

**Celebrant: The Rev'd Dr. Marilyn Hames**  
**Preacher: The Rev'd Canon Dr. Harold Munn**

**DATES TO NOTE**

Sun. Dec. 17	Simple Pleasures, 11:30 am, Fireside Room
Sun. Dec. 17	musica intima concert, 3 pm, Church
Sun. Dec. 17	Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long, with Songcology, 7 pm, Church
Wed. Dec. 20	Blue Christmas Service, 10 am, Chapel
Thurs. Dec. 21	Longest Night, a Blue Christmas Service, 7 pm, St. Faith's
Sun. Dec. 24	Advent IV Holy Eucharist Services, 8:00 am and 10:00 am
Sun. Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Simple Eucharist for Families, 4 pm, Fireside Room
Sun. Dec. 24	Children's Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm, Church
Sun. Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist, 7:30 pm, Church
Sun. Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist, 10 pm
Mon. Dec. 25	Christmas Day Service, 9:00 am, Church
Thurs. Jan. 18	Annual Reports due for Vestry



**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.

**5 PM CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

This service is led by the children. It's a beautiful re-telling of the Christmas story. All children are welcome to participate. Typically ages 2/3-13/14 are involved. We re-tell the story in 5 parts, each part a gospel reading. We have all the costumes and there are roles for all ages in this service. The youngest typically carry a figuring up the aisle, the middle age group are typically in costume (we have costumes) and the older students are readers. That's not cast in stone, but that's typical.

We do a few rehearsals so everybody feels ready. Rehearsals for the 5 pm Children's Christmas Eve Service are:  
Thurs. Dec. 21: 4:30 - 5:20 (readers stay an extra 20-30 min) after which there will be a pizza and movie party for the children and their parents. Please make sure parents stay with their kids for the party.

Fri. Dec. 22: 4:30 - 5:20 (readers stay an extra 20-30 min)

Sat. Dec. 23: 9:30 - 10:20 (readers stay an extra 20-30 min)

Rehearsals are about 45 min-1 hr. The older kids who are reading stay a little later for extra practice.

We do ask that you plan to attend all rehearsals. The youngest group have trouble remembering where to stand/when to walk when those in front or behind them keeps changing. Thank you for understanding that part. It is a very memorable, beautiful service and a lovely way to spend Christmas Eve together.

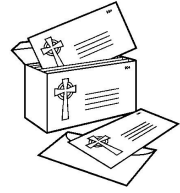
If your children are interested in participating in the 5 pm service, please contact Laurie Cassie: [lauriecassie@gmail.com](mailto:lauriecassie@gmail.com).

**FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

We are happy to report that donations from Identified Givers, the backbone of our budget, are doing well to the end of November. However, some long time parishioners are no longer with us and this has reduced the number of contributions. Although we started the year with a significant budget deficit, we are on track to be able to balance the budget by year end if pledged giving is at least maintained. The deficit has been reduced due to a combination of: controls on spending, increased rental revenue, and a generous donation from a parish family. Thank you for your support of St. Philip's throughout 2017 and please continue to meet your pledge to the end of the year.

### OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Offertory envelopes for 2018 are available for pickup in the Gym today for those who indicated they wished to use offertory envelopes. They are organized alphabetically on the table in the Gym. If you do not see your name on one of the boxes, and have indicated that you wished to have envelopes on your 2018 Pledge form, please contact Beth in the office during the weekday mornings and she will assist you.



### SIMPLE PLEASURES....

Starting at Noon, this Sunday. Friends, this is your invitation to a beautiful, relaxing hour of simple pleasures and delights hosted by Marilyn and Michael and volunteer\* soup-makers as their gift to you this Christmas. Tired of all the hype and commercialism of Christmas? We want to recapture the simple spirit of Christmas hospitality with you—our Church Family! All you need to do is set aside the hour after Church and join us in the Fireside Room for:

1. A simple lunch with a serve-yourself choice of delicious soups and buns
2. Michael reading from Dylan Thomas's beloved 'Child's Christmas in Wales'
3. Marilyn helping you make your own 2017 Jesse or Christmas Tree Ornament.

