

# LAKESHORE LINES

June, 2012

Free – and worth every cent!

## Rev. Scott Turnbrook Resigns

On Sunday May 13th, Rev. Scott Turnbrook announced to the congregation his intention to resign as minister of Deer Lake United Church. Scott has been with us for 9 years now and feels the time is right to take advantage of an opportunity in Langley. Nine years is in line with both Scott's expectations and our own when we called him to Deer Lake. The Board met on Tuesday May 15th and discussed with Scott the details of his resignation and our options going forward.

His last day at Deer Lake will be July 29th. That is lots of notice, but not enough time to form a Search Committee, find and interview candidates and select a new minister, especially over the summer months. Therefore, in consultation with Scott, the Board decided to pursue the selection of a minister for a short-term appointment. This is a much simpler process than a full-blown search for a permanent minister and will be carried out by members of the Board. Once the temporary minister is in place a Search Committee will be struck and the search for a permanent minister will begin.

Although the process for a short-term appointment is relatively quick, the Board is determined to get the best possi-



ble candidate. After all, they may be with us for the better part of a year, so we want to make sure we get someone who is a good match. It is even possible the short-term appointment could become our permanent minister.

The Board held a special meeting on Tuesday June 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss options, form a committee and form a plan of action. Janice shared some basic information on several potential ministerial candidates

put forth by Westminster Presbytery. Three board members volunteered for the short term appointment Search Committee. Thanks go to Janice Cambuzzi, Bob Chapman and Don Strutt. The committee emailed requests for résumés to four of the potential candidates and was pleased to receive four prompt replies.

The next twelve months are expected to unfold as follows:

- July 29th is Scott's last day.
- July 28th - August 30th Sunday services will be filled by guest ministers. (see "Stimulating Summer Services" on page 2)
- September 1st to June 30th, 2013 will be covered by the short term appointment, during which time a new Search Committee will be formed to find a permanent minister.
- Starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 we should have a new permanent minister.

A change of this sort can be difficult. The Board, and ultimately the Search Committee, will keep you informed of events and decisions as they occur. In the meantime, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask Scott or one of the Search Committee members.

### 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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## Rev. Scott is Leaving a Legacy

These 9 years of Rev. Scott's ministry have been very busy, weaving a rich and colourful tapestry.

In the beginning the colours of his rainbow were paler, as Scott slowly began his ministry with our congregation. But with each new year, the colours became bolder and more vibrant, as he grew in ability and confidence. Today I am so proud of the warm and colourful blanket we have woven together, both congregation and minister. Each reflecting the others desires wants and needs, wrapped up together, feeling comfortable and secure. But now is the time to gather up this secure blanket, with all its memories and to move on in our faith journey, to grow anew. Each thanking the other for the gifts we have received along the way.

I have appreciated the strong encouragement Scott has given many of us when we have expressed new ideas: The Welcoming Initiative which he embraced and encouraged: The Visioning process with its accompanying Faith Statement of who we are. The new Church Garden fundraising, planning and planting: The Cultus Lake Campout revival for young families, and many more new ideas.

I appreciated Scott's boldness in donning a Centurion costume and acting the part in the sermon, bringing the scriptures alive for many of us: growing a full beard for the Canucks series. (I am pleased it was eventually shaved off though Scott).

I very much appreciated Scott stretching us out of our comfort zone in many different ways. Who would believe we wouldn't need to hold those heavy hymn books any more, or search for our place in the order of service. The PowerPoint bulletins on Sunday mornings have really upgraded our worship presentation, particularly seeing beautiful Christian Art to enhance our worship experience. He has stretched out his hand to the members of the local Mosque, and has invited us to join him in welcoming a new community of faith to Burnaby. He has helped us to remember that our church is a Sanctuary, a safe, sacred and holy place to just be: A place to offer apologies and forgiveness, when a wrong has been done. He has also welcomed members of Burnaby Hospice and given them a place to grieve, remember and renew their lives.

