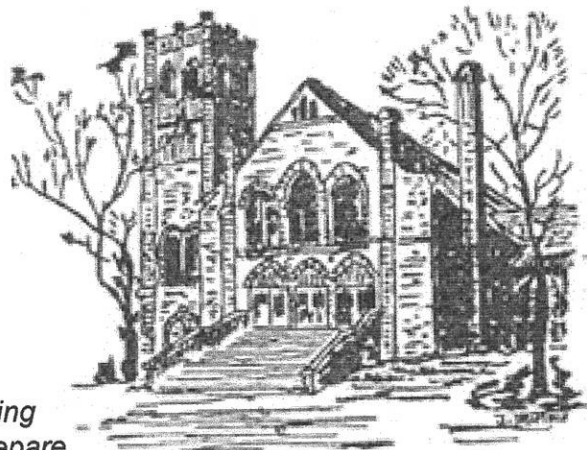


St. John's Journal

St. John's Anglican Church, West Toronto
288 Humberside Ave. (at High Park Ave.)
(416) 763-2393 www.sjw.ca

Lent 2002



Welcome to a New Year at St. John's! And what an exciting time it is around here as Lent fast approaches and we prepare for Easter. As usual, Lent offers an ideal time to reflect on where we have been and where we are going.

It is also a good time to think about faith and our surrounding community. We encourage you to learn more about our partners in the community and to participate in some of the many activities that we have planned for the upcoming months.

Incumbent's Report

Happy New Year!

This has been my first Christmas season as your incumbent. It was good to see so many of you and a great relief to me to now be able to put so many of your names and faces together.

I am learning more than names and faces, though. A couple of incidents have given me a greater insight into the kind of community you are. The first was the Christmas pageant. You really got into it! You know how to have fun together, and I had fun with you. The great costumes, the abundance of pictures, the over-the-top acting. It's enjoyable to be with people who are having a good time. We did all of this in the context of one of our foundational stories, and while we laughed and carried on, we were neither disrespectful nor irreverent. It was worship.

The second incident happened at the late Christmas Eve service, and we might call it a "glitch." I am aware that it has been your custom at the end of the Eucharist to darken the church and sing Silent Night by the light of tapers. The church was darkened, and after a momentary pause of realization, we proceeded to sing Silent Night in complete darkness, without the candles. In the moment, I found myself wondering, "Whose job was that supposed to be? I am the newcomer who has never experienced this tradition, so I hope it wasn't supposed to be me!" What were you thinking? Maybe some of you were disappointed. Maybe having this custom connects you with Christmas Past. Maybe it is a moment of nostalgia. Or maybe you smiled because we proved to ourselves that we really do know all the words. Or maybe you enjoyed the fact that it was "different" - and it really doesn't have to always be the same to be meaningful. Maybe you even found the darkness to be a new take on Mystery.

Incumbent's Greeting (continued from page 1)

Whatever your reaction may have been, I marvel that everyone took it in stride and nobody had a hairy conniption. I have discovered that you do differ from each other, in fact on many an issue or matter of preference that relates to church life, you could be all over the map. But! Your differences are outweighed by the closeness of your ties to each other. You know each other in a way that has not been forged by uneventful life. You have asked tough questions together and come through hurdles together.

Community Spirit. Perspective. Partnership. Having these constitutes a Gift, what might be called "a fragrant offering to God", and certainly a gift to each other and to the stranger in your midst. Partnership comes in various forms. Sometimes it is the journey shared and the significance of some of the challenges. Sometimes it is more lived than named. Sometimes it has to be named, negotiated, covenanted to be lived. We will have examples of both in the coming months. St. John's emphasis on inclusiveness is so broadly accepted that at this point it doesn't even have to be named (for those already on the inside). At the same time, we are revising guidelines about sexual misconduct in order to greater protect the safety of all. This has implications for Sunday School, nursery, youth activities, field trips as well as counselling and one-on-one instruction. To take safety this seriously is not so understood that it need not be named - it is an example of something to be covenanted. There will be many more examples over the coming months of how sharing life with those within our community is about covenant.

Partnership is another word that could be used in place of covenant. Although there are hymns about partnership (for example, see Songs for a Gospel People, Hymn 102), it is a concept that becomes readily apparent to us when it is about those whose well-being overlaps with ours even though they are not part of our St. John's congregation. Our life as the St. John's community benefits from a number of such partnerships, the most obvious ones being the Daycare and other groups that use our building, such as the AA, and Guides. As I have discovered our partnerships, it seemed to me that an update on their life - how they bless us, and what our obligations are to them - would be helpful for all of us.

