

# LAKESHORE LINES

December, 2013

Free – and worth every cent!

## THE UNFINISHED PAT MURRAY STORY:

# Of Friendship and Rock-Solid Faith

by Jim Y

This is a story of courage, dedication, HOPE, LOVE and FAITH. It is also an uplifting, JOYful story.

On April 17<sup>th</sup> of this year, Pat M underwent surgery at Royal Columbian Hospital to remove a benign but fast-growing brain tumor.

She wasn't overly-worried about the outcome ... after all, the risk was only 100 to 1 that something could go wrong. And anyway, she'd had the same surgery a few years earlier, and although the doctors "couldn't get it all", she survived. It did take a few months for her to recover.

This time, things did go wrong. Pat suffered a catastrophic stroke on the operating table. She was paralyzed on the right side and she couldn't speak.

The doctors worked on her for a couple of weeks. They did brain scans. No hope they said ... there's been too much damage to Pat's brain. Devastating news to be sure.

A few weeks after her surgery she was transferred to Eagle Ridge Rehab Center where she was assessed again and given



Pat M (sunglasses) with Judy B, Claire S and Pat Y the day before Pat's surgery

two weeks of physiotherapy and speech therapy.

It was then "confirmed" that Pat would never be able to move her right side, speak or even comprehend what was

being said to her.

A group of women, including Claire S, Marie P, Jean J, Pat Y, Judy B and Barb

*Continued on page 2*

### 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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**Pat Murray***(continued from front page)*

A, mobilized. They organized a visitation schedule to ensure that Pat had someone visit her every day to feed her lunch or dinner. She needed company ... she needed to know she wasn't forgotten ... and she needed to know she was loved.

Pat's situation didn't improve very much at Eagle Ridge and she was moved to Fairhaven Retirement Home.

There, she was encouraged to move her right arm. She joined in the music program shaking little bells and banging a drum. Soon, she was feeding herself with her right hand. Her "wave goodbye" was accompanied with a smile.

She also began moving her right foot.

From the beginning, it was obvious to these women that Pat comprehended what was being said to her, although she couldn't speak.

She could show emotion ... she laughed at jokes and cried when she was sad. She also became frustrated when she couldn't be independent.

On one occasion, when Pat Y said that she had to go home ... she stretched out her arms and said: "No, no, no!" Perhaps

her first words.

Pat's friends were encouraged by these "small miracles". They phoned and e-mailed each other with the good news of the day.

When Pat was told that Pat Y was about to have a "small surgical procedure", Pat Murray said "Cacaca". She couldn't say "cancer". She cried.

She was even coming up with appropriate three-word phrases, like: "Oh, my God" to describe the pain she experienced.

When she was told that Pat Y was out of the hospital and feeling well, Pat said: "Just imagine."

She began receiving physiotherapy and has taken a few steps in the corridor. Pat has also begun to receive speech therapy.

Pat M's experience, as awful and difficult as it has been, also has been joyful with each triumph.

Her recovery has been slow and her potential is not yet known. However, this small group of dedicated women friends is convinced that Pat will continue to progress.



Donations are still needed for Typhoon Haiyan Relief. Your donation will go directly to the relief and reconstruction work in the Philippines. Until December 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Canadian government will match donations for Typhoon Haiyan relief dollar for dollar. Please act now! As of December 5th, the United Church had received 4,638 gifts totalling \$728,984.25.

To give, go to

<http://www.united-church.ca/haiyan>.

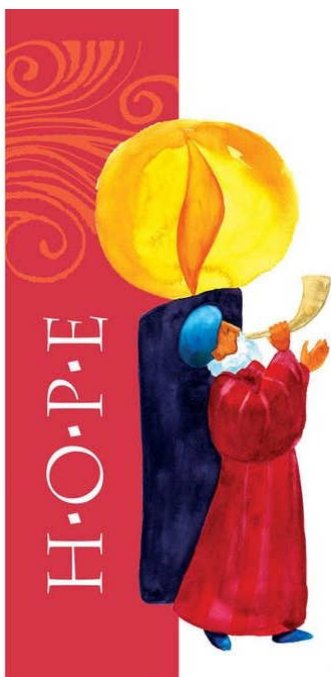
If you prefer to donate via the collection plate, please note "Emergency Response – Typhoon Haiyan Relief" on the face of your cheque.

