

# The Grapevine



## Message from the Minister...

It has been a long time since many of us took Lent so seriously that we “traveled a different road” to get to Easter. Even though Lent has long been associated with journeying and being on the road, we generally pay little attention to focusing on the meaning of Christ’s life journey towards his arrest and death.

Easter, and hence Lent, is very early this year. Here we are starting it at the beginning of February! So, we have a sense of traveling through Lent a little sooner than we expect. Whether you are busy with other things – and whether you feel Easter is too early this year – I have some suggestions for you for Lent:

- Take some time to come out of your busy routines to find the God who gives us the chance to begin again and again. We draw near to feel the warmth of God’s presence.
- Whether in church or in your own quiet times – be prepared to be surprised, maybe even astonished, in the presence of God. When we journey with God, joy walks along the road with us, even in darkness.

- Gather in the calm of this time. Rest in the peace of God’s presence. Draw near to the One who brings peace to our world and to our hearts.

Lent is the time to begin the journey to rebirth, to resurrection, to renewal. It is a time to seek the healing that marks the beginning of a new creation – personally and in community.

May we all know the Grace of God in this season.

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Gordon How

### **Lent, Good Friday & Easter Events**

#### **Lenten Journey Begins**

- **Shrove Tuesday (Feb. 5th<sup>th</sup>)**
- **Ash Wednesday (Feb. 6th)**
- **Palm Sunday (March 16th)**
- **Good Friday (March 21st at 11 am)**  
**(Service at Shaughnessy Heights)**
- **EASTER (March 23rd)**

Shaughnessy Heights United Church

*A Christian faith community welcoming people at various stages of their faith journey*

1550 West 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6M 1A7

Tel: 604-261-6377 Fax: 604-261-3102 Email: admin@shuc.ca

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# What's Happening: Events & News

## From Chair of the Council

As an aside, my daughter thought it humorous that I should be looking at my 60th birthday this year and commented that I was so old that I probably owed Moses \$10 bucks. Hopefully that had nothing to do with my past credit ratings, but I refrained from a rejoinder about having children makes one rather light in the wallet.

This leads me to the excitement of seeing so many children and parents taking advantage of our programs and how Pamela has been implementing a new and welcoming place for youth and adolescents as well. This originates from the Congregations desire to build a sound foundation for attracting new families to the SHUC experience and we are moving forward with that goal in mind.

The next six months will be very busy as well as we move into our 80th year on West 33rd. Much planning is in progress from kitchen renovations and organ upgrades to Godly Play and celebrations. We do have challenges however, from keeping our financial house in order, finding enough space to conduct our programs, dealing with the other facility users, finalizing a new relationship with Daycare and thinking about who will be on Council for the next few years. Many people have worked hard on behalf of the congregation, and we are deeply indebted to them.

Thank you all and "God Bless",  
Allan Cunningham



### Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 17th - after the church service in the Church Hall

Gather in the Hall to discuss and vote on the budget for the coming year.

## Seniors And Friends

**Seniors' Lunch – Wednesday,  
February 27 at Noon, in the  
Lounge**

Come for Soup, Sandwich and Dessert -  
\$7.00

- Rides will be available upon request
- Programme:  
The British Columbia Puzzle

Please sign up at the Action Table on  
Sundays, or call the Church reception  
desk 604 261 6377, any morning.

Mark your calendars:

**April 9<sup>th</sup> The Daffodil Tea**  
**April 30<sup>th</sup> Seniors' Lunch**  
**May 28<sup>th</sup> Seniors' Lunch**

Looking forward to seeing you!

*Pat Mitchell*  
604- 948- 4894

## Journey to Bethlehem



Who were those Three Wise Men at the "Journey to Bethlehem"? (Clif Prowse, John Banfield & Bill Sexsmith)

As part of the Christmas celebrations, on Sunday, December 9th, the Congregation was taken with the help of guides on a candle lit journey through the Church. Hopefully, give the younger members came away with a concept of what the real journey was like.

The Angel Gabriel met each group before they journeyed through the desert, then Bedouin nomads provided water and sent the groups in the right direction. Along the way the followers found there was no room in the Inns, but met the Wise Men who showed the myrrh, frankincense and gold they were taking to the baby Jesus.

In the Chapel, the travellers were met by a shepherd and an Angel who gave the news of a baby born in a stable in Bethlehem. Indeed, outside the side door was a stable with Mary and Joseph and an 8 month old baby surrounded by a real pony and rabbit.

