



THE GRAPEVINE



The Newsletter of Shaughnessy Heights United Church

Vol 2: Issue 7: January 2002

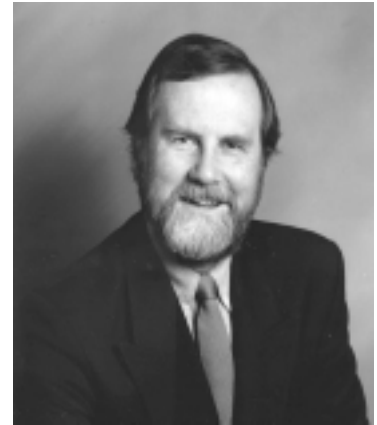
Invitation to Imagine

Remembering who and whose we are, clarifying the shared vision, identifying concrete mission goals – that's what the TOWN HALL gathering will be about on Saturday, February 9th. The day will provide opportunity to talk with each other, to sing and pray together, to eat and drink together, to discern where the Christ Spirit who makes a difference is leading the congregation.

This gathering in the 75th Anniversary Year continues the work of last January's planning day. The result of that day's work by 30 SHUC participants is renewal in various areas of the congregation's life. New vitality and energy are part of worship, children's & youth ministry, and communications. Additional resources have given rise to interfaith initiatives, seeker dialogue, and improved facilities.

A congregation is a complex organism where individuals with different needs come together to be God's people. Four basic marks characterize congregational life:

- Outreach – the persistent work of making God's love real for all people and all creation by word and deed;
- Learning – the desire to know more about God and the heritage of faith from which we are hewn;
- Caring – the conviction that the congregation is a welcoming community where we relate as a loving household because the Spirit of God is present in our midst;
- Celebrating – the overflowing longing to encounter God gratefully, joyfully, prayerfully, humbly.



"Please come to the SHUC Town Hall on February 9th" - Harry Oussoren

The challenge for any congregation is to ensure that all four marks are fully part of our life together. In our personal lives, in our homes, in SHUC's committees and groups and larger gatherings, can we see that these marks are part of the warp and woof – deeply woven into the fabric of our lives? Faith communities thrive when they are apparent.

The Town Hall gathering is the opportunity to address that challenge. The planning group – Dawna Claxton, Louise Griffiths, Ian Paterson, Philip Francis, Jennifer G.-Sheppard, Linda Hodgson, Ric Matthews – hopes that many in the congregation will participate in the opportunity to address SHUC's future. Will you come? Your thoughts, ideas, prayers and hope are needed and important.

When: Saturday, February 9th, gather at 8:15 a.m. (worship begins at 8:45); leave at 3:30 p.m.

Where: Epiphany Chapel at UBC's Vancouver School of Theology (enter via library entrance)

Parking: free in the Faculty & Visitors' slots in front of and on gravel and lawn behind "the castle"

Snacks and lunch provided - \$5 donation to cover costs. Child care will not be provided today.

RSVP by February 6 noon: 604-261-6377; email: admin@shuc.bc.ca

May God bless you and yours in this New Year!

A.H.Harry Oussoren

"BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD." Psalm 46:10



Thank you to -

- so many who did so much to make Advent and Christmas worship so special in 2001. All those who planned, made music (special thanks to all three choirs and their leaders **Joy Bruce** and **Cathy Pedersen**, accompanied by **Roy Campbell**, and **Gord Robertson**), hosted and welcomed, read scripture and other readings, decorated and set up the worship spaces (chapel & sanctuary), portrayed persons and animals in the nativity tableau on December 23, created creche figures, brought gifts for Kate Booth House, gave generously toward Afghan Relief and the Caring & Sharing Fund, and First United Church – a real outpouring of gifts and goodness.

- **Gwen Horne** and **Ann Thorsteinsson** for their work in imagining and creating the banners which marked our worship journey through Lent

- the many who sent greetings and good wishes for the season to staff members

- **Gwen Horne**, **Dola Gilmour**, **Heather Clarke**, **Jim Wing**, and others who over the years have served on the Outreach Committee. Anticipating new directions in the outreach area, the committee has retired with the appreciation of the Council for all their work in many areas. Projects have included: refugee families, First United Church mission, support of VST and Naramata, and ongoing care for the Day Care and Chishaun Housing, and ongoing conversations about outreach with other westside United churches.

