

*St. Catherine's
Anglican Church
Newsletter
OCTOBER 2005*



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Upcoming Events

October	12	7:30 pm	Parish Council
October	20	2:00 pm	Friendship Circle Tea
October	22		Young Families' Supper Club
October	23	4:00 pm	Evergreen Service
October	25	7:30 pm	Parish Vision Meeting
October	28	7:00 pm	Supper Club
October	29	10:00 am	New to You Sale
October	29	6:00 pm	Pizza and a Picture
October	30	12:00 pm	Parish Vision Meeting
November	1	7:30 pm	Parish Vision Meeting
November	6	12:00 pm	Parish Vision Meeting
November	8	7:30 pm	<i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i> Book Study
November	9	7:30 pm	Parish Council
November	15	7:30 pm	<i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i> Movie
November	27	4:00 pm	Evergreen Service



Bargain-Counter Religion

If you give to God, will you always prosper?

That was the message American evangelist Oral Roberts sent to his two million “partners in ministry” a number of years ago when he asked them to send him \$67 - or \$670 - to support his work.

It is not unique for Churches to raise support from among their followers. St. Paul had no compunction whatever in expecting material support from the congregations he served.

Moses wrote, “Don’t muzzle an ox to keep it from eating the grain when it’s threshing.” So if we have planted spiritual seed among you, is it out of line to expect a meal or two from you? Others demand plenty from you in these ways. Don’t we who have never demanded deserve even more? (1 Cor. 9:9, &ff - The Message). You can’t get anything more up front than that.

Collections, moreover, were not limited to supporting ministry. From earliest times there has been a great Christian tradition of supporting the poor, a carry-over from the Mosaic Law which contained safeguards for those who had fallen on evil times (Deut. 15). Consequently, on his missionary journeys St. Paul took up a collection for the poor in the church at Jerusalem. According to the directions he gave to the congregations in Galatia, he could tell the Corinthians: “Every Sunday each of you make an offering and put it in safekeeping. Be as generous as you can. When I get there you’ll have it ready, and I won’t have to make a special appeal.” (1 Cor. 16:2 I The Message).

Oral Roberts, on the other hand, was asking for a specific sum. He told his supporters that the \$67 - or \$670 - came to him as a message from God from reading Galatians 6:7 “Don’t be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest.” (The Message) Like many fundamentalists, Oral Roberts has a preoccupation with the significance of numbers in Scripture, but far better is an intelligent understanding of what the Bible is saying.

In this instance the apostle is enunciating a principle of life: what a person sows determines what they reap. “The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others - ignoring God! - harvests a crop of weeds. All he’ll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God’s Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.” (Gal. 6:8- The Message).

**Give, and it will be given to you.
A good measure, pressed down,
shaken together, running over,
will be put into your lap;
for the measure you give
will be the measure you get back.
Luke 6:36**

St. Paul develops this theme elsewhere. In his second letter to the Corinthians he returns to the harvest metaphor: “Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop” (9:6). The apostle’s argument is that the God who provides bountifully for all our needs is no one’s debtor. Therefore he lays down the principle: “I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.”(9:7- The Message).

The Christian life, therefore, can best be described as “our response to God.” That is also a definition of worship. And that is what Christian stewardship is all about - a recognition that everything we possess from the air we breathe to the things we own comes from God and belongs to Him. We are but the joyful custodians of His bounty.

But will our business prosper if we give to Oral Roberts or for that matter to any other church or charity? Of course God is no person’s debtor, and to be selfish is to sow the seeds of our own destruction. Yet let us beware the selfish motive which can so easily creep in and corrupt our best intentions!

God calls us to be faithful, not successful. How easy it is to reduce the grace of God to a bargain-counter relationship! To be a Christian is not to be provided with a one-way ticket to the easy life. What God

promises us is not that we shall be relieved of the vicissitudes of life, but that He will see us through them. The Jewish people are a grand testimony to that truth.

In the Bible, rewards are not conceived in terms of crowns and thrones and golden slippers, things external to us. No, God's greatest rewards are those that are internal to a person, which equip us for yet more faithful service. Not fatter profits and bigger balance sheets, but entering into the joy of our Lord (Matt. 25:21, 23).



From the Administrator

I can hardly believe that it's Thanksgiving Sunday next week! September has been a flurry of activity.

The Sunday School pancake breakfast was very well-received and hints were dropped to have one every Sunday! We can't promise to do that but, hopefully, we will be able to have a couple more over the coming program year as it was a lot of fun.

