

LAKESHORE LINES

March, 2010

Free – and worth every cent!

There's a Change a-Coming!

By Garry Forwood

Kristy, Brian and Kathryn have done a commendable job of leading the choir since the autumn, but that is about to change. We have found a new choir director!



New is the operative word. Liana LeBlanc comes to us fresh from Capilano University, where she is working towards her Diploma in Music and her Conducting Certificate. She comes very highly recommended by the Director of Conducting and Choral Studies at Cap U. We are hiring Liana on a temporary basis

until June. During this period, she will work with an advisory team comprising our three acting directors, who will provide feedback and guidance. This is an opportunity for Liana to gain valuable experience, and for us to take advantage of her youthful energy and contemporary directing techniques, while assessing her as a possible candidate for a permanent position in the fall.

Liana will start with the March 11th choir practice and will direct her first Sunday morning anthem on March 21st as Brian, Kathryn and Kristy transition their anthems to her. We owe our three acting directors a huge debt of thanks for keeping the choir going in such fine form while the Search Committee looked for a new director.

The Search Committee intends to continue to look for an experienced church choir director to start in September. Liana will be considered along with other candidates for the permanent choir director position.

On behalf of the members of the Search Committee (Sharon A, Audrey Ls, Brian McN, Pat Y and myself) I would like to welcome Liana to Deer Lake and invite you to do the same.

Olympic Memories

This issue includes commentaries and pictures related to the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. So many Canadians were touched by the Olympics and the torch relay that led up to the games. Deer Lakers were no exception.

Shirley McG's son, Mark, was chosen to carry the Olympic torch as it travelled through Surrey. What did he do to earn this honour? He wrote an essay, which you can read on page 3.



Mark McG (on right) passes the flame.

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

Post-Olympic Gold in Life?	2	40+ Years of Memories	6
Torch-Winning Essay	3	What Happened at Olympics?	8
Outreach	3	Little Fish.....	9
2009 Annual General Meeting	4	Library	10
2010 Committee List.....	5	Rev's Reading Recomm'ns	11
Holy Week Services.....	5	Christmas	12

Post-Olympic Gold in the Game of Life?

By Rev. G. Scott Turnbrook

Where has all the time gone? It seems like just a few months ago that our city's bid to host the 2010 Winter Olympics was successful. All the build-up has occurred; the torch has been carried from coast to coast to coast and the Olympics have now successfully concluded. Now competitions continue with the Paralympic Games and our city's pace will begin to slow down to a normal routine. During this post-Olympic period, many find ourselves reflecting on this experience. We wonder what the legacy of the games will be. We consider what the social and cultural meaning of these games was: what it meant to us as citizens of Canada; as part of the Lower Mainland; as people of faith.

Important questions have been raised by some critics who wonder if we have lost the path of the original Olympians. The Games, born in Olympia, Greece eight centuries prior to Christ's birth were a cultural, religious and political expression. In the spirit of competition, the Games provided an opportunity for the formation of political alliances, the spread Hellenistic culture, and the gathering of the nations for a significant religious festival. Things have certainly changed over time haven't they? Other critics have wondered if revenues spent on the Olympics could have been better utilized in areas of health care, education, social housing and care for the vulnerable in our society. It seemed painfully ironic to begin coordinating a caring initiative for one of our visually impaired members who has experienced significant cutbacks in her benefits on the same day as the opulent closing Olympic ceremonies. Indeed, the Olympics continue to be the source of controversy and speculation.

The most significant part of the Olympics for me, (and remember this is coming from an avid hockey player and passionate hockey fan) were the campaigns coming from the churches. The *More than Gold* initiative was a joint effort between the Roman Catholic Archdiocese and a number of Evangelical church denominations. This effort sought to welcome the Winter Games visitors, highlight Christianity and draw attention to social issues, including homelessness and sex trafficking. Not to be outdone, a number of other Mainline Protestant churches, including the United Church of Canada, ran an Olympics effort called *Share the Gold*. This effort sought to raise awareness to the plight of B.C.'s poor and homeless, particularly those who sleep each night in the sanctuary of First United Church in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. A portion of their brochure offers these hopeful words "Whether we support or oppose the Olympics, the efforts of VANOC have proved that we have the ability and resources to overcome massive obstacles and achieve significant outcomes. We can direct the same energy toward addressing the Olympian challenges of homelessness"

These Winter Games were a golden victory for Canada as our successful athletes brought home more gold than any other country ever has before. Our Canadian car flags now fly with glory and our bodies proudly sport anything that features the maple leaf. We were golden in our showing at the games; however, I wonder how we would fare in the church's gold campaigns? The volunteerism received for the Games was unprece-

dent. We did a wonderful job at welcoming our international visitors. I wonder how we will do in this post-Olympic time at welcoming those in need? The Patriotic spirit in our country grew well beyond the medal count during the Games. People were united in their pride and love for their country. I wonder how well we will do in this post-Olympic time in offering the spirit of God's love? It is odd, isn't it? In our supposedly busy world, thousands upon thousands of people gave their time and talents and treasure to make the games a tremendous success. They made sacrifices and took transit; they gave time volunteering; they acted as good corporate citizens and gracious hosts. Does it make you wonder why our society at large can't seem to muster the same passion when it comes to other things that really matter?

