

Life at St. George's



*St. George's Anglican Church 416 225-1922; Offices – St. George's House – 77 Canterbury Place, North York
Temporarily located at St. Patrick's Anglican Church - 1087 Lillian Street, North York*

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

From Steve's Desk

**He is not here
He has risen**

We contemplated these words at Easter with a thrill. The words that changed forever our understanding of reality. And we saw in the events recorded in the gospels the expectation of the disciples during those first days after the resurrection. Indeed they probably had very little idea of what this news of the resurrection would lead to. But we know the story, and even at Easter as we pondered the significance of the resurrection of Jesus, we were looking ahead to Pentecost, and the sending of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus had sought to prepare the disciples not only for his death, but for subsequent events. In John 14: 15 & 16 and 25 & 26, known as the farewell discourses, Jesus spoke of his leaving them, but also of the Spirit whom the father would send.

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the father, and he will give you another helper to be with you forever.

I've said all this to you while I am still here with you. But the helper, the Holy Spirit, the one the father will send in my name will teach you everything. He will bring back to your mind everything I've said to you.

The Holy Spirit would be integral to the new life that Jesus had promised. The Holy Spirit would be the source of their own joy, and the strength for their mission into the world. It would only be possible with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Jesus had promised to be with them, but how he would be “around” they did not understand until Pentecost. But his promise was to send his own spirit, his own breath, his own inner life.

He used a special word to describe the Spirit - “another helper”- who would come to give God's people the strength and energy to do what they would be called to do, to live for God and witness to His love for the world. He also used another word meaning “comforter”, a gentle, extra strength to help in times of special need. Through the presence of Spirit with us we can “know” Him by faith, and are joined to Jesus and the Father by that unbreakable bond of love.

The Holy Spirit is the secret to the new life in Christ. St. Paul again and again urges us to be filled with the Spirit, and to walk by the Spirit.

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In our baptismal covenant we are baptised into Jesus by water and the Spirit. And in the confirmation service with the laying on of hands the Bishop prays for the candidate to be strengthened, empowered and sustained by the Holy Spirit.

In the coming weeks, as we participate in the confirmation service, and we renew our commitment to the life in Christ through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and as we come to celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, can I urge you, as I do myself, to seek more of the Holy Spirit.

May we together pray humbly that God will fill us anew with His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus.

“O Breath of love, come breathe within us,
Renewing thought and will and heart;
Come Love of Christ, afresh to win us,
Revive your church in every part.”

Rev Steve Shaw

Warden's Update

Before everyone drifts off for the summer, and the current situation gets more critical, the leadership team wanted to bring some facts concerning our move to St. Patrick's during the construction of our new building to your attention. You will remember at the vestry meeting in February we informed you that we expected to run a deficit for the year of 2010. In order to meet our plan we had at the time asked you all to consider increasing your weekly offering wherever possible in the hopes that we could meet the budget put forward. Our plan at the time was for offerings to at least maintain at a level of those in 2009.

While it does appear that some have answered the call for additional givings, the decline in our numbers, so far this year, has caused our offering to drop to approximately \$29,000 for the period of January through March. This number can be compared to the budgeted amount for this period of \$36,000 which was based on the offerings received in 2009. This shortfall of \$7,000, or 19%, is further complicated by a drop in total income of 32%, as total income has fallen to \$35,000 from that of \$51,000 for the same period last year.

We must all remember, that while we do not have a building to maintain, we still have substantial costs to be covered on a monthly basis, not the least of which are our salary commitments to the staff here at St. George's as well as the monthly stipend that we pay to St. Patrick's to allow us to worship with them. We have done very well at controlling costs this year, and even with several 1-time and unexpected costs we have seen a drop in expenses over the three month period reduced by almost 27%.

It should be stated for all concerned, that we are paying St. Patrick's a monthly stipend to join them in worship each week. The offering that is placed on the plates each week is **not** the property of St. Patrick's. All offerings included in an envelope stamped with the St. George's name are separated and collected for our counters to process. The open offerings (cash placed on the tray), however, **are** divided between the two congregations, so it is important that members of our parish ensure any cash gifts are placed in a St. George's envelope. If you do not have an envelope with you, there is always a supply of them, duly stamped with our name, available on the welcome table by the entrance in their Narthex. All you have to do is place your name etc. on the envelope and our envelope secretary will make sure that the amount is accounted for under your name or number for tax purposes.