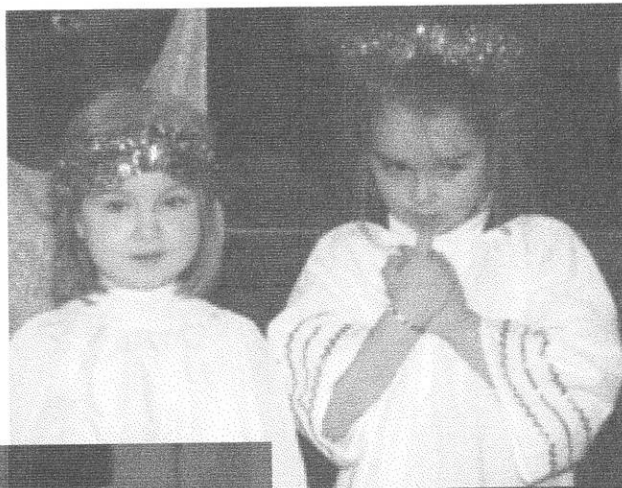
As we approach the Annual Vestry meeting, with many decisions and an exciting year ahead of us, I want to come back to how this is a season of Epiphany. This season is made up of weekly readings that show us how God has been revealed, how God's presence has emerged dramatically in many times and places. May we continue to be transformed - in our own personal realizations, in our relationships and partnerships.

Faithfully,

The Rev'd Gary van der Meer



Christmas Pageant 2001



An Update on Our Partners

Early Enrichment Daycare

The Daycare in the basement at St. John's began in the late 1980s and benefited from a substantial government grant to renovate the basement of the church, and a loan from St. John's in the range of \$100,000.

Early Enrichment has a reputation in the city for excellent daycare, and there is a year to year and a half wait for spaces. Currently, there are 52 children in the Daycare ranging from baby to preschooler. Early Enrichment does offer subsidized care, though not as a specific number of spaces. Instead, children are placed on the waiting list without differentiation based on financial circumstances, and there are currently 4 subsidized children. For your interest, the current fees (based on the staff ratio required) are \$977 for a baby, \$906 for a toddler, \$737 for a preschooler.



**Sarah and Theresa,
Early Enrichment Daycare**

St. John's financial situation is greatly impacted by the existence of the daycare. As part of their Occupancy Agreement, Early Enrichment shares the building expenses (including hydro, gas, insurance, water & sewage, cleaning, grass-cutting & snow removal, pest control and telephone). Last year their building-related contribution to St. John's was \$39,115. Early Enrichment continues to repay the loan from St. John's at \$869 per month, and made an additional \$20,000 contribution to the principal on the loan in 2001. At this rate the loan will be repaid within 5 years. At present the Occupancy Agreement is being updated, and there is an awareness of our dependence on the loan repayments for church operations.

The parish is directly involved in the direction of the Early Enrichment Daycare, and the board includes the incumbent and equal representation of three each of parishioners and daycare parents. Currently our parish representatives are Allan Waters (who is also the treasurer), Gary Karasiuk, and Jill Arthur. The presence of the Daycare also means we plan around their presence, especially in sharing the basement space; each weekend our parishioners Greg Los and Lynda Ward move the walls so we can use the basement, and then put them back on Sunday night.

Early Enrichment brings into our building many families from the neighbourhood, and over the years, a number of families have joined our parish life after first being exposed to the building through the Daycare.

Alcoholics Anonymous

The AA came to St. John's in 1986 and changed their name from the Etobicoke Group to the High Park Group. They are known to be a particularly vibrant AA chapter, with a membership of 130. Their presence at St. John's includes a Friday night meeting, which is open only to Alcoholics, and where approximately 100 people break up into 6 smaller groups in various parts of the building for discussion and support. The Sunday night meeting is open to anyone, and includes a speaker who in about a half-hour shares their life and journey. This meeting typically has about 150



Maria Palchuk, AA Liason

An Update on Our Partners (continued)

people in attendance. The 12 Steps used by the AA originated in Anglican circles, and since their development have been adapted to many other kinds of groups.

AA supports St. John's financially by paying rent of \$400 per month, increased from \$300 as of January 2002. AA has a designated person who functions as the liaison with the church, and I had the very pleasant surprise of meeting our liaison, Maria Palchuk, on the charity bike ride for the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation last summer. Maria is a "postie" in the east-end of Toronto. She is also a Yoga instructor and hopes to come to our Embodied Prayer sessions. Over the years there has been a small overlap of members between the congregation and the High Park Meeting.

Order of the Holy Cross

In addition to the fact that the Priory next door has provided St. John's with two incumbents, Robert Hagler and Christian Swayne, many brothers from next door have worshipped and added to the life of the congregation. Currently the presence of the Order in Toronto is not large in numbers, including Christian Swayne as Prior, Sam Demerril, and recently returned, Kim Kenny. Kim is in the novitiate, and is by background a clinical psychologist. He is also an avid cyclist, and expects to participate in the worship at St. John's. In addition, Brian Youngward, also a member of the Order, is the incumbent of St. Stephen's Downsview, but is formally connected to the monastery in West Park, New York.

The Priory offers self-directed retreats, and a Bed & Breakfast, both at rates of \$40 per night, and can accommodate 8-10 guests. While many have wondered about the future direction of the Priory, it is Christian Swayne's hope that it will grow in significance in the Order by becoming the centre for an autonomous Canadian novitiate. If this proposal is endorsed by the Order, there would be 4-7 brothers at various stages of profession living next door to St. John's.

It should not be lost on us that the religious orders of the Anglican Communion offer Anglicans (and all to whom they give hospitality) a significant resource for spiritual growth. As they discern their future, there is also a wonderful opportunity for shared discernment in having one

such resource right next door. On a more practical note, the Priory has taken up the church and daycare shared contract for snow removal - do not be surprised to see Christian or Kim getting a little "morning exercise"!