## BASES Family Thrift Store Opens

The brand new BASES (Burnaby Association for the South East Side) Family Thrift Store opened its doors October 15th and all's going well. It's amazing the generosity of people in making donations of clothing and household goods for us to sell. We've had a huge variety of donations which makes the store very interesting to visit and volunteer in. Our donations have included everything from beautiful ceramic hand-thrown pots to brand new children's shirts with smiling cats to lots of vinyl records from Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix, and even Frank Sinatra.

All proceeds from the store go to the six schools in that part of Burnaby which has a new immigrant, refugee, low-income population. On any given day, there are volunteers from more than five countries helping out, which adds a richness to the store's atmosphere. It's a fun place to be and always hopping!

Our store hours are Monday-Saturday 10am-5:30pm and the address is 7666 Kingsway (between 13th and 14th Avenues). If you have questions, please feel free to contact Peggy W or Kathy R.



## Minister's Musings

Dear friends,

It's that time again when we start a new season outside the church (winter!) yet within the church circles, we enter into Advent, the coming of Christmas, and then journey through Epiphany. Many things have been going on – special services including baptism, covenanting, Remembrance Day, Advent service, concerts, sales and so on. We have much to be grateful for and much to celebrate. However, we cannot rush that journey to the manger on Christmas Day. This is a time to ponder, and wait, and reflect daily on what the meaning behind Christmas really is about.

For those of you interested in online resources, I suggest you go check out this video about consumerism and what Advent and Christmas could mean if we changed our ways: "Advent Conspiracy":

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3hDCMV5PyE>

I hope that we don't get lost in the hustle and bustle of Christmas, and at the very least we find solace and reverence in the Sunday morning worship services so that we remember "the reason for the season".

I share with you, below, a great reflection piece I found while planning the upcoming services. It really grounds us in what this time is all about.

Peace,

*Rev. Tracy Fairfield*

### Prelude: It's all about the waiting

Patience is a virtue, and that virtue it really apparent when it comes to the season of Advent, when kids are excited about Santa coming and can't wait to open gifts, and people are frustrated as they wait in lines to pay for their purchases. For our society that relies so much on devices that are time-saving and communications that are immediate, waiting and patience are words that don't seem to exist anymore.

However, the journey from Advent 1 to Epiphany unfolds as all good stories should, step by step. It begins with the longing, the waiting, the anticipation, and finally, the birth, the angels and shepherds, and the wise men. Some Services of Lessons and Carols tell the whole story of these three seasons, and Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany carols are all part of that.

In an article by Lester Ruth from the periodical *Reformed Worship* (Issue 69), Ruth talks about the traditional emphasis on Advent as a season of anticipation. Although the classic calendar and the lectionary show that the season of Christmas is December 25 and the 12 days following, if you ask people when the Christmas season is, many would reply, "As soon as Hallowe'en is over."

It seems that the bigger Christmas (or the "holiday season" as the consumerist advertising has called it) has become, the more Christmas has swallowed up Advent. Many churches today are trying to keep the season of Advent as a clear counter-cultural witness to the all-too-common overindulgence of December, and a more conscious observance of Advent is growing steadily in many churches and Christian homes. However, the secular culture ignores Advent, as there isn't much money to be made on patience or waiting. So, the Christmas music continues in the malls, the decorations start to go up in October, and the themes of Advent – hope, peace, joy, and love – are largely ignored.

In a blog written by Cory Howell, Howell writes that, even to many churchgoers, Advent and the Christmas season are one and the same. By the time Christmas has arrived, many people don't want to sing Christmas carols anymore, as they have been hearing them since before Hallowe'en. Secular practice and sacred tradition have become extremely blurred.

