
THE COURIER

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THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY

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RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

"Anglicans padlock rebel church" reads the headline in this morning's *Toronto Star* (Tuesday, March 4th). I can't fault the media for doing their job nor can I really blame those whose conscience calls them to leave a church they have been part of, in some cases, for most of their lives. However, let's get things into perspective.

The *Star* article lists ten congregations that have voted to affiliate with the Anglican Province of the Southern Cone, based in Buenos Aires. That's ten out of well over two thousand Anglican parishes across Canada. In addition, another five independent churches have voted to join. Time may prove me wrong but this hardly feels like a landslide. It overlooks thousands and thousands of Anglicans who want to continue to be a vital part of our worship and ministry.

There is so much life in this old Anglican Church of ours! Just read the *Toronto Anglican* and the *Anglican Journal* or check out the national and diocesan websites. On February 2nd St. James' Cathedral was full when Linda Nicholls was consecrated as a Suffragan Bishop. On February 25th some 800 people braved the weather to take part in the 13th annual Black Heritage Service. How much media play do you suppose they got? Twelve people in Toronto voted themselves out of the diocese and they rated page 9 in the first section of the *Star*. Go figure!

Let's celebrate the diversity of thought and spirituality, race, and culture that we embrace in the Anglican Church. Let's give thanks for the faithful work and witness of the people who are the church. Let's treat each other with mutual love and respect, praying that the Holy Spirit will continue to be alive and active among God's people,

guiding us into God's truth – a truth that will only be fully revealed when we finally see God face to face.

Yours in Christ,

Brian

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 Hendriks at (416) 463-3998 for more information.

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WARDENS' REPORT

Our Annual Vestry Meeting on February 10 was an occasion of both gratification and great concern. On one hand, we have over the past year been successful in meeting the financial goal of \$100,000 set by our Repair and Restoration Fund and it has been satisfying to see the completion of several major repair jobs to our church building and rectory, and the ongoing repairs to our beautiful stained glass windows. On the other hand, we finished 2007 with a significant deficit in our operating fund which meant that we had to cut back costs where we could and reduce hours of our Children's Ministry. Even with these cut backs, our budget as of the end of February shows a deficit of \$3000; if this trend continues, we will have a deficit of \$18,000 at the end of this year and this will leave us little choice about making further significant cuts to our existing ministries which will mean significant changes to our church life.

To try to turn this situation around, the Advisory Board met this week with Peter Misiaszek, Director of Stewardship for the Diocese to learn about a six-week stewardship programme that the diocese has developed called "Sacrificial Giving" (this programme is available in detail on the Diocesan website). This programme has been used with some success in several churches like ours to raise awareness of stewardship issues and promote individual financial responsibility for the church. We will most likely start this programme or something similar either after Easter or early in the Fall.

Around the church, you may have noticed that we have installed a new automatic door-opener on our main south doors. The existing opener which was installed with the opening of the Accessibility wing five years ago finally stopped working after several repairs and needed to be replaced with a heavy-duty model. The cost of the repair was \$1,400.

Congratulations to Brian Fairborther, our Youth Co-ordinator, and Kathryn Kern our Sunday School Co-ordinator, and their team of volunteers for the exceptional youth programme that they organised for Ash Wednesday. The programme had a Shrek theme, with Brian assuming the role of Shrek – including painting himself green – and was well-attended by 29 adults and youth.

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Finally, many thanks to all those who have responded to the Courier donation drive; we are very close to meeting our targeted budget figure. A reminder to our envelope givers please to remember the "Cost of Envelopes" donation envelope in your box; this donation covers our cost of providing the envelopes and mailing out financial statements several times a year. If you no longer have that particular envelope, please use a blue "specials" envelope, marked "Cost of Envelopes."

