



St. Timothy's Gazette

DECEMBER 2007

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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An Advent Message from the Rev. Ken Bell

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light...

These words, written by the prophet Isaiah nearly 2700 years ago, have echoed a message of Hope throughout the ages. For generations they were words of Hope for an exiled people, a people living as strangers in a strange land, a place not their own. These people, the children of Israel, used to hold the land, they had a home, but through their own undoing, sin, rebellion, idolatry and injustice, they lost it all.

But they never lost Hope. Hope in a promise that was even more ancient. A Hope which rested with Yahweh, the great I AM. This Hope sustained them through times of oppression, suffering and persecution. This Hope gave them a light in the darkness, something to hold on to even in the most difficult of circumstances. Hope sustained their faith when all the evidence suggested they should abandon their faith in God for He seemed to have abandoned them.

For unto us a child is born...

It is a secret which only those who have experienced it first hand really know. No amount of explaining or describing can do this justice. Only a mother and father know of the Joy that comes from beholding and holding their child for the first time. There is no feeling or experience anywhere in life that can compete with that first eye contact parents have with their new born baby.

These words of Isaiah look forward to a Joy which words cannot express. It is a Joy that comes in the morning after a night time of sorrow. This Joy comes from the very heart of God the Father, our Abba. To us a Son is given, to us the Son of God is given as a gift. And not only is he given, but he is born, and enters the world as we all do. The first to behold the Joy of Abba was Mary and Joseph, then the shepherds, the Magi and on it went.

Today this Joy is still experienced first hand by all who choose to behold the Babe of Bethlehem. It is a Joy that no amount of explaining or describing can do justice to. It must be experienced. This is the Joy of knowing Jesus, by looking into his eyes and the Joy of knowing that you are known by Yahweh for he has looked into yours.

To us a Son is given...

We give gifts for many reasons and on many occasions. We give to say thanks, we give as a sign of respect, we give to celebrate life, we give to celebrate marriage, we give to say I am sorry, we give to encourage, and we give at birthdays, Christmas and anniversaries. But the most fundamental reason we give, that which lies at the heart of giving, is Love. We give because we Love those who are receiving our gift and we give to say, "I Love you".

Our Christian faith teaches us that the greatest gift, the greatest expression of Love the world has ever known is the gift of Jesus Christ, God's only Son. It is great not only because it is a generous gift but because Yahweh knew this gift of Love would result in His greatest sorrow and grief as He would have to watch His only Son suffer and die upon the cross. This gift of life and Love would result in death and anguish. "In this is Love, not that we Loved God but that He Loved us and sent us His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10).

And His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace...

It seems no element of the Christmas message is more desired yet more elusive than that of Peace. The world has been seeking peace almost from the day the world began. Violence, conflict, bloodshed and hatred have painted the landscape of our history. There is an irony in that the Children of Israel have known more violence and hatred than perhaps any other nation or people on earth. Yet our Hope remains for Peace to come.

The Hebrew word for Peace, Shalom, is not just an absence of violence but conveys the idea of wholeness, completeness. The Prince of Peace then would be the one to usher in Shalom and would restore order to the world, make it whole, reform creation to the way it was supposed to be.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord...

This season offers to the world the things which it needs most. The things it always has needed and always will need until His coming again. In amongst the business of the season, the gifts, the food, the trees, the lights, the travel, the music, the parties, the decorations and the bills...remember that what God wants for us, His gift to us and to the whole world is Hope, Joy, Love and Peace.

From my family and me, may you have a truly beautiful and blessed Christmas filled with Hope, Joy, Love and Peace.

Merry Christmas!
Your Servant in Christ

Ken Bell+

Book reviews:

Just in time for your Christmas reading, I thought I would do a short review on two books I would like to recommend to you.

The first book is entitled "**The Shack**" by William Young. The book is at least part non-fiction and the other part is, well you will have to read it and judge for yourself (make sure to read the foreword). It tells the story of a father coming to terms with a horrible event in his and his family's life. The heart of the book takes place in "the Shack" where Mack has an encounter with God.

It is a challenging read, and I would say will cause some controversy, but it is well worth a look. It explores aspects of God such as the Trinity, how we relate to God and how he relates to us, and the issue of evil and suffering. It is not an easy read and while I had to put it down a few times to regain my composure, it kept me up very late so finish it.

The second book is **“Searching for God Knows What”** by Donald Miller. This book looks at how we might understand faith and God in a post modern world, where our story is no longer the dominant story. Miller talks about his own faith journey, the struggles he has had with church, other Christians, and his early understanding of God.

This book helps us understand and gain some insight into how to talk about God in our cultural context today. He also provides some very challenging observations about how we understand our relationship with God.

Now books are like movies, what one person finds funny or life changing another will turn off five minutes in wondering how anyone with half a brain would consider it entertainment or worthwhile. So just because I liked these books does not mean you will...but you might you never know.

Both these books are available at the Sign of the Fish Bookstore.

Ken Bell+ Senior Priest

Wardens' Update – December 2007

We live in interesting times.

