip.

Over the next few days we visited the Coca-Cola bottlers union, the first company to have a union within Guatemala. Safe passage is a project that does before school, after school and all day daycare for families that work in the Guatemala City dump. Before Safe passage the whole family, including the children, would work sorting garbage, hoping to find items they could sell. We also visited the Canadian Embassy and talked to a representative about Canada in Guatemala.

From Guatemala City we visited three more areas. We went to Chichicastango first. On the way we stopped by an orphanage where the children make everything they need including clothes, desks, shoes, doors, sinks, etc. We also stopped by Zacualpa where the church was used by the military during the war, with many of the rooms becoming torture chambers. It was one of the harder days as areas still showed signs of what happened during the war.

St. Andrew's-Wesley has a connection with a chicken farm that we visited. They hope to soon have enough chickens to sustain a rehab centre. At the moment there are 6,000 chickens.

One of my favorite visits was to the Chichicastango market. It's one of the biggest in the world, and the perimeter is the tourist market, but on the inside is the food market for the people of Chichicastango.

From there we travelled to San Lucas Toliman and learned of the martyrdom of many priests and nuns in the area for helping the Mayan people during the War. We also had a chance to go to a weaver's house and had a demonstration of double-sided weaving that is a tradition in Guatemala.

Our last stop was Antigua, the most touristy city in Guatemala. Here we visited a project where people needing wheel chairs can go and make their own chairs to custom fit them. We also visited a re-forestation project that grows seedlings of different trees & then gives them to villages that are in need of firewood, shade trees for crops etc. We also saw an organic macadamia farm that does the same in hopes of helping the villages.

At the end of the 10 day trip we were positive that we were there much, much longer. It was an amazing experience and I suggest a G.A.T.E. trip to anyone wanting to travel to Latin America. It is an experience that is hard to sum up in a quick article & is one that will stay with me forever.



At the wheelchair project

The LOVE Project

A little word with a big meaning.

How often do we say this little word? How often do we hear it in the church? How many times does the word occur in the Bible? What does it mean in the places where it is used in the Bible? What does it mean to you and to others in your life?

So here is your chance to focus on **LOVE** for a bit. Spend some time thinking about love and what it means for you in your life. Check out some Biblical references or your favourite hymns. Then let your creative energy be directed by the spirit and create a piece of art about LOVE. You are free to create a 2 or 3 dimensional piece of art about **LOVE**. It can be any size and color. We have frames for hanging art on the walls, too. Here are just a few of the possibilities-

-quilt	-banner	-painting	-words	-photos
-wood	-clay	-music	-cards	-sculpture
-poetry	-stories	-metal		

You may work alone or with a group. The due date is any time between now until right after Easter. This art will be used to decorate the church during the long period of Pentecost and the ordinary time that follows Easter and ends with Advent. It will not be hung from Advent through Easter as we already have lots of art for that time. Everyone has creative abilities given as a gift from God. What are your gifts? Carol P will be available to give assistance as needed.

Please let Carol P know as soon as possible if you are going to be participating in this activity and what you may be planning to do. We have some money to assist with supplies but this needs to be pre-approved before spending.

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 the last page of this newsletter) asking to have your email address added to the distribution list.

Epiphany Explorations

By Pat Y

Want a worthwhile weekend away this winter? Consider going to Epiphany Explorations at First Metropolitan United Church in downtown Victoria this January. I have been for several years and thoroughly enjoy the experience.

Worshiping, singing and learning from some of the best instructors in North America, with a like minded United Church Community ...it doesn't come any better than that. There are dozens of workshops on every topic to choose from. And if you register early you can possibly get a B&B Billet in the beautiful city of Victoria. Check out the web at <http://firstmetvictoria.com/?EpiphanyExplorations>, or speak to me.

Is the United Church Anti-Semitic?

A number of Deer Lake folk have inquired about the August media coverage of the national meeting of the United Church's General Council. Headlines asking the question "Is the United Church anti-semitic?" raised many people's eyebrows. This question originated from a proposal submitted to the 40th meeting of General Council asking for a boycott of Israeli academic and cultural institutions. One of the first orders of business that General Council performed was to repudiate the "provocative, unbalanced and hurtful" language that accompanied the proposals it received calling for action on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Bruce Gregerson, a staff person from our Head Office in Toronto, notes that "The UCC is a leader in this country and around the world supporting interfaith dialogue and conversation. We believe strongly in fostering relationships and opening doors to talking about difficult issues, particularly among faith communities. One of the issues in which the United Church has long engaged is bringing peace to the Middle East. We condemn extremism in all forms, and have always sought to steer a middle path on this difficult issue".



Parenting Ideas

By Gloria F

The Christian Education Committee has obtained two kits of reproducible sheets with tips about common issues and problems parents often encounter. Published by the Australian Council for Educational Research, these easy-to-read and practical suggestions may provide new ideas or new ways of looking at issues, and are "thoroughly road-tested by experts - other parents". Some sample topics:

Parenting Ideas I (up to age 10):

- Working and Parenting
- Beating the Bedtime Blues
- Bullying
- Morning Madness
- Helping Children Deal with Fears
- Taming the Tantrums
- Help! My Child is Becoming an Adolescent!

