



# St. Timothy's Gazette

## NOVEMBER, 2005

### *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**

You will receive this Newsletter at the start of Advent. It is the beginning of the new year in the Church's cycle of themed readings and prayers. So happy new year! We will be approaching Advent differently with our readings and sermons this year. The prophet Isaiah will lead us into Christmas and our 3 special services.

On Christmas Eve we will have a 4pm children's nativity service which will be for all the family and a great way to bring neighbours and friends into the real spirit of Christmas. Then at 9pm we will have a service of Holy Communion followed by glühwein and goodies. This was such a success last year that it promises to become a St Timothy's annual highlight. As Christmas Day is a Sunday this year we have decided to join with St Simon's for a combined morning service at 10am.

Behind the scenes there is so much going on in the Anglican Communion. Lois and I were privileged to glimpse something of this as we went to represent the ACiC at the "hope and a future" conference in Pittsburgh, USA from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of November. There were a total of nine Archbishops present. More Bishops and clergy robed for the opening Eucharist than I have ever seen in one place before. The speakers made us all aware of the enormity of the challenge to restore orthodoxy to wayward parts of the Communion, but reassured us of their determination that this should happen. It is comforting to know that the liberal and revisionist agenda, so evident here in Canada, will not be allowed to win the day and affect the Communion for much longer. I am grateful that there is now an embryonic Council of Anglican Provinces in the Americas and Caribbean. (CAPAC) This body may well provide the orthodox expressions of Anglicanism, who share a common cause, a safe umbrella under which to continue with Anglican ministry across this great continent.

I was able to spend some private time with two of our five Archbishops and a whole morning with Bishop TJ. It is good to know that they are working hard to see gospel ministry flourish, not only in their homelands but here in Canada as well. Archbishop Kolini from Rwanda was very sympathetic to the idea that an ACiC team should go to Rwanda on a

short term missions trip next July. More details about the trip will emerge over the next couple of months. If this is something that would interest you and if you are physically fit enough for a long journey to an African country, I would certainly like to hear from you about the possibility of joining the team.

Finally, I am grateful for the way that the wardens have explained our vision and goals for 2006. I commend them to you for your ongoing prayers. I firmly believe that money follows ministry and that if you are 'well pleased' with the life and health of our church family that you will give generously. There will certainly be a great deal happening in the life of our church family in 2006.

***<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent,<sup>[c]</sup> nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.***

***<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,<sup>[d]</sup> who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (from John chapter 1)***

May the Lord bless you and keep you during this advent and Christmas season and may the one through whom the world was made and who came to that which was his own, draw you ever closer to himself.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

***Paul***

Revd P M Carter  
Senior Priest, St Timothy's.

# Message from the Rev. Ken Bell

## **An Advent Thought**

When does the “new year” begin? In practice we mark four “new years” each year. The first is January 1, the beginning of the new calendar year. This is usually marked with parties and celebration, staying up late, banging pots, drinking and too much food and is accompanied with hopes and promises we never really expect we will keep.

The next “new year” occurs sometime in late spring, I am not too sure when exactly or even if it has a fixed date but it affects only businesses and accountants. It is the beginning of the new “fiscal year”. Not a lot of hoopla and celebration but it is a time filled with hope of what the new year might bring for the business, increased profits, lower costs, expansion, whatever that hope may be and how much of a long shot it may be, there is hope and expectation.

Now all parents know when the real “New Year” is celebrated, the first Tuesday after Labour Day, summer is over, school begins and in the house there is peace and quite for a few hours. This New Year’s Day too is marked with celebration (perhaps more so from parents than children) and is filled with hopes and expectations. What will the teacher be like, who will be in my class, and will I do better this year? (Even the church uses this as a New Year marker, Bible studies begin, new classes, Sunday School returns to normal).

There is, though, one other New Year’s Day, the first Sunday of Advent. This is the church’s New Year. We start back at the beginning of the Prayer Book cycle of Collects and readings. The incarnation is what marks the beginning of the Christian story and so we begin a few weeks before the birth of Christ with the promise and the hope of Christ, the expectation of God’s promise of salvation and redemption for the whole world.

Each of these New Year days has something in common, something which ties them together. Did you notice what it is? It is Hope, expectation, the longing for something new and better. The January and September New Years are filled with personal hopes, hope for self or loved ones. The fiscal New Year is filled with hope for the business or company, though again a sort of personal hope, a selfish or self-interested hope if you will.

But the Christian New Year, Advent is not about personal or self-interested hope. It is not about longing for something better for us or an expectation that things will begin to look up in our lives. No, Advent is a hope for salvation, a longing for redemption and expectation of abundant life as God intended for the whole of creation.

Creation itself longs for this day, groans for this day, "We know that the whole creation has been *groaning* as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, *groan* inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons and daughters, the redemption of our bodies" (Romans 8:22-23).

