

# LAKESHORE LINES

*Free and Worth Every Cent!*

## How does the spirit move YOU?



*By Rev. Tracy Fairfield*

As I sit typing this, I am acutely aware that Pentecost is upon us, as is the 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The United Church of Canada. Both are fairly significant times in church history. Pentecost is what we often call the “birthday” of the church, when the Spirit blows across the people and ignites a fire in the souls and the church receives its mission and mandate to go and grow this church of Christ by sharing the gospel message. The Spirit works in mysterious ways, and that’s what makes it so special to me, and to others. We never know when to expect it, and it can take many forms, but its power is still in our lives at any moment.

I encourage you to reflect this summer, on how the Spirit

### 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

### JUNE 2014

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#### And Much More!

moves in your life. It might be an aspect of Sunday worship, it might be a walk with nature, it might be a good book, it might be with a pet or family members. Where is the Spirit at work in your life? What gives you fire and energy?

We spent time this spring journeying through a program I created called Church 101. About 20 of us gathered to learn about the Bible, the church seasons and colours, the structure of The United Church of Canada and how policy comes into play and by whom. I’m a self-confessed “church geek” and found this program quite interesting and engaging. The comments from participants were very affirming as well. Many questions were answered and new questions came up as we wrestled with all the material. The Spirit was present in our conversations, videos and readings. We all walk away enriched by this experience.

For those of you who took part in our Nooma DVD reflection series over the last few months, you too have experienced the Spirit at work in your lives as you reflect on how the

*“Sprit” from Page 1*

scripture and your theology impacts your daily life. I encourage others to think about engaging in a study group and giving yourself the opportunity to hear other people’s stories and experience a “growth spurt” in your faith and convictions, and insight and awareness.

I will hopefully be starting my maternity leave September 1<sup>st</sup> and coming back to work mid-January. The decision about coverage in my absence has yet to be confirmed and presented to the board, but I believe the Spirit of God will hold DLUC in great care and compassion and all will be well. I trust the M&P Committee to do its work and the Board to act on the proposals and decisions. During my maternity leave, we will be living out the bare bones of our congregation, with limited opportunities, but faithful worship still being experienced. I hope you can feel the Spirit of DLUC at that time and help this congregation thrive during my absence.

The Spirit of God is present for us to experience and to infuse our lives. Just take a moment to pause this summer and soak it in. And then, I challenge you to articulate it and share with someone and listen how the Spirit is in their life too. We are not alone, we are connected by this Spirit to create a church of great energy, passion, commitment and conviction. Blessed be the times ahead.

Blessings,

Rev. Tracy Fairfield

## Longest Member of Congregation Talks About Her Life

*By Joanne Annesley*

I had the memorable opportunity to speak with Myrtle Currie about her life growing up and her work at the church. I carried out the visit at her apartment at Thornbridge Gardens like an interview, (side note – Thornbridge Gardens is where she decided to move to after her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday), but soon the “interview” turned into an enjoyable visit such as visiting with a friend chatting and giggling. Myrtle ever the hostess, offered me something to drink and some chocolates several times throughout our talk. At the time she was taking some antibiotics for an infection after her recent surgery. She showed me the reddened area of complaint and said she should be better in about ten days. And that was that! -Meaning let’s not speak of it again. She told me she wasn’t sure she could remember much but she would try.

The following are highlights of our conversation.

Myrtle was born in New Westminster on Edinburgh Street on August 4, 1918. Her parents were from Scotland, and they married in New Westminster. Both Myrtle’s parents passed away very early, her Mom was 69 and her Dad was 70. Myrtle talked about family picnics as a big part of their family time together during her childhood. Her family did not have a car, and the family frequently took the Inter-urban into Vancouver to picnic with family friends. Myrtle had 6 siblings, 3 brothers and three sisters, and she was the youngest child.



*Myrtle Currie*

Myrtle attended Lord Kelvin Elementary School, which was close to home, and T.J. Trapp Technical High School where she studied shorthand and typing. After high school, Myrtle worked for approximately 8 years as a switchboard operator for the telephone company. In 1945, Myrtle married Frank, whom she knew from school. Myrtle shared that she used to go to Queens Park to watch Frank play lacrosse when they were in high school.

Myrtle and Frank had three children; they lived in Parksville for about a year, and then returned to New Westminster to live in the Veterans Apartments at the foot of 6<sup>th</sup> and McBride. After about a year and a half, they moved to Burnaby into a house across from Deer Lake on Sperling. After the three children were born, they moved to their big house on Hazard.

Myrtle shared that she and Frank did a lot of camping in the interior and on Vancouver Island with their children.

