



THE GRAPEVINE



The Newsletter of Shaughnessy Heights United Church

Vol 2: Issue 8: February 2002

Lent and its Opportunities

Lent is that period before Good Friday and Easter when we accompany Jesus in a special way. We become more reflective, evaluative, introspective. We take stock of our lives and our relationships – with God, with our neighbours, with our world.

The shared journey with Jesus includes:

- The special service on February 10, making the transition from Carnival to Lent, including packing away all “hallelujahs” for the duration of Lent.
- The Pancake Supper / Services of the Ashes held on February 12th.
- Reflective conversations using Bible passages on key Christian concepts. These conversations will take place in the chapel every Wednesday starting February 20 and ending March 27, from 7:45 to 9:15 p.m. (immediately following the regular Wednesday evening communion service at 7 p.m.). Marion Wong will lead the conversation. No prior experience or learning background is required. Just come. You are invited.
- The organ quilt screen first created by congregational participants last year with its 77 artistic interpretations on the cross.
- Special events during Holy Week (before Easter) including a Maundy Service communion; shared worship at SHUC with Ryerson United Church folks; an Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday (March 30); and climaxing in the Festival Service on Easter Sunday.



On the six Sundays before Easter, the Christian life will be our focus as we explore the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:1-21). It may be easy to quote some of the commandments, but not always so easy to understand how they are turned into life enhancing norms. (See also page 3.)

Christians always remember that Christ summed up the commandments with these words: “Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,” and “love your neighbour as your love yourself.” (see Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-28). May God give us grace to grow in faith and love as Lent provides time to contemplate the meaning of the divine law.

A.H. Harry Oussoren

Daring to dream

Over 40 SHUC participants gathered in the Chapel of the Epiphany, Vancouver School of Theology, on Saturday 9 February for the 2002 SHUC Town Hall meeting - a day of visioning about the future of the SHUC community.

One of the participants wrote:

“It was very gratifying to be part of such an intelligent, dedicated group of people, willing to do some deep thinking and soul-searching, with the betterment of our church as the main focus for the day’s work.”

Another wrote:

“The highlight of my day was a very stimulating discussion on “reaching out to one another so we can reach out to others”; to celebrate our gifts and actions; and to discern what SHUC really wants to do.”

The Town Hall meeting was facilitated by Ric Matthews and was organized around morning and afternoon visioning sessions in small break-out groups. The groups were asked to take a 5 year time horizon and to try and develop a vision for the SHUC community in each of the four main areas of its activity - celebration, learning, reaching out and caring. The participants gathered in a plenary session at the end of the day to bring the various ideas together.

Jennifer G-Sheppard led worship for the participants at the start of the day, with Cathy Pedersen providing musical leadership. At the end of day, Harry Oussoren closed the meeting and thanked all participants for their commitment and thoughtful comments. He noted that many of the recommendations from last year’s similar event had already been acted upon or implemented.

A “sift and sort” group has been formed to collect the many ideas, suggestions and conclusions that emerged from the Town Hall meeting. They will then be discussed by the SHUC Executive Council. Thank you to all who attended and particular thanks to Ric Matthews for facilitating the meeting and making sure it finished on time!

“LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND” Matthew 22:37

“This Poverty Thing, I Just Don’t Get It!”

A Personal Exploration by David Ansley

“We are called by Jesus to be the church ... heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. If we’re not, we’re not being the church. Plain and simple.” – *Frederick Buechner*

November 2001 marked the beginning of a personal exploration into poverty, an issue that has perplexed me for sometime. It followed a visit to SHUC by Rev. Ruth Wright of 1st United, who challenged and awakened a spirit left slumbering for some time. I decided not to take things for granted, and plunged myself into the brokenness of Christ, aka Downtown Eastside Vancouver (DTES).

Since that time I have had the privilege of engaging many individuals, including Ministers and staff at 1st United, a representative from the Ministry of Health, a Vancouver City Councillor, an Associate Professor in Public Health Policy from UBC, and a former premier of BC. I would also acknowledge the Board of “From Grief to Action” who kindly allowed me to learn from them.

