

The PARISH NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - WEST TORONTO

FOUNDED 1881

Humberside and Quebec Avenues

OCTOBER 1986

Editor: Lynne Davis

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of St. John's,

What an exciting fall we are having! On the second Sunday of September, we had 113 of our Christian Family together. On the third Sunday, we had over 90, at least 60 of whom stayed for corn and weiners.

I often wonder what would happen if all of our Family gathered together at one time? Our church would be FULL!

Some suggested dates for this to happen are: Sunday, October 19th when Bishop Snell is with us and Sunday, November 23rd when the Reverend Phillip Poole will be with us.

And, why not every Sunday? The Lord's Day, the Lord's Service and His Family gathered around his table!!!

Yours in His Service,

Gordon King

GUEST PREACHERS

Sunday, October 19, 1986 - Bishop Snell

Bishop Snell is a former rector of St. Mary's and All Angels, Gordon and Daisy King's parish prior to Gordon's ordination. Bishop Snell officiated at Gordon's ordination into the diaconate.

Sunday, November 23, 1986 - Rev. Phillip Poole

Rev. Poole is the chaplain of Trinity School, Port Hope. He is the son of St. John's former rector, the Reverend Canon Maurice Poole.

If you did not see the JUNE/JULY issue of The Anglican, be sure to get a copy. There is a lovely picture of our new altar and a very good article written by Gordon King. Thank you, Gordon!





RUTH SHORTT 1901-1986

Members of St. John's congregation were greatly saddened at the recent passing of one of St. John's long-time members, Ruth Shortt.

Ruth made innumerable contributions to the parish over the years, serving as President of the Woman's Guild, Envelope Secretary, President of the Circle of Friends, Chairperson of the Sanctuary Guild, a member of "St. Helen's" group of A.C.W. and a devoted choir member for 69 years! Ruth was gifted with a lovely voice and was still doing solo parts.

Her energy, enthusiasm and sense of humour belied her age and were appreciated as much as her dedication and reliability.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Ruth's family. Her parish family will miss her and keep her in our prayers.

A.C.W. of St. John's

The A.C.W. of St. John's has already sponsored two very successful events - a musical evening on Friday, October 3 (which it is hoped will become an annual event) and a rummage and bake sale on Saturday, October 18. Thank you to everyone who contributed to and supported these two activities.

Instead of hosting a full Christmas Bazaar this year, a Holly Tea which will include a craft/gift table and a bake table will be held in late November. More details to come.

WELCOME to the fellowship of St. John's:

Carol Denman and family
Tom Dunn and family
Mr. D.M. Richardson
Anita Kirkpatrick
Hans Lewis Matthews
Darrell S. Wright

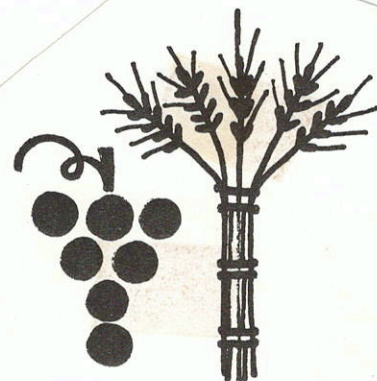
CONGRATULATIONS to Dean and Laura Samaros on the birth of a baby boy!

BAPTISMS

Brian William Noble Morrow

Anthony Scott Vidal

Church Calendars are available from the A.C.W.
If anyone is interested in purchasing one of these, please contact Irene Munroe.



WARDENS' REPORT

As the leaves begin to change outside and we all launch into our fall activities, life at St. John's is gearing up with our late Pentecost season.

The summer was a busy and fruitful one at St. John's. After the special vestry in June, the Rectory was listed for sale and ultimately sold. Special thanks in this regard are due to John Bateman and Joan and Garn Devitt who worked long and hard to bring about the sale. Without their invaluable advice and help the sale would not have been accomplished.

A Home Eucharist was celebrated every Wednesday throughout the summer at a different home in the parish. The atmosphere and fellowship at each helped bring our parish family closer to one another. Many thanks to our parish hosts and hostesses.

