

The Promise

ST. FAITH'S: a place of *Help, Hope & Home* for 60 years

An October letter from our Priest-in-charge



Some have entertained angels!

In preparation for the parish education series on stewardship, I turned to Margaret Guenther's book, *The Practice of Prayer*. As I was reading a couple of the early chapters, I came across her discussion of the resources God uses to speak to us. She writes about dreams, angels and prophets, but she captured my attention with her reflections on angels.

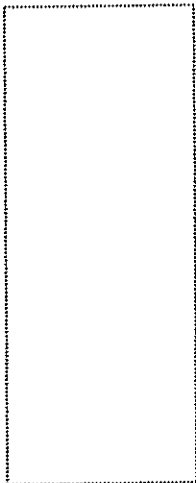
I admit that I am a firm believer in angels. My belief is rooted in my conviction that the God in whom we believe seeks to communicate with us in many and various ways. God communicates with us through the natural world, through the scriptures, through the events of our lives and --- when necessary --- through ordinary yet extraordinary agents of God's message. The messages are sometimes misunderstood or cryptic, challenging as often as comforting, but God will speak and will use what ever means necessary to capture our attention despite our occasional reluctance to hear.

These days angels are a hot topic, especially if you look at the supermarket tabloids and popular fiction, whether print or film. We tend to love the apocalyptic and dark sides of angelic fiction rather than the more prosaic and everyday, but it may well be that it is the prosaic and everyday that has more to offer us. She writes, "It is time that the church reclaimed angels. God's messengers in scripture are made of tougher stuff than their Hollywood and New Age counterfeits." (Guenther, p. 33)

Guenther reminds us that the word 'angel' means 'messenger'. What she invites us to do is to pay attention to the angels ('messengers') God sends to us in our everyday lives: "(We) never know when they might turn up Angels have no dress code or standard of grooming"! (Guenther, p. 36)

As we continue our personal and corporate journeys of faith, I invite you to be watchful and to expect that God will speak to you and to me. Some messengers will come to us in unlikely garb and in unlikely places and at unlikely times, but they will come to us. Their messages will strike a receptive chord in our hearts and minds and are likely to lead us into paths yet untried.

Richard +



Church Committee keeps busy!

Of primary interest is the sale of the Rectory, which could begin very soon. All the necessary civic permits and licensing approvals have been received. We are now awaiting final approval from the diocese to list the property. We are grateful that Richard took the steps leading up to this long-awaited conclusion.

We have had 25 years of use from our sound system, and it is showing its age. Competitive bids are being gathered to replace the soundboard, speakers and microphones.

The loss of a set of keys to the church required us to re-key the exterior doors, and by now everyone who has need of a new key should have it. If you have been overlooked, contact Christine in the office to arrange to get one.

The Diocese requires that parish staff and laity who are in positions of trust or deal with "vulnerable" individuals have a Criminal Record check. This involves several of us, and will be done at least in part before Christmas. It is obviously a very large undertaking in a diocese of 78 parishes!

Launch with Lunch: The stewardship campaign

In thanksgiving for all God's blessings, the Stewardship campaign is a time to consider how we give of our time, talent and treasure according to the gifts God has given us.

This year's stewardship campaign launch will be on Oct 16th, 2011 with another opportunity to enjoy a St. Faith's Pot-Luck luncheon. We will gather in the hall after the 10 a.m. service to enjoy one another's company and pick up the stewardship envelopes prepared for you.

You will learn a little more about our parish, even if you have been here for years. You will be invited to help the church committee with its budgeting for 2012 by indicating the amount of support you hope to offer.

Please plan to be with us on October 16th.

Our pledge to you: You'll like it.

Theo thinks St. Faith reads; is she right? Here's her idea....

I have 2 reading rules at my home:

1. The 20 page rule: If it doesn't grab me in the first 20 pages it doesn't get read.
2. For every book that comes in, one must go out.

I'm not very good at following Rule 2, so I thought of starting a **book exchange** for a trial period October to December.