Yet, by using the image of a people in darkness who are waiting for the coming light, we could bring back some of the meaning into our Christmas celebrations. As Howell points out, instead of indulging in the worst kind of consumerism as many do every year at this time, perhaps we could focus more on our spiritual poverty, our need for something more meaningful than the everyday hustle and bustle – usually amplified during this time of year. It's about trying to find that inner peace, silence, and space.

In a blog by the Rev. Dr. Mark D. Roberts, Roberts asserts that if we jump straight into Christmas, we not only miss out on the activities and music associated with Advent, but we also miss out on the celebration of the full season of Christmas. The seasons of the church year can enrich worship and the worshippers' lives. Taking time in Advent to focus on Christ's coming makes it more joyful when it does arrive.

This is why we try not to sing Christmas carols in church before Christmas Eve, and why we focus on the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. They help us prepare for Christmas and help us to be counter-cultural. What better message can we as Christians send to the world than that we should have hope, create peace, live joyfully and share our love with others in our world?

Former United Church Moderator Mardi Tindal expressed this sentiment very well in her annual Advent message in 2010: "I wish you the gift of time and space to reflect on this beautiful complex world we live in, thankful for all we have been given and all that we have to give one another in God's world – a renewed spirit of humility and awe, along with courage in our efforts toward justice and healing for all."

*By: Tammy-Jo Mortensen,  
Music Editor, Gathering Magazine  
from the United Church of Canada, 2013.*

## Web + Social Media Workshop

On Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, Tracy, Lynn and Garry attended a one day workshop entitled “Web + Social Media for Churches” at BCIT. The workshop, presented by Matt Morrison of ChurchOS, explained the importance of an engaging, up-to-date web presence. It outlined the most prominent online tools and showed how to make them work together.

Our website ([www.dluc.ca](http://www.dluc.ca)) has been successful in bringing a number of people into the church, but it is in dire need of replacement. If the budget is approved a new website will be developed in the new year. Tracy had already set up a facebook page but, based on knowledge gained at the workshop, she has implemented a new page. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Deer-Lake-United-Church/164684720407328> or search for Deer Lake United Church from your facebook page. We will also be using a tool called MailMonkey to help manage our email distribution lists.

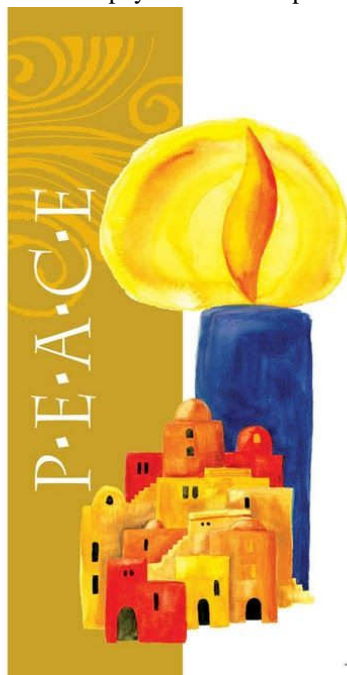
It was a very worthwhile workshop.

## BC Conference Assists Naramata

At its November meeting, the BC Conference Executive agreed to provide \$2.6 million financial assistance over the next year to The Centre at Naramata. \$1.8 million will be used to pay the Centre’s debts; the balance will cover urgent maintenance needs and probably 2014 operating losses. Further funding up to \$4 million will be considered in the future provided that the Centre meets key business and operations objectives.

The financial assistance comes in response to a request from the Centre to BC Conference to assume its debt which was proving to be unpayable. In response to this request, the Executive Secretary engaged Colliers International Consulting to assess the situation. After assessing the resulting report and possible options with the Finance Council and the Centre, the Executive Secretary recommended that the financial assistance be provided.

The monies prevent the Centre’s closure and declaration of bankruptcy that would likely have occurred by the end of this year. It will also provide the Centre’s management and Board the time and finances they need to continue developing a new, sustainable model that will see the Centre into the future.