- **all who contributed** toward the poinsettias and cards distributed by the Pastoral Care Team to senior SHUC folks for whom attending worship is becoming more challenging.

- **All the volunteers** keeping the office open during Nina Matthew's vacation

- The **Pastoral Care Team** for hosting the reception and service for those grieving loss on Dec. 24.

- **Len Sawyer** for ensuring that the Christmas Eve services banner was displayed so that passers-by would be aware of worship times.

- **Robin Leckie** for his work ensuring that financial contributions are accurately recorded and acknowledged; and to the Finance Team, esp. **John Christie** and **Janet Livingstone**, for their work in preparing the budget in consultation with committee chairs and staff.

- The **welcoming team** of the Congregational Life Committee for their work in following up with visitors, newcomers, and others through the weekly Welcome Forms

- The unseen cleaners **Richard** and **Connie** who several times each week work in the wee hours to ensure that the church is clean and ready for use.

- **Phyllis Hayter** for organizing breakfast for the Interfaith Gatherings held this fall.

Generous God

A New Year's Prayer by Lauren Cumming

For those who were not present to hear her deliver it, we are pleased to reproduce below a Christmas prayer written by Lauren Cumming. Lauren is a Grade 11 student at Crofton House School, Vancouver. We understand that one afternoon, amidst all the busyness of the Christmas holiday, Lauren sat down in an armchair in the family living room and composed the prayer. It struck us as a prayer of great beauty and we thank Lauren for this gift.

Generous God,

We sang first about a manger, a place of safety, security and comfort amidst all the unkindness of being turned away from inn after inn. We thank God for our special blankets and stuffed animals, our warm beds and soft mattresses.

We sang about the town of Bethlehem. The census and long journeys back to hometowns. So today we pray for all towns and the safe return of all travellers.

We thank God for the kind souls we meet along the way:

the kind woman next to you on the plane who offers to hold the child while you eat; a hostess who helps an elderly man learn to use his ear-phones, a noisy teenager whose jokes can't help but bring a smile to your lips.

We thank God, Mary and Joseph for Jesus, our Brother and Saviour. Jesus came to show us the lifestyle God wants us to live. We try to follow his example and we, like the Holy family, pray to you.

We are thankful for the family close to us at this time and we pray that you will watch over those who are far away.

We are thankful for angels in every form and we are grateful to know that they will always be there to support and guide us.

We thank God for our angels-on-Earth: a loved one who always knows the right thing to say when you're upset; a mentor who provides direction; a baby who soothes the one holding it.

We remember the shepherds who helped us make it through this year: teachers, youth leaders, coaches, ministers, parents, siblings, friends.

We remember the wise men who represent un-abused power following divinity and we pray that you God will guide the leaders of today's world in their difficult decisions.

Lastly, we are thankful for silence: the silence of sudden understanding, the silence of a friend opening the perfect gift you made for them, and the silence of time that just goes. In the silence we offer our prayers of concern for the world in which we live and her people. O God hear the prayers of your people.

Amen





Thank you, Songsters!

Few performers give the congregation more pleasure than the Songsters Choir, seen here performing in Christmas Eve worship. The Songsters, directed by Cathy Pedersen, are the youngest of several SHUC choirs who share their gift of music in worship. Several members of the Songsters will go on to sing in the Youth Choir and in turn graduate to SHUC's adult choir, the Sanctuary Choir. We appreciate all the rehearsal time that goes into making each of these performances a very special occasion.



Interfaith Breakfasts

Faith community leaders from various faith traditions have been gathering monthly for breakfast at SHUC since September to engage in conversations that foster deeper understanding and appreciation of differences. The breakfast meetings have been planned by a steering group of Rabbi Charles Feinberg of Beth Israel Synagogue, Dr. Barry Cooke of Dunbar Heights UC, and Harry Oussoren. The hope is that the monthly get togethers will move from one place of worship to another, in order to foster greater awareness of each other's worship spaces. If you want to know more, contact Harry Oussoren.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

February 24th is the date for the annual budget meeting of the congregation. The meeting will take place in the Hall following Sunday morning worship. All adherents and members are urged to attend

Seeking the Seekers

Jennifer G-Sheppard writes:

The Seeker group met at Marilyn Thorsteinsen's (Jan. 10/02) for the second time to "engage the conversation" and this time the focus of conversation was Science and Religion. Ian Paterson led the lively and stimulating conversation with a small group sitting around the fireplace. Oh to relax, talk, eat and drink (decaf coffee) while considering some of the topics that have stimulated humankind for centuries. We agreed to gather for 2 hours but the conversation was so stimulating that we stayed for 3 and could have kept talking! Oh the power of THE WORD. There is so much to consider and explore. What a privilege to engage the conversation with such a diverse group of people.

