



# St. Timothy's Gazette

## JUNE 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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**Services: Lynn Valley Recreation Centre**  
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## **UPDATE from the Rev. Ken Bell**

### **Three Years Out**

Whenever the children of Israel marked a significant event or milestone, they would build a tower of rocks, (see Joshua 4, and Exodus 28 for two such examples). These stones served as a memorial to what God had done (where they had come from), what God was doing (where they were) and helped to remind them that God was not done with them, they were not to remain there, for God was still moving them forward (where they were going).

When I look back over the past three years, from where we were to where we are, both as a church and as the Anglican Coalition, I am amazed. I feel truly blessed to have been able to be apart of what God has been doing. From our perspective it never seems clear where God is moving or why he is doing what he is doing. But it is a great comfort to know that he is in charge and has authority over all things, all we have to do is trust in him and be willing to hang on for the ride.

Anniversaries are a great time for us to build a little memorial stone tower, an opportunity for us to look back at where we were, rejoice at where we are, and look forward to where we are going.

#### **Where we have come from:**

*"I am the LORD your God,  
who brought you up out of Egypt.  
Open wide your mouth and I will fill it." Psalm 81: 10*

*"They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted." Isaiah 62: 12*

A little more than three years ago we were a small gathering of people, faithful, but beat up and unsure of what God was doing. At one time we were a comfortable people in a comfortable church, and then God showed up. He pushed us, and called us to be and to do something more than we asked for or imagined we would be, pioneer missionaries in our own land.

He called to us to step out in faith into the unknown and uncertain, to begin a new work and be apart of a new missionary order, to join with people and churches we did not know, people from different countries and experience. He challenged us to come to a new understanding of what church was about and to see the Anglican Communion in a new light.

St. Timothy's began as a small group of faithful people gathering at St. Andrew's and St. Stephen's church on Monday nights to worship together, to ask for help and to seek the Lord's direction. We moved a short time later to the North Shore Harvest gathering on Sunday mornings, calling ourselves "St. Timothy's". Today, if everyone who was a member (or a child of a member) or a regular attendee showed up on one Sunday morning at the Lynn Valley Rec-Centre we would number about 100.

Praise be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**Where we are now:**

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'*

*And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" Isaiah 6:8*

*"Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8*

We heard the calling of the Lord and we obeyed. Not everything has gone the way we thought or hoped it would perhaps but it has gone exactly as God would have it. We are still a people without a physical home, but we have found our spiritual home in the ever growing and ever changing Anglican Mission. We are part of a Rwandan Church which is helping to heal a nation and to teach the world about the peace and reconciliation found in Jesus Christ.

We are a new creation, no longer defined by a former battle or who we were, but who we now are, defined by God's future. We are free from the bondage of slavery, free to worship, to heal and to preach the good news about Jesus Christ to all who would hear our cry.

Today we have unique St. Timothy's 'DNA' in our worship, our ministry, our outreach, our caring and our vision. It is not the same as it was three years ago. It has changed, grown and matured over time and as God has revealed it to us, but it is uniquely us.

After a time of preparation (see 40 years in the desert or a few months on the banks of the River Jordan), we are ready to move forward, to continue in our mission, to clear new ground and to lay down new works.

## Where are we going?

*"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*  
*Philippians 3: 13-14*

First and foremost we are going where the Holy Spirit leads us. This must be distinctly understood or nothing wonderful can come of our story.

As we enter into a new season in the life of St. Timothy's, there are three areas I wish to draw to your attention.

***Equipping the saints:*** *"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people (to prepare the saints) for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up".* *Ephesians 4: 11-12*

*"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen".* *Hebrews 13: 20-22*

The word "teach" comes up over 200 times in scripture. The purpose of teaching is to remind people what God has done, to inform them about God and his character, and to equip the saints so they might continue the work of the Spirit.

We have begun to take this charge seriously. We have set aside \$3000 in our budget for training and equipping, and we are striving to provide more training opportunities for all members of the church through special gatherings, bible study groups, and courses.

We are in a season of training up and equipping new leaders for St. Timothy's for the sake of the kingdom so that the body of Christ might be built up.

***Refining our vision:*** *"Where there is no vision, the people perish".* *Proverbs 29: 18* *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age".*  
*Matthew 28: 18-20*

We know our vision: to be a nurturing, biblically-based community growing Christ's Kingdom.

We know our mission: 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 Christ, and **Give** of our time, talent and treasure to serve others.

But, it is important that we constantly remind ourselves of it.

We also need to refine it from time to time, seeking the will of God as to how we might fulfill it. In what areas are we going to exert our energies and devote our resources? What are we as a congregation passionate and excited about?

**Inviting the people:** *"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. 'Come and see,' said Philip." John 1: 46*

*"Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests." Matthew 22: 9-10*

*"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'. Matthew 25: 37-40*

We are now at a point in our story in the life of our church, that we have something to invite people to. So now we must go out and do so. Invite them to "come and see" the one who healed the sick and let the blind to see. Invite them to "come and taste" the fruit of the Spirit and the goodness of milk and honey. Invite them to "come and hear" the good news about Jesus Christ and his grace. Invite them to "come and be" while they are welcomed, loved and forgiven. Invite them to "come and belong, to come home".

