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We wait with open hands and aching hearts for the birth of the Word among us. We wait with longing for our God to move toward us, and in that movement which shapes itself into birthing, to illuminate our path and warm the coldest spaces of our journey. We wait.

A December world is a mysterious place. It is the place where we know the winding down of day into darkness, that seasonal rhythm which mirrors the ebb and flow of our soul’s story. It is the place where ebb in turn draws the edge of grace which frames the space of meeting, we in God and God in us. O come Emmanuel. We wait.

This fall, the season of ebb and grace writes itself in a very particular way at VST. We move toward Bethlehem this season, enriched as a large community of diverse and seeking teachers and learners. After a very busy summer program, September, 2010 brought us the largest admissions class in the history of VST and its predecessor schools. And yet as financial resources ebb, we move toward the manger also, as a community impoverished by the loss of staff who have journeyed faithfully with us over time. As we continue to commit ourselves to fiscal responsibility, as a means of ensuring long life for VST and its mission, we continue to adjust the scope of resources available for holding open the reach of our work.

Of course, VST is not alone in finding its way in the paradox of abundance and scarcity which the fall to winter transition implies and which has become poignantly real in this generation of institutional stories. Our church partners live this rhythm as well. In the liminal space of a time such as this, how might we begin to think into the Advent of God among us?

During the month of October it became clear to me that I needed to take a fasting retreat as preparation for the next stage of our work at VST. I spent a week with the Community of the Sisters of the Church in Burlington. There is one particular moment from that week which I would like to share with you. I was reading a text by early twentieth century mystic Evelyn Underhill. In that text, she relayed the experience of a little known woman mystic from the late 13th century, whose name was Angela of Foligno. I had not encountered the story of this woman before. But as I read I put my book down is shock. The dream by which Angela began her movement into a deeper quest for God through the religious life was by all accounts, the same as a
dream which I had this past summer. It was Saturday, July 03 two days before my middle daughter was to have her fifth surgery for a recurrent tumour. Our anxiety was high. That night I dreamt that I was sitting in the Epiphany Chapel. Francis of Assisi was there as our guest lecturer. The Chapel was packed. Everyone was listening attentively to his words. However, despite trying very hard to hear, I could not understand what he was saying. Eventually he moved toward me. As he stood in front of me, I could see the outline of his brown robe but my eyes could not focus on him. He stretched his hands toward my face and gently removed my blind spots. As he became clearly visible to me, he said, “God wants you to See.”

“ And I saw. I saw a world bathed in love. I saw the Beauty of God, golden, warm illumination, an ocean of grace holding us all.”

And I saw. I saw a world bathed in love. I saw the Beauty of God, golden, warm illumination, an ocean of grace holding us all. In the intensity of that experience I understood: no matter what comes, God IS. No matter what comes, the Word to which all of us are invited and in which all of us are known is a Word of unbounded welcome and healing love. It is that which is real. All the rest, in the end, finds its place in the larger narrative of that meaning. Love IS and we ARE. Francis’ vision of that Bethlehem road which journeys ever more deeply into God, teaches us in the end, of a road where we find God to have been with us all the while.

It is in sure and certain hope of this, that it becomes possible to turn our faces toward the complexity of ordinary time. With our hearts open, it becomes possible to journey toward Bethlehem in expectation of the life that is coming, even as we anticipate the perils of a winter road we do not yet know. The illumination of a star, which is the illumination of Godself guides us and leads us home. Emmanuel. God with us. Amen.

BLESSING THE ANIMALS

One cat, two pigeons and three dogs attended the Blessing of the Animals gathering in the VST Meditation Garden on St. Francis Day, October 4th. They were joined by their human companions and others from the community at VST and beyond. After Scripture readings, a Litany for Animals and the individual blessings, this closing prayer was offered:

God, our Creator, help us to love all creatures as our kin, all animals as our partners on earth, all birds as messengers of praise, all frogs as voices of hope and all small beings as expressions of your mysterious design. AMEN

Thanks to all of those who participated.

WENDY AT WORK

This fall after the enthusiasm of academic start-up slowed, Wendy took a week long retreat with the Sisters of the Church in Burlington. At the end of October she chaired the meetings of the Society of Anglican-Lutheran Theologians in Atlanta. In early November, she visited Korea where she presented a paper at the Third International Conference on Peace and Reconciliation in Seoul entitled, “Pathways to Peace: The Road Beyond Mission as Ethno-Genocide”, and also addressed Youngham University in Daegu on the theme of mission and the contemporary church. At the end of November Wendy, served as Chair of the United Church Deans and Principals Meeting in Edmonton. In January she serves as keynote speaker for the New Presidents’ Conference of the Association of Theological Schools in San Antonio, Texas, and as speaker at the DIAP Conference of the ATS in Orlando, Florida in February.
I think my Advent came early this year.

Nine months ago I got the unexpected news that my job at Corpus Christi & St. Mark’s Colleges was to end. I loved my job and I especially loved the people. This Anglican loved hanging out with the Catholics. The news broke my heart but I needed to trust that it could be my “notice” from God saying there were other plans for me.

It took me the full three months to finally be ready to start looking for a new job. Never before had I had the gift of time to dream what I could do next.

The moment I started to get anxious about my needed next job & next paycheque, I got an email from a student at St. Mark’s College sending me a job posting at VST for the position of “Assistant to the Registrar and Admissions Assistant.” This was the very job I no longer had at CCC/SMC. And the day my bank account went empty, I had my first day of my new job at VST. (I sense God was trying to tell me something.)

So after hanging out with the Catholics for four and a half years, and being sent off with a blessing, I am now hanging out with the Anglicans, Uniteds, Presbyterians, etc, etc, etc. These first six months at VST have gone by so quickly. My days have been busy, very busy, and/or extremely busy. (I thank God every day for those earlier three months of rest.)

Fall semester is well underway: the students are here, faculty are in their offices, rotunda prayer and Community worship have begun again, and the staff have become my friends.

I feel at home at VST and I can say that, through this experience, Advent has come early this year. I have encountered Immanuel and I know “God is with us” this season and always.

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OPEN HOUSE

VST’s autumn open house was a huge success. We began the day in the rotunda sharing coffee and prayer and getting to know each other a little bit. As per usual, the staff and faculty were welcoming of everyone, attending prayer with our visitors. Then, at 9am, we went to New Testament 500 and a lecture by Harry Maier. Harry wowed his temporary students with an informative and fun lecture that could be appreciated both by his regular students and by the new students who Harry had welcomed into his classroom for the day. Everyone had a great time. From there, they experienced VST community. First was Commons Hour, led this time by Sallie McFague. Then the Principal’s Lunch, which gave VST regulars a chance to jump into the role of welcoming committee. Our visitors were spread throughout the lunch room, each engaged in a conversation with a faculty, staff or student member. Lunch was followed by a chance to talk with Wendy, Robert and Pat about VST, Iona Pacific and programs and degrees. Ending the day with a tour through the school from top to bottom gave the open house attendees one final opportunity to appreciate just how beautiful the School is and how amazing an opportunity it is to be here. It was a fantastic day and we expect to see everyone who attended back here again soon, in the role of student.

