

Thoughts for the Day

Emmanuel, God with us. Christmas means many things in our modern world including giving gifts and joyous feasting. For Christians it is a time to celebrate the ways in which the grace of God takes on flesh in our lives. We are physical beings and we know grace in and through all our senses. May this season allow us all opportunity to share the grace we have known in our lives with all those we meet. May joy abound!

The Ven. Dr. John Bailey, Priest-in-Charge

DATES TO NOTE

SUN. DEC. 25 PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS ONLY ONE SERVICE AT 9:00 A.M.
Sat. Jan. 7 Open Gym, 5:30 pm
Mon. Jan. 9 Jones Girls New Year's lunch, 11:30 am
Wed. Jan. 18 Greece: Past and Present, 7:00 pm
Sun. Jan. 22 Jazzing the Church for a Cause, 4:00 pm

CHILDREN AT CHURCH - EVERY SUNDAY

At the 10.00am service there are Church School classes for all children who wish to attend. Children are encouraged to come to the front of the church for the "Children's Focus" and then leave for their classes, returning during the Peace. The youngest (newborns to two years old) can use our "Noah's Ark" room (just off the side of the church) under parental supervision.



BOTTLE DRIVE

Hello, everyone.

The youth groups annual Bottle Drive is starting. It will last from December 11 until January 22. Please bring in any empty bottles that you may have. This year's proceeds are going to a refugee family.

To make the whole process easier I am going to manager@stpdunbar.com set up a Return-it express account for the church using the church phone and the email. That way when the bottle drive is over you can easily collect the money for the assigned purpose.

Rebecca Gregg, Head Server

PARISH WEEKLY INCOME UPDATE

- 2016 operating budget revenues are \$470,114 in the approved parish budget
- 72% of operating budget revenues (\$338,284) is expected from identified givers
- Based on 2016 pledges, we expect an average of \$6,505 per Sunday from identified givers
- At the end of November we had averaged \$5,925 per Sunday from identified givers.
- Last Sunday we received \$5049.

GREECE: PAST AND PRESENT

The origins of Western Civilization are to be found in Greece. On January 18th at 7:00 pm, Derek Simpkins will illustrate why this is so, with a slide show and travelogue of his recent trip to Greece: Athens, the Peloponnese and a voyage that circumnavigated the Aegean Sea will be highlighted. A brief survey of classical Greek art and architecture will also be included. If you have never been to Greece, you might find that this presentation will spark your interest to travel to this most friendly and beautiful country. The photograph was taken by Derek Simpkins.



UPDATE ON CURRENT YEAR FINANCES AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET

For 2016, the projected deficit has been managed down to - \$13k , from an original approved deficit of -\$34k. This has been accomplished through clergy and staff applying rigorous cost control, increased rental income, and a lower diocesan assessment.

For 2017, we have a financial challenge.

We collectively have made some very positive investments in our parish - initiatives such as our youth and family worker / curacy programs, Seniors Cafe and our excellent music program.

To deliver these, we have also benefited from additional funding from the endowment fund and the diocese. These funding sources can not be continuously called upon for these purposes.

So far this pledge season, we have received 16 fewer pledges from parishioners than last year, and coupled with less revenue from other sources, our budgeted total revenue for 2017 is projected to be \$40k less than last year.

We will manage costs to be flat or down from last year as we try and deliver the programs at a level that parishioners expect and desire, but It should be noted that when Clare's curacy ends in June, we do not have the budget for a replacement.

It is not too late to submit your pledge to the office - we would appreciate and welcome them. We would also respectfully request parishioners who have already pledged, to consider any additional help possible.

The trustees and finance committee will continue to seek additional revenue sources and find all acceptable cost reductions.

Thank you for your consideration

ANNUAL REPORTS

The deadline for annual reports is Thursday, January 5th. Please submit your committee reports to the office no later than noon, so that Beth may begin compiling the report.