Father Gary and Kim Kenny

The Wider Church

I am trying to find an umbrella term to describe the other churches of our neighbourhood and how we share ministry with them. These include the Anglican parishes of the Deanery of West Toronto, of which St. Martin's, St. Olave's, and St. Paul's Runnymede are our closest neighbours. Currently, we do not do very much together as parishes. The aborted attempt to amalgamate with St. Paul's perhaps made some distance between us inevitable. St. Olave's and St. Martin's are sufficiently different from us in worship styles, that we do present distinct Anglican alternatives to our neighbourhood. In addition to these, our group includes (north of the tracks) St. Mark and Calvary, St. Hilda's Fairbank, St. Chad, Good Shepherd. The Anglican clergy group or "Clericus" is a particularly supportive group, and Kate Merriman, incumbent of St. Mark and Calvary, is the Regional Dean and liaison between us and Bishop Finlay.

An Update on Our Partners (continued)

Ecumenically, we also participate in the West Toronto Pastors and Leaders Prayer Network. This group spans the Christian denominations and includes a weekly prayer meeting, lunch twice per year for all local pastors and leaders, and the monthly Prayer Walks that congregations take turns hosting. Over the years, this group has built bridges among groups once suspicious and separate from each other. In the words of Richard Long (former pastor at Runnymede Baptist Church and instrumental in the beginning of this group), "It takes the whole church to bring the whole gospel to the whole world." It was from this group that Alpha began in our neighbourhood.

Canadian Jean Vanier founded L'Arche in France in 1964 and there are now over 100 L'Arche communities around the world. L'Arche Daybreak in Richmond Hill includes writer Henri Nouwen as one of its founders. L'Arche Daybreak began in 1969 and now has two communities: eight homes in Richmond Hill and four in Toronto. Also included in L'Arche Daybreak are The Woodery wood-working shop, Daybreak Publications bookstore, and the Dayspring spiritual centre.

As a result of our connection with L'Arche, they are aware of St. John's efforts at inclusiveness, and in the past, referred to our parish as "a prophetic community."



Jerry, Peter & Georgia Helleiner

Peter Helleiner, one of our parishioners, is a member of Daybreak. He lives there in a house that includes four core members and four assistants, and comes home to his family for two weekends per month. In addition to providing such home life in this way, many others with special needs spend time at L'Arche. Tim Marmura visits Daybreak each Friday and especially enjoys their Friday evening worship. For the past 3 years, a group of parents, known as Partners in the Mission, has been meeting every two weeks to explore ways that individuals who live with their families and do not intend to live at L'Arche may also enrich the L'Arche community.

L'Arche Daybreak

Over the years, St. John's has been a supportive community to people with special needs, and many parish individuals and families have been part of the support network that makes this inclusiveness possible. In addition, some members of St. John's have developed a special relationship with the L'Arche community in Richmond Hill.

The L'Arche federation of communities is guided by the following Mission Statement:

- Σ To create homes where faithful relationships based on forgiveness and celebration are nurtured;
- Σ To reveal the unique value and vocation of each person;
- Σ To change society by choosing to live relationships in community as a sign of hope and love.

The Friday night worship is a Taize prayer service, held in the Dayspring Building. For those interested in attending the services at Daybreak, small groups of visitors can be accommodated, especially once per month on the community evening. The bookstore, which includes gifts made by core members and books by Jean Vanier and Henri Nouwen, is open from 7-10:00 p.m. and the worship begins at 8:00 p.m. Community nights this year will be February 15, March 8, April 12 (with a craft sale), May 10 and June 14. L'Arche is located at 11339 Yonge Street in Richmond Hill. If you wish to visit, please ask the Marmuras or Helleiners for more information.

An Update on Our Partners (continued)

Girl Guides

Guiding at St. John's began in 1939. Currently there are five groups on 3 evenings, including: 12 Sparks, 24 Brownies, 13 Guides, 12 Pathfinders and 3 Rangers, and a total of 14 leaders. Their activities include crafts, community service, camp weekends, and fundraising by the sale of cookies. With the exception of the Sparks, whose promise is "to share and be a friend," the groups make a promise to be true to God/Faith (they choose the preferred word).



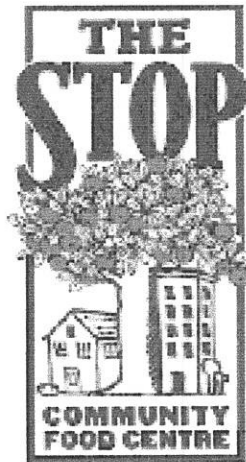
In the past, the group has had "church parades" and the clergy have provided instruction for the Religion in Life badge. For those interested in joining, the fee is \$40 per year, plus a weekly offering of 25 cents. The organization financially supports St. John's by providing \$100 per unit per year as a meeting levy. Nan Weston, who attended one of their first camps in 1939, is our liaison for Guides. There is a small overlap between participants and members of St. John's congregation. There was a Scout group at St. John's which moved about 10 years ago to St. Joan of Arc. The Beavers group did return briefly but has been dormant for some time.