On this New Years Day we do not make plans to start exercising, or quit smoking, we do not hope that this is the year we make the turn towards profitability, we do not long for a better teacher. No on this day we cry out in hope, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". Come in your wisdom from the mouth of the most high. Come, O Lord of all creation and redeem us with your outstretched hand. Come and deliver us from darkness and sin. Come, O key of David and set the captives free. Come and bring the dawn of the new day. Come, O King, sit on your throne and rule over us, (Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven).

This Advent New Year of ours is the true "New Year" for it is marked with the greatest hope, the greatest expectation and the greatest longing, "Come Lord Jesus come". It is with this view I hope and pray we enter into the Advent season and into Christmas. I pray we do not enter with fear or a feeling of being overwhelmed by all that "must be done before Christmas", but we enter with this pure hope and holy expectation that Christ will come again in His full glory.

May each of you have a merry and hope filled Christmas this year.

Yours in His Name

Rev'd Ken Bell  
Assistant Priest, St. Timothy's

## Wardens' Update, October 2005

Advent has arrived; a new year in the Church calendar has begun, as we yearn for the coming again of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

### Visioning

Over the past weeks your Council has continued its visioning process, culminating in the presentation of a vision for 2006 to the members on "Pledge Sunday" (November 20). The financial implications of that exercise were conveyed as three preliminary budgets; **status quo**, what we're doing now plus cost of living increase; **stretched**, what we think we can accomplish pretty much on our own with some effort; and **vision**, what we think could be done if God had his way and all obstacles are removed.

The Vision articulated for 2006 is to:

- Become well known and relevant on the North Shore,
- Have all our members impassioned to declare their faith,
- Improve and expand our Worship experience,
- Foster our family atmosphere in social events, and
- Help others locally, nationally and internationally.

More specifically, we suggested the goals for St. Timothy's be to:

- Be servants within our North Shore community to seniors and others,
- Hire a ministry co-ordinator to create, organize and run programs for an emerging ministry such as 55+, single parents or children,
- Have everyone involved in a small group and to nurture all our members (children, youth and adults) to go deeper in their faith and to share that faith with others,
- Improve our Music/Worship experience by hiring a choir director/organist/pianist,
- Expand our social events with members bringing friends, while maintaining the family feel,
- To identify and adopt specific outreach projects locally, nationally and internationally and allocate 10% of our offertory to those projects and emergencies as they arise.

The three preliminary budgets show the weekly giving required to meet those budgets as **status quo** \$ 2,692; **stretched** \$ 3,462; and **vision** \$ 4,111, all as compared to our current budget and level of giving of \$ 2,678. The **status quo** budget factors in the fact that, by acceding to the request of ICW, Ken is dedicating 100% of his time to St. Timothy's, effective November 1, 2005 and that Paul will be scaling back his time commitment to St. Timothy's from 3/8 of his time to 1/4 of his time. The **stretched** budget adds all of the goals set out above, except the hiring of a Ministry co-ordinator, while the **vision** budget, you guessed it, includes the hiring of a Ministry co-ordinator.

What we look for now is that each of us consider the possibilities for St. Timothy's future as we pray over the level of financial support that we are prepared to pledge for 2006. Hopefully all of us will be motivated to make our pledge a tithe, if we haven't done so already. The results of our pledge drive will then be factored into the preparation of a 2006 plan and budget for presentation to our annual vestry meeting.

### **Other matters**

Over the past year the Council has considered various issues and developed policy statements which are kept in our Policy Manual. The titles of policy statements issued to date are: Bank Signing Authority; Church Group Finances; Clergy Absences; Composition of Council; Confirmation; Council Communications; Expenditure Authority and finally, just recently approved, a policy statement on Funerals and Receptions. If you're interested in reading any or all of these policy statements, let Florence Wilton or either of us know and we will make them available to you.

The Council has identified the following as approved outreach Projects:

- **Lighthouse Ministries,**
- **Harvest Project,**
- **The N. S. Homeless Shelter,**
- **IN Network (Uganda)'**
- **Wycliffe Bible Translators,**
- **ACiC church plants, and**
- **Our sister parish in Rwanda.**

Additional projects will be identified as we proceed into the New Year.

We are also creating a **"Vision Fund"** which will be used to fund future major projects and will be similar in nature to an endowment or building fund into which we will direct all bequests received. But more on this later.

### **Now, a few words about this year's finances.**

The budget approved at this year's Vestry meeting showed a projected deficit for 2005 of about \$ 20,000, the difference between our budgeted expenses and the pledges received. With the accumulated surplus at the beginning of the year of about \$ 27,850 we had the comfort of knowing that shortfall was covered. To the end of October the budgeted deficit is \$ 16,725. We are delighted to see that the level of giving and spending to the end of October is such that our actual deficit is actually a **surplus** of \$ 9,350, bringing our accumulated surplus to about \$ 37,000. God indeed continues to bless St. Timothy's. This is faith rewarded and has emboldened us to offer up the **vision** described in this update. Your continuing faithful financial support of St. Timothy's and its Mission is a blessing from God.

