



St. Mark – Ocean Park Anglican Church

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“PARISH PULSE”

NEWSLETTER OF ST. MARK'S CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014

Merry Christmas and Thank You All-On behalf of the St. Mark-Ocean Park Parish Council and staff, we want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry and Blessed Christmas. We also want to thank everyone who has worked so diligently for our awesome God and for our wonderful Parish, especially during this past year. God bless you all.

Rector's Christmas Letter-Please pick up your labelled envelope in the Narthex this Sunday morning.

Discussion With The Bishop-The Bishop would like to invite all laity interested in having a discussion around the Diocese restarting a CURSILLO. The meeting will take place on Saturday, January 17 at St. Albans in Burnaby, from 9:30am for a 10am start, until noon. We look forward to sharing and listening to your insight, wisdom and experience. Please RSVP to 604-522-4363.
– The Rev. Faun Harriman

Wednesday Service Schedule

- Wed. Dec. 24 – The Service Will Not Be Held
- Wed. Dec. 31 – The Service Will Not Be Held
- Wed. Jan. 7 – Service at 10am
- Wed. Jan. 14 – Service at 10am
- Wed. Jan. 21 – Healing Service at 10am
- Wed. Jan. 28 – Service at 10am

St. Mark's Youth-Christmas Bowling & Gift Exchange Party on Tuesday, December 23 from 6pm-8:30pm. Let's celebrate the joy of the season together! We'll meet at Sandcastle Lanes for a game of bowling and a wrapped gift for the exchange (\$5-\$10 value). RSVP to Josh at youth@stmarkbc.org. **Please Note:** regular Sunday and Tuesday meetings will not take place on Dec. 28th or Dec. 30, and will resume the first week of January. See you in the New Year! – Josh Brown

Attention Ministry Leaders-Please be reminded that your 2014 Ministry Report is due in the Office no later than Monday, January 12, 2015, as we are under very tight timelines to produce the Annual Report to Vestry. Please email your report to Sheila at office@stmarkbc.org as a Microsoft Word document, in “Arial” 10-point font. The Vestry Meeting is on Sunday, February 15, 2015.

Journey of Christmas-Only 4 more nights to take in this year's outdoor display. Remember that Chris Simmons & Debra deVaughn are performing with the Young People's Opera Society on Monday evening, Dec. 22 at 7pm. The Journey of Christmas is on 6-9pm, with expanded hours on Christmas Eve, beginning at 3:30pm.

There are still volunteer opportunities to be tour guides, particularly on Christmas Eve. The outdoor display, façade, lights and star are coming down on Sat. Jan 10 from 9am-12noon. The trees and the stage in the Hall are staying up for a while yet.

Christmas Baking-Thanks to all those who baked our traditional Minced Pies and Shortbread for today's Coffee Hour. – Olive Pociwuschek

Coffee Hour Roster-The Coffee Hours list is posted in the Hall. Please check and see when you are listed and if it is unsuitable, telephone Olive at 604-535-2228

Sunday School-This week the focus is Luke 1:26-38. Mary hears God's message.

Christmas Eve's Bible Readings-Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98, Hebrews 1:1-12, John 1:1-14

Prayer Chain Contact-is Lynne Hurd. You may contact her at 604-542-2772 or at lynneh1@telus.net

Flowers for the Altar- are given today by Kathryn Smith and Hilda Smith, to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for his many blessings. Flowers for the Altar are given on December 24 & 25 by Doris and Bob MacKellar to the Glory of God and in loving memory of parents Rita and Russell Taylor and Sarah and John MacKellar; and also by Bea Ross, to the Honour and Glory of God and in loving memory of her dear friend Sylvia.

The Lunch Basket for Hungry Children-is given this week to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for God's many blessings.

2015 Donation Envelopes-Please pick up your set of envelopes in the Narthex. The weekly donation boxes are in alphabetical order in trays. The monthly donation boxes are in labelled foolscap envelopes in alphabetical order in a separate tray. Should you not find your donation envelopes, or if you want a set of 2015 donation envelopes, please contact either Douglas Brown, Donations Secretary, at 604-535-9599 or the Church Office at 604-535-8841.

Mission Missive Ready-The 2014 Winter Edition of the *Mission Missive* is available for pick up. You will find copies on the counter in the Narthex, or you can ask Toni Wallis for a copy.

Poinsettia Dedications

To the Glory of God and...

in memory of past members, especially Gladys Austen

– by the **Altar Guild;**

in memory of past members, especially Gladys Austen, Margaret Keen, Evelyn Michelson and Mavis Anderson

– by the **A.C.W.;**

in memory of departed loved ones – by **John & Louise Ritchie;**

in memory of our Daughter Jill – by Doug & Joy French;

in memory of our departed loved ones – by **Virginia & Art Go;**

in memory of my Godfather, who passed away recently

– by **Annabelle Ip;**

in memory of Bill & Kay Foley – by **Rev. Sue Foley-Currie;**

in memory of our wonderful parents, Keld & Lilly Poulsen, Bunny Sharpes & William Brown – by **Jef & Shannon Poulsen;**

in memory of my parents who passed away this year

– by **Glory Ann Paige & Maurice John Paige;**

in memory of my Aunt Anne who passed away recently, who by example, taught me how to be a Godmother to my nieces – by **Sheila Johnston.**