Thanks to everyone who made it possible!

Our next open house will be February 12th, 2011. We hope to see you there!
October 20th saw our annual Bursary Donor Reception. We were pleased to see many of our donors at the event, as it gives them the opportunity to meet each other, visit old friends, and, most importantly, meet the students who benefit from their generous gifts. No words could every truly communicate the depth of our gratitude to the donors. They enrich the life of the school, they enrich the lives of the students and they enrich the work of our future leaders. The difference that they make knows no measure. Donors, thank you.

MARK MUNN GIVES BACK

The following speech was delivered to the donors present by Mark Munn at the Bursary Donor Reception hosted by VST on Wednesday, October 20th.

My name is Mark Munn. I am an Anglican, and hope to be ordained in the Diocese of New Westminster (God-willing, and if they’ll have me!).

I have two perspectives that I wish to speak to tonight. The first is as a recipient of bursaries at VST. I was just having a conversation with two of my fellow students before class tonight. We’ve each received funding from donors to support our seminary experience. Each of us has wanted to tell our donors how humbled we are by their generosity. It is an act of deep grace to reach out a helping hand to a student you may never have met before. For some of us, the decision to enter the seminary was a lonely experience. But when someone stands beside you, and pays dollar for dollar what you have sacrificed for your own education, you realize there is a community of support around you. That you have a future and supportive companions on the way. My partner is in the middle of a PhD program. We have made enormous sacrifices for each other’s dreams. Without your funding assistance, though, no amount of sacrifice would enable us to be here. I really really couldn’t afford school. I owe this community a lot.

Which brings me to my second perspective. During the summer break, I was earning a bit more. I received a newsletter in the mail from VST, and heard of some of the funding cuts that the institution was facing. I became a donor that day. I donated because I believe that VST has a future. My experience here as a student, in every way, has been one of enormous depth and breadth - there is an intellectual and spiritual fecundity here that you might think was rare in the modern world. During the school year, I can’t make large donations. But what God has given me, I happily give back, now, and for a long time after I’ve graduated.

SAMAYA OAKLEY’S THANK YOU TO DONORS

I’m not sure where to begin as gather my thoughts in a coherent way to thank you for the gift of your generosity, for it has changed my life greatly. I want you to take your mind to a prairie summer day where the energy had been
gathering for a thunderstorm, and it hits right after dinner. When the storm clears, there’s a stillness in the air. It was in that stillness that as a four year old girl, I looked up and saw, larger in height than the building VST calls home, a vision of Jesus standing there in full colour, beckoning to me. I was raised as a Roman Catholic and here was a call being extended to me in language a four year old could understand.

I danced with this call for a long time, and for a time ignored it, for who was I to heed this call? Eventually, the universe had had enough of my resistance and told me in no uncertain terms that I was not living my life in accordance with its purpose. I lost my job, I lost my marriage and found myself alone with a four year old daughter. Everything that I knew was lost so that I might begin to live out my call.

It was around that time that I happened to come to VST as part of a discernment weekend that was offered at the time. The school was still housed across the street and I knew from the moment I walked in to the building that this was a place that I belonged. The halls were warm and welcoming and I had a sense of returning home. Since that time I have said yes to every opportunity that brought me closer to ministry. Here I am, close to 15 years later, standing in front of you as a proud Unitarian Universalist to say thank you for affirming my call.

Your generosity has allowed that call to become clearer and stronger in me. As I undertake my studies, I am grateful to the bottom of my heart that I am allowed to study in these hallowed halls, in this place of learning - a place that you help to create with your generosity. Thank you for this blessing in my life.

“I danced with this call for a long time, and for a time ignored it, for who was I to heed this call?”
In the early 2000s, Ambon, Indonesia was rocked by religious violence between Christians and Muslims. Though the city is now relatively peaceful, it is currently in the process of treating old wounds. One of those wounds is the theological library at the Faculty of Theology, UKIM, Ambon. The entire campus, including the library and all of the books in it, burned down during the riots in the Moluccas on April 25, 2004. Recently, they have started to rebuild the library of UKIM Theological Faculty, which is now located in the hill country of Kusu-Kusu village, in Ambon.

A while back, former faculty member, Dr. Gerald Hobbs, donated a sizable portion of his library to VST and desired to see his gift go overseas, to where, he felt, the books would be most valued. Now Gerald’s wish and UKIM’s need will come together to see that a former professor and a school in need both get what they have been looking for. Rev. Dr. Helen Hobbs also is contributing books, including significant feminist theological texts.

Before the end of 2010 the books will be on their way to Ambon. The theological books given by Gerald and Helen will be very meaningful, helping enrich the library collection. VST is committed to making a difference both in our own community and in communities abroad. Events like this demonstrate just how small the world has become and how simple it is for us to help those on the other side of it. A big thanks goes out to Gerald and Helen for their generosity! We are proud that when need arises – whether in Vancouver, Canada or internationally – members of our community are willing to step forward and fulfill that need. We anticipate many more successful ventures with our international partners in Indonesia, Taiwan and throughout the world.
Orientation Week BBQ

The School and the students welcomed each other with as much vigor and hospitality as every this year. The warm was welcome; so too was the weather. No words could describe the event as well as some of the pictures that were taken.
As we all settled into fall and the new academic year, the first of many Friends of VST events took place on a lovely September evening. The Friends of VST Dessert Party provided a wonderful (and tasty!) start to another year of unwavering support and commitment to the school. The event was held on VST’s fifth floor, so as desserts and beverages were being sampled, guests were able to observe the dramatic West Coast sunset. Jeffrey Preiss said goodbye to the Friends and thanked them for all their work. Following this, Sean Ayers was formally introduced and welcomed. Just as the sun slipped behind the mountains, Dr. Herbert O’Driscoll, the world renowned theologian and preacher, stepped up to the podium. Speaking with warm Irish wit as only he is able, Dr. O’Driscoll spoke on the future of the church in the context of the challenges of a paradoxically radically secular and deeply spiritual age. His inspiring words, paired with the luxurious desserts, were a beautiful way to celebrate the beginning of a new year at VST. We are very grateful to the network of support we find in the Friends of VST, and look forward to the many events we will share in the next coming months.
The Ismaili Centre Visit:
On Friday, Oct. 15 the Friends of VST were warmly welcomed to the Ismaili Centre (jamatkhana) for a Friends of VST field trip. And what a trip it turned out to be! At first glance, the imposing entrance jumped out at us. As we entered the Centre, however, we quickly found out that a sense of the sacred pervades the entire interior. Designed by Bruno Freschi and built in 1985, the building has a beautiful timeless quality. It is clear that the building is cared for and loved, and we were made to feel at home almost immediately. A special thanks to our guide, Nahida Ladha, who blended humour and knowledge to create a truly enjoyable and educational experience - it was one that everyone was very happy to take part in! Join the Friends of VST and share with us all upcoming events.

