

anniversaryissue – no.13



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Hello all the members at St. Timothy.

I pray that 2014 may bring you many new and exciting opportunities. The theme for 2014 is “CHANGE” . We are experiencing changes all the time and yet we are not very good at handling the changes that come to us. Many times we are just passive recipients to the changes that are imposed on us. I wonder whether we can do better with the changes that always happen to us. I want to see whether we can make creative changes rather than passively receiving changes. I want to be an agent of making changes in my life rather than letting my circumstances control what is happening in my life.

Changes are scary because they always take us to where we have never been before. Entering into the unknown, the uncertain and the unfamiliar world makes us uncomfortable and uneasy. On the other hand, just because changes take us into the unknown, it makes our life much more exciting. Entering into the unknown is the nature of life. As we enter into tomorrow, we are entering into the unknown because we do not know what tomorrow holds for us. We have never lived tomorrow and so it is the brand new life we are going to live. In that sense, life is mystery because we always enter into the unknown everyday. But there is a saying, “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” (Matthew 6:34) Instead of worrying about tomorrow, we live today making changes so that we can be better prepared to enter into tomorrow.

As a congregation, God is calling us to take change seriously. We cannot go on in the same way just because we have done that way all this time. I hope that in the New Year, we can take the bold step in making radical changes. Of course, when we talk about changes, we are talking about fundamental changes not just cosmetic changes. God always invites us to make changes. Nicodemus, the rich, the powerful, the elite and the religious person came to Jesus, Jesus told him to be born again, to make the fundamental change. In Christ, we are a new creation. The old has gone and behold, the new has come. “Behold.” I would like to see St. Timothy to behold the change that will happen in us this year. We can all work together to bring about changes in us, in our congregation and in our society. I am excited about the changes the Spirit will bring to us to give us new life. Together we can overcome our fear for the unknown. Together we can be creative agents of changes in our lives.



REFLECTIONSon2013

by Simon Park

2013 was a year full of activity. I looked through the list of things to be thankful for that Rev. Chung compiled, and was amazed to see how much happened in our community, and also how fast time flies. I was asked to write about my reflections on this past year.

It is difficult to notice any themes or patterns emerging, but as I reflected, a few things came to my mind. One was a sense of increased ownership among lay people in our congregation. Our church has been blessed by the dedication and commitment of our staff, namely the ministers. Having this blessing, I think we became heavily dependent on them to provide the direction and leadership. This past year, however, saw the flourishing of more lay leadership. Starting with the election of our first ESM elders, they set the tone for greater ownership among those of us who are a part of this community. Their leadership led to a more active and visible BOM. I believe this lay ownership will continue onto the New Year.

I believe the increased lay leadership stems from greater spiritual maturity. And this maturity, in my opinion, has begun to develop through our study of the Scripture. Study of the Word became a more central part of the life of this congregation, and I could see the Spirit percolate in the hearts and minds of those who attended.

Another feature I saw in the church was a further manifestation of the second plank of our church's mission: that 1st and 2nd generation coexist in harmony. If I may, I would extend this plank and make it broader, to mean that different generations, not just 1st and 2nd, coexist in harmony. Ours is one of the few churches where there is harmony and interaction between different age groups, from college students to those in their 40's and 50's. Our annual congregational retreat makes this fact very visible and apparent.

Finally, I see a greater desire among many members to reach out more to the weak and vulnerable, which is the third part of our mission statement. From those who serve at Teesdale to Evangel Hall, and the openness to support organizations like the KCWA, I see movement to becoming more engaged with the society around us.

I have learned that only God moves to create true change, and that we are called to let God lead, and in the meantime do our best to faithful servants. While no community is perfect, and we can all see flaws in it, I am thankful for this blessed community and look forward to seeing how God continues to move it.



ST TIMOTHY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

introducing
BOM
MEMBERS



Michelle Kim

As I was preparing to attend my first BOM meeting on Nov. 30th, I must admit I was a bit nervous. Who am I to be discussing what's best for the ESM, when I myself don't know? How can I serve St. Tim's in this way, when I still feel new here?

