



# LAKESHORE LINES

December, 2010

Free and worth every cent!

## How Should the Church Prepare?

by Rev. G. Scott Turnbrook

The season of Advent commenced this year on Sunday November 28<sup>th</sup>. During this four week cycle, we relive our ancient faith story when the biblical witnesses prepared for the

arrival of the Messiah/Christ. During this season, we are encouraged to spiritually prepare for the gift of the Christ's birth into our world today. We question where in our personal lives; where in our community; where in our world there is a yearning for the birth of God's Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

With this spiritual focus in mind, I (along with many others who care deeply for the future of the church) have been pondering where our United Church of Canada yearns for God's birthing of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. I would like to take an opportunity to share some of my thoughts and learnings in this area.

As I consider this topic, I will draw on two experiences. I am now in my first year of chairing the Westminster Presbytery of the United Church. This Regional Body we call 'Presbytery' provides oversight and support to churches and clergy in the cities of Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, the Tri-Cities, Burnaby and New Westminster.

The second experience was my attendance at a workshop with Marie P, Beth R and Pat Y earlier this fall. At the "Stepping Further Out" workshop, we heard from two presenters: The Rev. Dr. Keith Howard who has been the Executive Director of the United Church's Emerging Spirit Campaign, which has focused on how the church can connect with the spiritual needs of people in the age cohort of 30-45 years. We also heard from The Rev. Rob Dagleish who is the Program Coordinator for Congregational Renewal with our General Council. I was asked to be one of the four group facilitators for the break out groups and found the conversations progressive, faithful and challenging.

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The Nativity (Nicolas Poussin)

### 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

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## How Should the Church Prepare? (Cont.)

**Unprecedented Change:** The church is in a time of unprecedented dynamic change that is even more pronounced than the 1440 invention of the Guttenberg printing press and the subsequent Christian Reformation that occurred in the century following. In the Christian Reformation, information was previously controlled by the wealthy church elite; however, the advent of the printing press allowed for mass distribution Bibles and books by progressive Christian thinkers such as Martin Luther and Erasmus.

The Protestant Church (those who protested the practice of the Catholic church) emerged from this reformation. In a similar way, the digital revolution has created a new way of communication and connection. The church will need to contextualize its ministry and message in new ways in order to deal with this massive shift in our cultural norms. The analogy given at the workshop was that of the shifts that are occurring in the music industry with the downloading of digital music through web

based providers such as itunes. People continue to want music; however, the desired format and delivery is quickly changing and the future of the 'bricks and mortar' record store is uncertain. Garry F and Chantel McB have done a wonderful job with our church website; however, I wonder what other possibilities for exploration are out there? Facebook? Twitter? Podcasts? It is, indeed, a brave new world.

**Cooperation:** Another item worthy for the church to hear was the need for cooperation among churches. There has been a subtle, yet long-standing competition that occurs between churches that are in close geographical proximity. We pick it up in our language if we listen carefully and in days of tight finances, the danger of becoming competitive is a true threat. In the workshop, there was a call for us to increasingly become clearly focused as missional churches who work cooperatively in clearly defined areas.

As we cannot be everything to everyone, we need to find ways to be clear about what we can provide and offer it in our ministry. We also need to be clear about what our neighbouring churches can provide and help people make those connections as well. One example, currently in the discussion phase, is occurring with many of the 'Lougheed Corridor' churches that stretch between Port Moody and Maple Ridge. They are considering what it might look like to have shared opportunities for outreach, study, and perhaps even worship.

This type of thinking has already progressed further in the churches of Langley as they have moved in September to a regional format with one church hosting a 'traditional service'; one hosting a 'contemporary service'; and one hosting an 'experimental service'. Many congregations have been experiencing record lows in attendance with only twenty or thirty people coming to church.

While Deer Lake has continued to grow over the past few years, we need to be aware of these trends and consider how we might cooperatively partner with other churches as we build and plan for a faithful future. At present, Burnaby and New Westminster have 9 United Churches. We need to ask ourselves if this a faithful use of the resources that God has given us for ministry. Our Executive Secretary, the Rev. Doug Goodwin, describes this reality in an interesting way. He notes that the majority of our churches were built and/ or upgraded in the period following WWII as we considered the needs of the day.

*(Continued on page 13)*

### **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**

An all ages gathering where many of our younger members will participate in sharing the meaning and mystery of Christmas. You won't want to miss this exciting celebration of our communal expression of Christmas!

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**ALL AGES SERVICE**

**Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.**

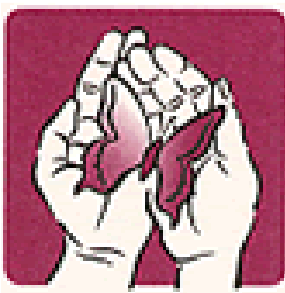
On the eve of the birthing of God's greatest gift to the world, we present an All Ages Service. This interactive service is thoughtfully designed to be inclusive for people of all ages (especially those who try to get to bed early to listen for reindeer hooves on the roof).

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**CANDLELIGHT, CAROLS & COMMUNION**

**Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

An elegant service of lessons and carols service with the Deer Lake Choir and Rev. Scott. This service will include Holy Communion and candle lighting.



