
THE COURIER

Issue 6

February 2008

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY

470 WOODBINE AVENUE TORONTO, ONTARIO M4E 2H6

PHONE (416) 691-4560

FAX (416) 913-9196

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

In my annual report to vestry I spoke of the distinction between those who simply attend church and those who think of themselves as members. Of course, these are not water-tight compartments. Members usually attend and attendees often consider themselves members. However, I still think it's a useful distinction. Some twenty odd years ago in a study prepared for the Diocese of Toronto, sociologist Reginald Bibby wrote about a "consumer mentality" among Anglicans; I think he was addressing much the same issue.

One who simply attends church (and believe me, I'm glad they do) is probably looking for good liturgy, uplifting music, and a meaningful sermon. If they don't find what they are looking for they will move on. The same is true with Church School. I remember a family when I was at another church that came with several children one Sunday. "Do you have a Sunday School?" I was asked. "Unfortunately not," I had to reply, "but I've been trying to get some people involved in starting one. Would you be interested in helping?" They never came back.

I can't blame busy people for wanting to let someone else carry the load on weekends but the fact is that without our volunteers we can do nothing. A member recognises this and gets involved: singing in the choir, serving on the Chancel Guild, participating in Christian Education activities, and so much more. There is a challenging and rewarding job for anyone who wants one.

God bless everyone who worships here and supports us, but we need people who really see St. John's as their church and are ready to roll up their sleeves and make this the best, the liveliest, the most worshipful, the happiest church in the community. Are you up to the job?

Yours in Christ,

Brian

Sunday Flowers

During the season of Lent there are no altar flowers.

Memorial flowers will resume on
Easter Sunday, March 23. Thank you.

Easter Flowers

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

PALM SUNDAY CROSSES

Every year we wave palm leaves and crosses in procession around the church on Palm Sunday. Have you wondered how the crosses are made? Come out and help. You'll amaze your friends!!

Saturday, March 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Contact Joan Hendricks at (416) 463-3998
for more information.

**The church office will be closed
Monday, February 18 for Family Day.**

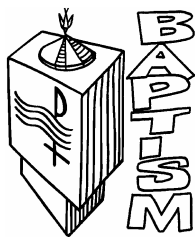
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FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR

February 9 – HANNAH GRIER COOME
Founder of the Sisterhood of Saint John the Divine

Religious communities in the Anglican church were suppressed during the Reformation but were restarted three hundred years later during the spiritual revival called the Oxford Movement. One community was founded in Canada by Hannah Grier Coome, an English widow, who established a community for women in Toronto in 1884. During her married life Hannah had received spiritual help from the clergy at the parish of St. John the Divine, Kennington, in London. Out of gratitude she dedicated her newly-founded community to Saint John the Divine. The first obligation of the sisters was prayer, but they also engaged in parish work, nursing, teaching, and social service. Bigoted Orangemen threatened to burn down their convent, accusing them of being Roman Catholics in disguise, but these prejudices were overcome by the obvious devotion of the sisters to the poor. One of their first works of mercy was caring for the wounded of the North West Rebellion of 1885. At first they lived in a renovated stable but in 1889 they moved to a more adequate building and in 1953 the mother house was transferred to suburban Willowdale. In 2007 they moved again, this time to a new convent beside St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital in North York, continuing a presence that began almost 125 years ago.



January 13, 2008

Dasan Derrick Duncan

Prayer Group

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.

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IN MEMORIAM

January 5 Stella Waldron
January 11 Josephine Taschner
January 19 Daisy Reynolds-Roy
January 25 Cecil Josling

MONTHLY CHUCKLE

A journalist heard about an old Jewish man who had been going to the Western Wall (sometimes known as the Wailing Wall) to pray, twice a day, every day, for a long time, so she went to check it out. She went to the Western Wall and there he was, walking slowly up to the holy site. She watched him pray for about 45 minutes. When he turned to leave she approached him for an interview. "Pardon me, sir," she said, "but I noticed you praying here quite fervently. How long have you been coming here to pray?" "For about 60 years," the man replied. "Sixty years! That's amazing," she said. "What do you pray for?" He answered, "I pray for peace among Christians, Jews, and Muslims. I pray for war and hatred to stop. I pray that our children may grow up safely as responsible adults, to love their brothers and sisters." "How do you feel after doing this for all these years?" she asked. He replied, "Like I'm talking to a wall."