Last but not least, I remember Scott's father, Rev. Dr. Gordon Turner preaching one Sunday just after Scott became our minister. Rev. Turner said with pride and conviction that we were to dust off those balcony pews, allow more parking spaces, and get ready to welcome many more families, as our church would soon see a significant growth in membership. He could see then, 9 years ago, what we see now: a healthy, stable, growing, faith filled and faithful congregation. You have been an exceptional minister Scott, for which I am so very grateful.

Thanks be to God.

*Submitted in faith by Pat Y.*

## Stimulating Summer Services

*Deer Lake will be blessed by an array of unique worship leaders visiting throughout the summer.*

### August 5

**Ingrid Brown** is a student at the Vancouver School of Theology. When Rev. Scott met her, he was immediately impressed by her youthful passion for ministry. A candidate from Bowen Island United Church, Ingrid became involved later with Highlands United Church and is about to commence upon a field investigation around creating alternative Christian communities.

### August 12

**Caroline Penhale** works with Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries. Their goal is help create greater awareness of mental illness issues/stigma and to help congregations develop pathways to caring well for people within their communities living with mental illness. Caroline is also the UBC Campus Minister.

### August 19

**Bruce Cowburn** is the former Stewardship Consultant for the BC Conference of the United Church of Canada. Recently retired, Bruce serves our Presbytery as the treasurer and continues to be involved in the work of the larger church

### August 26

**Rev. Alf Dumont** is a recently retired minister having served parishes in Ontario and Quebec Alf now lives in Port Coquitlam with his wife Barb and their sons Mike and Dan,. It has been a joy to welcome Alf and his wife Barb to some of our spring services at Deer Lake. We are delighted that he has agreed to lead worship during one of our summer Sundays.

### Sept. 2

**Marie Paul** is an active layperson at Deer Lake who has been involved with many of the ministries at the church. A lifelong learner, Marie continues to take an active interest in theology and is passionate about the future of the church.

### **\*\*Holy Communion\*\***

Communion will be celebrated during the summer months with **Rev. Scott** on July 1 and 29 and with **Rev. Audrey Lans** on September 9. Please note these dates as they are not the typical 'First Sunday' communion which we normally maintain.



### Art and Soul a Resounding Success

On March 30<sup>th</sup> our choir and the youth group joined forces to organize a fund-raiser with a twist. The choir staged their annual concert, while the youth held a silent auction of anything art-related. The event, dubbed "Art and Soul", was a success by any measure. The concert was entertaining, the desserts delicious, and the auction items appealing. The choir raised \$1,740, which was donated to Outreach and the Building Fund. The youth group's silent auction upstaged the choir by raising an astonishing \$1,955, which they donated to First United. Well done, everyone!



Deer Lake youth present a cheque for \$1,955 to Tilley King of First United Church.



### This Mikado Swings!

*"Welcome to Retro Ladies' Night at the Mikado Sushi Bar and Grill cabaret! Every year the Mikado's Titipu Room kicks off its spring season by allowing the bartenders and wait staff to hire a pit orchestra and perform a crazy cabaret version of The Mikado, and then selling tickets to three tables of lucky Gilbert and Sullivan-loving ladies to enjoy the show and sing the role of the chorus. This year, mostly because the staff here just won't shut up about how much they love the TV show Mad Men, they've decided to go with a retro-1960's aesthetic for their costuming. Even our illustrious owner is likely to get in on the act if, as usual, he dons his tuxedo and drops by during the second half to sing the swingin' Mikado, Sinatra-style."*

Thus read Matthew Bisset's director's notes for the North Shore Light Opera Society's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado". Twelve performances of this wacky production ran from April 19th to May 5<sup>th</sup>, including a sing-along performance on May 2nd. Approximately twenty DLUC people attended, at least 5 on the sing-along night. The sing-along performance was particularly well attended and the audience participated most enthusiastically.

Kathryn S. played one of the lucky Gilbert and Sullivan-loving ladies, singing in the all-ladies chorus in the Titipu Room of the Mikado Sushi Bar and Grill.



