



ST. CATHERINE'S NEWSLETTER

Winter/Christmas

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Advent and Christmas Services

- 10:00 am. December 18 – Service of Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

- 3:00 p.m. Children's Service – Carols and Creche
- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Family Eucharist and Carols
- 11:00 p.m. Midnight Mass and Candlelight Service
- December 25 - 10:00 a.m.
 - 10:30 a.m. Deanery Service at St. Agnes Anglican Church

New Year

- January 1st 2017 – 10 a.m. Service – Holy Eucharist
- January 8th – Turkey soup luncheon for Epiphany following the 10:00 a.m. Service

Message from The Rev. Keith Gilbert our Interim Priest

Dear Friends. The time of Advent is upon us; the beginning of the New (Church) Year A, a liturgical change from the long "Green" season of Pentecost, to blue for the short four week season of Advent, which always seems short and impeded by the onslaught of mall madness, and the mayhem of frantic Christmas shopping. Personally speaking, I have to confess to a certain liking for the music and hymnody of Advent; I find the hymns we sing in this



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Next Newsletter Deadline

January 25, 2017

Please send items to Susan
Kimm-Jones at SEKJ@shaw.ca

and/or Heather Luccock at
hjluccock@shaw.ca

Services at St. Catherine's
Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Eucharist
Mid-week – Wednesday Contemplative Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

Message from the Interim Priest, cont.

season deeply meaningful, and, more spiritually grounded, than many of the Christmas Carols.

The "NEW" Liturgical year will be Year A, in the Church's three year cycle; the year of Matthew, because we will be reading our way through his version of the life and times of Jesus. The Advent Service of Lessons and Carols will be celebrated on Sunday December 18th thus closing, more or less the Season of Advent.

Christmas, is on a Sunday this year. On Christmas Eve, both Sharon and I will be at the 5 p.m. Family Service, and the 11p.m. Midnight Mass and Candlelight Service. At 3 p.m. there will be a children's service offered, led by Bonnie Grundy and Monica Macdonald, with Alice Korfman on the piano. Christmas Day Sunday December 25th, there will be one service at St. Catherine's at 10 a.m. (There is also a Deanery Service on the 25th, at St. Agnes Church). Sunday January 1st, 2017 New Year's day, there will be only ONE service at 10 a.m.

From the Assistant Interim Priest, Rev. Sharon Salomons

From the Assistant Interim Priest

As I write this, the world is still stunned by the results of the US election. For many, a response to the outcome is fear. Is the world less safe now? Will the term of this American president further foster the kind of vitriol and offensiveness that characterized his campaign? How will things play out on the world stage? There has been already much commentary on what this outcome says about the state of turmoil in the US and indeed throughout the world. For some, the world feels like it is in a dark and disturbing place.

And so we prepare to enter the season of Advent. This is the season of waiting with hopeful expectation. And yet Advent also has its share of uncertainty and darkness. One invitation for us during Advent as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth, is to take time to reflect on what the Incarnation truly means. What does it mean that in Jesus, God was born among us, as one of us? What does it truly mean in this world of 2016 that God has entered in to darkest places of our world? And what does it mean to us today that God's dream is alive and we are invited to join in?

As you prepare for this holy season, a season that can be filled with much noise and activity, find some time to be still, and to prepare your heart for the One who is coming.

Blessings and peace to you

The Reverend Sharon Salomons

Message from the Peoples Warden - Tony Dodd

I have had the good fortune to meet some of our parishioners that I do not often see and visiting with parishioners as well. If I have not met you yet, I will in future services. Those of you at home you are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Parish Planning Meeting - Brenda Stenson

The Clergy & Wardens announced the formation of a Property Development Task Force who will gather information from agencies such as the District of North Vancouver, Synod Office, Developers, and other churches who are involved in redevelopment. Through this process, the Task Force will provide the Parish with options and possibilities for our property. The Task Force membership is Gary Stewart, Chair, Susanne Stockdill, Elizabeth Barratt, John Luccock and Alison Watt.