One learns very quickly that preconceived notions are not an advantage. It is easy to be convinced that this is a problem that is never going to go away, and nothing further can be done about it, despite all the money, time and personal effort put into trying to solve it. You also encounter that no one seems to care, more needs to be done, more funding needs to be committed, or that much has been achieved. You may not encounter countless individuals clamouring to accept personal responsibility for situations they find themselves in, but my experience makes me believe that certain thinking makes it possible to assign people to the scrap heap. I think this is unacceptable.

You find that it is difficult to educate yourself on this issues. You have to be prepared to engage people at a very personal level. I chose to look at the situation “through a different lens” - one of health crisis with social consequences, rather than vice versa. In an effort to be objective, I perceive the needs as “insatiable”. This proved very useful in looking from a new perspective. I found this was uncommon, shared by a few others, and a way to focus my efforts.

At the current level of inquiry, the problems are not solvable. This is due to three interrelated issues :

1. The problem of Canadian jurisdiction – municipal, provincial, and federal responsibilities for housing, financial assistance, and health care.
2. Politics behind the politics of poverty – there are between 100-200 agencies, government and non-government, working to fight poverty in the DTES. There is no clear coordinating body overseeing these efforts. It is difficult to determine where overlap may occur.
3. Law and order paradigm - Public safety , not community health, is regarded as the only way to solution

These three fundamentals seem to mutually exclude rather than mutually reinforce one another.

We have a sum of parts, rather than parts of a whole. In the face of it, how do we become more effective?

Engage the issues. “So that all may be as one” either is just a notion, or a way. I think we begin by addressing our own concepts of stewardship. We need a broader perspective, of a stewardship that speaks to allowing all people access to dignity, unconditionally. I think effective outreach will be a positive consequence.

Don’t think that nothing can be done. I believe one individual can make a difference. This means prayer, education, seeking guidance for self and others. I used to ask “ God, where are you hiding?”. I stopped, because I got the answer “Where are you hiding?”.

In virtually every instance, people I spoke with acknowledged that public silence makes it possible to think everything is alright (if you can’t relate to it, where’s the problem?). The church was cited as a voice that had a role in creating political debate, but seems to have relegated itself to the periphery.

Our politicians need to be encouraged to pursue poverty issues to the fullest extent. We have a “response-ability” to create constructive influence and challenge what we perceive is wrong. We have the capability to provide for safe, healthy community for all citizens.

“The Lord heard my cry and inclined his ear patiently. He lifted me out of the desolate pit, the miry bog... planting my feet on a rock...” – Psalm 40

In the end, healing is not just advocacy, it is accompaniment.

David Ansley is the contact person for the “Knowing & Understanding the Downtown Eastside” event being planned for Sunday, 28 April. See details on page 5. David is a member of this congregation and a former chair of the Christian Education Committee.



Sermon Series on the Ten Commandments

Harry Oussoren writes: The Ten Commandments are the foundational law of the Hebrew people – norms for decent and peaceable living together in community. It is ironic that as soon as Israel leaves the oppression of Egypt, they stop at Mt. Sinai to pick up the laws by which their freedom can be guaranteed!

The Ten Commandments represent a covenant between the people and the Eternal One, who has redeemed Israel from captivity. God expects faithful adherence because God is a loving and compassionate God, totally committed to the liberation of God's people.

Popularly these commandments tend to be seen as negatives – and not a few Christians have helped to portray the Ten as prohibitions. “Do not make images or bow down to idols,” “do not use God's name for evil purposes,” “Do not commit murder,” “do not commit adultery,” etc. have usually been seen as “don'ts” and less as opportunities for fuller living. Even the positive command “observe the Sabbath and keep it holy” has a long history of preventing people from doing interesting and rewarding things on the “Lord's Day.”

The aim of the series will be to draw from each commandment the life-giving, life-affirming meaning for faithful discipleship as people of God, companions of Christ. If you have ideas or readings or experiences that would illuminate the series, please speak to me. Starting on February 13th, Worship on Wednesday evenings will begin the discussion of the theme of the following Sunday service at 10 a.m..