So let us take these stones and build them as a memorial to the Lord, that whoever sees them will know that the Lord is with us.

Your Servant in Christ,

**Ken** *Rev. Ken Bell, Senior Priest*

## A Brief Biography of the Right Reverend Alexander M. Greene



The Right Reverend A. M. "Sandy" Greene was ordained a bishop in the Province of Rwanda for the Anglican Mission in June of 2001. He served as associate minister and then rector of Christ Episcopal Church, Denver from 1990 until he joined the Anglican Mission in 2001. Before coming to Denver he served as rector of St. Andrew's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church, Destin, Florida.

His passion in the ministry has been the raising up and mentoring of clergy and lay leaders. During 35 years of ordained ministry he has encouraged and mentored dozens of those whom God has called to ministry.

He is a graduate of Yale University and the General Theological Seminary, New York, New York. He has received a lifetime of "post-graduate" training in ministry and congregational leadership from other clergy and the lay leaders with whom he has served.

He and his wife Georgeanna ("Gigi") are celebrating their fortieth year of marriage. They have four sons, three daughters-in-law and four grandchildren.

As a Missionary Bishop of the Province of Rwanda he oversees congregations in the Rocky Mountain West, the Midwest, Florida, California and Puerto Rico.

Of his ministry in the Anglican Mission he says: "Our primary task is to build networks of dynamic, faithful, disciple-making churches which plant and grow more churches. Following the leadership of our Archbishops from the Global South we believe we will see a rebirth of Anglicanism in the Americas. We envision a church built upon the foundation of the Holy Scriptures, guided and strengthened by the Holy Spirit; a church which retains our ancient faith and worship, and is also ready to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to a new generation."

## Wardens' Update – June 10, 2007

Here we are at our third Anniversary. Definitely time to celebrate! It's hard to remember back to Monday evening services at St Stephens and St Andrew's as we were exiled from St Martins and joined by like-minded folk from St Stephen's, West Vancouver and St Catherine's churches. Remember our Sunday morning services at Harvest Project when we declared our independence? Now see our fine facilities at the Lynn Valley Recreation Centre.

We need to pause to consider the faithful clergy who have led us on our liturgical journey thus far – many from the ACiNW and ACiC faithfully shepherded us through our earliest Monday evening services, including Barclay Mayo, David Short, John Lombard and Ed Hird. Then Paul Carter was available not only to lead our Sunday Services, but also nurture us through the ominous task of establishing our particular focus in services and outreach. We were also most fortunate to have Lois, his wife, set our Musical tone for some time. We were then blessed to have Ken join us, be ordained in a most memorable service and subsequently become our Senior Priest. He and we rejoice in the great support we receive from his wife Sonya in our Sunday School. These clergy, with the active support of our Bishops (T J Johnson, and now Sandy Green) plus the Godly overview of our five founding primates, particularly from Rwanda, continue to preach the true gospel, undiluted by current Western world liberal and selective thinking.

Needless to say the total commitment of our congregation, many members excelling in multiple tasks over the past 3 years and even before that, as we discerned the way forward in our faith, has led us to our present happy situation. Of particular note were our Trustees – Chris Vondette and Jim Burns who fought courageously for us, Ron Edwards who has been a pillar of strength in leading our new-found church and in particular for sorting through the myriad of paperwork necessary to establish our bylaws, and attending so many meetings as the ACiC came into being. Of note also are Matthew Vondette who has single-handedly created our audio-visual capabilities and continues in that capacity even today, with the help now of Rami Nader; Ursula and Nancy Vondette who have hand-made our fine Altar Dressings, Seasonal Hangings, and screen backdrop. The Ladies' Group members continue to work diligently, year round with handicrafts and social events to spread our outreach program far and wide. We continue to be blessed by the work of the Sanctuary Guild initially under the tutelage of Erica Barrett, and now Corinne Burns, by our weekly Bible Groups and small home groups spearheaded by Patricia and now Sarah, and by the exceptional leadership of our Nursery and Sunday School teachers, Carolyn, Sonya, Patricia, Dara, Andrea and Audrey who work so hard to provide an interesting and biblically correct exposure for our young members.

Our youth program, started under the direction of Rita, is now well established and active with Eric. Our Music program has blossomed with Angela's arrival, and a full spectrum of church music, seasonally appropriate, embellishes our weekly services. For the ladies who make sure we are well nourished after every church event and for the hard working guys who set up and take down our "church" every service we continue to be most thankful. We continue to be truly blessed as a congregation, nurtured by such God-inspired clergy, to experience a very high membership turnout weekly, to realize annually more income than we budgeted and to achieve our ends with such harmony. We represent many opinions; we come from different backgrounds, we hold firm to those church traditions, which we have grown to love, but so far we have been able to compromise and agree on a positive way forward in all areas.