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Coxon and Robert Cameron

Bible Lore

Last month I wrote about the three "synoptic" gospels, so called because they all tell much the same story in the same way. This month I would like to discuss the Fourth Gospel, John. Tradition has attributed this gospel to John the Apostle who is said to have written it in Ephesus in his old age. It falls into two large divisions: The Book of Signs (chapters 1-12), and The Book of Glory (chapters 13-21). The signs, seven in number, are John's way of describing the miracles of Jesus: water into wine (John 2.1-12), healing an official's son (John 4.43-54), healing a paralysed man (John 5.1-15), feeding five thousand (John 6.5.1-15), walking on water (John 6.16-24), curing a man born blind (John 9.1-12), and raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11.1-44). The Book of Glory tells the story of Jesus's arrest, suffering, death, and resurrection. That John's gospel differs from the synoptics in language and style is obvious even to the casual reader. He also changes the order of events (for example, the cleansing of the Temple comes at the beginning of Jesus' ministry not its end) and leaves out many of the events described in the synoptics. Notably, there is no blessing of the bread and cup at the Last Supper. Instead, John gives us the beautiful incident when Jesus washed the disciples' feet, an example of humility that we remember on Maundy Thursday.

**The church office will be closed
Friday, March 21 for Good Friday AND
Monday, March 24 for Easter Monday.**

From the Secretary

In January, St. Andrew's Japanese Congregation advertised for a part-time secretary. This congregation worships in St. David's, Donlands. In February, the wardens offered me the position and I accepted. I will be working at St. Andrew's two afternoons per week. I will also be attending their services on occasion as part of this ministry. God has blessed me with two jobs that complement each other. My thoughts and prayers will be with you when I am unable to worship with you.

MONTHLY CHUCKLE

Some Children's Letters to God

Dear God,
I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that OK?
Neil

U U U

Dear God,
Thank you for the baby brother but what I wanted was a puppy.
Joyce

U U U

Dear God,
I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only four people in our family and I can never do it.
Nan

U U U

Dear God,
If you watch in church on Sunday I will show you my new shoes.
Mickey D.

U U U

Dear God,
Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now.

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Ginny

FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR

March 18

CYRIL OF JERUSALEM – Teacher and Pastor

Cyril was born and educated in Jerusalem and became its bishop in 349. It was a time of great controversy and Cyril spent nearly half of the 35 years of his episcopate in exile on three separate occasions. When Cyril sold some property to relieve the poor Acacius, Bishop of Caesarea, who claimed jurisdiction over Jerusalem, charged him with misappropriation of church funds and had him banished. Acacius, a supporter of the Arians who denied the divinity of Jesus, also accused Cyril of heresy. Cyril was eventually reinstated only to be suspected by the orthodox. However, an investigation found the faith of the church in Jerusalem to be orthodox. Cyril himself was cleared of heresy charges at the Council of Constantinople in 381. He was a faithful teacher and pastor, struggling against corruption, disorder and poverty in the Jerusalem of his day. His Catecheses, comprising eighteen lectures to Christians preparing for baptism during Lent and five given to the newly baptised after Easter, is his most famous work. They are important to us today because they provide valuable information about the teaching and practice of baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist in the fourth century church.

Spring Cleaning?

Save your used treasures for our annual

RUMMAGE SALE

On May 10

Call the church office for pickup or drop off
Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon



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

A Day with the Bishop

by Craig Gustafson

On Saturday, February 9, the church of St. Luke hosted a day with our Area Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu, which focused on the theme "The Family Business: What is the Church About"? Representatives from the congregations of the Resurrection, St. Andrew, St. David, St. John (Norway), St. Monica, and of course St. Luke attended. Bishop Yu is an excellent speaker and a gifted teacher. We are truly blessed to have a bishop who has many talents and who is willing to take the time to share his skills and get to know his flock.

A modern Anglican church wants and needs new members. In this day and age, new members are essential in order to survive and thrive. We need to ask ourselves:

- Are people coming?
- Do people who come feel welcome?
- Do people enjoy the experience of coming to church?
- Do people feel comfortable at church?
- Are people aware of what is happening (events, opportunities) in the church?

We can start by asking ourselves these "YES/NO" questions and giving the reasons for our answers. Then we need to look around at new people in the pews and ask them these questions. The answers may surprise us.