While that Task Force is gathering information on property development, the rest of us will be discerning our Mission and Ministry. How will we define St. Catherine's Community for the future? On Saturday, we thought about what would be happening at St. Catherine's in five years. What events would be on our community calendar? What will people be saying about the parish and our ministry? We had some fun coming up with the contents that would fill our website.

The result of this Parish morning is being collated and there is a special Parish Council meeting scheduled in January so we can review your input and report back to the Parish with some Next Steps. Whatever information the Property Development Task Force gathers and whatever we determine to be our Next Steps, it is no doubt we need your personal and financial commitment to this community.

**"Were you in St Catherine's Sunday School between
1957 and 1964?"**

If so you might have been rewarded with attendance pins like these, recently given to the church. It could be fun for us to bring our Sunday School pins for a display.



Messy Harvest Report by Gaynor Stone

Messy Church has taken on a new slant this fall.

On Sunday October 16th, we held a one off "Messy Harvest" event for St Catherine's pre-school children and their families although it was also open to families who attend St Catherine's church and in the local area. The Messy Church values are about being Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. Families who perhaps feel they can't commit to worshipping on a Sunday morning are accessing the St Catherine's church family in this way.

We met for songs & crafts. A Bible based story based on Harvest and giving was led by Rev Sharon Salomons. We completed our session with a simple lunch.

A big thank you goes to St Catherine's pre-school for Marion's preparation of the craft activities each session and for the wonderful volunteers.

Look out for the St Catherine's Advent Sheep which will be making appearance in Edgemont Village again this Christmas!

Preschool News

Marion Porter, Developmental Resource Teacher

Our gradual entry process is over and all the classes are into their regular routines. The Discovery 2's enjoyed all the fall activities and are now learning about hibernation with a Teddy Bears' Picnic at the end. The 3's are talking about community helpers, health and nutrition. They will also be playing letter and number games. One class of 4's will be exploring fall changes and will do a transportation theme, while the other 4's class will talk about Bucket Dipping. This theme teaches children how they can fill their friends' bucket and not take away anything by being unkind.

In 2009 we adopted an Orca whale named ECHO from the J pod. We purchased two stuffed toy killer whales and the children take turns taking Echo home for a weekend and then return with some photos and stories to tell. This is a fun experience for our 4's. Rachel our Music Teacher is preparing for the Christmas Preschool Services, which will be held December 7th & 8th. We up-date our Blog every month, so please check it out. We change our bulletin boards in the hallway frequently so come by and take a peek. This month we are looking forward to a few playground repairs.

Used Christmas Postage Stamps - Still Appreciated - Lois Macgregor

Although the amount of Christmas mail received seems to be on the decline, the interesting and colourful array of Canadian and international postage stamps on the envelopes and packages still has value for the Canadian Bible Society. Collectors buy the stamps from the Society and the money received is used for the publication and distribution of bibles through their Prison Ministry.

Your envelopes and bags of used stamps may be left in the bottom drawer of the wooden cabinet outside of the church office. The stamps are delivered to the Society on a regular basis. Please remember to leave at least 1/4 inch of paper around the stamps so that the perforations are not damaged. The collection of used stamps continues throughout the year. Your participation is appreciated. Thank you

Christmas Hampers

Penny Zuk & Phyllis Mittlestead

Once again, we have agreed to sponsor up to twelve people whose names are supplied by the N.S. Family Services Christmas Bureau. The request list is now set up in the foyer. You are invited to choose and sign for a gift card and return it with the article (new, wrapped or unwrapped) the following Sunday. Or you may wish to contribute financially -donations may be left in the church office.

Each recipient receives \$50 in Food vouchers and a gift, as well as Christmas "Extras" all wrapped up in a festive package and delivered to the Bureau in early December.

Thank you for your participation.



