

Bulletin Notices for December 4, 2016

Thoughts for the Day

John the Baptist lived in an area of caves on the edge of the Jordan River a short distance from Jericho. Our biblical accounts of his ministry describe him much as the Old Testament describes the desert prophet Elijah. The description evokes communal memories of God's action to lead the people of Israel along paths of righteousness. May our recollection of the Baptist help us to play our role in building healthy communities in the present and in years to come.

The Ven. Dr. John Bailey

SIMPLE PLEASURES... STARTING AT NOON, 18TH DECEMBER

Friends, this is your invitation to a beautiful, relaxing hour of simple pleasures and delights hosted by Marilyn, Clare, Michael and a small band of 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:

A simple lunch with a serve-yourself choice of delicious soups and buns
Michael reading from Dylan Thomas's beloved 'Child's Christmas in Wales'
Clare playing her harp music and maybe singing some of her own creations
Marilyn helping you make your own 2016 Jesse or Christmas Tree Ornament.

Shh... there is a chance of a traditional puppet show too, but no promises—it's a secret!

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.

SENIORS CAFÉ – LAST EVENT OF THE FALL

Tuesday, December 13, is our last Seniors Cafe for 2016. Please join us in the Fireside Room from 10:00 to Noon to share some seasonal activities, delicious baked goodies, and Christmas music. Everyone is welcome.

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@catkinggardens.ca

ANGLICAN CHURCH CALENDARS FOR 2017

Are available and for sale in the gym during coffee, or in the office - 9.00 - noon, Mondays to Fridays. Their cost is \$6.00.

ADVENT FAMILY OUTREACH

As part of our family Advent Outreach we have previously been able to provide both flocks of goats and chickens for several villages in Africa to support people and families with AIDS to have both healthy food and a way to support themselves. This year, we are fundraising during this Advent season for water and seeds for farmers in Africa. As less rain falls, a donation of \$25.00 will buy a drip irrigation system for a farmer and his family which will mean the difference between having food for the year or suffering a drought. For a donation of \$80.00, a farmer in Tanzania will receive seeds and training and then donate 20% of their crops to their village seed bank which then goes to help their fellow villagers and farmers.

This special Advent fundraising begins today and runs for this season of Advent.

For further information please contact Penni Stock

DATES TO NOTE

Sun. Dec.4	Advent Carol Service. 4.00pm
Sun. Dec.11	Christmas Carol Sing-Along, 4.00pm
Mon. Dec.12	Altar Guild meets in the Fireside Room, 2.30pm
Tues. Dec. 13	Senior's Café , 10.00am to noon in the Fireside Room
Wed. Dec.14	Seniors' Eucharist and Lunch , 11.00am
Sun. Dec.18	Simple Pleasures - noon in the Fireside Room see page 9
Wed. Dec. 21	Blue Christmas , 10:00am
Christmas Eve	4.00 - Simple Eucharist for families. 5.00 - Children's Christmas Pageant Service. 7.30 - Holy Eucharist. 10.00 - Candlelight Eucharist
Christmas Day	9.00am - Christmas Eucharist

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 \$4,671.

PS. It's not too late to return your pledge for 2017. It will help us plan next year's budget.

A GALLERY SINGERS' CHRISTMAS

On Sunday December 11, at 3:00 pm The Gallery Singers invite you to celebrate Christmas with traditional English, French and German carols as well as music by Charpentier, Lassus, and Britten. At Redeemer Lutheran Church 1499 Laurier Avenue, Vancouver (one block north of Granville and King Edward) Tickets available at the door. Adults \$18.00, Students with valid ID \$9.00, Children aged 0-12 are Free. Purchase tickets for this concert in advance at: <http://tinyurl.com/gs-dec-2016> www.gallerysingers.ca, Email: thegallerysingers@gmail.com

REFUGEE UPDATE

As you know, we have learned that we are not able to sponsor the Zirak family as originally planned. The Outreach Committee and other interested parishioners considered some suggestions from the Diocesan Refugee Unit. We decided to apply to sponsor a Syrian family now in a refugee camp in Lebanon. The family consists of a mother and four children aged 9 to 15. The father was murdered about 5 years ago. The mother's uncle and his family, who were in the same camp, are already in North Vancouver, having been sponsored by a group of North Shore churches. Thanks to generous donations from the parish, the Refugee Fund now stands at more than \$25,000. For this family we would need at least the \$40,000 that we were planning to raise for the Ziraks. If and when the family arrives, we will need many different kinds of help, from collecting housewares and furniture to driving to appointments. In the meantime, we should continue our financial campaign. 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.

