



The Grapevine



The Newsletter of Shaughnessy Heights United Church

Vol. 6; Issue 4: February 2006

SHUC Personified

by Janet Cawley, Minister

And now, heeere's Leslie!

I'd like you to meet Leslie, a new face, yet very familiar to SHUC. Leslie is a well-educated professional, informed about current affairs, concerned about social problems, a regular and generous contributor of time and money to many charities. Leslie is active, fit and attractive, and likes to wear stylish business-casual clothes. Leslie is financially secure and enjoys good health for someone in their late fifties. Leslie has a place at Whistler and likes skiing, tennis, golf and socializing with many friends.

Leslie is at the peak of life, but now has to think about what comes next. This is mid-life crisis time: looking back you can see many wonderful accomplishments, but also some painful experiences—notably, failed relationships. Leslie is wondering whether changes are needed—personal changes to improve relationships, career changes to provide more satisfaction or more security, life-style changes to express moral values more clearly. There are elders who are becoming more frail, and children whose lives are very different from Leslie's at their age—and there are wonderful grandchildren whom Leslie loves mightily. Leslie is also sandwiched between two well-defined generations, the veterans and the boomers, and is never quite sure which to identify with—the veteran values of duty and discipline are compelling, yet there is the hunger for self-fulfilment and meaning so typical of boomers.

The future is hard to imagine. What should Leslie do?—travel to Guatemala and volunteer, or go sailing in the Bahamas? Leslie has always been a doer and wants to just get on with things and not waste time navel gazing. The long and arduous inner journey of spirituality has never seemed appealing—good will and hard work have always worked before and Leslie generally thinks they will work again. Yet the number of changes on the horizon is daunting: retirement, aging, an older generation passing, a new generation coming with its very different ways—sometimes Leslie wakes up in the middle of the night and worries that perhaps these changes will demand a new approach. One thing is certain, in five years, Leslie will be a far different person.

Who's Leslie?

"Leslie" is Shaughnessy Heights United Church personified. Nearly a hundred people gathered in the Hall on Sunday February 5th to take part in this serious-playful reflection on our congregation. We learned a lot about ourself and found ways to speak truth through this image. Leslie is a fine person, with many strengths and resources. He/she faces many important changes in the next years and will have to reflect very seriously on the future. SHUC will, too!



"Leslie"
Drawing by
Thomas Saxon



All SHUC event listings, including worship services, can be found on the full page calendar inserted with this newsletter.

Post the calendar on your fridge or in your special place for family communications & never miss an event!

Ministry Leadership

The Search For New Leadership

by Cheryl & John Banfield, Chair & Vice-Chair of Council

Greetings one and all! Welcome to the New Year! Welcome to the opportunity for all members of our congregation to share their hopes for the future of SHUC.

As the year unfolds, much work and thought needs to be done to reach the point of having a new ministry team in place. The Interim Transition Team is now constituted as the Joint Needs Assessment Committee with the addition of Ian Paterson as chair plus Jeanne McCutcheon and Eric Stephanson from Vancouver South Presbytery. Their responsibility is to revise the 2005 JNAC report to reflect the congregation's choice for a new Ministry model. This would then have to be approved by the congregation and subsequently by Presbytery. Following approval, a Joint Search Committee would be struck to start the search for a new minister. In anticipation of the search taking some period of time, a supply minister would be needed from this July, probably for a period of six months to a year.

What is so important now is to help the JNAC committee formulate a ministry model and profile of individuals who would be suitable to work with the congregation in achieving our vision of the future. There will undoubtedly be different opinions but all of us who believe in the future of SHUC must reflect and express our views to the JNAC team so that a workable consensus can result. To help with this process, two congregational gatherings have been held in February: Feb. 5th "Who is SHUC" and Feb. 19th 2nd Hour led by the Transition / JNAC Team. Ian Paterson will report



"The church got together and came up with a job description for you."

Congregational Meeting



Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 26 at 11:30 am

Gather in the Hall after worship to discuss & vote on the budget for the coming year. Also receive an update from the Transition / JNAC Team.

their progress to date at the Congregational Meeting following the Feb. 26th worship service. March 5th 2nd Hour will be the next opportunity for congregational input into the JNAC process. If you are unable to be a part of these planned gatherings, please share your thoughts and ideas with any of the Transition / JNAC team members (*see boxed list*). This can be done by phone, e-mail, or letter to Ian Paterson or any of the committee.

