As we travel unknown valleys
May we never stand apart;
Christ is present in our actions
When we know
a neighbour’s heart.

From Neighbour’s Heart,
David Robertson
Grace to you and peace as we move toward the season of Incarnation.

In this season, we are drawn toward the meaning of the Christian story in its most nascent form. We move together following a star, hoping for the promise of God born among us, waiting for our deliverance in the possibilities posed by a baby, a new day, a new way. Standing at the edge of a manger, weary from the challenges of following, always hoping and yet often not finding, we wait for our deliverance.

Many stories gather there at the edge of the manger: a young woman who said yes, a man who stood by, an inn keeper who said no but yes, shepherds who followed, kings who sought, passers by who looked on, curious at best – so many stories gathered there at the edge of a manger. To fashion this story, many hearts were invited and followed, to hold this story many hands were required. Waiting on the Word waits better with many not few. Birthing a world takes many, not few.

In this moment of our school’s story, I look up and I see the many. Through the struggle of these past two years in the story of this school and its work, the hope for this school’s future has been held in the hands of many:

The many who believed; the many who gave; the many who left; the many who stayed; the many who suffered; the many who played; the many who persisted and toiled and prayed. We gather at the manger we ones with a vision and there we wait, we many we wait on that star.

And then I look further and see that the crowd stretches far beyond this most recent frame. The many moves backwards to gather up more-

the ones who believed in each form of the story before;
the hands and the hearts of the many gather far past the door.
Together we wait in this season of hope
For God’s new deliverance,
many hands God’s new story to make.

In his work “Night Trilogy”, Elie Wiesel tells the story of a young Jewish man whose family was entirely wiped out in the holocaust. At the end of the war, he moves to the Middle East and takes up the call for a new state of Israel. The politics of change were complex and violent. He finds himself involved with an Israeli liberation movement which has taken a young British soldier hostage. If the British government does not release several Israeli prisoners by morning, then the soldier will be executed. The young man and his companions draw straws – the short straw must perform the execution. With a sinking heart he realizes that the short straw has gone to him. He spends the night in turmoil guarding the young soldier. The soldier pleads for his life; he shows the young Israeli pictures of his wife and small son. In torment, the soldier’s jailer removes himself to an outer room so he can no longer hear the pleading of the desperate man. He falls into a troubled sleep and there suddenly in the room with him are many people – people long since dead: his mother; his father; his grandmother and brother; his old rabbi and finally himself as a young boy. He walks up to each visitor and demands to know, “Why are you here? For what have you come?” No one will answer him. Finally he comes to his younger self and pleads, “Please tell me, why are you here?” The young boy, his younger self looks up at him and says, “Don’t you see? We are here to see what we have become.”

As we gather around the manger this Advent season, the ground is crowded. It is crowded with the many hearts more on page 4
During the Native Ministries Consortium Summer School in July, partners of the Consortium renewed their covenant at a special service, welcoming new partners and celebrating existing partners.

Covenant signed by:

[Signatures and names]

The Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor (Mohawk, ITTI) and
The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald (National Indigenous Anglican Bishop)

The Rev. Dr. Wendy Fletcher (Principal and Dean) and
The Rev. Canon Martin Brokenleg (Director, Native Ministries)

The Rev. Lilly Bell (Haida, NMC) and Willard Martin
(Nisga'a - Chief Councillor, Laxgalts'ap Village Government)
and hands of those who have held the work of this school before us. And together we wait. We wait to see what God will do. We wait to see what we have become. We wait for our deliverance and for the birth of God in our future.

All who have waited know that waiting is not a passive act. To wait is often to worry, to work, to stumble, to plan and to pray. In times of waiting fear and deep panic can settle in. I remember waiting as my mother moved toward her death. I was seized by a panic, a not knowing how to wait, not knowing how to live what was coming. My mother’s sister came from far away to wait with me. She saw my panic, grabbed my hand and said, “Hold on to me. We will wait together.” The companionship of the other, of the many as we wait gives us the courage to move forward. When we are not alone we can face anything; we can hope for all things; we can be encouraged in the promise of tomorrow.

There is a story from Auschwitz: a young man named Joseph ended up in Auschwitz. He looked quite like other young men but Joseph was different. He had many challenges that made it difficult for him to understand what was happening around him. His captors were known to have little patience for young men like him. So Rabbi Moshe gathered the young man to himself as a shield and protector. Everywhere Moshe went, Joseph went.

