



The PARISH NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - WEST TORONTO

FOUNDED 1881

Humberside and Quebec Avenues

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Hello Again,

When I assumed the responsibility of the membership committee, I promised to keep you informed regarding the plans and activities undertaken. My thoughts at the beginning were: a) to establish ways of reaching out to new members, and b) to reach back to non-participating members -- let them know we are functioning and would like to see all of our parishioners participating in our activities.

To this end, we have done the following:

- 1) Asked for a greeter to replace Donna Lee -- most graciously taken on by Irene Munroe.
- 2) Reorganized the Sunday School: We have 2 teachers for the nursery, 1 for the 5-8 age group and 1 for the 9-12 age group. All age groups have material appropriate for their age. A letter explaining the Sunday School and giving an outline of the lessons has been distributed at the church and to the brownies and girl guides. An article about the Sunday School was published in the "Villager" and another one will be put in the newsletter of the Nursery School that meets in our parish hall.
- 3) Re-established the newsletter. We want to let all of our parishioners know what is going on and keep everyone up-to-date on the activities taking place within our parish.
- 4) Advertised. We have reinstated our ad with the "Bloor West Villager" and keep them informed of activities of interest undertaken by our church.
- 5) Reorganized the telephone committee. Many thanks to Barbara Poole for this most difficult task. Pursuant to a questionnaire sent in the first newsletter, personal contact was made with the majority of our parishioners.
- 6) We also hoped to be able to offer rides and visits to our shut-

in members, however up to now, no one has volunteered to take on this responsibility.

If you have any other ideas or suggestions to make regarding the building up of our numbers, please get in touch with me.

Lynne Davis
533-0978

A.C.W. EVENTS

The A.C.W. of St. John's is sponsoring two major events in May.

On May 5, a fashion show featuring "Just For You" fashions will be held in the parish hall at 8 p.m. The fashions shown are suited to the taste of the audience and are comparably priced. Tickets are \$3.00 and may be purchased in advance from A.C.W. members or at the door.

On May 28, a dressed up and expanded version of the Second-Time Round Sale will be held. This is the May Mart and will feature baked goods, deli items, a children's corner, a "Parisian Boutique", a plant stall* plus quality resale items including books, clothes, and furniture. There will be a "McJohn's" barbecue with hamburgers, hot dogs and french fries with all activities outdoors -- weather permitting. If anyone would like to donate items, please leave them on the stage or call Gladys Graham at 763-1224.

*Geraniums will be available at the plant stall and may be ordered ahead of time. Watch for details on how to order.

Let's all come out and support these activities and the ladies who work so tirelessly for the benefit of others.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

We would like to bring to the attention of any new members of the congregation the Circle of Friends, which meets on the last Saturday of the months of Oct., Nov. and Jan. through April. This club is open to all adults. A very enjoyable social evening and meal guaranteed.

Doris and Bill Sutcliffe
Co-Presidents

CHOIR'S NEW ANTHEM

Our choir director, Gary Gray, has written a new anthem entitled "The Ark" (Psalm 132) which is to be presented in honour of Canon Poole on Sunday, June 5. This will be Canon Poole's last preaching Sunday with us, so it will be a significant service in the history of St. John's. There will be an organ recital from 10-11 on this day, as well as a presentation of original hymns which were written by members of the congregation in the past.

SUNDAY SCHOOL EXCHANGE

The Sunday Schools of St. John's and High Park/Alhambra United Church will be joining together for a special ecumenical program deriving from the "Loaves and Fishes" curriculum. This is also in conjunction with the W.C.C. conference to be held this summer. The 2 groups will be exploring the differences and similarities between their respective denominations, meeting at the United Church on Sunday, April 24 and at St. John's on Sunday, May 1.

"When a Presbyterian family took its four-year old daughter to visit the neighbourhood Baptist Church, she was quite impressed by its stained glass window portraying the Son of God. When she got home, she said, 'I always knew God was a Presbyterian - but I didn't know until today that Jesus was a Baptist.'"

(From Faith, Hope and Hilarity
by Dick van Dyke.)

TELEPHONE COMMITTEE SURVEY

As promised in the last news-

letter, the results of the telephone survey are presented below. As I did quite a bit of the phoning myself, I can attest to the fact that it was a difficult albeit interesting task. Many thanks to all the people involved in this effort. We hope we have more people thinking about us and realizing that we would like to share our fellowship in worship with all our parishioners.

L.D.

TELEPHONE COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Personal contact was established with the majority of parishioners.

2. Concerns expressed:

- *Length of service
- *Can't hear well - turn up speakers
- *More for young people - more emphasis on singles
- *More visits - visit each other - moral support
- Strong spiritual program
- More old time familiar hymns
- Sunday evening sing song
- Follow up on those who left
- A dishwasher! ?

3. Two people expressed desire for rides and one a visit HOWEVER the shutins have not been contacted as yet - I am waiting for volunteers.

4. Six people asked to be dropped from the parish list and one asked to be put on.

*Items mentioned more than once

DEANERY PRAYER SERIES

Mrs. Barbara Poole will be a speaker at the 2nd session of the Deanery's Prayer Series which will take place at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. The series is called PREPARE which stands for Prayer Renewal Experience Producing A Revitalized Evangelism and the sessions are as follows:

Session One: Meditation and the Need of Prayer, April 25 & 27, Sister Thelma-Anne, Sisters of St. John.

