

LAKESHORE LINES

Free – and worth every cent!

Core Values of Deer Lake United Church

By Linda P

In February and March, the Transition Team took the congregation through an exercise to determine its core values. We began with descriptions of twenty-three values. In a second round, we asked you to consider the top eight. Fifty-one individuals provided responses. Below are your responses boiled down to the top seven in order that you ranked them. We have included the name of the value that our resource connects with each description.

Passionate worship (worship is central to our life as a congregation)

Worship should be multi-faceted: music, prayer, meditation, communion and silence with the creative arts playing an important role. Fulfilling worship is vital, transformative, lively, refreshing and inspiring, keeping God as the focus of our devotion. Musical excellence with a diversity of styles is important.

Joy, laughter and fun

We have fun together in worship, in social and work activities.



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

Pastoral Oversight Assessment	2
Women’s Retreat	2
God’s Spirit in Summertime	3
Men’s Retreat	4
Who Are We?	5
Bringing Spirit to the Board	5
Hope for Families	6

And much more!

Mutual support and caring

We share our experiences and our faith journeys. We know it is essential to our health and well being that we support one another through life’s transitions, including difficult times, while honouring one another’s faith journeys and spiritual experiences. Pastoral Care is essential to our health and well-being.



Extravagant generosity (stewards of God’s creation)

We offer our money, time and talent out of gratitude to God.

Continued on page 2

Core Values

Continued from page 1

Inclusive, diverse and multicultural

We are fully inclusive of all ages, cultures, genders, sexual orientations and abilities. We honour and enjoy social and cultural differences.



Grandfather Hamid (94) and his younger brother, Garry

Translate faith into action (outreach)

We embody God's command to love by providing for the needs of others and sharing our goods and table fellowship (meals) with our neighbours.

Control of destiny

We strive to do things the right way by observing process and procedure. We are respectful and careful of our resources and gifts.



This exercise is creating the future for our church – extremely important work for all of us. The Transition Team only coordinates this work. The meat of it must come from the congregation. When we return in the fall we would ask for renewed commitment from all the congregation to continue creating our future.



Pastoral Oversight Assessment Questionnaire

By Dana J, Chair of the Board

As part of the Westminster Presbytery, we were required to complete a Pastoral Oversight Self-Assessment. This questionnaire was designed so that each pastoral charge would take a good look at both administrative functions and strategic/planning within their Board and/or congregation. On completing the questionnaire, it was clear that our administrative and financial management practices were being handled well (no surprise). What was highlighted is that we are missing the goal setting/strategic planning part. Not in every area of our Ministry Profile, but in enough areas that it supports the Board's discussions around how to bring more visioning and deliberate planning for the future into our practices as a governing body.

This could be a very useful tool and forces us to look at what is *actually* happening, not what we think is happening. With the support and guidance of Rev. Scott, the Board is working on trying out some new ways of working that would not only be more efficient and effective but empower our committees to do the work they are tasked with, improve communication amongst all, and be as transparent as possible.



Women's Retreat

By Gloria F

On the weekend of May 4 - 6, fifteen women gathered in the beautiful surroundings of Peggy and Tony's home in Sechelt for the 2018 retreat. We enjoyed good company, good food, and good discussions during this fun and relaxing break from everyday life.

Our theme was "Meeting the one who knows your name." With the help of two videos from the Nooma series, we considered how God knows us and values us as we really are. Then we created unique mementos of the weekend as Joanne led us in a craft that involved alcohol (no, not that kind) and fire!

Saturday ended in the warm glow of a roaring bonfire on the beach as we watched the sunset give way to a dark, starry sky. (The men will say that they have much bigger bonfires at their retreats, but quality, not size, is what matters.)

After a meaningful Sunday morning service led by Audrey, we cleaned up, had lunch, and then headed for home, refreshed and enriched by our time together. We look forward to next year's retreat at Rivendell. Hope you can join us!

God's Spirit in the Summertime

Welcome to the season after Pentecost. Sometimes the church refers to this time in the church year as "Ordinary time." Those of us who are not ardent followers of mathematics or language easily forget that "ordinary" has two meanings. It's the lesser known meaning, having to do with a sequence of numbers, that gives "ordinary time" its name; the weeks through this time are numbered sequentially up to the beginning of Advent. Most of us are more inclined to use the more common definition of "ordinary" and assume that "ordinary time" refers to common, average, even uninteresting time. Which is why I prefer to call this time between the end of Eastertide and the beginning of Advent, the "season after Pentecost."

