

LAKESHORE LINES

Free – and worth every cent!

A Trip to the Holy Land

By Don S



On the Mount of Olives overlooking old Jerusalem

On January 19, a band of twenty-seven intrepid adventurers boarded a plane in Vancouver and began a fascinating exploration of Israel, an historic ancient land almost 11,000 kms away. The trip was organized by Revs. Scott Swanson, Jenn Swanson and Graham Brownmiller in concert with Christian Journeys, a specialist in trips to the Holy Land.

Deer Lake was well represented by Paul A and Linda W, Rick and Cathy M, Don and Shelley S, Ellen J, Joanne A, Ruth S, Wendy K, Shirley S, Emily S and Ernie C. The rest of our travelers were from Jubilee United, Ioco United and Cliff Avenue.

We overnighted in Toronto and caught an early pm flight to Tel Aviv onboard a brand new El Al 787 Dreamliner. Adding the seven-hour time difference to the twelve-hour flight saw us arrive in Tel Aviv 6:30 Monday morning. And ready to roll.

There is just so much to this most ancient of places. The country is relatively tiny at about 2/3 the size of Vancouver Island, but it is a place of enormous conflict and conquest going back well over ten thousand years.

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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And much more!

Its geography has been pivotal to its history.

Israel contains the 'Via Maris' an *ancient trade route*, that links Egypt and the rest of Africa with the northern empires of Syria, Anatolia and Mesopotamia — modern day Iran, Iraq, Palestine, *Israel*, Turkey and Syria. It is a historic road that runs along the *Israeli* Mediterranean coast. In *ancient* times it was the only way to travel between Egypt and Mesopotamia. And its location as a port at the eastern end of the Mediterranean made it a natural gateway for trade with the nations on or near this great inland sea. As a result this land has been overrun by conquerors almost too numerous to mention: Babylonians, ancient Greeks, the Egyptians, the Romans, the Crusaders from Europe, the Ottoman Turks and many, many other peoples vying for control of a piece of this lucrative real estate.

The country is home to Jericho. Established in about 9,000 BC, it is one of the oldest continuously occupied cities in the world. By definition, its inhabitants were some of the very first in the world to plant crops, domesticate animals and lay down their roots in one place. Not far from Jericho is the city of Jerusalem, tremendously important to three of the world's major world religions – Judaism, Islam and Christianity. And Israel is the birthplace of Christ.

This land has been a hotbed of history ever since people began settling and trading.

So just how does one begin to make sense of this tiny, incredibly complex place with so much importance, on a trip of less than two weeks? Three factors determined how good the trip was to be: a well-organized and excellent

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itinerary, a tremendous guide and an awesome driver who knew the lay of the land.

In retrospect I'm dumbfounded by the number of sites we saw and what we learned about them. Our guide, *Abed*, is a Palestinian and one of only 50 licensed guides in Israel. He's spent 7+ years at university studying history and archeology, and is one of very few Palestinians permitted by the Israeli government to operate as a guide. He very ably provided both the Israeli and Palestinian perspectives on sites and issues. And his ability to make understandable an extremely complex country is second to none. Our driver was *Moses* – yes, his *real* name – and he led us well. The way this guy handled a 45-foot coach, winding through narrow streets and outwitting often heavy traffic was none short of incredible.

Our first stop on leaving the airport was Jaffa just south of Tel Aviv, one of the oldest ports in the world and home to St. Peter's Church. It was from this port that Jonah set sail trying to escape God's commandments, only to meet a very large fish that helped to change his mind! As we headed south and east, we came to the Elah Valley, site of David's legendary triumph over the giant Goliath. We then headed east for our first glimpses of the Dead Sea. This salt lake whose banks are more than 400m below sea level is the earth's lowest point on dry land. Its water is hypersaline which makes floating easy (and a ton of fun as we soon discovered). **Note to self: don't drink the water!** It is fed by the Jordan River at its north end, which in turn is fed from the Sea of Galilee even further north.