Coffee & Conversation

The final Coffee & Conversation morning will be on Tuesday, December 13 at 10:30 a.m.

There will be a festive flavor as Christmas is in the air.

New Year - Tuesday, January 20, 2017

Mary Pellatt Room



Margaret Horwood, Meg Seery and Maggie Kerr-Wilson have a chat over coffee. Photo by Janet

Pastoral Care - Tony Dodd

I am happy to report that all but two of our parishioners are now back home. They all have had phone calls and are doing well, with home care or handy darts. The two in Lions Gate are progressing as well as they can but will be in there for a while. Sharon has been busy administering home visits and communion. If you know of some one who needs home visiting or communion, see Sharon or one of the pastoral team.

One of our own parishioners appointed to the Senate

Congratulations to Yuen Pau Woo on his recent appointment to the Canadian Senate.

Opportunities for Learning and Sharing- Brenda Stenson

Men's Spirituality Group - meets on the first Saturday of the month from 9:00 - 10:00 am. This is a group of men from the Region of North Vancouver Anglican and Lutheran Churches that meets once a month and discusses issues relevant to being spiritual beings as men in the Christian context of today. The group is very much open to any man seeking to talk about or know more about his spiritual journey. The venue will change from month to month. The meeting lasts for about an hour. Contact Patrick Blaney priest.sjnv@telus.net.

Psalms Workshop - Friday and Saturday, January 20 & 21, 2017. Friday will be from 7 - 9 p.m. and Saturday will be from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.. The workshop will be held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

More Mystics! - a look at Christian Mystics led by The Venerable Lynne McNaughton at St. Clements. This will run once a week for four weeks. There will be one evening offering on Mondays from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. beginning February 6, 2017 or you can participate in the daytime session beginning February 7, 2017 on Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon.

Lenten Book Study - Falling Upward - Richard Rohr (March 2017-Time/Location TBA)
A fresh way of thinking about spirituality that grows throughout life. Richard Rohr seeks to help readers understand the tasks of the two halves of life and to show them that those who have fallen, failed, or "gone down" are the only ones who understand "up". The author explains why the second half of life can and should be full of spiritual richness and offers a new view of how spiritual growth happens - loss is gain. This important book explores the counterintuitive message that we grow spiritually much more by doing wrong than by doing right.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Vivian McGie and Susanne Stockdill Coordinators

We are delighted to report that the Community Thanksgiving Dinner held at St. Catherine's on Sat., October 8th was once again a great success! We provided a delicious turkey dinner with all the fixins' to 135 guests who might not otherwise have enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal. Every guest had their fill. Many had seconds. And everyone was offered a take home meal as well.

We were happy to receive the grant of \$1200 awarded to us by the City of North Vancouver. The money was used in most part to purchase 10-20 lb. cooked, carved turkeys and 100 servings of dressing (stuffing) from the Tomahawk restaurant. In past years we have relied on the generosity and cooking talents of parishioners, but that is proving to be more of a challenge as none of us is getting any younger!

We are grateful for the continuing generosity of Delany's Coffee House and COBS Bakery in Edgemont village. Delany's supplied us with free coffee, cups, and condiments and COBS provided us with 200 dinner buns.

The Maple Leaf Garden Centre donated 40 chrysanthemum plants to decorate the dinner tables and Loblaws City Market gave us a fantastic deal on ornamental gourds.

And the Capilano Heights Chinese Restaurant gave us 50 large take away containers for guests to take home leftovers.

Two hundred free tickets were distributed amongst the following agencies: Harvest Project, Lookout Shelter, North Shore Neighbourhood House, Canadian Mental Health, North Shore Multicultural Society, John Braithwaite Centre, Turning Point Recovery Centre, Open Door, and the Seniors' Hub. Many people showed up without tickets and via word of mouth.

Guests enjoyed meeting each other and sharing a meal. Everyone was so appreciative and left with smiles on their faces.