On Sunday, February 17, Peter Burns will speak in the 75th Anniversary Speakers Series on his work with the UN Committee Against Torture, with the command “Do not commit murder” as the theme.

February 24: “Keeping Sabbath”

March 3: “Honour your mother and your father”

March 10: “Do not steal”

March 17: “Don't make graven images” will be the commandment we focus on as Stephanie McLellan speaks in the 75th Anniversary Speakers Series on her cross-country hand-cycling saga to highlight access for disabled persons.

March 24: “Do not accuse anyone falsely” is the theme that takes us from Palm Sunday to the arrest, false accusations, trial, conviction, and crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday.

March 31: “Worship no god but me” will proclaim God's power to love all creation into new life, signalled by raising Jesus from the dead.

The series will continue after Easter. On April 3, “do not covet” and on April 10, “don't abuse God's name” will conclude this exploration of the Law.



75th Anniversary Speaker Series

“making a difference in the Spirit of Christ”

Worship on the third Sunday of the anniversary year months has been richly blessed by the shared experience of anniversary speakers. In September, UC ministers Faye Wakeling and Pierre Goldberger spoke of their ministries in Guatemala in partnership with the Presbyterian Church in that country.

In October, City Councillor Jennifer Clarke was interviewed by Ian Hanoomansingh, about efforts to make Vancouver a livable city. In November, Ian interviewed Ruth Wright, Director of First United Church Mission at Gore and Hastings. Peter Newbery spoke of his work with United Church Health ministries in December and was drawn into commenting critically on the proposed native treaty referendum. In January, Michael Harcourt spoke on sustainable cities and citizen participation in public life.

Still to come are contributions by Peter Burns (February, UN Committee on Torture); Stephanie McLellan on access for disabled persons; Jane Hungerford on her work with the BC Cancer Foundation; on Mother's Day in May, Meg Hickling will speak on sexuality and sex education; and in June, Lloyd Axworthy will speak on Canada's role in creating a more peaceful world.

Thoughts are already turning to next year. Names of people who contribute substantially in “making a difference in the Spirit of Christ” are being gathered with the possibility of renewing the series in the 2002-2003 pastoral year. If you have a suggestion of someone in SHUC or beyond, please speak to Harry Oussoren or email to: admin@shuc.bc.ca.



Thank You for Your Gift of Money!

At the end of February, financial contributors to SHUC's mission will receive their charitable donation receipts. The forms represent many hours of work by Janet Livingstone in the accounting office and Robin Leckie, the recorder of gifts.

Along with the receipts, you will receive a brochure to say "thank you!" for all the activities, programs, and ministries enabled by your gifts of money. Every gift of money is important in helping SHUC carry out its mission and in supporting the work and witness of the United Church of Canada through the Mission & Service Fund.

May God bless the givers and the gift, so that God's love will be made real for many in our world.

SHUC Budget for 2002

A Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday 24 February to consider the 2002 budget. The preparation of the budget has proved to be a complex task this year and grateful thanks are extended to SHUC Treasurer, John Christie, and members of the Finance Committee for the many hours of hard work they have put into the task. They have been ably assisted by Janet Livingstone, Church Accountant.

As SHUC's programs grow, and with the new ministry staffing model being implemented from July 1, 2002, with the arrival of Ross White, it becomes a challenge to construct a budget that works. Three Council meetings have been devoted to the various budgetary issues requiring decision.

Please diarize the date of the Congregational meeting and make a point of attending to hear and decide how your financial givings will be allocated in the year ahead.

What's your story?

For the 75th Anniversary a collection of stories and anecdotes about SHUC is being assembled. Edith McLellan is coordinating the project and inviting participants to write down their memories. The aim is to provide the booklet of SHUC stories for the 75th Anniversary Banquet and Auction on April 20th. Stories can be e-mailed to the church, dropped of on disc or hard copy - early is good! Contact Edith McLellan at 604-276-2132

Pianos Needed

If you have a baby grand that is longing to be used; or if you have a small upright apartment piano that is gathering dust, then here's a suggestion to consider.