I will be bringing books to the Library area in the church hall on Sundays. If you see something you like, pick it up for a minimum \$2 donation per book. It's yours to keep or recycle back to the book exchange for someone else to enjoy. I'd love for those of you who are avid book buyers and/or readers to join me. Donations will be shared equally between Outreach and Safeway Food Vouchers for persons in need. At the end of December we will re-evaluate the process to see how it is going.

The Book Exchange is intended to augment and not replace the book sales we host twice a year. Please - recent fiction and popular non-fiction only. No reference books, magazines, cookbooks, etc.

—*Theo Madeley*

Café Caritas: Oct. 17th

What pleasanter way to spend a part of Monday afternoon, the 17th of this month, than in the company of parish friends — and the friends of parishioners.

Call it "High Tea on a low budget" if you like. Contributions of sweets and savouries are welcome, and the conversation is always stimulating.

No booking is required. Just come to the hall between 2 and 3 p.m. and enjoy the ambiance.

The Hallowe'en project is of course on October 31st

What began as just a fireworks display is now a major neighbourhood event. Choices Supermarket will provide our volunteers with food and drink to sell, with proceeds going to support at-risk youth through our parish Outreach programme.

The Haunted House in the store will generate a donation to the Stepping Stone Pre-School.

Help to setup, sell and clean up is needed. Watch for the sign-up list in the hall early this month.

Founders' Day festivities

We owe a huge "Thank-you" to Heather and Kirk Hamilton for the splendid luncheon they organized to mark the parish's 64th anniversary.

The weather was fine, the food was superb and the thirty or more who attended were very happy with the day.

Now that the corner-stone of the church has been exposed by the removal of the old hedge, you might like to get acquainted with more of St. Faith's history by reading its inscription. The stone is at the corner of the building nearest our lawn sign.

What's New at St. Faith's

In September we welcomed a new community group to St. Faith's. The Healing Ministry of Christ Church Cathedral (CCC), a group which practices at the Cathedral on Sunday mornings, needed a new home for their weekday sessions following the relocation of the Anglican Church Women house. St. Faith's is delighted that CCC Healing Ministry will be practicing their ministry on the fourth Monday of each month in our Sanctuary.

Contemplative Prayer resumes the first and third Wednesdays of each Month at 7:30pm. The first Wednesday Christine will lead different forms of contemplative prayer: Praying with the Anglican Rosary, Centering Prayer, and Lectio Divina. The third Wednesday we will have Evening Prayer with the music of Taizé

Two Tuesdays each month St. Faith's will be travelling to Amherst Private Hospital to share a service of Holy Communion with the residents. Richard and Ruben would be very happy to have a few folk to be with them, especially in singing some familiar hymns — no audition required!

Buckerfield: The Story of a Vancouver Family

Our very own Mary White has written a book recounting the story of the Buckerfield family. Her father was the founder of the well-known seed company.

On Sunday, November 6th everyone is invited to the 8:30am Breakfast. where Mary will be sharing with us the passionate desire which motivated her to write this book and will read selected passages.

Copies of the book signed by Mary will also be available for purchase at coffee hour following the 10am service. They would make good reading on their own and a fine gift for anyone interested in Vancouver history.

Technology for when you want it and People when you don't

Did you know that up to date happenings at St. Faith's are available in many ways? You can keep in touch on our website

on our voice mail
each week in our Sunday bulletin
and in person by calling the office.

Check out our website www.stfaiths.ca for upcoming events and great pictures. Recently we added a St. Faith's recipe page. Huge thanks to Laurel, who maintains our website.

Our beautiful Church

Each day when I come to work at St. Faith's the first thing I do is open up the front doors of the Church, because it is very important to me that the community knows it is not just our office hours -- St. Faith's is open. I purposely leave home early so that as I walk along our grounds and building on my way to the front door I am able to take time to drink in their beauty. And each morning I give thanks to God for the many wonderful people of our parish who care so faithfully for both our Church and our grounds. — *Christine Wilson*

Welcome back, St. John's!

Now that the matter of who owns the property has been settled by the courts, the parish of St. John's Shaughnessy is once more a part of the Diocese of New Westminster.

