

LAKESHORE LINES

Free – and worth every cent!



A lot has happened at Deer Lake United since you last read these pages. See inside for a recap of our 2021 journey of faith

Taking Leaps of Faith

Many of you know that I spent some time last summer in the archives of the Pacific Mountain Region reviewing old documents from Deer Lake United's past. I began reading in 1920 when our church began as a leap of faith of Ethel Moore hosting a Sunday school in a parlor room in the Hart House. Over the decades this church has been transformed from meeting in a parlor room in a house (albeit a large house!) to being its own building in an adjacent lot. One hundred years later, more leaps of faith are being made. Who knew that 2021 would mark the year of major building renovations along with a significant shift in governance structure? As the articles in this newsletter demonstrate, so many wonderful things are happening every day at our church. While none of us know exactly what lies before us, the steps we are taking now are made in hopes for a brighter future.

As we consider what is ahead for us, I would like to pause and celebrate the leaps of faith we undertook in 2021. So often when we hear the phrase "leap of faith," we hear it in a context of a single action.

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!

"I took a leap and quit my job," or "I purchased a house," or "I started a new project." Our remembering of the story tends to minimize all of the little steps necessary for those big steps. Yes, big steps (or leaps) are exciting to tell, but they are supported by hundreds of little steps (or leaps) of faith. Every day we make choices about how we are going to live out the Christian message of hope, faith, and love. Every day we make choices about how we will engage in this world that seems so broken. Every day we make choices about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. These choices of how we treat one another, treat the stranger, and treat ourselves reflects our faith in action. It is important to not only celebrate the big leaps, but also the small ones that help to transform this world. What (small and large) leaps of faith did you take in 2021?

The year 2022 is here, and there are many dreams being floated around already. I invite you to remember the small leaps of faith that are required to support the larger ones we make. For example, have you considered increasing your giving to help support the ministries of the church? Have you considered participating in one of the many small groups including Wednesday evening's Faith Group or Wednesday morning prayers? Have you considered volunteering to make sandwiches or lead in an outreach effort? Some days we make big changes. Other days we simply live our lives doing the mundane tasks of life with a choice. Will we be a people of faith, or will we cling to what we know for certain to keep ourselves safe? The invitation for 2022 is to join as one church as we continue to take leaps of faith in the year ahead. Happy New Year!

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Kyser

An Exciting Time

By Ellen J

The last DLUC Board meeting was held on Tuesday January 18th. This precedes a move to a new governance structure which will enjoy the leadership of a Council rather than a Board.

While taking off my Board hat I found myself thinking about all the Meetings I have attended over the past thirty years. Many of our members will have memories going even further back I know. I started reflecting on people, places, things discussed.

I remember when Board Meetings could last three hours or more and eventually a rule, “Steve’s rule”, was initiated. The Board must make a motion if it wishes to go beyond 9:00 pm. This came about primarily because the Board was a social place where everyone reported news verbally and then answered and thoroughly discussed any and every question that arose. If the photocopier paper was getting too expensive there might be a suggestion that it be changed. This could lead to a good half hour of discussion involving finances, ecology, quality inevitably ending up in a debate on the best design for a really good paper airplane or boat.

It seems to me there was always food involved, thumbprint cookies, or brownies or squares of matrimonial cake. We would wait until everyone was there to begin so meetings often began well after seven. No-one seemed to mind as chat around the table circled around tent trailers, traffic lights, tension headaches. (Never politics or religion I might add)

Decisions were made collaboratively by everyone. Yes, every decision by everyone. I remember one meeting where

the stewards reported that a carpet was to be replaced because of wear and age. The Board discussion that followed was fascinating. Rayon or wool? Rubber backed? Pile height? Colour? The colour wheat is slightly richer than the colour buckskin-but the buckskin reads slightly grey, what about stains? the renters shouldn’t use it. This lively exchange ended when someone suggested “let’s go have a look” and the **WHOLE BOARD** got up and left the room to see and smell and walk on the worn carpet and then discuss. I am **POSITIVE** Steve’s law came into effect that night! These routine exchanges were enjoyed by most, tolerated by some and certainly built community. We were like a big crazy family at mom’s house for Sunday lunch.

