

The
PARISH NEWSLETTER
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - WEST TORONTO

FOUNDED 1881

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APRIL/MAY 1985

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of St. John's,

There are so many aspects of our faith that I would like to share with you - but - where and how do we find the time?

The sermon is not enough! Many Sundays I enter the pulpit with a multitude of thoughts and concerns, and I have to choose one and spend 15 to 20 minutes on it, leaving the rest untouched.

I would like to know what you are believing and feeling, and the sermon is such a one way street.

Studies on week nights are not well-attended. Many of the elderly do not like to drive or walk after dark and the young couples have children to look after. Many are both working and do not have the energy or time available.

More and more it is becoming obvious to me that we have an hour or two on Sundays to share with our Christian family.

I have a suggestion that I would like to share with you. This is not something entirely new, thought up by me. There are a few Anglican Churches and churches of other denominations that have tried this, with varying degrees of success.

No one subject would go on for more than six weeks, preferably four, and we would drop it at major festivals such as Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Pentecost, etc.

Please let me know your feelings about this and whether or not you think it is worth attempting on a trial basis to see if it suits the needs of our congregation.

The concept is as follows:

Church Service at 10:30 a.m.

Short Homily

Service over by 11:30 a.m.

(Nursery would be available during and following the service, but most children would be with their parents at church.

11:30 - 11:45 would be our coffee break
and then

Religious Education classes would be available for all ages.

The teachers for the children would be on a rotary basis, with teachers committing themselves for four week sessions.

The adults that wanted to could meet for 1/2 hour led by the rector and/or someone else on a variety of topics. For example:

Baptism: Its meaning to parents
to children
to the congregation

Confirmation Christian Marriage

Divorce Single Parents

Drugs and Alcoholism

Spiritual Growth

The Bible The Christian Family

The New Liturgy

Abortion Genetic Engineering

etc. etc. etc.

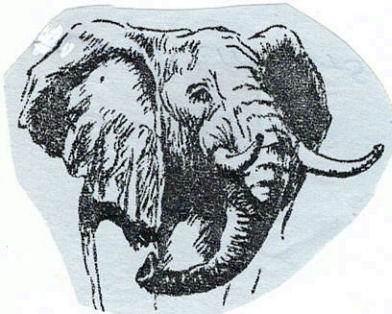
The time for sharing these subjects would be 1/2 hour and would involve dialogue and study.

(1) Yours in His Service,

Gordon King

Sponsorship of Joyce Gatonga Comes to an End

Those of you who have followed the letters of Joyce Gatonga, the African girl whose education was partly funded by St. John's A.C.W., will be interested in the following letter from Brother John Koczka of the Materi Girls' Centre in Kenya.



Dear Cansave Friends,

Your Kenyan daughter has now completed her full four-year studies in high school. Were it not for you and your generous concern, this would never have been a reality.

The future will not be a rose garden, but at least she is now better prepared to face its challenges. The most difficult part, that of getting a good school and meeting the cost of tuition and boarding, is now over with. Your girl is alive, healthy, armed with some knowledge and skills, and reasonably secure. Now let's hope she can put these blessings to good use for herself, her family and her Kenyan community.

Accept my sincere thanks and those of my fellow teachers and staff at Materi for all the good you have brought into the lives of the youth of this region in eastern Kenya. It was a pleasure for me personally to act as co-ordinator for your CANSAVE sponsorship, and I pray we can continue that bond of friendship in the future.

Very best wishes 'Kwaheri' for now.

Sincerely,
Brother John Koczka, Coordinator
Materi Girls' Centre
Meru, KENYA



BRIDGEHEAD

Bridgehead was started in November 1981 by four dedicated individuals who wanted to create an alternate trading organization in Canada. Its growth since then has been based on the support of Canadians who share Bridgehead's commitment to Third World development.

