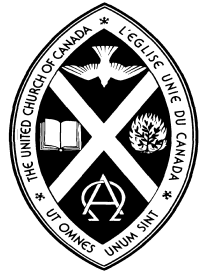




The Grapevine



The Newsletter of Shaughnessy Heights United Church

Vol 3: Issue 4: December 2002



(Back Row) Harold Kruk, Roy Campbell, Janet Livingstone, Harry Oussoren, Cathy Cryder
(Front Row) Roslyn Richardson, Cathy Pedersen, Yvonne Choi, Nina Matthews (not shown, Ross White)

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

The sanctuary and chapel reveal that we are fully into the season of Advent, gently journeying toward Christmas. Our homes too are decorated with the festive symbols of Christmas.

In this holy season of waiting, Christians contemplate the mystery of God coming among us – Emmanuel. Heaven meets earth. The divine soaks into a yearning humanity and groaning creation. Matter is sanctified as being of equal value to spirit. Incarnation.

When Christians sing “Christ is born in Bethlehem,” the simple mystery of a child’s birth awakens awe and gratitude. God blesses the creaturely and honours our humanity.

Questions emerge for people of faith: do WE honour our humanity? Do we nurture body – with rest, good food, and exercise? Do we care for our minds – continuing to learn, deepening our knowledge of God’s awesome creation? Do we nourish our soul – opening ourselves in prayer and meditation to the Spirit, communing with other people of faith and goodwill to receive the gifts of the Spirit? Do we care about the human family? Do we cherish our earth home – as the right place for love – God’s and ours?

In this season of joy, we are conscious of many in our congregation who live with burdens of illness and pain, grief, unfulfilled longings, and much else that disturbs peace and diminishes well-being. In the end, the conviction of faith is that we can only live day by day, trusting in God’s steadfast love for us. May the Christmas season and its timeless Good News of hope, peace, joy, and love deepen our faith in the caring God.

As the staff for this vibrant and growing congregation, we feel blessed to be working with so many deeply committed to being a community where God’s love is made real. Thank you for your partnership and support, your appreciation and affirmation. We look forward to ever deepening the ways of being in communion with God, with each other, and with the world God loves.

May you and yours experience the holy wonder and the blessed grace which are God’s gifts at Christmas and may the New Year bring health, prosperity, and God’s shalom for the world we share.

Blessings!

Cathy, Cathy, Harold, Harry, Janet, Nina,
Roslyn, Ross, Roy and Yvonne

“Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people.” (Luke 2:10)



So many aspects of the life and work of SHUC are made possible by the work of volunteers that there are doubtless too many to mention all by name. However, a grateful member of SHUC, who has asked to remain anonymous, gave us a long list of people who deserve special mention and asked us to thank them for all of the time and effort they have committed during the past year. We hope they will enjoy a good rest over the holiday!

Noralyn Smiley, chairperson of the SHUC Council, for her leadership in so many areas since her election in the summer, and also to Helen Cheung, Vice Chair, Mission Resources, for her support to Noralyn and for all her hard work.

John Christie, Treasurer, who with the support of Janet Livingstone, has worked tirelessly on SHUC's finances and in the development of a new budget.

Council members and Committee chairs and members, who give freely and generously of their time to contribute to the effective governance of SHUC and to support its mission in the community.

Margaret Perry who organises ushers and greeters. Thanks also to all our greeters, who ensure a friendly welcome. Thanks to those who count the collection, attend the Welcome Table, collect and process the Friendly Forms, and who serve communion.

Pat McKenzie and her team of Grapevine folders, envelope stuffers and Bulletin collators!

Betty Ann Knickerbocker who organizes the many volunteers who tend the office phones and who support Nina on week-day mornings.

Phyllis Hayter and the womenfolk who organize and serve at Memorial Teas.

Margaret Walker who runs the Boutique Shop, with volunteers.

Pat Hudson, who oversees the SHUC library - surely one of the best-stocked and best organized church libraries in Western Canada!

The many folk who contribute their time and talents in the leadership of the Children's and Youth programs and to Joy Bruce, who rehearses the Junior Choir.

The SHUC members who participate in the Board of the SHUC Daycare, who have shown great commitment to the future of the Daycare and its relationship with SHUC.