There is an ancient Chinese curse, “May you live in interesting times.” Interesting times in history are times of famine, pestilence, war, floods; catastrophic and turbulent times. Noah’s flood, the exodus from Egypt, the exodus from Germany, genocide in Europe, Africa, the Balkans; world wars, international terrorism, terrible weapons of destruction in the hands of unstable regimes.

In these times of internet global communication, where truth can be reflected worldwide almost instantaneously, it seems odd that there could be so much fear and hatred. “The truth will set you free.” Like many famous phrases, this comes from the Bible, specifically John 8:32. Here Jesus is quoted as saying, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (NIV). In this world it is obvious the truth must overcome fear, hatred, false teachings, and lies. We have seen the results of fear, false teachings, and lies in our own church lives.

We held that the teachings and direction of the Diocese of New Westminster was not only at odds with traditional Anglicanism, but deviated enough from the Articles of Faith as to no longer be Anglicanism. We have held to the good and faithful path laid out to us despite the hardships and obstacles in our way. Always as we have needed, so have we been given provision.

Now in our time of transition from our church life of four years ago to wherever we are led, in thanksgiving we have started a tradition of double tithing our church income: firstly for the extension of God’s word, by supporting our sister churches and secondly by

extending Christian love as we see the need by giving our money and labour to causes that directly assist our fellow mankind. In addition, we must not forget that so far, all additional funds raised through our combined church group activities are also donated. We see this as very healthy for a church. That all our giving is voluntary and we give of what we corporately have off the top sets a healthy perspective for how we live our individual family lives. Even looking back over our short few years' existence, most of us cannot help but agree that we have been blessed as a congregation. What spiritual growth we have seen! What wonderful ministry we have enjoyed! In terms of reality, it is significant to note that churches still under the jurisdiction of the Anglican Church of Canada contribute as much as 28% of their income to the Diocese, and yet they are not growing. So in absolute terms of amount of giving, we may not actually give more, but we do our giving with enthusiasm and good will, and freely without coercion. What a liberating experience!

We have been studying how we must sow Christian virtues in ourselves, in our church, in our society, in our world; we must work at clearing the rocks from the soil, tend the pathways, clear the weeds and tend the garden even as Jesus sows in us. While some churches are shrinking and collections are drying up, St. Timothy's is growing in numbers and able to sow Christian virtues and teachings. What we are doing with our time, talent, and treasure locally and around the world is miraculous, thanks to God's help.

St. Timothy's is beginning to explore venues and options associated with a larger and more permanent location. Some avenues include long-term head-lease or sub-lease, ownership and sublet, cooperative ownership, time-share, and so on. What this will finally look like has not yet been made clear to us.

We have diverse opinions, experience, skills, perceptions and knowledge within our congregation. Somewhere between the wasteful large church structure reserved for exclusive use 2 hours on a Sunday, and our use of a facility rented in anticipation of our weekly needs, there is a Visionary resolution to this issue. Are some possibilities lurking in the back of YOUR mind? Our leadership over the past few years has brought us to a very secure, stable base to build our future. We are established, we are growing – in faith and numbers, we look beyond ourselves, we are quite diverse in activities. We ask that you pray over this next step and join us in seeking God's guidance on this. We trust that, as in the past, as we need and when the time is right, God will provide. "Hold to My teaching . . . and the truth will set you free."

Advent Sunday is an ideal time to dream the possibilities of the direction we might take, in our combined efforts to be (in the words of our Vision statement), a nurturing, biblically-based community growing Christ's Kingdom – particularly on the North Shore. We do indeed live in interesting times!

Happy Advent Sunday and start of a new church year for all members of St. Timothy's!

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

Reports from our "G"s

Gather Report

The Gather Committee has been very active the last couple of months with events ranging from the Harvest Supper to the many fundraising sales sponsored by the Ladies Group.

The annual potluck **Harvest Supper** was held at Sutherland Church on Saturday, 29th September. Many people helped make this possible – those who brought food or contributed towards the cost of the ham, those who helped set-up, the ladies who helped in the kitchen, those who entertained us and the people who helped with the clean-up. Most importantly, we owe a big thank-you to Audrey who co-ordinated this parish supper for us!

Planning is currently underway for the **Christmas Party**. It will be held on Sunday, December 16th, at 4:30 p.m. at the Lodge at Laura Lynn (where last year's party was held). It is hoped that the early start will make it easier for our young families and our seniors to come. Plan to attend to enjoy the fellowship, the food and the carol singing!

Myrna heads up our **Pastoral Care Team**. This is an important ministry in our church as it reaches out and supports the sick. Please get in touch with Myrna if you know of anyone who needs assistance.

We continue to enjoy **Coffee Hour** after each Sunday service. Thank you to Hazel and all her helpers as well as to those who bring in goodies for us to enjoy. Hazel needs some new Coffee Team members (who serve every fifth week) as well as people who can fill in when members are absent. Please contact her if you can help (604-985-9135).

Please see a more detailed report from the Ladies' Group below.

