



ST. DAVID'S
UNITED CHURCH

The Shepherd

1525 Taylor Way, West Vancouver, BC V7S 1N5
Phone: 604-922-3961 Fax: 604-922-2680
Email: stdavids_unitedchurch@telus.net
www.stdavidsunited.com

April 2009



BE THE CHANGE: HEAL THE WORLD DAY

Sunday, May 31st
9:30-1:30

"Be the Change: Heal the World Day" is a joint project of three congregations: the Har-El Jewish community, the Baha'i community of West Vancouver and St. David's United Church. This is an inspiring opportunity to work *together* to be an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just presence in our local community.

Posted separately on the website, there is a registration form that outlines all of the project opportunities involved in *Be the Change Day*. (Or you can pick one up from the church) Pick one that appeals to you! This is an intergenerational event, so review the project choices with your children (if applicable) and fill out and bring or fax your registration back to St. David's by May 10th. You may have noticed that the Sunday morning time of this event conflicts with our worship service! But the idea on this Pentecost Sunday is to take our service to the street so we can go out together and....**BE the Church!** For those who want to start their Sunday at St. David's, there will be an abbreviated worship service from 10-10:30, led by Rev. Ron Smith. (There will be one or two projects, eg. sandwich and card making that will be based at St. David's which you are welcome to register for and participate in, following worship.)

**This Pentecost be the change:
heal the world.**

Table of Contents

Page 2 ...	On the Threshold of New Life Dan Chambers
Page 3...	Children, Youth and Families Colleen Blair
Page 5 ...	Holy Week Confirmation How Do I Join?
Page 6 ...	Marsha's Musings Marsha Goold
Page 7 ...	Dan's Conference Work
Page 8 ...	Outreach
Page 9 ...	Library News Visioning
Page 10..	Jazzing It Up for <i>Out of the Cold</i>

Minister: Dan Chambers
Minister with Children, Youth & Families: Colleen Blair

Minister of Music: Marsha Goold
Administrator and Editor: Chris Astill

On the Threshold of New Life

Thresholds are tricky. When you come to a threshold, you're about to pass from one place or one stage to another. You simply may be going from one room to another, or you may be shifting from one stage of life to another, or from one season to another. At a threshold, you're about to leave something behind, and enter something new.

It seems we in Vancouver have been on the threshold of spring for about six weeks already and many of us eagerly await warmer temperatures, the colours of spring, a chance to dig in the garden! This month, surely, we'll move more firmly into the long anticipated season of spring, yes?

Many are also going through transitions in life, stepping from one room, as it were, into another, shifting from one life stage to another. Some have children who are getting ready for graduation either from or into high school, university, kindergarten; others have children or grandchildren who are planning their wedding; others are entering a new stage of life when their bodies simply no longer do what they used to be able to do – seeing, hearing, smelling, moving, remembering...alas.

When we go through transitions, we have to watch our step, literally and figuratively. Daydreaming can be dangerous. We need to watch where we're going, notice different surroundings, pay attention to a different environment because some things are just not the same anymore.

The Church is also going through a period of transition. For several years now, society has been shifting in significant ways without seeking consent of the Church, without ever considering stopping to ask directions from the Church. Our North American culture, especially in the West, has simply decided to go ahead and change all on its own, often leaving the Church to hold in its arms vestiges of the past.

We in the United Church, and we at St. David's, need to go through this transition with our eyes open. First, we need to realize that, in fact, we are in a different life stage right now than we were even 20 years ago. Second, we need to understand more intimately what the character of our culture is that we are a part of. Third, we need to see more clearly how we are called to live faithfully in this world, what we are called to be, how we can be true to the Gospel.

The good news for us is that we are grounded in a life-giving story. We're not given all the answers of the test in advance, but we are provided a broad map that shows us the Way. And this is what we already know: the wilderness of Lent involves a journey. The journey is not always easy. In fact, it often feels rather barren and desolate. Sometimes we wonder what the hell we're doing there, because it can feel something like hell. Yet in this wilderness we know something that makes all the difference: we're not alone. The Spirit of God goes before us like a drifting cloud by day and a brilliant fire by night. We know that a light shines within us, providing perspective and insight for the journey ahead.

We also know that this journey can lead us to the cross. That is to say, a place that requires us to release our attachment to all that obstructs the flow of Absolute Love in our life or all that blocks us from God. In the words of Jesus, we might have to die to our life in order to save it. That's the most strange transition to go through, but, at the heart of it, the only one that matters.