## Church Library Cleanup

Ruth has been working hard to update and make our library more usable. Most of the books have never been signed out and some are dated back to the early 1900s! Books with dedications need to be looked at as well. If you know of particular books that you feel should remain in the library, please speak with Ruth; otherwise, there are many to be given away, so please feel free to take what you want. Each Sunday until January, a box of books will be placed in the hall during coffee time for your perusal.

If you take a book, please remove the library card from the back of the book and put it in the envelope provided so the database can be appropriately adjusted.

When borrowing books from the library, please fill in your name and the date (with year) on the card and put it in the holder on the return bookshelf for restocking.

If you have any questions, please see Ruth.



Fifteen well-fed (and therefore happy) men after their Advent Breakfast in the fellowship hall on November 30



Twenty-four similarly happy women after their Advent Breakfast at Dana’s on December 7th

## Rev. Tracy Fairfield's Covenanting Service

The pews were comfortably full as Rev. Tracy's covenanting service got started on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Members of Deer Lake United Church and Westminster Presbytery attended as Rev. Brian Burke, Rev. Kimiko Karpov and members of the Joint Search Committee formally celebrated and recognized Rev. Tracy's calling to Deer Lake United Church.



## News from Outreach

### Harvest for the Homeless:

Thanks to everyone who contributed generously to the *Harvest for the Homeless*. We were able to provide a very large collection of socks, gloves, scarves, underwear and toiletries to Progressive Housing to provide to Burnaby's homeless this winter. The cornucopia was filled to overflowing, as shown in the accompanying photo.

### Hope for Families:

In keeping with our annual tradition, DLUC is preparing Christmas hampers for several needy families and seniors through the Burnaby Christmas Bureau. If you would like to contribute, please mark your offering envelope with the amount you would like to give for the *Hope for Families* Christmas hampers.



Christmas hampers ready to be delivered by the *Hope for Families* hosts.



A cornucopia of clothes

# Babies! Babies! Babies!



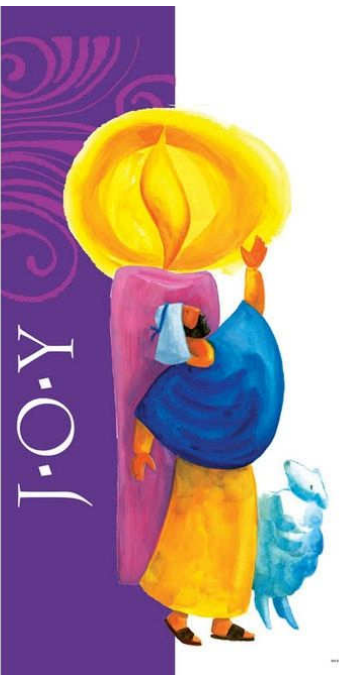
Milania Andrea, born June 24<sup>th</sup> to Tammy, Gianfranco and big brother Luca, baptized November 17<sup>th</sup>.



Keaton, born October 20<sup>th</sup> to Shelley R's son Brock and his wife, Amber



AJ, born October 22<sup>nd</sup> to Elizabeth and Quinn.



## Tom C's Passing Honoured

Family, friends and a Vancouver Fire Department honour guard filled Deer Lake United Church to overflowing on November 20<sup>th</sup>. They were there to pay tribute to the life of an amazing man. Tom was born in Dauphin, Manitoba on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1922 but moved to Vancouver with his family when he was still a boy.

At the age of 18 he enlisted in the R.C.A.F., and saw active duty over Europe during World War II. After the war, Tom joined the Vancouver Fire Department where he served for 36 years before retiring in 1982. He married Mary Davies in 1950, built his own house in Burnaby and helped raise three boys.

Tom never seemed to sit still for long. He was an avid handyman, gardener and athlete. He spent many hours keeping Deer Lake's garden looking its best and was still swimming not many months before his death. He was an amazing man and is missed by those who knew and loved him.



## British Columbia Boys Choir Sing Up a Storm



On Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, our sanctuary was filled with joyous voices. The concert opened with two numbers by the Deer Lake United Church Choir, directed by Rebecca. Then Garry introduced the evening's main act, director Tony Araujo and the British Columbia Boys Choir. The thirty-two male voices aged 7 to 24 wowed the audience with their amazing sound.

