



St. Michael's House opened

BY BOB LEMON

photo bob lemon



P 4. OCCUPY church property.



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“ Blessed are you, Gracious God, for you have provided this place for gathering.

Give your blessing to all who share this room ...

May all who gather here be knit together in fellowship on earth, and find a first taste here of the communion of your saints in heaven.

”

With these words of prayer from

Archbishop John and Dean Nissa, the people of the Cathedral of St. Michael and All Angels entered into the new St Michael's House, and celebrated ten years of heavy planning and the culmination of construction work. On November 6, over 200 parishioners and well-wishers gathered to celebrate and to get a good sense of what their new parish centre can do.

Following a ribbon cutting by Percy Tinker, chair of the Site Development Commission for the past ten years, the crowd moved from doorway to gathering room to instructional centre to join in prayers of blessing for each space.

The event began in the nave of the cathedral, where gratitude was expressed to several of the main players in the project, including representatives of the workmen and of Mailey Construction, the principal contractor. Among those honoured were Cass Crest, the Dean's warden and member of the Project Board, who had been acting as the owner's on-site representative, and



LONG AWAITED DAY — Percy Tinker, chair of the Site Development Commission for the past ten years, cut the ribbon at the opening of St. Michael's House, Kelowna.

Gustav Van Niekerk, the professional Project Manager.

A highlight of the event was the presentation to Percy and Maureen Tinker of a plaque which names the central space in the new building as “The Percy and Maureen Tinker Gathering Room,” in recognition of their sustained and sustaining contribution to the project.

The parish is celebrating a 5,000 square foot addition, located on the north side of the Cathedral, and connected directly to it, that provides an ample gathering/reception/coffee room, with maple flooring recovered from the original parish hall built in 1948. In addition, there are (for the first time!) washrooms, accessible from the church, and also two classrooms, connected by a folding wall, not only suitable for Sunday School, but also for large gatherings of all sorts. The utility of the new addition was established even before the official opening, when the large number of family, clergy, and choristers involved in the

funeral of the late Bishop Fraser Berry were able to use the various spaces to assemble and prepare for that service. In a similar way, the space will provide a much more welcoming reception for funerals, weddings, and events than was formerly possible in the tightly confined areas of the Cathedral itself. The space in the church that has been opened up will now be used by the Altar Guild, the Cathedral clergy, the Liturgical Arts Guild (St. Monika's), and the servers.

As St. Michael's House has opened, the diocese has moved its offices from the adjacent Old Rectory to its new office space at St. Aidan's in Kelowna. This has given the parish about a thousand square feet of additional space. Members of the Cathedral are currently discussing how best to utilize these new resources, but one use is confirmed. Beginning at the end of November, we will be operating a revived and expanded Parish Pantry which will operate out of the old diocesan office.

The completion of this project has been made possible by the remarkable generosity of parishioners and the diocese, by grants and loans from the Anglican Foundation, and by short-term bridge financing. The diocese owns a lot adjoining the Cathedral, which was purchased by the parish in the 1940s. Once sold, the proceeds of the sale of this lot will be available to the parish towards the completion of St. Michael's House.

As with any such project, there are “loose ends” to be tied up. Most noticeable is the paving of the parking lot, yet to be accomplished, and the landscaping of the entire area, which will not begin until the spring. But the people of St. Michael's offer their gratitude and praise to God for what has been achieved thus far. We pray for God's guidance in the employment of this new facility, so that it may be an agent for the extension of God's commonwealth on earth.

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