A sincere thank you to everyone from food providers, those who set up and decorated the hall, people who put food on plates, the young table servers, the kitchen and clean up crew, the drivers who drove our guests, to all who helped make this such a wonderful, giving, community outreach.

The Mini Boutique Craft Fair and Bake Sale held on November 20, yielded \$665.00 which will go to "On Eagles Wings". The total for the three sales held this year is over \$2200.00.

Thanks to all for your support.

Bev London, Phyllis Mittlestead, Sandra Falck and Nancy Sunderland

Primate's World Relief & Development Fund (PWRDF)

John Luccock, PWRDF Rep.

Greenhouses for Cuba

Cuba was the focus of "World Day of Prayer" Services held around the world in the Spring of 2016. (St. Catherine's Church was the local host of this Service.) The PWRDF was interested in helping to advance an expressed need for food security in that country. Peter Goodwin is pictured with his display of pictures taken on his visit to Cuba.



The need was that people in rural areas could increase the production of vegetables, fruits and other agricultural products if they had "Greenhouses" for the community. The local Diocesan Unit of the PWRDF, with the support of our Bishop, undertook to raise the money to provide the purchase of a Greenhouse for the parish of St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church in Itabo, Cuba. We are happy to report that \$8,000 has been raised here from Parishes in the Diocese of New Westminster to provide that Greenhouse.

Hurricane Matthew

Once again, people from around the world, are joining together through various agencies to assist Haiti and Cuba in recovering from this horrendous disaster. The PWRDF, with your help, is responding to these needs where they can.

People of Fort McMurray thank you

PWRDF received over \$200,000 in response to the Fort McMurray wildfires. We are grateful for this support for the people of Fort McMurray as they re-enter, re-build and adjust to all the changes, not only the physical damage but also the emotional trauma.

The Churches of Ft. McMurray have formed a steering committee to identify projects and activities in which individuals and families can be supported. This may include classroom materials for schools, immediate home repairs and renovations and support for individuals and families most seriously affected by the ordeal. The intention is to continue this work over a period of a couple of years.

Bishop Lawton said, "While I was saddened and shocked by the extent of damage, I was encouraged by the resilience in the community, the care and concern of parish members and other parishioners from outside Fort McMurray - all grateful signs of community members

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PWRDF Cont

working together for healing, for stability, for regaining a needed and important sense of normalcy and hope for the future." Pictured is a thank you cake.

Once again, we thank the parishioners of St. Catherine's Church for the continuing support you give the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. You can always find more information about the Work of the Fund at www.pwrdf.org



Stewardship 2017

Our Stewardship Program took place during November with a series of short reflections from fellow parishioners. Brenda Stenson was the first speaker, followed by Elizabeth Barratt who introduced the Choir singing a special anthem entitled "North" which reflects on the passing of the years and the importance of home. Heather Peacock, was the third speaker and Gary Stewart gave the final talk. All of them had experienced St. Catherine's Church in many meaningful ways over the years.

On the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, to bring the Stewardship Program to a close, John Luccock organized a Ploughman's Lunch which was wonderfully attended. Thanks to Gary Stewart, Alan Toft, Phil Sunderland, Pip Stigger, Joe Inkster, Joe and Rhonda Coogan, Elizabeth Barratt, and Steve Jackson for making the whole event possible. After the costs approximately \$320.00 was realized. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship. It was a good finale.

Music Program - Heather Luccock

The Choir is preparing for the Christmas Season and is pleased to have some additional instrumentation. As always if anyone would like to join us for the special services please contact Siiri.

The Bell Choir and Joyful Voice are also preparing for the Advent and Christmas services so it should be a lovely musical Season.

Christmas Reflection



Mother & Child by
Heather Luccock

The Christ-child lay on Mary's lap, His hair was like a light.
(O weary, weary were the world, But here is all aright.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast His hair was like a star.
(O stern and cunning are the kings, But here the true hearts are.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart, His hair was like a fire.
(O weary, weary is the world, But here the world's desire.)

