



St. Mark – Ocean Park Anglican Church

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"PARISH PULSE" NEWSLETTER OF ST. MARK'S CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016

Annual Vestry - Attention St. Mark Ministry Leaders - Ministry Reports

Our annual Vestry Meeting will be held on Sunday February 19, 2017.

Please be reminded that we need your 2016 Ministry Report no later than **Monday, January 9, 2017** as we are under very tight timelines to produce the Annual Report to Vestry. If we don't receive your report by that date, we cannot guarantee that it will be included in the Annual Report.

Please email your 2016 Ministry Report in an Arial, 10-point font Microsoft Word document to Sheila at office@stmarkbc.org

Men's Club January Meeting – The January 2017 meeting will take place on Tues. Jan. 17 (not the 10th). More information to come.

The Wed. Jan. 4 Senior's Get-Together – at 1pm will be an Epiphany Party!

Emergency Maintenance

During the holiday both Don and Ken are away during the following dates:

Dec. 5th, 2016 to Jan. 15th, 2017 – Don will be away in Florida so will not be available.

Dec. 21st to Dec. 30th, 2016 Ken will be away in the US and thus unable to take phone calls.

Jan. 8th to Jan. 13th, 2017 Ken will be away skiing and thus unable to take phone calls.

In Ken's case in severe emergency conditions, Ken can be reached on his cell but it will be long distance.

Cell no. 612-710-0246.

In their absence Phil Tubbs has agreed to look after any problems. His phone number is 604-531-0847.

At the present time both Don and Ken know of no problems that have to be dealt with immediately so hopefully it continues for the next six weeks.

Contribution Envelopes - are available for pick up today at the back of the Sanctuary.

Bible Readings for Next Sunday – Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 67, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21

Lunch Basket for Hungry Children – is provided this week by Betty Icharia to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for God's many blessings.

Flowers for the Altar – are given today by Bea Ross to the Honour and Glory of Almighty God and in loving memory of her son, Niall; and by the MacKellar family, to the Glory of God and in remembrance of parents and family loved ones.

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

Coffee Hour Roster – The new coffee hour roster for December/January/February is posted on the bulletin board in the Hall. Please feel free to arrange your own trade if your assigned date does not work for you. Please advise me if you have traded dates. I would be happy to email you a copy if you let me know your email address. isabelchernoff@telus.net

Journey of Christmas – On Tuesday, Dec. 27 from 9am - 1pm = take down Journey of Christmas and the Christmas decorations and trees in the Hall. Thank you for your help.
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SEE YOU ON THE "JOURNEY OF CHRISTMAS" from Brian Walks &

Please Note That The Office Will Be Closed

- **Mon. Dec. 26**
- **Tues. Dec. 27**
- **Wed. Dec. 28**
- **Thurs. Dec. 29**
- **Fri. Dec. 30**

Christmas Message From
Will Postma, Executive Director
PWRDF

Good news of great joy for all people. These are words for the ages. My grandfather meditated on these words and told me to never forget. A simple but powerful Christmas-is-coming, Christmas-is-here message.

As we wait and look forward to Christmas, we look forward to peace and safety in Syria. We look forward to justice for First Nations, Metis and Inuit people in this land of Canada. We look forward to reconciliation with Indigenous communities across Canada.

Those of us at PWRDF look forward to more households in Indigenous communities in Canada having clean water, more families with sufficient and nutritious food to eat all year long, for the best possible health care for more women giving birth in even the most remote and vulnerable areas of the world. We look forward to peace, safety, joy for all people and are refreshed by the announcement from the angel to the shepherds: "Behold, do not be afraid."

Be awe-struck, be amazed, but...

... Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

The angel says all of these thrilling words to the terrified shepherds, those living on the margins, socially outcast, not the learned or the privileged. But the shepherds were filled with joy when they heard and experienced this invitation from the angel.

Those of us at PWRDF look forward to and take steps, sometimes tentative, sometimes what we hope are big leaps towards a more peaceful, just and compassionate world. We are inspired by the Christmas story as told to the shepherds, who responded with a let's go (*Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened*) and a hurried pace (*they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger*)

May the Christmas story of joy never cease to amaze, comfort and inspire.

Will Postma

Over at Holy Trinity – On Fri. Jan. 27 there will be a Dinner & Dance, featuring the music of "Silverstars". Tickets are \$35 and can be reserved by calling 604-531-0884.

Upcoming Events

Monday, December 26

Office is Closed

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Office is Closed

9am – 1pm – Take down of Journey of Christmas

Wednesday, December 28

There is no 10am Service

Office is Closed

Thursday, December 29

Office is Closed

Friday, December 30

Office is Closed

Sunday, January 1

8am Service – Holy Communion

10am Service – Holy Communion and Baptism
Service for Josh and Rebeca Brown's daughter
Beatrice.