On September 18th we shared a table with Highlands United at the Edgemont Village Harvest Festival. We had crafts for children and handouts on the Church and Preschool for those interested. My thanks to Leslie, Bonnie and Sheila who gave up part of their Sunday afternoon to help out at the table; I couldn't have done it without you.

Susan Kimm-Jones

INTRODUCING . . .



Kasia and Michael Bulva and their 28 month old son Mateo. They have lived on the North Shore for five years, after spending seven in the Kitsilano area. They came to British Columbia from Alberta, where Michael was born and grew up. Kasia arrived in Alberta when she was eleven years old, from her homeland in Poland.

Michael is an entrepreneur, who has experience in an interesting range of endeavours, and is currently in the process of developing a new company. Kasia is in retail management and is the manager of a Bridal Shop in North Vancouver.

While family life with Mateo takes much of their time now, they enjoy doing lots of hiking and walking on the North Shore and participating in physical sports. They enjoy travel but have put that on hold for the time being. However a trip to Kasia's Poland is something they are looking forward to doing in the near future.

Looking for a church community in which they could participate, Michael and Kasia express real enjoyment about their introduction to St. Catherine's. In Michael's words it was a warm and wonderful welcome. They were married in St. Catherine's in August, which they understand will be the last wedding John will perform before his retirement. They have some special thanks they would like to share:

- to John for his guidance and support and invitation into the church community
- to the children's choir for singing at their wedding
- to Jim Westwell who, while doing a sound recording of the choir, recorded their marriage ceremony and then presented them with a copy.

*Welcome Kasia, Michael and Mateo,
we are delighted you have joined us.*

Outreach Sunday

“For as much as you do for the least of these, my people, you do it for Me” On Sunday, Sept. 18th we enjoyed a great display of our Outreach projects, following an inspiring message about “forasmuch” by John Luccock. Representatives from *Operation Eyesight Universal* and the *Bochabelo Project* joined us with their material. Tables were set up with information from *PWRDF*, *Developing Countries Farm Radio Network*, and *Tess Meadows, volunteer in Mission*. Other missions of interest to the parish were also displayed including *Mission to Seafarers*, *North Shore Youth Safe House*, *North Shore Homeless Shelter and Transitional Housing*, and *Quest Outreach Society*.

The next step is to invite your suggestions for new Outreach projects for 2006. If you have a cause that you would like see supported, either local or international, please fill out a proposal form, available at the information table or in the office by the end of October. The committee will then select and present for budget approval at the vestry meeting in February.

Notice from New Member Ministry

We are hoping to start up a *Young Families Supper Club* similar to the the regular *Supper Club* that has been a part of St. Catherines for many years and gives our members a chance to socialise with each other. The supper club for young families would include baby sitting, activities and a movie and supper for the older children. If you think this would interest your family please contact me at church or by leaving a message with Susan Kimm-Jones or ring my home number in the Church Directory.

Chris Whalen

Home Communion Ministry

About six months ago, our Rector announced the introduction of a lay ministry to assist with visiting members of our parish family who are no longer able to attend church on a regular basis and are mostly confined to their homes. This ministry offers them the opportunity to receive Holy Communion at home on a monthly basis. As well, the visits allow them to stay connected with news of what is happening in the parish. The Home Communion Ministry consists of four teams of two ministrants each and one alternate member.

During the last six months the program has been well received and so it has been decided to extend these visitations to include members of our congregation who may be in hospital and who wish to receive Holy Communion during their time there. If you personally would like to be visited by one of our teams during a hospital stay or if you know of a parishioner who would like to be visited, please contact Susan Kimm-Jones, our Office Administrator, and a visit will be arranged.

Eileen Wooding

Harvest of Hope

Feeding hungry people is the goal of this Thanksgiving event, sponsored by Quest Outreach Society. Non-perishable foods will be collected to stock the food banks throughout the diocese and provide food to over 40,000 people a month. St. Catherines will have a collection box in the lobby over the Thanksgiving week. Financial donations will also be welcomed in the office. Please spread the word, collect from your neighbours and friends, and bring in your offerings. Let's show our thanksgiving and make this a sign of our caring in the community.

*This one week event will not detract from our ongoing Food Bank collections.



Sunday School News

Sunday School started up with a bang on Sept. 11th. Special thanks to the John Luccock, Jeremy and Joe Coogan, Parish Council, Youth Group and all the other volunteers who came

and helped and cooked up the yummy pancakes and sausages for the Welcome Back Sunday Breakfast. Everyone enjoyed themselves and it certainly made for a great start to the year. Attendance in Sunday school was tremendous with 20 children in the preschool - grade 1 class and 17 in grade 2 - 4 class. The children were amused with making bookmarks of their feet and of a cross and a scavenger hunt of the church. The winners will be announced at a later date!

