



St. Timothy's Gazette

November/December, 2004

Our Vision:

St. Timothy's **Vision** is to be a nurturing, biblically-based community growing Christ's Kingdom.

Our Mission:

St. Timothy's **Mission** is to
Go out into the North Shore community to
Gather all ages into Christian fellowship,
so that we may
Glorify God in worship,
Grow to become more like Jesus Christ, and
Give of our time, talent and treasure to serve others.

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Message from the Rev. Paul Carter

It has all been about **1, 3, and 0** recently, setting the scene for 2005.

First, because so far **\$103,000** has been pledged for the work of St Timothy's next year. This is a significant sum of money by any standards and it has been pledged by a variety of people at different ages and stages of life out of gratitude to God and in order to see the St Timothy's vision come true. I have no idea who you are or how much you pledged, but I am so pleased to see the church family responding to the Lord in this way. A number of you have made real sacrifices to see our budget raised by tithing for the first time in your Christian lives. Any gift, however small, is always welcome. Our ministry plans for 2005 can now go ahead and they are very exciting. Thank you for your generosity.

In 2005 we will welcome Ken Bell onto our staff in a part-time capacity. I have known Ken for over 3 years as the Youth Pastor at St Simon's Church. You can read about him later in the newsletter. He and his delightful wife, Sonya, will become members of St Timothy's and begin their ministry among us. I look forward to Ken's ordination to the Diaconate in January and to the Priesthood later in the year. Once Ken has completed his MDiv through Regent College, he will step up his hours of work and be much more available for pastoral and preaching ministry among us. Rita Wang has also recently joined our staff team and, after a few weeks of easing her way into the life of the church, she will work with Ken in a joint venture with St Simon's, while we rebuild and expand the Youth Program, that is so vital to the life of the whole church family. Welcome Rita, it is great to have you among us. Finally, it will be my privilege to stay with St Timothy's during 2005 and to see how the Lord's plan for us all unfolds as our **5 G mission** is implemented.

Secondly, **\$1300** was raised on Friday 26th November for the work of the Harvest Project. This Project which seeks to give a help up, rather than a hand out to people who have fallen on difficult times, is equally vital for the North shore at this time. The sheer demands, pace and expectations on people today take their toll on some. It is so good that this ministry is able to help. Over 50 people attended the Friday night fundraiser and gave generously again. Fabulous! Thank you.

Thirdly, on Sunday 28th **103 people** came to the Lynn Valley Recreation Centre for our second service in this venue. This is our new church home for 2005. Teething troubles aside, we had a wonderful service of lessons and carols. I think everyone who sang in the ad hoc choir really enjoyed using their time and talent in this way to bring Glory to our Lord. Many of you, (I know for you kindly told me afterwards) appreciated the way Lois (our organist and my wife) had trained the choir and especially that you could hear all of the words. Thanks darling!

I am grateful to Sarah Lucas and all of the leaders, helpers, cooks and intercessors who made this Fall's Alpha program so successful. Numbers have stayed high and the quality of the interaction, meals and group work has been superb. I hope that all of the guests who have taken the programme will feel that it has been worthwhile. I certainly believe it is a programme that is worth repeating in 2005.

In the immediate future, I will be concentrating on our Introduction to membership and the covenant that I very much hope you will want to sign to become a member of St Timothy's. There is nothing to be afraid of in this, although I recognize it will be new for many in Anglicanism. We simply cannot allow what has befallen the Anglican Church of Canada over the last 40 or 50 years: creeping apostasy, to happen again. False teaching has infected the dough and leavened it with misunderstanding and error to the point where International intervention has been necessary. So I will take the lead in publicly affirming the ancient creeds and our statement of faith and values. I trust you will be able to as well. This introduction is necessary not only to help us 'guard the gospel' as Paul instructed the elder, Timothy, to do, but also it gives us the necessary legal protection that the Wardens have spelt out so helpfully. Finally, it allows us to know that membership at St Timothy's actually means something, as we affirm our commitment to Christ and to one another in our Christian beliefs and in our fellowship. I will therefore be teaching about this and running a little introduction during January sermons and in February to help us to this end.

