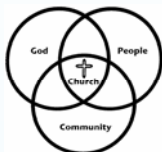




# LIFE AT ST. GEORGE'S

5350 Yonge Street, North York, (Willowdale), ON, M2N 5R5, 416.225.1922



**“Our mission is to nurture our relationships with God in Christ, with one another, and with our community.”**

## FROM JOHN'S DESK

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### A Holy Lent

*(This is an article on Lent which I wrote 2 years ago, but which is still valid today).*

“I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.”

With these words, spoken by the Priest, the Ash Wednesday rite in the Book of Alternative Services begins.

What is Lent, and why do we observe it in this way? How can each of us take our part in observing this holy season of the Church's year? And why should we?

Lent is the 40-day period of preparation for

the celebration of Easter, the great festival of Christ's Resurrection and the most important season of the year. Its origin can be traced back to the early centuries of the church, when it was customary to fast for a few days before Easter, and for those preparing for Baptism at Easter to fast for the six preceding weeks (excluding Sundays). The current practice began in the 7th century, with Lent running for six and a half weeks for a total of 40 days from Ash Wednesday (again not including Sundays).

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, a solemn day of penitence which sets the tone for the entire preparatory season, and culminates in

Holy Week, the week immediately before Easter. This year Lent runs from Wednesday, February 6 to Holy Saturday, March 22. The Easter season then runs for 50 days from March 23 this year, to Pentecost, which this year is May 11.

Without carefully observing Lent in some tangible way, we will never be able to appreciate the great gift of Easter and the celebration of new life it promises us. Every Christian ought to make the effort to observe at least some of these practices as part of their personal preparation:

**Self-examination:** An unexamined life is an empty life. It is so easy for us to merely go on day after day doing the same old things ...

*Cont on p.2*



## FROM JOHN'S DESK *(CONT...)*

in the same old way, without much thought or intentionality. Lent is an opportunity for us to slow down and actually think about where we have been, what our relationships with God and our neighbour are like now, and where we want to be in the future. In what ways am I wasting my time and energy? In what ways do I need to be more attentive to God? What fills my soul? In what ways am I soul-weary? And what am I going to do about it?

**Penitence:** Only a very foolish person or a very unaware person will say they have nothing to repent of. Lent can be a time to acknowledge the ways in which we have hurt others in the past year and to confess these things to God and begin to make amends. Perhaps old patterns of behaviour need to be changed. Perhaps we need to patch up a broken relationship. Perhaps we simply need to ask for forgiveness, from God and from our neighbour. Many Anglicans are not aware that private confession to a priest is possible in our church, and is sometimes very helpful in changing our ways or coming to terms with our human frailty. Holy Week is the traditional time of making one's confession, but any time in Lent would be appropriate. See me if you would like to explore the possibility of engaging in the Sacra-

ment of Reconciliation (confession).

**Prayer:** Lent is a time when we are encouraged to spend time with God. Not that we shouldn't do so during the rest of the year, but in Lent we have an opportunity to reflect on the great sacrifice of Christ and his glorious rising from the dead as a way of deepening our relationship with God. Many people wonder why God doesn't seem very close in times of trouble sometimes. If we do not take the time to cultivate a rich prayer life in the good times, it can be doubly hard to do so in the bad times. There are many books available on prayer, and I am always eager to talk to members of the parish privately about their prayer lives. One resource that will be available during Lent is a small booklet of daily devotions around which you can build a time of prayer each day.

On Wednesday evenings in Lent (and every evening in Holy Week) there is a 30-minute Eucharist which brings us together to hear God's Word and celebrate the banquet of God's love for us. It is a peaceful and quiet act of devotion which many people find a centrepiece in the busy work week. There are opportunities for study following these services. See the Calendar of Events (p. 7) for further information.

