



# THE VOICE OF TSAWWASSEN UNITED CHURCH



April 2006

Easter Issue



## HE IS RISEN!



"I stay away from church on Easter", someone once said to a colleague. "Maundy Thursday I can understand. Sharing food and drink with close friends and figuring out what to say and do together at your last meal together. And Good Friday, I can accept. It's real. Jesus has enemies, people in power who were able to gather their resources and use their connections to get rid of him. All that makes some sense to me. But Easter? Resurrection? That doesn't make any sense to me at all!"

My colleague appreciated her parishioner's honesty, suspecting that lots of other people who see themselves as followers of Jesus still struggle to 'make sense' of Easter. If you are one of those people and you consider yourself alone in this, think about the record of the Easter events in the gospels.

In the gospel of John, Mary Magdalene confuses the risen Christ with a local gardener. In Luke, the frightened women after being addressed by two men in strange outfits, run to tell the disciples what they have been told by the two strangers. But the disciples dismiss the women as if they are crazy. The earliest

gospel, Mark, may be the most honest as it simply ends with the women running from the empty tomb, terrified to tell anyone about what they have seen and heard.

Confusion, disbelief, fear and trembling. Those were the reactions of Jesus' closest followers on that first Easter.

Perhaps we are not called to ever fully 'understand' what happened on Easter morning, but be willing to explore the mystery of Easter all through the season of Easter.

On Easter Sunday, of course we will sing those wonderful Easter hymns.

Not because we fully understand or comprehend but because as people of faith we are called to live with joy in and through the mysteries of our faith.

One thing I know, our God is always about, bringing new life to us and to our world, even out of the most deadly circumstances. So, along with you, I will wait and watch and see what God is up to next, in our church and in our world.

Happy Easter everyone. Thanks be to God!

**Rev. Mollie Williams**  
Interim Minister ■

*Have you noticed the wonderful painting in the narthex? Jean Stuart is the talented artist. It was painted several years ago for Palm Sunday and kept in our archives to be displayed for Holy Week.*



# YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Since the New Year, the youth here at TUC have been busy attending the weekly meetings (Wednesday for the Juniors and Friday for the Seniors) and attending our special events.

In January, the Senior Youth went to the Museum of Anthropology, learning about the past of British Columbia and other parts of the world. Some of the Youth noticed a similarity between one piece of art and an image on our \$20 bill.

The Junior Youth, in February, had a fun-tube-bulous time up at Mt Seymour, going up and down the hill, sledding until us leaders could not take it any longer.

Later on that month, the Senior Youth put on a Mardi-Gras, pancake supper to raise money for the Property Division, which made more than \$450, serving approximately 100 people our delicious meals and crêpes.

March was a little less busy, with spring break being two weeks long, however, I was busy at a Presbytery youth event, working on a farm at UBC, and sleeping at Ryerson United.

However April, on the other hand, will be a very busy month. The Easter weekend will start after the Maundy Thursday service and be followed by a Young Adult Seder (Jewish Passover meal) on Friday evening at my house. Then on Saturday, the Senior Youth and Young Adults will participate in an Easter Mid-night vigil service, to be followed by a sleepless night in preparation for the Early Morning Service down at the beach. I guess we can all sleep once all of it's over.

In this Easter Season, it is my prayer that this will be a time of new life amongst all of us, young, middle aged and old. May we all grow in our faiths, bringing ourselves closer to God.

**John Gary**  
Staff Associate ■

## St. Patrick's Day Dinner

On March 17, 2006, Tsawwassen United Church Hall became the gathering place for a St. Patrick's Day dinner, sponsored by the choirs.

Everyone came wearing something green, including Lynne Meinert with green eyelashes. A delicious stew was prepared by ladies from the choir and breads and cakes with green icing were on the menu. Doug McLennan made little wooden shamrocks with candles as table centres which were later presented to the dancers. The tables were set with green table cloths and the donations at the door were almost \$600.



After dinner Gennie Dunkley presented some of her Clarion Dancers to entertain and we were delighted to welcome the Pasburg Sisters from Point Roberts dressed in their traditional Irish costumes to dance for us and even teach us some of the Irish dances. Leona Prowse played the piano for our Irish singsong and then she organized the clean-up team in the kitchen. A good time was had by everyone. ■

## LIVING THE QUESTIONS

A small group of 12 – 14 people in the congregation are meeting each Monday evening during Lent for a six-week faith study led by Mollie. This is not precisely a Bible study, but rather an examination of our Christian faith and the questions we face as a Christian people in the modern world.

