



October 2017

# The **ELM LEAF**

## St. Peter's Parish Newsletter

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*Our Harvest Thanksgiving altar display. For more "St. Peter's in Pictures," turn to pages 6 and 7.*



*Family Sponsorship Update, p. 5*



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### Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

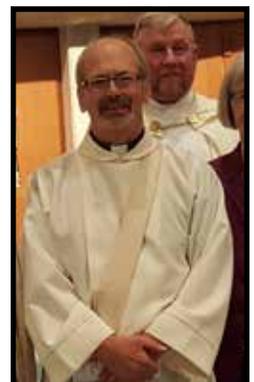
#### A Montessori Based Sunday School

Building on the methods of Maria Montessori, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) was developed by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi. This CGS approach seeks to give children an experience which opens them to awareness of their relationship with God and helps them give expression to it. With this approach to the child's religious

formation, our trained catechists strive to help each child fall in love with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, while building community among his/her peers.

The name, 'Catechesis of the Good Shepherd' speaks of the foundational way in which the child will experience God made known in Jesus. That is, the One who loves, cares for and protects them as faithfully as a shepherd cares for his/her sheep.

*(continued next page)*



*Terry's Ordination, p. 10*



## Growing in Faith Together - From August 2017

This fall, St. Peter's will once again be launching into a year of adult Christian education. Books have been ordered and lessons are being planned. We will soon be gathering to sink our teeth into a study on collaboration which will help us grow into the new model of ministry here in the parish. This will be followed by sessions on stewardship and discerning our gifts as well as opportunities for fellowship and Bible study. Interspersed will be events like movie nights and the St. Peter's Book Group.

Ongoing Christian education is an essential part of our life together in Christ for two main reasons: It helps us to grow and mature as Christians and it equips us to live the life we are called to in our baptism.

Baptism is a once in a lifetime event. At the moment of our baptism, we are "marked as Christ's own forever" and we are made members of the body of Christ. We become a part of the community. Although you could say this is the moment we officially become Christians, it is not the end of a journey. Rather, it is the beginning, the first step on a lifelong road of being formed into the image of Christ. Once marked as Christ's own, we must discover what that means in our lives, individually and corporately. Ongoing Christian education helps us discern this.

How we live our lives in Christ changes as we grow and develop, both individually and as a parish. This means that the types of learning experience that speak to us will also change. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, the Sunday morning program for children at St. Peter's, is intentionally designed to teach the stories of our faith in ways that are developmentally appropriate to the age of the child. The stories and activities that will be meaningful for a three-year-old, are not the same as those for a seven-year-old, or a ten-year-old. The children are at different developmental stages and they will understand God's love for them in different and ever-expanding ways.

That doesn't end with childhood, however. Human development continues through all stages of life, from birth to our senior years. Throughout our lives, our experience of God's saving grace will change and deepen and we grow into our understanding of God's love for us. As adults we need to return again and again to the stories of our faith and view them afresh with the new insights that come with each stage of life.

As we grow in faith, we also grow in our response to it. We are all familiar with the 6 promises that are made at baptism. These are reaffirmed by the community each time we renew our baptismal vows. Among other things, we promise to "proclaim by word and example the good news of Jesus Christ" and to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself". If we're honest, most of us are probably a little uncertain how we are supposed to do this. How do we take those 6 promises and make them the blueprint for living our life in Christ? How do we take our faith out the door after Sunday morning worship and live it actively in the world?

Equipping us to answer these questions is one of the goals of adult Christian education. Together, as a community, we explore what it means to live as disciples of Jesus Christ and we support one another in our journeys. Along the way, we share a lot of laughter and get to know one another better, all of which makes St. Peter's a stronger and more faithful community.

We all have questions about our faith and we all gain when we try to answer those questions together. Check out the educational offerings already available this fall. If you want to see something more, something that responds to the questions on your mind, please talk to me, your Pastor of Christian Education. We are always planning for what is coming next. Come and join us. It will be both fun and enriching



Shelagh Balfour  
Pastor of Christian Education

## Check Out the Latest from St. Peter's Library

St. Peter's Library now has 25 new books, through the generous donations from parishioners. They are shelved in the usual top left shelf.

Some examples:

*A Generous Orthodoxy*

*Finding Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient Practises*

These two books are by author Brian McLaren

*Why Go To Church? The Drama of the Eucharist*

By author Timothy Radcliffe

*Who Killed Jesus?*

By author John Crossan

*Prayers for Healing from the Anglican Tradition*

By author Daniel Graves

Remember: books are easily found by either author or by title.

