

St. John's Journal

**St. John's Anglican Church,
West Toronto**

288 Humberside Ave. (at
High Park Ave.)

June 2002



(416) 763-2393 www.sjwt.ca

Summer is almost here and you can feel the energy in the air. As you will see in this newsletter, it has been a busy time at St. John's and you can see God's inspiration at work. For those who will be away over the following months, may God's blessings follow you and we look forward to seeing you when you return.

Incumbent's Greeting

Welcome to the new colours! It is still St. John's Church! We are still the Christian Community gathered through Christ and named for our Patron Saint John the Evangelist. And what we have said of ourselves over time, "We are not a Building!" is still true. But make no mistake, our bold new colours will leave their mark on our future directions and on our identity as a Christian Community. Identity is about how we name, so this is a good time to revisit the way we name ourselves, and our role in the wider community.

By way of illustration, while away on a holiday in North Carolina recently, I found myself agreeing to an unusual request. I was visiting friends, and during a dinner gathering, one of their guests said to me, "You're from Canada? My grade 5 class is doing a unit on Canada do you have time to come and talk to my class about Canada?" I agreed and then asked questions about the class. The students were 50/50 white and black, or rather, African American. It turned into an interesting conversation about the names we use: Does the term "African American" imply that I am a "European American? Does the fact that I live in the "Americas" mean that I call myself an American? I thought we worked all of that out, until in the class, among various questions such as how cold it is in Toronto, and what cars we drive in Canada, I was asked if the first people in Canada were Native Americans. I replied that in fact they were Native Canadians, but since Canada didn't exist at the time they arrived, maybe we could call them Indigenous People. (What does the word *indigenous* mean to grade 5 students?)

In further detail, the Canadians of the Far North are no longer called Eskimos they do not like this Cree word, which means "Eaters of Raw Meat" (ie. *Less civilized than us!*) and prefer to be called Inuit, which

means "The People". We also no longer use the word Indian, adopted when Europeans were looking for a passage to India, and collectively in Canada they refer to themselves as "First Nations." I hope I adequately represented Canada for their unit. I am not sure if what I said about naming was significant to them after all, they were quite intrigued by how I say "about" and "house"!

Naming, as the Canadian identity issue, has been with us for a long time, and now at St. John's, naming is part of the following conversation that we might have. Are we "the Church" for everyone within our boundaries or drawing area? The alternative is that we are one of several expressions of Christian community, and one that will help a particular segment of the whole community to come closer to God through Christ. I suggest this latter to be true. We are not and have not been "all things to all people." In fact we have been laid back, lively with children, accessible and welcoming to those with special needs, with a liturgical style that is both casual and spoken from our hearts as truth. We have not attempted to present the Book of Common Prayer, nor the choreography and incense of the Anglo-Catholic tradition within Anglicanism they are beautifully presented by two of our church neighbours. Now we have taken one more step.

The process of coming to these colours, happened within the existing community of people at St. John's. The place was looking shabby. Someone made the comment, "We are not a beige congregation." Not to malign beige paint, which has an elegance that graces many churches and many of our own homes, but this is a *naming statement*. Whatever the community at St. John's has been, we have become people who together asked for something to represent who we feel ourselves to be. Stuart Reid brought out the words for us by asking how we want to feel about being in our church. We used words like *inclusive, transformation, paradigm shift, life, dialogue with tradition, relevance to the culture, energy, Easter*. Stuart took these words and came back with a proposal that he said would harmonize the competing elements of our space, dialogue with our origins as represented by the biblical scenes in the windows, acknowledge that we use different parts of our space for different purposes, and express Easter.

In terms of naming, this adds to our current understanding of ourselves as informal, inclusive, community-oriented. Now, rather than say we want to feel transformation in our space, it will remind us weekly to embody what we said. Our identity has had further tuning. To be who we say we are, and who our surrounding walls say we are, is an issue of integrity. We have to be transformed people, with energy for our neighbourhood, and relevance to the people who live here, living out the good news of new resurrection life with all the boldness implied by the colours. To be able to continue to say "We are not a building" requires us to live it. Not all will resonate or be impressed. Not to worry, God has provided an abundance of spiritual expressions here in our neighbourhood, each with their own integrity. They are our partners. Through our distinctness we offer Christ.

Together let us live Christ and offer Christ with boldness, depth, commitment to grow into all that lies before us, never forgetting that Christ is cause for celebration and joy.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Gary van der Meer

Incumbent

2

Purple, Green & Yellow

CELEBRATION



Our Banner created by Mabel Anne Waters with help from Ann Mitchell and May Webster and installed by George Turenne.

ST. JOHN'S OPEN HOUSE -

A COLOURFUL SUCCESS!

St. John's showed its colours to the neighbourhood at a festive Open House on Saturday, May 11, 2002. Old friends and new visitors came by for a joyful celebration of spring in our rejuvenated worship space.

