

For your children



Also for you



# Annual Report 2007

Annual Vestry Meeting

Sunday, March 9, 2008

 **St. John's Anglican Church**  
**West Toronto**

Inclusive & family-friendly community

# **Annual Vestry Meeting**

March 9, 2008

## **Annual Vestry Report for St. John's Anglican Church, West Toronto**

**Our Annual Vestry Report is a record of who we are, where we have been, and where we are going. This report is for us. It is for our partners in the community, our diocese and our bishop. It is a reminder to our active participants; you who, in your heart, know you belong to this local expression of the Body of Christ. This is a Stakeholders' Report.**

**If you are new to St. John's, you may be wondering what stake you have, or might have, in how we are called by God to be the Church. We invite you to read, ponder and pray. There is a lot to discover here, and we hope it will help you to decide to live the Life in Christ with us.**

**This is our invitation to you. The final pages of this report repeat the invitation, and give you an opportunity to respond. May God bless your reading, and your living of the life of faith. We thank God for this opportunity to share with you our journey in faith.**

## **AGENDA**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approval of Minutes for the Annual Vestry Meeting, February 18, 2007
3. Incumbent's Report: *Presented in the Worship Service*
4. Wardens' Report
  - How we make Decisions at St. John's
  - Report
5. Financial Reports
  - a. Treasurer's Report on 2006
  - b. Envelope Committee Report
6. The Budget for 2008
7. Appointments and Elections
8. Stewardship Report
  - a. Stewardship Report for 2007
  - b. Calendar of Plans and Priorities for 2008
9. Business Arising from Parish Reports
10. Motions for Vestry
11. New Business
12. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

# Incumbent's Report

The Rev. Gary van der Meer  
*Incumbent, St. John's Church, West Toronto*

I've been thinking a lot about friendship lately. My own friendships have been a great support in times of personal struggle. They have also brought joy and connection around the edges and at the core of what I do and care about. I have also come to appreciate that as life unfolds, my heart is open to new friendships. I rediscovered this openness in myself while travelling in England, as well as exploring new interests here at home, and here at St. John's. And I know that I am not alone in feeling this way. Here are a few thoughts shared with me in the past few weeks:



Friendship is so encouraging because it opens doors to people you haven't met and allows you to share experiences. We don't have family here, so our friends are very important to us. We enjoy the memories we are building together.

*Marilyn Kluykens & Frans Altena*

We go to church to find our place in the mystery of life. The readings from the Bible, the sermon, the prayers, the bread and wine, and the hymns remind us that in this immense universe we are part of a web of life in which love is more powerful than death. At St. John's we have also found a community of people who know our names, who want to know who we are, who care about what is happening in our lives. These good people have called us their friends. The community has become a sign of the mystery of love in our world.

*Bob Shantz & Alison Smiley*

More and more, over the past few years, our church friends are the ones we have fun with. We mostly don't talk about the business of church; but we do share what is important to us. Faith shapes our response to events and issues, and with our friends from St. John's we share this foundation. We have normal ordinary fun, and lately, we do more socializing with friends from church than with our longtime friends.

*Evelyn Butler & Bill Dunford*

Lately, I have been looking to our scriptures to inform how I experience and think about friendship. In the past few weeks, I have seen things in the Sunday readings that were not as obvious before. Mary and Martha are Jesus' friends, and that means they are honest with him. They pour out the truth of their

feelings to him because friends can do that with each other. The Samaritan woman comes to the well alone, but we see her come out of herself in response to Jesus' questions. How exciting it is that she moves beyond ostracism and reconnects with the people of her town. I imagine the friendships that are about to be re-forged. Nicodemus comes to Jesus tentatively at first, but through a series of vignettes, we see friendship coming about between them. And how could we forget that over a three-year period, twelve former strangers become Jesus' friends. The meals and prayers they share become a friendship that changes them forever.

I am more aware than ever that in our highly mobile and time-challenged urban life, so many people feel rootless and lonely. As I have visited and come to know you, I have heard many stories of the original longing that brought you through the doors of this church. Again and again, I have also heard you say, "We stay because of the relationships." Over time, these have become people who care deeply about you. In the past couple years our church activities have deliberately nurtured friendships. We found that on hikes, we naturally fall into talking and getting to know each other.

We held a number of social gatherings that we called “Pub Theology,” and we know they were heavier on *Pub* than on *Theology!* In fact, life at St. John’s became so social, that we began to comment, “Church is *more* than a social club.” We listened to each other. We included an Earth Blessing on a hike this past year, and it felt right. We had an art group to paint more figures for the Children’s Focus, and we naturally found ourselves exploring the characters of the gospels. We’ve watched movies together, and our conversations have brought what’s on the screen into our worldview and informed our faith.

We recognize our own spiritual hunger as the prompt. We put together a year of exploring our building blocks of worship, scriptural study, and prayer because we were able to name a deep need to tap into our eternal longings. We have enjoyed many successful spiritual activities in the past year at St. John’s, including Bible Lectures, a retreat at St. John’s Convent, and the Garden Eucharist on Tuesday evenings this past summer. While these activities have been a great blessing, we actually valued them within the context of Friendship. Consider that for this year’s Every Member Visit, the two most checked boxes on the **Commitment Card for Time & Talent** come under the heading, “Building Meaningful Relationships in the Congregation”:

- |  |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist in developing regular <b>Spiritual Activities at St. John’s involving Relationships.</b><br>eg. Book Study, Movie Evening with Discussion, Retreats, Field Trips, Prayer Buddies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist in organizing <b>Social Events</b> for the St. John’s Community and for newcomers.   |

While these two boxes invite “structured” opportunities for deepening relationships, I have come to appreciate the “unstructured” ones! It was music to my ears recently to visit a couple from our St. John’s community, and hear them say, “We’ve never had them over; we really must invite them!” They were systematically going through “the list” and connecting with people in a meaningful way, by inviting them into their home. The light came on for me. We actually could lay on **too many** social and spiritual activities! The best outcome of our structured activities is that we each make genuine welcome and being real with each other an intentional part of our lifestyle -- by offering each other hospitality and friendship in our unstructured times.

Much has been said about this neighbourhood, and how it has been changing. On every street we see families with young children. We have babies in church all the time. We are talking about nursery and youth group with great passion. In the middle of our highly mobile time-challenged urban lives, people are moving in. Undoubtedly they have friends already, but moving is unsettling. We understand because we have each been there. While St. John’s West Toronto has tendrils reaching out into the city, our roots go deepest right here in the neighbourhood. When we try to imagine how to get people to come to church, we might have it backwards. If we go with the real need, we see that becoming rooted is a spiritual longing. In addition to the boxes that we checked, I wonder how significant it would be if each of us responded to this need. Invite people you don’t know. Have them over. Plan the kind of get-together that you love to have, and share it. We long to know that God befriends us. What better proof than flesh and blood people of faith putting down roots together. What would be reasonable to get us started? Maybe four times this year? Could you do that?

In addition to my relationships with the people of St. John’s, my own journey of the past year shapes my awareness. I have travelled through personal change which I have shared with you along the way. In many ways, this year did not go “according to plan” and I am very grateful to the wardens for the opportunity to have a Sabbath Leave for the final quarter of 2007. This time for personal rest and growth had an additional community component. We developed a Leadership Team. We grew in our understanding of how in the move from a small church congregation to a larger congregation, the leadership of the priest must become the shared leadership of a team of people. We learned the language of a Pastoral-Sized Church, which is what we are, and how it might decline to a Family-Sized Church, or grow to become a Program-Sized Church. Our Leadership Team is an expression of our longing to grow into a church that -

through the strength of its programs - meets *more* of the neighbourhood's needs for community, friendship, support, and connection with God. In my travels, I was blessed with the opportunity to study a church congregation that has made this journey. St. Peter's Church, Walworth in the Diocese of Southwark, just south of the Thames in London, is rich in parallels to our own experience at St. John's. Let me say that my experience of the importance of friendships was confirmed there. The context was different, as were the chosen activities. What was the same: Friendship with God and with each other in a highly mobile time-challenged urban setting.

I wish to acknowledge a few other significant changes at St. John's over this past year. The Rev. Bob Shantz, who has worshiped with us for some time already, formally became an Honourary Assistant Priest, here at St. John's. Bob is the first Lutheran pastor to become an Honourary Assistant in the Diocese of Toronto. He has been a gentle pastor, a great support, and a good friend. The development of the Leadership Team happened under Bob's able leadership while he was in charge of St. John's during my Sabbath Leave. Let me also acknowledge, with sadness, the death of our Honourary Assistant Priest of the past 20 years. I continue to thank God for Bruce's pastoral instincts, his intellect, and his friendship with us, and with me. For a short time Bruce and Bob overlapped as Honourary Assistant Priests at St. John's, and I saw the beautiful possibility of team ministry among clergy. As we continue to value and make new friends as a community, what a lovely beckoning possibility.

I am so grateful to the wardens: How we have been blessed by your ministry of responsible leadership! I offer a special thanks to Joan Devitt, who has completed her term. As part of her time, Joan's passion for connecting with the neighbourhood has brought us renewed and intriguing possibilities. And so to the wardens: Thank God for all of you, all that you have done, for the responsibility you carry and the love that you share. Thank God for our whole community. We are, in reality, different people; we arrived here with different presenting issues, and some of the friendships are, shall we say, most unlikely! But friendships they are, and beyond what each of us contribute in time, talent, or treasure, the gift of ourselves to each other is the sign of how God gives.