The Church Hall needs a good grand for the many music programs held there and the Chapel would be well served by a small upright. If you can help, please speak to Cathy Pedersen or Roy Campbell. Help music to thrive at SHUC!



Do you have a piano you could donate to SHUC?

Wills - a faith statement

It is hard to imagine anyone nowadays without an up-to-date will. Why would we burden our survivors with the worry and guessing about what we want to have done with our estate?

Is this a good time to review your will? Does it really reflect your priorities, your life's work, your commitments? How does your will reveal your faith? Have you invested in the future of the church and other organizations fostering God's reign?

If you would like to think through some of these questions, contact one of the ministers or watch for details of a "planned giving" workshop that the SHUC Finance Team is planning.

Vancouver School of Theology

Two decisions by government have resulted in a \$400,000 cost to VST - the school at UBC which trains leaders for the United Church and other denominations. The BC government terminated an annual grant and the federal government has stopped allowing ordained faculty to claim housing allowances. The impact on the School is significant and threatens its financial viability.

With last month's Grapevine you received an envelope, inviting you to contribute to VST's ongoing educational mission. Please consider how you can help. If you've lost the envelope, you can find more on the table outside the church office and by the reception desk.

Well-trained leaders are urgently needed for the renewal of the church. Will you do your part?

Maundy Thursday. Holy Saturday

On Maundy Thursday (March 28) a special evening is planned to help participants of all ages experience the Passion narrative. Starting at 5:45 a Potluck salad and soup supper will be served. This will be followed by 6 mini-workshops where various parts of Jesus' journey to the cross are re-membered. The whole church building will be used as groups of ten or so move from one "station" to the next, culminating in the Hall for communion. Plan to be part of this special occasion. Speak to Cathy Cryder, Jennifer Sheppard, or Harry Oussoren for more information.

Holy Saturday is that "lost" time between crucifixion and resurrection. Through the ages Christians have celebrated Christ's rising to new life on Saturday night. This is known as the Easter vigil, when the first fire of Easter is lit.

At SHUC this year on Holy Saturday (March 30), starting at 11 p.m. in the darkened silence, worshippers are invited to gather to welcome the dramatic light of the resurrection. Communion will mark this special holy time. Plan now to be part of this dramatic occasion. Normal festival worship will follow on Easter Sunday morning at 10 a.m.

Knowing and Understanding the Downtown Eastside

On Sunday 28 April, while worship is held at SHUC, a group of SHUC folks will gather at First United Church at Gore and Hastings for worship. After the service we will help with the lunch offered to local people, and then be involved in a walk about in the area. For the latter part of the afternoon, there will be an opportunity to reflect and learn about what we have seen and experienced.

A preparation session will be held one evening in the week before April 28. If you are interested in the experience of learning, reserve the date now and speak to David Ansley. Bob Smith, former minister of both SHUC and First United Church, will host this "view from below."



Auction

Banquet and Auction

Please mark the date of Saturday, 20th April in your agendas for a very special evening at SHUC. That's the day of the 75th Anniversary Banquet and Auction. The proceeds from this evening will be used to support projects for children in poverty in Vancouver. Further details will be in next month's Grapevine.

Good quality auction items are now needed and depend on the generosity of SHUC members and adherents. Please consider if you can donate any items and help make this an enjoyable and successful evening.

Please contact any of the following committee members with your ideas and auction items: **Jim and Fran McLennan** 604-224-9200, **Betty-Anne Lindsay** 604-266-4023, **Pat Cryder** 604-261-2144, **Mary Toye** 604-732-6740, **Elizabeth Kerklaan** 604-266-0776.