One night the guards rousted all of the men in Moshe’s cabin from their sleep. They set them marching through the prison gates to a dark wood. The soldiers stopped the marchers and gave them the task of digging a large pit. The prisoners were then told to run and jump over the pit. If they made it safely to the other side, then their lives would be spared; if they did not they would be shot where they fell. Joseph held desperately to Rabbi Moshe’s arm, “Rabbi what are we to do? What are we to do?” he whispered. “My son, we must jump,” he answered. When the time came for Moshe to run, he ran and he jumped. By a miracle he found himself safely on the other side of the hole. He opened his eyes and there right beside him was Joseph. “Rabbi, Rabbi,” said Joseph, “How did you make it across?” “Well my son,” he answered, “I closed my eyes and I thought of my ancestors. I thought of my mother and my father and my grandmother and Moses and the prophet. And I ran, my son, and jumped holding onto the hem of their garments. And you Joseph, how did you make it across?” Joseph answered, “Rabbi I was holding on to you.”

My friends, in this season of the Incarnation we gather as many hearts and many hands, each holding tightly to the hand of the other – hands that hold this work now and hands that have held this work over many generations through their love, their labour and their gifts of time and money. We stand as many hands gathered on the ground of this moment in our story. Together we wait at the edge of the manger in anticipation of the miracle God will birth among us. Together we wait as an offering to God; our selves, our souls and bodies servants of the promise of God’s Word of Life. My friends, in this blessed season of the Incarnation, may God be born among us; may our hearts be encouraged; may our lives know peace.

Many Hands... continued from page 2

Global Cities and the Religious Imagination
This fall VST joined with Green College to present Global Cities and the Religious Imagination, a free, three-lecture speaker series.

We are living in the midst of the greatest migration in human history. Picture the world in motion: the southern hemisphere is coming north, east is coming west, and on all six continents migrations are to the city. Ray Bakke

The City and Transcendence
Dr. Graham Ward, Head of the School of Arts at the University of Manchester and Professor of Contextual Theology and Ethics, presented The City and Transcendence.

(Made possible by a grant from the Canada Research Chair in Literature/Christianity and Culture.)

The global city, like globalism itself, is permeated with religious meaning. Its transparent glass towers announce an architecture of light. Its hybrid and malleable cultures suggests infinite variety, limitless choice, and unbounded freedoms. Its internationalism aspires to universalism and its vision is utopian for it promises that all human desires can be satisfied. The global city feeds on theological dreams and myths and media spin. And yet cities seethe with multiple violations. They are always divided, and the divisions (of religion, race, sex, class, nationality, gender, social status) produce friends and enemies.

VST - building new partnerships

Global Cities and the Religious Imagination

The City and Transcendence
Caliphate or City of God?

Dr. Marianne Sawicki (Professor, Pennsylvania State University and at Juniata College) presented *Caliphate or City of God? When Someone Else's Medieval Metaphor Moves in Next Door*

Within the academic discipline of Philosophy, there is a subfield that goes by the name ‘The Problem of God’. Here one tries to reconcile three components of the western concept of deity: that God can do anything, that God intends good for humankind, and that bad things happen anyway. About 150 years before the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, a Christian bishop in North Africa framed this problem in the context of a global urbanized society and a crumbling empire. Augustine’s City of God has been hugely influential for all subsequent ecclesiology and political theory. But it is funded as much by historical imagination as by logic.

Panel Discussion – The City in the Religious Imagination: Jewish, Christian, Indigenous and Literary Perspectives

With Rabbi Dr. Robert Daum (Diamond Chair of Jewish Law and Ethics, UBC), Dr. Mark Vessey (Canada Research Chair in Literature / Christianity & Culture, Professor, Department of English, UBC), Dr. Harry Maier (Professor of New Testament Studies, VST) and the Rev. Dr. Martin Brokenleg (Director of Native Ministries and Professor of First Nations’ Theologies, VST).

Considering Ways of Being Church Amid the New Urbanism

**Emergent Christian Practices Fair**

**KEYNOTE: DR. CHERI DINONO**

This six-hour mini-fair featured a multiplicity of workshops providing participants opportunities to imagine new ways of being “church” in the global city context. Presenters from emergent Christian practices included The Recovery Café, On Earth Peace, Community of St. Martin’s, Church of the Sojourners, and Christian Peacemakers Team. The event was co-sponsored by: VST, First United Church, The Archbishop David Somerville Fund, and the Business Chaplaincy at Christ Church Cathedral.

Native Ministries Consortium

During the Native Ministries Consortium Summer School in July, partners of the Consortium renewed their covenant at a special service, welcoming new partners and celebrating existing partners. (see page 3)

The Alvin and Bert McKay Room and the Frank Calder Room in the Iona Building were officially blessed and dedicated during NMC Summer School.

