



PARISH OF
ST. TIMOTHY, BURNABY

DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER,
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

"TO BE EQUIPPED
FOR EVERY GOOD
WORK"

2 Timothy 3.17

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Advent 2013 Parish Newsletter



Pastor's Letter

"For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating..." Isaiah 65.17

I have a new computer on my desk. It's bigger and shinier than my old desktop, but that's just appearance. Once I start it up, life really gets exciting. It took a lot of discussion at Parish Council and in the Communications Team to get to this point. Pros and cons were debated and analyzed and the quiet background work of generous donors made this possible. Once the decision was made, the hardware had to be purchased and the installation effected. Now I am living into a new reality.

For techno-peasants like me, attempting to understand the differences between Windows 7 and Windows 8 is only the first step (Parish Council all now know the word "emulation" in geek-speak). The first time I used this new computer, something I did threw me into Windows 8 and I couldn't figure out what to do next. It is frustrating to feel stalled by a system where you don't understand the underlying assumptions. Thankfully, I have tech support.

I believe we're in the midst of a great change in the Church. We are moving from one operating system to another. Few, if any of us, understand the new reality. It is unnerving to try and carry out our daily tasks in the uncertainty of how things will connect together for good. We are in the midst of an election for a new Anglican Diocesan bishop. We are witnessing the death, transformation, and hopefully rebirth of faith communities around us. And we are in the midst of a step forward for this congregation into this brave new world of faith. The unfolding religious reality is not shaping up much like the churches we grew up attending. What sustains us through all the financial, organizational, and political uncertainty?

Our tradition gives us tech support. We have the stories, prayers, and examples of the saints and sinners who have experienced similar times and so enrich our learning. We have our Holy Scriptures, through which God still speaks freshly to our situations. And we offer our own experiences in community, to nurture and help each other to proclaim our hope to the world.

In Advent, we are reminded again that we are a people of hope! We are called to live into what St. Paul calls the "not yet": struggling to glimpse the future of God's kingdom coming among us. If we pay attention, there are signs and wonders. The new heaven and the new earth are breaking through in concrete ways. I look at the small fellowship groups here at St. Timothy's: the Bible studies, the families' fellowship, the Auroras and Trekkers women's groups, the nascent men's socials, the quilters, the altar guild. Here people can gather, share, and gain strength and courage to engage the world in Jesus's love. In the compassion and commitment, God's mission is revealed.

The funny thing is, once you live into a new way of doing things for a little while, it becomes the "new normal". Maybe I will soon master some of the now mysterious workings of my computer! I certainly won't miss the slow grinding of the old one as it tried to respond to my requests. Nostalgia can have the unfortunate side effect of erasing the memory of things we didn't like. New ways certainly aren't perfect, but at their best they face problems honestly and with alternatives. Would you want to return to a Church that condoned slavery, shunned persons wanting to remarry, or denied women's vocations? We've moved on in the strength of the Spirit through difficult and painful periods and we will continue to do so. Every step we take, in fear and trepidation, takes us closer to the day when Christ will reign over all.

Advent teaches us that expectation and longing (and half the time, disappointment with the present) are part of who we are as disciples. We see God's holy mountain ahead, though we are not quite sure how to get there. With the light of Christ to mark our journey, we can keep going on in this "not yet" time. His light illuminates glimpses of the kingdom on our way. Be glad and rejoice when you notice what God is creating....

Yours in Christ,
Stephanie



Lutheran Urban Ministry Society

Pastor Matt Senf works on Wednesdays down at L.U.M.S. on the Downtown East Side. What is this ministry about (www.lums.ca)?

We are a Eucharistic community that connects the church-at-large with the urban poor and marginalized of our society. We journey daily with people of the downtown eastside of Vancouver, providing pastoral care, food and resources, and advocacy.

Meet our staff and those we serve, read the stories and see the photos, listen to the needs, share the hope, and keep in touch. We invite you into our ministry, through participation, donations, and financial support.

Become a member of LUMS society, and pray for our staff and those we help.

Be a contact person on behalf of your congregation.

Host a hot meal, help to serve at one, partner with another church, or make some hot soup for us.

Give financially, as an individual or congregation. Our donors are our only source of funds, enabling us to pay our staff and landlord, and to provide food and services to many in need in the DTES.

Donate food for our pantry and hospitality area. Canned and packaged foods are often requested. Socks, warm clothes, blankets and shoes are welcome in the winter months.

Give a gift of time as an occasional volunteer in our office or helping with meals and hospitality



Growth

Do you want your church to grow?

1. PRAY for growth
2. Worship regularly
3. Learn people's names
4. Throw a party
5. Clean up your messes
6. Make room for porcupines
7. Pledge to the church
8. Deliver on your pledge
9. Share your talents
10. Invite your friends

From J. Scott Barker, Forward Movement Organization



Prayer

What is the rhythm of prayer in your life?

Take our short quiz to explore how you can deepen your relationship with God...