Daphne Martin

Ladies Group

The Ladies' Group has been extremely busy with fundraising events. Between October 24 and November 25, we participated in five Craft Fairs held at Churchill House, AMICA at West Vancouver, Delbrook Rec. Centre, Harry Jerome Rec. Centre and St. Timothy's Church. We were very successful, raising over \$1450.00. It is our mandate to give 100% of this money to outreach programs within the community. The North Shore Youth Safe House, A ROCHA, Lions Gate Hospital Foundation-Hospice and AMICA at West Vancouver received the benefit from the monies raised at our Craft Sales.

Throughout the year, we continued to support both the Harvest Project locally and African Programs internationally. The Ladies' Group has recently agreed to offer a hand-up to help two students receive their high school education at Kigeme Secondary School in Rwanda. We wish Ange Munanira and Sophie Umtoni success in achieving their goals. We also gave a helping hand to support Julia Parrott, a 9 year old fighting cancer for the second time in her young life by supporting the fundraiser held on November 17. During the coming Christmas Season, energy will be given to collect small items, such as socks, soap, gloves, shampoo, etc. for Partners In Hope. This donation will be used to make 500 Christmas Bags that will be distributed to the homeless in East Vancouver. We will also be donating baked goods to the Mission to Seafarers on December 16.

We made time to organize another Dine-Out evening on November 2. Just for fun, thirty-one parishioners met at the Yum Yum Restaurant for a yummy Chinese dinner enjoying dessert and port later at the Haighs. Our final meeting this year will be a well-deserved Christmas luncheon at Churchill House on December 10.

We thank you, God, for providing such wonderful support, talent and opportunity for the Ladies' Group to make a little positive difference in our community.

Linda Taunton

Glorify Report

CHOIR UPDATE

The choir and I hope you will enjoy the music we have prepared for Advent and Christmas. After Christmas, Choir Practices will resume on Monday Nights, beginning on January 14, 7.30-9-30 at the Haighs'. New members are always welcome.

Angela Larsen

Grow Report

NURSERY & SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sonya Bell reports:

The Sunday School spent September and October learning about Creation. Katie Withrow came to teach the children about her love for creation and how to take care of the earth. The children had a wonderful time making a creation poster, which we hope the congregation enjoyed. For November and December, Ryan Barrett will be leading the class through the Christmas story, with the assistance of Andrea Nader and Rita Seiki. We thank God for creative and loving teachers who are spreading the good news of Christ's coming.

YOUTH:

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

There are several highlights of note for October and November. We have been connecting with Canyon Heights Youth (Mass Appeal). They invited us to their "all nighter", where we enjoyed the fellowship of other Christian youth. Occasionally, they have also joined us at our gym nights, which have provided great opportunities for games and large group activities and for getting to know other Christian youth. "Way Past Curfew" was also a great event, where our youth participated in indoor soccer, broom ball, dodge ball, a talent show, and other fun activities.

We have enjoyed going to Churchill House to play pool and poker with the residents. We are just "getting our foot in the door", but we hope to see a greater turn out on our next visit scheduled for December 7. Vera has come to visit us faithfully every time we have been there.

I look forward to December 1, which will see the start of the Gotcha Game (a giant game of organized tag), which is for all youth on the North Shore in grades 8-12. On Friday, December 14, we shall hold our youth Christmas Banquet, a semi-formal event, at the Taunton's residence. Our regular Wednesday night youth group will end for the holiday season on December 14, and will resume on January 9, 2008.

Thank you always for your continued prayer.

FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY:

Report submitted by Monica Craver, Church Librarian:

The Amish novels of Wanda E. Brunstetter will touch your heart and simplify your life. In the church library we have a series of her three novels called, "Daughters of Lancaster County", which have become a popular "check out" item among our library's regular readers.

In this series we follow an Amish family's story from its dark beginning to glorious resolution!

Book 1 – The Storekeeper's Daughter: Time seems to stand still in Naomi Fisher's tranquil Amish community. Helping her widowed father run the general store, keeping house, and raising her seven brothers and sisters leaves her precious little time for courtship. But when her baby brother disappears, she's forced to reconsider her course. Will she leave everything familiar to pursue a new avenue?

Book 2 – The Quilter's Daughter: Abby Miller leaves her successful quilt shop and patient fiancé in Ohio to help her newly remarried and now pregnant mother in Lancaster County. While she's away, Abby's world is shattered in one fell swoop. How can God make anything good come out of this tragedy?

Book 3 – The Bishop's Daughter: Leona is Bishop Jacob Weaver's daughter and a dedicated teacher in a one-room Amish schoolhouse. After her father's tragic accident, Leona's faith waivers. How could God allow something like this to happen to one of His servants? "Outlander" Jimmy Scott comes to Pennsylvania in search of his real family. When he is hired to paint an Amish schoolhouse, Jimmy and Leona find themselves irresistibly drawn to each other. Can anything good come from the love between an Amish woman and an "English" man? What secrets will be revealed and what miracles await God's people in Lancaster County? You can read more about author, Wanda E. Brunstetter at www.wandabrunstetter.com

ADULT EDUCATION:

A morning training session for Small Group Leaders, led by Andy Withrow, was held on Saturday, November 3, 2007. The topic "Going Deeper" emphasized going deeper into the Word and leading others deeper into the Word.