Humberside Collegiate Institute

It is not lost on many of us, that across the street is an excellent high school with a great music program. To date, however, our "partnership" is more potential than actual. We are grateful for the use of their parking lot. (Note that they are asking us to avoid the following dates when there are school programs: **February 27, 28, March 2, April 17, 19, May 9, 10, 22.**) We provide the church as rehearsal space for music recitals, and the Church steps are a pleasant lunch place for students between classes. We keep the church doors open each weekday morning to offer a sacred space should it be needed for a personal prayer. On occasion we do take away garbage from the steps, but the invitation is one we want to continue to make. Among our parishioners, Mabel-Anne Waters is a teacher at Humberside, and John Webster is often a supply teacher there. We invite your constructive suggestions for further collaboration.

Runnymede Hospital

Runnymede Hospital is a care centre for seniors and patients with Alzheimers. For many years St. John's has shared in providing Anglican worship on the third Sunday of the month as well as volunteers for some pastoral visiting. In previous years, the choir has visited over the Christmas season. In the past, a similar roster of Anglican worship was provided at the Grenadier. Both of these ministries constitute a pastoral outreach by the St. John's congregation, with the intent of bringing and sharing joy, where joy is by times difficult to find.



The Stop

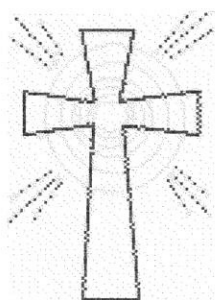
Stop 103, now known as "The Stop," has long been supported by St. John's. The original name comes from St. Stephen's Outreach Program, 103 Bellevue Avenue, which moved up to the Davenport and St. Clair area to meet the needs of people living in poverty. They have grown from a small food bank to now serving 1700 people per month through meals, drop-ins, a community kitchen and community gardens. Their circle of support includes many churches, and St. John's provides weekly food collection as well as financial support. They invite group tours to increase the sense of partnership they share with us.

I hope this summary will be helpful to you in considering how sharing our life with these groups affects all of us. Perhaps you have thought of other groups that we might consider to be our partners. Partner is not a formal designation, and as you will note from above, the partnership with some of these groups is at this point more potential than

An Update on Our Partners (continued)

actual. Partnership blesses us and them, but we should not ignore that it includes obligations and even challenges on both sides. Partnership gets at the idea that much that we do in life cannot be done alone, and together much more can be accomplished than we had ever dreamed. St. John's ministry is not lived in isolation, and as we pray for our partners, maybe we can begin to imagine how much more we might do together.

Gary van der Meer



Ministry of the Word - New Developments

Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, there has been a recent upgrade of our sound system. We now have a portable, battery-operated microphone and two lapel microphones, in addition to the one used on the lectern. The lapel mike enables Gary to be heard clearly to the very back-most pew, and the portable mike can be used by the intercessor to pray from the pew, rather than coming up to the lectern - thus making the prayers even more 'of the people'.

We are still experimenting with the best ways to use these mikes - one thing we have discovered is that, although the portable has a large head, it picks up sound only from the top, and needs to be held almost under the chin.

In order that more people can have an opportunity to use the new mikes, as well as to learn better how to use the one on the lectern, we are planning a **Readers' Workshop for Saturday, March 2** - time still to be set. So if you want to improve your technique, or to gain confidence with reading, or to try if you never have, do consider coming to this. And if you want to be on the Readers' Roster, and haven't been asked, please let me know.

May Webster

Our Decorating Challenge: Painting the Interior of the Church

We're happy to announce that we are in the final stages of putting the money raised for this project to excellent use!

As most people know, we have retained Stuart Reid as our artistic consultant. Stuart teaches at the Ontario College of Art and Design; he is a specialist in stained glass, and designed the new windows for the West entrance at St. James cathedral. His studio is in the Junction, and he designed the interior colour scheme for Runnymede United church, where he is a member. To find out more about Stuart Reid, you can visit his web site at www.stuartreid.net.

Stuart met with parishioners on two occasions. At the December gathering he pointed out features of our church that most of us were just barely aware of through familiarity - the deep rich wood ceiling, the stained glass, the light wood floors, etc., and also the failure of the beige walls to pull these elements together! More importantly, he asked us to feed him positive words that we would use to describe St. John's and how we want St. John's to be perceived by others. He found the list "unusual and fascinating."

On January 16, Stuart presented his recommendations, illustrated with coloured graphic schematics. These graphics were also shown at both of the services on Sunday January 20, and responses were invited. There were, of course, those who expressed reservations. But generally the response was enthusiastic. The wardens, at the meeting of the Parish Advisory Board on January 27, recommended that we proceed with the painting project as envisioned by Stuart Reid, and with his active involvement and advice. This motion passed unanimously.

Stuart will be painting selected areas of the church for evaluation and testing in the next few weeks. What can you expect to see? In his presentation, one word was used frequently - Easter. What are Easter colours? Think crocus purple, daffodil yellow, and rich greens. And watch it happen! Wouldn't it be wonderful if it all came to pass by Easter Sunday?

Bruce Alton

Lent - Oh What Fun!