Maybe I am being a cynic. Perhaps the Olympic fever might continue to spread. With some clever marketing, we could fan the Olympic flames and keep the excitement. We could run ceremonies awarding gold medals to those who put forth a truly world class effort in caring for others. Gold medals could be awarded for living with a truly Olympic spirit of hospitality. But how would these events be judged? In church language, we would likely award the gold in line with their personal stewardship. The medals would be judged in accordance with the use of their time, talents and treasure in living out their faith. For most of us, I am 'preaching to the choir'. As people of faith, we know a foundational call of the Christian is being a faithful steward in using a portion of their gifts of time, talent and treasure through the living out of their faith. In my 6th year as pastor of Deer Lake United Church, I have the privilege of ministering with and to some gold medal stewardship contenders. It has been a blessing and inspiration to get to know the people at Deer Lake and learn how they express their faith through their personal stewardship, both inside the church as well as into the world. If you would like to get involved in new or different ways at the church, please speak to me!

As I think about the Games, if anything has inspired me this year, it has been goodness of the people of our city. I wonder how we, as a church, might help people to continue to live with this Olympic spirit. As Christians, we know the deep joy and fulfillment achieved in finding our call and expressing it in the service of others. I wonder if this is a gift that the church needs to be better at helping those on the margins of the church to experience. There is an ancient Buddhist saying that explains the nature of happiness. It posits that personal happiness is achieved when we focus, not on ourselves, but rather on the happiness of others. The saying goes: "not what about me, but what about you; not may I be happy, but may you be happy. And when you are happy, I am happy".

May the spirit of this 'Olympic experience of a lifetime' continue to be lived out in the sharing of our Time, Talents and Treasure. Let's go for the gold in the games of life!

Shalom, Salaam, Peace,

Rev. Scott

Mark McG's Torch-Winning Essay

"Everyone's Contribution Will Add Up To A Tidal Wave Of Help"

I contribute to protecting the environment by being one of the millions of people who protect it every day, by simply doing the little things that eventually add up to a tidal wave. Things such as recycling, driving a small car, turning off lights when not needed, riding a bike, etc. Also, things such as when you see someone throwing out a pop can rather than recycling it, point it out. I also replaced virtually every light in my house with compact fluorescents when they first came out thereby reducing greenhouse gas production. As well, I very seldom find I ever have to resort to chemicals to beautify the landscape. If more people did these small things then they would multiply and become the tidal wave we all need to help the environment. While people who write documentaries or give speeches to thousands of people are important to raise awareness, it then falls on the shoulders of the millions of the rest of us to do our part or the speeches are worthless. The efforts of the little people like me and you are just as important as we are the ground troops that protect the front lines of the environment, and I encourage everyone to join in and be proud of their contribution.

Sincerely *Mark*



Mark McG with torch and family

Notes from the Outreach Committee

By *Linda W*

Deer Lake United Church continues to reach out to both the local and the global community:

- This past Christmas, through the Burnaby Christmas Bureau, Deer Lake sponsored three Christmas families: two families with children and one senior couple. The generous donations from the congregation allowed us to provide them with gifts, groceries and other needed items. Many thanks to Eileen M, who coordinated everything, as well as to those who hosted the Christmas families: Michelle C, Charlene C, and Sue and Peter M.
- Also during the Christmas season, Deer Lake members clothed the Naked Tree in the narthex with three large bagsful of socks, underwear, gloves and scarves, which were delivered to the Progressive Housing Society for distribution to the homeless of Burnaby. We are very grateful to Lois M and Ruth S for doing such a great job of managing the Naked Tree this year.
- The "Gogos," is an organization that supports African grandparents who care for their grandchildren orphaned by AIDS. Janine Reid, a Gogos representative, spoke at Deer Lake recently about the important work being done by the "Grandmothers to Grandmothers" Campaign. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Janine at 604-759-3134 or janinereid@shaw.ca. You may also want to visit the website at www.stephenlewisfoundation.org.
- We continue to receive and distribute clothing donations for Dixon House and the homeless people of Burnaby. However, we have for the time being discontinued clothing donations to First United, since nobody is available to deliver them. (If you are interested in helping with this, please speak to a member of the Outreach Committee.) Meanwhile, donations of men's clothing will be passed on to the Progressive Housing Society for distribution to the homeless people of Burnaby.
- Once each month, Deer Lake provides 70 bag lunches to homeless people in Burnaby. Helpers are always needed to prepare these lunches. Upcoming lunch-making sessions will be at 1:00 pm on Wednesday March 24 and on Wednesday April 21. Thanks go to Steve Mc, who delivers the lunches each month.
- The Outreach Committee is in need of new members to help continue its important work. If you are interested in joining, please contact one of the members: Paul A, Elsie H, Eileen M, Marilyn R, Phyllis S or Linda W.