**Fasting:** Traditionally Lent is a time for giving up something. For some people the idea of giving up some favourite food or drink is a way to focus their attention more fully on God and God's desires for us without the distractions of worldly pleasures. Others find that choosing one day a week to refrain from food altogether during Lent is a discipline which provides insights into their spiritual hunger and helps them to identify with the millions of God's people who hunger every day. Of course not everyone is medically or emotionally suited to this kind of fast, but all of us can fast from something. It is important that we see fasting not as merely giving up something, but giving up in order to gain something—a deeper relationship with God and the world.

**Almsgiving:** This old word, not much used today, means giving to those less fortunate. In thanksgiving for all the good things which God has provided us, we give a portion of our wealth for the sustenance of those who have little. By remembering the poor among us, we take the attention off ourselves and focus on those whom Jesus most cared for during his earthly life. Giving generously is another way of deepening our relationship with God and our neighbour.

*Cont on p.3*



## FROM JOHN'S DESK *(CONT...)*

In addition to our gifts of money, we can give to the Flemingdon Park Food Bank by dropping off non-perishable food items in the baskets at church every Sunday throughout the year.

**Reading and meditating on the word of God:** Regular Bible reading and study ought to be part of our Christian life throughout the year. But in Lent we can be even more intentional about it by using the prayer resource mentioned above and reading the Bible passages every day.

If you have any questions about how to begin any of these Lenten practices or just want to talk about your own Lenten discipline, don't hesitate to contact me.

**John Wilton+**  
Parish Priest

## THANK YOU ALL!

I would like to express my thanks to everyone here at St George's, especially to John, for their support, prayers, and cards following the sudden passing of my father on Jan 6/08. My father had been many things in his life, including a member of the RCAF Bomber Command in England and Ireland from 1939 to 1945, a champion caster, a successful salesman and executive, a devoted husband and father for 63 years, a lifelong lover of boating, fishing or the occasional round of golf, and a Sunday School teacher. He was the most dependable person that I have ever met, not just for his family or friends, but for anyone that needed help. He also left one great lesson in life, that money is never the measure of a human being.

It is always difficult to know 'just that right thing to say' when this occurs, but as many of you did, just offering a hug and taking the time to listen as

I rambled on was more helpful than you could have imagined at the time. I had stopped into the church on Saturday, after seeing my father and having him answer the question of 'how are you doing?' with a simple "I'm dying" to ask God to look after him, not yet being willing to let him go, and forgetting at the time that my totally selfish request would be interpreted by God in a totally different manner from what I had intended. My father was saved the pain of suffering through treatment for the tumour that was removed ( we now know that it was cancer ) and the remaining dehumanization of Alzheimer's.

He was allowed by God to die with dignity, at peace with the world around him. I will never forget the last words that he said to me, as he struggled to lift his hand to shake my hand, "drive carefully " .

We are all part of the same family here at St. George's, and

as such, we look out for each other and offer support and compassion when needed. To rise at the end of the service for my father and turn from the coffin to see John sitting there meant a lot to both myself, as well as my mother, sister and brother. My mother is still shocked that John, among others, would have taken the time out of their busy schedules to travel all the way to Lindsay to pay respects to my father, who they had never even met. After all, my father was only at St. George's twice in his life, in 1988 for Brian's baptism, and then 1989 for Dennis's baptism. As I told her, when at all possible, that is what we do.

Again, on behalf of myself and my entire family, thank you. The Lord keep you and bless you all.

**Doug Heyes**



## CALLING ALL ST. GEORGES MARATHON BRIDGE PLAYERS

The bridge party and prize giving will be held in Claude Secrett Hall at the church on **Friday, May 9th at 12.30pm.**

We shall have a good lunch, followed by the awarding of the prizes for the year.

Please bring your cards so that you and your friends can enjoy a game of bridge afterwards.

Please make sure that you have sent me your score cards by the end of April, so

that I can do the math, and work out who are the lucky winners.

See you there!

Hazel

## ST. GEORGES REDEVELOPMENT



The City's approval for rezoning and severance of our property was obtained on Jan 30, 2008; the appeal period will be up on March 5, 2008 and as there have been no appeals through the many processes to date, any appeals in the next 35 days seem highly unlikely. On March 5, the sale to the developer will officially be concluded, we will receive \$250,000 on account, and the final payment on the purchase price for our air rights and half of our property will be due 30 days later.