Brother Brian was very busy over the summer, cleaning, painting and arranging the Church School. He taught and prepared for the fall the entire summer, while the rest of us holidayed. As soon as Labour Day arrived so did four classrooms full of eager students and teachers, with materials set to go. Without long hours of preparation over the summer, we couldn't have hoped to be ready for the fall.

This brings us to fall at St. John's and a whole new set of opportunities are beginning to develop. We have gone from one class and three teachers to four classes and six teachers in our Church School. We are averaging about twenty students a week and are growing very rapidly. The Church School is the single biggest growth centre in our parish, and if we are to continue growing we must all take some measure of responsibility and interest in the school.

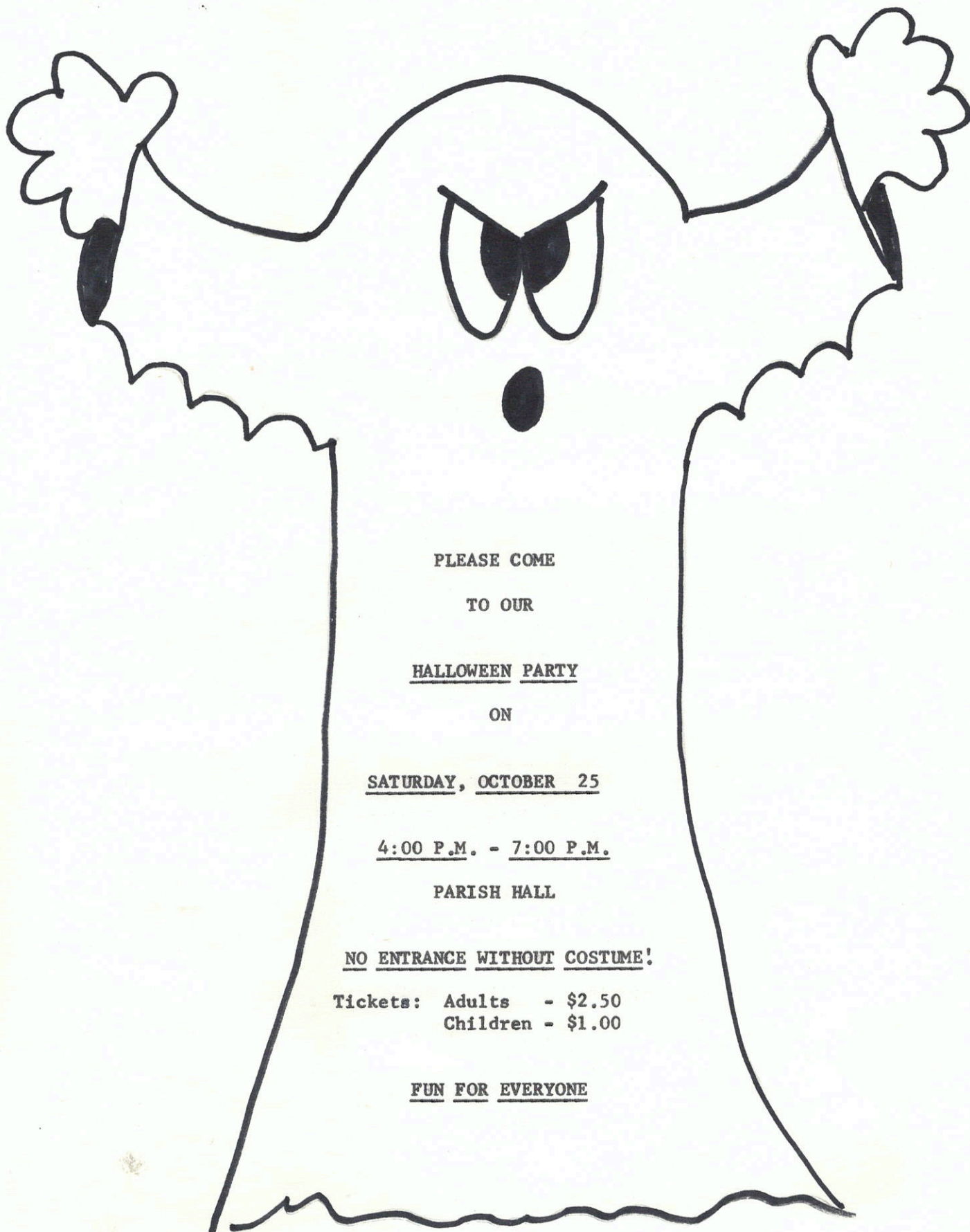
In a very real sense, the model of Christian Education is changing. No longer are children 'dumped' in the nursery after baptism, never to be seen again until emerging as 'perfect' Christians for confirmation. The children are now an integral part of the whole ministry. If we continue to develop this aspect of our parish life, we may very shortly be a shining example for the wider Church.