Thank God for all of you.



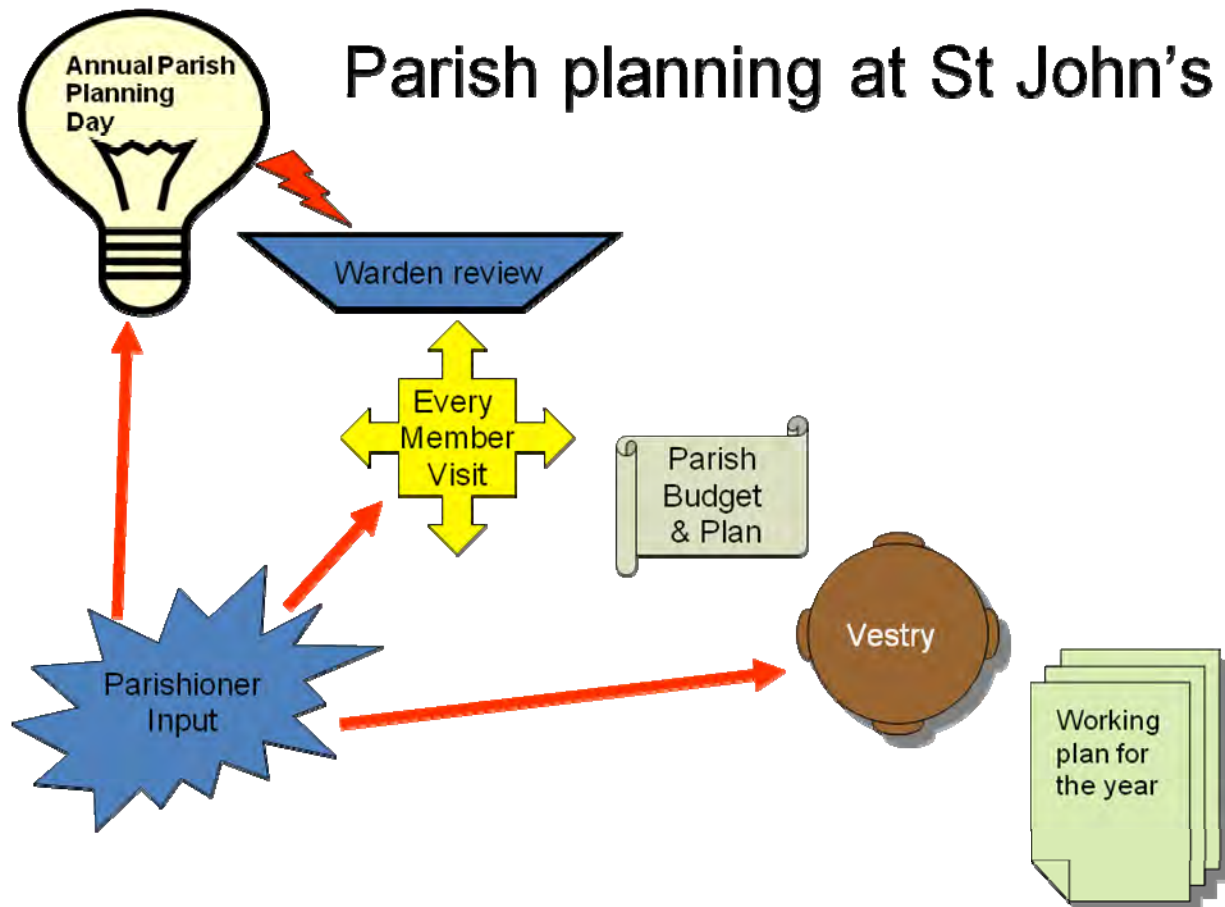
Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Gary van der Meer  
*Incumbent*

# Wardens' Presentation

Carrie Cardwell, *Rector's Warden*; Joan Devitt, *People's Warden*;  
Tim Taylor, *Deputy Rector's Warden*; Bill Dunford, *Deputy People's Warden*

**How we make Decisions at St. John's:** *Before we present our report, we offer this orientation to how we make decisions at St. John's. We hope this will encourage your involvement, as well as help you better understand our report.*



*Our life as a community involves many decisions including where to focus our time, talents and treasures. When decisions must be made, the community is represented by the Incumbent (Gary) and the four Wardens.*

### **What is a Warden and how are they selected?**

There are two types of warden: Rector's warden and People's warden. The former is appointed by the Rector and the latter is nominated and seconded by another member of vestry and then elected at the annual vestry meeting.

To be a warden you must be a member of vestry and to be a member of vestry you must have

- Attended at least 3 regularly scheduled communion services in the past year
- Not voted in another Vestry meeting in the past 3 months

Wardens serve a three year term, typically one or two years as a "deputy" warden, then the balance of time as the warden. Although the initial period is served as a "deputy", there is no difference in the function of the role.

If a warden resigns during the midst of a year, typically a replacement is appointed by the Incumbent in consultation with the other wardens.

### What is the responsibility of the Warden?

The wardens are responsible for the functioning of the church: everything from the physical plant, to personnel questions to the community calendar to providing counsel to the Incumbent.

### What is the Leadership Team?

The Leadership Team is what St. John's calls its Advisory Board. The Leadership Team is an open forum for parishioners in leadership roles to come to receive support and seek guidance and direction from other members of the Leadership.

Participation in the Leadership Team is made up of the following people (or their proxies)

- The Incumbent and the four wardens
- The Events and Communications Coordinators
- Chairs of *any* events happening in the next three months
- Sunday School Coordinator

The Leadership Team is not a decision-making body, but the wardens consult the Leadership Team on issues to ensure that the wider voice of the congregation is included in decisions. The focus of the LT is on supporting people in developing and delivering programs for the community that are part of our annual Parish plan. Meetings typically are held on the second Monday evening of each month at 7:30 in the Narthex.

### How is the Annual Parish plan created?

The annual parish planning process is under development, but the following has become our working model:

2008	Normal	Event & Description
January	November	<b>Parish planning day.</b> An opportunity for anyone in the parish to input into the planning process.
February	December	<b>Focus area definition</b> Output from the planning day is boiled down to some key focus areas.
February	January	<b>Every Member Visit.</b> Parishioners are asked to commit their time, talent & treasure to focus areas of their choosing.
March	February	Wardens review the <b>time &amp; talent commitments</b> to see where the community wants to focus and winnow the projects down to the ones where there seems to be the most interest and energy. The wardens then create a budget and a Parish plan for the year that is presented to Vestry.
March	February	<b>Vestry.</b> The budget and annual calendar of events is determined and voted on by the community at large. Once the plan and budget are approved, this becomes the working agenda for the year.

### How can plans be changed?

The wardens have the prerogative to change the plan at any time. Small changes may be decided by the wardens during the wardens meeting (Wardens typically meet monthly).

Significant changes (e.g. staffing changes, budget changes of more than \$5,000, large changes to the physical plant) may be brought before a special meeting of the vestry.

### **I have an idea, how do I get that into the plan?**

The best way is to bring it to the annual Parish Planning day so that it goes through the full vetting.

Projects that arise during the middle of the year may still be brought forward to the wardens, but (unless the opportunity is time-sensitive) it will likely be deferred to the next year.

### **I would like to make a special collection for a specific project**

Our experience has been that the resources that we have (time, talent and treasure) are limited. A “special” collection may look to be an incremental giving, but often it results in less money being given in other areas.

We believe that the community needs to make decisions *as a community* and we seek to be deliberate in how those decisions are made, so we have developed a comprehensive consultation process.

Consequently, the warden team does not support “specified giving” where donations are solicited for a specific activity - unless the giving is included in our annual plan at Vestry **or** approval is given by the Wardens should an initiative arise midyear. Notwithstanding, it is possible for groups to hold fund-raising events (e.g. bake sale, etc.) and the funds raised in that respect would be channeled to a specific project.

