

# The Grapevine



The Newsletter of Shaughnessy Heights United Church

Vol 4; Issue 3: November 2003

## “The Days Are Coming”

Advent is a season for looking ahead. We project forward over 25 days knowing that Christmas is coming. Our children know very well about anticipating this special day. Adults may panic realizing that there are too few days left to do everything to make the holidays special. And church leaders are taxed to the limit, while overjoyed by the special worship services and the joyful occasions that climax in December 24<sup>th</sup>.

If we focus clearly on what this season’s significance is, there is great opportunity for blessing and deepened faith. There is to be sure also temptation in this season: temptation to over-eat, to over-spend, to over-do.

Worship in advent is marked by anticipation revealed in the conviction: “the days are coming” (Jeremiah 33:14). Not just a special holiday, not even the wonderful gift of family and friends together, but the fulfillment of divine promise. Each Sunday we hear yet again that God has promised and those promises will be kept. On December 24<sup>th</sup> – the eve of Christmas - we rejoice in the promise kept that God’s love is incarnated, enfleshed, made human in the holy child of Bethlehem.

To the world, this was an insignificant event, but a great marketing opportunity. To people of faith, this is the climax of a long story in which God kept reaching out to redeem and transform the world.

In the Advent weeks before Christmas, deeper blessing will be ours when we take time to root ourselves in the spirit of anticipation. Find a little time in the frenzy to reflect on the scripture readings for each Sunday (see below).

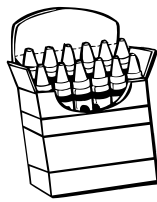
Ask: what am I anticipating when the days – my days – our days will be fulfilled? Risk engaging other believers in what this season means to them, to you. Pray for the realization of God’s vision for us and for God’s world.

Children may ask in this special time, “Why do we celebrate Christmas?” If they don’t, we might help them to ask it. But like trial lawyers, it is always best to know the answer before the witness is asked the question. At its core, the answer is about God and about the world and about people. It is about knowing that divine love overflows - transforming, freeing, healing, redeeming. It is about Jesus the Christ – the child of Bethlehem – the Word made flesh! The days are coming!

*A.H.Harry Oussoren*

### Scripture texts for the Advent Season:

- Advent 1:** Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
- Advent 2:** Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
- Advent 3:** Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
- Advent 4:** Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55
- Christmas Eve:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14; Luke 2:1-20



### Colours of Advent

During Advent, the dominant colour in worship is **blue** – the colour of holy hope. But, on Advent 3, **pink** reflects the joy of the day. In the Christmas season starting Dec. 24, **white** and/or **gold** are the dominant colour.)

# Mission Development: Celebrating

## Music Notes

The season of wonderful music is upon us! Some of the most beautiful music in the world has been composed around Advent and Christmas themes. This year the Sanctuary Choir will have an American theme, as several of our anthems find their roots in traditional songs and hymns of North America.

Be sure to mark **December 14** on your calendars for the annual **Christmas Carol Service**. You will get some of that American theme with an Epiphany anthem, "Brightest and Best". The service starts at 5:00 p.m. and will be finished at 5:45. It also includes congregational singing of some of the favourite hymns of each season (Advent, Christmas and Epiphany) Come and support your choirs and enjoy the music of the season.

The Sanctuary Choir is always willing to expand its community and we welcome all new singers. If you have a singing heart and a willingness to volunteer your time, talk to any choir member, or to Cathy Pedersen.

Thank you to the Sanctuary Choir and the Youth Choir who worked very hard on the presentation of the Faure Requiem, in cooperation with St. Helen's Anglican Church Choir. It was a thrill to sing in a larger group.

Keep singing!

*Cathy Pedersen*

## Advent "Quilt" and Banners

On each Sunday of Advent this year, the Advent wreath will be at the centre of worship and Advent candles will be lit.

As well, a new set of sanctuary banners, generously given, will be unfurled with the traditional Advent colours: blue on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, blue on the fourth, and white on Christmas Eve and in the season of Christmas.

