

Editor: Lynne Davis

# The PARISH NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - WEST TORONTO

FOUNDED 1881

MARCH 1986

Humberside and Quebec Avenues

## Holy Thursday

March 27, 1986 "Seder Supper" 6:30 p.m.  
Service 7:30 p.m.

## Good Friday

March 28, 1986 Service of the Cross 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
Devotions - Seven Words 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.



*Love one another as I have loved you.*

## Easter Vigil

March 29, 1986 Easter Eve - First Light of Easter  
Holy Baptism and First Eucharist  
7:30 p.m.

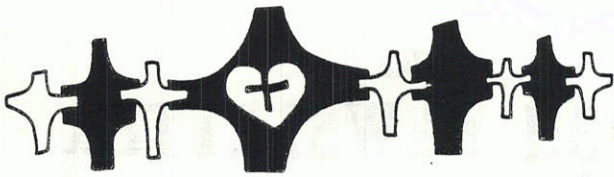
## Easter Sunday

March 30, 1986 High Park Holy Eucharist 6:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist 8:30 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.

## The Resurrection of the Lord







-2-

**IF ANY MAN WOULD COME AFTER  
ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF AND  
TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME.**

#### LENT AND ITS CUSTOMS

Lent can be looked upon as a refresher course in the skills needed for our Christian walk: prayer, Bible study, fasting, alms-giving, service to others and self-denial. Our practice of these skills will strengthen our spirits against self-indulgence and self-centeredness. Some people have called Lent the 'tithe of the year' - time a Christian gives to God in a special effort to live out the baptismal covenant. Perhaps a better image than this is one of continuing education: Lent is the time we take to learn more about the vocation in which we are daily engaged, Christian witness and living.

#### Fasting and Abstinence

Fasting really means to give up all food for a period of time; only water is taken. However, taking only one simple meal a day is also considered to be fasting by some. The 'Book of Common Prayer' states that Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are fast days. Abstinence is the practice of restricting the kind and amount of food eaten - omitting meat, or omitting all animal products, or eating only soup or rice. The purpose of fasting and abstinence is to discipline our bodies by not allowing food to be a tyrant in our lives. An ancient reason for the practice is timely for us today: to save money which can be given to help the poor and hungry.

#### Other Lenten Disciplines

Lent, being a time to focus on our spiritual life, presents us with the opportunity to give up things which may interfere with our spiritual growth. Things which demand our time, attention and money can be foregone for Lent. These might include sweets, coffee, television, radio, bridge, or golf - whatever is trying to exert control in our lives. A greater discipline may be to give up some personal habit or persistent sin, or to try to be less self-centered.

Lent is also a good time to take on some extra spiritual discipline - more time in prayer, mid-week church attendance, participation in a study group. Families and individuals might undertake special Bible study, such as reading one of the gospels through, a little each day, especially in an unfamiliar translation. Some people take on the reading of religious books which are available. Lent is an especially good time for parishes, families, and individuals to learn about the hungry people of the world (many of whom are very close to home). Giving money (beyond our regular amount), especially money saved by self-denial, is another good way to focus attention on spiritual matters. There are a myriad of agencies through which the hungry are fed, the naked clothed, and the word of God spread.

Taken from "Living the Good News"

#### N.B. Of Particular Relevance to St. John's Parishioners

Don't forget the Lenten Boxes and "Tin Cans" - proceeds from which help us to make our Outreach Commitment. Outreach funds are used both at home and abroad to help those in need.



# WOMEN AND THE CHURCH

Many of our parishioners have been enjoying the Lenten Series on "Women and the Church", presented by Sisters Thelma Anne and Constance Anne (S.S.J.D.). The talks have been informative and interesting and have generated some lively discussions. We hope that those who have been unable to attend the first two sessions will be able to come for the last two on March 5, 1986 and March 19, 1986.

Wednesday, March 5, 1986 - Women in The Early Church

Wednesday, March 19, 1986 - Inclusive Language and the Role of Women in the Church - Today and Future

## ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

### SOCIAL SERVICE NIGHT - APRIL 15th

Please mark this date on your calendar. On this occasion, we ask our parishioners to bring groceries, clothing, baby needs and various other articles to the Church Hall. These are in turn donated to the Downtown Churchworkers Association, STOP 103, All Saints Community Centre, Church of the Good Samaritan, Beverley Lodge and Canadian Save the Children Fund. We are pleased to say that our speaker for this evening will be the Reverend Dennis Drainville, Executive Director of STOP 103. There will be more information about this event in the near future.

Thank you all for your response to our appeal for used stamps for the Downtown Churchworkers Association. Now that you are in the habit, we hope you will continue throughout the year!