## Thoughts on Scott – How do we say thank you and goodbye?

By Ernie C.

Trying to synthesize so many thoughts, feelings, memories of services, sermons and special moments over these past nine years has been a daunting, overwhelming task. It was made more difficult by that part of me that really doesn't want to see a ministry so meaningful and special come to an end. One only needs to have endured a weak, lacking or disconnected pastoral leadership or two along the way to truly appreciate the enthusiastic, energetic, forward-looking Christ-centred theology, music, laughs, vibrancy, children and family focus that we have enjoyed and grown so very much with since Christmas 2003. And while we can understand Scott's decision that for him it was time to take on a significant new challenge, as most of us have done in our personal, professional and working lives, it's not without a full range of mixed emotions.

So what has really happened at the little church at Deer Lake since Scott's arrival in December 2003?

As I look out at the friendly familiar faces in the congregation from the choir's anthem vantage point each Sunday, I see the smiling relaxed faces of an active, participating congregation enjoying their time in worship, happy to be with others who truly are as much family as friends. What is very striking is that clearly half of those regular Sunday morning worshippers have arrived in the pews and balconies during the past nine years—as have about a third of the choir members.

So what's the draw? How is it that our sanctuary is regularly comfortably full--indeed we have grown by about five percent each year-- while neighbourhood United Churches in Burnaby have seen dwindling numbers to the point that reductions in services, ministerial time and worship options have become realities? We enjoy a wonderful energy-filled group of children each Sunday, clambering around Scott for his *Time 4 the Young @ Heart* story and lesson before they leave with their teachers for Sunday School classes. And this at a time when other Burnaby United Churches no longer have Sunday School, children or young families.

While Christian Education has always been a vital part of DLUC, Scott brought about a renewed effort and focus by the whole church to welcome young families and children, and to regularly involve them in Sunday worship services—candle lighting, costumes, reading, acting, singing, dancing, imagining, speculating about what could possibly be in the green bag or treasure chest, conducting advanced scientific experiments..... and more. And while we chuckled at so many of the responses, more often times we sat proudly watching, listening to the children and youth, (*our* children and youth, for we are a very proud and possessive lot!), as they with Scott were learning, but at the same time also teaching us in the pews. And what better way to learn! For some, the lessons brought back memories of their own Sunday School days, and for many others, fond and precious flashback moments of our own children gathered around our minister or favourite Sunday School teacher during their special times during Sunday worship services.

The advantage for all of us has been that Scott as a dad with young children knew intimately the current lingo, popular books, hot button topics and interests, as well as the TV, DS game programs and heroes, so that while sharing his story time with the children, those in need of

updating from *Mr. Rogers, The Friendly Giant, Sesame Street, Barney* and the *Teletubbies* were gently introduced and guided into the new century! And it didn't stop there when we think of the many times that it felt so good to be reasonably current when talking with the children of family and friends outside of church about the programs and games they were watching, playing or knew!! We were, you know, "with it", or "so hip", we were "like.....cool, dude"!!

There were several other leaps into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century that Scott initiated, which at first seemed a bit bolder than we thought we were capable of being--but looking back now seem "old hat comfortable". Applying to BC Conference for an innovation grant and having to top it up with church funds to purchase the sanctuary computer projector was a start. I remember well the questions as to its worth given the cost, its questionable usefulness, and the likelihood that most people wearing bifocals would not be able to read anything projected on a sloped screen at that angle! And look at us now with our hymns, Bible readings, prayers and announcements in brilliant colour and clarity, and with the beautiful background scenes and works of art that our super creative secretary Pam Athey incorporates into our weekly service power points. We are truly blessed, our worship



## Thoughts on Scott . . . (cont.)

services enhanced and made ever more meaningful.

Another significant technological step that Scott initiated was setting up our DLUC website. When asked how they found “our little church almost lost in the woods by the lake”, several new attendees over the past few years have said, “Your DLUC website.” Along with our vision and mission statements, dluc.ca includes our many activities and programs and Scott’s sermons, which he adds each week. In addition to the website, the Communications Committee also emails electronic versions of our award-winning newsletter, *The Lakeshore Lines*, as well as important notices and information to most members. Being technologically up-to-date is good!