This year a new "organ quilt screen mosaic" with 77 new tiles will be inaugurated for the season. Thanks to the creative efforts of many SHUC households – young and older working together – and to the coordinating work of Ann Thorsteinsson with help from some Men 'n Muffins folks, the "quilt" will add much original beauty to the sanctuary for this holy season.

Thanks to all who worked and contributed to this visual enhancement of the sanctuary.

*HO*

## Fireside @ Five in the Lounge

A congenial time to "make a joyful noise to the Lord!" on the **first Sunday** of the month.

Great hymns of the faith are sung, led by Roy Campbell. 5:00 pm, refreshments; 5:15-5:45 pm, Hymn Sing.

## Calling All Songsters!

Songsters Choir is open to all singers from 5-10 years of age. We practice after church on Sundays and participate in various services during the year. The following is a schedule for the rest of this year.

**Practices:** November 16, 23, 30  
December 14, 21 (no practice on Dec. 7)

**Services:** Sunday Nov. 30 (practice at 9:00 a.m.)  
Sunday Dec. 14 (evening service Xmas music)  
Wednesday Dec. 24 (7:30 p.m. service, practice at 7:00)

Practices are with Cathy Pedersen or Susan Dent. Please speak to Cathy Pedersen if your child is interested in joining.



*Looking for the Advent Worship Schedule?  
Please see back page.*

## Calling All Youth!

The Youth Choir is a group for singers ages 10 and up. We practice after church on Sundays and participate in services during the year. The following is a schedule for the remainder of this year.

**Practices:** November 30 & December 7, 14, 21

**Services:**  
Sunday Dec. 14 (evening service of Christmas music at 5:00 p.m.)  
Wednesday Dec. 24 (7:30 p.m. service, 7:00 practice)

The Youth Choir practices with Cathy Pedersen or Janet Pritchard. Please talk to Cathy Pedersen if you are interested in joining. If you are shy about joining, bring a friend with you.

# Mission Development: Reaching Out

## Mentoring Opportunities

Soon it will be time for Shaughnessy to offer a space for young people to decide about formalizing their clan ties to the church. The program is slated to start in January, using great material tested right here at Shaughnessy. Comfortable like an old shoe...or maybe not.

Reginald Bibby, as part of his ongoing sociological research called Project Teen Canada, suggests that belief in God may be a tough sell these days. In 1984 according to his statistics, 85 % of teens believed God exist. That had slipped to 73% by the year 2000. To make matters worse teen confidence in religious leaders had plummeted down a whopping 22%.

The good news however is that a greater percentage have experienced God's presence. An example of this might be the freedom to speak more openly about it. A teen in one of my workshops on Healing Touch at the Junior BC Youth Conference exclaimed to the group: "I could feel hands on my shoulders long after my partner removed her hands. It was like feeling God's hands!" But that is not the only good news in this article.

What is exciting is that teens are open to relationships with adults. Larry Richards writes, "Simply put, young people respond to adults who help them, and if they are not turned off by a leaders personality or incompetence, will model themselves after him/her."

You can build strong relationships with youth based on the twin ideas that you are taking responsibility for your own spiritual growth and are prepared take some responsibility for theirs. Many have taken this journey already in SHUC, starting in Lent, you will be able to begin to explore and deepen the gift of mentoring.

Till then pray that young people ages 13-18 come to widen their clan just enough to enter the doorway of Faith Exploration.

*Ross White*

Ref: L Richards, *Youth Ministry*  
L.D. Overholt/J. Penner, *Soul Searching the Millennial Generation*

The *Grapevine* team would like to thank Heather Clarke and Philip and Maggie Francis for their ongoing support and generous financial contribution to this edition.

## Communications Committee Communiqué

How wonderful to relive SHUC's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and to be re-energized by the Bach-Schweitzer Concert!

The premier viewing of these two videos was a great success. Thanks to you we raised more than \$500.00 for the Communications Committee – as well as raising spirits in SHUC.

Thank you Alison McLean for producing such outstanding videos. You may purchase one from Alison: [tomboy\\_productions@yahoo.ca](mailto:tomboy_productions@yahoo.ca) or 604-874-8194.

