

"Then a shoot will come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from its roots will bear fruit."

The above quote from Isaiah 11:1 is spoken during a time of total and utter destruction. Israel's more than 400 years as a nation has come to a crushing defeat. All lies in ruin, including glorious Jerusalem.

Yet even in this calamitous situation, God's Spirit, like in the beginning when hovering over chaos envisioning creation, sees a time of restoration, when the nation will be rebuilt.

God always is about creating and making new. Nothing in the universe or in life is static. All is in movement with purpose and promise.

From the Christian perspective it is characterized as a destiny toward a new heaven and a new earth. We are called to be co-creators with God in bringing New Life into being.

The church is also in movement as is each parish and indeed each Christian. Growth is the operative word. At St. Martin's parish we are being called to envision the next half century of our witness and service to God's love in Jesus Christ.

During the past five years, and especially during the past year, our parish has diligently explored where God is leading us. We have concluded several things - to always gather to hear the Word and Break Bread in an atmosphere of Praise; and, to be of Christian Service to the wider community and indeed the world.

The Re-Development Committee's Article in this edition of our parish Newsletter will speak more directly to how we may live into these findings of our exploration. What is clear and consistent is the Spirit's call to ever move forward into greater faith, greater hope, and greater love.

As we celebrate Christmas and welcome a New Year, lets do so with encouragement and optimism, knowing God can do in and through us more than we can ask or imagine.

Every blessing,



VISIONING A NEW CHURCH HOME

Glenn Bloodworth

The April 2016 St. Martin's Messenger featured a fulsome article on revisioning a new church home for St. Martin's – including the two goals for development, a status on work to that time, an overview of various development options, and reflections on the challenges of 'change'. Since then parishioners have continued to be deeply involved in the process of determining our future home.

This process has included:

- Five focus group sessions held over the spring examining the options and considering parishioner hope and aspirations, as well as building and property design considerations;
- A June 'town hall' where parishioners discussed the options and concluded both the options of 'Status Quo' and 'Maintain the Present but Renovate/Modernize' were not sustainable. As well they urged we should "**get on with redeveloping**";
- Parish Council discussion in October on the 'ministry/mission' of St. Martin's;
- Another 'town hall' in November, with Archdeacon C. Dunn, on experiences with partnerships in the use of a church facility with other religious groups, as well as those with amalgamations of Anglican parishes; and
- Parish Council held a dialog in November on 'managing change' at St. Martin's.

In addition in June we commissioned an engineering condition report on our current

facilities, and Parish Council received the final report in November. In the fall a meeting was held with City of Ottawa planning staff on zoning and community planning, and a population demographic data report for the St. Martin's census area was received from them. That report has been reviewed and clarification questions posed to the City staff. More in-depth examination is underway, together with the analysis of our 'stewardship capacity' including studies on Identifiable Givers and a Congregation Age Profile.

And over the late fall and early winter we held discussions with a not-for-profit group interested in the potential for a seniors' condominium facility, as part of a mixed used development for the St. Martin's site. Following those meetings Parish Council authorized funds for a joint site feasibility study with that group, including creation of a site plan, architectural overview optic drawings, and *proforma* costs and potential revenue. The contract was signed in early December, and the feasibility study is scheduled to be completed in time for discussion at our Vestry on Feb. 26, 2017.

This site feasibility study is an 'exploratory' examination - a conceptual design of one possible development - with the objective to provide information on what might be done on the site, what it would optically look like, as well as what construction and annual operating expenditures and potential revenues could be entailed. It is not a detailed architectural design of a development; nor does it constitute a decision to actually proceed with any development.

The study will determine whether or not a mixed-use redevelopment of the St. Martin's property is feasible. Uses being examined include:

- i. New worship, office, and church meeting space, with design for rental use and 'multi-use' encompassing for example, ideas such as 'non-fixed' seating pews in the sanctuary area;
- ii. A seniors' condominium, with a mixture of both market rate and affordable apartment units;
- iii. Market rate townhouses;
- iv. An additional uses facility, referred to as 'Mixed+', entailing leasable office space, meeting rooms, and outdoor capacities. Potential clients could include NGO's, counseling and health professional services, daycare and/or preschool like a Montessori school, community coffee shop, arts gallery, performance space, and/or consignment stands (for example: for seasonal farmer's booth, local handicrafts, etc.); and
- v. Underground parking to service the above requirements.

At the end of the site feasibility study either client group may decide to proceed no further, or they may jointly decide to undertake further design and content adjustments as necessary to meet any limits of space and estimated construction costs and potential revenues as identified by the study.

Our parish is proceeding with appropriate due diligence as it undertakes the affirmation of embracing God's future and its faithful stewardship to maintain vitality, vibrancy, and sustainability. As we proceed toward Vestry 2017 we reflect on Hebrews 11:1 - *"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."*

**An opportunity
to embrace God's future**

St Martin's

Annual

Vestry Meeting

Will be held on

Sunday

February 19th, 2017

In the Parish Hall

**Following the 10 am
Worship Service**

With light refreshments

available

Parish Dinner ~A Glorious Memorable Evening



Thanks to the volunteer effort of Church school youngsters and their parents, St Martin's Parish Hall was transformed into a setting *par excellence* for the Parish Dinner held Saturday, October 29th 2016 to honour the 1700th anniversary of the birth of Martin, our Parish Saint and namesake.

Commanding centre stage was the enormous banner especially created by the Church school for the evening: a banner that before long will have pride of place on the upper walls of the Church sanctuary.

Over 100 people attended the gala event. Recent former incumbents and their spouses along with neighbouring clergy were among the honoured guests including Rev. Rob Heard, Rev. Gerry Peddle, Rev. Richard Vroom as well as Woodroffe United Church Minister Kathy Peate and Arch Deacon Chris Dunn incumbent at All Saints Westboro.

A very special highlight of the evening were presentations made to acknowledge the longstanding volunteer service rendered at St Martin's by Eleanor Glynn, David Jeannes, Patricia Bethel, David Dawson, Rebecca Veale and Marilyn Collins

Hats Off to Fiona Hills and Sharron Hanna for stepping up to respectively co-ordinate the Parish Dinner and the Christmas "Bonanza". They in turn have nothing but praise for all who pitched in to make both initiatives the great success they were.

Good Buys & Good Times Had by All



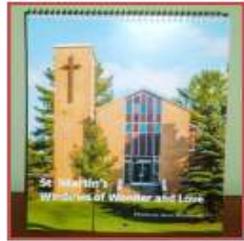
St Martin's chalked up another popular and successful fund raising bazaar. This edition – dubbed the Christmas Bake Shop, Bistro and

Baubles Bananza and staged Saturday, November 26 — had people lined up a suburban block long awaiting the 10 am door opening. Net proceeds reached just over five thousand dollars.

December 4th Advent Carols & Readings Brought Friends of the Choir Together from Far and Wide



A Special Gift
A Special Way
to share your love
and the beauty
of the church windows
with family and friends
near and far

Available after worship service
And at the office Tuesday through Thursday