I also remember a “let’s try this” attitude as the structure of Board Meetings ebbed and flowed with whoever was acting

chair at the time. Upstairs, downstairs, session, executive, prayer, devotional. All made to improve the experience of those attending. It was warm and lively and long and tiring, all wrapped up into three hours on a Tuesday night. This “let’s try” attitude remains and will come along with us to future Council Meetings.

When I looked around the table this past Tuesday, I recognised that most if not all of us have been involved in the work of the Board for decades. This fact has been a primary motivation for the change in structure, as freedom for many of these long-time members to engage in other ways is long over due.. Our present

Board Meetings are still a bit social. it’s fun to laugh when Joseph’s computer screen freezes, especially during a prayer as we all sit reverently quiet, eyes closed, thinking this is an uncomfortably long reflective moment only to discover he’s completely left the meeting into a virtual purgatory! “Amen” someone tentatively whispers into the increasingly awkward silence. Everyone laughs. For the most part the Board’s lengthy social visits have lessened and primarily moved from the Board table to the bulletin folders table, or the walking group path, or the faith group or... there will be even more social time as we return to in person activities.

I also recognise an even bigger difference at the Board table and at Deer Lake in general. We are talking about our faith with each other. This seems new to me. We are discovering “oh, he’s unsure too”, or “I was wondering that as well”, or “that moment or prayer or sermon really

resonated with both of us”. Whether we have certainty in our faith or doubt, this is growth. The Board is a place for spiritual reflection, for planning and imagining as well as for making decisions, but just big decisions. The new council will hold that priority even more firmly. We will still share and build community and laugh but we will also trust. We will trust that the everyday things are being dealt with responsibly and our input or checking up on each other is not always necessary. We will trust that every single one of us has the best interest of Deer Lake in mind, and we will trust that God is in the drivers seat and we can follow faithfully without fear.

The Board served its purpose for so many years. We owe this legacy our respect and love. As our new council meets and begins its work we will take many positive practices with us, and maybe a slice or two of matrimonial cake. It’s an exciting time.



Just a Table

By Ellen J

Over the summer a table was placed on the patio in front of the church. Round, heavy, full of promise. An invitation for the community to “come a little closer”.

It has supported members of DLUC as they rest after physical work. It has provided picnic space for daycare workers while they enjoy their lunch break. It has heard quiet honest conversations, caught tears on a summer day, welcomed AA attendees as they wait for their meeting to begin, and it has cradled the homeless as they read a book or rest their weary bones.

That table is a symbol of things to come. A symbol of hospitality, compassion, fellowship and support. A symbol of what Deer Lake United is determined to be. As I walk to the front door of the church I often glance at that table, and it reminds me. Sometimes an outstretched hand, a warm smile, a welcoming table, is all that is needed to spark connection and to share God’s love. It’s in the doing. It’s in the invitation.



Men’s Boat Cruise

Hot, Hot, Hot!



The summer of 2021 was devastating for the residents of BC. In June the heat dome that hung over the province led to the deaths of roughly 600 residents. Temperatures in Lytton reached an all-time Canadian record of 49.6 degrees Celsius on June 29th. The next day the town burned to the ground.

From August 12 to 15 Burnaby experienced temperatures in the mid-30s with high humidity. The Task Force To End Homelessness in Burnaby set up a cooling site under the trees in Burnaby Civic Square, offering a misting station and cold beverages to anyone needing respite from the heat. Volunteers from Deer Lake United and elsewhere provided food, beverages and goodie bags for the homeless.

333 people were served during the four days the cooling site was open.



On August 21st seven Deer Lake men enjoyed a cruise up Indian Arm in a pontoon boat generously hosted and skippered by Capn Andy. Everyone survived despite some mid-cruise hijinks. Thanks, Andrew!

Just a Little Facelift!

By Garry F

What a journey it has been! The COVID pandemic that started in 2020 continued through 2021. Our lives were turned upside-down but Deer Lake didn't die. It was resurrected! As Sunday services moved to YouTube and church meetings turned to Zoom, the church building sat empty. What better time to give it a bit of a face lift? Online meetings were held, ideas exchanged, proposals made, budgets approved, contractors and volunteers enlisted. . . and the work began.



The way we were

In June things started disappearing from the sanctuary. Almost the entire main floor was emptied and the contents moved to the fellowship hall and nursery. Hangings and fixtures were removed from walls and windows, carpet was torn up, pews and other unneeded furniture were donated, sold or disposed of. The only things remaining in the sanctuary were the piano and organ, carefully wrapped for protection.



