

# LAKESHORE LINES

Free – and worth every cent!

## The Move from Death to New Life

Grace to you, and peace, in the name of Jesus Christ,

As we approach the most important week in the Christian year and the most significant event in the Christian story, we have the opportunity once again to locate ourselves in what can be thought of as the central Christian drama of Good Friday-Holy Saturday-Easter Sunday. We recognize the motif and the pattern in our own lives, sometimes in small ways that run their course in a day, sometimes in major ways that may take years or even a lifetime to play out: some suffering, loss or death; followed by a period of fear or grief as the reality of the loss begins to settle in; followed by the beginning of something new which is not the same as the old, but which would not have been possible if the old had not ended. It's not an inevitably repeating pattern – like spring following winter; it is something unexpected, unlooked for, and yet definitively new. Friday-Saturday-Sunday is the move from death to new life that all of us can recognize if we look for it.

For me, Holy Week and Easter are an opportunity to reflect on the places in my own life that know suffering and even death; the places that look and feel like living in the aftermath; and the places where signs of new life are emerging or flourishing. The transitions are not always smooth or clean cut; sometimes it is hard to know until after the fact where exactly I am in the process. Sometimes there are elements of Friday, Saturday and Sunday all occurring at the same time!

Easter is an easy thing for us to talk about in the church, it's much harder to trust and be open to it in its absence. Perhaps in part because resurrection is out of our control: not something we do, but something that is done to – or for – us. We have been shaped to be doers; agency and autonomy are positives. And resurrection is not something we create, force or plan. No process, restructuring, or new hire incites it. Maybe the most difficult part is

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## 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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## No Gum or Glitter!

By Ellen J

I just wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for ten years of employment! You helped me make ends meet as my family was growing and I appreciate all the support and flexibility you gave me as I juggled two jobs. Thank you all very very much. . . see you on Sunday.



The time has come, the cleaner said, to hang up dusty brooms.  
To put away the cleaners that she uses on the rooms  
To lock the doors and set the keys-a hangin on the wall  
And to let another wash the floor in that big huge fellowship hall.

She's seen a lot (and knows a lot), about things around the church  
Like who eats crackers in the pews and whose fingerprints besmirch.

She knows who doodles when attention drifts, and who is very tidy

She even knows who likes to chat, and who comes in on Friday.

One thing that she knows for sure, this job has been a blessing  
With lovely people, even though, they do a lot of messing.  
So as she goes she grants to you, two rules to keep things happy  
No gum or glitter anywhere, you'll drive the new guy batty!

## It is never too late to be what you might have been

By Dana J., Deer Lake United Church Board Chair

“It is never too late to be what you might have been.” - George Eliot

When I came across this quote a few months ago, it resonated with me on many levels. On the surface you could take it simply as a motivational quote – something to put on a post-it-note and stick to your mirror to be read as a reminder to try your best each day. And, in fact, I have it on a post-it-note attached to my computer monitor at work.

Going slightly deeper, I read it as a message of hope – don’t give up, perseverance and hard work will move you toward the person you long to be – kind, patient, loving, compassionate, understanding, and the list goes on. Dreams do not have to die – they can change and morph into opportunities we couldn’t have imagined in the past.

Then, there is what I see as a spiritual message in this quote – a deeper hope and promise. God loves me as I am and will never give up on who I am meant to be. He is the foundation of my very being – and I am reminded of His unconditional love and absolute belief in me in this simple sentence. It is what I imagine He might say to me – especially in those moments of self-doubt, impatience, intolerance (when I am not my best self), or sadness or grief (when I feel alone). The on-going journey of becoming what I might have been is not a lonely one – I am not alone – God is with me, providing gentle (and sometimes not-so-gentle) nudges along the way, guiding me back to the right path.

And so, looking at the first few months of 2018, I see hope and perseverance and hard work at Deer Lake – moving towards what we might have been (it’s never too late!). The Board Retreat in January was very well attended and a wonderful opportunity for all voices to be heard, and to step away from the “busyness” of Board work to look beyond, worship and pray for each other, and dream together.

The Annual Congregational Meeting also brought worship and work together – with part of it being a look at what our “core values” are now. This information will be invaluable for the Transition Team and their work during our interim ministry. The first opportunity to build on this work will be the Congregational Event on Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup> – I hope each of you will consider the value your input has in this process. As each of us is unique, we bring unique perspectives and experiences to the table, and all are important. I look forward to continuing our journey together – God calls each of us, and Deer Lake United, to strive to be more than we are – to become what we might have been.



