



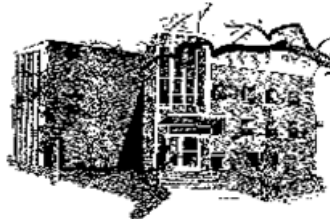
January-February 2007

St. Stephen's News

**AN ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY OFFERING
SACRED SPACES FOR LEARNING AND
TRANSFORMATION**

Our Emerging Vision

The experience of emerging from the Amalgamation with St Andrew's College last summer, while presenting challenges, has given us the opportunity to dream of what can be and of what new approaches we can develop as we encourage research and reflection on the vital and spiritual issues of our time. Among other things, this is allowing us time in which to consider possible re-configurations of our staff and faculty. As one instance of that, you will know of the search currently under way for a Coordinator of Graduate Degree Programs. In the meanwhile, there are many other beacons of light and hope for us to celebrate in this time of transition into the new St Stephen's.



Our Finances

We are happy to report that through the diligent efforts of our Finance Committee, chaired by Chris Holmes, and our Business Administrator, David Allan, we have quarterly financial reports and a budget that reveal a favourable balance and forecast. Your donations will add to what we can do rather than service debt.

News from our Interim Board of Governors

Seldom has a governing body been assembled which has been so passionate about its task that its members hate having to miss meetings! The St Stephen's Board of Governors is one of them. Under the wise and careful leadership of this Board, the affairs of the College are moving forward. One of the immediate things the Board did was initiate an intentional process of re-visioning which has been running alongside the everyday business of the place and to charge a small sub-group with the task of this visioning and strategic planning. You will hear more of that work in due course.

Dr Margaret-Ann Armour,
Chair of the College's Board of Governors,
spoke of the importance of discovery and experience in the learning process, as part of her address to the 2006 Convocation graduands and guests. Read more about this on page 2.

**S T . S T E P H E N ' S
C O L L E G E**



Convocation 2006 at St. Stephen's College

Twenty-six graduands, along with friends, family, faculty, staff, alumni/ae and diverse College supporters recently celebrated the 82nd Convocation of St. Stephen's College at Knox-Metropolitan United Church in Edmonton.

The October 16th event was a celebration of scholastic accomplishment as well as a festival of theological and pastoral practice. Of special note was the graduation of the first two candidates in the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Training Diploma.

St Stephen's College is part of the United Church's network of theological schools, where students from diverse denominational and theological backgrounds interact in an ecumenical and interfaith context. The College offers innovative undergraduate and graduate learning opportunities, as well as continuing education for life and ministry that strengthens and seeks to be transformative for individuals, church, and society. To

receive further information about the College and our programs, please call (780) 439-7311, or toll free: 1-800-661-4956 or e-mail the Registrar. Visit our website at www.ualberta.ca/ST.STEPHENS.

The Convocation Address was delivered by Dr Margaret-Ann Armour, Chair of the College's Board of Governors. She is also Professor Emerita of the University of Alberta chemistry department, and presently serves as the U of A's Associate Dean of Science (Diversity). In addition, this past July 2006, she was named to the Order of Canada.

In her address, which drew on insights from Ursula Franklin and the Gospel account of the road to Emmaus, Armour spoke of the importance of discovery and experience in the learning process. She spoke of valuing all our senses in our learning, "sight, sound, smell, taste, touch, and the one we long for, common sense." She proposed that "perhaps, if we are using them to their full extent, they are Wisdom." Armour further stressed the importance

of transformative learning as a communal endeavour – where teachers and learners build relationships with one another, and learn together.

Armour also highlighted the importance of working to transform the world to a place where it is people who matter more than the bottom line. Specifically, she encouraged us to be attentive to the language we use, and that "we do not use the language of the marketplace, a language which includes words such as clients, stake-holders, providers of health care, consumers of education and the bottom line, but rather talk of teachers and students, nurses, doctors and patients; because they are people, they are friends, families and communities." She stressed that like all language, "the language of the marketplace ... reflects the moral values of those who speak. And I want the outcome of our learning to be a desire and then action to bring greater justice and equality to Edmonton, to Alberta, to Canada, to Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, to Kenya, to Uganda, to all countries."