We are now comfortable in our established routines. We are secure in being part of our Anglican heritage; we have all necessary safeguards in place for our clergy, and we are ready to grow in our faith. Impatience is a human trait, and we would like to see more and faster progress in enlarging our congregation, but as Ken recently pointed out to us, throughout Christianity, starting from the time that our Lord chose his twelve disciples, and even back into the old testament times, people were called and then there was a time before they actually did what they were called to do. Are we in that period? Are we ready to accept more members at a faster rate, now that we are established with Bible studies, Sunday School, vibrant youth programs and an expanding music program?

The future looks healthy for us. We continue to exceed our income on our annual budget, and are able to meet all our outreach project budgets. We are talking about engaging an ACiC student intern from Regent College for our mutual benefit. Not only will we benefit from fresh ideas introduced by a soon to be ordained priest, but we will be assisting that student in completing his or her studies so he or she can expand the Church, as we believe it needs to expand. Is that the way we will fulfill our outreach as a mission church of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rwanda?

We have come a long way in a short time, we are firmly established and secure and we look to the future with enthusiasm to see how we can fulfill our task of bringing members of our local community to faith.

But for today, let's celebrate!

**Peter and Ron**

## Reports from our "G"s Gather Report

A **Baby Shower** was held immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> to welcome two new members of St. Timothy's family, Andrew Kincaid-Smith and Justice Dawn Park. This shower and luncheon was very well attended and pictures of it may be viewed on St. Timothy's website. Special thanks go to Audrey for hosting the shower and to Dara for making the Winnie-the-Pooh cake!

**The Coffee Teams** continue to provide us with coffee, tea and juice after our Sunday morning services. Hazel would like to thank all those who provide us with goodies as well as those who make a donation to the coffee jar. During Hazel's recent absence, Dara took over the responsibility of overseeing the coffee time. Thank you, Dara – you did a wonderful job!

The **Pastoral Team** and **Ladies' Group** are integral members of the Gather Committee. Please refer to their reports below for information on their activities. The Ladies' Group in particular has been very active recently with a Dine-Out, Craft Sale and Games Night!

Next Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, is **St. Timothy's Third Annual Barbeque**. This is a time of celebration to mark the third anniversary of St. Timothy's. There will be hamburgers/hot dogs/ice cream cones as well as salads, trimmings and fruit platters. The Youth Group will be organizing games. Thanks in advance to Audrey for undertaking the organization of the barbeque and to all those who will contribute to its success. Come and enjoy the fun!

*Daphne Martin*

### **Pastoral Team**

In addition to usual duties, the Pastoral Team is organizing a list of temporary drivers to assist members in getting to church and church activities when their usual drivers are away. If you are able to volunteer and have not already signed up on the list at church, please contact me.

*Myrna Teskey*

### **Editors' Report**

Our thanks go to once more to all contributors. We wish you many blessings this summer. Deadline for the next newsletter is September 16.

*Matthew Vondette and Florence Wilton*

## **Ladies' Group**

We have had two regular meetings since our last newsletter.

Thanks to your support, the Ladies have donated \$700.00 raised from the Lenten Awareness Program to provide scholarships in Rwanda enabling students to attend high school.

The Seniors' Hub Craft Sale held at the Delbrook Rec. Centre on May 5th was very successful collecting funds to assist the Harvest Project. Harvest also benefited from our Fun with Games Night held at Muriel Newton's home on May 25th. Thank you to Vera McLoughlin, Muriel Newton and to everyone that participated or helped organize these two events, especially Carolyn Edwards. Together, a cheque for \$ 613.00 will be presented to the Harvest Project.

Twelve members enjoyed the Mediterranean Cuisine at the Amici Restaurant on April 28th. We will plan another Dine-Out Dinner at the end of October.

Our fundraisers for the fall will include the Garage Sale at the Haighs on Saturday, September 8th and two craft sales in November/December. Please start making and collecting items over the summer for these events.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, June 11th at Ursula Vondette's home at 1:30 p.m.

*Linda Taunton*

## **Glorify Report**

### **Choir Report: A word of Thanks to St. Timothy's**

As the choir wraps up Monday night practices this month, I'd like to offer a word of thanks to the congregation for the encouragement and kind words I've received on behalf of the choir. Thank you, choir, for your hard work on Monday nights and early Sunday morning. Thank you Peter and Audrey for your hospitality and generosity in providing a place for us to practice - the keyboard ready to go each week, the water waiting for parched choristers, and a fab view each Monday (or was that Tuesday) evening. We will finish our season's practice with the Young's hosting a year-end soiree which no doubt will be reported on in the next newsletter as "a good time was had by all". (Maybe we'll include singing "Jerusalem" or some other British songs for our own version of the "Proms" - someone from the mother country has to teach me all the funny things one says and does in response to the music - apparently there are long standing traditions!)

May God bless you all for your commitment.

*Angela Larsen*

## **Grow Report**

The Grow Ministry continues to be a very busy and dynamic ministry – our aim is to “grow” each member’s faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Nursery:**

*Sonya Bell reports:*

God has given us many blessings this year. We have developed new curriculum that suits the needs of our children at St. Timothy’s. We are trying to create opportunities for the children to experience and learn of God’s love, through repetition and using all their senses. It is amazing to watch the children talking, walking, writing (colouring), and loving each other’s company. The children are enjoying themselves so much that we have invited children 6 years old and under to come and join the fun. We are thankful for the youth helping in the nursery each month. They have blessed us with their ideas, playfulness, and willingness to learn. God has really blessed us with committed and loving teachers. Thanks to the teachers, youth and children who made this year great. We pray that this summer, our teachers will be rested and refreshed for another fun year ahead. If you are interested in helping in the summertime or anytime, please call Sonya Bell.

