

# St. Timothy 2013 Thanksgiving Message

604-299-6816

4550 Kitchener St., Burnaby BC V5C 3M7

[www.sainttimothy.ca](http://www.sainttimothy.ca)

*“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?... And indeed, your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” – Matthew 6.25, 32-33*

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

In Canadian writer Louise Penny’s book, The Murder Stone, one of the characters sits on the dock of a lakeside Quebec resort day after day, seemingly staring off into space. Has he retreated there to get away from his wife and her children quarrelling and complaining? When asked, he replies that he is “doing his sums”. It is only at the end of the story that the reader discovers he is not pondering the finances of his business, or his spouse’s inherited wealth, or the demands on his resources by family members. For him, doing his sums means counting his blessings, despite everything that is happening in his life.

How often do we sit down and give thanks to God for all that we have, and celebrate the riches that have been entrusted to us? Consider the time spent worrying about what you don’t have – and how you are going to get through the next month, week, or day. Bring that in prayer to God, for Jesus tells us, “Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things.” But also remember his promise that for those who seek first the kingdom of God, all will be given to you.

Perhaps what we need is to recognize the signs of the kingdom around us in the blessings that we do receive. Each of us has to do our own sums; no-one else can tell us how we should be grateful. But if God has done anything good in your life, isn’t it a good idea to come and say “thank-you”? And if St. Timothy’s has been a place where you have been touched by blessing, then what might you offer to God in return through this community?

If we do the spiritual math, what will it take of our time, our talents, and our treasure to adequately pay back God? Truthfully we cannot: for the loving sacrifice of Jesus far overbalances any return we could make. The cross cancels out our outstanding debt. Yet our time, our talent, and our treasure are important to the ongoing work of God’s mission, so any portion that we now give back is multiplied by grace. For the Spirit to operate out of a vital and sustainable community, every member of the body of Christ must give according to the gratitude that you hold in your heart.

This Thanksgiving, more than any that has gone before, let us show our gratitude to our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Let us come together in worship and thanks for what God has done here: with us, through us, and sometimes in spite of us. I warmly invite you to join with your church family this Thanksgiving season to celebrate, to remember, and to give thanks.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Stephanie Shepard

**Upcoming Events:** *The following upcoming events at St. Timothy's welcome your support and involvement. Please ask how you and your family and friends can offer your time and talents to prepare for their success. Invite your friends and neighbours to be part of the signs of the kingdom in Burnaby!*

Sinners and Saints Potluck Lunch	Sunday	Dress as your favourite sinner or saint. Bring a sinfully rich or heavenly healthy dish.
November 3	11:30 am	
Muffin Madness	Saturday	Muffin teas, bake sale, crafts, and fellowship galore. \$3 per person.
November 23	2-4 pm	

**Ongoing Ministries:** *These can help quicken your curiosity, deepen your faith and equip you for new ways to serve. Come find how you can be involved.*

Deepening Your Prayer Life Series	Learn and share ways to make daily prayer a spiritual discipline that nourishes you.
Weds. 9 am, Sundays 7:30 pm	
Morning Prayer	Mondays to Thursdays 8:30- 9 am
Sunday Night Prayer	9 pm (church open for prayer from 8:30 pm)
Creative Quilters Group	Alt. Mondays 9:30-1:30. Learners welcome.
Tuesday Trekkers Group	2nd Tuesdays lunch at local restaurants
Auroras Group	Parents, grandparents, and friends fellowship
Thursday Bible Study	7:30 pm at the Barnes, now in "Judges"
Food Bank Parish Hosts	Training and shifts available between 10:30-1:30
KidsChurch	Helpers needed to assist teachers on Sundays

### **Financial Overview to August 31, 2013**

*We are close to budget, but with income slightly down and expenses down for the first part of this year. Your thanksgiving contributions will help us catch up to budget. Your pledges for the coming year are needed to make this church independent of reliance on drawing down the interest on investments.*

	Budget	Actual	difference
Income	69,220.08	65,201.48	4,018.60
Expenses	104,733.60	95,257.43	-9,476.17
Gap to Sustainability*	35,513.52	30,055.95	<b>YOU</b>

\*currently drawn from investment income, but vulnerable to the volatility of financial markets. We want to close this gap to 0 with your help.