### **I have questions or suggestions, where do I start?**

Any of the wardens or the Incumbent can answer most questions about the plans. In addition, each warden has a particular area of focus:

<b>Area of Focus</b>	<b>Warden Responsible</b>
Property and Physical Plant	Bill Dunford
Sunday School & Youth Ministry	Carrie Cardwell
Events coordination	Tim Taylor
Worship & Music	Tim Taylor
Outreach	To be determined following Vestry



***Gary with Rector's Warden Carrie Cardwell***



# St. John's Leadership

## Corporation

	<b><i>Incumbent</i></b>	<b><i>Rector's Wardens</i></b>	<b><i>People's Wardens</i></b>
Name	Gary van der Meer 416-233-2609	Carrie Cardwell 416-530-0221 Tim Taylor 416-760-8792	Bill Dunford 416-604-8692 To be elected at Vestry
Key roles	Pastoral care Worship Christian development	Property management Financial stewardship Staffing	

## Staff

	<b><i>Clergy</i></b>	<b><i>Secretary</i></b>	<b><i>Children's Ministry</i></b>
Name	Gary van der Meer Bob Shantz	Lynda Ward	Catherine Laird Barbara Tuffaha Alison Smerek
Key roles	Pastoral care Worship Christian development	Church administration Bookkeeper	Sunday School Toddlers Nursery

## Leadership roles

	<b><i>Calendar Coordinator</i></b>	<b><i>Communications</i></b>	<b><i>Treasurer</i></b>
Name	Tim Taylor	Frans Altena & Marylin Kluyskens	Anthony Ruta
Key roles	Ensure events are published on web	Web site	Church finances

	<b><i>Outdoor events</i></b>	<b><i>Outreach</i></b>	<b><i>Property</i></b>
Name	Tom Gehrels	Sally Ritchie	Bill Dunford Allan Waters
Key roles	Organize outdoor activities	Coordinate outreach efforts of community	Maintain fabric of building

	<b><i>Every Member Visit</i></b>	<b><i>Altar Guild</i></b>	<b><i>Worship Coordinator</i></b>
Name	Dionne Watson	May Webster	May Webster
Key roles	Coordinate visits	Ensure worship space is ready	Worship Schedule Select music for each week

	<b><i>Prayer Circle Coordinator</i></b>	<b><i>Envelope Coordinator</i></b>	<b><i>Publicity</i></b>
Name	Evelyn Butler	Ethel Jackson	Susan Rynasko
Key roles	Respond to prayer requests	Provide envelopes & receipts	Subway ads, neighbourhood communication

# Wardens' Report

Carrie Cardwell, *Rector's Warden*; Joan Devitt, *People's Warden*;  
Tim Taylor, *Deputy Rector's Warden*; Bill Dunford, *Deputy People's Warden*

2007 was a spirited year for St John's West Toronto, that brought intense parish activity. New leadership experiences were born from Gary van der Meer's Sabbath Leave in London (U.K.) - and from our desires (perhaps) to have it all! Experimenting, we dared to take on several labour-intensive events because we valued them. Knowing the risks of energy depletion, we hunkered down, rolled up our sleeves, and became the engine of the Program church we want to be.

I also wonder if part of our determination to act as if we were twice our size came from wanting to please our Priest and the community as a whole, acknowledging his gifts to us and our gifts to each other-- not by making offerings on the Altar, but by making offerings of our energy. As our stewardship process has gracefully reflected to us (in our recent Visioning and Planning meeting), we express our need to share our joy by creating opportunities to offer what we have to others.

In keeping with one of our valued identities of being a sacred space of inclusion, in September, a motion was passed that "reaffirms our intention to celebrate same-sex blessings at the earliest opportunity, hopefully by the next General Synod, 2010" (Advisory Board Meeting Minutes, Sept. 23, 2007).

During Gary's sabbatical, SJWT was blessed to experience the Rev. Bob Shantz's gentle leadership. His support and his individual and specific feedback made each one of us feel special. It means a great deal to us that he will continue sharing aspects of liturgical leadership in the coming year.

The developing "Leadership Team", described in more detail by Deputy Warden Tim Taylor above in this Report, replaces the functions of the previous Advisory Board. I have also heard chuckles from our "Elders" that "their" planning committees of old were in fact more like fun social events in themselves ( people were so connected, the work of actual planning occurred outside of formal meetings). We are not quite there, yet. But chocolate at meetings is helping us move in that direction.

The realities of our current lives with so many competing interests will continue to shape how we get things done at St. Johns, pulling us between the tensions of wanting things to operate like they do "at work." We want things to be efficient and timely, but find ourselves compelled to move towards a slower pace, sometimes awkward, other times sure. This rhythm is a challenge to smooth operations, but brings the benefit of enabling us to explore and support our relationships with each other.

Both the 2007 Treasury's Report (Anthony Ruta) and our Sunday school's visible increased attendance show our continued growth. Sunday School Coordinator Catherine Laird is talented and committed, and we are thankful to have her continued presence with us in the coming year. The growth of Sunday School Programming (Junior Youth group) and Nursery program in 2008 is a top priority for the Wardens in 2008.

The Wardens wish to thank parishioners involved in Stewardship and the Every Member Visit who continue to spend time and energy over the long haul in carrying out our dreams.

We may look forward to a breath, a rest, and perhaps less demanding activity in 2008. We anticipate Gary's role in enabling us to reflect on and integrate the changes of this past year.

As some of us move our focus to inner spiritual development, we hope that our activities and plans bring light and caring to each other. As Wardens, it is the goal of our team to be grounded and real with our expressed needs and the future to which God is calling us.

God bless,

Carrie Cardwell

*Rector's Warden, on behalf of the Warden Team*

## Parish Register 2007

### *Holy Baptism*

Madison Walker, May 15, 2007

Sophie Akantisz, September 16, 2007

Samuel Bonin, October 21, 2007

Madeleine James, November 25, 2007

### *Funerals*

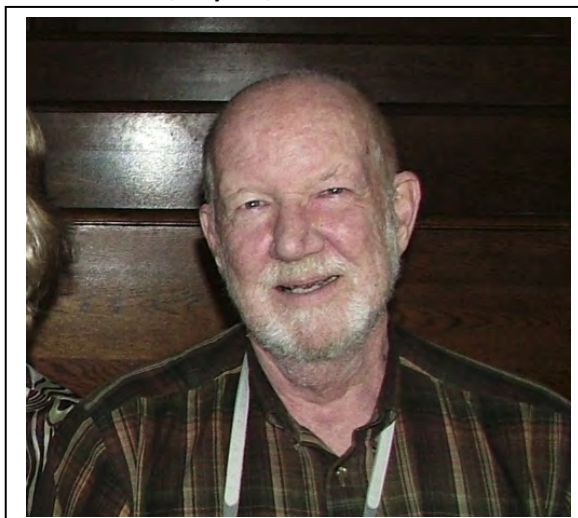
Nan Weston, January 27, 2007

Carol Alton, February 24, 2007

Bruce Alton, January 12, 2008



***Madison, Sophie, Bruce***



**The St. John's Community also celebrates:**

### *Civil Marriage*

Barry Short and Michael Pott, July 21, 2007

### *At the time of this report:*

*Baptism Preparation: Zachary Cardwell, Robert Heal, Geneva Watson*

*Confirmation Preparation: Jamie Christakos, Tom Gehrels*

***May God bless our community as we go deeper into the journey with Christ.***

# Pastoral Letter

The Right Reverend Philip Poole, *Area Bishop of York Credit Valley*

January 2008

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Grace to you and peace in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

I greet you as you meet in Annual Vestry to consider the ministry accomplished in your parish in 2007, to elect your leadership, approve your budgets and make plans for 2008. I'm deeply grateful for the ministry you undertake in a society which is both resistant of and open to the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

As I write this letter I am deeply aware as I suspect most of us are of the concerns about the economy especially as it relates to the United States. The stock market which unfortunately drives so much of our economic thinking, and is generally agreed to be based on fear and greed, is in significant turmoil. Times of economic concern often result in a lack of generosity by individuals in helping those least able to withstand the changes and chances of the fleeting economy.

Christians understand themselves to be created in the image of a generous and giving God. They seek to reflect that generosity in all that they do.

I am very grateful to the parishes of York Credit Valley for their excellent response to the Diocesan FaithWorks program. FaithWorks has for the first time in its history has exceeded its annual target. York Credit Valley has taken the lead in this accomplishment providing more resources for FaithWorks this year than in the past. FaithWorks contributes to those in need locally, nationally and internationally. I am very grateful for your support of FaithWorks and encourage each parish to respond generously and faithfully in 2008.

The visits which so many of you have undertaken to the members of Provincial Parliament around the issues effecting homelessness, supportive and affordable housing are having a positive effect. Too many of our citizens find themselves living on the streets of urban centres and our Diocese has taken the issue of homelessness to be one of its main priorities.

I am grateful for all of the work being done in the Out of the Cold program various food banks and clothing depots. Never underestimate the value of your support to those in greatest need. St. Matthew tells us that whenever we give even a cup of water to someone in need, we give to Jesus himself.

As you know we have four conversations taking place in York Credit Valley particularly in the areas of South Etobicoke Lakeshore, Central Etobicoke Weston, St. Clair West and Parkdale. These discussions which have been lengthy and sometimes frustrating are beginning to achieve results as we seek to prepare ourselves for the challenges of the future. For many of us this is new territory and we need faithful courage to bring about change. I am very grateful to those who have committed so many volunteer hours as together we seek to provide faithful, effective and sustainable ministry into the future. As scripture says, "Do not be weary in well doing".

This year the Bishops of the Diocese of Toronto will join with Bishops from around the world in Lambeth Conference. The Lambeth Conference which was initiated out of a concern for the unity of the Communion at the suggestion of the Canadian Church in the 1800's once again gathers at a time of perceived crisis. As the Bishops meet to pray, study scripture and share with one another in our common cause of ministry in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ I solicit your prayers for this mid July gathering.

I am very encouraged by the number of parishes who are partnering up either with churches in Canada and internationally to work with our brother and sister Anglicans throughout our diverse International Anglican Communion. Many parishes are seeking ministry opportunities beyond their own boundaries. It's one sign of a healthy church.

I believe that this is an exciting time for us to be the church. We have tremendous challenges and fabulous opportunities to faithfully proclaim the gospel which we have received.

