A VST Education
is a Journey of Transfiguration

Grace to you and peace in this season of Pentecost.

It is usual at Convocation for the Principal to give a report. In that report we find a bird’s eye view, the year in review from the location of the Principal’s office. But tonight I find that the view from the Principals’ office, one set of eyes on the matter, is insufficient to our purpose. Although a 360 degree view is impossible, I propose that we spread our perspective more widely than my eyes alone. Of course, the collage I bring you is framed through my sight, but nonetheless let us try.

The eyes I struggle to bring to our celebration are the eyes of the 35 amazing graduates whose names will be read this night. Every year I meet individually with the students who are graduating. All are invited, although none is required, to come and sit with me to begin a process of closure. It is an opportunity to gather up any threads left hanging, to reflect on the experience of having studied at VST. The space of the conversation is open and graduates are invited to fill the space as they choose. This exercise has previously often been a mixed blessing. People share affirmations, and they express hurt over harm, they share disappointment, sometimes rage. It is a very human time. It is a very complicated time.

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However, this year’s class brought a very particular witness to the process of its leaving. One by one, student after student they came. They came and sat with me and in every case, regardless of degree program, regardless of age or ethnicity or gender or denomination or theological or sexual orientation, no matter what the particularities in that tapestry of diversity which is the VST student body, a common witness was given. What was that witness?

The shortest version happened this way. One young man had not yet made an appointment to come and see me. He raced by me in Chapel one morning and paused briefly with a smile and said, “Hey I forgot to make an appointment to come and see you – but really, all I need to say is THANKS – it’s been fabulous. I’ve loved my time here.” And on his way he went.

In varying ways, all of the members of the graduating class who came to see me bore the same witness. The class of 2008 distinguishes itself as an entire class which has deeply internalized the spiritual virtue of gratitude.

To reflect the spiritual virtue of gratitude is no small thing. Medieval-era theologian Meister Eckhart many times stressed that if the only prayer one ever offered was a prayer of gratitude, it would be enough. How can this be? Eckhart understood something about the place of gratitude in the drama of the human story.

What did he know? He understood that the heart which is capable of gratitude has been on a journey, usually a journey to hell and back. He knew that only the heart which has been broken open by suffering, and transfigured by grace can lift itself in thanksgiving. But the heart that can, the heart that has lived enough, suffered enough, remade itself enough to give thanks at all times and in all things, was, as Paul suggested in his letter to the Ephesians, a heart that has been transfigured, is a heart that can sing.

All of the graduates who came to speak with me talked about the journey of their transfiguration in this community of learning. In different frames and with different voices, persons spoke over and over again about the life-changing, life-making journey they have been on at VST. They talked about intellectual formation which cracked open their thinking, spiritual nurture which healed their hearts and experiences which have remade their way of looking at their world and the meaning of their own journeys.

As one would expect from a VST graduate, they also talked about growing edges and work still to be done both for themselves and at VST. But they set their observations in the context of celebration, a celebration of who they were, of what was possible and of the learning still to come. They named the importance even of their struggle and suffering in their transformation.

Interestingly, this graduating class is not a class given to Pollyanna-esque naivety. As far as I can tell, this class of disciples and leaders sees VST as it is. Many of this year’s class began their education 3, 5, 7, even 10 years ago. This class has seen it all. They have been through
the traumatic change of an institution moving toward death and finding a new path toward life, economically, spiritually and educationally. They have lived through building changes time and again, and they have walked the journey of those whose leaders and teachers let them down, and still lived to see another day. This class talks about the transfiguration of an institution walking hand in hand with their own.

I recognize the world of VST as these graduates have seen it: I recognize the endings and heartbreak. Together we saw jobs lost, hopes dashed, salaries rolled back – in fact my hands were often the agency of the trauma. I recognize confusion, despair and loss of hope.

And I see, as our graduates do, VST on the other side of the Jordan. I see hearts that believe, minds that think, spirits willing to give everything for the possibility of an education where lives can be changed and hearts healed, where any question can be asked and seekers can be safe enough to find their answers.

I see US: teachers and learners all, engaging in the radical act of education, opening ourselves to the intentional collision of the way we were, with the way we will become.

The poet Goethe, in a stanza from his poem entitled “The Holy Longing,” puts it this way:

_and so as long as you have not experienced
This: to die and so to grow,

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You are only a troubled guest
On this dark earth.

For Goethe, to ask the questions implied in one’s own story is a holy thing – to live those questions even more so.

Yesterday there was another convocation of sorts, with another kind of graduate: yesterday the confirmands of West Point Grey United Church were confirmed in their faith. In their pre-confirmation sessions, their teachers demonstrated great wisdom. As a beginning place, they asked this group of seeking 12 year olds: what are your questions? These young and future theologians had amazing questions. Here are a few of them:

- If God sent an email to us, what would it say?
- If Jesus is in our world today, how would we know? Would we believe?
- Does God have the power to decide who we fall in love with - or can we decide?
- Do all Christians have to believe the same things?
- If you are homosexual - can you be a Christian?
- If God didn’t want something to be possible - why is it possible?
- If you are a Christian - are you allowed to listen to or read something that is not Christian?
- Why are there so many churches?
- Why is God’s name - ‘God’?
- Why is it that we can lie?
- Is our conscience run by God?
- If God is a God of love - why do people kill each other in the name of God?

A wise one once said, “The questions we ask will determine the answers we find.” While this is certainly the case, more is at stake in the answering process than simply the question itself. The context we inhabit as we attempt to answer our questions will frame the boundary of our horizon in answering. The partners we have in the formulation of our conversation will shape what is possible for us in our imagining.

It was at a meeting of the VST Auxiliary at West Point Grey United that I first heard of the questions of these young theologians. Valerie, the minister of that congregation was offering a devotional and in it she shared the questions and then expressed appreciation that when these young ones were ready, there would be a place like VST for them to bring their seeking minds and yearning hearts.

Her gratitude for VST hit me right between the eyes. I saw what it is easy to forget in the hurly burly of ordinary time. I saw: our meaning; our purpose.

In his seminal work published many years ago, Man’s Search for Meaning, Victor Frankl, himself a survivor of the holocaust,
attempted to understand why some people survived and others did not. In the end, his conclusion was that those who were able to survive the dehumanizing trauma of the concentration camp experience were those who understood that their lives had a purpose. Those who survived believed that there was a work yet to be done, which only they could do; that there was a love yet to give which only they could give. They saw that there was a particularity to the purpose and meaning of their lives, even if they could not understand what it was in the short term.

