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# THE COURIER

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**Issue 3**

**NOVEMBER 2007**

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**THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY**

470 WOODBINE AVENUE, TORONTO, ONTARIO M4E 2H6

(416) 691-4560

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## **RECTOR'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

When you go into your local supermarket you expect the floors to be clean and the shelves to be stocked. However, when we go to church we shouldn't do it with a "consumer mentality." St. John's is not a shop selling religious goods; it is a community of people who come together to work and worship. We depend on people like you to do many of the things we do.

Right now the coffee hour roster is empty, and groups like the Chancel Guild and Sidespersons (to name just a few) are looking for new members to fill their depleted ranks. Many of our activities on Sunday morning are falling on a few shoulders. It's time for others to step forward and volunteer to help out with functions that we all enjoy and benefit from. A little known secret – it can be fun and you'll get to meet some really nice people.

In the meantime I am deeply grateful for the contribution made by so many of our current volunteers. We would be so much the poorer without you and all you do.

Yours in Christ,  
BRIAN

## **FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR**

November 6  
LEONARD – Friend of Prisoners

Our side-chapel is dedicated to St. Leonard in honour of a former rector, William Leonard Baynes-Reed, but how

many people know who St. Leonard was? Leonard was born in France about 485, the son of an official at the court of his godfather, King Clovis. His tutor encouraged him to become a monk and when Leonard grew up he left the court to enter a monastery. However he did not stay there for long, preferring to live as a hermit in the forest. One day, while the king and queen of that country were hunting in the forest, the queen became ill. Leonard arrived and prayed for her. When she safely gave birth to a baby the king was so grateful that he gave Leonard a piece of land on which Leonard built a monastery and became its abbot. In Leonard's time prisoners of war were imprisoned and even enslaved until money was paid for their release. Concerned by their plight, Leonard used to raise money to pay their ransoms. Even after his death captives and their friends continued to pray for his help and, if they were freed, would hang up their chains in churches dedicated to him. In our own day the St. Leonard's Society, which helps released prisoners integrate into the community, is named after him.

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## WARDENS' REPORT

It's hard to believe that we are already at the end of October and looking forward to Advent and Christmas. The many events this Fall have made the time fly by.

One notable event this October was the concert by the Marion Singers on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to Ted Reid and the combined choirs for all the hard work they put in organising and promoting this event. As a result of their efforts and due to the generosity of one of the congregation, we raised \$2,300 for the R&R fund and Faithworks. The concert was attended by about 90 people and was followed by a wine, cheese, and dessert reception in the Van Lane Room that was organised by Christina Haynes. Many thanks Ted and Christina!

Many parishioners will have noticed that Luxfor has now completed work on the initial 6 stained glass windows on the southeast wall. Work will resume again in the spring as their schedule permits. As payment for the windows will be staggered as the work is done, this has allowed us to consider including the replacement of the floor in the main Church as one of our R&R projects. We are not certain how old the floor is, but it probably dates to around 1939 and it is certainly showing its age in many spots as tiles are lifting or are just wearing out. We have currently one estimate of about \$30,000 for this work and are in the process of getting more estimates. We will keep you updated as this project develops.

This week will see the final project of our original R&R objectives completed as all five layers of the existing roof on the South Porch are removed and replaced. We are hoping that once the huge weight of the existing roof is removed, it will considerably lessen the stress on the wooden structure of the South Porch.

Also this week, check your mailboxes for our second postcard promoting our parish and many of our upcoming events. This follows on our mailing last year to further increase awareness of our church and to let the community know what a vibrant parish life we have at St. John's.

Our Share Christmas project is well underway and we already have applicants for \$2,000 of the \$3,000 we have committed to this outreach project. This year we are

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again giving out food vouchers rather than cheques. Donations in support of this outreach project would be very welcome.

Finally, there is a new but not unfamiliar face in the office. Our Church Secretary, Sharon MacKinnon, will be taking an extended leave of absence for health reason, and in the interim her chair is being ably filled by Craig Gustafson. We are very fortunate that Craig was available to fill this very important position in our parish. Thank you, Craig!