We have been given a wonderful gift in the ACiC at large and St Timothy's in particular by our five sponsoring Primates: our freedom from an apostate and controlling regime. We are now able to fulfil their exhortation and to be faithful and fruitful. I think the news from above tells its own story. However, as a paper from our sister Mission in the USA the AMiA put it recently:

"Our connection to the Global South is something not just structural, but has become a powerful symbol for our members. This relates to what our African brothers and sisters have lived through, and how God is now moving through them. Themes such as suffering, truth, holiness, and sacrifice came up time and again in the interviews. People have joined the Anglican Mission (Ed. And the ACiC) and remain involved because of our connection to Africa, and the life that this offers. Our place in Rwanda connects this small and emerging movement with something universal. This should be noted and made clear in our congregations and in our outreach". I believe this to be true for the clergy and parishes of the ACiC. I hope you feel, as I do, that we are growing and gaining momentum as a Church family. As C.S. Lewis put it when writing of Narnia, we have been set free from the old order where it was "always winter and never Christmas" to experience the fact that Aslan is on the move and who knows what Spring will unleash for us all.

I pray that, amid all that our contemporary materialistic culture throws at us, you will have a Christ-centred Christmas, where the twin themes of generosity and humility impact you afresh.

Yours sincerely "in Christ"

Paul

Revd P M Carter
Senior Priest St Timothy's

Wardens' Update, December, 2004

Happy New Year! Advent marks the beginning of a new church year as we celebrate the birth of our Lord two millennia ago and yearn for his coming again.

Full independence has been achieved. God continues to work out his plan through us.

So what has changed?

We received our "Charitable Organization" status with the Canada Revenue Agency far sooner than we had hoped. This has allowed us to "graduate" from a Fidelity BC Project to full independence, which includes the gift from Fidelity BC of the balance of the North Shore – Lonsdale Project's funds. We can now issue our own tax receipts and carry on all the other functions of an independent organization.

We are thrilled with the solutions God has provided to fill our need for ministry leadership in 2005. We will have two Priests, not just one, plus a Youth worker. Paul will continue as our Senior Priest for at least the next sixteen months while tutoring and mentoring Ken Bell. Ken is currently serving as the Youth Pastor at St. Simon's and is working to achieve his Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree from Regent College. Ken begins with us on January 1 as an ordained Deacon. During the first four months he will be continuing his Youth Ministry at St. Simon's, tutoring our new Youth worker, Rita, and leading and preaching at our services every other week while leading the services at Immanuel Church Westside on the alternate weeks. He will dedicate the balance of his time towards obtaining his MDiv. Upon completion of that he will be ordained as a Priest and will serve with us full time, with some time-sharing with Immanuel Church Westside, for at least one year thereafter. Paul will be increasing his time commitment to us during the next four months and upon Ken's ordination as a Priest will reduce that commitment while continuing to plan, direct and oversee all aspects of St. Timothy's, lead and preach at morning worship services every other Sunday and pursue the Mission of St. Timothy's. God has blessed us in sending Rita Wang, who began with us on October 17th, to provide ministry to the youth of St. Timothy's and the Lonsdale / Lynn Valley area of North Vancouver.

Just as we were finding that we had outgrown the space available to us at Harvest Project, God led us to the Lynn Valley Recreation Centre. We just know He has a plan for us here. Perhaps it is a need in Lynn Valley that he wants us to fill. To have the entire facility to ourselves on Sunday mornings with its preschool room for church school, lounge for the Youth, the sanctuary with its vaulted ceiling for worship services, kitchen facilities for our fellowship time together and our own dedicated storage space, all at such a reasonable cost, is more than we could possibly have wished for. God has blessed us once again in providing this space just in time to usher in the new church year and to be able to hold a Christmas Eve service at 9:30 pm. However, as we continue to grow larger (not "if", but "as") there will be a continuing need for larger premises for Sunday worship services, so we continue to look for alternatives for the future.

So what remains on the Agenda?

We continue to work on completion of the strategic action plans to accomplish our Mission, finalize our Values statement and prepare for the first Annual Vestry meeting of our Society.

One of those Annual Vestry meeting preparation items is to establish the membership of the Society. When we crafted our incorporation documents we began with the template used by all ACiC parishes. That template incorporates certain principles to ensure that we never again become ensnared by Canons and thwarted by apostate authorities and the efforts of others who do not share our Faith. To these ends, membership in the Society is not automatic or given just because one worships at St. Timothy's, but rather is based on our shared Faith and Values.

Before becoming members we need to be aware of and understand our Society's Statement of Faith and Values as well as our Vision, Mission, Affiliations, History and strategies for growth in both numbers and our faith journey. As an "introduction to membership" in St. Timothy's Church, the sermons on January 9, 16, 23 and 30 will address all of this need for awareness and understanding, most particularly our Statement of Faith and Values. If you cannot attend church on one or more of these Sundays, never fear, for the content of all four sermons will be delivered again on the evenings of February 2 (Wednesday) and 8 (Tuesday). Alternatively, if you miss just one Sunday you can borrow, for private viewing, the videotape of that week's sermon.

