

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST MARK & ST PHILIP

CHRISTMAS 2017 NEWSLETTER

Greetings of peace and harmony.

Pondering on what to contribute to our newsletter, I came to the Prayer Collect of the last Sunday of Pentecost (also known as The Reign of Christ Sunday), where it says, "Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, our Lord and King, grant that the peoples of the earth, now divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under His gentle and loving rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever." I also considered the Prayer Collect of the first Sunday of Advent, which says "Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day when He shall come again in His majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever."

God is really good. I said this because He continued to direct us in all our doings and ministry. This is now our second December since we started to be with each other. We learned a lot of things in the past year, we shared a lot of ministry to each other, we had lots of meetings and plans and most of all, we shared our efforts and love to face and carry the trials and challenges on our way as we continue to walk this faith journey. We had lots of pains and frustrations that sometimes or more often than not, prevented our spiritual growth and even caused divisions among us in our parish family.

Hatred developed due to those/these challenges that we are encountering and whether we accept it or not, we are divided and enslaved by sin. In the prayers that we read, we are asking and praying fervently to our Lord and King to free us from darkness and we will be brought together under His gentle and loving rule. God never left us behind; He is with us all the time. The challenges, pains, frustrations and some other sorts of trials are all bearable. It is just a matter of clinging to Him and being always faithful to Him all our days. We need to live a humble life and respect each other. The attitude/ character and wrong actuation defines us. These will be the basis of our Lord when He will come to judge us. Let us all have some time in our lives to amend the things that separate and caused divisions among us.

Again, despite of those/ these challenges, we have joy because we are growing & gaining new churchgoers. We have new young families who signed in and happily joined our parish family. These young families also started to play their role not only to be visible on Sundays, but to be committed parishioners most especially in the life and work of our parish. Your prayers, our prayers are definitely heard and will surely be answered. Keep that faith, do your best and God will do the rest.

As we keep watch for His lowly birth, may we all be able to prepare a room for Him to come in and reign in our hearts and lives. Happy Advent, everyone. May we all have a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. He Reigns...

Padi Joey Vallejo, Parish Priest

MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP KERR-WILSON

Archbishop Kerr-Wilson had kindly offered to meet with us, and the meeting took place on Nov. 14th in the sanctuary, with about 15 parishioners attending. Issues discussed included the extension of the lease period with HMPA; whether the individuals currently receiving pastoral care would be supported by the Diocese; what a "mission church" looks like; reducing our yearly

apportionment; the changing face of Anglican worship and the loss of churches; how to do church in a new way, with the gifts we have.

The Archbishop identified that things were "going in several directions at the same time", re: comments from attendees which ranged from pessimistic to optimistic, and noted that the congregation is divided on what to do next. He suggested praying together and focussing on discerning God's call, focusing on what we have and not on what we don't have, integrating new people into the parish, not staying in the past, and learning to live out our faith in a new context. He advised we have to think about how to do "church" in a new way, using the gifts we have. Regarding "mission" status, the Archbishop referred to the Canons and the need to make a proposal to the Diocesan Council.



CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

A potluck for parishioners was held on Sat., Dec. 2nd, in lieu of the Snowflake Tea. Approximately 30 parishioners attended, and enjoyed a delicious variety of hot dishes. The event was also a mini-fundraiser for the Mustard Seed, via cash donations, a bake sale, and donations of toiletries for the Mustard Seed's shelter in SE Calgary. Through the generosity of attendees, \$120.75 and two bags of toiletries were donated to the Seed.

A raffle was held, with prizes of Wal-Mart gift cards, generously donated by our Treasurer, Andreas Pack (Green South Accounting). George L. won the \$50 gift card, and amazingly, the mother-daughter duo of Sushila J. and Ruth S. won the two \$25 cards. Thanks to Andreas, and to all attendees for their generosity.

CHURCH SERVICES UPDATE

Starting in January, Padi Joey will be offering a service on Saturday AM, for anyone unable to attend on Sundays. This is not replacing the current Sunday services - rather, it is an option for those who find Saturday works better with their schedules. Dates will be announced closer to January.

It is also hoped that one Sunday service per month will be held in Tagalog/Ilokano, with a booklet in both languages so that everyone can follow along, now that our Archbishop has approved the liturgy to do so.

SCHEDULE OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Advent Lessons and Carols: Sunday, Dec. 17th, 12:30 PM.

Christmas Eve Services - Sunday, Dec. 24th: 8 AM and 7:00 PM. There will be no 12:30 PM service on Christmas Eve. We will be having a Family Eucharist and Christmas Pageant at 7:00 PM.

Christmas Day: 8:00 AM only.

New Year's Eve - Sunday, Dec. 31st: 8:00 AM and 12:30 PM (Christmas Lessons & Carols)

New Year's Day: No services.

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 January issue of the newsletter is Jan. 21st, 2018. 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!