In three years of business, Bridgehead has sold more than \$750,000.00 worth of Third World foodstuffs through its alternative network of church congregations, development education centres, religious orders, wholesale food co-ops and mail-order. Profits have been used to:

- . fund training seminars in basic health care for women agricultural workers in Nicaragua.
- . buy a textile cutting machine that was urgently needed to increase productivity in a "people's Property" clothing factory in Nicaragua.
- . buy truck tires and machinery parts for the instant coffee plant in Tanzania that was out of commission for some time due to lack of spares.
- . support the work of organizing among tea estate workers in Sri Lanka.

Sherri Haynes continues to sell Bridgehead products after church on Sundays.

CHRISTIANS URGED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE HEALING OF THE PLANET

Those of you who attended the March 3rd service will recognize the following from the bulletin of that day.

Many of us followed David Suzuki's recent fine series "A Planet for the Taking", and were somewhat concerned with his thesis that it is our Judeo-Christian heritage that is responsible for the current ills that exist on earth today.

This excellent summary exhorts us as Christians to become concerned about environmental issues and do as much as we can to help preserve the beauty and wonder of God's creations.

"In the view of contemporary scientists, the vast and complex universe that is our home has been some 20 billion years in the making. Evidence for the human species, in present-day understanding, dates back about 4 million years. For some 19 billion, 996 million years the universe was without human inhabitants.

From this perspective we can see ourselves as relative newcomers to the universe. Our recent arrival, however, has not prevented us from being increasingly irresponsible and arrogant in the treatment of our beautiful, fragile, planetary home.

In the name of human achievement, we have poisoned our waters, polluted the air, destroyed precious species of plants and animals and, in our generation, have caused a massive ecological crisis. Some experts tell us that we have not yet experienced the full impact of our past destructiveness.

Our damaged world needs human guests who can clean up after themselves. Our sick and struggling biosphere desperately needs humans who care. For those who have ears to hear, earth and the creatures of earth are crying out for that care and attention. As geologist Thomas Berry warns: "The refusal of human beings to become intimate members of the community of earth is leading to their own destruction."

Our day and age calls for engagement in the healing of planet earth. The late Thomas Merton called for a 'keen awareness of the interdependence of all living beings which are all part of one another and all involved in one another.' With such awareness, we who call ourselves Christians cannot help but give priority to the healing of the planet as we learn and live out our ministry and mission in the here and now.

To learn more of General Synod environmental concerns contact:
Information 600 Jarvis Street Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2J6

LENTEN SERIES CHALLENGES CHRISTIANS RE NUCLEAR AWARENESS

St. John's Lenten Series - Christian Responses to Nuclear War - proved to be very informative and interesting and was well-attended. Those involved were challenged to believe that there is something we as individuals and as Christians can do to turn the world away from nuclear armament and certain destruction. There are many organizations that are working towards nuclear disarmament and the following is from the newsletter of Operation Dismantle, Box 3887, Ottawa, Ont. K1Y 4M5.

"The arms race is militarily pointless, economically ruinous, morally unacceptable and politically insane. Our cause is absolutely just and our eventual victory is historically inevitable if they don't blow the world up first (by accident or on purpose). So I recommend the following: look in the mirror and say "I'm proud of myself, because I'm going to rid this planet of nuclear weapons...with a little help from my friends".

It really would be charming, to see the world disarming
And teach their armies farming, as a trade;
To teach them food production, instead of mass destruction,
So no one need be hungry or afraid!



A NOTE FROM GOOD FRIENDS

Gordon and Daisy King recently received a lovely letter from Wendy Greene. Jim, Wendy and little Matthew are missed at St. John's and it is so nice to hear that they are getting along well in Chicago. Following are some excerpts from Wendy's note:

Dear Daisy and Gordon,

It is a beautiful Easter Day, if only 42°F and the 8:30 service is just beginning at St. John's. Matthew and I have had breakfast and are enjoying the sunshine, birds and daffodils (!) in our yard. I think spring comes 3 weeks or so earlier here than Toronto. Our crocuses have come and gone already. These note cards are one of the projects the building committee has started to help finance a large addition to the church (St. Hilary's Episcopal Church). This is a small parish which started as a mission 10-12 years ago. It is very "eucharistic centered" and the people are very warm. There are many young families and a large teenage population. Father Crist and his wife have a special feeling for and relationship with the teenagers - their only son committed suicide at age 17 about three years ago. That must be one of the hardest deaths to deal with. The congregation has lots of things going on, but primarily for parishioners. None of the churches we have been to so far seem to spread very far. I'd like to at least start a "Deacon's Cupboard".