What with costumes, animals and enthusiastic actors, the Journey was an exciting and instructive celebration. Many thanks to Sue Dickson who organised it, and to the many volunteers that made it come to life.

## Presbytery Update

The major issue that is being explored by Presbytery is the *governance model* by which the court operates. Currently, Presbytery meets five times per year. Smaller committees and the Executive meet more often. Unfortunately, many committees currently do not function, which results in majority of the Presbytery work being left to the Executive. At our January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, we discussed ways to better operate. Suggestions have been taken by the Executive to reflect upon and provide recommendations for change.

*Advocacy ministry* was also discussed at the January presbytery meeting. Wilson Heights United has funded a part-time advocate since 2000 and they are no longer able to support this important work alone. Presbytery recently discussed the need to develop a fully supported advocacy ministry and voted that Vancouver South affirm advocacy as a priority mission with Presbytery oversight and 1 year funding from the Congregational Renewal fund. More discussion on this issue is to follow. If you are interested in learning about advocacy, Wilson Heights (1634 East 41st Avenue) is hosting an event on Wednesday February 27th at 7pm.

*Young Adult Retreat* 2008 is happening February 15-17<sup>th</sup> at Chehalis Healing House in Agassiz. If you know a young adult (between the ages of 18-30ish) who might be interested in attending, they can contact Eric at the YAYA office (604.321.5753).

Blessings, Lauren

# Ministry Leadership

## **Full of Gratitude....**

I couldn't think of what else I would say in this issue of the Grapevine except that I am filled with such overwhelming gratitude for all that has happened in the last 5 months. I see God's amazing Spirit at work in this place in so many different spaces and I am blessed to be able to participate.

A sign of God's Spirit is the amazing energy and dedication that people have put into the start of Godly Play at Shaughnessy Heights United Church. We are blessed to have a large group of people who have created and painted and hammered (and sawed!), learned stories, bought supplies, participated in the Godly Play Introductory Sessions, shared stories with the Grade 4-7 Godly Play classroom, and the list goes on!

Another sign of God's Spirit .... TEN youth, ages 9-12, from our congregation will be participating in the Children's Retreat at Chehalis Healing House in mid- February. Please pray with the leaders and over 60 United Church children participating in this event, that they may have a time of fun, rest and renewal and discover ways to "Pass the Peace, Please!"

The list goes on - there are many other spirit-filled moments throughout the halls of Shaughnessy Heights United Church. And for this, we give God thanks.

Pamela Jeffery  
Children, Youth and Families Minister

## **Celebrating Staff Anniversaries and Achievements – Where did the time go?**

*Ministry and Personnel Committee by Heather F. Clarke*

It is indeed true that time passes quickly - especially when you are having fun, life is good, and you continue to flourish with new challenges, opportunities and rewards. In fact, it is often hard to remember just how much time has passed – not only the minutes and hours but the years as well. Case in point – in “debriefing” the choir’s recording for the CBC Choral Competition at the “Chesh” – Ramona said she’d been at SHUC “oh...for a couple of years.” Not so – we’ve had her inspiring choral leadership since September 2004 – going on to four years.

While we might be concerned about our memory when this occurs, the Ministry and Personnel Committee members take a different view. We are delighted when our wonderful staff can't recall how long they've been here – hoping that this time warp means they feel valued, enjoy their relationship with SHUC and each other, and are able to use their gifts and talents effectively. But we can't leave that to chance – or take it for granted. We are blessed with a staff team whose tenure at SHUC spans more than a decade to just a few months and one who keeps returning to us. This diversity is enriching for all of us – a gift to recognize and celebrate!

Part of M&P's responsibilities is to do an annual performance review with each staff member – offering an opportunity to reflect on how goals for that year were met, receive

*(Cont'd on next page)*

## Ministry Leadership

*(Cont'd from pg. 4)*

feedback and consider goals for the coming year. Is it a time to celebrate achievements and contributions to SHUC's mission? Thus M&P recently established a practice to recognize each staff member's anniversary with SHUC and to celebrate their collective contributions to SHUC. We thought you would be interested in knowing staff anniversary dates:

Roy Campbell – April 1995

Harold Kruk – September 2000

Janet Livingstone – September 2001

Ramona Luengen – September 2004

Sue Zhu – January 2007

Gordon How – August 2007

(most recent appointment – but many previous ones)

Pamela Jeffery – September 2007

Stay tuned for the more information about the staff celebration!