Another truly significant venture that Scott encouraged following the visioning and mission statement development was the year-plus long task of putting in place an “order out of organized chaos” *Policies and Procedures Manual*. Individual members and committees had for years been doing all that was necessary to keep the various parts of the church support systems functioning without any documented coordination, oversight or direction. “If it needed to be done, it got done, sometimes magically, sometimes with

unexpected consequences.” The incredibly thorough *P&P* documents, updated annually, provide the template adopted by several other churches in our Presbytery and Conference—a real credit to the foresight, commitment and leadership shown by DLUC.

Amidst all the serious “work stuff” has been a whole raft of people-centred “fun stuff”. The September Welcome Back BBQ’s, Halloween Parties, movie nights, workshops and study groups, and especially his proactive leadership with the Lower Mainland Children’s Conference has placed Scott and DLUC at the forefront of “what’s good and what’s happening” for children and youth in our churches today. As it has become abundantly clear over the past several years, unless there is involvement and purpose for our children, youth and young families’ interaction in and with the church, there is little future for the church in which we grew up, felt a need for, or adopted along the way.

It is pastoral leaders like Scott whose balanced sense of evangelism, inclusion, celebration and promotion of Christ-centred worship for the whole family that provide the foundation for the future of our United Church.

And while all that I’ve highlighted to this

point has focused on what has happened in and at the church, Scott has carried DLUC’s presence into the Burnaby community with monthly services at New Vista Care Home and the George Derby Center for our armed forces veterans. He has established strong relationships with other churches in Burnaby as well as the Masjid al-Salaam mosque just across Canada Way. Through Scott, the Burnaby Hospice Society has found a welcoming church home at Deer Lake. And even with all the usual church duties, meetings, home and hospital visitations, and the myriad expectations of a caring pastor, Scott still made time to serve as Chair of Westminster Presbytery for the past two years, an intense, time and energy consuming role. His strong, caring and thoughtful leadership and steady presence will certainly be missed there as well as at DLUC.

We have been so fortunate to have shared these nine years with Scott on this part of our personal and collective walks together. While our paths now diverge, our journeys with Christ have been forever enlivened, enriched and empowered.

Sincere heartfelt thanks, Scott. May God bless and guide you on your new journey, and us on ours.



Members of the Christian Education Committee hard at work in the Deer Lake United Church library.

## DLUC Women's Retreat 2012 - Living Simply with Less

By Kristy D-O'C

On May 4 – 6, twenty women from Deer Lake gathered at Peggy's place in Sechelt to relax, rejuvenate and reconnect. The theme of our weekend was "Living Simply with Less." As someone with a couple of closets that could use de-cluttering, I was anticipating a rousing discussion about strategies others have used to live more simply with less material things. And while we did share tips for getting rid of unwanted items, the focus of our discussion was more about how we can de-clutter our lives to live more fully in the present moment. Using the book *The Happiness Project* by Gretchen Rubin, we discussed and reflected on ways that we can let go of clutter in our lives that interferes with our abilities to live in accordance with our values and priorities. We reflected on what brings us joy, and prioritized the values and experiences that really matter to us, focusing on how to bring these experiences more fully into our daily lives.

Through wonderful group discussion, and quiet walks on the beach, we were invited to find our own meaning in the theme. With fantastic food, copious amounts of laughter, a great campfire, and wonderful moments to reconnect with old friends and build new relationships, the weekend provided us with an opportunity to step outside the clutter of our everyday lives, and reconnect with those things we hold most dear.

Blessings to the organizers for creating such a welcoming and restorative weekend.



## The Deer Lake Men and the Five Ancient Elements

By Garry F

As I shared the camaraderie of the men's retreat with sixteen other men this year, I couldn't help but think of the four classical elements: Earth, Water, Air and Fire. I have since learned that the ancients of Greece and India sometimes included a fifth element, Aether or Ether, meaning the upper sky, space or heaven. I can't think of a better analogy for this year's retreat than these five ancient elements.