Other requirements for membership are to have been baptised in a manner consistent with the Worldwide Anglican Communion, attend Sunday worship services regularly and demonstrate an active interest in the affairs of the Society. Each of us will be asked to file a formal application for membership and, upon completion of the "introduction to membership" and satisfying the other requirements for membership, to sign a covenant affirming the Statement of Faith and Values of the Society and making a solemn declaration of faith in Jesus Christ. To maintain membership we must continue to abide by our covenant. In this way all of us may become members before we have our first Vestry meeting next February. At that Vestry meeting we will be electing a council, wardens and other officers (the Society's directors) and transacting other business normally transacted at an Annual Vestry meeting. Until then the elected "St. Martin's" wardens and trustees, the incorporators of the Society, are acting as its members and directors.

Finally, a few words about finances. The budget approved last March 15th was prepared without knowing what would really happen over the course of this year. Much has changed. For example, we never contemplated sponsoring an Alpha course, moving to bigger premises and legally incorporating ourselves. As a result we have overspent our budget by about \$2,200 to date. Fortunately the giving has exceeded our budget significantly, as you can see from the reports in the weekly service bulletin, resulting in an accumulated surplus of about \$ 18,000. While this surplus is a comfort and gives us some working capital, we are budgeting for expenditures in 2005 of two and one-half (2 ½) times what we had budgeted for in 2004, all as set out in the preliminary budget

presented to you at our recent Vestry meeting. Our Pledges made to date are very encouraging and are close to meeting our budget on the assumption that we have an accumulated surplus of \$25,000 by the end of 2004. Right now our surplus and pledges combined are about \$11,000 short of that target. We pray that the combination of the pledges not yet received and the weekly and seasonal offerings to the end of the year will reduce or eliminate that shortfall. The larger the surplus we have at the end of this year, the more we can apply to meet next year's budget providing us the breathing space to **Grow** our membership. We must continue to pray, reflect and commit to the **Go, Gather** and **Give** elements of our Mission.

We thank you all for your continued strong support and encouragement. Our best wishes to you for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year!

Yours in Christ's Service, Ron Edwards, John Hopkins and Linda Taunton

There has been some concern about the organ since it needed repairs after the move from Harvest Project. It appears that, after repair and with a new cradle for moving, it should continue to function well. The ongoing situation is being monitored by the Wardens.

St. Timothy's gives thanks to God for:

- The godly support of our five Primates and Bishop
- The insightful spiritual leadership of Paul and the uplifting musical leadership of Lois
- The wisdom and dedication of our Wardens and Trustees
- The knowledge, skills and patience of our Sunday School Teachers
- The enthusiastic youth work of Rita Wang
- The talents and energy of our Worship Team
- The hard work and gifts of our Altar Guild
- The friendly welcome of our Greeters
- The steadfastness and security of our Sidespersons
- The singing leadership of the Choir
- The compassionate comfort of the Prayer Ministry Team and the Monday Prayer Group
- The sisterly sharing of the Ladies' Group
- The opportunities for spiritual and relationship growth in the Alpha Course
- The ongoing cooperation with Harvest Project
- The artistic and woodwork talents of our carpenters
- The culinary talents of the coffee, tea and goodie makers
- The clear enunciation of the readers
- The commitment shown at pledge time
- The opportunities for meaningful fellowship
- The exciting and sustaining visit last summer of Karin, Julian and Nathalie
- The generosity of Bill Bourns in lending us his organ
- The space and beauty of our new facility
- The skill and dedication of our technicians

St. Timothy's is truly blessed! Add your personal notes of thanks.....



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St Timothy's Church
North Vancouver

Dear Friends,

I wanted to write you, the members of St. Timothy's, a brief note of encouragement. I recently learned from the Rev. Paul Carter that you have been very busy this Fall in a number of ways. I would like to acknowledge your faithfulness and the fruitfulness of your shared life as a Church Family.

As I understand it, you have been planning carefully the structure and strategy of St Timothy's making use of the excellent material from Pastor Rick Warren and incorporating this thinking into your own Vision and Mission statements. You have run an excellent Alpha programme for over 40 people. You have outgrown the facility at the Harvest Project and so have been searching for new premises. You have interviewed and now employ a part time Youth worker. I understand that from January you have decided as a church to employ Ken Bell who I will ordain shortly. I am especially grateful that a new pattern of ordained ministry is unfolding for him on the North Shore.