I am encouraged by the evidence of growth that is taking place in many parts of our area and particularly with respect to Sunday attendance and overall parish income. Anything we can do to encourage people to join us on our faith journey is ultimately to the benefit to the kingdom of God.

May I also encourage you individually and in groups to take opportunities to study Holy Scripture, to pray together, to worship together and work at deepening relationships with God through Jesus Christ. Ours is a good, generous and faithful God who promises to journey with us every step of the way.

Again my deep thanks for all that you do in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. May your meeting in Vestry encourage you to move with confidence into the God's future.

Yours in Christ,

The Right Reverend Philip Poole  
*Suffragan Bishop, Diocese of Toronto*  
*Area Bishop of York Credit Valley*

MPP/sf



***Sunday School Retreat at Camp Wanakita***

# Pastoral Letter

The Bishop of Toronto's Pastoral Letter to Parishes  
The Right Reverend Colin R. Johnson, *Bishop of Toronto*

January 2007

To my brothers and sisters in Christ,

I greet you in the Name of God, Source of all creation; in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, who redeems us; and in the Name of the Holy Spirit, giver of life, who sanctifies us and leads us into all truth.

As you gather for your annual vestry meeting, I and the College of Bishops of Toronto offer our prayers to God in thanksgiving for your faithfulness and commitment to the worship, work and witness of the Christian faith as members of the Anglican Church of Canada. We pray for you as you set your parish's plans for the next year as partners with your sisters and brothers throughout the Diocese.

I am confident that you share my sentiments in expressing how profoundly grateful we are for the ministry that Michael Bedford-Jones exercised as a deacon, priest and bishop of our diocese for 40 years and now as he retires. Bishop Bedford-Jones has served this diocese and the wider church with distinction and we thank him for his faithfulness and dedication to our Lord and to the life of Christ's body, the Church.

I am delighted to welcome Linda Nicholls as the new area bishop of Trent Durham as she is ordained on February 2, 2008 in our Cathedral Church of St. James. I ask your prayers for her as she begins this new ministry in the life of our diocese.

The year before us may be described as one of both uncertainty and promise. It has always been so.

In our Anglican Communion there is the continuing uncertainty about the unity of the communion. In our civil society there are many uncertainties about the economy, loss of jobs, violence, continued poverty and the impact that these can have on all our lives. In your parish and in your own lives, I am sure there are moments of deep uncertainty.

The promise is that governments are publicly committed to work at minimizing the negative impact a recession would have on hundreds of thousands of people. Anglicans are actively meeting with local politicians and government officials to hold them to this promise and to present a strong case for building civil society where all benefit and none is left behind. We can see some hopeful signs that our work is effective.

The bishops of the Anglican Communion meet in Lambeth Conference in July as they have been doing every ten years for almost 150 years. The promise is that this meeting may see a strengthening of the resolve to keep the communion together while continuing difficult conversations not only about same sex blessings, but more crucially, about the diverse ways we can faithfully interpret holy scripture and exercise authority within our churches.

We live between uncertainty and promise with faith in the One whose promises can be trusted and in whom we can find hope. Will we allow faith, hope and love to trump uncertainty?

We continue our discussions about how the diocese can work at building communities of hope and compassion, and how together we build healthy, sustainable parishes.

Again this year there will be a Church Planting Conference in late February for people to learn how to establish new congregations and revitalize those facing radically changed demographics. We seek opportunities for new, creative and life-giving ministries to be developed in our diocese.

Other events over the year will offer help to parishes welcoming newcomers, training volunteers, assessing ministry strengths, supporting leadership, deepening our ability to speak about and live our faith.

FaithWorks continues to grow thanks to you. Hope and compassion go hand-in-hand. We surpassed our ambitious goal last year for the first time since the inception of the campaign to raise over \$1.5 million to assist the vulnerable, whether the poor in need of assistance, the abused needing supportive shelter, youth needing counselling and the encouragement of community, or providing international aid through a FaithWork's partner, the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund.

Our work this year also involves the painful consultations about closing some churches which have had long and glorious history of ministry but where circumstances have now changed, the parish is no longer sustainable, and a different focus of energy, vision, and new direction will be necessary for the future of an Anglican presence in a particular community. In the midst of such death, can we dare to see the new life God is offering us in resurrection?

This Spring we will conduct a feasibility study for a major capital campaign to expand our capacity to respond to the ministry needs of our parishes, the diocese and the wider mission of the Church in Canada. If the results are positive, and I hope that they will be, we could launch a campaign in partnership with parishes in the late fall or early next year.

The College of Bishops thank churchwardens, synod members, and all lay leaders in your parish for the tremendous work that you have done over the past year. As a result of such faithfulness, your parish can exercise effective and meaningful ministry in the community where you are witnesses to Christ's compassionate presence. I assure those who assume new leadership responsibility today of my prayerful support. We are so grateful for your commitment!

Finally let me express a word of appreciation and deeply heartfelt thanks to the clergy in our diocese for the work that you exercise as pastors. Yours is a tremendous responsibility and privilege in serving those entrusted to your care, in proclaiming through word and sacrament the riches of Christ's grace, and in sharing with your bishops in the councils and leadership of the wider church. Thank you for all that you do for the people and community in which you serve and for exercising your diaconal or priestly ministry with dignity and honour.

Along with your Area Bishop and the College of Bishops, I wish all of you a holy Lenten season and every blessing in the year ahead.

Yours faithfully,

The Right Reverend Colin R. Johnson,  
Bishop of Toronto



***Sunday School Coordinator Catherine Laird***

# Financial Reports

Anthony Ruta, *Treasurer*

## **2007 Financial Results**

2007 was a challenging year for St. John's. Through the efforts of our fund-raising we were able to offset the cost of the Incumbent's Sabbath leave. Our reserves continue to be challenged by our aging property and the repairs required maintaining the physical plant. We focused our efforts on community building and continue to reap the benefits of our efforts. After very significant growth in giving in 2006, 2007 was a year in which our Sunday attendance and giving reached a plateau.

- Sunday attendance averaged 72 (77 projected) in 2007 versus 70 in 2006.
- 2007 Sunday giving increased by 1% to \$82K from \$81K in 2006. 2007 giving was on budget in spite of not reaching our goal of increased numbers of parishioners.
- the day care continues to play an important role in our finances. In 2007 it paid \$42K toward the operating expenses of the church (70% of the operating expenses: such things as janitorial services, heat, electricity, water, snow removal, etc.).
- we depleted our bank balance by \$10K to pay interest on our debt as well as fund repairs and maintenance of the church building. We have \$10K in the bank as a buffer for unforeseen expenses
- our cumulative deficit/debt at the end of 2007 was \$68K, all of which is owed to the Diocese. Interest on the debt continues to accumulate (\$3.8K in 2007) and is reflected in year-end deficit/debt.
- 2007 payments to the Diocese were kept current. A small portion (\$1K) of the debt was paid down.

## **2008 Budget**

St. John's needs continue to grow its congregation:

- as such, giving has been increased by \$6K versus 2007 based on growth in congregational numbers of 10% and the continuation of the Stewardship campaign started in 2005 translating to an increase in giving of 8%.
- expenses have decreased by \$13.5K due primarily to a decrease in the Diocesan Allotment (\$3.6K) and a decrease in Stipend (\$5.2K).
- our commitment to the Diocese is to be current as it relates to 2008 payments continues.
- the budget envisions a surplus of \$4.7K all of which will be used to fund growth in the parish through support of our youth and Sunday School programs.



Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Ruta, *Treasurer*



# 2007

St. John's Church, West Toronto

## Statement of Surplus/(Deficit)

2007 Budget vs. 2007 Actual

St. John's West Toronto Statement of Surplus/(Deficit), 2007				2007 Actual	2007 Budget	Better /(Worse)		2007 Actual	2007 Budget	Better /(Worse)
<b>Income</b>							<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
O10.0	Envelopes	73,937	76,510	(2,573)	OE1.0	Allotment	13,826	13,500	(326)	
O11.0	Open	2,349	3,675	(1,326)	OE2.0	Fuel	4,266	4,500	234	
O12.0	Feasts	5,679	2,355	3,324	OE3.0	Utilities	1,681	1,500	(181)	
O13.0	Donations	25,752	18,000	7,752	OE4.0	Maintenance	15,144	9,900	(5,244)	
13.1	Undirected	6,626	12,000	(5,374)	OE4.1	Building	7,701	2,800	(4,901)	
13.2	Memorials	1,541			OE4.2	Organ	961	1,500	539	
13.3	RDF			-	OE4.3	Housekeeping	6,482	5,600	(882)	
13.4	Outreach	6,521		6,521	OE5.0	Salaries	106,415	96,330	(10,085)	
13.5	Directed -building			-	OE5.1	Stipend	49,720	39,614	(10,106)	
13.6	Directed Youth			-	OE5.2	Rector Housing	19,219	20,100	881	
13.7	Directed -Faith Wrk	6,842	6,000	842	OE5.3	Assistant		-	-	
13.8	Residential Schools			-	OE5.4	Rect. Pen./ben	14,187	11,850	(2,337)	
13.9	Other	4,222		4,222	OE5.5	Christian Ed. Coord.	4,814	6,000	1,186	
O14.0	Fundraising	21,329	6,250	15,079	OE5.6	Musicians	7,275	7,500	225	
14.1	Yard Sale	3,048		3,048	OE5.7	Secretary	11,200	11,266	66	
14.2	Concerts		2,250	(2,250)	OE6.0	Employer Costs	2,471	3,000	529	
14.3	Other	18,281	4,000	14,281	OE7.0	Office	2,482	2,850	368	
O15.0	Rent	18,175	23,110	(5,235)	OE8.0	Advertising	818	850	2	
15.1	A.A.	5,075	6,110	(1,035)	OE9.0	Sanctuary/music	817	1,050	233	
15.2	Other	2,300	6,500	(4,200)	OE10.0	Congreg. Develop.	3,484	4,200	716	
15.3	Daycare	10,800	10,800	-	OE11.0	Stewardship		-	-	
O16.0	Interest Income	26,444	23,930	2,514	OE12.0	Christian Education	2,712	5,500	2,788	
16.1	Rectory	25,198	22,500	2,698	OE13.0	Insurance	2,160	1,600	(560)	
16.2	House	652	650	2	OE14.0	Miscellaneous	716	2,700	1,984	
16.3	Daycare			-	OE15.0	RDF	1,040	1,000	(40)	
16.4	Bank	1,074	780	294	OE16.0	Outreach	20,125	6,000	(14,125)	
O17.0	GST rebate			-	OE17.0	Mileage	1,302		(1,302)	
O18.0	Sanctuary	(480)	350	(830)	OE18.0	Interest Expense	3,765		(3,765)	
					OE19.0	Capital		-	-	
					OE20.0	Concerts		-	-	
								-	-	
	Total Income	173,665	154,480	19,185		Total Expenses	183,255	154,480	(28,775)	
						Surplus/(Deficit)	(9,589)	0	(9,589)	



Bake Sale to support the Sunday School Retreat

# Budget Presentation

<b>St. John's, West Toronto Year Ended December 31, 2007</b>				
<b>Overview</b>	<b>2008 Budget</b>	<b>2007 Actual</b>	<b>2007 Budget</b>	
Growth in Congregation/Yr.	10%	3%	10%	<b>10%</b>
Growth in Giving	8%	1%	2%	<b>15%</b>
				<b>2008 Budget vs. 2007 Actual Better/ (Worse)</b>
<b>St. John's, West Toronto Statement of Surplus/(Deficit) 2006</b>	<b>2008 Budget</b>	<b>2007 Actual</b>	<b>2007 Budget</b>	
Total Income	174,500	173,665	154,480	835
Total Expenses	169,750	183,255	154,480	13,505
Surplus/(Deficit)	4,750	(9,590)	(0)	14,340
Opening Debt				
Interest	(67,815)	(65,134)	(65,134)	(2,681)
Payment to/(from) Diocese	(3,800)	(3,765)		(35)
Closing Debt	-	1,084	10,000	(1,084)
	(71,615)	(67,815)	(55,134)	(3,800)
<b>Sources of Revenue</b>				
Giving	88,500	81,965	82,540	6,535
Interest	27,725	26,444	23,930	1,281
Rent (Daycare/AA)	18,475	18,175	23,410	300
Other	39,800	47,081	24,600	(7,281)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	174,500	173,665	154,480	835
<b>Expenses</b>				
Compensation	106,235	108,886	99,330	2,651
Property Related	21,200	21,091	15,900	(109)
Other	42,315	53,278	36,953	10,963
<b>Total Expenses</b>	169,750	183,255	154,480	13,505

Average Attendance	79	72	77
Average Giving	1,120	1,138	1,072

# 2008

St. John's Church, West Toronto

## Statement of Surplus/(Deficit)

2008 Budget vs. 2007 Actual

St. John's West Toronto Statement of Surplus/(Deficit), 2008 Budget									
	2008 Budget	2007 Actual	Better/ (Worse)			2008 Budget	2007 Actual	Better/ (Worse)	
<b>Income</b>				<b>Operating Expenses</b>					
O10.0	Envelopes	80,000	73,937	6,063	OE1.0	Allotment	10,250	13,826	3,576
O11.0	Open	2,500	2,349	151	OE2.0	Fuel	4,500	4,266	(234)
O12.0	Feasts	6,000	5,679	321	OE3.0	Utilities	1,700	1,681	(19)
O13.0	Donations	24,800	25,752	(952)	OE4.0	Maintenance	15,000	15,144	144
13.1	Undirected	6,000	6,626	(626)	OE4.1	Building	7,500	7,701	201
13.2	Memorials	1,500	1,541	(41)	OE4.2	Organ	1,000	961	(39)
13.3	RDF			-	OE4.3	Housekeeping	6,500	6,482	(18)
13.4	Outreach	6,500	6,521	(21)	OE5.0	Salaries	103,690	106,415	2,725
13.5	Directed -building			-	OE5.1	Stipend	44,500	49,720	5,220
13.6	Directed Youth			-	OE5.2	Rector Housing	19,767	19,219	(548)
13.7	Directed -Faith Wrk	6,800	6,842	(42)	OE5.3	Assistant			-
13.8	Residential Schools			-	OE5.4	Rect. Pen./ben	14,613	14,187	(426)
13.9	Other	4,000	4,222	(222)	OE5.5	Christian Ed. Coord.	6,000	4,814	(1,186)
O14.0	Fundraising	14,000	21,329	(7,329)	OE5.6	Musicians	7,275	7,275	-
14.1	Yard Sale	2,000	3,048	(1,048)	OE5.7	Secretary	11,536	11,200	(336)
14.2	Concerts			-	OE6.0	Employer Costs	2,545	2,471	(74)
14.3	Other	12,000	18,281	(6,281)	OE7.0	Office	2,500	2,482	(18)
O15.0	Rent	18,475	18,175	300	OE8.0	Advertising	850	848	(2)
15.1	A.A	5,075	5,075	-	OE9.0	Sanctuary/music	1,825	817	(1,008)
15.2	Other	2,300	2,300	-	OE10.0	Congreg. Develop.	3,500	3,484	(16)
15.3	Daycare	11,100	10,800	300	OE11.0	Stewardship			-
O16.0	Interest Income	27,725	26,444	1,281	OE12.0	Christian Education	1,000	2,712	1,712
16.1	Rectory	26,000	25,198	802	OE13.0	Insurance	2,200	2,160	(40)
16.2	House	650	652	(2)	OE14.0	Miscellaneous	750	716	(34)
16.3	Daycare			-	OE15.0	RDF	1,040	1,040	-
16.4	Bank	1,075	1,074	1	OE16.0	Outreach	13,300	20,125	6,825
O17.0	GST rebate			-	OE17.0	Mileage	1,300	1,302	2
O18.0	Sanctuary	1,000	(480)	1,480	OE18.0	Interest Expense	3,800	3,765	(35)
				-	OE19.0	Capital			-
				-	OE20.0	Concerts			-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>174,500</b>	<b>173,665</b>	<b>835</b>		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>169,750</b>	<b>183,255</b>	<b>13,504</b>
						<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>4,750</b>	<b>(9,589)</b>	<b>14,339</b>



Tuesday Evening Eucharist on the Front Steps

# Envelope Committee Report

## *Envelope Analysis - St. John's West Toronto, 2007*

<u>Offering by Regular Identifiable Givers</u>	<u>Number of Identifiable Givers</u>	
	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>
\$0 – \$99	3	2
\$100 - \$399	12	10
\$400 - \$799	12	7
\$800 - \$1199	6	12
\$1200 - \$1599	8	7
\$1600 - \$1999	5	6
\$2000 +	16	14
Regular Identifiable Givers for the Year <i>(Envelopes and Direct Deposit)</i>	62	57
Regular Identifiable Givers in the Fourth Quarter <i>(Envelopes and Direct Deposit):</i>	59	51
Regular Identifiable Givers by Direct Deposit	23	23
Budgeted Envelope & Direct Deposit Offering (Year) <i>(Not Including Open Offering and Donations)</i>	\$ 71,463	\$82,540
Actual Sunday Giving	\$80,950	\$81,965
Outreach	\$925.00	\$1,945
FaithWorks Total	\$6186.00	\$7078.00
<i>The Stop "A Christmas Carol"</i>		\$6740
Foodbank Total	\$457	\$810
Total Outreach Ministry		20,820
Average Annual Offering	\$1428	\$1,610
Average Weekly Offering	\$1702	\$1765
Average Weekly Offering (per giver)(52 wks) <i>(per Envelope/Direct Deposit)</i>	\$27	\$31
Average Sunday Attendance (includes Easter)	70	72
Average weekly Attendance (includes Christmas)	89	91
FaithWorks as % of Total Envelope/DD Offering	7.0%	7.7%

There were 57 Regular Identifiable Givers in 2007. 27 sets of envelopes were issued at the beginning of 2007. 22 were used regularly. 5 were used for part of the year. 7 new sets of envelopes were issued during the year. 23 members participated in Pre-Authorized Giving.

Receipts were issued to all Regular Identifiable Givers, as well as for donations, and for visitors requesting a receipt.