ST. JUDE'S ANGLICAN HOME FUNDRAISER

St. Jude's Anglican Home is putting on a capital fundraiser by putting on a play at the Metro Theatre at 1370 S.W. Marine Drive on Wednesday, March 8th at 8 pm. The play is called "Guilty Conscience". Tickets are \$50 each, but receive a \$25 tax receipt per ticket. There will also be a silent auction, a 50/50 draw and light refreshments available. For tickets, speak to Beth Vondette in the Church office.

REFUGEE UPDATE

Mary Lymburner is expecting a package to arrive from Lebanon imminently. If everything is in order, she will deliver it to the Diocesan Refugee Unit for signatures from the Bishop and mail it off to Ottawa before Christmas. In the new year, Mary will also put together an application package for the family's grandparents. Including the grandparents will cost an additional \$10,000 to the original fundraising goal of \$40,000, making the new goal \$50,000. We have already raised more than \$20,000 and will likely have a year or so to fundraise the remaining money.

If you wish to donate, please make cheques payable to St. Philip's and write "Refugee Fund" on the envelope as well as on the memo line. For more information please contact Mary Lymburner, 778-898-5117 or kmarylymburner@telus.net

SENIORS CAFÉ – CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Seniors Café would benefit from having several more volunteers to help set up and greet visitors. Come and share some laughter and great stories around the café tables. If you could contribute an hour or two on a Tuesday morning this fall please contact Ann Kent at ann@catkingardens.ca

ALT VESPERS NEWS

Alt Vespers will be cancelled until February 1st while Clare is in Jerusalem. February 1st we will have a special Labyrinth walk and Candlemas service. All are invited!

STREET MINISTRY

Hello everyone,

Pauline and I set out from McBride Park in Kits, with our car overflowing with offerings from St. Philip's. Thanks Don, for braving the snow and fighting a bad cold to load us up! Thanks to Rev. Pitman, who met us for a prayer.

At Jericho, we saw A at the substation, and he was the chattiest we had ever seen. He didn't need any clothing, but took the whole packet and some fresh fruit. M was at the Jericho hostile, "housed" in a refrigerator box. We woke him up, but he was ok about that and chatted for awhile. He gratefully accepted a very warm coat and all the packet goods. Did you know that Karen, one of the Neighbourhood Ministry Angels, is checking in on M regularly? M is not a young man, and it is wonderful to know that he has an Angel who brings him a warm meal a few days a week, some newspapers and magazines, and a friendly smile. She will also keep an eye out for his health, and let the Mobile Care Unit know if he appears to need any help. Thanks Karen!

At the 4th and Highbury corner were T, W, C, and B. They gratefully accepted warm gloves, packets and new boots (C). W is feeling pretty well after her surgery. T is moved in to a place downtown, just this week, and seemed particularly chipper today. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped stock up his new place with fresh towels, kitchen ware, sundries and bedding. It is a big change for T, who, other than a few years at the Dunbar apartments, has been homeless for about 15 years. Please keep him in your prayers.

Further on down 4th avenue, near the Safeway and McDonalds, we found D, snuggled in a blanket. He was happy for gloves and a packet. He said in this weather, gloves get wet very quickly.

On Granville, we saw who we assume were S and G completely bundled and sleeping nearby Chapters. We piled packets and gloves on them. Onlookers watched us, somewhat curiously.

On Broadway we stopped near the Hollywood Theatre, where a youngish man was sleeping with very thin blankets, not even under the overhang. It was rain/snowing very hard. We managed to wake him, and he took a few things and went back to sleep. Later in the day when I drove by, he was still there, still sleeping. I also found a first nations man at Safeway panhandling, and gave him the remaining packet and fresh fruit.

All in all, a cold, wet and miserable day to be homeless.

May I ask that you also keep R in your prayers. Many of you know R, who has been on our "radar" for 9 years, and was part of the original Dunbar group. R's health has been in steady decline this past year. He is being cared for at VGH.