I am told that on Sunday November 21st you began to worship at the Lynn Valley recreation centre, so that you can reach out and encourage further growth on the North Shore. Paul has told me that you have recently had a Pledge Sunday and I am most encouraged to hear that so far \$103,000 has been pledged for 2005. When this is coupled with reports of the \$1300 raised to support the work of the Harvest Project and of the choir that added so much to your Advent Sunday I am left grateful to God for all of you. This news is an encouragement to me and I hope to you all as you anticipate all that 2005 has in store for you.

Paul, I am thankful for the heart for mission that these activities display and I am thankful for the witness and challenge that St. Timothy's is offering to the rest of us to risk boldly for the sake of the Gospel of Christ. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your parish.

I look forward to my time in Vancouver in March of 2005; I hope many of you will be able to attend the 18th St Simon's Renewal Mission at which I will speak. I trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to use St. Timothy's to proclaim with boldness, clarity and love the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Faithfully,

+TJ

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Johnston
Missionary Bishop, The Episcopal Province of Rwanda

St. Timothy's First Alpha

As you know, Alpha is a course for those seeking answers to key questions at the heart of the Christian faith and for those wanting to develop their relationship with Jesus Christ.

St. Timothy's Alpha program started on Wednesday, September 22, 2004, with an introductory session and banquet for over 50 people and the last session was on Wednesday, December 1. Forty eight people have attended regularly and have participated actively in weekly discussion groups, following a DVD presentation by the Rev. Nicky Gumbel. We have discussed issues such as, "Who is Jesus?", "Why did Jesus die?" "How Can I be sure of my Faith?", "How does God guide us?", and many other topics. We have studied Bible passages relevant to these discussions – each session causing us to reflect and grow in our faith.

For many of the Alpha participants able to attend, one highlight of the course was the retreat weekend, held November 12 and 13, at Rosemary Heights Retreat Centre, near Crescent Beach, in Surrey. 32 people participated, including the Rev. Ed Hird. Above all, the retreat was a wonderful opportunity to learn about and experience the Holy Spirit - a more spiritually enriching experience than we could dare to hope for. It was also a wonderful chance for us all to get to know each other in a more meaningful way and experience true Christian fellowship.

As we approach the end of our Alpha program, it is with some regret that we contemplate Wednesday evenings without Alpha. In addition to looking forward each week to the learning experience and fellowship, we came to look forward to the Alpha dinner which proved to be a regular feast. In this regard, we would be remiss not to acknowledge and thank Audrey Haigh and the very competent and willing catering team for their superb performance. We would also be extremely remiss not to thank Paul Carter for his commitment to the success of this program and to his wonderful leadership. And, last but by no means least, we would like to thank all those who have attended so faithfully over the past eleven weeks of St. Timothy's first Alpha program – a life changing experience for us all.

Sarah Lucas

God's Kingdom Living

In the face of cruelty – practice random kindness.

In the face of anger, practice patience.

In the face of rigid judgement – practice compassion

In the face of greed – practice generosity.

In the face of hatred – practice love.

In the face of microwave lifestyles – practice quiet presence.

In the face of manipulation – practice genuine mutual concern.

In short – practice God's kingdom living.

The Anglican Digest, Easter 1996

Prayer Ministry 101

Every week after the service Florence, Kathleen, Miriam and Sam would love to pray for you. Paul is also available for special needs and anointing. We do not bite!

There are many reasons why you may want to come up for prayer. The most popular is physical healing for yourself or for a friend or relative. Some people feel they need spiritual healing or emotional healing. You may be burdened by unforgiveness or feel discouragement. You may be worried about something. Prayer can also heal fear. A message from a sermon may touch you deeply and you would like prayer for it. We can also pray for you to have courage in something or to have a deeper faith. You may just simply want to revel in Gods' presence.

"I am the Lord that heals you"
Exodus 15:26

"The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven."
James 5:15

"I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the father. You may ask me anything in my name, and I will do it."
John 14:18

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."
Mark 11:24

Healing is for everyone, and everyone needs healing.

Sam MacDonald

Gathering all Ages

A big thank you goes to the people who have volunteered to transport other people to and from church services and events. A few more drivers are needed as backups. If there are any people you know of who are unable to drive themselves or take public transport, but would like to come to church, please let me know as I can arrange a ride for them.

Sam MacDonald

Parishioner Profile – Ken Bell

Ken Bell was born in Oakville, Ontario in 1970, the fourth child of an Anglican father and a Catholic mother and he was baptized in the Catholic Church when he was 3 weeks old. One of his sisters (Bernadette) still lives in Ontario and the other one (Mickie) lives in Yellowknife. His brother (Alex) lives in Coquitlam. The family spent 1974 to 1976 in Kenya where Ken's father worked for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), though Ken does not remember a great deal about this time except his excitement at seeing lots of wild animals.