Friends of VST: Up-coming Events

Friends of VST Cultural Event: Museum of Anthropology and Lunch
January 20, 2011
10am ~ Museum of Anthropology
Noon Lunch at Sage Bistro
Location: Museum of Anthropology & Sage Bistro, UBC
Cost: $60.00 approx.
Please check the website for final cost and registration

Chancellor’s Dinner
March 8, 2011
5pm ~ Reception | 6pm ~ Dinner
Location: Vancouver School of Theology
Cost $100 with a $50 tax receipt.
Registration required.

Friends of VST Community Worship and Lunch
March 23, 2011
Noon Worship
1pm Lunch
Speaker: tba
Cost: Free

TWO NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS!

Master of Arts in Indigenous and Inter-Religious Studies
Master of Theology in Indigenous and Inter-Religious Studies

These two new degree programs, offered at VST in partnership with indigenous and inter-religious groups, provide students with opportunities to engage in research and writing in a context where three major monotheistic faith traditions meet North American indigenous traditions. These programs will make available the unique resources of VST’s partner institutions, Iona Pacific (inter-religious) and Yuu hadaax (indigenous), in addition to VST’s core faculty to offer a distinctive academic experience, both intellectual and spiritual.
Twenty-five years ago, nearly to the day, elders, learners, teachers—visionaries all—gathered in this very space to give thanks to God for the new mission they were about to begin. Before the first class, the first meal, the first chorus after dinner in the tent, the planners and participants of the First Native Ministries Consortium Summer School prayed with thanksgiving and hope to God. Some people here today were there that day. The rest of us, inspired by their stories through the years, have ourselves become planners and participants, elders, learners and teachers. We gather now to offer our prayers of thanksgiving, hope and celebration to God.

Though 25 years have passed, the goals set out by those visionary founders have remained constant: to proclaim and strengthen indigenous lay and ordained community ministry, to advocate for aboriginal self determination in the church and in the world, and to empower indigenous theology. Over the last quarter century, these goals have not always been well understood, they have not always been institutionally popular, they have often been precariously resourced. But they have endured and they have succeeded. Why? Is it because a lot of people worked hard to make things happen? Definitely. Is it because a lot of people like you came here over the years to take part? Definitely. But beneath and above and around and beyond that, the goals of ministry, advocacy and empowerment have prevailed because they are grounded in Good News. They are grounded in the Gospel even when that Gospel comes to us, as it just did, in the harsh words in Matthew’s version of Christ’s discourse on discipleship (Matthew 10:34–11:1).

(If you think Matthew’s depiction is tough, try Luke’s (Luke 14:25-27)).

Reading for the most part like a list of what we want to avoid in life, Jesus’ apparent preferences for conflict over community and faith over family don’t immediately lend themselves to prayers of celebration. But when we give them a closer reading and connect what we find to the work of this summer school over the last 25 years, we can find a lot to celebrate.

“I have not come to bring peace, but a sword,” says Jesus. In Jesus’ time, “peace,” was imposed by the colonizing oppression of the Roman Empire. Jesus came to cut like a sword through this false tranquility to reveal the cruelty which sustained it. In Canada, we called this peace “assimilation,” the idea there would soon be no “Indian problem” because “... there would be no more Indians.” To that cruel policy came the First Nations sword: narratives of what life was really like at residential school. Some of those painful stories were first told here at summer school where courageous students and instructors made space for that sword to cut through the silence and secrecy to truth and reconciliation.

“I have come to set a man against his father and a daughter against her mother... and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household,” says Jesus. In Jesus’ time, households often reflected a hierarchical social system, based on domination. It marginalized women, commodified children and displaced rightful owners from their land. Jesus came to reverse hierarchy, give voice to the marginalized and seek justice with the disenfranchised and displaced. In Canada, unresolved land claims, missing aboriginal women and children abused in foster care are the domination systems First Nations continue to reverse. At treaty negotiation tables, children’s services offices and marches down the Highway of Tears, many, many leaders affiliated with this summer school, both then and now, work to divide systems that hurt from those which heal.

Jesus came to minister, advocate and empower. His time, just like our own, had powers to confront and attitudes to change. For the last 25 years, this summer school has existed to equip his disciples—you and me—with what we need to confront and change our world. May the next 25 years do the same.
This was the best summer school ever! Of course, I say that every year, because I love it and because the whole VST community looks forward to it with such enthusiasm, and it is such a joy to welcome our brothers and sisters from so many different places.

We welcomed 59 students, 9 NMP tutors, 2 Chaplains and 13 faculty, over the two weeks of the summer school. Forty of the students represented 18 different First Nations from North America, Taiwan and Mexico, and 10 different faith denominations. The largest group of students was from British Columbia, with smaller numbers coming from Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Yukon, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon and Washington.

Our summer school community also included 26 young people, twelve (ages 4 – 12) in our Children’s Program and fourteen (ages 13 – 17) in our Youth Program. The children began each day with a sharing circle, including prayer and song, then spent time each day playing outdoor games and working on various crafts such as miniature drums, medicine pouches, bracelets and button blanket friendship pins.

The youth group was designated as the film crew for the first week, and spent time filming many parts of summer school including community meals and worship, and interviewing Elders, students, faculty and staff to capture some of our history. The youth met each morning with their leaders to review the plans for the day, and to spend an hour with an Elder, gathered around the drum, listening to stories and reflections on the theme of the day. The overall theme was Community, and time was spent exploring four main aspects based on the Circle of Courage: Belonging, Mastery, Independence and Generosity. Afternoons were spent with the community, filming classes and interviewing students, faculty, Elders, staff, the children’s program, meal times and each other. A DVD is undergoing final editing and will be available in the near future. Each participant was also provided with a digital camera to record their personal memories, and a half-hour slide show was prepared for each to take home.

The day of the annual Salmon BBQ began with a worship service that included a memorial for the ancestors who have gone before us. In the evening after a very satisfying meal of salmon, salad, fry-bread and bannock, we had a give-away, expressing our thanks to many people who have supported the important work of the summer school so faithfully, as well as the blessing and naming of a new drum for the VST community, Oyate Wanji Ho – Voice of One People” led by Martin Brokenleg with the assistance of Tom Little.

We also gave special thanks for the financial support of the United Church of Canada Flexible Initiatives Grant, which supported the course “Let’s Indigenize our Worship Experience!” The class worked together to write musical responses for use in worship, and a new hymn “We Circle the Unknown”, presented as a gift to the Native Ministries Consortium, in celebration of our 25th Anniversary. We also thank the Anglican Foundation for their support in purchasing a large tent that will serve as an outdoor gathering space for many years to come.