We encourage all members of our congregation, from young to seniors, to take part in this process...your ideas are the key to our future!

Transition / JNAC Team

Ian Paterson (Chair)

Gayle Ansley

Bob Bruce

Nina Matthews

Norbert Froese

Pat McKenzie

Janet Pritchard

Van. South Presbytery Reps:

Jean McCutcheon

Eric Stephanson

What's Happening: Events & News

LENT & PASSION WEEK EVENTS

Shrove Tuesday (Feb. 28) Pancake Supper & Worship at 6:00 pm

Men & Muffins invites you to a pancake supper to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. The meal gets underway at 6:00 p.m. and will be followed at 7:30 p.m. by a Service of the Ashes.

Lenten Journeys Begins March 9

The Worship & Music Committee have planned a special Lenten Journey, centered on the Labyrinth. The journey takes place every Thursday night from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. beginning March 9 through to April 6.

Maundy Thursday (Apr. 13) Meal at 5:30 pm

Come! A simple supper of soup and buns followed by worship in the Hall for families and all ages.

Good Friday (Apr. 14) Service at 11:00 am

SHUC hosts the shared worship service with Ryerson United Church for Good Friday worship this year on Friday, April 14 at 11:00 a.m.



Enjoying refreshments at the Women's Christmas Party are l to r: Audrey Mackenzie, Lorna Bonar, Anne Dewar, Barbara Boyce, Dola Gilmour

A Christmas In January

by Pat Hudson

Do you recall the old refrain
"January brings the rain?"
Well, neither rain nor sleet nor hail
Or even the unwanted gale
Could keep the ladies of the Kirk
FROM CELEBRATING
Forget December and its deadlines
What better way to make the headlines
Than summoning up the handsome lasses
To start the year with charged glasses
FOR CELEBRATING
Christmas comes but once a year
But hark, what is that we hear?
Carols and choir, all in a row
A January Christmas, a room aglow
"God rest you merry, be of cheer"
AND CELEBRATE

(SHUC's Annual Women's Christmas Party was held on Thurs, Jan.12th in the lounge at SHUC, and was joined by our Sanctuary Choir.)

Seniors' Lunch and Programme Wed., February 22 at Noon

\$6.00 for a soup & sandwich & dessert. This month's programme: Garden Tours

Come! Visit! Need a ride? Call Co-ordinator Pat Mitchell at 604-948-4894 or the Church reception desk at 604-261-6377 between 9am-1pm or sign up at the Action Table.



Your Invitation To The Daffodil Tea

The Daffodil Tea will be held on Wednesday, March 29. Watch for your invitation in the mail! Donations of goodies and sandwiches for the Tea are warmly welcomed. If you have a care giver or friend you would like to come with you, please make an indication on the sign up sheets. Everyone is most welcome, we just need to know the numbers.

What's Happened: Reviews



*L to R: Ian Paterson, Brian Forster, John Christie
Smiling with the Scots at the Robbie Burns Celebration!*

Robbie Burns Celebration

by Brian Forster, Chair of Congregational Life

Close to 100 of our Shaughnessy members and guests celebrated Robbie Burns' birthday in fine style on Saturday evening, January 28th. The evening was a "go" when John Christie and Ian Paterson kindly agreed to anchor the event with their traditional Scottish talent. The program fell into place with Roy Campbell and Olivia Edwards offering music and Phyllis Hayter her kitchen know-how. The Dungates, led by Irene, came into the picture by volunteering table centre pieces, flowers and decoration. Because so many generously brought food, we all enjoyed ample magnificent fare including tatties, neeps, vegetables and stew, followed by trifle along with other desserts. Many thanks to all. Finding a piper was not easy, but a friend, Cal Merry, agreed to lead the parade followed by Norm Roaf striking in his Chef's outfit displaying the Haggis. Jacinto used his Scottish accent for the Selkirk Grace and was followed by John Christie addressing the Haggis with dramatic flair.

