2012 Sanctuary Restoration Project

St. Michael's Multicultural Anglican Church

GREG TATCHELL
Secretary of the Sanctuary Planning Committee, St. Michael's, Vancouver

Restoration of the Sanctuary at St. Michael's Multicultural Anglican Church in Mount Pleasant was completed in October 2012, in its 124th year, and in the 110th year since incorporation.

For the five weeks the restoration was underway, the congregation worshipped in the hall (the former sanctuary). The most vivid testimonial arising from the restoration was the enthusiasm of volunteers. There were a thousand hours of congregational volunteer time that went into this work. When the congregation returned on October 21st, 2012, they returned to a brighter, cleaner, less cluttered sanctuary. Many members of the congregation could point to "their spot" where their time was made manifest, or where they laid out meals for volunteers.

Three moments stand out. The most reverential moment was rediscovering that two plaques containing the names of 23 parishioners from St. Michael's, were in fact, 23 men who gave their lives in war. One of these was an ordained priest. These memorial plaques are now in a place of honour. The most joyous moment was commemorating the completion of the restoration with a new memorial crucifix in the sanctuary, which completed the Stations of the Cross purchased by the Parish in 2010. The most graphic moment of the actual process was the installation of a huge portable scaffold, necessary for electrical work and interior painting. Our resident "Chief Engineer" Terry Cutforth, ODNW (invested in 2010), who was principally responsible for the scaffolding's installation, informed us that in his 50+ years at St. Michael's this was a first.

TOP Grace Wandag President and Chair of the newly revitalized ACW at St. Michael's with Priest-in-Charge The Rev. Wilmer Toyoken in front of the new memorial crucifix. BOTTOM The rediscovered memorial plaques. PHOTOS Sanctuary Planning Committee

A five-member Sanctuary Planning Committee had planning and oversight responsibility for theological and historical integrity, from colours to cut glass, and from memorial plaques to the new crucifix. Bart and Agnes Alatan, Brigitte Laweng, The Rev. Wilmer Toyoken and Greg Tatchell undertook to ensure consensus and consistency, while an independent three-member advocacy subcommittee undertook to represent the traditions at St. Michael's.

Restoration of the Sanctuary included five primary points of emphasis:

1. Repainting the entire sanctuary with a lighter shade;
2. Stripping down all the rich dark wood and refinishing it;
3. Redoing the wood floors;
4. Substantially brightening the sanctuary by making several changes to the preexisting lights and wiring;
5. And being very intentional with regards to what went back up on the walls, especially in light of the Stations of the Cross installed by the congregation in 2010 and the memorial crucifix purchased in 2012.

Along with the $100,000 in work over the last 5 years, including new furnaces, repainting, a new roof and new Stations of the Cross, completion marks the end of major projects at St. Michael's for the immediate future. The blessing for the St. Michael's community is that these projects have, for the most part, been congregational, and that the transformation and modernization of the sanctuary is perhaps the most visible manifestation of congregational vitality at St. Michael's, its viability for the future, and its happiness at the November 15th celebration of the first year anniversary of new priest-in-charge, The Rev. Wilmer Toyoken. ***Soli Deo Gloria*** ✠

IN MEMORIUM

The Reverend Terry Parsons

September 22nd, 1947 – October 3rd, 2012

DOUGLAS FENTON
Director for Mission and Ministry, Diocese of New Westminster

The Rev. Terry Parsons died suddenly on Monday, October 3rd, 2012, as a result of complications from a series of falls. She had just turned 65 with no plans to retire any time soon.

Terry was Stewardship Officer for The Episcopal Church from 1996 to 2008. Prior to her work at the Episcopal Church Center, Terry held positions with major marketing and advertising firms. In 2011, she completed her Master of Divinity at The General Seminary in New York City, was ordained in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan and appointed Vicar of St. Alban's Church in Bay City, Michigan.

In May 2011, Terry was the Keynote Speaker for the Diocese of New Westminster's Synod. She had been to Vancouver previously facilitating Stewardship Conferences. Much of the material currently in use in our diocese for encouraging generous congregations of faith and year-round financial support is inspired by Terry's lectures and workshops.

Terry was born in Berea, Kentucky on September 22nd, 1947 and loved to regale her listeners with stories of her family not being "hillbillies" but rather "hillwilliams." She was instantly excited when talking about stewardship because for her it was all about relationships. Terry was fond of saying that stewardship "is about changing lives, is guided by grace and not guilt, and grows out of one's relationship with God." And, therefore, stewardship was intimately bound to evangelism.

"If you're not talking about Jesus, it probably isn't stewardship," was also one of her many maxims.

She spoke often of what she called the "October Beg-a-thon," the annual parish stewardship campaign, and taught that stewardship education was a year-round activity where all were encouraged, because of their relationship to God, to give thankfully and generously. She asked the church to not be afraid of money but rather to talk about it. She wanted the offering plate put on the altar at the offertory as sign of grateful gifts returned to God.

Bishop Greg Rickel of the Diocese of Olympia wrote on his *blog*: "[Terry] purely and succinctly lived one quote I will never forget, "you can't sell soap if you don't take baths." Terry didn't just talk about the Christian call to stewardship, she lived it and her legacy and example will live on. I have lost a dear friend and guide."

A memorial service was held on Friday, October 5th, 2012 at St. Alban's Church in Bay City, Michigan. ✠

May she rest in peace.
Remember our sister Terry in your prayers and at the altar.