**Earth** manifested itself in several forms. Our activities included two hikes, one in Kinnikinnick Park and one over the hill to Davis Bay then back along the beach. The earth made itself known to our feet. We spent many constructive and entertaining hours repairing the cabins and pruning trees and underbrush. The earth formed a firm foundation. We played Bocce on the beach at low tide and on the grass when there was no beach. The earth provided our somewhat irregular Bocce courts. Most importantly, we ate (gorged?) and most of our food came from the earth.

**Water** was plentiful, though fortunately not in the form of rain. We had four days of sunshine sparkling on the waters of the Strait of Georgia. Those waters provided two of us with a source of exercise as they kayaked past Sechelt and around the largest of the Trail Islands. Most of us got our feet wet while playing Bocce and one of us was brave (or foolish) enough to go for a dip. From the water came crab and salmon, both consumed with gusto. Most importantly, water was present in the many beverages we sampled throughout the weekend. We raised our glasses in toasts to our lost comrades sorely missed, and shared the cup of blessing in an Agape service on Sunday.

**Air** brought to our ears the sounds of lapping waves, raucous crows and gulls, screeching eagles and laughing men. It wafted in gentle breezes until Sunday morning when the wind grew, turning the gentle lapping of waves into thunderous surf. It filled us with energy and with words of learning, reflection, sharing and worship. It blew forth in jokes and laughter and snores and all manner of means not to be mentioned. And it fed the fourth element, fire.

**Fire** energized the weekend, appropriate I suppose since Sunday was the Day of Pentecost. Two enormous beach fires lit up the sky on Friday and Saturday nights. We were sure the glow could be seen by Jo and Sandy in Parksville. A large stump shaped like a giant molar formed the core into and upon which all other fuel was added. Tree trunks, branches, blackberry briars, logs, old stairs and railings, anything that wasn't wanted and would burn was sacrificed. A few men braved the heat of the inferno to rearrange and prod and encourage the blaze while most watched with beverage in hand. In the wee hours of Sunday morning the blackened, much reduced remains were tipped into the sea.

**Ether** filled the quiet moments. It was present in the stars and the moon circling slowly over our heads at night. It animated our discussion of Rights, Privileges and Expectations, led so ably by Tony on Saturday morning. It enlivened the memories and tales of our friends, Bill, Frank, George and Gordon. And it moved and bonded seventeen men as they joined in prayer and song on Sunday morning. Ether suffused every aspect of this year's retreat.

Thank you to Tony and Peggy for once again sharing with us their property in Sechelt. It is truly a little piece of heaven.



## Breathtaking Moments at Deer Lake

By Rev. G. Scott Turnbrook

The 2005 romantic comedy *'Hitch'* popularized Hillary Cooper's wisdom that *"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away"*. Nine years of service in a church, by today's standards, is considered long term ministry; however, my nine years did not feel long at all. In fact many have inquired, "Where did all the time go?" I agree. During my ministry at Deer Lake, I was blessed to enjoy a tapestry of moments that I will take with me. In this, my last article for Lakeshore Lines, I wish to take an opportunity to share some of those special moments 'that took [my] breath away'.

If I wasn't sure that Deer Lake would be a journey of experiences that would take my breath away, that was clarified on my first day. I arrived at the church, to be greeted by Alice Stephenson, our church administrator, who was wearing what I would later learn was a very guilty grin on her face. (Alice would not have made a good poker player.) As I made my inaugural entry into the minister's study, I found my office had been visited by one of the church pranksters (I would later discover that there are more than one!!!) who had positioned a 6 foot tall inflatable Christmas penguin to welcome me to my new office. It was clear that this was going to be a memorable journey! I came to fall in love with a community who held joy and fun as a core value in their community. I uncovered a group that welcomed joking and laughter, who even had a 'beer group' of amateur brew-masters who dabbled in the age-old craft of perfecting their favourite Christian beverage.