The once naked tree

2009 Annual General Meeting

By Garry F

It was another smooth and productive AGM on Sunday February 21st. The format followed that used for the past several years, wherein the AGM is integrated with Sunday worship in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Scott of course led worship and Board Chair Janice Ci presided over the business portions of the meeting.

Three themes were woven throughout the proceedings, with Janice and Scott sharing leadership of table discussion exercises on each theme:

1. Stewardship – How effective are we at using our time, talents and treasures?
2. Reviewing our Three Critical Challenges for 2009 – How did we do with our three challenges for 2009 (Stewardship, Outreach and Christian Education)?
3. Journeying into the Future – What do we see as being our three critical challenges for 2010?

Input was recorded from each table after each of the exercises. The results were

distributed after the February 28th Sunday service and in the March 7th bulletin. The Board will consider the results to identify Deer Lake's three critical challenges for 2010.

The Board meeting portion of the AGM went very smoothly with very little discussion for the most part. The 2009 financial statements and proposed 2010 budget presented by Cathy M did elicit some discussion, though. The projected deficit for 2009 had been \$5,403. In October we were on shaky ground with a deficit of about \$6,000 and a dismal year end in sight. It was only after a plea from the pulpit in November that offerings took a significant leap upwards; we are fortunate to have finished 2009 with a deficit of only \$212. The proposed budget for 2010 was accepted, showing a forecast deficit of \$2,443.

The Board is hopeful that Deer Lake members will be able to increase their offerings slightly to overcome the forecast deficit. Even if you cannot increase your offerings, it would help if you would sign up for PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance). It's really very simple. You

specify how much you want to donate monthly. That amount is deducted every month throughout the year, thus providing a predictable cash flow for Deer Lake. It also makes the offering more convenient for you and for the counters. You may increase, decrease or cancel your PAR donation at any time. You get one tax receipt at the end of the year just as you do with the offering envelopes.

If we could increase the number of families on PAR from the current 25% to 50% of the congregation, it would be a tremendous help. Please speak to Mary C for an application or for more information.

As usual, lunch was served after the AGM. This year, however, as a departure from the pizza of previous years, a buffet of finger foods and desserts was provided by members of the Board Executive. Donations were gratefully accepted for the Deer Lake Outreach ministry.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this important annual event. The Board hopes you found it meaningful, informative and engaging.



Elizabeth W with Steve Nash and the torch

DEER LAKE UNITED CHURCH COMMITTEE LIST – MARCH, 2010

BOARD EXECUTIVE

Janice C – Chair
 Jean McL – Past Chair
 Scott Turnbrook – Minister
 Shirley A. S – Board Secretary
 Cathy M – Treasurer (Finance)
 Mary C – Envelope Secretary
 Committee Chairpersons

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sharon An
 Gloria F
 Sharon H
 Lois M
 Kellee Mn
 Kathy R
 Phyllis S
 Claire S
 Missy T
 Scott T
 Peggy W

COMMUNICATIONS

Garry F - Chair
 Jim Y

FINANCE

Cathy M – Chair
 Mary Ct
 Tony W

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Board-appointed)

Sharon A – Chair
 Pat M
 Greg N
 Tony W

OUTREACH

Linda W – Chair
 Paul A
 Elsie H
 Eileen M
 Marilyn R
 Phyllis S

PASTORAL CARE

Shirley McG – Chair
 Donna L
 Marg M
 Kellee M
 Trish S – Sunshine Committee
 Scott T
 Pat Y – Welcoming Committee

STEWARDS

Steve Mc – Chair
 Joanne A
 Arnie B
 Janice C
 Laurie S

TRUSTEES (Board-appointed)

Laurie S – Chair
 Janice C
 Bob C
 Steve Mc

WORSHIP

Mary C
 Colleen K
 Mike A
 Shirley McG
 Beth R
 Scott T
 Carol P – Liturgical Arts

LIBRARY, PHOTOGRAPHS & RECORDS

Susan M

NARAMATA REP.

Jean McL/Don W

OBSERVER REPRESENTATIVE

Barb K

PRESBYTERY REP.

