

Bulletin Notices for December 11, 2016

Thoughts for the Day

Those of us who dwell in the wet places of the world often forget to celebrate our abundance. Many of the authors of the Bible lived in desert places where unexpected rainfall led to celebrations of joy reflected in the sudden flowering of desert plants. Bright colour appeared on sand soaked landscapes, like a Christmas cactus burning bright red on pointed green branches. As our Christmas draws near help us to be thankful for sometimes challenging weather bringing life giving water to our shores.

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.

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 21st at 10am.



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. Thank you.

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. Please write "Advent Family Outreach" on your envelopes to ensure the funds are properly allocated.

For further information please contact Penni Stock

DATES TO NOTE

- 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 **When Christmas Hurts: A Blue Christmas Service**, 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 \$4,905.

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: www.gallerysingers.ca, Email: thegallerysingers@gmail.com

SENIORS CAFÉ – LAST EVENT OF THE FALL

Tuesday, December 13, is our last Seniors Café 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.

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.



Sunday December 11 Any items still needed - organizing and packing

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

We could use boxes of tea, instant coffee and canned vegetables (i.e., beets, corn, etc.)

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.

THE LONGEST NIGHT: A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

“Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away”

On Wednesday, December 21st at 7:00 pm, St. Mary’s Anglican Church will have a Blue Christmas Service. This special service of hope is for those who find it difficult to be merry in the season, and to provide an opportunity to acknowledge pain and sadness. In worship we will ask for God’s healing to face a future sustained by hope and grace. After the service there will be a quiet space to light a candle; a chapel with a minister offering prayers for healing; “comfort items” for you to take away and the walking labyrinth will be open. This is a service offered by the Archdeaconry of Vancouver. Child care is available. St. Mary’s Anglican Church is located at 2490 W 37th Avenue (at Larch St.).



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. They would make a great Christmas present!

REFUGEE UPDATE

As you know, we have learned that we are not able to sponsor the Zirk 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.

NEIGHBOURHOOD MINISTRY UPDATE

All are welcome to participate in upcoming Christmas activities with the Neighbourhood Ministry. On Saturday, December 17, 2016 there will be the 9th Annual Christmas Street Outreach, spreading cheer to our homeless neighbours. Gathering at St. Anselm's at 9:00 am for a 9:30 am departure. St. Anselm's is located at 5210 University Boulevard, opposite the UBC Golf Club.



On Christmas Eve, from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, we will spread cheer at the Dunbar Apartments with caroling and brunch. Families welcome!

New Neighbourhood Ministry volunteers are always welcomed. To learn more about opportunities for Street Outreach, please contact Mary Lymburner at: kmarylymburner@telus.net. For opportunities to serve at Dunbar Apartments, contact Joan Stewart, jstewart@westerndriver.com. Thank you for all your service in 2016 and we wish you a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

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 above was taken by Derek Simpkins.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Offertory envelopes for 2017 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 2017 Pledge form, please contact Beth in the office during the weekday mornings and she will assist you.



JOY TO THE WORLD: A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Musica Intima will be performing at 3:00 pm on December 17th at St. Philip's, featuring organist and founding member, Michael Murray. They will be performing works by Healey, Willan, Morten, Lauridsen, Matthew Emery and Patrick Hadley. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$25 for Seniors and \$15 for Students. For tickets, go to their website: <http://musicaintima.org/> and select "Dunbar matinee" on December 17th, or call 604.731.6618.