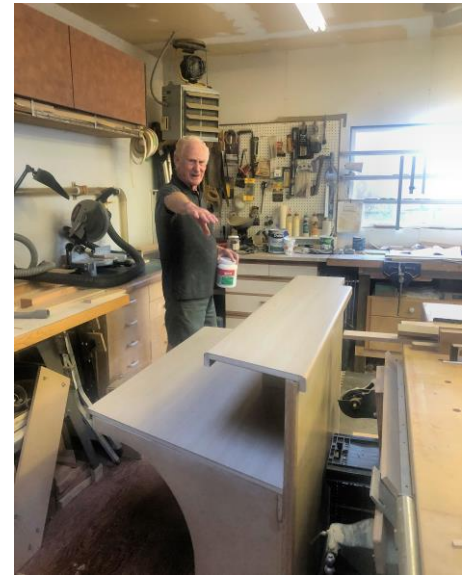
The wrapped organ and piano look lonely. Even the screen eventually came down.



Stripped to the bare bones

The loft risers were rebuilt, walls and doors upgraded and painted, new carpet and stair treads installed, sanctuary chairs purchased, wiring and lighting upgraded, a new work area for Pam and a new

audio/video desk built and installed, new audio/video and network wiring and equipment installed, and heating/ventilation system overhauled.



Bob working on Pam's new desk

It wasn't only the inside of the church building that had a facelift, though. The outside was spruced up, too. The concrete



Gary and Don giving the steps a good scrubbing

and railings were power washed and the roof of the shed was replaced.

By September the major work was finished and it was time to put everything back in place.

The volunteers are too many to mention but they are angels, every one of them.



Don, Arnie, Steve and Rick give the shed a new roof

It Finally Happened!

By Ellen J

On Sunday October 17th the sanctuary was open for the first service in 20 months. After being greeted by our old friend Gerry at the door a small group of congregants came together to fill the space with warmth, music, and community. There were just under 50 chairs set up and the total attending was 33. With seats separated and masks firmly fixed “above the nose” everyone settled in for Joseph’s first in-person service. Larry and Garry manned the tech booth, Sonya read, Kathryn sang, Barry played, Joseph prayed, all resulting in a Holy and meaningful service. What a treat to finally be together!

Although everyone had hoped for a Big Welcome Back Celebration, the Board and Worship Committee felt it was time to return in whatever way we were able. While not the celebration we had hoped for this soft launch was a very good beginning. Terri and the choir even returned and blessed us with several anthems and a Cantata on December 19th. The church continues to follow the COVID recommendations of our Regional Body (The Pacific Mountain Region) and so, unfortunately, the arrival of the Omicron variant forced us to cancel in-person worship as of Christmas Eve.

Hopefully, in time, we can worship in person again, the seats will inch closer together, masks will become optional, and we will once again enjoy coffee time in the fellowship hall following the service. In the meantime we gather online, but the one thing we’ve learned over the past year, is that church is wherever we are worshipping, praying and serving God. Location has very little to do with it!



Our hard-working minister



Pam at her new workstation. Thanks, Bob!



Two gorgeous new banners, on the left from Joanne and on the right from Cliff Avenue



Back to live services – for a while



The choir sings the Cantata to a mixed live and online congregation

Sandwich Making Returns

On Wednesday November 10th our sandwich makers gathered at the church once again after many long months addressing this outreach from their homes. The sense of mission, fun and fellowship was evident as bags of sandwiches, pudding, fruit and juice were prepared for the lunch distribution at Southside Community Church. Thanks to Linda W and Paul A for delivering them along with the warm clothing which was collected throughout October. Huge appreciation to all members of our Outreach ministry for their commitment to addressing this need in our community.



Outreach volunteers prepare sandwiches to be delivered by Paul and Linda

Arnie's 85th

Hard as it may be to believe, Arnie celebrated his 85th birthday this October!



Arnie blows out his candles using COVID-safe protocol



Despite COVID restrictions the church men found a safe, if somewhat chilly, way to celebrate their traditional Advent pancake breakfast and carol sing. Thanks go to Andrew H for the donation of his carport and propane heater

“ADVENTure” Calendar – December 23, 2021

Text by Christine Spreter

Parable inspired by Henri Nouwen

In a mother’s womb, two babies start a conversation:

“Do you believe in a life after birth?”

