



NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS



First+Met United Church is located near the heart of the North Park Neighbourhood. Once part of Fernwood, this now is a distinct area bounded by Cook, Pandora, Blanshard and Bay Streets. It has its own personality and an active neighbourhood association. North Park contains a number of churches of many denominations, and a diverse group of businesses and services. How much do you know about the neighbourhood? For instance, did you know:

- Each summer, the North Park Neighbourhood Association (NPNA) presents a neighbourhood festival, with First+Met included among the sponsors.
- Since June, 2011, NPNA has held its monthly meetings at First+Met. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Anyone with an interest in the neighbourhood is welcome to attend.
- There is a native plant garden at the southwest corner of Vancouver and Pembroke Streets, planted and maintained by the NPNA, as well as a mini-garden at the southwest corner of North Park and Cook Streets.
- NPNA is involved in good neighbour agreements with the St. John the Divine cold weather emergency shelter and with the 900 block of Pandora Avenue, which includes *Our Place*.
- The neighbourhood is home to many heritage buildings, including First+Met. Information about the neighbourhood history and a walking tour of the neighbourhood are available at victoriaheritagefoundation.ca; in addition, printed walking tour brochures are distributed at various locations including the Tourist Information Centre, Community Centres and Victoria City Hall.
- North Park Village, the area along Cook Street between Pandora Ave. and Caledonia Street, is becoming ever more lively and diverse, with a variety of businesses, decorative banners, a neighbourhood bulletin board at the southwest corner of Cook and North Park Streets, and its own website - northparkvillage.ca. NPNA and village merchants currently are working on promoting the Village.

Membership in the NPNA is open to “anyone who lives, works or plays” in the North Park neighbourhood - that certainly would include anyone who worships there! First+Met has a liaison with the Board of the NPNA. To learn more about membership and the benefits it includes, visit npna.ca. In 2012, NPNA plans to sponsor or host CPR/First Aid, Bike Safety, and Emergency Preparedness workshops. First+Met has a liaison with the Board of the NPNA.

There is much to learn about First+Met’s neighbourhood. If you live in North Park, you already know what a great neighbourhood it can be! If you live elsewhere and come to North Park because it is home to First Met, why not spend a little time getting to know the rest of the neighbourhood?