Tonight we honour the outstanding VST graduating class of 2008. They come before us tonight, a people transfigured, a Pentecost people ready and eager to live God’s passion for this world, in whatever ways God might invite.

Dear Graduates: by your witness we see the particularity of work, and the generosity of love which only you can give.

Dear Confirmands of West Point Grey United: in your questions we see the particularity of the work and the shape of the love which only you will give to this world.

Dear Friends all: by your witness, we as VST see the particularity of the work which is ours to do, and in so seeing offer ourselves to that work and to the love which is ours to give.

On this night, the prayer I utter for all of us is one of deep thanksgiving, thanksgiving for hearts broken and blessed. It is a prayer of gratitude for all that has been and all that will be to the glory of God and for the sake of this world. Amen.

VST Welcomes
Visiting Scholar
Cynthia Bourgeault...

This fall VST welcomes Visiting Scholar in Residence, Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault. No stranger to VST, Cynthia will be teaching Theology and Practice of Prayer during the fall semester as well as taking on other program leadership activities. An oblate of New Camaldoli Hermitage in Big Sur, California, and a past fellow of the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research at St. John’s Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, she is the principal teacher and advisor for the Contemplative Society and lives as a hermit and writer. She has visited, studied, and taught in Benedictine monasteries throughout the United States and Canada, working as a college professor, medievalist, editor, and parish priest. She is the author of many articles, audiotapes and books. Welcome, Cynthia!
Clear-Cuts and Blueberries
By Victoria Marie (1997)

Saint Francis of Assisi saw the beauty and interconnectedness of all things, which inspired him to write the Canticle of Brother Sun. Bonaventure writes that God is visible in his footprints, that is, in creation. Plants, animals, earth, air, wind, fire, people, all bear the imprint of the Creator. Many of us have become so far removed from the natural wonder of our world that we ignore the sacred connection of creatures—creation, to their Creator.

During the delegation’s visit to the Asubpeeschoseewagong (Grassy Narrows) First Nation, we had the opportunity to see, experience and learn from people who remember and live in a way that respects the sacredness of life. We saw how a natural forest is a diverse, interdependent ecosystem. We learned how the forest supports both plant and animal species that also support human life.

We also saw clear-cuts and their results. In speaking of what is happening at Whiskey Jack Forest of Grassy Narrows, Brian Tuesday says that the people “are forced to disconnect from the very life that sustains them. The trees, the animals, the plants that they coexist with and had a living relationship with are being destroyed.” The areas that have been clear-cut have been replaced with a mono-culture of genetically engineered trees.

In a short one hour drive we passed several of these tree farms. The clear-cuts destroyed the habitat of several species of animals, birds and plants and in turn caused the loss of food, medicines and other resources that sustain three of the community’s families.

Yet there is hope. Normally, areas that have been clear-cut are chemically treated so that no other types of tree or vegetation can grow there besides grass, ensuring that the selected type of tree has no competition for soil nutrients. Pressure from Grassy Narrows and the four-year blockade contributed to the cessation of aerial spraying in the area thus enabling some local vegetation to re-establish itself.

There are signs of life returning. In one of these areas blueberries abound. The team was invited to pick blueberries by one of our hosts from Grassy Narrows. One of the team, Pat McSherry, remarked on how surreal it was to see the contrast between the clearcut and the thriving blueberries.

As suggested above, one can glimpse the image of God through the footprints of the Divine One in creation. Not only humans but all of creation bears the divine imprint of the Creator. Further, each microbe and being of creation is unique. Each deserves reverence and respect because of its singular manifestation of the Divine spark—of God. Wanton destruction of creation for greed without regard for its inherent sacredness is a form of sacrilege.

My experience of Grassy Narrows has prompted me to reflect on what happens if the clear-cutting does not stop and the life of the Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation is drained away. It is not enough for me to point the finger at others. I have to contemplate on how the Gospel is calling me to respond to the challenging question posed by Brian Tuesday, “What have we done to see that justice prevails?”
Upcoming Events at VST for Fall 2008

Korean Pastors Visit
JULY 3, 2008

Diana Butler Bass, Emerging 2 Where?
Sponsored by VST and Emerging Spirit
JULY 11 – 12
Visit www.emergingspirit.ca for more information

Visiting Scholar, John Caputo
Sponsored by VST and Green College
SEPTEMBER 20 at 5 pm Lecture at Green College, Coach House
OCTOBER 1 at 2 pm Lecture at VST, Chapel of the Epiphany
OCTOBER 2 in the evening Lecture at the Chan Centre, Royal Bank Cinema

Global Cities is offering nine courses open to the public over the fall and spring semesters. See below for more information or visit the VST website at www.vst.edu.

**Courses Open to the Public on Life and Faith in the Global City**

A central criticism of Christianity is that it understands the World as less important than our pursuit of Heaven. But, human populations are exploding, cities are becoming ever more crowded, and our environment is increasingly threatened. It is clear that our world can no longer sustain a faith that is not relevant to the present.

In 2008-2009, Vancouver School of Theology is offering a rich feast of courses open to the public that explore our faith in ways that speak to today's Christians.

**Fall 2008:**

Re-mapping Social Christianity: An Exploration of Contemporary Mainline Religion
Rev. Dr. Wendy Fletcher, Principal and Dean
Wednesdays, September 10 – November 26, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Celtic Spirituality: Community Life in the City
Rev. Dr. Lynne McNaughton
Wednesdays, September 10 – November 26, 6-9 pm

The Book of Revelation Now and Then: Visions for the Global City
Dr. Harry O. Maier, Professor of New Testament Studies
Thursdays, September 11 – November 27, 8-11 am

**Spring 2009:**

I - Theologies of Place for the Global City: Scripture and Worship in the Ancient City
Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls, Professor of Hebrew Bible

Dr. Harry O. Maier, Professor of New Testament Studies
Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett, Professor of Liturgical Studies
Friday, January 30, 6-9 pm; Saturday, January 31, 9 am – 6 pm

II - Theologies of Place for the Global City: The Sustainable City
Dr. Sallie McFague, Distinguished Theologian in Residence
Friday, February 20, 6-9 pm; Saturday, February 21, 9 am – 6 pm

III - Theologies of Place for the Global City: Imagination and Arts in the City
Rev. Dr. Sharon Betcher, Associate Professor of Theology
Friday, March 20, 6-9 pm; Saturday, March 21, 9 am – 6 pm

Social Justice: Amos, Urban Prophet and Reformer
Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls, Professor of Hebrew Bible
Mondays, January 19 – April 6, 2-5 pm

Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris, Professor of Homiletics
Tuesdays, January 20 – April 7, 8:30-11:30 am