I invite PEOPLE WHO ARE SEEKING to come to the NEXT SEEKER GROUP GATHERING on February 11 at 7:30 pm at Cliff Prowse's home (1963 W 37th). TOPIC: GLOBALIZATION Anyone who wants to know more about the Seekers can call Jennifer G-Sheppard at 604-261-6377.

The Welcome Forms

Submitted by Ann Moir on behalf of the Congregational Life Committee:

THANK YOU, THANK YOU for so faithfully signing the Welcome forms each Sunday.

We appreciate the time you take to find and pass along the forms. Even though it may seem to be boring or repetitious we are showing some positive results.

- when you sign the next person is encouraged to do so as well
- when you return the forms to the centre aisle you learn who your neighbours in the pew are
- you can make a request for envelopes, phone contact, change of address or phone number
- the committee has persons who write a letter to the first time visitor, some who phone previous visitors, and some who follow up on your requests
- there have been about 98 first time visitors since May 6th – (31 Sundays)
- there have been about 104 previous visitors of which about one third are visiting family or are former members; many of the rest are telephoned
- through the use of the information on the Welcome Forms, our follow up has resulted in identifying newcomers who have become adherents, some who have joined SHUC as new members, and many who are on a list to receive the Grapevine.

We encourage everyone to greet and welcome those who come to visit or to be part of this community.

WE THANK those who distribute and collect the forms each week. We thank those who stamp the date on the pads. We thank you for helping us find the missing forms. We had 50 pads, we now have 48. We especially thank the letter writers, the phoners and the staff and others who do the follow up.

Pancake Tuesday Supper & Service of the Ashes

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 12th. Very early. Easter follows on March 31.

pancake supper



At SHUC, Lent's beginning is preceded by a pancakes & sausages supper organized by the Men & Muffins Group. This continues the tradition of using up the fatty foods (Gras) on the Tuesday (Mardi) before Ash Wednesday, when the lean eating of Lent begins.

To avoid having people gather twice in the week, the Service of the Ashes which begins Lent, will be held after the supper on Tuesday,

February 12. Come for at 5:45 p.m. for 6 p.m. supper and 7 p.m. service.

Labyrinth – a tool for prayer



The creation of a labyrinth in the gym was the topic of discussion for a mini-second hour conversation held on Sunday, December 9th. About a dozen SHUC folks – including several young people – came to get answers to questions about the idea. Concern was raised about how the labyrinth might affect other uses in the gym and whether people would use the labyrinth. The discussion led to a consensus that the project could proceed with the assurance that court lines would be painted for volleyball and basketball, as well as for the Chartres-style labyrinth with approximately a 36 foot diameter (shown above). The next stages in the process are: a visit by young people to check out the labyrinth at St. Paul's Anglican Church in the west end; a technical plan for court lines and labyrinth lines painted on the floor; open consultation; Board approval; implementation, including sanding and varnishing the gym floor – regular required maintenance. For more information about labyrinths as a tool in prayer visit the website: www.labyrinthproject.com. Contact: Lois Saad or Harry Oussoren.

Pastoral Concerns

Condolences to the family of Mae McAllister, who died on December 29 and to Edith McLellan on the death on December 25 of her only brother, Bruce Robinson, a resident of Saltspring Island

Marion Wong is back at work following successful post-surgery convalescence during December.

Please contact the church office if you know of pastoral concerns or if you wish to meet with one of the ministers.

Sound System Update



In case you were wondering...

a considerable amount of work is going on behind the scenes to try and find a long term solution to the acoustic problems in the main sanctuary. Some of these problems arise from echo; others from insufficient "horsepower" in the current system; some from faulty or aging equipment. "It has been", says Harry Oussoren, "the single major frustration of my ministry at Shaughnessy Heights - despite the best efforts of many people involved."