Lent is a word that comes from the Anglo-Saxon word that means "spring" - Spring and Lent - seasons of growth and change. We see it in God's creation as we begin to see crocuses burst through the earth to show off their color against any leftover snow. Lent is also a time when we are invited to look more closely at our relationship with God and with one another. We are called to grow in love for one another and why not have fun doing it. How about going for walks together and taking the time to listen to one another as you go about the neighbourhood counting the crocuses.

There are lots of symbols and rituals that can be included in your Lenten discipline like wearing the color purple to help you remember what the season is about but you can have fun doing it especially if you have a favourite purple hat or pair of gloves or socks. Perhaps the day you put on your purple socks is the day you decide to do some volunteer work in the community. So you see thinking up things to do each day can be fun or if you don't think so perhaps you'd like the traditional Lenten boxes where an amount each day dropped into the box will help focus your day.

Our first fun event for the Lenten season is the **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (February 12 - set-up at 6 p.m.)** which will take place in the parish hall downstairs. While the adults are setting up downstairs, the children will be kept busy with a scavenger hunt upstairs. You may also want to bring some of your favourite board games so that while some people are cleaning up, others can relax with the children and play games.

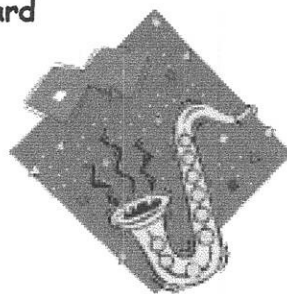
Ash Wednesday follows the merriment of Shrove Tuesday. This is a day in which we attempt to be quieter in our lives, maybe eat a little less food that day and come to church to confess our sins and ask God's help in changing that which needs to be changed in our lives. There's something for everyone to think about on Ash Wednesday because remember, no one is perfect but God. **This year there will be two services at two new time slots, one at 10:30 a.m. and one at 5:30 p.m. Remember too, that Ash Wednesday is one day in the year when the children are permitted by the Board of Education to attend Church services.**

Something that can be done at home during Lent is taking a simple bar of soap and carving it into the shape of a cross. The bar of soap can be used throughout Lent to help the children remember that God washes away our sins. Every time we wash our hands we can perhaps be reminded of an apology that needs to be made or something we have done for which we are sorry.

We're having a **Community Spirit, Lenten Day Retreat on Saturday, February 16 from 9:30 to 4 p.m.** Our first activity will be drumming, a fun activity for everyone. Later we will be making an organic lunch and chocolates before we see the movie, "Chocolat". And there are other movies that you can see throughout this Lenten season that might help you to reflect on what is good and what is worthwhile; movies such as "Babette's Feast" and "Simon Birch". The families with younger children might want to take a look at the animated version of the story of Moses in "Prince of Egypt".

Yes, I say - let us celebrate Lent this year and have fun while we're doing it. After all, celebrations do take preparation and planning and reflecting and that's part of the Lenten custom - planning on what we'll do for Lent - becoming perhaps a little more reflective about ourselves and our actions, making preparations for that big family Easter meal. So I propose that we do what we do anyway and have fun while we're doing it!

Lynda Ward



Mardi Gras is French for Fat Tuesday, otherwise known as Shrove Tuesday, which begins the Lenten Season. Mardi Gras was first mentioned in North America in 1699 and today it is celebrated by feasts and carnivals all over the world, including New Orleans. As part of your family's celebration of Shrove Tuesday, February 12, you can make masks or wear the traditional Mardi Gras colours: green (faith), purple (justice), gold (power).

MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD

Christmas has come, and gone. Faster than ever it seemed, either because of the unseasonably warm weather or the fact the Christmas Eve was the day after Advent 4. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the music of the season. There are those who provided special music—Chelsea Mohler, Carolyn Sinclair and the choir—but I think all those who were present for our Christmas Pageant carol marathon (16 carols, I believe!), or the Carol Sing on Christmas Eve are owed a “round of applause”.

After a post-Christmas vacation, the choir reconvened the evening of January 15th, in the framework of an evening of socializing and brainstorming at the home of Carol and Bruce Alton. We felt it was necessary to re-evaluate our “raison d’etre” because we have lost a significant number of voices over the past year, and often find that we no longer have critical mass—the eternal St. John’s problem.



The Delights of Baroque Music Come to St. John’s

On Saturday, February 9, The Baroque Players of Hamilton will be visiting St. John’s. This internationally acclaimed ensemble will be performing *Divine Duets*, an evening of duets and solo harpsichord works by such Italian Baroque composers as Marcello, Giuliani, Handel, Frescobaldi and Storace. Carolyn Sinclair, a frequent guest soprano at St. John’s, is one of the performers. For more information, please call (416) 588-2954, or email: info@baroqueplayers.com.

Father Gary had the approximately dozen present (both choir members and those who have an interest in the music program) list our “blessings” and “challenges”. This was a fruitful period of self-examination which was followed by the creation of a list of musical opportunities that we might explore. I would invite anyone who was not present to feel free to share any comments or suggestions that he/she might have in respect to the music of worship at St. John’s.