Outside, our beautiful new banner, designed and handcrafted by Mabel

From 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Nan and her happy crew served up traditional tea and sandwich fare at tables set up in the Nave and decorated with cloths and napkins of our new colours. Then at four we were treated to a musical presentation by Philip Addis soon off to Montreal and a career as a professional singer with the Montreal Opera company. James Bailey demonstrated the range and depth of the organ to visitors, and this stimulated a lot of questions about its history. Thankfully, Bruce and James had prepared a guide to the windows and organ from information on the website, so parishioners didn't have to fumble for answers.

After the musical presentation, Stuart Reid talked about the process of developing the colour scheme, and some of the elements he wanted to unify: ceiling wood, windows, areas of activity. It was a fascinating window into the work of the artist. Councillor David Miller shared some of his thoughts about the outreach of our parish to our community, and of what St. John's has meant to him and his family, and Gary invited all to stay for dinner before offering a blessing and grace.

Ann, May and Ann, hinted at what was to be revealed inside where the balloons and the decorated tables were coordinated with our stunning new colour scheme. The stained glass windows looked even more brilliant than ever with the sun streaming through them and surrounded by our new yellow, green and purple walls.

Following the discussion, our intrepid barbeque chefs, Bill and Kyle flipped a steady stream of beef and chicken burgers which Linda and Greg served along with potato salad and soft drinks to the hungry masses, all before the rain arrived.

Meanwhile, as people ate, the pews were being moved back and the sound system set up so we could boogie to the beat at the Pub night. Our bartenders Mabel Ann, Allan and Anthony kept our thirst at bay. Greg and Margaret spun tunes from swing to techno as Nan and Cy dazzled us with their fancy footwork and the rest of us "got down". There was something for everyone. Even the

3

OPEN HOUSE (Continued)
dogs joined in on the "square" dancing to "Cotton-Eyed Joe".

The evening ended with everyone tired, but invigorated at the same time, after a day of good company, good eats, good music and great fun. Thanks to everyone who made the day such a great success!

Susan Rynasko

IN CONVERSATION WITH

STUART REID, ARTIST WHO TRANSFORMED ST. JOHN'S

On June 10, 2002, we asked Stuart Reid for some of his thoughts on the painting of St. John's. Here's some of the reflections that he made:

The painting was a response to all the adjectives given by the congregation. This was a daunting list of words but it was an exciting

it when it goes right but you have to fiddle with the colours until you get it right. Of course, the colours are not at the store. The colour does not look the same on the wall and each colour looks different on different walls. It all may look simple but there are 10 colours on the walls. Some look different but are the same and vice versa.

The leaves were tricky and I did them. The colours on the leaves blend from one colour to another and gives a mural quality and life to the wall.

Looking at the painting, people will have something new to look at each time. It opens yourself up. Under different lighting conditions, the painting will change slightly, making you see different things. It works for different situations including evening services. The painting works for contemporary

challenge. The bar was set high and I tried to respond to it. Along with the list, I wanted the painting to reveal the beauty of the architecture - the wood, the ceiling, the windows. It also needed to reflect the beauty of the history and identity of the church. The project was difficult and daring but satisfying.

I treated the project like an environmental or sculptural painting. Once you find the colours you like, they look obvious, but they are not so obvious at the time you are creating the design. Colours are a difficult thing. They can be bad when not done right - like music played badly. That is why people choose beige. But, you are not a beige congregation. You want to take risks but one must be careful to manage risks. The list of words shows that you are more demanding as a congregation with a lot of depth and meaning to be pulled out.

I tried to think of what the building needs to be, what the congregation requires and what I have to have - self respect as an artist. This is not a relaxing process. You can enjoy

society but is true to the whole spirit of what church is about.

Stuart Reid is a Toronto artist and designer, widely renowned for his work in stained glass, with a wider interest in ecclesiastical architecture and the integration of all visual elements into a harmonious whole. Reid teaches at the Ontario College of Art and Design. His commissioned work, "The Calling of St. James" a stained glass window designed for St. James' Cathedral and the Governor General's Horseguards for the 200th anniversary of the Cathedral and the 125th anniversary of the Horseguards, was dedicated by Queen Elizabeth II on June 27th, 1997.

You can learn more about Stuart Reid at his website:
www.stuartreid.net.

Our thanks to Mike Noble, head painter, and his assistant Joe who were responsible for painting the interior of the church except for the murals which were created by Stuart Reid.

Andrea Rutty

4

A DAY WITH ARCHBISHOP FINLAY

On Thursday, May 2, Archbishop Finlay spent the day at St. John's. Ever wonder what an Archbishop does? Here's how he spent his day with us.