After dinner, a resplendent Audrey Hetherington proposed an eloquent Toast to the Queen. Ian Patterson gave a rich rendition of "The Immortal Memory", which as always commemorates the life of Robbie Burns. There followed the "Toast to the Lassies" and the "Reply" given by Brian Forster and Ruth Freedman respectively, with a little thoughtful humour. Entertainment added immensely to the enjoyment of the evening with the unbelievable harmonica-playing by

the Non-Believers, Brian and Ian McGavin with Roy Campbell. Delightful singing by Olivia kept us on a Scottish note and the Romanza tenors blew us away with their operatic voices. Heather Smith charmed us with dancing the Highland Fling and again Olivia led us in a sing-along, finishing with Auld Land Syne. I cannot thank you all enough for your wonderful support, not forgetting Len Sawyer in set-up and Christine in the office. Your making the job relatively easy allowed me to sleep at night. Donations were \$600 and direct expenses \$175.

Cultural Explosion Potluck Lunch

By Phyllis Hayter

Held Sunday, Jan. 29th, after the church service, this was a family event organised by Jacinto. His father's church, Lakeview United Church, brought over Philippine dishes which were supplemented by our congregation. The meal was a great success. Thanks to all who donated food and helped with the set-up and clean-up. Entertainment consisted of the Highland Fling provided by Heather Smith, Michaela Kroeker and her cousin, as well as the Non-Believers (our resident Harmonica Trio), back by popular demand.

Holly Tea In Review

by Phyllis Hayter

The Holly Tea was held Dec. 7th, 2005. Carol singing was held in the lounge from 1:30 p.m. until 2 p.m. Then everyone went into the Hall for tea. The sandwiches & goodies were donated by congregational members, and were very much enjoyed. Many thanks to all the helpers, including Nancy Brodie, who did the beautiful flower arrangements. Thanks, also to our pianists, Roy, Marie, Rob & Angela.



*Nancy
Brodie
serving
at the
Holly
Tea on
Dec. 7,
2005*

Ministry Leadership

Marriage Policy at SHUC

By Clif Prowse, Chair of Worship & Music

The Worship & Music Committee is seeking your input as it finalizes a wedding policy for SHUC.

Services are for couples who want to commit their lives to each other in the context of the Christian community and its faith. We believe that God calls us to rejoice in loving relationships and to bless covenants of mutual care and fidelity. We will work with couples to ensure that the service expresses the deepest values and ideals on which their partnership is founded. As a service of Christian worship, the music, the readings and the elements of the service will reflect Christian values.



Given these purposes, it appears implicit to the Worship & Music Committee that SHUC should perform same sex marriages. It is important to be clear on this, because each United Church congregation sets marriage policy, and any prospective new minister will want this to be clearly known before coming to SHUC.

Marriage interviews can take up to 12 to 16 hours of clergy time, and SHUC performs 10 to 13 ceremonies a year. The W&M committee is exploring ways for SHUC to be more intentional about connecting with young couples, such as following up by sending cards on anniversaries and generally welcoming them to the church.

Please provide any comments on the policy or the provision of same sex marriages at SHUC by communicating with Clif Prowse, Chair, or Pat Carpenter or Lee McKimm, or leaving comments in the church office, preferably no later than March 3.

Congregational Life

by Brian Forster, Chair of Congregational Life



It speaks well for the Congregational life of the Church that it carries on successfully on a day-to-day basis without a Chair due to the commitment of those involved.

However, Cheryl Banfield decided that I had rested long enough and issues do come up, and would I consider chairing the Congregational Life Committee? As Cheryl had earlier stepped up to lead us as Council Chair following a difficult year, I felt that I should share some of the load and agreed to step in for an interim period on the understanding that my committee involvement would be minimal. Fortunately, much information can be passed along and work accomplished by e-mail.

Ann Moir kindly invited me over for tea and updated me on the scope and functions of Congregational Life and passed along records and well-documented files on disc. The Friendly Forms were re-started January 13th with Marion Gillett and Betty Snodgrass continuing with distribution, and Ann Moir looking after the collating and forwarding the information. The forms allow us to keep up with pastoral care, address and phone changes, as well as providing visitors with background information regarding our Shaughnessy Church.

Lee McKimm has been overseeing the coffee time arrangements following the Church Service for about six years and is most deserving of a break. Accordingly, we are now looking for someone who would kindly take over that responsibility from the end of June. Anyone having such interest can talk with Lee or myself regarding details.

Besides the regular work of the Congregational Life, we will be looking at other activities such as the recent Robbie Burns celebration. For example, should there be interest and support for a theatre night that can be considered for the near future. Ideas and suggestions are always welcome and are appreciated. Thanks to all those who continue to be involved in the life of the Church.