During her time at Deer Lake, Myrtle has been a vibrant and active member of the community. She

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## Making our Church Secure for our Grandchildren

By Tony Woodruff

Deer Lake United Church holds a special place in the hearts of our congregation members. When asked in a questionnaire at the AGM in February how they would feel if Deer Lake United Church folded, people wrote comments like:

- “Part of my life would be gone”
- “Crushed, terrible”
- “A tremendous loss – my community has been built through the regular gathering”
- “Set adrift”
- “Very, very sad”



At the beginning of 2014, our church faced a \$14,000 deficit in our budget for the year. We spend carefully, (91% of our spending goes to staff costs, and basic operations to keep the lights on)

but we faced declining rental income and flat giving from our members. This created a potential financial crisis for Deer Lake. It was, and is, a revenue crisis – there’s no room to cut spending.

The Board struck a new Stewardship Committee to fix this. At the AGM in February we made a plea for increased giving. Dave Roberts, a member since 1969, summed it up by saying that we had fallen behind in our financial support for Deer Lake – we needed to dig deeper in our pockets. The congregation is responding – we have several new givers on the “PAR” system of direct giving from our bank accounts, and many members have increased their monthly and weekly level of giving. We are not out of the woods yet – we are still running a small deficit (\$771 through April 30<sup>th</sup>), and we need to keep increasing our giving whenever possible.

It is worth remembering that we don’t receive any money from the United Church at large, or any governments – all our income comes from you, our congregation members and our rental tenants. In fact we have to cover an average of \$2,776 of costs each week!

Another way to improve our financial stability is to increase the capital fund managed by our Trustees, which started when we sold our manse some years ago. We would ask

congregation members to consider leaving a legacy to Deer Lake United Church in their wills – significant sums can be added to our capital fund and we will use the income from this to support our church activities. If we could raise the current fund from \$400,000 to \$2 million, we could generate over \$100,000 per year in income to support the activities of Deer Lake. We would become very stable financially, and a larger force for good in our community.

Some members have asked about giving during their lifetime – yes, if a congregation member has the opportunity to make a significant gift during their lifetime, we would love to add that to the capital fund too!

In the fall, we are planning an evening talk by Randy Cobbett, a leading Burnaby lawyer to discuss wills and lifetime giving. This may help answer questions people may have about how to do this.

So, while we have made progress, we have more to do. We ask you to consider:

- ***Can you afford to increase your weekly or monthly giving?***
- ***Can you add a legacy in your will to benefit Deer Lake United Church’s capital fund?***
- ***Can you make a lifetime lump sum gift to Deer Lake’s capital fund?***

Hold the Date!



Welcome Back

BBQ

September 12, 2014



## Eat, Pray, Love

by Audrey Lans

Those words describe not only the Julia Roberts' film but also our recent trip to Arabia and India. As Glenn and I circled the globe by air and cruise ship, it seemed that we happily ate our way through the different countries, our palates experiencing the flavours of many exotic lands...Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Oman and Jordan. I have to admit that for safety the ship's creative chefs, who offered dishes typical of each port, prepared most of our meals.

Our spirits were nurtured by attending Protestant and Roman Catholic services on the ship. In our cabin a tiny battery-operated candle given to us by Lynn McGrath journeyed with us. On shore we had many opportunities to experience and learn

about other faiths as we visited the temples, shrines, mosques and churches. In Oman there were strict guidelines for visiting the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque. Women had to be covered head to foot and that included even wrists and ankles. We must not tempt the men! A stern looking man checked the women prior to us gaining entry to this beautiful mosque. With the exception of Oman, we found a Christian presence and churches in the other countries.

We prayed a lot, particularly after the captain sent a letter to passengers regarding the ship's ability to respond to pirates - fire hoses and guns that deafened their target! It was a comfort to know that war ships of the coalition forces were monitoring us.

Glenn especially enjoyed visiting Petra in Jordan, the amazing Rose Red City of the Nabataeans, which was "lost" for a thousand years.

In the jungles of Thailand I found a new love – a 3-ton pachyderm! The elephant safari up a mountain with other lumbering elephants and riders was a real adventure. Later, two baby elephants showed their talents by playing mouth organs, kicking balls and painting pictures! A short ride on a cart pulled by a tame water buffalo was another novel activity at this well-run conservation project.



Audrey and Glen during their elephant safari

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## News from Outreach

On Sunday, May 25 the Outreach Committee hosted a **Lunch on the Run**, which raised over \$355 for the **Hope for Families** fund. This fund is used by DLUC to assist needy families in our community – we provide gifts and food items at Christmastime through the Burnaby Christmas Bureau each year and offer financial assistance for attending summer camp to youth who would otherwise not be able to afford this experience.