For one thing, there never need be anything "ordinary" about God's creation or participation in the Body of Christ. The other reason is that calling this time "the season after Pentecost" reminds us that all the texts we encounter during this time, in one way or another, encourage us to reflect on what it means to be the church: a people who have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit. And there isn't anything ordinary about that either!

Of course, while the liturgical calendar tells us it is the beginning of the season after Pentecost, the more commonly used calendar tells us it is the beginning of the season of summer, which often translates into lower church attendance as people go on vacation. Many of us have or have had summer traditions or past-times – the places or activities that refresh and restore, the places where we are re-created. For Pam, it's time at the lake. For Donna, it's Naramata. For me it's the garden. Whatever you get up to this summer and wherever you do it, may you be nourished in body and soul.

Whether you find yourself here at Deer Lake United on a Sunday morning or somewhere else, I hope that you will take time in the next few months to consider the ways in which the Holy is present to you: in the beauty of nature, in time spent with loved ones, in serving others or being served, in participating in creative endeavours, et cetera.

Although the summer does move at a somewhat slower pace, the worship and work of Deer Lake United will continue. As you read through this edition of Lakeshore Lines, may you be open to noticing the ways in which God's Spirit is at work and perhaps even doing something new at DLUC.

Grace and peace,



Deer Lake women enjoy their well-crafted fire



Thoughts from the Garden

By Jean J

"Many hands make light work!" - especially in a garden. Once spring had decided to arrive everything growing in our church garden sprang to life all at once it seemed; flowers, weeds and brambles included.

Yes, we always need helpers to keep things under control. A very big "Thank You" goes to Colleen for subduing the masses of brambles behind the garden shed with her impressive muscle power. Also to Arnie for repairing and tidying up the shed that appeared to have been home to a rat (or two?). Thank you to Mike, with his truck, plus Arnie, for making two trips to the recycling with a mountain of prunings. "Thank You's" to Ernie, Shirley and Colleen for working hard in the garden on the 'clean up' weekend.

If you want to meet the neighbours or have a chat with passers-by, just start pulling weeds or holding a tool and you will undoubtedly get a few comments on how the garden is appreciated. Please join us when you can.

Another Memorable Men's Retreat

By Garry F

Two carloads of men arrived in Sechelt on Thursday May 24th in time for lunch at the Lighthouse Marine Pub overlooking the "airport" and Sechelt Inlet. Returning to the house, Bob, Ernie and Jo set to work sanding and refinishing the deck and stair railings while six of us attacked the ever-growing blackberry bushes and vine maples. Dinner was lasagna and marked the arrival of another carload of eager beavers. By the time Arnie and Bruce D arrived on Friday afternoon, the railings were finished and two half days of bush whacking and felling of trees had netted a humungous pile of vegetation waiting to be incinerated. After a lunch of hotdogs, a hike at Smuggler Cove scrubbed off any remaining energy most of us had.

While the majority rehydrated with their favourite beverages, Larry went to work preparing his now-famous seafood chowder. With the help of others, the feast was prepared and then quickly devoured by eighteen hungry diners. As the sun set, dirty dishes dispensed with, the moment we had been waiting for was upon us.

Larry, match in hand, kneeled on the rocky beach and lit the kindling at the centre of the eight-foot high tepee of logs and branches erected earlier in the day. A glow appeared and quickly erupted into a raging pyre. Silhouettes of men moved back and forth in the deepening dark, carrying armfuls of vegetation from the leafy pile to the spitting, hissing bonfire. Its orange glow illuminated the rocks of the beach and embers shot into the sky enveloping the moon above. Conversation and laughter filled the



air as the fire burned on. One by one men said their good nights until only a handful remained to tend the now dying fire. The incoming tide was too slow and the fire too persistent, so still-burning logs were rolled into the sea and embers and hot rocks

doused with a hose. All was quiet and dark. Friday came to an end.

Scott arrived the next morning and Tony showed him around the property. After lunch we seated ourselves in a circle in the living room and Scott led us in a session exploring fathers and fatherhood. It was deeply meaningful and very emotional for some. The rest of the day was relatively restful, although Bob, Doug, Jo and Larry worked hard preparing an enormous meal of salmon, freshly-caught crab, chicken, baked potatoes and salad. Pie and ice cream rounded out the meal and helped to round us out too.



Before we knew it, the last day of the retreat was upon us. Scott left to catch an early ferry before many of us were even out of bed. We had breakfast and gathered our belongings, then gathered ourselves for a remarkable agape service designed and led by Andrew. The readings and hymns nicely supported Saturday's theme and each of us had an opportunity to share how the theme spoke

to us personally. Agape communion followed – always a very meaningful experience. The service concluded with a few moments of silent reflection.