Ministry Leadership

Money Matters

By John Christie, Treasurer

Good news for 2005

Thank you and congratulations to all! We have finished 2005 with a balanced result, despite my recent concerns about a significant deficit.

Revenues from offerings were only slightly below budget for the year, thanks to all of you who gave so generously in December. December offerings were much higher than the last two years. Revenues from the use of facilities for the year were also below budget. The Fall Fair in October exceeded expectations.

Expenses were close to budget except for significant property repairs (the manse roof and the narthex roof). Although we had budgeted \$35,000 to complete these in 2005, they were not undertaken. Ideally we should have allocated the budgeted expense to the Long Term Sustainability Fund so that they would not be a charge against a future year when the work will be done. However, since the LTS Fund is quite healthy in its first year, we decided to allocate only \$19,000 to the LTS Fund for these future expenses.

This is the third year in a row that we have managed to achieve a balanced budget or better thanks to everyone playing their respective parts. Together we can move forward knowing that our financial affairs are in good shape.

Challenges for 2006

2006 will not be without challenges.

We look forward to the recommendations of the new JNAC in the next few months and the congregation's decisions based on these recommendations. These recommendations will have significant implications for SHUC and our finances.

The Finance and Stewardship Committee has been working with Council to prepare projections for 2006 and 2007. These will require some significant new commitments to financial stewardship. We will be presenting them to the congregation for approval at the congregational meeting on February 26. We look forward to seeing you there!

As usual we have interesting and challenging times ahead.



Trusting Pleasures

By Robin B. Leckie, Chair of Trustees

2005 was a good year for our Trust Funds. It my pleasure to pass on the financial highlights for the year.

1. The Endowment Funds increased in net value by approximately \$52,000 during the year to \$1,074,324. Most of this increase results from unrealized capital gains on the equity holdings. In total the yearend asset mix was 75.5% bonds and 24.4% equities.
2. During the year bequests and donations were received of just under \$40,000. The two largest of these were from the Luella May Downing estate (\$10,000) and the Gertrude Nunn bequest of a piano (\$25,000). The piano is now located in the Church hall, and for accounting purposes is carried at a value of \$ 0.
3. The unrestricted portion of the Endowment Fund contributed \$26,599 for the general operations of the Church. In addition, the Wadman and Hetherington funds contributed \$18,114 to general operations for specific property projects. Without these contributions the Church would have had a significant deficit in 2005.
4. In addition to the Endowment Fund there are Special Purpose Funds of \$112,008, which have contributed \$5.355 to the general operations.
5. The bulk of the Special Purpose funds are the relatively new Sustainability Fund (\$67,511), available to finance major capital projects of the Church. This fund has been built up from general revenues and Church surpluses set aside for this express purpose. The use of this type of fund was a key recommendation in the Facilities Visioning Team's report last year.

The Trustees are grateful to all those who have made these Trust Funds possible. We encourage all members to give thought to including in their Wills a bequest to the Endowment Fund for the ongoing security of the Church.

Reaching Out & Caring

SHUC Outreach Makes School Possible in Kenya

By David Ansley

REACH OUT 2005 featured amongst its guest speakers, Marc Kielberger, Executive Director of Leaders Today. Marc, along with his brother Craig, co-founded *Free the Children* - a world wide network of children fighting child poverty through provision of schools in the third world. Education is sited as an exit strategy for kids caught up in child labor practices used in impoverished nations. Their organization serves as a testimony of the power of the individual making positive change in the world.

About 10 years ago, I first encountered Craig Kielberger being interviewed on a daily talk show about their commitment to building schools, costs etc. I always felt that given the opportunity, what an experience it would be to hear either Marc or Craig speak. And what an empowering experience it would be to build a school through donation to their organization.

This year we experienced both. Proceeds accrued from this year's, and prior years' REACH OUT events served this purpose. To build a school costs five thousand dollars. We exhausted our account to donate six thousand dollars to *Free the Children* this November.

At the conference, the funds were identifies by Marc to be put to immediate use - to build a school for disadvantaged youth in Kenya. Building was to begin in February 2006. At



Pastoral Care Easter Flowers

The Pastoral Care Committee will be coordinating Easter flowers again this year. Please consider a donation to help support this caring ministry. Donations can be made in memory of loved ones, and the flowers are delivered to SHUC friends unable to join in our Easter celebrations.

Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins closer to Easter (Apr. 16) or call the Church office at 604-261-6377.



Marc Kielberger accepting the \$6000 cheque from SHUC's Steven Ansley in Nov. 2005

the time details regarding the location and progress were not immediately available, since planning had not been completely finalized.

While I expect it unlikely such a project would bear our name, we inscribed our name on the hearts of *Free the Children*. Marc Kielberger wrote me following the event - to thank our organization for its generosity and the opportunity to meet and work with such a great group of people. I will attempt to obtain regular updates on this project, and look for further opportunities to contribute to its ongoing development.

Free the Children offers the possibility for youth 13-18 to participate in leadership training and short term overseas involvement in their work. This is unique to their organization. As part of Marc's visit, a Youth Leadership workshop for 20 participants was conducted, with the assistance of Bronwyn McBride from Canadian Memorial Church. The SHUC Caring and Sharing fund sponsored five youth from Lakeview United Church - home of some of Vancouver's Phillipino community. These youth would not of otherwise had the opportunity to attend. This experience was life changing for them- galvanizing a new found interest in outreach efforts they will exercise through their own church. As will youth from ours.

These are just two of many behind the scenes stories, unique to REACH OUT 2005.

REACH OUT is an ecumenical gathering of people of faith and good will to help mend the world (Micah 6-8). \$20,000 has been donated in the past three years to local and international organizations committed to defeating poverty, fighting AIDS and doing Justice.

Learning & Worship

Big Doors Swing on Small Hinges

By Heather Clarke, Chair of the Ministry & Personnel Committee

Many “small hinges” in SHUC open “big doors” – “big doors” that welcome and provide resources to those who come or consider coming through our doors. SHUC staff are often the “small hinges” – and we are blessed with staff who keep their hinges oiled for doors to open easily. In the next few issues of *Grapevine*, the Ministry and Personnel Committee will profile staff members and their contributions to opening SHUC’s “big doors”.

Our church administrator, Christine Ackermann, is a key “small hinge” to opening SHUC’s big doors. Her position description states: “The Church Administrator ensures a welcoming space and the efficient and effective daily operation and organization of the church by providing office administrative and facilities management support for the SHUC community.” But what does that mean?



Christine
Ackermann

Christine believes that her position is first of all a ministry of hospitality – a ministry that is people focused, helps makes connections, fosters relationships (among people and with God) and welcomes everyone into God’s house. As frequently is the case, Christine is the first person that anyone contacting SHUC (on site or by telephone or e-mail) is most likely to encounter. Thus, she is a critical representative of SHUC – a trust she feels deeply about – a trust that she continuously nurtures and builds upon. Christine says: “I love people. I find the joy in my work is to meet and greet many different people every day in this building, God’s home. I represent the congregation every time I shake a hand, or give and receive a hug, or share a laugh! It’s important to me that each person I come in contact with genuinely feels welcome at Shaughnessy.”

Christine’s responsibilities in this ministry of hospitality include: administrative functions, policies, procedures and guidelines; communications (including co-editor of *Grapevine*); building facilities management (including space rentals); and liaison and support of Council, committees, and staff (including night

custodians). Talk about multi-tasking! How does she do it? According to Christine, she not only can do it – but loves the variety of responsibilities and challenges – building on her past experience and expertise. This includes: 5 years of volunteer church leadership positions in a local Lutheran congregation; 7 years as Manager of Information Systems for Milestone’s Restaurants and Bread Garden café’s; 6 years as a teacher of computer skills classes for adults & seniors; various bookkeeping and office support positions with different companies; and a Diploma of Associate in Criminology from Douglas College & SFU.

Although Christine has a unique set of skills that enable her to do the work effectively, she has told me more importantly that she feels called to be here, “When I saw the newspaper ad for SHUC administrator in 2003 I knew that God wanted me there because everything just fell into place, and it felt so right.” Christine has a youthful, fun energy that vibrates through SHUC during the week when hospitality and laughter are as important parts of her day as typing up the Sunday bulletin. If you haven’t already, check in with Christine sometime and share a cup of coffee or a phone call to say hello. Christine will be happy to “open the door” for you.

“WORSHIP MATTERS” on June 15-17 in Vancouver

By Clif Prowse, Chair of Worship & Music

“Worship Matters” is a pressing theme as SHUC continues its historic leadership role in the United Church. Most of us would agree that good worship leadership is crucial. But I suspect that many of us would disagree about what is a good worship service.