\*If you are able, please bring either some bread or soup to share and leave it in the kitchen. If you are able to bring soup and/or bread please e-mail Jocelyn at [joc@form47acct.com](mailto:joc@form47acct.com)

### SEASONAL GREENERY REQUESTED

The Altar Guild will be decorating the Church for Christmas on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, and welcomes donations of seasonal greenery. Please bring your contributions to the Church by 9 am Friday morning.

### CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

We have completed an inventory of all food donations, and **could use more of the following items: pasta sauces, canned fruit/fruitsations, canned vegetables, canned meat, rice and peanut butter.**

**We will be assembling the hampers after the 10 am service today. We have 22 hampers to pack. Many hands make light work, so if 22 families could assist, the packing should take little time.**

Gifts for families: In addition to bringing food items which will be pooled and distributed among the hampers, individuals or families of the parish will be invited to select one of the hamper families and purchase gifts for the members of that family. All gifts must be brought in no later than December 17th.

The hampers will be delivered to the school on Monday, December 18.

### Christmas Hampers



### REFUGEE NEWS

While we wait for Lama and her four children, refugees from Syria, to be cleared for arrival in Vancouver, we would like to put together a registry of household/personal effects you might be willing to contribute as we prepare a new home for them. There is no place to store things at the church for what could be an extended period, and so we are asking you to hold on to things in your own home until we have notification that the family are on their way. Brenda Harrison has offered to set up this registry - feel free to contact her with a list of what you can contribute along with your contact information at [brendaharrison@shaw.ca](mailto:brendaharrison@shaw.ca) or leave a note in the "H" slot outside the Totem Room. For more information on the family and how you can help, please contact Mary Lymburner, 778-898-5117 or [kmarylymburner@telus.net](mailto:kmarylymburner@telus.net). Donation of interim storage space would be greatly appreciated.

### WHEN CHRISTMAS HURTS: A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

St. Philip's Blue Christmas Eucharist, "When Christmas Hurts" is a chance for those who find the Christmas season painful, tiring, or lonely to come together to share God's presence in peace and safety. Our service will be held December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

### **THE LONGEST NIGHT: A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

On Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 7:00pm at St. Faith's Anglican Church (7284 Cypress St. at W 57th Ave near W Blvd), there will be the Archdeaconry Christmas Service. This special service of hope is for those who find it difficult to be merry in the season and provide an opportunity to acknowledge pain and sadness. In worship, we will ask God for healing to face a future sustained by hope and grace.

After the service there will be: a quiet space to light a candle and pray; a table of "comfort items" for you to take away; a chapel with a minister offering prayers for healing. *All Are Welcome*

### **HELP FINDING A LOCAL RENTAL HOME FOR OUR RECTORY TENANT**

Do you know of a home rental opportunity? After 8 years renting our rectory, our tenant will be seeking new accommodations in this neighbourhood - ideally West of Granville. Occupation would start April 1, 2018. If you know of an opportunity with 4 bedrooms, please pass the information onto Beth via [manager@stpdunbar.com](mailto:manager@stpdunbar.com). Note: that they do **not** have any pets.

### **OUTREACH FAMILY CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER**

The season of Advent is fast approaching and, once again, St. Philip's Outreach is sponsoring our family Advent Fundraiser. This year, we are raising funds to purchase treated mosquito nets which help to prevent the spread of diseases through families in villages in Africa. The funds we raise will be matched by the federal government times 6 this year. We welcome all donations in any amount until the end of December. Thank you for continuing to support the family Advent fundraiser. Any questions, please speak to Penni Stock, Outreach co-chair. **Please write "mosquito nets" on the memo line of the cheques and on your envelopes. Thank you.**

### **A THANK-YOU NOTE FROM THE VENERABLE DR. JOHN BAILEY**

Dear Members of St. Philip's Anglican Church, Dunbar:

It was with great surprise that I opened my mail on Friday afternoon and discovered a wonderful gift from members of the parish – just in time for my birthday the following day. I write now to convey my thanks for this gift, the orchid for Brenda (still flourishing in our kitchen), and for the gift of my time as interim priest in the parish. The picture of Patmos presented as a result of the efforts of Derek Simpkins hangs beside the table in my dining room. So, I am constantly reminded of my time with you and the pleasure it brought at this time of my life and ministry.

