

# The Periodic...

(A somewhat regular but mostly irregular publication)

Fall 2012

## MOVING FORWARD IN OUR VISION & MISSION...

I recently attended a Regent College evening with Rex Murphy, Preston Manning & John Stackhouse, the theme was "From Doctrine to Doctrines: the Hollowing out of the Christian Consensus". One of the questions raised was, 'How can the church speak with an effective voice in culture today? And what message should we convey?' Not long ago the church held centre stage, but today we are mostly on the fringes of the cultural conversation. Why this change took place is complex and not as important as how we ought to now deal with this reality.

This past weekend with the help of Pastor Todd Wiebe, we brought this conversation to our annual council retreat. Over the next several weeks as a part of the sermon series on the church, you are going to hear more about that conversation, & some of the ideas & conclusions we came to. For now I just want to give you the highlights as we look to move forward in our vision and mission here at St. Timothy's.

As we studied through "The Prodigals" & other parables in Luke, this fall, one of the main themes we drew out was one of identity, 'Who are you? Who or what informs that identity...relationships, vocation, consumption?' This is why the first question asked by the father was, 'Do you still remember who you are, my son?' We cannot answer the question of identity fully apart from understanding who we are in Christ. This is the key thought and hope we can offer in the cacophony of other cultural voices and questions.

So how do we figure out who we are in Christ, what our identity is?

**Through worship (Glorify)**- Worship is one of the primary means through which we enter into relationship with him, and come to understand who he is & who we are. This means that our use of historic liturgy is not an end goal but rather an instrument used for a greater meaning & purpose.

**Through prayer & devotion (Grow)**- Together we will pray & learn to pay attention to the presence & activity of God in our daily life through sermons, small groups & personal spiritual practices.

**Through the church family (Gather)**- By getting to know each other through fellowship & stories & by caring for one other in times of need, we learn more about ourselves & the love of Jesus.

**Through acts of help & service (Go & Give)**- As a church we will continue to reach out beyond ourselves to help & serve the wider community (locally, nationally & internationally) for we are his body, his hands & feet. Also we want to help you to find your place of help & service where you live.

The question which will help govern all that we do & the culture we create here at St. Timothy's is, "How can I best represent Christ, right here, right now?"

## Give update:

As part of the cultural DNA of St. Timothy's we have always wanted to take giving seriously, understanding it as a spiritual practice & discipline. We have taught about stewardship & the biblical idea of the tithe, giving generously to the work of the body (the church). But we wanted this not just to be the DNA of individuals within the church, but also of the church itself, if we are going to encourage members to give 10% then the church ought to give 10%. And each year we have been faithful in doing this. At our September council meeting we agreed where some of our tithe would go in terms of outreach:

- \$800 to Christ the Redeemer an Anglican Farsi speaking church plant in North Vancouver.
- \$1600 to Mountain Valley Mission
- \$1600 to The Harvest Project
- \$2500 to The Table Church
- \$1200 to A Rocha
- \$3600 to Kids 4 Kids
- \$5000 set aside for Naome coming to Regent if we can raise \$15,000 from other sources over the next few months.

## UPCOMING DATES:

- Nov 4: Submissions for Advent Guide
- Nov 11: Remembrance Day Service
- Nov 18: Odes of Solomon with 'The Worship Project' 7:30 @ Sutherland
- Dec 2: Advent 1 with Sutherland 10am
- Dec 8: St. Timothy's Christmas Party
- Dec 9: "Christmas Presence" 8pm @ Sutherland