**Our Indonesia Partnership**

This summer VST hosted three young faculty members from Indonesia to attend Chalmers Institute Summer School. In January, we welcome one of them back to begin her Th.M. degree. Ira Mangailillo teaches at Satya Wacana Christian University in Salatiga, Indonesia in the faculty of theology. Her ThM will focus on Hebrew Bible and her supervisor will be Pat Dutcher-Walls.
4th Archie Open a success!

On September 24 over 60 golfers gathered for the 4th Archie Open golf tournament at the University Golf Club to enjoy fresh air and fellowship, and raise money for the new archives. This was our most successful tournament yet, raising over $25,000 (net).

The archivists are preparing their move which will take place through November and be completed in December. The grand opening of the Bob Stewart Archives, the Archives of the Diocese of New Westminster and Provincial Synod of British Columbia and the Archives of VST will take place on January 24 – check www.vst.edu early in January for details.

The Archives are now finished!

The tower through the skylight

Blair and Melanie in the stacks

Anglican rivals from left to right – top row: Pelham Bishop, Brian Pearce, Rob Turnbull, Pat Pender, Andrew Pike; bottom row: Richard Leggett, Paul Borthistle, John Struthers

Doreen Stephens (Anglican archivist – retired), Melanie Wallace, Blair Galston
Vancouver School of Theology’s Board of Governors is pleased to announce two new Board appointments, effective January 2008.

Louise Rolston has accepted the Board’s invitation to serve as VST’s next Chancellor. Louise, awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa at Convocation in May 2007, served as Chair of the Board from 1994-1997. A life-long member of the United Church of Canada, Louise has served not only VST, but BC Conference, and the wider theological world, as a public member of the Accreditation Board for the Association of Theological Schools.

Louise succeeds Archbishop Douglas Hambidge, who for the past nine years has shepherded the School through property development and institutional change.

Archdeacon Ronald Harrison will assume the chair of the Board. Ron currently sits on the Board as a member at large and brings the expertise of the Diocese of New Westminster to his role.

He succeeds Marion Best who has chaired the Board for the past year, following Ken Carty’s six years in the chair. Both have served VST with dedication and care through challenging times and, most recently, a redevelopment of the Board’s composition and function.

We welcome the wisdom and commitment of Louise and Ron as they assume their new roles.

Words cannot adequately express the School’s gratitude to Douglas, Ken and Marion for their thoughtful and wise counsel. With many blessings we wish them both much happiness and success in new endeavors.

Who visits the VST library?

This summer, the VST library staff was pleased to welcome Mark Buchanan to both our circulating collection and the VST hotel. Mr. Buchanan is a Presbyterian pastor from Knox/Kennewick charge in Los Angeles, California. He graduated from Princeton University in the ’70’s and while there developed an interest in George Hendry and the doctrine of incarnation. Over the years, Pastor Buchanan did research on both Hendry and the Chalcedon doctrines and had begun a book on the subject. Located in L.A., he had good opportunity to explore both current and rare book collections, but could not find one particular Hendry title, the 1957 edition of “Holy Spirit in Christian Theology”. After seeking help from a local librarian the title was located – here in our own VST library.

Public Service staff received a phone call from Mr. Buchanan in early June when he was planning his summer professional development leave. After a few conversations with Gillian, both a research and family trip to VST was planned. Mark traveled up to VST alone for the first week and his family joined him for another week of travel and exploration in Vancouver and on the Island. He was thrilled to read the Hendry title and was seen parked under trees here and at St. Mark’s enjoying the occasional sunshine and his favourite author.

Gillian spent some time with Pastor Buchanan chatting about his work, his ministry and his inspiration for writing this book. In his words, as he moves through his career and his research it is important for Pastor Buchanan to leave something for his children to read so that they may know of their father’s deepest understandings and regard for the Gospel.

If his efforts at obtaining elusive research are any indicator, Pastor Buchanan will be successful. His visit to VST enlivened our summer and we hope his visit to VST enlivened his writing.
That Ray of Hope  

by Deb Kerr Stanbury

Last year, as some of you may remember a song was heard over the construction noises, despite the construction noises and in many ways because of the construction noises. A song which whispered in September, rising in the fall, peaking in February, and being echoed still today, began:

Out of the ruins and rubble,  
out of the smoke,  
out of the night of struggle,  
can we see a ray of hope?  
One pale thin ray, reaching for the day,  
we can build a beautiful city.