To help your library staff determine how often the library is being used, we ask that you please sign out the books and return them.



The sign out clipboard and the return box are the magazine holders on the third shelf from the top on the left side.

Happy reading!

Rose Bushuk,  
Marie Chalmers, Liz Green  
Library Co-Coordinator

## Photo Credits

Library photo on p. 4 courtesy of Ian Chalmers

Family photo on p. 5 courtesy of Albert and Yasameen Sekt

Ordination photo on p. 10 courtesy of Diocese of Rupert's Land

All other photos in this edition of the Elm Leaf courtesy of Abi Calcutt

## Sekt Family Update

As I'm sure you are aware, the refugee family from Iraq that we at St. Peters sponsored last year, moved to Surrey, BC this summer. The reason for the move was to be with family. Yasameen's brother and his family have lived in Surrey for several years. The draw of family was very strong.

We have been in communication with them and all seems to be doing well. I can report that the kids are enrolled in school and doing well. Albert is working at a glass factory (major accomplishment) and Yasameen is expecting in late November and doing well.

The Sekts moved into their own apartment in September and are quite enjoying it. When they left Winnipeg, they were able to take many of the things St. Peters had provided for them (thank heavens for Greyhound). They were able to take clothes, bedding, kitchen supplies, bathroom supplies, toys, games and even the Christmas tree we got them last year!

I would like to once again thank everyone for their help, time, financial contributions and overall support for helping give this family the opportunity to make a new life in Canada. I know we have made a difference and Albert and the family miss us all very much.



The Sekt family in their new apartment in Surrey, BC

This has truly been very rewarding and humbling experience for Cori, myself and our family.

Once again thank you all very much for all you have done. We have made a difference!



Cori and Colin Dorrian

*Editor's Note: Since being involved with the Sekt family sponsorship, Colin Dorrian has been inspired to take on the role as the Anglican representative on the board of directors of Welcome Place, one of Canada's largest organizations for welcoming refugees into Canada.*

## Add Your Voice to Our Tapestry

Have you considered being part of our choir? Anyone can sing, regardless of age or musical background.

Practicing with our choir will help you hone your instrument and give you a chance to connect with St. Peter's parishioners and our worship in a new way.

We are especially on the lookout for male voices (basses and tenors) to round out our choir's sound, but all interested are welcome to check us out at practice Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

Helen Suh, Director of Music Ministry

## St. Peter's in Pictures: Harvest Thanksgiving

All non-perishable items brought to the altar were donated to St. Matthew's Maryland Community Ministry for their community food cupboard.



# St. Peter's in Pictures: Atrium Soup Lunch



Rev. Canon Norm Collier (below) delivers his recommendations after reviewing the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd this spring.



Our Catechists and helpers for the atria.



## Stewardship at St. Peter's: A New Beginning

This is an abbreviated version of a [Stewardship Paper that can be found on the parish website](#).

*Stewardship is: responding to God's radical generosity by leading grateful and generous lives; valuing God's gifts and seeking to use them to do God's will and to God's glory.*

We believe that everything we have has been entrusted to us by God: all of creation; our lives; our relationships; our abilities and intellects; our faith; our capacity to love and recognize beauty - there is nothing that is not given to us by God as a sacred trust.

The fruits of Christian Stewardship become evident when we affirm our gratitude to God by our generosity of spirit; It's what Jesus taught and demonstrated. It's when we are generous in our actions, our relationships, and in utilizing all that God has entrusted to us. It is evident when we put another's needs before our own desires, when we seek to serve and not be served, when we act with kindness and compassion even when it is costly or requires sacrifice. It is evident when we joyfully share our wealth and belongings with the church and with others. It requires us to trust in Christ.

In creating the role of Pastor of Stewardship, our parish has signalled that it will be more intentional in offering stewardship programs that inform and provide ways for us

to grow as disciples.

When we use the term 'stewardship' most of us hear 'appealing for money for church', of course that is partly right. The church does need our financial support. Every organization needs funds to operate, and this means appealing to our members for donations. But more importantly, stewardship is about our recognition of God's generosity. This recognition leads to a strong sense of gratitude that affects the way we live our lives and in turn make generous use of the gifts God has entrusted to us.

We believe we should enable and encourage our parish to move towards a more intentional **Culture of Generosity**.