In early November a meeting of interested users was held in the Sanctuary under the auspices of the Communications Committee. We invited **Mr. Alex McGibbon**, an acoustic advisor to the Vancouver Opera Association and professional consultant on sound systems for the performing arts and other churches in Vancouver, to attend this meeting. After a further series of technical visits to SHUC, he submitted a report in December. His report noted a number of problems - radio propagation problems with the wireless microphones; noise problems with the mixer; outdated signal processing and equalization equipment; inadequate number of loudspeakers. His report concludes - "In light of the unsatisfactory performance of the system, the age of some of the major components and the issues highlighted above, I recommend replacement of the system at this time." The total cost would be in the range of \$20,000.

SHUC Council considered the report at its meeting last month and decided that, in view of the projected cost, a second opinion should be obtained. Later in December a meeting was held with **Mr. Jim Howe**, also a respected audio consultant living in Vancouver. We are currently awaiting a report from Mr. Howe.

The Council also agreed that the costs of a replacement system would be met by special appeal to the congregation and Philip Francis, Chair of Communications, was asked to arrange this. Current planning is to launch the appeal in February, once agreement is reached on the specifics of a replacement system and the costs clearly identified. If you would be willing to assist with the appeal please pass your name to Philip at 604-730-0352.

We are aware that the sound system has been an ongoing concern for several years and we would like to mention some people who deserve particular thanks. Firstly, **Robin Manson** has invested enormous time and energy in trying to solve the various problems. In fact we can think of few worship services recently when Robin's technical expertise has not been called upon to rectify some problem or other. Secondly, **Tony Weall** and **Brian McGavin**, chairs of Administration and Property and Maintenance, have also wrestled with the acoustic problems over the past years and we are grateful for the improvements that have already been made.

Look for further announcements in the weeks ahead. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could get the new system in place (and paid for!) well before the Easter Worship service on March 31st? Meanwhile, if you are using the sound system in the weeks ahead to read the scripture, lead prayers or make announcements - remember, speak up, speak slowly and clearly, and please speak directly into the microphone!

Knowing the Downtown Eastside

Plans are underway for an “exposure tour” to the downtown eastside sometime in March. Led by **Bob Smith**, former minister at both SHUC and First United Church, the tour will provide opportunity to observe, reflect, and learn about the conditions of life in the city’s poorest neighbourhood. If you are interested, stay tuned for further announcements. Speak to Harry Oussoren.

Lent Starts Early - February 12/13

Lent is that six-week period before Easter when stocktaking, penitence, and simplicity are the order of the day. In the Christian world, Lent is not as strictly observed as the Islamic Ramadan, with its daytime fasting. But active Christians are aware that the 40 Lenten days (plus Sundays) represent something of a “wilderness” time, parallelling the passion journey of Jesus to Golgotha.

At SHUC, Lent will begin with Shrove Tuesday’s pancake supper and the service of the ashes. These ancient traditions are part of our Christian heritage. The colour purple dominates until Good Friday, when black is shown in a bare church. On Easter Sunday, the festival colours of gold and white are dominant.

Wednesday evening faith discussions, midweek worship, intentional acts of kindness, leaving behind behaviours that hurt or harm, reading meditational materials, engaging other people of faith – all these activities and others are part of the Lenten discipline, by which we seek to know God more clearly, follow Christ more nearly, and love the world and its people more dearly. Think about how you and your household will observe Lent as a time to grow in faith as Christians.

Congratulations -

- to **Nina and Ric Matthews** on the celebration of their Silver Wedding Anniversary this month. Nina (Church Administrator) and Ric are taking a long-awaited holiday in South Africa and returning at the end of January. We send them our best wishes.

Investing in SHUC’s Future

Planned giving is as simple as writing a letter to the executor of your estate requesting that a certain amount or portion of your estate be left to Shaughnessy Heights United Church or to specific ministry of the Church. This avoids having a copy of your probated will sent to the church, but ensures that the congregation benefits from your prudence and commitment. A codicil to your will is another means of securing the same end. Invest in the future of your church, by making provision now for its financial needs. Contact a member of the Finance Team or Trustee Board or a minister about how you can participate now in the congregation’s future. Look out for details of a seminar on planned giving to be held at SHUC later in the Spring.

75th Anniversary News

The Speaker Series continues with **Michael Harcourt** speaking about “sustainable cities” in worship and in the second hour on Sunday, January 20. On February 17th, **Peter Burns** will speak about his work on the United Nations Committee against Torture. In March, **Stephanie McLellan**, a student at VST and ministry intern at Chown Memorial and Chinese United Church, will speak about her two summer odyssey raising awareness about disabilities and access by hand-cycling across Canada.