With the singing of that song the musical Godspell slowly came together drawing close members of the VST community. For me, the song is a metaphor with layers of meaning. There is the physical reality of the construction that has marked my 3 years at VST, and the knowledge that in the midst of all this building and construction, we have participated in building a community together.

Each year my own sense of community at VST becomes stronger, and the friendships that I have made within the VST community grow stronger and more beautiful. I am excited to see how that sense of community is strengthened this year, and how it will stay with us as we leave VST to embark in participating in God’s mission in the world, as God calls to each of us.

The lyrics of this song, also speak to what it means to live out God’s call in a world that is filled with ruin, rubble, smoke, and many nights of struggle. We are called to reach for hope, to bear hope, and to build a beautiful city together.

Enrollment this year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anglican/Lutheran</td>
<td>43 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Church</td>
<td>33 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>26 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other denominations</td>
<td>31 students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of these, 37 are in the M.Div. program, and 31 in the MATS program.

Robin Lynne Williams

Ceramics Exhibition
VST Masters Thesis Project

November 8-9

Trinity United Church
1805 Larch Street, Vancouver
Interview

with Stephen Farris

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris is Dean of St. Andrew’s Hall (SAH), and Vice-Principal of VST. Perspectives talked with Stephen about SAH’s 50th anniversary, and 25 years of partnership with VST.

Perspectives: Stephen, can you give us a brief overview of the history of St. Andrew’s Hall?

Stephen Farris: Well, in 1957 the Presbyterian Church in Canada founded St. Andrew’s Hall to be a stand-alone school training ministers for the PCC on the west coast. It quickly became apparent, though, that we could not do theological education alone – there simply were too few Presbyterian students and professors, and most students continued to go to Toronto or Montreal for their training. We also believed that theological education ought to be done in partnership with other denominations and schools. So, in 1982, SAH struck a deal with VST to form an association whereby SAH’s charter to grant degrees would be exercised through VST. They retained their own Board, and their own Dean, and paid the salaries of the Presbyterian faculty. They also provide bursary funds for Presbyterian students, and manage their own housing facilities. This association widens the spirit of cooperation in which VST was born.

Perspectives: How has SAH changed through the past 50 years?

Stephen Farris: In the early days, SAH provided 39 dorm rooms for its students – all male – a dining hall and a chapel. It wasn’t until 1995 that we undertook an extensive construction project, building the present housing block that provides 93 units ranging from quads to townhouses. Now we rent space to the broader UBC community – everyone from single undergraduates to families. We have about 275 people in our residence now, making ours one of the largest residences on campus.

Then in 2005 the original Manson House was demolished and the land divided and sub-leased. One strata building is nearing completion, and we have planning approval for another building of up to 15 stories. Plans for that will be finalized in the next 2-3 years, and some of the things under consideration are dining facilities, chapel space, and a multi-purpose chapel/theatre/lecture facility that could complement the classrooms in the Iona Building.

Perspectives: Tell me about the core ministry of SAH.

Stephen Farris: The Board recognizes four ministries: theological education on behalf of the PCC, the Elders Institute, Campus Housing, and Campus Ministry.

Perspectives: Theological education is your original mandate, and Roberta Clare talks about the Elders Institute in this issue, but tell me more about Campus Ministry.

Stephen Farris: This is a very exciting area, and it is always improving and growing. We have taken on a commitment to hosting ministry for various groups on campus for whom English is a second language. Right now the Korean Campus Ministry is hosted at SAH – this is the largest weekly ministry on the UBC campus. As well, the Inter-varsity Christian Fellowship holds a meeting in SAH. SAH hires student chaplains, and we host movies, regular soup & conversation, worship, informal ESL classes in a format of shared food and fellowship, Korean language group, a Mandarin Bible Study – staff for these programs is paid by SAH and all the programming is held in our buildings. Recently we have become the host for the UBC meeting of AA.

Perspectives: As VST has worked through many challenges recently, SAH has shown great generosity of spirit, for which we are very grateful. How did that arise?

Stephen Farris: As the Board of Governors and the administration of VST struggled to bring in a balanced budget, one of the strategies they used was a temporary freeze on library acquisitions. While this was necessary in the short term, it can have long term implications, so SAH elected to give an annual grant of $10k for three years to buy books of particular interest to Presbyterians. As well, our Board has made a one-time grant to help mitigate other cuts in VST’s budget – we also made small grants to our sister schools, Knox in Toronto and Presbyterian College in Montreal.

We believe absolutely in the value of partnership – here at UBC we have the second largest concentration of theological learning in the country. SAH could not carry out its mandate without VST, and we look forward to seeing that extended for many years to come.
The Hymn/Song Writing contest, offered through the Chalmers Institute in honour of the 100th Summer School of Vancouver School of Theology and its predecessor schools, has been adjudicated, and the winning hymn was performed during Summer School.