What is the church? Some churches are historical societies. Some churches are property managers. Some churches are social clubs. Some churches are financial institutions. These are all required parts of a church's life, but none of them can be a thriving church's focus. After the group read Luke 5:1-11 and John 21:1-14, the bishop pointed out that churches are meant to be fishing boats. Remember Jesus's promise? "You will be fishers of people." Jesus calls us to continue this work. First and foremost, we are in the business of catching fish, not so that our church will survive, but because Jesus commands us. Once we catch the fish, they have to be able to live on the boat, which is our church. We have to ensure that the people we catch receive everything they need from the church. Evangelism has to be a way of life within the church, just as breathing is to a human. When we become really good at evangelism we do not have to talk about it anymore, since we do it everyday. The

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bishop engaged us in an exercise to demonstrate how uncomplicated evangelism is: faith-sharing through a significant event in one's life, and how one's faith was strengthened by that event.

In concluding, the bishop gave us some resources created by the Lutheran Church entitled "Reach to Teach!" to help churches become better fishers. A church has to discuss and agree upon a vision. What do we want as a church? Second, the members of a church need to practise sharing their faith with each other. How can we share our faith with others if we cannot or do not share our faith with each other? Finally, the church needs to plan on how it is going to change. A living organism has to evolve, and the church is no different.

The church has to open its doors so that people will come in. The church has to provide programmes so that the people who come in will get what they need. The church has to open its doors again so that the people can go out into the world and be examples of Christ. The future of our church, St. John's, depends on the ability of ALL our members to work together to accomplish our goals and welcome new people.

As a follow-up to the bishop's presentation, St. Luke's (904 Coxwell Avenue) invites you to a study of the book of James, Tuesdays until March 18 at 7:00 p.m., or Wednesdays until March 26 at 10:30 a.m. For those who are able, the cost of the study book is \$6.75. For more information see the bulletin board beside the kitchen, or contact Victoria Martin at (416) 424-3074 or v_martin@rogers.com



IN MEMORIAM

December 15
February 2
February 5
February 10
February 11

Michael Gregory
Eric Hollier
Leroy Warren
Jack Mayes
Kiyoshi Uyesugi

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Unique in Canada, IncomePlus from Manulife Investments can provide you with predictable, sustainable, and potentially increasing retirement income – for life. And it's the new "life" benefit of this product that makes it ideally suitable for RRIFs.

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If you would like to discuss this opportunity in more detail, please call me at (416) 686-6127 to set up an appointment.

* Exceeding the withdrawal thresholds may have a negative impact on future payments. The Lifetime Withdrawal Amount is available after December 31st of the year the annuitant turns age 65. Payments can continue until the contract reaches maturity or upon death of the last surviving annuitant.

Vic Sarju is a Life Insurance Advisor with Berkshire Insurance Services Inc. *A member of the Manulife Financial group of companies.*

Vic can be reached at Tel: 416-686-6127;
Toll Free: 1 888 686-6127.

The opinions expressed are those of the author and may not necessarily be those of Berkshire Insurance Services Inc. or St. John the Baptist, Norway.

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Norway Group News

We have two upcoming events that we invite everyone at St. John's to come to and enjoy!

The first is a SLIDE SHOW AND TALK about "My Year in Guyana" by Susan Connor. The date is Thursday, March 27 at 7.30 p.m. Here at St. John's. Refreshments will be served.

The second is a FASHION SHOW and SALE promoting the Weekenders Spring clothing collection on Thursday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m. Please see flyer for further details.

Please plan to attend these events and invite friends to come with you. The more the merrier!

The Norway Group members spent last Thursday evening cleaning the kitchen. We went through and cleaned out the fridge, stoves, cupboards, and shelves. So, when you use the kitchen please make sure to leave it clean and tidy. Thank you!

**Deadline for the Next Courier is
Sunday, March 30.**

**Please send submissions to
admin@stjohnsnorway.org or place them
in the mail rack outside the office.**

For the Food Cupboard

Donations of canned **fruits and vegetables** would be appreciated. Please leave in the yellow basket at the back of the church. Thank you.

PSALMS – Those Ancient Hymns: a series of ten Ecumenical Bible Study sessions, Mondays from March 10 to May 26, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist, Norway. Sister Brenda Duncombe, D.M.J. leads the studies. Late registrants are welcome and the fee of \$25 covers all sessions. For more information and to register, telephone Jean at (416) 694-5989.