A large group training session, led by Ken, was held prior to Matins on Sunday, November 4, 2007. This provided an Old Testament overview. A chronological chart emphasizing key periods/events in the Old Testament, highlighted over arching themes: One God, Covenant, Law, Exile, and a repeated pattern: Grace, Rebellion, Judgement, New Grace. The Old Testament was viewed as essential reading in preparation for the Coming of Christ.

Five small groups, with very different topics, have met during the fall months and are all winding up before Christmas. As well as learning together, all are experiencing greater fellowship opportunities and the rewards of developing closer relationships. We hope to establish at least one more evening small group in the New Year. The new schedule and topics will be advised in early January.

We are pleased to announce below the new "Movie Ministry" and hope that all members will find an opportunity to enjoy this new learning opportunity.

Sarah Lucas

FILM MINISTRY AT ST. TIMOTHY'S

Introduction

Beginning early in the New Year of 2008, St Timothy's will have a library of films in DVD format for parishioners to borrow for a one-week period. Fewer and fewer films are available in video format, but if they can find this format will also be added to the collection. The collection will be displayed each Sunday, where space is available, either at the rear or the side of our present space at Lynn Valley Recreation Centre.



Why a Film Ministry?

Films can provide us with an opportunity to experience life in all of its variety, creativity and beauty. They can enable us to encounter the world through the perspectives of others and respectfully, compassionately consider what others see, hear, think and experience. Just as Jesus was involved with popular culture by attending parties, listening to the stories of others and telling good stories himself, we too can gain insight in to today's culture by watching films. "Good films invite us into someone's creative expression so that we can think it over and discuss it. A good movie reflects the world we live in, so that we understand it better. A good movie is truthful – whether the subject is something beautiful or something terrible." As a Christian watching a film we will be encouraged to look for theological themes of redemption, salvation, healing, faith, prayer, justice, grace, creation, sin, searching, evil, human nature and suffering.

Choosing films for the collection

All films will be chosen with an attitude of discernment and conscience and will have final approval from our Rector. The collection will include a variety of films suitable for children, teenagers, adults and family viewing. The collection will include films which will provoke discussion and thought about our world and will not necessarily only include films which one might call, "Christian films". There are many films which, for whatever reason, have gone almost undetected and are excellent films to watch and also are not easily available at rental outlets, at the library or on television.

Information accompanying each film

Attached to the film will be a description of the rating. For example, whether the film is suitable for children or, if it is only suitable for adult viewing. There will be a brief summary of the film and each film will have with it 2 or 3 questions suitable for "pre and post film" discussion.

I look forward to beginning this Ministry in the New Year and encouraging you to borrow a film and to invite your friends over to watch it with you.

Patricia Young

Give Report

ST. TIMOTHY'S – A HISTORY OF GIVING

When I try to describe my church to my friends, I usually start by remarking on it being a caring community where parishioners genuinely care about one another, but also that it is a church that fundamentally believes in giving to others – to outreach. From our earliest days, I can remember being deeply touched that this little church, barely a few weeks old and still meeting in the most primitive circumstances at the Harvest Project, would assist in the holding of a Summer Ball in the Carters' garden and then give the entire proceeds away to the Harvest Project and Partners in Hope.

In 2005, our first complete year of operation, we gave \$6,100 to outreach projects, to such causes as the ACiC Tsunami Relief Fund, to projects in Kigemi in Rwanda, to the Harvest Project and the Lookout Emergency Project. A remarkable amount, given our formative status, but when your parish council met for visioning sessions in the fall of

2005, we decided to challenge the parish to do more. By our membership in the Anglican Coalition in Canada, we already committed to sending 10% of our offerings to the ACiC. We decided to dedicate a further 10% to outreach as a line item in our budget.

The Give Committee met and recommended that this amount be split evenly on local, national and international projects. In 2006, our corporate outreach totalled \$15,700 divided between such projects as books for the new Kigali Theological College, ACiC church planting, the Harvest Project, and A Rocha Canada. I was again deeply moved by our \$3000 donation to the building fund of Christ the Redeemer Church in Pender Harbour. It was but a small measure of thanks for the support and guidance given to us by the Rev. Barclay Mayo in those difficult first months of 2004. In addition to our corporate outreach, the Women's Group raised an amazing additional \$6200 and disbursed it to causes such as Bishop Buckle in the Diocese of the Yukon, Rwandan projects, The Harvest Project, Partners in Hope, and the North Shore Homeless Shelter.

For 2007, we on a local basis we have given \$5000 to Partners in Hope and \$1000 to Keats Camp. For our national outreach, we gave \$3000 in support to new ACiC parishes and \$1500 to A Rocha Canada. Internationally, we agreed to send \$500 to Lisa Robinson to assist in her work with HIV affected children in Malawi, and \$1000 to assist a Rwandan bishop's travel to Winter Conference. We also agreed to \$4500 in support of various Rwanda projects.