Civic Rites: Christian Worship and Urban Centres
Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett, Professor of Liturgical Studies
Wednesdays, January 21 – April 8, 6-9 pm

Korean Pastors Visit
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The library collection can be enhanced through the receipt of rare or specialized titles. We also receive gifts of books that we are unable to use for a variety of reasons and we like to be able to “pass on” these titles. This can be difficult to do as shipping costs are prohibitive to the parts of the world that would benefit most. In the summer of 2007 we had one opportunity to redistribute our extra titles when we were contacted by Kimanda Jarzebiak in cooperation with ICROSS Canada. ICROSS was willing to provide shipping for a special collection of books to be sent to Mzuzu University in Malawi, and a combination of West Coast donors were asked to contribute. We were happy to oblige and Robert Eldridge, VST Collections Services, worked on putting together a collection of reference and introductory titles and almost complete runs of 3 journal titles. The VST gifts were part of a larger push to send books and supplies to this university, but the religious titles were especially appreciated. The following excerpt is from the thank you letter from Prof. Joseph J. Uta, Mzuzu University Librarian.

“It is worthy [sic] mentioning that the donation has proved to be one of [the] donations to Mzuzu University that has especially beefed up the Theology and Religious Studies Collection. The donation has strengthened the collection by about 300 percent. Initially the Theology and Religious Studies Collection had about 100 volumes and with 300 more books, now the collection boasts of 400 plus, [an] addition which is a tremendous increase.”

At the same time, we occasionally have an opportunity to pursue a specific donation of books to enhance our library collection. Such was the case when a former student, lecturer and visiting scholar, Meehyun Chung, contacted us regarding a professor in Switzerland, and his desire to share some of his books with our library. Through Meehyun’s foresight and willingness to pack and ship the collection, we were able to make the connection and accept this valuable donation.

Prof. Dr. Martin Anton Schmidt’s donation to the VST collection included Aristotle and Aquinas primary sources in original languages.

As we know, there are many benefits to both giving and receiving. It is wonderful to know that this is also true for library collections around the world and that we are able to be a part of the redistribution.
Celebrating
The Man Who Gave Back


“For MacMillan,” writes MacRae, “1965-75 was a time for things of the spirit, always present within him and now brought to the fore. His sense of responsibility for, and gratitude to, his community was increasingly expressed through a wide range of small- and medium-sized financial gifts.” It was in 1965, at the start of this period of giving, that H.R. MacMillan gave large financial gifts to what were then the Anglican Theological College in Vancouver and the Union College of BC (now merged to form VST.)

The book launch and reception were attended by guests from VST, the MacMillan family, church leaders, and forestry industry leaders. Dr. Fletcher welcomed guests and spoke of the importance of stories. The Rev. Canon Herb O’Driscoll, emcee for the evening, invited the author to speak, as well as the mayor of Port Alberni, Ken McRae (no relation). Mayor McRae reflected upon his own personal story of working in the forestry industry as a young man and witnessing MacMillan’s positive influence in that industry. He spoke compellingly about MacMillan’s commitment to the welfare and growth of many communities in British Columbia.

“A portrait of an extraordinary Canadian,” writes O’Driscoll about MacMillan, “who transformed his own profession, enriched the province (of British Columbia) 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.”

Remembering the Children
...Preparing for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Residential Schools

As part of VST’s continued walk with First Nation communities both in Canada and internationally, VST welcomed church, aboriginal leaders and several hundred others on Wednesday, March 5, 2008, to honored the histories of First Nation peoples in the continuing struggle to find peace with past events as part of the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Fifty students, who were at VST for a theological students conference at the same time, held a welcoming reception. Following the reception, the group took a ceremonial walk to UBC’s Museum of Anthropology where leaders spoke of the road behind and the road ahead as together, all moving towards healing from the past harms of the residential school legacy.

Wendy Fletcher spoke of the liberation that comes in finding the courage to name and own the story of residential schools which has become a legacy for all. As Wendy so aptly reminded those gathered, “Know the truth and the truth will set us free.” Dr. Martin Brokenleg, Director of VST’s Native Ministries Degree program, spoke of the symbolic meaning of the walk, as an act of solidarity, resistance, and a movement beyond harming histories.

At the museum, religious and First Nations leaders heralded the beginning of the work to be done by the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Commission will be traveling across Canada over the next five years holding meetings and hearing stories and shared experiences of peoples afflicted by the residential school experience. After the speeches at the museum, guests retraced their steps returning to VST for a reception where stories continued to be shared.
God in the City: Faces of Faith
The 54th Canadian Theological Students’ Conference - March 1 - 7, 2008 at VST

By Geoff Salomons (2008)

The Canadian Theological Students’ Conference had its beginnings in the 1950s – it is the only student-run ecumenical organization of its kind and provides the opportunity for students to explore questions and build relationships with others they might otherwise not encounter.

Matthews briefly outlined the difference between the churches through the theological placement of God – God as transcendent Wholly Other vs. God Emmanuel, God with us, immanent – while recognizing the need for both. The conference delegates joined the food line and broke bread (or hot dogs) with the residents of the DTES and were then split into small groups to walk the streets and experience life for themselves. This was followed by a time of debriefing at St. James before returning to VST for dinner.

After these full first two days we had our second keynote lecture with the rest of the day to go explore the city. On Wednesday the delegates were back for another full day. Workshops and student papers were presented on a variety of topics centered on the conference theme. After dinner the students were able to partake in a historic event as the Conference’s sponsoring ecumenical organization, the Churches’ Council on Theological Education, hosted a reception preceding the ceremonial walk for the Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission Tour. There the students witnessed the leadership of Anglican, United, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Church’s present humble apologies to the First Nation’s people and the commitment to journey together towards reconciliation.

The final day consisted of the Annual Business Meeting where the next year’s conference planning committee was elected, our final keynote address and a closing banquet co-hosted by the VST and Regent College Students’ Associations. Overall it was a busy week, yet the conference participants found it extremely profound.

The Canadian Theological Students’ Association has recently begun a partnership with the Ecumenism Journal. The December 2007 issue is dedicated to the 2007 conference in Montreal on Theology and Sustainability with several student papers published in that issue. A forthcoming issue will be based on this year’s conference.

Next year’s conference will be co-hosted by St. Michael’s College and Emmanuel College in Toronto and the conference theme is “Mission and Power: Memory, Journeys, Vision” as a continuation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the 1910 Edinburgh Conference on Mission. For more information please visit our website at www.cantsa.ca
An extended weekend and work at VST

G. Peter Kaye Lectures
VST welcomed Dr. Robert Jewett as guest speaker to this year’s Peter Kaye Lecture Series. Dr. Jewett is Guest Professor of New Testament at the University of Heidelberg and is recognized as a leading work expert in the writings of Paul with particular emphasis on Romans. Dr. Jewett gave three lectures, entitled “The Zealous Empires and the Apostle Paul: Then and Now,” “Romans as a Letter for the 21st Century,” and “Has American Religion Become a Menace to World Peace?” He was also the keynote speaker at this year’s Convocation.

