

Thoughts for the Day

Epiphany means 'to make manifest'. The diverse Gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus reveal the answer to a mystery prior to the main narrative. We, the reader, are privy to the true identity of Jesus from the start. The characters within the main narrative following the Baptism of Jesus are not privy to this information. That makes it possible for us to observe the reaction of individuals as they respond to the grace of God in their lives. May this season of Epiphany sharpen our awareness of grace in the world about us. Amen.

The Ven. Dr. John Bailey

DATES TO NOTE

Sun. Jan. 15 Messiaen - Quartet for the End of Time, 4:00 pm
Wed. Jan. 18 Greece: Past and Present, 7:00 pm
Sat. Jan. 21 Open Gym, 5:30 pm
Sun. Jan. 22 Steve Maddock and his Hot Three! Benefit Concert, 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.

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 December we had averaged \$5905 per Sunday from identified givers.
- Last Sunday we received \$6315.



STEVE MADDOCK AND HIS HOT THREE! BENEFIT CONCERT

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

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.

SENIORS CAFE - CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We hope to continue Seniors Cafe in 2017 and would benefit from having several more volunteers to join our cheerful team. Come and share some laughter and great stories around the cafe tables. If you could contribute an hour or two on a Tuesday morning, starting mid-February, please contact Ann Kent at ann@catkinggardens.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

On Saturday, December 31, Caroline and I met Elinor Han at St. Helen's to receive packets and oranges and hard boiled eggs. Caroline had brought cookies and some warm clothing left at St. Anselm's after the December 17 blitz. I had made sandwiches. At 4th and Highbury we picked up Rhona.

It felt very cold; it soon started raining and then turned to snow.

At 4th and Highbury by the No Frills we met only T and A. T has new housing downtown. A has been at 17th and Dunbar since its opening. Both were happy to take some food. T told us that C had gone to Vancouver Island for Christmas and while he was there his mother died.

We went by the Jericho Hostel to look for M, but he was not there, nor were his belongings. We continued down to the substation and found M there, quite comfortable in his sleeping bag. He was happy to take food. He said he had had to leave the hostel because they said he was blocking an exit. He said A had left the substation about a week ago as his things became very wet.

(Vicki has since told us that A has moved to Broadway just east of Macdonald, near David Hunter plant store.)

We went to both Locarno and Jericho beaches but did not find anyone there.

At 4th and Vine we found P selling Megaphones. He took some food.

We continued to Granville. There we found S and G in front of Chapters. They are big fans of peanut butter and jam sandwiches which we had. One of them had been warned by Chapters staff about accumulating too much stuff, so didn't want much. One of them was happy to take a warm jacket.

They told us there were others at the McDonald's on Broadway just east of Granville and in front of Shoppers at Granville and 13th. We checked those locations, but no one was there. However, we spotted a shelter on the SW corner of Granville and 10th, made up of a bicycle, a tarp and an umbrella. Inside we found J, who was new to us, but he thought he had met NM volunteers before. He looked very cold and was happy to take a pair of gloves and food. He is homeless.

On Broadway in front of London Drugs we found S, a bit more cheerful and animated than usual. He took some things, and introduced us to N who also took some food. N has recently arrived in Kitsilano from the North Shore, and says people in Kits are very friendly.

On the way back we left food for B at St. Helen's steps. He was not at home.

By the end of the outing we were very cold. Hard to imagine people having to be outside all the time in this weather.

Mary Lymburner

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.



REFUGEE UPDATE

The application package for Lama and her four children, Syrians in a refugee camp in Lebanon, was mailed to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada just 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 \$25,000 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

CLARE'S JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND

Yesterday, I left 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. 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.

QUARTET FOR THE END OF TIME BY OLIVIER MESSIAEN

Join us on Sunday, January 15th at 4:00 pm in the Church to listen to experience this beautiful, ethereal chamber piece. Domagoj Ivanovic will be on the violin, Laine Longton on cello, Liam Hockley on clarinet and Angelique Po on piano. Admission is by donation, however \$20 is suggested. The funds raised will benefit the St. Philip's music programme.



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@stpdonbar.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

MEN'S BREAKFAST

This Sunday's Men's Breakfast has been cancelled because of snow and slippery conditions.

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 unfailingly.

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

JONES' GIRLS MEETING AND LUNCHEON

The Jones Girls meeting that was to be on January 9th at 11:30 am has been postponed because of the anticipated snow that is said to arrive this weekend. The meeting and the luncheon will instead be on February 6th.