

---

---

# THE COURIER

---

**Issue 5**

**January 2008**

---

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

470 WOODBINE AVENUE, TORONTO, ONTARIO M4E 2H6 (416) 691-4560

---

**RECTOR'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

Christmas is barely over and here we are preparing for Lent. From time to time people ask me why Easter sometimes comes so early. For those who like to amaze their friends with trivia, the earliest Easter can fall is March 22nd (which means this year Easter is almost as early as you can get!). And the latest is April 25th – a whole month's difference. The reason is that while Christmas is on a fixed date Easter follows the lunar calendar. Easter falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon following the Vernal Equinox (March 21st).

Because the eastern churches follow the Julian Calendar rather than the Gregorian Calendar, which the western churches use, and because there are differences in the ways some communities calculate the Vernal Equinox (the beginning of spring), Christians find themselves celebrating Easter on different dates. There have been suggestions – which I personally favour – that we should agree on a fixed day for Easter like the second Sunday in April, when all Christians can celebrate together, but so far they have not found wide support.

Whatever the date on which we celebrate Easter, it is the most important festival of the church calendar. On it we celebrate Christ's death on the cross for our salvation and his glorious resurrection, triumphant over suffering and death. As we prepare in a few weeks to begin the journey of Lent, may I wish you a fruitful time of reflection and self-denial. In this Courier we advertise several activities to help deepen your Lenten observance. I look forward to seeing you at them.

Yours in Christ,  
**Brian**

**MONTHLY CHUCKLE**

A young preacher was asked by the local funeral director to hold a graveside committal service at a small local cemetery for someone with no family or friends. The preacher started early but quickly got lost, after making several wrong turns on backcountry roads. He arrived a half-hour late. The hearse was nowhere in sight, and the workers were eating lunch. The novice pastor went right to the open grave and found the vault already in place. Taking out his book, he read the service. As he was returning to his car, he overheard one of the workers ask the other, "Do you think we'd better tell him it's the septic tank?"

**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.

---

**Inside This Issue**

---

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> | <b>RECTOR'S LETTER – MONTHLY CHUCKLE</b>                                   |
| <b>2</b> | <b>WARDEN'S REPORT – FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR – ORDINATION AS A DEACON</b> |
| <b>3</b> | <b>BIBLE LORE – IN MEMORIAM – ST. JOHN'S CELEBRATES A NEW YEAR</b>         |
| <b>4</b> | <b>UPCOMING EVENTS - ADVERTISEMENTS</b>                                    |
| <b>5</b> | <b>THE PRAYER NOOK: What is a "Prayer Group?" – MONTHLY CALENDAR</b>       |
| <b>6</b> | <b>ASH WEDNESDAY: Far Far Away</b>   |
-

## WARDENS' REPORT

The start of a new year gives us the opportunity to look back and evaluate the past year and look forward to anticipate the new. In 2007 our most important project was the ongoing of the Repair and Restoration Fund. The parish rallied around this project with great enthusiasm, supporting it both with generous personal donations and the creation of several new fundraising events. Large and small, every donation is greatly appreciated and has meant that in the last part of 2007, we were able to pay for all the repairs that were originally identified and start the major project of repairing and restoring the stained-glass windows which will continue into 2008. Many thanks to everyone who contributed and especially to the hard-working R&R Committee.

Looking ahead to 2008, we will have some difficult decisions ahead of us. We finished the year with an overall operating deficit of \$32,000. Over the year, donations through our envelope programme have dropped by \$21,000. This has only been slightly offset by a small increase of \$5,000 in the amount of direct deposit donations. Anticipated revenues from movie companies of \$10,000 also did not happen and we lost further income from use of our building when the Church of Hope moved out in September. This will mean that we will have some difficult questions to make for the upcoming financial year to make our budget balance.