A New Climate for Theology – the launch of a new book by Dr. Sallie McFague
On Tuesday, May 13, VST honored the publication of Sallie McFague’s new book, A New Climate for Theology: God, the World and Global Warming. Sallie’s son and granddaughters, Natalie and Evelyn, to whom the book is dedicated, traveled to Vancouver to mark this important occasion, and to celebrate Sallie’s 75th birthday with her.

“As a personal note, I would like to say two things. First, a thank you to my fall 2007 class on Climate Change and Christian Faith, who worked through the book, chapter by chapter, and gave me many important insights. Second, a word about the book’s dedication. It is for my granddaughters, Natalie (10) and Evelyn (8) with the text, “who must live in the world we leave them.” Traditionally, North Americans have worked hard for kids and grandkids, but the realities of climate change mean that things will not likely be better for future generations. This is a serious moral failure on the part of those of us responsible for global warming – it is a time for repentance and serious change in the way we live.”

Heike Goebel honors the VST Library with a show of her art....
As an artist and a hospice-, grief- and trauma-counselor, Heike Goebel uses creative art to express and make visible what cannot be named. Using her own life story as a starting point for her work, Goebel displayed her work, using the medium of collage, in the H.R. MacMillan Theological Library over the course of the Peter Kaye Lecture Series. Goebel states that “the collages are a visual expression of what happens when the body reacts to traumatic experiences, loss and social alienation.” The making of collages “tries to recollect the fractured story, to give a meaning to the parts, to go through the emotional process and integrate the destructive experiences into a life story.”

Convocation 2008 Dr. Harry Maier with Dr. Robert Jewett and Dr. Heike Goebel
of celebration of life

From Friday, May 9 through Tuesday, May 13, VST celebrated the many facets of life and work at VST. Centered around the G. Peter Kaye Lectures and Convocation, these five days also included the Board of Governor’s lunch for graduating students, a dinner for alumni, the launch of a new book by Sallie McFague, Gerald Hobb’s retirement lecture and an art exhibition in the H. R. MacMillan Theological Library.

Board and Student Lunch
Each year the Board of Governors hosts a lunch for graduating students. VST’s new chancellor, Louise Rolston meets with graduating student Janice Lowell.

Alumni Dinner
Visiting Scholar, Dr. Robert Jewett and his partner Dr. Heike Goebel speak with Dean of Students, Patricia Dutcher-Walls, at the Alumni Dinner.

Gerald’s Retirement Lecture
On Tuesday, May 13 in the Epiphany Chapel, Gerald Hobbs, scholar and beloved professor of church history at VST for more than 30 years, delivered his retirement address to an audience of colleagues, students – current and former, and friends, followed by a reception in the Iona Building.

“Evangelical is a good word,” Gerald began, as he invited listeners to embrace evangelism, engaging the past in order to seek an interpretation of the Scriptures appropriate to the present. “It means ‘according to the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ’… As we wrestle with the interpretation of the Scriptures appropriate to our day, so we engage conversation with the ancestors, trying to appreciate their struggles to be faithful to the Gospel in their day, that we may receive insights and cautions as we approach our calling, our decisions…. I suggest that you and I, the folk I want to call radical, catholic evangelicals, engage in this calling finally, because we have been captured by a God who has committed to all the messiness of the human story, including our own, and we know by experience that glimpses of the glory of life in the Spirit will be caught in the struggles of our ancestors and ourselves to live out the Gospel.

His talk, entitled Redigging Ancient Wells: the Heritage of the Evangelical Reformation, will be published at a later date.
Ringing out for Peace

By Robyn Williams (2008)

I first heard of the World Peace Bell Park project when my classmate Carmen Lansdowne (MDiv 2007) approached me in the fall of 2006 and asked if I would be interested in making a bell for her. The project is the initiative of the people of Hwacheon-gun on the border between North and South Korea. The bells that have been gathered from around the world are to sound out for peace in this region.

As a potter I was delighted to take on such a project so that Canada would be represented in this beautiful gesture towards peace, not only in Korea but for the world. My bell is porcelain with red iron oxide relief in the shape of maple leaves, the symbol of the Canadian flag. The bell is small but it rings out pure and loud for peace.

Such a project is so meaningful for me to bring to fruition, as it fits so seamlessly with my theology of the arts as foundational to human communion. I have worked on other such projects, including a full interactive exhibition that formed a part of my masters thesis at VST. Now that I have graduated I want to continue to use the arts to communicate the mandate to love thy neighbour. My upcoming projects include designing new communion ware for VST and having my work on display and for sale during Summer School. I am also working collaboratively in East Vancouver providing arts access to the marginalised in our city.

Imago

In 2006 VST commissioned a sculpture by artist James Ceaser (a member of our VST community) as part of the Landmark Legacy Campaign to grace the newly renovated Iona Building. Made possible by a generous donation from the Edmund Maier family, this commission was installed on the main floor of the Iona Building outside the Barss Suite (Principal’s offices) and unveiled in December, 2007.

In James’ own words, “‘Imago’ is a six foot diameter glass and steel reverse bas-relief sculpture. This work is intended to explore the first Action, that is to say the initialization of the material world from the celestial and, more specifically, the masculine/feminine duality that results as the Image of the Singular Actor is expressed on the physical plane.”
VST Congratulates its Graduands 2008!

Special Program in Denominational Studies

Martin Baxter graduated from Regent College in Vancouver with his MDiv in May 2006. He continued at VST to complete a certificate in denominational studies in order to be ordained into The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Martin and his wife, Heather, hope to remain in the Vancouver area as they seek God’s call within the Presbyterian Church.

Diploma in Denominational Studies

Carmel Alanna Menu had several careers before answering a call to ordained ministry in the United Church of Canada: teacher, banker, manual labourer and community support worker with adults with developmental disabilities. A highlight of her time at VST was worship with her peers and preaching in Epiphany Chapel. She hopes to continue building ecumenical bridges and being a healing and spiritual presence in her future ministry.

Diploma in Christian Studies

Jason Hubbard Derr received his Diploma in Christian Studies while finishing up the last work for his MATS. Jason has recently served as a volunteer chaplain at Simon Fraser University for the Lutheran and Anglican Campus Ministry and has published articles in the Online Journal of Public Theology and The Canada Lutheran. Jason plans to continue his work as an independent scholar and theologian and to further pursue his research interests in Theo-poetics and Disability Theology as it relates to invisible disabilities.

