



ST. ANDREW'S
HALL

February 2023



SIXTY FORTY

Monthly Newsletter of St. Andrew's Hall

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A Brief History of The Hall

Silva

Having lived in residence and attended community events in the Centre, you might be curious about the history of SAH. I asked our Dean for a brief lesson, and here is a short account of how it all began. My thanks to the Dean for providing such great notes. I will admit much of the below would probably count as plagiarism if I was a student and this was a paper..!

Back in 1927, the regional governing structure of the Presbyterian Church here in B.C. stated their intention to start a theological college. It took almost thirty years, until 1955, before this new theological college was chartered by the province under the leadership of the Honourable Justice Alexander Malcolm Manson. The college was named St. Andrew's Hall. Construction of the buildings was completed in 1957. The dormitory was named Manson House. On site was also a chapel. The land was leased by UBC to the college for 999 years, so we have around 930 years left until it's time to renew the contract!



Credit to Silva

For the first 27 years, St. Andrew's Hall provided housing to university students, functioned as a centre for Presbyterian chaplaincy at UBC, and was the location of University Hill Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Dr. John A. Ross served as the first Dean, Chaplain to the university, and minister of the congregation. John Ross retired in 1983 and was appointed Dean Emeritus of the Hall in 1996. He passed away in 2004.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to activate the degree-granting charter of St. Andrew's Hall during these early years. But in 1984, SAH and The Presbyterian Church in Canada entered into an agreement of association with Vancouver School of Theology (VST). This agreement enabled Presbyterian students graduating from VST to be eligible for ordination within the denomination. St. Andrew's Hall agreed to have VST exercise its degree-granting charter, thus serving as the agent of the denomination in this association.



In 1985, the Rev. Dr. Brian Fraser succeeded John Ross as Dean of SAH. As a result of the agreement with VST, Brian Fraser also became Professor of Church History. In 2001, Brian Fraser resigned as Dean.

The current residential units at SAH opened in 1995. You might have noticed that one of the buildings is named Ross House. Now you know why!

In the year 2000, the SAH Board of Management established the Elders' Institute, which was a new initiative in theological education for The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The Elders' Institute provided educational programs and resources to church leaders. In 2015, the Institute was folded into the new Centre for Missional Leadership (CML). Our current SAH Dean, the Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, was appointed as the founding Director of CML (as well as Director of Presbyterian Formation at VST.)

In 2003, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris became Dean of SAH and Professor of Homiletics at VST.



A decision was made in 2005 to demolish Manson House and the original chapel as part of a plan to redevelop the site. The new Centre/Chapel was ready in 2012, providing a beautiful space for worship, community activities and offices. This is where we meet for many of our community events, such as Soup Nights.

With the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris in 2015, the Rev Dr. Robert Paul was appointed as Dean of SAH and Professor of Mission Theology at VST until his retirement in 2020. In 2020, Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart became the fifth Dean of SAH and Professor of Mission Studies at VST. In 2021, Rev. Rebecca Simpson was appointed Director of Presbyterian Formation, and in 2022 Rev. Albert Chu was appointed the second Director of The Centre for Missional Leadership. A more familiar name to most residents is Sumarme Goble, who was appointed as Chaplain and Community Life Director in 2012. Mihye Park, the SAH Housing Manager and perhaps the most well-known person around the Hall, started in 2002.

Much has happened over the years. The old buildings are gone, new have been built, some people have left and others have arrived. The vision and purpose remain the same though, and SAH continues to thrive as a wonderful community in a beautiful location.



St. Andrew's Hall Devotional Guide for the Season of Lent Ash Wednesday (February 22) to Easter (April 9)



Chaplain
Sumarme Goble

Credit to Sumarme

The season of Lent is the 40 days leading up to Easter (not including Sundays) when Christians walk with Jesus on his road of suffering toward his death on the cross and his resurrection. It's a time of acknowledging more fully the loving sacrifice Jesus made for all people. We reflect on our own sufferings too, trusting that God is with us in our grief and difficult times.

Lent involves a practice of repentance, which means to *turn*. If you were leaving your house and remembered you left your keys behind, you would *repent* and turn back to get them (something I do quite often these days it seems!). When Jesus calls people to repent he is simply inviting us to turn to him. To recalibrate. To change your course. To turn away from all that keeps you from being fully human and,

through the Spirit, live in a way that brings God's righteous and compassionate ways into the world. In the process of doing this, we deepen our joy and love for God, for others, and for the life we have been given. Lent involves repentance, but this in turn leads to joy and to the grace of becoming more and more the people God created human-kind to be.

For the past three years SAH has produced a *Lenten Devotional Guide*, written by SAH faculty, staff, students (some of whom live at SAH), alumni, and board members. I leave you with this portion of Dean Ross Lockhart's introduction to the devotional guide:

As you turn the pages of this year's Saint Andrew's Hall Lenten study guide, I pray that the daily reading of scripture and the prayerful reflections of members of our community will strengthen and encourage you on the journey of discipleship. Feel free to share this guide with members of your family, church, and broader community. The practice of daily scripture reading and prayer is a key action for those of us apprenticed to Jesus, seeking to live as his hands and feet in the world. Our work and witness as disciples of the risen Lord Jesus is one that is best shared with others, for the journey is long and the road can be winding. Even if you read this devotional booklet on your own, every time you access this resource know that others across North America are reading these same words daily, praying these prayers, and reflecting on the goodness of God in our midst. During this season of Lent, Christians around the world set aside time to reflect on the significance of God sending Jesus to share life with us, to show us God's heart for this broken yet beautiful world. From the cradle at Christmas to the cross of Good Friday to the empty tomb of Easter Sunday, we sense the deep and world transforming action of God's reconciling and redeeming love for us, and the whole world.