Silverfish Cleanup and New Storage Guidelines-

As some of you may know, we currently have a silverfish infestation in our church buildings. We'd like to try to deal with this without using chemical sprays. As the first step to help us to contain this infestation Parish Council has recommended that we strengthen our storage policies and is asking that all St. Mark's ministries clean their storage areas. To do the cleanup we'd ask each ministry group to please empty and vacuum its storage area. If there are any spots that require sealing or caulking to prevent the travel of insects along the baseboard, for example, please speak to People's Warden Brian Switzer and he'll arrange for that to happen. Please sort all stored items and discard anything not needed. Package all the items to be re-stored in sealable lidded plastic containers or bins. All lids should fit snugly. Nothing should be stored in plastic bags, paper bags or cardboard. Sheila, our Office Administrator, has emailed all ministry leaders the cleanup and storage guidelines. If anyone has questions about these guidelines, please speak to one of your Wardens. Thank you so much for your prayers, patience, understanding, and your help in starting to deal with this infestation. God bless.

The Lunch Basket Memorial & Thanksgiving Fund

Donor Pledge Chart-The 2015 Chart is now posted in the Church Hall. Please sign up to donate to the Lunch Basket program. These donations go to help single young moms with children under 18 years old. Thank you to all who have donated this past year. The chart is located on the west wall in the Hall. Please call Darlene Wiegand at 604-536-7107 if you have any questions or concerns.

Seniors News-Wednesday Get Togethers are alternate

Wednesdays from 1pm to 3:30p,. The next one is on Wed. Jan. 7. From 1pm to 3:30pm. Games are in the Family Room, chatting is the Library, and all gather for refreshments at 2:30pm.

Important Role-Would you like to volunteer in a very important role at St. Mark - Ocean Park as "Recording Secretary" for Parish Council meetings? If so, we need you! Meetings are held every 4th Tuesday of the month, from 7-9pm, and they do not occur in December, February or July. The Recording Secretary also records the February Vestry Meeting minutes. Minimal training is required and is provided. It is an appointed position. This is an opportunity to work with a great team in service to God and to each other. Please give this your prayerful consideration. If you feel called in this way please speak to any Warden: Betty-Ann 604-536-8739, Roger 604-531-6084, or Brian Switzer 604-535-1941.

PWRDF Update:"First Nations Need More Than A 'Band-Aid' Solution" – A project funded by Anglicans to provide water facilities for 10 houses in Pikangikum First Nation, a fly-in reserve located 500 km northwest of Thunder Bay, Ontario, has succeeded in turning on the taps, but the work of advocacy is just beginning. Grassroots Anglican group Pimatisiwin Nipi (Oji-Cree for "Living Water") has been working in conjunction with other concerned partners, such as the PWRDF and the Pikangikum First Nation itself to provide water to the community of roughly 450 households, 430 of which lack indoor plumbing. But while water is now being provided successfully to 10 homes, hundreds are still going without, Carolyn Vanderlip, director of PWRDF's Canadian Anglican Partnership Program, underscored the project's limitations: "It's not just water, it's housing, it's schools. It's just a lack of concern [on behalf of the government] for what's happening in these communities...outfitting 10 homes with water does not solve the problem..." For that reason, Pimatisiwin Nipi is getting involved in advocacy as well, lobbying for the government to live up to its responsibilities rather than simply trying to raise funds for "a band-aid solution." The Rev. Martha Tatarnic, who serves at St. George's Anglican Church in the Diocese of Niagara and has been involved with the initiative from the beginning, said that the advocacy aspect of the work will be especially important in the context of next year's federal election. "We've written letters to our MPs, and we're hoping to get in touch with them following the election to let them know that this is a priority for us."

- See more at:

<http://www.anglicanjournal.com/articles/first-nations-need-more-than-a-band-aid-solution>

OFFICE HOURS

Monday & Tuesday & Wednesday

Dec. 22, 23, 24

9am to 3pm

Thursday & Friday

December 25 & 26

OFFICE is CLOSED

Mon. Dec. 29 – Fri. Jan 2, 2015

OFFICE is CLOSED

Upcoming Events

Monday, December 22

6-9pm – Journey of Christmas - Hall

Tuesday, December 23

6-9pm – Journey of Christmas - Hall

7pm – Bible Study – FR

6pm – Youth Group – Bowling!

Wednesday, December 24

The 10am Service Will Not Be Held

5pm & 7pm & 11pm Services

6-9pm – Last Night of Journey of
Christmas – Hall

Thursday, December 25

10am Service – CHRISTMAS DAY
(Office Closed)

Friday, December 26

(Office Closed)

Sunday, December 28

8am Service & 10am Service

No Sunday School.

Wednesday, December 31

The 10am Service Will Not Be Held

Sunday, January 4

8am Service & 10am Service

Monday, January 5

9am – Exercise - Hall

Tuesday, January 6

9:30am – Bible Study – FR

7pm – Youth – Youth Room

Wednesday, January 7

9am – Exercise – Hall

10am – Service - Sanctuary

1pm – Seniors Get-Together – Hall/L/FR

6:30pm – Alpha Course – Ed. Centre

7pm – Choir Practice

Friday, January 9

9am – Exercise - Hall

6:30-9pm - Epiphany Party -Hall

Saturday, January 10

9am-Take Down of Journey of Christmas