



# The Grapevine



The Newsletter of Shaughnessy Heights United Church

Vol 3; Issue 6: March 2003

## Ashes to Easter – Lent 2003

Lent has long been associated with “giving up” things: habits, activities, foods, behaviours. Patterned on the biblical number of 40 (days of temptation for Jesus in the wilderness; years of sojourn for Israel on the way to the promised land), Lent is said to be 40 days (plus six Sundays) for people of faith to take stock.

We take stock of our lives – a useful custom anytime. It is useful because all God’s people can benefit from reflecting on who we are and what we are about. We don’t have to do this anxiously or guiltily. It’s just worth doing and trusting that God will accept us as we are and as how we will become.

Two prayers – one for the morning - as we begin our day, and one for the evening - as we entrust ourselves into God’s care - may guide us. They come to us from the Celtic tradition of prayer:

*Jesus, our Friend, you fulfilled the Creator’s will to the very end. Speak to our hearts and we will follow the path of your commands. May the way of the Cross lead us to the joy of Easter, for ever and ever. AMEN*

*God our Creator, your will is that everyone be saved and no one be lost. You draw us to yourself by prayer and penance. Grant that we may so accompany Christ in love, that our lives may help others and our weakness never hinder them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Christ, our Lord. AMEN*

Part of our Lenten practice may be to change patterns in our lives – beginning new ways as we leave behind old. We may take on a special project

of service or caring; read and meditate on a particular portion of scripture (e.g. Mark’s Gospel), perhaps keeping a journal about our learnings; we could walk the SHUC labyrinth once or more per week or make a point of participating in Wednesday worship; save coins or hygiene products or food for First United Church Mission or the WISH centre; we may make a point of visiting the sick or shut in. What about doing a “random act of kindness” every day?

The Soup and Study Evenings (5:45-7:30 p.m., March 6, 13, 27, April 3 & 10) planned by the Christian Education Committee are a great opportunity for all ages to engage in a Lenten discipline.

The key is being intentional about some activity that deepens our faithfulness and our relationship with God, as we care for people and creation.

Perhaps the four ministry areas in SHUC’s mission may be a helpful framework. We CELEBRATE; REACH OUT; LEARN; and nurture CARING COMMUNITY. It would really be something if every SHUC participant added new energy to one of these four areas for Lent and contributed some extra time or money to the congregation’s mission in God’s name! Parents could work with children to identify goals they could pursue.

Lent is not a time for burdensome obligation. But it is a time for joyful renewal, generous self-giving, and deepening our lives – blessings of God to a faithful people. May Lent be a time when we all remember better who we are and whose!

*A.H. Harry Oussoren*

## Leadership in the Congregation

Let's see if leaders are "made" instead of "born". In the months before the June congregational meeting, leadership is the focus of the Council's attention. Who will provide leadership as chairs of committees, as members of various units helping the congregation achieve its mission goals?

Every SHUC participant has gifts to share. Please consider whether you could offer your leadership gifts in one of the many opportunities the congregation affords.

Perhaps you can usher or greet? Lead a children's circle on Sunday? Count the offering or read scripture? Perhaps chairing a committee or contributing to one of the many committees that do the work? If your gift is talking on the phone, then the Pastoral Care or Congregational Life teams would like to hear from you. If you think you have no gift or skill to share, why not speak to one of the ministers who can help you assess your talents and point in directions of service?

God gives every congregation a multitude of gifted people and the point of being in a congregation is sharing – sharing the gifts of God for the healing of the world and the well-being of the congregation. How will you share your gifts?

Contact: Noralyn Smiley; Helen Cheung; Harry Oussoren for more information about the nominating task.



Have you visited the new SHUC website? [www.shuc.ca](http://www.shuc.ca)

## New Sound System Success

Your ears will appreciate this great news. The appeal to raise \$16,500 to improve the sound in the church met with success. Generous response by a number of donors has allowed the Council to contract with Emergent Systems to install a new system in the sanctuary, as well as to use current equipment to upgrade the system in the Hall and church foyer.

The installation is being overseen by the High Tech & Equipment Group of the Operations Committee. Thanks to all who have planned, studied, donated, and worked together to make this happen in time for the Bach-Schweitzer Event on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Raising Children and Youth

Christian Education is sponsoring a four-week parenting seminar.

Presented by Darien Thira – Clinical Psychologist.  
Sessions run from 7 to 9 pm.

