

# LAKESHORE LINES

Free – and worth every cent!

## Men's Retreat 2015

By Brian M

On May 21-24, fourteen men from DLUC congregated at Tony and Peggy W's beautiful new home on the beach near Sechelt on the Sunshine Coast. The weekend was filled with good fellowship, work projects, thoughtful discussions, fun games and worship.

The retreat often includes a time when we work together, and this year those that came up early did some tree and bush trimming and clean-up, clearing the growth from the path that leads to the beach. Later on, the low tide provided an excellent sandy venue for bocce. As always, the food was excellent throughout the weekend, including fresh crab from traps set nearby. Special thanks to all those who planned, purchased, cooked and cleaned up, as the meals we spend together are always a highlight for the men's retreat.



DLUC Men's Retreat 2015

Our theme discussion this year was "Why do we go to church?" Many of the great things that DLUC has to offer came out of this discussion, including our strong preaching, great music, and vibrant Sunday school. With all the positives about DLUC that were expressed, the discussion next focused on how we can get the message out to the larger community.

We aren't exactly a "drive-by" church, so one idea about using a floppy armed balloon guy like car dealerships didn't really fly (though it sounded

## 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

## Inside this issue

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Men's Retreat 2015            | 1 |
| Outreach Updates              | 2 |
| Women's Retreat 2015          | 3 |
| A Moment of Hope and Decision | 4 |
| Minister's Musings            | 7 |
| Summer Services at DLUC       | 8 |

And much more!

fun). Our web presence and making good use of social media seem to be the most current and relevant ways to get the word out about DLUC, and we should continue to use electronic means to spread our message.

Sunday worship was an Agape communion, based on the worship style of early Christian communities. This was a calm, reflective time with a wonderful ocean view as a backdrop. Fourteen stones surrounding the cross on the communion table were collected from the beach, each representing one of the weekend participants.

Thanks once again to Tony for opening up his wonderful home to us for this fantastic weekend. Hopefully we'll see even more men out next year!



# Outreach Updates

By Paul A

## Burnaby Youth Hub

Recently several Deer Lake members visited the Burnaby Youth Hub, situated behind Metrotown mall on Imperial St. This organization provides resources to at-risk youth in the Metrotown area. Deer Lake's support of this organization began many years ago – at that time it was located on Edmonds Street and was known as Edmonds Youth Centre. Five years ago, it moved to the Metrotown area and changed its name to Burnaby Youth Hub.

At the Burnaby Youth Hub, young people can complete high school, receive counselling and visit a clinic that specializes in serving the health needs of teens and young adults. In addition, this centre offers young people a safe place to play games, watch television or simply “hang out” with friends.

Youth Hub recognizes the importance of food and good nutrition both for learning and a healthy lifestyle, and is striving to provide both through regular cooking lessons and offering food and snacks free of charge to its young clients, many of whom are unable to get enough to eat at home. Youth Hub staff also hope to offer a breakfast program sometime in the near future, something that would better prepare students at the Centre for a day of learning in the high school completion program.

Funding issues severely limit the services that Burnaby Youth Hub is able to offer and Deer Lake Church assists in this where it can. We have recently committed to providing the buns for a weekly soup lunch that is offered to the teens there. In addition, through the Outreach Committee's “Lunch on the Run,” held two or three times a year, as well as through donations to our weekly after-church coffee fund, our church assists with some of the other programs at Youth Hub.

For more information on Burnaby Youth Hub and the services it provides to the community, please check out their website at <http://www.burnabyyouthhub.org/index.html>



## Gogos

The Burnaby Gogos (Stephen Lewis Foundation charity supporting African grandmothers raising their grandchildren orphaned due to the Aids epidemic) will be organizing several fundraising activities this summer, as follows:

**Burnaby Farmers Market:** The Gogos will have a table of hand crafted totes, Safari denim and more on Saturdays June 13, July 11, Aug. 8 Sept. 12 and Oct. 3 at the Burnaby City Hall lot, 4949 Canada Way.