## Our New Partnership with Burnaby Hospice

At Deer Lake, we have sought to faithfully share our ministry with people who come to Deer Lake as members and adherents (a fancy church word for 'friends of the church' who have not taken vows of membership) as well as people in the larger community who have spiritual needs. Through Rev. Scott's networking efforts in the community, Deer Lake has agreed to host Burnaby Hospice's biannual memorial service in late March, 2011. This service invites people who have been served by Burnaby Hospice into a time of healing, hope and reflection. The liturgy will be designed in consultation with Burnaby Hospice and will include poetry, scripture and speakers from several faith traditions. We will be proud to have our church involved in these significant community events.

## Men's Christmas Breakfast Well Attended

by Garry F

It's 7:00 AM, it's dark and it's cold. There are patches of ice and snow in the parking lot as a handful of men gather in the church hall. The day is Saturday, November 27th and it's time to prepare for the annual Men's Christmas Breakfast. The coffee urn is put on and a few advance cups made to kick the men



**Garry F, Gary H, Don S  
and Doug R prepare a mean breakfast**



**Scott misunderstood the concept of lining up short to tall**



**Busy hands prepare decorations for the Christmas season**

into high gear. Griddles are heated, pancake batter mixed, eggs scrambled and ham sliced. The cooking begins as tables are set up and laid.

Before everything is ready, men start arriving, but not just men. Boys and youth arrive, too. They greet each other, grab a coffee or juice, and fall into easy conversation. More arrive and two more tables are quickly set up. At eight o'clock, when the food is ready and Scott has said grace, 27 men, youth and boys file by the kitchen to be served a steaming hot breakfast.

The food disappears off plates quickly and the hungrier, mostly younger, men avail themselves of seconds. Tony introduces the topic of Fathers and Father Figures. Five-year-old Declan O'C, the youngest man there, is the first to share his thoughts.

After a thought-provoking and enlightening exchange of ideas and memories, song sheets are distributed and Declan is the first to suggest a carol: "Deck the Halls". Male voices are raised in joyous song. Requests come fast and furious, many of the young folks following Declan's lead. When it is time to bring the singing to an end the final carol is, of course, "Silent Night".

Scott closes with a prayer, a group picture is taken and the hall explodes into a frenzy of activity. Dirty dishes are whisked into the kitchen, tables are cleared and put away, the floor is swept and the dishes washed. Men bid each other farewell and filter out into the grey light of morning. Another men's Christmas breakfast has come to an end and those present are ready for the season to come.

## Deer Lake Skaters Ready To Take on the Canucks



This year's skating event was held at Burnaby 8 Rinks on Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup>. Skaters returned to the church for hot chocolate and treats (prepared by Peggy W and Janice C). Many thanks to Mike and Wendy K who coordinated the event.

# Journey of Transformation Begins with One's Self

by Michael Politano-Bowles

I worked at First United for one full day before I took it upon myself to walk into Ric Matthews' office full of energy, and tell him that they needed a prayer room. I was running on the notion that fresh eyes see clearest. If that is indeed a notion at all. But little did I know Ric Matthews would not only welcome the idea, but suggest that I carry it out. Little did I know that the First United Church was about creating space for transformation to be made real in people's lives. Little did I know that this work was made real through the church's transformation. Little did I know that First United lived a history of transformation, meeting the changing needs of the community for 125 years.

So, the prayer room became my purpose for being at First United until it was completed last May. It was an opportunity to participate in the transformation of the First United Church, placing yet greater emphasis on 'church'. Furthermore, it was an opportunity to participate in the transformation of people's lives.

Let me tell you about Angie — one morning Angie asked to use the prayer room, and if I could be there while she burned some sage. Angie is a First Nations girl in her late twenties perhaps with only a couple teeth left.

She is a crack cocaine user. I had seen her around but I had never spoken to her. She came into the prayer room with me, we burned some sage, and she told me she had been clean for 21 days.

As the sage burned she began crying, telling me that she came very close to using the night before. She didn't know if she would be strong enough to see this through. I prayed with her. She talked about her childhood. She told me that the smell of the sage brought her right back home.

She was clean for some time before she started using again. The truth is, yes, she failed if the task was to stay clean;



**The Nativity of Cardinal Jean Rolin (Jean Hey)**

but, if the task was to be vulnerable, to give herself over to the possibility of a new way of life, taking the risk to step into sacred space, and all that can mean when we are broken, then she succeeded by stepping onto the path of transformation.

Morning devotion — One day there were four or five of us sitting around the table when a man named Peter walked over to the table. Peter had been sitting at another table with his head cocked to the side listening to our conversation. He walked over. For me, Peter was the rock that landed on the table that Monday morning. He cut right into the conversation and started talking about God's love for 15 straight minutes.

I was angry because our conversation had been cut and because he hadn't let anyone else get a word in edgewise. As soon as someone would start in, he'd correct them and jump right back to God's love. Eventually I cut him off mid-sentence and introduced myself and began by stating that at this table there are rules, one of them is that everyone must be allowed to have a voice. He replied by saying, there is only one rule, and that was Jesus Christ. Well, he was right.

