
THE COURIER

Issue 9

May 2008

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY

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RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

This month we launch a stewardship program which is intended to help us grow not only financially but, I believe, spiritually as well. Anglicans are often reluctant to talk about money in church but it isn't rocket science to realise that, without regular income and without people to take part in the many activities that happen here, we would soon have to close our doors.

Back in 1850 a group of Anglicans met to petition Bishop Strachan to establish a parish. A few years later Charles Coxwell Small donated land for a church and our enterprising ancestors purchased an abandoned schoolhouse to put on it and begin holding services here. By 1893 they had outgrown that building and began work on the current church that has been enlarged and expanded over the years. I rehearse this history to remind you that those who have worshipped here before us had the vision and commitment to give us the church we enjoy today. We are heirs to a great tradition. If we wish to see it continue we need your support: not only financial but also your active involvement in our work and worship.

Our stewardship committee has identified four areas of work that you support: worship, pastoral care, ministry within the parish, and ministry beyond our parish. If, like me, you think this work is important, please consider prayerfully how much of your time, talent, and treasure you can commit to St. John's and our continuing witness in this community.

Yours in Christ,

Brian

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WARDENS' REPORT

April was an especially busy month for our Church community as many groups scheduled activities following an early Easter season. We started the month with our third annual Book Sale which was our most successful to date, raising over \$3,000 which will go into our operating budget. We express many thanks to Gord Stock and his crew of helpers for all the hard work that went into making this event such a success. Mid-month, the members of the ACW hosted their annual Daffodil Tea, which is always a popular event, and last week the Norway Group held a Weekenders Fashion Show and Sale. Coming up at the beginning of May is the CYT Production of Over the Rainbow, an adaptation of the Wizard of Oz. You won't want to miss it!

In spite of our many activities, our Church operation budget is continuing to show a deficit. We have a deficit of \$6,500 at the end of the first three months of the year. If we don't do something to reverse this trend, we will have another serious financial predicament at the end of the year and decisions will have to be made that will greatly affect the quality of our worship life and parish activities.

To address this situation, we will be launching a six-week Stewardship Campaign, starting in early May. The campaign will help parishioners understand how important it is to be mindful of each individual's level of financial support and to give serious consideration to how each one of us can help support the Church to the best of our abilities so that together we can avoid this looming financial crisis.

Our Stewardship Campaign will start off with the distribution of a narrative budget. This will eventually be mailed to every parishioner as part of the stewardship materials and presents a snapshot of how each dollar donated to our Church is divided up to support all the Ministries that make up our Church life. The purpose of presenting a budget this way is to help parishioners understand how their donations are divided to cover costs and to lay out all the areas of Ministry that take place at our Church. As we move through this campaign, we would ask each parishioner to give these issues their prayerful consideration.

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Finally, we would like to thank one of our parishioners who most generously stepped up and made a donation to cover both the cost of the recent repair to the organ and the cost of installing the new door opener.

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Coxon and Robert Cameron

FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR

May 31 The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

Shortly after learning from the archangel Gabriel that she was to be the mother of the Messiah, Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was pregnant herself, bearing the child who became John the Baptist. Two events made Mary's visit a significant occasion. When Elizabeth saw Mary, the child in her womb "leaped for joy." While it is not uncommon for this to happen during pregnancy, it was interpreted as the supernatural acknowledgement of the Messiah by Elizabeth's unborn child. Elizabeth hailed Mary as "the mother of my Lord," exclaiming, "blessed are you among women." In response to this greeting Mary burst into the song that is often called the Magnificat, from the Latin version of its opening words, "My soul magnifies the Lord." This song, or canticle, is a vivid expression of the universal longing for justice and peace. The Franciscan Order introduced the feast of Visitation in the 13th century but it became universal only in the 15th century. Archbishop Cranmer dropped it from the Anglican calendar in his first Book of Common Prayer (1549) but it was reintroduced in 1662, just over a century later.

The Anglican Journal

All members of the Anglican Church of Canada are entitled to receive a copy of this informative magazine. If you would like to receive a paper copy please write a note to the church secretary or visit anglicanjournal.com. The publication is also available on the website.