Also in 2007, we lost two members of our community who were employees, parishioners, and friends. Sharon MacKinnon had become a friend as well as our Church Secretary and her untimely death was a sad period in our parish life. We were very fortunate that Craig Gustafson was available to carry on so ably. Jack Turvey had been our Cemetery Manager and a parishioner for many years. Not only is he much missed at Church, but also he was the organisational force behind our Cemetery. In the coming year, we will have to make some important decisions about how we want the Cemetery to be run and its continuing role in our Parish.

Finally, a reminder to all Committee heads that our Vestry Meeting is quickly on February 10. Reports and reviewed financial statements should be handed into the office no later than January 12.

Suzanne Coxon & David Shelton  
Wardens

## THE COURIER FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR

ANTHONY – January 17

Anthony was born in the Egyptian city of Memphis about 251. Around the age of 18 he sold his possessions to take up the life of an ascetic, eventually retiring into the desert to become a hermit. Despite the legends about his struggles with temptation in the desert, Anthony believed in self-denial as a means of training the will, not as an end in itself. So many others joined him that he drew up a rule that provided for a loosely knit community following a life of prayer and meditation, austerity, and manual work. It was necessary for Anthony's monks to work to provide the monks with food, clothing, and shelter. As his reputation grew Anthony found himself being consulted by such great leaders as Athanasius and the Emperor Constantine, but he preferred a life of solitude. He died, over 100 years old, at his monastery on Mount Kolzim by the Red Sea. Anthony is sometimes called the founder of monasticism because he was the first to persuade solitary men to live together under a rule. Other rules were formulated in later years but there are still monks who abide by that of Anthony.

We received an e-mail message from Jasmine Chandra (née Shantz), who was our student associate from Fall 2004 to Spring 2006.

### Ordination as a Deacon

Just a quick note to let you all know that I am being ordained a deacon on January 20 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Anglican church in Woodstock, New Brunswick. You have all supported me in different ways and in different times, but each of you has impacted my life and in so doing has demonstrated the power of the Holy Spirit working in the body of Christ. It is my hope that, through the grace of God, you may see yourselves as contributors and partakers in this ordination. I know that there are many of you who live too far away to be able to come, but I wouldn't want this event to pass by without you knowing about it.

Thank you.

Jasmine Chandra

## Bible Lore

A lectionary is a collection of biblical texts that allow for a systematic reading of scripture through the church year. One of the first attempts to provide a reading of the whole Bible was the Book of Common Prayer. Someone who attended all services and said morning and evening prayer daily would have read through most of the Old Testament once and the New Testament – I believe – twice in a year. Most parishioners, however, are not such spiritual athletes and their exposure to scripture in public worship comes only on Sunday morning. In the 1970s, in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, the Roman Catholic Church adopted a lectionary in which each of the three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) was read through each Sunday with readings from other parts of the Bible chosen to fit the theme of the gospel reading. It was so successful that other churches came on board and many churches, including our own, adopted an ecumenical lectionary in the 1980s. In 1994 the "Revised Common Lectionary," in use today, was published. The gospels are read through each year (Year A - Matthew, Year B - Mark, Year C - Luke) with portions of John read at various points in the year. There are two Old Testament "tracks." In Track 1 the readings follow the theme of the gospel. In Track 2 the Old Testament is read through in sequence. The Anglican Church of Canada has chosen Track 2. This year (Year A) we will hear the great stories of Creation, the Patriarchs, and the Exodus. Next year (Year B) we will read about the Hebrew Kingdom from its rise under Saul and David to its fall to the Assyrians and Babylonians. In Year C we will read from the prophets of Israel. So listen up and join us this year, Year A, as we begin our exciting three-year journey through the Bible.



### IN MEMORIAM

November 21 Valerie Ann Fraser  
 November 24 Sharon Margaret MacKinnon  
 November 30 Agnes McBride  
 December 25 Thomas Henry McCaw  
 December 27 Marguerite Perry Watson

## THE COURIER

### St. John's Celebrates a New Year

by Craig Gustafson

The Congregation of St. John the Baptist, Norway celebrated the beginning of a new year with a very lively party, attended by nineteen people of all ages. The party began with hors d'oeuvres and potluck supper, which included salads, potatoes, vegetables, and ham with homemade sauce.

