



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

from the FPA team:
John, Jeff & Sandy,
Diana, David, Jae, Simmy,
Oksana, Rachel, Andy, Luke & Denise
Eleanor, Paula, Cindy & Kimberley

Staff News —

- ✓ FPA has several new faces this year. Kimberley Lavender is the friendly voice on Reception. New additions to our Accounting Team include Rachel Kruger, Andy Brar, Luke Wang, and Denise Jansen. We are excited to have them join our team here at FPA.
- ✓ FPA celebrated our 15-year anniversary this year with an all staff vacation to **sunny Mexico!**
- ✓ John Pankratz was elected as the new chair of the Board of Governors at the University of the Fraser Valley.



Dates to Remember

Mid-February – Personal Tax appointment letters sent out.

February 28 – All T-Slips must be filed. (T4, T5 etc.)

March 31 – Deadline for the filing of Family Trusts.

April 30 – Deadline for the filing of Personal Tax Returns.

Holiday Hours

The office will close on Friday, December 23rd at 5 pm & will re-open Tuesday, January 3rd, 2017 so that the Partners & Staff may enjoy the holidays.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dear Friends,

For the most part we are all creatures of habit. We find comfortable rhythms in our life and stick to them. There is a comfort in the known, and we naturally move to find comfort. I will confess that my wife and I tend to eat out a fair bit. We have a relatively short list of restaurants that we frequent and on the very top of that list is Vi La Palace which serves wonderful Vietnamese cuisine. When we walk into the restaurant one of the young waitresses recognizes us and often says “Hi Papa Jeff, do you guys want the regular tonight?”. At this point you may very reasonably criticize and say I eat out too much, but the point is this, we like things to be the same. The #35 and a Tiger beer at Vi La Palace is a happy place for me so I’m very much inclined to go back.

Transition on the other hand can be very challenging. Whether you’re selling your old house and moving to a new one, changing jobs or adding a new family member each of these represents transition in your life. My good friend Mark Warkentin once relayed these thoughts to me. Transition is challenging and costly; it can have significant financial cost, emotional cost and relational costs. Wise man that Mark! If you sell your house and buy a new one the financial cost is evident. Commissions, property transfer tax, movers, disconnecting and reconnecting utilities. Then there is the emotional side of packing up many memories of an old house, recalling the projects that you did and the many times the kids moved from bedroom to bedroom as they grew. Relationally, we are forced to say goodbye to neighbours who have watered our plants and collected our mail and borrowed our tools, perhaps forgetting long ago who they really belonged to.

For most of us this year has been full of transition. Just over a year ago we ushered in a new Federal Government, and with that there have already been a number of changes; not the least of them in tax. Our Neighbours to the south are in the midst of a big transition right now with President Elect Donald Trump moving into the White House early next year. At our office we have been transitioning from CGA (Certified General Accountants) to the brave new world of CPA (Chartered Professional Accountants). I hope that for many of you this transition has seemed almost seamless, however behind the scenes there have been many changes for our office. We have also found ourselves saying goodbye to a number of long time staff members in the past year and making new friends as we expand our team here at FPA. Old staff have moved on to new opportunities and each of them stay in touch from time to time. New staff bring their unique skills, abilities, and perspectives which make us richer.

When we find ourselves in the midst of transition what we really long for is peace. We long for the changes to stop, for comfort to return and for our hearts to find a deep, deep rest. Peace! This time of year I am reminded of the verse in Isaiah 9:6 that boldly foretold the birth of Jesus many years before it happened. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**” My prayer for you this Christmas is that you will experience the Prince of Peace. Even as transition swirls around us we can find peace in the presence of Jesus. If you are not generally a church going person I want to encourage you to try something new this Christmas. Go to a church service and experience a Christmas evening that focuses on the Prince of Peace. You may find its exactly what your heart needed; peace!

Jeff – on behalf of the Partners & Staff at FPA