



## *Advent Newsletter 2014*

### **Rector's Christmas Message**

Cheap chocolate is unsatisfying. So too is the substitution of the commercial festive season for the real meaning of Christmas. How did our society forget the holy in “holiday” and make Black Friday and Cyber Monday seem more exciting than Advent? It's up to the Church to call humans back to the ground of our souls. Instead of taking on the stress of perfecting our Christmas celebrations, let's start to celebrate now. The next four weeks are an opportunity for each of us to ready our hearts and minds, souls and strength, for the love of God which comes to us as the Christ Child.

This Advent season, rediscover the things that feed you spiritually. Make music, beauty, movement, laughter, and play part of these days. Splash through a puddle. Hug a friend. Sing in the shower. Bake cookies. Go to a concert. You will find that God touches and heals and awakens you when you least expect it.

Our Christmas pageant this year is called “The Give-Away”. It is based on a First Nations tale of how God comes among us to remind us who we are. The greatest gift of all is Jesus, the incarnation of the holy who gives himself away to us. All those goods online and in the store windows pale in comparison. We do try to show others how we love them at this time of year. But first, experience how much God loves you. That can never be taken away.

Yours in Christ,

Stephanie+

### **Financial Update**

Pledge cards for 2015 are still being received by the treasurer. If you have misplaced yours under a pile at home, there are extras at the church to fill out and place in the collection plate. Our commitments now help form next year's budget, so please take a few minutes to consider prayerfully how you can help God's work here at St. Timothy's.

The church has gratefully received over \$35,000 towards the kitchen renovation capital project already. With your assistance, the parish council is now moving to our first concrete step of consulting with an architect. Check out the notice board near the existing kitchen. All offers of expertise and time cheerfully accepted as we set up working groups to oversee the process.



As of October 31, 2014, the church financial statements are on track for the year. Our income is ahead of budget because of special gifts received (see above). Our building expenses are higher than budgeted because of repairs to the water lines and sump pump. The good news is that some of this cost will be covered by Diocesan insurance. Our deficit is a little lower than projected, which means that the parish will be using less generated income from our Consolidated Trust Funds than originally anticipated.

	YEAR TO DATE	BUDGET
INCOME	\$ 111,495.64	\$ 87,666.50
EXPENSES	\$ 128,478.60	\$ 132,294.10

## Recruitment Priorities

In 2015, the Parish of St. Timothy has two very important roles to fill to assist the wardens and parish council to function effectively. Full job descriptions are available from the parish office. Please speak to Maribeth, Gordon, or Heather.

### *Priority #1: Resource Chair/Facilities Manager*

Works closely with the Resource Warden to oversee maintenance of the building, notice deficiencies, and contact trades or parishioners to address the situation. If you care about this building and what happens in it, this is the job for you.

### *Priority #2: Social Chair*

Works closely with the Ministry Warden to plan and coordinate parish social events through assigning, delegating, and following up with the responsible parishioners. If you enjoy fellowship and ministry opportunities in this parish, this is the job for you.

## Christmastide Services

7 December	<b>Advent 2</b>	10 am Holy Eucharist & KidsChurch
14 December	<b>Advent 3</b>	10 am Holy Eucharist & KidsChurch
21 December	<b>Advent 4</b>	10 am Pageant "The Give-Away"
24 December	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	7 pm Bethlehem Mass 11 pm Midnight Mass
25 December	<b>Christmas Day</b>	10 am Christ Mass
28 December	<b>Christmas 1</b>	10 am Lessons & Carols
4 January	<b>Epiphany</b>	10 am Eucharist & Leftover Lunch
11 January	<b>Baptism of Our Lord</b>	10 am Baptisms & Eucharist