Highlights of the second week of summer school included the annual dinner and gospel singing with University Hill United Church congregation, and a BBQ and give-away hosted by the Rev. Dr. Cecil Corbett in memory of his wife Irene who passed

NMC SUMMER SCHOOL 25TH ANNIVERSARY

BY DOROTHY SMITH
away in June 2009 and who was a much loved member of the summer school community for over twenty years. The BBQ was followed by a Panel Presentation with Cecil Corbett (founding member of NMC), Wendy Fletcher (Principal, VST), Mark MacDonald (National Indigenous Bishop, Anglican Church of Canada) and Randy Reynoso (NMP M.Div student), and chaired by Ray Jones. The presenters reflected on “The Next 25 Years”, with very positive feedback and input from all present.

NMC Summer School is truly the most anticipated event of the year for all of the VST community, when our hallways and classrooms ring with laughter, tears, songs, stories, and Spirit. The joy and enthusiasm is absolutely contagious, and we welcome all who might have time to visit us during the year. You will find the Native Ministries office located on the main floor of Vancouver School of Theology, surrounded by a fantastic photo display of our first 25 years. The Next 25 Years of NMC Summer School begins July 10 – 22, 2011.

We hope to see YOU!!

FACULTY AND COURSES
CONFIRMED TO DATE INCLUDE:

The Rev. Dr. William Harrison – “The Person and Work of Jesus Christ”

The Rev. Dr. Paula Sampson – “Moral Sources in Many Stories: an Introduction to Christian Ethics”


The Rev. Robert Two Bulls – “Preaching in Aboriginal Communities: Sharing the Word with our Relations”

Dr. Kathryn Rickert and Dr. Christina Roberts – “Lament: Voices for Healing and Reconciliation”

The Rev. Dr. Cecil Corbett – “Stewardship: What is it that you Treasure”

The Rev. Andrew Wesley – “Indigenous Creation Stories and Ceremony in the Church”

Dr. Jeff Corntassle – “Governance: Globalization and Indigenous Peoples”

Donations in support of *NMC Summer School: The Next 25 Years* may be made online at www.vst.edu/main/ Follow the link to Support VST

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL FAIRS AT SFU AND UBC

One of the annual rituals of university life is the Careers, Graduate and Professional Schools Fair, an opportunity for students to explore employment and educational opportunities post-graduation. Although endless amounts of information on educational opportunities is only a mouse-click away, human interaction and the ability to have questions answered face-to-face is still highly valued by students.

This September, VST was again represented at both the UBC and SFU Graduate and Professional Schools Fairs, along with a large number of other graduate schools from all over North America, the UK and Australia. The VST booth was staffed by Margaret Trim, our Admissions Coordinator, Jeffrey Preiss and Sean Ayers, Development Associates, and Leenane Shiels, an M.Div student who is doing a work-study placement as Admissions Assistant.

Hundreds of students visited each of the fairs, and many stopped at the VST booth to find out more about us. Some of the UBC students stopped because they recognized the picture of the Iona building on the brochure, and were curious to find out about us; others stopped to find out more about Iona Pacific – intrigued by the inter-religious nature of the Centre.

In addition to the usual brochures and pens, this year we had small inflatable beach balls with the VST logo and website address. These bright little promotional items added a light-hearted spirit, and their distinctiveness encouraged many people to stop for a second look and to find out more about us. We answered many general inquiries about the school from students and faculty, as well as having some deeper conversations with people who were keen to engage theologically. These events were great for raising our profile and building connections in the local academic community.
MUSINGS ON FAMILY LIFE
By Anita Fast

It is a blessing beyond compare to have the ability to spend another year of my children’s lives at home with them. Jemma is fast approaching four years old and Jordan is five months. Both are healthy and happy and bringing their Mommy and Mama endless joys (and a few gray hairs). I’m even remaining connected to the world of theology through the enquiries of Jemma, who pondered the extent of my claim that “God is in everything” while going to the toilet the other day. I will let you guess as to her question, and will also leave you to imagine my response.

Other highlights of a growing family: watching Jemma hug her baby brother and tell him how much she loves him; Jordan squealing with delight as he watches Jemma dance around the kitchen with Mama K; tag-team wake-ups through the night as, like clockwork, one child finally falls asleep while the other wakes up and calls out; the quiet of a mid-morning coffee while Jemma is at pre-school and Jordan is napping; Jemma’s gentle reminder as she goes off to school that “if Jordan cries, you must tend to him Mommy”; cuddles and cuddles and more cuddles.

There are too many clichés about parenting and children for me to come up with a new one, so I’ll restate an old one. Between the frustrations of a dawdling pre-schooler and a teething baby, there lies the wonder of two miracles unfolding. We stand in awe every day at the privilege of bearing them witness.

VST’S 2010 SUMMER SCHOOL

This year we saw the successful completion of two workshops, six public lectures, two retreats, one course at Sorrento Centre, and eight courses at VST with many engaging and learned scholars and theologians.

Some of the highlights included: VST was honored and delighted to have Barbara Brown Taylor as the G. Peter Kaye featured guest for this year. Christopher Ocker and Raheel Raza taught courses in conjunction with the Iona Pacific Inter-Religious Centre. VST and NMC cosponsored Martin Brokenleg and Larry Brendtro to lead Circle of Courage: Reclaiming Youth at Risk, drawing many participants working with youth from various communities across North America. The Visiting Distinguished Scholar series, made possible by a generous gift of a donor, invited Karen Ward as speaker for a lecture and workshop. The Thomas Merton Society of Canada offered a weekend retreat with James Finley, co-sponsored with VST.

The total count for all of these events was 1,128 participants. We were very excited to have had the participation of everyone in our diverse learning community!

And, as always…

…the return of the two Gary’s. One has been attending summer school at VST since 1971!
Ever since the founding of the Native Ministries Consortium twenty-five years ago, VST has been in partnership with a growing number of Aboriginal spiritual and academic leaders across Canada. In 2003, these partners came together to form Yuu hadaax. Representatives from NMC, VST, the Center for Indian Scholars and Wilp Wilxo’oskwhl Nisga’a meet twice each year as a steering committee for the partnership. (“Yuu hadaax” means “to steer.”)

At its most recent meeting in September, Yuu hadaax became the steering committee for the newly named Indigenous Studies Center at VST. The Indigenous Studies Center is a new name for ongoing work. The Native Ministries Program, the NMC Summer School and developing programs already under the auspices of Yuu hadaax itself are now all together in the canoe. This does not create a new entity but reconfigures existing work, recognizes its common purposes and allows for greater development potential.