The **Midsummer Festival** at the Scandinavian Centre on June 20 and 21 will also include a table of Gogos crafts for sale. 6540 Thomas St. Burnaby.

On Wednesday, July 15 the Gogos will have a fundraising **Pub Night** at Wings on the NW corner of Griffiths and Kingsway from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. There will be a silent auction as well as crafts. (See page 6 for more info!)

Mark your calendars for **Art in the Attic**, Saturday, Oct. 10, 10am to 3pm at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre. This is a major fundraising event organized by the Gogos. If you have any drawings, paintings, posters or prints you would like to donate, please contact [burnabygogos@gmail.com](mailto:burnabygogos@gmail.com) or call Janina at 604-522-0548

For more information please visit [www.greatervangogos.org](http://www.greatervangogos.org) or [www.stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org)

## Women's Retreat 2015

By Kathy R

On a beautiful weekend in May, 21 women from Deer Lake headed over to Bowen Island to enjoy the peace and serenity that the Rivendell Retreat Centre offers. We gathered for a dinner of delicious homemade soup and bread with treats made by participants for dessert! Our first evening we laughed our way through some getting-to-know you games and learned many new things about each other.

Our program Saturday morning included reflecting on a Balance Wheel, presented by Gloria F., as we looked at all the areas in our lives and how much time and energy they each consume. Learning from one another we realize that at each stage of life certain things require more attention. Following this exercise, we were encouraged to take time to reflect and think about ways we might want to change or adjust our wheel if possible. Cathy M. led us through Mandala drawing, which is engrossing and calming and gives one time to calmly pause and think. In the afternoon, we were offered other ways to relax and let our bodies, minds and souls just be through continuing to work on our Mandala's, knitting prayer shawls, practicing yoga (led by Sharon H.), walking the labyrinth, reading selected books brought for the weekend, journaling or walking. The beautiful setting on top of a hill on Bowen Island is an idyllic setting for getting away from the buzz of our daily lives. We began and ended each day with worship and singing using the Songs of a Gospel People songbook, an activity that was enjoyed by all!



Enjoying the serenity on Bowen Island

Audrey L. led us in meaningful worship Sunday morning as we were able to use the new Sanctuary at Rivendell.

The evaluations from the weekend emphasized the enjoyment people felt of getting to know "my church sisters" and "the women of my church family". One participant said, "It was a perfect weekend for me. Felt my church family would always be there for me!" So, as we considered the question, "Is My Life in Balance?" we learned ways to continue to take time to think about this, we had fun, deepened friendships, worshipped our God and had a break!



The centre of the Labyrinth at Rivendell

We are thankful to all the participants who brought baking to sustain us, and to the planning committee for their thoughtful preparation for a wonderful weekend!

We look forward to next spring when we have been invited to Tony and Peggy W.'s residence on the Sunshine Coast. Hope to see you there!



# The 2015 Federal Election: A Moment of Hope and Decision

By The Rev. Dr. Jim Sinclair, former General Secretary of the United Church of Canada, <http://united-church.ca/>

What do you care about? Is it climate change? Peace? Refugee rights? Regardless of which issues matter most in your life, the 2015 elections will have an enormous impact on them. Now more than ever, all faith voices need to be heard in the political process. It is our right and duty to participate in forming a government that reflects the will of its people.

Your vote will make a difference. Matters such as Aboriginal rights, health care, and poverty are concerns for every community in our country. The more we know about how our faith and values can influence government policies, the better chance we will have to transform our own and others' lives for the common good. We witness to our faith in a just and life-giving God in the public arena by advocating for justice and peace. This is our faith and our vote.

*"Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!"* (Isaiah 58:1)

The United Church has been active in the public arena—including elections—since its earliest days. The founders of this church believed that ours is a living faith and a witness to the ministry of Jesus Christ that is expressed in active, thoughtful involvement in society. It is important for people of faith to bring forward the consistent message that every individual, and Earth itself, must be cherished and respected. Our combined voices have greater impact when we work together.