May 1<sup>st</sup>: Foundations of Parenting

May 8<sup>th</sup>: Effective Discipline

May 15<sup>th</sup>: Family Communication and Responding to Distress

May 22<sup>nd</sup>: Responding to Anger

Cost: \$10 per family per session or \$30 per family for the series.

Call Gayle for information: 263-3827

This event is open to anyone so tell your friends!

## Thanks To The Thank Yous

If you think that people don't say thank you enough, you must read this article. Sent with the official charitable receipts for donations made in 2002 was a "THANK YOU" brochure. This little leaflet is a brief summary of the various ways by which the prayers and gifts of money, time, and talent enable the mission of the congregation to be carried out.

What a list! Even a quick glance will reveal that SHUC is about much, much more than Sunday morning worship alone! Thanks to all who have given generously and sacrificially toward this plethora of both traditional and innovative activity for all ages to "make a difference in the Spirit of Christ."

## April Communion



On Sunday morning, April 6<sup>th</sup>, communion will take on a different look. In response to encouragement by a number of people, the Worship & Music Committee is starting to experiment with different ways of carrying out communion.

At the April Communion, the pattern suggested by 18<sup>th</sup> Century church reformer John Wesley will be adopted and evaluated. Worshippers will still be invited to come forward to receive the elements. The difference is that communicants will gather in a group of about 20 near the chancel steps and there be served bread and cup. When the elements have been consumed, a blessing will encourage the group to return to seats. Then next group follows, until all have received communion.

One of the benefits of this form of serving communion is that families can stand together as they communicate.

The Worship and Music Committee invites feedback from this and other ways of worshipping together. Contact: Pat Carpenter @ 604-738-7058.

## What Are You Learning about Being a Christian?

Growth in faith and strengthening effectiveness in ministry – these are the goals of adult learning opportunities at SHUC.

Learning happens in a variety of settings:

- Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. the Breakfast Conversation Group at Van Lawn Tennis & Badminton Club, 16<sup>th</sup> & Fir. Books are chosen for peer discussion.
- Thursday morning 9:30 a.m. Bible Study in the Lounge
- Wednesday morning 10 a.m. Bible Study for Newcomers – reflecting on stories of the Bible for those learning English.
- Disciple Bible Study – every Monday evening – reading, discussion, and personal growth over 32 weeks – 70% of the Bible from cover to cover.
- Seeker Groups – discussion of contemporary faith issues; supportive conversations for women and men.
- During Lent, the Soup & Study Evenings for all ages to engage issues of faith in conversation
- Preparation programs for membership, baptism, and confirmation.
- Committees – where learning to understand the mandate is key for effective carrying out of the mission
- Training for leaders – special workshops and ad hoc events for those giving leadership



### Daffodil Tea – March 27<sup>th</sup>

- Sign up sheets are on the Action Table.
- RSVP, Helpers, Rides
- Invitations accompany this issue of the Grapevine.

## Pulpit Bibles

Two pulpit Bibles have gone missing. If you have any leads on their whereabouts, please contact the church office, 604-261-6377. Currently the Bible being carried in is an ancient, worn King James' Version.

## Congregation Meets

For over two hours, about 90 members and adherents of the congregation met after worship on February 23 to decide two major issues.

The first was the request by the Korean Trinity Presbyterian Church to locate its work at the SHUC site. The congregation was created in December when a majority of members of a previous congregation decided to separate and form a new church after conflict over leadership. The majority group has been worshipping in a local Mennonite church in inadequate quarters.

The congregation heard reports from the Council indicating that the Council had heard from the leadership of the KTPC and had consulted in a variety of quarters about the possibility of locating in SHUC. In the discussion a number of issues were raised about both practical matters and matters of shared ministry. Overwhelmingly the congregation voted to allow Council to proceed with a six-month experimental period during which time careful assessment can be made about the longer-term viability of the relationship. The trial period starts March 1 and ends August 31.

All SHUC folks are invited to both welcome this Korean household and to give feedback to the Council about how things are going. Only honest feedback – critical and affirming – will allow for the six-months to be a real experiment!

### The Observer – Magazine of the United Church

Honoured for excellence and recipient of many awards!

Start a new subscription or renew yours at the Action Table or speak to Margaret Walker.

## Town Hall Meeting - January 25

About 45 SHUC folks gathered at Vancouver School of Theology's Epiphany Chapel early on Saturday, January 25 to explore issues in helping SHUC become a more caring community.

Facilitated by Ric Matthews, the group had opportunity to worship, to vent frustrations, and to take a look at where we have come from over the past two and one-half years.

