



The Grapevine



The Newsletter of Shaughnessy Heights United Church

Vol. 6; Issue 2: October 2005

Greetings From The Chairs!

After a wonderful summer enjoyed by all, members of Council gathered on Monday, September 19 to embark upon a path of discovery for this interim year: discovery of who we are as people of God, and discovery in community, of what our vision is for SHUC. The main focus of our gathering was the opportunity to explore the goals for Interim Ministry with our Interim Minister, Janet Cawley and Gayle Ansley, Chair of the Transition Team. We believe that this unique journey will give us the opportunity to reflect on the joys and sorrows of our history, to rejoice in the present community of SHUC and to dream about our future committed to making a difference in the Spirit of Christ.

To make the most of this opportunity, we encourage each and every member of our congregation to touch base with Janet and the members of the Transition Team: **plan as an individual or as a group to have lunch with Janet, come to the monthly 2nd Hours devoted to Interim Ministry, drop by the office for a chat with Janet and/or Gayle and plan to attend the special Interim Sunday on November 20.** This is our opportunity to share our hopes and concerns for our Church. Interim Ministry will not move forward on its own——please plan to take part!

Blessings,
Cheryl and John Banfield
Chair & Vice Chair, Council

“Interim ministry will not move forward on its own - please plan to take part!”



GET ON BOARD!

It's Thanksgiving! Celebrate Thanksgiving at Church Enjoy Food & Family



Family Cluster Potluck On Saturday, October 8 at 5:30 pm

Everyone is invited and welcome!
A church family gathering at Thanksgiving complete with a live band and karaoke!

Intergenerational Worship Service on Sunday, October 9 at 10:00 am

A service for all ages to enjoy!
Special music with the V.P.O. Brass Quartet and our own Sanctuary Choir!
Bring your friends!

Fall Fair, Saturday October 29

A SHUC Fund-Raising Event
(see details inside)



Ministry Leadership

From The Transition Team

Gayle Ansley, Bob Bruce, Norbert Froese, Pat McKenzie and Nina Matthews

The Transition Team continues to meet monthly and have begun the practice of reporting to the congregation on the Sunday following each meeting. This is in order to let you know what we are doing and how work is progressing on the goals for the year. During the first of such meetings at a 2nd hour on Sept. 18 the congregation was able to ask questions of Janet and members of the committee. Such 2nd hours will likely become a regular practice.

We have adapted a Covenant of Leadership from the book “Leading Change in the Congregation” by Gilbert Rendle. We recite this together to begin each meeting making promises to God, to the Interim Minister, the congregation and each other. A copy of the covenant is posted on the bulletin board outside Janet’s office.

We also check in with each other about our sense of how the congregation is feeling from the conversations we have been having. As we gather information, this will be reflected back to you to assess whether the views expressed are widely held or isolated. **It will be important for the congregation to give us feedback so please contact Janet or any member of the committee so that we have an accurate snapshot of the congregation.**

The first phase of interim ministry is what Janet calls “educating Janet”, a time for her to get to know us and our history – what has been your experience of Shaughnessy Heights United Church, and how do you feel about what has happened over the past several years. Janet will be interviewing members of the congregation, members of council and previous staff to get a picture of what has led us to where we are.

We are reading together the book, “Temporary Shepherds” edited by Roger Nicholson. This is an excellent resource on Interim Ministry from the Alban institute. Both of the books I have mentioned will be available from the church library in October.

Heather Clarke has resigned from the committee due to her work with M&P. We should have a replacement for her soon. We thank Heather for her contribution and hard work with us over the summer.

Please ask questions, talk to Janet or a committee member and keep each other and the leadership of this congregation in your prayers.

The Listening Spirit

Dear Friends in Christ:

I still haven’t got the pictures hung, but I am feeling more settled. I hope you are getting used to me, too. I am grateful for all the friendly visits and the words of encouragement which many of you bring to my office—much more important than getting books shelved properly!

Listen
Hear
Understand
Grow

Even while I am unpacking and settling in, I am getting ready for another journey, the interim ministry we are beginning. In these first few weeks, I am learning about you, listening to the stories of your experience at SHUC. I hear the love you have for this church and the pain and confusion so many of you feel about the events of the last few years. I appreciate your willingness to trust me with such deep feelings, and I promise I will not betray

your trust.

