

# LAKESHORE LINES

April, 2014

Free and worth every cent!

## Minister's Musings

### “We are writing this so that our joy may be complete.” (1 John 1:4)

Ever wondered how God is working in your life? Ever feel a call you can't ignore, or have a belief so strong, it's surprising how God can change your plans?

For as long as I can remember, I never wanted to give birth to a baby. I was so adamant that I'm sure it disappointed my mum that I'd never give her a grandchild by birth. I always felt that there were so many children in social services that needed homes, why not adopt from there?

Well, time went on and as I grew and saw more and more babies, I still felt the same way, maybe even stronger, that adopting a school-age child that needed a home was more up my alley than giving birth to a baby. I always thought that that “thing” growing inside of me would be like an alien, never mind the communication problems when baby would be born! Why are you crying?! I've changed the diaper; I've fed you; I've burped you and I've swaddled you, now sleep! It was never part of my constitution to fathom having a baby.

You'd think that while being a minister and doing baptisms, I'd melt with the opportunity of having a baby in my arms, and not want to “give them back”. Sadly, I enjoy giving them back; babies were cute, but I just didn't “get them”.

Let's journey a bit more in my history... When I finished my theological training I was matched with a congregation in Saskatchewan so I moved from Ottawa. I was single and enjoying living on my own. I often wondered if I'd be financially secure so as to grow a family, because I wasn't confident I'd find a partner living in small town (5000 people), SK.

After a year and a half of being in SK, I re-connected with Penny and we did the long distance relationship thing. We had many common goals and interests: we both like turrets on hous-

es, she had kids already (so no baby), and we were both interested in adopting a school age child from social services, or perhaps even being a foster family for children needing a home. It was great!



We were a match in so many ways, but the “baby issue” was not an issue at all; Penny had had her babies and there was no pressure for me to have a baby.

Well, I moved to BC in the fall of 2010. Work started out well, but then took a turn for stressful and disappointing times. I found new work that brought me a commute to Abbotsford. After that short term contract, I was delighted to accept an appointment at DLUC! Things started to pick up! I was constantly wondering if life would settle down. Once having relative job security with DLUC, Penny and I started talking about adoption, from social services. Seemed like a great avenue for us to pursue. We did the reference checks, the visits, and were about to start classes when things started changing...

*(Continued on page 9)*

<p><b>Vision Statement</b></p> <p>Deer Lake United Church welcomes you into a Christian community for all ages that explores and expresses spirituality through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Worship and Music</li> <li>•Fun and Fellowship</li> <li>•Caring and Outreach</li> <li>•Involvement and Growth</li> </ul>	<p><b>INSIDE</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>The Day Cancer Paid a Visit .....</b></td> <td><b>2</b></td> <td><b>Woodruff's Buenos Aires Vacation</b></td> <td><b>8</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Lynn McGrath Era to End Soon .....</b></td> <td><b>3</b></td> <td><b>Upcoming Services and Events ....</b></td> <td><b>9</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>When Someone Needs a Lift .....</b></td> <td><b>3</b></td> <td><b>DLUC Welcomes Jenn Brooks ....</b></td> <td><b>10</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Committee Reports .....</b></td> <td><b>4 &amp; 5</b></td> <td><b>Georgie Cole 'Citizen of the Year'</b></td> <td><b>10</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Men's Retreat .....</b></td> <td><b>5</b></td> <td><b>What's in a Prayer .....</b></td> <td><b>11</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Church 101 .....</b></td> <td><b>6</b></td> <td><b>Mary Pinto Profile .....</b></td> <td><b>12</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Stewards' Message to Congregation .</b></td> <td><b>7</b></td> <td><b>In Memory of Shirley Smith .....</b></td> <td><b>12</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>The Day Cancer Paid a Visit .....</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Woodruff's Buenos Aires Vacation</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Lynn McGrath Era to End Soon .....</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Upcoming Services and Events ....</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>When Someone Needs a Lift .....</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>DLUC Welcomes Jenn Brooks ....</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Committee Reports .....</b>	<b>4 &amp; 5</b>	<b>Georgie Cole 'Citizen of the Year'</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Men's Retreat .....</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>What's in a Prayer .....</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Church 101 .....</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Mary Pinto Profile .....</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Stewards' Message to Congregation .</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>In Memory of Shirley Smith .....</b>	<b>12</b>
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## The Day Cancer Paid a Visit

by Jim Y

Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 began like most other days. Pat and I had breakfast and discussed the day ahead. I'd have lunch with my mom in Ladner, but be home early in the afternoon. Pat had a few chores to do in the morning before having her annual mammogram.

Pat was still out when I arrived home. I pattered around and then the phone rang. It was her doctor's office. "When Pat gets home, she needs to come to the office immediately." No explanation was necessary.

Pat was crying when she came through the door. Soon we were both sobbing. We drove to her doctor's, unable to share our thoughts. We were ushered into the office and Pat's mammogram result was lying on the table. "It looks like cancer," was her doctor's stark opinion. (It turned out to be a reoccurrence from 10 years before.)

I thought to myself, "This only ever happens to someone else." Thus began a journey down a road I never thought we'd be on. (Before the mammogram, life had become routine. Life and living were taken for granted.)

The doctor made an appointment with a breast cancer specialist for two days later. Pat and I had booked a month-long cruise to Australia and we wondered if we should go. "Please do," said the specialist. "It won't adversely affect the outcome."