### **Sunday School:**

The youth continue to take on a leadership role in the Sunday School, under the guidance of Eric, our Youth Ministry Director. This is a learning and “growth” experience for both youth and Sunday School students.

### **Youth:**

*Eric Park reports:*

It has been encouraging to watch the youth grow and develop over the past few months. As I have met with them on a weekly basis to prepare Sunday School, it has been great to see how they have learned to ask questions and lead discussions on Sunday mornings. We have been playing soccer on Sunday afternoons after church, which has provided a fun environment for the youth to bring their friends along and join in.

In May, Ryan, Jamie and I went to the Hillsongs concert at UBC with a group from Valley Church. We had a great time both worshipping God and jumping around having fun. The atmosphere of a stadium filled with Christian youth is amazing! We look forward to going to another Hillsongs concert in the future.

As for the summer, we are ending our Wednesday youth program with a wrap up youth party at Murdo Fraser Golf course on Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We will enjoy fun events over the summer months, when the youth are around and available.

## **Adult Education:**

Small groups continue to meet regularly with enthusiasm. Five groups are now studying different topics, offering a variety of subjects and catering to the varied interests of members. A new venture was piloted in May – a large group learning session on the subject of “Prayer”, led by Ken and taking place prior to the service of Matins on May 6<sup>th</sup>. This was well attended and well received. We hope that this will be the first of a series. Eric Park has provided the following personal report and summary of this session, as follows:

### *A Prayerful Church:*

*St. Timothy's Sunday morning adult teaching session led by Ken Bell left us with a call to prayer. Although prayer is a large topic, Ken addressed it in ways that can be practiced by all members of the church. Ken referred to the “Book ends of prayer” - morning and evening prayer.*

*Opening our day in prayer means taking the first moments of the day and spending them with the Lord. The early morning is often the most tranquil time of the day and suited to quiet prayer. Isaiah 40:31: “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint”. This type of prayer is done in silence – it is contemplative prayer or waiting prayer. As Isaiah says, “All who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength”, so we should wait: wait in silence, in anticipation of God renewing our strength, so that as we do His work, we will not be weary.*

*Ending our day in prayer is an opportunity to give thanks to God, giving glory to God, to whom it is due. Philippians 4:8: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things”.*

*This session on prayer was very practical and informative. Ken gave us the opportunity to dwell on several scripture passages and to share the thoughts that came to mind. Participants sharing their thoughts on prayer provided insight into where the hearts and minds of people are, and where they want to be in their relationship with God.*

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

The books recently added to the church library from the Alpha resource area are proving to be very popular. Please consider borrowing these books to read during the summer months.

The Grow team welcomes your suggestions and comments.

*Sarah Lucas*

## St Timothy's Church

### Statement of Operations for the Five Months ended May 31, 2007

	<b>Year to Date 2007</b>	<b>Year to Date 2006</b>	<b>Pro Rata Budget 2007</b>
<b>Donations:</b>			
Parochial	73,420	70,874	72,083
Less: Canonical Support	(7,341)	(7,088)	(7,208)
Extra Parochial & Other	1,649	2,764	0
Less: Outreach	(5,200)	(7,132)	(7,208)
	<u>62,528</u>	<u>59,418</u>	<u>57,667</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Salaries & Benefits	36,293	38,846	38,333
Training	1,314	0	2,083
Facilities Rental	7,478	7,304	7,917
Admin & Insurance	2,264	2,164	2,708
Church Ministries			
Go	864	728	1,750
Gather	555	908	583
Glorify	263	382	583
Grow	1,128	442	1,417
Give	0	0	43
	<u>50,159</u>	<u>50,774</u>	<u>55,417</u>
<b>Operating Income Before:</b>	12,369	8,644	2,250
Equipment	(1,458)	(3,038)	(1,250)
Contingency	0	0	(1,000)
Vision Fund	(112)	0	0
	<u>10,799</u>	<u>5,606</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Income for the Period</b>			

### **Treasurer's Report**

Parochial giving continues to be slightly above budget but includes over \$2,000 of seasonal giving for Easter. We are fully 3.5% ahead of last year even though there is one less Sunday in '07 compared to '06. This will continue for the balance of '07.

Expenditures are generally a little below budget and slightly below last year overall with modest variances in most categories which should not impact on full year expectations. Outreach to date largely consists of the payment of \$5,000 to Partners in Hope, a community based group offering hope, support and healing through Christ to victims of harmful circumstances and dependencies as they reclaim the gift of their life.

With almost half the year gone, our numbers continue to look excellent and it looks very much as though we will be able to support our proposed level of outreach. Thank you to everyone for your continuing support.

