



May 2007

# St. Stephen's News

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



**Dr. Earle Sharam,  
Dean and Acting  
Principal  
St Stephen's  
College**

I would like to share with you a story which comes out of the dark days of the

American Civil War. A Union soldier was shot in the arm during the battle of Shiloh. His captain saw he was wounded and barked out an order, "Gimme your gun, Private, and get to the rear!"

The private handed over his rifle and ran towards the north, seeking safety. But after going only about two or three hundred yards, he came upon another skirmish. So he ran to the east instead, and found himself in another battle. Then he ran west, but he encountered more fighting there. Finally, he ran back to the frontlines shouting, "Gimme back my rifle Cap'n. There ain't no rear to this battle nowhere!"

It seems to me that this is something of a metaphor for the life of the Church and the church's theological colleges in these early years of a new century and millennium! When it comes to the troubles of the world and daily life "there ain't no rear to this battle nowhere!"

The Board of St Stephen's College has laid hold of the tasks before it with that prayerful passion which has always characterized this community. As we make our way through what one member of the Board is pleased to call *The Second Coming of St Stephens!*, there have been a great many things to celebrate. Let me remind you of a few of them:

**The Board of Governors.** Imagine being a part of a group so passionate about its task that its members actually hate having to miss meetings and *offer* to chair committees! That is the way the Board of St Stephen's College is!

**The Students.** Student numbers continue to increase. In 1993, we had **164** degree or diploma students in June 2003 we had **235**. This year, there are **274** students in College programs. Add to that non-degree students who are taking courses for credit, and the non-credit students who audit courses ... and we have a total of **441** at this moment. **441** persons of faith with unique ministries who have touched and been touched by St Stephen's. We have physicians and roofers; school teachers and principals, reporters and nurses; civil servants and accountants; lay, ordained and diaconal ministers; massage therapists

and musicians; artists, chaplains, counsellors and administrators. And those students come from around the world because we offer theological education in a way they are able to access. That's why we have students from every province and one territory; and also from Asia, from four countries in Africa; and across the USA.

And like the United Church of Canada itself, we are inclusive of people from a wide variety of faith traditions. So we have students who are Anglican, Lutheran, Baptist, Church of God, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Reformed, Alliance, Community of Christ, Mennonite, Mormon; Roman Catholic, Ukrainian Catholic, Greek Catholic and Anglo-Catholic; students who are Orthodox (and many who are not!); students who are Jewish, Buddhist and Wiccan; students who claim no particular faith-community affiliation but are on a spiritual journey nonetheless. And, of course we have more than a few from The United Church of Canada! And the Associate Faculty who do the bulk of our teaching and supervising come from just as diverse geographical, vocational and faith-places. Little wonder that learning experiences at St Stephen's are so rich!

## 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.

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

## ST. STEPHEN'S NEWS

St. Stephen's College in Partnership with the International University of the Caribbean in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, celebrated their 2007 Convocation in April.

Pictured are:  
The Graduands and...  
Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans  
(MAPPC Caribbean program director—on the right)  
Dr. Jean Waters  
Dr. Mona Lee Feehan  
Dr. Earle Sharam

We celebrate with the Graduates of both the MAPPC programs!



### Interim Board of Governors News

Greetings to the St. Stephen's College Community from the Board of Governors.

What has the interim Board been doing in the last month or two? A Strategic Plan for the College is being developed by Denis Haughey in collaboration with the ad hoc visioning committee and the St. Stephen's Community. This plan will guide the new Board as it begins its work in July of this year. The finance committee has done superb work in re-establishing the administration of our finances at the College (when we were amalgamated with St. Andrews's College, they took responsibility for the finances of both Colleges) and developing a budget for 2007-08. The personnel and finance committees provided us with a plan to hire needed personnel and these new staff are being hired. They include a Business Administration Assistant and an Executive Assistant to the Dean. We have been re-establishing our relationships with two important partners. These are the conference and presbyteries of the United Church in Alberta, and the University of Alberta.

The University is celebrating its centennial in 2008, and since the College played such an integral part in the early history of the University, we are actively planning our own celebrations for next year. If you, or anyone you know, lived in St. Stephen's College residence, please contact the College so that we can arrange a homecoming visit as part of the celebrations. As our plans crystallize, we will share them with the community.

There is no comprehensive history of the College and what better time to produce one for the centennial? The Board is working to make this project a reality.