As our Area Bishop, Archbishop Finlay makes a full day available to

St. Olave's, and St. Martin's. We talked about the sense of mission in each of these churches, and we also discussed the latest figures on population, especially noting a recent statistic indicating West Toronto has the highest per capita population of children in all of Canada. What kind of outreach could we have in the schools, he asked. We talked about the

each parish in the Area of York every two years. On such visits, he likes to spend some time with the incumbent, the wardens, the congregation and any area of wider community life that is pertinent in the life of the parish. Archbishop Finlay arrived in the mid-afternoon, and began his visit with a tour of the church. He had very specific memories of the way things used to be, and asked and commented on changes he's noticed since his last visit (the Induction Service on Thursday, September 27, 2001). We had a long conversation about the colours and the process in choosing them, but he also noticed the changes in the chapel and baptistry areas, the children's focus display and the Incumbent's Office. We talked about how each of these changes happened and how each of these areas are used. We returned to the colours and Archbishop Finlay began musing on what our purple, yellow and green meant to him personally.

possibility of a lunch hour drop-in at St. John's, and his belief that young people are looking for mystery and an experience of the Holy. How could we offer that without it feeling "institutional" (which they don't want). I took him the long way through the park my favourite way of getting to and from St. John's to my apartment in the Roncesvalles Village. We noted the former St. Jude's in the process of becoming Lofts, Alternative Grounds and the goals behind "Fair Trade," that the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada lives in the neighbourhood.

Over a glass of scotch in my apartment, the Archbishop asked me the kinds of things he wants to know from his clergy during a visit: How am I praying, what am I reading, what professional development am I undertaking, what situations am I finding most difficult or challenging at St. John's. I told him about my plan to visit South Africa as a "ministry



Archbishop Finlay and artist Stuart Reid

I drove Archbishop Finlay around the neighbourhood. He commented on the numerous schools, particularly Humberside, but also Western Tech and the elementary schools. We drove past various churches in the neighbourhood: St. Paul's Runnymede, Runnymede United, Runnymede Baptist,

immersion experience" and he encouraged me to go, and suggested where I might apply for financial support. We previewed the liturgy for the rededication and discussed the question that would be asked of the community, "What is your vision for St. John's, and how are you going about

accomplishing it?" Throughout our conversation, I found that he listened intently, asked perceptive questions, occasionally made notes.

We returned to the church for a visit with the Wardens. They brought Archbishop Finlay up to date on some of the changes (other than property) that have occurred in parish life. He was particularly interested in how the "Sunday Ministries Schedule" is decreasing the burden on individual volunteers and getting more people involved in the worship, and how the "Music Selection Group" is intended to provide a sense of community ownership over the range of music found in our worship. The time seemed to fly by and we were notified that dinner was beginning. We joined the group assembled; the Archbishop said the grace, and had an opportunity to visit with people over the meal. Stuart Reid joined us, and gave the Archbishop the "artist's perspective" on the colours upstairs.

As the Liturgy was to begin, we walked outdoors (as has been my practice) around the building to the main doors. We came outside to a vivid rainbow, and the Archbishop began his remarks by saying he believes in signs like rainbows. He then noted that people had been briefed on The Question during dinner, and he asked people to share their vision. Many did so, and for each one took time to listen, to comment and to make suggestions. He then proceeded with the surprise portion of the evening's plan. He asked "Cyril" and "Nancy" to come forward, and then on our behalf made a presentation to them for over 100 years of faithful service at St. John's. He read an account of their life (included in this newsletter), and presented them with Cy's Layreader Cross, beautifully framed and with



Wreath designed by Joan Bull

managed to keep this secret, and we gave them a great round of applause.

Then as a preface to the Rededication Blessing, Archbishop Finlay shared his perspective on our colours: Purple represents the inward journey deeper into the heart of God; Green is the colour of growth and life; Yellow represents celebration and joyfulness. Together these would represent a healthy congregational sense of mission. He then gave the blessing. (Just a further note: I called the Archbishop's Office earlier in the week to ask if he would like to make up his own blessing, and his secretary sent me an email entitled, "No Extemporizing," and the content "The Archbishop would prefer that you write something." During our visit, we went over what I had written, and he made a couple additions.) He gave the blessing and we continued with the Eucharist. I found myself noting that he led the Eucharistic Liturgy as if he has been with us every Sunday and knows inside-and-out the way we do it. While we might expect that to be the end of it, Archbishop Finlay telephoned me this week to confirm some of the notes he had made during his visit.

an inscription to Cy and Nan. Cy and Nan were genuinely surprised, because we actually

Have you ever wondered what an Archbishop does? I have to admit that I have never even

6

thought about it. I suppose being Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario has some dignitary-type responsibilities, and being Diocesan Bishop has involved the vision of the Diocese just as Incumbent involves the vision of a Parish. I have heard people comment on Terence Finlay's style of leadership, both favourably and unfavourably. What I encountered was someone who was attentive, clear-thinking, caring, and with an ease about him in making sure everyone is heard, understood and accepted. His day with us revealed to me his gifts as a pastor and teacher.

For Further Thought:

ÿ What would be a mission for St. John's that you would be excited about and work towards?

ÿ If you were at the service, did you hear any version of our mission that you would find challenging to accept or work at accomplishing?

ÿ How did you experience Archbishop Finlay's presence with us?