Two days after we returned home, a pre-scheduled biopsy confirmed the mammogram finding. This set in motion a whirlwind of nine appointments in the next eight days ... plastic sur-

geon (reconstruction), bone scan, abdominal ultrasound, heart scan, etc.

Pat's surgery took place on November 12<sup>th</sup> and as soon as she was physically able, she began her chemotherapy.

We hear all kinds of stories about how our medical system fails so many folks, and I believe they're true. However, Pat's experience has been amazing. It's like she'd been fast-tracked from the beginning. And the compassion shown by the various cancer clinic staff simply can't be overstated: from the friendly receptionists to the gentle "chemo nurses".

I was particularly moved by the young woman singing gentle ballads in a reception area as patients quietly awaited their turn for "self-injection" lessons.

Chemotherapy isn't easy ... it's not for sissies. And as tough as it sometimes gets, it seems patients get strength by encouraging others as they too go through their own rough spots.

Pat's courage has been amazing and her positive attitude has helped her manage the tough times.

### New Addition to the Clan



This is Oliver Harley W with dad and mom Andrew and Louise, an hour after Oliver was born. His birthday was March 12<sup>th</sup>, and he weighed 8lbs. Louise managed to give Oliver the super-fast delivery service – 1 hour 50 minutes from the beginning of labour to delivery! Andrew did the delivery at home with the help of two midwives. All are well.

Proud grandparents are Tony and Peggy.



**Pat taking her first chemo (with frozen gloves)**

Pat and I would prefer not to be going down this particular road of course, but it does come with some blessings. Pat and I are facing our own mortality. We appreciate, more now than ever, that we have only a finite amount of time together. Those issues that were so important less than six months ago seem trivial today. A passion has returned to our relationship. We hug and kiss more now than we did when we were courting ... well, O.K. ... perhaps not quite.

Cancer draws family and friends together and our Deer Lake family has been phenomenal. We have been inspired by others who have already been along this path, and those who haven't have boosted us with their love and encouragement. We are blessed.

Cancer IS bad ... but it isn't necessarily ALL bad.



## Lynn McGrath Era to End Soon

My last Sunday at Deer Lake will be on April 27.

I'd like to thank Tracy and my oversight committee: Trish, Kristy, Arnie and Edna for their encouragement, support and wisdom.

I'd also like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to get to know all of you. It has been a pleasure sharing stories, laughter and sorrows with you and for the chance to practice my skills here at Deer Lake.



Lynn McGrath

It was great fun hanging out with the youth, Sunday school, the sandwich making and bible study groups. I'll take with me many fond memories and hope our paths cross again someday.

This summer I plan to catch up on my reading, do some beachcombing on Vancouver Island and catch a baseball game at Nat Bailey Stadium.

In the fall I will begin the Pastoral Care theme year at the Centre for Christian Studies. God's blessings to all.

Your friend, Lynn



Lynn led the youth of Deer Lake in the Sacred Food Workshop during the AGM. The poster is something they created after the workshop and after playing some active games. "Prayerful hands thanking God for many blessings."

They each wrote on their hand what they were thankful for, and added people in colourful outfits around the hands. From left to right: Katherine, Kennedy, Riley, Declan, Alana and Rai-Ann. Bottom row: Rebecca, Sadie and Evan. Missing were: Lauren and Lucas (they were there for most of the activities).

### Need a Lift?

Your Pastoral Care committee continually strives to embrace all aspects of taking care of our church family.

One such aspect is seeking out those family members who cannot get to church under their own steam. We monitor this situation and are grateful when we are informed that a member may not be able to get to church on his/her own. We then check to see who lives close to this member, to perhaps offer a ride, or conversely, we make arrangements among ourselves to provide a ride to our valued church member.



Sometimes our friends are unwell or unable to come to church on a particular Sunday. We continue to offer a ride to anyone who expresses an interest in coming to church, regardless of his/her prior attendance.

So, please, let us know if you personally need a ride, or let us know if you know someone who needs a ride and is perhaps too shy to ask for help.

Sincerely submitted, your Pastoral Care Committee (Shirley McG, Trish S, Mary C, Kellee M, and Rev. Tracy)

### Our Deer Lake Church Garden

While gardening, I have been pleasantly surprised over the years as to just how many people stop by for a chat. They all say how much they appreciate our Deer Lake church garden. It's a good time to say how much we enjoy this community, and what a wonderful group of people come to our church service on Sundays.

I tell them the time of the service and about our well attended Sunday school, or perhaps our outreach programs. I invite them to sit awhile on the bench, and some say they often do. The children diligently step on the stepping stones, and wonder at the new bulbs sprouting through.

I invite you too, to come and enjoy the garden ... to become a part of a small group that prepares the garden in Spring, weeds a little in Summer, and puts the garden to bed for the Winter. Ask myself or Jean J what you can do to help.

*Pat Y for the Gardening Group*

On this and following pages you will see some of the committee reports presented to the congregation on the Sundays leading up to the February 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. These reports are provided to improve our understanding of the work of the various committees.

## Christian Education

Christian Education is available to everyone in the congregation. We offer Sunday School classes for our children which is one of our main jobs. We can have from 1 or 2 children each week to 30 during high season!

We follow the Whole People of God Curriculum which follows the lectionary that is used during Worship. As well as working to impart knowledge – we see our goal in Sunday school to welcome the children and youth, be examples of the teachings of Jesus and let them know by example that this is a place that loves and cares for them.