Afloat on the Dead Sea

Over the next days we toured Qumran, home of the Dead Sea Scrolls that the ancient Essenes wrote almost 2,000 years ago. We saw Ein Gedi, the caves where David hid from King Saul and his army. And we spent a day exploring the ruins at Masada, once Herod the Great's mountain top fortress and home away from home. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site with an amazing 360-degree view of the surrounding Dead Sea and Judean wilderness. Heading north on the way to the Galilee we visited the fantastic ruins of Bet She'an, one of the oldest and most strategic cities of the Ancient Near East.

Once we arrived in the north, we spent a number of days wandering the beautifully lush Galilee in the footsteps of Jesus. We were able to re-affirm our Baptismal vows at Yardenit, a site

near the south end of the Sea of Galilee on the Jordan River. Many believe this is the site where John baptized Jesus. We were fortunate enough to have beautiful spring-like weather and were able to enjoy an early morning sail on the Sea of Galilee.



The Sea of Galilea

Other Galilean sites visited include the Church of Primacy of Peter, the Mount of Beatitudes (of Sermon on the Mount fame) and Tabgha - biblical site of Jesus' miracle of the loaves and fishes, and Capernaum. It was in Capernaum where Jesus' ministry was centred – preaching in the synagogue, healing the sick and performing miracles. It is a humbling thought that we were standing in the same place where Jesus and Peter once walked.

Continuing north we spent a calm, clear morning walking through the peaceful forests of Tel Dan, one of the three sources of the Jordan River. Then on to the most northerly area of Israel in the shadow of strategic Mt. Hermon. It was here that we could see Israel's border with Syria and Lebanon. A truly memorable experience.

Our next stop was the port city of Caesarea. It is an ancient Roman seaport capital of Israel constructed by Herod the Great. The city was a commercial centre facilitating trade and collecting port taxes. He built a deep sea harbour complete with breakwaters to encourage trade. He constructed storerooms, markets, wide roads, baths, and a palace fit for a king, complete with swimming pool. An aqueduct brought fresh water from 12 miles away. Every five years the city hosted major sports competitions, gladiator games, and theatrical productions in its theatre overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.



Caesarean Viaduct

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A Big Thank You

By Linda P

Your Transition Team has written its Final Evaluation of the Interim Ministry. It has been accepted by our Board and sent to the Pacific and Mountain Region (formerly BC Conference). We thank all who provided input by survey and in many conversations. You told us that good progress was made toward meeting our goals. You said you realize that much is still a work in progress. You expressed strong appreciation for Scott's leadership, especially his sermons. You should have received a copy of the final report by email. If you have not seen it you may request a copy from a member of the Transition Team.

Those of us on the Transition Team are moving on to other roles. Trish and Bruce are part of the Search Committee seeking our new minister. Garry and Linda are doing some work around communication. We will have a congregation celebration of the Interim Ministry and an opportunity to say good-bye to Scott in June.

As this will be our final newsletter submission, we take this opportunity to say THANK YOU SO MUCH for your support and diligent work. Our congregation is in a better place now; ready and eager to meet our next minister.



Search Committee Update

By Trish S

As the work of the Transition Team is coming to a close, the Search Committee has begun the work of selecting a new Minister for our church. The members of the team are Bruce VanL, Dana J, Ellen J, Paul A, Sharon H and Trish S. Our goal is to recruit a minister who fills the needs and desires that the Transition Team, with your help, has outlined in the Ministry Position Description. We had our first meeting on Feb. 5th under the guidance of Kathy Davies who outlined the Search process with us.

The Pacific Mountain Region has received our request for a new minister and have put out a call on our behalf. At this point we are receiving expressions of interest and have set a closing date for applications at Mar 29th. At that point we will review the applications and start the interview process. Once we have made a selection the congregation will have an opportunity to either agree or disagree with our decision. Ideally, we would like to have a new minister start on July 1st 2019. However, we have been advised to take the time that is needed to find the right fit for Deer Lake United.

We thank you for the trust you have placed in us and are working diligently and prayerfully to complete our task.