Organist Ted Reid led the group in several games for kids of all ages. The highlight was a drama game where Ted put people into small groups and each group was given a bag of assorted items. Each group presented a skit using their items. Where else would see our rector lying on the floor holding an empty liquor bottle after being hit on the head by a shoe? Yes folks, you read that last sentence correctly. Then the group played "Beetle," the third time this popular game has been played by the congregation this century. Ted felt we were ready for "Super Beetle."

The Rev. Brian Prideaux led us in a Choral Eucharist, the last service of the year. In his homily he presented many interesting perspectives of time, quite appropriate as we mark the beginning of a new year. Imagine time, for example, as a bank account. At the beginning of a new day it is full of money to be used as you please, but any unused balance at the end of the day is lost, as it cannot be carried over to a new day. Therefore, would you not want to use every cent of time and not waste any of it, since you will lose what you do not use?

The evening ended with the group singing "Auld Lang Syne," a popular song from the eighteenth century, followed by champagne and dessert. You never saw so many desserts in one place!

Thank you to everyone who attended. It was a very enjoyable evening because you came out, and a special thank you to everyone who helped clean up. Finally, I want to express my gratitude to Brian Prideaux for leading us in a very meaningful service while fighting off a cold, and to Ted Reid for investing much time and effort to ensure the group enjoyed games for everyone that encouraged interaction.

**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 6, 2008**

9 a.m. – Children's Program (see advertisement page 6)  
 The Education Act allows Anglican students to take time off from school on Ash Wednesday to attend religious services. A note from the church will be provided to all participants.

7 p.m. – Choral Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes

**VESTRY MEETING**

All written and financial reports must be in the office by Sunday, January 13 to be included in the vestry report. Reports can be sent to [admin@stjohnsnorway.org](mailto:admin@stjohnsnorway.org)

Reports will be available by Sunday, February 3.

The meeting will be Sunday, February 10 following the 10:30 a.m. service. Lunch and childcare will be provided. Please plan to attend this important meeting in our congregational life.

**Faith on Film**  
**Lenten Study 2008**

This Lent we're going to do something different. We'll meet for a light supper at 6:30 p.m., followed by an informal table Eucharist. For the balance of the evening we will watch a film on tape or DVD.

Hollywood has produced many films with themes that make us think: "Heavens Above" with Peter Sellers or "The Mission" with Robert de Niro are just two films that provoke us to reflect on the Christian life.

Come for supper, come for the Eucharist, come for the film, or come for all three! You're most welcome.

Led by the Rector

Five Wednesday Evenings from February 13 to March 12 in the Downstairs Lounge

6.30 p.m.	Supper
7.15 p.m.	Informal Eucharist
7.45 p.m.	Featured Film

# THE COURIER

**The Venerable Bead:**  
**Beads as Measure of Prayer**

A Gathering for Anyone Interested  
 in Beads Used for Meditation by  
**Sacred Circle Company**

Sources \* History \* Prayer Patterns  
 Ancient/Modern \* Multi-Faith \* Materials  
 Techniques \* Encouragement

Saturday, January 19 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
 Church of the Transfiguration  
 111 Manor Road (southeast of Yonge & Eglinton)  
 Cost: \$35 includes continental breakfast and breaks  
 Group rates available

Register at [www.sacred-circle.ca](http://www.sacred-circle.ca)  
 Information: [info@sacred-circle.ca](mailto:info@sacred-circle.ca) or (905) 716-9620

**VIC SARJU, *Investment & Insurance Advisor***  
**(416) 686 - 6127**

Your one-stop shop for all your Investment and Life Insurance needs.