*"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."* (John 10:10)

*"You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."* (Deuteronomy 10:19)

*"They shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid."* (Micah 4:4)

The 2015 federal election is a time for both hope and decision. If we are to continue to imagine and build a just society and a caring world, we must decide which leaders, and their parties, will help us to make that happen.

If we are to save this planet and its flora and fauna from climate change brought on by our own self-destructive choices, we must act now. If we are to lead with integrity in the international community, we must reflect on the principled, moral, and humanitarian stances we have taken on many issues in the past.

If we are to hold up our heads as committed Christians and as fair, just, generous, hospitable, and humane people, serious questions about policies and practices need to be asked. Questions about

- abusive treatment and discrimination against immigrants, migrants, and refugees
- sexism, misogyny, and violence against women
- the failure to respect and uphold Aboriginal rights and seriously address Aboriginal issues, such as treaty obligations and murdered and missing women
- the exploitation of Indigenous people and Earth
- the lack of serious commitments to address climate change
- the lack of accountability (except to their shareholders) by Canadian resource extraction companies working in Canada and around the world
- efforts by transnational agribusinesses, with support of the Canadian government, to erode farmers' rights to save, reuse, sell, and exchange the seed they produce
- the erosion of universal health care
- the socially corrosive effects of poverty and the failure to address root issues that underlie much impoverishment, crime, and violence
- the rise of militarism in Canada and the over-reliance on military solutions abroad
- the bias toward corporate profit-driven solutions for social and global development challenges
- Canada's failure to respect and implement international UN agreements that set standards for the welfare of people and Earth (UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, Arms Trade Treaty, Kyoto Accord)

Many of these issues are interwoven—climate change, poverty, Aboriginal rights, peace. Looking deeper into these connections enhances our capacity to effectively address any one.

Continued on page 5

**A Moment of Hope and Decision continued from page 4...**

So, too, we must ask questions about the present health of our democracy as lived out through the policy-making functions of our Parliament and government. What do we believe about the role of government in working for the well-being of all? What could be done to better support the efforts of Members of Parliament to shape and implement policies that uplift principles of human rights, of peace-making, of care for creation, and the building up of the social well-being of our communities and our world? Whose interests are MPs serving? Which voices are heard in civil and political discussion and debate? Is anyone being silenced? How and why? Do our democratic structures serve the common good?

One of the roles of government is to collect and use taxes to provide for the safety, care, and development of its citizens. Governments serve at the behest of citizens and fund initiatives and programs with the taxes we pay. As Alex and Jordan Himelfarb wrote in the *Toronto Star*, “taxes are the way we pay for the things we do together that we could not do at all or as well alone”—such as health care, education, and public transit.

Over the last several years, there have been incidents involving the suppression of civil dissent, the de-funding of advocacy, research, and support programs, and the persistent challenging of charities regarding their charitable status. These incidents have limited our freedom of speech and eroded constructive collaboration between the government and civil society, which was once more prevalent.

More than 50 organizations have been partially or completely de-funded, including KAIROS, Development and Peace, National Action Committee on the Status of Women, Native Council of Canada, Court Challenge Program, Rights and Democracy, Canadian Arab Federation, Oxfam

Many organizations that are strong advocates on climate change have been subjected to an audit process, making them reluctant to critique official government policy when they feel critique is warranted—David Suzuki Foundation, Tides Canada, West Coast Environmental Law, Pembina Foundation, Environmental Defence, Équiterre, Ecology Action Centre

The vibrant, open democracy we want, and for which people in other parts of the world risk their lives, includes vigorous discussion, broad policy debates, principled stands taken on world issues, and defence of human rights. Such aspirations require continuous efforts at transparency, accountability, integrity, and humility.