To quote a from a letter written to The Observer this month, “what I remember from my Sunday School years most, is not the crafts or the theology, but that some people had time for me and loved me.”

We also offer Bible study classes for the adults and various youth events. We maintain the Nursery, help in the Intergenerational services, organize the year end picnic, as well as put on a Christmas pageant.

There are various retreats and con-

ferences which are available throughout the year and the Christian Education committee helps arrange for any grants or applications that need to be filled out. This past year, 8 of our children and youth attended these events which help them get to know the broader church and those of their age attending other United churches near and far. They come back enthused by the experience and anxious to attend such events again.

Many of us feel that we couldn't possibly join this committee because we aren't bona fide teachers, or that we don't have enough biblical background to teach effectively. Nothing could be further from the truth! The old adage is absolutely true: you really don't know anything about a topic until you have to teach it.

If teaching really isn't for you, perhaps joining the committee itself would fulfill a gap for you. We can always use more fresh ideas, insights and experience. Teaching Sunday school is not a prerequisite to joining the Christian Education Committee. However, it does help if you can bake!

Blessings to all,  
The Christian Ed. Committee

## Communication Committee

Good morning. I'm Garry and I'm here to talk about the Communications Committee. It isn't very big - just two people: Jim Y and myself. Our primary responsibility is the production of the newsletter four times a year.

I also maintain the website and email distribution lists, so you occasionally receive emails from me on behalf of Tracy, the Board, or one of the other committees.

The newsletter takes most of our time, though. Perhaps eight hours every three months. We keep our ears and eyes open for potential stories, and we write the occasional item ourselves. Mostly, though, we take articles and pictures that

you send us and cobble them together using Microsoft Word.

Jim and I enjoy laying out the newsletter and intend to continue doing so, at least for the foreseeable future. However, it would be nice to have one or two reporters join us on the committee. People who like writing and who would enjoy interviewing their fellow Deer Lakers. An apprentice who is proficient using Word would also be nice. Someone who would like to learn how to lay out and publish the newsletter.

At some point, Jim or I will want to move on. We think we have a good thing going in the Lakeshore Lines and we'd like to see it continue.

## Finance Committee

Most of us don't think of our church as a business. We meet here every Sunday to worship together, to pray and sing, and to shore ourselves up for the week ahead.

We also come to work on our many projects, to put our faith into action by volunteering for this community or for the wider community outside these walls. And of course, we come for the fellowship – to connect with each other, and deepen our friendships. This is what we think of as our church.

But our church is also a business. There are bills to be paid, records to be kept, and tax receipts to be written. We must pay our staff in accordance with federal and provincial law. We have to maintain our charitable status with the Canada Revenue Agency.

We must comply with good audit practices. The business side of Deer Lake must be attended to day in and day out, every week of the year.

Your Finance Committee is the committee that asks “How's business?” The members of your Finance Committee are Tony W, Mary C, Kathy R (who is also your envelope secretary) and Cathy M, your treasurer.

We serve this church by administering the finances on a day-to-day basis. We watch over the bottom line, and do our best to ensure that the business of Deer Lake is well-run. We don't have regular monthly meetings, but we do touch base with each other whenever necessary to run this business as best we can.

With four people on the Finance Committee right now, we aren't actively searching for new members. But the issues and information the Finance Committee deals with concern us all, as we try to remain financially viable. Any aspect of the business of this church we love is open to every congregation member.

You can approach any one of us with your questions or concerns about the financial side of Deer Lake - where our money comes from, how it is being spent. Feel free to ask us “How's business?”

## Pastoral Care and Worship (Liturgical Arts)

My name is Shirley McG and I am chair of Pastoral Care. Pastoral Care meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at 1pm. The committee members are myself, Kellee M, Trish S, Mary C and Rev. Tracy.

We meet and discuss any joys and concerns of the congregants of Deer Lake. Trish is the Sunshine person who sends cards to anyone we feel needs to be remembered. It could be a birth, death, someone who is ill or just someone who needs some TLC. Please let us know of any pastoral concerns you know of. We need YOUR help to make sure everyone who needs a card or a visit has just that.

Tracy does a lot of Pastoral visiting each month. If you would like her to call, just say so!

Under the umbrella of Pastoral Care are 14 Care Ringers who usually phone at least once a month to let you know of "happenings" in the church. They will also ask how you are. If you need any help, this is the time to let your Care Ringer know.

A Care Ringer is someone who likes to phone people and is a caring individual. If this is something you would enjoy doing, please talk to myself, Kellee, Trish or Mary.

Also under the umbrella of Pastoral Care is the Friendship Garden at the front of the church. It really needs the TLC of a member of the congregation who loves gardening and maybe lives in an apartment without access to a garden. Some of those who were looking after the garden

have problems of their own and would like someone else to step up to the plate. Please let me know if you would like to take this task on. Thank you.

Welcoming is part of Pastoral Care. Mary Cazalet is usually the Greeter, along with anyone else who wishes to do so. She takes care of newcomer's and offers them a form to complete. From there the secretary ensures a name tag is completed so that everyone should have one.

I'm deviating to Worship now! Janice spoke on worship two weeks ago but forgot to mention that liturgical Arts is also part of worship.

We would like to have someone who likes decorating to join us on the worship committee. liturgical Arts is looking after decorating the church for the different seasons and changing the banners at the front of the church. It can be quite a rewarding job. The bulletin boards in the Narthex need to be changed periodically too.

Thank you on behalf of the Pastoral Care & Worship committees.

