

grapevine

ST. STEPHEN'S
NEWSLETTER

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From Gary Hamblin, Our Priest-in-Charge

On Saturday, September 13, forty-five members of St. Stephen the Martyr, Burnaby, participated in a 'Gathering' facilitated by Tasha Carrothers.

The five hours we were together focused on St. Stephen's, where we have been, where we are now, and where we plan to go from this date.

I thought the recipients of the parish newsletter would be interested in the Likes, Wishes and Concerns that came from a "brainstorming" session during the first part of the day. We were asked: What do you like about St. Stephen's? What are your wishes for St. Stephens? and What are your concerns for St. Stephens?

Likes

- direction since Gary's arrival
- good connection with the diocese
- stronger leadership
- hymn choice and choir
- today's turnout
- increased lay involvement
- attention to the Sunday-school
- our diverse community
- new rounded stewardship direction

- new member said she loves the church community

Wishes

- more pastoral care
- stronger job of integrating new people
- vestry meetings twice a year
- more sidespersons and counters
- more volunteers
- more parishioners supporting the Thrift Shop, spring tea, etc.
- we shouldn't be so clique-ish at coffee
- more study and reflection groups
- a welcome-to-our-church initiative
- possibility of direct deposit for weekly giving

Concerns

- stop-and-start nature of ministry
- not being able to implement MAP
- focus on numbers, rather than on being a Christian community
- removal of the eternal light
- need for improved continuity and communication
- not enough emphasis on stewardship, and it was too focused on money
- straying from Anglicanism: our services should be more Anglican, with the creed and confession included every week
- the diocesan apportionment is too high

The Reverend Gary Hamblin

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A Word from our Wardens

Another season has passed and we are moving into a busy fall. We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer and had an opportunity to rest and recharge your batteries. The biggest news on the “Warden front” is the loss of Desiree Gore-Lindemere, who (sadly for us) moved to Calgary in early July, and now the addition of Sarah Andrusco, who was elected as our new People’s Warden on September 14th. Since Sarah is relatively new to St. Stephen’s, we thought it would be helpful if we related some of her background. The following is an excerpt from an interview entitled “Getting to Know Sarah”:

“I am originally from Saskatoon and have been in BC for 8 years. My career brought me here: I have worked in Capital Campaign Management, as well as Marketing and Communications in the not-for-profit sector, and am currently looking for a new position. I am a cradle Anglican, confirmed as a teenager. However, I was also confirmed in the Lutheran Church as an adult (long story, but since we are in Communion with the Lutheran Church, it is all rather interconnected). Some of you have met my partner Colin, who unfortunately is not usually able to join us on Sundays due to work, but who appears occasionally when the schedule permits. I have one daughter, Olivia, who is in her first year of Commerce at University of Saskatchewan. I came to St. Stephen’s when looking for a new Parish Family. St. Stephen’s felt small

and homey, and I was drawn to the diversity I saw here—it felt right. I would like everyone to know that I really want to serve you well as your People’s Warden, to be a voice for those who are not as involved as others, but also to encourage all members’ participation. There are a couple of things I feel most passionate about in my participation at Church: Stewardship and Progress. I hope to help our parish be current and relevant, while maintaining the Anglican tradition. Because I am relatively new here and do not know everyone yet, please introduce yourself to me. I very much would like to know everyone’s name.”

Even though many of us have had time away over the summer, lots has been happening around our little church. You will soon see new accordion doors on either side of the Fellowship Room. We have used the remainder of the gift from St.

Margaret’s to upgrade the Fellowship Room lighting, and storage units are planned for the hall off the front entrance to the Sanctuary (editor’s note: see also the Building Committee Report in this newsletter). Our Parish Council has mandated the development of a Finance Committee to oversee the financials and advise us on upcoming and ongoing projects. This committee gives Bob Rusch, our Treasurer, much-needed support. As many of you know, Bob has been our “money man” for many years and we thank him for his continued involvement in this area. We have also hired a new handyman, a →

“The last 2 years have definitely been productive and exciting around St. Stephen’s. We encourage each one of you to get involved—you will likely find the rewards are too many to count!”

The Top 10 Reasons to be an Episcopalian

We were shocked and saddened this summer to hear of the untimely death of comedian Robin Williams. In his memory, The Grapevine is republishing from our June 2003 issue Williams’ list of the top 10 reasons to be an Episcopalian (or, as we say in Canada, an Anglican):

10. No snake handling.
9. You can believe in dinosaurs.
8. Male and female God created them; male and female we ordain them.
7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.
6. Pew aerobics.
5. Church year is color-coded.
4. Free wine on Sunday.
3. All of the pageantry - none of the guilt.
2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized.

And the Number One reason to be an Episcopalian:

1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you.