Interim Ministry Evaluation

By Linda P

We have completed the 'Final Evaluation of Interim Ministry' and sent it to the Pacific and Mountain Region (formerly BC Conference). We want to thank the many people who provided input by survey or in conversation with members of the Transition Team. Although this report was required by the Region, our focus was to present a road map for our congregation going forward.

The Board passed a motion to accept the report at their full Board meeting on Tuesday, March 12. There was discussion around how to ensure that the recommendations continue to be part of our congregation's work. The recommendations are printed below. The complete report was circulated by

email. If you aren't part of the group email, and wish to see the report, please speak with a member of the Transition Team or a Board member.

Again, thank you so much for your input to this report and for your strong support of our work over the past two years. We look forward to celebrating the conclusion of our Interim Ministry in June.

Recommendations from the Transition Team:

- Changes made to Governance, staff management and committee function must be viewed as works in progress, remembering that evaluation is a tool to make the process better, not a decision to return to the old way.

- Faith formation was not included in the goals. However, early on, Scott recognized the need. Growth in this area was a highlight for many. This sends a strong message to the new minister, the Worship committee and the Christian Education committee.
- Energy needs to be dedicated to understanding post-Christendom culture and how Deer Lake needs to adapt.
- The congregation needs to embrace the Behavioral Covenant.
- Leadership believes our communication is not as strong as it should be. This concern needs further evaluation / action.
- Work needs to be done on vision to more specifically direct the ministry of the congregation.

Membership in the United Church of Canada

By Ellen J

Definitions:

Adherent: A congregant who is not a member of the United Church of Canada but attends and supports their local church. May contribute financially, physically, philosophically. Believes in the ultimate goals of the congregation.

Member: A congregant who has joined the United Church of Canada through classes and a public affirmation of Faith. Becoming a member is a theological decision. A member has chosen to recognise, commit to and support the National United Church of Canada as a People of God. The membership is recorded in an official roll in their home congregation. The membership can be transferred to other congregations as the church they attend changes. Once a member you are a member for life. The only circumstance under which someone is removed from the Official Roll is as a result of their death or their absence for a long period of time.

The United Church Manual includes a definition of members and adherents and the rights and responsibilities of each. (https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/the-manual_2019.pdf)

The newest version of the United Church Manual now states that, with permission in the form of a motion from members, adherents may vote on any item with no exceptions. Adherents may enjoy all voting rights *with permission*. The standard motion to allow this would be: "all members and adherents may vote on ..." If the motion reads "Only members may vote" the opportunity to amend the motion is always viable. Some may feel all adherents may vote, others may feel membership in the United Church of Canada is necessary before allowing a vote. It is a personal point of view which is why a motion and vote is necessary to fairly reflect the wishes of the majority of each congregation.

How do I become a member?

The manual states: A person becomes a full member through one of the following methods: a) adult baptism and profession of faith; b) confirmation, if the person was baptized as a child and has now reached the age of understanding; c) reaffirmation of Christian faith, if the person has already been baptized and made a profession of faith at an earlier time; d) through a certificate of transfer of membership in good standing from another congregation

If unsure, speak with the Minister! Educational opportunities leading to membership may be held annually with membership and christenings traditionally taking place on Easter Sunday.

How do I know if I am a member? Ask the minister or Pam the secretary.

EDITORS NOTE: The Board regrets the confusion at the recent ACM. It has been the practice at Deer Lake to move that adherents be permitted to vote. In the past this motion has always been approved. We expect this to be true in the future.

CALLING ALL CRAFTY, KIND SOULS!

By Kathy R

We have a Ministry at Deer Lake that is coordinated by the Pastoral Care Committee called the Prayer Shawl Ministry. A group of people at Deer Lake knit and crochet (soon to add quilt) prayer shawls to take to members in need who are ill, recovering, bereaved or anything else that might need comforting. We also present them to our High School Graduates as they move onto a new stage in their lives! Many of the recipients who have received them have told us how much they appreciate being remembered this way by the congregation and receive great comfort when they use them thinking of the person that made the shawl and feel the love, caring and prayers that went into the shawl.