The Christ-child stood on Mary's knee, His hair was like a
crown, And all the flowers looked up at Him, And all the stars looked
down

A Christmas Carol Poem by G. K. Chesterton

Whither Our Church? From Phil Sunderland

You may take this question as referring to St. Catherine's, to the Anglican Communion in this Deanery, or to the whole of the Church of Jesus the Christ in this time. We live in an amazing time of relative wellbeing for some of humankind, and poverty, starvation and war for far too many others.

Many of us understand that our rapacious use of Earth's resources (encouraged, I believe by a misunderstanding of the generosity of our God) is leading to depletion of fish stocks, pollution of waters, destruction of essential forest cover to meet 'human needs', leading finally to what a clear majority of qualified scientists have pointed out is clear evidence of Global Warming resulting from CO2 other emissions. Pope Francis, trained as a scientist has published a brilliant Encyclical on the subject, and ACC, Episcopal and Lutheran Bishops have joined the cause.

But necessary efforts to combat this threat are obstructed by 'christians', among others, who believe that (their) God controls the climate.

Many of the generations following us including, I guiltily admit, my own children no longer find meaning in the "Faith" in the way we practice it. And I would warrant that a great deal of their disbelief stems from the barrage of fundamentalist/conservative/prosperity gospel 'faith' that emanates from our neighbours to the south. The bankruptcy of that expression of 'christianity' is trumpeted (pun intended) by their President Elect, and the 'church leaders' who supported him!

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Whither our Church cont...

The same cohort deny the reality of evolution, as it conflicts with their literalist understanding of scripture (something that Anglicans, Roman Catholics and many others have fortunately avoided).

So where does this leave us now?

Some of our sisters and brothers see the present decline in our communities as the portent of a new Reformation, or the possibility of a new 'Axial Age'. Another term used is 'Emergence'. Whatever may come, I look for an understanding of God and Humankind that is reasonably congruent with current science, tries to rely on facts about our world, not belief displaced by science. Among those facts are all the aspects of our understanding of the Universe in which our tiny home, Earth travels, the 15 billion years that have led to us, homo sapiens, *animated stardust* capable of sensing, thinking, communicating, and understanding this amazing place and time in which we live, breath and have our being.

And for some of us, the notion of a God "in whom we live, move and have our being" is still significant.

And as far as dealing with the challenges ahead of us, I turn to Jesus' paraphrase of the Commandments "love the Lord your God with all your heart, strength and mind, and your neighbour as yourself."

Today it is inescapable that our neighbours are all of humankind, and all other life on this planet. Karen Armstrong has generalized this very well in her book "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life", where she shows that most of the great Religions share the same basic understanding.

Many sources cover the notion of an evolving faith, but a helpful one may be The Omega Centre (URL below), from which I have borrowed two quotes:

"Love is the fundamental energy of evolution. Love is a consciousness of belonging to another, of being part of a whole. To love is to be on the way toward integral wholeness, to live with an openness of mind and heart, to encounter the other—not as stranger—but as another part of oneself. When we enter into the heart of love, that integral wholeness of love that is God, we enter into the field of relatedness and come to see that we are wholes within wholes.

and

"God is the dynamism of love that gathers being together into greater unity and consciousness. God's love is ever new, always with us yet ever before us. To live in this love is to be committed to the whole, to live in the whole, to think the whole, to love the whole, to be "turned to the whole".

May God be with us in our efforts!

<http://www.omegacenter.info/about/#hope-futility>

Christmas Memories at St. Catherine's



Help for the Newsletter

The Communications Committee would like to have another person on the Committee, especially in the area of distributing the newsletter. If you are interested in serving on the Committee please contact Susan Kimm-Jones or Heather Luccock.



Newsletter Mailing

If you would rather receive this newsletter by email or wish to be taken off our mailing list, please let us know at sekj@shaw.ca or hjluccock@shaw.ca