The special moments continued. My first week was in the season of Advent. I have wonderful memories of my first Christmas Pageant which was led by our children, youth and the Christian Education teachers. As Rev. Audrey capably presided over the liturgy which so many participated in, I knew that I was in a very special church. I would continue to look forward to the Christmas Pageant for they would serve as a reminder of the growing vitality of our ministry with children and youth as well as our church's ongoing commitment to welcome their voices as

an essential part of the community. As many of you welcomed me into your homes during my initial visitation coordinated by Peggy A., I came to appreciate the depth of joy, commitment and faith that is the heart of what truly makes Deer Lake a church.



I remember Gordon G's annual gingerbread parties where *'The Candyman'* would provide each household with a homemade gingerbread kit that we would assemble in the church hall. (Our family continues to use his recipe to make a gingerbread house every December.) I remember Don W and the Kidz' Band, Sax Among Friends, Coffee House Choir Concerts, Thursday morning gatherings with 'The Folders'. I learned a lot about the strength of men's spirituality at Deer Lake from our Men's group. While not a morning person, I enjoyed the few Tuesday morning Men's Group gatherings (though arising at 5 a.m. for a 6:45 breakfast group seemed painful). I attended many of the annual Men's Retreats and will remember the depth of faith, fun, and (of course) the fruit of BBQ Bob's labours!

I will always remember the open-minded nature of the Deer Lake community (and pray that I am blessed to work with other like-minded church communities in the future). I took some risks and explored the theatrical arts in a church context. At the beginning of Lent in 2006, I arrived at church in a Roman Centurion costume.

This was the beginning of a series of explorations into what the last seven days of Jesus' life was really like as he lived amidst the oppressive Roman regime. I remember a dialogue sermon with Andrew Hull dressed in a Grinch costume as we explored the true meaning of Christmas. And last year, I donned a Charlie Brown costume for our 'All Ages Christmas Eve Service' where together with some of our younger members, we contrasted the commercial aspects of Christmas alongside real meaning of the season. I will always remember the openness of expression that is not just accepted, but is celebrated, at Deer Lake!

I will remember the various forms of learning and growth that I was blessed to share in at the church. The trust given to me from the children as we shared in our weekly "Time for the Young @ Heart"; the series of Confirmation Classes I shared in with many of our teenagers; the many different Bible Studies and prayer groups I shared in with many of our adults; and the many conversations about one's faith shared over coffee or computer. These moments were ones where the people shared with me the questions that lay at the depth of their souls. They are moments of pure grace that will never be forgotten.

Memories were created as we gathered at the church to celebrate rites of life's passage. Usually weddings are more 'out-reach directed' and we do not see the wedding party until many years later (and I had the joy of officiating at many of those ceremonies). However, I was given the rare opportunity to officiate at the weddings for couples connected with the church community as well. I will remember ceremonies with Shannon and Glen, Susan and Peter, Dawn-Marie and Ben, Roger and Vanessa, Nikki and Jeremy, Selena and Brendan, Elizabeth and Andrew, Bruce and Sue, & Faith and Evan. Many of these couples have become increasingly involved over the years in the church. It was a joy to share in Bible study with Peter and Susan and to appreciate Susan's ministry as our church librarian, to share in the joy with Bruce & Susan's family and watch Samantha and Allison continue to grow into maturing young women, to engage in Bible Study



with Faith and later baptize her, to celebrate with Roger and Vanessa as they welcomed the birth of Lucas and Lauren who I would later baptize and share children's time with, and to await the arrival of Shannon and Glen's twins. Memories continued to be created through the sacrament of baptism as we celebrated God's loving welcome to Alexandra, Katelyn, Ethan, Pascha, Jacob, Ally, Tony, Matteo, Jona, Nate, Connor, Carter, Lucas, Declan, Sadie, Lauren, Arriel, Gian Luca, and Faith