## M & P Committee

We provide a sounding board, support, and supervision to help encourage good working relationships and communication with and between our 7+ staff, the church's various committees and the congregation. The church staff includes: our minister, our organist, choir director, church secretary, payroll administrator, caretaker and wedding/funeral hostesses.

Each member on our committee is a liaison for at least one of Deer Lake's employees. We are governed by the labour laws of BC and by the United Church's M&P Handbook. On personnel matters we work in strict employee confidence.

Our role is very much one of working and communicating regularly with our staff regarding job-related issues. We complete an annual performance review with each to discuss goals, job satisfaction and to look for ways to do things better. All committee members are appointed by the Board.

This year our Committee members include Ruth S, Brian McN, Peggy W and myself as chair. We like to maintain 4 or 5 members on the committee. We meet every month or two, starting in September, depending on need. In addition, one of us, usually the chair, attends Deer Lake Board meetings.

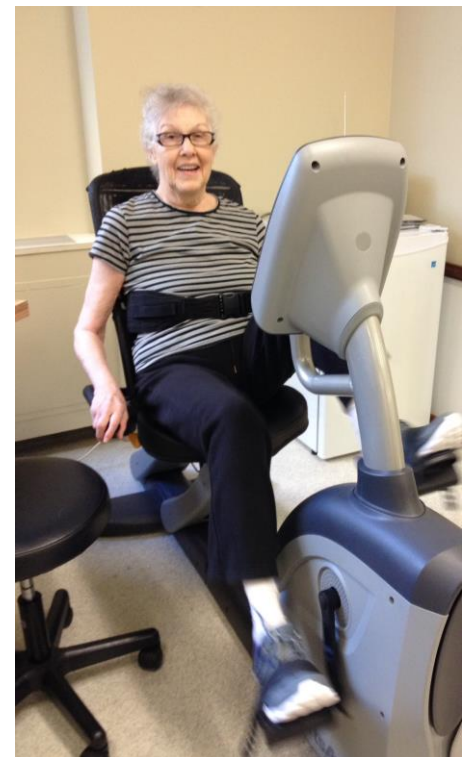
What makes an effective member? More often than not they have supervised staff, may have worked in business, are familiar with the workings of the church, understand people, and most importantly, have a fair-sized dollop of common sense. It is challenging, collegial and a most rewarding group to be part of.

## 2014 Men's Retreat

This year, the weekend away from the wives and girlfriends will be held at the home of Jo Dunn in Parksville from May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>.

If interested, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

For more information, please contact Ernie C, Bob C, Tony W, Gary H, Larry J or Claire S.



Pat M on a rehab exercise bike at Queen's Avenue Rehab Centre





Nicolas Mignard ... the Crucifixion

## Need a Babysitter?

Laura and Susan Mulhern  
have earned their Babysitting Certificates.

## Lakeshore Lines Newsletter Submissions

Lakeshore Lines is published four times each year. Items may be submitted to one of the Communications Committee members (preferably by e-mail):

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

Jim Young: [oldjimyoung@gmail.com](mailto:oldjimyoung@gmail.com)

Kristy Dellebuur-O'Connor: [kristyd@shaw.ca](mailto:kristyd@shaw.ca)

**Next Issue: June, 2014**

Submissions deadline:  
Sunday, June 8, 2014

## Coming Soon to DLUC

# CHURCH 101



Have questions about the United Church? Structure? Decisions? Seasons of the year? Colours of the seasons? Who makes decisions? How does the UCC compare to other denominations? What do we believe? What stances have we taken? Questions not yet asked? Then join us in May for CHURCH 101!

Sign up sheet in the Hall. **Wednesdays: May 7, May 14, May 28 and JUNE 4.** Offered in the **MORNING at 10:30 – 11:30 am** and/or **EVENING 7:30 – 8:30 pm.** You can mix 'n' match your attendance (once per day)

HOWEVER!!! In order for this to even fly, Tracy needs YOUR help!!! Please send your questions or topics you are keen to learn about to Tracy via: email ([minister@dluc.ca](mailto:minister@dluc.ca)), phone/text (778-580-5285) or use the suggestion box in the entryway. We can't move forward without your help and input!! This event is to help you grow in knowledge and understanding of YOUR United Church! Join us! Please sign up so we know how much space we need to accommodate the group.



The North Shore Light Opera Society

Presents

## *The Gondoliers*

Kathryn S will once again be organizing a DLUC "Theatre Outing" to see Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operetta "The Gondoliers" at Presentation House in North Vancouver. The show runs from the "Preview" on May 15<sup>th</sup> to "closing" on May 31, 2014. See the church bulletin for more information as to exact dates for the Theatre Outing, ticket prices, and how to purchase tickets.

## Stewards' Message to Congregation

My name is Joanne A and I'm here today to talk to you about an amazing, just amazing, group I belong to. We are a group of 6 people of which some of us have been working together for the past 12 or 13 years. Each one of these people brings their own spice to the group. We call ourselves the Stewards Committee, which is comprised of Steve McL the chair person; Laurie S; Arnie B, Janice C, Rick M (who is our newest member) and I.