### ***Thanks!***

We are grateful for the dedicated ministry of the St. John's Envelope Committee: Helen Titherington, Ethel Jackson, and Brian MacIntyre. We are grateful to Herald Buckle as the Envelope Committee driver and to Joan Devitt representing the wardens in liaison with the committee. Thanks also to Anthony Ruta (treasurer) and Lynda Ward (bookkeeper). The Envelope Committee maintains confidentiality about financial offerings and the identity of financial givers in accordance with the Screening Policy of the Diocese of Toronto.

# Appointments and Elections

## Appointments

Screening Coordinator – Ian Henderson	(Corporation Appointment)
Property Coordinators – Bill Dunford, Allan Waters	(Corporation Appointment)
Every Member Visit Coordinator – Dionne Watson	(Corporation Appointment)

## Continuing in Appointed Roles

Rector's Warden – Carrie Cardwell	(Rector's Appointment)
Deputy Rector's Warden – Tim Taylor	(Rector's Appointment)
Treasurer – Anthony Ruta	(Corporation Appointment)
Daycare Board: Church Representatives – Allan Waters, Jill Arthur, Anne Marie Mohler	(Wardens' Appointment)
Children's Ministry Support – Carrie Cardwell, Stephanie Christakos	
Nursery Support - Alison Smerek	

## Nominations

		<i>Nominated by</i>	<i>Seconded by</i>
People's Warden:	Bill Dunford		
People's Warden:	Sue Ferguson	Carrie Cardwell	Cy Weston
	Sean Watson	Evelyn Butler	Sally Ritchie
Lay Delegate to Synod:	John Spragge		
Envelope Committee:	Joan Devitt		
Vestry Clerk:	Ian Henderson		

## Continuing in Elected Roles

Auditors for 2007 – Cy Weston, David Tindall  
Envelope Committee – Brian MacIntyre, Ethel Jackson, Helen Titherington  
Property Coordinators – Bill Dunford, Allan Waters  
Alternate Lay Delegate to Synod – John Mohler

## Roles to be Filled

Outreach Coordinator  
Youth Coordinator

- *Roles not filled at Vestry will be addressed by the Leadership Team during the year.*

## Expression of Thanks

Special thanks to all who have served the St. John's Community in ministry roles. Thanks to Joan Devitt, who concludes her term as People's Warden. Thanks also to Susan Rynasko, concluding her role as Lay Delegate to Synod; John Mohler, concluding his role as Screening Coordinator; Sally Ritchie, concluding her role as Outreach Coordinator; Midge Ferguson, concluding her role as Every Member Visit Coordinator. In addition, Evelyn Butler has served the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto in various roles over the past seven years, and we express our thanks at the conclusion of her term.

# Parish Reports

## ***Adult Education Report***

In our Annual Report of 2006, we placed great emphasis on the Building Blocks of our Faith: Worship, Scripture and Prayer, as the foundation upon which increased capacity for ministry would grow at St. John's. Our Adult Education activities reflected these priorities.

- Bible: Guest lectures by Glenn Taylor, Walter Deller and Ian Henderson.
- Prayer: Worship Facilitated by Evelyn Butler, Sheila Crummey, and Bob Shantz, and subsequent Sunday morning presentation on prayer.
- Worship: Experiments in worship included the Tuesday Summer Eucharist, recovery of the traditional Anglican Evensong for Lent, sessions by Bob Shantz exploring the link between believing and worship
- In addition, our Building Blocks were combined in the Retreat at St. John's Convent. Conducted by Walter Deller, the retreat featured the biblical literature of Joshua-Kings, and introduced the Ignatian style of meditation and prayer, all within the context of the worship and life of the Sisters of St. John the Divine, who live by the Benedictine Rule.

The weekly bulletin and e-newsletter meditations provided a further opportunity for parishioners to engage in theological reflection. Thanks to the writers of meditations over the past year: Evelyn Butler, Tom Gehrels, Brian MacIntyre, Barry Short, Sally Ritchie, Bob Shantz. These meditations give us all the opportunity, in our own time, to reflect on the scriptures, current events and the life of our community.

## ***Advisory Board Report***

The Advisory Board consisted of the Chair, Allan Waters, the Secretary, May Webster, the Incumbent, the Wardens, representatives of various Church organizations and other interested persons. The Board met 3 times during the year to discuss items of current interest to the parish and to provide advice to the Wardens and the Incumbent.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Allan Waters*

## ***Children's Ministry Report***

During 2006-2007, our Sunday School was organized by Angela Mantie. The program included regular fundraising events to support the Sunday School Retreat/Camping Weekend held in June. We offer special thanks to Nancy Dunford for organizing the weekend, and for her contributing so much energy to the fundraising that made the weekend possible and affordable, and that generated such a connection between the children and the congregation as a whole. At the conclusion of Angela's term as Sunday School Coordinator, we began the search and hiring process. We are especially grateful to Brad and Stephanie Christakos, Carrie Cardwell, and to parents of our Sunday School Children, for their assistance and energy both with the hiring and in supporting our new Sunday School Coordinator, Catherine Laird. Under Catherine's leadership, the Sunday School has developed a worship centre area, followed by separate groups by age, using the online curriculum "Whole People of God." Conversations about regular youth and nursery programs are underway and we look forward to growth in these areas. Special thanks to Catherine as she negotiates the learning curve of ministry at St. John's. We are pleased to announce that Catherine has accepted our offer to continue as Sunday School Coordinator for 2008-2009.

## ***Daycare Report***

In 1989, St. John's Church established a separate not-for-profit corporation, The Early Enrichment Day Care Centre, with a capacity for 54 children (10 infants, 20 toddlers and 24 pre-schoolers). With the aid of Ontario Government grants, St. John's renovated the basement to accommodate the Day Care and provide shared space for the Church.

To meet start up costs, the Church loaned the Day Care \$100,000. The loan was fully repaid in September 2006. The Day Care agreed to continue paying a monthly occupancy fee after the loan expired.

As part of its occupancy agreement, the Day Care also shares operating expenses with the Church. For most expenses such as cleaning and utilities, the Day Care contributes 70% of the total. Last year the Day Care paid \$39,729 as its share and a further \$10,800 in total occupancy fees.

The Ontario Government continues to provide wage grants quarterly to the Day Care employees. From time to time, Ontario or the City provides capital grants. In recent years such grants have been used to renew playground surface and Equipment, paint the Church basement and renew the floors in the kitchen and on the level of the basement washrooms. In 2006, the Day Care installed air conditioning and replaced the sandbox roof. In addition, The City of Toronto provides fee subsidies to families in need.

Overseeing the management of the Day Care is a Board consisting of the Incumbent or his designate ( currently, A. Ruta), 3 parishioners (currently, J. Arthur, A. Mohler, and A. Waters) serving at the pleasure of the Wardens and 3 parents elected from among those with children enrolled in the Day Care. The Board meets monthly with the Day Care supervisory staff.

Respectfully submitted,  
*A. G. Waters*

## ***Leadership Team Report***

The Leadership Team (LT) was developed in preparation for Gary van der Meer's Sabbath Leave. It became a regular steering meeting for those who shared roles and portfolios of ministry, with meetings twice each month. It was co-chaired by Carrie Cardwell and Tim Taylor. Through several large events, including "Guess who's Coming to Dinner," the Holly Tea, "A Christmas Carol" and the Christmas Pageant, we learned the importance of pacing and support. While each of the large events was a success, we appreciate that large events should be fewer and further apart! We also learned that the Leadership Team is the right place to ask for what we need, especially as coordinators and leaders. The continuing role of the Leadership Team is addressed in the Wardens' Presentation, and in the Advisory Board motion. Thanks to all who participated in the Leadership Team.

## ***Outdoors Report***

The outdoors program continued to be an important tool in the building of meaningful relationships at St. John's. It is also a platform on which tentative members can get a feel for the people and the spirit of St. John's, before committing to our church.

In 2007 we organized hikes on the Bruce Trail as well as a walkathon, which saw nearly \$5000 being raised in support of general coffers. The year closed with caroling in Bloor West Village, which appealed to a different segment of our vibrant community.

In keeping with our Christian tradition we experimented with a Litany of Penance and an Earth Blessing during a hike, something we look forward to doing this again in 2008.