God continues to work out his plan through us and we are thankful for his blessing. We thank you for your continued support and encouragement. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

**John Hopkins, Rector's Warden**

**Ron Edwards, People's Warden**

## Reports from our "G"s

### Glorify Report

Much is done weekly to successfully achieve our Sunday morning service, and many hands are at work behind the scenes ensuring a smooth outcome.

Several months before a particular service, the theme, with relevant readings, is prayerfully chosen by our clergy. At St Timothy's we have chosen to take a particular theme and develop it over a few weeks, to spend enough effort in understanding aspects and relating it to our everyday lives. This is the reason we do not follow a particular lectionary. More recently as Paul and Ken alternate the sermons we further gain understanding of the subject matter from differing perspectives.

Once the themes are established, a group meets to select hymns, from the suggestion box and our repertoire that support the subject of the day. Relevant church events are also included in this overview, and highlighted in our services. Nearer the day, the service is pre-planned in overheads, so that everything will project on the screen at the service in the right order. The multiple rosters for set-up crews, Altar Guild, readers, Prayers of the people, servers and administrators, audio-visual operator, sidesmen and greeters, counters and refreshments are activated, and the weekly leaflet produced.

I am always pleasantly surprised at how well our service comes together, with so many people involved in bringing it to fruition each week. The fact that we meet in a transformed recreation centre, rather than a conventional church building, adds a level of life to each week's service that is missing from a more conventional setting, and the fact that we own no hymn books forces everyone to look up at the screen increasing the volume significantly over the more traditional "noses in book" attitude. Our sermons, enhanced with photos, maps and sometimes a video, increases our understanding of how to apply Biblical teaching to our daily lives.

After each service, the flowers, which are usually donated by a parishioner to celebrate a particular memory or in thanksgiving, are distributed – often to a member unable to attend that service and a video tape of the sermon of the day is circulated, and available in subsequent weeks for those who wish to "catch up" with the sermons.

In summary, we have a large and wonderfully supportive group of parishioners who actively contribute to each week's successful service, making each a very positive experience. Thanks to all the hard workers and may our Lord continue to be glorified through our efforts.

*Peter Haigh*

Get Plugged  
into  
a Home Group



As many of you will already know, the Wednesday morning Home Group which meets at Florence Wilton's has been studying the Book of Proverbs. The purpose of this study is "to learn to live wisely". Discussion topics have included: making choices, naivety, avoiding the "fool", finding wisdom, good and bad language and the "sluggard". Throughout our study we are learning from each other by sharing our own personal stories and experiences. We were particularly enthused when Hank Vondette shared with us the poem, "Laws of the Navy". The words in this poem are of course specific to the experiences of people in the Navy, but we discovered how often these laws are also reflected in the Proverbs we are studying.

**SELECTIONS FROM: THE LAWS OF THE NAVY**

**by Adm. R. A. Hopwood, RN**

Now these are the laws of the Navy,  
Unwritten and varied they be;  
And he who is wise will observe them,  
Going down in his ship to the sea.

As naught may outrun the destroyer,  
So it is with the law and its grip,  
For the strength of a ship is the Service,  
And the strength of the Service the ship.

Take heed what you say of your seniors,  
Be your words spoken softly or plain,  
Let a bird of the air tell the matter,  
And so shall ye hear it again.

On the strength of one link in the cable,  
Dependeth the might of the chain.  
Who knows when thou may'st be tested?  
So live that thou bearest the strain!

Say the wise: How may I know their purpose?  
Then acts without wherefore or why.  
Stays the fool but one moment to question,  
And the chance of his life passes by.

Dost think in a moment of anger  
'Tis well with thy seniors to fight?  
They prosper, who burn in the morning,  
The letters they wrote overnight.

When a ship that is tired returneth,  
With the signs of the seas showing plain;  
Men place her in dock for a season,  
And her speed she reneweth again.

So shall ye, if perchance ye grow weary,  
In the uttermost parts of the sea,  
Pray for leave, for the good of the Service,  
As much and as oft as may be.

Can'st follow the track of the dolphin?  
Or tell where the sea swallows roam?  
Where Leviathan taketh his pastime?  
What ocean he calleth his own?

So it is with the words of the rulers,  
And the orders these words shall convey;  
Every law is naught beside this one:  
Thou shalt not criticise, but Obey!

For many are shelved and forgotten,  
With nothing to thank for their fate,  
But that on a half sheet of foolscap  
A fool "Had the honour to state."