## A Miracle of Commitment, Faith and Generosity

By Cathy M



In January, a committed DLUC family offered the congregation a challenge – to increase our PAR giving. If we could collectively increase the amount donated through PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) to Local operations by \$1,550 per month by February 28<sup>th</sup>, that family would make a \$20,000 donation. This donation would not only erase the deficit expected in 2018, but would provide stable income and set us up well for the years to come.

As the challenge progressed, congregation members received a letter asking them to consider their blessings and the response of gratitude, and how and why they love and support our church. Personal testimonials were given by Kathy, Garry, Dana, and Claire, each telling of how they were led to Deer Lake, what meaning this church has for them, and why they support it faithfully with their time, talent and treasure. These testimonials were heartfelt and thought-provoking.

The goal was met, and that very generous donation of \$20,000 has been received. The deficit budget approved at the ACM is now balanced. A sincere thank you to the family who spearheaded this challenge.

Happily, the goal was more than just met. The magnitude of the response was amazing. Instead of an increase of \$1,550 per month, we received an increase of \$3,722, more than double what was hoped for. About 80% of our envelope donations are now coming through 43 families on PAR. Our finances going forward have been completely reset.

Thanks to all of you who took some time to reflect on the significance our church has in your lives and in your hearts. Thank you for making a commitment to DLUC and sharing your financial blessings. The tremendous response to this challenge, and the faithfulness of all our donors, both those on PAR and those using their envelopes, show we are a caring and cohesive community, devoted to our church and its future. We are moving forward with gratitude, and a renewed sense of commitment to the congregation and to doing God’s work in our community.

# Permission Seeking vs. Permission Giving

By Rev. Scott Swanson

One of the goals set by the Board for this period of Interim Ministry is to build capacity for greater trust within the congregation and develop a congregational culture that supports healthy communication. A second goal is to clarify roles and responsibilities, including authority and accountability of the whole congregation. A third goal is to increase the congregation's understanding of what it means to live in a post-Christendom culture. One way to address all three of these Interim goals is to consider the difference between a permission-seeking church governance culture and a permission-giving one.

The permission-seeking approach is how many congregations, including many United Church congregations have tended to operate. If someone has an idea for something new, the first thing they must do is seek permission – usually from the Board. This approach gives significant control to the Board, but it also can create significant delays in initiating new ministries.

A permission-giving approach to governance has several similarities to a soccer or basketball game. In a soccer game there is a very clear boundary around the outside of the field and very clear rules about what is permitted and not permitted while the game is under way. As long as the players don't go out of bounds and don't break the rules, they can play the game anyway they like. In a congregational setting, a permission-giving governance approach has the Board or governing body setting the boundaries

and the rules (guidelines like core values, purpose, vision for ministry, budget). Anything that does not violate the boundaries, or the rules is automatically approved. Most congregations using such a model have people designated to help those proposing a ministry assess whether it fits or not.

A permission-giving governance system errs on the side of trusting that the person is discerning God's direction correctly; and trusting that the power of the Holy Spirit will create, guide and empower new ministries that we might not have considered possible or wise. A permission-giving system gives everyone – not just the governing body or the minister – authority and accountability for the ministry of the congregation. A permission-giving system is more nimble and responsive and often more attractive to newcomers to a congregation who may not be used to (or patient enough for!) a system that can take several months to make a decision.

What do you think it would take for Deer Lake to move toward a permission-granting model of governance? What might get in the way? What benefits might the congregation realise from such an approach? The Transition Team would love to hear your thoughts. You can contact Elizabeth C, Garry F, Linda P, Trish S, and Bruce van L separately or through our email address:

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

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that Sunday comes after Friday, which means that before we can be open to the new thing God is birthing in our lives, we have to let go of what was, what we are attached to, what we love.

This is in part why something like intentional interim ministry is so challenging. We can talk about change. We can make adjustments to make things work better. We can experiment with new ideas and ways. But willingly relinquish what has served us in the past, what we're comfortable with and accustomed to? That's another thing altogether!

My prayer for each of you this Easter is that, in the places in your life where you need it most, you will be surprised by resurrection – at least for yourself – and that you will come to know the freedom of a life lived in God's peace, and marked by the grace of the One whose longing is for greater life for all of us.