And finally, we hope to see as many of you out as are able for our 9th Annual Christmas Street Outing. Next Saturday, December 17th. We'll be meeting up at St. Anselm's Church (across from the UBC Golf Club) at 9:00-9:30 a.m. Departure around 9:30. This is a lovely event and a great time to connect with other volunteers during the Christmas season. Thanks to all the volunteers who have offered to bring fresh food for distribution, and to those who are busily packing gift bags. I'm still looking for a few volunteers to bring a thermos of hot chocolate and paper cups.

Wishing you all a very peaceful Christmas,
Vicki Potter



JAZZING THE CHURCH FOR A CAUSE

Join Steve Maddock and his Hot Three rhythm section for an afternoon of Jazz standards on Sunday, January 22nd, 2017 at 4 pm.

Steve is one of the best Jazz singers in Canada and his programme is guaranteed to delight the audience. He will be joined by Sharon Minemoto, piano; Adam Thomas, bass and Joe Poole, drums.

Admission will be by donation. Funds raised to benefit our Refugee Family.

MY JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND

There are only a couple of weeks left before I go on the trip of a lifetime to the Holy Land! I am both excited and a little nervous to make the journey. The course will take us on tours to Jerusalem, Yad Vashem, Bethlehem, the Judean wilderness (the Wadi Qelt, Jericho, Qumran, and Kahlia Beach), Jordan (Mt. Nebo and Petra), Salt, Gerash, Nazareth, several lakeside sites and Banias, Haifa, Akko, and the Mount of Olives.

Some of my friends and family have expressed concerns about the timing of this trip. It should be noted that most of the time the region is fairly safe, as Israeli security is some of the best in the world. But there is, of course, always a risk. This is a hotly debated piece of land and always has been since the beginning. Although I am not terribly worried about the trip, I am choosing to lean into the risk. I am inspired by the fact that my journey takes place in the season of Epiphany, a season full of light and colour which for me also contains a shadow side: the shadow of Herod's rage at being tricked by the wise ones whom we all celebrate at this time and his subsequent slaughter of the innocents. Despite the joy of the Christian world during what is widely known as "carnival season," there is still the memory of this fearful story, which of course is an expectation of the bracketing story of Jesus' innocent death on the cross.

This dusky thread woven through our faith reminds us that Christianity is not only about gentle love, but fierce love, love that refuses to be silenced or pushed aside, love that stands firm and strong in the face of violence, love that opens its arms wide and invites all of the best and worst that humankind has to offer. I will be thinking of all of you as I make this trip, and I will be sure to offer up what I learn and share on my return. Please keep me, my fellow student from our Diocese the Rev'd Lucy Price, and all of those who participate in this course in your prayers.

ST. PHILIP'S HAMPER DRIVE

The St. Philip's Christmas Hamper Drive was again a huge success, thanks to our parishioners' outstanding support providing non-perishable foods and gifts for 24 individual families from 2 Eastside Elementary schools. An additional 2 hampers were prepared for families who requested them. Turkeys, hams, Mandarin oranges and additional staples, purchased from your donations, rounded out the nutritionally balanced hampers.

All our purchases were made at Save-On-Foods, W. 41st and Dunbar, at their *best discounted prices*. The enthusiastic co-operation of their management staff was outstanding! We are most thankful and grateful.

Michael Mackenzie once again masterfully spearheaded the Outreach Committee's efforts; Gerry our caretaker collaborated and facilitated unflinchingly.

Our enthusiastic Youth Group organized and packed like pros, while faithful drivers loaded up and delivered in the snow.

Each school's grateful thanks is simultaneously heartwarming and heartbreaking. BLESSINGS and THANKS to everyone who participated in this effortful project.
Joanne Vondette, Outreach Committee member

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CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the Church Office will be closed on Monday, December 26th and Tuesday, December 27th. It will reopen on December 28th at 9 am.