The hymn Called by Name was judged by the competition jury to be the most appropriate entry, in a celebratory tone, with strong new images, vigorous language, and a clear unity throughout the five verses. Congratulations to the author, the Rev. Peter Niblock, and to the composer of the new tune, Ms. Brigid Coult, both of Vancouver. The jury found that the tune gave strong support to the words, with a musical freshness on a Celtic note that would make the song easily learned and memorable.

The jury was also impressed by the song, A Neighbour’s Heart, with text written by Keri Wehlander of Nanaimo, and original tune composed by the Rev. David Robertson (a VST alumn, 1990). This hymn, with its meditative character, is a strong and original call to faithful discipleship in our contemporary context. The jury awarded it Honorable Mention.
The Hymn/Song Writing Contest

A Neighbour’s Heart

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Dr. Roberta Clare is a sessional professor of pastoral theology at VST and Director of the Elder’s Institute at St. Andrew’s Hall.

Perspectives spoke with Roberta Clare about her work with the Elders Institute, VST and St. Andrew’s Hall, and her passion for adult education.

**Perspectives**: Roberta, tell us a bit about yourself and how you came to Vancouver.

**Roberta Clare**: Well, I came to Vancouver four years ago this January to be the Director of the Elder’s Institute – I am the second director since the Institute was founded in 2001. EI is a ministry of St. Andrew’s Hall. The dean, Stephen Farris, the Board of the Hall, and the Presbytery of Westminster are all very supportive.

I have an M.Div. from Knox College in Toronto – I went to seminary in my early-mid thirties, and then was Chaplain at McGill in Montreal. But I felt I needed more training in pastoral counseling and education, so I went to Union Seminary in New York City to take an STM. I had a traveling scholarship with a time limit, so I arrived in New York to start this new degree with a three week old infant. Obviously, I didn’t know anything about parenting – or colic – but I learned fast!

My real love is education, so then I went to Columbia Teachers College to get my doctorate in education – my thesis was on the topic of ethical thinking to political action. I was testing Paulo Freire’s pedagogical approach [that he developed to empower grassroots literacy training in rural Brazil] for the North American middle class. There was an ecumenical women’s lobby group using Freire’s method to test Hilary Clinton’s proposals for health care reform, and I did their analysis, traveling to small towns around the US with a toddler!

**P**: That sounds like fascinating work – how did that lead you to Vancouver and the Elder’s Institute?

**RC**: My research passion is still transformative learning theory – how do people change their perspective? In the Presbyterian governance system Ruling Elders are the primary decision makers in the local church, while clergy – Teaching Elders – are the moderators. These Teaching Elders (ministers of Word and Sacraments) have no vote in session meetings (unless there is a tie – and they would be crazy to vote then!) The Elder’s Institute equips Ruling Elders for leadership, and although they are ordained to their calling, they often do not have the background or have not learned the skills to manage and lead. I use Paulo Freire’s pedagogical principles to empower this grassroots Presbyterian leadership.

We equip Ruling Elders with the tools – sometimes very specific tools like: How do you make a pastoral visit? How do you pray with someone? How do you run a meeting? And we help people examine their call by offering basic courses that use a spiritual mentoring model. Now here’s where my own experience as a teacher comes to the fore – research shows that when teachers mentor others, it inspires and transforms their own teaching.

**P**: And how does this work inform your work at VST?

**RC**: Well, education is my passion, and our ministers in the Presbyterian Church are called Teaching Elders, but we do not typically teach ministry students how to teach.
In my classes, I tend to model what I’m trying to teach so they experience it. Then they go to their congregations and try out what they have learned, and come back and report.

VST has always had a strong tradition of praxis (action-reflection) learning – students integrate what they learn in the classroom with vocational discernment and personal integrity to become fully human. They validate their book learning with their experience. It is the same grassroots model!

P: Do you have any new ventures or special events planned?

RC: Yes! I was commiserating with a colleague in Seattle – PCUSA [Presbyterian Church USA] is experiencing budget cuts across the board – one of the first things cut is education, but without ruling elders who are equipped to serve, how can we keep the tradition alive? So I have organized an international colloquium of writers of training resources for ruling elders in churches of the reformed tradition. I wanted it to be held at VST – VST is often the place where creative and unusual conversations happen. And I want the guests to experience the VST community – that’s why it is being held at the end of November.