Janette Elizabeth MacIntosh is pleased to mark this milestone along the way of what she says may be a long haul at VST. Active in parenting, continuing her part-time studies and part-time ecological education and social justice efforts in community, she is grateful for God’s steadfast love and her family’s encouragement (and patience) together in her walk. She says: “Thank you, to all who have been walking with me so far”.

Master of Arts in Religious Education

Pamalynne MacCallum Ruud transferred her MDiv studies from Claremont School of Theology in California to VST in 2003, graduating with an MDiv in 2007 and continuing on to complete her MARE. Pam believes in a ministry of empowerment of the laity, faith in action, and justice for all in creation. She now works in Spiritual Care at BC Children’s and Women’s Hospital and Burnaby Hospital. Looking to a future in Education Ministry and Spiritual Care, Pam receives the MARE with thanksgiving and deep gratitude for ongoing support by faculty, staff, and colleagues at VST.

Daylene Dawn Marshall was born and raised in the Vancouver area. After she completed her MARE she relocated to New Mexico to be the Director of Religious Education for First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque. She lives there with friend Liz and their 3 dogs and 3 cats.

Master of Arts in Theological Studies

Gary Andraza (Biblical Studies) came to VST with a BA in Information Systems and a first MA in Counseling at Tennessee Tech University. And he has the debt to prove it! Gary looks forward to working at VST as a computer professional looking after their systems like a good shepherd. He will also continue taking classes and learning because God is not done with him yet! He will continue to live in Vancouver and hopes to stay around for a long time if for no other reason than to have good conversations with all the dear friends he has made.

Dixie Sharron Black (Spirituality and Spiritual Direction) came to VST from her private practice of twenty years in clinical counseling and consulting. She expresses her gratitude for the riches of the Spiritual Direction program in the outstanding professional training she received and in the lasting relationships formed during her time at VST. Dixie will focus her time on her practice as a clinical counselor and Spiritual Director and begin writing her book on the spiritual dimensions of recovery from addictions.

Jin Soo (Joshua) Kang – (Integrated Studies) was senior pastor of a Korean church in Su-Won city in South Korea when he sensed a call from God to go to Canada to reach out to people in different cultures. He chooses the word “grace” to describe his education at VST. Joshua has recently become the senior pastor of the York Memorial Presbyterian Church, an English speaking church in Toronto, Ontario, and is sure that his study at VST has equipped him well for this ministry.

Anne Frances Millar (Spirituality and Spiritual Direction) came to VST after five years of retirement, recovering from 35 years of teaching teenagers. Her time at VST has been rich in friendship, scholarship, and fun. Anne plans to be a spiritual director, and she may also go on to further study.

Jeffrey H. E. Preiss (History and Theology) has become a familiar face at VST working as a casual staff member in the Administrative Services Centre and as a faculty research more on page 16
assistant. His MA thesis explores the constructions of the Christian masculinised self in the bodily performances of Antony of the Desert. Jeffrey intends to continue historical research around notions of body and gender performance in relation to queer theory and Christianity.

**Eleanor Rogers** (Spirituality and Spiritual Direction) entered VST as a music teacher, while also pursuing a degree in counseling psychology at UBC. One school term found her absorbed in constructive theology, career counseling, music for brass, the apostle Paul, and abnormal psychology, and she would assure you that as far as she’s concerned they’re all the same thing! Next year, as she completes her UBC MA program, Eleanor will be focusing on the ways that spiritual direction and counseling skills coexist and integrate.

**Maren Susan Ronne** (Spirituality) is a native of Montreal, but she and husband Steven now happily call Vancouver home. Maren’s MA concentration was in Spirituality, and she has been studying concurrently to meet the requirements for hospital chaplaincy. Maren is presently employed as a chaplain at Vancouver General Hospital and plans on pursuing this call.

**Cynthia Turley** (Spirituality and Spiritual Direction) held a number of jobs in her former life, among them TV administrator, crew on film productions, and accountant in her family business. She came to VST with a BA in political science, a thirst for theological education, and for the first time in her life, the inklings of a sense of vocation. She plans to seek opportunities to support spiritual growth in her Anglican parish home and continue her education towards chaplaincy certification.

**Robyn Lynne Williams** (Integrated Studies) has worked in performing arts, education, social justice, and the ceramic arts. While at VST she focused on body theology, theology and the arts, and social justice. Her thesis, entitled “This Broken Body – The Body I Am: Repatriating the body into the incarnate self,” included all of these things in a combined paper and interactive ceramics exhibition. Robyn is currently working as a ceramic artist and co-manages a studio designed to provide arts access to the marginalized and hopes to continue her ministry work in this area.

**Master of Divinity**

**Julie Abbot-Jones** (NMP) is a recently ordained Episcopal priest from the diocese of Alaska. She is in process of transferring her letters to one of the dioceses of Wisconsin.

**Frances Alice Brown** (NMP) comes from Kitkatla, an island community not far from Prince Rupert, BC. As a member of the Tsimshian First Nation, Frances plans...
on ordination in the Anglican Church for her home community.

**Ming Jen Chiang** came to VST to pursue theological education because of his passion for serving God in Chinese and Taiwanese congregations in Western countries. A highlight of his time at VST has been finding his passion for God in the ordinary material world. Ming Jen plans to pursue further studies while he serves God in his current church.

**Frances Marr Darling** (Honours M.Div) is a Cowichan Valley writer who worked for two decades with young folks dramatizing the biblical stories at Duncan United Church. She began her VST adventure with the first on-line course on the Pentateuch, which she took for fun as a glorified Bible study. Fran completed the M.Div Honours track, writing a major paper on popular education and transformative learning models, which she hopes to expand and publish. Fran was ordained on May 25th in the United Church of Canada and will be serving the congregations of Chemainus United and Cedar United churches on eastern Vancouver Island.

**Kelly Shannon Duncan** became a student at VST after having been the School’s Communications Coordinator and then running her own consulting business. Highlights of her experience at the School have included finding strength and inspiration in the VST community of faculty, staff and students; and recently birthing a VST baby, Lauren Elizabeth! Kelly anticipates ordination in the fall in The Anglican Church of Canada.

**Karen Maida Fraser-Gitlitz** came to VST with a background in adult education and architectural history. She loved the way that worship, study and practicums were all woven together into the life of the School. Karen is currently an outreach worker at DAMS for Women in the Downtown Eastside and she is the candidate for a ministry position with the First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo.