When we go through troubles in the church family, people have all sorts of different experiences and reactions. Some feel devastated, almost everyone is upset, and some don’t notice any problem. Some just want to move on, and some can’t seem to let go. It’s important that we respect each other’s experience, and allow each one to move at their own pace. **But by all means, speak your thoughts—and your feelings—to one another.** It’s not much good to have a thin veneer of unity over a mess of division! Am I too blunt? We must be honest with each other if real transformation is to take place.

We need to be strong together, standing firmly on a common identity, looking eagerly to a common vision. Then, I believe, all the wonderful array of gifts Shaughnessy Heights has will find their proper and productive places. St. Paul reminded the church in Corinth, “You are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.” (*1 Cor. 12:26f*) I’m pretty sure he would say the same thing to SHUC as well.

Blessings on our journey together.

Janet

Learning

Family Events & News

by Jacinto Baybay, Minister for Children, Youth & Families

It is hard to believe a month has passed! The weather is a little colder, and the time has come to start getting into our Fall routines. For most of us it means going back to school, sports, music, studying and re-connecting with friends. The Fall also means a lot of new beginnings, and I am grateful for the hospitality that Shaughnessy has given me in my new beginning as your Children, Youth & Families Minister.

The Sunday school program is up and running but we still need a couple more volunteers. The senior youth group meets on Mondays at 7:00 pm and SHOCK group meets on Thursdays at 6:30. Two new programs for young people are Sunday evening Jam Sessions in the youth centre (start time 5:00pm), and a drama team for youth. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information about these programs.

Also on October 8, 2005, we will host our first Family Cluster Potluck event. We will get underway at 5:30pm for a night of fellowship, games and a time to be together to have fun - who knows even sing karaoke! A live band will be part of the night entertainment. All you need to bring are food and yourself. This event is open to everyone (please use the sign up sheet in the Hall at coffee time).

Again thank you for making my first month fun. And remember my door is always open. God Bless.



This summer 100 blankets were donated to First United Church by the Workers Compensation Board of BC. Pictured here are the happy deliverers! L to R: David & Alexandra Fraser, Lindsay & Matthew Veenstra. Photo: James Fraser

Faith Questions: Journeys of Spirituality & Discovery

Explore and grow with others as you:

- * Become more aware of your own personal faith journey
- * Deepen your personal faith & relationship with God
- * Find support for your faith journey
- * Support the faith journey of others
- * Consider ways in which your faith challenges you to act more compassionately & justly within the world



This program is the United Church's version of the Alpha program employed by other denominations. We will be using biblical texts for each section. The suggested plan is to meet for 6 to 8 sessions in the Fall and the same in the Spring. **This is not a guided tour where the leader knows everything. Rather, this is an invitation to take part in an adventure, beginning with your own personal experience and that of the women and men who accompany you.**

The meetings will take place on Wednesday evenings in the Chapel and at the home of Marilyn Thorsteinsson and will include a simple meal and/or the agape eucharist.

Meeting Format

Meal

Gathering Time

Opening

Check-in

Spiritual Practices/Prayer

Theme Exploration

Checkout

Closing

We would love to have your company on this journey of faith! Contact Marilyn Thorsteinsson at 604-733-3782 or leave your name at the church office. **The first session is on Wed., Oct.12 at 6:30 p.m.**

Celebrating and Worship

The Road Less Traveled

by Roy Campbell, Minister of Music

One of the most memorable days of my summer was spent with an elderly distant cousin on a 'genealogical dig,' searching out the people and places of our common ancestry. In the process we traveled on a number of PEI 'heritage roads' – some dating back to the mid 1700's. Even though they may look like nothing more than dirt tracks (most are not even on the map), each road has an important history and they enjoy special heritage status. A journey along these roads is one through towering tunnels of trees where you may meet farmers along the way, *or you may have the road to yourself.*

The word 'road' can serve as a metaphor of both our traditional values and our spiritual growth. In Scott Peck's well-known The Road Less Traveled, we learn that sometimes the most difficult choices are the ones that can potentially bring us the most rewards.

In Robert Frost's The Road Not Taken, a traveler comes to a fork in the road and needs to decide which way to continue his journey. After much mental debate, the traveler picks 'the road less traveled by.' The poem describes the tough choices people have to make when traveling the road of life.

Joy Kogawa's Naomi's Road is a touching and dramatic story of a nine year-old girl and her Japanese Canadian family's journey from Vancouver to an internment camp in Slocan, BC (Vancouver Opera's recently commissioned work by the same name is based on this story – see below for details*). Naomi and her older brother struggle with the harshness of war and racism until, ultimately, they triumph over their fears and discover the gifts that sustain them: music, words and love.

