

## MINISTER'S PAGE

### THE SEEDS OF ETERNITY ARE SOWN IN OUR LIVES.

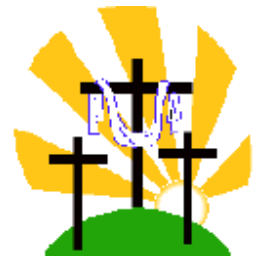
*I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. (Psalm 118:17-18)*

Our short lives on earth are in a very real sense sowing time. If there were no resurrection of the dead, everything we live on earth would come to nothing. How can we believe in a God who loves us unconditionally if all the joys and pains of our lives are in vain vanishing in the earth with our mortal flesh and bones? Because God loves us unconditionally from eternity to eternity God cannot allow our bodies --- the same as that which Jesus, his son and our Saviour, appeared to us --- to be lost in final destruction.

No, life on earth is the time when the seeds of the risen body are planted. Paul says, "What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body." (1 Corinthians 15:42-44) This wonderful knowledge that nothing we live in our bodies is lived in vain holds a call for us to live every moment as a seed of eternity.

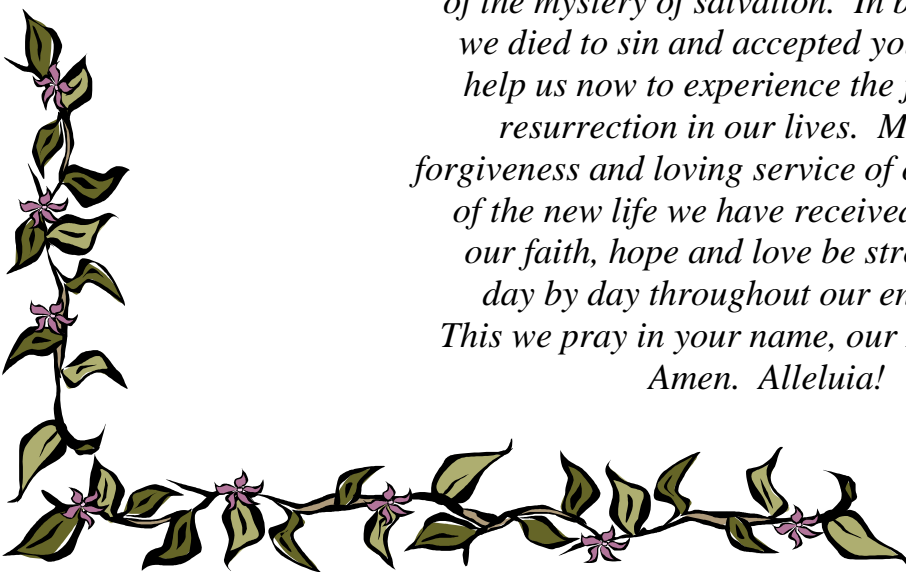
A Blessed Easter Season,

(Rev.) Rick Taylor



### *Prayer for Easter*

*Lord Jesus Christ, may your Holy Spirit during this Easter season deepen our awareness of the mystery of salvation. In baptism we died to sin and accepted your grace; help us now to experience the joy of the resurrection in our lives. May our forgiveness and loving service of others be signs of the new life we have received. And may our faith, hope and love be strengthened day by day throughout our entire lives. This we pray in your name, our Risen Lord. Amen. Alleluia!*



WORSHIP SERVICES & SPECIAL EVENTS – APRIL to JUNE 2004

APRIL 2004



**SATURDAY, APRIL 03 – Before retiring** set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour.  
We return to Daylight Saving Time on Sunday, April 04 at 2:00 a.m.

*The congregation is asked to purchase and bring Easter lilies and Spring flowers to decorate our sanctuary. Dedications can be phoned into the church office.*

**Sunday, April 04, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Palm / Passion Sunday*

*The Beginning of Holy Week*

Readings: Luke 19:28-40  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (Palm Sunday Readings)  
Isaiah 50:4-9(a) (Passion Sunday Readings)  
Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:14-23:56, Luke 23:1-49

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion. Palm Crosses available.*



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**Thursday, April 08, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY – CELEBRATION OF THE LAST SUPPER**  
**Steveston United Church**  
Come and break the Bread of Life.

