



*St. Simon's Church NV
May 2013 News*

*Day of Pentecost
Power to Serve*



*Praising, Serving, Sharing Christ
in the Power of the Holy Spirit*

What's Inside This Issue

Forward by Rev. Ed	2	Jane's Notes	7
Spiritual Wisdom & Insight by Elsie Quick	3	Celebration Confirmation & Re-Affirmation	8
News from Rwanda by Hilary King	4	God: In And Through Us by Sharyn Thomson	9
With A Purpose by Rev. Josh Wilton	5	Upcoming Events	10
What Does It Mean To Serve? by Tyler Gibson	6	Mark Your Calendar	10
Power To Serve by Margie Knapp	7	Home Study Groups	11
		Church Information	12



Dear St. Simon's NV family,

Pentecost gives us the power to serve. As Jesus tells us in Acts 1:8, you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. As we are preparing to celebrate the Day of Pentecost on Sunday May 19th, all of us need to pray for a fresh anointing and filling from the Holy Spirit. As Ephesians 5:18 puts it, be filled (on an ongoing basis) with the Holy Spirit.

The heart of being a Spirit-filled Church is receiving the power to serve. The Holy Spirit enables us, encourages us and equips us to use our spiritual gifts to serve others. Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 12:7 and Romans 12:6 that each of us has been given at least one spiritual gift that we are to use in serving others. I thank God that there are many people in the St. Simon's NV family who are making use of their spiritual gifts in serving others. Our very own St. Simon's NV purpose includes the call to serve Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In a Gallup poll, it was discovered that only ten percent of North American church members are active in any kind of personal ministry. They also discovered that 50 percent of all church members have no interest in serving in any ministry. No matter how much a church promotes involvement in lay ministry, half of its members will remain spectators. I thank God that this is not true with our St. Simon's NV family.

The encouraging news that Gallup discovered is that 40 percent of all members have expressed an interest in having a ministry. They would like to be involved in ministry but they have never been asked or they don't know how. The key to increasing participation at St. Simon's NV is first praying and then politely asking. Every congregation has an untapped gold mine of people waiting to serve.

God expects every St. Simon's NV members to use their gifts and talents in ministry. As we awaken and unleash the massive talent, resources, creativity, and energy found in our St. Simon's NV members, God will do amazing miracles. This Pentecost, join me in serving others in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the Power of Pentecost,

Ed Hird+

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Hird+".

Spiritual Wisdom and Insight



Dear Friends at St. Simon's

Recently in a chapel service in a correctional facility, we were reading part of the lovely prayer Paul writes about in Ephesians 1: "I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 1:16-20 (NLT)

There were audible sounds of wonder and appreciation in the room from some of the women as they heard these words for the first time and realized what God was offering individuals at that time and what is now possible for people here and now as well. The Gospel is good news. The life and power of God's Spirit is not only enabling, but also appealing. What a difference the light and hope and power of God makes in our lives. As we live in the power of the Spirit we do get to know better and better how wonderful the Lord truly is. It's a joy to share this good news twice a month in chapel services and for a number of volunteers to follow that up with one-to-one conversations the next evening.

Evelyn Leeburn and I host a weekly Bible study in my apartment on Wednesday evenings and it's great to welcome a couple of women who have recently been released from custody. They both give witness to the power of God's Spirit touching their lives as we prayed while they were incarcerated and now share how the companioning presence of the Lord is satisfying something in them that was previously empty. It wasn't so long ago that we were sharing, along with Lois Carter, at a women's drug and alcohol treatment center and again, the attraction of the gospel was prominent in conversations and in requests for prayer from some of the residents.

The joyful message seems to be spilling over into cyberspace as well. We post scripture and reflections daily at www.pihtoday.blogspot.com and in recent months our readership has multiplied more than 20 times what it was during the past 3 years. We pray that God's Spirit will prepare the hearts and minds of all who read these thoughts so the word of God finds safe lodging in their hearts and grows fruitfully.

As we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost again this year I pray that we too will welcome the Spirit of God to fill us with spiritual wisdom and insight so we can grow in our knowledge of God.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support that give us opportunity to share this good news with men and women who might not otherwise hear.