*Pastoral Callers Luncheon honouring Tom Miles*

## Pastoral Callers Thank Rev. Tom Miles

*by Lois Millar, Past Chair, Pastoral Care Committee*

On January 14, the Pastoral Callers hosted a lunch honoring Tom Miles. Tom was appointed Pastoral Care Minister in July of 2005. He spent one day a week at SHUC. One of his "jobs" for the next two years was leading the Callers, a group he helped to establish.

The Callers keep in contact with SHUC members who can no longer attend church services and functions on a regular basis. Lois Millar spoke for each of the twenty members by thanking Tom for his caring and nurturing of us as well as all the people he spoke with and visited. Rev. Miles continues as a part time minister at St. Andrews Wesley United Church.



Rev. Tom Miles & Lois Millar



## Report from the Trustees

### Donations

We have been blessed over the past year by significant donations to our endowment funds, which are overseen by the church's trustees. These include donations from Art Nordman in memory of Phyllis, Jim Robinson in memory of Barbara and the Lindsay family for the Lindsay Study Leave Fund. These new donations have been invested with the existing funds to provide a long term base of support for SHUC and its mission. The income from the Lindsay Study Leave Fund is used as requested to assist our staff in their professional development which benefits us all.

### New tax benefits

Did you know that last year's federal budget provided new tax benefits for donating shares to SHUC? If the company is being taken over, e.g. BCE, formerly Bell Canada, you can donate your shares to SHUC and receive a tax receipt for the full value of the shares without being subject to any capital gains tax. Please contact John Banfield at 604-731-8608 for more details.

### Fund investments

The endowment funds are invested by Phillips, Hager & North, a Vancouver firm of independent investment managers, in a mix of bonds and stocks. The funds are invested in accordance with the investment policy statement that has been adopted by the trustees after consulting with the investment managers.

Our current investment policy is for an asset mix of 75% bonds and 25% stocks.

On December 31, 2007 their total market value was \$1,278,000. It has no doubt declined due to the recent market fluctuations. However, the funds are invested for the long term and that will include some down periods as well as some up periods. We are confident that our current asset mix and the conservative nature of the underlying investments will serve us well over the long term. We continue to monitor the investment results regularly and to review the investment policy with the investment managers at least once every year.

John M. Christie,  
Chair, Trustees

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## SHUC Property Committee

### Donations for SHUC

Although Shaughnessy Heights United Church has a fair amount of storage space, recently expanded with new shelving, there are limitations. Unless controlled we find unidentified items dumped on us (with the best of intentions!) which, unless ruthlessly sorted out, create overload problems which, in turn, cause housekeeping problems.

If you wish to donate anything to S.H.U.C., particularly for the Fall Fair, please mark it such so that it can be stored appropriately.

If donations to the Fall Fair can be made closer to the fair date so much the better. It is recognized, however, that circumstance such as house downsizing or home space restrictions may make donations months ahead of the Fall Fair necessary.

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# Music Ministry

## Ministry & Worship Committee

*By Clif Prowse, Q.C. (Chair Of W & M)*

SHUC had a “first” in January – the first use of a “powerpoint” presentation during our sanctuary worship, as Pamela showed some beautiful and vivid illustrations while reading a story.

Choir members are beaming with pride after a long day Saturday recording some new and beautiful a capella music for entry into the CBC national choral competition.

And Gordon’s sermon struck home as he peeled back new layers of meaning from the familiar parable of the “lost sheep”.

As each of us struggles in our own way to find God’s meaning for us in this time and place, community worship at SHUC is bound to be about tradition and change. In February, our congregation will start making decisions about worship and community: modest changes to the chancel (and essential maintenance on the organ) to enhance our worship experience; and modest maintenance and updating changes to the kitchen to enhance our ongoing capacity for community-building and hospitality.

Thanks to the efforts of many, we are blessed by a strong financial position. This reflects the strength of our worship and music leaders. It also reflects our relationship with the Korean Presbyterians. It isn’t an accident that we borrowed their “powerpoint” projector. Maybe we can learn more from our relationship with them?

*[A hearty congratulations to our own Clif Prowse who was recently made a Queen’s Council]*

## Organ Grinders Committee Update

January 2008

Following the direction of the executive council and the congregation the Organ Grinders Committee was formed in Sept. 2007 to address the refurbishing our organ and chancel.