L.G. Lilley, Treasurer

# Prayer Corner

## CYCLE ON PRAYER (Third Part)

### HOW TO PRAY?

"This then is how you should pray: Our Father" THE LORD'S PRAYER- Mt. 6:9-15

PRAYER = ACTS + I (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication and Intercession)

Our lives should be bathed in prayer. "PRAY WITHOUT CEASING." 1 Thess. 5:17

"Pray IN THE SPIRIT on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." Eph.6:18

IN PRIVATE: "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Luke 5:16

"If you BELIEVE, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer" Mt. 21:21

"The prayer offered in FAITH will make the sick person well." James 5:15

WITH A PARTNER: "If two of you agree about anything that they may ask, it shall be done." Mt.18:19

WITH FASTING: "This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting" Mt. 17:21

"[Elijah] prayer EARNESTLY that it might not rain: and it rained not..." James 5:17

"[Jesus] prayed more EARNESTLY. And his sweat became like great drops of blood." Lk.22:44

"WITH THANSKIVING let your requests be made known to God." Phil.4; 6

"If my people...HUMBLE themselves, and pray...I will hear from heaven." 2 Chron. 7:14

BOLDNESS: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace...[to find help]. Heb.4:16

## DISGUISED DISTRACTION

Wasn't that the doorbell?  
Shouldn't you answer the phone?  
Have you written that letter?  
Why are you standing alone?

Clean up all this mess!  
Tune into that show.  
Make a cup of coffee.  
Give the lawn a mow.

Have you phoned your mother?  
Why not make a snack?  
Is that project finished?  
Are you getting slack?

Turn up that cool music!  
Is that a stain on your shirt?  
Have you vacuumed the carpets?  
Look at all that dirt!

Time to fetch the children.  
Drive them here and there.  
Don't forget your gym class.  
What are you going to wear?

I think your baby's crying.  
There's someone at the door.  
Did you cancel that appointment?  
Something fell on the floor.

Your clothes are looking shabby.  
The house is in a state.  
That suit needs collecting.  
Hurry or you'll be late!

What else can keep you busy?  
How about setting some goals?  
I'll use anything to stop you  
From quieting your soul.

Taken from *Inside Out* a collection of poems written by Vanessa McNamara

*Samantha MacDonald*

### **Prayer for Paul Carter and his family**

Every week, Sunday 8pm to Monday 8pm, St. Timothy's joins with Immanuel Church Vancouver in prayer for Paul, Lois, Naomi, Susannah and Sarah-Louise.

**Please sign up each Sunday to pray for one hour in your own home.**

The sign-up sheet is on the table next to the refreshment table

### **Calendar of Upcoming Meetings and Events**

**Saturday, September 8 St. Timothy's Garage Sale at the Haighs.**

**November/December Ladies' Group Craft Fairs.**

## **Parishioner Profile: VISIT TO THE HOLY LAND May 2007**

\* One of Israel's National Sites (National Parks and Nature Reserves)

We were thrilled to discover during a retreat at Westminster Abbey, Mission last October that there was a possibility of joining a group led by Jim and Annette Fergusson on a trip to Israel this May. The more we discovered about the group and itinerary, the more interesting the prospect became. Jim and Annette organized monthly pot luck gatherings at their home to enable the group to get to know one another and to give details about the trip. This was particularly helpful in giving us a chance to find out more – some of the group had already visited the Holy Land.

On May 3, nearly all the 29 registered left for Britain, most spending a few days in London, but Hazel took the opportunity to visit family near Belfast and Florence did likewise near Cardiff. We all gathered at Heathrow on May 7 to fly to Tel Aviv, arriving at about 5 a.m. (Tuesday morning). What a magnificent, modern airport! We were ushered through with courtesy and no delays and were met by our guide, an American, Professor Wink Thompson. He had studied and taught at the University of Jerusalem and was clearly delighted at the opportunity to bring parts of the Bible to life for us. He was very knowledgeable about varied aspects of life in Israel and his wife, Chris, helped ensure that all went well during the trip, bringing up the rear during walks and encouraging the faint-hearted (Florence knows from personal experience!). We were soon on a comfortable, air-conditioned coach heading for Jerusalem. It was a beautifully sunny morning and everything was bathed in very bright light. We climbed east from the Mediterranean coast about 2,500 feet through the foothills and stopped on the Mount of Olives to get our first view of the Old City. It was breathtaking looking over the Kedron Valley and seeing spread out before us on the hillside opposite the entire Old City, surrounded with ancient high, strong walls and dominated by the shining, golden Dome of the Rock.

After checking into our first quarters, Notre Dame Centre, a large Catholic centre which was a comfortable and convenient temporary home situated just outside the walls of the Old City, we had a few hours to relax before setting out on foot on a very hot afternoon to the Garden Tomb. This is one of the possible but unlikely sites of Jesus' burial. We saw the "skull" rock (*John 19.17*) and an open tomb, both set in beautiful gardens. Our first service, Holy Communion led by Jim Fergusson, held in a shady section of the garden, was very meaningful for all. Our guide, Wink, explained that there are only two places in existence now where we know for sure that Jesus walked; one is some original temple steps that He would have used and the other is the Sea of Galilee. Many places have been selected to represent those mentioned in Jesus' ministry e.g. The Mount of Beatitudes, but no-one can be absolutely sure that it is the exact spot. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which we visited later in the trip, is generally acknowledged as the probable place where Jesus was buried, but some people still favour the Garden Tomb.