→ very familiar face to us all: Kwang-Ock Ha! Finally, we received a large anonymous donation that enabled the installation of the next 2 beautiful stained glass windows at the front of our Sanctuary. What a wonderful addition this has made!

Last Saturday, September 13, we held a very successful “Gathering” where we reviewed the history of our parish (focusing on the last 10 years) and where we want to go from here. Facilitated by a very skilled Tasha Carrothers, from the Diocesan Office, and our own Colleen Butterley (a wonderful benefit of sending congregation members to Diocesan Leadership School is that some of our familiar faces are becoming equipped to

assist and even lead these kinds of processes), we reviewed our MAP (Ministry Assessment Process) and delved into “Gather/Transform/Send,” a teaching model for parish growth developed by Bishop Melissa. There were 45 enthusiastic parishioners in attendance, and the day was reported to be “awesome,” “well organized,” and “positive,” to quote some of the comments received. If you were unable to attend, Heather Doherty took notes throughout the day and has published a wonderful review—look for it at the church. (editor’s note: Rev. Gary’s piece in this issue of *The Grapevine* also presents material from the brainstorming session.) The planning committee will be reconvening shortly

to look at implementation of discussed/recommended ideas.

By the time you are reading this, we will have celebrated our 101st anniversary on September 21st, bringing back memories of our 100th anniversary last year and all the celebratory activities that went with this wonderful milestone. The last 2 years have definitely been productive and exciting around St. Stephen’s. We encourage each one of you to get involved—you will likely find the rewards are too many to count!

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Andrusco and Valerie Krause

Our Parishioners share...

This prayer of Thomas Merton, from *Thoughts in Silence*, comes to us from Pat Williamson:

My LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
And the fact that I think I am following your will
Does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
Does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
Though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust you always,
Though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me.
And you will never leave me to face my perils alone.
So be it.

Adult Discussion Series: *First Things*

This fall the Rev. Gary Hamblin is leading a discussion “journey” of six sessions on the topic of “First Things” – topics related to the character and values of our Anglican Church. The sessions are being held on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Stephen’s. The series is designed to provide information and discussion for anyone wanting to learn more about our church, including life-long Anglicans, newcomers, adult enquirers, baptismal and confirmation candidates, and parents of baptismal candidates.

Here are the topics to be covered:

Sep. 24: God – Our Destination

Oct. 1: Jesus – Our Forerunner

Oct. 8: The Bible – A Very Good Read

Oct. 15: The Christian Story – Taking a Good Run at It

Oct. 22: The Church – Travelling Partners

Oct. 29: The Anglican Way – Our Own Band of Pilgrims

Desired outcomes of the “journey” are: a good grasp of the character and values of the Anglican communion; appreciation for the Anglican tradition as a faithful expression of the Christian faith, and a desire to be involved in the life of the Anglican community.

You can join the series at any time and you are welcome to just show up on a Wednesday night, even if you’ve missed the first session or two. But registration is appreciated, and that way you can also pick up the package of pre-readings for all six sessions. There is a cost of \$15 to pay for photocopying of the handouts. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall, or phone the church office at 604-421-0472, or e-mail Gary at ghamblin@shaw.ca.

A Report from Your Building Committee

A new building committee was struck in spring 2014. Members include Joan Hobson, Andy Holisky, Valerie Krause, Bobbie Carter, Colleen Butterley, and Elaine Renforth (Chair).

The purpose of this report is to inform the congregation of the funds being spent on upgrading various parts of our church.

We received a generous donation of \$6000.00 from St. Margaret of Scotland upon their closing in February, 2014. With these funds we were able to replace all of the kitchen counters and the women’s washroom counter, and to install new faucets in both areas. This work totalled \$3485.81. The remaining funds of \$2514.29 have been used to upgrade the lighting in the Fellowship Room.

Due to a safety issue with the accordion doors on either side of the Fellowship

Room, Parish Council discussed and recommended replacement of these doors as soon as possible. Our newly organized Financial Committee consisting of Bob Rusch, Larry Hoad, John Hayfron and Sharon Mack advised Parish Council that a withdrawal from our Consolidated Trust Fund was necessary to fund this project. These funds consisted of the previous year’s earnings in interest and an additional amount of approximately \$4000.00 from capital. Parish Council has pledged to repay the \$4000.00 over the next two years. This repayment will be actualized through fundraising.

Two new stained glass windows were installed in the front of the church in July after we received an incredibly generous anonymous donation. Following this work, there was \$505.82 remaining in the stained glass window fund. The Parish Council voted to use these funds to purchase and install 2 storage units in the front entrance foyer of the church. These storage units will enable us to relocate our storage items and offer much-needed storage space in the hall to user groups renting areas within the building.