During the meeting, we went through a detailed list of all the celebrations and events from 2013 - what a great list it was! It was exciting to look back on all that was accomplished, and look forward to a fresh year of community and learning together.

"A church that cares and stands for the weak and the poor." At St. Tim's, I really do feel we put this mission into practice. It seems that every member is involved in some manner of mission and outreach, and enjoys doing it. The heart of a community lies with how far love is stretched; don't you feel our love for one another reaches all ends of our city, near and far?

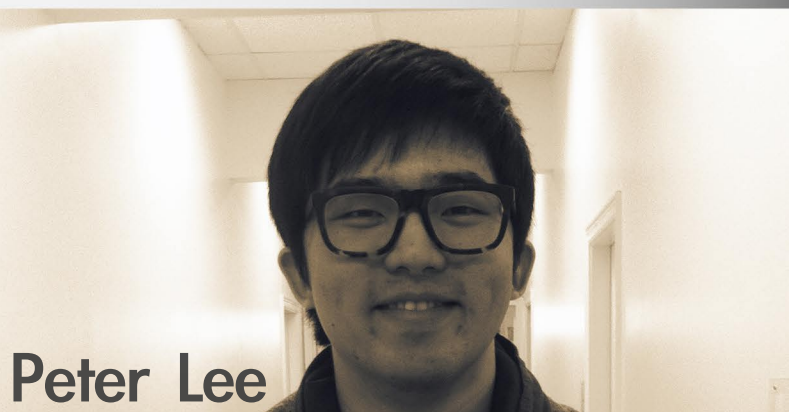
Rev. Kim put a challenge out to us that has really stuck with me: do something kind for another person, every day. As I look ahead to 2014, I'm excited to share in serving our community and church with you. I would encourage you to continue serving and being involved in outreach to our community, stretching our love to those who really need some extra kindness.

Perhaps I'll always feel new, and I'll always be anxious sitting with leadership, but as we serve together, we'll grow together.



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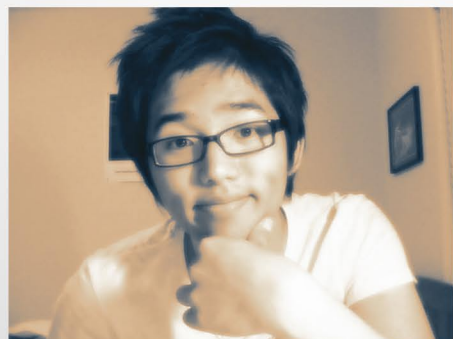


Peter Lee

As a new member of BOM, I am very excited for the upcoming year. I've been with St. Tim's for over two years now and it is just amazing how much St. Tim's community has grown in such a short amount of time. Of course, we all recognize that every member of our church has contributed in some way to this growth, but I soon learned that BOM was one of the driving forces in the community.

To be honest, I am not at all sure how much I can do to contribute and make a difference in the community through BOM, but I strongly believe that there must be a reason why God has provided me the opportunity to serve in this role at this point in time. According to 1 Corinthians 15:10, ...By the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect ... I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me... and so, I will serve God and our community with the best of my abilities because I admit that I am nothing without the grace of God.

Please pray for me as I will do for you and let us all be excited for the marvelous things that God will show us throughout 2014. Thank God and thank you for appointing me as one of your BOM members - I am truly honored to be able to serve by your side.





HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013 THINGS TO CELEBRATE

1. New worship order was implemented early in the year with a view to make our worship more meaningful.
2. Olivia Han took her position as the new ESM Choir conductor.
3. On February 24th during the Evangel Hall Sunday service, we celebrated 10 years of our service at the Evangel Hall.
4. Kids' Church and Hi-C students put on their first Spring Concert on May 4th showcasing many talents.
5. Annual Summer Retreat took place on June 21-23rd at the Fair Havens Retreat Centre with the theme of "You and I" and Rev. Kim as the speaker.
6. VBS and Youth Camp took place from July 15 to 26th and it was a resounding success.
7. Annual Civic Holiday Picnic took place on August 5th at the Simeon Park.
8. Our Softball Team won the Championship with an undefeated record.
9. Pastor Sunny Lee started Preschool ministry in June and Rev. Son, Kids' Church in July.
10. Yard Sale on September 21st was a great success despite the rainy weather.
11. Edward Kim was elected and ordained as an ESM Elder in the fall. Michelle Kim and Peter Lee were appointed as new BOM members.
12. Kids Church, Hi-C rooms and Washroom renovation started in September. Fundraising for renovation was a success. Opening ceremony took place on December 8th.
13. Couples Retreat took place at Niagra-on-the-Lake on Nov 15-16th with Rev. Kim as the speaker. 17 couples participated and benefited from this inaugural event.
14. ESM Volleyball Tournament took place on Nov 24th in which the YA team dethroned the aging MG team.
15. Active Korean School Program, ESL program for KSM mothers lead by Kay Ham and many Bible Studies throughout the year.
16. Our eNewsletter, St Timothy Voice, which started its publication in January 2013, celebrates its first anniversary with this issue.

Sermon Titles & Summary – December 2013

Let us keep powerful important messages close to our hearts in the months ahead...

December 1

Rev Kim

Title: Swords Into Plowshares

Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5

Summary: We have no choice but to be on guard in our society. Otherwise, people will take advantage of us. But we cannot let our defensive desire to become swords and lose bigger things in life. When we have swords in our hearts, we hurt others and also ourselves. Jesus never built swords in his heart for other human beings, even those who were rejected and abandoned by their society. Jesus had compassion for them; Jesus gave them another chance; Jesus made sure that they knew that they were also God's precious children.

December 8

Rev Kim

Title: The World That Does Not Harm Each Other

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10

Summary: What Isaiah says sounds like a fable or fantasy far from the reality we live in. Is this real? Is this kind of world possible? "The world that does not harm each other" - I can imagine it but I don't see it yet. Regardless, whether this kind of world will come or not does not depend on us. When God's time comes, it will happen. What we can do is our part: trusting in God and dreaming about the world that does not harm each other. Day by day, we need to work together to build that kind of world - the world where the powerful does not exploit the powerless.

December 15

Rev Kim

Title: Good Tidings

Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10

Summary: People don't like the Good News. They like the good reality. They value what they can see, touch and experience. But soon they realize that they become very small people who can only accept what they can see, what they can touch and what they can experience. In that way, they don't go beyond the world they can see. People who see the promise of God will be able to overcome their circumstances. They are the ones who will not give up because of their circumstances.

December 22

Rev Kim

Title: God Works Through Crises

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Summary: When we go through our own personal crises, don't forget that God works through these crises - sometimes even more powerfully than in normal times. When we face crises, let us not drive our thoughts into quick and easy solution. Let us make time for deeper reflection. The more difficult our lives get, the deeper we need to reflect and the harder we need to pray. You will be able to hear God's voice.

December 25

Rev Kim

Title: Humble Christmas

Scripture: Luke 2:1-14

Summary: Our life may look shabby, poor, weak and vulnerable on the surface but we are not just poor and weak. This is because God's glory shines upon us. It is not the glory that we make; it is the glory God gives to us. Even though we can decorate our lives with luxury, if there is no glory of God, our existence becomes only a pathetic existence. The birth of Jesus Christ is the birth of God's glory. The fact Jesus came to the world means that the glory of God came to the world. To receive Christ means to receive the glory of God.

December 29

Rev Kim

Title: Calling From Life's Circumstances

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23

Summary: What we do everyday is not separate from our calling. For Christians, life is calling. Joseph could have complained about his life situations but nowhere in the Bible there is a record of it. You don't see Joseph much in the Bible. There was not much he did. All he did was raise a child and accommodate his life situation for it. But that was one of the most important things he did: he provided a shelter for a helpless baby who would be the saviour of the world. That was a calling for Joseph. Joseph's calling was not separate from his life circumstances.



if you have any questions, comments or ideas for our monthly e-newsletter we would love to hear from you.

please email us at:
sttimbom@gmail.com

eventsinjanuary

Sat Jan 4:
ESM New Year Party at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall

Sun Jan 5:
Lunch provided by Session Elders

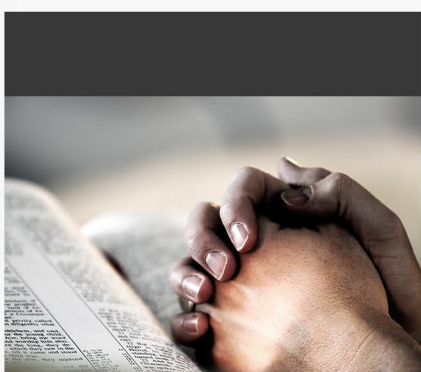
Fri Jan 10 to Sat Jan 11:
KSM New Year Prayer Retreat at Queen of Apostles

Wed Jan 8:
YA Small Group at 7pm at Dahae's house (125 Highland Park, Thornhill)

Sat Jan 18:
Session Meeting at 8am

Sat Jan 18:
BOM Meeting at 9am

Thu Jan 16:
Evangel Hall Ministry (KSM)



prayerrequests

1. That we may strive to uphold and fulfil the plans God has for us in 2014
2. For our children to grow under God's love in their newly renovated worship area
3. For health and safety in the new year



editor'snote

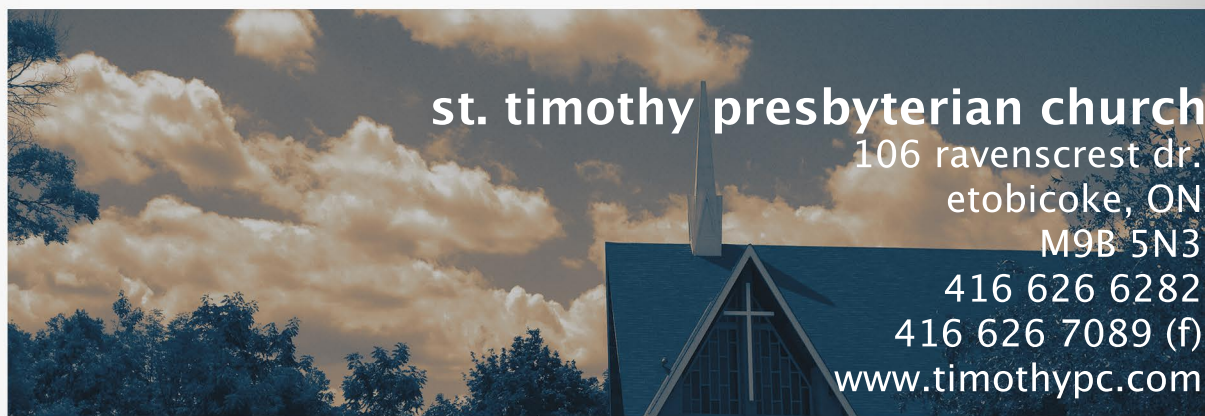
When life is going so well, you really cannot, and certainly will not, relish or embrace possibilities for any change. Rev. Kim eloquently posits that we can be proactive in confronting the changes that present themselves to us, rather than be reactive, passive victims of them. But how difficult this can be! Especially when change is often bestowed upon us – we rarely have a say.

Change for the worse can be destructive and devastating. And the cruellest part of it is that it can be unexpected, and quick, and can strike in the myriad faucets of our complex and compelling lives: health, finance, relationship, career, etc. From the vantage point of an individual who has everything going for them, this kind of thinking can quickly transform their optimism – and general naivety – into a deep sense of burdensome pessimism.

Overcoming this kind of thinking and these sorts of ruminations to obtain complete peace of mind with the unpredictable and uncontrollable nature of change sometimes seems impossible for the human mind to achieve. But I think one way we can try is be continually thankful for what we do have – regardless of how little it may be, or appear to be. May we count our blessings today even though there is uncertainty tomorrow. And may we take refuge in the words of Job: "...The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. May the name of the Lord be blessed!"

Happy New Year, everyone!

Daniel Kim

st. timothy presbyterian church
 106 ravenscrest dr.
 etobicoke, ON
 M9B 5N3
 416 626 6282
 416 626 7089 (f)
www.timothypc.com

leadeditor
 daniel kim

membershipcommittee
 james choe
 ruth kim
 rev. chung
 veronica park
 deb chang
 rev. yoon

creativedesigner
 josh kim