For all of us at Partners in Hope, Elsie

For other information and events go to their website at:
<http://www.partnersinhope.ca/home>



A St. Simon's NV missionary with partial financial support in our annual St. Simon's NV budget.

News from Rwanda

Hilary is currently in Rwanda and Candace recently joined her at the beginning of May. The following is a note from Hilary shortly after her arrival in the country. (Dated April 24, 2013)

I have spent the last four days in Kigali and it has been very productive. Friends of Lillian have been hosting me and have been so helpful in making introductions for me. The power here is iffy at the moment, so I will be brief.

Informally I have met a number of people working in the various ministries here; so it has been good to share the info about ERIS (Embrace Rwanda International Society). I also attended a Remembrance talk given by one of the senators, and made contact with several diplomat's wives. I have also met the leaders in the universities and physicians from the USA.

I had a two hour meeting with the Director General, Office of the First Lady; she was very interested in our projects, and will get back to with more contacts and advice regarding funding and partnerships.

I had an appointment with the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, but at the last minute she had to meet with someone else. However, I did meet with three of her directors for one and a half hours; they too were very interested in the work we do. They are preparing a report to the minister, and hope that she will still want to meet with me. One of them has responsibility for Women's Economic Empowerment and was particularly interested in the project. There may be some opportunity for matching funds; so I will talk to Francis about connecting with them about this. Francis is known by him; so this helps too. They also want to be invited to the graduation of the women in the Vocational Training Centre.

So today I head down to Kigeme and see what we can get started there before the team arrive next week. Have a few more volunteers from Kigali. It was good to meet one of them face to face for an interview.

So things are hopping and going well.

Please forward for me. It may be more difficult to write once I get to Kigeme. Really pleased that I have the laptop for the power point presentations I have done. It has made all the difference.

Blessings,
Hilary



WITH A PURPOSE

Since January we've been looking at the most influential and debated figure in all of history - Jesus of Nazareth. We've asked whether Jesus was more of a party animal or a party pooper, and whether He was perfect or merely better than most. Last time we met we asked whether Jesus was homeless or on holidays, and we concluded that he was both homeless ("the foxes have holes, and the birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head") and on 'holy days', a time set apart for a specific purpose. At the end of Luke 9 we see that Jesus has his sights set on Jerusalem, and along the way he is dependant on the hospitality of others. We took from this that Jesus traveled on purpose with open hands.

The theme continues in Luke 10 when Jesus sends out 72 disciples before him in pairs. They were to take nothing material with them and required the hospitality of others for shelter and food. With real risk of ending up without shelter and without food, Jesus tells them what to do if they are rejected. Like Jesus, his disciples are to travel on purpose with open hands. They do bring something with them, however, even if it's not something they can carry in a backpack or fannypack. In Luke 10:5 we see that they come with peace, and in Luke 10:9 we see that they also come with power (healing the sick) and with proclamation ('the Kingdom of God has come near to you'). All of these things come about because of God's divine Presence with them in Jesus through the power of the Spirit.

When we live, like Jesus, as a 'homeless' people we are more free to serve, since we have less to lose and fewer things to clutch and to claim as our own. And when we grasp the Gospel and follow Jesus we also share in his purposes, which naturally takes us outside of our own interests into sacrificial relationships with others.

One of the benefits of church planting is that we are perpetually dependant; we were sent out as a pair to Victoria as Jesus has sent out his disciples millennia prior, without benefit of self-sufficiency, and with only the power of the Gospel and of the Spirit (and our families) as travel companions. Thank God that, unlike the disciples, we didn't need to rely completely on the generosity of strangers. Thanks to the generosity of friends and fellow travelers like the lot of you at St Simon's we are able to share news about the Kingdom with self-professed pagans, spiritualists, agnostics, atheists, and seekers. The glory of this whole exercise in traveling on purpose with open hands is that we are never allowed false security, never given the opportunity to get too comfortable, for this is not our home, it is not our church, and we are not our own.