Bible Lore

Last month we looked at the “Pauline Corpus” – the New Testament letters written by St. Paul. This month, we turn to the so-called “Catholic Epistles.” (In this context “Catholic” simply means “universal.” (“Epistles” is an older word for letters.) They were given this name because they are addressed to Christians in general, and not to any church or person in particular. They consist of: (1) The Letter to the Hebrews, which used to be ascribed to Paul, but its language and imagery are so different that scholars now assign it to an anonymous and unknown author; (2) The Letter of James, ascribed by tradition to James, the brother of Jesus and Jude Thomas; (3) The First and Second Letters of Peter, traditionally ascribed to the Apostle Simon, called Peter (some scholars believe 2 Peter to be the work of an anonymous author using Peter’s name); (4) The three letters of John, traditionally ascribed to the Apostle John, son of Zebedee (2 John is addressed to “the elect lady,” thought by many to be the church itself; 3 John is addressed to “Gaius,” about whom there has been much speculation but little in the way of conclusive proof as to his identity); (5) The Letter of Jude, traditionally ascribed to Jude Thomas, brother of Jesus and James. The Catholic Epistles are quite short and can be easily read at one sitting. They tell us a great deal about the faith of the first Christians and will repay a careful reading. The King James Version is beautiful language, but the meaning of these letters is brought out better by a modern translation like the Good News Bible or the Contemporary English Version. This leaves the Revelation of John to be discussed, but that is a story for next month.



A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed between the pages. “Mama, looked what I found,” the boy called out. “What have you got there, dear?” she replied. With astonishment in the young boy’s voice he answered, “I think it’s Adam’s underwear!”

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Monthly Chuckle More Children's Letters to God

Dear God,
We read that Thomas Edison made light. But in Sunday School they said you did it. So I bet he stole your idea.
Donna



Dear God,
If you let the dinosaur not be extinct we would not have a country. You did the right thing.
Jonathan



Dear God,
Please send Dennis Clark to a different camp this year.
Peter



Dear God,
Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother.
Larry

Book Sale Madness!

Our 3rd annual Book & Music Sale, held on April 5th, was a great success, earning more than \$3000 for St. John's. Crowds started gathering an hour before the sale, and rushed the door at 9 am, looking for great deals and special finds—all leaving the sale with smiles and boxes and bags of books, CDs, records, sheet music, and DVDs. Special thanks to all the members of the parish who donated books and music, helped with the set-up on Friday April 4, the sale, and the cleanup. Please see the upcoming May edition of the local Snap(!) newspaper for some great photos of the sale.

All leftover books and music items were donated to Goodwill.

Gordon Stock.

The Prayer Nook

Prayer in the Bible

You probably know that prayer is an integral part of the Bible. Here is a challenge to test your knowledge. Who spoke the following words to God? For extra credit, where in the Bible would you find the passages, and what is the context of each prayer? Answers will be provided in the next edition of the Courier.

I knew that You always listen to me, but I say this for the sake of the people here, so that they will believe that You sent me.

There is none holy like the Lord,
There is none besides thee;
There is no rock like our God.

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

O eternal God, who dost discern what is secret, who art aware of all things before they come to be, thou knowest that these men have borne false witness against me. And now I am to die! Yet I have done none of the things that they have wickedly invented against me!

I know, Lord, that You are all-powerful;
that you can do everything You want.
You ask how I dare question Your wisdom
when I am so ignorant.
I talked about things I did not understand,
about marvels too great for me to know.
You told me to listen while You spoke
and to try to answer Your questions.
In the past I knew only what others had told me,
but now I have seen You with my own eyes.
So I am ashamed of all I have said
and repent in dust and ashes.

Here I am among the people You have chosen to be Your own, a people who are so many that they cannot be counted. So give me the wisdom I need to rule Your people with justice to know the difference between good and evil. Otherwise, how would I ever be able to rule this great people of Yours?

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Norway Group News

by Bridget North

Last week, we hosted the Weekenders fashion show and raised some money (amount not yet known) to help with the church deficit. It was a fun evening with several of our members acting as models. We express many thanks to Elizabeth for organising the event.

The Out of the Cold at Eastminster has ended for the season, and many thanks to all of you who donated their time and money to those in need. We do plan to help Moorelands again with their summer camps for inner city kids. They are looking for clean towels and sleeping bags, also swimsuits, toiletries, and sports equipment, along with disposable cameras in order to run the programme. This is a very special time for children to have a healthy break out of the city. Any donations should be labelled for Moorelands and placed in the red bushel basket just inside the church.

On Thursday May 22nd, we are helping to clean up the garden around the church. Many hands make light work so if anyone would like to join us at 7:30 p.m., we would welcome your help. Help is also needed to weed and water the garden throughout the summer. If you are an eager gardener, please let us know through the Church Office at (416) 691 4560. I hope that you are enjoying the spring that has finally arrived!



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



IN MEMORIAM

April 3
April 3
April 17

Gwendelyne L. LaFayette
Peter T. Bentley
Raymond Arthur Reakes

RUMMAGE SALE SATURDAY, MAY 10

EVERYTHING AT LOW PRICES!!