**Judith Hardcastle**, born and raised in Windsor, Ontario, recently retired from SkyTrain where she worked in the Operations and Safety & Training Departments for 23 years. She is excited about beginning full-time ministry with The United Church of Canada this summer, and will stay connected to VST through her work with the Thomas Merton Society of Canada and the Merton Reading Room in the H. R. MacMillan Theological Library.

**Julie Ann Lebrun** came to VST from Lay Ministry in the United Church with a background in Mental Health and Recreation. She enjoyed courses while always asking, how does this inform congregations/seekers today? She looks forward to being settled in ordained ministry at St. Andrew’s United Church in Port Moody after a good vacation!

**Janice Mount Lowell** came to VST with a BA in French and Psychology, a BSN (Nursing), and a Masters in Public Health, after a career in health care in the United States. She enjoyed being involved in the many opportunities VST offered: Faculty Council, VSTSA, Canadian Theological Students’ Conference in St. Johns, NFLD and Vancouver, Godspell, and an Anglican Theological Student’s Summer Internship in Belize. Janice will begin a curacy at St. Andrews Anglican Church, Langley in August, and will be ordained in June.

**Pitman Benjamin Potter** has been a life-long Anglican and since 1990 a professor at UBC Law Faculty specializing in Chinese law and policy. He notes that the highlights of his time at VST cannot be distilled into a single sentence, but would include opportunities for learning in theology, scriptural analysis, homiletics and pastoral theology. After graduation he will continue ministry as a Vocational Deacon in the Anglican Church, weaving this with his academic and policy work through UBC for mutual enrichment and for God’s greater glory.

**Geoffrey Herman Salomons** came to VST after a year of bartending in Edmonton and Scotland upon completion of his BA in Sociology from the King’s University College in Edmonton. During his time at VST he married Michelle Vonderte. He was Conference Chair of the Canadian Theological Students’ Conference, hosted by VST this past year. He plans on taking a year off to work on languages (French & German), self-study and PhD applications for September 2009.

**Jessica Robin Schaap** has loved studying at VST for the past four years, and will particularly miss the deep theological conversations over beer with her classmates. She can’t always be a student though and this summer she is looking forward to getting married, and going on a very long honeymoon. She hopes to be ordained soon to a position in the Anglican Church of Canada.

**Deborah May Kerr Stanbury** came to VST with a BA from Wilfred Laurier University in Religion and Culture, and experience in youth and camping ministry within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. She served on the VSTSA, most recently as president, and enjoyed performing in
Godspell last year. Deb ministers to street-involved youth in Toronto at Evergreen Centre for Street Youth.

David Matthew Taylor is happy to be finishing his degree at VST and is thankful to everyone who has supported him these four years: his family and friends, particularly his mom, dad and Andrew. He hopes to be ordained in the Anglican Church of Canada.

Susan Titterington (NMP) is an Anglican priest in the diocese of Yukon, serving several congregations out of Mayo. She travels as far as Old Crow in the Arctic Circle and will continue her present cure.

Elizabeth Anne Vaughan came to VST from a career in education. A highlight of her time at VST was being part of the community that performed Godspell. Betty is currently on an International Internship with the Anglican Church serving in Placencia Village in the Diocese of Belize.

Master of Theology
Janet Merry (Paddy) Eastwood came back to VST after an eighteen year gap to focus on educational ministry. Her thesis is entitled, “Transforming the Heart” and examines how John Calvin’s doctrine of sanctification and Jack Mezirow’s transformative learning theory could shape Christian education in the Presbyterian Church in the 21st century.

Doctor of Ministry
Ted Jeffrey Dodd entered the DMin program in 2005 with 27 years experience serving ministries in urban, rural, new church development, interim and United Church Conference settings. His DMin project entitled: “Sacred Circle of Learning: A Model of Tranformative Theological Education” focused on the Centre for Christian Studies’ (CCS) pedagogical approach. Ted continues his work as Program staff at CCS and will enter a new course of study in preparation for spiritual direction in the fall.

Marilyn Patricia Ann Hames is a retired engineer, corporate executive and worker priest. She studied the benefits of local pilgrimage as an aid to spiritual renewal and growth during her DMin studies in Spirituality at VST. Marilyn is the Honorary Assistant at St. Philip’s Anglican Church, Dunbar.

Thank You!

Each year many clergy and religious leaders support VST though their teaching and training of students preparing for ministry. These partnerships are an invaluable opportunity for students to gain knowledge of ministry in the field.

VST thanks the 2007-2008 Field Supervisors:

- The Rev. Dr. Gerard Booey, Haney Presbyterian Church
- The Rev. Richard Bott, St. Andrew’s Haney United Church
- Sister Nancy Brown, Covenant House Vancouver
- The Rev. Graeme Brownlee, St. Augustine Anglican Church
- The Rev. Bruce Cairnie, Langley Presbyterian Church
- The Rev. Dan Chambers, St. David’s United Church
- The Rev. Ellen Clark-King, Christ Church Cathedral
- The Rev. Dr. Sylvia Cleland, West Point Grey Presbyterian Church
- The Rev. Fr. Mark Greenaway-Robbins, St. James Anglican Church
- The Rev. Yoko Kihara, Fraser Valley Japanese Church
- The Rev. Ian Macdonald, South Burnaby United Church
- The Rev. Bruce McAndless-Davis, St. Aidan’s Presbyterian Church
- The Rev. David Martyn, Royal Heights United Church
- The Rev. Jim Smith, Central Presbyterian Church
- The Rev. Valerie Taylor, St. Aidan’s United Church
- The Rev. Bethan Theunissen, Westminster Presbyterian Church
- The Rev. Scott Turnbrook, Deer Lake United Church
- The Rev. Dr. Peter Chin Chai Wang, Vancouver Taiwanese Presbyterian Church
Alumni Updates

Alumni: do we have your most recent contact information? We send many notices by email, but we know that many of your email and mailing addresses are out of date. Please contact Angel Liu at aliu@vst.edu or 604-822-0245 to provide the School with the most up-to-date information.

1970s

Jim Massey (1978) is retiring from ministry in the United Church after 30 years. He has taken a new path in his life returning to school to learn how to drive long haul trucks. He and his partner Marion are planning on touring North America (and getting paid to do it!)

Glen G. Watts (1970) took early retirement after 24 years as Chaplain at Riverview Hospital, Port Coquitlam, BC. He and partner Diana Lynn Woods now live in California where he continues to work as a volunteer pastor at Westwood United Methodist Church (Los Angeles.)