Suzanne Coxon & David Shelton  
Wardens

## ANNUAL ALL SOULS SERVICE

Wednesday, November 7th  
7.00 pm

*We will read out the names of those who died during the past year and whose names are recorded in our parish registers as well as those whose names we have been given. If you have loved ones to remember please contact the church office by Monday, November 5th.*

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

November 11, 2007  
10.30 am

*Join us as we remember those who served and those who gave their lives in time of war so that we could live in freedom and peace.*

*The traditional remembrance ceremony will be held at the war memorial at the west end of the church.*

## ADVENT EVENT

Saturday, December 1, 2007  
6.00 pm

*We prepare to welcome the Christ Child at Christmas. A potluck supper will be followed by crafts and activities.*

*The evening will close with a short service and the blessing of the Advent Wreath.*

*The first Sunday in Advent falls on December 2nd.*

## Bible Lore

Thanks to Cecil B. DeMille and his film *The Ten Commandments*, many people have a vision of Moses throwing the tablets of the Ten Commandments at the Golden Calf, and the earth swallowing it up. This isn't quite what happened, however. According to the Book of Exodus, Moses "threw the tablets from his hands and broke them" at the foot of Mount Sinai. He then "took the calf that they had made, burned it with fire, ground it to powder, scattered it on the water, and made the Israelites drink it" (Exodus 32.19-20) -- "Moses, baby, my way makes for a better movie. Trust me!"

## MONTHLY HUCKLE

A little boy sat through a Sunday School class and learned about the time Jesus went to a wedding and changed the water into wine. "And what did you learn from that story?" asked his father afterward. The boy answered, "If you're having a wedding, make sure you invite Jesus!"

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"I hope you didn't take it personally, Reverend," an embarrassed woman said after a church service, "when my husband walked out during your sermon." "I did find it rather disconcerting," the preacher admitted. "It's not a reflection on you Father," insisted the churchgoer. "Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

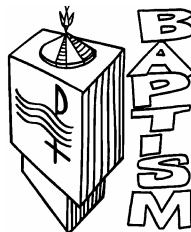
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**TO EVERYONE  
CELEBRATING  
THEIR SPECIAL  
DAY THIS MONTH!**



**October 28, 2007**

Tyler Lorne Atkinson  
William Ryan Atkinson  
Meaghan Elizabeth Berti  
Marijke Nicole Dewyze  
Jamari Frank Albert Francis  
Madyn Margret Band Lowe

## WEDDINGS

October 27

David Swain & Danielle Townley  
Jesse McRann & Alison Gardner



## FUNERALS

October 2 Gordon Frederick Little  
October 11 Lena Mary Toole  
October 27 Vernon Joseph (Jack) Turvey

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Fax: 416-686-4158  
E-mail: vsarju@bershire.ca

## St. John's Celebrates Local Harvest by Rev. David Bowring

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church (Norway) at Woodbine and Kingston Road celebrated the Fall Harvest on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> with a One Hundred Mile Meal and Harvest Thanksgiving service.

The Rev. David Bowring, honorary assistant priest in the parish, called parishioners to a special potluck meal on the Saturday evening, with all contributions featuring a main ingredient grown within 100 miles of Toronto: "Because food is sacred, because we enjoy fresh and tasty food, and to help the local farmers." 25 parishioners responded with baked squash, fresh apples, stuffed peppers, fruit salads, wine, free-range chicken, carrots, tomatoes, green beans, and more, served in simple but delicious ways. Supplies were purchased from outdoor markets and local retailers. Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolates were purchased from a local 10,000 Villages store.

Rev. Bowring read the call to harvest thanksgiving from Deuteronomy 26 and explained the importance of food choices as expression of Christian faith. One parishioner reported that when she asked if the produce came from less than 100 miles away, the retailer said that was the third time she had been asked that day! Another family showed a map with a circle showing where the 100-mile boundary falls. All were excited about the learning and the creativity, and the good taste.