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY CHURCH

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Any treasures to donate?

Call the church office at (416) 691-4560
for pickup, or drop off during the week between
9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon



CONGREGATIONAL BBQ PICNIC

Sunday, May 11
following the 10:30 a.m. service
on the rectory lawn
Everyone Welcome!!

We are looking for some donations of food.
Please see the signup sheet beside the kitchen.

Join us for food, fun, and fellowship
as our Church School season draws to a close.
(We'll use the Van-Lane Room in case of bad weather)

ANGLICANS OPEN DOORS A York-Scarborough Area Day Event

Help us celebrate our diversity and multicultural flavour

Saturday, May 24th from 1-4 pm



Tour selected churches in two different
ways:
by car and "the green way" by TTC

Car Route:

St. Paul, L'Amoreaux; St. Andrew, Scarborough;
Church of Our Saviour; St. Cyprian/Tri-Congregation;
St. Christopher/Tri-Congregation

TTC Route:

Church of the Redeemer; St. Simon the Apostle;
St. Barnabas, Chester; St. Andrew, Japanese &
St. David, Donlands; St. Saviour

Passports available from your Regional Dean or at
hosting churches. Enter the draw for the secret prize!!

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Attacking Anxiety & Depression:

A self-help, self-awareness programme
for stress, anxiety, and depression



Saturday, June 7, 2008
10:00 – 11.45 a.m.

St. John the Baptist, Norway
470 Woodbine Avenue

Led by Mike Glugosh, B.Th.
Canadian Coordinator for
The Midwest Center for Stress and Anxiety Inc.

This introductory workshop is being offered free of charge
but we do need to know how many are coming.
Please use the signup sheet on the bulletin board
or call the church office at 416-691-4560

Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, August 9, 1:00 p.m. at
Cedarhurst Golf Club, Beaverton



\$50 for 18 holes
non-golfers come to
cottage on Lake
Simcoe for
afternoon

POTLUCK dinner after golf

see details and sign up on
downstairs church bulletin board

Sunday Flowers

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

Deadline for the Next Courier is Sunday, May 25.

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

**Want to Learn More About Prayer?
Come to a Prayer Study
A New Series**

Tuesday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Please Mark Your Calendar
for

**The Biennial Diocesan Prayer Conference
Sponsored by the Bishop's Committee on Prayer**



Friday, October 17
Saturday, October 18
at the Church of St. John,
York Mills

More information will be available in September

If honesty could be bottled, boxed, or
canned, how many would you buy?

The law of heredity is that all undesirable
traits come from the other parent.

The definition of "goodbye:"
God be with Ye

CALENDAR – MAY

***Weekly**

Monday 5	9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 9:30 a.m. – Ecumenical Bible Study 5:00 p.m. – Kuma Marital Arts 7:00 p.m. – Guides 7:30 p.m. – East End Refugee Committee
Tuesday 6	4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet* 7:30 p.m. – Advisory Board

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Wednesday 7	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*
Thursday 8	9:00 a.m. – MumNet* 1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group 7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers* 7:30 p.m. – Rummage Sale Set up 7:30 p.m. – Wedding Rehearsal
Friday 9	9:00 a.m. – Rummage Sale Set up
Saturday 10	10:00 a.m. – Rummage Sale 3:00 p.m. – Wedding
Sunday 11	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist* 9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers* 10:30 a.m. – Holy Baptism & Choral Eucharist
	BBQ FOLLOWING SERVICE
Monday 12	7:30 p.m. – Venturers 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 13	6:30 p.m. – Scout Cooking
Wednesday 14	6:30 p.m. – Scout Banquet
Friday 16	9:00 a.m. – MumNet* 5:30 p.m. – Youth Group 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist*
Sunday 18	
Monday 19	OFFICE CLOSED – VICTORIA DAY
Tuesday 20	7:30 p.m. – Wardens' Meeting
Wednesday 21	6:45 p.m. – Sparks*
Thursday 22	9:30 a.m. – MumNet Fundraiser 11:30 a.m. – St. Anne's Group 12:30 p.m. – Beach Ministerial 7:30 p.m. – Norway Group 7:45 p.m. – Seton Area Forum
Saturday 24	1:00 p.m. – Memorial Service Reception
Sunday 25	COURIER DEADLINE
Monday 26	9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 9:30 a.m. – Ecumenical Bible Study 5:00 p.m. – Kuma Martial Arts 7:30 p.m. – Scout Group
Tuesday 27	7:30 p.m. – Amnesty International
Thursday 29	7:00 p.m. – First Aid
Friday 30	5:30 p.m. – Youth Group

**Please inform the office of any
errors or omissions.**