### **The organ:**

There has never been any major maintenance work done on our organ. There has been some decline in the organ and further deterioration is inevitable as the leathers (similar to a valve) age. The pipes and keyboard also need to be cleaned. The benefit of the work is that we will be investing in the maintenance of a million dollar instrument. In order to ensure that Roy has an instrument capable of producing the music we are so grateful to hear, the time has arrived to begin the work. The estimate of cost to completely clean the pipes and replace the leathers is \$30,000.00.

### **The chancel:**

In every discussion about the organ, the major problem identified is the current brick wall and wooden screen in front of the pipes. Musicians and organ experts claim that between 50-79% of the quality of the sound is being blocked. The shading of music and the quality of sound is drastically affected making it impossible for artists and audiences to fully appreciate the capabilities of the magnificent instrument.

Information about the current set-up of the choir loft, the organ keyboard, the lectern, the pulpit and the rood beam leads us to recommend that they be left as is.

# Learning

## Bookmarks



The year ended on a high note, as we looked back at the overwhelming number of donations that we received. Many thanks to all of you. We added to that list at year end and wish to thank the following people for their donations;

- The Sacred Path Companion - A guide to walking the Labyrinth to Heal and Transform from Kathy McKean
- Lead Kindly Light, The English Book of Well-loved Hymns and their Writers from Gwen Horne
- Race Against Time by Stephen Lewis, 5 CDs from the 2005 Massey Lecture from Margaret Brooke
- Living with Grief, Lose in Later Life produced by The Hospice Foundation of America from Florence MacKenzie
- A Simple Monk, Writings on His Holiness the Dalai Lama from Carla Banfield

For The Lenten Season:

- Where the Spirit Dwells, Lenten Reflections on Home by Glenys Huws donated by Elizabeth Kerklaan

Friends of the Library

Pat Hudson

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*Stay tuned in March to hear whether our Sanctuary Choir has made it to the quarter-finals of the CBC Choral Competition !*

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## Entertainment Book Sales a Success

The Spirit Ringers thank all of you who supported our fundraiser by purchasing an Entertainment Book for 2008. We sold all of our books and raised \$535. This money will be used for hand bell music and repairs.

Do keep your books handy and remember to use them often to take advantage of all the great savings!

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## Note to the Grapevine Editors

Dear Editors: Congratulations on an inspiring Christmas 2007 issue of *Grapevine*. From feedback I've received, it was also a welcome and enriching read for congregation members who don't make it to our services or even some of our activities.

"Attentive Waiting" is worth reading more than once – thank you Roy (and Ramona?). Your message of "...attentive waiting is a quality of attention that enables ALL of us to participate in meaningful Worship [and spiritual growth]..... may we practice attentive waiting not only during this season of Advent, but every Sunday of the year" is something that truly struck a chord (pardon the pun) with me – and its still vibrating!

Thank you,  
Heather Clarke

# Reaching Out And Caring

## Stewardship of the Heart

This is going to be an exciting year for Shaughnessy Heights United Church. Stewardship of the Heart involves our Mission and Service in the Community. Last year we successfully distributed numerous Back-packs filled with street essentials.

In February I will be collecting items for the Wish Centre and First United. The items needed are as follows: nine Back Packs, 20 small bottles of Hand Sanitizer, Make-up (samples or new), 12 pairs of women's stockings, travel brush and comb sets (20), Dental Floss (22), small blankets for the Packs-(8).

SHUC was so generous last year that I have all the Tooth Brushes, Tooth Paste, Socks, and Rain Ponchos that I need. A special thank you to Nancy Brodie for her donation of Hand Bags, Rain Poncho's, and Soap for all the Ladies. Please bring items to church on Sunday or leave at Reception.

When I dropped off the Back Packs last year, one of the recipients asked why people at Shaughnessy would care about them. He was so grateful. The kindness of strangers is a powerful gift, and maybe, we gave some people a little bit of hope.

Our next Fund Raising Golf Tournament will be held in July.

Best wishes,  
Alison MacLean  
Stewardship Chair

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## Nicest Prayer I Have Heard In Along Time...

(with thanks to Heather Clarke)

Heavenly Father, Help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares .

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together .

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear such as our spouse, children, brothers and sisters. Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love.

If you send this then you have a chance to touch people.