In addition to the Native Ministries Program which delivers the VST Master of Divinity degree by extension to some 30 students in Canada and the United States and the summer school, some Yuu hadaax projects either completed or underway include the 2005, 2007 and 2009 Robert K.
Images Above: Highlights from another very successful Salmon BBQ, fry bread (centre) & VST’s new Drum (top right)

Thomas Symposia held at VST. Gathering both traditional and Christian Aboriginal scholars together, are valuable contributions to tribal, academic and church life. The papers from the 2009 symposium, “God is Still Red: honoring the work of Vine Deloria, Jr.” have just been published in the Indigenous Theological Training Institute Journal.

The newest and ongoing activity of Yuu hadaax will be providing the Aboriginal content and process for the new Master of Arts and Master of Theology degrees in Indigenous and Inter-religious Studies. These VST degrees are jointly coordinated by the Indigenous Studies Center and the Iona Pacific Center.

The ISC is not just another set of letters in an acronym. The Center is an important part of fulfilling VST’s mission to “partner with First Nations and the global Aboriginal community” and to further Yuu hadaax’s goal of “providing a context for confronting the legacy of colonization.”

Please join us for the launch of the new Centre, Tuesday February 01 at 7:00 pm.
One of the many aspects of life at Vancouver School of Theology is the diversity of beliefs and ways in which these beliefs are lived out. So it was with great anticipation that I attended our first two sessions of the Commons Hour. By way of explanation, the word “commons” was originally coined to include the open lands where the cattle and sheep came to graze. Over time it has grown to include all the elements of the environment that are open to us all. And now at VST, the term is being used as a way to include the diversity present at school in dialogue about issues common to us all in our religious diversity.

In September Paula Sampson, Director of the Native Ministries Program, created space for three speakers from different nations to open the Commons dialogue around care of and respect for the land. Moses McKay (Nisga’a), Lily Bell (Haida), and Carol Nadjinon (Odawa) each shared their perspective, beliefs and peoples’ understanding of how intricately linked the land is to their people and way of life.

I was struck by how remote we live from the land in our urban setting. I found myself wanting to consciously be engaged, thankful and grateful for the opportunity to live on the land in this area at this point in my life.

Sallie McFague invited us to consider the question of what religions, as religions, should do as a response to the challenge being presented to us today by climate change. John Hick, in An Interpretation of Religion (New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1989) states on page 300 that “the function of the main religious traditions is “the transformation of human existence from self-centeredness to Reality-centeredness”. I wonder what we are doing as religions in this regard? It was a fascinating conversation and although time did not allow us to get too deep into the question, I could certainly tell from the way folks’ heads were cocked that they were engaged with the question on a deep level and have much to contemplate during the days ahead as her talk takes root in our thought processes.

I hope you’ll join us at our next Commons Hour. Rabbi Dr. Robert Daum will be coordinating our gathering and I’m sure it will be just as engaging, thought-provoking and enjoyable as the first two.

**REFLECTIONS FROM FRAN**

Fran Whitfield began her retirement from VST on August 1st, 2010 after 30 years of service in the Registrar’s Office. She has seen many students and faculty over the years and has been a part of several major changes in the curriculum. Recently, Margaret Trim (Fran’s replacement in that office) spoke with her about her times at VST.

M: How have you seen theological education endure over the years at VST?
F: The more it changes the more it stays the same. No matter what form the curriculum takes the core values of competence and integration remain over everything else.

M: What major changes have you seen in your 30 years at VST?
F: The curriculum both in its delivery and its structure.
The community’s way of being – it has become very collaborative and consultative.

As we send our love and blessings to Fran, she says to us “you’ve done well folks, keep up the good work!”
THE PLANNED GIVER
By Louise Rolston

There was a time in my life when my charitable donations were given on impulse. In other words I was very much an unplanned giver! One result was that my desk drawers were always filled with an abundance of greeting cards, notepads, address labels - far more than I will ever use even if I should live to be one hundred.

However, when my income began to shrink on my retirement, I realized that I needed to be much more deliberate in my decision making, and I began to look at the concept of planned giving. As a result I now direct my charitable giving to those organizations for which I have a particular passion. The amount continues to grow, but the number has significantly decreased. I am convinced that my gifts have a greater impact than they did when the amounts were distributed widely.

My planning now includes setting up pre-authorized monthly withdrawals from my credit union account in the same way that I pay my telephone, gas, hydro, and other bills. Organizations that are supported in this way can count on receiving the money on a regular basis, and can plan accordingly.

I have also advised the School that I have changed my will to direct my executor to distribute a named percentage of my estate to Vancouver School of Theology. Using a percentage rather than a set figure was a deliberate choice. If I named a set amount and if my estate were to shrivel over the years, the executor would be in the awkward position of having to pay out the charitable donations first before distributing any of my estate to my heirs.

NEWS FROM THE VSTSA
by Samaya Oakley

I really have a hard time believing my good luck. In a year when, goodness knows why, I chose to step forward as President of the VSTSA, I was blessed with fellow committee members who care a great deal about students here at VST. They all have the passion and energy to gather ourselves back together again as a community; to knit ourselves back into wholeness.

Since the election in September, we’ve moved our office to the second floor from the third floor. In reorganizing the office, we’ve found and dusted off our Bylaws and Constitution and are now beginning to understand what it is that we’ve been elected to do. Thank you for your patience as we begin to figure out who and what we are.

One of the first things we are doing is setting up office hours where the VSTSA office will be open for you to come by and talk to members of the Executive who will be available in Room 221. Our office hours are Monday through Wednesday from 8:30 to 9:30 am, or 1:00 to 2:00 pm. If you aren’t in school during our “office” hours, please feel free to e-mail us at vst@vst.edu. Please let us know what’s on your mind. We’d love to hear from you.

We are excited to let you know that we will be starting up a Student Food Bank. We are doing a run to Costco to stock up on some non-perishable items. If you have non-perishable items to donate to our Food Bank please do so. If you need something, please feel free to help yourself with the understanding that you’ll pay it back as soon as you reasonably can. We’ll have more information on that in the coming weeks.

You’ll want to mark Thursday, December 9th on your calendars for our annual Christmas party which is being generously hosted by Wendy Fletcher. Partners, spouses and children are invited for an evening of socializing and I’m told that Santa may even pay us a surprise visit.

Please continue talking to VSTSA Executive members as you have been doing in past. We want to know what you are thinking. After two years of relative inactivity, we are slowly reconstructing ourselves. We thank you for your patience. And don’t forget to take a moment to express gratitude towards the members who are serving the students in this way. It’s a ministry and we are working hard for your benefit.
A POST-MODERN MINISTRY METAMORPHOSIS:
FROM FAITHFUL PREACHING TO FINANCIAL PLANNING

If you suggested to Bruce McAndless-Davis when he graduated from VST (M. Div. ’94) that his call to ministry would lead to a position with Investors Group, providing financial advice, he would have had a great laugh and asked about what kind of second-hand smoke you had just inhaled. What would a left-leaning, Bible-preaching, mission-minded and idealistic pastor have to do with taxes and insurance, investments and asset allocation? What did financial planning have to do with ministry?

