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# THE COURIER

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**Issue 4**

**December 2007**

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

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**RECTOR'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

Advent is a season of anticipation. We think of all the preparations that go into Christmas and make lists of the things we have to do. But Jim Taylor, a free-lance writer in BC, reminds us that we should also expect the unexpected. He tells of going into a busy pub in Montreal and ordering a vodka and orange juice with a single cranberry. The bartender, busy with other orders, misheard him and prepared a drink of Kaluha and cranberry juice. The waitress was apologetic, but he said, "Before I throw it out, let's see what it tastes like." He found it delicious! His wife agreed. The Kaluha took the edge off the sourness of the cranberry and the tartness of the cranberry took away the cloying sweetness of the Kaluha. "I now mix Kaluha and cranberry for guests," Taylor says. The unexpected mistake turned out to be a great gift.

Christmas can get pretty old hat after some 2,000 years but imagine the surprise those shepherds got when the night sky lit up with singing angels or the amazement of the magi when they saw in their star charts that a new king was born in Judea.

Open yourself to the unexpected this Advent. Perhaps you'll get a card from a long-forgotten friend, or an unexpected opportunity to do someone else a favour. You may even get a new insight in one of my sermons! And maybe even better, do something unexpected. Give an unasked-for compliment to your partner or one of your children, read a book on a subject that you would never have given a thought to, or make an extra donation to a food bank. The possibilities are endless to both give and receive the unexpected.

Don't let Christmas become a routine. Make room for God to break in!

Yours in Christ,  
**Brian +**

**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.

**Christmas Flowers**

The Altar Guild will be decorating our church for the Christmas season. If you wish to contribute for the purchase of flowers, please use a special gift envelope and mark it "CHRISTMAS FLOWERS" (suggested donation of \$10). If you wish memorial flowers, please include a note with your donation by Sunday, December 16. Thank you.

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## WARDENS' REPORT

Here we are again: approaching the end of a calendar year and on the verge of a busy holiday season. As usual, November was an active month.

For the second year now we distributed our *Welcoming Hearts, Minds and Spirit* postcard to 17,000 neighbours during the second week of November. We distributed the card via postal walk throughout the parish earlier in November and we've had some very positive feedback. A thank you to Bob Cameron for calculating the quantities involved and coordinating distribution from the printer through three area post offices.

Brian Prideaux led the men in organizing a very successful spaghetti supper on November 10th. The Van Lane Room was full with parishioners and neighbours enjoying dinner, a little opera music, and lots of good fellowship. A little over \$500 was raised for Faithworks and we had a special visit from Maria Minna, MP for Beaches—East York.

The ACW has announced that their annual November Rummage Sale has been postponed until the spring so please hang on to your contributions and stand by for a new date.

Work to the roof of the South porch was completed quickly earlier in the month. The roof has a surprisingly large surface area, extending back to the peak of the main roof, and removal of the multiple layers of shingles and shakes relieves the weight burden on the structure significantly. The work was financed through our *R & R Fund*.

We are now in the last stages of our *R & R Fundraising Campaign* and we stand at a total of \$92,000 raised, just \$8,000 shy of our \$100,000 campaign objective. The remaining \$8,000 is needed to apply towards a new floor in the body of the church, which is badly in need of replacement.

We will publish a list of major *R & R Contributors* in the *Courier* in the New Year. These names will be cast in a plaque to be stationed in a place of honour in the church alongside the names of contributors from previous eras. If you are able to help us cross this final stretch, please designate your special donation to the R & R Fund.

## THE COURIER

Best wishes for a safe and joyous holiday season!

Dave Shelton & Suzanne Coxon

## FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR

December 9

### PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

The early Christians found in the sayings of the Old Testament prophets predictions of the coming of Christ but it would be a mistake to see the prophets simply as people who could see into the future. Their chief function was to remind Israel and Judah of God's will in the present. Prophecy took many forms in ancient Israel, often associated with "speaking in tongues" or the gift of ecstatic speech. Saul and David, the first two kings of Israel, manifested this form of prophecy, but so did many prophets of the heathen gods. As a result the Hebrews began to look for other qualities in God's prophets. These included faithfulness to God's covenant with Moses and their call to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly" with God. The life of a prophet was not an easy one. They often suffered for telling people truths they did not want to hear. But they could also speak tenderly of God's love for his people and God's yearning to see them mend their ways and return. Christians count John the Baptist, with his call to repentance, within the long line of prophets.

## MONTHLY CHUCKLE

A pastor received a message on his answering machine from the church secretary asking, "What is the title of this week's sermon?" That Sunday the title of the sermon was listed as, "I'll Call and Let You Know."

(((((

I got a large envelope in my mailbox the other day. Written on the front it said: "Photographs: Do Not Bend." Underneath some postal employee had written: "Oh yes they do."