Memories are not just limited to ones that bring a smile. Many important memories are those which bring on a tear. I remember the many saints that we have wept over as they moved on to a new life in God. I remember final visitations with Peggy A. and powerfully remember the visit when Peggy sat on her swing on the back deck and smiled as the choir offered a surprise visit and sang to her from below. I remember last visits with Frank Currie in St. Michael's Hospice and a very special visit when the Men's group visited, read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and serenaded Frank with Christmas carols. I remember last visitations with Harold Starnes and a hospice room that was transformed into a Christmas Wonderland. I remember special visits and powerful "Celebration of Life" services with so many of the saints of our church over the past nine years: Wenda E., Marlene G., Gordon G., Marguerite L., Bert P., Marguerite D., Hilda B., Bill H., Aurora L., Rev. George S., and Mary B..

I will carry wonderful memories with me from the many retired ministers who have been both mentor and friend. I will remember the many visits I had with Rev. George and Claire, and the open invitation to drop by for a glass of scotch "when needed". It was a tremendous honour to officiate at the memorial service for Rev. George for whom I had the deepest of respect. I remember the grace and friendship shared with Rev. Audrey and her husband Glen, Rev. Ria, and lately Rev. Alf and his wife Barb. As I think of mentors during my journey, I will always remember the special relationship I enjoyed with Bill H.. How the Spirit was alive in him calling him to lead the occasional Sunday service as well as coordinate many of the Men's Retreats and

Men's Christmas breakfast gatherings over the years.

I have some powerful memories of the visioning process we engaged in with the Rev. Dr. Brian Fraser. What I remember most was the passion of the church community to achieve a collective vision that was not just one of maintaining the status quo. Rather, I discovered a church who wanted to carry forth some components of their history while also opening their awareness to the possibilities of the Spirit's movement into their future. That vision statement came to define much our ministry in the years ahead. The language of this vision statement became very important in guiding our actions. I remember how this statement called us to take our welcoming ministry seriously. People said, "Our vision statement says 'Deer Lake welcomes...,' so I think we should be more welcoming." Such attention to our vision called us to be more intentional in welcoming newcomers, to create a welcoming package, to create a welcoming presence in the form of a front garden, to have numerous welcome dinners. It was a wonderful thing to see God blessing our church with growth amidst a culture that tells us that the church is in a time of decline.

I also remember my admiration of your commitment to a gospel welcoming initiative, for this was not an easy transition. In my experience, most churches think that 'they are the most welcoming church under the sun'; however, it is rare when this is the case. Human nature causes us to gravitate towards our friends. It is unusual for a community's focus to be upon welcoming the stranger. I have a strong memory of when one of our new families called us to task in this area. Andrew Hull rose from his chair at an AGM and asked the gathered congregation, "What do I have to do to no longer be called 'a newcomer'?" Andrew highlighted the problem that exists for most churches. Namely, how do we invite people fully into the community so that they have all rights and privileges of the others? What I remember was the congregation's surprise of this dynamic that existed even at Deer Lake, and their openness to working towards being a 'church' rather than a 'country club'.

I have great memories of the many who

supported me in my ministry over the years. I think of the many board members who checked in with me, kept me 'in the loop' and were sources of strength; the Thursday 'Folders Group' who checked in with me each week. I remember the support and collegiality shared with our music ministry. I would have the delight in sharing in the creative presence of Donna as we selected the music to be sung. I would partner with the choir in matching anthems to the theme of the day. I would be blessed to work with Don & Jean, and Terri & Grant. Their retirement would unite me with Liana and now our amazing Rebecca. While more 'behind the scenes', I will always remember the support of the Ministry and Personnel Committee; and I will always remember the day in and day out assistance and friendship that I shared with the three amazing Office Administrators at the church: Alice S., Wendy H., and Pam A.. I could not have been an effective minister without them!