In the case of newcomers, our welcome staff could also point the envelopes out to these people when they come across people new to the building as a way to place their offering on the tray, if they wish to contribute during the service in a more private manner than simply putting cash on the plate for all to see.

In case you have not noticed, we have been talking about stewardship in this article, and while stewardship can be defined under many forms, such as financial support, time volunteered, skills and gifts freely given, we would like to offer a new form for you to consider. A large reason for the drop in our giving has been the fact that attendance has dropped from 1268 to 988 from January through March when compared to the same period last year. A decline of about 28%, or of 23 people per week. While some of our people have not been able to attend as per normal due to health and other reasons, we should all make every effort to encourage these people who have fallen away to continue to be a part of our family, and not wait until the new building is up and operating. Talk to your family, and friends who are not attending and encourage them to come back to church, and to those who have trouble making the trip make sure that you include an offer to drive them or to arrange a ride. The facts are, that while these people are away from us, only about 75% of the people are attending, and supporting, the future of St. George's.

In addition to weekly giving, we also have to point out that construction has started with demolition complete and excavation underway. We must not forget the Capital campaign, either to continue to complete our pledged amounts (year 4 of 5 on John's 5 year plan) or to finally make that commitment if you have been waiting to see the development under way first. Remember, the more of our pledged capital we have on hand when needed, the less we will have to borrow in the end.

For those who it has been said of North York residents are 'House rich, and cash poor', and therefore are unable to spare any money to support St. George's at this time, please consider the option known as 'Planned Giving', where a portion of your estate can be willed to St. George's for future contributions. This method can ensure that the good work of our parish will continue in the future, and which can have beneficial tax benefits to you now.

Submitted on behalf of your leadership team.

OUTREACH – Update on Don Valley Refugee Resettlers (DVRR)

As you know from previous Newsletter updates, DVRR operates under the sponsorship of AURA (Anglican United Refugee Association) as private sponsors for refugees. On behalf of St. George's, the Outreach Committee has been involved with DVRR for the past two and a half years. The most recent refugee family to arrive in Toronto sponsored by DVRR is an Iraqi Palestinian family of four who arrived in February from the Al Hol refugee camp in northern Syria. The family consists of a young husband and wife, Mamdoh and Amna, their toddler daughter Fatima and their infant son Mohammed. DVRR organized a one-bedroom apartment for the family on Thorncliffe Park Drive, an area where a number of Iraqi refugees have settled. The family is now involved with getting registered in English language classes. Members of DVRR are helping the family learn about Canadian banking customs, public transportation, health care, grocery shopping, etc. One of the items needed by Amna is material suitable for making into dresses for Fatima. Amna has been provided with a sewing machine, but has no money to purchase cloth. If anyone has material they could contribute, please contact Jan Buchan at 416-221-8464.

Do you have ideas for other Outreach activities –especially while we are in transition? If so, please contact any member of the Outreach committee- Jan Buchan, Margie Little, Craig Robertson, Muriel Thompson, Max Wynter, Yvonne Young.

The Prayer Chain

The members of the Prayer Chain continue to meet on the second and fourth Saturdays at 10 am at St. George's House. The group is interchangeably called Prayer Chain or Prayer Group. Members receive prayer requests that are passed by phone from one member to the other. That is the "chain". Then the members meet as a group. The meetings include meditation, updates of requests, and time for prayers for each request. Members pray regularly for the prayer requests. It is important to make the group aware of any changes that have taken place for the requests that were made.

The Prayer Group is not an exclusive group but it is a cohesive one. Members treat requests with utmost confidentiality. Any church member who has a desire to pray for God's intervention in people's lives is welcome to join the group. There is a need for more members. The guidelines are simple with confidentiality as its most important principle. The group believes that God answers prayers in many different ways – God's way.

The meditation takes different forms. Sometimes the members share experiences in response to a Bible verse or one member will lead a short Bible Study. The group is guided by the priest who also attends meetings. Recently the members decided to extend the group by having at-home members. These would be members who are unable to attend meetings regularly. The same guidelines apply to them.

Any study of the life of Jesus shows how attentive Jesus was to prayer. These references are convincing: Matthew 14:23; Matthew 26:36-39; Matthew 21:22; Mark 1:35; Luke 18:1. Jesus, Son of God, set this example for everyone to follow. In John 17, Jesus prays for Himself in verses 1-5. Jesus prays for his disciples in verses 6-19. Jesus prays for future believers in verses 20-26.

