

# LAKESHORE LINES

Free – and worth every cent!

## Mind the Gap!

Greetings to all,

In her book called *The Other Side of Chaos*, Margaret Silf writes: “Transitions are gaps. They mark the gap between the no longer and the not yet.” It’s a good time to reflect on the ways in which the church occupies a gap, and what that means for us.

Pulling back the camera lens, we see that at the highest level, the whole of the church exists in the gap between the “already” of the Reign of God that comes with the resurrection of Jesus and the “not yet” that we anticipate with Jesus’ “return.” Zooming in quite close, we see our denomination and this congregation occupying a gap between the ways in which we used to “do church” which fewer and fewer in our culture seem to find relevant or meaningful, and what God is calling us to do and be in this time.



Holding both the wide shots and the close-ups together are the liturgical seasons of Advent (nearly or already over by the time you are reading this) and Christmas. Advent is the season when we acknowledge (to use the words of Marcus Borg) what the world would look like if God were the ruler of this world and the rulers of this world

## Vision Statement

Deer Lake United Church welcomes you into a Christian community for all ages that explores and expresses spirituality through:

- worship and music
- fun and fellowship
- caring and outreach
- involvement and growth

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were not; Christmas is the season when we welcome not just baby Jesus but “the hopes and fears of all the years” -- the promised reign of the Human One. Christmas is when we contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation and the implications for the material world, including humanity. The transitions continue – for Deer Lake, for The United Church of Canada, for human civilization. And we – lucky us! – find ourselves right in the middle of it.

“Mind the gap” says the nice woman’s voice on the London Underground train line that connects Heathrow airport with London. Those of us who have lived in this place for so long can be so accustomed to living in and with the gap that we don’t even notice it very often anymore. We learn to walk around it. Or over it. As though the gap were always there and not really there at the same time. We know we have sometimes lost people to the gap, but what is a community in transition to do?

In this season of expectant waiting and reflection on the union of God’s Spirit and our matter, we prepare ourselves to receive the God who reaches across the gap, to welcome the One whose presence *in* the fearful gap assures us that even as we contemplate stepping into the unknown, we are not – and will never be – alone.

Grace and peace,



## Georgie Cole, Local Hero



A celebration of life was held for Georgie Cole on November 4<sup>th</sup> - what would have been her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Georgie was born at home on November 4, 1929, in a two-room log cabin to parents, Carl and Mabel Lenglet (Morgan). She had five wonderful siblings, Melba, Elmer (Duke), Johnny, Elsie, and Mae. By 1934 they moved to a four-room house where they leased a 320-acre farm. Life was hard, but Georgie had fond memories of riding bareback to school on the old plough horse, Jerry; Christmas concerts in the school house, and getting drunk when

WW2 ended. It was a time of "making do", being proud and clean despite being poor, and being able to "chase down a chicken" for dinner from a young age.

By 1938 Georgie moved to Edmonton with her mom and sister Mae where she attended Catholic school and worked hard the summer of grade nine in The Edmonton General Kitchen to help Gramma make ends meet. She also worked in a bakery and waitressed during her teen years. After high school, Georgie went to business school and worked in a real estate office.

She moved to Vancouver in December 1948 and worked for the telephone company for many years. She initially found the Vancouver weather damp and chilly, and the mountains made her claustrophobic after the expansive prairie horizon. But she stuck it out, meeting and then marrying Bill Cole in 1952. After 56 years of marriage, Bill would predecease her in 2008. In 1955 they bought their house on Newcombe St. in Burnaby. In 1960 first child David was born, followed by Nancy (1962) and Janice (1968). Georgie was a hard working "housewife" until 1971, at which time she earned her Early Childhood Education certificate and taught preschool in New Westminster until her retirement in 1994. During these first years in Burnaby she began to give of her free time volunteering for many community causes. This dedication continued into her 88th year.

Georgie was never afraid to try new things. She liked to learn, and use her love of reading and common sense to fix or create anything she set her mind to. She took many night school courses, pursued numerous hobbies, and joined many groups to keep her mind and body active. Georgie was always involved in her neighborhood United Church where she made many life-long friends and enjoyed the fellowship and activities there. She was incredibly dedicated to her family and her home was often referred to as the Cole Hotel because extended family and friends were always welcome there.

Over the years Georgie received a number of awards for community service, including the Kushiro Cup 2013 Citizen of the Year Award.

Georgie passed away, surrounded by loved ones, in her home of 65 years. She often said how important it was to spend time together, gather experiences and memories rather than things, and find the good in every day.