Our main role is to ensure this wonderful building is cared for with the same love and attention one would give their own home. Now I can stop right here because that's it that's all we do – but let me elaborate for you. All wrapped up in that one statement is:

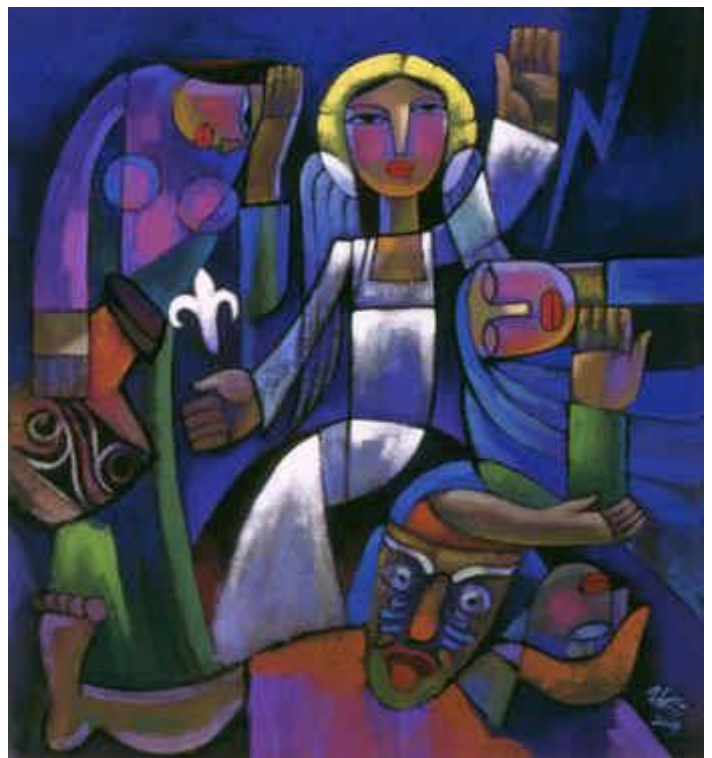
1. Managing the building contingency fund
2. Having carpets cleaned
3. Plumbing problems (replacing or fixing toilets, sinks, taps etc.)
4. Painting
5. Replacing burned out bulbs
6. Fixing broken hinges ( and I have to say right here that being one of the only 2 female on this committee - - and being very ... how shall I say --- controlling - - - both Janice and I ALLOWED the men of this group to all go away on holidays at the same time during one spring. And of course when the men are away, things usually break. Well didn't the hinge on the door leading to the coatroom and washrooms break. Yeah that's right -- -we fixed it, Janice and me. Ok I digress, back to the point
7. Cleaning eaves
8. Trimming bushes
9. Power washing
10. Cleaning the parking lot
11. Re-painting the lines in the parking lot
12. Electrical issues
13. Organizing spring cleaning
14. Managing the alarm system
15. Key replacement
16. Being available to open and lock-up for short term rentals
17. Accommodating requests from other committees the best we can
18. Pest extermination (ants, bees, mice etc.)
19. Managing the 4 tenants and various other groups that use the facility
20. Managing the rental rates short and long term
21. Managing the 5 year plan which was started by this group about 5 or 6 years ago. On this five year plan the things we completed were:
22. Painting of the whole inside of the church
23. New carpeting throughout
24. New hardwood floor in fellowship hall
25. New windows in same hall
26. New lighting in hall

27. New window coverings in hall
28. 5 new furnaces
29. New hot water tank
30. New built-in vacuum system
31. Painting the outside of the church
32. New roof

I'd have to say, laying the floor in this hall was the most fun we had together working on a project. We had quite a lot of help from other members of the congregation. There are pictures here if anyone is interested to see what kind of fun we have. I could go on and on but we don't have all day.

Now to the basics, this fantastic, just fantastic, group meets only when necessary. We rely very heavily on the rest of you to let us know when things need attention. And don't feel like you are hurting our feelings if you want to take on a project, believe me, we welcome your help and input. When we do meet, in the past it has been on a Sunday after fellowship of 1 cup of coffee and 1 treat not 2 just 1 or sometimes on a Thursday morning after Laurie's tennis match. We are very accommodating. These meetings usually involve some sort of food product because we all know things go better with a cookie or a brownie.

Now that I have explained how wonderful, just wonderful, our little group is, I know a lot if not most of you will want to join. But, we have to limit the number of applications. So if you are interested, please see any one of the people I previously mention. Successful applicants will be asked the skill testing question of the 3 adjectives used to describe this group. Thank you!



He Oi ... Jesus on Easter Morning



**Buenos Aires****City of Architecture, Food, Wine, Music and Sun!***by Tony W*

Arriving in Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, on New Year's Day finds a country closed up after a celebration. One slow immigration line, no cambio, and lots of families in parks barbecuing, escaping the heat wave which recently brought BA to a standstill.

Our taxi driver, Alexandro, took us efficiently to our hotel in the San Telmo district of BA, and we checked in, and sank onto the bed after a long trip. We did find the small pool on the top floor of the hotel for the dying minutes of the summer sun, and then started to think about dinner.

Everything had seemed closed, but as we wandered around San Telmo, we saw a city awakening to new life. San Telmo is a bit like Vancouver's Commercial Drive on steroids. Magnificent old buildings from the city's heyday 80 years ago, are now adorned in beautiful creative graffiti. Wonderful old restaurants and bars are tucked away everywhere, but keep a watch on your pockets and bags. And don't stare too hard at the graffiti art, because you'll step in a pothole, or broken glass or what the dog ate yesterday. So it's Havana with a touch of New Orleans.



