

CPG News

A newsletter from the Council Planning Group, Shaughnessy Heights United Church



August 2004

Welcome to “CPG News”

With *The Grapevine* on a well-earned summer break, it seems a good time to launch the first issue of a new SHUC publication, *CPG News*. Its aim is to improve communication between Council and the congregation, a recommendation of the Stepping Stones report of January 2004. The Council Planning Group (CPG) was formed in 2002 to plan Council meetings and support the work of Council committees. Its members are the Chair of Council, the two Vice Chairs (Dawna Claxton and Ian Paterson), the Lead Minister and other council members as needed.

Unfortunately, this first issue brings mixed news. As many of you will be aware, Cathy Cryder, Minister for Children and Families, has accepted a call to Dunbar Heights United Church, as Minister of Children and Youth, and will be leaving SHUC towards the end of September. Her resignation letter is reprinted in full in the opposite column.

Cathy has been a pillar of the SHUC community for over 8 years, contributing to the development of a vibrant children's and youth program during that time, and she will be sadly missed. There will be an opportunity to celebrate her ministry at SHUC and to wish her well for the future, at a worship service in the fall. The steps being taken to replace Cathy are described on page 2.

Also on the subject of staffing, we are pleased to report that Roy Campbell, SHUC organist, has accepted an invitation from Council to become interim Music Director at SHUC from September 1 to December 31st. He will be supported in this role by Ramona Leungen, composer and Artistic Director of the highly acclaimed Phoenix Choir. See page 2.

As we start the new Church year, please include the new Council in your prayers. It consists of a committed and faithful group of SHUC members who give freely of their time for the good of this community. I am honoured to be the Chair and I pray for your support in this challenging role. *Philip Francis*



Cathy Cryder, with 8-month old Mollie Daubaras, at the SHUC picnic, in May 2004.

Photo by Fiona Daubaras

Cathy Cryder resigns

Following is the text of Cathy's resignation letter, received July 11, 2004. The DHUC congregation met later that day and approved the call.

Dear Philip,

Today the Dunbar Heights United Church congregation will meet to vote on a recommendation to appoint me to the position of Minister for Children, Youth and Families. Subject to the congregation's acceptance of the recommendation, I am resigning from the position of Minister for Children and Families at Shaughnessy Heights United Church (effective 90 days from this date or at a time mutually agreed upon by myself and the congregation). The decision to leave Shaughnessy has been difficult. The people at SHUC have filled a very large space in my heart and to leave you all seems unimaginable. However, I truly believe that God is calling me to new work in a new place. This is something I can't ignore.

Working within the SHUC community has been an extraordinary experience of love, hope and grace. The friendships that have grown out of my time at SHUC will endure and continue to bring me strength and joy as I venture in a new direction. I trust that as God goes with me into a new, unfamiliar place, God also remains with you as you seek to welcome someone who will carry on the important work of Ministry with Children and Families at Shaughnessy Heights United Church.

Yours faithfully,

Cathy Cryder

Selection Committee being formed

Following the news of Cathy Cryder's resignation, the Council Planning Group (CPG) and Ministry & Personnel (M&P) Committee met together to consider the options. They agreed that the first priority was to find someone to take over from Cathy when she leaves at the end of September. Initially we are looking for someone with a passion for children's and family ministry to fill the position on a short-term "supply" basis, from September 15 to December 31st, with the possibility of extension. Once the immediate needs for interim leadership are met, the M&P Committee and Council will then have time to consider the options for long-term leadership in this all-important area. The congregation will be consulted.

A position description has been prepared and is shown below. It is now being posted within Vancouver South Presbytery and BC Conference. Please mention it to anyone who may be interested in applying. If you would like to help in the interview process please give your name to Elizabeth Kerklaan at 266-0776 right away. A selection team is now being formed.

Children's and Family Ministries

An interim supply appointment September 15 to December 31, 2004, with the possibility of extension to June 30, 2005. Part time: 20 – 25 hours per week.

Summary

Gives leadership, in partnership with staff colleagues and the appropriate governance units, in helping children and families learn, care, worship, and reach out as they participate in SHUC's congregational mission

Tasks

- As educator, leads or ensures effective leadership for the ministries with children and families
- As pastor, supports families with children as part of the overall "caring community."
- As liturgist, ensures that children and families participate actively in the worship life of the congregation
- As disciple, takes part in professional development/ continuing education and nurtures own spirituality – self-care
- As presbyter, supports the mission of the larger church

Resource/liaison

CE Committee and Children/Family Ministries Team

Applications (to Tom Beasley, Chair of the M&P Committee at admin@shuc.ca) to be received by August 20, 2004; interviews will take place after September 6.