1. Do you
 - a) Set aside a regular time(s) for prayer each day
 - b) Commune with God as you go about your daily tasks
 - c) Get to the end of the day and pray before you sleep
 - d) Find the commitments of your life seem to crowd out prayer time
2. Do you use
 - a) a written form, such as morning or evening prayer
 - b) your own words to voice your concerns and thanksgivings
 - c) meditation, centering prayer or other contemplative practices
 - d) music, pictures, poetry, or creative arts to express your spirituality
3. Do you prefer
 - a) Praying alone in a quiet place
 - b) Praying with others in a group or act of worship
 - c) Taking a walk or engaging your body in an act of prayer
 - d) Waiting for a good time to pray, but find the day slips by
4. Do you find yourself most comfortable
 - a) Relating to God as your Creator, Father or Mother
 - b) Relating to God as your Redeemer, Jesus
 - c) Relating to God as your Sustainer, the Holy Spirit
 - d) Relating to God with many different names and images
5. Do you study Scripture by
 - a) A daily cycle of readings such as a lectionary or commentary
 - b) Working through one book of the Bible at a time
 - c) Reflecting on passages that you have heard speak to your life
 - d) Occasionally opening your Bible, but not as often as you might

6. Do you have opportunities to
 - a) Reflect on your experiences with others whom you trust
 - b) Ask for prayer support for a personal need
 - c) Share in collectively praying for situations or events
 - d) Ask questions about how to enrich your prayer life

Our Christian tradition is rich in resources to help you learn more. There are opportunities for you to practice a more regular prayer life through attending one of the open worship services at St. Timothy's. Morning Prayer is celebrated Monday through Thursday at 8:30 am, and Sunday Night Prayer is at 9 pm.

You may also covenant to pray at home at the same time, and hold your brothers and sisters in love from where you are.

Our Book of Common Prayer and Book of Alternative Services offer ideas for daily prayer. There are many more resources available through Apps or online.

Small groups in the church are good places to explore how you and others relate to God. You are welcome to ask questions and share at bible studies, fellowships, and teaching series. If you want to know more, contact the Rev. Stephanie Shepard through the Church office to discuss where God might be leading you in faith.

Financial Update

As of October 31, 2013

	Actual Year to Date	Budgeted Year to Date	Difference
INCOME			
Contributions	62,293.52	68,383.40	-6,089.88*
Facilities	16,419.00	16,275.00	+ 144.00
Miscellaneous	2,793.93	2,541.70	+ 252.23
Total Income	81,506.45	87,200.10	-5,693.65
EXPENSES	127,086.22	130,317.00	-3,230.78
GAP TO SUSTAINABILITY**	-45,579.77	-43,116.90	-2,462.87

**We are currently short on our projected giving by \$6090. Although we recognize some of you make generous gifts in the Christmas season, there is no time like the present to meet or increase your giving.

**St. Timothy's has income generated from Consolidated Trust Funds that currently cover this shortfall, but we continue to push towards a sustainable position when we will not rely on a volatile market to provide for operating expenses. If every person in our church were to make an offering equivalent of \$1.50 per day more than their current offering, we would be able to finance our church without using our church's savings.



St. Margaret's Update

In May 2013, the Ministry and Congregational Development Committee was approached by the parish of St Margaret of Scotland, Burnaby, to see if it would be willing to engage in talks that could potentially lead toward a merger of the two parishes. St Margaret's, in the wake of the Ministry Assessment Process (MAP), was designated to close this summer.

St John's agreed to an initial meeting and that meeting went very well. There were several subsequent meetings involving both parish councils, which gradually moved toward the idea of pursuing the merger approach, so that St Margaret's would not simply cease to exist, but be dealt with as an entity in its own right, rather than a haphazard collection of individuals looking for a new parish. During August, members of St Margaret's were encouraged to worship at St John's, so the feeling of familiarity and camaraderie might continue to develop.

On October 20, both parishes held special Vestry meetings and both parishes voted overwhelmingly in favour (unanimously in the case of St John's and almost so at St Margaret's) to enter the merger process toward joining the two parishes.

It was agreed that the location would be the existing St John's and that the name of St John the Apostle would be retained, given that St John's is a heritage building in Port Moody and the street it sits on was named after the parish. It was also agreed that there be no change of clergy personnel.

As of November 1, both parishes are now worshipping together, although the Rev. Stephanie Shepard continues to be Priest-in-Charge of St Margaret's. Both parishes are now in the process of undertaking inventories and will take into consideration dedicated items and items of traditional significance in determining what should be retained and what is available for dispersion. It has been agreed between the two parishes that St John's has first right of refusal on any church possessions such as liturgical hangings and altar accessories; kitchen items; books; church and office furniture; etc. with an understanding that larger issues relating to St Margaret's property will be decided after further consultation between the parishes and diocesan authorities.

A ministry plan which includes how available assets coming from St Margaret's might be used to develop and meet the needs of the new larger parish community is being developed. Following the merger, current outreach/pastoral care programs will be developed, hopefully with input from MCDC.

It is proposed that both parishes hold Special Vestry meetings on February 2 to approve the merger, with a view to declaring on February 14 that the new parish is a reality and then having our first combined Vestry Meeting on February 23, 2014.



Christmas Pageant

Our 2013 Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday December 22 at 10 am. The title is "The Star Child."



Midsummer Fair

Our midsummer fair will be on June 21, 2014. It will be our major find-raiser for the year. A planning meeting will be held shortly. Watch this space.



Calendar of Events

Saturday December 14, from 12 noon – 5:00 pm
Advent Quiet Day and Labyrinth Walk.

Sunday December 22, at 10 am
Christmas Pageant: The Star Child.

Tuesday December 24, at 7 pm
Bethlehem Mass.

Tuesday December 24, at 11 pm
Midnight Mass.

Wednesday December 25, at 10 am
Christ Mass.

Sunday December 29, at 10 am
Service of Lessons and Carols.

Details on our website: www.sainttimothy.ca.