Beryl Sawyer and practitioners of Healing Touch, who have brought wellness and healing care to many both within and outside the SHUC community.

The team devoted to the Mission at First United, who collect and deliver food.

Tony Weall and Norm Barr and members of the Men 'n Muffins Group (SHUC Men's Group) for their work on painting, fixing up and contributing to ongoing maintenance tasks.

Chuck Lew who co-Chairs the Chishaun Housing Society and to the SHUC Board members who dedicate time and knowledge for the efficient operation of the residence.

The many people who make sandwiches each month for First United.

Charlotte Burns, Edith McLellan and members of the Pastoral Care Team who visit sick and elderly members and distribute flowers from Church events.

Len Sawyer and the men who are painting the Labyrinth in the Gym.

Pat Sexsmith and volunteers who care for the Memorial Garden.

and to the many, many others who contribute so much. Your work is deeply appreciated by the SHUC community. Thank you all!

Thank you from the Squat

Now that the Squat at Woodward's is drawing to a close, here is a message of thanks from homeless people who were helped by gifts of money from SHUC, Ryerson, and Dunbar Heights United Church. The money was used to pay for "porta-potties" in order to maintain hygiene at the site. Thanks to Susan Lindenberger for signalling her concern for the squatters and thanks to all who responded. We remember that Jesus' story begins in a stable - homeless.

"PLEASE Personally say THANK-YOU from me to all those in your churches... this help is huge!!! I really don't think you realize how important this is.... This act of kindness may have just saved the whole protest! May the Creator Bless each and everyone of you!!! Thanks again."

Dan Lindsay
(for the Woodward's Squatters)

More warm thanks

Thank you to all who helped make the "Hanging the Greens" event on December 1st such a wonderful occasion. All ages worked together to decorate the sanctuary and hall; in the gym young and older created Advent wreaths for home. Special music was offered in the lounge; worship with carol singing; and an International Potluck Supper in the Hall - hosted by Dola Gilmour and her family - wound up the festivities. In the Chapel, the Magi have reappeared visiting the Child in the manger. Thanks to the creative efforts of Jean Scott and Bobbie Heenan, this place for prayer and Wednesday worship radiates the joy of the season.

Special thanks also to all who contributed to the wonderful production of the "King's Quilt" on Sunday 8 December - especially to Lee Bolton Robinson, Director and writer along with Carolyn Cox; music by Cathy Pedersen; Gwen Horne and other quilters; all the singers and actors; adults who supported, stage hands and stage creators etc. SHUC is very blessed by your creative gifts and moved by God's word in the musical.

Gifts from the Quiltmaker's Gift

"For what is a person profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

It began with a chance encounter – the Spirit leading - in the library of Shaughnessy Heights United Church. When Pat Hudson (volunteer Librarian) bought the *The Quiltmaker's Gift* by Jeff Brumbeau and Gail de Marcken, little did she know that it would find its way into the hearts and minds of the congregation. This charming book tells of a generous quiltmaker, who sews the most beautiful quilts in the world, then gives them away to warm the poor and needy in her city. There is also a greedy king, in the town, who yearns for a quilt to make him happy, in spite of his storehouse of treasures. After much trial and tribulations, the quiltmaker agrees to create a quilt for the king if only he will give up all of his possessions.

This modern fable, so reminiscent of Jesus' words in Matthew 16:26 and his own self-giving, has become an overriding principle in the life of the congregation. In the same way as a quilt evolves, members of the church congregation of Shaughnessy Heights United Church (SHUC) embarked on a Play building and Quilting Project designed to be part of the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of SHUC. Under the leadership of SHUC member Lee Bolton Robinson and supported by the music and ministry staff, the activities that this story of giving and receiving inspired, became a way for the community to reflect on its vision for the future and the place of the church in the urban community.

The project entailed the creation of a play with music based on the story. Carolyn Cox (youth member) and Lee Bolton Robinson wrote the play and Cathy Pedersen (Music Director) wrote the music. Children's Minister Cathy Cryder and volunteer Sunday school teachers assisted with the creation of props, costumes and rehearsal of the play. Along with children and youth of the congregation, adult members and volunteers formed the cast and crew. The production was part of the 10 am White Gift service on Sunday December 8th.