Roy Campbell, Interim Music Director

Roy Campbell, who for the past nine years has been SHUC's organist, has accepted the position of interim Music Director at SHUC from September 1st. The appointment is initially to December 31st and may be extended by mutual agreement.

We are also pleased to announce that Ramona Leungen, highly respected within BC's choral community as a composer and Artistic Director of the Phoenix Choir, has agreed to support Roy in his music leadership. Ramona will initially work with Roy to December 31st, and is also open to the possibility of a longer term relationship with SHUC.

"Cathy Pedersen's resignation as Music Director earlier in the year came as a surprise to many people" says Philip "and I regret the anxiety this caused, particularly among members of the choir. Change is never easy and I am truly sorry that some experienced hurt and sadness. But now I would ask all of those who have given so generously of their time in support of SHUC's music programs to rally around the new leadership of Roy and Ramona. I often feel, as I listen to the choirs and the organ on a Sunday morning, that music is a gift from God. But music in worship is surely also a gift to God and I'm hoping that all those with gifts to give will help breathe new life into the music experience at SHUC."

Roy Campbell is currently on tour and also taking some vacation in Eastern Canada. When he returns to SHUC please take a moment to welcome him back in his new role as interim Music Director. We also look forward to getting to know Ramona and welcoming her to SHUC. Having rehearsed with the Phoenix Choir for many years in the sanctuary, perhaps we should be saying "welcome home!"

Facilities Visioning Team

We are pleased to announce that Bob McFarlane has agreed to chair a “SHUC Facilities Visioning Team” with the following purpose:

“To identify and analyse options for the long-term sustainable best-use of SHUC’s property and its facilities and to report to the Council and congregation by June 2005, with an interim report in February 2005.”

Bob and Mary Ann McFarlane, and their two children, joined the SHUC congregation in 2002 on moving to Vancouver from Toronto. Bob is a leader within the Vancouver business community and brings gifts of planning and strategic thinking to this new task. He is joined on the team by Mark Munroe, Helen Cheung, Lu Tang and Allan Cunningham. The team held its first meeting in July. Please feel free to communicate your hopes and dreams for the future use of SHUC’s facilities, including the manse, with any of the team members.

SHUC’s Core Values

At the annual congregational meeting on June 6th, the congregation committed itself to six core values, in the form of a new “Values Statement”, reprinted below. Please take a few moments to reflect on the following question - how will these values affect the way we relate to each other at SHUC and to the wider community?

“In gratitude to God and in celebration of God’s gifts, we, the people of Shaughnessy Heights United Church, commit ourselves to be:

- ◆ Trusting – developing and deepening trust in God, in ourselves, and in one another.
- ◆ Hospitable – creating a safe and welcoming environment for all people.
- ◆ Respectful – encouraging open, clear and honest communication.
- ◆ Compassionate – caring for the well-being of one another and reaching out to those in need, near and far.
- ◆ Faithful – supporting individuals, families and community in spiritual growth, seeking the will of God as disciples of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Responsible – being careful stewards of God’s creation and the gifts of people, facilities and money.”

With grateful thanks -

Several Council members and Committee chairs stood down at the congregational meeting on June 6th, at the end of their terms of office. We take this opportunity to say thank you for their leadership. We have been blessed.

Noralyn Smiley - whose 2-year term as Chair of Council came to an end. Noralyn’s wisdom will continue to be shared with Council in her role as “Past Chair”.

Tom Beasley - as Chair of the Ministry & Personnel Committee. Tom has steered the M&P Committee through some difficult staffing issues with sensitivity and patience. He has agreed to continue on until a replacement is found.

Clif Prowse - who has served as one of two SHUC representatives at meetings of Vancouver South Presbytery with great insight and commitment during the past 6 years.

Allan Cunningham - who has brought professionalism and business skills to the work of Council as Chair of the Operations Committee. Allan has agreed to continue to serve on this committee.