## Bible Lore

On the first Sunday of Advent we begin reading from the lectionary cycle for Year A. Through this year we shall be reading from the gospel according to Matthew. Called Levi in Mark and Luke, Matthew was a tax collector at Capernaum when Jesus called him to become a disciple. His job was to collect tolls due to the tetrarch Herod on goods passing over the Sea of Galilee. Tax collecting was a despised trade in 1st century Palestine. Tax collectors and sinners were often spoken of in the same breath. Jesus was criticised for inviting such people to follow him, but he replied, "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matthew's response to Jesus brought about a radical change in his life. According to tradition, Matthew went on to write the gospel that bears his name. His authorship of the first gospel is not widely accepted among biblical scholars today but it is possible that Matthew contributed some of the information that went into it. We know very little of his subsequent career. The early church historian Eusebius says that he proclaimed the gospel to his fellow Jews. The Roman Martyrology says that he met his death in Ethiopia although other sources claim that he died in Persia or on the shores of the Persian Gulf.

### A SEASON TO SHARE

For some people in our community Christmas can be a difficult time. You can make the season brighter by putting a donation in the offering plate by Sunday, December 16th in an envelope marked "Share Christmas." Any amount, large or small, is appreciated. For an income tax receipt include your envelope number or name and address. Money received is used to assist those referred to us by the Christmas Bureau.

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## THE COURIER



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

### WEDDINGS

November 10

Glen LeBlanc & Donna Daly

November 17

Thomas Hammond & Rebecca Evans



### FUNERALS

October 31

Elizabeth Hughes

November 1

Kathleen Blair

November 3

James Jamieson

November 9

Earl Cooper

November 17

Arthur Richardson

November 17

Roderick Adams

November 20

Albert Wilson

November 23

Norine Pietrzyk

November 26

Ismay Hamlet

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## Norway Group News

Submitted by Bridget North

We have had a busy month! Thank you to everybody who has donated to the Moorelands Baby Bundles. The playpen will be in the church on Dec. 2nd and Dec. 9th if you have not yet brought in your baby items. We plan to deliver to Moorelands during the following week.

The Craft Sale was lots of fun on Saturday. The church made \$780 from the table rentals to local craftspeople. Church groups raised funds for their programmes from the sale of crafts, raffle tickets, coffee and muffins, the bake table, and the soup and sandwich lunch. Many thanks to all who made items and to everyone who attended this event. The crafters in the community really appreciate the welcome we give them here at St. John's. I received many thanks on your behalf at the end of the day. How many of you enjoyed the 10-minute massage? I did and it was just great!

Do not forget the homeless this holiday season; warm clothing can be left on Sundays in the red bushel basket in the church.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy Christmas.

### **An Advent Service for the Home**

Additional copies are available at the north entrance. For more information, see the November edition of the Courier.

**Deadline for the Next Courier  
is Sunday, January 6  
Submissions can be sent to  
admin@stjohnsnorway.org**

### **For the Food Cupboard**

Donations of soap, shampoo, and deodorant would be appreciated. Thank you.

### **How Do We Communicate with God in the 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Century:** A congregational workshop at St. John's Convent led by Sister Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas on Saturday, January 12, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information see Sunday bulletins or contact the church office.

## THE COURIER

### Sidesperson of the Year

Submitted by Allan Stokell,

At a recent Sidespersons Breakfast we honoured one of our associates as "Sidesperson of the Year 2007-2008." A Sidesperson of the Year is recognised as someone in our community who has stood out, through their years of joyfully delivering consistent, quality service to the people of our Church, someone who goes beyond what is expected to exceed expectations.

I am happy to announce that this first-time award has been given to someone who truly personifies "Sidesperson of the Year," even though officially, he is not a sidesperson.

Bill Burt is a pillar in our Church. He is always at church every Sunday without fail. He arrives early to put up the hymn numbers and place the leaflets into the prayer books. When parishioners arrive, he greets them by name and knows if they prefer a soft or hard prayer book. His duties include everything that is part of the "front of the house," including assisting the wardens with the count. After everyone has left he turns off the lights and locks the doors.

When he is not delivering a Courier or quarterly statement to your pew, Bill delivers them on his bicycle (weather permitting of course).

In recognition of his years of service to the Church of St John's, Norway, I am pleased to announce that Bill Burt is the first recipient of the annual "Sidesperson of the Year Award."

At this time I would also like to take this opportunity to plant a seed of thought about becoming a sidesperson. This kind of personal ministry is achievable, as it requires service about once a month. We always welcome new people to our group and if you have questions about the sidespersons group please contact me at the e-mail address or phone number below.

astokell@gmail.com  
416-694-4245

**Ring in the New Year  
With Family and Friends**

7:30 p.m.	Hors d'oeuvres
8:00 p.m.	Potluck supper
9:00 p.m.	Family games
11:00 p.m.	Worship service & carolling
12:00 midnight	Bell ringing followed by refreshments

Please sign up outside the kitchen. The main course is supplied for the dinner. Suggestions are listed on the signup sheet. Rides home will be arranged for anyone requiring transportation.

## **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

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.