After returning briefly to Ontario, the family moved to Tsawwassen, B.C. in July 1976. Since their move to Kenya, the family had not been involved in a church, but an unusual event rekindled their interest. When he was 11 years old, Ken was helping his father set up a tent trailer in Thousand Trails Campground, Washington. It was a heavy-going task and at one point, Ken lost his grasp on the controls and the trailer crashed down, derailing itself and very narrowly missing his father who could have been badly injured or killed. A passer-by at the time came over and helped out, explaining that he had had a similar problem with his own tent trailer. This neighbour was Rev. Arthur Nash, Vicar of St. David's Tsawwassen, and by the end of the holiday, the family had become friendly with the Nash family. This led to their attending St. David's Church, where Ken felt warmly welcomed and as if, for the first time in his life, he really belonged. Another significant event for him in the early 80s was attendance at a Billy Graham Crusade in Vancouver, during which he decided he wanted to be a disciple of Jesus.

He continued to grow in faith and study the Bible. During this time, he became involved with St. David's youth group, Camp Artaban, Diocesan Anglican Youth Ministry and B.C. Anglican Youth Movement. At Camp Artaban he was at first a Counsellor, then took on other roles and eventually he served on the board both as Secretary and Vice President. From 1988 to 1990, he led the Youth Group at St. David's Church with Chris Briscal, the Vicar's son.

After High School Graduation, in 1988, Ken worked in a Movie Theatre Downtown and as Night Manager at a Seven-Eleven store. In 1990 Ken started university studies at S.F.U. graduating in 1994 with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology.

In December, 1990 Ken became Youth Minister at St. Simon's, at first being part-time, then full-time. He enjoyed all aspects of this work, especially seeing young people grow in their faith, getting to know the families in the church and stretching and growing in his own faith.

In 1996 at Camp Artaban he met Sonya Fuoss, from New Westminster, who had come up for a week, then went on one of Ken's Mission Trips to Mexico. They were married on March 14, 1998 and had their first child, Lillian on Dec 4, 2003. They also have a cat called Portia. Sonya is a nurse in the Oncology Ward at the Children's Hospital. Ken's mother passed away over eight years ago and in 2001 Ken's father purchased a house with Ken and Sonya on Mount Seymour Parkway and lives with them.

In January 2000, Ken began his first course at Regent College. In April, 2005 he anticipates completing his Master's in Divinity. He will have completed thirty courses encompassing a broad range of topics including Church History, Theology, Hebrew and Greek, Preaching and Counselling. Eight elective courses are included, of which Ken took four in the Anglican Studies area.

For some years Ken fought the idea of being ordained and at a Cursillo Weekend, in private prayer in the church, he asked God to indicate some direction for his life. As he was leaving the church, he met another person who had been in private prayer in a different part of the building. It was Rev. Barclay Mayo, who stopped him and told him in no uncertain terms that God was preparing him for ordination. Ken now feels that God has been orchestrating the timing to coincide with St. Timothy's needs.

Ken plays the guitar and enjoys music and singing. He used to enjoy playing hockey and football, but is now mostly a spectator except for a church floor hockey team that plays on Saturdays. He is excited about coming to St. Timothy's. He started praying for us when he heard of our predicament in the spring. Over the years, as he became more aware of the beautiful language and strong theology of the Book of Common Prayer, he felt a desire to know it better and looks forward to using it with us.

He enjoys teaching and preaching and anticipates challenging us to step out of our comfort zone and grow in faith and understanding. He eagerly awaits the opportunity to learn from Rev. Paul Carter as he has learnt from Rev. Ed Hird for fourteen years. He hopes to encourage all St. Timothy's parishioners to use the talents God has given us, as we work together in all areas of church life and especially in "growing God's Kingdom". We all look forward to welcoming Ken and all his family and to making them feel that they truly belong.

Florence Wilton

ACiC Churches

The number of Canadian Churches affiliated with the Anglican Communion in Canada is steadily growing. In addition to St. Timothy's, they now include:

Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church, Pender Harbour, BC - Rev. Barclay Mayo
The Anglican Church of the Redeemer, Regina, SK - Rev. Olukayode Adebogun & Tom Needham
St. Jude Apostolic Anglican church, Indian Head, SK – Rev. Olukayode Adebogun & Tom Needham
Richmond Emmanuel Church, BC – Rev. Silas Ng
The Light of Christ Church, Nanaimo, BC – Rev. Ronald Lewis Risley
Living Waters Christian Church, Victoria, BC – Rev. David Hollebhone
Church of our Lord, Comox Valley, BC – Dr David & Jannice Bowler and Martin & Cynthia Davies
Immanuel Church Westside, Vancouver, BC – Rev Paul Carter
St. Andrew's Mission, Borden SK – Rev. Nathan Gough
St. Simon's Church, North Vancouver, BC – Rev. Ed Hird; Rev John Lombard; Rev. Ron Gibbs;
Youth Pastor, Ken Bell

Prayer Corner

I live alone, dear Lord
Stay by my side;
In all my daily needs
Be Thou my guide.