Furthermore, we would remind everyone that choir meets on Tuesday evenings from 8:00 until 9:30 p.m. **NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME** (the only requirement is to speak with James so that a set of music might be prepared). The rehearsal time divides between a review of all music to be used in the service of the following Sunday, and learning new special music for upcoming events and Feast Days. There is an attempt to offer the right balance between challenge and satisfaction. It is an important time of Christian fellowship for all present and we would be pleased to share our enthusiasm with others.

James Bailey
Director of Music/Organist
 537-4140 (daytime) or 530-4147 (evenings)

Upcoming Concerts

Watch for more details on the following St. John’s concerts as they become available:

- March 23 Denise Williams (soprano) & Lori Gemmell (harp)**
- April 20 The Onyx Wind Quartet**
- t.b.a. Youth Concert**
 - Contact Marion Karasiuk if you would like to help out or find out more about this event

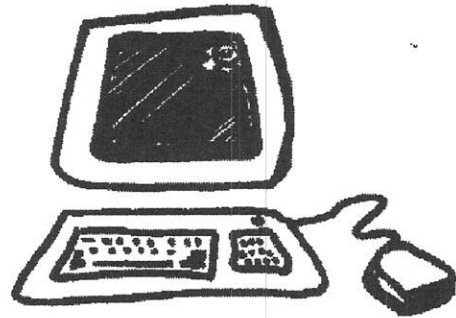
FAITH ON THE WEB?

Most people "surf the web" for business or entertainment reasons. But it can be a remarkable resource for spiritual development as well. A good place to start is at our own parish Web Site.

We're now located at our own domain-name site. The address is <http://www.sjwt.ca>. If you're wondering about the cryptic domain name (sjwt.ca) it's an acronym for st. john's west toronto - dot canada (easy to remember, we hope).

Besides moving to a new location, the parish Web Site has undergone a major revision in the past few months. It's now in a frames version, which is not only easier for me to maintain and update, but far more user-friendly and easier to navigate to exactly what you want to find. More improvements are coming, so drop by regularly. If you don't have a computer, try the library!

Before I come to the matter of faith development, let me tell you a bit about the site design. It is meant to be an interactive resource, a place where ALL parishioners can offer their own ideas and expressions of faith. It can be this only if YOU participate.



The site is really two sites. When you arrive at our public site you'll find the menu on the left in the table below. After exploring the resources there, click on the **MEMBERS** link, and you'll be asked for an ID and password. You can get these from me or from Gary or Linda or James - just e-mail us for the information, or speak to us at church.

The most useful information for parishioners is on the members' pages. In particular, have a look at the **Calendar**. It is full of information about upcoming events. The **Directory** and the **Pictures** pages are a great way to keep in touch. Send in your favourite pictures, and we'll post them for others to see on this "password-protected" portion of the site.

St. John's (PUBLIC SITE)

HOME
ABOUT US
SUNDAYS
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PICTURES
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Calendar
Directory
Pictures
Chalice Bearers
Sidespersons

REPORTS
Vestry
Advisory Board
Committees

ARCHIVES
News
Concerts
Calendars

FAITH ON THE WEB? (continued)

Now, about faith development. Here are three suggestions.

1. On the public site, click on **MEDITATIONS**. This is a window into our parish life of faith. There is a special place here for YOUR thoughts and experiences. Send them to me and I'll post them. If you would prefer to have your offerings on the Members' only site, that can easily be done.

Here you will find, among other things ...

Seasonal reflections:

NEW YEARS - LENT - HOLY WEEK - GOOD FRIDAY - EASTER

Sermons:

NEW YEARS

Notes from clergy desks:

Bruce Alton - on loving relationships

Gary van der Meer - I would like to recommend a daily prayer opportunity for people who spend a lot of time at their computers: Sacred Space - the prayer site run by the Irish Jesuits.

Experiences of parishioners

... all intended to help you on your Journey of Faith!

2. Again on the public site, click on **LINKS**. This is a window out onto the world-wide Anglican communion.

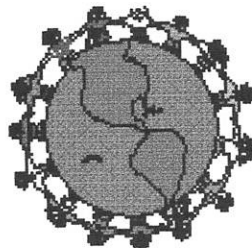
Neighbouring Parishes
Diocese of Toronto
The Anglican Church of Canada
The Church of England
Episcopal Church of the U.S.A.
Order of the Holy Cross

World Wide Anglican Communion
The Bible
The Book of Common Prayer
Liturgical resources
Religion Resources on the WWW
Resources for Development Projects

3. Finally, go back to the entry page (just before you enter the frames version). It has some information of interest. Have a look at the Anglican Churches of Canada Webring, of which we're a member. Just click on the Ring Hub. That will take you to a page in the Web Ring, listing 98 churches of interest. Visit some of them, and find out what our sisters and brothers across the nation have to offer by way of prayer and praise.

Happy Journeying! And keep in touch ...

Bruce Alton



Introducing a new Church Service at St. John's

We will be offering a Midweek service during the day at St. John's, beginning **Thursday, February 21**, and thereafter on **Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.** The service will consist of Morning Prayer, a short study and discussion, and then visiting time over coffee and muffins, and home by noon. This is intended as a time for people who are home during the day, or uneasy about driving at night. This will be offered through Lent, and if there is interest, may be continued.

