



Summer 2010, Volume 2, Issue 2

The Stevite

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OUR MISSION

To be an ecumenical community that offers sacred spaces for learning and transformation.

Opening New Doors!

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College Nurtures its Roots as we Encounter Challenges

Message from Dr Earle Sharam Principal and Dean

Pauline Kezer once observed that "Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights". In this issue of *The Stevite*, we reflect on the roots and branches of this college...

First and foremost, we celebrate our roots in the faithful support of the many people who have shared their life with St Stephen's for over a century. Many of our donors are named elsewhere in this issue; and there are many more who offer us the gift of their time and wisdom. We remain deeply grateful for the continuity of your presence and prayers, and for the ongoing gifts which enable us to continue the transformative work which is uniquely ours to do.

It is these deep roots that nourish us in times of change. And one of those changes is upon us: early in June, the Sub-Executive of the General Council

of the United Church voted to cease annual funding to four of the Church's colleges: Vancouver School of Theology, St Stephen's College, the Faculty of Theology of the University of Winnipeg, and Queen's School of Religion. That funding will cease in June 2011. A significant portion of the released annual grants will be re-distributed amongst those schools expected to continue to receive funding, at least for the time being. This action by General Council is accompanied by cuts in other parts of the Church's work, including grants to education centres, other programs, and General Council Office staff.

The announcement from General Council states very clearly that the decision "is not a statement about the performance of or quality of education offered by any of the theological schools." It affirms that the Church is committed to maintaining "strong ties and constructive relationships" with all of its schools and that further consultation will take place

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regarding existing and potential sources of Church funding that would demonstrate the Church's continuing support.

It goes without saying that we are not happy with the decision to cut our grant and we empathize with the other schools who will face the same loss.

But make no mistake! St Steve's has a long history of successfully meeting both the challenges and the opportunities of the day. We have--and we will continue to have--many things to which we are committed and for which we are grateful. We have a valued community of friends, alumni/ae, faculty and staff, Associate Faculty and faithful supporters. We have valued and long-standing partners who animate our work: The Centre for Christian Studies, The International University of the Caribbean, The University of Alberta, and the Alberta and Northwest Conference of the Church. We have almost 400 students in programs which are both academically rigorous and creatively vibrant.

Our branches are stretching and growing! And under their canopy there is room for new and exciting initiatives. Even in this season of change which is not of our making, we are choosing to respond as we always have: by living into our new reality in faith, by finding new sources of funding, by valuing and relying on the support of our friends, and by continuing to be a community which nurtures leaders for the emerging realities of our world.

As we move farther into this new millennium together, please remember us in prayer and with your gifts--and to be in touch with us at any time if you have questions or concerns, or if we can be of service to you.

Dr Earle Sharam
Principal and Dean

NEW CHANCELLOR NAMED



The Senate of St Stephen's College is very pleased to announce that **Allan E. Scott** has been named as the next Chancellor of the College. He will begin a three-year term as the titular head of the school with his formal installation at the College's 86th Convocation, on Nov. 1, 2010. Allan Scott will be familiar to many as the immediate past Chair of the Board of Directors of the Art Gallery of Alberta, amongst many other involvements.

The next issue of *The Stevite* will include a more extensive introduction, as we look forward to welcoming Allan and his wife Marianne into the community of the College.

A Focusing Dream at St Stephen's College

Submitted by Sherry McDonald, MAPPCC student and Holly Miller, MAPPCC.

We want to share with you a dream that has been percolating for about two years now with three St. Stephen's students in the Master of Arts in Pastoral Psychology and Counselling program.

We discovered the self-help skill and psychotherapeutic approach called Focusing. Dr Greg Madison was the St. Stephen's professor who introduced Focusing to the College community. Holly Miller, Kamaljit Kaur Bates, and Sherry McDonald saw the immense value in facilitating this process in counselling sessions and teaching this self-help skill to anyone interested.

WHAT IS FOCUSING?