I know that the parish has not skipped a beat since my departure as you continue to work together for the glory of God in Dunbar and beyond. As I meet people in the community, many of them depressed and even angry with the world about them, I know the importance of the message Christians have for the world. Christ came not to take us out of the many complex concerns of our age but to ask us to engage with the world. The people of St. Philip's have never turned from a message of goodwill and hope. They have never been afraid to act in order to incarnate the Glory of God.

As Christmas approaches Brenda and I wish all of you a blessed and happy season. May the joy of the birth of a child bring light into dark places and enable them to shine.

In Christ, John Bailey

### **ST. JUDE'S ANGLICAN HOME FUNDRAISER**

Looking for a Christmas gift idea? St. Jude's Anglican Home is putting on a fundraiser to raise funds to refurbish their bathrooms by putting on a play at the Metro Theatre located at 1370 S.W. Marine Drive on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. The performance of "Murder by the Book" by Duncan Greenwood and Robert King begins at 8 pm, but there will be a silent auction and light refreshments at 7 pm. The tickets are \$50 each, but a \$25 tax receipt is available upon request per ticket. Beth Vondette has 10 tickets available for purchase in the office.

### **ANGELS FROM HEAVEN CAME**

The Gallery Singers invite you to celebrate Christmas with traditional favourites and contemporary carols on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 3 pm at Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Adults \$18; Students with ID \$9.00; children under 12 free.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD MINISTRY**

On this moderately foggy promising to be sunny day, with Meera driving and Paris, we had a very active day giving out all the packets and sandwiches. Our first stop was at 4th and Highbury where we met M, T, J, B, A (all who currently have housing) and a fellow (name not known, but we have met before) that is currently in a shelter awaiting permanent housing placement. All received packages, eggs, sandwiches and bananas. We then checked out the Jericho youth hostel area, where we did not find anyone staying.

The next stop was the 4th and Vine neighbourhood where we met M (mid-block in the door of an empty storefront). He appreciated the package, banana and socks and had been in hospital for 13 weeks (with seizures) and is now out on the street. He finds shelters are not a viable solution for him and has been moving locations around the neighbourhood. In the future he might need help with housing possibly. N turned up at this location and was happy to receive a package and socks.

In front of Shopper's Drug Mart we met T (who has housing locally), he was very happy to receive a package (he said they really keep him going). We also found a fellow sleeping and we left him a package, sandwich, and banana. At Whole Foods we met S, who took a package and food items. He is currently on a fast-track list for BC housing and would like some support to find more information of who to contact to follow up (his mom is also wanting to talk with someone on his behalf).

Moving on to Broadway and Granville, we met a few individuals in the alley that runs parallel to Granville street (on the East side) who were happy for the packages of supplies and food. R (new to us) who is currently sleeping outdoors, moving around the city on his bike, not interested in housing and was happy to get some new gloves. B who is not interested in housing receiving a toque. D (new to us) approached us and she is currently housed but now looking to find housing for her partner. At 10th and Granville we met P (new to us), who took socks, toque and gloves. He has a car for shelter (with some animals) and stated he cannot live indoors.

The final stretch of the trip brought us down Broadway to Yew at the London Drugs. We met S, who selected some items of our final package. At that point, we had depleted all the packages and sandwiches. We moved along Broadway back to St. Philip's and saw that outside Safeway were some individuals from the 4th and Highbury fence and possibly another individual. Since we had very little to offer, we chose to keep moving, but this might be an area to consider in the future.

In general, we gave out all the packages, sandwiches, several pairs of socks, some clothing items/blanket, all but 4 (of about 2 dozen) eggs and had only 2 bananas left over at the end of the day. Folks were very positive and lots of expressions of thanks to the ministry, with several statements of how important it is to keeping folks going. Thanks to the indoor team and for a great day volunteering with Meera and Paris.