**Adult Lenten Programme
Wednesday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m.**

Stone Soup Informal Eucharist
Faith on Film: Amazing Grace

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

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

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

Fauré Requiem

The Junior and Senior Choirs of Beach United
Church with Orchestra
Michael Downie, Bass

Good Friday, March 21 7:30 p.m.
Beach United Church
2 Bellefair Avenue at Queen
Free will offering

Beach Conservation Fair: Thursday, March 27, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Beach United Church, 140 Wineva Avenue at Queen. Come out to meet informed experts, find answers, and learn new approaches to home energy conservation. Info sessions from over 15 green organisations and businesses will provide you with the tools you need to green up your life. Visit the website: weconserve.ca/local/torontoca.html

**EARTH HOUR – RE-ENERGIZE ...
TIME FOR A CARBON SABBATH**

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives and the Church of the Holy Trinity invite the faith communities of Toronto to gather together as part of a global action raising awareness of global climate change. Join us on Saturday, March 29th from 8-9pm at 10 Trinity Square (just beside the Eaton Centre) for Songs, Stories, and Rituals for Healing the Earth. We will join communities around the world by turning off our lights in a candle-lit celebration involving songs, readings, poetry, and drumming. Refreshments will follow, so please bring a reusable cup. We encourage everyone to travel responsibly to this event – walk, bike or TTC!

Join the Fun
**3rd Annual Used Book, Music,
& Movie Sale**

Saturday, April 5 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

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.



You are invited to a
Daffodil Tea

Saturday, April 19 at 2:00 p.m.

Tea Room ➤ Home-Baked Goods
White Elephant Table
Crafts ➤ Foods ➤ Raffle

**“Weekenders”
Fashion Show & Sale**

Thursday, April 24
St. John the Baptist, Norway

7:00 p.m. – Refreshments
7:30 p.m. – Show and Sale

Enjoy an evening of fashion, fun, raffle prizes, sale items, and desserts with your friends

Admission \$5.00

Raffle Prizes

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

CALENDAR***Weekly****MARCH**

Monday 10	9:30 a.m. – Ecumenical Bible Study
Tuesday 11	6:30 p.m. – Creative YouTheatre*
Wednesday 12	6:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers*
	6:30 p.m. – Faith on Film
Thursday 13	1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group
	7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers
	7:30 p.m. – Norway Group
Saturday 15	9:30 a.m. – Palm Crosses
	10:00 a.m. – Communicants Class

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Sunday 17

2:00 p.m. – Palm Sunday Set Up

8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist*

9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers*

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

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

7:30 p.m. – Venturers*

Monday 17

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

9:30 a.m. – Ecumenical Bible Study

5:00 p.m. – Kuma Martial Arts*

7:00 p.m. – Guides*

Tuesday 18

7:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:45 p.m. – Wardens' Meeting

Wednesday 19

6:15 p.m. – Sparks*

6:30 p.m. – Beavers*

7:00 p.m. – Choral Eucharist

7:45 p.m. – Seton Area Forum

7:45 p.m. – Kuma Martial Arts

Thursday 20

1:00 p.m. – Passover Set up

6:00 p.m. – Passover Potluck

8:00 p.m. – Choral Eucharist with Washing of Feet

Friday 21

GOOD FRIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED

9:45 p.m. – Children's Programme

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

Saturday 22

8:00 p.m. – Easter Vigil & Choral Eucharist

Sunday 24

10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist*

Monday 24

EASTER MONDAY – OFFICE CLOSED

7:30 p.m. – Scout Group Meeting

Tuesday 25

4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet*

7:30 p.m. – Amnesty International

Wednesday 26

9:00 a.m. – MumNet*

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist*

7:45 p.m. – Kuma Martial Arts

Thursday 27

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*

Friday 28

7:30 p.m. – Norway Group

9:00 a.m. – MumNet

5:30 p.m. – Youth Group

Saturday 29

8:45 a.m. – Meet in parking lot for Workshop at Convent

COURIER DEADLINE

Sunday 30

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

Monday 31

9:30 a.m. – Ecumenical Bible Study

APRIL

Tuesday 1

7:30 p.m. – Advisory Board

Friday 4

Book Sale Set Up

Saturday 5

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. – Book Sale

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