

The Periodic...

(A somewhat regular but mostly irregular publication)

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CHURCH & CULTURE...LEARNING TO BE FAITHFULLY PRESENT

The church participates in the continuation of Jesus incarnation, by the Holy Spirit we are the ongoing presence of Christ on earth.

To say there has been a dramatic change the interaction and relationship between the church and culture in the last fifty years, (and even in the last ten years) is not a shock to anyone. It is a change 250 years in the making but one very few churches saw coming & one to which even fewer have been able to respond to in a positive, productive and adequate way.

During this time the church has moved from being at the centre of culture & the public sphere to its margins. Christians have gone from majority status to minority status (due to both being a pluralistic culture & the rapid decline of the faith). Christians once felt at home in the culture, surrounded by institutions & agencies which reflected a common faith, today we are strangers, sojourners in that culture. Where once our position of privilege gave us a voice, control & sense of authority in culture, now we are one small voice in a sea of voices, thoughts, beliefs & ideas & our influence now comes only through our witness & our story. The church, which for generations, assumed its entitled place in the world & so worked primarily to maintain & protect itself as 'the institution' now has to think of itself as a missionary movement. We can no longer consider ourselves to be even in a 'post-Christian' world, where our stories of faith & belief are known but rejected; instead we live in a pre-Christian world, similar to the early church where almost nothing is known of the stories or teachings of Jesus.

To date the church has primarily responded in one of three ways: first to fight back against culture & try to hold on to the power that was once ours, the result here has been to alienate the culture & make the church trivial. Second to assimilate to the culture & make ourselves relevant & non-offensive this has resulted in us alienating Jesus & making the church redundant. Or third, to withdraw from culture & try to form our own safe Christian sub-culture resulting in making the church invisible & inconsequential. There must be another way.

SEEK THE WELFARE OF THE CITY WHERE I HAVE SENT YOU INTO EXILE, AND PRAY TO THE LORD ON ITS BEHALF, FOR IN ITS WELFARE YOU WILL FIND YOUR WELFARE

How are we to respond to the changes in our culture? This is exactly what we will be looking at over the next four weeks in our sermons and our bible studies. But as a little foretaste...

We begin by looking to God and what God has done to reach out to his beloved creation. Jesus becomes incarnate, God dwells among his people.

He then teaches his disciples (and us) that as the Father sent him, so he sends us. As he is made to dwell among us to bring healing and peace, to too are we to dwell in the culture and be ambassadors of reconciliation. The church is not just a place to gather together, sing songs and celebrate the Eucharist. The church IS the body of Christ and like Him we are to seek the welfare of his children. We are to be faithfully present.

Something's happenin' here...

We welcome the Rev. Simon Chin as an honorary assistant at St. Timothy's. Rev. Simon will spend some time helping out St. Andrew's in Delta over the next few months but will also begin to be involved in ministry with us.

Grady Buhler is now officially on track towards ordination to the diaconate. We are setting up a discernment team to pray with Grady and encourage him through the process. In the weeks and months to come Grady will be helping to lead us in worship, preaching and teaching.

St. Timothy's & Sutherland are working together on 'First Five' a ministry for children K-5. The first two events have been very successful with over thirty children at each and with most kids inviting friends. We are always looking for volunteers to help out. The next event is May 10 'Family Kitchen' everyone is a chef.

We are currently working on a brand new website which will be ready to launch in August. You can also check us out on [f](#) [t](#)