Rudy Kerklaan - Rudy has brought financial acumen and investment knowledge to his work as Chair of the Trustees. He has steered SHUC’s trust funds to over \$1 million for the first time in our history. Rudy has indicated a willingness to continue as Chair until December 31st.

Cathy Lew - who has brought a passion for SHUC’s children and youth programs as co-Chair of the Christian Education Committee.

We are pleased to welcome the following to Council:

Brad Hardie - as Chair of the Finance Committee
Clif Prowse - as Co-Chair of Worship and Music
Norm Barr - as Chair of the Operations Committee

Nominations are invited for the Chair of the M&P Committee, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, SHUC Presbytery Rep, and Co-Chair of the Christian Education Committee. These are all important positions within SHUC’s governance structure and we need to have them filled as soon as possible. There are also openings in each of SHUC’s mission groups - Worship & Music, Congregational Life, Pastoral Care, Christian Education and Outreach.

Please don’t wait to be asked! Group and committee work at SHUC can be a wonderful way to get to know other people and a rewarding way to contribute to SHUC’s mission. Your participation in any of these roles would be very much appreciated. Please call Dawna Claxton at 737-6008 for further information or self-nomination!

Setting Goals for 2005

One of the marks of a healthy congregation is a clear sense of purpose and agreement on goals and objectives. At the meeting in June Council members were asked to prepare a few objectives for each of their areas for 2005. These will be discussed at a Council Retreat on Saturday 11th September and then shared with the wider congregation.



We are describing this new process of objectives-setting at SHUC as the *STAR* process -

S-Specific. Are the objectives specific enough to know when we have achieved them?

T-Trackable. Will we be able to track our progress towards meeting them?

A-Attainable. Do we have the resources to get the job done in 2004/2005. Are they realistic?

R-Relevant. Are they relevant to SHUC's mission and ministries? Will they make a difference?

We will be open to the Spirit as we "follow the STAR", seeking to discern God's will for SHUC in each of our committees and groups.

Friends Together Open House - September 19th

Pat Mitchell has kindly agreed to co-ordinate the arrangements for holding a "Friends Together" Open House in the Church Hall after the worship service on September 19th. This is traditionally the time to renew, initiate and sign up for SHUC programs following the summer vacation. We hope that all groups and Church Committees will be represented at the Open House so that newcomers, members and friends will be able to find out about all that SHUC has to offer. It will be fun and informative.

This year we have also invited all the external users of our facilities to participate in the event - "Friends Together". At SHUC we benefit from their financial support, while many different community groups have an opportunity to use our excellent facilities. Please contact Pat Mitchell at 604-948-4894 for details and to reserve space at the Open House.

Coming Soon

Please mark the following dates in your calendar. Call Christine Ackermann in the Church Office if you need further details or visit www.shuc.ca:

September 11 - Council Retreat 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. in the Lounge. Setting objectives for 2004/2005.

September 12 - "Second Sunday, Second Hour" start of a new series of meetings, after worship. Lounge.

September 19 - "Friends Together" - Open House. 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. hosted by all users of SHUC facilities. Come and see all that SHUC has to offer!

October 30 - SHUC Fall Extravaganza - 10 a.m - 3 p.m. handicrafts, silent auction, bake sale, performances, book sale, basement sale - volunteers still needed. Please call Phyllis Hayter 604-732-8442.

November 12/13. Reach Out 2004 - Annual Outreach and Social Justice Conference, sponsored by Shaughnessy Heights United Church and the Chalmers Institute. This year's theme is *Human Dignity and the Integrity of Creation*. Keynote speakers include Mr. Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa; and Dr. Sallie MacFague, Distinguished Theologian in Residence, VST. Program of events is posted on the SHUC website, together with registration details. Please speak to David Ansley or Jennifer Lowry for further details. This is a significant event for the whole community.

Help Wanted

Please consider offering your time or support in one or more of the following roles:

1. Committee/Group membership - described on p3. Please contact Dawna Claxton for further details.
2. As a member of the selection team for an interim leader of Children and Families Ministries. Speak to Elizabeth Kerklaan as soon as possible.
3. As a participant in the Open House on September 19th (contact Pat Mitchell) and the SHUC Fall Extravaganza (speak to Phyllis Hayter).
4. As a member of a supervisory team for Brenda Miller, Diaconal Student, who will be on an internship at SHUC from Sept. Speak to Ross White.

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