We are blessed with many generous members - but do we see the mission of our church as a priority for our generosity? Do we believe in the criticality of the church's existence and its ministries? Where does the church fit in our list of priorities? Do we see supporting the church as giving back to God - or as just another bill?

Generosity is not just about sharing our financial wealth, it is about sharing our other resources, our abilities, our time and developing the gift of faith.

Establishing a culture of generosity requires that we

build on two fundamental theological foundations.

**Trust:** First we need to become a worshipping community that can honestly say "I believe in God"; not in the sense of "I believe God exists", but in the sense of "I trust God." The way we may say to a trusted friend, "I believe in you, I believe you will be there for me if I am in trouble and to celebrate with me when things go well." When we read scripture and witness the wonders and beauty of creation, we can recognize the infinite extravagance of God's generosity. This sense of Trust leads us to the next theological underpinning.

**Gratitude:** We live in a world of abundance - yet we are repeatedly told and come to believe in scarcity. The challenge is to develop and build on changed perceptions: from fear to trust; and from a perception of scarcity (leading to hoarding, selfishness and greed) to an acknowledgement of the abundance of God's creation. This opens our hearts to a deep sense of gratitude for God's abundant love and overflowing generosity.

If we are able to instill these two foundational theological beliefs in our community, we should then be in a position to ask "What are we going to do, individually and together, to respond faithfully to God and demonstrate our trust (faith) to a skeptical world?"

(continued next page)

Once we can truly acknowledge that everything we have and everything we are has come from God and been entrusted to us, we start to think and act differently. While we are given free will to do with them as we please, when we really start to believe, we see that God is trusting us to use them to do God's will. Jesus spent time in the wilderness struggling with how he should best use the power and authority God had given him, discerning God's will for him. We also need to struggle with how best we make use of everything God has provided us and to discern God's will for us.

Stewardship should be a joyful offering to God, not a painful obligation. Writing a cheque to the church should feel entirely different than paying the Visa bill. Like Jesus, each of us needs to reflect on our own stewardship - how God is calling us to use the gifts that have been entrusted to us; our generous response to God's generosity to us. We will offer opportunities throughout the year to help us in these reflections.

We are talking about much more than money for the church, or even the stewardship of our time, talents, faith and finances. We are talking about a fundamentally different way of seeing the world and our role in it. A generosity of spirit goes far beyond stewardship of our resources. It includes things like our generosity to another's

need to be heard, showing empathy to others, letting others go ahead of us, being slower to judgment. We want to establish this foundation as a priority for our parish and create stewardship programs that flow from this vision of the world.

We recognize we have individual and collective stewardship responsibilities.

As individuals, it is to our spiritual benefit to examine the areas of time, abilities, Christian formation (faith) and finances.

1. Each of us can use our time for God's work;
2. We can discern our spiritual gifts and abilities and how to use them for God's work in ways that bring us fulfilment;
3. We need to commit to exploring the Christian faith and growing in Christian discipleship;
4. And, we can look at our finances and determine how God is calling us to use them.

As we do this, we should consider how we support the church's operation and ministries as well as God's work beyond the church.

We all know we have need for generous financial support from our parish family. However, we don't want to use approaches that create a sense of guilt



Rev. Rod Sprange shares the Stewardship vision.

or are manipulative. We will want to give generously to the church because we love God and believe the church is valuable in carrying out God's work; not because we are told it's our duty. We will be more willing to participate in the ministries of the church when it has significant meaning in our lives. If, in our parish life, we experience generosity of spirit we are more likely to want to pass along what we have experienced to future generations and ensure a lasting legacy. As good stewards, we need to know and understand the financial realities of the parish, and to review our own contribution. It's too easy to slide from year to year making the same offering.

Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to gift us with wisdom and courage as, together, we commit to becoming a faith community that exemplifies **Generosity of Spirit**.



Rev. Rod Sprange,  
Pastor of Stewardship

## Terry Hidichuk Ordained as Transitional Deacon

Recently, a number of St. Peter's parishioners witnessed the ordination of William Terence Hidichuk.

Terry will be fondly remembered by St. Peter's, for, among other things, his thought-provoking and engaging sermons. Terry and his wife, Phyllis will now be living and serving in Montreal.

The ordination of Terry as a deacon within the Anglican Church of Canada took place on October 4th, 2017 at St. George's Crescentwood, with many attendees from that parish, St Peter's, St. Andrews United and numerous other locations within the diocese and beyond.

Notably, October the 4th is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, a saint dear to the heart of Terry, and remembered by countless others, for his giving up a life of privilege for a life of poverty and his dedication to preaching and teaching amongst ordinary people, that they might know the way of Christ and his love for them.