This is the first such colloquium and we are starting small –16 people are attending from churches in Scotland, New Zealand, the United States and Canada. We want the people who are actually doing the writing and training, and they will each bring a ruling elder with them to keep the conversation grounded and focused. The keynote speaker is Leona English – a class-mate of mine from Columbia University, who is one of the few theorists and researchers addressing spirituality in the academic field of adult education.

P: Thanks Roberta – you are doing amazing work!

VST’s old truck has done faithful service for many years, but is coming to the end of its useful life. If anyone has a truck in good working condition that they would consider donating to the School as its replacement, please contact Corinne Rogers at 604-822-9813. With a letter of value from a qualified mechanic, you will receive a tax receipt for your gift!
Upcoming

Canadian Theological Students Conference
In March, 2008, VST will host the 54th annual Canadian Theological Students’ Conference. The theme of this year’s conference is “God in the City: Faces of Faith / Dieu dans la ville: les visages de la foi” – a fitting complement to VST’s work on the global city this fall.

The Canadian Theological Students’ Association was formed more than 50 years ago, beginning in close collaboration with the Student Christian Ministry, and continuing with ongoing support of the Church's Council on Theological Education and the Canadian Church’s Forum on Global Ministries. CTSA includes all students enrolled in accredited theological institutions in Canada and seeks to foster ecumenism among students preparing for ministry and/or theological scholarship.

This year’s conference speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Mathias M. Ross, Director of the Institute of Advanced Christian Studies, Madras Christian College, Channai, India. Dr. Ross’s current area of interest and research is perspectives emerging from interfaith encounters that can renew faith and transform life in the present time.

For more information, visit http://www.cantsa.ca.

SNEAK PREVIEW
MAY 11 - 13, 2008
G. Peter Kaye Lecture Series
Continuing education/Alumni event - Gerald Hobbs Retirement Lecture

This special weekend is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Lloyd Gaston.

MAY 11 - Dinner for Alumni (registration required)
Evening: G. Peter Kaye Public Lecture
MAY 12 - Day: Continuing education event with Dr. Robert Jewett. 7 pm Convocation: Address: Dr. Robert Jewett.
MAY 13 - Noon: G. Peter Kaye Public Lecture.
Evening: Retirement lecture – Gerald Hobbs

This year, the G. Peter Kaye Lectures are planned to complement Convocation, bringing together clergy, alumni, graduating and returning students and faculty, family and friends in a celebration of the memory of friend and colleague, Dr. Lloyd Gaston.

Dr. Robert Jewett, author of the 2006 ROMANS volume of the Hermeneia critical and historical commentary, Captain America and the crusade against evil: the dilemma of Zealous Nationalism, and many others, will be our guest speaker for both the lecture series and the convocation address.

Dr. Jewett is Guest Professor of New Testament at the University of Heidelberg (since 2000) and has lectured and taught extensively in North America and Asia. A prolific researcher and dominant thinker in biblical hermeneutics and cultural criticism, Dr. Jewett is recognized as a world leader in the writings of Paul, with particular emphasis on Romans.

Urban Native Ministries Summit
MAY 26-29, 2008
Conversations on Native Leadership, Church & Culture in the Urban Environment

Census data show that 70% of First Nations Canadians now live in cities, and 75% of the First Nations population is under the age of 25. The average life expectancy for First Nations is one of the worst in the world – and more than three decades less than the non-First Nations population in Canada. Attendant issues of social dislocation, high poverty in urban First Nations communities, the proliferation of urban gangs organized along tribal lines all speak to a pressing need for us to broaden our native ministries programming to urban centres. With this Summit, VST will begin conversations on these critical issues, led by the Right Rev. Mark MacDonald, (Anglican Indigenous Bishop), Donna Bombury (ACIP Director), Cheryl Jourdain (United Church All Native Circle), and Lavern Jacobs (United Church National Native Ministries).

Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences
MAY 31 – JUNE 8 2008 AT UBC

In the first week of June, UBC will host the 2008 Congress of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. “Thinking Beyond Borders – Global Ideas: Global Values” is the title of this conference, which will include meetings at VST of the Canadian Patristic Studies Society (Harry Maier, coordinator), the Canadian Theological Society (Sharon Betcher, coordinator) and the Canadian Church History Society (Wendy Fletcher, coordinator).

In July 2008, as part of the Chalmers Institute Summer school, VST will host the United Church of Canada Emerging Spirit programs. We are planning course offerings around this weekend event – check www.vst.edu early in the new year for more information.

The Principal is pleased to announce the inauguration of the Chalmers Visiting Lectureship in Public and Ministerial Leadership. The first incumbents will be welcomed at the 2008 Chalmers Institute Summer School.

