

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST MARK & ST PHILIP

NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

This year's summer experience was awesome, having the time to be with family and friends and visiting famous places where nature amazes everyone.

As my two boys and I were preparing to fly to the Philippines, my heart kept beating and my mindset was with our congregation here in St. Mark and St. Philip. I was a little bit worried that my sheep might be neglected because of the challenges that we are encountering. Because of this, I thought of leaving a Biblical passage that will ensure encouragement and motivation to my congregation and to me, that God will lead us all to unity.

John 17: 21 says "That all of them may be one , Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you sent me." Prayer was always said in my thoughts and heart. Though I was away from my parish and my congregation, I continue to trust Him to direct and give light to my congregation and to the priest who did the services during my absences.

Attaining unity and healing is a process, a long process. It needs a lot of patience and perseverance. It also need courage to lift someone who is really faint-hearted. I may not be physically lifting someone, but through my action and prayers those persons are motivated to keep moving and be re-charged. Being motivated and re- charged, all of us will be led to unity and love. Our differences will vanish and our new positive attitudes will shine. I am urging each of you to continue to be in prayer, praying to God that St. Mark and St. Philip will once again shine. God bless our parish family. MY WE ALL BE ENCOURAGED IN OUR FAITH AND IN OUR CALLING.



POTLUCK SUPPER

A Parish lunch potluck was held on Saturday, Sept. 30th, with about 44 parishioners attending. A long buffet table was filled with a delicious assortment of casseroles, baked goods, and salads. On a side table, 2 delicious & beautifully decorated cakes, one chocolate and one vanilla, were presented to Padi Joey and Donabel, to celebrate Padi Joey's first anniversary as our Interim Priest. We would have celebrated this sooner, but between a conference in Vancouver in early August, and Padi Joey's four-week visit to the Philippines, the party was delayed.

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

In lieu of our usual Christmas Tea, which was originally booked for Saturday, December 2nd, it was suggested that we do a Christmas Potluck lunch instead.

Please bring a favorite Christmas-related food item to share, on Saturday, December 2nd, at 12 noon. Food will be available from 12 noon - 2 PM. If you have any ideas for any activities that might be in keeping with the theme, please talk to Parish Council members or leave a note for Padi Joey or one of the Wardens, in the wall-mounted mail slot outside the church office.



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

This year's Stewardship Campaign is underway. Letters have been sent to all parishioners, and *we hope to have all responses back as soon as possible*. Having pledges allows SMSP to draft a realistic budget for 2017-18, and so it is crucial that all pledges are in as soon as possible, so that our Treasurer, Andreas Pack, has as much time as possible to draft a budget based on the level of giving we can expect.

Thank you for supporting SMSP. Your pledge pays our priest's salary & mileage expenses as he carries out his important ministry of Pastoral Care, all over this very large and spread-out city. It also helps to pay our rent, phone/internet bill, and many other expenses which come with operating a parish. So please be as generous as you can, and remember "God loves a cheerful giver"!

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

You may have noticed that a lot more children are attending our services in recent months. At last count, there were between 14-18 children that could benefit from Sunday School services. With this in mind, Donabel Vallejo is willing to start facilitating Sunday School, but with the wide age range of the children, she needs some helpers so that age-appropriate groups can be created. Ideally, two more Sunday School facilitators would be ideal. All Sunday School facilitators should be willing to get a Criminal Record Check, which our insurance company has indicated is crucial for anyone working alone with children or vulnerable adults. SMSP will cover the cost of the Criminal Record Check, for any interested volunteers. Please speak with Donabel if you would like to play a role in revitalizing this ministry.



MUSIC MINISTRY

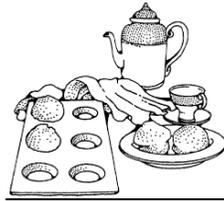
Mary Ross has suggested that Padi Joey take a more active role in the music ministry. He is willing to do so, but only when Mary Ross is away on a Sunday morning.

If you have any thoughts as to what you would personally like to hear in the way of musical selections, please speak with Mary Ross or Padi Joey. Your feedback would also be welcome re: the idea of mixing contemporary and traditional church music in the same church service, vs. having alternating services that are purely traditional or purely contemporary re: music.

MEETING WITH THE ARCHBISHOP

Some time ago, Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson offered to meet with us again as a parish, since he was provided with the results of both surveys. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14th at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Please bring any questions or comments you would like to share with the Archbishop. If you are uncomfortable speaking publicly at the meeting, please put your questions/comments in writing and share them with Padi Joey or any member of Parish Council.

There will be a coffee time after the meeting, so any contributions of baking or other treats would be appreciated.



TEA EVENT UPDATE

Joyce Setters, ACW President, recently advised that the ACW will not be putting on the annual "Snowflake Tea" in early December this year. Our group of Scouts who were a huge help with serving, have a conflicting event this year on the same day, and we also will not have jam to sell this year. Also, there are no individuals able to do crafts this year.

FELLOWSHIP ROOM UPDATE

The Fellowship Room is undergoing asbestos remediation, which was behind the cinder block walls. All asbestos has been removed, but the ceiling is somewhat open at present, presumably awaiting some insulation and installation of new ceiling tiles. This process could take some months, but the room is safe to use at the present time, although there is no ceiling lighting, at present.

CALL FOR LAY READERS

If you have ever felt a desire to get involved in the ministry of bringing the Word to parishioners, this is your chance! We are wanting to recruit more readers of all ages, both male and

female. Training will be provided by experienced readers. If you are comfortable standing up in front of a crowd, and have a good, clear, strong speaking voice, please speak to any of the current readers and express your interest.



PARISH OFFICERS

Parish Priest: Rev.(Padi) Joey Vallejo

Parish Officers

Incumbent's Warden: Mary Smith

People's Warden: Andrew Daye

Treasurer: Andreas Pack

Envelope Secretary: Andrew Daye

Organist: Mary Ross

Sunday School Coordinator: Donabel Vallejo

ACW: Joyce Setters

Prayer Partnership: vacant

Altar Guild: Neila Russell

**Parish Council: Sam Bird, Harold Hippe, Sharen Stevenson,
Leslie Miles, Marilyn Croot**

Lay Delegates to Synod: Leslie Miles

Church Address: 1802 - 33 Ave. SW, Calgary, AB T2T 1Y9

Phone: (403) 244-0198

Email: office@parishofstmstp.com

GOING INTO HOSPITAL??

If you are, it is helpful for the parish and clergy to know so that you can be remembered in prayer and visited. If you can't send a message yourself – let a family member, friend, or a member of the nursing staff know that your faith family is important to you and get them to phone and leave a message at the church: (403) 244-0198.

Don't forget- Automatic Debit is now available for your offerings. Please let Andrew Daye know if you wish to set up this automatic service.

The deadline for submissions for the December issue of the newsletter is **Nov. 20th**. There is a submission box outside the church office, or you can e-mail your submissions to murmor01@telusplanet.net - (subject line: "SMSP Newsletter"). Thank you!