We at SHUC also draw on these same gifts. Under Ramona's dynamic leadership the Sanctuary Choir continues to grow both musically and numerically. We welcome our new soprano section lead Anna Whelan. The Fall choir retreat takes place on Saturday, October 15 at Canadian Memorial's Centre for Peace. One of our goals this year is to enter the CBC Competition for Amateur Choirs early in 2006. Thanks to Gayle Ansley for arranging to have the choir gowns cleaned *at no cost* (shades of *The Sopranos*?) The ever energetic Songsters are very fortunate to benefit from the assistance

of Rosi Schlierf. Rosi is a student from Germany who is living with the Froese family for a year. Welcome to the SHUC family, Rosi! We would like to acknowledge Shan Shan Chen, director of the Bells of Shaughnessy, for donating a cover for our newly acquired Steinway Grand piano. Members of the Spirit Ringers attended a workshop for BC hand bell choirs in New Westminster on Oct 1. Thanks to the efforts of Pat Cryder, the Spirit Ringers have already started promoting the new 2006 *Entertainment Books* – for sale in the hall during coffee time on Sunday mornings. Through the support of Brian McGavin and Harold Kruk, the bell choirs now have a new cupboard in the narthex with much needed space in which to store all their equipment. Thank you so much for this!



The Year Ahead

Marie Cahill, my colleague at Shaughnessy Heights Music School (SHMS), and I attended a Yamaha teacher's conference in Toronto this summer and are pleased to announce that group lessons for young children (ages 3/4, 4/5) are now being offered. As well, group lessons for seniors are also available. We offer our condolences to Robert Batt, our friend and theory teacher at SHMS, on the death of his father on September 17 in Montreal at the age of 95.

In an effort to make our worship services more engaging, and with the support of the Music and Worship Committee, we will experiment with strategic changes in how worship is directed from the front of the church for four weeks in the Fall and then we'll return to the former way of doing things and take time to listen to feedback from the congregation. Please let us know what you think!

In this time of interim leadership, how often will we hear the question "Where do we go from here?" If life is a series of challenges and lessons, then only by reflecting on our past triumphs and mistakes can we wisely choose the next road that we'll ultimately embrace. Sometimes the most difficult choices are the ones that can bring us the most rewards: sometimes the best roads to take are not even on the map.

* The composer is our own Dr. Ramona Luengen. The opera has 4 public performances at the Normal Rothstein Theatre, 950 W.41st on Sept.30, Oct.1 & 2: Fri & Sat eve at 7:30pm, Sat & Sun matinees at 3pm. Tickets only \$20. Call Vancouver Opera at 604-683-0222.

Celebrating and Worship

Worship Schedule

Sunday morning worship services begin at 10:00 am
(Child care, children & youth programs provided)

OCTOBER 9

Thanksgiving & Intergenerational Service

OCTOBER 30

All Saints Sunday & Communion Service

NOVEMBER 6

Reach Out Conference
service

NOVEMBER 20

Reign of Christ Sunday &
Interim Sunday -
a short worship service
in the Hall followed by the
“Celebrate Shaughnessy”
event.



Fall Fair Saturday, October 29

Please keep the fair in mind when you are cleaning out your cupboards, baking goods, or working on your crafts.

Conveners are in place for the following areas:

Bake Table	Audrey MacKenzie Lorna Bonar
Books	Pat Hudson, Pat McKenzie
Clothing	Lynda Hodgson Margot Arbogast
Crafts	Gayle Ansley, Pat Carpenter
Hot Dogs	Marg Brooke
Publicity	Alison MacLean
Games & Toys	Dola Gilmour
Coffee & Goodies	Marion Gillett & Betty Snodgrass
Money Collection	Jim & June Wing, Barb Wadman, Gordon Dungate
Garage Sale	Lorna Robinson
Sporting Goods	James Fraser & Cathy Lew
Haunted House	Jacinto & the Youth Group

We need volunteers to head up the following areas:

Gift Baskets	Security
Set up & clean up	Silent Auction

Anyone who is interested in helping out with the above or with new ideas for the Fair please call Elizabeth Kerklaan 604-266-0776.

Worship & Music News

by Clif Prowse, Chair of Worship & Music

Plans for a Fall Experiment on Staging to Facilitate Worship

The Worship & Music Committee looks forward to continuing the process of intentional change and growth while maintaining loving relationships within our congregation.