For the next two days the exact same thing happened, except every time I interrupted him sooner into his discourse, and I began demanding that he respect that everyone's voice be heard. On the fourth day I didn't let him get two minutes into his praise before I stopped him and asked him to leave the table. He got up and we shared an angry handshake and stern looks, and he left the table. I never saw him again.

You might be asking yourselves what this has to do with transformation. Well, it has to do with my transformation. The truth is, I don't know how I could have handled the situation better. It was ambiguous. His message was pure, but his method was stifling. My message to him was honest, but my method stern and cold.

The point is not that one of us was right and the other wrong, the point is that real life situations are complex, but that to deal with complexity and ambiguity we must humble ourselves so that we can carefully work with the situation in front of us. At First United this is vital. There aren't too many situations that aren't complex.

Well, I was changed by the situation; it was a calling for me to approach tough situations with humility and gentleness. And the truth is, the first lesson I learned at First United was not thinking that I was there to transform people without first becoming transformed myself.

We transform together ... just as the church tears down walls to make space for something new and life-giving, to make space for transformation, so I have learned that those of us who lead at First United, for those of us who lead and protect sacred space must tear down our own walls. And walk into the space of transformation alongside the community members or congregation. One might say, we are in this together.

*(Continued on next page)*

## The Road to Transformation

Now, on to soccer...First United's soccer team is a project about creating community and belonging through soccer. It is not soccer for the poor, but soccer that bridges gaps created by socio-economic discrepancy and the need to maintain cultural identity. Well, we have 7 Africans, 2 Serbians, 3 Irish, 1 Ukrainian, 2 Hondurans, 1 Chilean, and 3 Canadians.

Most of the team are landed immigrants, or have refugee status. Some are learning English, some are working for minimum wage at warehouses, at dish pits in restaurants, night time security. We also have an engineer, a theology student, and a lawyer on the team; in case we need legal advice while building a club house, and of course, to give it a proper blessing!

First United's soccer team is an attempt, and I believe a success, at creating belonging beyond the boundaries typically associated with belonging. But it wasn't always a success. The first month and a half of the season was dreadful. We didn't even have enough players to make a full team at the games. In our first 5 games we had tied one and lost four. Only two or three guys would show up to practice. I worked hard to get more players, and eventually I did.

But there was a specific moment when things changed, when the momentum shifted, when we all realized we were on the same team, and we felt good about it. It was a game against an Italian team that was full of fire, and frustrated that we were tougher than they expected. You could see that they were losing their cool. They were yelling at the referee, and at each other. The moment I am talking about happened when one of their players threatened to punch one of my players. The referee heard it, blew the whistle, and gave the player a yellow card. It was a crucial moment, because we could have reacted against the threat, we could have started a fight, but instead we knew we had them right where we wanted them.

We had them because we kept our cool, and that frustrated them even more. I looked around at the guys when the play had stopped for the moment, and I saw in every players eyes this awareness that we were on the same team, guys tapping each other on the back, reminding each other to keep calm and play smart, that we could win this game here and now. It was that moment that I knew I wasn't the only one who felt a sense of belonging on the team. Well, we did win the game, and when on to win the next two games in the following weeks leading up to this week.

But it's not about soccer, or morning devotion, or a prayer room; it's about transformation. Transformation through belonging. First United is an invitation to belonging, an invitation to something life-giving, an opportunity to come out of the cold into something new, into new life.

*(Michael Politano-Bowles is in the second year of the Master's of Divinity program at VST. His field education has been his leadership and work with the First United Church soccer team. This was the message Michael delivered to our congregation on November 21<sup>st</sup>.)*

## Halloween Spooky Event

Thirty-six spooks and goblins attended the DLUC Halloween Party on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The evening began with Halloween games such as; who can make the best Mummy with a roll of TP, the poison bean game and many more. This was followed with a delicious Pot Luck Dinner and time of fellowship.

The children then had an opportunity to burn off some of their Halloween excitement in a costume parade.

There were many fabulous costumes; a few that received honourable mention from the Halloween Judge were Katelyn the Fairy, Ethan the very scary skeleton, Nathan the Ewok and Declan the Mountie! And before heading home, the children went trick-or-treating around the Church.

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

And an extra special thank you to all of you who helped set up tables, helped in the kitchen and so forth, it was greatly appreciated.



**Goblins galore at the church Halloween party**



**Scott poses with a trio of finely carved pumpkins**

# Library News

by Sue M

We have been blessed to receive several new donations to our Library; thank you Pam and the anonymous donors.

To see all of the newest books please go to [www.librarything.com/catalog/DLUC](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/DLUC) which you can do from the comfort of your home, or from the library, since we now have a library computer.

Please take a few moments either before or after the service to familiarize yourselves with our library collection. If anyone would like help in using the computerized system, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be happy to help you find what you are looking for.

**Radical Gratitude, Discovering Joy Through Everyday Thankfulness**, by Ellen Vaughn (Dewey No. 241.4 Vau) – Ellen Vaughn is a popular Christian writer (both fiction and non-fiction) and speaker; in this book she focuses on gratitude. Often humorous, she writes about how we can have our eyes opened to everyday wonders that can awaken gratitude; even through difficult experiences, we can discover how to be thankful. In the first chapter she talks about how the very difficult experience of the death of her mother brought in a flood of gratitude.