Session Two: Music and Prayer,

May 2 & 4, Mrs. Barbara Poole, St. John's, Mr. Fred Brown, evangelical gospelaire.

Session Three: Fellowship in Prayer, May 9 & 11, Mrs. Lil Blake, A.C.W. Prayer Partners, Mrs. Betty Gracie, Diocesan Prayer and Fellowship Group.

Session Four: Prayer in Action, May 16 & 18, the Rt. Rev. Basil Tonks.

The cost of attending the 4 sessions is \$5 or \$2 per session.

Monday sessions are in the afternoon from 1:30 - 3:30.

Wednesday sessions are in the evenings from 8:00 - 10:00.

ST. JOHN'S IN THE COMMUNITY

For many years now, in conjunction with the Ministerial Association, St. John's has extended its ministry in the community to include the 2 following endeavours:

Runnymede Hospital

Runnymede Hospital is a school that has been converted to an extended care hospital. Several churches in the community, including St. John's, conduct services here one Sunday a month. Two services are run simultaneously - 1 for the women and 1 for the men, and several of our parishioners help the rector with this work. Our choir also visits the hospital at Christmas.

100 High Park Avenue

Once a month, St. John's conducts a Wednesday evening service at the apartment building at 100 High Park Avenue. Our Prayer and Share group provides refreshments and their efforts are greatly appreciated by the residents.

YOUNG ADULT CLUB

The Young Adult Club is planning a mini-golf tournament and barbecue in May to be hosted by St. Olave's. Contact John Gower at 769-8183 for details.

Don't Forget - Deadline for registration for the Diocesan Youth Conference is May 7. Forms are available from Sharon Towne - 763-2393.

SPECIAL YOUTH SERVICE

A special youth service is being planned by Sharon Barnes for the last Sunday in June, June 26th. The children will have a large part in the service and will present some special songs to the congregation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - DO WE CARE?

"Educate men without religion and you make them but clever devils."
Arthur Wellesley

I would like to make some personal observations and comments in this article regarding the need for all of us to assume the responsibility of providing our children with a good Christian Education.

As parents, we spend a great deal of time and energy tending to the physical, intellectual and emotional development of our children. However, we often neglect their spiritual needs.

I am very concerned that my 2 sons aged 6 and 3, receive reinforcement of the spiritual values I try to instil at home.

Peer pressure is a strong force in our children's lives. Many children around the age of 6 believe in Superman, Santa Claus, Luke Skywalker etc. but have no concept of God, heaven, the devil - and in fact profess non-belief. One of the reasons I became involved in St. John's is that I was so pleased with the young women involved with the Nursery and the Sunday School. They are dedicated individuals who come well-prepared each week only to find a handful (if that) of children to teach. They are using a curriculum that is well-suited to the children. (I will be making a bulletin board display of this, so everyone can see what is being taught. You are welcome to sit in on a lesson any time and see what transpires.)

What I am saying is that I really want company for my children. I want them to know that other children want to learn about God, our Father. I am puzzled - because we have so much to offer and people aren't responding.

I am frustrated -- because almost every Sunday someone will come with children and say they wish there were more children in the Sunday School. If these people would just stay with us and all come at the same time, there would be a sizeable group in the Sunday School!

I would like to present a series of quotes and anecdotes. Some are from the Bible and exhort us to do our duty, but some are humorous and reflect the misconceptions children often entertain. I offer these as food for thought and make this request. Won't you determine to bring your child or children along next Sunday? Could Grandma and Grandpa offer to bring the grandchildren along to St. John's? or could you tell the neighbours about us or offer to bring their children? -- for the benefit of everyone.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord our God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

"People seem as embarrassed to talk about values or faith (with their children) as to talk about sex. In fact, a lot of people will talk about sex these days, but shy away from values." 1.

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

Ephesians 6:4

"If kids don't know the answer to a question, one soon comes bubbling up from their imaginations. A little girl, asked why we now worship on Sunday instead of on the Sabbath Day, as they did in Bible times, gave this answer: 'Because there aren't as good cartoons on Sunday as there are on Saturday.'" 2.

"In another classroom, a teacher asked, 'Why do you suppose we no

longer offer burnt offerings to God?"

A boy answered, "Air pollution." 3.

"He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

Psalms 78:5-7

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into heaven?" The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For heaven's sake, Jimmy, come in or stay out.'" 4.

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

"Tis education forms the common mind.

Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclin'd."

Alexander Pope

1. Faith, Hope & Hilarity, The Child's Eye View of Religion; Dick van Dyke, Doubleday & Co., N.Y. 1972. p. 14
2. Ibid. p.22
3. Ibid. p.22
4. Ibid. p.86

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Holy Baptism

"Grant that this child may lead the rest of her life according to this beginning."

Lloyd-Hwosdeckyz, Courtney Alexis
daughter of Kimberly Anne & Walter
Hwosdeckyz

Linton, Leon Lennox, son of Angela
& Lennox Linton

Smith, Steven Peters, son of
Rosalind & Stanley Smith

New Members

We welcome to the fellowship of St.
John's:

Terri & Jessica Sweet

Kimberly-Anne, Walter & Courtney
Hwosdeckyz

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

1st Sunday of the Month:
Children leave
part way through Service

2nd: Family Service, No Church
School

3rd: Church School first, Children
come upstairs for 2nd part.

4th: Children leave part
way through Service.
