



St. Timothy's Gazette DECEMBER 2008

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. Ken Bell

“Joy to the world! The Lord is come”

It does not require a lot of effort to get dejected or depressed right now. It seems the news media is fighting it out to see who can put the worst spin on all the bad news. Greed, envy and gluttony by bankers, investors and consumers alike have led to serious global economic problems. Add to the mix fear and panic and the future looks even worse. Companies, banks and retailers are slowing down or going out of business faster than the doomsday newscasters can come up with new adjectives to describe the crisis.

No credit available, bankruptcies up, unemployment up, housing prices down, stock market down, commodity prices and consumer confidence falling and it all adds up to a real mess. And despite what the calendar tells us, it is not ‘Beginning to feel a lot like Christmas’. Or is it?

I find it interesting, that at least in the northern hemisphere, we celebrate the day of greatest hope and joy, smack in the middle of the darkest and coldest days of the year. Just when we need the light the most, we celebrate the day that the light of the world became incarnate in human flesh and dwelt among us.

And so it seems appropriate in the midst of this current global difficulty, when pessimistic forecasts rule the day, that we would prepare ourselves to celebrate with great Joy the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. When the consequence of our sinfulness comes home to roost, the only way out of the darkness and suffering is to look for Joy and Hope. For Joy is birthed out of sorrow and long suffering.

*And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 51:11*

Joy is a gift of God. Joy lifts us up out of the muck and the mire.

“Joy to the world the Lord is come, let earth receive her king. Let every heart prepare him room.”

Our theme for this Advent and Christmas season is **JOY**:

- **JOY** unexpected, which came to Zechariah and Elizabeth, full of faith but too old for Joy, *“How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.”*

- Making room for **JOY** as Mary and Elizabeth did, *“Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”*

- **JOY** beyond compare as Mary experienced it, *“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.”*

-**JOY** out of obedience as Joseph experienced, "*When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.*"

-**JOY** as both immanent and transcendent, "*But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.'*"

-**JOY** from waiting, watching and desire as exemplified by Anna and Simeon,

*"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all people,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."*

-and finally **JOY** in finding what you are looking for as the Wise Men taught us, "*When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.*"

In the midst of all the bad news that is bombarding us, let us not fall into sin, but let us rejoice in the God of our Salvation.

*Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favour is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning. Psalm 30: 4-5*

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

Please join us this season as we rejoice together and celebrate the birth of the Saviour of the World.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

ken bell+

Common Cause Update

Events continue to unfold and move forward at what is lightening pace for the church, though there is not much new information since my September update. Last week I attended a Pacific Coast Common Cause Clergy retreat at Cedar Springs. About 16 clergy from various jurisdictions participated. The format was that of a prayer summit. A facilitator helped us get started, and then we spent most of the time praying, singing and reading scripture (about 2 hours at a time). Each day ended with communion being celebrated by one of the three bishops in attendance.

As for the national and international scene, please take time to pray December 3-5. The Common Cause leaders and bishops are meeting in Chicago December 3-4. They will be discussing what a new North American Province might look like and how it would function and be structured. On December 5, the GAFCON Archbishops will be meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury to discuss the various events and issues, looking for a way forward.

Please pray for our leaders and bishops as they seek God's heart for the future of his Anglican Church in North America.

Book Reviews for Advent

Advent is a great time to begin the practice (or restart the practice) of daily readings and devotions. There are a lot of very good Advent devotional reading guides available. Just head down to Sign of the Fish and ask for one. Take time to read a few of the studies before you take it home though. What one person might find wonderful and inspirational another might find a waste of time.

With that in mind I do want to take time to make three recommendations to you.

Preparing for Jesus by Walter Wangerin Jr. This book contains 36 devotions guiding you through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. I have read this book for years and keep coming back to it for the simple way Wangerin brings the story and the characters to life in a way which compels me to enter in.

God with Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Christmas edited by Greg Pennoyer and Gregory Wolfe. This is a beautifully illustrated book with writings and reflections from the likes of Eugene Peterson, Luci Shaw, Richard John Neuhaus and Kathleen Norris. They combine narrative, poetry, art and history to create a true treasure. It begins with the first Sunday of Advent and carries you through to Epiphany. This was my treasured find last year. The only challenge will be finding copies of it as most sellers cannot keep it in stock (Sign of the Fish did have some this week).

Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas. This book too is a compilation work with writings from C.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton, Philip Yancey, Henri Nouwen, Dorothy Day, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and many others. The writing is both fantastic and challenging. Readings begin November 24 and go through to January 7th. This selection is my new one for 2008.

Your servant,
ken bell+

Wardens' Update – December 2008

The parish has been busy socially and ecclesiastically since the last newsletter. We held a Garage Sale in September, our annual Harvest Supper in October, and craft sales in November. We celebrated Baptisms and the Ordination Service of our intern the Rev. Andy Withrow. Our small groups started meeting again after the summer vacation and these are a wonderful way to interact with and grow within your church community. Just ask John Collings or Ursula Vondette. Church Council has met each month and in October council and staff met for a retreat focused on Servant Leadership. This year we celebrated All Saints Day with our first High Mass complete with incense and bells – a beautiful service. We have been encouraged by +Ken to participate in 40 days of Prayer and Fasting up to the end of November, contemplating why St. Timothy's exists and what we are called to be in our community. We have been and continue to be an active church!

The website (<http://www.st-timothy.com>) has been updated with pictures from the Fourth Annual Barbecue (held after our service on 22 June – and the weather was terrible, so we held it inside- again!). Also the pictures from the Mexico trip and a short report on it have been added to the site.

Have you noticed our new logo created by Lucy Collings which now adorns our weekly service sheet? It is also used on our letterhead and an advertising poster. We have increased our services at Churchill house to twice each month thanks to +Ken, Angela our Music Director, and a few members of our congregation. We shall be celebrating a Christmas Service there for the residents who are unable to attend our services in Lynn Valley. In January our Grow Group, under Sarah Lucas, plans to start a weekly Bible Study there for anyone interested. Just after Christmas, our "church" at Lynn Valley is having the floors redone, so for two weeks we will be meeting at Churchill House for our Sunday services. Our relationship with Churchill House is developing. We consider this outreach as a possible "second altar" for St Timothy's. There is additional potential for us as a congregation, to extend our services to others on the North Shore with "additional altars". Perhaps this is the way we are being led to expand our faith to those on the North Shore in keeping with our Mission statement. Look to our upcoming budget for a budget item to finance these "additional altars" as opportunity arises.

On Sunday 23 November, we presented our potential 2009 budget which reflects our costs for operating St Timothy's and expanding our activities based on input from our 5 "G" groups – Go, Gather, Glorify, Grow and Give. Your reaction to council's proposal will allow us to firm up the budget to be presented at our AGM in February. The actual budget will be based entirely on the pledges we receive from the congregation. As a church we are blessed with a congregation that tithes or are working up to a tithe. We have been blessed with financial income that has exceeded our budget and our pledges every year. The financial input has been remarkable considering our numbers and in comparison with other church congregations. In addition the congregation's contribution of a high level of time and talent continues to be amazing. It only proves out the adage (paraphrased) – "Where your treasure is, there is your heart also".

We encourage any congregants who presently do not tithe to consider doing so, or start working in that direction. Part of the value of tithing is that, with a higher financial commitment, we are more likely to make our Christian journey a higher priority in our daily lives - to the benefit of our souls, our families and to all we come in contact with.

May the holy spirit that is at work within St Timothy's continue to bless us all as we continue to focus on our Vision – to be a nurturing, biblically-based community growing Christ's kingdom.

Respectfully submitted

Peter and Ron (*Peter Haigh and Ron Barrett*)

The Bell's Family Elixir

Feeling the effects of a cold? Try this to make you feel better:

Water (we make 4 litres at a time)

Thinly sliced ginger (4-5 inches or more)

Cayenne Pepper (1/4-1/2 tsp)

2-3 Sliced Lemons

Honey

Fill a large pot with water. Add sliced ginger and cayenne (whatever you can handle). Bring to boil and let simmer for 20-30 minutes. Add lemon and simmer for about 10 minutes (until lemon is soft). Use a big spoon or ladle to squeeze out most of the juice from the lemons. Then strain out lemon and ginger.