Focusing, as a phenomenological intervention, can be integrated into other psychotherapeutic approaches. As well, Focusing can be used by an individual to resolve everyday problems and challenges, in order to move forward towards goals, commitments, purposes and spiritual development (*Gendlin, 2007; Hinterkopf, 1998*).

Focusing addresses the immediate subjective experience of the individual and subtly shifts the emphasis from these subjective experiences (thoughts, feelings and behaviours) to focusing on the body's innate experience of life situations (*Gendlin, 2007, 1962*). Thus, Focusing includes paying attention to the body's sensations, signals, felt senses, as well as on thoughts, feelings, and behaviours.

Our dream is to share Focusing in the Canadian West and to develop a Specialization Program in Focusing Oriented Therapy at St Stephen's College.

There is a Focusing presence here at St Stephen's College as we have already taught five Introduction to Focusing Workshops and are now announcing a five day preparation and training opportunity in August.

We are very fortunate to have Dr. Greg Madison accompany us during these Focusing Education days.

For more information about our dream, please feel free to contact Holly Miller or Sherry McDonald at holly.miller@shaw.ca or sherry.mcdonald@sasktel.net.

Our facilitators include:

Dr. Greg Madison is an Existential Psychotherapist and Chartered Counselling Psychologist living and working in Britain, who regularly teaches Focusing and Focusing-Oriented Therapy internationally. Greg is originally from Alberta and spent a brief period as Co-Coordinator of the MAPPCC program at St Stephen's.

Sherry McDonald, RN, BScN, MAPPCC (c), FOT has immersed herself in the Focusing experience and Focusing literature. She has begun to practice as a Masters student in Saskatoon as a Focusing Orientated Therapist.

Holly Miller, BSc (Eng), MAPPCC, RCC FOT is a graduate of the MAPPCC program at St Stephen's College. Holly has a particular interest in the use of Focusing in creative writing.

See the next page for details on upcoming workshops on Focusing

Focusing Workshops:

Thursday, August 12

Noon – 5 pm

Registration Deadline: August 2, 2010

We are pleased to invite you to a 5-hour experiential workshop on Focusing, including skill development. A certificate and workbook will be made available during the workshop.

Workshop Fee: \$100

St Stephen's Degree Students: \$75

Enrolment: Min. 6, Max: 14.

Friday and Saturday, August 13 - 14

9 am – 5 pm

Registration Deadline: August 2, 2010.

We are pleased to invite you to a two-day experiential Focusing workshop. Level 1 is a continuation of the learning begun in the "Introduction to Focusing" workshops offered at St Stephen's College. This workshop will explore the Focusing process in greater depth.

Workshop Fee: \$225

Enrolment: Min. 6, Max: 14.

**Sunday, August 15
with Dr Greg Madison**

10 am – 4 pm

Registration Deadline: Aug. 2, 2010. Space is strictly limited to enhance opportunities for maximum participation and discussion.

This 5-hour workshop is a rare opportunity to explore Focusing as a means of going beyond techniques and medical assumptions in order to practise psychotherapy as a person to person relationship with experiential depth. Prior Focusing experience required.

Workshop Fee: \$200

Enrolment: Min 8, Max: 14.

College News



St Stephen's College hosted Dr Albert Bandura on June 10 for an afternoon of conversation and book signing.

Dr Bandura, internationally renowned for his work on self-efficacy, self-regulation and social cognitive theory, received an honorary doctorate from the University of Alberta on June 9. St Stephen's was a co-sponsor of his sold-out public lecture at the Telus Centre where Dr Bandura spoke about his current work on moral disengagement.

Above photo: Dr Bandura, second from left, poses with St Stephen's Dean Earle Sharam, Board Chair Margaret-Ann Armour and Associate Faculty member Sonia Sobon.

APPOINTMENT

A current MAPPC student, Beverly Mennie, has been appointed as Director of the B.C. Chapter of the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association.

IN MEMORIAM

Tom Faulkner, President of St Andrew's and St Stephen's from 2004 to 2006, passed away in Winnipeg on July 13 2010.

Rev Dr Albion Wright, BD, DD passed away in Ontario on July 5 2010.

A Peach Tree Grows in a Swaziland Village

"Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat."