In your work, are there parts of your role for which you are particularly gifted and other areas in which you recognize yourself to be less capable? How do you handle this?

Nan started attending St. Johns at the age of 2 years. We'll let Nan tell us how many years that she has been a member of St. John's. She and Cy met at the church in the 1950s when Cy decided that the tennis opportunities through Anglican Young Peoples was too good to miss. They married in August 1953. Over the past 49 years they raised their three girls - Susan, Sharon and Heather - as faithful members of the church. Latterly, several of their grandchildren have been involved members of St. Johns.

Throughout the years, Nan has been active in church school and at one time was the Sunday School Superintendent. During the summertime she has frequently run the children's program and has also lead the children's focus. In 2001 Nan was Chair of the Advisory Committee and she has been instrumental in organizing the kitchen and the coffee time after Sunday service.

Cy, as I already mentioned, was initially attracted to St. John's because of tennis. Fortunately for St. John's his commitment was much broader and deeper than that focus. Both he and Nan have been actively involved in the Liturgy as Readers and as members of the Choir. Cy served as a Sidesperson. As well, Cy became licensed as a Lay Reader in the early 1970s with the Reverend

Father Gary



**ARCHBISHOP FINLAY'S
PRESENTATION TO "NANCY
(NAN) AND CYRIL (CY)
WESTON"**

Anyone attending events at St. John's quickly realizes that there are two people who are always among the first to arrive and the last to leave - Nan and Cy. During the events, either can be seen attending to any number of tasks. Multitasking in today's parlance.

Maurice Poole. He continues to this day as a licensed Chalice Bearer.

Under the tutoring of Nan's father, Harold Smith, Cy became very interested in the physical structure of St. Johns and for many years was the Property Committee. You could say that Cy knows the building like the back of his hand. He continues as a member of the Property Committee.

Between them Nan and Cy have over 100 years of faithful service to St John's. In gratitude for Cy and Nan's faithful service, I present to them on behalf of the people of St. John's this sign of recognition and thanksgiving.

7

NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

Father Gary has asked me to say what I think the most important issue is to our community about which the congregation might be able to act. I feel that issue is isolation.

Many vulnerable people are isolated from any community network. For example, since the cutbacks to home care programmes, those experiencing serious illness at home often have little or no institutional support and may have no family who can provide friendship and support. Many seniors feel isolated and vulnerable, yet so do single parents or even financially well off couples who perhaps live in the community without being part of it.

A ministry of outreach and community-building would have a strong benefit for individuals who are part of all of these groups.

Councillor David Miller

OUR ST. JOHN'S FAMILY

Marion Karasiuk Has a New Job:

Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated as I start this new job!

**Youth Event Coordinator for the
York Area of the Toronto Diocese**

Marion Karasiuk

News from One of Our Partners

In early March, I accepted a part-time position with the Toronto Diocese as Youth Event Coordinator for York Area. My primary responsibility is to organize and promote one youth event per year. In even years (2002, 2004, etc.), the event is Area-wide (in my case that's York Area - Humber River to Bayview, Lawrence down to the waterfront including Toronto Island). I expect the event I will work on for 2002 will be in October or November of this year. In odd years (2003, 2005, etc.) I will work with Michelle McBride and the coordinators for the other four Areas in the Toronto Diocese on a Diocesan-wide event.

My secondary responsibility is to maintain the database of youth ministry contacts for parishes in York Area and generally keep the lines of communication open among these parishes with regard to youth ministry. Since my job is funded through the York Area, I am accountable to the York Area Council and Archbishop Finlay in his capacity as Area Bishop for York Area.

Brother William Sibley will be returning to the Priory (for the warmer months of the year) and we look forward to welcoming him back at St. John's!

Memorial Service for Goldie Josephy

On Saturday, June 15, a memorial service was held at St. John's for our former parishioner Goldie Josephy. Goldie generously left St. John's a memorial donation in her will. Our prayers and sympathies go with her family and we give thanks for her donation.

Here is a test to see if your mission on earth is finished. If you are alive, it isn't.

- Francis Bacon

A NOTE FROM YOUR INCUMBENT

I wish to extend my thanks to all of you as I move closer to a year in Toronto. I am starting to feel settled in now. Getting through one Christmas and one Easter provides a sense of the flow in a parish's life. Apart from the exceptional occurrences already noted in this newsletter, church life dictates a pattern on all of our lives. We go from Sunday to Sunday. For me the rest of the week is punctuated by regular events including a staff meeting most Tuesday mornings and a new midweek church service on Thursday mornings. I have found both of these to be helpful and even necessary: the staff meeting makes coordinating our effort among Lynda, Bruce, James and myself easier the hour we spend means our separate efforts have a harmony to them. The Thursday morning service is a short (one half hour) service of the word, where generally we repeat one of the

readings from Sunday and have a short conversation about ways that scripture continues to live in us. I am finding this a helpful way of letting go of the previous week's readings and opening myself to the ones on the coming Sunday. I appreciate hearing how other people work the same passages for which I prepare sermons. The sharing afterwards has proven to be a relaxed time of visiting, which has several times become an impromptu work party, for which I am thankful to the participants.