Drink it hot and add a tablespoon or so of honey to your cup. Elixir lasts in the fridge several days. Drink as needed, especially before bed.

Why it works:

Water=fluids; Ginger=immune boost; Cayenne=clear nasal passages; Lemon=vitamin C;

Honey=soothed throat

St Timothy's Christmas Party

Friday, December 5, 6.30pm at the Lodge at Laura Lynn
(Hendecourt at Sykes)

Baked Ham, salads, vegetable casseroles and desserts!
Please sign up on the sheet provided, showing the number in your group and what you plan to bring (food or a cash donation towards the costs).
Friends, family and neighbours are all welcome!

Reports from our "G"s

Go Report

THE EVOLUTION OF ST. TIMOTHY'S NEW LOGO

In the spring of this year, I offered to take on the job of producing a new Logo under Ken's guidance. I met with him at his office and he outlined what he was looking for and while he was talking, I sketched out some ideas. I then produced four free-hand options which John took to the following Council meeting. They unanimously chose one of the four designs. It was also my preference - they did well!

Craig Kincaid-Smith offered the services of a Graphic-Designer friend who converted the free-hand logo into a digital form. And that is now our new Logo.



The significance of the Logo design:

The circle represents the Global Anglican Church.

The cross is the shape of our cross made by Gordon Barrett.

The mountains are, of course, The Lions, and represent our location on the North Shore.

The waves represent the sea which also defines the North Shore.

The waves also represent the Holy Spirit going out into the community.

And, finally, the waves are the same shape as the logo of the ACiC and so connect us to them.

All that in one little logo!

Lucy Collings

Gather Report

The first social function of St. Timothy's fall season was the potluck **Harvest Supper** which was held at Sutherland Church on Friday, October 10 and attended by forty-eight people. Special thanks go to Audrey for co-ordinating the evening. The supper was made possible by the many people who brought food, helped with the set-up, assisted in the kitchen and those who helped clean up afterwards. Peter did a wonderful job carving the 12 kg ham! After supper, Audrey had us put on our "thinking caps" with a quiz about Canada that included some rather unusual questions!

Preparations are now underway for our **Christmas Party** which will be held on Friday, December 5th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lodge at Laura Lynn. Plan to attend to enjoy the fellowship, the food and the carol singing!

Looking ahead to the New Year, **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** will be held on Tuesday, February 24th. Mark this date on your calendar!

If anyone in our church is in need of assistance as they go through difficult times, please feel free to contact Myrna who heads our **Pastoral Care Team**. This group of ladies does a wonderful job of reaching out and supporting others.

We continue to enjoy **Coffee Hour** after each Sunday service. Thanks go to Hazel for overseeing this and to all who help by serving us refreshments. A special thank-you goes to those who provide us with goodies.

After many years of editing the **Newsletter**, Florence will be stepping down at the end of this year. We thank her for the patience and forbearance she has demonstrated as she has gathered the reports and articles for each newsletter. Peter Haigh will be taking over the Newsletter as of January 2009. Welcome aboard, Peter!

For the past five years, Linda has led the **Ladies' Group** in their many social and fundraising activities. At the beginning of next year, Audrey will be taking on those responsibilities as Linda takes a well deserved break. We would like to thank Linda for all she has done for the Ladies' Group and for the St. Timothy's family. Please see Linda's final Ladies' Group Report below.

Daphne Martin

Ladies' Group

We continue to have a strong, dedicated group of women working to raise money in order to help improve the lives of others locally and within our worldwide community.

We have organized two successful craft sales at AMICA on Nov. 15 and at Churchill House on Nov. 22 as well as an after-church sale on November 23. We are fortunate to have such talented crafters, especially Ursula Vondette and Joy Hopkins.

Any money raised from our sales is always donated. Organizations such as the Harvest Project, North Shore Youth Safe House, Lions Gate Hospital, A ROCHA, North Shore

Homeless Shelter and Rwanda are some of the areas that have benefited from our efforts. The Ladies' Group also continues to support the Kids for Kids program by sponsoring two secondary students in Rwanda and a third student will also benefit this year through the funds raised from Joy Hopkins' card making group. The Kids for Kids will present a fund-raising production of *Miracle in Rwanda* in Sechelt on February 19, 20 and 21. Tickets: Adults - \$30. See Linda if you are interested in getting more information.