Gary van der Meer



Religion, Tolerance and Terrorism

On Sunday, January 20, adults and children of various faiths gathered at Toronto's Zoroastrian Temple (Bayview & Steeles) for a Peace Sabbath sponsored by Mosaic, an organization for interfaith dialog. The adults listened to speakers while a children's program ran in parallel. The keynote address was given by a Muslim cleric who decried both the terror of September 11 and the horror of the war on Afghanistan. He called upon all religious leaders to use their imaginations and creativity to find the peaceful solutions that our world political leaders seem not to be able to find. Then representatives from Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Zoroastrian faiths gave a brief address on tolerance and terrorism with respect to their faith. The moderator, a Jewish Rabbi, opened the floor for questions after each address. A distinguished Roman Catholic priest gave the Christian address. After the speakers the children joined us.

Children's choirs from the different faiths performed worship songs from their traditions, and a young Hindu girl did a worship dance from her tradition. A Catholic youth choir, accompanied by keyboard, guitar and drums, sang a contemporary Christian worship song called "The Heart of Worship" (Matt Redman) as well as an old favourite that everyone was invited to join "Peace is Flowing Like a River". A nine-year-old boy from The United Church played "What Child is This" on the steel drums. At the end of the children's performances all the children went on stage to sing the Peace Meal Medley together. Then each of the speakers from the six different faiths represented took turns doing a blessing of the bread after which we all shared in a potluck meal of exotic foods

Marion Karasiuk

A Camp for Kids and Twice a Year for Whole Families Too!

Ontario Pioneer Camp is an interdenominational Christian camp on a lake in the Muskokas, north of Bracebridge and south of Huntsville. For over 75 years they have been providing fun summer camp experiences for boys and girls 5 through 18. But twice a year they open up to host entire families: once in the summer for a week called Family Camp and once in the winter for four days over New Year's called Snow Camp.

Our family heard about Family Camp from friends who have been going there for years and we decided to try it out this past summer. It was a great family vacation! There were activities and recreation for all ages, all meals included, and ... babysitting! In the mornings Zachary went to the beach with the other toddlers, Alexis had a program with other kids her age, and Gary and Marion went to the adult bible study. Afternoons were full of family fun on the water and around the grounds. Early evenings featured campfire songs and family sports and games. And then the kids went to bed and roving babysitters kept watch while Gary and Marion went square dancing, played a camp-wide game of "Clue," and got to know our fellow campers over cards and snacks.

We ate well, got lots of exercise - including a couple of early morning swims across the lake and back - and had a great time. This past Christmas holiday season we went back for Snow Camp. It was the same deal except winter activities instead of summer activities, and they actually had snow in the Muskokas! For anyone who is interested in more information about Ontario Pioneer Camp programs for kids or families, we brought home some booklets and left them in the Narthex.

Marion Karasiuk

Sundays in Lent - Sermons theme: *Faith and Transformation*

February 17: *Transforming Self*
February 24: *Transforming Selves*

March 3: *Transforming Relationships*
March 10: *Transforming Church*
March 17: *Transforming Community*

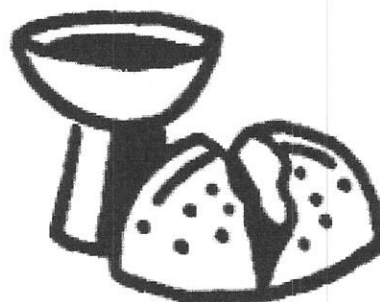
Thursday Mornings in Lent - February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21

10:30 a.m. Prayer and Fellowship (with a light lunch)

St. John's Hosting Lenten Supper and Community Prayer Walk - Tuesday, March 5

Every month on the first Tuesday of the month people from various churches in our neighbourhood meet for a community prayer walk. We start at a local church (see below for starting locations in the next few months) where we first sing together and pray for the hosting church. Then people go out in pairs and walk around the neighbourhood, praying for God's blessing on homes, businesses, schools, police and fire stations, churches and everyone living, working and meeting in our area - it is a great way to get more closely in touch with the needs of your neighbours! After the walk we return to the hosting church for refreshments and fellowship.

Make a special note that St. John's is hosting the community prayer walk on **March 5** at **7:30 p.m.** Preceding this we will hold a Lenten supper of soup and bread at 6:30 p.m. The supper is free, but donations for The Sharing Place local food bank will be gratefully accepted. Come for the dinner or walk or both!



Upcoming Walks:

- February 5,** 7:30 p.m, Victoria Royce Presbyterian Church, 190 Medland Ave. (at Annette)
March 5, 7:30 p.m, St. John's Anglican Church, West Toronto ... you know where!
April 2, 7:30 p.m, Hallelujah Filipino Baptist Church, 425 Pacific Ave. (north of Dundas)
May 7, 7:30 p.m, Keele Street Christian Church, 97 Annette (at Keele)
June 4, 7:30 p.m, Runnymede Baptist Church, 60 Colbeck Ave. (at Runnymede)

For more information contact **Marion Karasiuk** (416-604-1591, mkarasiuk@rogers.com).

"Questions of Life" Alpha Course

Ten weeks. Free.