We are looking for people to join us in the creating of these lovely gifts. If you are interested in knitting, crocheting or quilting a shawl or would like to learn how to do it, please be in touch with Kathy Richardson, kathy_richardson@telus.net; 604-525-5000. All materials are provided.

We would love to have you join us! It is very satisfying for those who create the shawls too, knowing that it will be a very meaningful part of someone's life!



From the Outreach Committee:

Farewell to our donation bins

For many years, we have had donation bins in the hallway to collect clothing and other items for First United, Dixon House, and the Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby. But these bins are now gone.

Over time, the needs of these charities have changed, as has their way of doing things. They are now asking only for certain specific items to be donated and they cannot accept anything else. If you would like more information about the sorts of items these organizations are asking for, please speak to a member of the Outreach Committee and/or check out the links below:

<https://firstunited.ca/give-goods/>
<https://dixonsociety.ca/get-involved/donate/in-kind>
<http://burnabyhomeless.org/contact/>

If you have used clothing or other items you wish to donate, we encourage you to consider giving such items to BASES or to some other charity thrift store.

Of course, we will continue to support First United, Dixon House and the Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby. Donations of money are welcome, and if you wish you can designate an amount for one or more of these charities on your offering envelope.

Items Requested by First United

Although First United can no longer accept general donations of used clothing, etc., here is a list of their specific current needs:

- Men's and women's underwear (mainly size small)
- Denture cream
- Deodorant
- Sunscreen
- Combs
- Bar soap
- Shampoo (large bottles)
- Tampons
- Towels
- Reading glasses
- Sewing kits
- Band-aids
- Rain ponchos
- Polysporin
- Plastic shopping bags
- Used prescription pill bottles

We have started a drive to collect these items.

If you would like to contribute anything on this list, please bring it with you to church. Starting Sunday, March 24, and for about four weeks thereafter there will be a box in the Narthex to receive these items.

We regret that we can only accept items that are on the above list. Of course, if you prefer, you are welcome to financially support First United by designating an amount for them on your offering envelope.

What is a Behavioural Covenant?

By Ellen J

At the ACM this year those attending were introduced to a Behavioural Covenant. The idea was originally introduced by Scott, explored at the November Board Retreat and finalized and adopted at January's Board meeting. At the ACM all Board members were asked to sign it.

So, what exactly is a Behavioural Covenant?

In a nutshell:

A Behavioral Covenant states what God is calling the group to do and how the group will conduct itself. It outlines the expectations that members of the group can depend on from one another. Basically, it details how the community will live out its faith in loving, respectful ways.

It is a tool, a reminder, a promise and it creates an environment of shared expectation and respect amongst our church community.

As taken from Behavioural Covenants in Congregations by G Rendle:

"Practicing the discipline described by the behavioural covenant is an action of faith, since practicing such helpful and healthy behaviours is an acting out of ones stated beliefs and values. It is far deeper and more significant than the manners of politeness. It speaks instead of holy manners - the manners of a faith community. This document developed by leaders is a covenant. It is not a set of rules. Covenants refer to promises. The theological understanding of covenant refers to the promises made by God to humanity as found in the scriptures."

The Board thanks you for being open to the idea, for offering suggestions and comments, and for willingly adopting this practice as one of many tools used to ensure a healthy Christian Community.



Passing the peace at the ACM in February

THE UNITED CHURCH HAS A NEW MANUAL!

An updated and much streamlined version of the United Church of Canada Manual is now available at

https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/the-manual_2019.pdf.

The Art of Hosting

By Sharon H

“Trust that meaningful conversations change your world.” (Margaret Wheatley, *Turning to One Another*)

What I thought would be an interesting learning event, proved to be a transformative experience that I reflect on often - certainly one that I would attend again. The Art of Hosting is an approach to create a space for gathering and generating ideas through conversation. A very basic concept, like hosting a party where everyone feels welcome and comfortable.

Let's get together, let's talk and let's listen. And from this simple process, we will come up with ideas / solutions / greater understanding - together.