But after 15 years of congregational ministry (2 years working with youth and families in West Point Grey United Church, Vancouver and 13 years as pastor of St. Aidan’s Presbyterian Church, New Westminster), Bruce felt the need for significant change. “It was a combination of both needing a major break from pastoral work and needing to find a different way to work with people that was still meaningful,” he explains. “I knew that I wasn’t ready to dive back into the struggle of another congregation trying to hold on to its understanding of itself in the midst of a rapidly changing culture. I was tired of trying to sustain an institution that I have serious concerns about myself. It’s not that I don’t believe in the church of Jesus Christ. But I think we’ve lost our sense of how to be the church, the living body of Christ in our time.”

But why financial planning? “Part of it was simply need and opportunity,” he admits. “There are not a lot of other jobs for which ministers are readily qualified. I needed to find something I’d be good at, that I could enjoy and that would adequately provide for our family. A good friend of mine suggested that my communication and people skills would make me a good consultant. I dismissed the idea at first but he persisted and suggested I simply talk to the people he knew at Investors Group. So I did, and what I discovered was a career that would allow me to really help people with a difficult area of their lives and also allow me not only to provide for our family but hopefully to do more.

“The long-term vision is that I will eventually be able to put aside funds for a new kind of outreach ministry that I have been yearning to do for many years. My passion has always been to reach out and relate to people who would never darken the door of a church. What I’d like to do is start a coffee house that operates much like a normal coffee shop but that creates community through hospitality, eclectic music (especially jazz!), and various events -- including a very inclusive sort of worship experience. The hope would be to invite people to discover the cosmic Christ and compassionate, Christian community without all the baggage that the traditional church usually brings with it.

“But one of the amazing discoveries I’ve made along the way is that being a financial coach is turning out to be a meaningful ministry in its own right. For one thing, a number of my clients are fellow ministers who often need help with tax, education and retirement planning, along with basic investment advice. What I’ve also realized as I work with people from various walks of life – most of whom are very faithful people – is that how we handle our money is often one of the last areas of our lives that we can’t seem to release and entrust into God’s wise care. We may “let go and let God” with a lot of things but it’s very hard to let go of controlling our money and simply to trust that God will provide for us, as God always has. And in a strange way, what I do can actually help people learn to trust God more, because they learn to let go of their fears and their compulsive spending on the one hand and the micromanaging of their money on the other. They learn to trust not in market forces or even in me, as their advisor, but in God who is always faithful and has looked after them all along and will continue to do so no matter what happens in the markets. And if God can use me in some small way to help people save their money, use it wisely and share it generously, then I believe I am continuing to teach and serve in a new and unique ministry. And I’m happy to say VST prepared me for the ministry I’m doing now as well as the ministry I did before.

We just never know what kind of ministry our graduates are preparing for!

Bruce McAndless-Davis lives in New Westminster and works as a Financial Coach and Consultant with Investors Group. He can be reached at bruce.mcandless-davis@investorsgroup.com 604-431-0117
Getting a theological education at VST seems to make a positive difference in preparing students for the issues that confront them in pastoral and public leadership when they graduate. VST recently joined a program provided by our accrediting agency, the Association of Theological Schools, which allows schools to conduct surveys of their graduates and alumni/aes. Using a prepared survey to which schools can add their own questions, VST assessed the impact that distinctive elements of the VST curriculum have on our graduates of last May. Notable is the consistency of responses about the effectiveness and importance of curricular components overall—our students “get” what the faculty and curriculum as a whole are teaching. Especially effective are educational goals of multi-denominational and interfaith awareness, theological learning for engagement with pastoral and public leadership, and attentiveness to feminism and gender issues. Many of these same curricular goals are seen as important for the vocations students undertake after they graduate. Theological learning for engagement with pastoral and public leadership, engaging issues of ecology, land and global cities, and affirming values of diversity and inclusivity are rated as very important—with the affirmation of diversity receiving unanimous support as important for the work our graduates do.

### VST GRADUATES SURVEY: A VST EDUCATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

**Goals of curriculum: element or focus** | **Effectiveness of VST education in fulfilling goal** | **Importance of goal for work after graduation**
---|---|---
Provide multi-denominational forum for theological, interfaith and ethical explorations, esp. Jewish-Christian relations | 92% Effective/very effective | 61% Important/very important
Raise awareness of issues of feminism, sexism and genders | 87% Effective/very effective | 74% Important/very important
Engage issues related to First Nations and the global aboriginal community | 83% Effective/very effective | 70% Important/very important
Develop biblical, theological, historical, ethical and pastoral learning to engage public and pastoral leadership | 97% Effective/very effective | 91% Important/very important
Engage issues of ecology, land and global cities, and their impact for public and pastoral leadership | 82% Effective/very effective | 87% Important/very important
Affirm the values of diversity and inclusivity and honour this diversity in our intellectual, communal and worship lives | 82% Effective/very effective | 100% Important/very important
Dr. Deb Bartlette (class of 1999) has recently moved to Whitehorse to take the position of Dean, Applied Arts at Yukon College. Applied Arts offers university transfer courses in the Liberal Arts, certificate and diploma courses in health, education and human services, degree programs in teacher education and social work and programs in the Northern Institute of Social Justice. The College focuses on northern and First Nations issues. “With 11 of 14 First Nations now self-governing, there is considerable potential for the College to work with the First Nations and Territorial governments to ‘home grow’ much-needed capacity in the North. Access to education and support for success in education is a critical piece of building this capacity. It is exciting to be a part of this”. Deb and her husband, Ted Ackerman, moved to Whitehorse at the end of July.

Reverend Dr. June Maffin (class of 1985) will be published by Circle Books spring 2011. Married in October of 2009, she and husband Hans van der Werff moved to Duncan on Vancouver Island where the Soulistry Studio is home to writers, artists, Soulistry workshop participants. Her website (www.soulistry.com) offers descriptions of the Soulistry workshops and retreats; her soon-to-be-published book by Circle Books (UK publisher); the e-book version of her previously published book (“Disturbed by God: A Journey of Spiritual Discovery” - published by ABC, Toronto); reviews and endorsements of “Soulistry-Artistry of the Soul Creative Ways to Nurture Your Spirituality” book; and more.

Jessica Schaap (class of 2008) and husband, Harry White, welcomed their baby daughter, Madeleine Renee on April 26, 2010. She is on maternity leave and will return to her curacy at St. James’ Anglican church in Vancouver in the spring of 2011. Additionally, Jessica has been invited to give an alumni talk on November 17th to the Friends of VST.

Paddy Eastwood (class of 1989) is moving to Haney Presbyterian Church, Maple Ridge to serve as the Leader of Children’s, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, starting November 2010. The congregation is committed to integrating their young people more fully into the life of the church and Paddy is excited to be a part of this ministry.