**This graffiti is in the San Telmo district of Buenos Aires**

We wandered down Defensa St looking for food, and soon we heard music, getting louder. Coming out onto Dorrego Plaza, we found dozens of tables, and a tango dance floor. We sat down and ordered Quilmes beer in the hot evening. Humanity was at work - families, groups of young folk, Dads chasing toddlers, lovers kissing, and foreigners watching the tango show. The perfect introduction to a new culture! So we ordered porterhouse steak (Tony) and eggplant (Peggy) and more beer.

Then a live band turned up to accompany the dancers, who brought round a hat at the end of each show. But as we finished dinner, we heard drums. Of all kinds. And it got louder. Finally the tango musicians gave up and the street performing drummers took over the sound waves of the square, with the big drum echoing off the buildings. Like the Pied Piper they sucked the people out of the bars and to their street concert. Then they paraded around the square with the crowd following. It was a grand welcome to Argentina!



**The band is called La Pua and it is playing at the Defensa Street Market**

We spent 2 more weeks exploring Buenos Aires, Argentina and Uruguay, and we promised ourselves to return. It is a long way to go, but if you want a place with great European food (not just steaks – lots of seafood too), washed down with rich full bodied Malbecs, or sharp crisp cold Torontes wines, all at very reasonable prices, consider a trip!



**Dosso Dossi ... The Ascension**



## “We are writing this so that our joy may be complete”

(Continued from Page 1)

When the spring of 2013 started to approach, Penny’s work moved from Richmond to Burnaby (to the Fortius building on Kensington), there was hope that I would be offered the permanent call to DLUC, and thus we seriously contemplated moving from Ladner to Burnaby – had to be close to SOMEONE’s work!

Amazingly, things started falling into place. We found a great home to rent; Tyler and Hunter were accepted in a new school; we found an excellent daycare and then, at last, I was offered the call at DLUC.

Everything seemed to coalesce into a perfect situation. Adoption was still on the table and we transferred our file from Delta to Burnaby and set up another meeting, before pursuing classes.

One night in the summer, Penny and I were watching TV and all of a sudden I said, “Penny, I think I should have a baby!” Well, that caught her by surprise! And me too! So we started talking. It just felt like my life had finally come together, with divine intervention, and God was telling me it’s time; it’s time to have a baby and grow this family yourself.

It’s funny how everything came together quickly once the decision was made. We continually felt that God had a hand

in this as everything lined up perfectly with appointments, specialists, and timing.

We didn’t have to wait too long at any stage, and we were connected with the people along the way who supported us emotionally and medically. Penny said, on the way to one particular appointment, “We’ll see a sign if this is right.” Lo and behold, the date given to us for blood work to confirm pregnancy was January 6<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany! For a minister... this was a pretty big sign that God had a hand in this!

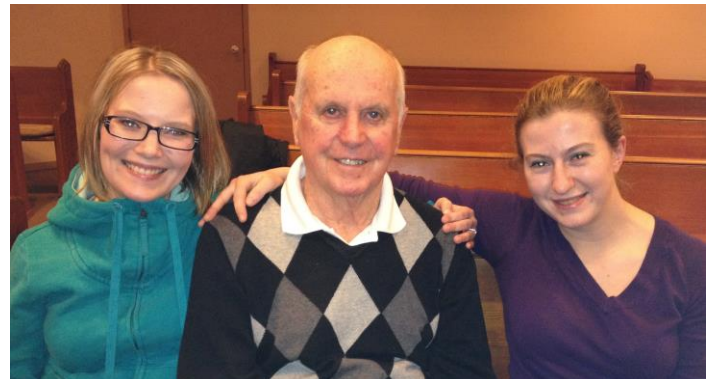
I’m still nervous and sometimes terrified of what pregnancy will bring my way, of how I’m to hold and cuddle an infant and soothe those crying fits. I’m still not a huge “baby person” but I know I can love and nurture the new child that Penny and I will bring into this world. I love my vocation so much, and Penny knows me so well, that we have decided that after our September delivery, I will take four months of maternity leave and Penny will follow after that with six months of parental leave. I can’t see myself staying home longer than that, and Penny would like an opportunity to bond more closely with baby and have some time off too.

I know to some people there is pain about not conceiving their own child, and painful stories about loss, and adoption. My goal in this article is not to dismiss or negate the feelings with those experiences, but to offer you an insight in how Penny and I came to this decision. Some people may be struggling with a lesbian couple procreating, and that it may seem unnatural or inappropriate, and I respect those feelings as well, however, this journey that Penny and I face, includes you, the congregation, and we hope we can lean on you for support and care in the coming months.

There will be a new face to our congregation and we hope you can welcome him/her with as open arms as you did my family in the beginning. There is something divine in my family plan, as a minister, as a Christian, I have to believe that, for God has called favourably on our hearts to journey down this path. “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” (Jer. 1: 5). There will be a new cry, and hopefully it’s a cry of joy as we grow together.