Grant me good health,
For that indeed I pray,
To carry on my work
From day to day.

Keep pure my mind,
My thoughts, my every deed,
Let me be kind, unselfish,
In my neighbour's need.

Spare me from fire, from flood,
Malicious tongues, Your Presence Ever near. *Amen*

From thieves, from fear,
And evil ones.

If sickness or
An accident befall,
Then humbly, Lord, I pray
Hear Thou my call,

And when I'm feeling low,
Or in despair,
Lift up my heart
And help me in my prayer.

I live alone, dear Lord,
Yet have no fear,
Because I feel your presence
Ever near. *Amen*

Advent Collects

Almighty god, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth, with thee and the Holy spirit, now and ever. *Amen*

Blessed Lord, who hast called all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen*

**For food in a world where many live in hunger,
For freedom in a world where many live in oppression,
For friends in a world where many live in loneliness,
And for faith and hope in a world where many live in despair,
We give you thanks, O God, through Christ our Lord. *Amen***

St. Timothy's Harvest Project "Fund-Raising" Dinner, Friday Nov. 26, 2004

This "special dinner", the brain child of our own inimitable Audrey Haigh, was arranged for the express purpose of donating all proceeds to the Harvest Project.

Fifty-five members of St. Timothy's attended, bringing with them a variety of delicious appetizers, casseroles, salads, desserts, fresh fruit and cheese plates. What a feast! The festive atmosphere of the room was enhanced with each table having a red poinsettia centrepiece, red serviettes, and red candles on a white tablecloth.

After the wonderful meal, we were entertained by challenging quizzes, ticket stub draws for various baskets full of goodies and also a silent auction. These activities were enjoyed by all. The proceeds from these, along with the donations from each attendee, raised \$1,300.00 which has been donated to the Harvest Project.

Special thanks are extended to Audrey and Peter Haigh, Patricia Young, Hazel Blacoe, Carolyn Edwards and her able helpers - Jamie Young, Richard Taunton and Ciera Edwards. It was great to have the kids' participation in the work and fun. In addition, all should be thanked for their overall contribution to the outstanding success and fun of the evening.

The Harvest Project has been so important to us in providing, at a reasonable cost, the space for our inaugural 10:00 a.m. service and St Timothy's will be forever grateful to them for their support.

Joy Hopkins

Never, ever, tell a white lie

Alice was to bake a cake for the church ladies' group bake sale, but she forgot to do it until the last minute. She baked an angel food cake and when she took it from the oven, the centre had dropped flat. She said, "Oh dear, there's no time to bake another cake". So she looked around the house to find something to build up the centre of the cake. Alice found it in the bathroom – a roll of toilet paper. She plunked it in and covered it with icing. The finished product looked beautiful, so she rushed it to the church. Alice then gave her daughter some money and instructions to be at the Sale the minute it opened and to buy that cake and bring it home. When the daughter arrived at the sale, the attractive cake had already been sold. Alice was beside herself!

A couple of days later, Alice was invited to a friend's home where two tables of bridge were to be played that afternoon. After the game, a fancy lunch was served, and to top it off, the cake in question was presented for dessert. When Alice saw the cake, she started to get out of her chair to rush into the kitchen to tell her hostess all about it, but before she could get to her feet, one of the other ladies said, "What a beautiful cake!" Alice sat back in her chair when she heard the hostess (a prominent church member) say, "Thank you. I baked it myself."

Submitted by Erica Barrett

A Mind That Grasped Both Heaven and Hell

By JOSEPH LOCONTE November 22, 2003

Forty years ago today, as the world mourned the assassination of an American president, the passing of the 20th century's most influential Christian writer was hardly noticed: Clive Staples Lewis, professor of English literature at Oxford and Cambridge, died on Nov. 22, 1963. In his ability to nurture the faithful, as well as seduce the sceptic, C. S. Lewis had no peer.

Lewis was an atheist for much of his adult life, an experience that may have helped immunize him from the religious cliché, the reluctance to ask hard questions, the self-righteousness of the zealot.

