

Ministry Leadership

Moderator's Messages

Pastoral Letter, October 2007

The Rev. David Giuliano, 39th Moderator (2006-2009)

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the beautiful name of Jesus, through whose body we share our common life. I am writing you to offer encouragement and share some news.

In June, following a year of prayerful discernment about priorities, the General Council Executive approved a [plan reflecting those priorities](#). You can read more about that on the United Church website.

Among those priorities, though, is a reaffirmation that you, congregations, are the “primary mission unit” of The United Church of Canada. I thought we should let you know!

Most people, if they encounter our church at all, do so through a local church community. Your congregation is the primary way our understanding of the gospel mingles with the suffering and need of the world.

There are some things best done by pooling resources at the national level—including providing countless resources to support the ministry of your congregation and supporting our global partners and community ministries in Canada. Your continued support for the Mission and Service Fund makes that possible. However, when our congregations are vital and engaged in the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world, our national witness has credibility and our house is built on a solid foundation.

Some of our congregations are struggling. Some are experiencing a renewal of Spirit. In either case our hope is not for our survival or even growth but in what God can accomplish through us. The Book

of Isaiah records a promise that we will flourish like a watered garden when we care for the homeless, hungry, and oppressed. The health and vitality of our congregations depends on our response to the suffering of the world around us.

Jesus put it even more starkly: “For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it” (Mark 8.35). We need to continually rediscover not how to save our life but how to give it away for the gospel.

I am praying that more of us become concerned with Jesus’ call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and visit those who are sick, lonely, or in prison. I am praying that our preoccupation with getting people into church is transformed by a passion for getting the church out into the world. I am praying that we welcome strangers with a radical hospitality that sees in them the face of Christ—not an “identifiable giver” or a “potential committee member”! I am praying that our worries about buildings and budgets are overtaken by excitement for the mission of our church.

I do not know what that will look like, there in your community. Perhaps you do. I do know that it will involve risking familiar and precious belongings and customs.

I think I was elected Moderator because of three simple words that were put in me for our church: “Be not afraid.” They are words that resound throughout the gospel story. They are not a call to courage, but a call to faith. Let us move forward in faith, not fear, to embrace our call to life. Let us encourage one another toward God’s dream for us and through us in the world.

Peace be with you,

David Giuliano (The Right Reverend)
Moderator

Ministry Leadership

Pamela Jeffery, a Welcome Addition to the SHUC Team

By Andrew Lew

If you don't have children in the Sunday School or in one of the youth groups your only exposure to Pamela Jeffery might be through her leadership in the children's time during Sunday Services. You probably realize that you are seeing only the tip of the iceberg so here is an attempt to introduce you to Pamela and to give you a peek at some of the ways that she is making a difference at SHUC.

Since joining SHUC in September Pamela's been busy organizing and scheduling the programming for the Sunday School, choosing the lessons, organizing the teachers, launching youth programs, getting to know the families, and working closely with Gordon How to coordinate their efforts so that their collaboration makes our community at SHUC better than simply the sum of its parts. She exudes calm and order but those of us who work with her appreciate that this comes from thorough preparation. If, as the saying goes, the devil is in the details, Pamela has cast out the devil to another dimension.

Speaking as one of the teachers in our Sunday School, I am excited by the leadership that Pamela has shown in this area. Our Sunday School curriculum was already taking steps to transition to a program known as "Godly Play". You may have heard something about this already, but Godly Play is a teaching method that is a way of telling the stories and teaching the lessons of the Bible that has been proven to be extremely effective and engaging for people of all ages (not just children). It will take some time to complete this transition and to train our teachers to use this method, but we are fortunate in that Pamela is recognized as an experienced leader and teacher for training others in this program, both here in the lower main-

land and at Naramata.

Pamela and her family, Ken, Victoria, aged 12 and Mathew, aged 9, have taken up residence in the manse. While Pamela did not have to move far, coming from North Delta where she was born and raised, she and her family are enjoying settling into a new neighborhood, which comes with new schools, and new places to explore. Please join me in helping to make Pamela and her family feel welcome at SHUC.