**Unlikely Angel, The Untold Story of the Atlanta Hostage Hero** by Ashley Smith with Stacy Mattingly (Dewey No. 277.5 Smi) – In this book Ashley Smith recounts her ordeal of being held hostage for seven hours and finally bringing a peaceful end to a killer's murderous rampage. She was twenty-seven at the time and had her own battles with darkness and despair. She talks about how her faith and the bestselling book "The Purpose-Driven Life" helped her to bring the ordeal to a close. As a side note, we also have "The Purpose-Driven Life" in our library collection.

**In the Eye of the Storm, He Still Moves Stones, A Gentle Thunder**, by Max Lucado (Dewey No. 484.4 Luc) – This is a collection of three books by popular best-selling Christian author Max Lucado. "In this collector's edition, his unique gifts are interwoven in three unique portraits of Jesus – His daily presence, His supernatural power, and His persistent efforts to reach us with His love."

**Into the Deep**, by Robert Rogers with Stan Finger (Dewey No. 248.8 Rog) – This is a story of love, loss, and faith. Robert Rogers lived through the devastation of losing his wife and four children in a freak flash flood in 2003. He originally trained as an electrical engineer, however in 2004 he founded "Mighty in the Land" Ministry; he is also an accomplished musician that has produced several CD's of original worship music.

**A Fish Out of Water, 9 Strategies to Maximize Your God-Given Leadership Potential** by George Barna (Dewey No. 303.3) – This book is for those who want to realize their maximum leadership potential. The author is the founder of the Barna Group, a market research company specializing in Religious beliefs in America. After studying the paths of many leaders, he shares his findings to show how to avoid some common mistakes and how to become like them in effective leadership.

**Waking the Dead** by John Eldredge (Dewey No. 248.4 Eld) – The author has written several popular books on Christianity; he is also a counsellor, teacher, speaker and founder of Ransomed Heart Ministries. In this book his goal is to help people find the "narrow gate that leads to life that only few find."

**Hope Again, When Life Hurts and Dreams Fade** by Charles R. Swindoll (Dewey No. 248.86 Swi) - In this book the author uses the short book of 1 Peter, and his own insights, as the basis of teachings on hope. In his own words, "If you want to smile through your tears, if you want to rejoice through times of suffering, just keep reminding yourself that what you're going through isn't the end of the story....it's simply the rough journey that leads to the right destination."

We also have several Christmas books, some of which will be on display. To find the others simply type "Christmas" or "Advent" into the search box on LibraryThing and a complete listing of those books will be provided.

The loan period for books out of our library is four weeks. Just fill out the "Sign Out" card that can be found at the back of the book, and deposit it into the container provided.



Nativity (Marten de Vos)

# Stewards and Stewardship

by Garry F

You have probably heard the terms “Stewards” and “stewardship”, but are you really clear on the difference between the two? I know I wasn’t for the longest time. Permit me to clarify.

The Stewards are the members of the Stewards Committee – one of the most important but least recognized committees on the Board of Deer Lake United Church. They are currently Steve McL (Chair), Joanne A, Arnie B, Janice C and Laurie S. This small group of dedicated people is basically responsible for the operation, maintenance and safeguarding of the church building and property.

When a light bulb burns out or a toilet won’t flush or a door won’t lock or the furnace needs servicing or the gutters need cleaning or snow and ice need clearing, it’s the Stewards who put it right. In addition to regular maintenance the Stewards look after major repairs and upgrades.

Over the past few years these have included replacing the carpets, replacing the hall floor, repainting the church, resurfacing the ramp, repairing and upgrading lights, replacing the photocopier, replacing the hall curtains, replacing the roofs, repaving part of the parking lot, installing a built-in vacuum system, and replacing the furnaces.

It makes me tired just thinking about it, but the Stewards responsibilities don’t end there. They are also responsible for the security of the building. This involves issuing and collecting keys, and maintaining the security system and security codes. They also find themselves expected to open the building for events and lock up afterwards if nobody else with a key is available.

And finally, an extremely important and very time-consuming role of the Stewards is to manage our tenants. Rentals of our facilities, both long-term (other congregations, day care, etc.) and short-term (receptions, concerts, film crews, etc.), are increasingly an important source of income for Deer Lake United Church.

Without this income it is unlikely we could survive. Envelope offerings alone are not nearly enough to keep the building running and pay the staff, let alone do the good work of the church. The Stewards find tenants, negotiate rental agreements, review and renegotiate rents and deal with tenant issues. We are very fortunate to have the expertise within our Stewards Committee to handle this demanding role.

In 2005 the Stewards established a 5-Year plan covering all aspects of their responsibilities. They established the Building Fund to collect the money in advance for major repairs and upgrades we knew would be necessary. This enabled us to be proactive instead of reactive when it came to major expenses.

Of course, none of this would amount to anything if it wasn’t for your kind support. Members of the congregation have

been very generous in their offerings of money and labour in support of the work of the Stewards.

Five people can’t possibly do everything that is required themselves, so the Stewards call upon others to help out. When necessary the Stewards seek professional help, and in such cases they assess candidates, negotiate prices and act as general contractor.

