



ST. MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

ANGLICAN NETWORK IN CANADA (ANIC), Abbotsford
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Where Spirit &
Tradition meet

February 15th, 2009

Dear members of St. Matthew's,

We have come round the final turn and the end is in sight. As you have probably heard we are now involved in an action with the Diocese of New Westminster which will determine who ultimately holds the assets of the parishes. The trial has been set to commence on May 25, 2009, and will likely last three weeks.

From the beginning St. Matthew's has been committed to stand up for the gospel, and God has met us and carried us every step of the way. We have stepped out in faith believing that God's purposes will be accomplished through our actions.

Now, more than ever, we need to be committed to prayer. Our hearts need to be set on God's will and purpose, not our own. Many Anglicans across Canada, and many other Christians are watching what happens here. Regardless of the outcome of the court case we need to trust that God will win many hearts through this process, and that his (universal) church will be strengthened and increased.

For those who feel called, this is the time to support the ANiC Legal Defense Fund. Only money which is DESIGNATED for legal defense will be used for this purpose. Many people feel this is an important witness for the gospel, but others feel that there are pressing needs in the community which need their attention. Each of us must respond to the convictions which God has placed on our hearts. Neither St. Matthew's nor ANiC will commit funds given to general revenue to support legal defense. Therefore, it is urgent that those who feel that the legal case is an important witness to the church and the world begin to support the Legal Defense Fund immediately. This can be done by specifying "Legal Defense" as a line on your envelope.

St. Matthew's share of the court costs (which are estimated to total \$650,000 and \$1,000,000) will be about \$120,000. To put that in perspective if 200 families each gave \$200 per month for three months (eg. February, March, April) the entire amount would be covered. Of course, many people will not be able to give that amount. However, there will be others who are able to give significantly more. Each of us must respond to what God has put on our hearts.

God has been faithful to us in every way, and we can trust that he will continue to be faithful in this. We have had many prophecies spoken over us assuring us of God's continued love and care. Recently, a woman who did not know the parish situation spoke a word for us saying, "God will bless St. Matthew's financially." What a word for this time!

Please commit the legal case, the legal team, the judge and all who are involved to God's care and keeping, and trust the outcome to God. It is in Jesus name, and for his sake we pray.

God bless you all,