The Communications Committee has also been looking for other ways to financially support SHUC's communication. It is now possible to purchase advertising space (business card format) in the *Grapevine Newsletter* (\$25.00/issue; \$200.00/year).

You can also sponsor a page (suggested @ \$50.00 – cost of 1 page/issue) or make a donation (suggested @ \$20.00 – cost of 8 issues/year/person) – tax receipt provided. Receiving *e-Grapevine* also helps. Which ever way you wish to contribute to the sustainability of ongoing SHUC communications, please let us know: [admin@shuc.ca](mailto:admin@shuc.ca) - 604-261-6377 or [heather.clarke@shaw.ca](mailto:heather.clarke@shaw.ca) - 604-733-9329.

Please note new e-mail address for *Grapevine Newsletter* submissions: [grapevine@shuc.ca](mailto:grapevine@shuc.ca).

*Heather Clarke*

## Carman Lansdowne – Field-Ed Student

Starting in December, Carman Lansdowne will be a Vancouver School of Theology field education student at SHUC. Carman is in first year theology. She just finished teaching English in Japan; and brings to us her musical gifts; background in accounting; and a warm, engaging personality.

First year field education mainly involves learning about the local church – systems, patterns, directions, visions. If you are interested in serving on a lay support team for Carman, please speak to Harry Oussoren.

# Mission Development: Learning

## Hanging the Greens...

### *An Invitation to Decorate*

Decorations don't just happen – they are the work of the people. So all SHUC participants are invited to gather from 4 to 7:30 pm on **Saturday, November 29** to **decorate** the church and Hall. Trim the trees, hang the garlands, string the lights or make your own advent wreath\*\*. This is a happy time for all ages to work together to prepare the church for the holiday season.

At 5 p.m. a **brief worship service** in the Sanctuary will celebrate the decorations and remember the meaning of the symbols and decorations.

At 6 p.m. a **potluck supper** in the Hall will bring the festive event to a conclusion. Everyone is welcome. Come, help to “deck the halls” and enjoy the season.

\*\*\*If you wish to make an advent wreath, the cost is \$10 per wreath (for supplies). You will need to sign up to make a wreath by Wednesday, November 26th. For more details, contact Cathy Cryder at 604-261-6377.

*Cathy Cryder & HO*



## Advent Home Resource

The season of Advent is a time for special activity in the home. A resource to help every household – especially with children – to get into the spirit of the season is being prepared by Cathy Cryder, Minister for Children & Family Ministries.

Focused on the themes of four Advent Sundays: hope, peace, joy, and love, the resource will enable everyone to continue the theme of Sunday worship in the home. The fifth candle – white in the centre of the wreath – is the Christ candle, lit on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

Be sure to get your copy of the resource on **November 29<sup>th</sup>** at the **Hanging of the Greens** event or at worship on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Buying three blue, one pink, and one white Christ candle and an advent wreath will make the resource effective and ensure that the symbols of home and church coincide.

## SHOCK News

Shaughnessy Heights Outrageous Christian Kids  
A group for folks in grades 5,6,7

### November 26: SHOCK Congregational Scavenger Hunt

Where: Oakridge Mall (meet and pick up at the Food Court)

When: 7 pm to 9 pm

What: SHOCK members will be sent out in teams of 3 to find folks from the Shaughnessy Heights Congregation (as they shop at Oakridge)

Cost: Bring some cash for a snack at the food court

### December 4: SHOCK goes to the Movies Watch for details!

### December 6,7 SHOCK Advent Celebration Sleepover at SHUC

Where: SHUC Youth Center

When: Saturday—5:30 pm to Sunday—following worship

What: Dinner, Baking for First United Church, Games, Worship, Movie, Breakfast and lots of fun!

Cost: \$5.00

#### **Please Note:**

After the Sleepover, SHOCK will break until Wednesday, January 7, 2004. For information about any SHOCK events, call Cathy Cryder at 604-261-6377.

*Cathy Cryder*

## SHOCK Collects Chocolate Bars & Safeway Gift Certificates for First United Church!!!

SHOCK is collecting chocolate bars and Safeway gift certificates for folks on the downtown eastside for Christmas. Watch for the collection basket each Sunday morning in the hall after worship (until December 7th).