Mother Teresa

On a recent trip to Swaziland, I had the opportunity to spend a week working with orphans and staff in Bulembu. I met a number of dedicated Africans and North Americans who are re-building the deserted British mining town. The basic infrastructure is there, and with Edmontonian, Albertan and North American business support, sustainable businesses are being built, regenerating empty and abandoned buildings. The Golf and Country Club House has become a dairy, producing 100 gallons of milk per day, employing over 20 Africans and feeding all 200 orphans in town (plus exporting to the local community). The bakery has opened this year in the former grocery store and so far produces 150 to 350 loaves of bread per day. Honey is harvested and jarred in a former equipment warehouse with over 100 bee boxes strategically placed throughout the town. There is an operational lumber mill and a water bottling factory as well.

Lorraine, the only social worker in Bulembu and one of only a handful in all of Swaziland, tells me she went into social work because she wanted to help people emotionally. In her current placement with the Bulembu foundation she collects rejected, starving, sick, and abandoned children, in some cases from the dirt and mud where they have been left. The whole country has one vehicle for the social workers to share.

In this country of about 950,000, there are 120,000 orphans, and half of the population is under 18. AIDS has wiped out the middle generation and has increased 900 per cent in the last 5 years,

reducing the life expectancy to 31. In the rural villages outside of town some of the children are almost naked, they don't know how to sit on a chair, and they have never used a utensil; teenagers don't know what colours or numbers are. In Swaziland there is no Child Protection Act, and only recently international NGOs have enforced education to Grade Two.

There is a peach tree in the centre of town. Tina, the instructor at the creativity centre, tells me no one has seen a ripe peach on its branches. The hard green peaches are picked as soon as they are evident. With the life expectancy at 31, it is hard to wait for the fruit to ripen; it is hard to think of the next generation, and for some locals it is hard to envision a different future.

As dire as things are, Lorraine, through her work with children for the Bulembu foundation, can offer children a sanctuary, a true oasis in a desert of need. Bulembu has 187 orphans placed in orphan homes and 25 "in transition" at the Welcome Center. Each home has between 6 and 8 children and one "auntie". Children are well fed and clothed, and there is a school and a church. The community vision is "for sustainability including fostering the development of a new generation of emerging leaders through orphan care, education, health services and commerce."

Meeting Lorraine and hearing about her work, I feel proud that a place like Bulembu exists. I feel hopeful about their dream to be "a vibrant self sustaining community by the year 2020."

Maybe the next time I visit, Lorraine and I can share a peach.

See <http://www.bulembu.org>

Submitted by Lisa Hardy
MAPPC (Art Therapy Specialization)

Following is a list of our generous donors who supported St Stephen's College and its programs in 2009.

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 who pledged a total of \$3,575*

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St Stephen's College is a Registered Charity.

Online Donations:

Secure online donations may be made through CanadaHelps.org. CanadaHelps is a registered charity that processes secure, online donations. Click on the donation button on our [home page](#) and you will be redirected to the CanadaHelps site.

PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) System

If you have automatic debits going from your bank account to pay for insurance, cable TV, taxes, fuel, or mortgage, then you understand the PAR principle. It means regular contributions throughout the year.

How to Get Involved: When you have decided to participate in PAR, you determine the amount of your monthly offering, fill in the [Authorization Card](#) and attach a sample cheque from your account marked "Sample" or "Void"; give both (by mail or in person) to the Assistant Registrar at St Stephen's College. This program is administered by The United Church of Canada.

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When you make a gift of shares to the church your capital gain is cut in half. Your charitable tax receipt is for the full value of the shares on the day they are received by the church.

Gift of Life Insurance

You can donate an existing policy and receive a charitable tax receipt for its cash value. Or, you can purchase a new policy, enabling you to make a large gift to the church in the future for a relatively small cost now. You receive a charitable tax receipt for the premiums you pay. This planned gift could be directed to St Stephen's College

St Stephen's College has kept the faith for 90 years. Please help ensure that this ministry continues well into the future by making a Planned Gift to St Stephen's College.

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