

Parish Study Summary from the Parish of St. Timothy, Burnaby

Mission

Our stated mission is to be a welcoming *Christian* community in North Burnaby. Our priority is to be seen as Christians, working together with other faith communities and other agencies to meet the needs of our community.

Theology: Bringing people into community with Christ; serving Christ by extending the community.

- ❖ Our theology is Anglican but we attract and retain worshippers from other denominations. Recently, we enfolded Lutheran families when their church closed.
- ❖ We maintain a ministry to Seton Villa, a seniors' residence, begun by one of our founding churches, taking a monthly service in rotation with other denominations. We usually have some of our seniors in residence, often continuing their Christian mission there.
- ❖ Cornerstone campus ministry at Simon Fraser University began when a Lutheran professor approached our Anglican priest about starting a campus ministry. What began as Lutheran-Anglican Mountaintop Ministry (LAMM) has grown to include the United Church, requiring a name change. We support Eucharist and soup on campus; they connect students and staff to local churches.
- ❖ We confront poverty in our community by opening our doors to the Greater Vancouver Food Bank, dealing with opposition and discomfort from neighbours of our building, and connecting with over 100 clients a week, some of whom are also parishioners. The few parishioners who volunteer have found new appreciation for what it means to be Christian in this mission. We continue to seek ways to work with Progressive Housing and the Burnaby Task Force on Homelessness.
- ❖ Parish parenting is a core value.

Internal demographics/culture

We are a blended family. In the beginning there was anger, frustration and bitterness. Eight years later, there is joy in community and (mostly) forgiveness. This regional MAP did evoke memories of the failed North Burnaby Christian Centre, but time and our Four Parish Partners in Ministry efforts have mellowed those.

As a blended family, we miss our old homes, and have grown comfortable with this one, but do not fear the idea of moving on to another. We believe that the community we have created will survive. Our past experience is now a gift we offer others facing merger.

The demographics of our parish have changed radically in the eight years of our existence as the Parish of St. Timothy. The most dramatic shifts are in the under 19 age group, almost 20% of our parish, and the over 65 group, down to 45%. In the middle, we have 20.2% age 20-44 and 15.5% age 45-65. Many of our over 65's are actually over 80, some very active in the church, others requiring at home pastoral care. We describe our parish as being very lean in the middle, having a limited pool from which to draw for leadership and for care of the building and grounds.

Only 52% of our 80 parish families live within the parish boundaries, which have not been adjusted since the demise of St. John the Divine. While that speaks to our ability to attract and retain, it warns of future losses when active parishioners can no longer drive from homes too distant for others to pick them up.

Our church sits in the midst of a radical shift from single family dwellings to townhouse and high rise development, from predominantly European ethnicities to predominantly Asian. Our website and our location are the two most common attractors to persons appearing for our services.

Financial Profile

Our 2010 budget was supported only 43.98% by parish giving, 11.36% by facility based income, 35.14% from investment and endowments, and 9.52% by fundraising and other.

Our goal to be self-supporting by 2006 has been progressively postponed. As of 2010, with 86 identifiable givers, average giving was \$977. Distribution of giving: only one contributes over \$5000, 9 at \$2500-\$4999, 21 at \$1000-\$2499, 13 at \$500-\$999, and 42 at \$1-\$499. Given that sustainability is reached at 100 families contributing \$1000 apiece, we aren't there yet. Our MAP team has informed council that we need to grow to a minimum of 100 contributing families in the short term, adding another 20 to replace the inevitable loss of our over-85 age group in the next five years.

In the meantime, we have a steady state Sunday attendance with increased parish giving, even adjusting for inflation. A consistent number of people are giving more and more money.

Building Profile

The inspection

- ❖ Ideally located on busy Willingdon Avenue with good Skytrain and bus service.
- ❖ Building recently renovated and in generally good repair.
- ❖ Grounds and signage need work (delayed by City of Burnaby plans to widen Willingdon)
- ❖ Windows need replacing to address leaks and heat loss.
- ❖ Bike racks recommended (our riders bring their bikes inside).

The parish

- ❖ Like the location, access for parking and transit, the Christmas wreath and the labyrinth; don't like the signage and the bare flower beds in winter.
- ❖ Feel at home in the building but it's the people who make it welcoming.
- ❖ Children are welcome, included, given toys and mats in front of the worship space. Their safety is guarded. Since the forum, the downstairs keyboard has seen more use and more parents seek the key to the playground during coffee hour.
- ❖ Worship space was renovated to be adaptable; adaptation ongoing.
- ❖ Green space is under-utilized, needs holes filled and obstacles removed (initially delayed, pending City of Burnaby plan to widen Willingdon; now, by MAP)
- ❖ Use of our spaces reflects our values and goals of hospitality, ministry to the needy and community inclusion.

WE NEED MORE ROOM

- ❖ Need dividers for the four groups in Kids Church, presently noisy and chaotic
- ❖ Need kitchen big enough for food ministries; present kitchen meets standard for parish and daycare use only.
- ❖ Need more storage space for us and for user groups
- ❖ Need more meeting rooms; can't use the Upper Room if worship space in use.
- ❖ Need reception and lobby off entrance, with offices and a handicap-accessible washroom.
- ❖ Original construction built in expansion capacity to the west but we favour expansion to the east through the leaking stained glass window wall.

Green initiatives: what we can do, we do.

Preferred future

To be envisioned by the Parish in September.