This Fall we plan to conduct an experiment for 4 weeks, while we use our existing staging to make our worship space more conducive to an active and participatory worship experience. The plan is to have the choir sit on chairs closer to the congregation, rather than sit or stand behind the chancel, largely removed and hidden from the congregation. In turn, this should encourage more active and joyous hymn singing.

This will be a short-term experiment. We invite feedback from the congregation. And everyone can be secure in the knowledge that no permanent changes will be made prior the selection of our permanent minister following the interim ministry.

We invite discussion with all as we seek to offer and receive leadership within the congregation in the area of worship and music. In particular, we seek to nurture the practice of worship in the congregation and to increase the participation in planning for worship by all participants of all ages.

Join Us October 12 at 7:30

We envision worship as a wholistic experience – a sacred activity – “in grateful devotion” to God, connecting our lived experience with scripture, tradition, and the Spirit, involving music, spoken word, sacraments, and silence by which our relationship with God is enhanced, illuminated and deepened. It is joyful, full of wonder and in awe of the mystery which is God. It involves all of us in the congregation and challenges and provokes us to faithful living as disciples of Jesus Christ. It involves the full diversity of SHUC participants in the divine drama of worship, where God is at the centre.

Come join us October 12 at 7:30 as we grapple with such questions as: Is effective worship “indigenous”? Does it grow out of the intentional involvement of all worshippers and their talents, not the style of a particular worship service? What do we know about what is indigenous to SHUC now? About what we hope it will look like in the years ahead?

Ministry Leadership

Money Matters

by John Christie, Treasurer

New Chair of Finance

We are very pleased to announce that Bill Sexsmith has agreed to become Chair of the Finance Committee. Bill has been active in many parts of our congregational life including

- chair of Administration Committee
- member of Executive Council
- chair of Future Membership Task Force
- member of Trustees
- member of recent JNAC
- member of mentoring group for student Minister

Bill looks forward to addressing the financial challenges ahead of us and plans to build on the successful foundation now in place. He has worked with a number of the members of the Financial Team already and is very happy to have the opportunity to reengage with them on the journey ahead.

Financial results to August 31

During the summer we have fallen a bit behind our financial plan.

	2005 actual	2005 budget	Actual - Budget
Total Revenue	\$335,289	\$342,278	\$ (6,989)
Total Expense	\$334,743	\$333,572	\$ 1,171
Total Net Income (Loss)	\$ 545	\$ 8,706	\$ (8,161)

The revenue shortfall is due both to lower givings and lower rental revenue. If your givings have fallen behind because you were away, please try to make them up again. If we all give generously in the next few months, we should be able to achieve a balanced outcome for 2005.

A successful Extravaganza on October 29 will also help us on the way.

Overall expenses are close to the budget. Our expenses for our new ministerial staff are higher than budget because we were fortunate that both Janet and Jacinto were able to start with us during August. The budget had assumed a start date of September 1.

The capital projects that have been completed to date have all been at or below the budgetted amounts. Some capital projects may be deferred until next year and the budgetted costs will be transferred to the new Long Term Sustainability Fund held by the Trustees.



Fall Stewardship Campaign

Marilyn Thorsteinsson has agreed to lead a Stewardship Campaign Team later in the Fall. Watch for more news of this in October and November.



The Community Meal team of volunteers at the first lunch offered Sept.21, 2005

Christmas Gift Boxes

from the Community Lunch Team

It's so important to have family at Christmas time! So this year the Community Lunch Team and SHUC folks will be family for the Community Lunch people. We are planning to give away gift boxes at the lunch on Dec.21, but need your help to fill them!

Please consider donating any of the following: socks, gloves, candles, toys, perfume, shaving cream, childrens & adult books, ornaments, crayons, soap, candy, fruit. We need items for men, women and children. Please leave them in the church office. Thank you!

Reaching Out and Caring

A Nursery Wish List

This Fall we are “sprucing up” the nursery. The old/broken toys and furniture have been removed and soon we will have a freshly painted space.



Now we need your help with new toys, a new carpet (neutral in colour), and a comfortable arm chair to sit and cuddle our children.

Among the toys needed are:

- Thomas the Train & his friends (non-motorized version)
- utensils, cups, plates for kitchen
- a garage
- phones
- small (dinky toy) cars
- balls of all sizes
- books that have sounds, pull-outs
- puzzles

Remember these toys are for children under 3 years of age. Please call Marg Brooke at 604-261-3408 before bringing any items to the nursery. Many thanks.