Scott debates with his advisors

## Work that Doesn't Show, A Transition Team Update!

By Linda P

So much of the work of interim ministry isn't visible to the people that sit in the pews on Sunday. This is true of much that has happened over the past few months.

In January DLUC hosted a board retreat with 23 people in attendance. We examined the current organizational structure of the Board. It was agreed that change is needed. Time was spent discussing the pros and cons of possible changes. The Board is continuing that work in their regular meetings. Over the past few months Scott has spent time with individual committees evaluating and suggesting improvements. Following a workshop that Peggy Woodruff and Larry Juba attended, the M&P committee took a recommendation to the Board to change how staff are supervised. The new approach is being tried out and will be evaluated at the end of this year. This work is what is known as technical change. The problem is clear, the solution is clear, and it can be carried out by people within the organization.

Other pieces of work are known as adaptive change. These changes are the work of the congregation. They evolve over time and involve changing things that we have believed to be so, for a very long time. Often, we don't realize that something has changed until we look back. Many recent changes in the United Church have been adaptive. For example – congregations used to provide many social and justice related programs. Today this is done by many organizations in the community and members of the congregation may find other places to volunteer and partake in ministries that relate to their passion. One example is our connection with the Burnaby Go Go's.

At our recent ACM we had an activity on DLUC's Core Values. This is groundwork for adaptive change. We seek to discern what our values are now, what we want to hold on to, and what we wish to evolve/aspire to. Part of this work is the Lenten Challenge (that about 30 of us are doing) while another part is the sermon series Scott began on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. In church jargon, we are looking at the 'membership' model of congregation (that has worked well in the past), and the 'discipleship' model. In the ancient Greek and Jewish traditions, a disciple is a follower who models their life on that of a teacher. We concentrate on these spiritual practices – uplifted by God's Love, nurtured through Worship, inspired through Scripture, transformed through Prayer, empowered through Spiritual friendships and developed through Service. If you miss a Sunday, you can find Scott's sermons on our website under Worship and Music/Sunday Worship - <http://www.dluc.ca/WP/worship-music/sunday-worship/>.

So, although it may seem as though not much is happening Sunday to Sunday, a great deal is in motion. As we work through this period of transition/change, reflecting on DLUC's core values, looking at the 'discipleship model' of ministry and the current Board structure, we ask God to renew our dreams and know that Jesus is walking with us.

If you have any questions or concerns, or just want to chat about 'what's happening', please do not hesitate to contact any of the members of the Transition Team - Elizabeth C, Garry F, Linda P, Trish S, and Bruce Van L. Alternately, you can reach all of us with one email at [transitionteam@dluc.ca](mailto:transitionteam@dluc.ca).

Dr Shelley Ross (Physician of the Year), Kip Woodward, Roni Martin and Brent Novak receive their philanthropic awards at Burnaby Hospital Foundation's 2018 Emperor's Ball. They are shown here with Kristy James (far left) CEO of the Burnaby Hospital Foundation, and board chair Doug Walden (far right). (Picture credit: Burnaby Now)

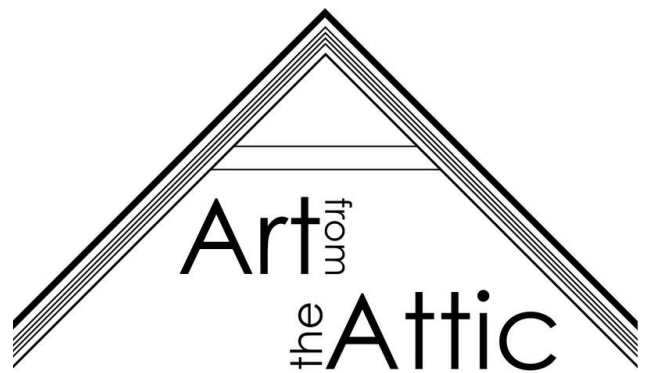




Where our Congregation lives



Little Church in the Woods. Bonsais created by the children under the guidance of Bruce van L.



Burnaby Gogos will be holding an "Art from the Attic" fundraiser on Fri June 1st late afternoon & Sat June 2nd 10am to 3pm at Deer Lake United Church in the fellowship hall. All proceeds from the art sale will go to the Burnaby Gogos.

More information to follow, or call Claire at 604-433-3026.