On December 7th, you can join SHOCK in the hall after worship and “decorate a cookie for First United Church!” Funds raised at the cookie-decorating table go towards purchasing more Safeway gift certificates!

*Cathy Cryder*

# Mission Development: Caring

## White Gifts

On **Sunday, November 30** we celebrate White Gift Sunday. This is the day when people of faith and generosity bring “gifts” wrapped in white (to ensure they are all equally valued) to the church for people in need.

For First United Church Mission and for the W.I.S.H. Centre please gather up a mountain of toiletries – toothpaste, soaps, shampoo, deodorant, etc. – and add to that new underwear for men and women, plus socks and handkerchiefs and other “basics” that enhance being human. These are gifts everyone can afford and gifts that bless the receiver.

As well, non-perishable food is welcome for the First UC Pantry.

All these gifts can be dropped off in baskets in the church foyer on White Gift Sunday or anytime before Christmas. Please respond to those whose needs are basic, as need to share is fundamental.

Special “White Gift” Sunday offering envelopes are provided with this issue of the GRAPEVINE for use of November 30<sup>th</sup> or after. Contributors can choose to give to either the Caring & Sharing Fund for SHUC use only; to the First United Church Mission for work with the needy; or to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church for the whole church’s mission throughout Canada and around the world. Please mark the envelope to indicate your intention.

*“God loves the cheerful giver.”*



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## Grieving Service – “Through Tears, Joy”

*December 7<sup>th</sup>, 4 p.m. in the Chapel*

For many people, the period before Christmas can be poignant and burdened. Many remember loved ones who have died and in these days of preparation are much missed. Others remember lost opportunities, relationships that were ended, promises not fulfilled. The Advent season with its diminishing light can feel like a time for mourning.

The “Grieving Service “Through Tears, Joy” addresses that reality. In quiet and thoughtful worship together loss is acknowledged and hope expressed so that joy may emerge. If you are grieving or know of family or friends who are, please remember the service on Sunday, December 7 at 4 p.m. in the Chapel.

Special readings, music, and prayers in community are offered. A reception follows. Plan to attend or help others to do so.

*HO*

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## Korean Trinity Presbyterian Church ...A New Relationship

Since the decision of the SHUC congregation to welcome the Korean congregation into longer term use of the church, much effort has gone into implementation. A usage agreement has been drafted coordinated by Allan Cunningham and Bruno Wall. It will be finalized in a SHUC-KTPC discussion. Pastor Seung Chul TAE now has an office in the church (Cathy Cryder’s old office upstairs). And more Korean congregation Bible study and prayer activities are taking place.

A number of KTPC folks participate in the Tuesday and Thursday afternoon SHUC English language conversation groups coordinated by Yvonne Choi, and in the Thursday morning English Bible study class led by Harry Oussoren. SHUC volunteers, including Beryl Sawyer, Lucille Fraser and Geke Maranda, assist in the programs. Some KTPC children participate in the SHUC Sunday morning children’s circles.

Please help build bridges of friendship as you are able. We are all of us – Korean and Euro-Canadian and other ethnic background – part of God’s human family welcome in God’s house.

*HO*

# Mission Development: Ministry

## Library News

### New On The Shelf

230b The Heart Of Christianity By Marcus Borg

"We live in a time of conflict and change in the church". Borg addresses the issue of change by talking of `new paradigms of Christian faith. He reexamines the meaning of familiar biblical text, reasoning that the bible contains both history and metaphor. This book would be useful for discussion groups.

### Christmas Reading for the Family

They Followed A Bright Star, by Wensell & Alavedra

Have you ever thought about other people who might have heard the voice of an angel at Christmas time? An angel who told the people of the countryside to `work and wait as the bright star appeared?

This charming tale was used last Christmas for a children's service. It was originally published in German, based on a poem by Joan Alavedra entitled "The Manger". It was set to music by Pablo Casals, as part of the World Initiative for Peace.