On Saturday evening, November 24 the Rev. Carolyn Spence met with a number of interested parishioners to give us an update on ACiC's projects in Rwanda. The \$4500 cited above was comprised of an agreement to sponsor high school students (\$1900) to purchase office equipment for the Cathedral (\$2000) and to sponsor a post secondary student (\$600). Carolyn informed us that Richmond Emmanuel Church had beaten us to the purchase of the office equipment but that she would send us details of another worthy project. She also advised us that on her last visit to Rwanda she had been unable to meet up with the post secondary student and suggested that we not proceed with this support. She suggested that a better approach was the high school education project. She spoke of the numbers of children needing financial support who were in considerable poverty. She

advised that she could personally vouch for these children's circumstances as she, Pastor Felicien, and Bishop Augustine had carefully vetted each individual case. She passed around pictures of the students with a brief description of their circumstances. The comment was made that while the parish's corporate sponsorship was a generous step in the right direction, we as individual church members could do even more. As a result Linda Taunton agreed to coordinate a student sponsorship drive. The cost of a student's tuition, supplies and board for a year is \$180 in Canadian funds. As your cheque is payable to St. Timothy's, you will receive a tax receipt for your gift, bringing your effective cost much lower. It was remarked that such a donation would make a very meaningful Christmas present for that person "who has everything". It would also be a marvellous development if St. Timothy's corporate giving was dwarfed by parishioners' individual gifts to those corporate outreach targets. **Please see Linda Taunton to sponsor a student in time for the new Rwandan school year which starts in January.**

Chris Vondette

Prayer Corner

Advent Prayer

by Henri J. M. Nouwen

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

Saint Theresa's Prayer

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us. (Taken from the Internet)

CYCLE ON PRAYER (fourth in series) Hindrances to Prayer

"Your SINS have hidden His face from you so that he does not hear." Isaiah 59:2.

"Ask in FAITH, with no doubting, for he who doubts...will [not] receive anything."
James 1:6.

Jesus said: "ASK, and you will receive" (John. 16:24). Sometimes in our 'prayers' we do not ask!

"Whenever you stand praying, FORGIVE..so that your Father..will also forgive you."
Matthew 11:25

IGNORANCE about God's Word regarding the priority, importance and persistence of prayer.

PRIDE: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6

NO PARTNER: If two or more of you agree on anything that they shall ask, it shall be done." Matthew 18:19

LACK OF CONCENTRATION is one of the biggest blocks while praying. Praying to pray is the key.

We are many times TOO BUSY to pray. Reason: we don't consider pray important enough.

"Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard."
Proverbs 21:13

"If you bring your gift to the altar... first be reconciled to your brother, and then come."
Matthew 5:23

Jesus said "that at all times they [disciples] ought to pray and NOT LOSE HEART."
Luke 18:1

Taken from a calendar sold by the Forerunner Prayer Force. Samantha MacDonald

Summer Garage Sale at the Haighs'



Children's Summer Picnic



Harvest Dinner



Letter from Archbishop Gregory Venables, read 22 November 2007 at the Anglican Network in Canada National Conference in Burlington, Ontario

Greetings once again from the Anglican Church of the Southern Cone of America where we are thanking God that Bishop Don Harvey is now a part of this Province. As such he remains in active Episcopal ministry within the Anglican Communion. He is of course already a well known and much loved colleague and we are thrilled to have this opportunity of walking even more closely together and to continue to learn from one another. We are glad to welcome him as a member of our Episcopal team and to assign him to work among you as your father in God.

We are equally delighted to receive Bishop Malcolm Harding as our co-worker. He too is a man whose very being is centred around the gospel and whom the Lord has used for the salvation of many. Please honour and look after these two precious brothers and their families. It is also good to be able to say that these steps we have taken are fully supported by a significant number of other orthodox Anglican provinces. There is no need for any to walk alone or step outside the Anglican family. And let us remember that one of our main motives behind the unusual decisions we have had to take is the responsibility we have to ensure that the church is unhindered with regard to the mission that Jesus Himself has commanded us to accomplish. This must continue to be your priority in the far north of the Americas. We do indeed cover the very ends of the earth.

Let me also be clear regarding the nature of the division which has led to these out of the ordinary moves. It is a severance resulting from a determined abandoning of the one true historic faith delivered to the saints. This reality alone makes it clear that it is not schism. Schism is a sinful parting over secondary issues. This separation is basic and fundamental and means that we are divided at the most essential point of the Christian faith. The sin here is not one of schism but of false teaching which is not at its root about human sexuality but about the very nature of truth itself.

When we talk about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ we are not referring to something liquid or amorphous. Christianity is specific, definable and unchanging. We are not at liberty to deconstruct or rewrite it. If Jesus was the Son of God yesterday then so He is today and will be forever. This is about the foundational certainty of our very existence and is not something we can amend to suit our circumstances or personal opinions and preferences. Holy Scripture which is the source of our creeds is revealed and ageless truth. It was not written out of human knowledge or wisdom but inspired by the Spirit of God. Jesus died not to establish and preserve institutional franchises but for our sins so we could come into a right relationship with God our Father and Creator. Structural norms cannot be equated to the eternal gospel which determines our eternal destiny.

These are sad but significant days. It has been heartbreaking to recognize that we have reached such a crucial and critical point in the life of the Anglican Communion. What has been perpetrated has indeed torn the fabric of our Communion at its deepest level. We recognize this tragedy with profound grief and love for all those involved and affected. We judge no one but cannot and will not deny the eternal truth which has purchased our redemption.