This served as a fitting example for the Terry's ordination for, as part of his service as deacon, Terry is called to "a special ministry of servanthood, under the authority of the bishop ... to serve all people, particularly the poor, weak, sick and lonely, and to make Christ and his redemptive love known."

As Reverend Donna Joy noted in the message that evening, "Leadership in the church-both lay and ordained-requires self sacrifice, dedication, commitment and passion." Through a deeper look at the readings for the evening, Terry and all

were encouraged to see "a God whose presence is found in that which is diminished, broken, fragile, vulnerable and small." And further to be open to "God's creating power" which offers those who are fragile and small "a kind of makeover" offering strength and hope and an ability to deal with difficult circumstances.

Donna also recognized that Terry, in his life thus far, has obeyed the call to humble service and his call to lead others to the same. His ordination to the diaconate provides another setting for Terry to continue in his vocation.

It was a great pleasure to witness the ordination of Terry into the Anglican church as a deacon and to respond to the call to uphold him in his ministry.

As the service ended, Terry began his official role as deacon with the dismissal "Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit." Indeed, may this be, and may we offer our support, prayers and thanks for Terry's continued ministry.

 Janet Bouskill



Terry (fourth from left) with Rev. Canon Donna Joy (second from left), Bishop Donald Phillips (third from left) and our former music director Linda Fearn (second from right).

## St. Matthew's Maryland Community Ministry: Changes yet Stability

A few years ago, 1Just City was formed, initially to support fund development for Community Ministries in Winnipeg. These Ministries include Stella Mission, St. Matthew's Maryland (StMMCM), West Broadway (WBCM), and Oak Table. StMMCM and WBCM are joint Anglican/United Ministries; the others are supported by the United Church only. All the Ministries have been struggling with diminishing grants and their future was very much in jeopardy. 1Just City brings a fresh approach to support the vital work being done by Community Ministries in our city.

1Just City is now incorporated with a governing board made up of representatives from all 4 Community Ministries. It will carry out functions such as policy-setting, financial management, human resource management and fundraising on behalf of all of the Ministries. Each Ministry will work toward coming under this new umbrella. Stella is already there and StMMCM will be there as of January 1, 2018.

**What does this mean for St. Matthew's Maryland Community Ministry?** A full Board will no longer be needed. Only a small advisory team will oversee and support the Community Minister in day-to-day operations. StMMCM will maintain financial control over its own bank account and current fundraising events, but bookkeeping and treasurer functions will be done by 1Just City. Grant applications and larger fund development activities will be carried out by 1Just City, freeing up Community Ministers to focus on delivery of programs at their own site. Monies raised by 1Just City will be shared among all the Ministries. Programming to benefit all Community Ministries can be provided and managed from 1Just City. For example, an Indigenous Spiritual Caregiver is being hired by 1Just City. She/he will spend a day per week at each ministry site, a service not possible for each ministry to provide on their own. Other programs and services already going on at StMMCM will continue as before: the hospitality of daily

Drop In; weekly Food Bank; Emergency Food Cupboard; Artist Circle; access to phone and computers; Nutrition Bingo; Christmas Store. While there are changes in the big picture, folks who come to StMMCM will find stability: the same listening ear and compassionate heart.

**Do these changes affect St. Peter's relationship with StMMCM?** Short answer ... NO. St. Peter's will continue to: regularly uphold the Ministry in prayer; contribute toward the Ministry's monthly rent; collect and deliver non-perishables for the Emergency Food Cupboard; support a monthly Nutrition Bingo; volunteer and/or participate in the annual Garden Tour; gather toys and clothing for the annual Christmas Store. In addition, our own Deacon Diane Panting, has served on the StMMCM Board for several years and will continue on the small advisory team as the Ministry makes the transition to 1Just City governance.

 Margaret Clarke

### No trees were harmed in the making of this newsletter!

This newsletter was printed on Envirographic 100 paper, which is comprised of 100% Post-Consumer Waste. It's also 100% Processed Chlorine Free and acid-free as well.



*St. Peter's Anglican Church Presents*

R E M

E M B

R A N



C E



**JAZZ VESPERS**

7:30PM • Sun • Nov 19

*Featuring*

**THE BOB WATTS TRIO**

HELEN WHITE • BERT JOHNSON • NENAD ZDJELAB • BOB WATTS  
*Vocals Piano Acoustic Bass Drums*

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