It is ill for the winners to worry,  
Take thy fate as it comes, with a smile,  
And when thou art safe in the harbour  
They may envy, but will not revile.

Now these are the Laws of the Navy,  
And many and mighty are they.  
But the hull and the deck and the keel  
And the truck of the law is -- **OBEY.**

*Patricia Young*

## God said No

I asked God to take away my habit.

God said, "No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up".

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

God said, "No. His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary".

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said, "No. Patience is a by-product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned".

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said, "No. I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you".

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said, "No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me".

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said, "No. You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful"

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said, "No. I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things".

I asked God to help me love others as much as he loves me.

God said, "Ah! Finally you have the idea".

*Erica Barrett sent this message out a few months before she passed away. We would like to dedicate this newsletter to her memory. May we at St. Timothy's continue to be inspired by the many examples of Christ-like living that God gave us through her.*

*Matthew Vondette and Florence Wilton*

## **Recent Women's Conferences**

A Women's conference called "An Anchor for Your Soul: A Walk through the Book of Hebrews" was held on Saturday, October 22 at St. John's Shaughnessy. Attended by over 200 women from 45 different churches (including three from St. Timothy's) this in-depth presentation of the Book of Hebrews was uplifting and enlightening. Four dynamic speakers were interspersed with musical renditions, choral and instrumental. The catered lunch allowed time for further discussion or solitary meditation. St. John's Women plan to do it again next year – do look out for it and plan to attend.

Very different, but equally uplifting was a Women's Retreat in Qualicum Inn, November 4-6, organized by the Reformed Episcopal Church. Nearly all the 37 present were from either the Reformed Episcopal Church in Victoria or the one in Comox, but there were two from St. Timothy's and one from one from Light of Christ Church, Nanaimo, one of our sister ACiC Churches. The Friday evening speaker, Debbie Shields, focussed on how to cope with stress. She highlighted the importance of our knowing that we are all children of God, so we don't need to perform and conform to the standards of the world, but do everything to please God. The power of personal prayer and of taking some time off to enjoy life was also commended. Debbie continually referred to scripture, showing the basis for her arguments. On Saturday, she talked about Damaged Emotions and Healing.

Won't it be wonderful when St. Timothy's is able to sponsor similar events!  
*Florence Wilton*

## **St. Timothy's Second Alpha**

A group of about 15 has met regularly over the past ten weeks to enjoy a video presentation by the Rev. Nicky Gumbel and to discuss topics such as: "How can I be sure of my faith?" and "How does God guide us?" We have studied Bible passages relevant to these discussions – each session causing us to reflect and grow in our faith.

Although we were hoping to repeat the successful weekend retreat experienced last year by so many of us, this was not possible this year for a number of reasons. However, we are all very much looking forward to a day retreat on Saturday, November 26. The day will be devoted to teaching on the work of the Holy Spirit in the individual lives of those attending.

We have been blessed with our meeting venue. The Haigh's have once again opened up their home to us, to provide the wonderful warm and relaxed environment so important in getting to know one another and for open discussion. In addition, dinner has been provided each week by Audrey, who is known to us all for her splendid cooking and warm hospitality. Thank you, Audrey – we have been treated royally.

We have appreciated the guidance and leadership of Paul and Ken throughout. We thank them, and also all those who have prayed for the Alpha group over the past few weeks, to ensure that this has been a life changing experience for all the participants.

*The Alpha Team - Sarah Lucas, John Collings, Daphne Martin*

## Alpha Fall 2005



## Prayer Corner

### The Best Piece Of Advice That You Will Ever Get (Given at the Women's Retreat at Qualicum Beach)

All the talks given were uplifting and enriching but the one piece of advice that stuck with me the most was this: **the first thing you should do before you get out of bed in the morning is give your day to God.** Think through your day and give Him all aspects of it. Ask Him to be there with you to guide you.

I have done this since I got back from the retreat and have found that every day has gone amazingly well.

Don't forget to give thanks at the end- no matter the outcome!

*Sam MacDonald*

### An Advent Examination by Edward Hayes

**Advent** is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way. Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace. By reflection and prayer, by reading and meditation, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace would desire to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place.

**Daily** we can make an Advent examination. Are there any feelings of discrimination toward race, sex, or religion? Is there a lingering resentment, an unforgiven injury living in our hearts? Do we look down upon others of lesser social standing or educational achievement? Are we generous with the gifts that have been given to us, seeing ourselves as their stewards and not their owners? Are we reverent of others, their ideas and needs, and of creation? These and other questions become Advent lights by which we may search the deep, dark corners of our hearts.

### Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi – to Ring in the New Year

Lord, make me an instrument of your  
peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is discord, unity.  
Where there is doubt, faith.  
Where there is error, truth.  
Where there is despair, hope.  
Where there is sadness, joy.  
Where there is darkness, light.

O Divine Master, Grant that I may not  
so much seek to be consoled as to  
console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.