As we prepare once again to celebrate Advent let us look back with gratitude to God for the coming of His Son into this beautiful but troubled world. And let us look forward with awe and joy to the day of His return and all that that implies. And may God grant us grace that we might be found faithful both now and at that time.

Your brother in Christ,
Gregory

A Pastoral Note.

Life in the Anglican world is changing very quickly now, something to which, as Anglicans with some 500 years of tradition, we are not accustomed. By the time you read this note, most of the information will already be out of date. It is important that we pray for our brothers and sisters in the orthodox churches across Canada as they prepare to make some very difficult decisions, Some will choose to stay longer and fight, some will walk away from buildings, some will join with Archbishop Venables, some will look to the ACiC and some will choose to still wait. We do not know what God has for us in the future for it rests in his good and loving hands and so we put our trust in Him and Him alone.

I will be travelling to Orlando, Florida in mid December to meet with other Bishops, Clergy and Laity around the Common Cause Partnership table and we will be discussing how we move forward in unity and with one voice while respecting the uniqueness and diversity of the different groups. Please pray for Peter Turner and me during this meeting.

Until God reveals to us the fullness of his plan, we are to continue in our calling of being faithful and fruitful in our service to Jesus Christ.

Your Servant in Christ,

Ken Bell+

Bill Bourns's Organ

We are very grateful that Bill Bourns lent us our first organ when we made the move from Monday night services at SASS to the Harvest Project. The organ gave service there and at the Lynn Valley Rec. Centre until we replaced it with a new, smaller version to gain storage space. We have crated and shipped the organ at Bill's request to St. Columba of Iona Church in Halfmoon Bay, where it will continue in service to our Lord. St. Columba is Anglican Catholic, one of the parishes that broke with the Diocese of New Westminster over the BAS and ordination of women.

Ron Barrett

Parishioner Profile: Gordon Barrett

Gordon Barrett was born in Victoria, B. C. on November 7, 1927 of Newfoundland parentage and has family trees on both sides of his family going back to 1709 when both sides settled in outports some 10 miles apart. His mother's family, the Snows, came out from Ireland, while the Barretts came from Poole, Dorset, England. The maternal grandparents moved out to B.C. in the late 1880's and Gordon's father came out to B.C. in 1906 after being shipwrecked in the North Atlantic for 17 days aboard a Grand Banks schooner returning from a trip to Spain. Gordon had one younger brother, Leonard, who died of cancer in 1986 at the age of 57.

Gordon started school in 1933 attending Tolmie Elementary in Saanich and graduated from Mount View High School, also in Saanich, in 1945. The Depression and World War 2 were major factors of life at that time, and Gordon took on a variety of part-time jobs while going to school, including swamping on a dairy truck, making wooden berry boxes at a local mill, and serving as a Pageboy at the Empress Hotel on weekends and holidays. During the last two years at high school, he worked in the Mail Room at the Daily Colonist newspaper from 2:30am to 7:30am each day and continued on at the newspaper full time for a year after graduation.

Veterans were starting to come back from overseas, assuming their apprenticeships and taking back their pre-war jobs and in 1946 Gordon started work in the Victoria branch of the Bank of Toronto at a salary of \$600 per year. This was a big disappointment to his father, because during high school, Gordon had expressed a desire to go fishing. To this end, he and his dad built a 40 foot salmon troller, with the intention that both would fish, and then, once he had learned the trade, Gordon would assume ownership. It was not to be. The boat was sold and Gordon stayed with the bank.

Company regulations were strict at the time, and the bank's rules were that no staff could own a car or motorcycle or get married until they were earning a minimum of \$1,500 per year. This usually took 5 years to attain, and in the meantime Gordon met his future wife, Erica, who also was working for the bank. In late 1947 Gordon received his first transfer to Lake Cowichan, a small mid-island community of logging and lumbering, and a year later was transferred to the Vancouver Main Branch, where he remained for 8 years. In 1952, he and Erica married and she moved to Vancouver on transfer. In 1954 Ronald was born and in 1956 the family moved back to Victoria where Winona was born. In the meantime, The Bank of Toronto amalgamated with the Dominion Bank to form The Toronto Dominion Bank and in 1961 Gordon received his first appointment to management, opening a new branch in the Town & Country Shopping Centre, Victoria.

In 1964, Gordon was transferred to Kamloops, the heart of B.C.'s cattle country. This was an interesting move because neither he nor Erica had ever travelled to the interior and had absolutely no knowledge of the ranching or livestock industry. **LEARN QUICKLY!!** As the new manager, the first item on the agenda was to go to Ashcroft in the middle of winter and seize and sell the entire herd of cattle on a ranch there. Great start! Once settled the family enjoyed 8 years there of hunting, fishing, skiing and swimming. It was a nice place to raise a family.

Transfers beckoned again in 1972 when Gordon was moved back to Vancouver and appointed manager of the Robson & Burrard Sts branch. "Robsonstrasse" was a most interesting area. During his 15 years there, the branch endured 17 hold-ups of varying intensity, some with weapons and one serious one with machine guns. Fortunately, no one was hurt in these, but Gordon was told in no uncertain terms, that he was not expected to chase after the robbers, which he was prone to do.