## News from Outreach

### Harvest for the Homeless:

Thanks to the generous donations from the congregation of winter wear such as gloves, socks, underwear and touques for the Harvest for the Homeless, many of Burnaby's homeless were provided with these much needed items in November.



### Hope for Families:

Thanks to generous contributions last year, we were able to send several children to summer camp this past summer as part of the support we provide to Edmonds School for Burnaby's disadvantaged youth. Instead of providing hampers, as in previous years, individual gifts for 14 children were purchased by DLUC members and delivered to the Burnaby Christmas Bureau. An additional \$700 was also sent to the Burnaby Christmas Bureau from donations to the Hope for Families fund.

### Gogos:

The Bags & Swags sale in November, in conjunction with the baked goods sale, contributed over \$800 to DLUC operating expenses. DLUC continues to support the Burnaby Gogos which provides well needed aid and support to African Grandmothers through the Steven Lewis Foundation initiative. Please contact any member of the Outreach Committee if you would like more information on the Gogos or their upcoming events.

### Youth Hub:

Evelyn from Burnaby Youth Hub updated the congregation on their activities and needs during service last April. Youth Hub provides a valuable service of counselling, meals and other support to disadvantaged and at-risk youth in Burnaby.



## A Community Growing and Serving Together

By Wendy K

Ryan and Shirley were first United in 2009 at Ryan's baby shower. The ladies of Deer Lake Church very graciously hosted Ryan's baby shower where this photo was taken.



Baby shower for Ryan Kyer 2009 - thank you kind ladies of Deer Lake United Church.

When fundraising partners Ryan and Shirley first met

At that time Ryan was the youngest and Shirley the eldest member of our Deer Lake Church community.

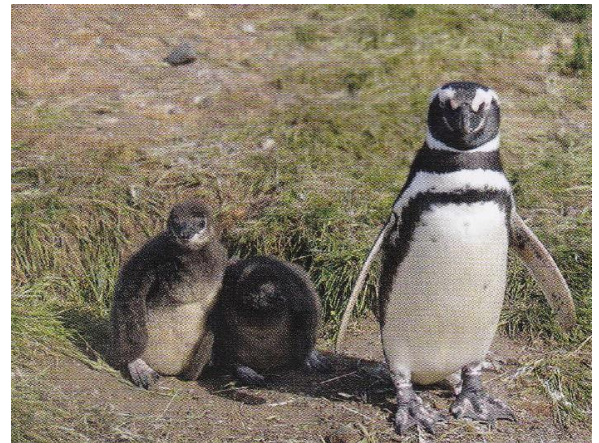
Fast forward to 8 years later and Shirley and Ryan are now United in service to sell books with the proceeds going towards the homeless community.

Thank you to all, who have contributed toward this initiative.


The Spirit of giving and service is strong within our Deer Lake Church Community.



Ryan was made an "unofficial" committee member after handing over the money he raised at his first book sale.



King and Magellanic penguins and chicks seen by Ruth S during her cruise of South America and Antarctica.



A **PAPER SHREDDING** event will take place in the Deer Lake United Church parking lot from 10am to 2pm on Sat June 2nd. Proceeds will go to Deer Lake United Church . Bring your papers to shred and pick up an interesting & beautiful piece of art at the same time!

More information to follow, or call Claire at 604-433-3026.



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

**Maundy Thursday Service**  
Thursday March 28 at 6:00 pm DLUC sanctuary

**Burnaby Churches Good Friday Service**  
Friday March 30 10:30 am DLUC sanctuary  
Hot Cross Buns, coffee, tea and fellowship will be available in the fellowship hall at 10:00 am BEFORE the service.

**Identity Event**  
Saturday April 14 8:30 am – 12:00 pm DLUC Fellowship Hall

**Lunch on the Run**  
Sunday April 15 after Sunday service DLUC Fellowship Hall

**Women’s Retreat**  
May 4 – 6 at Tony & Peggy’s near Sechelt

**Men’s Retreat**  
May 24 – 27 at Tony & Peggy’s near Sechelt

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

When you need new offering envelopes, please let Kathy Richardson or Mary Cazalet know at church or email Kathy at [Kathy\\_richardson@telus.net](mailto:Kathy_richardson@telus.net). They will be ready the next Sunday. Prior to the summer, please check your supply as Pam’s time is limited in the summer and it is better to get them printed ahead.

Thanks so much!

## 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

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