



LAKESHORE LINES



Free – and worth every cent!

Loving, Thankful & Faithful

By Kathy R



Our dear, dear friend Myrtle - what to say that might capture the essence of such a lovely, strong, generous and caring soul....one who lived such a long, full, wonderful life?

The words of Ralph Waldo Emerson come to mind when I think of Myrtleand consider some of her many memorable qualities:–

To laugh often and much,
 To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children
 To earn the appreciation of honest critics....
 To appreciate beauty,
 To find the best in others,
 To leave the world a bit better,whether by a healthy child, a garden patch.
 To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.
 That is to have succeeded.

These words bring so much of Myrtle to mind! One of my earliest memories of Mrs. Currie was during a visit to the dentist's office. Dr.

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!

Frank Currie just happened to be one of our father's Grade 1 classmates and lifelong friends, so of course he would be our family's dentist! Our biggest thrill was when Myrtle happened to be helping out at the office. She often made a rather daunting experience a special one, especially in the case of small children. I clearly remember Myrtle making such a fuss over my sister and me – "Kath and Deb, look at you girls!" she would say then give us a hug and go and find us a trinket! Her eyes would sparkle; She would smile warmly. I felt like the most welcome and important person in her world. I know that feeling so well as I have had that experience over and over, even as an adult! Myrtle's attentive, interested, and caring nature lifted the spirits of everyone in her midst.

Myrtle cared passionately about her family and spoke of them often, her children, her grandchildren and great grandchildren, her brothers and sisters and all their children! They kindly shared her with so many others, and we sincerely thank them for that. Myrtle made everyone she met stand a little bit taller and smile a little bit more. Her sincerity and interest in people's lives was an endearing trait. Myrtle didn't speak ill of anyone and inspired others to do the same! She always brought out the best in others! When we joined Deer Lake, it was a great surprise to know that Myrtle and Frank were real pillars of this church. We became fast friends! I loved spending time with Myrtle and learned so much by her example. Myrtle sang in the choir until she was 85, for years walking down the hill, to add her beautiful voice to the chorus! She also hosted the Church Mice each December which ensured up to 50 shut-ins received Christmas treats each year as well as making us each feel so welcome! Myrtle often brought flowers to adorn the church and baking and treats to share regularly!

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Staff Recognition Day

By Peggy W

On December 1st we celebrated Staff Recognition Day to help us remember those talented, caring folks that support our Deer Lake Community.

This has been an ever-changing year for us. We began the year by having two very talented members of our community become volunteers in leading our most-valued choir. Terri Laphorne and Rebecca Treherne took on the role of Choir Director, sharing the responsibilities of leading our amazing volunteer choir.

The Rev Scott Swanson lead our community, initially, but went on a leave of absence where Rev Brian Burke has become the backbone of our church services, pastoral care, and all the other matters for most of this year. At the same time, Justin Harvey took a leave of absence and Lucas Athey has filled in as our church caretaker with a commitment to helping us out.

Cathy Milne has been our ever-efficient, exceedingly capable church treasurer for a very long time and will be stepping down in the New Year.

Although Donna Phillips is currently on a leave, we know how her talent and drive to bring stellar music into our midst is her focus. We also thank those who are bringing their musical talents into our beloved church while she's away.

Of course, Pam Athey sits at the forefront, keeping us all organized, informed, and focused on doing the good work our church community is capable of.

And, many thanks to Mary Cazelet who hosts our funerals, helping families feel well-cared for at a time when their needs are the most fragile. Many thanks, too, to Claire Stegen who is ready, willing and able to be with couples and families when joyous weddings occur.

We gathered in the Fellowship Hall to have cake and goodies and thank our amazing staff and volunteers for helping to make us a strong, more vibrant place of worship.



Myrtle was a woman of deep faith whose influence is felt deep and wide! We are so thankful for her willingness to help make the world a better place through her beautiful smile, warm hugs, friendship, kindness and great generosity!

For the past while, the days have been a long, but loving watch, until her body, mind and spirit together were ready to say, 'It's enough.'

But, the mystery of death is so much more than missing the one we have loved. It is, indeed, a moment of deep sadness for those who were closest to her. It is also a moment of great gratitude for them, and for others who have shared her life. It is also the beginning of a new venture of discovery for Myrtle. For her, it is at last, the fulfillment of her life – that fulfillment which has always been known by the One who gave her life and breath at her beginning.

So, we let you go Myrtle, lovingly, thankfully and faithfully, to take part in the wonder that awaits you on the other side of the lake.



“They never taught me this at seminary!”

exclaimed Brian as he prepared to disinfect the kitchen area in the library after finding mouse droppings.



An Advent Message

H is for humility, honesty and the holy,

O is for openness to the omnipresent one only.

P is for the Prophecy Candle pointing the way,

E is for everything we receive every day.