"Mr. Lewis possesses the rare gift," according to an early reviewer, "of being able to make righteousness readable." Lewis was not a theologian, but he expressed even the most difficult religious concepts with bracing clarity. He was not a preacher, yet his essays and novels pierce the heart with their nobility and tenderness.

The lessons found within his writings continue to resonate today. In fact, it's hard to imagine a time when the need for sane thinking about religion was more momentous. Cite an act of terror, from the sniper shootings in Washington to the bombings in Baghdad and Istanbul, and faith is close at hand. Many are now tempted to equate piety with venality E28094 or worse E28094 and it's here that Lewis may have the most to teach us.

Born in 1898, Lewis reached maturity in the 1930's, when Europe was being convulsed by the rise of new tyrannies: communism in Russia and fascism in Spain, Italy and Germany. At the same time, trends in psychology and theology were discrediting Christian doctrines of sin and repentance.

The "root causes" of international disorder were said to be social and political arrangements, like runaway capitalism or the flawed Treaty of Versailles. But Lewis, like his friend J. R. R. Tolkien, knew the trouble lay deeper, and marshalled his literary imagination to explore it.

In a harrowing scene from his science fiction novel "Perelandra," the protagonist, Prof. Elwin Ransom, battles a mad scientist horribly disfigured by his lust for power. Lewis writes: "What was before him appeared no longer a creature of corrupted will. It was corruption itself to which will was attached only as an instrument."

The Christians, Lewis argued, were right: the mystery of evil was rooted in the tragedy of human nature. Pride, and the poisoned conscience it created, functioned as the engine of the world's woes. Unchallenged, it led to a "ruthless, sleepless, unsmiling concentration upon self, which is the mark of Hell."

Many modern liberals dismiss Lewis's concept of the diabolical as a "medieval" superstition. Yet many religious conservatives seem to make evil the brainchild of God himself. For them, all individual and social sin including the terror of Sept. 11 is the perfect will of a Divine Judge (as the Rev. Jerry Falwell claimed at the time). Lewis disagreed: Evil is always man's doing, yet it is never his destiny. The power of choice makes evil possible, but it's also "the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having."

While Oxford agnostics howled, Lewis gave BBC talks on theology that were a national sensation.

Even his beloved children's stories, "The Chronicles of Narnia," ring with biblical themes of sin and redemption. No one did more to make "the repellent doctrines" of Christianity plausible to modern ears.

Nevertheless, Lewis acknowledged that religion easily becomes a device to exploit others sometimes, as in the case of sexually abusive priests, at the very steps of the altar. The pretence of piety, he said, has left a record of violence that should shame every honest believer. "Of all bad men, religious bad men are the worst," he wrote in "Reflections on the Psalms."

Yet, unlike the cynic, Lewis refused to blame the faith itself for the shortcomings of the church. Instead, his writings offer bright glimpses into the moral beauty of divine goodness, what Lewis called "the weight of glory."

It is this vision of the Holy, he observed, that has produced many of the masterpieces of art and music. This same vision motivates the faithful to risk everything to relieve the world's suffering: caring for plague victims, defending the rights of children, guiding slaves to freedom, breaching war zones to feed the poor.

"If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next," he wrote in "Mere Christianity," one of his best-known works. "It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this." In an era when God himself seems to be on trial, that's a timely message for the half-hearted pilgrim as well as the devoted doubter. Probably just what C. S. Lewis had in mind.

Joseph Loconte, religion fellow at the Heritage Foundation, is editor of the forthcoming "The End of Illusions: America's Churches and Hitler's Gathering Storm, 1938-41." This article appeared in the Sunday edition of the New York Times

On a Lighter Note:

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older, then it dawned on me-----they're cramming for their final exam.

It's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

I am thankful-----

For the lady behind me in church who sings off key because it means that I can hear.

For the pile of laundry and ironing because it means that I have clothes to wear.

For the teenager who is complaining about doing the dishes because that means she is at home, not on the streets.

For too much e-mail because it means that I have friends who are thinking of me.

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, "When you're in your casket and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?"

Arthur said: "I would like them to say, I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader and a good man".

Eugene commented: " I would like them to say, I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in peoples' lives"

Donald said: "I'd like them to say, look he's moving!"

From Day to Day at St. Timothy's

St. Timothy's Ladies' Group

Our first meeting at Martha Wright's home was well attended with 17 ladies. A lively discussion was held on various topics. The focus for the next year will be within St. Timothy's, then outreach and the community. The next meeting is planned for **Monday, January 10 at 1:30 p.m.** in Fran Ruegg's home. If you plan to attend, please help Linda Taunton to plan a fun game by phoning or e-mailing her to give her one short statement about an event in your past, unique to you. Please help Fran by confirming that you can join us for this meeting.