... Let us begin this journey together, trusting that we are ... being led closer to Jesus, the one who shows us the path of life, and the way home.

The Link is:

<https://www.standrews.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Lenten-Devotion-2023-Final.pdf>

Resident Interview

Meet a Better Self at St. Andrew's Hall

My name is Xiuzhi Huang and I am a scholar from Shandong Province of China. My last name, Huang, means yellow or land in Chinese, and my first name, Xiuzhi, means nice ambition or writing history. As a visiting professor at UBC from January 2023 to January 2024, I'm very pleased and honored to be staying at St. Andrew's Hall with my seven-year-old son, Daoning Huang. His first name means peaceful path and mind in Chinese, but he also has an English name, Danny.

As soon as we came here, we were attracted by the elegant environment, warm atmosphere, and diverse culture. Danny likes the green grass in front of our house and the squirrels and seagulls everywhere. Every day, he can play football with so many lovely children. He also likes to invite children to visit our house and see his origami and Lego creations. I am also very lucky to meet friends from different countries and cultures. St. Andrew's Hall is like a miniature global village, filled with love, understanding, imagination and responsibility.

As a visiting professor, I study a wide range of fields, including Chinese classical philology and ancient literature, Ming-Qing history, premodern East Asian history especially Sino-Korean relations, and Confucianism. I received my bachelor in education, master in literature and doctorate in history, so I believe that the purpose of academic

Xiuzhi

training is insight and inspection, which requires interdisciplinary dialogue, horizontal and longitudinal analysis, interpretation of historical contexts and clear problem awareness.



Credit to Xiuzhi

I like watching many kinds of movies. My favorite movies are science fiction, history, literature and even animation and thriller, such as *Alien*, *Kingdom of Heaven*, *Dance with Wolves*, *Spirited Away*, *Identity* and so on. In my opinion, all kinds of human art are essentially the same, because they all tell a story about the soul from different perspectives and express their ideas about how to get along with the world. Every time I marvel at the unique storytelling and camera language in movies, I wondered if I could use that for my own articles or books.

But, I think my favorite things have to do with books, such as reading books, writing books and teaching students how to read books. I like many books, including the works of Confucius, Sima Qian, Lu Xun, Jin Yong, Aristotle, Freud, Tolstoy, Romain Rolland, Eric Hobsbawm, Keigo Higashino, Borges and others. Reading not only broadens my horizons, it also allows me to calm down and have a dialogue with the greatest minds of mankind. At such moments, I feel as if I were walking in the forest and am one with the past of nature and mankind. I really want students to enjoy these happy moments too, so at the university where I teach, I founded a campus book review magazine and helped to organize various lectures and readings for students. Author Virginia Woolf once said that when God saw us coming with books under our elbows, God was envious: "Look, these people don't need any reward and we have nothing here for them, because they have fallen in love with reading."

Why do I believe in the power of reading? Because it has to do with my past spiritual struggles. The hardest thing I've done so far in life and succeeded was that I finally got out of the depression from high school to graduate school by reading. Those painful years made me more energetic, focused, and peaceful. As a teacher, I often pay attention to the psychological state of my students and enjoy chatting with them so that I can recommend some books for them to read. In my opinion, recommending a good book to students is just like adding herbal medicine to traditional Chinese medicine, which will bring about magical and clear changes in students' minds. I think it is also a kind of happy moment, which is why I like working in the university.

I am working hard to write books. I will publish four

books this year, including three literary works in addition to my own academic works. I believe that life, literature and history can all be integrated into one. History is the history of not only a country or a nation but also everyone. This history is our memory of daily life and important choices, so our daily life is nothing but a negotiation with the memory and history of our past, just like a sentence I saw at UBC bookstore, "You're your history."

The most beautiful places I've visited so far are Beijing, Kyoto, Honolulu and Vancouver. After graduating from Shanghai, I once went to Beijing to work for a year. There are many mysterious corners in Beijing, seemingly ordinary houses hiding more than a thousand years of history. There are also many quiet, beautiful and scenic places in the outskirts of Beijing, especially in spring and autumn. Having not been disturbed by war for more than 500 years, Kyoto feels quieter, and the buildings blend well with the mountains and rivers. Honolulu is like a paradise in the Pacific Ocean, where I've seen the most magnificent rainbow. The air temperature in Vancouver is similar to that in Yantai, a Chinese coastal city where I live, but it is more magnificent here, because the snowy mountains, sea and forests give people a kind of ancient and young atmosphere.

Several days ago I celebrated my 36th birthday here. The year 2023 is the year of the Rabbit in the lunar calendar, and my zodiac sign is the rabbit. So, I hope to spend a full and happy year with my son Danny at St. Andrew's Hall, and to work peacefully with my friends and neighbors to realize our dreams. I am thankful to UBC, St. Andrew's Hall, and everyone who I am destined to meet.

So, dear friends, please feel free to contact me by email. huangxiuzhi2006@163.com

International Potluck Dinner



Continued