News from Our Dean and Interim Principal, Earle Sharam

The work of College is always carried out with dedication and grace by its Faculty and Staff. We are delighted to let you know of three new persons who have joined the team:

David Allan, CA MBA, has accepted our invitation to become our new Business Administrator. The work of 'repatriating' our Business Office—which was located at St Andrew's College during the period of the Amalgamation—is now complete, and we have once more direct control over our own finances. David comes to us with a strong background in accounting and auditing, serves as Treasurer of McDougall United Church in Edmonton, as a member of the Edmonton Presbytery Finance Committee and as Chair of the Stewardship Committee—amongst many other involvements!

Mona-Lee Feehan, DMin has joined the Faculty to assist Jean Waters in the work of the MAPP Program, on a part-time contract for the next few months. Mona-Lee is a graduate of the St Stephen's DMin program. Standing within the Roman Catholic tradition, she has worked in the field of marriage ministry for over 25 years. She has a keen interest in inter-church/inter-spiritual relationships, and questions of religious and theological tolerance and intolerance. Last term, she taught our "New Issues in Theology" course, as well as courses for St Joseph's College here at The University of Alberta. As a result of her DMin Project-Dissertation, Mona-Lee has published three works and is working on a fourth.

Kathy Suteau, MTS, also no stranger to the College community, has been working with us as Assistant to the Dean

(Programs). Her particular mandate has been to attend to the College's continuing education offerings and outreach, help to strengthen existing partnerships and to forge new ones, and provide assistance to the other Faculty in matters related to programming. A graduate of the St Stephen's MTS program, Kathy brings a strong administrative background and wide experience of both the St Stephen's and United Church communities.

Kathy, Mona-Lee and David are doing fine work for us. Each of them is passionately committed to the mandate of St Stephen's. We know that you will greet them warmly and welcome them to their new roles in this community. Their presence with all of us in this community of learning and transformation is a reminder of the ongoing life and strength of St Stephen's College!

We welcome reflections from Faculty, Students, Alumni and Friends of St. Stephen's College. We believe that what we do has long-term effects and that learning is life-long. So it is natural to discover as we reflect on the great questions of life that we have something to share. Periodically, we will publish such reflections, so please share yours with us. The current reflection is by Betty Marlin, a long-time friend and supporter of St. Stephen's.

“It is impossible (fortunately) to have justice without compassion, but it is possible (unfortunately) to have compassion without justice. Compassion, no matter how immediately necessary or profoundly human, cannot substitute for justice, for the right of all to equal dignity and integrity of life. Those who live by compassion are often canonized. Those who live by justice are often crucified.”
John Dominic Crossan in *The Birth of Christianity* (San Francisco: Harper-Collins, 1998), p. 586.

Who is Jesus?

Several years ago when I was at a women's retreat, a young woman asked me if her parents would go to heaven. Her parents were older and they were not Christian. My response was that if her parents wanted to be in heaven then God would accept them. This was the beginning of a very heated debate about whether or not one had to believe in Jesus as their personal Saviour before they could go to heaven. Needless to say several of the women were upset with my response. I would, however, make the same response today but with more certainty and clarity than I did some twenty or more years ago.

In my teaching days in Canada, I used to invite people to think about the idea that “none of us is saved until all of us are saved”! That salvation is about fullness of life for all people and my fullness of life is dependent on the fullness of life of others. Jesus did not bring salvation. Jesus showed us what salvation was and is about – the bringing of fullness of life for all people, wherever they may be. When I was teaching in Zambia, we talked about the possibility that salvation has to do with the here and now as much as the future and that salvation is about bringing fullness of life, where no one is oppressed or imprisoned or burdened with work or life cares. I found there among the students a growing appreciation for the idea that Jesus was about bringing life here and now on earth.

Jesus was a person whose dialogue and actions raised questions in his day and those questions continue to be raised today. His unconventional relationship with people on the margins of life, whether because of ill health, poor job opportunities or discrimination, made him a blessing to many and a threat to some. Following his death, those in positions of power elevated him to a position of power and prestige so that his earthly work was for the most part nullified and his challenge to the status quo ignored.