Respectfully submitted,  
*Tom Gehrels*

### ***Outreach Report***

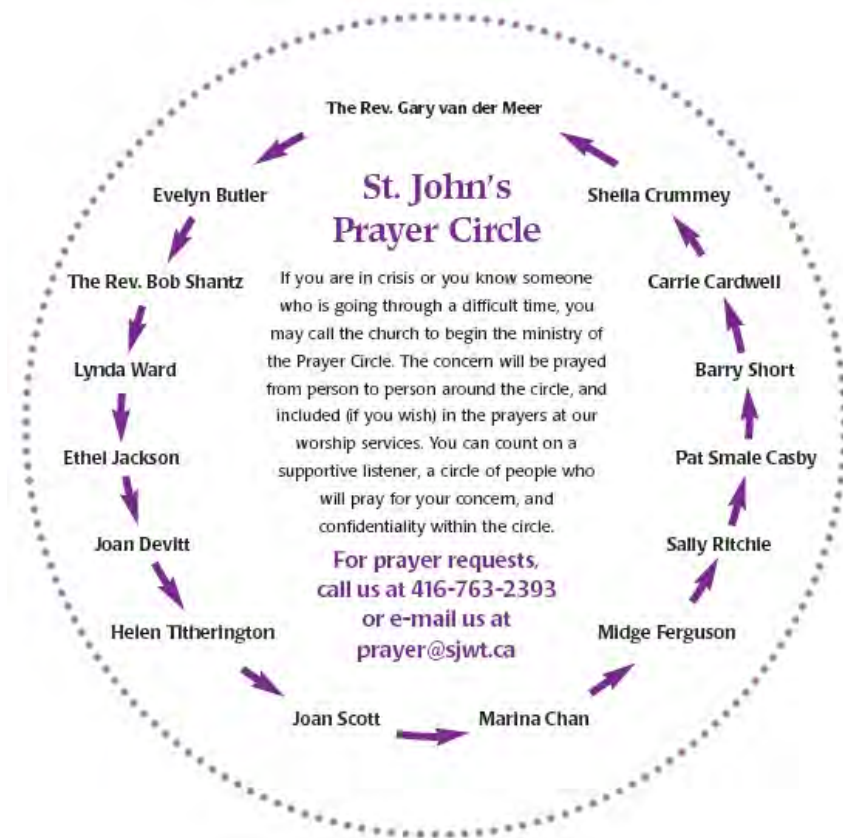
St. John's continues to maintain a connection with *The Stop* as our main outreach partner. In 2007, we again held our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at *The Stop*, using their beautiful kitchen and community space, and giving them an opportunity to present to us their role in the community and opportunities for our further involvement. We committed to present the CBC-sponsored reading of "A Christmas Carol" at St. John's, with all proceeds to *The Stop*. We are grateful to Sally Ritchie for organizing and producing this event, and to many in our parish community for assisting as we held our third presentation of "A Christmas Carol" on Saturday December 1. This event raised \$6740. St. John's also raised \$7078 for the ministries that come under the umbrella of Faithworks. In total, \$20,820 was given by the St. John's Congregation to Outreach. We increased our awareness of Homelessness with a guest speaker, Dawn D'Cruz. We are grateful to Sally Ritchie for coordinating outreach ministry at St. John's in 2007.

### ***Prayer Report***

In 2007, the Prayer Circle held meetings to check in on the wellbeing of people added to the Prayer List over the course of the year. The Lay Anointer Ministry Description was formalized, providing that Lay Anointers may provide home visits by visiting in pairs with the knowledge and support of the Incumbent. Midge Ferguson received training in the Ministry of Lay Anointer, and was licensed by the Bishop and Commissioned at St. John's.

A Workshop on Prayer was held on Saturday, October 27, 2007. The session was planned by Evelyn Butler, Sheila Crummey, Sally Ritchie, Midge Ferguson, Gary van der Meer and Bob Shantz. It was designed to explore our theology of prayer and to practice our skills as intercessors, and was facilitated by Bob Shantz. The experiences of the Prayer Workshop participants were presented in a sermon on Sunday, November 25, by Evelyn Butler and Sheila Crummey.





The Prayer Circle continues to offer crisis prayer support. The above diagram notes the participants in the Prayer Circle. Prayer support may be accessed by calling any of the listed participants, or by calling the church office. **How it works:** The first person to be called activates the Circle by calling the next person to pass on concerns for prayer as indicated by the arrows. If the next person is not available, the caller leaves an appropriately confidential message, and proceeds to call through the circle until the first available person. The circle is completed when the call is returned to the person who activated the circle. Prayer Circle participants have access to the contact information of all Circle intercessors. All prayer calls are confidential.

**Publicity and Advertising Report**

Looking for a church where you can be you?

✦

**Come to  
St. John's**

Sunday at 10:30 am  
Visit [www.sjwt.ca](http://www.sjwt.ca)  
or call 416-763-2393

**St. John's Anglican Church** West Toronto  
288 Humberside Avenue

For your children

Also for you

**St. John's  
West Toronto**  
Inclusive & family-friendly community

**Come this Sunday at 10:30**  
288 Humberside Avenue at Quebec  
Visit [sjwt.ca](http://sjwt.ca) or call 416-763-2393

In 2007, St. John's increased its visibility again through advertisement in local subway stations. "Looking for a Church where you can be you" was posted for an extended period of Christmas through Easter at the High Park subway. Based on feedback and on several conversations of the advertising group, including Susan Rynasko, John Mohler, Jim Crummey, Chris Barnett, Iain Newbigin, Frans Altena, and Gary van der Meer, a new poster was developed, "For your children; Also for you." For the first time, our advertisement was posted in both of the subway stations found in our geographic parish boundaries, High Park and Runnymede. While it is difficult to ever measure response to a church subway ad, we benefited from an increase in visitors who mentioned they had seen the poster. Our congregation includes people who saw the ad before they ever visited St. John's. It is important to keep in mind that research indicates that typically people have 15-20 "reminders" before they make a decision about attending a church. We are able to offer one more cumulative reminder, and we do feel a sense of pride at seeing our Church in the subway!

Our publicity activities have also included extensive postering of the neighbourhood for the Holly Tea and "A Christmas Carol." We continued exploration of the potential benefit of advertising in local community newspapers. We reach an extensive network of people with the website and the e-newsletter, "News from St. John's." In 2007, Marilyn Kluyskens became the e-newsletter coordinator, and she has given "News from St. John's" a consistent attractive look. We offer thanks to Tom Gehrels who kept the website up to date as Events Coordinator for the final quarter of 2007. Tim Taylor takes up this role for 2008.

### ***Screening Report***

St. John's decided to begin developing policies on screening and sexual misconduct in early 2001. With direction from the bishop, support from the diocese and the guidance of our own parish leadership we committed to making our place of worship as safe as possible. While this is a journey that is never truly completed, we have nonetheless made significant progress towards this goal.

St. John's hosted two more screening workshops (Understanding and Preventing Sexual Misconduct) in the year since our last vestry meeting:

- In June, 2007 and January 2008 another 17 parishioners of St. John's plus guests from other parishes attended the workshop.
- To date 41 of our parishioners have attended the screening workshops.
- Plus about 30 guests attended from our sister parishes in the regional deanery
- Attendance is required for all persons entering ministry positions that are assessed with a medium or high-risk potential, and must be updated every three years.

This year Ian Henderson assumes the role of Parish Screening Coordinator. Ian was one of the original members of the working group that set out to examine ways and means of developing, then implementing screening policies and procedures at St. John's. Ian brings a strong personal commitment to the role. In the 7 years since the Screening Committee was formed, he has generously contributed sound advice and practical know-how to the members of the committee. Looking forward, 2008 may be a good time to begin a review of our experience and practices with respect to screening. We want to ensure that our screening program not only contributes to safety, but respects and contributes to the spirit of participation and volunteerism that is so important to our parish.

Please note that diocesan policy requires that new leadership positions, elected or appointed at vestry, will be required to complete a Time & Talent Record, and for high risk ministries, also supply references, attend training and provide a Police Record Check. The screening coordinator will get in touch to review these details with you. We anticipate that St. John's will be able to meet the diocesan standards for this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Mohler,  
*Screening Coordinator*

## **Stewardship Report**

2007 marks the third year that Stewardship at St. John's has included the Every Member Visit. Unlike in 2005 and 2006, in which the Visits were held in October and November with Commitment Sunday at the end of November, this year, the Every Member Visit was delayed to February 2008. The Director of Stewardship for the Diocese of Toronto, Peter Misiaszek, visited St. John's to offer a Stewardship Presentation in November. The emphasis in the Every Member Visit has been on developing an ongoing visiting relationship over the course of the year, with periodic contact, checking in and friendship. At the end of 2007, the Every Member Visit included 12 Visitor groupings: couples, pairs and individuals. The proposed format for Every Member Visits in the future is: Planning Day (November); Visits (January); Commitment Sunday (February). See the Wardens' Presentation for further details. Special thanks to Midge Ferguson who concludes her term as Every Member Visit Coordinator, and welcome to Dionne Watson, appointed coordinator for 2008 by the wardens and incumbent.

## **Worship Report**

In 2007, our Sunday worship followed the pattern we have established over time: a quiet early communion at 8:30, followed by a larger celebration at 10:30. Our Sunday worship is the Holy Eucharist, as presented in the Book of Alternative Services, presented with the informal reverence that characterizes our congregation. The 10:30 celebration includes the Musician Roster and coincides with Sunday School, nursery, and occasional youth program, and is followed by refreshments. The shared responsibilities of worship are organized on the Worship Schedule.