Lunch and cleanup followed the service, after which it was time to load the cars, give our thanks to Tony and head off to the ferry terminal. Another memorable men's retreat was at an end, but we will reflect on it often and eagerly anticipate the next one.



By Linda P

On April 15, at the Identity Event, about thirty of us spent the morning delving into the identity of Deer Lake. We opened with a scripture reading, a prayer and a hymn. For the first activity, we set up five centers as listed below. Each participant visited all five.

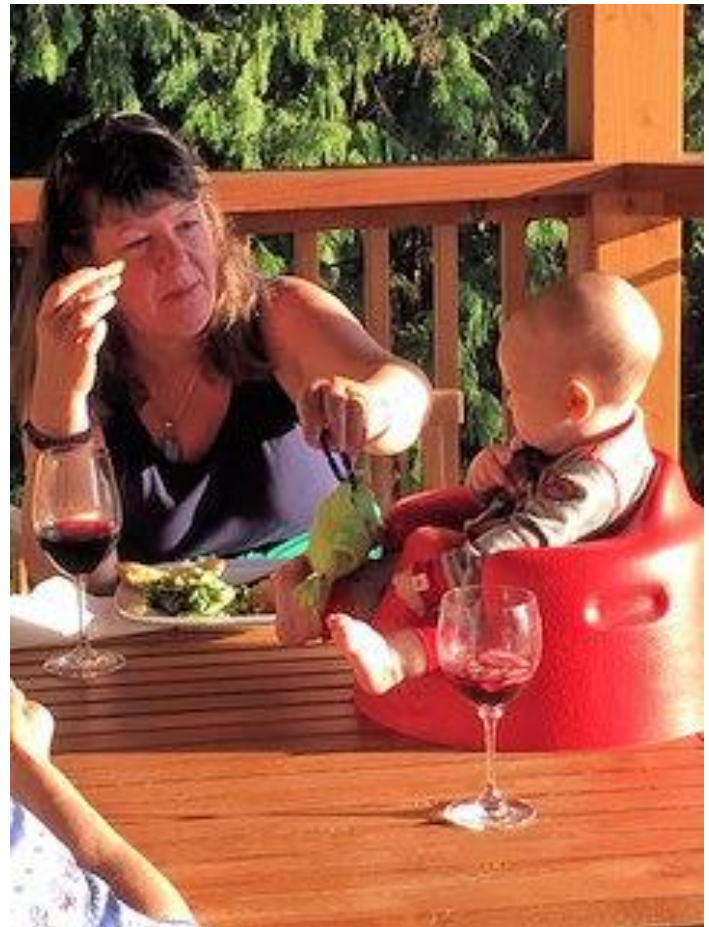
- Favorite Hymn Exercise
- What makes you proud about Deer Lake? What does not make you proud? What are we known for? What do we not want to be known for?
- What has Deer Lake been passionate/enthusiastic about? What have we been complacent about?
- Who has Deer Lake cared for? Who could we have cared for but didn't?
- Word Associations

The second activity was the 'harvest' done in groups of four using a talking piece. Each group discussed these questions: What did you notice about who DL is? What was meaningful/stood out/surprising/different from what you thought? What do we now know about who DL is?

The Transition Team came away with nine pages of typed notes. We have drawn those thoughts into the following statements arranged in no specific order.

- We are proud of our music. Favorite hymns were balanced between traditional and contemporary.
- We are a welcoming, friendly and inclusive congregation. However, people too often feel excluded in some way. We must always be mindful of how we treat others.
- We are very proud of our caring for each other – both the organized pastoral care and the not so visible individual acts of kindness.
- We are not proud of hurtful actions in the past and strive to heal those hurts and move beyond.
- Outreach is very important to us. We seek to build on our current activities by finding new ministries.
- We have an abundance of potential but tend to be complacent in our day to day life.

One person commented that we are very 'United Church'. This statement is a recognition of our acceptance of people at all stages of their spiritual journeys, our diversity, our declining membership, our aging congregations, our wish for children, our concerns about the future. We are not alone in our struggle to determine what we wish to become.



Dana entertains a male interloper at the Women's Retreat

Bringing Spirit to the Board

By Trish S

One of the things that Scott and the Transition Team have been working on is streamlining the business process at Board Meetings in order to make time to attend to our spiritual life. In addition, we are also trying to offer more opportunities to grow in our life with the Spirit (e.g. the Lenten Challenge). However, in this Post Christendom era in which we now live, there are many forms of Spirituality being marketed. We can find ourselves surrounded by a confusing variety of "spiritual truths", and as part of the body of Christ we are focused on Christian spirituality.