Stories, anecdotes, humour

March 15th deadline

If you have memories about the life of Shaughnessy Heights United Church over the past 75 years, you are invited to share them. Humorous stories, moving moments, significant occasions, memorable events – you are invited to write them succinctly so that they can be published in time for the April 20 banquet and auction. **Edith McLellan** is the point person for the writing project. Please think about the stories you want to share. Copy should be in the church office by March 15th. Email is a great simplifier (admin@shuc.bc.ca) but disc copy or hard copy is also welcome. Let Edith know that you are planning to contribute by calling: 604 276-2132.

Banquet and Auction

Margaret Perry and Cheryl Banfield write: It's SHUC's 75th Anniversary and time to celebrate!! It is also a time to give back to the community some of the blessings we have received so abundantly. On Saturday, April 20th SHUC will be hosting an Anniversary Banquet and Auction. The proceeds from this evening will be in keeping with the Outreach Committee's objective 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 to the following items:

- * tickets to theatres, music concerts or sports events
- * host a day or weekend at your summer cottage or ski chalet
- * attention all skippers: a day trip on your boat would be an excellent auction item
- * antiques, old silver and china of value
- * gifts of time could include lessons in riding, music, cooking, golf, skiing, professional advice
- * attention golfers: host a round of golf for 2 or 3 at a public or private course

These are but a few of many ideas for unique items and experiences for auction! Contact 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.



What a wonderful gift we've been given!

At this holiday season time we are reminded of our gift from God, the Christ child Jesus, and the good news that brings to us. But there is another gift, at least for those of us at Shaughnessy Church - the gift of our church buildings and the Endowment Fund. These have been paid for by others (and perhaps a few of our old timers) and they come to us mortgage free.

At the same time, the buildings do require maintenance and upkeep, and at times this seems like a quite a burden. But is it? The fact is we are not paying for this either! The rentals we charge the groups using the church together with the income we draw from the Endowment Funds are more than enough to cover the maintenance and repair, heating and insurance, for all of our buildings including the manse.

Of course that begs the question, what are we paying for and why are we so often having budget problems? Our contributions are needed for:

Ministry - salaries and benefits, worship costs
Choir - Salaries of leaders and benefits
Administration - Personnel, supplies, services
Christian Education and program costs
Church programs, Congregational Life
Outreach - 1st United, Presbytery, & the Mission & Service Fund of the whole U.C.C.

The Finance Committee under the direction of the Executive Council tries to keep these costs as low as possible. We also, of course, try to encourage members to keep their givings up, and to generate additional income from the programs and activities of the congregation. Hopefully these will be sufficient to keep the budget balanced. That is our challenge at this time of year.

May I go back to that wonderful gift we have been given? Are there any strings attached? We of course are all entrusted to look after the SHUC 'Endowment'. Occasionally, we may be faced with major repairs which are in excess of our rentals and income from the Endowment, and that has generally resulted in a "Capital Campaign" of some sort. I suppose that could be necessary sometime in the future, but hopefully not too often.

But does this not raise the question as to what legacy we might consider leaving so that capital campaigns should not be necessary, especially to meet the needs of the congregation and its mission when the congregation is not as buoyant as it seems to be today? In effect, how can we return to the church a little of what past generations have given to us?

Here are four ways we can do this:

- Continue to financially support the congregation as best we can.
- Continue to volunteer to serve the congregation as best we can.
- Consider making a major donation (or bequest) to the Endowment Fund.
- Consider making a living "Planned Gift" in the form of a gift annuity, life insurance, or other means.

The latter two approaches are significant in how we have received our existing legacy. Surely we can do some of the same for the benefit of the next generation(s). In the year ahead, the Finance Committee is planning to offer informed assistance to those who have some an interest in leaving something to the church, creating financial continuity for the congregation and its work, with beneficial tax effects for themselves. Please participate by joining in the discussion when the time comes.

Robin B. Leckie,
Chair Finance Committee

Edith's column

There are very few days in the week when we do not receive a cheery email message from Edith McLellan, beloved Minister Emerita of this congregation. She seems to have an unlimited supply of jokes and epithets, several of which have graced these pages in previous issues. We hope she's collecting them all somewhere. Here's a recent selection. Enjoy!