Issues that surfaced were grouped under six headings:

- How is leadership to be exercised?
- How will we ensure effective management of the congregation's life?
- How can we work at improving communication?
- How can we clarify individual roles and responsibilities (accountability & authority)?
- How can we address "community factors" that slow down the process of change?
- How can we resolve interpersonal differences?

Factors explored included what is the difference between leadership and management? And what is involved in organizational change – the kind of change SHUC is going through and must? As well, who owns the work of the congregation and who does the work?

Participants agreed that we need to be working toward a greater partnership between staff and participants, between leadership and membership.

The day ended with several in the group offering to be involved in the follow work. Cheryl Banfield, Rudy Kerklaan, Clif Prowse, Elizabeth Kerklaan, James Fraser, Ric Matthews will gather with any other interested folks to work at:

- Clarifying governance structures and procedures
- Build support for and clarity in the common vision of the congregation
- Develop the community by working at resolving differences and improving communication.

Thanks to all who participated and to Jean Campbell who organized the food service for the day. It was a worthwhile time of reflection and conversation to grow the congregation's common purpose.

*A.H.Harry Oussoren*

## Thinking Outside The Box

This phrase suggests creative ideas for old problems. It is not a new concept as Jesus was a master of the practice of thinking outside the box.

Jesus could have stayed right in Capernaum where he was an instant success. In Mark 1: 35, his disciples search the hills to bring Jesus back to town. "Everyone is looking for you," they plead. All they wanted was for Jesus to come back to town and keep doing more of what he was doing the day before. In an ancient form of entrepreneurial spirit they want Jesus to set up shop permanently in Capernaum. Whatever Jesus was feeling or doing at the time they arrived, the disciples could have cared less. The old system reasserts itself in the new reality.

What I mean by the old system is the "in-crowd" system. The economy then depended on an in-crowd of 'retainers;' those who had something of worth and a dependency on supply. An out-crowd of 'patrons' completed the economic picture, i.e. those who needed what the retainers had. The disciples thought they were getting outside their fishing 'box' because Jesus could heal and they could be the administrators. Simon even had the house: a potential Gallilean Centre for Healing Arts. What a perfect setup!

But where is Jesus? He left early to pray in the hills after a previous day of initial healing activity. He is reflecting on where to go next.

When we have busy day the vibration of our bodies is filled with the energy of others. How important it is to love ourselves enough to claim time to reflect, be still and find our quiet center. In such moments there may be room for tears that can surface to cleanse us. I believe it is God who caresses those tears and connects them to our innocence.

Young people know this connection. They are not looking for 'successful' adults ... they are looking for adults who "get it". Who know the most important thing is not to be a person of material substance but a person of spirit. A faith-filled encounter is comprised of something as simple as sitting for a while chatting about school or what a friend said, or your day . . . no one up or one down. Whatever the topic at least one person knows the voice of God may speak at any time. Most of us but especially youth have fond hopes for a taste of respect, positive regard of the real person

inside, and a casual yet deep listening to those issues that are on the surface.

So all this raises my highest ministry question for my lowest techno brain: Are meaningful discussion threads possible online?

Yes, the Communications Committee has gone outside the box and we'll all see if I can too. You will see the Shaughnessy home page has several places to visit and one is Youth Discussion. Some youth discussion topics might be:

- What if the "Angel of Death" is still floating over the world today?
- If you say: "I'm a Christian", how do you explain what that means?
- Are auras biblical?
- What if nanocomputers start to breed?
- God has not been around lately... what's up?
- How do you report baaaad teachers?

All comments will be anonymous unless you choose otherwise. Follow the links on the website and register. Once Ross approves your name you are in.

*Ross White*

### ***"The Old Order Changeth, Yielding Place to New"***

Just as Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote 150 years ago, so, too, for the Kiwanis Music Festival at SHUC

For many months I have been searching for someone to replace me as liaison between SHUC and Kiwanis (I wanted it done before I became too old). How blessed we are that we have not one but two wonderful young people from our congregation who have agreed to accept the vital task. **Darcy and Fiona Daubaras** will become liaison persons as of March 1st 2003. I shall continue to be involved and will assist them in any way possible.

For those anxiously waiting to be SHUC volunteers, the 80th Annual Music Festival dates are:

Choral Festival - April 3rd - 5th  
"Main" Festival - April 8th to 26th

*Ward Allen*

## From The Chair

The last few months have been a period of hard work and many changes. Your Council has researched the need for an upgraded sound system. We are happy to report that several persons have made contributions that enabled us to fully fund the project with Emergent Systems Corporation through individual gifts. Look for 'sound' changes and improvements in the very near future.