Unfortunately, in 1978, Gordon, Erica, her sister and her 91 year old mother were involved in a bad car accident near Guilford Centre. Gordon and the sister escaped unharmed, but Erica suffered a crushed forehead, broken ribs and pelvis while her mother had broken ribs and a broken shoulder. After a lengthy recovery, Erica returned to work at the Edgemont Branch, where during an armed robbery two shots were fired in the branch, one of which ricocheted, hitting her in the leg above the knee.

In 1987, a year after his brother's death, Gordon had the opportunity to retire on full pension. He took it and has not regretted it for one moment. He and Erica were able to do a great deal of travelling including 21 cruises. After Erica was diagnosed with cancer in 2000, they still travelled as much as possible until her death in 2005. Last year Gordon joined the cycling group from St. Timothy's on their trip to New Zealand as one of the van drivers. Left hand driving was an experience!

Seamen in the late 1800s and early 1900s, before radio and TV, developed a knack for creating crafts and hobbies on their long sailing ventures, and Gordon seemed to inherit the gift also. His father and maternal grandfather both built model ships and Gordon has built four of these which won prizes at the P.N.E. An interest in Calligraphy during high school led him to start a project involving the New Testament, and this was completed over a prolonged 16 year period. His main hobby and interest is woodworking. As a 5 year old he shocked his parents by buying a woodworking set as a Christmas gift for himself. Startled looks took place between mother and father, as neither had bought the gift, but Gordon explained later that he wasn't confident that Santa would know that that was what he really wanted.

In retirement years, Gordon has built the organ surroundings and Paschal Candle holder at St. Martin's Church and a Lectern/Pulpit and Credence table for St Simon's Church. We at St. Timothy's are the grateful recipients of the Altar, Lecterns and Processional Cross, all of which had to interlock for storage for our "Church in a Box", not a problem for the talent that God gave Gordon. We at St. Timothy's are most grateful that Gordon's work helps make our temporary home, a recreation centre, seem even more like a church building.

Florence Wilton

Editors' Report

Once again our thanks go to all contributors as well as our wishes to all for many blessings in the New Church Year. Merry Christmas!

Matthew Vondette and Florence Wilton

All Saints' Community Church White Rock – Celebration of a New Ministry

On Sunday, November 18 five members from St. Timothy's drove down to join in the celebration of the official opening of All Saints Community Church at 3.30p.m. The service was led by Rev. Peter Klenner at Holy Cross Church on Beecher Street, Crescent Beach with the Rev. Barclay Mayo officiating as ACIC Network Leader. Several other clergy showed support by their attendance, including Rev. Ken Bell our priest and Rev. Ed Hird of St. Simon's.

All Saints Community Church has been holding services since late September and has about 50 members. They are thrilled to be allowed to share Holy Cross Church (a Roman Catholic Church) and hold their services at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday. There is no church hall or area for children to meet for Sunday School but Peter Klenner is hoping that the church service will be family oriented by including the children in the services.

The service was very uplifting. Music was provided by members of the church band and the words of the hymns and the litany were projected onto a screen as in St. Timothy's. It was heartening to be with a group of Christians from a number of churches supporting this new ACIC church. It did not seem so long ago that we were struggling to "get going" and churches including St. Simons, St. John's and St. Matthews and clergymen such as Paul Carter and Barclay Mayo came to support and encourage us.

Rev. Barclay Mayo spoke in his address about "being strong and courageous". These were very encouraging words for the times in which we live. He reminded us that many churches across Canada are having to make very difficult decisions about which "way" their church is going – following Jesus or the "let's do it if it feels right movement"! Just in the National Post this morning it was announced that Bishop Harvey is leaving the Anglican Church of Canada. Many changes are happening and will continue to happen within our Anglican Church – we are called to be "strong and courageous."

The Eucharistic rite used at All Saints Community Church was the Kenyan Rite and it is a joyful celebration. Peter Klenner's wife, Jennifer, sang a song of praise during communion which added to the beauty of the service. We were also moved by the use of Rwandan baskets for the collection, a poignant reminder of how our churches have been supported from afar by faithful Christians in Rwanda. We were all invited after the service to a reception a block away in a hall overlooking Crescent Beach. A brisk walk (it was a somewhat chilly evening!) took us to a feast (in Peter Klenner's words "nosh-up" an Australian term, apropos since he comes from Perth, Australia). The wonderful buffet included hot beef stew, chicken wings, tasty meatballs, sandwiches and a wonderful selection of pastries, cakes and fruit and refreshing drinks. What a delightful end to an exciting start for All Saints Community Church! It was a pleasure to be present to worship with All Saints Community Church and we pray that all at St. Timothy's will remember to ask God's blessing on this new ACIC church. *Audrey Haigh*

A True Christmas Story

Things happen for a reason. The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve. They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc, and on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished.

On December 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm - hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high.

The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory coloured, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colours and a Cross embroidered right in the centre. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus, 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder and hangars to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the centre aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria. The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just bought the tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home. That was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve! The church was almost full.