## **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

A Reading of Charles Dickens' Immortal Classic  
at St. John's, Norway

on Saturday, December 15, 2007  
at 7.00 pm

Ticket Price: \$10.00

Proceeds from the evening will go to support the work of  
Community Centre 55

# **THE COURIER**

## **Christmas at St. John's, Norway**

**Sunday, December 16, 2007**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent*

7.00 p.m. – Candlelight Carol Service

**Sunday, December 23, 2007**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent*

10.30 p.m. – Annual Christmas Pageant

**Monday, December 24, 2007**

*Christmas Eve*

7.00 p.m. – Family Eucharist

11.00 p.m. – Choral Eucharist

**Tuesday, December 25, 2007**

*Christmas Day*

10.30 a.m. – Sung Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)

**Tuesday, December 31, 2007**

*New Year's Eve*

11.00 p.m. – Choral Eucharist

**Sunday, January 6, 2008**

*The Epiphany*

10.30 a.m. – Procession & Choral Eucharist

## **HELP NEEDED**

Diocesan insurance regulations require that when children are in the building, one other adult, in addition to the adult working with the children, be in the building. Our choirmaster needs help in this regard for the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) "drop-in" training days that are offered to our young choristers now then throughout the year. Individuals are needed to come to the church for an hour or two while a training session is on. Bring your knitting! Read a book! Do the RSCM training! For details speak to Ted Reid at the church or call (416) 423-4705. Thank you.

**The church office** will be closed from December 22 to January 1 inclusive. The answering machine will be monitored during this time.

## MONTHLY CALENDAR

**DECEMBER**

Monday 3	9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 5:00 p.m. – Marital Arts 7:00 p.m. – Guides 7:30 p.m. – East End Refugee Committee
Tuesday 4	4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 6:30 p.m. – Creative Youtheatre 6:30 p.m. – Advisory Board Potluck (Rectory)
Wednesday 5	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 6:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers 6:15 p.m. – Sparks 6:30 p.m. – Beavers 7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist 7:45 p.m. – Wild About Harry
Thursday 6	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 12:30 p.m. – St. Anne's Group 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers
Friday 7	9:00 a.m. – MumNet
Saturday 8	10:00 a.m. – Marital Arts
Sunday 9	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist 7:30 p.m. – Venturers
Monday 10	9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 7:00 p.m. – Guides 7:30 p.m. – Amnesty International
Tuesday 11	6:30 p.m. – Creative Youtheatre 7:45 p.m. – Wardens' Meeting
Wednesday 12	6:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers 6:15 p.m. – Sparks 6:30 p.m. – Beavers 7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist 7:45 p.m. – Wild About Harry
Thursday 13	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 5:00 p.m. – Martial Arts 7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers
Friday 14	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 5:00 p.m. – Youth Group 5:00 p.m. – Piano Recital
Saturday 15	10:00 a.m. – Martial Arts 7:00 p.m. – Reading of <i>A Christmas Carol</i>

**THE COURIER**

Sunday 16	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Carol Service 7:30 p.m. – Venturers
Monday 17	7:00 p.m. – Guides 7:30 p.m. – Scout Group
Tuesday 18	6:00 p.m. – Scout Christmas Party 6:30 p.m. – Creative Youtheatre
Wednesday 19	6:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers 6:15 p.m. – Sparks 7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist 7:45 p.m. – Wild About Harry
Thursday 20	7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers
Friday 21	6:00 p.m. – Guides Christmas Party
Sunday 23	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers 10:30 a.m. – Christmas Pageant
Monday 24	7:00 p.m. – Family Choral Eucharist 11:00 p.m. – Choral Eucharist
Tuesday 25	10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist
Monday 31	7:30 p.m. – New Year's Eve Party 11:00 p.m. – Choral Eucharist

**JANUARY**

Sunday 6	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist 7:30 a.m. – Venturers
Monday 7	<b>COURIER DEADLINE</b> 9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet
Tuesday 8	4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 6:30 p.m. – Creative Youtheatre 7:30 p.m. – Advisory Board
Wednesday 9	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 6:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers 6:15 p.m. – Sparks 7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist
Thursday 10	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers 7:30 p.m. – Norway Group
Friday 11	9:00 a.m. – MumNet
Sunday 13	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist 7:30 p.m. – Venturers

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

# Restoration & Repair Fund

Just one  
more step!



**DONE:** Reinforce Structure of South Porch, New Rectory Roof, New Rectory Furnace, Repair Wheelchair Ramp on South Side, Refinish Doors on South Side, Repair Lighting and re-paint Street Signs, Paint Exterior Trim including Bell Tower, Recondition Organ, Patch Brickwork around Bell Tower, Replace Eaves Trough on South Porch, Strip & Repair Roof on South Porch.

**ONGOING:** Restoration of stained glass windows (expected to take another full year).

**FINAL FEAT:** Repair floor in body of Church and Replace tiles.

We announced the Restoration & Repair Fund in the fall of 2006 and the response has been inspiring. We stand this December at \$92,000, just \$8,000 shy of our overall objective, with three calendar months to go.

Much is accomplished. Some work continues. We're now taking aim at the significant task of stripping the floor in the body of the church, repairing the sub floor and adding new floor tiles. The original floor can date back to the 1930's in spots and is badly in need of repair.

Thank you to the many who organized events or donated to our efforts to date. Please support our fall R&R Activities. If you would like to make an additional contribution, please designate your donation to the *R&R Fund*.