Gary and I had the opportunity to attend a three-day, intensive workshop on The Art of Hosting, in November last year on beautiful Bowen island. It involved 50 people from all walks of life, from all parts of the world, including Scott and Jenn Swanson. Our attendance was made possible in part by the financial support of Deer Lake's Provision funding, BC Conference and the Agatha Kasa Fund. We are very grateful to have had access to these funding sources, as the weekend was truly exceptional.

Limiting Belief

I went prepared to learn and listen as an audience member, but for some reason I didn't think of myself as a contributor, especially given the high-calibre profiles of the attendees. They intimidated me. What could I contribute to a gathering of professionals, experienced facilitators and people with impressive titles? Clearly I would not fit in... This, I learned, was a limiting belief - a belief in a certain outcome with no basis in fact. A limiting belief about self, about others, about challenges, can get in the way of having meaningful conversations that can lead to positive change. One of the exercises of the weekend was identifying limiting beliefs and exploring how they get in the way of solving problems. We explored how to identify a mindset that leads us down the same (familiar) path, filled with the same emotions that feed the same

reactions and get the same, predictable results. We practiced flipping our limiting beliefs over and over again in order to approach a challenge or conversation with a fresh and open mindset. Not always an easy route, but clearly a useful path.

Facilitators

The workshop was facilitated by Amanda Fenton, who has worked with Deer Lake in Circle Way Process; Chris Corrigan, a teacher and facilitator known for his weblog, “Parking Lot”; Caitlin Frost, a partner in Harvest Moon Consulting; and Teresa Posakany, a hosting practitioner with interest in N.E.A.R (Neuroscience, Epigenetics, ACE's – Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Resilience). These four, who have worked collaboratively on many workshops, co-created an atmosphere of learning, exploring and inquiry.

Initiation: Being Energized & Refreshed

The workshop opened with The Circle Way exercise, for participants to introduce themselves. The Circle Way practice positions people in a circle so that everyone can see and hear each other, and supports each voice to be heard. By using a talking piece, space is held for all to think and speak with intention and with attention. Can you imagine a circle with 50 participants? I expected it would take forever. And maybe it did, I lost track of time. It could have been the setting: Our circle was inside a large open room, bordered by a grand fireplace and an amazing view of Deep Bay. Or the preregistration walk past to the Bridal Veil fish ladders, where residents and visitors anticipate the annual return of Coho and Chum spawn. For whatever reason, I was energized and refreshed and ready to learn about methods for hosting meaningful conversations.

Strategic Methods

Throughout the 3 days, the workshop flowed through theory, experience, practice, and insights (referred to as ‘harvests’). We were introduced to the concepts of *human interaction* and *reaction*. We've all been in situations where someone controls the conversation

or the outcomes without consulting (or listening) to those invested in those outcomes – and consequently the ‘others’ become disengaged or angry. We have also been in situations where great discussions occur, and we walk away with new information and new insights. What was new to me was digging deeper into the strategic methods designed to engage a group in conversation where the collective wisdom leads to finding the best solution. Rather than top down, more inside out, ideas flow and are nurtured through both the configuration of the space and the parameters set by the gathering.

Methods introduced were: The Circle Way, The World Café (Scott introduced this method at board retreats and we used an abbreviated version at the ACM to introduce the Behavioural Covenant), Open Space Technology, Pro Action Café, and Collective Story Harvesting. If you would like to learn more about these methods, check out the Art of Hosting website:

<http://www.artofhosting.org/home/>.

Cynefin: Strategic Decision-making

One particularly useful concept that we explored was the Cynefin (kuh-NEV-in) framework. It is used in decision-making to better understand the domain from which we make our decisions. From our perspective, the situation may appear obvious, complicated, complex, chaotic or disorderly. It might be wise to back away from chaos and not dwell on the obvious. However, in working through the disorder, we might identify that a complicated issue can be broken down into simpler elements that we can affect to ‘solve’ the issue. Multiple complicated issues collectively influence each other to create a complex challenge. Using such a framework allows decision makers to better understand the problem(s) they face.