Just a reminder to parents that there will be no Sunday school on the following dates:

Oct 9th	Mar 12th
Dec 25th	Mar 19th
Jan 1st	May 21st

Also please mark on your calendars the following dates for our Christmas pageant, Nov. 27th, and Easter Pageant on Palm Sunday April 8th. We plan on presenting a smaller version of the traditional Christmas play on Nov. 27th. We would like to make the Easter pageant an annual event presenting *The Tale of Three Trees*. If you came and enjoyed it last year please tell your friends about it and join us this year.

Thank you to all the teachers who are giving of their time again this year and to the parents who have so graciously offered to help lighten our load by helping in the classes. We are looking forward to a wonderful year.



Heather Peacock

St Catherine's Servers' Guild

The Servers started out the new season with a party at the home of Heather Luccock, with Joe Coogan and Vivian McGie. Tacos and ice cream sundaes were the menu items laced with lots of games and puzzles. We welcomed Rebecca Rebane and Natahsa Ashby to our ranks. This means we now have 16 servers. Spenser Davidson, a member of the children's choir joined in our party as well. The others returning this year are:

Natasha Ashby	Katherine Brady	Jeremy Coogan
Patrick Coogan	Christian Garton	Dominique Legendre
Sean Moen	Alex McMordie	Hanna Rebane
Johannes Rebane	Anna Watson	Thomas Watson
Lohralee Williams	Jordan Whiteside	

A commissioning service for the newcomers is yet to be decided. Anyone ages 9 and up is welcome to join our Guild.

A Letter from the North Shore Homeless Shelter

We are still in desperate need of bus tickets to get the residents to their appointments during the day now that we are operating with a reduced budget and staffing. Other things that we could use are socks and underwear, disposable razors, shaving cream, Rogers (or the like) vouchers for DVD's, (movie rentals) magazine subscriptions, old magazines, readers Digests etc. We are sufficiently stocked up with blankets and such as a local group has taken us under their wing and are making blankets for us from micro fibre!

I can let you know that we are operating at about 98 % occupancy; however in the past week we have had up to 7 people per night sleeping on mats on the floor. We still have many people coming in off of the street and out of the woods for meals and showers.

Of course, what is really needed is the reinstatement of our funding so that we will be able to remain open 24/7 and not the 12 hours per

evening that we are currently open. So, to this end, letters of support to our MP's and MLA's would be effective. Of course, your Church members might wish to come on down and check out the shelter to see what it is that we do here. Hope that your Outreach Sunday goes well.

Thank you again to all of you for supporting us over the years. Hope this gives you some ideas.

*Sincerely,
Richard Turton,
North Shore Shelter Site manager*

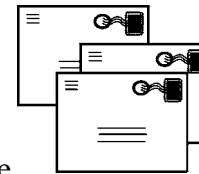
Previous requests:

As they operate with minimal staffing, they are asking for a roster of volunteers, willing to give a few hours a week . Areas desperately needing help include:

- Kitchen, and help with lunch or dinner*
- Clothing room- sorting and distributing donated clothing*
- Housekeeping - assisting with lounge tidy-up, watering plants*
- Maintenance - odd jobs that need to be done*
- Gardening*
- Assisting clientele with computer skills*

Used Stamps ————— A Thank You

A letter was recently received from the Canadian Bible Society , expressing their gratitude to those members of the congregation who collect used postage stamps for donation to their work in distributing bibles around the world. This year both the Sudan and Eritrea have asked for Bibles. The Society writes “our sincere thanks to all those who will help to make filling this request possible”.



Both Canadian and international stamps are of interest to the Bible Society. They package and sell them to stamp dealers and collectors, using the monies received for the printing and distribution of bibles.

A gentle reminder was included in their letter, that used stamps lose their value and have to be thrown out when they get cut or creased. Please keep at least a 1/4" margin around each stamp. Be careful that the full perforation around the stamp is in tack and that the stamp hasn't been creased, folded or torn. Meter stamps are not used.

Your envelopes or bags of used stamps may be left in the bottom drawer of the small wooden cabinet located in the corner of the lobby, across from the church office. Thank you. Your support is very much appreciated.

Communication Corner

Fall is progressing and so too are the events in the Christian Education programs. The study being led by the Rt. Rev. Jim Cruickshank is well underway and is being appreciated by a good turnout of participants. It is being held every Tuesday evening until October 11th when it will conclude with coffee and dessert! If you cannot attend all the evenings come when you can. It is being taped so catch ups can be done at one's leisure.