SHUC Library

Have you borrowed a SHUC library book lately? There is a wealth of knowledge and wisdom just waiting for you to tap into! Popular authors include Marcus Borg, Bishop Spong, Karen Armstrong, Frederick Buechner, Joyce Rupp, Michael Ingham and many more! There is also a well-stocked children's book section. Whether you're looking to take some further steps on your personal faith journey, understand a mid-life crisis, pick up some tips on parenting, be inspired by the thoughts of great philosophers, ethicists, political leaders or spiritual guides - or perhaps just looking for a good read - why not drop into the library and discover a wonderful gift available to all SHUC participants. And if by any chance you've borrowed a book from the SHUC library and it's overdue, please do return it soon so that others can enjoy it too!



"Who are we and what do we offer?"

These were two of the questions that participants in the SHUC Town Hall meeting on 9th February were asked to consider in small groups in an opening session. Some of the comments were as follows:

"People with a profound belief in the goodness of all people. The voice of compassion and reason among life's pain."

"We are a caring community of Christians who basically believe in God and Christ. We care for each other and for people beyond our community. We offer a warm and caring group of people and a place to worship together."

"We are a worship community which receives and responds to God's love in our thoughts and actions."

"We are a community of seekers, united in the search for truth and purpose in our lives; trusting in God's love but unsure where it will lead us."

"We respect, affirm, care for, listen to, support and welcome each other, knowing that these are the gifts we too receive from God."

"We are a diverse group of people at different stages in our faith journey. We respect each other and reach out to all those who wish to share in the love of Christ."

"We offer a caring community, for people of all ages and backgrounds."

"We are part of the body of Christ, other congregations together making up the whole."

What does the SHUC community mean to you? Why not send a short email or send a note to The Grapevine at SHUC and we'll be pleased to publish your comments, without name if you would prefer.

Caring & Sharing Fund

On Communion Sundays, a special offering envelope is provided with the order of service to extend the reach of the congregation to those in need. Through our gifts of money we make the bounty of Christ's table more widely available.

This year 50% of Caring & Sharing Funds will be directed to First United Church and 50% will be distributed through SHUC. Any amount remaining at the end of the year will be sent to First UC.

Your support is vital to allow a generous sharing!

Healing Touch

A second Healing Touch workshop through the auspices of Healing Pathway at Naramata was held at SHUC February 1-3. There were 21 enthusiastic participants from all over BC. Four were SHUC participants and three more SHUC participants attended as assistants.

Walking the Talk A Youth Outreach Weekend

When? March 8 – 10, 2002

Where? At St. John's United Church
1401 Comox Street Vancouver

Who for? Youth in grades 8 to 10

How much? \$30.00

Speak to Cathy Cryder if you are interested in participating.
Phone 604-261-6377 ext 15

Volunteer Opportunities with Children and Youth



Are you interested in getting to know the young folks at Shaughnessy Heights United Church a little bit better? Do you have an hour or two each month to offer to one of the many programs for children and youth at SHUC? If the answer to these questions is yes...read on for some wonderful volunteer opportunities...



- Bring a snack and spend a Sunday morning with one of the Friendship Circles.
- Offer one Sunday a month as program support for one of the Sunday Morning Programs.
- Spend a Sunday morning in the nursery.
- Drive for a Youth Group outing.
- Offer to teach a special talent or speak about an interest.
- Coordinate a snack roster.
- Participate in the NEW Sunday Morning Music Program for Children and Youth



Contact Cathy Cryder if any of these activities interest you:
604-261-6377 ext. 15.

Update on the Azizis

Gwen Horne writes: The Azizi family, refugees from Afghanistan whom this congregation sponsored for a year, have now been in BC for two years. They have lived in very cramped accommodation in North Delta but have now obtained a house through BC Housing and will move in March.

Mr. Azizi has been able to find only occasional work but he and Mohsena have worked hard on learning English and are now able to hold a conversation. The girls are doing well in school, the older girl having won two financial awards which she will receive on graduation.

They would love to return to Afghanistan to help with the rebuilding of their home country but they know that this will not be possible for several years yet.



Many thanks to the following:

The 42 participants in the SHUC Town Hall meeting for "leaving behind" so many other good things (including a warm bed) to make an early start and then spend the day imagining a bright future for SHUC. Thank you particularly to Ric Matthews for facilitating the discussions.