She will be missed by everyone fortunate to have her in their life.



### Transition Team Talk

Your Transition Team has been working on plans for a Board retreat Friday evening, January 19<sup>th</sup> at DLUC and a full day Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> off site, probably at Ioco United Church. Details will be communicated as soon as they are finalized, but if you are on a committee please keep these dates open if at all possible.

We are also starting to make plans for a congregation event on identity after the Annual Congregational Meeting. It will be a Saturday morning. No date has been set yet.

Looking further ahead, the team has arranged for a "Lenten Challenge" for the congregation. Rev. Dave Anderson has offered to share material he is putting together for his congregation. This is the fifth year he has done this project and it has been well received. Individuals wishing to participate will receive a workbook, for which there will be a modest charge to cover printing costs. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the new year so we know how many workbooks to request.

We want you all to enjoy a good rest over the Christmas season because, as you can see, we have lots of plans for you in the new year.

Wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

From your Transition Team – Bruce, Dave, Elizabeth, Garry, Leenane, Linda, Scott and Trish.



### Scott's Covenanting Service

On the afternoon of Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> a covenanting service was held for Rev. Scott Swanson. The service was made more special by the fact that Scott's wife, Rev. Jennifer Swanson, presided over the ceremony. Representing Westminster Presbytery were Rev. Dave Anderson, Rev. Kathy Davies and Rev. Leenane Shiels. Rev. Shiels provided a truly meaningful reflection. Gloria F, Cathy M, Claire S, Kathy R and Garry F presented symbols to Scott, and Ernie C read the Prayers of the People. It was a memorable service.



Rev. Dave Anderson presents Rev. Scott to the congregation



What on Earth did the men have for Advent Breakfast?

# Great Progress in Uganda!

By Tony W



As you may know, I am a director of a Canadian charity called Water School, which works with poor subsistence farmers and their families in rural Uganda. Many of you support our work – thank you so much! We teach a program which shows how to make drinking water safe using the UV rays from the sun. Our program includes many other aspects such as proper latrine construction, efficient wood cook stove design, garbage disposal, kitchen hygiene, composting and general health and safety. We have been working on this for 10 years, and although we are small, we have trained over 800,000 people so far. Our work prevents children dying from diseases like typhoid, cholera and dysentery.

My role with the organization is to travel to Uganda at least once each year, and review programs, goals and budgets to ensure that the money is well spent.

I returned from Uganda at the end of November, and I can report several exciting new developments for 2018.

Firstly, we have new funding sources, and our work will expand to even more clients in 2018. Secondly, we are planning to merge, both in Uganda and Canada, with another water focused charity in 2018 to provide economies of scale. To prepare for this expanded scope, we have reorganized and strengthened our team in Uganda and in 2018 will change the name of our Ugandan partner to Africa Water Solutions.

In Canada we will remain Water School for the time being, with the website remaining [www.waterschool.com](http://www.waterschool.com). In 2018, after the merger, we will probably change our name in Canada too. Rest assured that your donations on the Water School website are reaching the right place, and there will be plenty of notice when the change happens.

Finally, the children of Uganda say “Weebali Nyo!” (thank you so much!) to all of you who have supported our work.



## Busy times for Janice

Janice C’s son Darren and Laura T were married August 5th at Quaaout Lodge, Chase, BC.

And on December 1<sup>st</sup> Janice’s daughter, Michelle and husband Josef presented her with twin granddaughters - Annabelle Clark and Lucy Kristyna.





On November 3<sup>rd</sup> the Langley Ukulele Ensemble wowed the congregation with a fantastic dynamic performance



Five DLUC choir members sing with the Andante Chorus. The afternoon of December 7<sup>th</sup> was a double-header for them – first they performed at the Burnaby Retired Teacher's luncheon, then at Thornbridge Gardens Retirement Centre.



Happy ladies at the Advent Breakfast at Dana's

### Choir Kickoff Gathering

On Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> Mike F hosted the Deer Lake Choir's kickoff gathering at his new townhouse in Coquitlam. Donna and Darrell who have hosted for the past several years helped Mike plan the event.



### Upcoming Events At and Around Deer Lake United Church

#### Christmas Eve Family Service

Sunday Dec 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm DLUC sanctuary

#### Christmas Eve Communion Service

Sunday Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm DLUC sanctuary

#### Board Retreat

Friday Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm DLUC

Saturday Jan 20<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Ioco United

#### Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am DLUC Fellowship Hall

## 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

### Next Issue: March 2018

Submission Deadline Sunday, March 4, 2018