Early this year, we inaugurated a "Communicators' Group". Periodically, you will receive a telephone call and we hope you will give the 'caller' a friendly reception. She will leave you her phone number in case you wish to report any family illness, problems, or if you have any questions!

Irene Munroe





# NEWS FROM KENYA - REAL AID FOR AFRICANS AT MATERI GIRLS' CENTRE



For several years, St. John's A.C.W. has contributed money towards the education of a young Kenyan girl, Joyce Gatonga. Joyce attended school at the Mater Girls' Centre in Meru, Kenya and finished her programme of studies last year.

Brother John Koczka, coordinator of the centre, sent a 4 page letter to the A.C.W. at Christmastime. Following are some excerpts from his letter, which we are sure you will find fascinating in their reflection of rural life in Africa.

"All in all, 1985 has been a good year for the African farmer, a real turn-around from the gloomy, frightening and insecure days of 1983/84. Food supplies are now back to normal in Kenya, prices have levelled off at reasonable rates, and only in a few isolated parts of the country is famine relief work still going on.

But while Kenyans are back on their feet food-wise, they still have a long journey ahead of them to reach reasonable human development and economic improvement. These are daunting challenges that will be with Africa for many a year. To bring a doctor and treated water within reach of every human being, to offer a place in school to every school-age boy or girl, to provide a decent home and well-balanced diet for every family, to create jobs for the young and able---all these will take

much time, effort and sacrifice. Recently, I came across a fine article by a World Bank director for eastern and southern Africa. I fully agree with his major premise that stability, development, progress, a sound economy and even a good life, can be had here in black Africa if problems and people are approached more and more on a comprehensive, integral basis with greater flexibility, creativity and realism. Solving Africa's debt problem, feeding her growing number of hungry kids, finding jobs for her ever-restless

youth, eradicating malaria and cutting down on child mortality figures, providing decent shelter and living conditions in both urban and rural communities--yes, each is very important in its own right, but only when looked at together and solved together will communities and individuals and nations really grow.



.....There is not an empty desk in the Centre. We have more than twenty applicants for every vacancy. Last year, most of our graduating seniors did well. There is, however, an obvious need to broaden the curriculum to meet individual needs, both of our students and their rural community. How badly we want to start a Home Economics Institute at the Centre...Likewise, in time we would like to set up a small scale intermediate technology village, a demonstration scheme for our villagers in low-cost yet practical water pumps and filtration systems, food storage and preservation, home improvements, etc. Finally, we would like to experiment with comparative methods of irrigation at our Community Garden site - overhead sprinklers, solar energy-run units, furrow irrigation, trickle systems, etc. "

Brother John is obviously a man with a vision of providing the kind of help which will enable Africans to help themselves. If anyone would like to read the full text of his letter, please speak to Sherry Haynes. We pray that the Centre will receive the financial assistance necessary for establishing its goals of a Home Economics Institute and Technology Village.



### HELPING THE NEEDY IN TORONTO

A grant from the Toronto Diocesan A.C.W. helped to support an Internship Programme at STOP 103 this past summer. Four high school students were hired to work and study under the supervision of an Anglican Divinity student.



The students worked from 12-6, Monday through Friday at STOP 103, where they helped interview, sort and pack food, and carry out other necessary tasks. As well as their work, the students were involved in instructional seminars and tours of other ministry projects, such as Scott Mission, Downtown Churchworker's Association and All Saints, Dundas St. It was felt that the programme proved beneficial to the students, the divinity programme coordinator and STOP 103 as well.

It should be noted that St. John's congregation has been very generous in terms of donations to STOP 103, and we hope our parishioners will continue their contributions, both money and food, especially during these difficult winter months.

### LITURGY COMMITTEE

The Liturgy Committee last met in an action-packed meeting on Jan.15,1986 at the church. Father Gord opened the meeting with a yawn, and Brother Brian led us through Compline, which promptly put the rest of the committee to sleep! (Jim had to be woken several times to make appropriate responses!) The relaxed start seemed to do us all some good, however, as we proceeded to have a most productive meeting.

First a pancake dinner was organized virtually on the spot for Shrove Tuesday, Feb.11, 1986. By the time you read this, the taste of Jim and Istvan's pancakes will still be lingering on your palate, no doubt, so there is no need to calculate on all the planning that went into the event. I'm sure a splendid time will be had by all!