With the City approval for rezoning and severance now secured, during February and March, several things will happen. Our architect, Elizabeth Davidson, will proceed with detailed design development, prepare documents needed for final site plan approval by the

City, and obtain updated cost estimates for the Church's project. We hope all of this will be in place by April 1.

In early April, we will hold a Special Vestry to seek the congregation's approval for the final project budget, and then seek Diocesan approval for the final budget.

**At long last,  
it's coming!!  
It's REALLY coming!!**

Between April and October, we will apply for a building permit, tender the construction project, select a builder, call another Special Vestry to approve the building contract, and then **START TO DEMOLISH OUR BUILDING ON NOVEMBER 1, 2008.**

Construction will start about 3 weeks later, and with hard work and good luck, we will

celebrate Christmas services in the new Church building in December 2009.

During the rest of this year, your Redevelopment Design Committee will be very busy reviewing various interior building layouts, assessing options for materials and finishes, considering various "green" features for the new building, and looking at other details which the architect will bring to our attention.

The project schedule is very tight but do-able. Your prayers are earnestly requested for the success and speedy completion of our redevelopment project.

**Geraldine Sperling**  
Redevelopment Coordinator

Redevelopment Design Committee:  
Murray Browning, Angela Goodwill,  
John Hunter, Janet Kirk, Kathy  
Lindsey, Rod McAvoy, Geraldine  
Sperling (Coordinator), Rev'd Canon  
John Wilton,  
Elizabeth Davidson (Advisor)



## NEWSFLASH

**Our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev'd Colin Johnson, will preach and preside at the 10:30 service on Sunday, March 30. There will be no 8:00 a.m. service that day. Please make every effort to attend the service, and welcome our Diocesan Bishop.**

## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

By the time you read this newsletter our Lenten Event will have taken place and the church school will be busy working on completing our Lenten project and preparing for our Good Friday Service. During Lent, each week a panel depicting parts of the life of Jesus will be placed on the windows of the left side leading out of the sanctuary to the narthex. During Holy Week, on the right side where our window panels will depict Palm Sunday, Good Friday and the celebration of Easter. Our gifted children, youth and teachers all have had a part in these creations as we focus

this Lent on listening to what Jesus has to say to us. An important part of our study is learning how we can share his message.

You will find a calendar of all our services in Holy Week and we encourage our church school to take part in as many of these services as they are able.

Our Good Friday Service will take place on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 a.m. with the youth and children taking part arriving by 9:00 a.m. A rehearsal for this service will take place on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Please join us for this interactive depiction of Good Friday. The children and youth are invited to bring their favourite stuffed animal or something else very special to them to be a part of the burial scene for this service.

Easter Day, Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – the Youth Class will prepare a dramatic reading of the Gospel for this service.

Since Lent began so early this year and the timing of our March Break we will plan our Bowling Party for after Easter this year. Watch for the date and time.

**Janet Kirk**

## ST. GEORGE'S YARD SALE

**SATURDAY, MAY 24th**, the Saturday after the May long weekend will be the big day. We are continuing to collect and sort all the donated items for the sale.

If one person can carry it, and another would pay for it, we are interested in it.

Please, no clothing.

We are hoping for a great time and fund raiser this year.

We will also be looking for people to help.

**Please contact  
Chris Hayward at,**

**the.haywards@sympatico.ca  
or Richard Snider at  
rsnider@sounds.com.**

Thank You.



## COMFORT FOOD FESTIVAL - A SUCCESS!

Thanks to Saba, Clavel and their team who organized the Comfort Food Festival. There were samples of some lovely recipes from the cookbook, which gave everyone a chance to try them. If you haven't bought your cookbook yet, they are going fast. Hurry along!

The meal at the Food Festival was good as usual, and the company excellent.