Calling All Reach Out Conference Volunteers!

We are looking for people who would like to volunteer to help with either registration, workshops, security, drivers to pick up speakers from the airport on Friday, Nov. 4 & Saturday, Nov. 5. There will be a sign up sheet at coffee hour on Sundays or contact the office (604-261-6377).

Reach Out Conference Registration

Have you signed up for the Reach Out Conference yet? Space is limited and we have some wonderful speakers, workshops and networking opportunities for you. Check out our website: www.shuc.ca or brochures on the information table outside the office.



At the celebration on Sept. 10, l to r: Irene Dungate, Margaret Walker, Holly Sui, Sue Yuen, Mary & Chuck Lew.

Oakridge House 20th Anniversary

by Marg Brooke

The afternoon celebration started off with a bang...of drums announcing the arrival of the Chinese lion dance team. They were there to bring us greetings and to wish us continued good luck in the years ahead. Oakridge House is an ongoing outreach project of SHUC. It is an 8-story brick apartment block located on the south-east corner of the Oakridge property. The apartment houses about 85 seniors and 6 younger adults with physical disabilities.

The festivities continued with a welcome from Marg Brooke who convened the party; Chuck Lew, co-chair of the board, bringing good wishes from SHUC; Peggy Lee, also co-chair representing the Canadian Chinese Activity Centre; and the Honourable Grace McCarthy who was our MLA at the time of the construction of the apartment and a long time supporter of our endeavors. Special guests included Margaret Walker, Irene and Gordon Dungate, Ed Strang, Jan and Attie Muller, and Dave Gray. These are some of the people who have been involved with Oakridge House in the past.

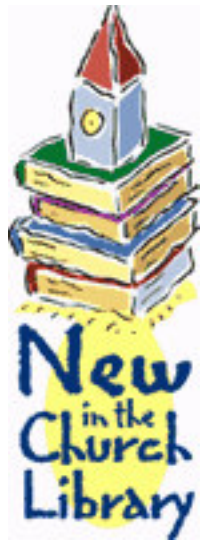
The party continued with a wonderful documentary produced by Alison Maclean. She has captured on film not only the past but the present and future of what Oakridge House is all about: the commitment of the board to the happiness and well-being of all our residents.

There may be someone reading this story who would like to become involved with this project. If so, please talk with one of our current board members: Chuck Lew, Jim Wing, Ian Paterson, Lucile Fraser, Brian Forster, Marg Brooke, and Alison Maclean.

Information

Book Marks

by Pat Hudson, Librarian



The Friends of the Library acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the collection:

From the Christopher Family and the Dickinson Smith Family, two books in memory of Dr. Hugh and Mrs. Alice MacCorkindale: **FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE** - Our Canadian Flag by Maxin Trottier and Brian Deine. **FOR ADULTS** - The Sins of the Scripture by John Shelby Spong.

From the Hudson Family in memory of Luanne Whiles: **FOR THE CHILDRENS COLLECTION** - Terry Fox, A Story of Hope by Maxine Trottier

FICTION ON EXTENDED LOAN - 2 books that deal with the contemporary issues of multiculturalism: The Kite Runner and Brick Lane. Both of these have been favourites of book clubs.

We are accepting used books for the October sale. Check your bookshelves! We will accept everything except text books. Please leave them in the library or the office.

Open House Review

by Pat Mitchell, Open House Coordinator

The Hall was a BUZZ of sounds at the Open House, Moving in the Spirit, on Sept. 11. Friends delighted in seeing friends; browsed through the displays from both the ministries and the building users; welcomed a few new faces; watched the happy children play; greeted the ministry staff; and enjoyed the refreshments. A wonderful morning! See you at church!

A Note From The Congregation: Thank you Pat Mitchell for organizing the successful event! You do this so well and we are grateful for your time and efforts.

The editor welcomes your suggestions, comments, thoughts and ideas for *The Grapevine*!

Call (604-261-6377 ext.12) or email (admin@shuc.ca) Christine in the church office.

Transitions

New Members Received on June 26, 2005

- *Adeline Natalia Parker*, infant daughter to Matthew & Alicja Parker, baptised
- *Kathy MacKean*, by transfer of membership from West Burnaby U.C.
- *Nina Matthews*, by re-affirmation of faith
- *Ric Matthews*, an ordained minister of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (and husband to Nina), was acknowledged formerly as a committed participant in the congregation.

Wedding

- *Grace Barbosa & Andrew Middleton* on Sept. 17, 2005

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