In his book *Power Surge*, Michael W. Foss offers this definition of Christian Spirituality. "In a nutshell, the spiritual life is nothing more - and certainly nothing less - than daily choosing the ways of God, and spirituality is the quality or state of being attuned to the ways of God. Biblically, perhaps the best short definition of Christian spirituality is found in the book of the prophet Micah: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8).

Hope for Families

Your generous donations to the "Hope for Families" fund, enabled DLUC to send \$1000 to Edmonds Community School for their summer camp program. Each year Edmonds sends disadvantaged children to summer camps at Camp Jubilee. As in past years, these donations will enable several children to attend camp this summer. The Outreach Committee thanks you for your continued support.



The Society To End Homelessness In Burnaby

Working Together To End Homelessness In Burnaby

www.burnabyhomeless.org

December 21, 2017

Attention: Phyllis Slater & the Outreach Committee

Deer Lake United Church
5135 Sperling Avenue
Burnaby, BC V5E 2T2
By email: office@dluc.ca

Dear Phyllis,

On behalf of The Society To End Homelessness in Burnaby, I would like to thank you profusely for the donation of \$2,000.00 towards a Shower Program for the homeless. Your charitable tax receipt will be coming in a separate email from our Treasurer.

Burnaby has no year-round or winter shelter despite having the fourth highest street population in Metro Vancouver. Each week our Society operates the Outreach Resource Centre, a drop in where homeless people receive free help such as a nutritious meal, clothing, hygiene and other supplies as well as connect to Outreach Workers. People on the streets of Burnaby have no access to showers yet bathing is instrumental in them keeping healthy and keeping their self-respect. Thus, this donation is extremely critical towards helping them.

As you know, we have been challenged to initiate a shower program. The city will permit people to access the community centres for the regular access fee, provided that they have no physical health or other issues that may make other users feel at risk. Until we can implement showers elsewhere, we can possibly organize purchasing access tickets to the community centres for distribution. Thankfully we generally have enough donated hygiene supplies (shampoo, soap) for them to use.

Your ongoing support of our Society and the Burnaby Task Force on Homelessness helps enable us to do what we do. On behalf of our Society, we thank you for contributing to this collaborative caring activity for people who are homeless or at risk.

May you all have a wonderful holiday season, and all the best in 2018!

Sincerely,

Karen O'Shannacery
President

The Society To End Homelessness In Burnaby
PO Box 54662 Highgate PO, Burnaby BC V5E 4J6

Our Uzbekistan Adventure

By Linda P

Bill and I are traveling in Uzbekistan with our son's family who live in England. We took an overnight flight from London to the Uzbekistan capital, Tashkent, and spent the day with a local guide. From there we took the overnight train to Bukhara - a rather interesting experience on an old Russian train. Meals are inexpensive. We paid 90,000 som (about CAD\$14.50) for lunch for the six of us. One more day here and then onward to Samarkand!



Bill, Linda and guide at the 10th century Samani Mausoleum in Bukhara

A Prayer

Submitted by Elizabeth C

May we open. May we flower.

May we deepen our desire.

May we walk this world with eyes wide open.

May we walk with hearts on fire.

Blessed Be.



By Dana J, Chair of the Board

“...We are not alone, we live in God’s world...”

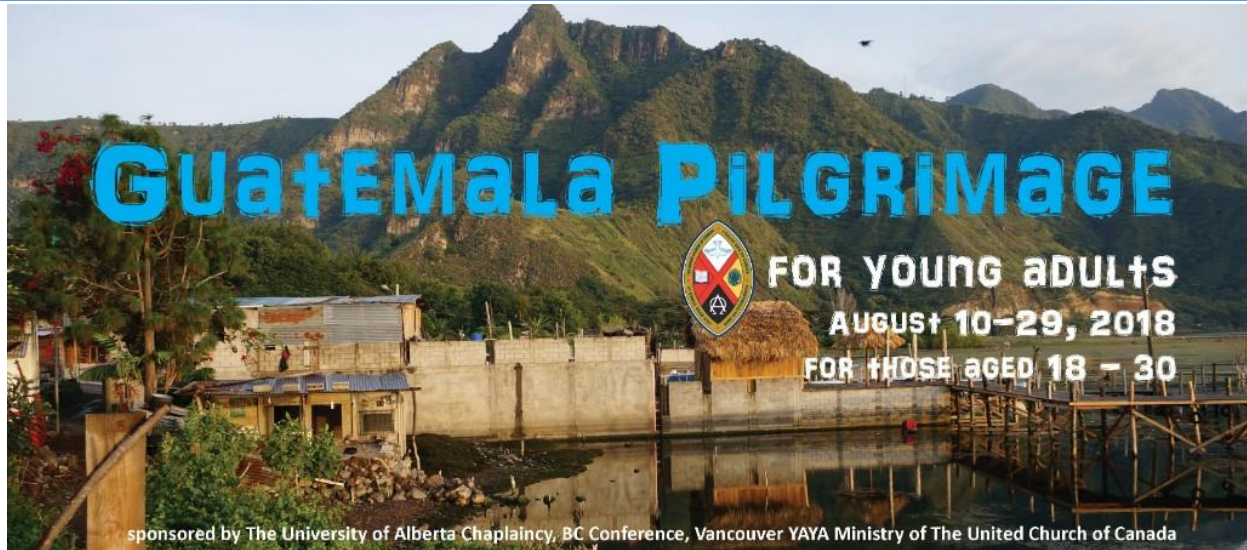
These are powerful words. You probably recognize them as the beginning statement of the New Creed (1968) of the United Church of Canada. It goes on to outline what we believe, how we are called to be the Church, and again to remind us that we are not alone.