The Bird

Planning a Christmas weekend of entertaining guests, I made a list of things I needed to do, including taking food out of the freezer and grocery shopping.

As it happened, a friend whom I had been promising to take to lunch asked if we could make it that Friday. So, hopping into the car, I taped my "to do" list to the dashboard and went and picked her up. As she settled into the car, her face dropped. "Thanks a lot!" she sulked. Then I glanced at my list and saw the first item: "Take out the Turkey."

47 Cents?

A woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.

"What denomination?" asked the clerk.

"Oh, good heavens! Have we come to this?" said the woman. "Well give me 50 Baptist and 50 Catholic."

Keyboard lessons

Jesus and Satan were having an ongoing argument about who was better at the computer. They had been at it for some time and God was tired of their arguing. Finally God said "I am going to set up a test that will run for two hours and I will judge who is doing the better job". So he did and Satan and Jesus sat down at their keyboards and did spreadsheets, wrote reports, sent faxes, sent email, and email with attachments, every known job plus cards, and genealogies, but ten minutes before their test time was up, lightning flashed, thunder rolled, rain poured...and the electricity went down.

Satan stared at his blank screen, and screamed every curse known in the underworld. Jesus just sighed. The power flickered back on, and each of them restarted their computers. Satan searching frantically, screamed "its gone...its all gone. I've lost everything when the power went out!" Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing all of his work done in that past two hours. Satan became very angry - "you cheated" he yelled. "How did you do that?" God just shrugged, and said "Jesus saves!". Thanks Edith!

Children's Programs Continue to Grow!!!



Cathy Cryder, Children's and Youth Minister writes: If you've looked around the sanctuary recently (on a Sunday morning) you have likely noticed a whole bunch of new faces. You might also have noticed that a number of these faces belong to children. And, if you have been really observant, you will have noticed that these new faces seem to be coming back week after week. It's really quite exciting. Attendance in the nursery, friendship circles and quest groups has grown considerably over the past couple of months. In speaking with some of the folks who have chosen to return to SHUC after their first visit, these are some of the reasons they give for coming back...

- They feel welcomed (both adults and children).
- They are impressed with the programs being offered for children and youth on a Sunday morning.
- They have found other ways to become involved at SHUC, outside of Sunday mornings.
- They have made some friends!

Growth is a wonderful thing and with the new faces have come many new stories, gifts, ideas and questions. There also comes the need to further develop and strengthen the network that supports our programs with children and youth. So, if you think that you could offer an hour or two (weekly or monthly) to: Bring a snack for a friendship circle, coordinate a snack roster, offer one Sunday a month to be "additional adult support" with one of the friendship circles, spend a Sunday morning in the nursery, come play games with the youth group, please contact Cathy Cryder at 604 261 6377.

Extended Family Cluster

Do you enjoy getting together with folks of all ages to play, talk, eat and create? If you do, please join us for one of the upcoming Extended Family Cluster events. Write these dates on your calendar. You won't want to miss them!

February 10, 2002 Valentine's Potluck

- 5pm Games and Crafts
- 6pm Potluck Dinner
- 7pm Music and Discussion

March 17, 2002 Be Seen In Green Potluck

- 5pm Games and Crafts
- 6pm Potluck Dinner
- 7pm Music and Discussion

April 28, 2002 Campin' Out!

Come and pitch a tent, play some games and enjoy some camp grub (cost \$5 per person to a maximum of \$20 per family).

- 5pm Set up camp and play some games
- 6:30pm Dinner
- 7:15pm Campfire and Vespers

ALERT!!! You'll have to sign up in advance for this one! Keep your eyes open for announcements!

May or June 2002 SHUC Sunday in the Park

More news to come!

More Thank-you's!

Ayden Cumming, Thomas Saxon and Lauren Cryder for all their hard work making the soup for the clay creche event on December 16th.

All those who participated in Christmas Eve services in special ways.

The Brodies for the loan of the manger.

Joanne Douglas for the loan of the sheep.

Tessa Francis family for the bales of hay which helped to create an authentic stable smell for the Christmas eve services.

Anne Thorsteinsson for her hard work on the Clay Creche event

All the folks working in the Nursery each Sunday morning to provide excellent care for babies and toddlers.