Parenting Ideas II (ages 10-15):

- Assertiveness
- Raising Boys
- Girls and Healthy Eating
- Helping Children to be Organized
- Helping Students to Stay Motivated
- Coping with Peer Pressure
- Ready for Independence

Copies will soon be available in the narthex (entrance area). Feel free to take any sheets that interest you.

Discerning (Cont.)

During the last few years, Dona has begun attending the Vancouver School of Theology and is now ready to begin the discernment process as set out by the United Church of Canada. This process will gather three members from Deer Lake along with two presbytery oversight representatives who will work with Dona to help discern God's call for her in this time of transition.

The United Church's theology believes that all people are called to a specific ministry and it will be the task of this discernment committee to help in clarifying this call with Dona. Blessings to Dona and the members of the discernment committee as they



Library News

By Sue M

We have been blessed to receive numerous donated Library materials; thank you to those people who have contributed. Also, a number of books have been exchanged through a local book store to provide us with some fresh material. Listed below is a sampling of the new material.

The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem and **The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Birth** both by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan (Dewey Decimal Number: 232.92 Bor) – These two books are written by well known Biblical scholars and lecturers; the books provide well researched material on our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our library also has a number of CD's of lectures given by these two gentlemen.

Reference Section:

All the Women of the Bible by Edith Deen - The author includes sketches of literally *all* of the women of the Bible, including the unnamed. She wrote with one purpose "to try to understand and interpret their spiritual experiences, their faith and their relationship with God." I know that some in our church community found it difficult to find material on the lesser known women of the bible in their research for the retreat this year; this book should help fill the gap.

Fiction Section:

The Shack by William P. Young – The author was born in Grande Prairie, Alberta, to Missionary parents. His writing was mostly for friends until his wife urged him to write something for their six children about his perspectives on God and inner healing. The eventual result was this book which made the New York Times best seller list in 2008. I've heard both positive and negative reviews, but all seem to find that it is a thought provoking book that centres around our faith; it has been used in Study Groups.

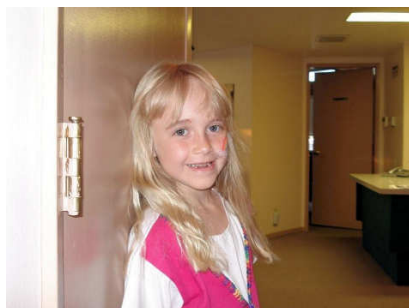
The above books can be found either on display in the library or shelved in the appropriate section. Additional new material can be viewed on our on-line book cataloguing system, LibraryThing, which lists new material first. The catalog can be viewed at <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/DLUC> or through the link on our church website under the heading of "Involvement and Growth". If there are any particular books that people would be interested in, or think would be of value to our congregation, please let me know.

Alaska or Bust!



It wasn't the lure of gold that sent a couple of "old timers" heading north to Alaska in Sept. It was an opportunity to take craft classes! Hard to believe, but 5 friends including one Shirley Mc, went to Alaska to take classes being presented by Carol P on the Serenade of the Seas. What a grand adventure: great food and wine, new places to explore, huge storms to survive, icebergs and glaciers, narrow gauge railways, art everywhere, shopping with everything at half price, staying awake past 9:00, and those great craft classes. We even had our own male escort, sort of. Shirley and Carol would love to share their adventures with anyone who cares to ask.

The good news is that Deer Lake United Church survived just fine for two Sundays without them. Coffee even happened!





Sharon and Carol pose with Nick wearing the stole they made for him as a gift in recognition of his Ordination on May 24th.

God's blessings upon Sadie and Declan O



Sadie and Declan were baptized on August 30th at Deer Lake. As this ceremony occurred during the summer when all the proud grandparents and family members could attend, but many Deer Lake members couldn't, it is our privilege to share this memory with you in the newsletter.

Nick Judson Receives Ordination Gift From Congregation



Sharon displays the other side of Nick's new stole.

Congratulations to Becky and Ken A



Becky and Ken A were married at Deer Lake on September 5 with Rev. Scott officiating.

Christmas in July

Once again, choir members gathered in the heat of July to celebrate Christmas, exchange goofy gifts and sing carols.



Marilyn searches for just the right gift, with help from Ken



Gloria shows off the Christmas present she selected



Kathryn examines her gifts with great interest from others.

Deer Lake ‘Night at the Theatre’

Join Rev. Scott and Jennifer for a night at Pacific Theatre (12th/Hemlock) for “The Last Days of Judas Iscariot” on Friday, October 16th. ‘A Night at the Theatre’ is an opportunity to gather with friends at the theatre and enjoy a spiritual message at the same time. For over a quarter century, the Pacific Theatre (www.pacifictheatre.org) has offered a unique theatre ministry through Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Many may be familiar with this wonderful church, located at 12th and Hemlock. It was formerly the site of Chalmer’s United Church.

The next performance, “*The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*”, is described as being set “Halfway between Heaven and Hell, in a place called Hope where history’s most infamous sinner stands trial. In a court room that’s as much ghetto as gospel, the witnesses are called – Mother Teresa, Pontius Pilate, Sigmund Freud, a foul-mouthed Saint Monica, a high school football coach, and a handful of Jesus’ disciples – to decide eternal questions of forgiveness, mercy, and eternal damnation.”



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: g.forwood@yahoo.ca
 Jim Young: jimyoung@shaw.ca

Next Issue: Dec 2009

Submission Deadline Sunday, Nov 22nd