Every day was begun with prayer – thankfulness that God had brought us to this place to spend the day in study and requests for safety and health. At some point each day, Wink read to us a part of the Bible relevant to the area being visited and offered some commentary on it. Jim and Annette sometimes added an extra point that they knew would be particularly relevant to the group or a few of the people. We did not forget the purpose of our visit – that this was a pilgrimage, not a historical tour or a pleasure trip.

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Wednesday was spent exploring the Old City on foot, visiting all four Quarters. In the Christian Quarter we went to Christ Church (Anglican), saw St. James Church in the Armenian Quarter, went to the Wailing Wall and had a talk by an ecumenical Jew about how much in common Jews and Christians really have in the Jewish Quarter, then walked through a market in the Muslim Quarter back to Christ Church for lunch. There were several immediate insights – we felt safe wandering through the streets with a group, the Quarters felt different from one another but seemed to merge easily, the streets were made of blocks of limestone that were worn, slippery and sometimes uneven and in some sectors there were many merchants ready to entice you into their stores and bargain mercilessly. (Hazel later proved to be an excellent shopper as she took ages to make up her mind and the prices kept getting lower and lower!).

On Thursday, we left early on a lengthy walk outside the old city walls from the north, going eastwards, then south until we reached the Temple Mount, the site of the Dome of the Rock, the main focus of Christians, Muslims and Jews. This was where Abraham, the Patriarch of all three religions, took Isaac to kill him as the Lord commanded (*Genesis 22*). Nowadays the site is crowned by the golden dome of the Mosque of Aqsa, closed to non-Muslims, but we were allowed to walk around the outside of the building on a large flat pavement. We saw the Golden Gate overlooking the Kedron Valley, where it is anticipated that Jesus will return. We returned through the Muslim and Jewish Quarters to a pleasant open square for lunch before visiting two museums with ruins of houses of Jesus' time, including one particularly large one that might have belonged to Caiaphas the High Priest. We watched a video depicting a Jewish family, their daily life and then their brutal murder by Roman soldiers in about 70AD. The afternoon concluded with a visit to the City of David, the oldest part of the Old City, where we sat near the steps where Jesus might have walked, then focussed mainly on the ruins of a very important water system which was constructed to serve the city. The group clambered down precariously steep steps for hundreds of feet, and arrived at the choice of going through Hezekiah's tunnel with water up to our knees or a dry tunnel (*2 Chronicles 32:30*). Hazel and Florence opted for the dry tunnel, but the latter wondered if she'd made the right choice when it got so narrow that she was concerned about getting stuck for eternity. Near the exit from the wet tunnel, we saw the Pools of Siloam (*John 9:7*). After a very full day, we were delighted when the coach appeared to get us home in comfort.

On Friday and Saturday there were coach trips from Jerusalem, the first to Jericho, the oldest and lowest (over a thousand feet below sea level) continuously inhabited city in the world. We were fortunate that we were allowed into Palestine, but our coach drivers' response that we were Canadians did the trick. We were very aware of the terrain becoming drier and stonier as we descended into the Jordan Valley through the wilderness. After lunch in quite a luxurious restaurant and purchasing some fruit grown in the fertile Jordan valley, we climbed to a viewpoint from which we could see the valley and a monastery on the barren hill behind us, where it is felt that Jesus spent his 40 days and nights in the wilderness (*Matthew 4*). Our guide, Wink, told us of the history of the area, particularly, of course, of the falling of the walls of Jericho, Joshua's first battle after Moses' death (*Joshua 6*).

The Saturday trip was to Bethlehem via \*Herodyon, a massive fortress built by Herod, where his tomb had been found just a week before our visit. Herod had earth transferred from a nearby mountain to ensure that Herodyon had a magnificent view as far as Bethlehem, Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. As usual we found ruins of ritual baths and water cisterns and could see at the foot of the mountain the ruin of a large swimming pool that Herod had used. Wink read us an account by a Roman historian of the dreadful illnesses that Herod had endured at the end of his life. A merciless tyrant, Herod was hated, but in order to ensure the Jews would grieve on the day of his death, he had a large number of well-known Jews captured and arranged for them to die immediately after him. Fortunately this edict was never carried out.

In Bethlehem, now a large modern, bustling city, we visited the Church of the Nativity seeing mosaic floors and Crusader paintings and a marble star at the entrance to an area in the basement which is believed to be the birthplace of Jesus. Wink explained that it is likely that the 'inn" (*Luke 2*) was actually the home of some relatives of Joseph with whom they would have stayed and that the birth possibly took place in the lower level of the house where the animals were sheltered. We visited the shops of some carvers who specialized in olive wood carvings of the nativity. On the way back to the coach (only about 4 blocks), everyone was soaked through by a torrential downpour of rain. Normally, it doesn't rain in that area between April and September!