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**Friday, April 09, 2004 at 10:30 a.m.**  
**GOOD FRIDAY – THE DAY CHRIST DIED**  
**Gilmore Park United Church**

8060 No. 1 Rd., Richmond.

This is a joint service with Gilmore Park & South Arm United Church.

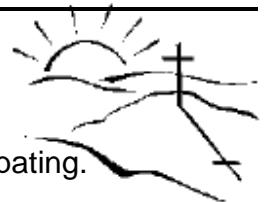
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**Sunday, April 11, 2004 at 6:00 a.m.**  
**A TRUE EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**  
**Fishermen's Memorial at Garry Point Park**  
This will be a joint service with Anglican and United Churches participating.

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**Sunday, April 11, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**

*EASTER SUNDAY – The Resurrection of Our Lord*

Readings: Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:19-26, John 20:1-18

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor

*Richmond Food Bank Rally Sunday.*



## spring clean-up and spruce-up

Steveston United Church

**Saturday, April 17, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Weather permitting you may want to work outside?!  
Please bring your own cleaning materials & equipment.



### **Sunday, April 18, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Earth Day*

Readings: Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 118:14-29, Psalm 150, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor

### **Sunday, April 25, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Camping Sunday*

Readings: Acts 9:1-6, Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor

*The Sacrament of Baptism / Reception of New Members.*

## MAY 2004

### **Sunday, May 02, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Rural Life Sunday*

Readings: Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

### **Monday, May 03 to Wednesday, May 05, 2004**

Rev. Taylor will be away at the BC Conference Settlement Committee Meeting.  
The meeting will take place at Gilmore Park United Church.

### **VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

**Monday, May 03, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.**

The Chancellor, the Principal and the Board of Governors request the honour of your presence at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convocation of the Vancouver School of Theology at St. Mary's Kerrisdale Anglican Church, 2490 West 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC. Speakers: Ms. Stevie Cameron, Journalist/author

### **Sunday, May 09, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Christian Family Sunday*

Readings: Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor

*This Mother's Day Service will feature the Aurora Celebration Choir under the direction of Amy Stephen.  
Richmond Food Bank Rally Sunday.*

**1:45 p.m. Care Facility Service at Lion's Manor**

**Sunday, May 16, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Sixth Sunday of the Easter Season*

Readings: Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67, Revelation 21:10, 22-22:15, John 14:23-29

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor

**Sunday, May 23, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Ascension Day*

Readings: Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor

*The Sacrament of Baptism / Reception of New Members.*

**Sunday, May 30, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Pentecost*

Readings: Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35(b), Romans 8:14-17, John 14:8-17

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor

*Come celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church.*

**JUNE 2004**

**Sunday, June 06, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Trinity Sunday / Father's Day*

Readings: Genesis 1:1-2:4(a), Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

**Sunday, June 13, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Second Sunday After Pentecost*

Readings: Genesis 6:9-22, 7:24, 8:14-19, Psalm 46, Romans 1:16-17, 3:22(b)-28, Matthew 7:21-29

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor

*Richmond Food Bank Rally Sunday.*

**Sunday, June 20, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Third Sunday After Pentecost*

Readings: Genesis 12:1-9, Psalm 33:1-12, Romans 4:13-25, Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor

**Sunday, June 27, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.**

*Fourth Sunday After Pentecost*

Readings: Genesis 18:1-15, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35-10:8

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor

*The Sacrament of Baptism / Reception of New Members. The Summer Newsletter available.*

**2:00 p.m. Care Facility Service at Courtyard Gardens (7051 Moffat Rd.)**

## FROM THE TREASURER:

Total Income February 2004 (from all sources)	\$ 19,435
Expenses for February 2004	\$ 13,226
Surplus for February 2004	\$ 6,209
Year-to-Date Income 2004 (from all sources)	\$ 26,407
Year-to-Date Expenses 2004	\$ 27,434
<b>Year-to-Date Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 1,027</b>

Tracey Sakai,  
Treasurer



When faith is alive, it urges the Christian to care enough to act like Christ.....that is, to give of oneself so that others might be better. Here are some practical suggestions.