In most long term pastoral relationships, as the minister gains an understanding and appreciation of the congregational culture, they come to earn the trust of the congregation. I remember when my first secretary, Alice Stephenson, sat me down for a talk as I was just about to complete my first year of service. She proceeded to share her plans for retirement with me, wanting me to be the first to know. Having served for well over a decade, Alice had been significant part of the 'glue' that held our church together. I became worried about losing her knowledge and advice. She said, "I've been wanting to retire for a while; however, I wanted to wait until the next long-term minister was established. They like you and you like them. You are going to do fine." And she was right. We did! (In fact, we did more than fine. We shared memories that took my breath away!)

Thank you for a very memorable nine years. I pray that you will give the same welcome, trust and support to the next minister who is called to serve your fine church.

Shalom, Salaam, Peace,

*Rev. Scott*



All the United Churches in Burnaby worshiped together in a joint Good Friday service at Deer Lake this year, followed by the walk of the cross.



First Sunday food drive uses bags decorated by the kids.



The cross was decorated with flowers on Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.



March 17<sup>th</sup> Ladies' Breakfast hosted by Pat Young.



The children perform in Art and Soul



Alex and Lilian N. celebrate his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday with the help of some musical friends.



Two small groups joined Garry F. on rides along Fisherman's Trail alongside the Seymour River



BC Conference attendees gather in UBC War Memorial Gym May 31 – June 3

## Acts of Kindness Surely Good for the Soul

The following article appeared in the *Vancouver Sun* a few weeks ago.

### Bus driver, passengers help woman visit her dying mother

A West Vancouver bus driver and passengers on an express bus to Horseshoe Bay are being hailed as Good Samaritans after they stepped up to get a woman to Nanaimo to see her dying mother on Mother's Day.

The bus was heading from downtown Vancouver to the Horseshoe Bay ferry last Sunday morning when an accident on the Lions Gate Bridge closed the bridge to traffic.

The driver had just announced to passengers that the bus would be rerouted over the Ironworkers Memorial Second Narrows Crossing when he was approached by a woman asking if the bus would still make it in time for the 12:30 p.m. ferry to Nanaimo.

When the bus driver said he didn't think so, the woman "broke down in tears," said Gareth Rowlands, manager of the West Vancouver Blue Bus transit system.

She told the driver she'd got a phone call saying her mother — who was in hospital in Nanaimo — likely only had a few hours to live.

The woman told him she only had enough money to travel by ferry. Hearing that, another woman on the bus took up a collection from fellow passengers and were able to come up with enough money for the approximately \$90 float-plane fare from Vancouver to Nanaimo.

The bus driver, an employee with 16 years' experience, then drove the bus to drop the woman off near the float plane base in Vancouver harbour before continuing on to the Second Narrows.

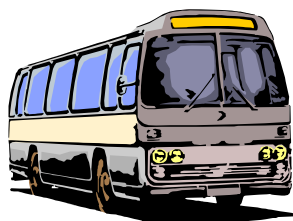
I read the article a few times and I wondered about all of the folks on the bus, including the daughter. Clearly, the woman who collected the donations saw a need, and acted.

I wondered how the other passengers felt after hearing they'd get to Horseshoe Bay much later than anticipated ... likely frustration and possibly even anger.

But I'm betting that after learning of the daughter's predicament, most, if not all of the other passengers considered their own situation inconvenient at worst.

Being allowed to help the daughter by donating to her fare, the other passengers must have received a blessing themselves.

A rare good-news story.



Participants break bread during Maundy Thursday service.

## PAYROLL ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

Beginning in September, we will be adopting the United Church's payroll system for Deer Lake staff. This will require approximately 7 hours of work per month. We are hoping to find a volunteer to take on this role to avoid the expense of a paid position. The candidate must have good accounting skills, be a reasonably long-term member of Deer Lake United Church and attend church regularly. If you or someone you know fit the bill and are interested, please speak with Cathy M. for more information.

## COUNTERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed to collect and count the offering on occasional Sundays. Volunteers work in pairs. It takes about one hour to count the money and make the night deposit. Training, help and printed instructions are available. An Excel spreadsheet is also available if you would like to use a computer to complete the counting sheet. Please see Mary if you can help.

## 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

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Submission Deadline Sunday, Sept 23, 2012