### **Burnaby Homeless Lunches:**

On the fourth Thursday of each month DLUC provides bag lunches for 70 individuals. (Other local communities of faith contribute similar lunches on the other weeks of the month.) The lunches we prepare are distributed through the Burnaby Homelessness Task Force and the food is needed and appreciated.

The lunch making takes place at 1pm the day before in the Church hall and typically takes about an hour. The lunch making dates this summer are **June 25, July 23 and August 27**.

Volunteers to help with lunch-making are always welcome. Those who are unable to help with the lunch making sessions can support this effort by marking a contribution to "Outreach" on their offering envelopes.

Myrtle Currie  
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helped in the kitchen with baking and was a long time choir member (about 45 years!). Myrtle decided to stop singing in the choir when she turned 80.

Myrtle was very gracious the whole time and was very eager to share what she could remember. Once the questions were asked the conversation flowed generously and several times I had to repeat questions because I couldn't keep up with my notes.

Before I left another chocolate was eaten!

## Youth Retreat at Camp Fircom

By Riley Phillips

Over the may long weekend, I joined about 50 other kids, youth, young adults, and youth leaders from the Vancouver & Westminster presbyteries for a retreat at Camp Fircom. There are a few ways to get to the camp, by helicopter, water taxi, or if you are feeling it, you could walk across the water. We weren't rich enough to charter a helicopter, and none of us felt like we had Criss Angel's water walking capabilities, so we hopped aboard the water taxi and set sail. The small voyage lasted all of 20 minutes. We arrived at the government dock on Gambier Island and brought our luggage up to the camp. For those of you that don't know, Camp Fircom's newly renovated dining hall was hit by lightning last summer and burnt down to the ground. They immediately decided that they would rebuild, and while we were there, we saw construction crews hard at work trying to rebuild all that was lost plus more!

The weekend was filled with fun, singing, worship, good food, and great people. Each age group had a program that ran five times over the weekend. In

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## Why Worship?

Why do Christians gather to worship? In a time when gathering in public to worship God is increasingly out of fashion in North America, it is worth considering why this communal practice is crucial to Christian life. For, if we are not careful, we can easily begin to imagine that worship is meant to serve those who show up. We are such well-schooled consumers that, without realizing it, we begin to assume that worship exists to meet our needs. Then our worship planning focuses on the consuming congregation, aiming to send home satisfied "Sunday shoppers."

But Christians do not gather to worship in order to have their needs, wants, and desires met. We gather to worship because in Jesus Christ we have discovered that God is above all of our so-called gods. The temptation to worship false gods is always lurking at the door of Christian life. In Matthew's telling, it is the final test that Jesus faces in the wilderness. When invited by the devil to "worship me", Jesus responds, "Away with you Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" (Matthew 4: 9 – 10)

The English word "worship" means "to give worth." Christians worship the God met in Jesus Christ because this God alone is worth our lives and our service. In other words, Christian worship is, first of all, an act of obedience. We worship the One whom we serve. We are, first and foremost, servants of God – ministers of Jesus Christ. This is our primary identity. Above and beyond national loyalty, political partisanship, denominational affinity, even family bonds, we are God's servants. It is the reason we call it a "worship service." Worship is in service to God.

This seems an odd counter-cultural claim in a culture that celebrates the freedom of the individual to have no master but oneself. Yet, for those with eyes to see, there is no life free of servitude. As Bob Dylan sings, "You're gonna have to serve somebody." Worship turns us back to the One who is worthy of our attention, our gifts, our days. In worship we give our lives and life together to God only to find that in doing so we become truly free.

It is not by accident that the persecution of Christians regularly targets worship: churches are burned or bombed, worshippers are threatened or attacked. Worship the God met in Jesus leads Christians to live a different way of life, not always willing to serve our overlords (whether in the nation, the workplace, or the family). Worship is the place and time when we remind ourselves and others that it is our intention to be a servant people – a people called out to love and serve God and, therefore, to serve the neighbours (and the strangers and enemies) God in Jesus commands us to love.

Of course, intention and reality are not always the same. Christian worship can itself become an idol – a false god demanding our service. Worship wares between those labelled "traditionalists" and "seeker-friendly" can blind us to our common calling: worship in which the eyes and hearts, minds and souls of the gathered people remain focused on the Servant God revealed in Jesus Christ.