The Council has bid adieu to several of its members who have resigned for a wide variety of reasons: Secretary Dawna Claxton, Ministry and Personnel Chair Carol Saxon, Vice Chair for Mission Development Philip Francis, and most recently our Finance Chair Jeff Kroeker. Tom Beasley has quickly stepped in and taken hold of the M & P position, but we are still in need of volunteers to fill the remaining important positions. Think about it – can you help?

Late in January we were approached by the Korean Trinity Presbyterian Church with a request to share our facilities. Their minister, Rev. Tae, and two members of the KTPC met with Council and shared their needs and hopes with us. Council approved the request, appointed a Liaison Committee, and began the process out working out the myriad of details such an undertaking would entail. The proposal was presented at the Congregational Meeting of Feb. 23rd by Marilyn Thorsteinsson. Following a question and answer period, the proposal was approved. The Liaison Committee is developing a written working agreement which will cover details of legalities, insurance, maintenance, space and time usage, and fees. The committee will work with a similar group from KTPC to finalize the agreement, and will also outline the ways in which we hope to begin the process of working together as worshipping communities.

David Ansley has been enabling Council to understand and support the new directions he and Co-Chair Jennifer Aram are planning for the Outreach mission of SHUC. Jennifer and David promise some very exciting developments around a fall conference; and a coalescing of west side churches in providing a more cohesive plan to meet local and world needs around issues such as hunger, poverty, unemployment and Aids.

Council has worked hard to improve the relationship between the congregation as a whole and our fine Day Care. A task force gathered data, reported to Council, and will follow up this spring. In the meantime a small group of Council and Day Care Board members has been meeting to improve communication and to work out day-to-day issues.

Your Council has spent many hours wrestling with the budgetary needs and requests of each of the committees as well as with the capital expenses we are likely to incur in 2003. We have weighed the pros and cons of presenting a budget to the congregation based on our vision and what we believe to be the mission of SHUC vs. a budget based on the amount of money, which has been currently committed. We called you and asked for your help. Many of you made pledges and we thank you.

Council members have agreed that in order to carry out the vision endorsed by the congregation through the four pillar approach, (Caring, Learning, Celebrating and Reaching Out), and to meet our operating and capital expenses we will need to increase our revenue. This means that we will need a strong committee of people dedicated to planning and implementing a significant stewardship campaign.

We began the budgetary discussion with those who attended the Congregational Meeting on February 23rd. However, we found that our time and energy expired before we were able to make a final decision. Please mark your calendars for March 9. At this time we will hold a special Congregational meeting to come to an agreement on our vision for SHUC's future and the financial commitments which we will need to make in order to implement that vision.

There are many exciting things happening at SHUC. Many of them require ongoing and thoughtful decision-making. Council members need your input. If something new is happening and you like it, don't like it, need help understanding it, then speak with a Council member. And remember, we need some new faces as Council secretary and chairpersons. How about you?

*Noralyn Smiley*

## Music Notes

Music at Shaughnessy Heights is blooming! The addition of the hand-bell choir to our services is delightful to the ear (and the eye!) Roy Campbell has been the driving force behind its inception as well as the program of guest musicians who have lent their talents to our congregation approximately once a month since September. Thanks to Roy for his commitment to bringing music into the congregation in a variety of ways!

Thank you also to the Wall family and the Cumming family for their donation of a piano for the chapel. It was a generous gift and it will be appreciated on many occasions to come. Hearing the two pianos playing Bach on February 16 was a real thrill.

Speaking of Bach, don't forget to mark March 22, 8:00 p.m. on your calendars for the Bach-Schweitzer multi-media presentation, in aid of the Beads of Hope campaign for HIV/Aids relief. As Lee Bolton and Roy Campbell announced on February 23, it will be an "occasion" at Shaughnessy. I hope that we can rise to their level of sartorial elegance!

While you are marking, please include the Palm Sunday Choral Concert, Sunday April 13, 3:00 p.m. The Sanctuary Choir will be joined by the Chancel Choir of the Unitarian Church, to present works by a variety of composers. The featured work will be the "Requiem" by Canadian composer Eleanor Daley. It is in English and Latin with texts from sacred and secular sources. Admission will be by donation at the door.

During the season of Lent and Holy Week, leading to Easter Sunday, all of the choirs are hard at work on service and concert repertoire. The Songsters will be participating in services on March 9 and April 13, with the Youth Choir appearing in late April and in May. They work very hard and are dedicated to practicing and performing, (the cookies and the popcorn do help, though!)