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. For tickets, speak to Beth Vondette in the Church office. They would make a great Christmas present!

It's that time again! We are requesting your help to provide Christmas hampers for families in two eastside schools

Food for Families: We gather food for the hampers as a community. You can help by bringing even one or two items of food to church each Sunday. If you are able, please contribute to the general collection as described below. Items are collected then distributed amongst the families as part of each hamper.

Christmas Hampers



Sunday November 27 Food for Dinner

Sunday December 4 Treats

Sunday December 11 Any items still needed - organizing and packing

Monday December 12 Purchase of Turkeys and Hams. Delivery of Hampers to Schools

Please do not include:

Perishable items, such as fresh meat, fruit, vegetables, dairy products or alcohol.

Gifts for families: Please remember to bring in your gifts, wrapped and labelled, no later than Sunday, December 11. Please label each gift, as well as the box or bag, with the number or letter of the recipient family, as in Boy, age 4 family N.

Cash donations: These help with the purchase of turkeys, meats, mandarin oranges and other extras that complete the hampers. You may add your donation to your offering envelope, clearly marking it Christmas Hampers (use one of the envelopes in the pews if you do not have offering envelopes) and place in the offering plate on Sundays, or mail or deliver to the Church Office.

THANKS FOR THE FAIR!

There are dozens of thank yous we owe
and we'd hate to miss one, as you know.
With so much that was done to ensure it was fun
We will try to list all of them, so....

All the strong arms that carried the load
Of huge boxes, to them much is owed.
For climbing those stairs, lugging cartons of wares
Is a tiring and perilous road.

There were bakers and picklers galore.
All the knitters and sewers, what's more,
Folks who sought out donations, who hung decorations,
And all those who swept up the floor.

All the adults, the children and youth
Who helped out with a stall or a booth.
All who put out a sign, all who waited in line.
Without them we'd have failed, that's the truth.

There was music and laughter and tea.
There were baubles and lights on the tree.
There was friendship and fun, 'cause when all's said and done,
That's what all festive gatherings should be.



As for Gerry, our caretaker,...Phew!
The whole thing must have seemed like a zoo!
Though it may have seemed dire, your baptism of fire,
You survived, so it's hats off to you!

All the people who handled the cash.
And the helpers who bagged up the trash.
For no job is too small and it's thanks to you all
That the fair was once more such a smash.

So, from planning to clean up it's done.
It was work, it was hectic but fun.
Many thanks to you all, 'cause you answered the call.
And your efforts were second to none!

Marian Boyle

NEIGHBOURHOOD MINISTRY UPDATE

The representatives of the parishes involved in the Point Grey Neighbourhood Ministry met recently to discuss plans for the new year, particularly the launch of the Mobile Care Unit. Vicki and Deacon Pitman will offer an information and discussion session for St. Philip's parishioners about these new initiatives after worship on Sunday Dec. 4. Please join us.

On Saturday, December 17, 2016 there will be the 9th Annual Christmas Street Outreach at 9am gathering at St. Anselm's, 5210 University Blvd., (opposite UBC Golf Club) Saturday, December 24, 2016; teams depart at 9:30am. Our 5th Annual Carolling & Brunch at Dunbar 11:30am – 1:30pm: Dunbar Apartments, 3595 West 17th Avenue.

Come and enjoy one of the many Neighbourhood Ministry events held throughout the year at Dunbar. If you are able to attend, can provide a food donation, or would like to be a Weekend Dinner Service Volunteer, please contact Joan Stewart, Neighbourhood Ministry Dunbar Liaison at: jstewart@westerndriver.com or 604.805.7315. If you would like to be on one of the Street Outdoor Teams, ministering to the homeless, please contact Mary Lymburner at: kmarylymburner@telus.net. Thank you for all your service in 2016 and we wish you a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

WITH THANKS FROM ANNE

Thank you so much for the support and trust you have given me for so many years. Your farewell words of appreciation and gifts have been quite overwhelming and I am so very grateful. You have been so much a part of my life that it is very hard to say goodbye, but I will treasure the memories of my happy years at St. Philip's. With love,

Anne