To do this however, requires the prayers and support of all. Many more teachers will be required to teach periodically so that no one person or group of people have to sacrifice their participation in the Eucharist all the time. Parish 'Foster Parents', who could take children under their wing during the prayer of consecration would also fulfill a helpful role. If more are prepared to contribute, even a small amount of their time, we believe we can continue to accomplish great things with God's help.

Church School is, of course, only one area in which to become involved. The choir eagerly welcomes all comers and there is plenty of opportunity to help with the Chancel Guild, ACW, Cubs, Brownies, Sidespersons, liturgy (readings and prayers), social activities, etc., etc., etc. And what about Adult Study?

We believe that St. John's is 'on a roll', let's all lend a hand to keep the ball rolling!

Jim Crummey Anthony Ruta



PLEASE COME

TO OUR

HALLOWEEN PARTY

ON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

PARISH HALL

NO ENTRANCE WITHOUT COSTUME!

Tickets: Adults - \$2.50
Children - \$1.00

FUN FOR EVERYONE

INTRODUCING.....

Greetings to all and sundry:

The powers that be have asked me to say a word of introduction about myself. Here we go: I am, in fact, known as Darrell Scott Wright, and acting in this capacity I will be coming to St. John's in the guise of a divinity student for the next year.

As far as background is concerned, although born in Toronto, I was raised in Unionville where my parents presently live. Victoria College was home for four years while I worked on my B.A. in English literature and Religious Studies. I graduated in 1985 and subsequently moved out on my own into an Edwardian pile of a house in the Annex to work for a year to give myself a dose of reality and to learn some survival skills such as how to fill out my tax-form without help from Mom! This September I 'crossed over' Queen's Park from my origins at 'that nasty Methodist College' to the big time at Trinity where I am now endeavouring to make sense of my first year studies. I seek ordination, whether in Toronto or Kingston (I know the Bishop), I know not yet. The thought of military chaplaincy is something else I am considering.

St. John's has made me feel most welcome and I am more than happy, indeed, more than fortunate to be here. This is an exciting parish in which I see much vitality of spirit and an eager desire to grow as a teaching/learning and ministering body. My time here I see primarily as educational: what exactly does a priest-type do in the context of parish ministry? With this question in mind, I hope to develop my vocation and talents so I might learn of the idea of faithful service in God's community. I look forward to being as active as I can as far as my allotted time allows. I look forward to what I will learn of myself and about service from the people of St. John's.

Yours in Christ,

Darrell S. Wright
534-7299

STOP 103 - supplies always needed - especially as the cold weather approaches. Please don't forget to bring your donations on Sunday and leave them in the basket in the Narthex. Thank you!

Sherri Haynes saw Dennis Drainville (former coordinator of Stop 103) in the Montreal Diocesan Synod Office this summer. He asked her to send his best regards to the people of St. John's.

As this is the 2nd 'edition' of the October Newsletter (the 1st one having mysteriously disappeared?!), I extend apologies to Irene Munroe and Edna Thompson who contributed material I couldn't replace in time. We will certainly include this in the next Newsletter at the end of November.

Anglican Church Women

ANNUAL MEETING

The site of the Annual Meeting of the Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women will be the Continental Inn, Barrie, on Saturday, May 4, 1985. This will be a day of thanksgiving and celebration of 100 years of organized women's work in the Anglican Church. Guest speaker will be the Most Rev. Lewis Garnsworthy.

Our thanks go to all of you who have returned the Lenten coin boxes (or cards). This money will support St. John's Outreach commitment. Figures will be published soon.

SOCIAL SERVICE NIGHT - APRIL 22, 1985 7:30 p.m.