His work and his spirit is found, essentially, as it has always been, in those who are marginalized and blocked from fullness of life. Jon Sobrino would say, if you want to understand forgiveness and grace go to the peasant women in El Salvador and I would add or to Zambia and there you will find the Spirit of God at work in the women.

Jesus was, without question, a person whose desire appeared to be fullness and wholeness of life for all people. He lived a life dedicated to the people with whom he interacted in his daily life. For whatever reason, Jesus' interactions with those people met them at their place of need; some he supported and encouraged to fullness of life, while others he challenged to think beyond themselves and their power and status. For whatever reason, Jesus was able to live a life filled with the Spirit of compassion and justice in a way many of us find difficult to do. What life experience brought him to such a way of living, I am not certain. I am convinced, however, that Jesus never intended that he become anything other than the Spirit of One struggling to bring justice and compassion to the world. Jesus had a unique way, according to the authors of his life, of being both pastoral and prophetic or political at the same time. Dorothee Soelle in *Revolutionary Patience* suggests that Jesus was “...like each of us, just another individual who couldn't beat city hall, worked to change the status quo and was destroyed.” Jesus' invitation was, and is, to live as he lived within the Spirit of compassion and justice.

Reflection: Marlin (concluded)

What was amazing about Jesus was not his ability to “do something for us, we could not do for ourselves,” rather it was his ability to analyze and discern what was going on and to respond in a way that offered hope for a full life. The questions for me were and are: “from where did Jesus get this will to live in ‘right relationship’ with God and humanity?” And “from where did he gain his strong intuition to know what was needed in each situation?”

Chung Hyun Kyung, in her book *Struggle to be the Sun Again*, suggests that for Asian women in understanding Jesus as Immanuel, that “Jesus is not an objectified divine being whom people must worship. Rather Jesus is the one whom we relive through our lives.” And concludes the paragraph with “God-is-us in our struggle to reclaim our full humanity” [page 61]. What a powerful and challenging image this presents! The Spirit of Jesus, which is the Spirit of God, is that Spirit which directs our life and moves us to acts of compassion and justice.

Jesus did not do something for us which we cannot do for ourselves. Jesus is not someone up there with magical powers or out there asking to be worshiped and adored. Rather Jesus, by his very life example, is with us in the struggle and invites us to live the Spirit of Universal Love, which includes justice and compassion, in our homes, in our work places, on our streets and in our political action in our country and in the world.

Betty Marlin, 2003

Friends We Will Miss

We said a ‘bon voyage’ to Dr. Gregory Madison in December and wished him well as he left St. Stephen’s College as a Co-Coordinator of the MA program in Pastoral Psychology and Counselling, to recommence his teaching and supervision work in London, UK, while also opening a new practice in Brighton & Hove, East Sussex. We wish Greg well in his new endeavours. We will miss his cheery greetings as he rode to work at the College on his bicycle. Greg will remain an inspiration to us. We also look forward to seeing Greg again in April when he returns for a visit to teach a course with Dr. Jean Waters.

Explore what God is calling you to do and be; join the community of learners at St. Stephen’s College!

A Selection of some of our Week-Long Intensive Courses

Monday to Friday 9a.m.-5 p.m.

March 5 - 9: Feminist Theology (in Red Deer)

March 12-16: Dreams and the Soul’s Journey

March 28-Apr 3: Introduction to Focusing Oriented Therapy

April 9-13: Counselling Skills (PPSYC585)

May 7-11: Introduction to Theology: Its Traditions and Tasks

May 14-18: Considering the Spiritual In Contemporary Art

May 14-18: Theories and Techniques 1: Art and Therapy Fundamentals

May 14-18: Science and Religion in Dialogue

May 14-18: Introduction to Pastoral Psychology & Counselling

June 25-29: Professional Ethics and the Pastoral Counselling

July 9-13: Introduction to Christian Scriptures

July 16-20: Job, Ecclesiastes and the Dark Side of Faith:

Empire of Dirt, Crown of Thorns

Please see our new Calendar
for more exciting
learning opportunities at:

www.ualberta.ca/ST.STEPHENS/

PLEASE, KEEP IN TOUCH

Email us or call us with any ideas or suggestions
for our newsletter. We appreciate hearing from you.

If you change your email or postal address,
we want to know, so we can keep in touch with you.

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