Thanks to the efforts of Vera McLoughlin, we have been able to arrange to have our regular monthly meetings held at Churchill House. We enjoyed having guest speakers at our meetings during the past three months. In September, Judy Friesen told us about the Power to Change Ministry, in October, Andrea Nader shared her passionate stories about Mexican & Haitian Mission trips and in November, we welcomed Nick Parker from Missions to Seafarers. Thanks go to all who donated articles for the mission. Our last meeting of the year will be our Christmas Luncheon on December 8th at Churchill House.

Please welcome our new President of the Ladies' Group for 2009 - Audrey Haigh. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the President during the past five years. Your support has been greatly appreciated!

Linda Taunton

Report from the Retiring Editor

What mixed emotions I have, getting this last newsletter into print! My first newsletter (overseen by Angela Thacker) was in 1998 and it almost seems like ancient history. Ninety per cent of the articles came in handwriting and there was a very tricky (for me) cut and paste to achieve the newsletter format. In 2008, almost all articles come in by e-mail and Matthew gets the final version of the newsletter electronically from the computer to the printer. He even prints on the addresses and clicks in the photographs. Another major change is that in 1998 the newsletter (at St. Martin's) focussed entirely on the parish. Not too long after that, the diocese and global Anglicism became an important part of the content.

When the articles are assembled and the print in its final shape, other processes begin. Hazel Blacoe's help with stapling has been much appreciated as has Muriel Newton's and now Martha Wright's mailing out of the fifty or so copies that go to interested people outside our church.

It has been a challenging and exciting privilege over the years – an ongoing, mainly pleasure-filled, learning experience and I thank you for the opportunity and your contributions and encouragement. Matthew Vondette's reliable, good-humored technical wizardry will continue: I could not have done it without Matthew's assistance. I am sure Peter Haigh's new brush will bring us much information and pleasure starting with the next issue of our *Gazette* after the Annual General Meeting in February.

Florence Wilton

P.S. Preparing the weekly Service Leaflet is going to continue keeping me on my toes!

Grow Report

GROW: to become more like Jesus Christ

NURSERY & SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sonya Bell reports:

The Sunday School has just finished studying the book of Daniel. We learned about entering into Babylon, the fiery furnace, and the lions' den. Recurring themes were the Kings wanting to be worshipped and the devotion of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego only to God. You may have noticed quiet lions entering communion but they were all ferocious in class.

Now we are learning about the Christmas story. We will be learning about God's love for us through Jesus. We will ask how we respond to Jesus' birth. Will it be praising like the angels, bringing our gifts like the magi, or worshipping like the shepherds.

We always welcome and are willing to train new people who wish to share their gifts and the love of Jesus with the youngest members of our church. If you would like to help, please talk to Sonya Bell. Have a Merry Christmas.

YOUTH:

The following report was submitted by Eric Park, Director of the Youth Ministry:

The beginning part of our year has been a lot of fun. Since September we have seen some new faces. It is encouraging seeing the younger generation entering into our youth group. It makes for some exciting and energetic times. I am really looking forward to seeing our Junior Youth grow.

We have been meeting on a Friday night, which allows us to go later if we are in discussion. We have been working through a series called "*What's so bad about sin anyways?*" which has nine discussions on sin. It deals with temptation, how sin leads into more sin, regrets and burdens. In the last two months I have had many quality discussions in the group meeting and after it has finished that have been birthed from these topics. I am always encouraged by the willingness to discuss these topics as well as personal stories that all the youth bring to the table.

In the last couple of months, our main events have taken us to the corn maze, bowling, and laser tag with Sutherland church. It makes for a great evening as there are often 25-30 people who show up for these events.

I look forward to Christmas and the New Year, and I hope to bring new growth into the lives of the youth of St. Timothy's. Once again I thank you for your support and encouragement. As a growing youth group we are always looking to grow both in the youth and with leaders. If there is anyone who has youth ministry on their heart, I encourage you to talk to me, as I would love to see new leaders getting involved and opening their lives up to the youth.

