

St. John's Church - West Toronto

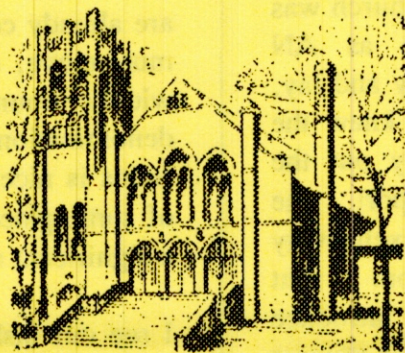
Founded 1881

The Parish Newsletter

September 1994

Mission Statement

St. John's is a community of caring believers of all ages using an inclusive approach to praising God. By gathering as a community we receive respite from the world's tensions and nourishment for our daily ministries. Our commitment to Christ is reflected in our ministries of service and justice both individually and as a community. We invite all people to join us.



Humberside and Quebec Avenues

Home Coming Sunday

September 11

Intergenerational

Service 10:30

followed by a

Bar B Que.

Everyone Welcome

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Message from Father Christian

For a thousand years Europe has been Christian. Church and state formed a tight, if often fractious, alliance and the culture government and social structure was consciously based on what was perceived as Christian principles. Saint and sinner alike shared a common understanding of what was good and evil and the meaning of life. This state of affairs is called Christendom.

Within Christendom the role of the Church was essentially pastoral. The church as AN institution through its officials, clergy and lay, took care of the laity. The church knew the answers and the laity were to carry out the churches instructions and support the institution. Evangelism was exclusively foreign missions. Christendom sent missionaries to heathen lands to introduce Christendom. In the last 400 years this process has been astonishingly successful. How much of it was Christian, or Gods will, is now often debated, but in worldly terms it was extremely successful.

But for several centuries Christendom has been ailing. Today most historians would say that Christendom is dead. Whether that is good news or bad depends on your perspective. More pertinently I believe that the death of Christendom is Gods will; a work of the Holy Spirit to vitalize the church and bring the Gospel to the world. What it means is that everything that we, raised in Christendom have come to associate with "church" is being reborn. Christendom is dead but the church is not, nor is Christianity about to disappear.

But since for many of us Christendom and the church of Christendom is all we have known the distinction is hard to grasp. None the less grasp it we must, for churches stuck in the Christendom model will inevitably disappear.

St. John's is moving along nicely in this process. Since no one can see the future, we cannot know with certainty what the church of the future may look like. Nonetheless there are already certain signs of the direction things must move, and from studies being conducted widely around the world and amongst many denominations some patterns are emerging. St. Johns is nicely centered in this process, ahead of some places, behind others, poised to make a significant step forward.

I see our task as the building of a community centered in Jesus Christ, supporting one another in ministry and vocation and committed to proclaiming the Gospel in the place where God has put us. At first glance this is what we have always been doing. Except that in the past we could assume that the whole nation was already centered in Jesus Christ. That is no longer true even in theory. In the past we could assume that our daily work was automatically "Christian ministry" because our culture was Christian, and legal and Christian were interchangeable terms. No longer true. And in the past we could assume that all our neighbors were Christians, at least nominally and so did not need evangelizing. Again no longer true. It is not our task that has changed, but our circumstances, and our struggle is to discover how in the changed world in which we live we can effectively carry out our unchanging task.

Christian Sawyne

Life At St. John's

The inner workings of many organizations is often shrouded in mystery, leaving little room for input from the people most affected by decisions that are made. It is fundamental to the life of St. John's that all parishioners feel they can have input into the decision making process. Our strength at St. John's is our sense of community, that sense of being part of a family. The Wardens want to make sure that everyone understands how decisions are made at St. John's and we want to encourage everyone to participate as much as they want to.

Decisions on various issues are essentially made by 3 groups, the Wardens, the Advisory Board and Parish Committees.

The Wardens

The Wardens are responsible for the general operation of the parish. We look after such matters as staffing, building maintenance and the systems that are in place for the operation of the parish. We are also responsible for maintaining the financial records of the parish although most of the actual work is delegated to the Finance Committee. At St. John's, the Wardens tend to fill in areas where there is no functioning committee. The Wardens can be the first people parishioners approach if they have a concern or issue they want raised. Technically, there is a People's Warden, a Rector's Warden and 2 Deputy Wardens. However, at St. John's we tend to act as a committee, making little distinction between the titles.

Parish Committees

Most decisions at St. John's are made at the committee level. Committees meet with varying frequency, depending on their activities. Dates and times are published in the weekly bulletin and we are trying to have them marked on the calendar at the back of the Church. You can also call into the Church office to find about meetings.