Engaged citizenship is part of Christian discipleship. How then, as citizens, can we bring our faith and gospel values into political discourse and debate? You may be ready to take action by organizing an all candidates meeting or informal gathering to learn more about the people who are running for political office in your riding. We are challenged to journey, in the words of theologian Walter Brueggemann, “from the world of commodity to the world of communion,” leaving the threat, fear, and competition of empire behind. You are invited to embrace the values of the gospel—love, caring, kindness, and generosity. You are called to recommit to a discipleship of justice and love for the sake of this broken world. You are urged to bring the good news and prophetic vision of Jesus to this moment of hope and decision.



# Burnaby Gogos invite you to Pub Night

**Wednesday, July 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m.**

Wings Pub, 6879 Kingsway (at Griffiths), Burnaby

**PLEASE JOIN US**

for a burger or pound of wings and a beverage

*Silent auction and Craft sale*



*Tote bags! Safari Denim! Necklaces!*

**Tickets \$20**

[burnabygogos@gmail.com](mailto:burnabygogos@gmail.com) or phone Claire [604-433-3026](tel:604-433-3026)

[www.greatervangogos.org](http://www.greatervangogos.org)

[www.facebook.com/burnaby.gogos](http://www.facebook.com/burnaby.gogos)

Proceeds to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, Stephen Lewis Foundation, supporting African grandmothers who are raising a generation of children orphaned by AIDS.

Proceeds donated to:



## A Reflection of Despair, Hope and Healing

*By Don W.*

The following saga is a short version of my chest pains and shortage of breath which started in April / May 2014

After a few visits to my family doctor, followed by X-rays and EKGs, I was referred to a cardiologist who recommended an angiogram followed by surgical repair to my Aortic valve.

I survived the angiogram on September 29, 2014 – it showed significant coronary artery disease and severe Aortic stenosis. The recommended course of action was open-heart surgery, and I was placed on a wait list at several hospitals, including Kelowna, Royal Columbian and Royal Jubilee.

However, after an interview with a heart surgeon from RCH in late November, 2014 we decided to investigate alternatives to open heart surgery. In December, I had three stents put in to replace three blockages in my heart. Two months later, I was happy to report these procedures were successful in that I had no more chest pain!

On March 11 I was admitted to RCH for a “Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation” the following day. Dr. Wong walked me through the risks and potential benefits of the surgery and obtained my consent. On March 12, I was the second patient to have my Aortic Valve replaced at RCH during the minimally invasive procedure known as TAVI. A representative from the manufacturers of the Lotus Valve in Paris visited RCH to view the procedure by Dr. Wong and assisted by Dr. Chan. RCH is planning to include an article about the Lotus Valve in their next “Health Matters” brochure.

Although the stents and TAVI procedures were very successful (a fact for which my family is very relieved!), there is collateral damage. I have lumbar and sacroiliac joint pain, for which I am seeking physiotherapy treatment.

Happily, we are heading off on an Alaska cruise June 1 – 12. Cheers from Dorothy and I – we appreciated your prayers, phone calls, cards and enquiries over the past few months.

Many thanks to all at  
Deer Lake United  
Church

## Minister's Musings

In the article below entitled “United in God’s Work” you will find a summary of the Comprehensive Review Task Group’s Report. In response to the CRTG proposals, the DLUC Board crafted a proposal to be presented at BC Conference General Meeting. Dana Juba and I worked with the Board’s comments and crafted something in time for the docket. When at the conference meeting, in Whistler, there was ample time, over various days, devoted to this topic. Marie Paul and I spoke passionately about the proposal and the implications of it, as well as highlighting the lack of financial information. Comments were gathered to create a new proposal to go to General Council this summer, as well as a letter to the Commissions that deal with the proposals at General Council when they are gathered. Our voice was heard – heard by 400 people, and our points were made that we have grave concerns about parts of this report. Thank you to the Board for their hard work in wrestling with this document and for trusting Marie and I to represent you at the multi-day gathering.