RRSP, RRIF, LIRA, LIF, RESP

GIC, Stock, Bond, Mutual Funds, ETF

*Insurance:* Life, Disability, Travel, Critical Illness  
 Also, Segregated Funds, Annuities, Income Plus

**BERKSHIRE SECURITIES INC.**

**BERKSHIRE INSURANCE SERVICES INC.**

A member of the Manulife Financial group of companies

**ROYAL LEPAGE**  
**Estate Realty**  
**CAROLYNN PARSONS**

Sales Representative

2126 Queen Street East

Toronto, ON M4E 1E3

Tel: 416-690-2181 Fax: 416-690-3587

E-mail: [cparsons@royallegage.ca](mailto:cparsons@royallegage.ca)

Website: [www.TorontoBeachHomes.com](http://www.TorontoBeachHomes.com)

**Deadline for the Next Courier**  
**is Sunday, February 3**  
**Submissions can be sent to**  
**[admin@stjohnsnorway.org](mailto:admin@stjohnsnorway.org)**

## The Prayer Nook

### **What is a "Prayer Group?"**

A prayer group is composed of people from the congregation. The prayer group serves two kinds of needs: the needs of the Church and the needs of individual people.

Our congregation, the people within it, and the world around us all need prayer. One of the effective ways of carrying on prayer activity is in small groups of people. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20).

Prayer groups meet another need which the Church today recognizes more and more. People may be regular in worship, of which prayer is an integral and essential part, and they may exercise personal prayer continually. Yet they hunger to be part of a smaller group in which personal concerns may be expressed and prayed about. This hunger to be part of a group much smaller than the worshipping body – the hunger for growth, for deepening our spiritual life – leads one to seek out other Christians who feel the pull of prayer. In a small group Christians can come together to share what each has learned, and to seek to learn and experience more about prayer, as well as to provide prayerful support for one another and the needs of others within the congregation.

Source: Prayer Groups: a "how to" booklet  
Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

At the first meeting of a new prayer group it is important to discuss how these needs will be met within the group. The group serves the congregation in praying for it; the group members also serve each other in prayer and support.

We are currently looking for members to represent the congregation for a prayer group, including people from different backgrounds, marital status, professions, ages (15 years and up), etc. Please pray about this ministry. Newcomers are welcome. **If you are interested, or if you want more information, please see Craig Gustafson. A date will be determined based upon the schedules of the members of the group.**

## THE COURIER

### MONTHLY CALENDAR

**\*Weekly**

#### **JANUARY**

Monday 14	9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet* 5:00 p.m. – Kuma Marital Arts* 7:00 p.m. – Guides*
Tuesday 15	4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet* 6:30 p.m. – Creative Youtheatre*
Wednesday 16	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. – Kuma Martial Arts 7:45 p.m. – Seton Area Scout Forum
Thursday 17	9:00 a.m. – MumNet* 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet* 7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers*
Friday 18	9:00 a.m. – MumNet* 5:30 p.m. – Youth Group*
Sunday 20	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist* 9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers* 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist* 7:30 p.m. – Venturers*
Tuesday 22	7:45 p.m. – Wardens' Meeting
Wednesday 23	9:00 a.m. – MumNet
Thursday 24	1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group 7:30 p.m. – Norway Group
Monday 28	7:30 p.m. – Scout Group
Wednesday 30	9:00 a.m. – MumNet

#### **FEBRUARY**

Sunday 3	<b>COURIER DEADLINE</b> <b>VESTRY REPORTS AVAILABLE</b> 12:00 noon – Ash Wednesday Preparation
Monday 4	7:30 p.m. – East End Refugee Committee
Tuesday 5	6:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Set Up 7:30 p.m. – Advisory Board
Wednesday 6	8:30 a.m. – Ash Wednesday Programme
Sunday 10	<b>VESTRY MEETING FOLLOWING THE</b> <b>10:30 a.m. SERVICE</b>

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