Minutes of meetings should be posted on the bulletin board at the back of the Church. All parishioners are welcome to join any committee at any time. If you are unable to attend meetings but are interested in the work of any committee or have comments

on issues addressed by a committee, please contact the Chairperson of the committee. A description of the committees at St. John's and their Chairpersons follows on the next page.

Advisory Board

The Advisory Board meets 4 times a year. The role of the Advisory Board is to advise the Rector and Wardens. The Advisory Committee of St. John's is made up of the Wardens, a representative of each of the committees, the parish Deanery representatives and our representatives at Synod. At St. John's we use the Advisory Board meetings to help coordinate the activities of the various committees and increase communication between them.

We would like to encourage all members of the parish to get involved in any of the committees whose work is of interest to you. St. John's has an inclusive approach to its liturgy and its decision making. If we all take part and get involved then we all have a greater sense of community and ownership. We are a relatively small group at St. John's but we all have big goals and ideas that require help to carry out. This means we all need to get involved, based on our interests and capabilities. In order to work together we need to hear everyone's views, both supportive and constructive, so please join a committee or speak to a Warden or committee representative. The life of St. John's is dependent upon the support and life of all of its parishioners.

The Wardens

Committees

Finance Committee:

Looks after the financial systems and the maintenance of financial reports for the parish.

Allan Waters 537-5308

Outreach:

Looks at ways the parish can help others in the community who are in need. They bring in forum speakers who educate the parish on community needs and issues and how we can help. The Committee has focused on four main areas this year, Glendonwynne House, Runnymede Chronic Care Hospital, Stop 103 and is looking into supporting a local women's shelter.

Bruce Glover 766-5723

Evangelism:

This committee works on our continued efforts to welcome new members of the parish and help them integrate into parish life.

Evelyn Butler 604-8692

Christian Education:

This committee is responsible for our Christian education program for the children in the parish (JK to Grade 5) and the involvement of children in parish life.

Lynda Ward 763-2393

Youth Group:

This Committee organizes the spiritual and social life of the youth members of our parish.

Committee 2000:

This is a special committee formed at the 1994 Vestry Meeting to help guide the parish through a process for re-evaluating our use of the worship space. The Committee is helping the parish determine how we need to change and grow in order to carry out our mission statement.

Adrienne Roffey 730-9808

Liturgy:

This Committee is responsible for how we worship each Sunday morning. Over the past couple of years, special committees have been convened to organize the services surrounding high holy days, such as Christmas and Easter.

Jim Crummey 762-9224

Evelyn Butler 604-8692

CHRISTIAN ED

Discover talents you never knew you had or donate your known talents by participating in the Church School Program.

Once again we have need of persons who would like to contribute to our children's spiritual needs. The GOOD NEWS is that no experience is necessary! To help us along on this journey, we are using the Whole People of God curriculum, designed for both the new and more experienced Church School teacher. The curriculum follows an easy step by step lesson plan which needs approximately one hour's home preparation. All craft supplies are provided by the church.

The Church School year is divided into units which average about six Sundays per unit. These units may also be team taught, i.e., share a unit with a friend or spouse. This allows participation from those who are interested in teaching, yet find it difficult to commit for six weeks at a time.

This year too, we plan to have monthly meetings discuss issues relating to the church school program, the role of children in our parish life and prepare for special events. I would like to propose the second

Thursday in each month.:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

These dates are negotiable and are considered a starting point at which we can begin a dialogue. You do not have to come to all meetings

The Parish Newsletter

I hope that you will pray about this important ministry.

Our children are growing up in very difficult times. My own hope is that St. John's can be a place where are children are nourished, enjoyed, and offered some alternative answers to very difficult questions and life situations. One or two persons can not do it on their own.

Our first unit, appropriately enough, is entitled the "Questing Community" and begins Sunday, Sept. 11 with an Intergenerational covenanting service followed by our annual Homecoming Barbecue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with me. Lynda Ward (763-2393).



Plan to attend the 1994 Home Coming and put Yourself in the picture.

The Sunday Roster

Over the past 2 years we have tried a number of different ways to fill the different jobs that need to be done each Sunday, such as reading lessons, greeting, doing intercessions and making coffee. We have had sign up sheets, teams responsible for getting all roles filled over a 6 week period and individuals responsible for getting all roles filled for a particular Sunday. Most recently, we have had various individuals organizing particular jobs each Sunday. They look for volunteers from lists that were made up last fall when we tried to ask everyone which jobs they were interested in doing. These lists are posted on the bulletin boards at the back of the Church.