Donna L

WEDDING COORDINATORS

Carol P
 Dale A

FUNERAL COORDINATORS

Carol P
 Kathy R
 Mary C
 Wendy H (substitute)

CARE RINGERS

(Not part of the Board, but coordinated by Pastoral Care)

Arnie & Edna B
 Myrtle C
 Colleen K
 Donna L
 Marg M
 Kellee M
 Shirley McG
 Marie P
 Marj R
 Trish S
 Lorie S
 Shirley L. S
 Claire S
 Marie T
 Pat Y

Holy Week Services @ Deer Lake

Thursday April 1st *Maundy Thursday 6 – 7 p.m.* An interactive pot luck meal reenacting the disciples' Last Supper with Jesus. If possible, please bring some 'finger food' items to share that are reminiscent of early first century times (figs, dates, bread, cheese, etc) In the tradition of Jesus sharing the cup, wine is welcomed at this service.

Friday April 2nd *Good Friday* As we hosted the Good Friday service in 2009, it is our turn to gather at St. Albans Anglican Church (7717 19th Avenue in Burnaby)

10:00 a.m. "Walk of the Cross" leaving St. Albans (30 minutes long)
 A reception will be running in the hall during the walk

11:00 a.m. Good Friday Service reflecting on the crucifixion of Jesus.

Sunday April 4th *Easter Sunday* at Deer Lake commencing at 10:30 a.m.
 This peak celebration of the Christian year will welcome our Children's choir singing "Music Machine".

40 + YEARS OF MEMORIES AT DLUC

By Bill H

As one reminisces in old age one finds memory fades and sometimes one remembers names and events and other times one's memory draws a blank forgetting names and events and sometimes remembering one but not the other. Forgive me for that shortfall and thanks to all those friends who jogged my memory about people and events.

During my time here at Deer Lake I have seen many changes in ministry including an ongoing commitment to serving a role in the training of student ministers. The following is a list of those in order in which they served us: Bruce Cameron, Bill Shank, David Martyn, Neil Parker, Janet Cawley, Brian Nicholson, Chris Burnett, Abiel Khalima, Audrey Lans, Scott Turnbrook.

Each brought with them their own gifts and frailties and helped enrich each of us in our personal and group journey of Christian faith and understanding. Lay ministry has also been important at Deer Lake.

It was autumn, 1968, Mary, the children and I had just returned from a year's posting in England. We rented a house on Burns Street. Our infant son, Robert, was baptized at our former congregation, Cliff Avenue United Church, but we decided to join a local congregation. We found Saint Matthews very close by and began attending services there. The local presbytery had decided that three United Churches in the same community were too much to financially support. It was a reasonable decision but was handled poorly. It became a "shotgun wedding" situation. People were frustrated, annoyed and disenchanted. Some families left the United Church.

Mary and I felt like outsiders but the welcome that we received from Elders like Bill L and the chair of the board, John F, and the Kennedys convinced us to stay on and to try our best to soothe the hurt and to try to build for the future. Mary continued to show compassion to those hurting and to attend services regularly, I was asked to oversee the running of the church Sunday school and traveled from building to building every Sunday. Our children attended Sunday school regularly. Time moved ahead and the imposed deadline for action crept up. It was decided on an interim basis to use Deer Lake Church building since it was most central and to use the name Central Burnaby United. The other buildings, Douglas Road and Saint Matthews, were to be sold. Many favoured selling all the buildings and buying property and building a new facility on Canada Way, it would cost too much they were told.

It was decided to renovate the existing structure adding washrooms to the north and the dais to the south, moving the office to the main floor, adding a library and a new entrance off the parking lot and to double the size of the kitchen by including the space formerly taken by the now redundant washrooms. During the building programme worship services were held in the Christian Ed Building, the back hall.

At long last the renovations were completed and Central Burnaby United moved into its new sanctuary. It was time for a new

start.

I was chosen to be the leader of the Sunday school. I decided to use a technique, Open education technique, which I had learned about during my teaching year in England. Learning stations were arranged and the children chose from a list of projects to be completed during the term. I vividly remember the first session, the children were so excited that they ran from station to station and shouted excitedly about what they saw. The next Sunday and from then on they settled down to their tasks studying St. Paul and his missionary journeys. One of the tasks given was to emulate Paul and go out and bring friends to Christ, the Sunday school doubled in numbers. Our staff consisted of Mary P (office and supplies manager), myself and two young ladies as teachers. Children who completed the required number of assignments were recognized in a Sunday service and each received a bible from the church.

A few years later Arnie and Edna B and Mary and I decided that since the number of teenagers, including our own, was growing a programme for teens was needed, hence, the Friday Friars. The group continued for a few years. Lynn F led the youth for four years with weekends at Whistler. At a later time Tony and Peggy W gathered the youth and led a successful programme for teens, even inviting them for weekends at their cabin on the Sunshine Coast.