All the volunteers who stood in for Nina Matthews while she was away in January, and for ensuring that SHUC continued to operate efficiently in her absence.

The Men and Muffins Group for hosting the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner.

The ushers and greeters who each week create a warm welcome for those attending Sunday worship.

Robert Hall, guest organist, Chair of the Department of Music at Huntingdon University, who played the prelude and postlude at worship on Sunday 10 February.

The Stitch & Chat group, which meets on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Youth Centre. With sales of \$1,515.50 for the period July 1 - Dec 31, 2001, the group was able to donate \$269.20 in food for First United; \$310.45 in layettes for First United; \$281.56 for toys for Kate Booth Transition House; and \$200 to the SHUC Caring and Sharing Fund. Thank you to the friends and supporters of Stitch & Chat who purchase household items and gifts, displayed in the lounge. Margaret Walker says the Group would welcome more "hands". Call 604-266-9365 for more details.

Miscellany - for your enjoyment!

Thanks to Edith McLellan, Lois Saad and Mary Allen for brightening our day!

On turning 50....

The secret is out...a member of the editorial team of The Grapevine turned 50 this past week. After a weekend at the SHUC Town Hall meeting and assembling the Grapevine, he has to admit to feeling his age! He turned to his peers and elders at SHUC for advice on what they've learned in the second half century - after all aren't you supposed to become wiser with the advancing years? He thought other members might enjoy reading a selection of the birthday advice he received:

I've learned that singing "Amazing Grace" can lift my spirits for hours. Age 50

I've learned that motel mattresses are better on the side away from the phone. Age 51

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. Age 52

I've learned that keeping a vegetable garden is worth a medicine cabinet full of pills. Age 53

I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you miss them terribly after they die. Age 55

I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life. Age 58

I've learned that if you want to do something positive for your children, work to improve your marriage. Age 61

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. Age 62

I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back. Age 64

I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, the needs of others, your work, meeting new people, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you. Age 65

I've learned that whenever I decide something with kindness, I usually make the right decision. Age 66

I've learned that everyone can use a prayer. Age 72

I've learned that it pays to believe in miracles. And to tell the truth, I've seen several. Age 75

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. Age 82

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch, holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. Age 85

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. Age 92

Two vultures board an airplane, each carrying two dead raccoons. The flight attendant looks at them and says, "I'm sorry, gentlemen, only one carrion allowed per passenger."

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during root canal surgery? He wanted to transcend dental medication.

God won't ask....

God won't ask what kind of car you drove, but will ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house, but will ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, but will ask how many you helped to clothe.

God won't ask about your social status; but will ask what kind of class you displayed.

God won't ask what your highest salary was, but will ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask how much overtime you worked, but will ask if your overtime work was for yourself or for your family.

God won't ask what your job title was, but will ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask what you did to help yourself, but will ask what you did to help others.

God won't ask how many friends you had, but will ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask what you did to protect your rights, but will ask what you did to protect the rights of others.

God won't ask about the colour of your skin, but will ask about the content of your character

God won't ask how many times your deeds matched your words, but will ask how many times they didn't.

From other Church Bulletins....

Women, don't forget the garage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today in the Lounge has been cancelled due to a conflict.

Harry's sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water". Next Sunday: "Searching for Jesus".

Don't let worry kill you - let the Church help.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At Sunday worship next week, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to the choir practice.

Extended Potluck supper next Sunday at 5:00 p.m. - prayer and medication to follow.

The women of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

The Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The Youth Group will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Youth Centre on Friday at 7 PM. The Congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

The Treasurer unveiled the church's new capital campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Now, Up Yours."

Worship at SHUC

Sunday by Sunday and every Wednesday too, SHUC folks gather. A musical prelude helps us centre and prepare to worship God.

In worship we focus on God, seeking to hear what the Spirit is saying through Scripture and prayer. We depart encouraged, challenged, accepted, loved so that we can be God's faithful people in the world.

On Sundays, childcare and learning programs for children and youth are provided. Invite a neighbour to share in this gathering of the community.