We have been watching a video presentation of short clips of ideas by some of the leading Christian thinkers today. Deep discussions on the points raised follow the video clips.

For all of us this has become a very meaningful opportunity to explore how we process many aspects of our faith and project it in our lives. ■

## Daffodil Tea & Fashion Show

The "MONDAY LUNCH BUNCH" sponsored a fashion show and tea in the church hall on March 27th.

The hall was crowded with guests and a beautiful tea was presented. Pauline Mushens organized a lovely fashion show, featuring garments from WEEKENDER. These stylish and comfortable clothes were on display after the show for ladies to try on and Pauline generously donated 10% of the sales to the church. The guests were very generous at the door as well and Pauline reports that almost \$500 was raised for church funds.



There were five models participating, Mollie Williams, Muriel Pritchard, Marilyn Merry, Joan Brown and Melanie Williams. Melanie modeled a new line for Weekender catering to younger women, and she did the most amazing job of changing and coordinating her outfits in front of the audience. She showed how basic pieces could be changed from casual to formal wear, without one embarrassing moment. The other models showed a variety of garments - all very comfortable to wear and looking very attractive in sports, travel or dress wear.

Pauline donated two door prizes and a beautiful jacket was won by Barbara Taylor and Chris Thomas won a silk scarf.

A most enjoyable afternoon for everyone who attended. ■

## Flowers & Bulletins



Flowers are needed for the sanctuary during Sunday worship services. Please sign up on the bulletin board or call Lynne Meinert at 604-943-4082.

## LIBRARY NEWS



### Recommended Reading:

To follow up on Pete McMartin's column in *The Vancouver Sun*, on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006, *Pews Are Full But the Coffers Are Empty As First United Struggles After 120 Years*:

#### BOILING OVER

A collection of writings from the heart of Vancouver. This booklet is a writing project that grew out of a partnership between First United Church and the Education Department of Vancouver College.

### Special Request:

The Library needs a typist!

Someone who would be willing to spare a few hours a month, even at home.



Interested? Phone Lillian @ 604-943-6525.

Thank you for reading!

**Mary Towgood, Donna Mullan & Lillian Lewis**

*Library Committee* ■

## Updating the Lounge

Have you hit bottom when you've sat on the yellow couch in the Lounge?

Rhonda Arnason and Mary Jackson are looking for people with sewing talents to assist with the reupholstering of this couch. Guidance will be provided.

Although some of the money has already been set aside for this project, it will not proceed without further financial assistance. Donations for the purchase of the material and restructuring of the cushions will be much appreciated. ■



Outreach is planning three projects where success will depend largely on support from the congregation:

1. **School Bags** — Last year, with the help of Sherry Vath of the Ladner Food Bank, 15 situations where the costs of children returning to school would create a serious hardship for the families, were identified. Our church collected funds, negotiated a great discount from Office Depot and provided 15 backpacks with all the school supplies those children needed for the year. We have asked Sherry to examine needs for 2006 and in about May 2006, we will be communicating the extent of a similar program this year.
2. **Garage Sale** — Working with the youth of our church, Outreach will attempt to organize a Garage Sale on the church property on Saturday, June 3rd. Last year the project grew to great size and we needed lots of help for set-up, selling and clean-up. We expect we will need your help again to promote the event, donate saleable "stuff" and get rid of items not sold. We will invite First Church, The Vivian and Oak Avenue to come and pick at the leftovers to use where they can.

3. **First United Church Lunch** — We plan to recreate the sort of meal that is served to the people from the downtown eastside of Vancouver so you can experience it here in Tsawwassen. With the help of the Worship Division we have contracted with Ruth Wright, CEO of First Church, to come and preach a message on Sunday, October 22nd. We would like you each to bring a bowl or mug and a spoon that can be donated to First Church after the meal. Ernie, the cook at First, is committed to making and delivering soup. We are looking for "folding money" donations at the meal where all the proceeds will be given to help out at First United.

This is lots of advance notice of three opportunities for you to get involved with the outreach of Tsawwassen United Church. We are always looking for new members, new ideas and feedback from the congregation. We'd like to think that what we are doing meets with your approval, but we don't know for sure unless we hear from you. Talk to Jean Stuart or Archie Mullan who will make sure your opinions are considered by all division members. ■



## Thank You to TUC's Sandwich Makers



The following letter was received in March from Marion Young, the volunteer coordinator at First United Church Mission.