During this time the UCW, being the main service organization for the congregation, was very active at Central Burnaby. They, much like Shirley McG does today, organized and served after-church coffee, occasional Sunday lunches, all the church suppers and socials. Oh, how fondly I remember my favourite, the Strawberry Tea. Unfortunately, as most of the ladies aged and the younger ones were unable to carry on, the UCW came to a standstill. Some of the social activities went into limbo but the Church Mice continue to gather and distribute tins of Christmas goodies to some of the older members.

The people of Deer Lake appear to have taken Christ's words ("Whatever you do to the least of these you do to Me,") very seriously and have been deeply involved in outreach. Shortly after the renovation was complete, Wenda Ericson came to the board asking to use the church basement to start a programme to enable battered women and their children to put their lives back together. The Lifeline Society, forerunner of the Dixon Society, had its beginning and thanks to dedicated people like Dave and Fay Roberts it is an extremely successful and powerful force in the community.

The outreach committee alternated its resources between local and international projects. We supported the street children of Costa Rica helping establish foster families and homes in the countryside and shipped sewing machines to the "Moms" so they could clothe their children. One of the houses in the Pueblo Village is called Casa Burnaby partly in honour of our efforts. We encouraged and support a programme for the Edmonds Youth in our own neighbourhood. We raised funds to

educate an orphaned young man in Zambia, Chali C. He is now gainfully employed and is studying on-line for his Bachelor of Business Admin Degree.

When we changed to our new hymn books we had many good used and some new condition books, and along with St. Albans, we packed and shipped them to an aboriginal parish (the one in the book "I Heard The Owl Call My Name") so they could have music during worship. Currently we are reaching out to Burnaby's homeless by providing gloves, scarves, toques from our "Naked Tree" as well as good used clothing. Once a month, lunches are prepared in our kitchen and delivered to a centre for distribution to the hungry. Deer Lake continues to do its calling.

Church suppers have always been special at Deer Lake. Food is very plentiful, delicious and varied ranging from pancakes and sausage to complete festive turkey with all the trimmings. We even had great candle light suppers organized by the Annesley and Drew families. Sometimes special entertainment was an added bonus. Lunch on the Run is a feature too, homemade soups and appetizers and desserts round out the scrumptious offering. Our women have a great gift of making delicious desserts; cakes, cookies and their pies are exceptional.

The Men's Annual Advent-Christmas Breakfast, started in my house and now held in the church hall, is a time for food, fellowship and carol singing. The women, too, have a gathering for carol singing and although not as long running, it surpasses the men's in numbers attending. In the past few years the men have taken up the slack by sponsoring and organizing the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, the Welcome Back BBQ in the autumn and Turkey Supper in October. They are capably assisted by some of the women who supply the desserts.

In the 1970s, Wally G called together the men of the church at a local restaurant early Tuesday mornings. The group continues to meet early Tuesday mornings at 6:45 in the church library. All men are welcome to join us for cereal, toast and coffee. Discussion, study and worship became part of the time together.

Around this time Frank C invited the men for a Weekend Away at his cabin at Half Moon Bay. That was the first of a continuing series of Weekend Retreats. At first the time away was just that -- a time together for relaxation and socializing. Rev Bill Shank suggested that perhaps the weekend should become a time for deepening faith experiences, a change was made in the format and that continues with some modifications to this day. Men's retreats have been held in various locations and have been hosted by Frank C, Terry C, Doug R, Bruce D, Jo D and Tony W. It was agreed early on that the time was for the men to express and explore their faith and during that time the minister was just to be one of the guys. The weekend ends with communion if there is an ordained man present and an Agape celebration otherwise. Numbers of men attending averages around 20. Jimmy McC loved to give reports of the weekend activity and always ended with "And the food was good."

The women too have had weekend retreats at Myrtle C's and Lynn F's. Unfortunately they have not continued every year.

To keep our church clean and in good repair over the years work parties were organized by Sid K, Doris J, Larry J, Tom C, Kathryn S, Arnie B, Steve Mc and Joanne A. Some of the chores done include clearing the parking lot, painting the lines and hosing down the sidewalks, washing windows, making small repairs around the building, replacing lights and occasionally painting parts of the building. The Christian Ed building has had the worn and splintering floor replaced by a wonderful laminate one. New window coverings were made and hung in the hall. Old worn carpet in the lower hall was replaced with new. The library was reorganized in a professional way. And the garden got a going over. Serious work parties are accompanied by good fun, hard work, and a good time and the women always serve goodies. Come join us.

The church has its annual picnic each year near the end of June. Originally held in Central Park then in Robert Burnaby Park and now in the grounds of Hart House or around the corner in an extension of Deer Lake Park or if the weather is inclement in the church hall, another fun time for all.

