



“... in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.” (2 Cor 5:19-20) Canadian Presbyterians see these words from Paul’s correspondence with the early church in Corinth as the central affirmation of the great truth of the gospel. What follows are opportunities to live into that truth more fully.

## **Participating in Jesus’ Mission at Brentwood**

### **Worship, where the Holy Trinity embraces us with their love**

- **Wed, Oct 2, 8pm – Jazz Evensong** – with the **Kristian Alexandrov Trio**, featuring **Shannon Gaye** – in the trio are **Joel Fountain & Ben Harries**
- **Sun, Oct 6, 10am – Sunday Morning Worship with Holy Communion**– we will consider what poisons our minds
- Our next **Big Band Vespers** will be tomorrow night, **Mon, Oct 28, 8pm** – featuring the big band arrangements of Brazilian music by a good friend of Marcos Flo

### **Learning, where the Holy Trinity transforms us to be blessings**

- **Sat, Oct 5, 9:30am-12:30pm – Collaborating Churches Consultation** – at Dunwood Place, 901 Colborne St, New West – to explore possibilities in supporting each other better – all members of our 5 congregations are invited
- **Friday, Oct 11 - 5:30pm - Bible Study & Light Supper** – study guides for this fall’s studies are available on the back table
- **Thurs, Oct 17, 2:30 – 4:00pm – SFU Philosophers’ Café** – we will explore what we expect of our political leaders

### **Fellowship, where the Holy Trinity connects and nourishes us**

- Our fall World Food Pot-Luck and BBQ will be today, **Sun, Sept 29**, at Jill and Brian’s following the service – rides will be arranged, if needed – the address is 2020 Cedar Village Cres, North Van

### **Service, where we reach out into our communities to inspire them**

- **Sat, Oct 19, 2pm – Potpourri** with the **Lyric Singers** - \$15 at the door with children under 12 free

## **A Provocative Reading on Acts**

Mission takes place when Christians participate in the cultural, political, and economic life of society, and there show their compassion and the power of their faith. Mission takes place wherever God leads us, because, after all, the mission is not ours, but God’s.

All Christians who are struggling and giving witness to their faith in all these various environments are missionaries. What the rest of the Church must then do, as did earlier the church in Antioch, is twofold: First of all, we must bless all those who will take the risk of mission – as Luke would say, “lay our hands on them.” Second, we must listen to them when they gather with us, and learn from them and their mission.

Unfortunately, this is not what is done in many of our churches. On the contrary, when some of our membership participate in spheres of life where all are not believers such as labor unions, student movements, cultural salons, musical groups, and so forth, what we do is to criticize them. “They are being lost,” we say. “They have gone to the world.” Sometimes we even shun them. Rather than strengthening them for their mission and exhorting them to give witness wherever they are, we give them to understand that it is not legitimate to witness in such an environment. On the second point our reaction is even worse. If they come to church telling us what God is doing in those “worldly” places, they are told in a myriad of ways that the church is not the appropriate place to speak of such matters. With such attitudes, what is at risk of being lost is not only the missionaries but also the Church itself, whose vision dims.

Justo L. Gonzalez, *Acts: The Gospel of the Spirit*, p. 170.