The Sunday worship service, including the “quality” of the sermon, is a key event in the ongoing life of the congregation. But what is the measure of that worship? How do we assess the quality of the sermon?

We encourage as many of us as possible to attend the national Worship Matters conference at UBC in June. This is a unique opportunity to attend workshops on Preaching, Music and Worship and bring the learning back to SHUC. Common frameworks for identifying “quality” preaching, for instance, can be explored through workshops on “Preaching as an Art Form”, “Words of Power”, and “Engaging the Imagination of the Listener”. More information to follow. Stay tuned.

Fraser Crocker - Mr. SHUC

By Ward Allen

Fraser Crocker (who passed away) Dec. 30th, 2005) was the heart and soul of our church virtually all of his life. When Prince of Wales Sunday School was founded in 1923, he was



Fraser & Muriel Crocker
2001

our peer leader. In 1927 the Sunday School became a part of the new Shaughnessy Heights United Church. Before long the congregation voted to build its own sanctuary, on 33rd Avenue, which was dedicated Nov. 30th, 1928. In all those activity filled years of 1923 to 1928, Fraser was a leader- in Sunday School, in youth activities and in the children's raising of funds for the sanctuary.

SHUC was a family affair for the Crocker family. Mrs. Crocker was one of the founders of the Sunday School; while Mr. Crocker was part of the small group that established Shaughnessy Heights United Church, as well as the new sanctuary. Heating in those days was a sawdust burner and early every Sunday mornings Fraser and his father would stoke the furnace so the sanctuary would be comfortable for morning service. It is interesting also to note that Fraser and his father are the only parent and child Chairs of the Committee of Stewards – S. J. Crocker in 1932 and S. F. Crocker in 1967.

The same dedication Fraser showed toward SHUC was also displayed in other areas of his community. Amongst many he served for years were: V.O.N. (25 year pin), and one of the initiators of the "Meals on Wheels" program; Advisory Board of YMCA; the Saint John's Ambulance Association; member of the RCMP Reserves. For service to his community, Fraser was awarded The Order of Canada.

Shaughnessy Heights United Church has lost a kind and loyal servant. I have lost someone who has been my dear friend since the family moved next door to the Crockers in the spring of 1922. Fraser is survived by his beloved wife, Muriel, and four adult children (one in Vancouver, three in Ottawa).

"Thanks To All the Wonderful Folks at SHUC" Letters Received From ...


... the Vancouver School of Theology thanking us for the gift of \$307.55 (monies raised from Janet Cawley's Covenanting Service) This money will go to the VST General Bursary Fund. This past term two hundred students (part & full time) were studying at VST.

... the Vi Fineday Family Shelter Society thanking the "Donors and Friends from SHUC for their continuous support and generous donations for our homeless clients' lives."

... Kate Booth House for the many Christmas gifts given out at their Christmas party on Dec. 5th, which was a great success. At least one hundred thirty moms and kids were in attendance. Each family on leaving, was given a large shopping bag full of personalized gifts [from SHUC] for each member of the family. "We wish you could all have been there to see the joy and delight on the children's faces! The moms too were very grateful that their children would receive such lovely gifts for Christmas. A special thanks to Anne Thorsteinsson who works tirelessly supporting Kate Booth House and organizing donations. Thank you, Anne."

Copies of these letters can be found on the Congregational bulletin board (opposite the pictures of our ministers en route from the Church to the Hall)

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Learning

Learning By Listening

by Jacinto Baybay, Minister for Children, Youth & Families

“Someone once said “when you do all the talking, you only learn what you already know. If you really want to learn something new, keep your ears open and your mouth closed. Listen to what other people say. Pay attention to their ideas, then ask questions. They will be glad to answer your question.” excerpt from “Making the Most of Today”

Wow, it was a busy festive season and its kind of nice that I now have a little bit of time, to relax and to reflect on my time at Shaughnessy. Thanks to all of you for taking a creative risk with me in participating in the Christmas pageant, family nights, during children’s time and your willingness to try new things. Special thanks to Dola Gilmour and the rest of parents and Sunday school elders who put together costumes, brought snacks, and helped in the production of “Prelude to Hope”, the Christmas pageant. I am still looking for pictures and video taken during the presentation so we can keep it for the church records.