Church Library

Christmas is around the corner and the library has a few Christmas books for both young and young at heart. Please come and check them out to read by a cozy fireplace and lit up Christmas trees. For those who have completed the Alpha course, there are some books to help you grow in Christ, including After Alpha - by Michael Green.

In the past, library books were loaned for a month. In order to make it easier for the librarian to keep track of books, books will be signed out for two weeks, with extension for another two weeks if needed. During our move from the Harvest Project to the Lynn Valley Rec. Centre, I was made aware that some books were left at the Harvest Project. I believe all were found and given back.

There are still a few books overdue from the summer months. If you have any of these, could you please return them any Sunday? There will be a new library book return box out near the coffee area for that purpose. I wish to thank all those who have donated new books to the library. Blessed Advent, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and great holiday reading!

Monica Craver - Church Librarian

Sunday School

We are enjoying our new "school" premises. We finished the fall curriculum and have now started our winter lessons. To celebrate the start of Advent, we combined the classes to make a magnetic Advent candle wreath and a calendar for the children to take home. The Kindergarten to Grade Two class is using the course "Way to Worship". The stories in this unit are: "God Sent His Son, Jesus", expressing joy: "God Made Us", showing the value of thankfulness and "We Worship God Together".

Grades Three, Four and Five are studying bible stories from Matthew and John: "How Jesus Came", "Who Jesus Was" and "What Jesus Said", stressing the values of dependability, love and compassion. We would like to thank Miriam Scott and Dara Barrett for kindly stepping in when needed.

Audrey Haigh and Carolyn Edwards

Youth Group

It is my privilege to work with a group of energetic young people at St. Timothy's. We are enjoying ourselves on Sundays at the new facility. Currently, we are using the *Custom Curriculum: Can I really have a relationship with God?* This textbook focuses on how to build a real relationship with God, how to discover our spiritual gifts and how to share our faith with others. We have had some good discussions regarding our own faith. Besides studying the Bible, we also have social gatherings. Eight of us went for laser tag and it was a lot of fun. Two activities were planned December weekends:

Saturday, December 4 – CN IMAX Theatre: Santa vs. the Snowman

Saturday, December 11 – Stanley Park Bright Nights. If you are interested, please let me know.

Rita Wang, Youth Worker

Coffee Hour:

Our coffee hours are such a great time of gathering in Christian Fellowship and our thanks are due to Coordinator, Hazel Blacoe. Special thanks also to all goodie providers, whose productions gladden the hearts and mouths of regulars and guests alike. The kitchen in the new facility provided some initial challenges, but these have largely been overcome, thanks to some generous donations of items needed. Five coffee teams have now been set up to prepare and serve the beverages and goodies. Donations in the jar are generally sufficient to keep up basic supplies.

The Editors

Editors' Message

Our thanks go to all contributors. We invite submissions from all at St. Timothy's. You may have an item for the Prayer Corner, wish to write an article on a special Church event, express your approval or concern or find a humorous story with a moral message. We invite you to submit anything that you think will uplift or inform your fellow parishioners. It was decided at a recent Leadership Team Meeting that in 2005 *St. Timothy's Gazette* will become a quarterly newsletter, being published on March 1, June 1, September 15 and December 1. This means **the next deadline is February 27**. In the meantime, we wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year.

Matthew Vondette and Florence Wilton

The Carter family invites **everyone** in the congregation and any of your friends, to a winter evening of food, fun, fine mulled wine and fellowship at 1655 West 41st on December 22nd starting at 6pm.

After supper we will sing some carols together, so if you have a favourite let us know.

A warm welcome awaits you, as we begin to celebrate together the joy of our first Christmas as St. Timothy's church family.

Calendar Highlights

Dec. 12 Worship Team Lunch and Meeting after service, at the Burns'

Dec. 22 6pm Christmas Social for all at Paul and Lois' Home (see above)

Dec. 24 9.30pm Christmas Eve Service at Lynn Valley Rec. Centre

Dec. 26 10am Service of Morning Prayer

Jan. 10 1.30pm St. Timothy's Ladies' Group Meeting (details on Pg. 17)

Introduction to Membership in St. Timothy's

(See Warden's Report Pg. 5)

This will be repeated three times to give everyone the opportunity of attending:

1. Sunday Sermons in the 10am Service on Jan. 9; Jan 16; Jan 23 and Jan 30.
2. Sermon contents will be repeated on Weds. Evening, Feb. 2. (time and place to be announced)
3. Sermon contents will be repeated on Tues. Evening, Feb 8. (time and place to be announced)