For, it is in giving that we receive.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.  
It is in dying that we are born to eternal  
life

## **Parishioner Profile – SAMANTHA MACDONALD**

Samantha MacDonald was born in Burnham, Buckinghamshire, England and lived there almost until her 6<sup>th</sup> birthday. In 1972, her father was transferred in his electrical engineering job to Johannesburg, South Africa, for three years – and her parents are still there. Samantha's only brother, Tristram, is now married with two sons, living in St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England. During their upbringing in South Africa, Samantha and Tristram's mother never let them forget their English heritage including having plum pudding at Christmas in the summer heat. Her recollections of Burnham include school uniform and having bottles of milk with a coloured foil top.

Her father had flown ahead to find a home for them and her mother and the two children sailed on the "Windsor Castle". The journey took ten days and Sam remembers not wanting to be dunked in the ship's swimming pool covered with shaving cream bubbles at the Equator. In Johannesburg the winter grass was brown with dryness even though Johannesburg is the largest man-made forest in the world! Their home stood on a half acre and they had a maid, with a char and gardener to help. The weather was always great for outdoor activities and life was full of hiking, camping, caravanning, Brownies and then Girl Guides. The whole family appreciated nature and they enjoyed having a boat to sail on a nearby lake and enter races. Every weekend there was tennis and barbecues. There were only three months of "cool" winter and houses had no heating.

Black people had to have a pass to come into Johannesburg and there were separate buses for blacks and whites. Samantha remembers complaining to her mother that the buses for blacks were more frequent and she didn't see why they couldn't get on one. Gold, steel, diamonds, wheat, corn, citrus fruit and beer were all produced reasonably close to her home.

Samantha attended a co-ed primary school and enjoyed Sunday School. Once a month, she attended the regular very high Anglican service and found it very boring. When she was fourteen, she was confirmed and gave her life to the Lord. When 18, she was an active member of a Baptist Church Youth Group called "Salt".

She attended a Girls' Anglican High School, where she played squash, tennis and field hockey as well as enjoying diving. She wore school uniform and she feels that she led an innocent, sheltered life where there was respect for authority and elders. Her favourite subjects at school were art and biology and she always wanted to work in an operating room as a surgeon. Interior design was her other love, but she decided that nursing was a career that mixed more easily with travelling. She enjoyed school, had lots of friends and saw herself as being married with children by 23.

She couldn't wait to leave home at 18 and had a blast in nursing residence. During that time she tried parachuting, but unfortunately she broke her ankle on the second jump which put an end to her new hobby. She completed her nursing courses, worked for a year in an operating room in general surgery, and then went backpacking alone in Europe for a year, via Israel, Turkey and Egypt. She stayed mainly in Youth Hostels, joining up with groups from time to time, but also remembers sleeping on beaches and in train stations. She worked on a boat for six weeks with a one-legged seventy-six year old man, travelling around the South Coast of France. She pruned peach blossoms in Israel and spent Easter in Jerusalem, attending a service in the Garden of Gethsemane.

At the end of her year's travelling, she returned to Johannesburg and the operating room, where she discovered her passion for ophthalmology. An eye surgeon encouraged her to study at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, England and she spent seven years studying and working there. It took two years for her to get used to the weather and lifestyle in England – the greyness, the underground, the long commute to work and pub life, including British beer. She enjoyed London heritage and theatre and the opportunity to get to know her grandparents and other members of the family.

Five years later she was at a crossroads and went to Johannesburg for a month to think things through and decide how to spend her life. Alone in her parents' kitchen, she heard God calling her three times. Her mother suggested she read Samuel and go back to church. She had been considering going to nurse in Riyadh where the pay was very good, but now a priest she consulted suggested that she needed to be in a Christian place.

She returned to London and attended a Newcomers' Evening at All Souls Church, Langham Place, where she met Richard, who had recently arrived from Vancouver. It was love at first sight – they were engaged in a few weeks and married ten months later in 1999 at St. Mark's, Clapham. Richard had been transferred to London by Ernst and Young for two years. In 1999 they came to Vancouver and settled in the West End and then in April, 2003, they moved to their present house in North Vancouver. Samantha worked at Vancouver General Hospital Eye Care Centre, specializing in eye surgery.

They looked for a church that did not embrace homosexuality and chose St. Martin's. Not long afterwards, it was an easy decision for them to move out with the group that became St. Timothy's. During the time of Monday night services in St. Andrew's and St. Stephen's, Sam was doing some listening prayer and God pressed upon her heart to start a Prayer Ministry after the service. Her immediate reaction was, "Not me!" but when the Holy Spirit had suggested some helpers, she decided to forge ahead and has focused more and more on prayer. At the same time, Audrey Haigh suggested weekly prayer meetings.