### Upcoming Services and Events

- April 12** Wedding for Chelsea Callaghan and John Paul Silke
- April 13** Palm Sunday service, intergenerational
- April 15** Board Meeting
- April 17** Maundy Thursday at 6pm (Details to follow)
- April 18** Good Friday Service at West Burnaby UC, with all the Burnaby United Churches, 10am, Rev. Tracy participating
- April 20** Easter Sunday Service, Communion.
- April 27** Holy Humour Sunday, Lynn McGrath’s last Sunday with us
- May 4** Communion
- May 10** Wedding for Jennifer Boyce and Christopher Boyd
- May 11** Christian Family Sunday
- May 21** Tracy away at BC Conference Annual Meeting until May 25 (Audrey Lans leading worship)
- May 30** Men’s Retreat until June 1
- June 8** Day of Pentecost, Church Picnic, Union Sunday (Anniversary of the UCC)
- June 9** Tracy away attending graduation until June 15 (Lynn McGrath leading worship)



Grant flanked by a couple of babes ...  
Charlotte and Rebecca

## Deer Lake Welcomes Jenn B

I'm not sure if people have noticed, but lately we've had a fair number of "newcomers" attend our worship service; people who are "church shopping" and sometimes they stay. I thought it would be a good idea to interview one of these newcomers and see why she stays and what her perceptions of DLUC are. Recently we've enjoyed the company of Jenn Brooks and her daughter.



**Jenn B**

Jenn had been absent from a church and church life for quite some time. She had a feeling she wanted to reconnect with a church, and thus found our church by surfing the web and discovering our great webpage. It seemed that our church was inline with what she was ready for and she could sense the welcoming nature as well as a liberal and accepting theology. She lives in Burnaby and wanted something close to home.

Jenn keeps coming to DLUC because of the atmosphere, the music and hymn, the message each week and the welcoming people for both her and her daughter Jaydynne. She appreciates and enjoys the balance between organ and piano. We are reminded by Jenn that DLUC is a place that works and is successful in so many ways. Jenn is thankful that we have a nursery for her daughter, that children are included and then go to Sunday school later in the service (as opposed to being handed off to Sunday School as soon as they arrive) – there's good balance.

A highlight for Jenn in the short time she's been with us, is coffee time where she can chat and get acquainted with others. It's at this time she feels comfortable asking questions and learning answers not just from the minister! Jenn's first visit, with her daughter in tow, was a challenge, but people were so welcoming and friendly, that she didn't have a tough time negotiating church and toddler; there was so much help offered her way. What a great community!

Jenn was able to attend the Pancake Dinner on Shrove Tuesday and that was a highlight for her. It was fun, good food to eat, and she shared time with people (without child in tow!). She enjoyed asking several people what Lent meant to them, so she could better understand it herself.

Jenn enjoys the worship service, which is quite different from her tradition growing up; she finds it's the perfect amount of time, and it never feels like it's "dragging on". There's a good pace, enough balance, and there are enough things going on to keep you interested. She also appreciated that there was no pressure to partake in Communion, but also that it was not "an ominous affair" as done in other churches that portray guilt and weight. She liked that all are involved in their own way and that there were no restrictions. Communion to her, was a chance to remember Jesus, and not just our sins.

Now, not only is Jenn enjoying her time at DLUC, but she also has questions, which many of us probably do. With all this "newness" around her, Jenn is left wondering: Why do we observe certain traditions of holy days when other traditions don't (e.g. Pentecostals, Baptists and/or Roman Catholics). I told her those are great questions, and perhaps they can be addressed at our Church 101 session!!

It's great to have new people in our flock, and better still to hear their perceptions on things. Seems like we're doing things well as we keep drawing people to our small, family church. Next time you see a newcomer, or even Jenn, take a moment to share that smile, but then also lend your ear to hear their story and journey that brought them to DLUC.

*Submitted by Rev Tracy Fairfield*

## Georgie Cole "Citizen of the Year"



**Georgie Cole**

Mayor Derek Corrigan and Burnaby City Council are pleased to announce that Mrs. Georgie Cole has been named the Kushiro Cup Winner and 2013 Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

Georgie has been selected for her devotion to Burnaby and for generously giving of her time by volunteering in the community for the past 50 years. Her compassion for children, youth, and families has enriched and blessed the lives of many in our community. Several Burnaby organizations have had the great fortune of Georgie's volunteerism. A few of these include: Second Street Community School, Eastside Opportunities Society, Deer Lake United Church, East Burnaby United Church, Block Watch and Burnaby Barracudas Swim Club.

Her love of line dancing has resulted in sharing this passion by teaching classes for the last 21 years. As a quilter, sewer and knitter she has provided She-way (pregnancy outreach program), Liberty Place, breast cancer patients and local schools with quilts, pillows, book tags, hats and scarves.

One of Georgie's many nominators summed her up by saying: "Communities don't happen without the passion, heart and soul of the people within it. Georgie pours her whole being into living life's every moment, so that she can share all that her community has to offer with zest and fervor. Georgie Cole isn't just a part of the community...Georgie is the community."



## WHAT'S IN A PRAYER?

Some of you might not know it, but Rev. Tracy has little to do with the prayers of the people each week. We are gifted at Deer Lake to have a team of committed, skilled lay people to craft the prayers each week and connect them to the worship theme and the global and communal context.

Bill H had been writing the prayers of the people during David Martyn's time, perhaps even before that time. After David left and Neil Parker was our minister, Bill started talking about having a team, several answered the call, perhaps there were six in total. They took two workshops to see what format was the best.

Marie Paul, one of our prayer writers, shares: "I remember Bill Hilliard asking me to write prayers for Deer Lake. You couldn't turn that good Christian man down when he asked for something. It was always something for the community, not himself.

"Bill liked prayers written a certain way and it's a format we still use today. He gave us a couple of little workshops, but that structure and framework really does make it easy to write. Scott Turnbrook offered some grace filled opportunities to use lines of hymns or to rewrite Psalms in today's words.