ST. TIMOTHY'S LIBRARY:

Monica Craver reports:

The Church Library has added a small collection of DVD films, "***The Bible Series***". It consists of four films:

GENESIS – The Creation and the Flood: The story begins with the creation of Man and Woman, the sin committed by Adam and Eve, and the temptation by the snake, which led to their banishment from Paradise. The story continues with the first crime committed by mankind, Cain's murder of his brother, the condemnation of God, mankind's corruption and evil, and God's regret for having created earth. The choice of Noah, a just and upright man, to build the Ark, the flood and its clearing the way for a new mankind, the pact of the eternal Covenant between God and all living beings, all are told through the clear and simple words of an old nomad shepherd.

ESTHER – Following the conquest of Babylon, the king of Persia gives a banquet for his people at which he requests the presence of his wife, Vashti. As she refuses the King's demand, Ahasuerus disowns Vashti and goes in search of her replacement. In his harem, he meets the young girl, Esther, who immediately captivates him with her charm and beauty. Unaware of her Jewish heritage, King Ahasuerus falls in love with Esther. Esther then reveals to Ahasuerus that she is Jewish and asks him to show her people mercy, because of a planned genocide of the Jews by the King's right hand man, Haman. In doing so, she saves the lives of many innocent people and paves the way for their return to Jerusalem.

JEREMIAH – Jeremiah tells the story of the prophet who abandons his family and the woman he loves in order to relay God's message in Jerusalem. Although he is persecuted and branded as a traitor for warning others of the destruction of the Holy City, he continues fearlessly with his mission. When his prophecy is fulfilled, he experiences first hand Jerusalem's destruction by the Babylonians.

SOLOMON - Having defeated his older brother, Solomon is crowned King of Israel and rules the land with love, peace and respect. While visiting the city, Solomon meets the beautiful Queen of Sheba and falls in love at first sight. When the time comes for her to return to her homeland, Solomon is unable to convince her to stay. Bereft of her beauty and companionship, he falls into a deep depression, departing from his once idyllic world of peace and luxury while his kingdom threatens to collapse.

The fifth film in the library's new Biblical Films collection, ***JESUS – The Greatest Story of All Time (2004)***, was originally produced as a television mini-series for CBS. This not only retells the biblical story, but takes a look at the more human side of Jesus. While the movie does stray from strict scripture – Jesus is shown feeling conflicted over his feelings for Lazarus's sister Mary; Satan works hard at convincing Jesus to stray from his path – most of the plot will be familiar to viewers. The life and times of Jesus of Nazareth, from His humble beginnings as a carpenter to His destiny as the son of God, are vividly retold in this epic movie event.

The biblically-based films and videos added to the Church Library complement the existing Church Film Ministry. More will be added over time for our church members to enjoy.

ST. TIMOTHY'S FILM MINISTRY:

Patricia Young reports:

A few new films for borrowing!

Batman Begins: You might ask yourself, "What is a Batman film doing in a church film collection?" But this excellent film is very relevant to our Christian faith as it explores topics such as justice, revenge and man's fall into sin. In *Batman Begins*, acclaimed director Christopher Nolan explores the origins of the legendary Dark Knight. In the wake of his parents' murders, disillusioned heir Bruce Wayne travels the world seeking the means to fight injustice and turn fear against those who prey on the fearful. With the help of his trusted butler Alfred, detective Jim Gordon and his ally Lucius Fox Wayne returns to Gotham City and unleashes his alter ego: Batman, a masked crusader who uses strength, intellect and an array of high-tech weaponry to fight the sinister forces that threaten the city. This film has a PG 13 rating.

Akeelah and the Bee: Akeelah Anderson is a bright eleven-year old with an extraordinary gift for words. Despite her mother's objections, and with the help of an outspoken professor, her aptitude lands her a spot in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, bringing together her entire community through courage and inspiration. This family friendly film opens discussion on topics such as using our talents, encouragement and perseverance.

Into The Wild: Based on the best selling book by John Krakauer, *Into the Wild*, this film is inspired by the true story of Chris McCandless, a young man who abandons his life of comfort to pursue the freedom of life on the road, a quest that leads him to the Alaskan wilderness and the ultimate challenge of his life. This film explores topics such as forgiveness, suicide and what is true happiness? This film is rated 14A.