Most of the time, though, they are able to call upon members of the congregation to help with tasks they are unable to undertake themselves. We are indeed lucky to have so many talented people in our congregation, and the Stewards are extremely appreciative of everyone who has lent a helping hand. Whether they have joined the committee or just helped out as needed, their assistance has enabled us to save tens of thousands of dollars over the years.

Not only that, but the personal touch of people who care has made Deer Lake a much more welcoming place. Those people, I know, get a great sense of satisfaction knowing that their hard work has made such a difference.

And that brings us to stewardship. It is the application of one’s gifts to care for something – in this case Deer Lake United Church. The Stewards are well named – they take care of our building, a place they really care about.

I know you, the reader, care about Deer Lake, too. Over the years you have participated in the stewardship of our church with your offerings of money and labour.

I would like to thank you and take this opportunity to invite you to again consider what gifts you have that can be used to care for our church. If you enjoy working with your hands and tools, or if you have a talent for negotiation, perhaps you would consider joining the Stewards Committee. If so, please talk to one of the Stewards.

If your talents and interests lie elsewhere, perhaps you would consider joining one of the other committees or groups. Or perhaps there is a special project that you would like to initiate. If so, please talk to Janice, Scott or myself. And of course, please continue your financial support.

This is always a difficult time of the year and, once again, we find ourselves in a deficit position. Please consider whether you can make a special offering before the end of the year. And, yes I know you are tired of hearing it, but please see if you can increase your offering by even a little bit next year, and consider making your offering by PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) instead of by envelope.

There are so many ways we can participate in the stewardship of Deer Lake United Church and the personal rewards are more than worth the effort. The Stewards are a remarkable example. What works for you?

# News from the Outreach Committee



Once each month, Deer Lake provides 70 bag lunches to homeless people in Burnaby. Thank you to those who have helped with this ministry throughout 2010, both in the lunch preparation and by donating to Outreach.

## Christmas Families

We will be supporting three families and two seniors this year through the Burnaby Christmas Bureau. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the hall for contributions. Donations through the envelopes, by marking Christmas families in the "other" category are also welcome. Please contact either Eileen M or Marj R if you would like more information.

## Edmonds Youth Centre

The Edmonds Youth Centre, now known as "The Hub," has moved to a new location at 4750 Imperial St. in Burnaby. This is near Metrotown at the intersection of Central Blvd and Imperial. The **Lunch on the Run** held on **Sunday, Oct. 17** raised over \$330 for this ministry.

## The "Gogos"

The "Gogos," is an organization that supports African grandparents who care for their grandchildren orphaned by AIDS. Several Deer Lake members are active in the Burnaby chapter. If you are interested in finding out more about the Gogos, or would like to join the Burnaby chapter, please contact Janine at 604-759-3134 or burnabygogos@gmail.com You may also want to visit the website at [www.stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org)

## First United Church

First United Church continues to serve residents of the downtown eastside. A new program they are offering is a safe place for the homeless to temporarily store their possessions. Recently they received a \$25,000 grant from Pepsi to continue to provide this valuable service through Pepsi's Refresh Everything promotion.

## Dixon House

Sascha Michaud from Dixon House, the Burnaby shelter for battered women that was founded at DLUC, spoke on Oct. 31 to update us on the progress of their renovations. They plan to be able to resume receiving donations of clothing and other items following completion of their renovations early next year.

## SUCCESS

Yumiko King from SUCCESS spoke on Nov. 7 about their Host program, in which people can volunteer a few hours each week for a 6 month period to assist new immigrants in adjusting to life in Canada. For more info, check out [www.success.bc.ca](http://www.success.bc.ca) or contact Yumiko at [yumiko.king@success.bc.ca](mailto:yumiko.king@success.bc.ca)



## NAKED TREE

Continuing the Christmas tradition begun by the late Bill Hilliard, there will be a "Naked Tree" in the Narthex again this year. Please help decorate this tree with donations of new socks, gloves, toques and personal grooming products (soap, shampoo, tooth paste & brushes, etc.) These will be donated to Burnaby's homeless in early January.

The Outreach Committee would like to thank all at DLUC who provide their time, talents and treasures in support of this work.



## Deer Lake Vets Honoured



At the annual Remembrance Day Service, Deer Lake United honoured our four veterans:

**Bert W**, who served with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, from Dec. 1942 to March 1946. Prior to serving with R.C.C.S., he served with the Canadian Merchant Navy during the Battle of the Atlantic in 1942.

**Jenny R**, who served with the Women's Army Corp (WAC)

**Donald W**, who served with the British Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve

**Tom C**, who served with Royal Canadian Air Force: No. 514 & No. 90 Squadrons - Bomber Command (on Lancaster Bombers)

## Georgie C Receives Award

On November 12th. Georgie received the **2010 Senior Leadership Award for Services to Seniors**.

It was presented to her by the Gerontology Research Centre of Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre in Vancouver.

She was nominated by friends at Second Street Community School for her 27 years of volunteer service to the school as a community liaison person.



She has worked to bring before and after school care to the area, summer programs, literacy programs, and helped with the annual Halloween Fun night. She has also organized a school learn to knit lunchtime activity and I know of some line dance sessions that she held for older students!