*For Christ's sake, visit someone with an acute health need.*

*For Christ's sake, volunteer some time to help the needy.*

*For Christ's sake, write a letter supporting those who work to set injustice right.*

*For Christ's sake, help your church carry out its ministry.*

*For Christ's sake, make extra time to be with those you love.*

*"For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."  
(Matthew 20:28)*

**HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

## OFFICIAL BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2004 – STEVESTON UNITED CHURCH

Don Burgess  
Jean Burgess (Liaison Committee)  
Jack Bowers (Trustee)  
Joan Crich (Liaison Committee, Wedding Coordinator, Congregational Directory)  
Vic Euler (Property & Maintenance)  
Manuel Goncalves (Property & Maintenance)  
Laurie Keller (Finance)  
Helen Kelsey-Etmanski (Recording Secretary)  
John Kurian  
George Lim (Finance)  
Helen Lindsay (Superintendent of Sunday School, Alternate Presbytery Rep)  
Hal Manson  
Marian Mussallem (Ministry & Personnel)  
Tracey Sakai (Treasurer)  
Naomi Takeuchi (Reproduction of Minutes)  
June Taylor



## RAYMOND CHOW CONCERT & DINNER



On Saturday evening, March 20<sup>th</sup>, Steveston United Church held a fundraising dinner and concert featuring local Richmond artist/musician Raymond Chow. Ninety-two dinner tickets were sold for this event and more than 100 people from the wider community attended the piano concert which was held in our sanctuary. After dinner and during the concert's intermission, patrons were able to purchase Mr. Chow's CD entitled "Mata Hari" and also view/purchase his wonderful art work. This event raised \$2,450 before expenses. Our thanks to Marian Mussallem, Barbara Klassen, Winston Lu, Frances & Ted Lorenz, Sachi Shirakawa and Rick Taylor whose efforts made this endeavour possible.



Jesus Christ continues to fascinate and, at the same time, mystify people. But this really is nothing new. Even when Jesus walked this earth, He was a mystery to most. In fact, He was even a mystery to His own, handpicked disciples who did not fully understand who He was and what He has come to do, that is, not until He had been crucified and resurrected from the dead.

But there was one exception. Who was the one follower of Jesus who seemed to get it when the others did not? He wasn't John, who was known for his spiritual perception. It wasn't Peter, James, Matthew or Andrew. It was a woman named Mary. Above all others, Mary seemed to have an understanding of the mission of Jesus and what He had come to do.

Mary was the sister of Martha and Lazarus. It is worth noting that every time we read about her, she was at the feet of the Lord. One of the most well-known instances was when Martha welcomed Jesus into her home

in Bethany. Martha wanted to prepare a feast fit for a king. While she was frantically working in the kitchen, Mary saw a great opportunity to sit at Jesus' feet and take in what He had to say. Martha grew frustrated and came in to rebuke her sister, and instead ended up being rebuked by Jesus. He told Martha, "You are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41-42 NKIV)

As the days of Jesus' earthly ministry were reaching their culmination, Mary did something that was so outstanding and so significant that it is recorded in Scripture as a memorial to her (see Mark 14:9). She decided to seize the moment and once again sit at Jesus' feet and offer Him a gift, the most precious thing she probably owned.

By this time, Jesus had a number of confrontational exchanges with the religious leaders, and they wanted Him dead, plain and simple. The problem was that Jerusalem was overflowing with pilgrims who had come to celebrate the Passover, Jesus still had His admirers, and the religious leaders were afraid that if they were to arrest and kill Him, they would have a revolt on their hands.

Just days before the Passover, Jesus was in Bethany and had gone to the house of Simon the leper for a meal. We know that Lazarus was there. Mary and Martha were present, as were the apostles. All of a sudden, Mary did something unexpected, unusual and completely extravagant. She took some special and costly perfume, broke open the bottle, and poured it on the head of the Lord. This perfume was called oil of spikenard, and most likely it was a valuable family heirloom. It would have been one thing to sprinkle a few drops on Jesus, which was common in that culture. But Mary wanted to do something significant. So she poured the whole bottle on Jesus.

Maybe one reason the Christians of the first century turned their world upside down in such a dramatic way was their sense of abandon, as we see modeled by Mary. It was Jesus Himself who moved her. Her idea was that nothing was too good for the Lord. Mary wanted to do something special for Jesus. It is interesting that she recognized why He had come. She somehow knew that His death was near. She wanted to do something that would touch Him, bless Him, and bring a little beauty into His life. She hadn't spent as much time with Jesus as the 12 disciples, yet she had a perception that no one else seemed to have. Sitting at His feet paid off, because Mary apparently had learned a few things that the others had missed.



