

Notices for Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2020

Small steps...

They say that the greatest journeys begin with just one step. Indeed, all change begins with taking small steps in a new direction. Even in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, even in the midst of other social turmoil that we are witnessing in the United States after the brutal killing of George Floyd, we are beginning to see people coming together taking small steps in a different direction. We pray for the family of George Floyd and for all those who are trying to bring about social justice and equality for black people, people of colour and ethnic minorities, not only in United States but also in Canada and throughout the world.

Small steps continue to be taken in BC too. This week as we headed towards the new normal for Vancouver, schools began to reopen, albeit in limited fashion. Indeed, I walked Matilda to school this morning for the first time since the lockdown began. The new normal for her and her classmates meant that as soon as she got to the school gates, at her allotted time, she was invited to go to her allocated spot in line with her friends, but 2 metres apart from them.

As a community, we continue to ponder what our new normal will look like. You will by now have received a questionnaire asking about your views and intentions regarding coming back to in-person worship at St Philip's. It is important that we understand and hear your concerns as we discern together the diocese's Four-Phase plan to reopen churches. So I ask you all prayerfully to consider the questions being asked and to be honest about where you are at the moment knowing that the virus is still in the community. Again, let me reiterate, there is no compulsion for us to reopen at this time. The information that you provide will help the leadership of the church to discern what is the right way forward for our community.

In the meantime, we continue to make great strides to prepare the church for when we decide to come back together under our roof! On Wednesday, we celebrated the completion of the roofing project with a small, socially distanced gathering. The wardens and I, plus Craig and Conrad, as the co-chair and honorary chair of the Capital Campaign, shared pizza, beer and a blessing with all our lovely roofers and contractors who have worked so hard to install our new roofs. The EcoRoof on the church and hall looks fantastic and sends a clear message to our community about our commitment to God's creation and the environment. It's another small step in the right direction...

As we come to celebrate the feast of the Trinity, we are reminded that at the heart of God there is a community based on love, unity and equality. It is a community of mutual coexistence and co-operation. It is the model of community that Jesus himself implemented during his ministry on earth. A community of total inclusivity, freedom and peace that by its very existence challenged all people, powers and structures that sought to dominate, oppress and divide. At a time when we are observing two pandemics, both of which cause its victims at the

end of their lives to cry out in desperation 'I can't breathe,' we are being reminded that the community we represent is typified by the coming of God's Spirit giving breath and life to all.

In God's community black lives matter, but it was Rev. Martin Luther King Jr himself who said that the worst segregation happens on Sundays! This continues to be a challenge for us at St Philip's and many churches in the diocese. How do we represent and live out God's inclusive community of love, equality and peace? How do we become a church that reflects the diversity found within our own community, including our First Nation sisters and brothers? What powers will need to be challenged and what structures will need to change? As Archbishop Melissa said in her pastoral message last week (which can be read in full on our website) *'Racism is a Christian issue because at our baptism we renounced "all powers which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God" and we pledged "to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being"*.

As God's Spirit calls us to a new normal, these will be questions we will all need to actively address. Let us continue to pray that the small steps being taken in the light of these two pandemics will begin a mighty journey to a new normal for us and the world based on God's love, justice and peace for all.

Amen.

Stuart

WEBSITE WORSHIP

Join Stuart Hallam and others in Sunday morning website worship and follow along with the order of service emailed to you on Friday. The services are recorded, posted by Saturday evening, and you can watch and rewatch them at your convenience. Enjoy seeing and hearing the different parishioners involved in the service each week as readers, intercessors, singers and announcers.

Distant Voices of Hope, a special series of four guest preachers on the theme of hope, has elicited many positive comments and has been viewed so far by 668 households. Enjoy all of these by going to our website where there is much to find in worship, resources and music.

<https://www.stphilipsdunbar.com/blog>

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for those who have asked for our prayers at this time: Ken and Greg, Maura and Brian, Nancy, Tracy and family, Larry Hoad, Mike Lane, Brenda Harrison, Sarah Burns, Richard Fenner, and Rebecca and Jamie who mourn Dorothy Cately. Joan Hume died recently: let us remember her fondly in our prayers.

MILESTONES

Let's share life's goodness with our parishioners as we recite the final prayer together.