### Book Sale News

Many thanks to those who worked with the "Friends of the Library" for the Sunday book sale. A portion of the proceeds will allow us to purchase new books in the new year. Thanks also to the many book donors. We hope that you will save your books for us again in 2004!

### Literary Thanks...

The Friends of the Library acknowledge with thanks:

Vancouver, A Novel by Cruise and Griffiths. Given by the Deborah-Lydia Circle in memory of Helen Hager

Leap Of Faith, by Queen Noor. Given by the Christopher family and Margaret Smith and family in memory of Dr. and Mrs Hugh MacCorkindale.

Transforming Congregation Culture by Anthony Robinson. Two copies, donated by Sascha Kallnik and Harry Oussoren

The Life Of Pi by Y.Martel donated by Barbara McWilliams

We also thank Terry and Roberta Heenan for their donation of books.

*Pat Hudson*

## Reach Out Conference Miracle

At press time it is premature to assess the impact of the first annual Reach Out Conference to be held on November 14 and 15 at SHUC. With many SHUC volunteers assisting and about 150 anticipated registrants, the Conference focuses on "Poverty – from Charity to Justice".

Keynoters Jim Wallis, from the Sojourner Community in Washington, D.C. was cleared for participation early in the planning process. Ross Olivier, Executive-Secretary of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa was also lined up for an official church visit. Ten days before the Conference, however, Olivier's request for a temporary visa to come to Canada was declined by the Canadian High Commission in Pretoria.

Advised of this glitch, the planning team, led by David Ansley, went into high gear. Letters were immediately sent to Stephen Owen - MP for Quadra, to the High Commissioner in Pretoria, to the General Secretary and Moderator of the United Church and anyone else who might help to prevent a major disruption of the Conference.

Personal letters of recommendation and telephone calls to the Police Commission in South Africa led the High Commission to reverse its decision. Three days after the crisis erupted, the visa was authorized. All the Conference planners were very grateful for the support of the 'enlarged planning team' and for the "miracle" that opened the door for Ross Olivier to bring his message to the Conference and to BC.

## Soup and Study 2004

The dates have been set for the Soup and Study 2004. Mark Thursday evenings from January 22nd to February 19th, from 5 to 7:30 pm--on your calendar!



The focus of this year's study is yet to be finalized but it will focus on Faith Exploration. If you are looking for an evening of good food and engaging conversation, this is the program for you!

Childcare will be provided. For more information, contact Cathy Cryder at 604-261-6377.

*Cathy Cryder*

# Mission Resources: Finance

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## Generosity in the Holy Season

In the Advent – Christmas season, all Christians are tested as to their generosity. We are all encouraged by advertisers and marketers to buy and give for the people we love.

The impulse is holy. Giving is good. But as people who already have too many things, the challenge is to express our love and generosity without adding to the world's ecological problems and the jaundice that comes from materialism.

Some have decided not to exchange gifts, and instead to give to charitable causes, with a card to the person being honored by the gift. This is a radical choice – usually only for the most committed. Some give presents, but choose “fair trade” gifts – the kind you can buy at the Ten Thousand Villages shop (2150 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.) – international crafts for which producers get fair prices.

Others choose to give one gift to each important person and to give money saved to promote God's purposes through charitable and social organizations. Whether you support Amnesty International or the Kidney Foundation, the Mission and Service Fund or the Suzuki Foundation, the SHUC Caring & Sharing Fund or the Beads of Hope campaign to deal with HIV-AIDS in Africa - people of faith recognize in these ‘good causes’ support for God's reign of love and justice in the world. Special Christmas gifts to SHUC are a sign of the conviction that through the congregation God's mission is effectively carried forward.

Whatever we do, people of faith give thought to their giving? Is our love for the other best expressed through much giving? Or is our love demonstrated by thoughtfulness and gestures that reveal our gratitude for the other?

Is our love made larger by large gifts or by enlarging the scope of our giving to create a better, more humane world? Is our love of God clearly revealed in our giving? How do we reveal God's self-giving in the birth of Jesus?

Generosity is a sign of the heart touched by the love and goodness of God.