1980s

Robert Oliphant (1984) received his D.Min in May from the Chicago Theological Seminary. He is in ministry at Eglington St. George’s United Church, Toronto and has been nominated as the Liberal candidate in the riding of Don Valley West.

Neil Parker (1983), a Major in the Canadian Armed Forces, has been posted to CFB Petawawa in Ontario as chaplain to the 2nd Service Battalion.

1990s

Spending the past three years facilitating projects in Nigeria and Ghana, Barbara Gilday (1998) has been busy building a library in the Niger Delta, an orphanage and community centre in Ghana, teaching, and raising funds for a school library.

Dawn Purdy Karkut (1999) has given birth to son Dawson Grant Purdy Karkut. Though she says she and her partner David have not had a good night’s sleep since, she can think of nothing more rewarding than being a mother.

Margaret Mullin (1992) has received a YMCA/YWCA Woman of Distinction award for her work in Winnipeg Inner City Missions. Margaret is Executive Director of WICM, an organization which provides housing and employment opportunities for singles between the ages of 30 and 55.

2000s

Anna Constantin (2002) has recently moved from Cordova Bay United Church in Victoria to Alberni Valley United Church located in Port Alberni, BC.

Creating what they call a “side-by-side” approach to ministry, Bobbie and Chuck Morkin (2006) serve as a pastoral team at the United Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Bobbie has also been accepted at Andover Newton Theological School.

Christine Ann Muise (2006) will be ordained as transitional deacon at St. Andrew’s Anglican Church in Trail, BC, Diocese of Kootenay, on June 18.

Anne Scissons (2003) is the new vicar of St. Paul’s Episcopal Indian Mission in Sioux Falls, Iowa. She has been there since September 2007 and has so far survived the cold winters.
Faculty and Staff Updates

Sharon Betcher recently received an award for her article entitled “Sanctuary” (published in *Espirit*). The judges deemed her article “a challenging call for a Christian life lived out intentionally and incarnationally in relation to the sacred spaces we occupy.” Sharon has had a busy sabbatical, working on three other forthcoming articles: “Crip/tography: Of Karma and Cosmopolis,” “Politics of Fear, Path of Faith,” and “Disabling the Fall.” Recently she traveled to Berkeley to present a public lecture and teach two classes at the Graduate Theological Union. At the Social Sciences and Humanities Congress held in Vancouver in early June, Sharon welcomed the Canadian Theological Society and presented a paper at their gathering.

In January, Martin Brokenleg took part in the Anglican Church’s national conference on the listening process for the Alternative Dispute Resolution process. In February he addressed the United Methodist Church in Portland on the Formation of a Gay Identity and Gay Sensibilities. In March, he led the gathering of the heads of the United Church’s Aboriginal Schools and taught clergy and pastoral care teams of the Anglican Diocese of Kootenay a weekend course on pastoral care.

Glen Davis traveled to Japan in early April at the invitation of the Council of Overseas Korean Churches for their biennial conference. He delivered a paper (in Korean) on the Theology of Place and the implications it has for the mission and ministry of diaspora Korean churches around the world. He was also able to visit churches and friends in the Korean Christian Church in Japan where he and wife Joyce Davis served for 15 years.

Patricia Dutcher-Walls is this year’s planner and coordinator for an upcoming consultation (late June at VST) between the three seminaries of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and the three colleges of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Faculty members and students from the seminaries will share papers and Bible studies on the theme of “Identity as a Theological Problem.” Pat continues her work on the manuscript for a book, “In Life and in Death: The Family in Ancient Israel,” a collection of articles on that topic by Biblical archaeologists and sociologists.

Stephen Farris has been on sabbatical leave this past term writing a collection of stories together with advice on storytelling in preaching and teaching, tentatively titled, “The Innkeeper’s Table.” He has also prepared an online course, “The Lord’s Prayer,” for the Elders’ Institute of St. Andrew’s Hall and has been busy speaking, preaching, and being the worship and Bible Study Leader for the National Conference of Clerks of Synod and Presbytery of the PCC. Stephen will continue a busy preaching schedule over the next few months: some notable occasions are the 100th anniversary of Central Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, the summer series at Yorkminster Park and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, Toronto, and participation in a new summer preachers’ series in Penticton United Church.

Along with her teaching responsibilities, Principal Dean Wendy Fletcher carries out and exhaustive travel and hospitality schedule for VST. Local coordinator for the Canadian Society of Church History meetings (part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences), Wendy presented a paper entitled “Anglicans and Changing Ethnic Demographics in Canada” as part of the Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion. Wendy’s travel has included the Association of Theological Schools’ Commission on Accreditation, Pittsburgh; St. John’s Church (Victoria) Lenten Speaker Series where she presented a paper entitled “Re-Mapping Social Christianity in Canada: A Location for the Church/State Conversation;” the stone moving ceremony for Charlotte Sullivan, past Board member, in Hazelton, BC; and two keynote addresses to the Churches’ Council on Theological Education Board Visioning Retreat and the ATS’s Senior Women Administrators Retreat, Pittsburgh. At VST, she hosted national and international guests, including cathedral deans from across North America at the Urban-Suburban Clergy Conference, welcomed Greg Barker, Head of the School of Theology and Religion at the University of Wales; Elaine Graham, the Samuel Ferguson Professor of Sociology and Pastoral Theology at the University of Manchester; and the Urban Native Ministries Symposium.

Although officially retired, Gerald Hobbs continues to represent VST at many church meetings and events, to teach as a sessional lecturer, and lead Chapel music for worship. This summer he and Lynne McNaughton will lead Pilgrimage 2008 - “Claiming Our Spiritual Heritage”, from Brú na Bóinne to Cashel: the Celtic experience in Ireland, beginning June 20, 2008 from Dublin, and concluding July 6th in Kilkenny.
Having prepared for ordained ministry thirteen years ago but deferring settlement to further her theological education, Janet Gear was ordained by the BC Conference of the United Church to her ministry as Director of Denominational Formation at VST on Sunday, May 25th. Janet begins her third year at VST in September, teaching denominational studies and contributing to course design in areas of public and pastoral leadership. Her role on the Board of First United Church has provided opportunity for creative collaboration between both communities of learning. Continuing her service to the General Council Committee on Theology and Faith, Janet is involved in church-wide reflection on the meaning of ministry in our contemporary context. She also continues to serve local congregations as preacher, facilitator, and speaker throughout the year.