Photo Not Available in Online Version

The King (Tom Beasley) and soldiers Fred, Ben, Matty, Alex and Jeff Photo: Nina Matthews

In addition to the play and its production, new knowledge and appreciation of the art of quilting has arisen. Baby quilts to supplement the ongoing work of Margaret Walker and her "Stitch and Chat Group" were provided for outreach programmes. A queen size quilt that symbolizes the action of the play, was planned by Leah Kruk and Lee Bolton Robinson. It was lovingly made throughout the year by Gwen Horne (choir member and master quilter) along with many others in the congregation who not only learned to quilt, but also learned that quilting is a metaphor for recording and living life generously in materialistic times.

The beautiful queen-sized quilt was auctioned live in the church hall, after the service on December 8th in order to pay for the play and the donated quilts. Thanks to Jim McLennan, auctioneer, and the generosity of a SHUC member, over \$1,200 was raised by the auction.

This year's White Gift Sunday had a very modern but thoroughly traditional theme: it is more blessed to give than to take!

Submitted by Lee Bolton Robinson

Opera Breve at SHUC January 17, 2003

A fun evening with the OPERA BREVE troupe is being planned for Friday, January 17, 7:30 p.m. at the Church. The renowned group of wonderfully talented singers will provide an evening of entertaining music for all ages on the theme of JOYS OF OPERA.

This special benefit concert is hosted by SHUC folks living in Shaughnessy Place. Net proceeds from the event will be directed to the 75th Anniversary Youth & Children's Grants Fund to help residents of the First United Church Social Housing Society buildings "break the cycle of poverty."

Bobbie Heenan is the coordinator of the team pulling together the evening. You can help by inviting friends and buying tickets priced at \$15 (\$13 for students). Speak to Bobbie if you can help with planning.



Seniors' Lunch

Next lunch is Jan. 29th, 2003

Charlotte Burns writes: Twenty three Shaughnessy Heights Seniors got together for the first of a series of lets-get-together lunches on Wednesday 30th October. The delicious three course lunch was catered by Amica at Arbutus Manor and personally delivered by their chef Robert Linder. From the immediate response, and confirmed by the survey that the participants completed, this was a great success, and will be repeated on the last Wednesdays of the month except November and March when SHUC hosts the Holly or Daffodil teas. A variety of music and speakers will be added to this wonderful time of catching up with old friends, and it gives everyone a time to make new ones. SHUC members are welcome to invite friends from outside the congregation to the next one on Wednesday 29th January 2003. Tickets will go on sale in January.

“Recent” graduates is perhaps stretching it a bit because five SHUC members have just celebrated the Diamond (60th) Anniversary of their graduation from UBC. We extend warm congratulations to the following alumnae and alumni of UBC, several of whom also received recognition at the Fall Convocation:

Florence and Rod MacKenzie
Denise MacLachlan
Bill Johnson
Doreen Walker

The name??— SHUC LUNCH

A special thanks to the members of the Pastoral Care Committee who made it all happen.

Congratulations to the Class of '42! We know of several sons and daughters of SHUC members who will be graduating in 2003. They will have high standards to maintain!

Christmas Giving

Photo Not Available in Online Version

All our mail boxes are being inundated with requests for donations in this season of giving. With this issue of The Grapevine you will also find a special Christmas Offering Envelope. It aims to help each of us and all of us together in the Shaughnessy Heights United Church household contribute money for God's mission through our life together as congregation.

This mission is to make Christ's love real within and beyond the congregation. In December, over 20% of the congregational must be raised for the 2002 mission to be paid and to help wipe out the remaining \$15,000 not raised for the mission in 2001. This is a formidable goal. But together we can do it – IF we believe in God's blessing and goodness we experience as a congregation of Christ.

Please express your gratitude for God's goodness, by contributing generously. Place this Christmas envelope on the offering plate during one of the many special worship services or mail it to the church office. *HO*

This year it'll be a White Christmas at SHUC! We extend warm wishes to Ross White, Diaconal Minister - Youth, Young Adults, Leadership Development, who joined the SHUC staff on 1st September. Ross is shown here with Jeannie and daughters Anna, Rachel and Laura. Merry Christmas to the White family!