Frustrated with your PC?
Need hardware / software fixed?
Need a home network?
Cabling or Wireless?
Need software training?
Install a new hard drive?

Virus cleansing & prevention

Call:

Tony Weall

tony.weall@telus.net (604) 261 2144

Personal Service, one-on-one training.
Professionally Delivered

Youth Ministry

PEACE!!!

By Pamela Jefferey

During worship on Sunday, November 11, the congregation was invited to share what gives them peace, knowing that if we start within ourselves, we can share God's Peace with the world!

Peace is...

- Being in the garden
- Animals
- Laughter with a friend, playing with friends,
- Playing hockey or sports
- Singing together, music,
- Nature, listening to the sounds of waves lapping against the rocks on the shore, looking out at the ocean, a walk in the woods,
- Big hugs, loving thy neighbours, warm cat on your lap
- Worshipping at SHUC
- Clean, fed, loved
- Laying down my sword/shield cause I don't study war no more
- Preparing dinner
- Contemplation
- Having my loving family together
- When everyone cooperates
- Learning from our mistakes
- Being tolerant of other faiths

"Peace is a gentle thing. Take the day of remembrance or known as Remembrance Day. These are some things to remember. You remember the soldiers and people. You remember the cities and countries. You remember the people who were innocent." – written by Stuart Wall

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said,
"Would you like to say the blessing?"
"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.
"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered.
The daughter bowed her head and said,

"Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

BC Conference Junior Youth Conference

From November 2-5, 2007, three youth from Shaughnessy Heights United Church joined 50 United Church youth from across BC at Naramata Centre. This is what they say about their experience: **What was the best part of the weekend?** Having our own cabin, doing the different activity groups, large group worship times, two theme songs, got to miss two days of school, food was great, good sleep, block parties, dance jewelry making, exchanging email addresses, new friends... **What was the part of the weekend that you could have done without?** One less worship time, the vomiting episodes on the bus, noisy neighbours, too much singing, cold Chili Buns... **What was interesting/fun about the theme, "Get on the Jesus Bus!"?** Lots of things to think about, ABC's of Jesus, music, Jesus is a Miracle!, learned things I didn't know about Jesus, the ABC's of Jesus (H is for fully HUMAN – Jesus used the bathroom, too!)... **Would you like to go next year?** YES YES YES!!!

Peaceful Parents at Christmas....

Take some time for yourself this December to have lunch with a friend or spouse, take a nap or finish your Christmas baking! On **Saturday, December 15th from 10 am – 1 pm, drop off your children** (ages 3-11) at the church where they will play games, create, eat lunch, sing, dance and have some fun! This opportunity for Parental Sabbath is open to 20 youngsters. If you are interested in registering your children, please contact Pamela Jefferey. Cash donations are appreciated and the monies raised will be

Music Ministry

used to support youth from our church in attending United Church conferences and retreats.

From the Chair of the SHUC Board

Well its hard to believe we're headed to the holiday season, but when my son Benjamin e-mails his wish list to make sure I don't procrastinate, you know Christmas is just around the corner. And of course, Advent is near as well. Now how do we celebrate one and be mindful of the other? Around SHUC at this time of year, much preparation and planning has already begun.

Decorating the Chancel and other parts of the church, which music for the Christmas service, stuffing backpacks for Kate Booth House, blankets and food for the downtown eastside, and all the other activities with family and friends.

But how do you calm the noise to truly reflect on the coming of Christ and its meaning to us personally and the world. I haven't figured that out yet, but know if I say a little prayer for those who make SHUC such a spiritual place take, joy in the accomplishments of others, & be thankful for my blessings, I will, at the very least, be on the right path. So to Gordon, Pamela, Tom, Roy, Ramona, Sue, Janet, Harold, Phyllis, Gwen, Council and everyone else, may the peace Christ be with you.

Best Regards,

Allan Cunningham

3-year-old Reese:
"Our Father, Who does art in heaven,
Harold is His name.

Amen.