L is for longing for a life filled with light,

O is for oneness with God, offerings, faithful oversight.

V is for voices and verses lifted on high,

E is for encouragement, expectations, learning to edify.

J is for justice, jubilation and Jesus,

O is for optimism, observance and openheartedness,

Y is for youth and yearning for the path to Yahweh, just say Yes!

P is for penitence, prayer and possibility,

E is for empathy, endurance and equity.

A is for the Angel's Candle, Advent and being alert,

C is for church, compassion, Christ's call to re-assert.

E is for Excelsis Deo, excitement and Emmanuel,

So, each of the four Sundays of Advent has a message to tell.

May your Advent and Christmas season be filled with the messages of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. And may you carry them into the new year with joyful expectation!

Blessings and peace,

Dana
Board Chair

More Than Just a God Moment

By Glenn L

Audrey and I had a really good day on November 22! We visited our old friend, Harry, in Ridge Meadows Hospital rehabilitation ward. He is 97 years old and is recovering from a stroke which happened about six weeks ago. Audrey had tried to phone him several times over that time, but there was no answer and no response to her voice mail messages. I did a little detective work and tracked him down. When we arrived, he was sitting in a wheel chair with his lunch tray and a sandwich with one bite out of it. His chin was resting on his chest. He looked to be asleep. Audrey said, "Hello Harry." Without raising his head or opening his eyes he responded, "Hello Audrey." We talked about old times and cracked a few jokes. We met each other about 50 years ago at Cliff Avenue UC. Our kids were in Sunday school together with his kids and later in Kairos . As we talked, his chin gradually rose more and more and then a smile on his face which got bigger and bigger as he engaged in the conversation. Then his son Chris and wife Ellen arrived. At first, I didn't recognize them. We probably last saw them about 40 years ago at their wedding - for which Audrey had made and decorated their cake. By now, Harry's face was glowing as we greeted and hugged his kids. After an hour of friendly banter we said our good-byes and let them have some family time. It truly was another "God day".



Christmas Pageant



Burnaby Gogos' Huge Success



Burnaby Gogos had our best ever Holiday Market on Sunday, Nov. 24th in support of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. We took in close to \$7,400 with additional funds trickling in as our members respond to requests for more baking, more quilts, and more stocking stuffers!

Once again, we send heartfelt thanks to the board and the congregation of Deer Lake United Church for the unwavering welcome and support of our work. With your help, we send substantial funds to the Stephen Lewis Foundation, which in turn, distributes 90 per cent of our donations to community organizations that enable grandmothers in 15 African countries to send their grandchildren to school, buy food, develop small businesses and organize in order to advocate for their rights.

Founded in 2010, Burnaby Gogos currently has 33 members with two more joining us in January. As we begin our 10th anniversary year, we are planning several events including "A Taste of Africa", a luncheon, on International Women's Day, March 8. The theme of IWD for 2020 is "an equal world is an enabled world" – words that can be applied to Burnaby Gogos and the Grandmothers Campaign as well as to our friends at DLUC.

Our warmest wishes for a meaningful Christmas and a happy healthy New Year,



Wendy with Daniel Sedin and members of her team

Hockey Helps The Homeless Win!

I would like to once again extend my sincere gratitude for your contribution to helping the homeless in our Community.

Because of your generosity, HHTH raised a total of \$700,000.00 at this year's event. My team personally raised the highest amount among the Women's teams with a total of \$20,615.00. That achievement won us the honour of being coached in our 3rd game by Daniel Sedin.

My personal goal was surpassed and with the help of you amazing people at Deer Lake, I raised a total of \$3,315.00. That amount placed me as the 2nd highest female fund raiser in the tournament and 24th overall out of about 250 players. Darcy Rota was our head coach, and I was the recipient of his personal game day jersey with both his and Daniel Sedin's signature on the back. I'm planning to raffle off the jersey as part of my campaign next year to raise money for Hockey Helps The Homeless.

A fellow line mate of mine donated lower bowl tickets to a Canucks game against the Vegas Knights for me to raffle off as a thank you gift for your generosity. The ticket was drawn by Daniel Sedin in the ladies dressing room. Daniel was a bit confused when he noted that the winning ticket went to REV Brian Burke! I guess he thought I had friends in high places when he saw the name Brian Burke, but in fact it was our own Reverend Brian Burke. Some may feel that the Rev had an unfair advantage to win (as he really does have friends in high places) but I felt he was very deserving, being one of my highest donors.

I really feel that together we have made a major impact toward helping the homeless. Ultimately the real winner here is the community that will have this influx of money to support the homeless issue in Vancouver. In fact, I guess that makes us *all* winners!

Thanks again,
Wendy



Appreciation for Wendy's and Ryan's fundraising

Beyond Good Intentions

By Terry Lou B

Jean Johnson & I attended a workshop with Rev Dr. Michael Jagessar from London, England, sponsored by Pacific Mountain Region at Crossroads United Church in Delta on Nov. 23.