Sunday worship has included theme services with guest speakers on the Bible, Outreach and Prayer. St. John's observes the Church Year, including Christmas Pageant, Ash Wednesday and Lent programs, and Picnic Service. In addition to Sunday, smaller groups of parishioners come together during the week. The early morning prayer on Tuesdays had 4-5 regular participants, and morning prayer on Thursday at 10:30 brought together 10-15 people for scripture discussion, fellowship and special projects. The summer include a new offering, the Garden Eucharist on Tuesday evenings. We heard each other's stories as people took turns leading the service with the theme, "My Journey of Faith and My Journey to St. John's." We came to know each other at the level of testimonial and deep friendship. Here is one example from the presentation by Noelle Carbone:

*I saw the St. John's subway sign at High Park station. So I came to a service. And then I came to another one. And another one. On and off for a couple months. But the problem was I didn't know really know what I was looking for. I was looking for an inclusive place that shared my beliefs on the more controversial societal issues. But my faith is not a political statement so that didn't seem to be enough. I still didn't seem to be plugging into my faith. So I had to do some soul searching. And what I came up with was that I needed a community of faith that went beyond punching in on Sunday at 10:30 am and punching out two hours later. I needed an actual community. One where I could explore and strengthen my faith among people who weren't just Sunday acquaintances, people who were involved in each other's lives and in the church community through the week and around the clock. And because I knew that's what I needed, I realized I had to sort of throw myself in there too and become a part of the "through the week / around the clock" club.*

*So I tried to get involved as much as possible. And the more I did, the closer I felt myself getting to God and the more I found my faith being strengthened. As some of you know, my traditional, Italian Roman Catholic mother attended ... the one thing she did say that I found particularly eye-opening was this. She said, "For all the differences and all the things that I found sort of strange, I do think that your church celebrates their faith like Jesus and his followers would have." And in that one sentence she sort of summed up my whole journey away from the church and then back again to St. John's. So I suppose what I've learned from all this is that you have to be willing to put in what you hope to get out.*



***Noelle Carbone***

One of the distinctive aspects of worship at St. John's is the variety of musicians taking the form of a Musician Roster, in place of a regular organist or music director. Our regular musicians in 2007 included: Barry Short, organ; Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion; Dorothy De Val and Susanna McCleary, organ and violin; Ken Whiteley, guitar; Anne Lederman, fiddle; Allison Lynn, guitar; David Jones, piano; and Tim Elliott, Jazz Ensemble. We are grateful to all of them, and will continue the roster format in 2007 with the introduction of new musicians. Over the course of 2007, we developed a Music Selection Group which chooses the hymns: Barry Short, Tim Taylor, May Webster and Gary van der Meer. We do welcome input of favourite hymns. The musicians are booked by the Incumbent.

The role of the Worship Coordinator was formalized during the development of the Leadership Team, and we express our gratitude to May Webster, who describes her role as follows:

The worship coordinator maintains the lists of people who do things to help make the liturgy happen on Sundays. If you are scheduled for a Sunday – or for a special service – you are telephoned a few days before as a reminder. I also help in drawing up the Schedule that comes out every six weeks or so, detailing who will be doing what, including people who read scripture and lead prayers, chalice and candle bearers, greeters, photographers and providers of refreshments, people who serve on the altar guild and who provide bread for communion. Anyone who wishes to be involved in any of these areas should speak to Gary, or to me. Liturgy has been described as 'the people's work', and thus there is always room for more participants. *May Webster*



# Motions for Vestry

## Advisory Board:

As part of the learning experience of developing a Leadership Team at St. John's in the final quarter of 2007, participants recommended that the Leadership Team meet monthly, and that the Advisory Board be absorbed into the Leadership Team. The St. John's Advisory Board met quarterly for the first three quarters of 2007. All parishioners were welcome to attend. For matters of important congregational business, the Advisory Board was offered as a "Congregational Meeting" following Sunday morning worship.

**"That monthly meetings of the Leadership Team become the normalized pattern through which St. John's Church West Toronto satisfies the Constitutions and Canons of the Diocese of Toronto, Canon 17, "Advisory Boards."**

*Moved: Carrie Cardwell*

*Seconded: Tim Taylor*

## Same-Sex Blessings:



*The following motions were moved and passed by the Advisory Board Meeting, held Sunday, September 16, 2007.*

Preamble:

1. St. John's West Toronto has passed motions at Vestry declaring its' support of a local option to celebrate same-sex blessings on February 15, 2004.
2. General Synod supported Resolution A186 that states in part, "blessing of same-sex unions is not in conflict with the core doctrine of the Anglican Church of Canada."
3. Further noting that at General Synod 2007, a vote indicated as follows on A187 "To affirm the authority and jurisdiction of any diocesan synod, with the concurrence of its bishop, to authorize the blessing of committed same-sex unions."

Laity – 63 to 53 in favour. (54% in favour)

Clergy – 78 to 59 in favour. (57% in favour)

Bishops - 21 to 19 against. (47% in favour)

The above indicates a general supportive trend although officially an unfavourable vote.

4. However, also noting that The Diocese of Toronto voted in favour of this motion as follows:

Laity – 6 to 3 in favour (67% in favour)

Clergy – 5 to 3 in favour (62.5% in favour)

Bishops - 4 to 1 in favour (80% in favour).

5. The Bishop of Toronto in his Pastoral Letter published in “The Anglican” of September 2007 stated that a suggested pastoral response is that with the bishop’s permission “a civilly married gay or lesbian couple may celebrate a Eucharist that includes appropriate intercessory prayers but not a nuptial blessing.”

We appreciate the Bishop of Toronto’ position at the General Synod supporting same-sex blessings and commit our willingness to work together within this framework

**Therefore we move:** that St. John’s West Toronto reaffirms our intention to celebrate same-sex blessings at the earliest opportunity, hopefully by the next General Synod, 2010. We confirm our support to Bishop Johnson and our intention to work within the Communion, whilst pressing in the strongest possible way for immediate change to allow same-sex blessings at St. John’s.

*Moved by: John Mohler*

*Seconded by: Carrie Cardwell*

**We further move:** That St. John’s form a working group to develop a celebration mindful of the bishop’s pastoral letter of September, 2007 to be presented at the parish Vestry, February, 2008 for parish approval, and to be communicated to The Bishop of Toronto for his concurrence.

*Moved by: John Mohler*

*Seconded by: John Spragge*

*These motions are to be confirmed at the Annual Vestry Meeting:*

**“That the Vestry of St. John’s Church West Toronto confirms the motions of the Advisory Board of September 23, 2007, on Same-Sex Blessings.**

*Moved: John Spragge*

*Seconded: John Mohler*



***Safe and Welcoming Space: Playing in the Narthex***

# Minutes

*Annual Vestry Meeting, February 18, 2007*

*The Vestry Meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM.*

1. Opening prayer – Gary van der Meer led the opening prayer, which included a focus on the mission of the Church.

2. Approval of minutes – The minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting of February 12, 2006, were presented.

Moved by Jim Crummey, seconded by Anthony Ruta, that the minutes be accepted.

CARRIED.

3. Incumbent's Report – Gary van der Meer presented his report during the Worship Service. The report was accepted and is appended.

4. Wardens' Report – Chris Barnett reported on behalf of the Wardens. He noted that 2006 had been a "fabulous year" in which St. John's had "grown beyond our expectations". The five-year plan, which was established last year to pay off the debt, called for 10 per cent growth in 2006. St. John's surpassed this goal with a 15 per cent increase in members and an increase of more than 30 per cent in giving. The Wardens would be reporting this success to the Treasury Board of the Diocese.

Moved by Anne-Marie Mohler, seconded by John Webster, that the Wardens' Report be accepted.

CARRIED.

Bill Dunford presented Chris with a gift and the thanks of the parish.

5. Financial Reports – Anthony Ruta presented the 2006 Actual report. He noted that the 2006 Actual showed a modest deficit, with a break-even budget proposed for 2007 and a plan in place to retire the debt by 2011. He also noted that \$2,686 had been paid off of the debt owed the Diocese in 2006.

Moved by Bill Dunford, seconded by John Mohler, that the report on the 2006 Actual be accepted.

CARRIED.

6. 2007 Budget – Anthony Ruta presented the proposed 2007 Budget. He noted a correction to the "Payment to Diocese" line on the Budget Detail page: the figure in the 2007 Budget should read "\$10,000" rather than "\$15,000". Anthony noted that the 2007 Budget was based on modest and conservative projections.

Moved by Jim Crummey, seconded by Sheila Crummey, that the 2007 Budget be accepted.

CARRIED.

7. Appointments and Elections – Gary van der Meer presented the recommended slate of candidates for appointment and election. He noted a number of ministry positions were still vacant.

Moved by Chris Barnett, seconded by Joan Devitt, that the slate of candidates for election and appointment be accepted as presented.

CARRIED.

8. Stewardship Report – Moved by Anthony Ruta, seconded by John Webster, that the Stewardship Report for 2006 and the plans and priorities for 2007 be accepted as presented in the 2006 Annual Report.

CARRIED.

9. Parish reports – Moved by Iain Newbigin, seconded by John Webster, that the Parish reports for 2006 be accepted as presented in the 2006 Annual Report.

CARRIED.

10. Motions for Vestry –

- (a) Moved by Sally Ritchie, seconded by Marina Chan, the Motion on Supportive Housing presented in the 2006 Annual Report.

CARRIED.

- (b) Moved by Brian Macintyre, seconded by Carrie Cardwell, the Motion on “Living the Blessing” presented in the 2006 Annual Report.

CARRIED.

11. New Business – None.

12. Adjournment – Moved by May Webster, seconded by Brenda Holmes, that the Vestry Meeting adjourn.

CARRIED.

*The Vestry Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.*

***Come with us!***



***We invite you to share with us in friendship, faith and fun!***