



# The Mirror

Reflections on the life and work of Como Lake United Church March 2015

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## Come and Experience the Easter Story

In the seasons of the church, Easter is perhaps the most dramatic. We have Jesus' death and his resurrection, the empty tomb, unexpected appearances and calls to discipleship. Perhaps it is not a coincidence that this coincides with the appearance of new buds on dormant trees, bulbs bursting from the soil and the return of the robins.

And at Como Lake as we explore a new beginning for our church, we invite you all to participate in celebrating the Easter story to its fullest.

**April 2 Maundy Thursday - 6 - 8 pm**  
**"Love one another as I have loved you."**  
*John 13: 1-17*  
*Potluck meal and Worship (in Room 120)*  
*Please bring a main dish or salad/  
vegetables.*  
*Dessert and bread will be provided*

**April 3 Good Friday - 11 a.m. at Golden Ears United**  
*An all-area United Churches gathering*  
*Psalm 22; Mark 14:32-Mark 15: 47*

**April 5 Easter Sunday - 10 a.m. with Communion**  
**Celebrating the Resurrection**  
*Mark 16: 1-8*

This Easter we thank you for being generous in your prayer, serving, and givings to Como Lake United Church. We depend on each other to sustain and grow our ministries. Thank-you in advance for your generosity.

See you in church,

Session Members:  
*Angie, Ralph, Verna*

Stewards:  
*Valerie, Dave, Wendy, Susan, Cheryl*  
*Rev. Jan*

## Property Re-purposing Research Update

Our church community has been re-visioned and reshaped a number of times since we gathered for worship in the Brown home in 1922 and set up our first Building fund in 1923. For years, core leaders of this Community of Faith have seen many emerging opportunities resulting in changes to the buildings that house us, changes to our worship, programs, outreach, and the personal relationships that ground us.

Como Lake has demonstrated itself to be a NOW community, moulded by the past but not defined by it, and repeatedly looking into our future. We recognize that we do not exist in a void, but are impacted by what is happening in the wider community, country and world.

All this took place in a community environment of discovering what Jesus was really about. As mentioned in earlier communications a discernment group has been looking at the life, teaching and relevance of Jesus in our lives and how it is reflected in our Christian lives at Como Lake. In our life of faith, discernment precedes and then walks alongside decision making; discernment is about listening to the Spirit moving in our lives and being willing to be surprised. Please give some prayerful time to our discernment.

One thing that came out of this ongoing discernment process was the creation of a Property Repurposing Team comprised of interested individuals from the larger discernment group to work with our BC Conference Property Resource Team led by Terry Harrison.

Terry and her team, which includes consultants from Colliers Consulting and architects, are working on a feasibility study to look at if and how we can repurpose

*(See Repurposing Continued on page 2)*

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**We are  
Christ's caring community  
connecting people with God  
and with one another  
answering God's call  
and making a difference.**

*(Repurposing Continued from page 1)*

the property we now occupy. We are working with the Consultants toward the possible redevelopment of the church property, wherein a new church would be built as part of a residential mixed use complex on the church property. The study and project values are based on the prayerful work of the discernment group that has met several times since last May. The focus is Congregational ministry with space to Worship, Study, Serve and Belong.

When completed, the feasibility study will be presented with possible alternatives. We expect the feasibility study to be presented to the congregation sometime in May. From this, the congregation will consider and decide how to proceed. It is a faith journey from here to there, and we are only at the very beginning phase, but we can trust that the Spirit is moving.

A few recent realities, outlined in February's newsletter, led us to looking for new and creative

options that may or may not be available to us as a congregation: the structural issues; the aging volunteer base (85 year olds up on our 2<sup>nd</sup> story roof is the new reality); and our dependence on rental income that affects our ability to provide ways for newcomers and seekers long-timers to meet beyond Sunday morning and eventually build relationships and feel they belong; not to mention the energy of current congregants that could be re-directed to new or renewed ministries to which they feel drawn.

In summary, when you look for actual examples of Jesus alive and well here at Como Lake you can see daily expressions of the deep desire of a Community striving to be a rooted in the expression of love for our community, its people and its environment.

There is a vision for this place that is our spiritual home, we just need to see it.

Information selected from reflections of Tim Scorer and Discernment notes.

Compiled by Valerie Simpson and Ralph Johnston

### God at the Movies

Tuesday April 21

Billy Elliot

Come join us, enjoy the movie, and join the guided discussion, a chance to gain new insights in a safe environment.

Mark your calendar  
Room 120  
6:00 p.m.  
Pop Corn supplied



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### Conversation Café

#### What is it?

Conversation Café is a gathering of people in small groups for conversations that matter in the life of the congregation. There is a host at each table who guides the conversation so that everyone who wants to speak has an opportunity to do so.

#### Why is it important?

Conversation Café builds connections and provides a venue to explore important topics with others before it is time for decision-making.

People have an opportunity at the café to converse in a way that takes in the broader perspective of the congregation about important topics. It provides a venue to express ourselves and to hear from others about what is important, significant, and meaningful to them.

On March 22nd after Worship, 32 Como Lakers gathered for a hosted conversation on the questions: "As you look ahead to the future of our congregation, what are your concerns and what are your hopes/dreams?"

Watch for the date/time of the next café and join the conversation!

Rev. Jan and Session