*"All too often time goes by and we forget to thank those folks whose "presence" is such an essential and integral part of our programmes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you who are involved in making sandwiches for the Mission.*

*The sandwiches that you make help feed many of the people in this community and they are a welcome part of the Mission's hospitality program. Each day we serve between 150 to 300 people a sandwich with hot tea or coffee and it serves as an important meal for all.*

*Your commitment to this programme and all of your efforts is very much appreciated. Thank you so much for your continued support to this program."*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thurs., Apr. 13... Maundy Thursday Service** at 7:30 p.m. which includes communion and optional hand washing.
- Sun., Apr. 16 ..... Easter Sunday Sunrise Service** at 6:15 a.m.  
Communion at the 12th Avenue dyke on the beach, led by the Youth Group. A light breakfast at the church will follow.
- Sun., Apr. 16 ..... Easter Sunday Worship Service** at 10:00 a.m. Special music. All ages welcome.
- Sat., Apr. 22..... Spring Clean-up** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Fri., Apr. 28..... "Hope International Working in India" Presentation** at 7:00 p.m.
- Sun., Apr. 30 ..... Handbells** pre-service at 9:40 a.m. and in-service.
- Sun., Apr. 30 ..... Mediterranean Lunch,** following worship service.
- Sat. June 3 ..... Garage Sale**

## Mediterranean Lunch Sunday, April 30th Following the Service

Please join us for a fabulous meal and some wonderful company.

Bring along a dish to share: olives, pita, tsatsiki, hommous, cheeses, salads, dolmades, baklava. No time to cook? Thrifty's and Safeway Deli have lots of choices!

Donations will be gratefully accepted.



# THE VOICE

... is a publication of  
**Tsawwassen United Church**  
693 53rd Street, Delta, BC V4M 3B6  
Phone: 604-943-2911 Fax: 604-943-0771  
E-mail: [info@tsawwassenunited.org](mailto:info@tsawwassenunited.org)  
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Monday to Friday  
Editors: Lynne Meinert & Lee Gary  
Design & Layout: Mary Almond

### A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

*Lent. Palm Sunday. Maundy Thursday. Good Friday. Easter.*

This significant season in the Christian calendar can be one of the most difficult as we attempt to discern the meaning of God's presence among us.

Jesus was willing to go even to his death to demonstrate the profound love of God for us. The gift of Easter is the joy of God's unconditional love through His Son, Jesus Christ.



He is risen! He is risen indeed!

*The Editors*

### NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL

To receive a copy of the *The Voice* via e-mail, please e-mail us at:  
[thevoice@tsawwassenunited.org](mailto:thevoice@tsawwassenunited.org).



*Editors Lynne Meinert (left) & Lee Gary*

### THANKS FOR THE LOONIE!

... to help pay for the cost of the newsletter.



HOPE International Development Agency Working in India Presentation  
Friday, April 28th, 7:00 p.m.

*Attention all couch potatoes who love watching TV documentaries on people who do amazing things.* Come to Tsawwassen United on Friday, April 28th at 7:00 p.m. and meet with Agnes Bolivar and Ted Church and enjoy their presentation of HOPE INTERNATIONAL WORKING IN INDIA. This is an evening for the whole family with donations being taken at the door.

# Spring Clean-Up!

**Saturday, April 22nd**  
**9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.**

All able bodied hands are required to spring clean our  
outside grounds.

If it is raining there is inside clean-up which could  
use attention.

Bring gloves and garden tools for outside — rubber gloves,  
buckets and rags for inside.

**COFFEE WILL BE AVAILABLE!**

**PLEASE SIGN UP  
ON THE CLIPBOARD  
IN THE NARTHEX**



# Property Report (part IV)

A sigh of relief! That is the experience the Property Division members are feeling the first quarter of this year. The Division has been on top of the day-to-day management of Tsawwassen United Church. Just having members of the congregation openly point out repairs that need attention has been of great benefit to the Property Division.

The sky-light in the sanctuary was caulked due to a pane being loose. It is hoped that this will address the intermittent leak experienced in the past. A full inspection of the mouldings will be undertaken when the weather dries the shingles.

Bryan, our new janitor, has reported that it will probably take another month to catch up and bring the floors, rugs, windows, etc., up to the standard that he would like to maintain.

This year's projects are to maximize the use of areas that are not being used on a regular basis. The cost will be small to nil. Keep your eye open to change.

The chain has been put into place as per security concerns. With the aide of the chain it is hoped that the night activity in the back parking lot will cease — at least the car activity. It is sad that this tactic has had to be implemented but also a realization to all that “nothing is the same” as it was when people would not ever think of abusing another person's property.

Our efforts will go on to keep Tsawwassen United Church running and up to date in the changes that are required to eliminate any further deterioration. Please continue to keep the Division informed of any repairs that you see, that we may not have seen. God Bless.