Prayer and Movement by Tannis Hugill will proceed on November 19th and will run from 10:00AM to 2:00 PM. Jeanette Stigger and Heather Luccock are organizing this event. Cost will be about 10-12 dollars. Lunch will be included.

Tuesdays With Morrie - the review of the book will take place on November 8th at 7:00 pm in the Mary Pellat Room. Do read the book and join us for an evening we have labelled ***Journey of Discovery*** We will show the movie by the same name on Tuesday, November 15th at 7:00 PM

The next ***Pizza and a Picture*** will be held on October 29th. Do join us again for a relaxing evening.

Betty Kavanagh

Financial Matters

The good news is that with the arrival of September there has been a significant increase in our weekly offerings. This is welcome news indeed as we have a substantial deficit (about \$46,000) which needs to be addressed in the coming months. If you are not currently up to date with your weekly offerings please update them as soon as you can. All parishioners are urged to add to their usual givings in the coming months as they are able. It will take a major effort to get back on track by the end of the year.



Concerning Stewards In Action, many of you may have read the article in the May issue of Topic, or heard the Rector's remarks on the future of the program. If you haven't, and because this program is well supported by St. Catherine's, here is a summary of what is happening. As a program, SIA is being discontinued effective the end of this year. Until then donations for SIA will be collected and sent on to the charities concerned in the usual way.

Under a new arrangement to be finalized at a Special Diocesan Synod in November, it will be proposed that every ministry currently supported by SIA in 2005 will continue to be supported in 2006 from the Diocesan budget and a proposed New Outreach Program.

Base support for organizations such as Camp Artaban, Sorrento Centre, Missions to Seafarers, ministry groups such as the Education for Ministry Program and the Program units, plus substantial support for the work of the Church in the North and our international commitments through Partners in Mission will be funded directly from the Diocesan budget. Parish apportionments will be increased to accomplish this. The intent is to share the costs of our collective ministry on a proportional basis according to individual Parish resources.

Three organizations currently being supported through SIA, The 127 Society for Housing, The Coming Home Society and The South Fraser Community Services Society would be supported from the New

Diocesan Outreach Program in 2006. For future years Diocesan Synod would approve the list of supported groups.

Parish will still be able to provide direct support to charities of its own choosing.

Under the proposed arrangement, our 2006 Apportionment would increase by between \$18,000 and \$24,000. Current SIA pledges for this year amount to about \$24,000. We are asking that, starting in 2006, all current donors to SIA combine the amount of their SIA donation with their donation to St. Catherine's itself, so we will be able to meet our increased apportionment and hopefully still have funds left to contribute to the proposed New Diocesan Outreach Program.

New developments will be reported in future Newsletters.

Brian Wooding

Senior Youth Group



Welcome back everyone to a new year of Senior Youth Group. A whole new group of Grade 8's has joined a last year's Grade 12's have moved one. Well actually one of our senior members, Jordan Whiteside, has generously offered to help out this year. Thanks, Jordan. This continues a great tradition of graduates coming back to help out and provide role models for us all. Last year I had a lot of help from James Toft and, at the end of the year, Janet McMordie returned from school to lead the group for a 2nd annual Battle of the Bands.

I look forward to another year of fun and service with Youth Group 2005-2006. If you are in high school, come on out and join us. We get together every Friday night for sports, games, movies, hikes, and special events. Call me if you want to get involved. This fall we'll be visiting the pumpkin patch, make our own apple cider and doing famous rake and run. Stay tuned.

Paul Clark

WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome the following people to our parish family:

☞ *Michael, Kasia & Mateo Bulva*

FUNERALS

September 10 Rosemary Gordon Alley



Next Newsletter - November 27, 2005
Submission Deadline - November 13, 2005

If you would like more information about the parish or the programs, please feel free to call the church office or leave a message for one of the people listed below:

Rector	The Reverend John Mash
Parish Administrator	Susan Kimm-Jones
Director of Music	Siiri Rebane
Youth Coordinator	Paul Clark
New Member Ministry	Chris Whalen
Rector's Warden	Gary Stewart
People's Warden	Gordon Lee
Worship Unit Liaison	Lisa McMordie
Program Unit Liaison	Sheila Folkmann
Admin & Finance	Brian Wooding
Mission Unit Liaison	Phyllis Mittlestead
Resource Unit Liaison	Vivian McGie

Please join us for Worship

Sunday	8:00 am Holy Eucharist
	9:45 am Church School & Nursery
	10:00 am Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Interested in the Church School?

Contact: Heather Peacock

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