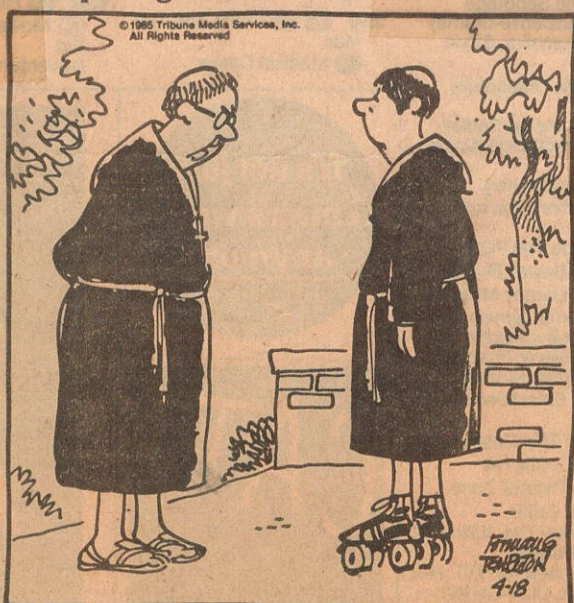
Maybe the work is behind the scenes and we just don't see it. The music at St. Hilary's is very lowkey. I'd like to make the time to be involved and I may as time goes on. Last night I went to the Easter Vigil and it was a lovely service. I was trying to remember if we had one last year. That was my second week as organist and it was a bit of a blur!

We are getting used to being here, but not yet used to not being in Toronto. Mostly we miss our close friends. But we've also had some great quality time with each other. Even as we get more settled and life becomes busier, we'll have to remember to do that. Where one door closes, the Lord opens another!

We hear such good things about St. John's - the Sunday School, the nursery, etc. Gordon, so much good has happened since you went there. Thank you for persevering. You were a special gift to the people at St. John's, including us. We hope your health continues to improve, and that you are also well, Daisy. We think of you both often, and we love hearing from you.

Love, Wendy and Jim

The Sporting Life



Believe me, Brother Brian, All of us here at the Monastery look forward to the coming of Spring..However...

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

Miss Susan Heal
Mr. and Mrs. P. Joannou and family
Mrs. E. Murphy
Miss Shannon Murphy

ONE-ON-ONE

The following is the touching prayer of an eleven-year-old boy:

Dear Father of all. I thank you as we talk tonight for letting me have the Mother and Father I have...and the two older brothers and younger sisters. I love them all so much.

Help me in my studies and let me behave in class and mind my teachers who work so hard to teach me...and help me get along with my classmates, even the ones I don't like very much!

I thank you for putting me on earth as a Canadian boy. I know someday I will understand freedom better and be able to give it back some of the great things it has given me already.

Thank you for the wonderful animals in the forest, and the pretty lakes in the mountains, and the birds that visit us every summer in our yard, and my faithful English springer spaniel and Harvey, my good old turtle.

I hope one day, as I become a man with my own family, that I will have the goodness and patience of my Mother, and be as smart as my Father.

Once again, Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your valuable time during this one-on-one session tonight.

That's all for now. Amen.

AGE - A TREMENDOUS RESOURCE FOR THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

The following was taken from the Rev. Richard Paul Vaggione's report to St. David's (Donland and Danforth) Vestry on January 27, 1985:

Even in the short time I have been here I have already heard several times that St. David's is a parish primarily composed of older people. Sometimes this has been said with a note of self-satisfaction, sometimes in lamentation, but even a cursory glance at the parish records shows that it is true. Since the gradual aging of a congregation naturally represents a change from earlier years, and anyone can see that the future of a parish lies in its young people, there is a temptation to see this development entirely in negative terms. Someone in the parish, certainly someone among its more venerable members, said to me recently, "I'm not old! And I'm determined not to get old, either!" This draws our attention to an important truth: it all depends on attitude. The age of our congregation can be treated as a drawback, or it can be treated as a resource - the choice is up to us.