There are other regular occurrences in parish life. When I can, I participate in the Monday evening prayer group and the Tuesday evening choir practice. My other "every week without fail" endeavour is to have Friday as a day off. While I am prepared to overlook this should there be an emergency, or an event in parish life that is important for the community as a whole, mostly I have enjoyed a day of errands, introspection, the gym, a movie or visits with friends. It is my own personal Sabbath, approached with a different spirit and structure from the other days. I suspect you have your own personal ways of doing the same thing.



In addition to the routine at St. John's, which is now becoming comfortable, I also enjoy having some kind of adventure or plan or vacation to anticipate. Many of you are aware of my long-distance bicycling adventures of previous years. This year I have a new plan. For the month of July I am going to South Africa. I am going to Grahamstown, to be part of a multi-racial team ministry for the six Anglican parishes, which together represent the ethnic and cultural diversity of South Africa. I sought this out by writing various Bishops, and received

this offer from the Rural Dean, in whose home I will stay for the month. I have made the post-September 11 discovery of the price of flying, and will

be applying for a travel grant from the Diocese. I will encounter multiculturalism with a different history and passion from the way we experience it in Toronto, and I hope that will prove enriching. July is in fact to be my vacation, but I expect that I will work hard and learn a lot. I hope the saying that "a change is as good as a rest" proves true. July is only a short time away!

In the meantime, I wish to thank you for the many visits through which I have gotten to know you over the busiest part of the liturgical year. Your efforts in many areas of worship and community life have contributed to life at St. John's having all the dynamism that was originally represented to me in your parish profile.

Sincerely,

Gary

9



MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD

New Group Selects Music at St. John's

St. John's now has a Music Selection Group. Earlier this year, it began out of a choir visioning evening. We talked about the role of the music in worship, the role of the choir in leading worship, the music workshop held last year, and the kinds of music in the "repertoire" of our community. Out of this meeting we began to move towards a group that would represent community ownership of, particularly, the hymns to be sung at our liturgies.

Our group includes Gary, James, and three members of the congregation. May Webster brings to the group her years of experience in the choir. Sheila Crummey brings her experience in various St. John's roles. Sheila has had no previous involvement with the music program and brings an awareness of how music "feels" to participants without previous training. Andy Elliott comes to the group as a

Music at St. John's

Our concert season for this year is completed, but there is still music aplenty ringing through the multi-coloured hall.

After a season of varied performers, and variable attendance levels, it has been observed that we should probably not look on the concerts as a way to make money for St. John's. Rather, they should be seen as an outreach to the community after all, most of the attendees have not been from St. John's, and in that regard we are most certainly meeting our mandate. The Concert Committee has not yet met to look at possibilities for next season, but should be doing so soon.

Since Father Gary's arrival, there have been two noticeable musical changes: the singing of a 'focus song' (with the children where possible) and the singing of a Gospel Acclamation instead of a gradual hymn.

relative newcomer to the parish, but with the wider perspective of worship in several previous parishes.

The Music Selection Group has been meeting approximately every 6 weeks. We prepare in advance by considering the scripture texts and themes of the day and season and share in the decision-making. We hope our effort provides a balance in any given liturgy, including the familiar, the unknown but worthy of appreciation, the traditional, and a variety of instrumentation and styles. As this group is an effort to keep our music in touch with the grassroots of your music interests and abilities, you may speak to any one of us if you wish to share ideas or ask questions.

Father Gary

The focus songs are set to guitar (played by John Webster), sometimes have piano accompaniment as well (from James Bailey), and are sung from words on bristol-board posters. May Webster and Marion Karasiuk also help in presenting and leading these songs. They are usually set to folk tunes, and are intended to be upbeat in nature. Recently, we have also sung a children's hymn from days-gone-by. Since the introduction of the first one, shortly after Christmas, we have acquired a considerable repertoire of songs; one of the most moving experiences with them came a few weeks ago, on the Sunday of the power failure, where we sang 'This Little Light' by taper light, and the singing group was joined at the front by Alexis and Abigail.

(continued next page)

Music at St. John's (continued)



The Gospel Acclamations, while seasonally appropriate, also tend to be up-tempo. As a result of the music workshop undertaken while Jack Adam was with us, we realised that a considerable number of parishioners enjoy the more up-beat, folk-song type of music. What was lacking was opportunity to introduce it, without taking away from the usual types of hymns. Many of the tunes used in the Gospel Acclamations come out of this less formal type of music, and we hope that we are presenting music of sufficient variety that many parishioners will find themselves humming tunes sung Sunday as they go about their mid-week activities.

May Webster



HELP WANTED

The **Concert Committee of St. John's** is seeking a chairperson for next year's Series our 9th season! to take over the work of the past years' Seasons' Chairs.