Juno: Juno is a charming, quirky, and witty look into the life of a whip-smart 16-year-old girl who gets pregnant after a one-night stand with her boyfriend. And again you might ask yourself, "What is a film about teenage pregnancy doing in a church film collection?" But this excellent film explores some topics that are very relevant to our Christian faith, especially how we relate to today's society and its problems. The film of course provokes discussion about teenage pregnancy and abortion, but most importantly looks at forgiveness and showing grace in difficult situations. The film is rated PG13.

ADULT EDUCATION:

LiveWord Women's Conference Audrey Haigh and Sarah Lucas attended this annual conference at St. John's Shaughnessy on Saturday, October 18. This was an opportunity to meet women from different churches in BC and even from Alberta. Three excellent speakers challenged participants with their teaching from the Psalms (22, 23 and 24), inviting us to grow in our desire to feed more regularly on God's word. These talks were interspersed with inspirational music and worship, making it a day for us all to remember.

Small groups have continued to meet, with two breakfast groups on Tuesdays, two morning sessions on Tuesdays, an evening group meeting on Thursdays and with meetings scheduled as convenient on Wednesday evenings for participants of the *walkie/talkie* group. Groups will be winding up before Christmas. Please watch for new topics to be announced for meetings to begin in January. A new Bible Study is scheduled for 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays at Churchill House, commencing January 6, 2009. If you are interested in joining a small group, please let me know - everyone is welcome.

Small group leaders are reading “Transforming Discipleship” by Greg Ogden. They are now discussing questions, posed by Andy via e-mail, on issues the book raises, taking it one chapter per week. The group met in early November for more informal discussion and plans to meet again with Andy before Christmas.

Sarah Lucas

Moving Moments

I almost cried when Emily Barratt read the poem *In Flanders Fields* at St. Timothy's Remembrance Service. The poem was so much a part of my life when I was her age.

I would like to describe two other moving moments. The first was when Gordon and I visited Vimy ridge, Ypres and the still visible trenches. The Vimy Memorial was very moving to see. My father fought at both these places during the First World War. I have his diaries with the very vivid descriptions of the action taking place.

The second was when we were visiting friends in Ottawa and we went to Parliament Hill on July 1. Looking around me as we were singing *O Canada* I could see hundreds of people of all colours and races who had come out for this glorious occasion. As we sang I felt so proud of being Canadian.

I recommend that everyone should have these moving moments.

Joan Buss

A Blessed Advent and Christmas to all!
See the coloured enclosed flyer
with details of Christmas Services

Prayer Corner

Advent Prayer

Come, long-expected Jesus.

Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours.

Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus.

Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus.

Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy.

I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus.

Excite in me the joy and love and peace

it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord.

Raise in me, too,

sober reverence for the God who acted there,

hearty gratitude for the life begun there,

and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son.

I pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
whose advent I hail.

Amen

Prayer before opening presents

Lord and Giver of all good things, the magi travelled for miles to bring the Christ child the first Christmas presents. So may we, too, remember with thankful hearts the love that comes with each present we open. We also thank you for the love you have for each of us, and we thank you for the many gifts that you give us, especially the gift of life itself. Amen

(Both of the above taken off the internet)

The Power of Prayer

Many of you believe in the power of prayer and have come up for prayer after the service, added loved ones' names to the leaflet or brought names to the prayer team's attention.

Many of the prayers have been answered in more ways than you hoped. Our God works in mysterious ways and, fortunately for us, we can leave these prayers at His feet and trust in Him.

Unfortunately for many, they do not have that belief or trust. How frightened they must be when times are lonely or hard. Let us as Christians pray for the many that do not know Christ in this way, so that they too may fall at His feet and believe in the amazing gift and power of prayer.

Samantha Owen-MacDonald

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting (October 13-November 22)

During the 40 days of prayer and fasting, there were five different activities suggested. I would like to focus on Soup and Supplication, which was held for four Tuesday evenings at Sutherland Church. The assembled group of 6-10 participants spent about two hours together each meeting. The format varied as planned by Rev. Ken Bell, but always started with prayer, continued with the partaking of delicious soup and bread with juice or water, and ended with instruction and discussion concerning various types of prayer, based on *Prayer* by Richard Foster.