The nature of the task laid before an older generation is made clear by the Bible:

"And now that I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me, till I make known your strength to this generation and your power to all who are to come." (Ps. 71:18)

This is the fundamental mission of the Christian Church - there is no other reason for its existence. A person who has been seriously praying and living the Christian life for fifty, sixty, seventy, or even more years is a tremendous resource for the Christian community. We are rich in this resource, a resource whose value more than makes up for the diminished physical capacity which accompanies it.



OUR NEIGHBOURS CAME TO SING AND PLAY

St. John's parishioners were honoured to have as their guests for the 10:30 a.m. service on March 24, 1985 the Humberside Chamber Choir and Orchestra. Their glorious sounds filled the church and their discipline and musicality was evident throughout the service. The orchestra even gave an impromptu lesson on their instruments to our children, courtesy of Brother Brian! From Mozart's beautiful "Ave Verum" to the jumpy spiritual "Didn't my Lord Deliver", the choir filled our hearts with joy, and we thank these young people and their directors, Janet Keele and Paul Marshall for sharing their Sunday with us. We hope to see you more often in the future! We are particularly delighted to welcome two new members to St. John's choir from the Humberside ensemble, Susan and Shannon.

HEAR THE PENNIES DROPPING...

What can you buy with a penny these days? Not much on its own, but did you know that one mile of pennies makes \$844.80? You can buy quite a lot with that! Our pennies are contributed to the church funds. If you look at the chart beside the stage in the Parish Hall, you will see how far we have progressed on our mile. Please save your pennies, bring them to coffee hour and drop them in the jar under the chart, so we can all hear the pennies dropping.

Nan Weston

GOD'S DAYS

THERE ARE TWO DAYS in the week upon which and about which I never worry; two carefree days kept sacredly free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is *Yesterday*, with its cares and frets and pains and aches. All its faults, its mistakes and its blunders have passed forever beyond my recall. It was mine; it is God's.

The other day that I do not worry about is *Tomorrow*. *Tomorrow*, with all its possible adversities, its burdens, its perils, its large promise and performance, its potential failures and mistakes, is far beyond my mastery as is its dead sister, *Yesterday*. *Tomorrow* is God's day; it will be mine.

There is left then, for myself, but one day in the week: TODAY. Any person can fight the battles of Today. Any woman can carry the burdens of just one day; any man can resist the temptation of Today. It is only when we willfully add the burdens of these two awful eternities—*Yesterday* and *Tomorrow*—such burdens as only Almighty God can sustain—that we break down.

It isn't the experience of Today that drives people mad. It is the remorse of what happened *Yesterday* and the fear of what *Tomorrow* might bring. These are God's Days; leave them to Him.

—St Paul's *Chronicles*, Claremore, Diocese of Oklahoma.

Contributed by St. John's Chancel Guild

CHANCEL DEPARTMENT

O God, who didst teach thy people of old to
beautify and care for the holy place of thine
abode; help us so to serve thee in thy sanc-
tuaries here, that we may be numbered among
those who worship before thy throne and see
thy face hereafter; through the merits of
Jesus Christ, thy son, our Lord. Amen

THE PRAYER OF THE CHALICE

Father, to Thee I raise my whole being,
a vessel emptied of self. Accept, Lord,
this my emptiness, and so fill me with
Thyself, Thy Light, Thy Love, Thy
Life, that these Thy precious Gifts
may radiate through me and over-
flow the chalice of my heart into
the hearts of all with whom I
come in contact this day
revealing unto them
the beauty of
Thy Joy
and
Wholeness
and
the
serenity
of Thy Peace
which nothing can destroy.

Teach us good Lord,
to serve Thee as thou deservest;
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labour and not to ask for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do thy will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty and eternal God,
enable us, through Worship
Learning and Service,
that, strengthened by the
Holy Spirit,
we may show forth your love
to others throughout the world.
Amen

All the way to heaven is heaven
for He has said, "I am the Way."