The person or persons we seek will be responsible for calling meetings, co-ordinating the work of about a dozen volunteers, and ensuring that each concert is well-planned and executed. The Concert Committee takes pride in making sure that the artists are content and the audiences happy. The Chair will find him or herself supported by an enthusiastic bunch of volunteers who will willingly take on a number of tasks with a bit of encouragement.

The candidate should demonstrate the following: interested in a variety of musical forms; flexible; patient; and committed to this rewarding form of parish outreach.

The remuneration is large: the satisfaction of seeing our space used to promote community life, and at the same time raising some needed funds for the on-going musical life of the parish.

Concert committee volunteers, ideas for musical events and ideas for outreach and publicity related to these events are also most welcome. If you are interested in taking part in this musical outreach program of St. John's, please contact James Bailey or Bruce Alton as soon as possible!

JAMMING NIGHT -

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2002

There were 21 people at St. John's first-ever Jamming Night, which was held at Holy Cross Priory. We had a variety of musical instruments: guitars, tin whistle, harmonica, triangle, tambourine, maracas, cowbells, and various



drums, as well as a good assortment of voices.

We started with pizza and beverages (wine, juice or beer), and soon got into the music. We shared around two copies of *Rise Up Singing* - which is a wonderful resource for 'singable songs' - and supplemented this with Children's Focus songs current and past, the Carey Landry *Sanctus and Benedictus*, and a premiere performance by John Webster of a song that he recently wrote. We sang and shouted for about two hours, ending with *So Long, It's Been Good to Know You*, just as people began to leave - after that, there was really nothing more to add.

Our thanks to the Priory folk for sharing their livingroom with us.

May Webster



CHRISTIAN BAND CHALLENGES YOUTH

On April 13th, St. John's' Disruption concert started at 7:00 p.m. and rocked on for an hour. It was the first event held in our newly painted sanctuary. Disruption, an alternative rock band from Kitchener, has been using their music for four years now to challenge youth to think deeper about truth and the importance of our lives. The band (Brian Courtney on lead vocals and guitar, Chris McIntyre on vocals and guitar, Stephen



Preston on bass and backup vocals, and Brent Ferguson on drums) was exciting, friendly, honest, and put on a great concert overall. I really liked how they talked with us and treated us like people instead of just their audience. With a mixture of punk, modern rock and rap music, most people in the audience found a genre of music that made them dance, and I think that everyone in the audience found the lyrics insightful and inspiring.

In between songs, the lead singer, Brian, talked about his own faith journey and challenged everyone to ask tough questions about life and to trust God to help find the answers. There was also about half an hour of contemporary worship with words projected on a screen so that everyone could sing along. During this time, I noticed that the audience participated enthusiastically. With everyone singing, there was a strong feeling of faith in the church and I think that everyone felt connected to each other and to God.

After the concert, there was pizza with the band and everyone from the different churches got to meet and get to know each other better. There was a door prize draw for CD's which were donated by Mitchell's Bookstore and other prizes which were donated by the band.

CHRISTIAN BAND CHALLENGES YOUTH (Continued)

Thanks to everyone who supported this event by volunteering, sponsoring or just showing up!! We especially want to thank those who bought tickets for others to attend.

I'll always remember this concert - not only was it awesome music and an excellent opportunity to go crazy and jump around, but it also encouraged the youth of the churches (and the adults who were able to come) to question things and to renew their faith. I hope that we'll be having another concert at St. John's soon, and I hope that everyone will come: youth and adults alike.

Tania Amardeil

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2002

www.wyd2002.org

JULY 22-28, 2002:

**THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE
HOME -**

WILL YOU OPEN YOURS?

This summer Toronto will be host to World Youth Day 2002. World Youth Day is an annual event organized by the Roman Catholic Church to which young people aged 18 to 35 years come from all over the world. It is an opportunity for these young pilgrims to spend a week meeting with their peers and celebrating their faith in Jesus Christ. Pope John Paul II is scheduled to come to Toronto for an outdoor service with the pilgrims held at Downsview Park in North Toronto.



They have invited all other Christians in our neighbourhood to consider offering their homes to accommodate World Youth Day pilgrims. The pilgrims are between 18 and 35 years of age. They have been screened before being registered to come to this event and each individual has signed a code-of-conduct. For safety reasons, if you are offering your home there must be two or more people living in your home and you would need to be able to accommodate two or more pilgrims. The pilgrims will be here from July 22- 28 and will need a place to sleep and dress, access to shower facilities, and a light breakfast each morning. They will be attending planned activities all day and will return home in the evening before bedtime.

If your family would be interested in opening your home to two or more World Youth Day pilgrims, please contact Marion Karasiuk (416-604-1591, mkarasiuk@rogers.com) for an application form or visit Pilgrimhosting@wyd2002.org.