The speaker was engaging and enlightening. There were many insightful comments from attendees as well. The main topic was 'changing the way we work with the various cultures in our organizations'. One of the key phrases used was 'Multicultural church, intercultural habit.'. How do we practice inter-cultural relations in order to make it a habit? We talked about changing the shape of the 'table' around which we meet. In traditional power structures, the 'head' of the table has more authority than those in other positions. For example, a round table might give more equality.

The word culture refers to more than ethnicities. We have youth culture, senior culture, gender-related culture, etc. How do we engage these different cultures in the conversations and work of the church?

Some ideas & thoughts to ponder:

Developing an Intercultural Habit-Method-Spirituality

When privileged people give up the privilege of thinking it is always about them

When we interrogate our faith for seeds of exclusionary habits
When different perspectives are intentionally sought and included

When the contributions of a minority group do not need legitimacy

When leadership and key committees represent the variety of our membership

When questions are asked about those absent from the table
When intersections of power, privilege and marginalisation are high on the agenda

When the narratives, image and language we use to describe our life together reflect the breadth of our diversity

Curiosity can be a first step in seeing things through new eyes with a seeing heart.

Consider the habit of curiosity to transform tired doctrines, policies & practices, to release us from restrictive habits.

Opening of 3 Spaces:

Open the mind -- empty it of enslaving mindsets, risky & costly, but full of surprises

Open the head -- de-learning and re-learning, discern where God's spirit is leading

Open the heart--filling the heart with something different, trusting in God's economy for all

Multiplicity--catching a glimpse of the divine.

Reflection based on Psalm 85 and Daniel 8

Love and Truth fought together. God hurled truth to the ground, smashing it to smithereens. From then on, truth was splintered in fragments all over the world like a jigsaw puzzle. While one person might find a piece, it had little meaning until they could find others who had different pieces of the puzzle, and thus, slowly, they could try to fit their pieces of truth together to make some sense of things.

Multiple heritages bring multiple blessings.

Jesus came to change the order of our world. How can we live out his example in order to bring about better intercultural relationships?

Walking the Way--imagining a different world, Jesus' way (full life for all)

How do we grow and deepen in ways to make our community one with abundance for all?

Being born again, or dying and rising, is at the heart of intercultural habits and personal transformation. The way to God is a dying and rising one, a never ending process.

Systemic injustice--the system needs to be challenged

To what group do our beliefs and practice give power and privilege?

Jesus was a 'privilege traitor'. We need more privilege traitors! Are we being co-opted into a system that we want to remain intact? Are our intercultural relationships life affirming or down-putting?

When old patterns are broken, new worlds will emerge.

Christmas Families

This year we continued Deer Lake's tradition of sponsoring needy Burnaby families at Christmas. This year we committed to support one family from Dixon House and three families from Edmonds School. The Dixon House family consists of a single mom and two daughters, ages 4 and 14. The people referred to us by Edmonds School are all refugees from Iraq and Syria. There is one senior, one family with one child and another with three children.

We rely on your generosity to support these very needy families during the Christmas season, and would like to thank all those who donated so generously this year. Your kindness has not gone unnoticed. The recipients were extremely grateful for the items we delivered to them and appreciative of the thoughtfulness and caring of our congregation. You have made life a little bit easier for these Burnaby families at a time of year that can be particularly difficult for those in need. Thank you!

JOY to the world



Mousetrap Trophy for Kathryn

Church Mice

By Claire S

We've gathered here as church mice to spread some Christmas cheer.

Our cookies will be sent to those we know, and all hold dear. There are some other church mice who gather at Deer Lake. They have a way of sneaking in for warmth - for goodness sake. But Kathryn's on the warpath to catch these church mice critters. But we all know these little pests are planning to outwit her. We are a loving people but there's a limit for us all. We do not like these church mice staying in our hall. So here's a little trophy to commemorate our elation, Getting rid of church mice but not the congregation.



On Saturday December 7th eighteen men (Steve is missing from this picture) met for Advent breakfast, fellowship, reflection, Christmas carols and the usual hijinks. (They all survived!)

Holy Land Tour 2021

January 14-27, 2021 a Bible Lands Journey with Rev. Graham Brownmiller and Revs. Scott and Jen Swanson. There will be an information session on **Monday, January 20th** at Jubilee United Church. For more information, please contact Rev. Graham at minister@jubilee-uc.ca.



Upcoming Events At and Around Deer Lake United Church

Christmas Caroling

Tuesday December 17 at 7:00 pm. Meet at the church.

Christmas Eve Family Service

Tuesday December 24 at 4:00 pm DLUC sanctuary

Christmas Eve Communion Service

Tuesday December 24 at 7:00 pm DLUC sanctuary

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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