# Reaching Out And Caring - at First U. Church

*Inspired by the Christian Gospel which nurtures, empowers and Liberates, First United Church Mission is an inner city ministry of the United Church of Canada. Call by the Spirit to be part of the downtown Eastside of Vancouver, this ministry:*

- *Affirms the worth of individuals*
- *Empowers communities, and*
- *Works for social justice.*

## **Our Presence: In the heart of the Downtown Eastside**

The presence of the United Church of Canada in the downtown eastside of Vancouver serves as a commitment of the United Church to live out it's faith in a suffering part of creation—an island of poverty-amid richness and abundance unequaled in most of the world.

## **Who We Are: An outreach of the United Church Family**

The Mission that is First United Church is sustained by the partnership and participation of numerous United Church congregations in the lower mainland and, indeed, from across the country. Many organizations and businesses also donate volunteer time and goods to sustain the life and work of the Mission

We are a weaving of many different people, congregations, and community groups who participate in the mission that is First United Church.

## ***Our Work: Committed to building community***

The work of First United Church Mission continues, bringing hope, compassion and practical assistance to the disadvantaged men, women and children who live in an area that contains Canada's poorest postal code and most expensive real estate.

Between 500 – 700 people a day come through our front doors for help. Programs and services we provide include free clothing, groceries, nourishment for the body (morning soup, coffee and sandwiches, weekly dinners,) nourishment for the soul (a mail box address, phones, letter writing, showers, pastoral care and a safe place to come) and practical help including paralegal advocacy, assistance with welfare problems, housing, and filling out of government forms.

## **United Church congregations make a difference**

We are deeply grateful for the blessing of support First United receives from our family of United Churches. Together, we are able to make a difference in the lives of the people who come to First to sleep in safety, to eat a hot meal, to talk with an advocate, and to access the many resources we provide. The mission's programs and services would not be available without the generous support and active participation of people in our congregations. *Thank you.*

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## **Transitions**



*Our thoughts and prayers go out to the friends and families of :*

- *Ann Patrick (December 5, 2007)*
  - *H. Edward (Ted) Coton (December 19, 2007)*
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## Sandwiches for First United

On Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, ‘sandwich makers’ were invited to First United to attend a presentation by Rev. Ric Matthews about their revised mission and how we are connected to that community.

Ric outlined the principles which are the underpinning of the work done there especially as applies to us as suppliers of sandwiches. We were encouraged to consider that if we were inviting people into our home, how we would show hospitality in what we serve our guests and how food is served, giving value to the individuals who come to First for food. The feedback is that sometimes there is too much tuna, they really love egg salad, ham and cheese, and peanut butter and jam, and that lettuce and tomato tend to get mushy by the time they are served. Mostly, the sandwiches are greatly appreciated.

There are signs of renewal in evidence with the painting of murals on the entrance hallway by the office and in the upstairs room where we met. These murals were done by a First Nations artist arranged by Ann Thorsteinsson. Ann is also working on a project which allows individuals to paint a tile which reflects themselves (sound familiar?) and are on display in their version of Starbucks. Staff members in attendance, Sandra and Marion, are enthusiastic about the new and positive energy about the place and were eager to show off the changes and talk about their dreams for the future.

*Volunteers are always needed. If you are interested or would like more information, you can contact Marion Young, volunteer coordinator at 681-8365*

[vol.coord@firstunited.ca](mailto:vol.coord@firstunited.ca), or maybe talk to the new Administrative Manager, Tony Weall. There is also an open invitation to

attend the community celebration on Wednesday evenings starting with a shared meal at 6 pm and followed by a worship time.

*Phyllis Hayter and Gayle Ansley*

## Congratulations, Tony !

On Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm, the community of First United Church Mission joined with Vancouver Burrard Presbytery in making a covenant of support with The Rev Sandra Severs, Minister of Hospitality and Programs.

At the gathering, the First United Mission welcomed **Tony Weall to the position of its Administrator**. May God’s shalom continue to manifest itself in our midst in this season of Epiphany.



## Upcoming Concerts at SHUC

**Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra**  
**–Midwinter Concert**

**Saturday, February 16, 8:00 pm** in the Sanctuary of Shaughnessy Heights United Church.  
For tickets and more information, please check their website: [www.vanphil.ca](http://www.vanphil.ca)

# Information

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## Change in Procedure for Grapevine Submissions:

*In an effort to streamline the process, please submit all materials for consideration to Sue Zhu in the SHUC Office at admin@shuc.ca.*

- *Please submit text in  
New Times Roman 12 pt.*

## Grapevine "Staff"

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