The evening continued with games and activities organised by Ted Reid and long, happy conversations. The next morning the church was decorated with fresh fruits and vegetables, which were donated to St. Monica's Food Bank. On Sunday morning, the Rev. Canon Brian Prideaux preached on "The Bread that comes down from Heaven," quoting from John 6, he contrasted the true satisfaction of following Christ with the temporary pleasures of material wealth. The congregation thanked God with enjoyable harvest hymns.

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### The Prayer Nook

#### What is "Advent?"

Advent is the season leading up to the second most important day in the church calendar, Christmas. In Advent, Christians prepare for the coming of Christ. When I was in university, I attended the college chapel. The priest always encouraged us to take time and reflect quietly upon the coming of Christ and what His coming meant for us, our community, and our world. Our reply was "WHEN?" As a student December is the busiest time because projects need to be finished and time needs to be spent studying for exams. I am sure you will agree that time is always difficult to find, especially in December.

This reality, however, emphasises the importance to take time. When I was young, our parish priest prepared a daily service for use in the home to help us prepare for the coming of Christ so that Christmas would be all the more enjoyable and fulfilling. A copy of this service is included with this edition of the Courier. You can pick up additional copies for each member of your family at the north entrance. The service can also be photocopied, and it can be reused every year.

An Advent wreath is used. Wreaths symbolise God's never-ending love, and His crown as King and Messiah. Advent wreaths can be bought or made. Your wreath can be as simple as five candlesticks, four in the shape of a square and one in the middle, with three blue, one pink, and one white candle. Evergreen and garland can be used.

This service can be used as a grace, between the main course and dessert, or as a quiet time before bed. The scripture reading can be discussed during the meal, and what it means to you as you prepare for Christ. The important thing is that most of the family (if not all) would be gathered together. It is not important how or when you reflect during Advent, only that it is meaningful.

This year Advent begins on Sunday, December 2. The service is included in this edition so that you have it when Advent begins, and you will have time to prepare a wreath.

## Norway Group News

Every Christmas, we at St. John's have supported a local group. Once again, we want to help Moorelands Community Services provide BABY BUNDLES to needy mothers in the downtown area.

You will find a playpen in the north aisle during the month of November. Moorelands list of items is as follows: Undershirts, Sleepers with feet, Sweaters, Bonnets, Receiving Blankets, Bath Towels for babies, Washcloths, Crib blankets, Bibs, Newborn and Size 1 Diapers. TOILETRIES needed are: Petroleum Jelly, Baby Soap, Baby Lotion, Baby Wipes, Diaper Rash Ointment, and Soft Toys. ONLY NEW ITEMS PLEASE.

Monetary donations made out to St. John's, and marked for the Norway Group Project, will be passed along to Moorelands to be used for additional items. We hope that many of you in the Parish will support this project.

Also please plan to attend St. John's Craft Show and Sale where you will be able to buy some Christmas gifts, including our now famous almond bark, and this year we plan to offer a soup and sandwich combo for your lunchtime shopping break. We are also hoping to offer a massage to allow you to shop longer! So mark Saturday Nov. 24/07 in your calendar!

The Out of the Cold Programme starts up again on November 2/07 at Eastminster United Church. We, at St. John's, have been faithful in providing the clothing room with good clothing, such as men's winter jackets, jeans, jogging pants, warm sweaters, underwear, socks, and boots. We also hand out toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, and hand and face lotion. We have a red bushel basket just inside the church and would welcome any donations throughout the winter months. Approximately one hundred people come seeking help every Friday night at Eastminster.

### Sunday Flowers

If you would like flowers placed in memory of a loved-one, please forward request and payment (suggested donation of \$50) to the office one week in advance. Thank you.

## Sidesperson of the Year

by Allan Stokell,  
Sidesperson Co-ordinator

Being a Sidesperson is not an easy job. Often we are quite invisible. We are the people who are there with a warm greeting, a prayer book, and a bulletin when you first arrive at St John's. We look after 'the front of the house' so to speak, making people comfortable and welcome and making sure they have what they need to participate in our services.

If you have ever been in a busy restaurant, you probably know how important it is that customers are greeted, seated, and then served. In an age where people have high expectations of customer care, it is the sidesperson who is responsible for helping people feel welcome and ready to participate in our service. In addition, I might add that a really great sidesperson might anticipate problems, know which parishioner likes a 'soft or hard' prayer book, or who might require assistance at the lift or help to the pew.