I enjoyed learning by listening to our elders of the church, both young and old. I thank a particular elder, David Fraser, for helping me tell the beautiful story of Jonah and the Whale during a recent children’s time.

On January 8, 2006, we held our first Annual Parents, Youth & SHOCK bowling challenge! The parents dominated the night and took home the “Jacinto Cup”. Our young people vowed to take the trophy next year. I want to thank all 22 of you who showed up.

In the youth room, the youth group has started on a mural, which was creatively designed by Thomas Saxon and we hope to unveil it by the end of March. Plans are under way for a “Battle of the Bands” fundraiser on April 22, 2006, as well as an Adventure Night, which is open to everyone, on April 1, 2006. Please keep those dates open. Our Youth group and SHOCK group continues to meet each week.

The grade 4-6 friendship circle will be presenting a play during the Palm Sunday service, and we have a lot of other surprisingly creative projects coming up among the friendship circles.

Lastly I thank the Congregational Life Committee for hosting the “Robbie Burns” dinner (yummy Haggis!) and those who stayed for the luncheon the next day making the Cultural Explosion weekend a success. God’s Blessing to you all.



Book Marks

By Pat Hudson, Librarian

NEW FROM THE HAGER FAMILY IN MEMORY OF HELEN HAGER:

RACE AGAINST TIME BY STEPHEN LEWIS

This Book is the published text of the 2005 Massey Lectures, broadcast as part of the CBC Ideas series. The author is the U.N. Secretary-General’s special envoy for HIV/Aids in Africa, a position that has consumed his life since 2001. He admits that he “lives in hope but also in rage, at the inattention of the international communities to this disaster.”

SPIRIT OF HOPE BY LYN WHITTALL AND JUDY HAGER.

This is the third collection of prayers and meditations for adults. This time around prayers for children are also included with illustrations by the author’s families. We welcome them back to our collection.

CHRIST THE LORD. OUT OF EGYPT BY ANN RICE.

Ann Rice left the church and her belief in God while attending a secular college. She had been born into a Catholic family. During the 1990’s, while researching the 1st Century in Ancient Rome, she asked herself 3 questions: How did Christianity actually happen? Why did Rome actually fall? What mystery surrounded the survival of the Jews? This research eventually led her back to her faith, and to the writing of this first volume in a series on the life of Christ. In this book we meet Jesus as a child of 7 returning to Nazareth from exile in Egypt. He is the story teller. He asks many questions, but receives few answers. This book is a compelling read for young readers as well as adults.

NEW TO OUR SHELVES:

EATS SHOOTS AND LEAVES BY LYNNE TRUSS

Test your punctuation skills by exploring the pages of this amusing and informative little volume.

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS THE GENEROUS DONATION FROM JANET WARNER. BOOKS WILL BE ADDED TO THE COLLECTION IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER MARGARET SCOTT.

Reaching Out & Caring

Community Meal Update

by Clif Prowse Jr., Coordinator of Community Meal Program

SHUC hosted its first four community meals in the Fall of 2005, and plans to continue and expand the community meals in 2006, in partnership with Aunt Leah's.

The concept of the program is a simple one, deeply rooted in the tradition of the community meal. The people who come to the meals include members from the SHUC and secular community. They come from all walks of life and economic strata. People who are homeless, seniors, professionals and the working poor all sit down together to share a meal and build a community.

Those of us who have attended the community meal have found that it can be a unique and touching experience. Unlike the traditional soup kitchen or food bank, there is no distinction at the meal between those who give and those who receive. All sit together; all give. all receive. SHUC participants do not deal with an abstraction called the "poor". We deal with people who have names, faces, and smiles.

The Community Meal was first developed as a church outreach in 1992. Since that time, it has grown to include Wilson Heights United Church, Trinity United Church, Collingwood Neighbourhood House and St. Mark's Anglican Church. These community partners provide the physical facilities, food and volunteers. Aunt Leah's, through its Restaurant Training Program, provides the staff who plan, prepare and serve the meals.

SHUC participants have provided welcome, graciousness and hospitality. We hope that as a result, people long isolated or alienated from their community will feel welcome and will begin the process of breaking down barriers to community.

The Community Meal also offers SHUC the opportunity to have a profound impact on the youth and the women who are a part of Aunt Leah's program. Often for the first time in their lives, they are able to give something back to the community—to feel that they *have* something to give back. SHUC can show them that we perceive them as valued, contributing members of that community. The Community Meal offers the community at SHUC and the wider community—all the people who share the meal—a time and place for transformation.