Like so many Christians before us, in our weakness we discover once again that God, not our plans or programs or building or ideas or innovations, "is the source of your life in Christ Jesus." (1 Corinthians 1: 30)

Written by Rev. Edwin Searcy, who is a Congregational Minister at University Hill Congregation in Vancouver B.C.. Published in Gathering, Pentecost 1 2014, pg. 7. Used with permission.

## DLUC Men's Retreat 2014

by Paul O'Connor

I tend to see the men's retreat as supporting several of the things I value about Deer Lake – fun, community and faith. This year, the retreat was held just north of Rath Trevor Provincial Park on Vancouver Island at Joe Dunn's home. Joe was a member of Deer Lake for many years and continues to attend the men's retreat.



In total, 16 men travelled from Burnaby to the retreat. Half of us left Thursday morning and there is nothing quite like travelling together and waiting for a ferry to give everyone a chance to catch up on everyone's news. Likewise, a leisurely lunch in Lantzville while we waited for the sun to come out gave the different carloads a chance to connect with each other.

The sun finally came out Friday and the group has a long tradition of doing a service project for the host and this year it was laying paths and mending fences. Personally, I see this as much a service to the group as to the host as people work in teams to get the projects done. Once the work was done, people headed to the beach for

the first of many bocce games. We become a stronger group having worked together and played together.

Saturday morning always involves a theme and past themes have included the constitution, life stages and education. This year's theme was twists and turns in life and was much more personal as people choose to share stories from their lives. Over the course of three hours we heard many stories and some of the strongest themes to come through were that life isn't so much about the twists that get thrown at you, but rather your outlook and perseverance that shape how you handle those twists. Being somewhere in the middle in terms of age I appreciate the perspectives of those older than I who have already been parents and those younger than I as it gives me insights into the lives of my children may have in the coming years.

The Sunday morning service beautifully tied the weekend's theme into the sermon as parallels were drawn between the twists and turns the disciples faced and those recounted Saturday morning by the members of the group.

After cleaning up, Sunday afternoon saw us heading back to the mainland, having had lots of fun, drawn tighter together as a community and connected in our faith.



Bocce on the beach!





Youth Retreat  
Continued from page 5

our group, we talked, had fun, played games, went on a nature walk, and got to know each other. On Saturday and Sunday afternoon, you had your choice of an activity to sign up for. There was drama, jam-band, bench ball, homework club, canoeing/kayaking, archery, paddle boarding, hiking, henna, kumihimo, belly dancing, and meditation. I chose bench ball and jam band and had a fabulous time in both.

On Saturday night, we all gathered together for a campfire. We sang campfire songs, told stories, and ate delicious s'mores that we roasted ourselves.

On Sunday night, we had a dance, which I was the DJ for. Most people dressed up in a costume and they had the time of their lives. The next morning, we had muffins, a brunch, worship, and then it was time to say goodbye. We loaded all the luggage onto the boat and set sail home. 20 minutes later, we were at the government dock in Horseshoe Bay.

I think everybody including myself had a fabulous time at the retreat, and I can't wait to go again next year.



Youth from Westminster Presbytery at Camp Fircom

## Submissions

**Lakeshore Lines** is published four times each year. Submissions may be made to the Communications Committee members (preferably by email):

Newsletter@dluc.ca

Next Issue: September 2014

## BASES Thrift Store

Have we got an opportunity for you!!! **The BASES Family Thrift Store** is looking for a few more volunteers over the summer. Could you spare just 4 hours a week, which helps this great little thrift store support the five schools in the Edmonds community? Summer is a time of adventures and this might just be the thing! We need volunteers to help assisting customers, getting items ready for the sales floor, and sorting donations.

Our store hours are 10-5:30 Monday-Saturday and the daily shifts are 10am-2pm and 1:30-5:30pm and the address is 7666 Kingsway, Burnaby (between 13th and 14th Avenues).

Phone Peggy Woodruff (604 540-1335), Kathy Richardson (604 525-5000) or Victoria (604-540-0110) or email [basesvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:basesvolunteers@gmail.com) Check out our great new website at [www.basesburnaby.ca](http://www.basesburnaby.ca) Thanks!!

## Congregational Picnic

We held our Congregational Picnic on Sunday, June 8. It was a time of fellowship, food and fun games! Many thanks to the volunteers who made this a successful event a time of celebration and joy in the life of our congregation!



Alexandra doing her part in the fill the water jug race at the picnic

# Celebrations

## Baptism!



Family and friends celebrate the baptism of A.J. Waddington

## Graduation!



Our own Rev. Tracy Fairfield graduates with a Master of Arts in Spiritual Disciplines & Ministry Practices



Jen and Chris

## Weddings!



Chelsea and J.P