While all of the many types of prayer discussed were very meaningful, a few stand out in my memory. One is Simple Prayer (Luke 11:2-4). These prayers are short, direct and uncomplicated. We are praying as little children, saying exactly what is on our mind. Ursula Vondette had another name for them. In Sunday School at St. James, Vancouver, she learned about "arrow prayers" that you shoot up to heaven. It reminded me about being driven by a friend when the car skidded badly on a snow-slippery North Vancouver hill. Fortunately she regained control before a major mishap. I asked how she had done that, thinking of getting good driving tips. She said she'd sent up a prayer!

The next is Prayer of Relinquishment (Luke 22:39-46) in which we give everything over to God. Sometimes we focus on a worry or struggle, then we simply say, "Thy will be done". God does not obliterate our wills but transforms them.

Another is Prayer of Examen (Psalm 139:1, 23, 24). We ask God to search our hearts, to find where we are wanting and to heal us. One effective way of using this type of prayer is on awaking each morning to think through our commitments for the day and ask for God's help in behaving as Christ would in each circumstance. Similarly, at the end of the day, we can think through everything we have done, be aware where God was guiding us and where our selfishness prevented this. We thank him for his help and ask for his forgiveness where we blocked his assistance.

I encourage all to attend next year's sessions. Your mind and your heart will be opened. *Florence Wilton*

Parishioner Profile: Grady and Carly Buhler

Carly Buhler (née Ewens) was born in Lions Gate Hospital, the middle one of three daughters. Her father, a high school principal, and her mother, a primary teacher, still live on the North Shore. Carly had a very happy childhood and was a keen and successful student in French Immersion at Ross Road Elementary and then Argyle Secondary. Their mother took the three girls to St. Andrew's United Church, where Carly was baptized. However, as teenagers, Carly and her sisters sought a church with more youth activities and joined the North Shore Alliance Church, which her mother joined soon afterwards. Carly was baptized again in the Alliance Church since they baptize teenagers and adults rather than babies. At age 16, while in grade 11, Carly met Grady in the church youth group. At the start of grade 12, when they were just 17, they started dating. Now at the age of 26, Carly and Grady have been together for over nine years and married for five. They were married at the age of 21 on July 12, 2003 at North Shore Alliance Church. Grady's father officiated the ceremony, and it is a memory they will always treasure.

Another strong Christian presence in Carly's teen years was a summer camp in Maple Ridge called Timberline Ranch. She attended this camp from age 11 to 15, and she was a counsellor there from age 16 to 18. She loves horses and really appreciated that aspect of Timberline. She also found that at camp, Christianity was explained more clearly and she had time to think about her concerns and discuss them frankly. It was during her first summer there, at age 11, that she put her trust in Jesus.

After graduating from Argyle and Windsor, Carly and Grady attended Canadian Bible College in Regina for a year. Afterwards, they both returned to the Vancouver area and Carly continued her studies at S.F.U. where she earned a B.A. in French and English, and then a B.Ed. She was hired as a teacher at Argyle Secondary. She is now in her third year of teaching there, and has taught French Immersion, Core French, and English.

Grady was born in Calgary, but his family moved to Abbotsford when he was 2 years old and then to North Vancouver when he was in Grade 2. He is the eldest of three children; he has a younger brother and sister. His father was a Youth Pastor in Calgary and Abbotsford and then became the Senior Pastor of North Shore Alliance Church. His parents served at that church for many years, but recently moved to Cloverdale. His father is now the Senior Pastor of Pacific Community Church and his mother continues to be a stay-at-home wife. He attended Plymouth Elementary near Deep Cove, and then Windsor Secondary. As a youngster, he was very involved in church and was baptized when he was 14. When he was about 17 and was taking part in a church event, doing a parody of his father preaching a sermon, JJ of JJ Bean saw something in him. A short time later, he offered Grady a job. Grady accepted, started at the bottom, and has over the years worked his way up in the company.