Tuesday mornings at **9:15 a.m.** (with child care, starts Jan 22) **OR** **Wednesday evenings** at **7:15 p.m.** (starts Jan 23). Both at Runnymede United Church, 432 Runnymede Rd. Brochures at back of church. For more info contact Marion Karasiuk (416-604-1591, mkarasiuk@rogers.com) or call 416-767-6729 to register. It's not too late to join us!

Healing and Embodied Prayer

2nd Sunday of Every Month:

Embodied Prayer from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Healing Service as part of Eucharist service
Dates for Lent: February 10 and March 10

Lent & Easter 2002

Tuesday, February 12: Shrove Tuesday (With a Special Invitation to Daycare Families)

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| 6:00 p.m. | Scavenger Hunt (for the children), Set-up and Preparation |
| 6:15 p.m. | Pancakes and Sausages served |
| 7:30 p.m. | Clean-up & Games Night (Bring your own Board Games or Cards) |
| 8:00 p.m. | Choir Practice |

Wednesday, February 13: Ash Wednesday

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| 10:30 a.m. | Eucharist and imposition of ashes |
| 5:30 p.m. | Service for families and those heading home from work
Eucharist and imposition of ashes |

Saturday, February 16: Community SPIRIT - Retreat Day - (Bring your friends!).

You may attend all or part of this day. (Phone 416-763-2393 for info. and to sign up.)

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| 9:30 a.m. | Gathering and Refreshments |
| 10:00 a.m. | Drums-Music Workshop with Dana and David Fisher |
| 11:00 a.m. | Parallel Activities:
Lunch Preparation: Organic, Fair Trade, What's the Difference?
- With Linda Burnside and Kevin Walters
Making Chocolates |
| 12:00 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | Yoga Stretches and Prayer with Elizabeth Fairley |
| 1:30 p.m. | Movie: "Chocolat" and Discussion |

Sunday, February 24: Annual Vestry Meeting - 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 5: Lenten Supper and Prayer Walk

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| 6:30 p.m. | Soup and Bread Supper |
| 7:00 p.m. | Community Prayer Walk |

Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday

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| 8:30 a.m. | Eucharist |
| 10:30 a.m. | Eucharist |
- Pageant commemorating the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem;
 - Dramatic re-telling of the trial and death of Jesus

Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday

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| 6:00 p.m. | Passover Meal & Eucharist |
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Friday, March 29: Good Friday

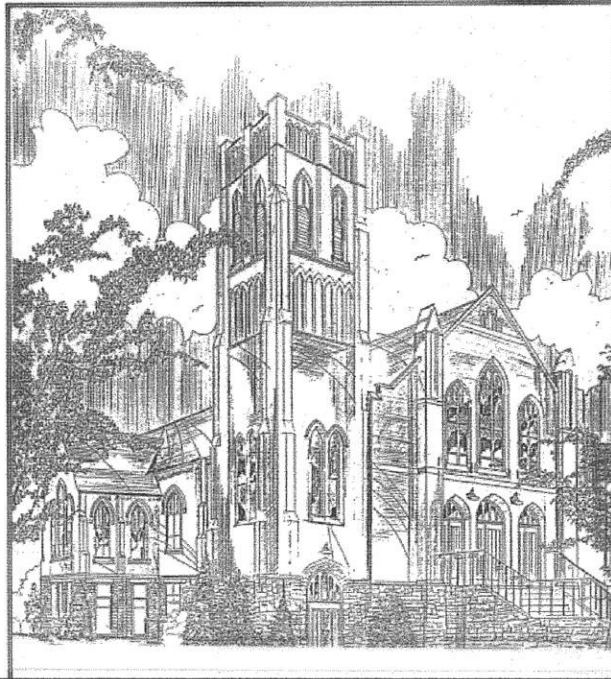
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| 10:00 a.m. | Children's Service - <i>The Stations of the Cross</i> (Adults Welcome!) |
| 2:00 p.m. | Good Friday Liturgy |

Saturday, March 30: The Great Vigil of Easter

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| 8:00 p.m. | Service of Light and first Eucharist of Easter |
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Sunday, March 31: Easter Day - "He has risen ... alleluia! "

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| 8:30 a.m. | Said Eucharist |
| 9:30 a.m. | Parish Breakfast |
| 10:30 a.m. | Choral Eucharist |



We are not a Building!

We're an accessible, accepting, diverse community. We are young and old, able-bodied and disabled, employed and unemployed. We are married, single, divorced, widowed, straight and gay. We are from all over the world, yet we could live next door. You will find open minds and open hearts at St. John's.

The mission of St. John's Church is to build a community of caring believers committed to Christ to work for justice and service to all in need. We gather to praise God and to give and receive support to meet the challenge of our daily ministries. We call on all who will to come and join us

We have a proud (120 year) history, an exciting and challenging present, and a dream of the future that we'd like to share with you.

A Few Words from the Editor:

Thanks as always to the many people who contributed to this newsletter. Between colds and other commitments, it was a struggle to get this issue completed but I think it was well worth it. All the best for the Lenten season and I look forward to celebrating Easter with you at the end of March!

Andrea Ruddy



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www.sjwt.ca



Yahoo group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stjohnstoronto>