Since Sharon Mack has become our Rental Coordinator, she has worked aggressively to rebuild our rental income. As we have been reviewing our financials each month at Parish Council we have recognized a significant improvement in our bottom line.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Renforth

From Peggy Rockliffe, St. Stephen’s recipient of the 2014 Order of the Diocese of New Westminster award for service:

I wish to thank all who nominated me for this most honoured award from the diocese. You know it is this generosity of spirit that makes St. Stephen’s such a great place. All involved are way ahead of me—at least a dozen of you. I’ve been around a long time, but I can’t take credit for that. I’ve tried to help but often hindered. May God bless you always, Peg Rockliffe.

To our younger parishioners and their families:

For the last couple of years, the youngest members of our congregation and their families have been occupying the Fellowship Room during Sunday services. The lack of speakers in this area has made it difficult for our young families to follow the service and feel connected to the rest of the congregation. As well, we have been actively increasing our rental activity of late, and it has become

necessary to make more space in the Fellowship Room.

With these things in mind we are suggesting that young families move into the sanctuary proper. We propose to move another pew from the front of the church so as to give the youngsters more space. We will also be preparing some “busy bags” with crayons and colouring pages or activity books to pick up when entering the church. You

are also welcome to use the small table in the Fellowship Room if you feel the need to leave the sanctuary.

We request your cooperation in trying this on a trial basis, and we will be asking for your feedback in coming weeks.

Thanks so much!

Your Parish Council

Our Parishioners share...

Thoughts for the autumn season, contributed by Audrey Watson:

The Salmon's Return

They nose the estuaries
All the power of their length
Bent on remembering, conquering,
Reading, finding.

The water is deep,
So cold it is sore as the plunging of knife.
The water is loud with autumn, brash and chattering,
Rushing seaward with news of colours and fires.

The salmon flicker upwards, loom through pools,
Gashing themselves on giant boulders,
Before pausing, halted, at the feet of the falls.

The water comes in whiskey, clatters
Like an old man falling, rolling, heedless
Down a staircase. The salmon
Hurl, thrash, fist upwards at the sky,
Out of their element, arch taut and driven until
They win, calm water, shallow quiet.

Then they are almost home,
Their mouths tasting the roots of the hills
They unravelled, they followed
From the light blue salt of the Atlantic
All the way back, to this beginning.

K.S.

Harvest Prayer

We thank you for the harvest, Lord,
The bounty of your hand.
For every season of the year
Which touches all the land.
For fruit and flowers, trees and plants,
The miracle of seeds,
For food and comfort through the months
Providing for our needs.

We thank you for the love we share,
The harvest of the heart,
For all the precious gifts of life
Your hope and joy impart.
We pray for those less fortunate
Who suffer every day,
Be with them on their journey, Lord,
And help them find their way.

And now, once more, we thank you, Lord,
For blessings great and small,
But, most of all, your endless love,
The greatest gift of all.

I.H.

Children's Ministry News

Thank-you to Ryan Funk, Lee-Anne Gin, Chris Renwick, Angela Giraud, Shanel Mack, Joy Hamblin, Wendy Hodgkin, Ashley Krause, and Anna Choi for preparing lessons and teaching our Sunday-school children and our young guests over the summer months. The children enjoyed having you, and the teachers of the regular year were grateful for the summer break!

And welcome to Anna Choi and Larry Hoad, new members of our teaching team this fall.

Calling all kids!

Here is a Word Find game taken from one of the summer lessons. It reminds us that God cares for everyone, whether in summer holidays or the new school year. The game is based on Matthew 10:29-30.

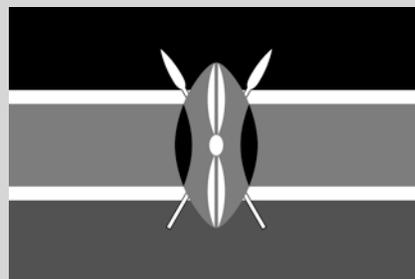
Complete the word search and arrange the words to fill in the blanks and complete this version of Jesus' message. Search diagonally, backwards, forwards, up, and down to find and circle the words.

**you down attention head detail
hairs your numbering God**

n	a	d	o	w	n	z	u
o	t	m	s	a	u	b	t
i	o	d	e	r	m	l	m
t	l	a	c	u	b	s	l
n	n	e	i	e	e	r	i
e	r	h	a	i	r	s	a
t	r	u	r	u	i	o	t
t	s	m	o	c	n	u	e
a	o	y	t	y	G	o	d

___ pays _____ to _____,
to the last _____ - even _____
the _____ on _____ !

Coming Soon



Leonard-Kim Sundays – we will see the latest pictures of our foster brother in Kenya and learn more about his life. We will also draw pictures and write letters to send to him.