(((((

Have you ever wondered ...

- △ What is another word for "thesaurus"?
- △ Why is there an "s" in the word "lisp"?
- △ What the best thing in the world was *before* sliced bread?

For the Food Cupboard

Donations of canned or bottled pasta sauce would be appreciated. Please leave in the yellow basket at the back of the church. Thank you.

WARDENS' REPORT

There is a shorter period between Couriers this month due to the holidays and things have also been a little quieter as we all catch our breath after a busy Christmas season, so there is not as much activity to report.

Our January focus has been on reviewing the numbers from '07 and looking ahead to our personnel and financial needs for the coming year. We've certainly enjoyed some successes in '07 and the challenges for '08 are quite apparent.

We can report that we were finally able to switch our phone lines over to Rogers after a monstrously long delay and an incredible list of misadventures with service technicians. Craig Gustafson and Brian Fairbrother lived the frustration day-to-day and we thank them both for the patience. In the end we were able to get a second phone line installed and an answering service for essentially the same price as we were paying for one line. This was badly needed for some time and will significantly increase our productivity.

We do face some significant challenges in the coming year and we hope you'll have time to review our more detailed assessment in the Vestry Report. We certainly welcome your contribution at the vestry meeting itself on February 10th.

Dave Shelton & Suzanne Coxon

Enclosed with this month's Courier, you will find an envelope marked "COURIER." The cost of printing the Courier 10 months of the year, like everything else, costs more. This includes postage, paper, ink, and electricity – all items that contribute to higher costs. Please help to defray costs by using the enclosed envelope.

Thanking you very much in advance,
The Rector & Wardens

Deadline for the Next Courier is Sunday, March 2.
Please send submissions to
admin@stjohnsnorway.org or place them
in the mail rack outside the office.

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Bible Lore

Last month I used the term "synoptic" to describe the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Some of you may not be familiar with the term. The word synoptic comes from the Greek. It literally means "seeing with the same eyes." For centuries people have noticed that Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell the same story in virtually the same order and use much the same vocabulary. The term "synoptic problem" was coined to describe the analysis of both similarities and differences among these gospels. Most modern scholars agree that Mark was published in Rome in the early 60s AD. Matthew and Luke drew upon Mark when writing their gospels a decade later and in addition drew on another source, sometimes called Q (from the German Quelle, or "source"). This is called the "two source" theory. We can also find material that appears only in Matthew or only in Luke, sometimes called M or L respectively. Of course, this does not suggest that these sources were ever written down. In the culture of the time it would have been common to preserve and pass on important traditions by word of mouth.

ROYAL LEPAGE Estate Realty CAROLYNN PARSONS

Sales Representative
2126 Queen Street East
Toronto, ON M4E 1E3
Tel: 416-690-2181 Fax: 416-690-3587
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Website: www.TorontoBeachHomes.com

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Calling all Kids! Between the ages of 7 and 10

Do you know what they call the things we use on the altar on Sunday? Have you ever wondered what goes on behind those doors at the front of the church? Can you tell us what ingredients are used in making communion bread? The answers to these and other questions you may not have thought of yet will be discovered during our

Communicants Class

Sunday afternoons for about an hour
after the 10:30 a.m. service

February 17 ✠ February 24 ✠ March 2 ✠ March 9

and one Saturday, March 15
(10:00 a.m. to noon followed by lunch)

Diplomas will be given out at the 10:30 a.m. service on Palm Sunday

For more information speak to Brian Fairbrother or the Rector, or contact the church office at (416) 691-4560.

Note to parents: At St. John's we give communion to all baptised persons, including children (with their parents' okay of course). Communicants Class is a chance for our younger members to learn more about the meaning of the Eucharist.

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday, March 16
following the 10:30 a.m. Service
Adults \$5 Children (12 & under) \$2
EVERYONE WELCOME

Join the Fun

3rd Annual Used Book, Music, & Movie Sale

Saturday, April 5

We need your gently used books, CDs, DVDs, records, and sheet music (no textbooks or magazines please). We also need your help to fetch, carry, sort, and sell. You'll meet some really interesting people and find a great book in the bargain. Donations may be left at the church (Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon).