Rohana Laing (class of 1988) retired early from her last pastoral charge, Salt Spring Island United Church, in 2003. She was offered an expense-paid volunteer role travelling internationally for the Subud Spiritual Association (www.subud.org). She did two years of part-time travel between 2001-2003, then moved to Nanaimo to live with her father who appreciated the company. She travelled two more years particularly in North and South America, with a few trips to Asia and Europe. In 2005, after her father died at the age of 87, she developed a property on Gabriola Island and returned to her previous career as a visual artist. (www.rohanart.com). This year she was asked to step in for a year as minister of Gabriola United Church, a half time position. She is enjoying many of the changes she experienced between ministry when she first started in 1988 and ministry now! She is finding being a part-time minister and part-time artist a satisfying combination. If ever on Gabriola, don’t be afraid to look her up! rohana@shaw.ca.
STAFF & FACULTY UPDATES

DR. RICHARD LEGGETT RETIRES

Dr. Geoffrey Richard Leggett served VST as Professor of Liturgical Studies for 24 years. This past summer he decided to take early retirement to pursue other ministry interests. As well as his teaching ministry, Richard enriched life at VST by his extensive experience in the councils and committees of the Church. Notable among these were his long contribution to the Anglican-Lutheran Dialogue which resulted in the development of the Waterloo Accord, his many years of service on the Jewish Christian Dialogue and his extensive work with the Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. We wish Richard well in his new endeavours and are delighted that he will continue his affiliation with VST as Professor Emeritus of Liturgical Studies.

NEW VST COMPTROLLER!

VST is delighted to welcome Ilinca Manisali as its new Director of Finance. Ilinca graduated from SFU with a business degree and subsequently completed her certification as a CA. Ilinca began her career in auditing with Grant Thornton 10 years ago. Later she moved to serve as Comptroller in many different settings, including work with the government, non profit and for profit sectors - most recently in the technology sector. Please join in welcoming Ilinca, her husband Cameron Black and daughter Mira to the VST community.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations goes out to Sallie McFague. Sallie’s most recent book, A New Climate for Theology: God, the World, and Global Warming (Fortress Press, 2008) has recently been translated into Danish, Korean, and Portuguese!

We are very proud of our faculty’s many contributions writing, editing or contributing to successful, insightful and meaningful works. If you are interested in any of our faculty books please come on in and visit the library, our librarians are happy to help you find what you are looking for.

DR. HARRY MAIER

Dr. Harry Maier was the Theologian in Residence at Hope Lutheran Church 30-31 October in Calgary, where he was speaking on the Book of Revelation. Additionally, in November Harry was preaching and teaching on New Testament Apocalyptic at Seymour United Church. On 2 Dec he spoke at Christ Church Cathedral on “Reimagining the Birth of Jesus: Interpretations of the Christmas Story in Contemporary Perspective”. Also, in December together with Sharon Betcher, Robert Daum, and Mark Vessey, Eds. Harry looks forward to the release of the publication of: “The Calling of the Nations: Exegesis, Ethnography and Empire in a Biblical Historic Present” (University of Toronto Press) in which he has a number of essays on post-colonial biblical interpretation and fourth century imperial uses of the Bible in support of the Constantinian Empire.
**REV. DR. PATRICIA DUTCHER-WALLS**

Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls was the preacher for the 100th anniversary service at St. Aidan’s Presbyterian Church in New Westminster, BC in early October. Over the summer, she presented a Bible Study series called “Voices for Justice” at the annual conference of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North American at Keuka College in New York State. While there she met many committed Christians who are involved in the social action ministries of the churches in North America, which are present as signs of hope to encourage fellow travelers. This November, at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature, she was the presider at a session called, “Identity and Resistance Explored in Literary Voice” for the Social Sciences and Hebrew Bible section.

**REV. DR. STEPHEN FARRIS**

Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris, by the end of the year, will have preached or taught in seven provinces in 2010. Most recently he served as the theme speaker at the upcoming meeting of the Synod of Alberta and the Northwest, of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. He will be preaching for centennial anniversary services at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Brandon, and Kerrisdale, Presbyterian Church, Vancouver. His essay, “Calvin and the Preaching of the Lively Word,” will be published in a collection of papers delivered at the conference held in St. Andrew’s Hall and in Presbyterian College, Montreal, to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin. The book will be co-edited by Richard Topping. His sermon, “The Mark of Cain” was published in a collection of sermons preached in Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, Toronto. Stephen is also collaborating with Richard Topping on the preparation of a number of sections of The New Interpreter’s Theological Companion to the Lectionary to be published by Abingdon Press.

**VST REMEMBERS…**

Arnie Saringer (July 23, 1952 - September 7, 2010)

Arnie was a multi-talented, award winning cinematographer, photographer and prolific writer who made close friends with everyone he met in his travels around the world for his work. Arnie made several promotional videos in recent years for VST, the Native Ministries Program, and the Children’s Program of the Native Ministries Consortium Summer School. His humour, charm and professionalism put everyone in front of his lens at ease; he will be much missed by the VST community.

The Rev. Hagar Head (February 5, 1938 – October 10th, 2010)

Hagar was a graduate of the Native Ministries Program (M. Div., 1998) and also taught at the Native Ministries Consortium Summer School. Hagar was a respected elder in the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, and, during her ministry and in her retirement, worked to bring together Christianity and Native traditional spirituality. Filled passion and energy, Hagar was an important presence at VST and her contributions will not be forgotten.

Dr. Hugh Frederic (Eric) Woodhouse (May 16, 1912 - October 8, 2010)

Dr. Woodhouse, the former Principal at the Anglican College of British Columbia (the former VST), was a devoted theologian and educator. Dr. Woodhouse served as Principal, Chaplain and Professor of Church History from 1954-1961. Following his time at VST, Dr. Woodhouse became the Regius Professor of Divinity at Trinity College in Dublin. In his retirement, Dr. Woodhouse moved back to Vancouver, where he was an important contributor to many facets of VST life. He will be deeply missed.
SPECIAL EVENTS

VST OPEN HOUSE
February 12, 2011
Attending an open house at VST is a great way to get a sense of the school and what happens here. You are free to attend community worship, share in community lunch with students, staff and faculty, sit in – and sometimes participate – in classes, tour the school, meet people and learn about programs offered. It is free and the experience is priceless! Contact stayers@vst.edu for more information.

CHANCELLOR’S DINNER
March 8, 2011
Location: Vancouver School of Theology
5pm Reception, 6pm Dinner
Cost: $100 with a $50 tax receipt. Registration required.

FREE ALUMNI DINNER
Sunday, May 8, 2011
RSVP to Guest Services
guestservices@vst.edu

VST CONVOCATION
Monday, May 9, 7 pm
Location: Christ Church Cathedral

SPRING 2011 CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC EVENTS

Visit the VST website at www.vst.edu for updates, information and registration.