We then reviewed the Christmas season and everyone was uniformly pleased with the way the season was celebrated. Among many highlights was the Christmas Pageant, which surprised and delighted everyone. The Christmas morning service was well attended, with 15 young children and their new toys in attendance. In future, it was hoped that we could perhaps resume the Jesse Tree which didn't make it out of Church School this year. It was also suggested that the actual day of Epiphany be celebrated as a special evening service and congregational party to more fully mark the entire Christmas season.

Before getting to next Christmas however (only 304 shopping days left!), we proceed through Lent to Easter. Since Bible study is especially important in Lent, and since we already have a good adult Christian education curriculum, Sunday services during Lent will attempt to incorporate brief Bible study following the services. A short homily will be given and immediately after service there will be group discussion around the theme and readings of the day. The material will be drawn from the Good News Curriculum. The theme is Lent and its observances, and questions and discussions will be based on a review of selected scripture.

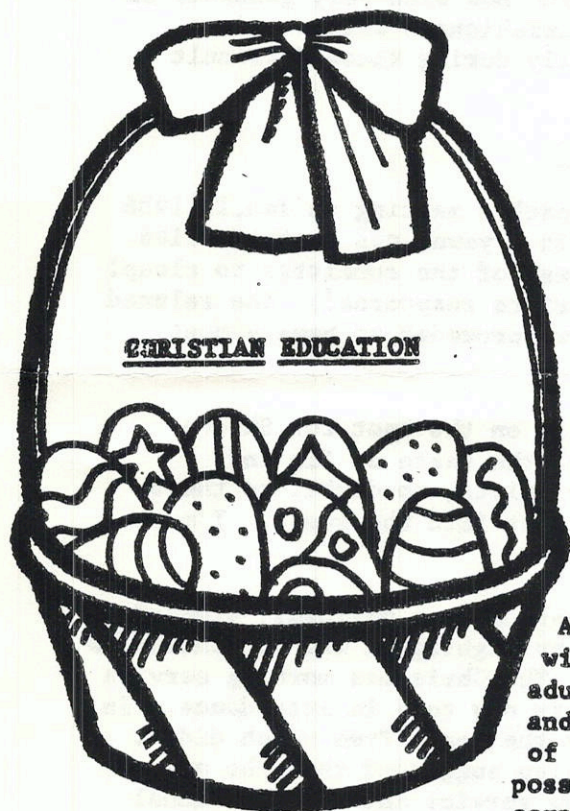


### LITURGY COMMITTEE - continued

We hope to have a triumphant and musical procession with our palms on Palm Sunday. Maundy Thursday will be our Seder Feast at 6:30 p.m. followed by service and the stripping of the altar. On Good Friday, there will be matins and a devotional service from noon to 3 o'clock. Holy Saturday, the Great Vigil will begin at dark and be followed by a Parish party for all. It is hoped that as many as possible, including children, will attend both the Maundy Thursday and Easter Vigil services, as both have special dramatic impact. Easter Day will have the sunrise service in addition to our usual services.

During the 50 days of Easter, the Liturgy Committee is planning a series of home Eucharists throughout the parish, hopefully on an every member basis. Hopefully, we can take the spirit of the Resurrection out into our homes with us, to share among ourselves and with our neighbours.

Jim Crummev



At the present time, the Christian Education Committee is focusing its energies on development of the Sunday School program. The committee welcomes Anne Otten and Anne Ruta as new teachers! They, together with Sheila Crummev, will take turns assisting Brother Brian in presenting the Sunday School lesson. Their participation makes it possible to establish a rota system whereby each assistant teacher will be available to teach one Sunday per month and be free to worship with the congregation on the remaining Sundays. Brother Brian will be leading the Sunday School class every Sunday, as his talents are indispensable!

At the recent Christian Education meeting, questions were raised about the future of the 'Children's Service'. Although it was acknowledged that there had been problems with misbehaviour during the service which distracted some adults, it was generally felt that the effort was worthwhile and should not be abandoned. As well, the primary focus of the Sunday School is to involve the children as fully as possible in all aspects of our Christian life, including corporate worship.

It was noted that our children are as much members of the church as we adults, and must be allowed to participate in our worship in concrete ways if they are to develop into committed and involved adult members. Therefore, once each month we hope the children will be present throughout the entire service and will be encouraged to participate by bringing up the gifts at the Offertory, singing special hymns, using special readings which the children are better able to understand and allowing the children to serve at the altar from time to time. We will not have the children sit as a group around the altar, because it was felt this encouraged them to feel as if they were 'onstage' and led them to show off in inappropriate ways. Instead, the children will sit with their parents when they are not actually involved in serving at the altar or bringing up the Offertory gifts. The homily will be prepared with the children in mind and hopefully will reach all persons in the congregation -both children and adults alike. Both the Sunday School and the Nursery welcome anyone who wishes to participate and help out in whatever way they can. But be prepared to have fun!