My Harvests

My ‘harvests’ from attending the workshop continue to show up at different times and in many settings; in meetings, in one-on-one conversations, around a table when 2 or more are gathered. When I

attend a meeting where people interrupt each other and do not allow people to complete their statements, I want to hold up a talking piece! I do recognize that using a talking stick isn't a comfortable practice for some, so I remind myself to hold up my talking piece, my voice, rather than shut down.

My voice matters, as does the voice of everyone I come into conversation with. That's a simple statement. That is something that I knew, I know, and I believe everyone should know within their heart. I hold up this statement because I learned not that my voice mattered, but that for transformative conversations, we need to make space for each voice. By doing this, we value diversity and better outcomes.

Cynefin is a Welsh word with no direct equivalent in English. As a noun it is translated as *habitat*, as an adjective *familiar*, but dictionary definitions fail to do it justice. A better, and more poetic, definition comes from the introduction to a collection of paintings by Kyffin Williams, an artist whose use of oils creates a new awareness of the mountains of his native land and their relationship to the spirituality of its people: "*It describes that relationship: the place of your birth and of your upbringing, the environment in which you live and to which you are naturally acclimatised.*" (Sinclair 1998). In general, if a community is not physically, temporally and spiritually rooted, then it is alienated from its environment and will focus on survival rather than creativity and collaboration. In such conditions, knowledge hoarding will predominate, and the community will close itself to the external world. If the alienation becomes extreme, the community may even turn in on itself, atomising into an incoherent babble of competing self interests.



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at Bonsor Community Center
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One entry per person / Draw to be held at 1pm

For further enquiries or for purchase of raffle tickets,
contact:
WENDY at wkyer@telus.net






Don't miss

TV Theme Songs!

Friday, June 7th

A fun and frolicking collection of TV show theme songs and commercials, brought to you by the Deer Lake United Church Choir.

Participation by the congregation is welcomed – indeed required!

Please speak to Rebecca if you would like to perform.

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We then travelled south and spent time in the small city of Nazareth. We were fortunate enough to tour a non-profit called the Nazareth Living Village. It is a recreation of a first century farm and village that presents the life, times and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. It is located on a site that was pretty much untouched and unchanged since the time of Jesus. We decided it is a worthwhile venture and donated a cash gift to the organization.

We also spent time with two reps from Wi'am, the Palestinian Conflict Resolution Centre, to gain an understanding of the intense struggles that Palestinians have experienced since the 1947 creation of the Jewish state. They outlined the intensely racist treatment by the State of Israel that Palestinians deal with as part of everyday existence. Our time with them included a walk beside part of 6-metre-high, 400-mile-long wall that Israel has constructed to separate the Palestinians from the Jews of the occupied West Bank. Again, we collected and donated a cash gift to support their program.



Joanne: "How the heck do you steer this thing anyway?"



Evidence of the continuing struggle

We spent our final days in Jerusalem. We could easily have spent two weeks, or months. How do you begin to absorb: The Mount of Olives, the Western (Wailing) Wall, Via Dolorosa, the Pool of Siloam, Hezekiah's Tunnel, the Garden of Gethsemane, the House of Caiaphas, Golgotha, the Garden Tomb, the City of David and, of course, Temple Mount with its golden dome? And those are just the highpoints of Jerusalem.



The Western (Wailing) Wall

Quite apart from the tremendously fascinating history and people and conflict, what really set this trip apart was the understanding I gained of the context against which the Bible was written. Truly this journey provided a framework against which the bible stories have become real and leap off the page. An amazing time, not to be missed.

What a trip!

Keep Your Eyes Peeled!



We can't ALL attend church EVERY Sunday but missing a Sunday or two can leave you feeling out of touch with what is going on at Deer Lake. Fear not! A solution is coming to your email inbox later this year.



Upcoming Events At and Around Deer Lake United Church

Good Friday Service

Friday April 19 at 10.00 am @ Jubilee

Women's Retreat

Friday May 3 – Sunday May 5 @ Rivendell Retreat Centre

Men's Retreat

Thursday May 23 – Sunday May 26 @ Woodruffs', Sechelt

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: June, 2019

Submission Deadline Sunday, June 2, 2019