One omission from last month's newsletter was a thanks to Gwen Horne for creating the quilt for the "King's Quilt" production. It was truly beautiful and is definitely being appreciated by its new owner. As always, there is room for all in the music programs at Shaughnessy Heights. If you are interested in any of the choirs, including the hand-bells, please talk to Cathy Pedersen or any of the choir members, who will be happy to give you any information that you might need. Keep singing!

Is Gospel/Spiritual music your passion? If so, please plan on attending the Hymn Tasting event on Sunday March 30, 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church, 49th and Granville. Hymns and songs in this style will be presented by the host choir and guest choirs. The audience will have the opportunity to join in singing some of the most popular hymns, as voted on by interested members of many city churches and choirs. If you would like to cast a vote for a piece, or pieces, that are your particular favourites, please see Cathy Pedersen for details.

*Cathy Pedersen*

### ***In the Company of Angels***

**Sunday April 13, 3:00 p.m.**

**Shaughnessy Heights United Church**

(admission by donation)

***~a concert of seasonal choral music, presented by the Sanctuary Choir of Shaughnessy Heights United Church and the Chancel Choir of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver~***

*The program will include "Requiem" by Eleanor Daley and other selections by Faure, Rossini, Willc and Copland*

# Worship at SHUC

In March, we move into the period of Lent – six weeks of journeying with Christ on the way to Jerusalem – scene of his passion, death, and rising. In Lent, purple is the dominant colour of penance. The organ screen quilt in the sanctuary signals the way of the cross – self-giving for the life of the world and its people.

The **Labyrinth** is available for meditation and prayer in the gym daily from 8:30 to 10 a.m. and from 8:00 to 9:45 a.m. on Sundays. A brief guide for use is available on the gym door.

The Chapel is open for prayer much of the time when the building is open. You are welcome. For worship on Wednesday, the chapel entrance can be used.

## **Ash Wednesday, March 5 – 7 p.m.:**

Prayer & Communion – Chapel  
Commissioning for the Lenten journey

## **Worship on Sundays**

### **Sunday, March 9 – First Sunday in Lent**

10 a.m. Morning Worship  
2 p.m. Crofton Manor Service

### **Wednesday, March 12 – 7 p.m. Prayer & Communion - Chapel**

### **Sunday, March 16 – Second Sunday in Lent**

10 a.m. Morning Worship  
Lori Andam, nurse in Gabriola UC:  
Friendly faces visiting, pastoral visiting for care-giving families in the United Church context.  
Organized by the Health Caregivers Group.

“Second Hour” conversation follows in the Lounge – 11:30 – 12:30.

### **Wednesday, March 19 – 7 p.m. Prayer & Communion – Chapel**

### **Saturday, March 22 – 8 p.m. Bach-Schweitzer Benefit Concert**

In support of UCC’s Beads of Hope Campaign

### **Sunday, March 23 – Third Sunday in Lent**

10 a.m. Morning Worship

### **Wednesday, March 26 – 7 p.m. Prayer & Communion - Chapel**

### **Sunday, March 30 – Fourth Sunday in Lent**

10 a.m. Morning Worship – Baptism and New Members

### **Wednesday, April 2 – 7 p.m. Prayer & Communion – Chapel**

### **Sunday, April 6 – Fifth Sunday in Lent**

10 a.m. Morning Worship – Communion  
4 p.m. Little Mountain Lodge service

### **Wednesday, April 9 – 7 p.m. Prayer & Communion – Chapel**

## **Holy Week Services**

### **Sunday, April 13 – Sixth Sunday in Lent – Palm/Passion Sunday**

10 a.m. Morning Worship for all ages  
3 p.m. Palm Sunday Concert – Requiem

### **Wednesday, April 16 – 7 p.m. Prayer & Communion**

### **Maundy Thursday, April 17 – Simple Meal and Seder Service for all ages (5:45 to 7:45 p.m.)**

5:45 p.m. Gathering Time  
6:00 p.m. Meal and Seder start (concludes by 7:45 p.m.)

### **Good Friday, April 18 –**

11 a.m. Shared Worship at Ryerson United Church, 45<sup>th</sup> & Yew St.

### **Saturday, April 19 – 10:30 p.m. Holy Saturday Vigil and First Service of Easter**

### **Easter Sunday, April 20 – 10 a.m.**

Festival Celebration of the Resurrection

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## ***The Grapevine***

Is the Newsletter of:

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