I heard about a statue of Jesus that was created by Thors Walden, a Danish sculptor. Walden sculpted the body of Christ in such a way that His face would not be seen from a standing position. There was a sign next to the statue that read, "If you want to see the face of Jesus, sit at His feet." Sure enough, by sitting at the foot of this statue, one can look up and see His face perfectly.

If we want to see the face of Jesus and hear His voice, then we need to do the same.

Submitted by: Irene Huan

## ***"How firm a foundation!"***

*Messages taken from Chip Ingram. (Living on the Edge)*

When I was in college, a professor asked me a question I will never forget. "Chip," he said, "I can't understand one thing. How can someone who seems to be as bright as you are really believe in a literal Jesus and the Bible and all this 'born



again' stuff?"

He was basically asking me if I had thrown my brains in the trash can to be a Christian. I realized then that I didn't have solid intellectual answers for hard intellectual questions. And so I began a journey to discover feasible evidence to support my faith in Jesus and the Bible.

What I have learned over these years is that there are great answers, but they all start with one central building block....one foundation... and that is the resurrection of Christ.

Listen to the apostle Paul. "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." (1 Cor. 15:14 NIV) If the literal resurrection of Jesus isn't true, Christianity doesn't hold water, so it's vital to examine the evidence. Here are five reasons why I believe in the resurrection. I pray they encourage you in your faith this Easter season.

1. *The death of Jesus was undisputed.*

Critics try to discredit the resurrection by saying that Jesus didn't really die, that He was near death, but revived in the tomb. Consider the evidence, Jesus was flogged, beaten within an inch of His life, and crucified, one of the cruelest forms of torture and death ever devised. The Roman soldiers were so convinced that they didn't even break His legs as they had the other prisoners. They gashed His side, and water and blood flowed out. His body was wrapped in 100 pounds of myrrh, spices and linen. Jesus was unquestionably dead.

2. *The burial of Jesus was public.*

One theory says that the disciples went to the wrong tomb. But the tomb belonged to Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin, and it must have been prominent. If it were the wrong tomb, the Jewish leaders could easily have gone to the right tomb and produced the body, thereby, halting the Christian movement before it began.

3. *The grave of Jesus was secure.*

The story quickly surfaced that the disciples stole Jesus' body while the guards were asleep. But these guards were the fighting machines of their day and could have been put to death for sleeping on the job. It is highly unlikely that even one fell asleep. And don't forget the stone. It would have taken about 20 men to roll away the stone that sealed the entrance of the tomb. It is absurd to think the disciples rolled away the stone and removed the body without waking the guards.

4. *The evidence of Jesus' resurrection is convincing.*

I'm using the term "convincing" in the legal sense, beyond a reasonable doubt. The preponderance of evidence points to the fact that Jesus was dead and that He rose from the dead. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared 12 different times to more than 500 witnesses both followers and skeptics over a period of 40 days.



5. *The message of Jesus' resurrection is life-changing.*

One of the most convincing evidences of the resurrection is the transformation of the disciples' lives. Look at Peter. After Jesus' death, he was too fearful to admit he even knew Him. But only weeks later, we see Peter passionately proclaiming Jesus, as the Christ, the Son of the Living God. What happened? He met the resurrected Christ! In fact, 11 of the 12 disciples willingly gave their lives in service to this Jesus whom they saw alive from the dead or if the whole thing was a hoax. And their whole-hearted devotion to the Lord shows clearly what they believed to be true.

The resurrected Lord has transformed my life and the lives of countless others for more than two thousand years. Because Jesus rose from the dead. Because the Scripture is true!