After the meal, we had a surprise. Alex Gunko agreed to play for us and gave a short piano recital in the chapel. He played a dreamy Chopin waltz, and then in sharp contrast, Chopin's

Polonaise. This was followed by a Mozart prelude, then some Bach and he ended with a gentle Schuman. It was amazing, and as they say in the ads, 'if you missed it, you missed it!'. A special thank you to Alex for sharing his wonderful talent with us.

Hazel

## THANKS FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee extends a big thank you to St. George's parishioners who contributed so generously to recent requests for support. Your donations of winter coats, hats, mitts, scarves and linens were much appreciated by resi-

dents at Eva's Place. Your very generous contribution of Christmas gifts for children and youth at Flemingdon Park as well as the time some of you contributed to helping serve Flemingdon Park's Christmas dinner is also very

much appreciated. Your continued support of food donations for Flemingdon Park is an excellent way in which to remain involved in St. George's outreach to the wider community.

Jan Buchan

## GREEN SCENE

Would you like paper, plastic, cloth or did you BYOB (bring your own bag)? How about certified organic, swiss water processed, or fair trade? Did you BYOM (bring your own mug)?

Are you taking time out from your busy day to ponder the plight of our spectacular fragile earth?

God created this splendid planet for us to respect, enjoy, and preserve. We can serve as environmental stewards. From

the air we breathe, to the food we eat and the water we drink we can create change for our health and well being. There are many resources available to us. This information is literally at our fingertips if you go online.

Here are a few Sites To See for suggestions and other links to environmental resources.

<http://www.cape.ca/children/>

<http://www.bigcarrot.ca>

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/>

[www.makeyourcosmetics.com/](http://www.makeyourcosmetics.com/)  
This website has oodles of home made natural skincare and body products .

[www.ecoholic.ca](http://www.ecoholic.ca)

[www.thegreenguide.com](http://www.thegreenguide.com)

Lori Grauds

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The average office worker uses approximately 10,000 sheets of paper every year.  
(Timber)



# ST. GEORGE'S LIBRARY CART NEWS

There are a few Lenten books to borrow from the cart for all ages. One of these is, Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert's, publication titled "From Creation to Resurrection". - A Spiritual Journey. This book is a Lenten Study Book that includes biblical stories, psalms, and questions to mull over.

Another, Adria Vasil's "ECOHOLIC"- (Your Guide To

The Most Environmentally Friendly Information, Products, And Services In Canada) This book is printed on 100% Post- Consumer Recycled Paper.

This book is chockful of sharp insights and information to empower people to think plan and implement change on small to grand scales. Tiny baby steps can lead to monu-

mental change. Adria's strong voice in the wilderness can be heard loud and clear. There is a comprehensive list of environmental, business and organizations resource guide for everyone. This is a worthwhile read for anyone that likes to think and respond outside the box.

Lucy Browning & Lori Grauds

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### WORSHIP AND STUDY

#### Wednesday evenings in Lent (February 6 to March 12):

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

#### March 12 and 19: After the evening Eucharist:

Watch a DVD of "The Mysteries", a musical adaptation, by a South African troupe, of the ancient Chester mystery plays, telling the story of Jesus' life. In Medieval English, Afrikaans, various African languages with much music and dancing. A moving and joyous depiction.

### HOLY WEEK (March 17-22)

#### Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday:

7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

#### Maundy Thursday:

7:30 p.m. Washing of Feet, Commemoration of the Institution of the Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

#### Good Friday:

9:30 a.m. Children's program

12 noon: Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday

Holy Saturday: 8:30 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

**Easter Sunday:** Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

#### Sunday, March 30: One service only, at 10:30 a.m.:

Visit of our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev'd Colin Johnson.

### PARISH EVENTS

Sunday, April 6, after the 10:30 a.m. service: Special Vestry meeting to vote on the final budget and other financial considerations of our Redevelopment Project. Watch for details of information sessions during the two weeks after Easter.

#### Saturday, May 24:

Giant Yard Sale



## MEMORIES OF ST. GEORGE'S

No, not a new sauce from President's Choice, but a project to honour the ministry carried on here for the past 85 years.