After his year at Canadian Bible College in Regina and a stint of landscaping which he hated, Grady attended Capilano College, then S.F.U. where he earned a degree in the Humanities, concentrating on Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, especially Church History including Catholicism and early Christianity in the East and West. He considers himself Anglo-Catholic and enjoys sharing interests with Doug Haigh.

Both Grady and Carly enjoy spending time with family and friends. Carly's older sister who lives in Coquitlam has a son aged two. Carly loves playing with him and both she and Grady are very much looking forward to being parents – it's both exciting and scary! Carly's younger sister is studying in Providence, Rhode Island. Grady's brother is in a Mission Church in Madrid and his sister and brother-in-law live locally and attend St. John's Shaughnessy. We are continuing to pray for the recovery of Spencer, Grady and Carly's brother-in-law, who is battling leukaemia with chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant.

Last March, Grady and Carly went to Europe to check on some of the areas their families were from – Carly's ancestors are Dutch and British, with Grady's being Mennonite from the Ukraine and Germany. While in Europe, they spent time in Holland, Belgium, and France. They both enjoy travelling and hope to undertake many trips in the future.

In her spare time, Carly enjoys drama and reading, as well as outdoor pursuits like walking and running, although her running is put aside for the moment! Their baby is due on March 9 and she looks forward to a year away from teaching to care for him/her. Grady loves history, philosophy, theology, literature, and art and music – particularly renaissance and medieval. He has been manager of several JJ Bean stores, and at present he manages the very busy one on Main and 14th Street in Vancouver. He finds it an excellent company to work for – the owner is a Christian and runs the company in a fair, ethical way. They specialize in the best coffees and ensure that the coffee producers are fairly paid. He provides some coffee for our coffee hour, so after-service coffee drinkers will have sampled it. There is only one JJ Bean on the North Shore at Park & Tilford. Grady is very content for now, but has some dreams of more theological studies sometime in the future.

Grady and Carly are very happy at St. Timothy's because of the very warm welcome they received and the excitement of being in an orthodox and lively church. They find it a sort of spiritual middle way because it is both liturgical and evangelical. They began attending St. Timothy's in the summer of 2007. It was a delight to see them confirmed this summer, and they are gradually becoming involved in a variety of church activities. The All Saints' Day Service that Grady coordinated was much appreciated, and we hope for a solo again at Christmas. St. Timothy's is blessed through their strong faith and commitment.

Florence Wilton

Carpenter's Glasses

My mother's father worked as a carpenter. On this particular day, he was building some crates for the clothes his church was sending to orphanages in China. On his way home, he reached into his shirt pocket to find his glasses, but they were gone. When he mentally replayed his earlier actions, he realized what had happened; the glasses had slipped out of his pocket unnoticed and fallen into one of the crates, which he had nailed shut. His brand new glasses were heading for China!

The Great Depression was at its height and Grandpa had six children. He had spent \$20 for those glasses that very morning. He was upset by the thought of having to buy another pair. It's not fair, he told God as he drove home in frustration. I've been very faithful in giving of my time and money to your work, and now this.

Months later, the director of the orphanage was on furlough in the United States. He wanted to visit all the churches that supported him in China, so he came to speak one Sunday at my grandfather's small church in Chicago. The missionary began by thanking the people for their faithfulness in supporting him.

"But most of all", he said, "I must thank you for the glasses you sent last time. You see, the Communists had just swept through the orphanage, destroying everything, including my glasses. I was desperate. Even if I had the money, there was simply no way of replacing those glasses. Along with not being able to see well, I experienced headaches every day, so my co-workers and I were much in prayer about this. Then your crates arrived. When my staff removed the covers, they found a pair of glasses lying on top".

The missionary paused long enough to let his words sink in. Then, still gripped with the wonder of it all, he continued: "Folks, when I tried on the glasses, it was as though they had been custom made just for me! I want to thank you for being a part of that".

The people listened, happy for the miraculous glasses. But the missionary surely must have confused their church with another, they thought. There were no glasses on their list of items to be sent overseas. But sitting quietly in the back, with tears streaming down his face, an ordinary carpenter realized the Master Carpenter had used him in an extraordinary way.

There are times we want to blame God instead of thanking him! Perhaps we ought to try to thank Him more often. (Taken from the Internet)

Baptism Photos



Gerry Austin



Alea Nader