PREVIEW - AUGUST 17-23, 2008
Sacred Circle 2008

The annual gathering of Anglican Indigenous People will be hosted at VST in the summer of 2008.

Children and the Church
11th annual ecumenical event
God’s Gift to Creation Children, Wonder, Stewardship and Hope
SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST 2008

Keynote Speaker: The Right Rev. Michael Ingham, Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster
Du 1 au 7 mars 2008, March 1 - 7, 2008  Vancouver, BC

Le Congrès des Étudiant(e)s en Théologie du Canada est un projet de:

L'Association des étudiant(e)s en théologie du Canada (AETC), et le Conseil des églises pour l'éducation théologique au Canada (CETC), en collaboration avec le Conseil canadien des églises (CCE), le Conseil oecuménique des chrétiennes du Canada et le Forum des églises canadiennes pour les ministères mondiales.

The Canadian Theological Students' Conference is brought to you by:

The Canadian Theological Students' Association (CTSA) and the Churches' Council on Theological Education in Canada (CCTE), in collaboration with the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC), the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) and the Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries.

AETC/CTSA
47 Queen's Park Cr. E.
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 2C3

(416) 928-3223
(416) 928-3563 (fax)
coordinator@cantsa.ca
http://www.cantsa.ca
When our faculty are not teaching or writing, they can be found sharing their ministry and scholarship throughout North America and abroad. Here is a sampling of their many activities:

**Glen Davis**
Glen Davis represented VST at the Presbyterian Synod of Alberta in October.

**Sharon Betcher**
Sharon Betcher has published “Spirit and Politics of Disablement”, (Fortress Press, 2007.)

In this remarkable and incisive work, Sharon analyzes our world and God’s embodied presence in the light of her own disability and the insight it affords. She claims disablement as a site of powerful social and religious critique and reflection, providing alternative understandings of the body and body politic in Scripture, in the actions of Jesus, in the healing work of the Spirit at work in a broken world. Sharon’s work is a revelation and a challenge to all Christians.

**Sallie McFague**
Sallie McFague will participate in Theological Education for a Sustainable Future at AAR/SBL-San Diego and beyond. [http://webofcreation.org/GreenSeminary/index.htm](http://webofcreation.org/GreenSeminary/index.htm)

**Sustainable Theological Education**
A joint AAR/SBL Session
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17
featuring John Cobb, Norman Habel, Sallie McFague, Rosemary Ruether, Larry Rasmussen and Cal DeWitt

This session honours these leaders in the field, and stimulates a discussion on how to green theological education in the future. Each honoree will give his or her perspective on the future of sustainable theological education.

**Pat Dutcher-Walls**
Pat Dutcher-Walls has been on sabbatical throughout the fall. She still found time to represent VST preaching and teaching a Bible Study at Lily Bell’s church in Haida (Old Masset, BC) while Lily was at a Diocesan convention. (Lily is past Chair of the Native Ministries Consortium and a graduate of the Native Ministries program.)

**Stephen Farris**
Stephen Farris maintains an active preaching schedule in Toronto and the Metro Vancouver area. On August 9 Stephen delivered the charge to the ordinand at the ordination of his son, Allan Peter Farris. In October Stephen addressed the Synod of Manitoba of the PCC and gave the Lester Randall Lectures on Preaching in Yorkminster Park Church, Toronto. The topic of the latter was “Preaching Resurrection.” Stephen has completed an entry on “Thanksgiving” for the New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible and added 500 words to one of his entries for the New Interpreter’s Bible Handbook of Preaching. Two chapters and a sermon have appeared in the newly published Michael Knowles, “The Folly of Preaching” (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.)

**Richard Leggett**
Richard Leggett attended Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee in Toronto in October; was a presenter at the Anglican/United Shared Ministry Conference on Vancouver Island, 3 November; 16-18 November he was presenter at “New Word! New Song! New Church!” conference at Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria with John Bell and Herbert O’Driscol; attended the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission in Toronto 22-25 November; and will attend the Program Committee on Worship of the ELCIC in Montreal 1-4 January, 2008.

**Harry Maier/Jim Lindenberger/ Martin Brokenleg**
Harry Maier is a member of The Greater Vancouver Biblical Colloquium, a group of faculty who teach Bible and Near Eastern Studies at VST, UBC, Regent, Trinity Western, and Columbia Bible College, together with PhD and ThM students in Biblical studies who meet monthly to hear and discuss papers. Our inaugural meeting was led by Jim Lindenberger. Together with Mark Vessey, Martin Brokenleg, and Robert Daum, Harry will participate in a panel discussion at Green College, part of the Global Cities and the Religious Imagination Speakers Series, on the topic of the Global City in Biblical, Jewish, First Nations, and historical perspectives (28 Nov 2007.)