Sam and Richard had battled with infertility for a number of years and were very grateful for the support of the Moffett Bible Study Group and God's faithfulness. They were shown that adoption was the way they would get children and the doors were flung open. In 2004, they adopted two beautiful, wonderful, well-behaved, loving children. As Samantha says, "Only God could have picked them!" She is really enjoying being a Mum and has never been happier. She has just started working part-time in a private eye surgery clinic.

St. Timothy's is blessed by the presence and energy of this young family. Grace and James have many local "grandparents", who delight in seeing their happy faces in church each Sunday.

*Florence Wilton*

### **2005 Christmas Postage Stamps**

Canada Post has issued postage stamps depicting "The Nativity" this Christmas. There are three different stamps with The Nativity, one each for Canadian, USA and International letters. The pictures of exquisitely crafted crèches are from the collection at St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal.

We encourage you to ask for them when you purchase stamps this Christmas Season. Please ask for the "Nativity Scene" as there is also a stamp with a "Snowman" on it. If we fail to do it this year they will tell us next year that there was not enough demand for them to issue these stamps again. A thank you to Canada Post for issuing these stamps would be a good thing as well, and remember to wish them a "Merry Christmas".

*John and Joy Hopkins*

Eric and Margaret Radford send their thanks for all our prayers. Margaret is now home from hospital, but is still extremely weak. She is using a walker and will be having a helper come in every day as well as visits by a rehab lady and a physiotherapist. Their e-mail address is [ermarg@shaw.ca](mailto:ermarg@shaw.ca).

**Friday, Dec. 16, 6pm St. Timothy's Christmas Party**  
**at Paul and Lois Carter's**  
**1655 West 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Vancouver.**  
**Mark the date on your calendar now**  
**and sign up after church on Sunday.**

## Silent Night

Twenty-six year old Father Joseph Mohr, assistant priest at the newly erected Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, in the Austrian Alps, was far from happy when his organist friend, Franz Gruber, told him that the pipe organ could not be used for the special Christmas Eve Mass in 1818. Although he trained the choir and played the organ at Arnsdorf as well as Oberndorf, thirty-one year old Gruber had neither the talent nor the time to repair broken connections, restore shattered pipes or replace worn-out bellows. While Father Mohr was not desperate, he was a bit peeved at the prospect of Midnight Mass without the traditional organ. To relieve his tension, he bundled himself up in his warmest winter clothes and went visiting among his humble people. Shortly after arriving at the home of one of his faithful families, a new baby was born to the poor labourer and his wife. The pastor compared that event with the birth of the Christ Child centuries earlier, and, upon arriving home a few hours later, conquered his fatigue and weariness long enough to pen four simple stanzas describing the wonder and majesty of the first Christmas. They started with these beautiful lines:

Silent night, Holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child, Holy Infant so tender and mild;  
Sleep in heavenly peace! Sleep in heavenly peace!

When Gruber burst into the room a few minutes later with the news that the organ was hopelessly beyond repair, Father Mohr handed him the slip of paper on which he had written the new stanzas. While the choirmaster read them, the priest picked up a guitar and handed it to him, saying, "If we can't have the organ, at least we can have a new song. Try your hand at this." The more Gruber protested, the more Mohr insisted. To quiet his friend, Gruber strummed a few simple chords on the guitar, and was soon humming an original melody that seemed to express the sentiments of the poem perfectly. At midnight, the new carol was sung for the first time.

It might have remained there at Oberndorf had not Karl Maraucher come from the valley of the Zillertal to repair the organ early in 1819. Mohr asked Gruber to play the new carol for the famous organ builder and repair man, when the job was finally completed, and Maraucher fell in love with it right away. About ten years later, he felt the four gifted Strasser children, Caroline, Joseph, Andreas and Amilie, were just the ones to give the new song to the world. They renamed the carol, "The Song from Heaven" and sang it wherever they went.

On Christmas Eve, 1832, they were invited to introduce it in the Royal Saxon Court Chapel in Pleissenburg Castle for the King and Queen of Saxony. The Director General of Music, Mr Pohlenz, had heard the children singing at one of the great fairs in Leipzig where their parents went every year to sell their famous gloves. The unusual music had created an immediate sensation, the word spreading rapidly that, "the four Strasser children sing like nightingales". It was at his request that the four were invited to sing for the royal family at the special Christmas Eve celebration. Shortly thereafter, "Silent Night" took its rightful place among the most beautiful Christmas carols of the Christian world, and the passing of time has only added to its lustre.

Taken from *Living Stories of Famous Hymns* by Ernest K Emurian

## "The 12 Days of Christmas"

### ~ Origins and Religious Meaning ~

(Caveat: There is a controversy disputing the authenticity of this interpretation)

"The 12 Days of Christmas" is in a sense an allegory. Each of the items in the song represents something significant to the teachings of the Catholic faith. The hidden meaning of each gift was designed to help Catholic children learn their faith. The better acquainted one is with the Bible, the more these interpretations have significance.