COFFEE HOUR: Sunday June 7, 11:00 AM

We usually see about sixteen people who drop by to share coffee. Last Sunday, Margie Brown in Capetown was about to enjoy an evening cocktail. It is good to see you all! Click the blue link to Zoom at 11:00 am, using your computer for best results. <https://zoom.us/j/454815164>

RE-OPENING THE CHURCH

You received on June 3 a summary of Phase Two linked to a brief survey asking for your position on re-opening for in-person worship. **Please answer for each member of your household**; for example, a family of four has four voices. Complete by **Monday June 15**
Link: <https://forms.gle/r7nhBjLG9fXmshmHA>

St Philip's will reopen only when we are ready with all precautions in place, and after capturing each parishioner's voice in the survey. Your safety and peace of mind are paramount. Meanwhile and in the future, we have engaging website worship, weekly online Zoom gatherings, and the option to keep in touch with each other with a call.

MUSIC

Michael Murray has asked for favourite hymns. Inundate him: michaelmurrayorgan@gmail.com

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MINISTRY: Donate at St John's, 1490 Nanton Ave. until further notice.

Please drop off your donations of food, hygiene sundries and clothing at St John's Shaughnessy. We need new or gently used clean clothes for men. Omit rummage sale items, gifts, and worn out goods. Read the attached Wish List and donate **only** what is listed. Thank you for your help.

The Neighbourhood Ministry's AGM will be held on Zoom on Tuesday June 16 at 7:00 PM.

Keen NM supporters might like to attend to hear plans, and to say thanks and farewell to Vicki and Pitman Potter as they retire.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

is postponed to Tuesday June 23 at 7:30 PM due to the above AGM on June 16.

LIVE-STREAMING

As St Philip's website worship and organ concerts reach people at home or far away, we want to capture this potential for the future. Stuart is researching camera and sound equipment so that with improved capabilities, we will be able to bring worship, concerts, celebrations of life, events and weddings to people who cannot attend in person, and to groups of over 50.

NEW ROOF

Click on NEWS at www.stphilipsdunbar.com to see project photos, and an account of a celebration on June 3 to honour Penfold's fabulous, hard-working six-man crew. The men were very pleased to be honoured and blessed by Stuart, before we shared pizza and beer.



I CAN HEAR CLEARLY NOW. THE LOOP IS INSTALLED

The Loop System has been installed under the church floor that directs sound to hearing aids. If you benefit from hearing aids, contact your provider to learn how to turn on the Loop feature. Enjoy the choir's musical version of this announcement near the end of the May 31st service.

OUR REFUGEE FAMILY

Schools have reopened. The girls will attend one day a week, but Majd and Ahmad have permission to attend five days a week as elementary school students in need of learning and social support. Debbie Matheson is seeking jobs for Lama, Sedra and Ward (26). Do you need a painter or cleaner? Contact debbiematheson53@gmail.com

SHARE THE PEACE

Stuart wants to share with the world the true faces of the people of St Philip's. Young or old, record a short video (5 seconds or so) of you sharing the peace: "Peace be with you". Express your personality to share the peace with us and with the world! Send your short clip to:

Revhallam@hotmail.co.uk

ST. PHILIP'S RINGERS are volunteers who have rung every parishioner. If you or someone you know feels in need of support, leave the name and number on 604-224-3238, ext.304. **We're here.**

PRAYER LIST AND LIFE'S MILESTONES

Please send your prayer requests and milestones to Beth so we can celebrate with you in spirit, in prayer or with a phone call. manager@stp.dunbar.com or 604-224-3238 ext 301

CANADA HELPS offers an incentive to donate to St Philip's:

It's back and bigger than ever!

Enter for a chance to WIN \$20,000 for your favourite charity.

Donate to your favourite charity this June and give them a chance to WIN \$20,000! Every \$1* donated to any Canadian charity on CanadaHelps is an automatic chance to WIN.

Right now, many charities are receiving fewer donations and experiencing an increase in demand to support communities severely affected by COVID-19. Now more than ever, your favourite charity needs your help. Plus, this year's grand prize money has been doubled to \$20,000!

[DONATE NOW](#)

GRATITUDE CONFETTI

Heap gratitude confetti on those who make this uncertain time brighter, safer and more hopeful. We are deeply grateful to all frontline healthcare professionals and essential workers.

Staying Close While We're Apart,

Stuart Hallam (Rector), Debbie Matheson, Brian Mix, Diana Bragg, and Suzi Noetzel (Wardens)