And then there were the car rallies with the coveted Clean Sweep trophy.

Campouts have been a fixture at Deer Lake for many years. I recall an early experience organized by Steve Mc at Birch Bay. We were really camping out in tents and camper trailers, a great time and experience. Another time I remember we were camping on Indian Land at White Rock. Later Cultus Lake United Church Camp and its amenities, cabins, recreation hall and kitchen became available and it has now become the place for our annual family campout each September. Pat Y is the key to its success.

Music has been a rich part of Deer Lake. At first people who had some music background volunteered to lead. Peggy A and Kathy R were a moving force for many years. In the early 90s, Don W, Jean MacL, Grant and Terri L brought a professional polish to the choir and extended the music to include The Kidz Band.

A few years ago it was voted to return to the more specific name of Deer Lake United in keeping with the local geography so that new comers could easily find the location of our building.

A new group of volunteers come together on Thursday morning in the library to fold Sunday Service bulletins and sort and collate church information bulletins. Discussion, reflection and just chatter end with homemade treats and coffee, anyone can join the group.

Over my time at Deer Lake Church I have found people are very helpful and generally friendly. Communication is good and support genuine. The fellowship reminds me of a large happy family working together to achieve goals. Members share their joys and pains with others in true Christian fashion. We are blessed to be part of such a group worshiping, singing, praying and living together.

What Happened at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics?

By Garry F

Well, the event of a lifetime is over. I am referring of course to the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. The excitement started building as the Olympic torch neared Vancouver, and exploded into a never-before-seen display of Canadian patriotism and pride as the 17 day event unfolded. The oceans of red-and-white-clad revellers filling the Olympic venues, Live City sites and streets of downtown Vancouver took everyone by surprise – even the organizers.

Spontaneous outbursts of “O Canada” everywhere, including in buses and Sky Train cars, elicited surprised comments from our neighbours to the south. Their usually modest northern neighbours were suddenly sounding more patriotic than they themselves. Why, those Canadians actually *sang* their national anthem! Who’d have think it?

Yes, something very special happened as the days of the 2010 Olympics progressed and the medals started piling up. Canada seemed to find itself. It was as if the Olympic torch relay had pulled a thread through the hearts of Canadians as it crossed the country. The thread was pulled tight, drawing us closer together as we shared an experience that was exhilarating, heart-wrenching and cathartic. An experience that bared Canada’s soul.

We held our collective breath, then stopped in silence for a minute as we expressed heartfelt anguish at the tragic death of Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili in a training run only hours before the opening ceremony. We celebrated our first medal as Jenn Heil claimed silver in Women’s Moguls. Our celebration exploded into unfettered joy as we watched Alexandre Bilodeau win gold in Men’s Moguls. And we felt a lump in the throat as Alexandre embraced his brother Frederic and declared him to be his hero and inspiration. What a role model for young Canadians!

The images are many: The jubilation of Jon Montgomery upon winning gold in Men’s Skeleton, and his victory march through Whistler Village, pitcher of beer in hand. The beauty, strength and grace of Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir as they skated to an unprecedented gold medal in Ice Dance. Ashleigh McIvor taking gold in Women’s Ski Cross, the sport she fought to get included in the Winter Olympics. An amazing sixth Olympic medal for 37-year-old Clara Hughes as she won bronze in Women’s 5000 Metres Speed Skating. Gold in Women’s Hockey on day 14. Tears on the ice and across the nation as Joannie Rochette fought through her grief with unfathomable courage to win bronze in Women’s Figure Skating after her mother’s death only days earlier. Medal after medal for Canada through days 15 and 16, culminating in a heart-stopping, gut-wrenching, oh-so-sweet overtime goal by Sidney Crosby in Men’s Hockey to win a record-breaking 14th gold medal for the True North Strong and Free!

Every athlete has his or her own story of challenges overcome to reach the podium – or fall just short of it. They are stories



that capture the imagination and that inspire youth to slay their own dragons. Clara Hughes was a troubled youth abusing alcohol and drugs until she saw speed skating in the 1988 Winter Olympics on television. That glimpse inspired her to focus on a goal that changed her life. How can you not be awed and inspired by the courage and determination of Joannie Rochette? But the story that captured my attention and still causes me to shake my head in disbelief is that of Petra Majdic. This Slovenian cross country skier skidded off the track into a gulley during a warm-up. She hit a tree and broke four ribs. Despite her injuries, and against the advice of the paramedics and her coach, she went on to win the bronze medal in Women’s Cross Country Sprint, puncturing a lung in the process. That is courage and single-minded determination!