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. (Romans 12:13)

Marion Karasiuk



**WORLD YOUTH DAY CROSS
TO STOP AT ST. JOHN'S, July 3,
2002**

Akin to the Olympic Torch that travels the world to wherever the Olympics are held, the World Youth Day Cross travels the world to wherever World Youth Day is

Our local Roman Catholic Church, St. Cecilia's, is involved in finding accommodation for young people coming to Toronto for World Youth Day.

held. The 3.8 m high wooden WYD Cross will be coming to Toronto about a month before World Youth Day 2002 begins. The WYD Cross will be carried through the streets of Toronto, making brief outdoor stops at various locations for prayer, Scripture readings, songs and reflection.

13

WORLD YOUTH DAY CROSS

(Continued)

On Wednesday, July 3 the WYD Cross will be in our neighbourhood of Parkdale-High Park. There will be a procession that day starting at Holy Family Church in Parkdale, winding through the neighbourhood south and north of Bloor, and ending in the evening at St. Pius X. Most of the stops along the procession will be in front of Catholic Churches, schools and institutions in the area, but the WYD Cross will also be stopping in front of St. John's and in front of Runnymede Baptist Church. When the Cross comes to the steps of St. John's we will have a short time (about 5 minutes) to worship with our fellow Christians in the Roman Catholic Church as we recognize the responsibility we all have to encourage a new generation to follow Jesus.

Please mark Wednesday, July 3 on your calendar. The Cross will stop in front of St. John's sometime during the day. We will receive a more specific time of day closer to the event, but it will likely be around noon. We will be looking for people to help with the short worship service and also to help carry the Cross. Please contact Marion Karasiuk or Rev.

Looking at the Lighter Side of Church

What happens when you give pencils and paper to the 8 & 9 year olds in Sunday School and ask them to jot down what they know about the Bible?

FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES, COMMONLY CALLED THE OLD TESTAMENT

In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, the Lord got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off. Adam & Eve were created from an apple tree.

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built the ark and the animals came on in pairs.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.

Sampson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.

David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the harp. He fought with Goliath, a race who lived in the biblical times. David's son, Solomon, has 300 wives and 700 concubines.

Reprinted with permission from Father Myles Hunter, St.

Gary van der Meer if you can participate.

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (Matthew 16:24)

Marion Karasiuk



George's-on-the-Hill Anglican Church

SUMMER'S HERE FOR CHURCH SCHOOL

The last Sunday for regular Church School will be Sunday, June 23. Activities, handouts and videos will be provided throughout the summer for any children who come on Sundays. If you would like to supervise the children on any given Sunday during the summer months, please speak with Lynda Ward (416-763-2393).

Our thanks to Lynda Ward and Ian Henderson for leading our children's and youth Sunday School groups for this year.

14

Doors Open Toronto -

Open House at St. John's

Doors Open Toronto is the annual free weekend celebration of Toronto's architectural heritage, sponsored by The Toronto Star. Approximately 100 of Toronto's most historic and/or architecturally significant buildings opened their doors to the public last weekend, **May 25 -26.**

Although not officially on the published list, St. John's also opened its doors for this event. On Saturday and Sunday, visitors were welcomed by a large purple, green and yellow "OPEN DOORS" sign located at the bottom of our steps. During this time, visitors heard a range of Christian music, from the sounds of our beautiful organ to contemporary and world Christian music. Overall,



its external majesty. It is surrounded by gardens of native shrubs, trees and Canadian "Explorer" roses. These all have been developed through student and staff initiative. The interior of the school is graced by traditional and modern stained glass. There is a McCausland Memorial Window and a set of six windows by modern glass artist, Robert Jekyll. The Main Hall is filled with dozens of works by modern Canadian print artists. There are archival photographs and

about 100 people dropped by to see our revitalized interior as well as the historic stained glass windows and our organ.

Several Anglican churches were included in the official participants list the Cathedral of St. James, Holy Trinity Church, St. Stephen's-in-the-fields, St. Anne's, St. George the Martyr, St. Matthias, and St. Thomas. Other notable west-end participants were Annette Street Public Library (145 Annette Street), Colborne Lodge (on Colborne Lodge Drive, south end of High Park), and Delicia Art Haus (2854 Dundas Street West; 2nd floor, the MoneyMart building at the corner of Keele and Dundas). Based on the success of this year, we look forward to having St. John's included in the list for next year.

If you want more information about DOORS OPEN TORONTO, their website is www.doorsopen.org. The website offers this information about Humberside Collegiate, which some people in the parish may not know about:

Humberside Collegiate is a century old institution that continues to be a beacon of education within the West-end community. It is an imposing structure in the Venetian Gothic collegiate mode that still retains

historical elements on display as well. The largest painting ever created by a member of the Group of Seven is on display in Lismer Hall - the school auditorium. The Humberside Lismer Mural was commissioned by the staff and students of the school in 1928-1933 as an expression of their love for this country.

This event was a wonderful way to explore some of the hidden gems in our city and to meet and greet our neighbours. Thanks to all our volunteer hosts who warmly welcomed everyone to St. John's. Let's do this again next year!