Peace,

*Rev. Tracy Fairfield*

## United in God’s Work

*By Rev. Cathy Hamilton, Chair, Comprehensive Review Task Group*

In 2012, the 41st General Council directed a comprehensive review of the vision and circumstances of The United Church of Canada. A task group, made up of lay people and clergy from across Canada, was created to lead the process, and after two-and-a-half years of consultation, research, and prayer, their recommendations for the 42nd General Council 2015, “**United in God’s Work**” ([www.gc42.ca/comprehensive-review-report](http://www.gc42.ca/comprehensive-review-report)), have been released. We are encouraging all members of the church to read “United in God’s Work,” watch the short videos, and discuss the recommendations in their churches, presbyteries, and Conferences. It is important that these discussions take place in time to send proposals to General Council in August.

The report proposes that:

- the church commit significant resources to supporting new ministries and new forms of ministry by investing 10 percent of annual givings to the Mission and Service Fund in an initiative tentatively called Chasing the Spirit. This recommendation reflects the task group’s belief that the purpose of streamlined structures is to allow the church to focus on ministries that support

discipleship and evangelism in the emerging culture.

- the church place a high priority on building a relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples based on mutuality, respect, and equity, and that the church continue to live out its apologies to Aboriginal peoples.
- a three-council model of governance be established to replace our current four-court system. The three councils would be communities of faith (congregations and new forms of ministry), regional councils (a middle court in place of presbyteries and Conferences), and a denominational council (formerly General Council). Local communities would gather in clusters, and strong networks would continue to support our social justice work.
- a College of Ministers be established that would accredit, oversee, and discipline ministers. All paid accountable ministers would be members, and the college would be governed by boards of both lay and ministry members.
- a working group of ministers be struck to study the concept of an Association of Ministers, offer support, and foster collegiality.
- the church spend only what it receives and reduce its spending by at least \$11 million. Communities of faith would pay an annual assessment that would cover governance and support services. All donations to the Mission and Service Fund would fund only ministry and mission activities, such as global mission and outreach ministries.

God is doing a new thing. The need for change in how the church is and will be united in God's work is pressing. This is not just about money or about structural change, but about vitality in the church. You can read the detailed recommendations at [www.gc42.ca/comprehensive-review-report](http://www.gc42.ca/comprehensive-review-report). They will be discussed and acted upon in August at the 42nd General Council.

## Submissions

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

[newsletter@dluc.ca](mailto:newsletter@dluc.ca)

**Next Issue: September 2015**

Submission Deadline Sunday, September 20

## Summer Services at DLUC

Rev. Tracy will be off the end of June and first bit of July for a combination of holiday and study leave. Some time will be spent at home and other time her family will be camping at Shuswap Provincial Park. While Rev. Tracy is away we welcome the following people to lead us in worship.

### June 21 & July 12: Gary Begin

Gary Begin is the Constituency Assistant to the Burnaby North MLA. For many years Gary was a business owner in Burnaby and Surrey. He was staff associate minister at Como Lake and West Burnaby United Churches. He has served on a number of boards including Fair Haven and St. Michaels.

### June 28: Lynn McGrath

Lynn McGrath is a candidate for Diaconal Ministry. This fall she will start her third year of training, with the theme of Social Ministry Theme Year at the Centre for Christian Studies. She attends St. Andrew's in Port Moody where she first taught Sunday School, then became Coordinator.

### July 5: Rev. Sally McShane

Rev. Sally McShane is the Community Minister at First United Church. Sally brings the experience of 23 years of ministry in churches across Canada as well as the educational experiences as Chaplain in a prison, a Woman's Shelter and a Jewish Palliative Care ward to her work. Sally's experiences have revealed to her the transformative love of God. Next to time with her family, her favourite moments are talking about that love. "God is profoundly Awesome", she says.

**Communion** will only be celebrated once during the slower, warmer summer months. It will be on **Sunday, July 26th**.

The new storage area downstairs - a potential "Man Cave?"