In the Catechism prayer is defined as "responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words". The Catechism also includes "to pray" as one of the duties of all Christians. In the life of the Church prayer is most essential. Would you like to extend your prayer life? Become a member of the Prayer Group, join with others as they for God's blessings on the congregation as a whole and individuals as they request.

Submitted by Margie Lyttle.

The Silent Sermon

Submitted by Margie Lyttle
(This is worth sharing...)

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the preacher decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his preacher's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The preacher made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the preacher took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The preacher glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the preacher reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "thank you so much for your visit and especially for the firey sermon...I will be back in church next Sunday".

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with *too* little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

The Lord is my Shepherd... that's a Relationship!

I shall not want... that's Supply!

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures... that's Rest!

He leadeth me beside the still waters... that's Refreshment!

He restoreth my soul... that's Healing!

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness...

that's Guidance!

For His name sake... that's Purpose!

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Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death... that's Testing!
 I will fear no evil... that's Protection!
 For Thou art with me... that's Faithfulness!
 Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me... that's Discipline!

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies... that's Hope!
 Thou anointest my head with oil... that's Consecration!
 My cup runneth over... that's Abundance!
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life... that's Blessing!
 And I will dwell in the house of the Lord... that's Security!
 Forever...that's Eternity!

What is most valuable is not what we have in our lives, but WHO we have in our lives.

Farewell to Kit Heathcote



Guess who's coming for Dinner?



Do you want to be a part of a great dinner club? Would you like to get together with a group once a month and enjoy a wonderful meal and fellowship?

Janet Kirk brought this idea to us. It was begun when the Kirks were at the Cathedral in Saskatoon and it is still going on there today.

You will be grouped with six to eight people to gather at a host's home for food, fun and fellowship. It's a great way to really get to know other parishioners! You can come on your own, with a friend or spouse, or you can invite a new parishioner to join you. About two weeks before the dinner date, the Host(s) contacts the people in their group and coordinates the contributions to the meal, sets the date and time of the dinner, and, if desired, determines a theme. The Host(s) are responsible for setting the table and providing tea and coffee. The other participants will bring the meal including refreshments (wine and non-alcoholic beverages), appetizers, entrée or casserole, vegetable, salad, bread or rolls and butter, and dessert.

It is for singles, couples, men and women, young and not so young (but not too young, we ask that it be an adult event). If there is enough interest we may arrange a family style dinner club. We will be kicking off the event sometime in the fall. Stay tuned for more information.

On Wednesday, April 7th, 2010 the Wednesday Group honoured Kit Heathcote at a luncheon held at Swiss Chalet. Following the lunch Choir members, the Rev. Steve Shaw, Kathy Lindsey, Janet Kirk, parishioners not part of the Wednesday Group and Canon John Wilton our former priest, gathered at St. George's House to remember with Kit her many active years in our Parish. Kit became part of St. George's Church Family in 1985 and during her years as part of this congregation Kit served our congregation as a Warden, a Choir Member, Liturgical Assistant, Lay Reader and fifteen years ago formed the Wednesday Morning Group. Kit's gentle manner, beautiful smile and many talents will be missed by our congregation. We wish Kit God's special blessing and wonderful new memories as she moves to a Seniors residence east of Toronto and closer to family members.



Church School News

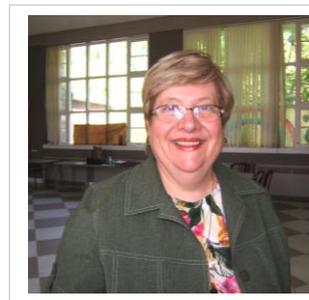
A WORD ABOUT OUR CURRICULUM:

The church school will be changing curriculum for the fall of 2010. "Seasons of the Spirit" will no longer be available from the Anglican Book Centre (Augsburg). A representative from Augsburg has met with church school staff to help us select material that will best meet the needs of our church school.

Watch for details about our new material in the next issue of our newsletter.

I wish to say THANK YOU to all who participated in our Good Friday Family Service. A special thank you to the church school staff for all the behind the scenes work including getting and heating the Hot Cross Buns following our service.

Church School and Youth Lent Event



DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDARS:

CONFIRMATION –
SUNDAY, MAY 16TH 10:30am.

PARISH PICNIC/BARBEQUE –
Saturday, June 5th on St. Patrick's Church front lawn. Games for ALL AGES will begin at 4:00 p.m. with dinner to follow. BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR OR BLANKET, SUN PROTECTION and COME JOIN THE FUN.
Watch for further details elsewhere in the Newsletter and in our weekly bulletin.