Sunday was a much appreciated free day. Most of the group attended Holy Communion in Christ Church, a traditional Anglican Church, which was an easy walk away. Ironically, the main church (the oldest protestant church east of Britain) is being renovated, so the service was in a temporary hall nearby. It was crowded with a mix of regular parishioners and several groups of tourists including one from New Zealand and another from Canada. They served a very refreshing cold lemon drink after the service. We later wandered around the Jewish Quarter and then attended a short service at St. James, an Armenian Church, before heading to our lodgings to prepare for leaving early the next day.

On Monday, our coach descended towards Tel Aviv, stopping at an ecological reserve which focuses on plants of the bible, called Neot Kedumim. An excellent guide led us on a walking tour for several hours, explaining each of the main plants, how they were used in Biblical times and their significance. Of course, the olive tree was one of the most prominent, invaluable because of the light provided by olive oil, but one of the many other plants mentioned was the sycamore (note that this is not our sycamore). Zaccheus climbed a sycamore (*Luke 19:2*): we discovered that not only is this a particularly easy tree to climb, but also that it is a symbol of steadfastness because it grows in spite of the harshness of the climate and can regenerate even if all parts above ground have died. The reserve served a biblically-based lunch with honey made from dates as one of the dessert options. We continued south into the desert, stopping to climb a steep hill overlooking the site of the battle between David and Goliath (*1 Samuel 17*) before continuing to Be'er Sheva, a modern and rapidly expanding desert city, where we spent the night.

On Tuesday we continued south into a very dry area (annual rainfall 4 inches) to \*Avdat, where we visited a museum and then drove nearby to the ruins of a Byzantine Church and Roman fort. Wink discussed the common recycling of stones and sites and the Spice Route which would have passed through Avdat on its way to Petra. Turning northward, we made our way to a model of a Bedouin Encampment, deep in the sands of the desert but fed by a pipe from the nearest town. Their way of adapting their lifestyle to arid conditions was fascinating; though nomadic, they reached a high level of comfort and convenience. We were served tea with water boiled on an open fire in a large tent and also a sort of pancake we saw made, then baked on a metal saucer placed upside-down over the fire. There was a herd of camels just outside the camp and one of donkeys nearby. Groups could stay overnight in the camp, but Annette and Jim judged rightly that our group would prefer a modern hotel and had reserved accommodation in one at Arad.

Early on Wednesday morning, our coach descended to the Dead Sea, 1,300 feet below sea level. The southern section of the sea is gradually drying up as minerals and oils are being extracted for sale, but the northern part is still 1,000 feet deep in places. It is fed from the north by the Jordan River, which in turn is fed by three streams which emerge from the foot of Mount Hebron in the north of Israel. Our first stop was \*Masada, a very large fortress on a hill overlooking the Dead Sea, where nine hundred and sixty Jews carried out a pact to murder one another, with the last one committing suicide after a siege by the Romans lasting 9 months in 70AD, so that they would not be killed or taken prisoner. This was a magnificent site, reached now by cable-car, which included two palaces, a church, an administrative building and a swimming pool. We continued on to \*Qumran, some caves near the Dead Sea where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. This version of some books of the Old Testament, dating from about 100AD, copied by members of the Essenes, a traditional Jewish sect, was found to be very similar to translations done through the ages. Florence decided to take up the challenge of a float in the Dead Sea (*Genesis 13*). However, she found that scrambling in over slippery rocks, then slipping around on a greasy surface was highly disconcerting, so settled for sitting in the Dead Sea in a plastic chair! Hazel got a photograph! Some of our group did manage to float – you can't do otherwise if you take your feet off the bottom, as it is 30% salt. A long journey brought us to a Kibbutz Holiday Camp at Ein Gev, a pleasant resort on the east side of the Sea of Galilee, a wider section of the River Jordan, about 12 miles long and 10 miles wide.

Since Jesus' ministry took place mainly in the area of the Sea of Galilee, this was our principal focus for the next four days. Each day the coach took us to a different area, beginning with Nazareth. We spent Thursday morning at Nazareth Village, where locals re-enact life at the time of Jesus. We walked around a hillside visiting a shepherd, a carpenter and a weaver and enjoying the antics of a two-week old donkey. The guide took us around some houses of the time and showed us some oil presses. Later, at Nazareth we visited the modern Church of the Annunciation, built on the site of an ancient synagogue. Many countries had contributed to the construction of the Catholic Church, and each had a large panel illustrating a facet of the story. Some were dazzlingly beautiful, but Canada's was an enigmatic, rather disappointing monotone.

On Friday in the Golan Heights we visited the reconstructed Talmudic village of Qatzrin depicting life in 300AD, which reinforced our experience in Nazareth Village. At Caesarea Philippi we saw remnants of many temples, making it an ideal place for Peter to exclaim that Jesus was the Messiah (*Matthew 16:13*). We visited two of the three underground streams that form the River Jordan, \*Banias and \*Dan Springs, where we walked along the stream in a nature reserve. On the way back to the Sea of Galilee, we saw preparations for a protest the next day. A young Jewish Movement was requesting that Israel talk to her neighbours in an effort to find peace. Some young soldiers were guarding the site. Throughout Israel, particularly in urban areas, one was aware of young soldiers, men and women, many in their compulsory three years of service.