*Dr Margaret-Ann Armour, Chair of the College's Board of Governors*

## Farewell Party for Jean Waters

On April 27th friends, family and colleagues gathered to celebrate Jean's years of leadership with St. Stephen's College. Jean became a faculty member in 2001 as co-coordinator of the MA in Pastoral Psychology and Counselling Program. Although we are sadly saying goodbye to Jean as our program co-coordinator we are pleased that she will continue to teach for the College.



### A Tribute to Jean Waters

Friends have gathered here today  
To send a tribute down your way  
For all your leadership and thought  
And all the caring work you brought  
Building over years to bring  
learning , spirituality, many things  
Here in St.Stephens and in far away places  
That will stay with us in full embraces  
Things that inspire the best in all  
And helped each one to stand so tall  
Students, colleagues, you created a team  
That built people who were able to dream

There are people you meet on the road of life  
That make impressions that leave you rife  
With thankful hearts that she passed our way

Leaving us images bound to stay  
Of personal worth and integrity  
Of honesty shown on each single  
day  
Of commitment to truth and  
everything good  
Of warmth and caring ( all of us  
should)  
A Life and example one can  
follow  
Solid, deep, never hollow  
You've made our community a  
better place  
By what you've done through

God's good grace  
We pray that you long with us stay  
Partnering with us along the way  
Now as you travel a happy new  
road  
May love and joy fill your abode  
We wish for you happiness, health  
and fun  
At the start of the day and when its  
done  
Friends and colleagues to brighten  
your day  
Memories rich that for ever stay.  
Challenge enough to fill your mind

Goals that benefit mankind  
Inspiration in all you do  
Enough to satisfy your whole  
life through  
God bless, e'er present be  
With you and yours eternally

Don Milne, Chancellor  
(as written and read by)

### **Doctor of Ministry Program—Coordinator Dr. Veronica Dunne**

As of November 17th, 2006 there were 35 persons enrolled as Doctor of Ministry students at St. Stephen's College. These persons are from across Canada (and outside Canada) and represent a variety of ministerial contexts. DMin studies continue to shift from being a professional degree pursued only by clergy to one in which educators, health care personnel, counselors etc., claim their vocation as ministers of the gospel, and seek to deepen their understanding and practice.

## *Film Night*

On April 17<sup>th</sup> film buffs gathered to view a romantic comedy with a social justice emphasis. The conversation that followed was as rich as the film itself thanks to the wonderful facilitation of Lori Stewart and Jack Jarvis. All are welcome to join us for an evening of film and theological reflection. Please stay tuned for our next *Film Nite* which will be held this coming fall.

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### **“First Friday” of the Month Free Lecture Series**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>June 1st, 2007</b>  | Shauna Gibbons - Addressing the Post Confirmation Exodus     |
| <b>July 6th, 2007</b>  | Pierrette Requier - Coming Home: Through Being and Voice     |
| <b>Sept. 7th, 2007</b> | Geoffrey Wilfong-Pritchard - Leadership in Change            |
| <b>Oct. 5th, 2007</b>  | Markus Alexander - Arts and Healing                          |
| <b>Nov. 2nd, 2007</b>  | Anne Hill - The Sacred in Contemporary Children's Literature |

Interested in attending any or all of our free lecture series?

**Please RSVP by calling 780-439-7311 or email [ksuteau@ualberta.ca](mailto:ksuteau@ualberta.ca).**

Please bring a bag lunch. Coffee and tea available.

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### **Upcoming Workshops**

Friday, June 8th “Shining a Light on the Path” 9:30 - 4:00 p.m. (\$95.00 includes lunch)

Friday, Sept. 28th “Jacob’s Story: Living with Blessing and Wound, What Does this Mean for Suicide Survivors?” 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. (\$95.00 includes lunch)

**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 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- June 25-29: Professional Ethics and the Pastoral Counselling - Kristine Lund
- July 9-13: Introduction to Christian Scriptures - Michael Cheney
- July 16-20: Job, Ecclesiastes and the Dark Side of Faith: Empire of Dirt, Crown of Thorns - M. Cheney
- July 23-27: Abnormal Psychology - Phil Carverhill
- July 30-Aug 3: Paint with Soul (\$60 art fee) - Jo Ann Hammond-Meiers
- Aug 13-17: Blend the Worlds of Psychology and Healing: Journeying Beyond Trauma & Abuse - Jane Simington

### **Please Keep In Touch**

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



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

[www.ualberta.ca/ST.STEPHENS/](http://www.ualberta.ca/ST.STEPHENS/)



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