For many years she has baked and decorated a gingerbread house for the Christmas raffle and been instrumental in organizing the annual Pioneer Tea as well as a breakfast program for the needy children at the school. I am sure that there is more that I am unaware of.

As many of us can attest to Georgie served in many capacities at East Burnaby United over a forty year period and has carried over her delight in line dancing to Deer Lake in leading the Monday morning dance group.

Congratulations to Georgie from all age groups!

## Women's 2011 Retreat at Rivendell Centre on Bowen Island

I hope you have set aside April 29 – May 1, 2011 to attend the women's retreat at the Rivendell Centre on Bowen Island. Registration will begin in late January and the information will be posted in the hall on the bulletin board. Pat Y and Marie P will be able to answer your questions and collect the money during my absence. We have an absolute maximum of 25 spaces available. The cost will be \$165 plus accommodation per person.

This year we will be doing a workshop called **SOUL COLLAGE**. Soul Collage is a fun, easy self-discovery process that is unlike anything you've ever experienced! Using collage, an art process easy for anyone, you will begin to create a personal deck of Soul Collage cards that will form a visual journal. You create your cards using magazine images, scissors and glue. Soul Collage is a spiritual process that involves working with symbols and images to discover your story. The cards help you to connect with the divine and the sacred through images that speak powerfully to and from you. Making and consulting these cards is deepening for the soul, while at the same time it is creative and fun.

We will have Merrilee Thompson leading us for the weekend. Merrilee and I met at Naramata when we took the Soul Collage workshop for a week. Merrilee when on to train as a facilitator and is looking forward to this weekend. We hope to be able to continue this process after the retreat weekend.

It is a good idea to begin collecting pictures. Magazines, ads, books are all great sources of images. Save anything that appeals to you. You might need backgrounds, people, animals, nature, myth and magic, etc. The more the merrier!

If you have any questions you can contact Carol P until the end of January and then Pat or Marie.

*Carol P for the organizing committee*

## Song of Faith Study Group

Our Fall study group at the church explored the faith statement created at the request of the 37<sup>th</sup> General Council of the United Church of Canada (2000) for a “timely and contextual statement of faith” that especially engages “the church in conversation on the nature of the church (ecclesiology), ministry. “The Song of Faith”, was the document that was subsequently produced and commissioned in 2006.

This statement of faith follows within the history of our

church in its efforts to faithfully articulate their ministry within its cultural realities. Statements of faith in our denomination trace back to the Basis of Union (1925), the Statement of Faith (1940), and A New Creed (1968). A thoughtful discussion about faith ensued over the six week course. On the final session, participants who wished to do so submitted their own statement of faith to the class. Below are some of the submissions of the group from the final class.

### CREED ONE

I am not alone.

I live in a world loved by the Great Mother.

I believe in Her

who has created and is creating,  
who sent me Jesus and others to show me the way back  
to peace and wholeness.

I trust in the Great Mother.

I am called to be in Community:

to celebrate her presence,  
to live with respect in creation,  
to know and to love myself deeply,  
to love and serve others,  
to discover and use the talents She has bestowed on me,  
to seek guidance and a closer relationship with Her,  
to seek justice and work to restore balance and  
wholeness in the world,  
to love and be loved and to live in hope!

In life, during my time of death and in a  
possible life beyond death,

She is with me.

I am not alone. Thanks be to the Great Mother.

### CREED TWO

God seeks relationship. We are not alone

God created the universe, tends the universe, and guides all things toward harmony with their source. All parts of creation, animate and inanimate, are related. We can discover our place as one stand in the web of life.

God calls us to protect the vulnerable, pray for deliverance from evil, to work with God for the healing of the world, that all might have abundant life.

Through word, music, art and sacrament, in community and in solitude, God changes our lives, our relationships and our world. Trust ... for we (the church) are called to be a blessing to the earth ... participating in eternal life now ... embrace the present, embodying hope, loving our enemies, caring for the earth ...

God in nature

Spirit or life essence in all of us

Messengers from God

### CREED THREE

I believe in one God:

God who created the evolving pattern for life on earth.

God who took human form as Jesus Christ, to be a perfect example by which to live.

In coming to this world, God sacrificed His earthly body for our imperfect lives.

By forgiving these imperfections with his death, we are given the gift of life after death.

I believe in the Holy Spirit that is God's presence in the world today to give us hope, comfort and support during our lives.

### CREED FOUR

I am not alone because I live in God's world.

I am comforted and confronted with a faith  
in God that is Holy Mystery,  
for this is my faith

I believe in God; who has created and is creating,

It is through this ongoing creation that  
God tends the universe,  
God mends the broken and reconciles the estranged.  
God guides all things toward harmony with their  
Source.

Yet, I do not believe in a God who is  
distant and removed.

I believe in a God who is like a loving Mother  
or Father

This is my faith, this is my Holy Mystery

I believe in a God who is revealed in Jesus of Nazareth,

The Jesus of history was born to a woman in poverty  
in a time of social upheaval and political oppression.  
He was a Jew, yet he announced the coming  
of God's reign to all people.

God's reign was not one of domination  
but of peace, justice, and reconciliation.

He healed the sick and fed the hungry.  
He forgave sins and freed those  
held captive.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Song of Faith Study Group (Cont.)