Saturday was spent visiting centres of Jesus' ministry, the River Jordan, the Church of the Beatitudes and Capernaum. The Catholic Church of the Beatitudes (*Matthew 5*), a beautiful building in lovely gardens overlooking the Sea of Galilee was an appropriate setting to consider Jesus' teachings. At Capernaum we visited both the ancient, greatly ornamented Greek Orthodox Church where an adult baptism was in progress and the ultra-modern Catholic Church built over the ruin of St. Peter's house. Later we went to a maritime museum in which a first century fishing boat discovered in the Sea of Galilee in the 1990s has been restored. Sailed over the Sea of Galilee 10 miles back to Ein Geve in a modern version of the wooden boat, we stopped in the middle to think of Jesus' miracles.

The following day, Sunday, Jim Fergusson led a service of Holy Communion on the beach at Ein Geve. Genelle, one of the group, led us in singing "Ancient words" which rang particularly true in that setting. Afterwards, two of the group were baptised in the Sea of Galilee and ten others, we two included, decided to renew our vows by immersing ourselves totally three times. It was a very special time for all of us. Later the coach took some of us to Tiberias and I had fish and chips with local St. Peter's fish – delicious!

On Monday morning the coach left for Jerusalem via several important sites. The first was \*Megiddo (*1 Kings 9:13*), site of an ancient on the juncture of the route from the coast to Northern Israel and the trunk route from Egypt to Syria and Mesopotamia. The site dominated the area and as two Israeli military jets shrieked past, for the first time one was aware of possible danger in this land. Wink calmed our unspoken apprehension by remarking that this was a normal daily training session. We continued our journey to Mount Carmel where we read the account of Elijah's challenge to the prophets of Baal and his ultimate victory (*1 Kings 18*). Lunch, the falafel on pita bread with a variety of salads to which we had become accustomed, was served in a restaurant run by some members of the Druze Sect who are famous for their weaving. Our coach descended to the Mediterranean coast where the sea breezes were wonderfully refreshing after the sometimes stifling heat. At \*Caesarea we saw more of Herod's construction – a magnificent amphitheatre overlooking the sea, with a hippodrome and baths alongside – all part of Herod's need to curry favour with the Romans. We remembered that the Apostle Paul was at Caesarea, where he converted Cornelius (*Acts 10*). After negotiating traffic jams reminiscent of home when crossing Tel Aviv in rush hour, we were glad to arrive back at Notre Dame Centre to be warmly welcomed "home" by an Irish Father.

On Tuesday we left early by coach for the Mount of Olives which was swarming with tourists and vendors. We then continued on foot down the mount to a Catholic Church and the Garden of Gethsemani, where we saw olive trees from 300AD, probably the descendants of the ones there in Jesus' time. At the bottom of the very steep hill we took taxis into the Old City, entering by St Stephen's Gate, and walked to St. Anne's, a church run by the White Fathers. The ancient church is on the site of the Pools of Bethesda (*John 5*) of which the ruins are visible. Inside the church under the high dome, Jim led us in some slow songs and the reverberation was amazing. One could hear the echo of the song long after the last note was enunciated. After walking through the Muslim Quarter back into the Jewish Quarter, we went into a room that is the traditional site of the Last Supper (*Luke 22:7*). After giving thanks for our time together in the Holy Land, Wink announced the end of our pilgrimage.

Wednesday, a free day, happened to be a Jewish Holy Day and thousands of Jews came to Jerusalem to worship. Hazel and I decided to avoid the crowds and we stayed in the Christian and Armenian Quarters as well as taking a long walk around part of the Old City wall, which proved to be challenging as there were frequent high steps up and down. However, it did give some wonderful views over both the old city and part of the modern one. On several hills surrounding Jerusalem there is modern development including many immense apartment buildings. Cranes signal the abundant building sites. While some slum areas were evident, there were also multiple signs of prosperity. In the countryside the roads are well maintained. We visited only eight of the sixty-four Nature Reserves and National Parks, so left the Holy Land with the feeling that there was much more to see and do.

On Thursday we left Notre Dame Centre at 4.30am and, after two uneventful flights and a 5 hour stop-over at Heathrow Terminal 4, arrived in Vancouver just before 7pm – in total we'd been en route for just over 24 hours. No wonder when Peter Haigh asked me three days afterwards if I'd go again, my response was, "Not right now. Maybe later!"

How does one sum up such a totally overwhelming experience? We were blessed in many ways. Wink was a superb guide, giving us insights into biblical passages, knowing how to give out information in an interesting way and limiting his comments to what we could absorb. Jim and Annette had used knowledge and discretion in setting up the itinerary which offered challenges and brought many rewards. All of the group were of one mind and a sense of "family" was quickly established. We were able to visit everywhere planned without challenge or inconvenience. We were blessed by remaining healthy throughout the trip during which many had colds and coughs. We are thankful that our trip to such a special place was so blessed and thank all those at St. Timothy's who prayed for us.

*Hazel Blacoe and Florence Wilton*

## **Church Council (elected on February 25, 2007)**

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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.

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