Away in a Manger

Sunday 22 Dec, 4 - 6 p.m.

Do you have a moment?

Please make some time before the busy season gets too filled! Why not visit SHUC friends who unable to get out and about or are in hospital? Jack Boyce is in the Arbutus Care Centre (the old name was Normandy) on Valley Drive. Helen Templeton is now back home after a lengthy stay at UBC Hospital. Edith Caswell is at St. Vincent's at Heather. We're sure they would appreciate a visit from SHUC friends.

SHUC youth aged 10 -16 are invited to experience a “Visit to the Stable” on Sunday 22 December. Come and experience the sights, smells and sounds of the first Christmas! The event will be hosted at a barn in Southlands and will include elements of the Christmas story, reflection on the imminent arrival of a new baby, Christmas carols and hot cider. To reduce traffic noise and to avoid disturbing the animals, we will be car-pooling from SHUC, leaving promptly at 4.00 p.m., return to SHUC by 6.00 p.m. Call Ross White for further details.

Thanks from Phyllis

Phyllis Hayter writes: Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year! Thank you very much to all the women who come so willingly to help every time there is a **Memorial Tea** and do a marvellous job as demonstrated by many comments and cards.

Thank you also to the **Flower Arrangers and Deliverers**. Flowers are taken to our congregation members in need and sometimes to local Senior Citizen Homes.

Once again this year our **Daffodil and Holly Teas** were a great success. Thank you everyone for all your help to make these teas such a happy time for all. The entertainment, the flowers, transport and all the work done by the helpers in and out of the kitchen is greatly appreciated. Thank you everyone. We are very blessed to have women like you to make all this possible.

Pat Thorsteinsson

After a valiant struggle with cancer, Pat Thorsteinsson died peacefully at home on Monday December 9, 2002, surrounded by family. With gratitude to God for a life well-lived, we uphold Marilyn and the family in prayer. A Memorial Service will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday 15th December in the Sanctuary. Harry Oussoren

Norm's Travels

Norm Barr writes: Bernice and I drove the Cabot Trail as part of our trip to Nova Scotia and PEI in Sept/Oct this year. Along the coast of the trail we came across and stopped at St. Ann's Church. It was built a few years ago and replaces two churches located a few miles along the coast.

This building is a combination of Church and Restaurant. Upon entering one is confronted with a stained glass window - to the left is the Church and to the right the Restaurant. To the left the soul is fed, to the right the tummy!

Both the Church and the Restaurant are strikingly attractive. Both were squeaky clean, bright and with a pristine atmosphere. We believe, though we did not ask, that the Restaurant is staffed by church members. We did have some coffee; it was served with graciousness and pride.

The washrooms were spacious, strategically placed, impeccably clean and an ideal spot to read the daily newspaper undisturbed.

Presumably the Restaurant helps to support the Church. (Norm - have you mentioned this idea to the SHUC Treasurer yet? - Ed.) The set-up seems unique. It is located on a bluff with a delightful panorama of the coastline.

It was an unexpected experience which left us with a good feeling. (Norm has many photos of St. Ann's - please do ask to see them!)

The Grapevine

After two and a half years as co-editor of the SHUC newsletter, Philip Francis feels it's time to offer someone else the opportunity. This month's issue marks the 26th in a series started in April 2000, then known as "The New Herald". The new title "Grapevine" was selected in September 2000 after a congregational naming competition (narrowly defeating "Pews News" and "Harry's Heights" in a hotly contested poll). We got off to a rocky start when someone pointed out that "Grapevine" was also the title of the official newspaper of Alcoholics Anonymous. So we slipped in a "The" and we haven't looked back since!

Although the monthly deadlines do sometimes seem to come around rather quickly, Grapevine editorship has many compensations. The SHUC community contains a wonderfully affirming group of readers! Also, it's a good way for someone new to desktop publishing to learn how to do it. It's also a joy working closely with Harry Oussoren as co-editor - there is a certain vicarious pleasure in correcting a Lead Minister's grammar! The Grapevine is prepared with Adobe PageMaker and Philip will be pleased to teach someone how to use it. A new editor would also be able to work with other publishing software if preferred. It is of course necessary to have a high-speed internet connection.