“Yes, we are only here to grow, to get stronger for the life waiting for us.”

“That’s so unreal to me. How should that life look like anyway?!”

“I am not sure either. I hope it’s less dark. Maybe we will walk around and eat with our mouth.”

“Really?! But isn’t our cord good enough to feed us? Doesn’t it keep us close to one another? I don’t want to walk away from you!”

Silence.

“Nobody has come back from ‘after birth’ anyway. With birth, life is over. It’ll be light and that’s it. The end.”

“Well, I am not sure myself, but imagine we’ll finally meet our mother!”

“You seriously believe in a mother?! Where is she now?! I have never felt what you call ‘mother,’ so she doesn’t exist for me.”

“But sometimes when we are really still and quiet, can’t you hear her sing? Or feel when she touches our world?”

And they cried as they were born out into the light. They coughed up fluid, and they gasped the dry air. When they opened up their eyes and found themselves in a warm embrace skin to skin, cradled with unconditional love, they lay awestruck at the beauty of the mother whom they had never seen before.

Wait! There’s More!!

Our Pacific Mountain Region (PMR) has an abundance of online resources that highlight an endless number of issues, interests, and groups. *What’s Up* shares one or two items each week but that is only the tip of the iceberg. We want to encourage you to do a bit of exploration. There is something there for everyone. It is also an excellent source of new ideas for our own ministries!!

NEWS: for a quick look at what is happening in the Region visit <https://pacificmountain.ca/news-events/news/>

EMAIL NEWSLETTERS: Various interest groups provide **email newsletters**. Some examples: Spiritual Care Network, Indigenous Ministries, Leadershift (training and coaching). Check out the possibilities and subscribe to those of interest to you. <https://pacificmountain.us1.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=0999ab25e10c4c23a874af7fe&id=4580ffd787>

EVENT LISTINGS: Thanks to the magic of Zoom, we can now join programming offered by congregations all over the region. One of the newsletter options is **Event Listings**. This a place where congregations can advertise. The list is long, varied and changes weekly – definitely something there for everyone. Deer Lake used this site to promote the jazz concert we hosted before the COVID shut down.

YOUTUBE: The PMR’s YouTube site has lots more: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsHA_QOWINly-T3Gx6_9_lg.

FOR THE BIG PICTURE: You don’t need a link. Google “Pacific Mountain Region United Church” to access their main web page.

There is so much United Church life beyond our Deer Lake community. Take some time to wander through the Pacific Mountain Region online neighbourhood. If you find a valuable resource that makes a difference in your life, please let us know! What a great way to stay current and connected!!



Do you recognize this baton?

This conductor’s baton and case were found in a box of choir-related material during the renovation. The case bears initials that look like either JLE or JGE. If you recognize this item please contact newsletter@dluc.ca to help repatriate it with its rightful owner.



A Conversation

Me: Hey God.

God: Hello, my love.

Me: The world is completely out of control!

God: I know. It's such an adventure, right?

Me: No! It's like being on a runaway train! I need to feel like I am in control of my life.

God: You want to be in control?

Me: Yes!

God: You are living on a spinning wet rock of a planet that resides next to a constantly exploding fireball in the middle of an ever-expanding universe that is filled with mysteries beyond your wildest imagination.

Me: Um, okay....

God: And on this planet that you are hurtling through the great expanse in - you are co-habitating with billions of other people who have free-will and their own experiences that shape their perspectives and beliefs.

Me: Yeah...?

God: And while all this is going on your soul is residing in a physical body that is such a miracle of delicate engineering that at any given moment could produce its last heartbeat.

Me: Right...

God: What is it about your existence that you think you have any control of?

Me: Um...

God: Come on - you know the answer to this. What can you control?

Me: How kind I am to people?

God: Yep and one other thing.

Me: What's that?

God: How kind you are to yourself. Aside from that - most of everything else is a bit outside of your design.

Me: That's a bit terrifying...

God: All great adventures are!

~ John Roedel (johnroedel.com)

A Christmas Gallery



Submissions

Submissions to either the *Lakeshore Lines* newsletter or our weekly *What's Up* email may be made by email as follows.

Announcements of upcoming events at Deer Lake and short items of interest should be sent to whatsup@dluc.ca.

Submissions related to past events at Deer Lake or lengthy items of interest should be sent to newsletter@dluc.ca.