Thank you, St Simon's, for following Jesus on mission with purpose and with open hands. Because of your focus on what Jesus values we are able to move from house to house with the glorious Gospel of Christ.

With much affection in the Gospel,
in Christ,

Josh (and Katie and Eli and Noah and the whole community of The Table)

A St. Simon's NV missionary with partial financial support in our annual St. Simon's NV budget.

What Does it Mean to Serve

When we lift up our hands and speak out loud to volunteer for something that is needed, what are our true intentions? Do we seek to gain the respect of the people around us, or do we seek to help others just so we do our good deed for the day. Perhaps it is finding fulfilment in helping our fellow people or maybe just to feel needed. There are many reasons why people feel they need to serve, but the question at hand whenever we choose to serve, is: "What does it mean to serve?" Who is it we are serving and what does it really mean to serve someone else?



The whole idea of serving and volunteering comes from what it means to be a servant. The best way to picture this, is to picture a butler waiting to hear orders from the masters of the household. He has his own personality, gifts, and abilities, but being a servant he waits to hear when he is needed. Sometimes he may do things without being told because out of routine, he is aware of what needs to be done, but he never would do anything to undermine his masters or to seek self glory. He is aware of his role and willingly serves wherever he is needed. I find this a great example of how we can look at what serving looks like in the sense of what it means to serve. It is not a tool that is used to gain glory for one's self, nor is it used to prove how great you are. It is literally to be at the mercy of whoever is running the show. If it is at an event, we are looking to the event coordinator for instruction. If it is serving in a church music ministry, then we ask the music director. Wherever we like to serve and volunteer, there is always one person or another that we can ask for guidance.

So with the idea in mind that being a servant is to be under someone, do we ever think about the person who put that servant heart in us? It is key that we remember that regardless of where we are, whether we are the servant or the master of an event or position, that there is always someone above us that we are accountable to. God is such a gracious master that He has forgiven all our debt and all our wrongdoings against him yet still loves us and wants us to be in a relationship with Him. But as we are serving God, do we feel as if we could do things better than Him, or maybe to make our name greater than what he has in store for us? Is that what it means to be a servant? No, seeing as we are servants to God who is our Master of the House, we should seek to please Him, seeing as He has given so much to us. Being a servant is not so much for pleasing us as individuals, but to please God with all that we do. "Don't work only while being watched, in order to please men, but as slaves of Christ, do God's will from your heart. Serve with a good attitude, as to the Lord and not to men." Ephesians 6:6-7

What does it mean to serve? It means being willing to understand that it is not about seeking glory to make your own name better, or to earn the respect that you feel is owed to you, but instead to serve as if you were serving Christ, in good attitude and full of joy knowing that what you are doing is to ultimately bring glory to God. What a joy indeed it is to even think that by us serving Christ, God is so pleased with us that when he calls us away from our earthly bodies and into His presence in Heaven, He will say to us "Well done, my good and faithful servant" What a joy indeed that day will be! Just to hear that from God is well worth serving Him in whatever it is we do.

This coming September will be our 30th anniversary Alpha course and with it we are embracing a new addition to the Alpha series being the Youth & Young Adult Alpha. It is exciting to see it in the making and how God will use it, but with it comes the need for volunteers to serve. With this being the 30th Alpha course run at St. Simon's Church, we are by no means a stranger in volunteering to help, but more so the challenge I want to pose out to people who are wanting to volunteer is to remember the purpose behind serving. Are you serving to for the purpose of making your name great, or are you being a servant willing to help wherever it is needed just as if you were serving Christ to give God all the glory. In conclusion, I want to encourage people to serve at Alpha and the next generation of people whether they know Christ, are on the fence, or are seeking answers, but I want to also encourage the people who are serving, to have servant hearts that are focused on God; for it is ultimately Him that we seek to please, not because we have to, but because we want to. So let's serve with a heart focused on Him so that we can be His hands and His feet to a generation seeking Him.