**The song goes,** "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me..."

The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, but it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. i.e. the Church.

**1st Day:** The partridge in a pear tree is Christ Jesus upon the Cross. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge because she would feign injury to decoy a predator away from her nestlings. She was even willing to die for them.

The tree is the symbol of the fall of the human race through the sin of Adam and Eve. It is also the symbol of its redemption by Jesus Christ on the tree of the Cross.

**2nd Day:** The "two turtle doves" refers to the Old and New Testaments.

**3rd Day:** The "three French hens" stand for faith, hope and love—the three gifts of the Spirit that abide (1 Corinthians 13).

**4th Day:** The "four calling birds" refers to the four evangelists who wrote the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.

**5th Day:** The "five golden rings" represents the first five books of the Bible, also called the Jewish Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

**6th Day:** The "six geese a-laying" is the six days of creation.

**7th Day:** The "seven swans a-swimming" refers to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

- 8th Day:** The "eight maids a milking " reminded children of the eight beatitudes listed in the Sermon on the Mount.
- 9th Day:** The "nine ladies dancing" were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.
- 10th Day:** The "ten lords a-leaping" represents the Ten Commandments
- 11th Day:** The "eleven pipers piping" refers to the eleven faithful apostles.
- 12th Day:** The 'twelve drummers drumming" were the twelve points of belief expressed in the Apostles' Creed: belief in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, that Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary, made man, crucified, died and arose on the third day, that he sits at the right hand of the father and will come again, the resurrection of the dead and life everlasting.

So the next time you hear "the Twelve Days of Christmas" consider how this otherwise non-religious sounding song had its origins in keeping alive the teaching of the Catholic faith.

*adapted from email messages, from "How To Decode the Twelve Days of Christmas," by  
Hugh D. McKellar, 12/1979*

*Submitted by Samantha MacDonald*

## **St. Timothy's Christmas Services**

**This is an excellent time to invite family, friends and neighbours to join in our services.**

**Saturday, December 24, 4 p.m. Children's Nativity Service.**

**Saturday, December 24, 9 p.m. Holy Communion.**

**Sunday, December 25, 10 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Simon's (at Lion's Gate Christian Academy, 420 Seymour River Place, Maplewood, North Vancouver, near Maplewood Farm).**

**Sunday, January 1, 10 a.m. Matins**

## On a Lighter Note.....

### Children's Unique Perspective

As soon as our children were old enough they took turns praying before we ate. Our rule was that they couldn't just thank God for the food, but had to pray for at least one other thing. When it was our 3 year old daughter's turn one evening, she prayed sincerely, "Dear Jesus, thank you for the doors in our house so we don't have to climb through the windows to get out".

The Texas Bible Institute Drama Team visited our church and stayed with members of our congregation. My six year old daughter, Torey, and I went to the church to pick up the two students staying with us. The youth director of their group complimented my daughter on the beautiful blonde hair God had given her. She looked up at him with her big blue eyes and said, "I know, but my mom gets hers at Wal-mart.

### Hymn Titles chosen to fit

The first lines of some hymns are often well suited to certain people, as the following show:

Dentists – Crown him with many crowns

Dry Cleaners – O for a faith that will not shrink

Contractors – The church's one foundation

Obstetricians – Go labour on

Golfers – There is a green hill far away

Politicians – Standing on the promises

Librarians – Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Geologists – Rock of ages

Sailors – Will your anchor hold

Painters – All things bright and beautiful

Innkeepers – Abide with me.

### Happiness – A Chinese Proverb

If you want happiness for an hour – take a nap.

If you want happiness for a day – go fishing.

If you want happiness for a year – inherit a fortune.

If you want happiness for a lifetime – help somebody.

*Submitted by Joan Buss*

## From Day to Day at St. Timothy's

### Altar Guild

It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of Erica Barrett who passed away on October 27, 2005. She was a devout Christian and very dedicated to St. Timothy's as she was one of the founding members of the Altar Guild. Previously she had been a member of St. Martin's Church for many years. Her presence will be greatly missed by all of us. It is good to know that she is resting in peace with our Lord and Saviour.

Lois Knight

### Coffee Hour

My thanks go to all the coffee conveners, all the goody providers and all those who make a contribution in the jar. Your efforts and generosity ensure great refreshments each week after the service and a float that covers expenses and allows us to help with refreshments on special occasions.

Special thanks go to everyone who volunteered to help with the preparation for the reception following the Memorial Service for Erica Barrett. Thank you also to everyone who provided goodies and helped with the refreshments. The Barrett family ordered the delicious sandwiches, fruit and veggie platters from Tommy's Catering.

