

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter 7 February 2022

The following conversation was heard between an old farmer and the new parson. 'Do you belong to the Christian family?' asked the minister. 'No, they live two farms down,' replied the farmer. 'No, no, I mean are you lost?' 'Lost? Why, I've lived here for thirty years.' 'I mean, are you ready for the Day of Judgment?' 'When is it?' asked the farmer.' 'Well, it could be today or tomorrow.' 'Well,' said the farmer, 'when you find out for sure when it is, let me know. My wife will probably want to go both days.'

This little story could be interpreted in more than one way, but I do want to make the point that we are all prone to judge, forgetting that at any point in time, we ourselves need to be judged.

'Why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own?'
Matthew 7:3

To Ponder

'If you judge people, you have no time to love them.'

Update on Building Project

We had hoped to be turning the first sods on our site by now but due to a variety of factors, though primarily COVID and rising costs, the site remains undisturbed. Just prior to Christmas, we were presented with a revised tender from our construction company which quoted \$400,000 above what we are able to accept. This meant we were unable to sign off on the contract for stage 1 of the build.

Since then, we have been working on getting that figure down to where it needs to be, including examining the quote detail, tweaking options, looking at alternative sub-contractors (some of which had extremely high quotes, to say the least!)

Meanwhile, we have continued to raise funds despite the best efforts of social distancing rules. As I write, we have secured \$4,499,028 towards our target start figure of \$5M. Although we have a generous underwrite of \$600,000 securing our cash flow, that is based on the original budget and we still need to raise money to repay this.

We are so very keen to make a start on this exciting project. It is a project which will be of great benefit to our Anglican community, but just as importantly, is much needed by the wider Flat Bush community. The facilities will enable us to host a wide range of programmes which will be of significant benefit to the growing and diverse local community. It is an opportunity for our church to reach out to our community and hopefully make a difference.

So, we still need your help! Building seems tantalisingly close but we need to know we can finish what we start. If you are interested in helping, please visit 'Our Building Project' on our website. Information on the vision and shape of the project is there, including how to contribute.

On-line Services

It has been decided that due to the concern at the spread of Omicron, we will not be gathering for worship in the meantime. A small group will record a service each week, which I will send out early Sunday morning.

Financial Report

Having spent all year in the red, we finally got across the line at the end of the year, posting a \$242 credit as at December 31st. Well done! Considering the disruptive year we experienced, that was a tremendous effort.



Time for a Smile

Judge: 'You have been found not guilty of robbery and can leave this court without a stain on your character.'

Accused: 'Great! Does that mean I can keep the money?'

Accused: 'As the Lord is my judge, I am not guilty.'

Judge: 'He's not. I am. You are. Six months.'

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