Because on the other side of this living death, this great release, is, of course, abundant life. Life everlasting. The resurrection, even.

This is the promise of the season. This is the promise to the Church. This is the promise to all of us who wander through transitions, from one life stage into another.

Abundant blessing to us all, this brightening season of Easter!

Dan

Children, Youth and Families

After what seems to have been a particularly long winter, the sounds of morning birdsong and the sight of new growth everywhere are slowly releasing a deep joy and delight within. I have been reminded recently that we are not just an 'Easter' people. We are 'a people of the three days'...Good Friday, Saturday and Easter. Where do you find yourself at this moment?

Colleen

Never assume that you can always tell the difference between darkness and light. Some of the most penetrating insights we ever experience come out of the deepest darkness.

Joan Chittester, [Listen With the Heart](#)

Youth



Sunday, April 5th...Palm Sunday

As part of our "Walk Through Holy Week" children and youth are invited to participate in the palm procession at the start of worship. Later, during Sunday school, we'll take children on a journey through the week in Jesus' life, between Palm Sunday and Easter. Arrive to worship a few minutes early to assemble for the procession. *If anyone can offer to provide bamboo for this celebration, please be in touch with Colleen at 604 922 3961 or colleen@stdavidsunited.com*

Thursday, April 9th...Seder Supper

The Seder Supper is a Passover feast which commemorates the Exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt. Christians are interested in the Seder because Jesus' last meal with his disciples was during Passover and it is where our tradition of Communion began. The Seder is not a Christian event as such, but we participate in this meal to remind us of Jesus' roots in Judaism. Everyone is welcome to this very special meal. Please sign up on the landing. If you are interested in assisting with meal preparation

or set up, please speak with Cynthia Sedun 604 924 1234, or Colleen.

Friday, April 10th...Youth Group...Turning toward one another

Junior youth are invited to join Colleen in visiting a few of our less mobile congregation members. We will talk about what it means to practice *staying and being present* in times of difficulty. We will gather at St. David's at 10 a.m. and prepare small gifts to bring, and return by noon. RSVP to Colleen so that there will be sufficient drivers.

Sunday, April 12th...Easter Sunday

Senior Youth are invited to either provide leadership with the craft/game activities or help in the nursery, or participate in worship with their families. If youth are able to assist the teachers, please let Colleen know! Your help will be very much appreciated!

Friday, April 17th...Out of the Cold

Senior Youth are invited to come to *Out of the Cold*. Please let Colleen know if you would like a ride. Youth involved in the confirmation process along with their parent(s) are especially invited and *encouraged* to join us! Please be in touch with Colleen or Dan.

Friday, April 24th...Junior Youth Group

Check your emails for details! This will likely be an off-site event. If one or two parents are available to drive, please be in touch with Colleen.

Saturday, April 25th...Youth leadership Training Day

The youth leadership training event is for youth who want to volunteer in Church schools, vacation bible schools, camps or other leadership positions in the church or in the community. 10a.m. – 4 p.m. See Colleen for registration forms.

Sunday, April 26th...Confirmation Sunday

There are seven youth who are exploring confirmation at this time. The process began with an overnight retreat with about 30 youth who spent time together learning about and engaging in the pillars of our faith. The process continues this month with a number of sessions with Dan and culminates in confirmation on Sunday, April 26th. This is a wonderful celebratory Sunday for the youth and their families but also for all of us as a community of faith. Your presence and support on this day will be so appreciated!

Dates coming up in May...

- May 6th: join Colleen for a Sunday school cupboard spring cleaning blitz! RSVP
- May 10th: registration deadline for ***Be the Change Day***
- May 14th: Celebrating St. David's volunteers – dessert party
- May 15-18: Sr. Youth Retreat at Camp Fircom
- May 31st: Be the Change Day! See the front page for details!

We're on the lookout...

The Sunday school is looking for the following supplies and helpers. Please let Colleen know if you can provide any of these:

- * Bamboo for the Palm Sunday service, April 5th
- * Jenga blocks
- * A simple world or earth floor puzzle to borrow
- * An Adult to help in the nursery, to augment care provided by the Girl Guides!
- * Senior Youth helpers on Easter Sunday.

Holy Week

In this sacred time of the Christian year, we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, the cross, and into new life. From the depths of darkness we emerge into the light of resurrection.

Sunday, April 5 Palm Sunday, 10:00 am

We carry in the palms, share communion, and remember how the Prince of Peace who rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey unnerved those who had massive military power and represented hope for those whose only power was from God and their own will to live.