**Please contact me if you would like to join a Coffee Team (on duty once every five weeks) or help as a spare.**

*Hazel Blacoe*

### Pastoral Care Team

St. Timothy's Pastoral Care Team's mission is to maintain continuity between our church and shut-in parishioners. It is in its infancy of visitation to those in need. The group will meet every few months to discuss and co-ordinate visitations, grow in knowledge and skills and plan for possible future social events. We are very glad to have Paul Carter's ongoing support and guidance. Dedicated team members are: Ken Bell, Hazel Blacoe, Corinne Burns; Audrey Haigh; Margery Jacklin; Lois Knight; Kathleen Stewart; Myrna Teskey (Coordinator); Ursula Vondette and Florence Wilton. Please contact me if you are aware of anyone who would benefit from a visit or phone call.

*Myrna Teskey*

### **St. Timothy's Ladies' Group**

We continue to meet every 2nd Monday of each month to organize our fundraising and social events. We enjoyed having a craft table at the Parkgate Community Centre Craft Fair. Thank you to Lois Knight and all of her volunteers.

Our next craft fair is at the Delbrook Rec. Centre on Saturday, December 3rd, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All of the money raised at these events is designated to various outreach projects. Hope to see you there.

The latest social evening was held on November 18th at the Capilano Heights Chinese Restaurant. A total of 30 people enjoyed a great meal and 20 opted to finish the night with cheese & port at the Tauntons' home.

Please join us at our next meeting: 12:30 p.m. December 12th at the Haighs' home, # 604-980-7809. We will be having a Christmas luncheon, a short meeting and some fun Christmas activities.

*Linda Taunton*

### **St. Timothy's Library**

Thank you to several parishioners for donations of many books over the past few months. I will be working to have them ready for borrowing in the near future. There are several RBC Ministries Publication booklets that are available without cost or for a small donation to the Church library. A selection of Christmas books will be out for borrowing now and throughout the "12 Days of Christmas". Check out the Church Library. Good reading!

*Monica Craver*

### **Sunday School**

The Sunday School is busy getting ready to celebrate Advent. This year the children will be making a Jesse tree which comes from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots." Each week, the children will be decorating "ornaments" that represent Old Testament events from Creation to the Birth of Jesus. We hope to share this tree with the congregation on December 24.

We still have two active classes: one for the preschoolers to early elementary and one for Grades Two to Five. After much thought, we have decided to go back to using the David C. Cook curriculum for the next session. The lessons for this coming term are about Jesus, using stories from Deuteronomy, Matthew, Mark, Luke and Acts for the younger children and Matthew, Luke, Acts, Romans, Ephesians, Philippians, 2 Timothy and 1 John for the older class.

**All children are welcome as are any adults who wish to teach a few lessons.**

*Audrey Haigh and Carolyn Edwards*

## Youth Group

Despite our busy schedule, we were able to have a one-day retreat on Remembrance Day. Although there were only five of us, we had a great time cooking, eating and studying the Bible together.

In December, we are going to have a variety of activities. Here is our group's upcoming schedule:

December 3 & 10 – Service project with Harvest Project

December 16/17 – Sleepover party at Ryan's house

December 29 – Ice skating

If you are interested in joining any one of these gatherings, please contact Rita at rita\_wang\_@hotmail.com or the phone number below.

*Rita Seiki*

## Editors' Message

Our thanks go to all contributors and to those who help distribute the newsletters to fellow members and others. Special thanks go to Hazel Blacoe who staples all the newsletters and to Muriel Newton who helps address the envelopes for the copies we need to mail. **The next newsletter deadline is February 26, 2006, so please be on the lookout for a prayer, an item of news or anything you think would be of interest to your fellow members.**

*Matthew Vondette and Florence Wilton*

**Amendments and Additions to St. Timothy's Church Directory, June, 2005** If you are aware of any changes, please contact Matthew Vondette

**The Altar Guild will be decorating the church for the services on December 24. Your donations towards poinsettias would be much appreciated. Contact Joan Buss.**

## Calendar Highlights

**Monday, Nov. 28, 1.30pm** Prayer Meeting at Samantha MacDonald's.

**Wednesday, Nov. 30, 6.30pm** Alpha Meeting at the Haigh's.

**Saturday, Dec. 3, 10am-4pm** Craft Fair at Delbrook Centre.

**Thursday, Dec. 8, 7.15pm** Church Council Meeting at the Haighs'

**Friday, Dec, 16, 6pm** Christmas Party at the Carters'

**Sunday, Dec. 18, 10am** Lessons/Carols, Sunday School Presentation.

**Saturday, Dec. 24, 4pm** Children's Nativity Service.

**Saturday, Dec. 24, 9pm** Holy Communion.

**Sunday, Dec. 25, 10am** Service at St. Simon's.

**Thursday, Jan. 12, 2-4pm** Baby Shower for Ethan at the Haighs'.