He crossed barriers of race, class, culture, and gender.

He preached and practised unconditional love—  
love of God, love of neighbour,  
love of friend, love of enemy—  
and he commanded his followers to  
love one another  
as he had loved them.

For what his life stood for, Jesus was sentenced to death,

Yet God raised him to new life  
And whenever we follow in Jesus Way, his life  
continues to be resurrected.  
The Risen Christ lives today present to us as  
our source of our hope.

This is my faith, this is my Holy Mystery

I believe in God who desires to live in us and others,  
by the Holy Spirit, the Wind of God.

The Spirit is faithful, yet untameable;  
it is creatively and redemptively active in the world  
challenging us to celebrate the holy  
not only in what is familiar,  
but also in that which seems foreign.  
The Spirit fills our sails and guides us  
in the Way of God.

This is my faith, this is my Holy Mystery

As God's children we respond by being the church:

we celebrate God's presence,  
we live with respect in Creation  
we love and serve others,  
we seek justice and resist evil,  
we proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

By our lives, we proclaim the Holy Mystery that is our faith.

For we proclaim that in life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.

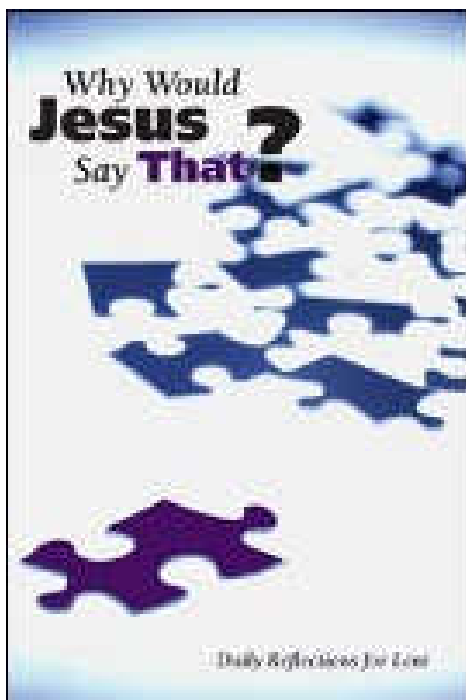
We are not alone.

And for that we rejoice saying "Thanks be to God."

### CREED FIVE

God created the universe and life within it, and connected them to the Holy Spirit and to each other with the gift of Spirit, or essence, of life which is present in all living things. I believe that spirit lives on beyond the physical body as it is part of God and thus returns to God.

Through this Spirit connection God can communicate with and guide all life, either directly or indirectly via a messenger. Human life can choose whether to and when to listen to the spirit within them. This spirit is nourished by worship in community or solitude and has the power to motivate actions or changes within us so that we may live as a blessing to the earth and that all may have abundant life.



## Lenten Study Course: "Why Would Jesus Say That?"

Our Lenten study group will help participants deepen their walk through the Lenten season of self evaluation and faith exploration.

We will be using a new United Church resource called "Why Would Jesus Say That? Daily Reflections for Lent. The resource features 48 selected sayings of Jesus. Some will feel familiar, others enigmatic.

Together, they celebrate the grace found in searching, ambiguity, and paradox. Participants will need to commit to engaging with the book as part of their daily devotional practice.

The weekly gathering will be a combination of worship along with the sharing of people's insights into the sayings that had been engaged with over the previous week.

The classes will run on Wednesday nights through Lent (7 – 9 p.m.) March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20. There is no charge for the course; however, donations towards the cost of the course text (\$11/ each) will be greatly appreciated.

## Advent Greetings!

by Moderator Mardi Tindal

Last Sunday we heard Jesus say "always be ready" (Matthew 24: 36-44) and this week we hear John the Baptist tell us to "prepare the way of the Lord" (Matthew 3: 1-12.)

The Very Rev. David Giuliano reminded me recently of a line about Protestants that many of us relate to: "Jesus is coming. Look busy!"

Our church culture (as mainstream culture) draws us into much busyness.

To 'always be ready' and 'prepare the way of the Lord' justifies much of our activity as people of Christ. Yet there are also other ways to ready ourselves and prepare the way of Christ.

My daily prayers for the church (for you and for me), during this Advent season are focused on preparing the way of the Lord within; in contemplative ways and not only active ones. I pray that we will prepare for the way of the Lord in our hearts and minds as well as in our many activities.

The speed at which we move is often too costly for God's world and for ourselves. May we move at Spirit's pace this Advent.

And may God's goodness be magnified in us, inspired by how God's goodness was magnified in Mary, making way for the full life of God.

If you wish, you will find my related Advent video greeting at



Moderator Mardi Tindal

[www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada](http://www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada)

Advent blessings to you in our abundant life in Christ.

## Worship Committee

There are seven people serving on this committee including Scott Turnbrook. Members are Carol Pettigrew (who is in charge of liturgical arts), Mary C, Colleen K, Beth R (who is in charge of communion), Shirley McG and Mike K.

Part of Carol's duty in liturgical arts, entails beautifying the church during the ecumenical church seasons. She is also the unofficial curator of the church art gallery. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of September, November, January, March and May at 7 p.m. in the library.