Tyler - Youth and Young Adults Pastor



Power to Serve

During a mentoring talk with one of our students we discussed the difference between power and authority. A car has so much horse power. A child has more power with a simple position of the hand as he/she controls big machines from running over little people in a cross walk en route to school. It all boils down to submitting to, trusting the system and obeying the rules. This child is probably not a philosopher. He/she is simply following orders. This causes me to make a comparison with the 'power that is at work within us' that enables us to serve the High King of Heaven. Romans 6:16 says that I am controlled by whomever (or whatever) I am yielded and submitted to: "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey...." In other words whoever is in the driver's seat of my life will be the power that controls me. When we give Christ first place we are literally putting Him in the driver's seat of our lives. What He says we will do; where He sends we will go. Like the child directing traffic we train ourselves to be sensitive to His hand and His voice leading us to do His will. Our service then is simply joyfully and lovingly living to please our Heavenly Father in every single detail of life.



*"High King of Heaven, after victory won. May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Son!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all."*

(from Be Thou My Vision)

Margie Knapp
WEC International
Serving with Gateway Missionary Training

Jane's Notes

I'm sitting in my lounge here in York looking forward to my trip to Canada next week... well, maybe not the trip part, it's 14 hours of travel. However, I am very much looking forward to being in North Van and to seeing you all again.

This past year has been quite a busy, even turbulent one, after the 7 years of relative sameness in Sweden, and I find I am quite tired mentally, physically, and emotionally. My calling involves lots of behind the scenes pioneering with the results a bit like the tiredness of breaking trail in cross-country skiing. I well remember my skiing days and how restorative it was sitting around with friends in the evening over a hot chocolate and just chatting. I'm hoping to sit 'round with many of you drinking coffee or tea and just chatting.

Despite being so tired, I am nonetheless quite excited by what God has been doing since I moved to the UK in September. Even very recently, several breakthroughs have happened after years of work. In the past 2.5 weeks I've "given birth" to 2 network/partnership visions I've been carrying for years, and last night I heard of a very cool church-initiated community development project right in my own neighbourhood that I just know I will be a part of. Most exciting of all is the clear overlapping of so many elements of both the international and western Church parts of my ministry in all these things. Convergence, I believe is the term for this point in one's life. I'll save the exciting details for when I get to North Van.

One other reason for being in North Van this May will be for my mother's memorial service at 1 pm on May 17th at Sutherland Church. Rev. Ed and Rev. Ken Bell will be jointly officiating. You are all invited to come and celebrate my mom's life with me.

Both ladies are St. Simon's NV missionaries with partial financial support in our annual St. Simon's NV budget.

CONFIRMATION AND RE-AFFIRMATION CELEBRATION With Bishop Silas presiding over the service. April 14, 2013

It was with joy as the people at St. Simon's celebrated the confirmation and re-affirmation of eleven individuals. Some of the service was caught on film by Hilary King.

Those involved were: Cher Nie, Matthew Landberg, Joshua Landberg, Sharon Manchulenko, Sharon Killick, Ruth Hird, Tyler Gibson, Martin Johnson, James Tan and Xiao King.





GOD: IN AND THROUGH US

Dear friends,

Three weeks ago, the dedication ceremony for the Buamu New Testament took place. We were encouraged that most of the people we had especially invited came. This included government officials, pastors, catechists and church leaders. All of the churches in the area were represented, both Catholic and Protestant. However, we were disappointed by a lower than expected turn-out from the local community. We later learned that there were three big weddings and a funeral on the same day. For those who were able to attend the ceremony, there were speeches, music, dancing and lots of food. (The last item is what guarantees that it is a 'good' event!) While the ceremony 'officially' brought this part of the work to a close, I have also been reminded that this is not the end, but rather the end of the beginning. The President of the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church in Burkina Faso challenged those present to make 2013 the "Year of the Bible in Buamu". Now that God's word is available in their heart language, we pray that it will have an impact on the lives of the Buaba – that lives and communities will be transformed through the power of the Word.

For me, my next challenge is preparing for a new role as Director of SIL in Burkina Faso. As I have been reflecting on the challenges facing our group in the years ahead, it is clear that this role will stretch and challenge me in many ways. God has been making it very clear that this isn't about what I can do but about what He will do in and through me and I'm beginning to look forward to the adventure.