HO

## Money Matters – November 2003

### Cash Flow

Thank you to all of you who give using the PAR system – it's by far the easiest way for you and for SHUC. It saves you having to remember to contribute each week or month; it saves the counters having to count so much each Sunday and it saves Janet Livingstone, our accountant, having to reconcile the cash and cheques each week. To sign up for PAR, please call the office. You can discontinue PAR at any time, as needed.

We are still running close to our maximum of \$50,000 on our line of credit but have so far managed to avoid going over or having to hold back cheques when they are due.

Almost 18% of our annual revenue from offerings typically comes in December. Our expenses are much less seasonal. Please help keep our line of credit down by signing up for PAR now.

### Budget

To the end of October, our offerings were slightly down from 2002 but slightly up from the 2003 budget. Revenue from the use of facilities is well up from 2002 but slightly below budget. The main reason for the increase in revenue from the use of facilities is the payments we receive from KTPC.

Total expenses are lower than last year because of the reductions approved in the 2003 budget. We are continuing to have to postpone much needed repairs to our facilities to bring them up to standard.

The final results for 2003 depend heavily on what happens in November and December. We need to continue to limit expenses while at the same time being generous with our contributions. If we manage those two objectives, we should end 2003 with only a small deficit for the year. If we exceed our objectives, we might even reach a balanced operating budget for the first time in over 5 years! Can you help with this challenge?

John Christie  
Treasurer

# Current News



## Christmas Events

### Sunday, November 23: Worship for All Ages

10:00am Worship Service for “*Reign of Christ*” Sunday  
It features the Universal Gospel Choir in the Organ Plus One Series. Advent resource booklet for home use will be distributed at this service.

### Saturday, November 29: “Hanging the Greens”

4:00pm Decorating the Church & Halls  
5:00pm Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
6:00pm Potluck Dinner

Advent resource booklet for home use will be distributed.

### Sunday, November 30: First Advent White Gift Sunday, Hope Candle & Banner

10:00am Service includes a Youth drama presentation  
Personal products (socks, underwear, toiletries, etc.) for First United Church and WISH Centre; and “*White Gifts*” of non-perishable food and money gifts for First UC Mission and the Mission & Service Fund of the United Church are collected.

(*White Gifts* are a tradition, with gifts wrapped in white paper so that all gifts are valued equally.)

### Sunday, December 7: Second Advent & Grieving Service – Peace Candle & Banner

10:00am Worship Service – Communion Sunday  
4:00pm “Through Tears to Joy” Service in the Chapel (for all in church and community grieving loss).  
Reception follows.

### Sunday, December 14: Third Advent & Carols & Reading Service – Joy Candle & Banner

10:00am Worship Service  
5:00pm Carols and Music Service featuring all four Shaughnessy Heights UC Choirs  
6:00pm Choirs’ Dinner – Hosted by grateful others

### Sunday, December 21: Fourth Advent – Peace Candle & Banner

10:00am Christmas Sunday Worship Service

### Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services – Christ Candle and Banner

4:30pm Christmas Pageant Service – focus on children  
7:30pm Family Service – all choirs participate  
11:00pm Candlelight Communion Service – Sanctuary Choir

### Sunday, December 28: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day

10:00am Worship Service to End the Year

## Transitions

### Weddings

Betty Man Ting Lui & John Yut Hong Chan on October 18  
Tina Denise Jang & Eric Bohong Zhou on November 8  
Sabrina Hunter & Shane LaFrance on November 8

### 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Gordon & Carol Trueman in October

### Deaths

Elizabeth C. (Betty) Hender on October 23  
Neoma Katherine (Betty) Dutcher on October 27

### Baptisms & New Members on October 26

**Isabel Amelia Lew**, daughter of Andrew & Sylvia, sister to Christopher

**Thomas Frederick Swindale**, son of Olivia & Nicholas  
**Caroline Margaret Christie**, daughter of Duncan & Margaret, and granddaughter of John & Lesley, by acknowledgement of her baptism in Germany on April 16

**Carol Whaley**, mother to Yasmine & Derya, and spouse of Musa, by re-affirmation of faith

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# *Mission Resources: Finance*

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