If you would be interested to take over as co-editor, please pass your name along to Heather Clarke, Chair of Communications or speak to Harry or Philip. One possibility being considered by the Committee is to appoint a number of sub-editors - who would then be responsible, for example, for a "youth page" or "community news". Other possibilities might be to reduce the frequency of the newsletter and make greater use of the new website for upcoming events.

Philip will continue on until a replacement is found but he has informed Heather Clarke that, because of other commitments, he would like to hand over sometime in the new year. Are you willing to put your name forward to edit The Grapevine? PF

Town Hall Gathering

Please plan to be part of the planning day being scheduled on Sat., January 25th at Vancouver School of Theology's Epiphany Chapel. In the rhythm of the congregation's life, the September retreat focusses more on personal growth, while the January Town Hall Gathering centres on congregational issues and planning.

Gather at 8:30 and plan to stay till early afternoon. Snacks and lunch will be provided.

House-Sitters Available!

The Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra has two guest conductors coming from out of town, who would be willing to house-sit in return for accommodation. They are both nonsmokers, and allergic to cats. They won't have a car while they are here, so a place accessible by public transportation would be preferred. We are looking for places from January 6-18 for one, and from February 20 to mid-April for the other. For more information, contact Barbara Paterson at 604-263-7049

Worship at SHUC

At Shaughnessy Heights United Church we gather in worship at 10 a.m. on Sundays in the Sanctuary. A midweek communion service is held on Wednesday evening from 7 to 7.30 p.m. in the Chapel. This is a quieter, more reflective service and is held in the Chapel, adjacent to the Sanctuary. Childcare and a children's program is provided at all Sunday worship services.

Wed. Jan. 1 – no Midweek Worship

Sun. Jan. 5 – 10 a.m. Communion – Epiphany Sunday
4 p.m. Worship at Little Mountain Lodge

Wed. Jan. 8 – 7 p.m. Midweek Worship

Sun. Jan. 12 – 10 a.m. Morning Worship
11:30 a.m. Second Hour – Focus on Outreach
2:00 p.m. Worship at Crofton Manor

Wed. Jan. 15 – 7 p.m. Midweek Worship

Fri. Jan. 17 – 7:30 p.m. Opera Breve Musical Event

Sun. Jan. 19 – 10 a.m. Morning Worship
- Saying Farewell to Roslyn Richardson,
ministry intern
- Dedication of the Labyrinth in the Gym

Wed. Jan. 22 – 7 p.m. Midweek Worship

Sat. Jan. 25 – 8:30 a.m. Town Hall Gathering at VST's Chapel
of the Epiphany

Sun. Jan. 26 – 10 a.m. Morning Worship

Wed. Jan. 29 – 7 p.m. Midweek Worship

Sun. Feb. 2 – 10 a.m. Communion Service – Theological Educa-
tion Focus
11:30 a.m. Second Hour Conversation on Vancou-
ver School of Theology and its mission
-
4 p.m. Worship at Little Mountain Lodge

Wed. Feb. 5 – 7 p.m. Midweek Worship

Sun. Feb. 9 – 10 a.m. Morning Worship
11:30 p.m. Congregational Meeting – Finances

The Grapevine

is the Newsletter of:

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All Ages Share in the Drama of Christ's Coming at SHAUGHNESSY HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH



In this holy season, God encounters humanity
where we are least likely to expect God.

Earth is the right place
for God's love -
EMMANUEL

You are invited and welcome! Will you invite another?

Sunday, December 15

9:50 a.m. Carol Sing

10:00 a.m. Worship

4:30 p.m. Candlelight Carol Service – all choirs

Sunday, December 22

9:50 a.m. Carol Sing

10:00 a.m. Worship –

Children's Nativity Tableau

2:00 p.m. "Awaiting Joy" - a service for all grieving loss
- communion Reception follows

4:00 p.m. "Visit to the Stable" Carols, Christmas Story
& Hot Cider. Jr & Sr Youth event.

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m. Children's Service

7:30 p.m. Christmas Service – all Choirs

10:00 p.m. Young Adult

Yuletide Homecoming Conversation in Hall

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. Westside Christmas Service

at West Pt. Grey United Church,

4595 West 8th Avenue

Sunday, December 29

10 00 a.m. Worship