Attentive Waiting

I am often asked what exactly it is that church musicians do. My most recent response has been 'we wait.' We wait weeks to perfect a choir introit or hand bell anthem and often wait months while learning larger choral pieces. We wait during years of practice before being able to present complicated and demanding keyboard works. For all church musicians, this process of waiting requires both discipline and commitment, and its gifts come from both preparedness and grace, or what musicians have traditionally called inspiration. When one realizes that anything of value that is sung or played comes to fruition despite one's shortcomings, making music in the end indeed may be inspiring, but more importantly, it becomes a profoundly humbling activity – a redemptive act, shall we say, that is definitely worth the waiting.

This notion of waiting is also an important dimension of our life as a congregation. The season of Advent is, of course, a time of waiting. As a congregation we always have to wait while the search is on for a new minister. Every Sunday we experience 'attentive' waiting during worship. This latter kind of waiting is the time we take for the praying that we do, the poetry that we read and the music that we make.

At a recent Sunday service during the sermon, Rev. Tom Miles took the time to have us all read *Psalms 139* in unison. How refreshing was that! In the midst of today's revolution in instant communication, it's a blessing that we

(cont'd on pg. 6)

still respect the slow way that words can work on the human psyche. Even the ancients spoke of ‘masticating’ words of scripture in order to fully digest them. At the same service, the Spirit Ringers softly accompanied Pat Hudson reading the poetry of Bishop Herbert O’Driscoll (*God, when I Stand*, VU 618). The moving result was definitely greater than the sum of its parts.

Poetry, prayer and music together begin deep within a person, beyond the reach of language. It’s in the convergence of these three that the most profound connections are made and speak to the mysteries of life. St. Anthony, a fourth century desert monk, said that perfect prayer is one we don’t understand: the same can be said for the connection between great poetry and music. But we must wait, we must listen. Listening, like waiting, is a quality of attention that both singing and praying both tend to cultivate.

Deep down we seem glad to know that choirs are singing and ministers are praying. That is what others want and expect of us, because if we do our job right, we will express things that others may feel, or know, but can’t or won’t say. But attentive waiting is a quality of attention that enables ALL of us to participate in meaningful worship, whether as a reader, singer, player or listener. If we have good liturgy, like good poetry and music, it reveals itself through attentive listening and waiting. As people of God who value the symbolic act, may we practice attentive waiting not only during this season of Advent, but every Sunday of the year.

Looking for a perfect and inexpensive Christmas gift?

Why not give the Shaughnessy Church Choir’s CD to your friends this year? The recording contains over an hour of (repeatable) listening pleasure, eliminates your need to trudge through stores in search of presents – and your purchase will sup-

port the choir’s attempt to organize a short tour to Seattle in the Spring.

CDs are only \$15 – no GST or hidden charges! – and will be available in both the Narthex and the Hall after service today.

Worship & Music Committee



Christmas is a time for family get-togethers and joyous reunions.

We on the Worship & Music committee hope that all of our extended church family will have a chance to get together with us and have a joyous reunion. Bring your friends, children and grand-children too. We’re planning on 3 services on Christmas Eve, so come to the one that suits you best.

We have the feeling that “something special” is taking place in our worship services, under the inspired leadership of Gordon How and Pamela Jeffrey, and our wonderful music leaders, Roy Campbell and Ramona Luengen.

And if you are traveling elsewhere to see family and friends, we’ll welcome you any Sunday morning at 10.

Wishing you peace, love and joy,

Clif Prowse, Lee McKimm and Pat Carpenter for the Worship & Music Committee

Entertainment Books on Sale Again. Please support your Hand Bell Choirs! Books are still \$46 and are available each Sunday during coffee hour at the Action Table.

What's Happening: Events & News

Fall Fair ... A Tremendous Success

This year's Fair was the most successful yet. The net amount of money raised for the church totaled \$17,800. That was an increase of about \$1,500 from last year. More than \$6,000 came from the Silent Auction tables, thanks to so many of your generous donations. Isn't it gratifying that we raised over \$10,000 selling all those unused or unwanted items that we cleared out of our homes? It appears that we have established our Fair as a place to come for some community spirit and interesting buys. We noticed quite a few familiar faces from previous years. Wouldn't it be great to keep the momentum going and break through \$20,000 one of these years!