**Harry Maier/Sharon Betcher/ Wendy Fletcher**
Local coordinators Harry Maier (Canadian Patristic Studies Society,/ Sharon Betcher (Canadian Theological Society) and Wendy Fletcher (Canadian Church History Society) have organized meetings of each society at VST during the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities taking place late May/early June 2008.
The Auxiliary of VST provides funds that support students in many ways including bursaries, library development, and hoods for the graduating class. Everyone is welcome to join, or to attend their monthly meetings where they enjoy a musical program and a speaker prior to their business meeting.

**COMING EVENTS:**

**NOVEMBER 22**, 11 a.m. in the Epiphany Chapel
Annual worship and lunch with the VST community, hosted by the VSTSA

**DECEMBER 13**, 11 a.m. at Oakridge United Church
Christmas music and carols

**JANUARY 24**, 2008, 11 a.m. at Fairview Presbyterian Church
Annual general meeting

**Wendy Fletcher**

Wendy Fletcher conducted several workshops through the fall: “Spirituality of Leadership” at the Reclaiming Youth Conference, Blackhills, Tennessee October; “Negotiating Power in the Workplace,” for the ATS Women in Leadership Seminar, Pittsburgh, October; “Who Do We Think We are: Re-mapping Theological Education for the Mainline in Canada,” was Wendy’s keynote address at the Symposium on the Future of Theological Education in Canada, Churches Council on Theological Education in Canada, Toronto, November; as was “Imagining a Future Beyond Social Christianity for the Mainline,” the Symposium for Emergent Christian Practices, Vancouver, November 2007. Two chapters are forthcoming in books in the spring of 2008: “Anglicanism as an ethnic identity,” (University of Toronto Press) and “Woman as Leader and Community” in a volume on the history of Canadian Anglicanism since 1950 (Anglican Book Centre). As well, Wendy represented VST at the meeting of the committee on theological education of the Presbyterian Church in Canada; met with the Anglican House of Bishops of the province of BC, participated in the United Church BC Conference New Ministries Workshop, November, and will greet United Church deans and principals from across the country at VST at the end of November.

*The final service of NMC Summer School*
Jean MacMillan Southam

Philanthropist Jean MacMillan Southam, daughter of the province’s most influential industrialist and wife of a scion of the famous newspaper family, died Tuesday October 23rd after a lengthy illness, three days before her 92nd birthday.

Former B.C. lieutenant-governor Garde Gardom said Southam “was really a great soul. She was very grand, courageous and strong-willed. She knew her stuff and spoke her mind.”

Born in Victoria, she spent most of her youth in the MacMillan family home in Vancouver’s Shaughnessy neighbourhood. In 1941 she married Gordon Southam, grandson of the founder of what became the Southam newspaper chain, and the couple lived in Vancouver throughout their adult lives.

Her father was H. R. MacMillan, founder of MacMillan Bloedel, which became B.C.’s most prominent company. MacMillan arguably had more influence on the development of the province than any other businessman. He also instilled in his children and grandchildren strong philanthropic values. Among his many gifts, his endowment of the Anglican Theological College and Union College (now joined as VST) stands out. VST’s library is named The H. R. MacMillan Theological Library in recognition of his outstanding generosity.

Jean Southam had a phrase that reflected her father’s values and summed up her philanthropic attitude: “Freely you have received, freely give.”

VST is publishing a book, to be released in the coming months, entitled “The Man Who Gave Back: The Rule of Life of H. R. MacMillan,” written by Robert D. MacRae. The book is an account of MacMillan’s personal values and their practical expression. It is “a portrait of an extraordinary Canadian who transformed his own profession, enriched the province with which he had fallen in love, then proceeded to share his fortune with a generosity and magnanimity that has left its mark on almost every aspect of British Columbia’s life.” (Canon Herbert O’Driscoll)
In October, Corinne Rogers became a “foster mom” to a guide dog puppy in training. Phoenix is 10 weeks old, and will live with Corinne for the next 18 months before she goes into specialized training prior to placement with a person needing a guide dog. Phoenix is already a much-loved member of VST’s community. If you meet Phoenix when you are at the School, please do not greet her when she is in her jacket – she is working, and has to learn not to be distracted. However, if she is out of her jacket, she is free to play. This puppy-raising program is run by BC Guide Dog Services (http://www.bcguidedog.com/).
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