Sheila Crummev



### CHILDREN AND COMMUNION

One of the most meaningful changes Father Gord has brought to St. John's has been the sharing of the sacraments with our children. In the February 1986 edition of *THE ANGLICAN*, Eugene Fairweather dealt with the topic of children and communion in his 'Doctrine and Worship' column. Following are some excerpts from that column which reflect the rationale for offering communion to all baptized Christians - regardless of age.

"I have stated the case for child communion in a number of earlier columns, and I should hardly have dared to raise the issue again had it not been for some words in Archbishop Garnsworthy's charge to our recent annual Synod. At that time His Grace stressed the importance of careful instruction for young communicants. While I fully share his concern, painful experience has taught me that Anglicans readily leap at any reference to 'instruction' as an excuse for intruding an element of law between the two great sacraments of the gospel. So please bear with me while I make two complementary remarks about the relation between communion and instruction, with special reference to young children.

On the one hand, it should go without saying that sharing in sacramental communion, central and crucial as it is, is far from being the sole factor in the formation of the worshipping community and of individual worshippers. The church is essentially the household of faith and its sacraments are essentially sacraments of faith. Every baptized communicant, from the oldest to the youngest, is therefore called to grow in faith and understanding, and it is the church's duty to provide opportunities and incentives for such growth.

It follows that, when the church expresses its faith in God's unlimited grace by admitting young and old alike to baptism and communion, it must offer instruction in doctrine and devotion to both young and old. (If I may be allowed to strike a critical note, I want to suggest that most 'adult' Anglicans would benefit from a deepened understanding of, and devotion to, the eucharistic mystery. Child communicants are not alone in needing fuller instruction.)

.....What are the pastoral and pedagogical consequences of all this? Our unreformed pedagogy assumed that baptized children must be prepared intellectually for admission to communion. A reformed pedagogy must take a different tack: it is essentially a nurturing of baptized children within the eucharistic fellowship to which they already belong as fully accepted members. What a vast difference there is between non-eucharistic preparation for future communion and interpretation of a eucharistic experience in which both teachers and taught share!"





THE NEEDLER SISTERS

1920 - 1985

As long time members of St. John's, Helen, Janet and Alice Needler were very supportive members of the Women's Association (now known as the Anglican Church Women). Their regular attendance at our morning services throughout the years was an everlasting inspiration to us all and our lives were enriched by the cheerful example of these fine Christian women.

Irene Munroe

**SIGNS OF A HEALTHY PARISH**

- ⊗ People are constantly expressing disagreement, and they do it right out in the open.
- ⊗ The Rector is always behind in his work.
- ⊗ The Vestry can never seem to make ends meet financially, and they are forever giving money away.
- ⊗ New groups keep cropping up and bumping into each other over schedules and competing over volunteers.
- ⊗ A number of people miss meetings and insist on spending time with their families.
- ⊗ The choir is filled with a lot of amateurs.
- ⊗ The kids are noisy and all over the place, including worship.
- ⊗ The Prayer Books are wearing out, the Coffee Hour is crowded and confusing, the front door is almost off its hinges, the electric bill is way over budget, and it seems that an awful lot of people have keys and all kinds of groups are coming and going.
- ⊗ The place is full of losers. People who have lost their loved ones, people who know they can't make it on their own. People who are losing, but also finding their lives in receiving and giving a lot of love, for Christ's sake.

In short, a healthy, growing, lively church!

—*St Paul's Epistle*, St Paul's Episcopal Church,  
Shreveport, Diocese of Western Louisiana.

ST. PATRICK'S BRIDGE AND EUCHRE

St. Anne's group of the A.C.W. will hold a Bridge and Euchre party on Saturday, March 15, 1986. Dessert at 1:30 p.m. Cards at 2:00 p.m. Prizes. Tickets - \$2.50.

HELP!

The ladies who provide refreshments after our 10:30 a.m. service are in need of some assistance. It only seems fair that we share this duty among the congregation so that the same people don't have to do it all the time. There will be a sign-up sheet downstairs this Sunday for volunteers. Let's all lend a hand!



GUEST PREACHER

We hope that many of you will be able to join us on Sunday, March 16, 1986, when our guest preacher will be the Rev. Philip Poole, son of our former rector Canon Maurice Poole.

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EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST

There will be a breakfast served to ALL members of the congregation, following the 8:30 a.m. service. Please sign the sheet provided in the Narthex or in the Parish Hall to let us know if you are coming and how many there will be with you.

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Mr. & Mrs. G. Devitt  
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