The first service was held at 11 a.m. September 25th, and for the first three weeks will be led by the Rev'd Andrew Pike, well known to St. Faith's as its former rector.

If the time suits you, it would be nice to pay the parish a visit (at Nanton and Granville) to wish them well in their re-building.

The Pumpkin Seeds Community Quilt Project

4th Annual Show and Sale

Sat Nov 12, 2011 10am – 3pm at the Kerrisdale Legion Branch 30, 2177 West 42nd Ave.

Free Admission and Free Parking. Come to shop and stay for tea. This year's Show and Sale will feature Pippa Moore's Kitambua designs, fashion jewelry, pottery, handmade cards and candles. Proceeds from quilt sales go to support the Pumpkin Seeds Community Quilt Project.

The Order of New Westminster

We are pleased to announce that Bishop Michael Ingham has informed the Parish of his intention to induct Bill Robinson into the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster. Bill joins Walter Herring and Gillian McIntyre as honourees from the Parish of St Faith's.

The induction is scheduled for Sunday, the 6th of November, at 4.00 p.m. As more details become available, we shall share them so that St Faith's can be well represented on this special occasion.

Blessings and congratulations to Bill!

Richard+

St Faith's October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 am 2:30 -4:30pm Special Olympics (Hall)	31 Hallowe'en Event 6:00 -9:30pm Education for Ministry (Lounge)					1 10:00am – 12:00pm RUMMAGE SALE Clean Up 12:00 – 2:30pm
2 Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 am 8:30m Women's Brfst 2:30 -4:30pm Special Olympics (Hall)	3 Richard at Clergy Retreat 6:00 -9:30pm Education for Ministry (Lounge)	4 Richard at Clergy Retreat 7:00 – 9:30 pm AA (Hall)	5 10 am Holy Eucharist Richard at Clergy Retreat 7:30 –8:30 pm Contemplative Prayer (Church)	6 9:30-11:30am Music Team Meeting (Church) 7:00 – 9:30 pm Toastmasters (Hall)	7	8 10am- 2pm Animal Blessings for St Francis 1:00-3:30pm Essonance Chamber Choir (Church) 9am – 4 pm Vancouver Quilters Guild (Hall)
9 Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 am	10 6:00 -9:30pm Education for Ministry (Lounge)	11 7:00 – 9:30 pm AA (Hall)	12 10 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 –8:30 pm Church Committee (Lounge)	13 5:30 – 9:00pm (Hall) Stepping Stone Parent's Night	14	15 1:00-3:30pm Essonance Chamber Choir (Church) 9am – 3 pm Pumpkin Seed Quilters (Hall)
16 Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 am 8:30am Men's Breakfast Stewardship Pot Luck Lunch 2:30 -4:30pm Special Olympics (Hall)	17 2:00 – 3:00pm Café Caritas (Hall) 6:00 -9:30pm Education for Ministry (Lounge)	18 7:00 – 9:30 pm AA (Hall)	19 10 am Holy Eucharist 6:30 – 8:30pm (Hall) Stepping Stone Board Meeting 7:30 –8:30 pm Contemplative Prayer (Church)	20 7:00 – 9:30 pm Toastmasters (Hall)	21 6:00-9:00pm Essonance Chamber Choir (Church and Hall) UBC Film Student Production	22 Hall Floors being waxed 1:00-3:30pm Essonance Chamber Choir (Church) Regional MAP Team meeting at St. Alban's 9:00pm – 3:00pm
23 Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 am 2:30 -4:30pm Special Olympics (Hall)	24 2:00 – 5:00pm CCC Healing Ministry (Church) 6:00 -9:30pm Education for Ministry (Lounge)	25 7:00 – 9:30 pm AA (Hall)	26 10 am Holy Eucharist 6:00-9:00pm Essonance Chamber Choir (Church)	27 6:00-9:00pm Essonance Chamber Choir (Church)	28 6:00-9:00pm Essonance Chamber Choir (Church)	29 1:00-3:30pm Essonance Chamber Choir (Church)

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