Bruce Alton &

Andrea Rutty

Lenten Soup Dinner Combined with the Monthly Community Prayer Walk

On Tuesday, March 5, people from many neighbourhood churches gathered early at St. John's for a Lenten soup dinner before participating in the monthly Community Prayer Walk. Attendees enjoyed homemade chicken soup, pea soup, potato-leek soup, and vegetarian chili. A collection of non-perishable food items was taken up for The Sharing Place local food bank.

The prayerwalk started with a time of worship singing led by St. John's musicians on piano and guitar. We spent some time in prayer for St. John's. Then we went out in pairs and walked around praying for our community. Participants gathered back at St. John's to share their experiences and eat up the last of the soup. A big thank you to everyone who helped with this event!

As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. (2 John 1:6)



Walking Together in Faith:

A Community Good Friday Walk

High Park / Junction, Friday, March 29, 2002. At 9:30 am four neighbourhood churches gathered for a Community Good Friday Walk starting out from Victoria Royce Presbyterian Church and ending an hour later at St. John's Anglican Church, West Toronto. At the starting point and ending point and along the route west on Annette, south on Clendenan and across the grounds of Humberside Collegiate the crowd of 90 people stopped seven times to read the biblical account of Jesus' last days, pray together and sing. The four churches, Runnymede Baptist, Vineyard Christian Fellowship Toronto-Downtown, Victoria Royce Presbyterian and St. John's Anglican took turns leading the devotional at each stop. Between stops the participants, old and young, some on roller

blades, some on bicycles, and some pushing or riding in strollers, followed quietly behind a wooden cross.

"We've come together to reverently witness to the sacrifice that Jesus made for all of us on the first Good Friday" said Mike Wilkins pastor of Runnymede Baptist Church. Rev. Gary van der Meer, the new incumbent at St. John's Anglican, proposed the walk based on his experience with a Community Good Friday Walk in Port Perry, northeast of Toronto. "On Good Friday all the churches in Port Perry joined in a community walk to solemnly remember the steps of Jesus and the significance of the cross to our faith."

Marion Karasiuk

Editor's note: This article appeared in the April edition of The Gleaner, one of our local newspapers.



Summer Evening Eucharists

With the warm weather comes the start of a St. John's tradition, Summer Wednesday Evening Eucharists. The first Evening Eucharist of the season begins at **7:30 p.m. on June 26** at Bruce and Carol Alton's house, 102 Durie St. All are welcome! Come join us for a lively discussion of one of that week's Bible readings followed by light refreshments. To host one of the Summer Evening Eucharists or find out more, call 416-763-2393.

Honey Harvest 2002

Come join Father Gary as he treks up to Port Perry to collect honey from his old beehives. Honey gathered on this trip will be packaged into jars to be given to visitors to St. John's. Father Gary stresses that no one will be stung by the honeybees and no bees will be harmed during the procedure. Four lucky



volunteers can share in the abundant honey sampling that is a natural part of gathering this harvest. If you are interested in helping and are available for a Saturday in August, please give Father Gary a call at 416-763-2393.

Your Body is God's Temple



On **Saturday, August 17**, let's get moving together! Beginning with a bike or walk around **10:00 a.m.**, we will meet back at the church for a refreshing snack of fresh juice straight from a juicer or fantastic smoothie creations. What a wonderful way to appreciate the bodies God gave us! Watch for more information.

Food & Fellowship - The Dinner Club is On The Road Again!

Well, now that the big events have passed, it's time to get the dinner club rolling again. About once a month, we like to meet at a restaurant or do take-out at a parishioner's house for fun and fellowship. Our main criteria are that the food be local and inexpensive. In the past we have dined at

Vesuvio's on Dundas, and celebrated the Chinese New Year at Nan & Cy Weston's, along with many other culinary experiences.

If you have a suggestion for a local eatery or theme night, would like to offer your home (or backyard!) as a take-out and eat-in venue, or simply want to know the details about the next event, please call Carol Alton at 416-762-8664.

17



We are not a Building!

We're an accessible, accepting, diverse community. We are young and old, able-bodied and disabled, employed and unemployed. We are married, single, divorced, widowed, straight and gay. We are from all over the world, yet we could live next door. You will find open minds and open hearts at St. John's.

The mission of St. John's Church is to build a community of caring believers committed to Christ to work for justice and service to all in need. We gather to praise God and to give and receive support to meet the challenge of our daily ministries. We call on all who will to come and join us

We have a proud (120 year) history, an exciting and challenging present, and a dream of the future that we'd like to share with you.

A Few Words from the Editor:

Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue. Please forgive any errors or omissions. We'll be pleased to correct them. Thank you for your patience as the editor worked on this through moving house and flooded basement. Pictures from the Palm Sunday Pageant will appear in the next issue. We hope everyone has a great summer!

Andrea Ruty



St. John's Anglican Church, West Toronto

288 Humberside Ave. (at Quebec Ave.)

Toronto, Ontario, M6P 1L5 416-763-2393

www.sjw.ca



Yahoo group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stjohnstoronto>