- ☺ **Nancy Brodie** for creating the lovely floral decoration at Christmas.
- ☺ **Sue Smith** for taking sandwiches to First United Church every month.
- ☺ **Brian Forster** for organizing the Robbie Burns event; **Irene Dungate** for providing & arranging the flowers; and the entire **kitchen crew** who worked hard during & after the event.
- ☺ **Everyone who bought entertainment books** in support of SHUC's handbell choirs. The money raised is going towards the much-needed repair of the bells.
- ☺ **Jacinto Baybay's Family** for providing the scrumptious food at the Cultural Explosion on January 29th .
- ☺ **Phyllis Hayter & Team** for coordinating the Women's "Christmas in January" party.
- ☺ **Mac Brodie & Gary Walsh** (SHUC's electrical "brains") for tracking down the "flickering lights" in the Sanctuary.
- ☺ **Ruth Freedman** for covering part of the costs of installing new carpet in the Nursery. The carpet was purchased from our SHUC friend, Burritt Bros. Carpet.
- ☺ **Norm Barr & Len Sawyer** for constructing a new storage space for the Community Meal program.
- ☺ **Betty Ann Knickerbocker, Jean Campbell, Pat McKenzie, Barbara Rendell, Isobel Ohri, Marian O'Brien, Joyce MacKay, Margaret Brooke, Gwen Olson, Beryl Sawyer, Jean Hannon, and Florence Mackenzie:** who as volunteer receptionists helped to cover Christine's vacation time in the New Year and who are always reliable, in good humour, and possess excellent phone skills.
- ☺ **Roy Campbell, Ramona Luengen, and all SHUC's choirs** for providing the beautiful music during the Christmas services. The music made for an amazing worship experience during the holidays.

Information

Transitions

Deaths

- *William (Bill) Tierney Lane* on November 24, 2005
- *Helen Marion Black* on November 25, 2005
- *John Wilson Drexel* on December 2, 2005
- *Stanley Fraser Crocker* on December 30, 2005
- *Verna May Sweeney Harper* on February 9, 2006



It is with great sorrow that we share some sad news from our minister Emerita, Rev. Edith McLellan and her family. Our hearts & prayers are with Edith, Rob, & family, & Harold Evans at this difficult time. We reprint the announcement below from the Vancouver Sun.

McLellan – Kathryn Lois “Kitsy”

Born July 13, 1945. Died suddenly and unexpectedly on December 24, 2005. Her thoughtful, kind and gentle presence will be greatly missed by her partner Harold Evans, her parents Robert and Edith McLellan, her sister Lorna McNeil, brother John, and all who were touched by her happy spirit. A service of remembrance will be at Ryerson United Church, 45th & Yew Street, Vancouver, at 2 p.m. Friday, December 30th. In lieu of flowers, a donation to a charity of your choice in Kitsy’s name would be appreciated.

Thou Shalt Keep Thy Housekeeping Rules

It is the responsibility of anyone using the facilities to leave them clean & tidy (i.e. counters and trolley’s wiped over and all dishes washed and put away). Tablecloths should be taken home, washed & returned in two days. Please fill in “Tablecloths Taken” in the book provided.

All drawers and cupboards are labeled for your convenience. Supplies are duplicated in both kitchens. Thank you!



The Grapevine staff, l to r: Olivia Edwards, John Banfield, Christine Ackermann

The Grapevine Expands Staff

Senior Editor Christine Ackermann announces the appointment of two new co-editors, Olivia Edwards and John Banfield to help with the planning and production of 6 issues for the calendar year 2006. These will follow the theme of Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Fall Start-Up, Thanksgiving and Advent. It will feature news and hopefully some pictures of past events plus committee reports and notices of importance regarding upcoming events and church activities.

The Grapevine is particularly important as it is picked up or mailed to over 350 members and keeps everyone up to date on what’s going on at Shaughnessy. It is also available on our website (www.shuc.ca). If you would like to receive an email notice when the latest Grapevine is available online, please email (admin@shuc.ca) or phone the SHUC office and leave your email address for Christine. Material for inclusion should be sent to Olivia Edwards as copy editor (olivia_edwards@telus.net) or dropped off with Christine Ackermann at the church. Comments, suggestions, ideas are welcome.



The Grapevine

The newsletter of

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