Submitted by: Irene Huan

**Vancouver-South Presbytery  
Global & Societal Ministries**  
(# of churches responding: 12)



*\*\*\*Steveston United Church was one of the participating churches.*

The feedback we received from congregations in the presbytery indicated that the following Global and Societal Ministries are currently being undertaken within congregations:

Global:

Sponsoring foster children in 3 <sup>rd</sup> World countries	1
Supporting World Food Grains project	1
Supporting Beads of Hope Campaign	10
Letter-writing for Amnesty International	3
M & S support	5
Sponsoring refugees	2
Support for other global agencies	1
Outreach by children to global projects	1
Special appeals (Afghanistan, Iraq, etc.)	4

Societal:

Breakfast for community once per week	1
Weekly Community Dinner (100 people)	1
Winter clothing program for local community	1
Community garden	1
Advocacy Garden	1
Offer space to community groups (i.e. AA)	4
Christmas hampers to local community	4
Petitions/letter writing on societal issues/concerns	4
Child poverty – awareness, raise money, sponsor program at local school, give blankets to children’s shelters, etc.	6
Offer food vouchers / bus tickets to needy	3
Outreach after-school program for kids	1
Volunteers to WISH (Women’s Information & Safe House)	1
Refugee ministry	1
Awareness-raising trips	4
Coordinated an Outreach Conference (“Reach Out” – Nov. 2003)	1
Money, items to local charities (hospital thrift shops, food bank, Mental Health)	7

Partnership ministries:

Mission Animation Zone of Van-East and West Burnaby (partnership of United Churches)	4
Interfaith activities (i.e. peace vigils, World Day of Prayer)	9
First United in downtown Vancouver (food, clothing, sandwiches, etc.)	2
Chinese Mission of Greater Vancouver – 1 hub & 1 satellite location at United Churches	4
Info sharing with neighbouring churches	1
Whistler Church – donating winter clothing to Wilson Heights’ “Winter Woolies” Program	1
Coordinate with other local Ucs to provide care home services	1
Advocacy services – 1 hub & 1 “satellite” church (neighbouring presbytery)	1

Work with other agencies:

John Howard Society  
Salvation Army  
South Vancouver Health Unit  
Richmond Poverty Response  
BC Bereavement Foundation  
Local elementary schools (food programs, etc.)  
Aunt Leah’s Independent Lifeskills Society  
Richmond Christmas Bureau (donating toys)  
Local stores – food, clothing to First United, Xmas hampers

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM CHURCHES:

- Finding it harder to respond globally
- Many churches willing/eager to partner with other churches – unsure how!

*Information compiled by Brenda Fawkes & Sandra Bonner, Wilson Heights 604-325-9944*





## **UNITED CHURCH PETITION CALLS ON CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO DO MORE TO ADDRESS THE GLOBAL HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC**

News Release - Monday, March 8, 2004

Ottawa: More than 30,000 signatures will be tabled in the House of Commons this week calling on the Canadian government to do more to address the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. The petition, which was circulated by The United Church of Canada was signed by members, adherents and friends of Canada's largest Protestant denomination.

The petition, which is known as The Signatures of Hope petition, began circulating last fall in conjunction with the United Church's two-year advocacy and fundraising campaign called The Beads of Hope Campaign. That campaign was launched in December of 2002 in an effort to raise awareness of the growing crisis of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. Thus dollars in donations from both individuals and congregations wanting to support the work of partner churches and organizations working in a variety of ways to address a humanitarian crisis that threatens millions of lives.

The Signatures of Hope petition focuses on four goals for the Canadian government to achieve:

- Cancel the burden of debt owed by developing countries that undermines their capacity to respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- Increase foreign aid and support for the United Nations' Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
- Ensure that patents or trade-related intellectual property rights do not block access to life-saving medicines.
- Double funding to the Canadian Strategy on HIV/AIDS.

The petition is being presented in the House of Commons in conjunction with a two-day visit to Parliament Hill by a United Church delegation that includes the Moderator, the Right Rev. Peter Short, the senior Executive Office, General Secretary Jim Sinclair, and two representatives of United Church partner organizations in Kenya and Brazil.

Emmanuel Ngongo is a youth leader with the Kenya Alliance for the Advancement of Children's rights, which is a child and youth rights organization working on HIV/AIDS prevention and advocacy with the Kenyan government. Anivaldo Padilha is Secretary of Planning and Cooperation of Koinonia, a Brazilian ecumenical institution supporting people with HIV/AIDS in Brazil and working on AIDS advocacy and education among Brazilian churches.

The petition is scheduled to be tabled in the House of Commons at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mary-Frances Denis  
Communications Officer  
The United Church of Canada