To donate or volunteer call Gordon Stock at
(416) 686-3249.

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Adult Lenten Programme Wednesdays During Lent February 13 - March 12

6:30 p.m. – Stone Soup

Based on an old fable (see below). You bring the ingredients to church the Sunday before and Father David Bowring will turn them into soup for us to enjoy on Wednesday. Can't contribute? Come to supper anyway. Can't come but want to contribute? Bless you and thank you! Father David will provide the stone.

7:00 pm - An Informal Eucharist

The first Eucharists were a meal (see 1 Corinthians 11.17-34). We'll celebrate the Eucharist around the table just like the early Christians.

7:30 p.m. – Faith on Film

A series of films that will stimulate our thoughts on the living of the Christian life.

February 13	<u>The Mission</u> What are Christian missions about?
February 20	<u>Shadowlands</u> A life transformed by the power of love.
February 27	<u>Heavens Above</u> Living by the Golden Rule isn't easy!
March 5	<u>Bruce Almighty</u> Try being God for a day!
March 12	<u>Amazing Grace</u> An inspiring crusade for social change.

Stone Soup

Long ago in a village where everyone was starving during a famine, people were getting quarrelsome until one day a wise old man came into the village square holding a stone and a large pot. People asked, "What are you doing?" He replied, "making stone soup." He put water in the pot and when it was boiling dropped in the stone. After a few minutes he tasted it. "Needs salt." Someone went home and got a pinch of salt they had been hoarding. Then he asked for some carrots which were produced, sliced, and dropped in. So it went – potatoes, peas, meat – until finally, he removed the stone and everyone sat down and shared some delicious soup.

*Come to eat; come to worship; come to learn.
Come for one or come for all three.
You'll be most welcome*

ANNUAL SCOUT-GUIDE SERVICE **Sunday, February 24th at 10.30 am**

We will welcome members of Scouting and Guiding. St. John's has a long involvement with both of these worldwide youth movements. Come out and support our youth!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT ST. JOHN'S

Palm Sunday

March 16, 2008

8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist with Blessing of Palms

10:30 a.m. – Palm Procession & Choral Eucharist

Monday in Holy Week

March 17, 2008

7:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)

Tuesday in Holy Week

March 18, 2008

7:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Book of Alternative Services)

Wednesday in Holy Week

March 19, 2008

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist (1962 Language Rite)

Maundy Thursday

March 20, 2008

6:15 p.m. – Passover Supper

8:00 p.m. – Choral Eucharist & Foot-Washing

9:00 p.m. – Watch in the Garden (to midnight)

Good Friday

March 21, 2008

9:45 a.m. – Children's Good Friday Walk

11:00 a.m. – Celebration of the Passion

Holy Saturday

March 22, 2008

8:00 p.m. – The Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Day

March 23, 2008

8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

10:30 am – Choral Eucharist

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CALENDAR

***Weekly**

FEBRUARY

Monday 11 9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet
5:00 p.m. – Kuma Marital Arts*
7:00 p.m. – Guides*
Tuesday 12 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet*
6:30 p.m. – Creative YouTheatre*
Wednesday 13 9:00 a.m. – MumNet*
6:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers*
6:15 p.m. – Sparks*
6:30 p.m. – Beavers*
6:30 p.m. – Faith on Film*
Thursday 14 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 15 9:00 a.m. – MumNet*
Sunday 17 8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist*
9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers*
10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist &
Installation of Officers
7:30 p.m. – Venturers*

Monday 18

Tuesday 19

Friday 22

Sunday 24

Monday 25

Tuesday 26

Thursday 28

MARCH

Sunday 2

Monday 3

Tuesday 4

Friday 7

Sunday 9

OFFICE CLOSED – FAMILY DAY

7:45 p.m. – Wardens' Meeting

5:30 p.m. – Youth Group

10:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer (Scout &
Guide Service)

9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet*

7:30 p.m. – Scout Group Meeting

7:30 p.m. – Amnesty International

1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group

7:30 p.m. – Norway Group

10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist*

COURIER DEADLINE

7:30 p.m. – East End Refugee
Committee

7:30 p.m. – Advisory Board

5:30 p.m. – Youth Group

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Turn clocks ahead

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