I have no theological or philosophical training, so I can only talk about the Creed in terms of how it relates to me and my own beliefs, and how I think it relates to Deer Lake United Church. We are in the process of discerning the “Why?” of Deer Lake United. Who are we? What is our purpose? What could our mission statement say to clearly express the *why* and *who* in relation to being the Church? The Transition Team has been charged with this undertaking – a staggering job on behalf of the congregation, working towards calling a Minister who will be a good fit, is willing to commit themselves to our mission and vision, bringing with them their own gifts in ministry.

The Transition Team does not work in a vacuum – in addition to Rev. Scott, the team works with two Westminster Presbytery ministers, Rev. Dave Anderson, and Rev. Lenane Shiels, and are supported by Rev. Kathy Davies, Presbytery and Pastoral Relations Support, B.C. Conference. We have also received financial assistance by way of a grant through the Westminster Presbytery Pro-Vision Fund. Some of the funds were used to bring in Amanda Fenton as a consultant. She provided support to the Board and ran workshops to introduce and train us in the Circle Way (inclusive, respectful communication practices). The Transition Team also has access to the funds to support the visioning and interim ministry work they are doing.

The local, larger church (Westminster Presbytery and B.C. Conference) are providing valuable support for our discovery and journey. That is not enough. It is our responsibility to also support the Transition Team, whether it's attending workshops/events, or providing feedback on surveys. They cannot work in isolation.

So, our Creed says: we believe in God; we trust in God; we are called to be the Church. We have the support of each other and the larger church. Indeed, we are not alone. Thanks be to God.



One week in language school learning Spanish one on one with a teacher, living with a host family and emersion into Spanish. Followed by a 12 day educational experience around Guatemala, learning about the history, culture, religion and visiting projects and organizations working for change in Guatemala. Connect with Guatemalans and share time working with the students and school in Chwitiziribal, practicing your spanish and helping the teachers. Visit people in their homes, swim in hot springs, eat beans and tortillas, understand history and civil war and the impacts on Guatemala today. Meet amazing people. Change your world view. Understand privileged. Work for change. Be a witness.

Leadership: Doris Kizinna, Eric Hamlyn, Julio Cochoy and Eduardo Elias. Doris is the Conference Minister for Youth and Young Adults and has been leading pilgrimages to Guatemala since 1997. Eric Hamlyn is the Vancouver Presbyteries YAYA Coordinator and has travelled to Guatemala 4 times with groups. Julio Cochoy is an educator and human rights activist from Guatemala. Eduardo Elias is our translator and Spanish teacher who has lead 3 tours to Guatemala. University of Alberta Chaplain Denise Davis Taylor with also accompany the trip.

Check with Eric Hamlyn about the cost! The tour will be all inclusive including the cost of the flight. Please do not let funding stop you from inquiring about this opportunity! Everything is possible!
For more info contact Eric: eric@vanyaya.bc.ca 604.290. 2432 or Doris at dkizinna@bc.united-church.ca 604.341.2724

SENIORS PROGRAM?

Would you like to see a seniors drop-in program at our church?

Do you have ideas/thoughts to share?

I would love to hear from you.

Please pass along your input to me!

Ellen

elljam.me@gmail.com



Upcoming Events At and Around Deer Lake United Church

Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday June 10 at 10.30 am Deer Lake Park

Women's Breakfast

Saturday June 16 at 9:00 am at Mary C's

Welcome Back BBQ

Friday September 7 at 6:00 pm DLUC parking lot

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: October 2018

Submission Deadline Sunday, Sept 16, 2018