STUDENT SPEAKER SERIES, 1–2 PM
January 24, Ibi Chuan
February 21, Ann Turner
March 28, Ruth Monette
Location: Vancouver School of Theology
This series gives members of both our own and the wider community an opportunity to learn more about the work of VST students.

FEBRUARY 4, 9 AM – 5 PM
DISCIPLE Leaders’ Training Seminar
Gayle Ansley
Location: Vancouver School of Theology
Registration required.

MARCH 4-5, FRI: 7–9 PM, SAT: 9 AM–4 PM
Church Office Administrators/Volunteers Retreat
“Well-being 101”
The Rev. Marilyn Hames
Location: Vancouver School of Theology
Audit Fees: $140 both days / $110 Sat. only. Registration required.

MARCH 16, 2–5 PM
Spirit as Mindfulness: Learning Fair of Mindfulness Practices
Dr. Sharon Betcher
Location: Vancouver School of Theology

MARCH 21, 5 PM
Worship for the City: Mass for the Earth
Rev. Dr. Paula Sampson, Coordinator
Location: VST’s Chapel of the Epiphany

MAY 12–15
Behold! We are Many, We are One
United Church Intercultural Conference
Location: Vancouver School of Theology
The next national United Church intercultural conference will take place in the spring of 2011 at Vancouver School of Theology. The gathering will build on the successes of the Behold! intercultural event in Toronto in the fall of 2008, and the RiverRunning regional event in Winnipeg in the fall of 2009.
Please visit http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/events/behold-2011 for more information.
UPCOMING SUMMER PROGRAMS 2011
Visit www.vst.edu for updates, registration and more information.

G. PETER KAYE LECTURES & WORKSHOPS
Dr. Catherine Keller
May 8-10
Catherine Keller is Professor of Constructive Theology in the Graduate Division of Religion and the Theological School of Drew University. She develops the overlaps of recent philosophical, feminist and eco-political theologies in interaction with wider traditions of cosmology and mysticism. Recent books Dr. Keller has authored include Face of the Deep: a Theology of Becoming; God and Power; and On the Mystery. She has co-edited multiple volumes of the Drew Transdisciplinary Theological Colloquium including Postcolonial Theologies, Ecospirit, Apophatic Bodies, and Polydoxy.

CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOP
Monday, May 9, 9 am – 4pm
Dr. Catherine Keller
Fees and registration required.

PROCESS THEOLOGIES, MAY 2-6
Dr. Sharon Betcher
In conjunction with G. Peter Kaye course with Dr. Catherine Keller.
Fees and registration required.

VISITING DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS
Bishop William Willimon and Professor Gregory Baum

The Reverend Dr. William H. Willimon
Bishop William Willimon has been a Bishop of The United Methodist Church since 2004. For twenty years he was Dean of the Chapel and Professor of Christian Ministry at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. The author of sixty books, Worship as Pastoral Care was selected as one of the ten most useful books for pastors in 1979 by the Academy of Parish Clergy.

PUBLIC LECTURE, FRIDAY JUNE 10, 7 PM
Bishop William Willimon
“The Most Difficult Part of Preaching: God”
Location: St. Mary’s (Kerrisdale) Anglican Church

SATURDAY SEMINAR, JUNE 11, 9AM–4 PM
Bishop William Willimon
“The Most Difficult Part of Preaching 2: God”
Location: St. Mary’s (Kerrisdale) Anglican Church
Fees and registration required.

Pentecost Sunday, June 12, 10 AM
Bishop Willimon will be the invited guest preacher at St. Helen’s Anglican Church

Professor Gregory Baum
Gregory Baum is Professor Emeritus at McGill University’s Faculty of Religious Studies. His academic education was in Catholic theology and sociology; his publications dealt
with ecumenical relations, interreligious dialogue, and the religious quest for a just and peaceful world.

PUBLIC LECTURE, FRIDAY, JULY 8, 7 PM
Professor Gregory Baum
“Religion, Source of Peace and Violence”
Location: St. Mary’s (Kerrisdale) Anglican Church

SATURDAY SEMINAR, JULY 9, 9AM – 4PM
Professor Gregory Baum
“Violence and Peace in the Christian Tradition”
Location: St. Mary’s (Kerrisdale) Anglican Church
Fees and registration required.

VST 2011 SUMMER SCHOOL PREVIEW
Subject to change - please visit www.vst.edu for updates, course outlines and registration information in February!

JUNE 5-9, SORRENTO CENTRE
CHRISTOPHER LIND: Ecojustice and the Moral Economy

WEEK ONE (JULY 11 – 15)
ERIC LAW: Blessings Beyond Borders: Missional Ministries in the Grace Margin
MATTHIA LANGONE: The Way of the Icon: Encountering its Mystery and Meaning
CATHY CAMPBELL: Food: As if Faith Matters
AMYN SAJOO: Iona Pacific Visiting Scholar. Faith and Modernity: Islam in a Secular Age

WEEK TWO (JULY 18 – 22)
WALTER VOGELS: Speaking about God in Suffering
ROSA SEVY: Iona Pacific Post-Doctoral Fellow. Accountability, Reparations, and Reconciliation in a World out of Balance
KATHLEEN DEIGNAN: Thomas Merton and Thomas Berry in Dialogue on Healing The Self / The Earth
THOMAS LONG: Preaching the Parables of Jesus
WILLIAM MCKINNEY: Organizational Leadership for Justice in Congregation and Community

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY AT VST: VST CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

This Program is for all who are interested in deepening their understanding of contemporary theological thought through active engagement with the topics and theological disciplines explored in VST workshops and courses. An undergraduate degree is not required. The certificate is granted at VST’s Convocation ceremony to students who successfully complete 12 Units of study in any mix of disciplines.

Certificate courses are taught by VST faculty and visiting scholars from around the world, and most are courses in which Diploma and Degree students are also participating.

Application into the Certificate in Theological Studies can take place at any time throughout the year and includes an application form and reference letter. Application and reference forms are available on the VST website or from the Admissions office. For more information on the Certificate in Theological Studies please visit the website.
Haven’t been to VST in awhile? Never been? Know someone who might enjoy it here? Well then, come check us out!

**VST SPRING OPEN HOUSE**  
Saturday, February 12, 2011

Live the life of a student for a day: attend classes, share in lunch, worship and prayers, tour the school and chapel, check out the library and more!

For more information contact Sean Ayers, stayers@vst.edu
DONOR CIRCLE

CONTRIBUTING CIRCLE $0 - $249


**SUPPORTING CIRCLE $250 - $499**


**SUSTAINING CIRCLE $500-999**


**PRINCIPAL’S CIRCLE $1000 - $1999**


**CHANCELLOR’S CIRCLE $2000 AND ABOVE**

William D. Archer, Wendy Fletcher, Ron Harrison, Donna-Lee Graham, Judy F. Hager, Anne Henderson, Carol A. Hobbs DeRosa, Harry Maier, Sallie McFague, Louise Rolston

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