Everyone was smiling as they made their way from the sanctuary to the hall for dessert and beverages. In addition to providing an evening of entertainment, the choir raised over \$1200 for Deer Lake's building fund and operations.

If you haven't had the opportunity to hear this choir, I encourage you to do so. There is nothing quite like the sound produced by a boys choir.

## Gogos "Swags and Bags" Raises Money for African Grandmothers

It almost looked like a Black Friday sale. The crowd was so thick it was hard to maneuver from one end of the room to the other. But there was no pandemonium, no pushing and shoving, no screaming, no fighting over merchandise, no security guards wrestling crazed shoppers to the floor. Just happy shoppers looking for quality decorations and gifts.

It was the Gogos "Swags and Bags" sale offering a wide variety of merchandise to raise money for African grandmothers caring for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. So how did they do? They raised an astonishing \$3,800.

On top of that, the bake sale that was held at the same time raised another \$600, the proceeds of which went partially to Deer Lake local operations and partially to the building fund.

To learn more about the Gogos, talk to Claire S or go to [www.grandmotherscampaign.org](http://www.grandmotherscampaign.org).



**My brother is tired and the jerry cans are heavy**

Water School, a non-profit organization in which Tony Woodruff is Program Director, provides Ugandan villages with access to clean safe water using only clear plastic bottles and the power of the sun.

Learn more at [www.waterschool.com](http://www.waterschool.com).

# Welcome Back Barbecue

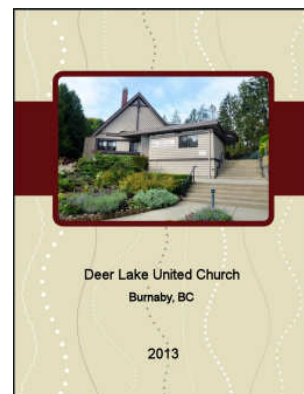
As has been the custom for many years now, the Men's Group manned the barbecues to welcome everyone back to Deer Lake after their summer adventures. Our good luck continued this Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September as sunny warm weather allowed us to eat al fresco once again.



Paul welcomes a hungry throng while Don studies Barbecue Bob's technique

## Photo Directory Update

The proof of the photo directory has been received, edited and returned to IPC. The final copies should be available early in the new year. Everyone who had a picture taken, whether or not they ordered portraits for themselves, will receive a copy of the directory at no cost.



## Another Barbecue?

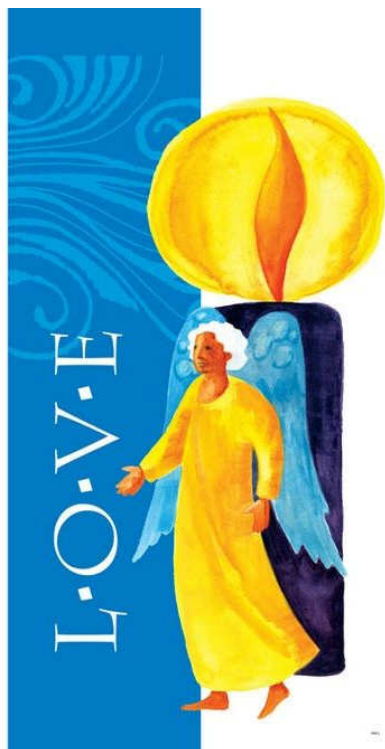
When Tony and Peggy decided to build a new home on their Sechelt property, demolition of the existing building was just too boring to contemplate.

What to do? Why contact the local fire department, of course, and arrange to have it burned down as a training exercise.

Here is the result.



Tony and Peggy giggle while home burns.



The season is upon us

## Submissions

**Lakeshore Lines** is 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](mailto:g.forwood@yahoo.ca)  
Jim Young: [oldjimyoung@gmail.com](mailto:oldjimyoung@gmail.com)

**Next Issue: March 2014**

Submission Deadline Sunday, March 9, 2014