In February and March, Richard Leggett traveled to Myanmar where he had the opportunity to work with theological students and liturgical commissions. In April Richard attended a conference on the proposed Anglican Covenant sponsored by General Theological Seminary, NY and gave a presentation on the role of cultural and social context in shaping Anglicanism. In June he travels to Ottawa to participate in the meeting of the Heads of Anglican Colleges and then Toronto to attend a meeting of the Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission. Later in June he will present two workshops at the Lutheran-Anglican National Worship Conference in Montreal. In July Richard will be teaching in the Native Ministry Consortium Summer School and August he will be the keynote speaker at the Conference of the Association of Anglican Deacons in Canada to be held in Vancouver.

In January Harry Maier led a mini-course at St. Andrews-Wesley in downtown Vancouver on the book of Revelation in Empire. At the Social Sciences and Humanities Congress (UBC and VST in June), Harry welcomed the Canadian Society of Patristic Studies and presented a paper at the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies entitled “‘He has broken down the dividing wall of hostility’: Ephesians in Iconographical Perspective.” As part of the Peter Kaye Lecture Series, Harry welcomed guest speaker Dr. Robert Jewett and organized a symposium between Dr. Jewett, professors and church leaders. In November Harry will travel to Boston where he has been invited to give a paper at the Hebrew Bible section of the Society of Biblical Literature. He will focus on the Epistle to the Hebrews and Roman iconography and sacrifice.

Though always busy helping students with research and writing, Gillian McLeod is also busy professionally through her participation with various academic associations. This past April Gillian was in Richmond attending the BC Library Association Conference and in May at the United Church BC Conference in North Vancouver. This June she is traveling to Ottawa to attend the American Theological Library Associations conference where she will also chair the LG Interest Group meeting and social.

Sallie McFague, Distinguished Theologian in Residence at VST and Carpenter Professor of Theology Emeritus at Vanderbilt Divinity School, has published a new book, A New Climate for Theology: God, the World and Global Warming. The book traces the distorted notion of unlimited desire that fuels our market system and offers an alternative vision for a just and sustainable economy and a new understanding of what being human means.

It is with deep regret that the Principal accepted the resignation of Lynne McNaughton, effective September 1, 2008. Despite her love of VST and her work here, Lynne feels that the time has come to make a shift in her professional direction, and she has accepted an exciting position in pastoral ministry with the Diocese of New Westminster. Lynne has been a significant member of this community for many years and she will be deeply missed, although she will continue to provide leadership as a sessional lecturer, beginning this fall with a new course on the Celtic Church.
New and Familiar Faces

Gary Andraza (MATS 2008) joins the staff as VST’s Coordinator of IT Services and Security. Gary has been a student employee since arriving at VST in 2001 helping with security, IT services, and general facility duties.

Patrick Blaney (MDiv 2007) has been on contract with VST over the past few months assisting with admissions in the office of the Registrar. Patrick will stay on at VST until August when he begins a curacy at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver.

After being on maternity leave with her partner and their new daughter Jemila, Registrar Anita Fast returns to VST.

In September, 2007, Lucy Lima, Housekeeping Supervisor, celebrated 25 years at VST – Lucy, we don’t know what we’d do without you – Thank you!

Jeffrey Preiss (MATS 2008) joins VST as Communications Assistant, Office of the Principal. Jeffrey has been a student employee for the past two years in the Administrative Services Centre and worked alongside various faculty members as a Research Assistant

Farewells

While Anita Fast was on parental leave, Kristy Arndt (MATS 2006) joined the VST staff as acting registrar. As a graduate of VST, Kristy brought an extensive knowledge of the student experience to the role.

After two years as VST’s Recruitment Officer, Tara Bentall King (MATS 2006) has left VST to pursue creative writing. She and partner, Dan, have recently bought a house and will be married in August.

Rhonda Carriere, who has been with the Native Ministries Program for a decade, most recently as Associate Director, is moving on to new challenges. Rhonda has been a driving force and constant guide to many Native Ministries program students over the years.

After filling a variety of roles at VST over many years, Shaun McLean, Director of Operations, is taking parental leave. He and partner Kelly Duncan (MDiv 2008) welcomed their new daughter, Lauren Elizabeth, into their family this spring. We congratulate the McLean and Duncan household and wish their family many blessings.

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Maintenance Supervisor Bob Pennell retired at the end of 2007 after many years of faithful care of our buildings, old and new. Bob is looking forward to having more time to read and travel. We’ll miss you, Bob, and we wish for you fair weather and good books!
Bible Study Leaders Training

One Day or Half Day Introduction or Training Event
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For more information, contact Gayle at: disciples_vst@shaw.ca or 604-261-6377 ext. 80. (voice mail)

This program is an expression of the educational work of Vancouver School of Theology’s Chalmers Institute.

The Gordon and Barbara Reed Bursary

The Gordon and Barbara Reed Bursary, established by Barbara Reed and her family, reflects an ongoing commitment to supporting excellence in teaching and learning by providing financial assistance to a student with demonstrated need, in full or part-time studies at Vancouver School of Theology, seeking to broaden his or her faith in support of lay or ordered ministry.

Gordon and Barbara Reed were committed to a life of service and were active members of Dunbar Heights United Church, Vancouver, for over thirty years.

Gordon worked in the hospital planning field, assisting in the development of several Health Care facilities in British Columbia. In his church life, he served on the Committee of Stewards, committees of Presbytery and BC Conference, where he developed many innovative ideas for keeping church records.

Barbara taught Sunday School for many years, joined CGIT, and then became an active member of the UCW. Barbara joined the executive of Vancouver South Presbytery and went on to work for B.C. Conference. Barbara served as Dunbar’s Clerk of Session and as their Presbytery representative for many years.

Together, Gordon and Barbara worked to make the lives of others better by being inclusive, welcoming and warm. They moved to Summerland, B.C. in 1992 where they continued to support the work of Summerland United Church. They shared their lives in service to their families and the church.

The Lloyd Gaston Memorial Fund

A new memorial fund is being established in remembrance of much loved faculty member and renowned scholar, Dr. Lloyd Gaston, initiated by several of his former students. This annual award will be granted at Convocation to the student who submits the best paper in any discipline of New Testament Studies.

In the words of Joe Ball (MDiv 1994), a former student of Lloyd’s and instrumental in establishing this fund, “For those of us who studied under him, the name of Lloyd Gaston continues to jump out from the pages of our biblical literature. A scholar of outstanding renown, Lloyd was also a teacher of considerable skill, whose words continue to sound in the ears of his students. Lloyd worked to brush away the assumptions of a generation of pastors and priests-to-be, encouraging us to encounter the scriptures and to know them in a new – and greater – way…. [I]t surely falls to us who were so blessed to convey some sense of our gratitude to VST, and to bless the present generation who must engage in their own struggle to grasp our sacred scriptures.”
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Thank you for your support