OUR CHURCH SCHOOL PROGRAM will continue until the end of June and begin again with Open Sessions on AUGUST 15th.

REGISTRATION SUNDAY for September will be Sunday, September 12th, 2010.

Trays made by the youth can be seen at St. George's House

CONFIRMATION CLASS:

10 of St. George's Youth have chosen to be part of our Confirmation Class this year under the leadership of the Rev. Steve Shaw and Janet Kirk our Pastoral Associate.

The class began on Sunday, March 21st with a break for Easter Day.

We have spent time reflecting on our journey in life to this point and where our spiritual journey fits into our lives so far. We talked about the meaning of Baptism and that now their journey is bringing those in the class to the time in their lives when they take on the vows made by their parents for themselves and that this is their decision to make. We studied the Apostles Creed and spent a class studying the importance of the Bible for our lives as Christians. We have travelled to Beth Tzedek Synagogue to research the Jewish faith that Jesus grew up in, look at what we have in common through their Torah (which includes the first five books of the Bible) and other scrolls including the Psalms, Song of Solomon, Job, Esther. We also reflected on why they cannot accept that Jesus was much more than a prophet. That he indeed is the Messiah they are still struggling to find.

Our next trip will be to St. Paul's Bloor Street to take part in a very different form of worship than we experience.

The last two weeks will bring us back to our room at St. Patrick's to complete our classes and during this time our Youth will make their personal decisions about being confirmed.

Both Steve and Janet are privileged to be able to walk these weeks with these amazing young people as they discern the next steps in their faith journey.

We ask for your prayers for these young people and their families at this time. Please come and support their journey on Confirmation Day, Sunday, May 16th 10:30am.



Important Dates

Sunday, May 2nd, between 8 and 10:30 services

Confirmation Class

Tuesday, May 4th, 7:00pm

Rector and Wardens Meeting

At St. George's House

Sunday, May 16th, 10:30 service

Service of Confirmation

Bishop Patrick Yu presiding

Tuesday, May 18th, 7:00pm

Parish Council Meeting

At St. George's House

PARISH PICNIC/BARBEQUE

Saturday, June 5th, 4:00 p.m. – on St. Patrick's Church front lawn.

Games for ALL AGES will begin at 4:00 p.m. with dinner to follow. BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR OR BLANKET, SUN PROTECTION and COME JOIN THE FUN. Burgers, hot dogs and drinks provided. Please bring either a salad or dessert (including fruit). Tickets will go on sale May 16th after the service – please let us know if a vegetarian option is needed. Volunteers will be needed for various tasks: ticket sellers, set up crew, serving crew, games helpers, cleanup crew, and cooks. Peter Grauds is organizing the barbeques and the cooks. There will be a sign up sheet for volunteers after the service on May 9th. Please see Kathy Baillie to volunteer. Many hands make light work.

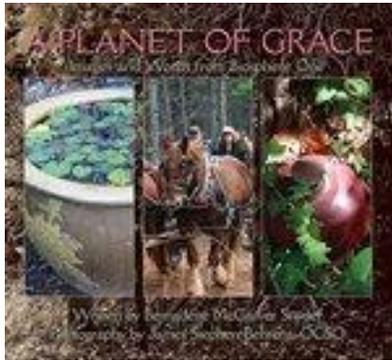


St. George's Library Cart News:



Many Thanks:

Thank you Muriel & Allan for your generous donation of the book "A Planet Of Grace". This book is available for loan from the Parish Library cart located at St. George's House. Lori Grauds & Lucy Browning can help you with the Parish Library or Library Cart information. We are available usually during the coffee hour after the 10:30 a.m. service.



This beautiful book depicts images, photographs, prayers and words to meditate and reflect on. We are caregivers and stewards of this amazing and fragile planet Earth. We can do our part to help take care and make a difference in this world for the future caretakers of this earth.

This book is written by Bernadette McCarver Snyder. The photographs were taken by James Stephen Behrens, a Trappist Monk at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers Georgia. The photographs were taken at the Monastery where James resides.

"Nature is God's living visible garment". Johann W. Van Goethe

For further information about the Monastery of the Holy Spirit you can visit:

www.monastery@trappist.net

Congratulations: On April 13th, Sister Elizabeth Ann was re-elected as the Reverend Mother for a second term for the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine. Prayers are greatly appreciated for Sister Elizabeth Ann, the Sisters and the Community. (SSJD)

St. John's Convent is located at 233 Cumber Avenue in Toronto. 416-226-2201.