With love,

Sharyn

*A St. Simon's NV missionary with partial financial support
in our annual St. Simon's NV budget.*



If you know of someone who is ill and in the hospital, please let Rev. Ed know as clergy no longer receive this information from Lions Gate Hospital.

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, call both Dianne Andrews (604-324-4779) and Megan Allsopp (604-929-1496) and your request will be passed on to the prayer chain members. Please also phone the prayer chain to give thanks for healings and other answers to prayer.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The use of offertory envelopes has been proven to be very helpful in one's personal growth in the discipline of regular giving to the Lord Jesus. If you don't have offertory envelopes yet, we would encourage you to fill out the back of your Sunday leaflet and just put it in the collection plate. Our envelope secretary Adele Easto will be most happy to assist you with your own offertory envelopes, usually by the next Sunday. Another way of giving is online through our St. Simon's NV website at <http://stsimonschurch.ca> and look for the *Canada Helps* logo on the home page.

UPCOMING EVENTS for St. Simon's Church NV

Sunday May 12th
Mother's Day
Joint 10am Service
Gymnasium of Kenneth Gordon
Maplewood School

Friday May 17th - 1pm
Memorial Service
for Elsa Holloway
St. Simon's Missionary
Jane Holloway's mother.
Sutherland Church NV
630 19th Street
North Vancouver

Saturday May 18th - 1pm
Wedding Ceremony
Glenn Houghton & Cher Nie
at St. Andrews & St. Stephen's
Church
2641 Chesterfield Avenue
North Vancouver

Saturday May 25th - 3:25pm
Doctoral Presentation & Defence
by Rev. Ed Hird
*"Strengthening Marriages: Beyond
Emotional Cutoff"*
at Carey Theological College
UBC Campus (5290 Iona Drive)
All are welcome.

Sunday May 26th
Joint Service 10am
Gymnasium of Kenneth Gordon
Maplewood School

Sunday May 26th - 3pm
Doctoral Graduation Ceremony
for Rev. Ed Hird
at First Baptist Church
969 Burrard Street
(at Nelson, next to the YMCA)
All are welcome.

June 15th - Saturday 8am to 2pm
ACW Garage Sale
868 Fairfield Road
North Vancouver
(corner of Plymouth Drive, off
the Mt Seymour Parkway)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 20th Thursday

My Hope with Billy Graham. Rev Mel and Helen Waddle have taken the training in preparation for this November 2013 TV, DVD and online outreach. My Hope with Billy Graham is a different type of Crusade. It won't take place in stadiums; it will happen in living rooms across the country, as Christ followers use relationship evangelism to reach family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. The North America-wide event is based on the apostle Matthew, who invited his friends over to meet Jesus 2000 years ago. Billy Graham is calling on believers to be modern day "Matthews" by building relationships and inviting people into their homes to learn about the hope of the Gospel. "What you guys get to be a part of is literally throwing a party for Jesus, inviting friends to your home," said Will Graham.

For more information, check out
<http://www.myhopewithbillygraham.ca/>.

Click to find out how to create a Matthew list: <http://bit.ly/11kGJL>



July 1st - Monday 5pm
Voices Together - Canada Day Celebration
(Doors open at 4pm)
Rogers Arena, 800 Griffiths Way, Vancouver
Tickets \$12 (available May 5, 2013 at
www.voicestogether.ca)



July 19th-21st 2013
40th Annual BC Christian Ashram Retreat
Friday 6pm to Sunday 1pm
Mountain Top Renewal
with Tom Nesbitt as the Keynote Speaker
Rev. Ed Hird conducting the Bible Study
and Tyler Gibson as the Youth & Young Adult Director

Home Study Groups

Home study groups are great places to learn and grow in a comfortable atmosphere. Getting to know more about God through studying His Word helps one's spiritual growth as well as becoming rooted in this present life. At St. Simon's Church, everyone is encouraged to take part in a home group. Below is a list of groups available on the North Shore.