Some roles, such as greeter, coffee and bringing bread, are being assigned on a rotating schedule to parishioners who regularly attend the 10:30 service. The schedule is posted at the back of the church and is set out on the next page.

Regardless of how jobs are filled, the aim is to make sure that everyone who wants to do a particular job gets a chance and that no one has to do a job more often than they would like. If you have any comments on how jobs are being filled please speak to one of the Wardens or the Liturgy Committee. If you would like to add your name to any of the lists, or take it off a list, speak to Lynda Ward, the Church Secretary.

For those who may be unsure about what is involved in any of the roles, short descriptions for bring the bread, making coffee and being the greeters follow below. Instructions for these and the other roles will also be available at the back of the church..

Bread - Please bring a loaf of plain bread, no fruit, seeds or nuts and place on basket on the table in Narthex at the back of the church.

During the offertory hymn bring the bread and bottle of wine to front. The wine is provided by the church but if you prefer you may bring your own.

Coffee - You will need to bring a litre of milk for coffee and tea. Coffee, tea and juice are provided by the church. If you wish, you may bring goodies. Instruction for making coffee & tea are posted in the Narthex.

Greeter - Arrive at the church shortly after 10:00 AM. Please welcome everyone to your church home and introduce new comers to an old comer. Ask newcomers if they would like to sign the guest book. Don't forget to invite them to coffee and introduce them to some other members.

If you are unable to carry out your duties on the Sunday assigned please ask someone else to do these for you. If you are not on the list and would like to be assigned see Evelyn Butler and she will add your name to the next rotation.

	<u>Bread</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
Sept 11	Colin & Mara Nickerson	Shaon Barnes	Maggie Pawson
18	Sally & Ian Newbiggin-Ritchie	Alison & Steve Bonyman	Pat Piron-Chen
25	Barbara Moore	Ian Bradley	Lucas & Adrienne Roffey
Oct 2	Susan O'Hara	Brad & Staffhainie Christakos	Anthony & Anne Ruta
9	Maggie Pawson	Evelyn Butler	Marilyn Shortt
16	Ruby Pickin	Jim & Shelia Crummey	Cynthia Stoddart-Webster
23	Pat Piron-Chen	Sarah Duncan	Allan & Makel-Anne Waters
30	Lucas & Adrienne Roffey	Wendy & Bruce Glover	Jon & May Webster
Nov 6	Anne & Anthony Ruta	Gerry & Georgia Helleiner	Cy & Nan Weston
13	Susan Reynasko	Steve Hopkins & Elizabeth Wensley	Judy & Tom Wolever
20	Marilyn Shortt	Joy Kenndy & Fred Addis	Bruce & Carol Alton
27	Cynthia Stoddart-Webster	Indra Krishna	Jenny MacBeth & Russ Anderson
Dec 4	Jane Walker	Greg Los	Cheryl Atkins
11	Allan & Mabel Anne Walters	Betty & Mike Marmura	Sharon Barnes
18	Jonh & May Webster	Colin & Mara Nickrson	Evelyn Butler

Church Directory**St. Johns West Toronto****288 Humberside Ave.****Toronto, Ontario****M6P 1L5****763-2393**

Rector	Father Christian Swayne	767-9081
Church Secretary:	Lynda Ward	763-2393
Peoples' Warden:	Carol Alton	762-8664
Rector's Warden:	Mara Nickerson	766-0308
Deputy Wardens:	Cynthia Stoddart-Webster	766-5360
	Tom Wolever	769-0318
<u>Committees</u>		
Finance:	Allan Waters	537-5308
Outreach:	Bruce Glover	766-5723
Evangelism:	Evelyn Butler	604-8692
Christian Education:	Lynda Ward	763-2393
Committee 2000:	Adrienne Roffey	730-9808
Liturgy Committee:	Jim Crummey	762-9224
Deanery and	Pat Piron-Chen	769-9575
Synod Reps	Lynda Ward	763-2393
Sparks (Age 5):	Nan Weston	766-6663
Brownies (Ages 6-8):	Sharon Barnes	767-9629
Guides (Ages 9-11):	Elizabeth Redojewski	762-6054
Pathfinders (Ages 12-14):	Ann Kastanis	533-1042
Rangers (Ages 15+):	Heather Janke	760-0633
Early Enrichment Day Care	Maggie Pawson	763-2266

AA: Closed meetings every Friday night at 8:30. Open meetings on Sunday evenings at 8:30