After filling the Hall and Gym with our household castoffs, some of you may think we won't be able to find any more items to donate for next year's Fair. Just keep on eye on things that you don't use but may be of value to others. Also keep your ears tuned to friends who are talking about clearing out their homes. Those are good sources of donations for us. Once again, we have started accepting donations for next year's event. Items, marked - Fall Fair - can be dropped off behind the Reception desk. Any suggestions you have for next year's Fair please email Elizabeth Kerklaan kerklaan@telus.net.

Fall Fair 2008...October 25th.



Elizabeth relieved it's almost over !

Kitchen Fund Gets Boost From SHUC Golfers

By John Banfield

After a dismal week, Friday September 30th turned out to be bright and sunny as approximately 20 golfers teed off at Tsawwassen Golf Club for a fund raising tournament to help raise funds for the much needed kitchen renovations. As the scores were turned in it became apparent that the PAR givers at church weren't able to do the same with their golf scores. After a cocktail hour of explaining the good and the bad, everyone tucked into a great smorgasbord and the waited anxiously for the results.

Big winners of the low gross were Bob Dickson and Charlotte Burns. Longest drives went to Ken Ronalds and Sue Dickson and closest to the hole went to Rudy Kerklaan and Gwen Lindsay. Everyone agreed that although the course was par 65, it presented a good challenge and should be a candidate for next year.

Overall the event raised over \$8,000 counting the generous support of many members who helped sponsor a hole. Alison MacLean deserves full marks for almost single-handedly conceiving the idea and arranging all the details.

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Reaching Out & Caring



Wrapped Gifts or Cheques for Kate Booth House by Dec. 2nd

Kate Booth House is having their annual Christmas party for the children and mothers who have suffered violence in their lives. For the past six years Shaughnessy Heights has gathered wrapped and labeled new gifts for the children attending the party. This gesture has been so important in the success of their festivities and often these are the only gifts many children do receive.

I invite you to take this opportunity to share at this time of year— connect with others and make a difference in their lives. For young families it can be a way to involve your children in pitching a gift for another child. For your convenience this year cheques can also be accepted in lieu of gifts and I will buy the gifts and wrap them for the event. There will be an envelope in the office for cheques (only).

Your wrapped gifts can be dropped off at the office anytime before December 2nd

Any questions or ideas??? Please call me at 604-871-1544. Thank You!—from **Ann Thorsteinsen**



Rev. Tom Miles & Alan Cunningham after church A celebration with cake for Tom's time here at SHUC! Thanks for your wisdom



Donate a Poinsettia

Please consider assisting with our much appreciated presentation of a lovely poinsettia to each of about 60 of our members who are unable to attend church. Your financial contribution in memory of your loved one will be acknowledged in the morning service of December 16 when the poinsettias will be delivered.

Please support this endeavor by leaving your donation on the offering plate or in the church office ensuring there is a covering note explaining for whom in remembrance you are making the donation.

The deadline is Sunday December 9. The delivery of poinsettias by volunteers will be completed on Sunday December 16.

Learning

LIBRARY NEWS FOR THE CHILDREN

Once in a while a book for children to read during the Christmas season becomes an instant hit. **THEY FOLLOWED A BRIGHT STAR** by **JOAN ALAVEDRA** is just such a book. We are all familiar with the story of the shepherds and kings and the bright star they followed. What of the others who heard the voice of an angel, an angel who told them to work and to wait? Those who would later play a part in the miracles to come.

This story is based on a poem by the author, written for his daughter in 1943. Later the cellist Pablo Casals set it to music and it became the oratorio "The Manger". This was Alavedra's contribution to a Peace Initiative, in which he, Albert Schweitzer, and others, struggled for world peace and against nuclear armament, a struggle that continues to this day.



Betty Roaf & son, Norm.

A Happy 95th birthday (on Dec. 5th, 2007) to Betty Roaf! What's the secret?