The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighbourhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike. He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years in between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

True Story - submitted by Pastor Rob Reid (taken from the Internet)

Annual Christmas Open House at the A Rocha Field Study Centre

512 172nd Street, Surrey, B.C.

(south of 8th Ave close to the Pacific Highway Border crossing)

Getting there: From Hwy 99, take Exit 2A (8th Ave exit EAST) and turn right (south) on 172nd St.
Look for the A Rocha sign on the left hand side of the road.

Saturday, December 8th - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*Bring the whole family to enjoy carols, snacks, apple cider, tours, and hay rides.
If you are able, please bring finger food, cookies or squares to share.*

*For more information contact canada@arocha.org or **speak with Katie Withrow.***

**A Rocha Canada - Christians in Conservation
Tel/Fax 604-542-9022**

www.arocha.org

Church Council (elected on February 25, 2007)

People's Warden: Peter Haigh 604-980-7809; p.haigh@st-timothy.com

Rector's Warden: Ron Barrett 604-983-2530; r.barrett@st-timothy.com

Secretary: Ron Edwards 604-985-9839; r.edwards@st-timothy.com

Treasurer: Leddy Lilley 604-987-6549; l.lilley@st-timothy.com

Go: John Collings 604-984-9897; go@st-timothy.com

Gather: Daphne Martin 604-985-7636; gather@st-timothy.com

Glorify: Matthew Vondette 604-986-9096; glorify@st-timothy.com

Grow: Sarah Lucas 604-986-5451; grow@st-timothy.com

Give: Chris Vondette 604-986-9096; give@st-timothy.com

While all members of our congregation are called to proclaim the good news that we have to share at St Timothy's, the above people have agreed to focus attention to a particular area. They represent YOU at our monthly meetings and can only operate fully on your behalf if they know your will. All these people welcome input and all ideas are brought forward to Council for consideration. Beefs, bouquets and comments are always appreciated. Please do your part to promote St Timothy's in our daily lives.

Other Contact Information:

Senior Priest: Rev. Ken Bell 604-908-4659; k.bell@st-timothy.com

Intern: Andy Withrow 604-322-7330; andy.withrow@gmail.com

Music Director: Angela Larsen 604-982-0750; witzkang@hotmail.com

Youth Group: Eric Park 604-984-9930; Eric_Park@shaw.ca

Sunday School: Carolyn Edwards 604-985-9839; carolynedwards@rogers.com

Prayer Ministry: Samantha MacDonald 604-904-3890; owenmac@telus.net

Pastoral Care/Greeters: Myrna Teskey 604-988-9906; myrjohn@shaw.ca

Chancel Guild: Corinne Burns 604-985-6820; jamcor@shaw.ca

Set-up Crews: John Hopkins 604-985-8422; jjhopkins@telus.net

Sidespersons: Bill Messinger 604-984-0510; wmessinger@shaw.ca

Ladies' Group: Linda Taunton 604-985-4603; gltaunton@shaw.ca

Refreshments: Hazel Blacoe 604-985-9135; blacoe@interchange.ubc.ca

Webmaster/Newsletter: Matthew Vondette 604-986-9097; matthew@vondette.com

Newsletter/Service Leaflet: Florence Wilton 604-926-7417; florence_wilton@telus.net

Please give any changes to this list to Matthew Vondette for updating the database and to Florence Wilton for the next newsletter.

Advent & Christmas at St. Timothy's



Sunday December 2: Advent I (Advent Choir Service)

Hope: In this hope we look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth on Christmas, and we look forward to Jesus coming again.



Sunday December 9: Advent 2

Joy: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people". Jesus' birth brings us great joy.



Sunday December 16: Advent 3

Love: We can learn about the love of God through the love of those around us. God reveals the depth of his love through the birth of Jesus Christ his only Son.

Sunday December 23: Advent 4 Lessons & Carol Service

Peace: There is a peace which comes only through knowing Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. *(This is a service filled with special music and familiar songs. Please be encouraged to invite friends)*



Monday December 24: Christmas Eve

The Gift: We celebrate Hope, Joy, Love & Peace through the Birth of Jesus. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord".

4:00pm A special children's & family service, followed by a Birthday Party.

9:00pm Candlelight Communion Service, followed by Gluehwein and Christmas treats.

December 25: Christmas Day at St. Simon's Church

10:00am Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning.
Come and celebrate a joint service with us on Christmas Day.



Christmas Events

Friday Dec 14th Youth Christmas Banquet @ 6:30pm at Taunton's House.

Sunday December 16: St Timothy's Christmas Party 4:30pm

Lodge at Laura Lynn (Hendecourt & Sykes). Please sign up so we know who is coming.

Wednesday December 19: "Christmas Presence" 8:00pm

Pacific Theatre at Sutherland Church invites us to join them for an evening of stories, songs, comedy and nostalgia that will feel like the live version of an evening watching your Christmas-time favourites on TV. For tickets call Kathy at Sutherland 604-988-6923

Friday December 21: Skating Party with Sutherland Church 6:00pm-7:00pm. at Karen Magnussen.