Due to the illness of Bishop Tonks, our featured speaker, Mrs. Ida Tonks was unable to attend. However, our rector brought in an audio-visual presentation dealing with Anglican outreach and we thank him for so ably filling in. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated goods and making the evening such a success.

MAY MART - SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1985 Mark this date!

Please save your "nearly new" articles of clothing, used furniture, dishes, and anything saleable - still functional and in good condition. Home-baking will also be welcome!

Raffle tickets for the May Mart are now available at 50¢ each or 3 for \$1.00. Anyone who would like to donate a prize, give a donation towards buying prizes or would be able to help selling tickets, please contact Millie Bateman at 766-5881. Current prizes include a box of groceries, bottles of wine, and a fruit basket.

DEACON'S CUPBOARD

Any contributions of canned goods, dried foods, cash or clothing are always welcome for the deacon's cupboard. These are distributed to the needy through STOP 103. Please leave all contributions in the basket in the narthex.

DOWNTOWN CHURCHWORKER'S ASSOCIATION

The Downtown Churchworker's Association welcomes used postage stamps. Please leave the paper around the edge of the stamp. Stamps may be given to Irene Munroe or left in the church office or narthex.



*Let the man with two coats
give to him who has none*

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The Good Friday 3 hour meditation service provided a rare opportunity to read and reflect quietly, without telephones or chores to interrupt. One book I spent some time with was Freedom of Simplicity by Richard J. Foster, especially the chapter entitled "Corporate Simplicity: The Church". The final section I found to be particularly relevant to our current discussions about the parish.

Practical Helps

It is good to seek broad sweeping reform; it is also important to find small ways to stimulate one another to love and good works. I therefore conclude this chapter with some simple counsels for the Christian fellowship.

Let us seek to live in compassion and patience with one another. Grace and latitude should mark our relationships. All too often we can injure each other unduly in our zeal for justice and truth and righteousness. The spirit of condemnation can creep into our relationships so subtly. We can begin to look at each other's possessions with a mental calculator. But there is a more excellent way: we simply need to be with one another, loving, supporting, caring. Of course, we live and speak the truth as it has been given to us, but the business of straightening each other out belongs to God, not us.

Let us seek to do "ecclesiastical mercy-killing" wherever we can. Committees and programs that have outlived their usefulness should be given a proper burial. There is no need to complicate the lives of our people with unproductive meetings. Annual reviews that can cut and streamline the church organization will do much to simplify our lives.

Let us seek simple ways to help one another. Many churches have arrangements where people can bring quite good clothing that the children have outgrown so that it can be passed on to families with younger ones. Some churches have food pantries where canned goods and other staples are available to those in need. At harvest time a table can be set out for people to share their surplus garden produce. Some churches have a weekly or monthly "need sheet" where items to sell, buy, or give away can be listed.

Let us seek ways to resurrect the old practice of community "barn-raising." Roofs can be reshingled together. Skills in plumbing, electricity, and carpentry can be swapped. I have seen entire homes built out of the loving labor of the fellowship.

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And with the escalating costs of financing today, this may be the only way the younger couples in our fellowship can own a home.

Let us seek to pay our pastors well. Do we fear that they will be taken over by the spirit of greed? No one who has a weakness toward the love of money should be in a pastoral position in the first place (1 Tim. 3:3). Let's be known for our gracious generosity to our pastors. It is one way we show our love. It also provides them with the joy of giving to people and causes which they feel are important.

Let us seek to develop many corporate celebrations and feast days. We are enriched by celebrating the goodness of God and our life together. Many such festivals need not be expensive, but some of them should be. We need times when our frugality gives way to the joyous slaying of the "fatted calf." Where I teach we have an annual event called "Symphony of Spring," and the good it does for the human spirit is impossible to calculate. It is the most anticipated event of the year. Music, costumes, color—it is a mini-extravaganza with all the expertise of a professional production, without the plastic superficiality. This event is not cheap. There is a considerable expense in time, energy, and money. We all need such festivals of joy as together we seek the holy simplicity so inherent to the Kingdom of God.

I recommend the remainder of the book also; it is very readable and full of practical (and sometimes very challenging!) ways of simplifying our lives in the complexity of the modern world.

Sandra Nemenyi