As we prepare to begin construction on the 5<sup>th</sup> St. George's church building, it is important to take time to remember the people, activities, challenges, triumphs and faithfulness that have been part of the four previous incarnations of St. George's, Willowdale.

We are looking for stories about why St. George's is important to you. There may be

a few people who remember the first St. George's, a wooden church built in 1921-1922. Some others will remember the second St. George's, now the Montessori Hall, built in 1930. Others remember worshipping in the third St. George's, now the Claude Secrett Hall. And of course, the fourth St. George's, the space where we currently worship.

Tell us your memorable event, in as much detail as you want, and we will keep a record of your story "under the roof" of one of these four St. George's

churches. You can write your story down or, if it would be easier, record it on a cassette for transcription later.

We are looking for stories of memorable worship services, parish social events, outreach projects, or other happenings in one of the four buildings. If there are enough stories we hope to put them into a booklet. We may print some of them in future editions of "Life at St. George's". Please send your stories (by e-mail if possible) to the church office:

**office@stgeorgestoronto.ca**

## FLOWERS AND THE ALTAR GUILD

"Have you ever wondered where the altar flowers come from?" Or "How to make arrangements to put flowers on the Altar and who to call?" Or "For what reason or reasons are needed to put flowers on the Altar?" "How much will it cost?" Hopefully the following will answer those questions.

1. Members of the Altar Guild order the flowers from the florist, pick them up and arrange them for Sunday morning.
2. If you would like to make arrangements to put flowers on the Altar please call our Flower Convener, Helen Hunter at 416 222 5859. Helen will take all your information, and work our

at time to put flowers on the Altar.

3. The reasons for putting flowers on the altar can be varied and many: Celebration of a wedding anniversary, in memory of a departed loved one, a birthday blessing for someone you care about, the possibilities are endless.

4. The cost for flowers vary from \$70.00 to \$80.00 for two vases of flowers. Please remember though, that if you cannot afford that amount, we suggest you share a Sunday with somebody. Or there is nothing wrong with having one vase of flowers, it has been done.

We also put extra flowers in and around the church on special festivals such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. The Altar Guild always appreciates financial assistance for these events. Just use the envelopes on the back of the pews, put your name, contact phone number and envelope number and the word FLOWERS.

If you have any other questions that are not covered here, please do not hesitate to either ask Helen Hunter, or phone the church office at 416 225 1922 and speak to Father John or Kathy Lindsey.

**The Altar Guild with Thanks.**





## A WORD ABOUT OUR GREETING MINISTRY

Have you noticed that each Sunday morning a very friendly welcome greets you as you arrive? Throughout these cold days of winter perhaps those heavy doors are opened for you to bring you into the warmth that awaits you here at St. George's.

Greeters hold a very important volunteer ministry, as they are usually the first people you meet upon your arrival Sunday mornings and other service times.

We are privileged to have five teams of Greeters including one team made up of the Youth of the parish.

Greeters are described as "our front line "troops"", welcoming God's guests; in a book entitled "Welcome!" produced by the Alban Institute. While welcoming everyone, an important aspect of their role is both recognizing and respecting visitors. A special **Thank You**, to all who have accepted this ministry call. If you would like to be a greeter too, contact Janet Kirk.



## CHEERS!

Let's bring our own mugs to Church on Sunday morning for our fellowship and coffee and tea time. We can easily take the mug home to wash it. For ages I have been feeling badly about discarding foam cups and now they can be recycled if rinsed out first. (Our cups runneth over in the recycling box).

Let's challenge each other to remember.



Muriel Thompson

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Thanks to Mike Krommendyk

01-07-2008

SORRY FOLKS ... WRITER'S STRIKE



## REMEMBER, EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES AT: 8:00am & 10:30am

"To nurture our relationships with God in Christ,  
with one another, and with our community."

416-225-1922 [www.StGeorgesToronto.ca](http://www.StGeorgesToronto.ca)