Monday

THIRST (Young Adults). Please contact Tyler Gibson for more information at 778-321-6092

Tuesday

7:30 p.m. at Sid and Marina Ireland's home. Study on "Prophecy in Context." Please call 604-929-6570 for more information.

8:00 p.m. - Worship Project. A study on what Scriptures says about prayer, praise, and worship and a time of singing at the home of Peter & Elsbeth Turner. Call 604-929-4224 for more information.

Wednesday

7:00-8:00 a.m. at the Pantry Restaurant (Holiday Inn). Men's only meeting for breakfast, fellowship and study of God's Word. Call Peter Turner at 604-929-4224 for more information.

7:00-8:00 a.m. at the Pantry (Holiday Inn). Women's only meeting for breakfast, fellowship and study of God's Word. Call Elsbeth Turner at 604-929-4224 for more information.

Wednesday (continued)

7:00 p.m. - "Strengthening Relationships" Home Group, focusing on biblical & family wisdom. At the home of Rev. Ed & Janice Hird. For information, please call 604-929-5350.

Thursday

10:00 a.m. at the home of Genevieve Tobin with Rev. Ed. For more information, please call 604-929-3625.

10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon - Christian Women's Club at the home of Megan Allsopp (2919 Eddystone Crescent). For more information please call Megan at 604-929-1496.

7:00 p.m. - Men and Women's Home Group; for more information, please call Hilary King at 604-929-1837

Choir Practice under the direction of Janice Hird is held Tuesday evenings at 6:45 pm at the home of Sid and Marina Ireland. Call 604-929-6570 for more info. New members are always welcome. Janice can give any volunteers a tape of the music to listen to.

Youth & Young Adults have a flexible schedule. For more information, please contact Tyler Gibson at 778-321-6092 or send an e-mail to: tgibson@pacificliflife.ca.



Kiwanis Communion Service

4th Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm. Join Ed Hird+ and Marina Ireland as they reach out to the seniors at the Kiwanis Care Centre.

If you are able to assist with bringing people in wheelchairs to this service, please let Rev. Ed know. Thank you.

ST. SIMON'S STAFF - CONTACT INFO

ST. SIMON'S CHURCH, NORTH VANCOUVER
420 SEYMOUR RIVER PLACE

Rector:
Rev. Ed Hird
604-929-5350
ed_hird@telus.net

Youth & Young Adults Pastor:
Tyler Gibson
778-31-6092
tgibson@pacificlife.ca

Rector's Warden:
Chris Wiggins
604-915-9077
songster@shaw.ca

Children's Ministry 9am
Gloria Kocay
604-980-9549
Jenny Monks
604-929-3772

Church Secretary:
Cathie Bolan
604-317-5022
stsimonschurch@yahoo.ca

Director of Music:
Janice Hird
604-929-5350
janicehird@yahoo.ca

People's Warden:
Glenn Houghton
604-825-0746
glenn@mayiprayforyou.com

Honorary Assist. Priest
Rev. Mel Waddle
604-913-0096

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9
#112-1151 Mt. Seymour Road
North Vancouver BC V7H 2Y4

Rector's Day Off: Mondays
Church Office E-mail: stsimonschurch@yahoo.ca
Church Office Hours: Please call 604-929-1613 or
send an e-mail to confirm

CHECK OUT ST. SIMON'S CHURCH WEB SITE www.stsimonschurch.ca

Our St. Simon's NV sermons are posted online on the church's home web page.

You may also like to check out Rev. Ed's articles (400+) mostly written for the Deep Cover Crier and the North Shore News can be viewed online at: <http://edhird.wordpress.com> or http://www3.telus.net/st_simons

In the past three years, over half a million people have dialed into Rev. Ed's articles.



Check out our Bishop Silas Ng's daily Prayer Blog online.
It will really help you with your daily devotions.

<http://bishopsilas.blogspot.com>

and

<http://www.breakbuild.blogspot.ca>



This newsletter is produced and published by St. Simon's Church NV.
St. Simon's Church NV is a member of the Anglican Coalition in Canada
and follow the leadership of the Anglican Mission in the Americas.