Thursday, April 9 Seder Supper, 5:30 pm

The last supper Jesus shared with his disciples and his final meal on earth was the Seder, a Jewish holy meal that celebrates the Israelites escape from slavery in Egypt and God's abiding faithfulness. On this night, we share a Christian Seder Supper together, abbreviated to be family friendly, as we celebrate God's liberating promise and abiding presence - no matter what.

Friday, April 10 Good Friday service, 10:00 – 11:00 am, with Capilano United.

With prayers, music, silence, together we hold the suffering of Christ that echoes still in the senseless suffering of so many around the world.

Sunday, April 12 Easter! 10:00 am

Come celebrate resurrection living on this festive spring morning!

Confirmation!

After a fabulous beginning at Mt. Seymour for a regional Confirmation event called "Hands On Faith," we're now ready to explore in our own conversation a living, breathing, growing, dynamic faith.

Sunday, April 26th, we'll celebrate those who choose to be confirmed into the Church at this time.

How Do You Join?

What does it mean to become a member of this congregation?

Where do I sign up?

These and other questions will be addressed at our upcoming *Inquirer's Gathering* happening

Sunday, May 3, 11:30 – 12:15,

Friday, May 8, 7:15pm for a dessert gathering

Sunday, May 10, 11:30 – 12:15

Come to find out more about the United Church, about the vision and programs of St. David's, and meet other people who are newer to the church.

Those interested in joining will be invited to do so on **Sunday, May 17.**

If you have questions or already know you are interested in attending, please call Dan at the Church Office (922-3961).

Marsha's Musings

When I think back to my young musician days, I am astounded to think of all the money that my parents spent on my training. And with my Dad being a United Church minister, they had very limited resources. They did not ship me off to music lessons because it was what they wanted. It was because it was what I wanted. I don't think I ever said thank you. I had no idea what my parents were sacrificing for me. They must have known in their hearts, to quote Plato, that *"music gives wings to the mind, a soul to the universe, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, a life to everything"*.

You have your own gift to offer. And what you give will come back to you.

An Open Invitation

Do you enjoy making music? Would you be willing to share your passion with St. David's? I trust that you and I have met if that is the case. If not, PLEASE talk to me! You are warmly welcome to contribute to the musical life of this congregation!

Come One, Come All

Wait! There's more! On the last Sunday of every month, we invite all music enthusiasts to come out for 9:15 a.m. In an exciting, fast-paced rehearsal, we prepare a song (with a beat!) and offer it in the service that day. Many have witnessed the incredible energy that these offerings contribute to the service. Thanks to all who give their time and enthusiasm to this new element of worship at St. David's.

Our Adult Choir continues to rehearse tirelessly and with great joy every Thursday evening as we delve deep into many styles of vocal music. We have a lot of fun and we learn from each other. If you would like to learn to sing or wished that you had learned more about music when you were a young person, this is the place for you! Think of it as FREE music lessons! I truly believe that if I can sing, you can sing. I was not born with a gift for singing. I worked at it – and then some. What you give comes back to you. So come along any Thursday after 7 pm and give it a try!



Up & Coming



Speaking of exciting, the Youth Band, which started in January, has been a great success. Our passionate young people are learning important life skills while they have fun making music together. They often meet in the sanctuary after our Sunday morning service. Young people are always welcome to join us!

Let the Creative Juices Flow

Do you have a gift (or passion) for writing? I would love to create a mini-drama (with music) at St. David's, for all ages. This could be a great congregational project and we could raise funds at the same time! It starts with the writing. I recently witnessed the incredible creative writing gift of a certain young girl in our congregation. That makes me wonder just how many talented writers are in our midst. Are you one of those? Or do you know of someone who may be too humble to come forward? Let's all get on board the creative train and be part of something new and exciting!

Concerts and Events

On Friday, May 1st, we will hold a fundraising event for the Out of the Cold dinners and other Outreach ministries at St. David's. We'll start with a one-hour concert of mostly jazz with our very own Bob Black on drums. You won't want to miss this! For details, see the back page.

And, on a very different note, a half-hour program of dramatic organ works will be offered after coffee hour on Sunday, May 3rd. Come hear the organ at its best!

Thank you so much for your generous support of music at St. David's! We can't do it without you!

Marsha Goold

Minister of Music

Ph: 604-922-5501

E-mail: marsha@stdavidsunited.com

Dan's Conference Work

This month, more than usual, Dan will be away at different times attending to his work with the BC Conference, though he'll be here for all Sunday services.