"I'm grateful for having had Deer Lake prayer writing in my life for years now. For me, writing prayers established a practice of quiet prayer in the morning. It has created many peaceful mornings. Sometimes my prayers have been warmed by a Deer Lake prayer shawl, so that I knew as a community we were praying together, whether it was for our children and families or our neighbors here or farther away. We pray together.

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### Presbytery Representative

Deer Lake U.C. is allocated two lay representatives to attend the monthly meetings of New Westminster Presbytery. As Minister, Rev. Tracy is automatically a member as are student ministers and retired clergy from the fifteen other congregations.

This is an opportunity to participate in presbytery decision-making, planning and oversight. It also makes you aware of the successes, difficulties and plans of other congregations within the presbytery. There is a need for lay people to be part of the democratic process and in some cases play a part on the executive committee.

Currently the monthly meeting is held at Como Lake U.C in Coquitlam, from 5:30 till approximately 9:00pm. It is especially important to keep in touch with the Presbytery Youth and Young Adult Minister so that our valued young people can feel united and supported in their events. A brief report of pertinent items is made to the Board of Deer Lake at their monthly meeting.

Without a representative Deer Lake's opinions thoughts and feelings cannot be taken into consideration. I see this as a revolving position of perhaps two or three years so that more people can get to understand how presbytery and congregations can work together to support each other in changing times.

*Jean J (Presbytery Representative)*



"We don't always know how God answers these prayers but I completely trust that God hears us and holds us, embraced in God's hands even as we are supported by our Deer Lake community. I have felt God's embrace through Deer Lake community. Thank you."

Charlotte L, another prayer writer offers this insight: "Writing a prayer for me is a 'time' I cherish with God. It helps me to grow spiritually and enables me to be more deeply connected to Deer Lake Church.

It is, I believe, a freedom of expression that is coming from my heart. I am glad to have the opportunity to write prayers. It is something I never imagined I could do. And I am happy that the Holy Spirit is using me through this. What a wonderful blessing!"

Perhaps you feel a call or tug on your heart to share your craft of writing and communing with the divine and would like to write prayers for Deer Lake. The cycle works out to about once every six weeks.

There are resources available to help you, so you mustn't start from scratch, and Rev. Tracy is available for any assistance you may need. Please consider this as a way to share your offering with the church.

Don Strutt, one of the writers claims that "Writing a prayer brings me closer to the Spirit and satisfies me on a deeper level. I write at night when I'm most creative. When I'm done I find sleep comes easily and deep. It is one of the most rewarding and satisfying things I do as a Christian."

And if it's not your cup of tea, that's okay too, but remember, in your prayers, to offer thanks for those who do craft the prayers and for the gift they offer our congregation. Our current prayer writers are: Marie P, Charlotte L, Don S, Phyllis S and Lynn McG.

## A Conversation with Mary



**Mary Pinto**

Mary P is a long-time member of Deer Lake. In fact, her husband, Ron was a member long before Mary came on the scene. Mary and Ron were married in 1961 and thereafter, Mary began attending Deer Lake church.

Mary has taken her turn at provid-



**Larry J and Don S look good with aprons on at Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner**

ing various services to the church. She served on the Board, she taught Sunday school, she co-lead 40 Explorer girls (a form of Brownies) and she and Wenda E worked together on the beginnings of what came to be known as the Marguerite Dixon House.

For many years, Mary worked quietly and invisibly in the "Lifeline" office which administered Dixon house at Deer Lake.

Mary also recalled that there used to be a large women's group at Deer Lake. At one time, there were up to 50 women, split into smaller groups, which met once a month to study and to partake of some goodies. Gradually, the numbers dwindled and now the women are once again enjoying fellowship at monthly breakfasts. Mary stated that we are fortunate at Deer Lake to have such a strong Men's group, who are extremely active in church life.

Mary believes that Deer Lake church is a "live" church which is always changing, both in the physical sense (as seen in the various renovations) and in the human sense, wherein there is a continual flux of people coming and going.

Mary says she has been blessed by her various friends at Deer Lake. She strongly believes that if there is a need, someone from the church will jump in and fill that need. Her case in point was many years ago, during her pregnancy. She and Ron were very excited to be starting their family, but they had no idea that two little babies were spending time together in her tummy. They had their nursery all prepared (for one), and then the doctor told them that there were two babies expected, not just one.

The women of Deer Lake rallied and had an impromptu shower for Mary to ensure that she had enough things to manage both babies when they were born. They filled a need.

Mary smiled when she thought about all the renovations the church has undergone. "I have faced every direction, except East, and they were all good".

## In Memory of Shirley Alice S



**Shirley Alice S**

Shirley passed away on Monday, March 17, 2014. She was a gentle person, devoted to Deer Lake United Church.

She was part of a prayer group when Rev. Neil Parker was the minister. She was also a member of the choir in the soprano section for many years until her memory problems started. You would often find Shirley in the kitchen at coffee time with Shirley McG. They were called Shirley's squared!

She volunteered at the L'Arche Society on Sussex Ave. in Burnaby for many years and also helped with fund raising for Pueblito Canada.

Shirley was a devoted wife of Cy, and a loving mother to Cheryl and Bob. Her granddaughter Megan was the apple of her eye! Cy and Shirley's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary would have been on August 20<sup>th</sup> of this year. As Shirley's memory loss worsened, Cy devoted his time to looking after her. She went to New Vista a couple of times a week, which would give Cy some respite.

Shirley had a little cat which she named Tiki that she adored.

She will be remembered for her quiet personality and compassion for all. Rest in peace.