We are always happy to add people to our list of sidespersons. Currently we are looking for people willing to commit to assisting once every four weeks. **If you are one of those people who would like to make this part of your personal ministry, then I invite you to attend our next Sidesperson's Breakfast on Sunday, November 18 at 9:15 am in the Van Lane Room.**

At the Breakfast we will be honouring one of our associates as 'Sidesperson of the Year 2007-2008.' A Sidesperson of the Year is someone who has acted in a way that might personify a really great sidesperson by their actions and deeds. If you wish to nominate someone or would like to attend the awards breakfast, please contact me.

astokell@gmail.com  
(416) 694-4245

**Deadline for the Next Courier  
is Sunday, November 25  
Submissions can be sent to  
admin@stjohnsnorway.org**

### For the Food Cupboard

Donations of toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and deodorant would be appreciated.

Thank you.

### JOIN CHEF LUIGI

and the men of St. John's  
for the first-ever

### St. John's Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>  
from 5 to 7.30 pm

Tickets

\$10 (adults)

\$5 (children under 12)

Proceeds to FaithWorks

### WILD ABOUT HARRY!

In our Advent Bible study we will look at the controversy over the Harry Potter books and films. Demonic? Benign? Positive? Come out and decide for yourself.

Wednesdays during Advent      7.45 - 9.00 pm

November 28	Harry Potter 101
December 5	Magic in the Bible and in Harry Potter
December 12	Bible References in "The Deathly Hallows"
December 19	Dumbledore Out of the Closet

No previous knowledge of Harry Potter is required. We'll try to bring you up to speed.

### MONTHLY CALENDAR – NOVEMBER

#### \*Weekly

Monday 5	9:00 a.m. – Little Feet Dance Class*
	9:30 a.m. – Bible Study*
	5:00 p.m. – Marital Arts*
	7:00 p.m. – Guides*
	7:00 p.m. – Pathfinders*
	7:30 p.m. – East End Refugee Committee

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Tuesday 6	4:00 p.m. – Little Feet Dance Class*
	6:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers
	6:30 p.m. – Youth Theatre*
	7:45 p.m. – Advisory Board
Wednesday 7	9:00 a.m. – MumNet*
	5:00 p.m. – Martial Arts*
	6:15 p.m. – Sparks*
	6:30 p.m. – Beavers*
	7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist*
Thursday 8	9:00 a.m. – MumNet*
	1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group
	4:00 p.m. – Little Feet Dance Class*
	7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers*
	7:30 p.m. – Norway Group
	7:30 p.m. – Wedding Rehearsal
Friday 9	9:00 a.m. – MumNet*
Saturday 10	10:00 a.m. – Marital Arts
	3:00 p.m. – Wedding
	5:30 p.m. – Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday 11	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist*
	9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers*
	10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist*
	7:30 p.m. – Venturers*
Wednesday 14	6:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers*
Friday 16	4:30 p.m. – Wedding Rehearsal Party
Saturday 17	2:00 p.m. – Wedding
Monday 19	7:30 p.m. – Amnesty International Meeting
Tuesday 20	7:45 p.m. – Wardens' Meeting
Thursday 22	1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group
	7:30 p.m. – Norway Group
Friday 23	7:00 p.m. – Craft Sale Set Up
Saturday 24	9:30 a.m. – Craft Sale
Sunday 25	<b>COURIER DEADLINE</b>
	2:00 p.m. – Christmas Party
Monday 26	7:30 p.m. – Scout Group Meeting
Wednesday 28	7:45 p.m. – Seaton Area Scout Meeting
Thursday 29	11:30 a.m. – MumNet Fundraiser
Friday 30	6:00 p.m. – Marriage Workshop
Saturday, Dec. 1	8:30 a.m. – Marriage Workshop
	10:00 a.m. – Martial Arts
	6:00 p.m. – Advent Event

Please inform the office of any errors or omissions.  
Thank you.