Every Thursday, the Sisters from SSJD pray specifically for the unity of all Christian people.

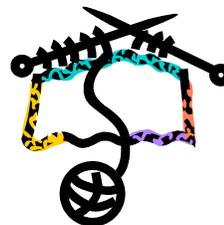
Worth Looking Into: On Saturdays (May 29, June 26 and July 31st) St. John's Convent is hosting some Quiet Garden Days. There is a \$20.00 fee with \$5.00 going to help support the Quiet Garden's Trust. This fee includes tea & coffee breaks. You can always bring your lunch, a hat and sunscreen. The labyrinth is always available to explore and visit. Please call ahead to make arrangements. For further information and links you can visit www.ssjd.ca

St. George's Prayer Shawl Ministry News:

Thank you Betty for your wonderful donation of knitting & crochet shawl patterns. I began a pattern file last summer which is growing. If you are interested in becoming part of the Prayer Shawl Ministry in any capacity, please speak to Lori Grauds. We could use some help with anyone who would like to knit, sew or crochet a prayer shawl. Reverend Steve Shaw has been blessing the shawls before they are delivered. It is a worthwhile Ministry to become involved in.

Donations of yarn or knitting or crocheting accessories are most welcome and gratefully accepted.

Submitted by Lori Grauds



Victorian Tea



Trying to look Victorian – didn't last long

lots of delicious food



Good music and fellowship



Some of the Ladies of the kitchen



Cheers, to a great event!

Updates of St. Georges' Redevelopment Project

Have you dropped by the Church site lately...and is it hard to imagine that not too long ago our Church was standing in what is now a gigantic pit?

It is quite encouraging to see the progress being made since the congregation of St. Georges' symbolically broke ground for the new building on January 29, 2010.

Excavation is well underway as the building demolition is complete, drilling and setting of shoring supports will be complete by April 24th. We are still waiting for the building permit from the City, but this delay should not have any significant impact on the progression of the building. We can expect to see the pouring of the foundation in the next couple of weeks.

Egan has been busy updating St. Georges' website with ongoing progress of the construction with words and pictures, so we encourage everyone to visit the website at <http://stgeorgestoronto.blogspot.com>; and familiarize yourselves with what's been happening at 5350 Yonge Street.

The Trees

Prior to demolition and excavation the trees on the property were cut. Unfortunately, the maples and one ash tree were not suitable for furniture. One large ash tree has been saved, cut into large logs, and stored in a secured place to dry out slowly, before milling for sanctuary furniture making.

The Church Wardens and Parish Council will endeavour to keep you updated on the progress of the Redevelopment. In the meantime, let us keep hope alive and faithfully pray for the completion of this project.

Excavation has started:



The Bell

In case anyone is wondering, the bell was pulled from the tower and is sitting in the basement of St. Georges' House. In trying to secure it half of the support arm was broken, otherwise it's fine.





The Church in progress



What a difference a day makes!



Not much left.

Check out pictures of the construction of the new building at <http://stgeorgetoronto.blogspot.com/>



From St. Patrick's

Important dates and events planned by St. Patrick's Special Events Committee for the enjoyment and fellowship of the whole congregation. Any profit from these events will be given to St. Patrick's Capital Expenditure Fund.

Saturday, May 8	12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Card Party: Luncheon, Bridge or Euchre, Prizes, Raffle. \$20/person
Sunday, May 9	VE Day – 10:30 Service 65 th Anniversary Service
Thursday, May 13th Ascension Day	6:00 p.m. Potluck Supper (need to sign up & bring own dishes, cutlery, mug) 7:00 p.m. Informal Eucharist to mark Jesus' ascension to the Father.
Friday, May 28	Book Club – 9:30 a.m. Discussing "The Book of Negroes" by Lawrence Hill

The next edition of the newsletter will be coming out in September.
Deadline is September 5th, 2010.

Email articles to the editor: Kathy Baillie at family.baillie@sympatico.ca



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

Sunday Services at: 8:00am & 10:30 am
"To nurture our relationships with God in Christ, with one another, and with our community."

Currently located at St. Patrick's Anglican Church
1087 Lillian Street, North York

We're on the Web! See us at:
www.StGeorgesToronto.ca