

Good evening all,

For those of you who were not at the meeting today, or have not yet heard, it was announced today that Good Samaritan has purchased the old St Michael's Church on St Clare Ave.

In case you are unfamiliar with it, here is the listing:

<https://www.realtor.ca/.../207.../6-st-clare-avenue-st-johns>

100% of the purchase price has been anonymously donated!

The donors have also agreed to fund the expenses of restoring the church (windows, doors, roof, heating etc).

Furthermore the anonymous donor has agreed to fund the operating costs of running the church (heat, light, snow-clearing etc)! This is just unbelievable!!! So I NEED you to pray for wisdom, and guidance for each step along the way.

We are grateful to our parishioner Kenneth Bartlett, (an engineer) who has helped us tremendously along the way, to our solicitor Paul Burgess, and to our real estate agent Andrew Gosse - these three men have been worth their weight in gold! We would not be here without their help!

We are so thankful for the donors- though the words seem hollow when compared to their generosity.

Deacon Colton shared a word today which was, I believe, in many ways, the best word spoken.

I have copied his address below.

Feel free to share this,

Darrell+

On God's Mission

I'd like to just take a few moments to talk about the mission of the Church. As I myself have processed and prayed through the news that you have all just heard, I have been haunted and convicted by the fact that we live in a city of empty and emptying churches. Churches much more beautiful and much bigger than ours have consistently gathered fewer and fewer worshippers. It is blatantly obvious, if one looks around the City of St. John's, that having a church building does not automatically lead to spiritual vibrancy, meaningful community, or powerful witness.

I say all of this at the beginning to remind us that the phrase "if we build it, they will come," is simply and clearly a lie. If we think a building will win souls, then we will be disappointed. If we think a building will gather the masses, then we will be disappointed. If we think a building will sustain the life of the Church, then we will be disappointed.

The gift of this church is an immense and overwhelming gift. We are right to feel humbled and grateful. However, it is important to remind ourselves at the outset, that the best way to express our gratitude and to give our thanks to God, is to use this church for the sake of his glory and to use it for his mission in the world. The mission of the Church is to proclaim Jesus Christ in the world and to declare his good news of salvation to the nations. If we are to give glory to God, we must use this church building as a mission outpost. It must not only be a place where we gather, but it must be a place where we are commissioned and sent out. We must remind ourselves that we are all missionaries and that the mission of God is the duty, responsibility, privilege and joy of every Christian.

And so, I encourage you to begin praying. Pray that God would use us to forward his mission. Pray that Good Samaritan would grow due to the conversion of souls. Pray for a great awakening in our midst. Pray for the neighbourhoods that surround our church: Buckmaster Circle and Rabbit Town. And let us

pray for ourselves. Let us pray for the boldness and bravery that will be required of us. Let us pray that God would give us the grace to devote our time and best efforts to his mission. Let us pray that God would crush the spirit of fear and timidity that seems to have a stranglehold on the Church. Pray that surrounding culture with all of its idols would neither infect us nor distract us from our task.

And let us be people of action. Let's walk the streets of St. John's, knocking on doors, inviting folks to Church, sharing the hope that we have in Jesus. Let us do as Jesus did, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and proclaiming good news to the poor.

In just a few moments we will sing the hymn, "Facing A Task Unfinished." The first verse reads, "Facing a task unfinished, That drives us to our knees, A need that, undiminished, Rebukes our slothful ease, We, who rejoice to know Thee, Renew before Thy throne, The solemn pledge we owe Thee, To go and make Thee known." And so, in conclusion, I'd ask us to take this opportunity to renew before God and one another the solemn pledge we owe our Lord, to go and make him known in the world. And may God give us the grace to do it. Amen.