Wednesday worship begins at 7 p.m. in the chapel. Communion is celebrated at most mid-week services. All are welcome to this quiet oasis of worship.

Worship to Easter

Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.

Feb. 17 - 75th Anniversary Series: Peter Burns on "Overcoming the Scourge of Torture"

Lent 1 10 Commandments Series: "You shall not murder"

Feb. 24 - Baptism.

Lent 2 10 Commandments Series: "Keep the Sabbath Holy"

Mar. 3 - Communion (Caring & Sharing Fund Offering)

Lent 3 10 Commandments Series: "Honour Your Mother and Father"

Mar. 10 - 10 Commandments Series: "Do Not Steal"

Lent 4

Mar. 17 - 75th Anniversary Series: Stephanie McLellan, Access for Disabled People followed by Second Hour in Church Hall.

10 Commandments Series: "Don't Make Graven Images"

Holy Week Worship

Sunday Mar. 24 - Palm / Passion Sunday - Procession of the Palms - 10 Commandments Series: "Do Not Accuse Anyone Falsely". Family Service

Monday Mar. 25 - 7 p.m. Chapel Worship

Tuesday Mar. 26 - 7 p.m. Chapel Worship

Wednesday Mar. 27 - 7 p.m. Chapel Worship - Mid Week Communion

Thursday Mar. 28 - Maundy Thursday - Special Event for all ages

5:45 p.m. Gather for Soup and Potluck Salad supper

6:00 p.m. Supper

6:30 p.m. Stations on the Way to the Cross

six mini-workshops to learn about Jesus' passion

7:45 p.m. Closing Communion in the Hall

8:00 p.m. Leave for home

Friday Mar. 29 - Good Friday -

11:00 a.m. Shared Service with Ryerson UC at Shaughnessy Heights United Church. Child care provided.

12:00 noon Hot Cross Buns and beverage in the Hall.

Saturday Mar. 30 - Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Service - 11 p.m. to midnight. Lighting the first fires of Easter; communion

Sunday Mar. 31 - 10 a.m. Festival Easter Celebration. Special music.

Please support THE GRAPEVINE

With this issue of The Grapevine you will find an envelope to invite a financial contribution towards the costs of producing the SHUC monthly newsletter.

Many members have told us that The Grapevine is serving a useful purpose in building community at SHUC. It is particularly valued by those who are unable to attend worship services and who would otherwise not receive announcements of future events and miss out on the good news of all that is happening at SHUC.

The Grapevine is prepared each month without charge to the congregation. But the printing cost is approximately \$300 per issue. It is folded and stuffed into envelopes by a loyal team of SHUC volunteers. Postage on average adds another \$300 - for a total cost of \$600 or about \$1.25 per copy. We plan to produce 8 - 10 issues this year.

Please consider making a donation to cover the cost of your "subscription" to The Grapevine. It would also be really appreciated if you could perhaps even pay for a few additional copies to be run off, for newcomers and visitors. Your donations will of course be added to your Givings for the year.

You can also help keep the costs down by collecting your copy on the Sunday it appears - your envelope will be in the Narthex immediately following Sunday worship and then moved into the Church Hall for those having coffee and conversation. You might also consider delivering their copies to some of your nearby friends - we hope eventually to set up "Grapevine branches" to make these deliveries. Also, if you are willing to receive your Grapevine by email, please send an email to philipfrancis@shaw.ca with "Grapevine Online" in the subject line.

Thank you in advance from the Grapevine editorial team!

THE GRAPEVINE

is now online at

www.shuc.bc.ca

THE GRAPEVINE

is the newsletter of:

Shaughnessy Heights United Church

1550 West 33rd Avenue

Vancouver, BC V6M 1A7

Tel.: 604-261-6377 Fax: 604-261-102

Editorial team:

Philip Francis - philipfrancis@shaw.ca 604-331-5120 (b): 604-730-0352 (h)

Nina Matthews - admin@shuc.bc.ca

Harry Oussoren - harry_oussoren@shuc.bc.ca

Photographs - Doug Robinson; Gary Rook

Distribution - Pat McKenzie