SENIORS and FRIENDS

Come for lunch! **Wednesday, January 23, 2008** at Noon, in the Lounge.

Rides are available. Soup, sandwich and dessert for \$6.00.

Programme:

Destination China – Dawna Claxton will present highlights from her October 2007 trip

Please sign up at the Action Table on Sundays or call the church Reception desk (604.261.6377) any morning.

See you at Lunch!

Pat Mitchell, Co-ordinator.

Senior Resident of the Year"

Congratulations to Ward Allen who recently received the "Senior Resident of the Year" award from the Senior's Residences Association of BC. He was presented this award at the association's annual meeting in Whistler in Oct. 23.

On accepting the award' Ward said that living in the senior residences gives residents the opportunity to develop wonderful, new, abiding friendships and provides them a new opportunity to volunteering. Whereas age may have precluded personal voluntary work, groups of us now are enabled to assist the less fortunate in our community collectively. Congratulations Ward and well deserved!

Transitions

Upcoming Events at SHUC

Saturday, Dec. 1st at 4 PM

Zing Children's Choir

Zing! Noel

<http://zingvancouver.ca>

Friday, Dec. 14th at 8 PM

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

*Sounds of Christmas with the
Seycove School Senior Choir*

http://members.shaw.ca/vwmc/vwmc_intro.htm

Sunday, Dec. 16th at 8 PM

Phoenix Chamber Choir

A Phoenix Christmas

www.phoenixchamberchoir.bc.ca



Deaths

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the friends & family of . . .

- Barbara Jane Robinson
(October 13, 2007)
- Jim (W. James) Knickerbocker
(October 26, 2007)

Advent / Christmas Season at SHUC

- **Holly Tea - November 28**
1:30 PM Entertainment starts
- **Advent 1 — December 2**
10:00 AM - Intergenerational Service.
- **Advent 2 — December 9**
10:00 AM – White Gift Sunday
6:30 PM – Journey to Bethlehem
- **Advent 3 — December 16**
10:00 AM – Service of Lessons & Carols
- **Advent 4 - December 23**
10:00 AM - "Jesus Christ: The Apple Tree"
- **Christmas Eve Celebration - December 24**
4:30 PM - for Young Children and Families
7:00 PM - for All Ages, Church & Community
10:00 PM - Candlelight Communion
- **December 30**
10:00 AM - Worship for the New Year - Sacrament of Baptism

Staff

Rev. Dr. Gordon How

Minister

604-261-6377, ext.10
ghow@shuc.ca

Pamela Jeffery

*Minister for Children,
Youth & Families*

604-261-6377, ext.15
pjeffery@shuc.ca

Roy Campbell

Music Director & Organist

604-261-6377, ext.14
music@shuc.ca

Sue Zhu

Administrator

604-261-6377, ext.12
admin@shuc.ca

Harold Kruk

Resident Custodian

604-261-6377, ext.81
custodian@shuc.ca

Janet Livingstone

Accountant

604-261-6377, ext.21
accounting@shuc.ca

Ramona Luengen

Choir Director

604-437-9200
ml@phoenixchamberchoir.bc.ca

Phyllis Hayter

Memorial Coordinator

phyllis@shuc.ca

Gwen Olson

Wedding Coordinator

gwennethl@shaw.ca

Upcoming Events at SHUC in January



Saturday, Jan. 11th at 8 PM

Pre-concert talk at 7:15 PM

Early Music Vancouver

The Bach Cantata Project:
Alto Cantatas & Double Concertos

www.earlymusic.bc.ca

Our thanks to Joyce Hodge of BondRepro for the church humour & of course, the printing of our newsletter every month:-)

www.bondrepro.com

Grapevine "Staff"

Editors:

Olivia Edwards, John Banfield, Sue Zhu

Layout:

Olivia Edwards

Production & Distribution: Pat McKenzie

Email the editors:

admin@shuc.ca: or /
oliviaedwards@telus.net

Next Grapevine (Lent)

- Submission deadline:
Jan. 28th, 2008
- For pick-up on:
Feb. 10th, 2008

Fall 2007 at SHUC