When Joannie Rochette and Petra Majdic received the Terry Fox award, Betty Fox explained, “The recipients of the Terry Fox award have shown incredible courage and determination while also overcoming adversity,” She went on to say that her son had once said “I want to set an example that will never be forgotten,” and Majdic and Rochette, have done just that.

The Vancouver 2010 Olympics were extraordinary for the lessons in human spirit they provided us. Not only in the athletic excellence we witnessed, but in the selfless service provided by the volunteers in blue, and the camaraderie and good will displayed in the streets. The Olympics were also notable for having achieved something I don’t remember having witnessed anywhere else: Sportscasters, news anchors and men everywhere were admitting to having “got a lump in the throat”, “choked back a tear”, “teared up”, oh, what the heck, “cried” at the sight of the Bilodeau brothers’ display of emotion and Joannie Rochette’s flood of tears after their performances. That’s quite an accomplishment! Somehow, that’s very Canadian. I wonder what inspiration and insights the Paralympics will provide?

Little Fish. . .

By Kathy R

Claire S and I attended a Children in the Church day “Little Fish in a Big PondLiving our Faith Every Day” at the Vancouver School of Theology on January 30th. It was a most energetic, thoughtful and inspiring day organized by the young leaders in children’s work of the United Church, B.C. Conference.

Claire attended a workshop with Bruce Harding, “Singing the Story”, and Kathy attended one entitled “Making a BIG Splash: Children IN Worship not at Worship”. Both sessions were informative, fun and gave us lots of ideas to share.

The keynote speaker was Jane Garland, a Clinical Professor in Psychiatry at UBC with interest and expertise in children’s spirituality. In a riveting presentation we learned of Jane’s work with children and their families. Her empathy for the over-worked, over-stimulated and over-programmed families was balanced with her suggestions for how to support families to slow down and be present together. We have placed her handout *Contemplative Parenting for Imperfect Parents: Discovering Joy with your Family* in the folder by the front door with the other parenting articles. Please help yourself to a very interesting read!



The torch makes its way through Burnaby Village Museum



The McNeillys enjoy a day downtown



Tony W and Doug R show their support for Canada. Go Canada Go!

Library News

By Sue M

As we are now well into Lent and quickly approaching Easter I would first like to note a few pertinent library books that are in addition to the ones noted in recent bulletin notices, namely:

Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross, Experiencing the Passion and Power of Easter edited by Nancy Guthrie (Dewey No.: 232.96 Gut) – “In a culture where crosses have become little more than fashion accessories, it’s easy for even the best-intentioned among us to rush from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday without contemplating all that the cross means.”; this book helps us to understand exactly that. Editor Nancy Guthrie assembled twenty-five short works and sermons on the wonders and victory of the sacrifice of Christ. A few examples of the short chapters are: Saint Augustine - Peace Be unto You, Martin Luther – True Contemplation of the Cross, and Tim Keller - Knowing the Power of His Resurrection.

This book is new to our library. Nancy Guthrie has written several books and

articles primarily on the subject of hope; she has been referred to as a “woman called Job” as she and her husband have experienced the loss of two children.

The Imitation of Christ by Thomas Á Kempis (Dewey No.: 242 A’Kem) - As Scott mentioned in a recent sermon this book is an excellent reference for those looking to experience a closer personal relationship with Christ in the season of Lent. While it was written by a monk (ca. 1418) and intended for use in monasteries, it is highly regarded in both Catholic and Protestant traditions.

The Seven Psalms by Norman Snaith (Dewey No.: 223 Sna) – The Seven Psalms, also known as the Penitential Psalms or the Psalms of Confession, were used in early Christian liturgical tradition and are especially expressive of the sorrow for sin; they include Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143. In this book the author discusses each of these Psalms in detail, including music that they have inspired over the years. The author’s intention was to “explore and manifest the depth of God’s redeeming grace, His concern for every man, and His demand for repentance and faith.”

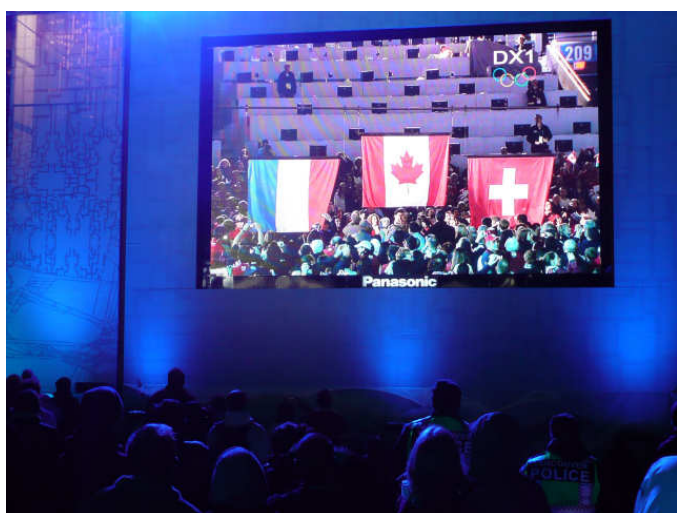
The following are a couple of the recent donations to the library:

Moon Under Her Feet, Women of the Apocalypse by Kim S. Vidal (Dewey No.: 228.064 Vid) - This book is set up as an eleven session Bible study on the four images of women found in Revelation; it can be used in group or individual study. Each session contains songs, prayers, an exploration of Biblical text, an application of the text to the current reality of women, questions for insight and numerous other activities.