Afghan Canadian Physician speaks at SHUC

Dr. Karim Qayumi, currently Director of the new Centre of Excellence of Surgical Education at UBC's medical school spoke to over 100 members of the SHUC Congregation in a specially organized "Second Hour" on Sunday, January 6 in the Church Hall. He had previously spent some time meeting members of the SHUC youth programme. Dr. Qayumi spoke about the history leading up to the current conflict in Afghanistan and described his own experiences as a leading physician in Kabul and how he and his family had been forced to leave Afghanistan for their safety.

We express our appreciation to Dr. Qayumi for taking the time to meet with the SHUC congregation and we are all now better informed about the Afghan situation and the political, economic and humanitarian problems that lie ahead for the country. Thank you also to David Ansley for arranging and facilitating the visit. It may not be widely known that David came straight off night duty at VGH to moderate the session!

SHUC to develop new website

One of the priorities for the Communications Committee in the year ahead is the redesign of the SHUC website www.shuc.bc.ca. The current site was developed several years ago and lacks flexibility in a number of key areas. For example, although THE GRAPEVINE is now posted to the website (look for the newsletter "button"), there is currently no mechanism for posting "What's new" items or for sharing views or information between members.

Some of the ideas being considered include a password-protected bulletin board; various "chat rooms" to encourage idea and information-sharing among seekers or, for example, to exchange views about a sermon; a pastoral care section where, with appropriate privacy guidelines, information could be posted about those needing a visit or other care.

It is also hoped that an attractive and easily accessible website would reduce the costs of postage (members could opt to receive THE GRAPEVINE online for example) and provide an informative source of information about SHUC's programmes for the local community. Please email philipfrancis@shaw.ca if you are interested in participating in this work. Watch for further details of eMinistry at SHUC!

Worship Leading to Lent

Sunday by Sunday and every Wednesday too, SHUC folks gather to worship.

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. During the season between Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday of Lent, the ordinary colour green is shown on stoles and on hangings.

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.

Sunday Worship at 10.00 a.m.

Jan. 6 - Light as symbol for God's OUTREACH mission

Jan. 13 - Baptism as the commission to LEARN for faithfulness

Jan. 20 - 75th Anniversary Series: Mike Harcourt on "Sustainable Cities"

Jan. 27 - Called to the ministry of CARING in community

Feb. 03 - CELEBRATING God's Presence

Feb. 10 - Family Service - From Carnival to Lent

[Feb. 12, 7.00 p.m. - Service of the Ashes (following Pancake Supper at 6 p.m.)]

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



The magnificent Great West Window photographed by SHUC photographer, Doug Robinson (have a look at the spectacular colour version in the online Grapevine). Designed and produced in the studios of Max Ingrand of Paris, the Great West Window was a gift from Mrs. Patricia Phillips, in memory of her aunt, Miss Carrie Ross. It was completed in 1965.

Town Hall Gathering

General invitation

Saturday, February 9th from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Epiphany Chapel of Vancouver School of Theology - snacks & lunch provided.

If you have hopes, vision, dreams and commitments for the renewal of the congregation, then you will want to be part of the conversation at the Town Hall Gathering on February 9th. Facilitated by Ric Matthews, who brings background in both church and organizational change, the event will provide opportunity to think about where we've been, who we are and what we do, and what we believe God is calling us to become in the years ahead.

A question for everyone to ponder: what gifts have you been given to serve God's mission through this congregation?

The Planning Team preparing for the gathering includes: Dawna Claxton, Louise Griffiths, Jennifer G-Sheppard, Linda Hodgson, Ian Paterson, Philip Francis, Ric Matthews, and Harry Oussoren. Please mark your calendar and be part of this important opportunity to influence SHUC's future.

THE GRAPEVINE now online

In the tradition of all great newspapers, we are pleased to report that THE GRAPEVINE is now available for your information and enjoyment as a pdf document on the SHUC website. E-readers will also have the benefit of seeing photographs and clip-art in colour. It is our hope that, in time, the online Grapevine will become the preferred means of delivery for members of the congregation thus saving SHUC thousands of dollars in postage each year for its other programmes and services.

As noted on page 7, work is underway on the redesign of the SHUC website and the online Grapevine will feature in this. In the next issue we will provide details of a new subscription policy for the Grapevine - the aim being to make it a self-financing publication. Meanwhile, if you would be willing to receive your monthly Grapevine online, and to forego a mailed copy, please send an email to philipfrancis@shaw.ca with the words Online Grapevine in the subject line.

THE GRAPEVINE

is the newsletter of:

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