April 2 & 3 Naramata – oversight visit

April 14 – 17 Toronto – a nationwide gathering of Conference President-Elects

April 27 – 30 Bowen Island – BC Conference Spiritual Care Network Retreat
(Dan serves on the Planning Committee)

Dan appreciates your support and prayers as he engages this ministry of the church.

Outreach

Be the Change...

One of the projects for Be the Change Day, described on the front page, involves collecting (in advance) new toiletry supplies for 'care kits' for women and teens in crisis, and pyjamas for teens in a safe house. These will be assembled on Be the Change Day. If you are traveling in the next while or are staying in hotels, please donate unused shampoo and hand lotion, but if not, please purchase and donate any of the items on the list below and leave them in the box in the library labeled **Be The Change**.

- Travel size toothpaste and dental floss
- Small shampoo and conditioner
- Small body lotion
- Q tips and make-up pads
- Knee highs
- Tampons and panty liners
- Soap and deodorant
- Make up items
- *Pyjamas for teens*

"What's in a name?" Shakespeare wrote. An awful lot, we say! Can you imagine having a baby (or even a pet?) and never giving it a name? We'd be saying 'hey you' all the time! It's time for a christening at St. David's! Yes, our heretofore unnamed intergenerational group of singers and musicians - who have gathered three times already this year - shall be named and launched! And we want you to be involved! Give us your ideas and you could win a prize! We'll have several categories that will allow you to win. All you have to do is offer up your most thoughtful and creative ideas that will allude to the enthusiasm and energy that this great group brings to our services at St. David's! Slip your suggestions under the door of the church office anytime, e-mail Marsha (marsha@stdavidsunited.com) or call her at 604-922-5501. Contest closes April 19 – so get creative!



Library News

Recently Lynn Birch and I did an inventory of St. David's Library. This helped me as a newcomer to become acquainted with the collection. I hope to become more familiar with the books as the year goes on. A number of books are lost or gone astray and we would ask that you check your home libraries for any books belonging to St. David's Library. (In the last 4 years, we have 70 books unaccounted!)

Lynn and I will be sharing the job as Librarian. We will have a number displays in the Lounge and up-dates of new books in the newsletter.

Colleen has put together a collection for the Lenten Season and these are on display in the Library. Please come in and browse!

Looking forward to seeing you.

Audrey Campbell

Visioning

The Board of St David's has been and will continue to work with the Finance and Visioning Committees to deal with the issues of the future direction of the Church and its current significant financial challenges. The Board regrets to announce that, as one result of that work, a decision has been made to terminate the position of Church Administrator in its current form at the end of the current year. Chris Astill, who has so ably held the position for the past 15 years, has gracefully expressed her understanding, as well as her sorrow, with the Board's need to take this decision.

With the guidance of the Finance, Visioning, and Ministry & Personnel Committees, the Board will be developing a new approach to the administrative duties next year that may incorporate (a) contracting a bookkeeper/accountant for some hours each week, (b) hiring a person with a background in marketing and communication to address members of the congregation and the community through our web page and direct internet access, and (c) using volunteers to carry out such tasks as compiling the newsletter and maintaining the membership directory.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to talk to one of the members of the Ministry and Personnel Committee: K.T. Johnson, Ron DeCamillis, Jan MacDougall, Tom D'Orazio, John Barton. (Cay Holbrook is replacing John Barton on the committee.)

We shall all miss Chris after this year, but meanwhile let us be grateful for her continued support and, in turn, support her as she moves on to other opportunities.

Jazzing It Up for Out of the Cold!

What: One hour of Jazz in the Sanctuary followed by a Wine and Dessert Tasting

When: Friday, May 1st, 7:30 pm

Where: At St. David's!

Who: The music will be offered by our very own Marsha Goold (on piano) and Bob Black (on drums) with Anglican Priest Brock Lupton (on sax and clarinet). If you like Gershwin and swing music, you'll love this! CBC Radio's Rick Cluff will be our very special guest for the evening.

Why: To raise funds for the *Out of the Cold* dinners as well as for our other Outreach ministries including the *What If? Foundation* that "provides hope and opportunity to impoverished children in Haiti".

How: ***For a minimum \$30 donation per person***, you and each of your adult friends and family can each enjoy the concert and Wine Tasting event.
For a minimum \$15 donation per person, you, your ENTIRE family and ALL your friends (and their children), can each enjoy the concert and Dessert Tasting!



If you are willing to volunteer for the evening, please contact Marsha (604-922-5501 or marsha@stdavidsunited.com)