The purpose of this committee is to organize Sunday worship and communion. Scott, and sometimes Mary, will contact someone to take the Sunday service when Scott is to be away. Scott will go over special services like Christmas and Easter with the committee to fine tune them.

At the beginning of the meeting, the committee has a theological discussion. Any correspondence has to be dealt with too. The meeting lasts for about 2 hours.

If anyone would like to join the committee, please feel free to approach one of the committee members.



Middleburg Altarpiece. Nativity (Rogier van der Weyden)

## How Should the Church Prepare? (Cont.)

If we were to build churches in the Lower Mainland today, we would do so in a very different way. I believe that the challenge for us will be in how we make the shift towards ministry over the next two decades.

Will we simply compete with one another and leave only a few standing or will we be proactive and find ways to cooperatively embrace the future? It is increasingly difficult to serve the broad needs of such a diverse community with a single worship service.

I envision our churches offering multiple worship services into the future. One clergy colleague in Ontario offers an informal 9 a.m. morning service in his blue jeans with a rock praise band. This is later followed by an 11 a.m. service that is similar to what Deer Lake offers. Some churches offer an evening service with opportunities for candle lighting and centring prayer. The message, I believe, we need to hear is a call to become diverse and creative in serving the spiritual needs of our community.

**The New Church:** The final item that I offer for consideration is over what churches of the future will look like. There were several views of the future church that we discussed. Firstly, there was the neighbourhood church. At the presentation, I was pleased to hear that people did not imagine an end to people physically attending a church for worship, study, outreach and other events.

Indeed, we yearn for community and the need for two or three to gather together in Christ's name is the very essence of a church. However, the participants did not imagine the existence of underutilized churches either.

There were thoughtful considerations about strategically located churches that were fully utilized and actively engaged in their neighbourhoods. I wonder what the United Churches in Burnaby and New Westminster might look like with this in mind? Secondly, there will be Intentional Christian Communities.

These may take a variety of forms such as house churches where a small group of people gather for worship in a private home. "Accountability groups" might gather a group of people together for support and encouragement in living out their mission in their work and home life. There is also a growing interest in what writers have been calling "New Monastic Communities" which gather a group of people together in a common residence with a commitment to sharing and supporting one another's faith journeys.

As I list these possibilities, you quickly notice this being an example of history repeating itself as ancient forms of the church are being contextualized into a modern day context. The final category of new churches was defined as ? : a big question mark. There was an awareness that we do not know how the Spirit is shaping and forming us to be 'The Church' in the future.

We must, therefore, keep awake and open to what the Spi-

rit is doing into the future. As Rob Dalgleish put it in the workshop, "if we believe that God is up to something, then our prime focus should be on discernment over what that is.

It would be presumptuous and arrogant for us to give up on the church". We must not be afraid, but rather have faith that God will continue to be faithful and that things will unfold as they should.

This is Advent. This is the time when we spiritually prepare for God's birthing of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love into the world. We acknowledge our deep need for God's presence. Why should it seem odd that God is birthing something new into the church? Indeed, that is the very nature of our God who faithfully provides the makings for the Kingdom to unfold.

Therefore, my Brothers and Sisters in faith, let us keep awake and see what God is birthing. Happy Advent!

*Rev. Scott*

## PASTORAL CARE

There are five people on the Pastoral Care committee. They are Scott Turnbrook, Kellee M, Shirley McG, Marg M and Trish S (who is your sunshine person and sends cards to those who need a boost in their life, or have a joyous occasion to celebrate).

Pat Y who spearheaded the Welcoming Initiative, and the refurbishment of our lovely front garden, is also under the umbrella of Pastoral Care.

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday afternoon of each month in the library at 3:45 p.m., except in the summer. The meeting usually ends about 5 p.m.

Also under the Pastoral Care umbrella are the 14 Care Ringers, all of whom have about five to seven families to phone each month. They keep the families informed with what is happening in the church. They are caring people and very good listeners.

If you know of anyone in the congregation who needs a card sent to them, please let Trish or anyone on the committee know. (Trish's phone number is in the directory).

If this committee sounds interesting and you would like to join our team, please feel free to approach any of the committee members. We would love to have you on board!

## Richardsons and Colledges Get Together in Belgium



Jonah and Nate (both 4 years old) welcome their new baby brother Sebastian Dean. Sebastian was born in Leuven, Belgium on October 25 weighing 9 pounds 7 ounces. Proud parents are Dean and Robyn. Grandparents are Doug and Kathy R.



Ernie and Marlene C (with Jan and Wade and Emily and Andrea) celebrate Remembrance Day with Kathy R and her family (Dean and Robyn and Nate and Jonah and baby Sebastian). Ernie and Marlene then left for a tour of famous First World War battlefields (Vimy and the Somme).



The Birth of Christ (*Lucas Cranach the Elder*)

The management and staff of  
**Lakeshore Lines**

wish all our readers  
a most meaningful

**Christmas season**

and a safe and happy

**New Year**

### Newsletter Submissions

Lakeshore Lines will be published four times per year. Submissions may be made to one of the Communication Committee members (preferably by e-mail):

Garry Forwood: [g.forwood@yahoo.ca](mailto:g.forwood@yahoo.ca)

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

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