The author, Kim S. Vidal is a United Methodist clergywoman who finds inspiration and hope in the Book of Revelation.

Choir Directors Tribute Concert, June 6, 2009 by Deer Lake United Church Choir (in Media section of the library) - This is the DVD recording of the tribute concert held at Deer Lake United Church in recognition of the many years of faithful service of four of our recently retired choir directors. This entertaining work is conveniently separated into tracks of music and dialog.

Thank you for the donations!



Crowds at Live City Yaletown watch Maelle Ricker receive her gold medal



Fireworks from Live City Yaletown

We Did It!

By Peggy W

The Senior Youth would like to thank all those members of the congregation for supporting our bottle/can fundraising drive, during February, in aid of Haiti. We determined a goal of \$300 and, even though the final numbers aren't in, we will have exceeded that! Our contribution of \$300 was made prior to the deadline for the Federal Government matching funds, so that means our contribution towards Haiti actually was double that!

Burnaby History

If you are a history buff, or if you'd just like to learn a bit more about Burnaby's past, visit Burnaby City's Charting Change website at

<http://www.heritageburnaby.ca/EN/main/chartingchange.html>.

It contains more than 1,500 historic photographs which you can explore via maps of four historical periods. Click on a site of interest to bring up a picture of the site as it appeared in that period, read the attached description, then click a link to view it as it appears today in Google Street View. This is a great new way to learn about and appreciate the neighbourhood in which you live.

They Did It!



Brian McN and Marie P celebrate Canadian gold!

Thank you to everyone who responded to the enclosure in our last edition of Lakeshore Lines requesting that they receive the newsletter by email. As a result we have reduced the number of printed copies by 50. That's a full 1/3 of the previous number of copies printed. Thank you!

The Rev's Reading Recommendations

Reading is a wonderful spiritual discipline. Whether you treat yourself to a newly released book or visit your church library (now online at www.librarything.com/catalog/DLUC), cuddling up with a good spiritual book is a great way to explore your spirituality and grow in your faith.

As always, if I am pleased to be of help in guiding your pursuit of a particular book or subject matter. Please don't hesitate to ask.

Blessed reading!

Rev. Scott

The Yellow Leaves: A Miscellany by Fredrick Buechner. Beloved spiritual writer, Buechner presents a collection of original essays, short stories, and poems on his personal moments of transcendence in the midst of his daily existence.

The Pink Prayer Book: Coping, Healing, Surviving and Thriving. A collection of reflections from breast cancer patients and survivors and the mothers, daughters, husbands and friends that surround them. The resource's incorporation of scriptures and personal prayers make this a wonderful devotional resource.

A Church in Her House: A Feminist Emancipatory Prayer Book for Christian Communities by Marjorie Procter-Smith. This book, which takes its name from the numerous New Testament references to house churches run by women, is a work-

book for Christians who want to enrich their personal prayer life as well as plan Christian feminist liturgies.

Put Down Your Sword: Answering the Gospel Call to Creative Nonviolence by John Dear. Arguing that all Christians must follow Christ's example in ways of peace, Dear shares his biblical insights along with profiling some of the peacemakers he finds most inspiring. He concludes reflecting on the vision of a new world without war, poverty or violence.

Finding Faith, Losing Faith: Stories of Conversion and Apostasy by Scot McKnight and Hauna Ondrey. This resource examines stories told by people who have undergone a conversion experience, including ones of apostasy. The authors also present a "conversion theory" that helps explain why some people convert to a different religion.

Getting the Blues: What Blues Music Teaches us About Suffering and Salvation by Stephen J. Nichols. Nichols argues the our current cultural climate, which includes so much sentimentality, needs Blues music and its Christian resonances more now than ever before.

Body, Soul, and the Human Life: The Nature of Humanity in the Bible by Joel B. Green. As Green explores what scripture and theology teach about humanity being created in the divine image, the importance of community, sin, free will, salvation, and the afterlife, he concludes that a dualistic world view (divine vs. human) of the human person is inconsistent with both science and scripture.

Christmas Seems So Long Ago, but...



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: June 2010

Submission Deadline Sunday, May 30, 2010