

*St. George's Anglican Church 416 225-1922;
5350 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario*

From Steve's Desk

It is a pleasure to be writing this sitting in our new church, if not quite yet in my new office!

This newsletter gives us a pictorial sweep of St George's very eventful year to date.

As we come to the end of the church's year, we celebrate the Reign of Christ. The epistle reading from St. Paul's letter to the Christians at Ephesus, encourages us to see, through the eyes of faith, the risen and ascended Christ, seated at the right hand of God in the heavenly places, and renew our faith as we too contemplate the grandeur and majesty of God declared in Jesus Christ.

Paul writes -

"I pray... that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which God has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 1:18-23

These words inspire us to remember the big picture. Often we get bogged down with the problems and issues of our daily life and work and we forget God's ultimate authority and power. As a result we lose sight of the fact that God is working in our lives, in His time and His gracious way. The immediacy of issues clouds the hope and the promises we have of God's great power at work in the redemption of the world and in bringing about his new creation.

On September 11 we 'crossed the threshold' as we held the first service in the lower level of our new building and began to enjoy our new space. We have been stretched in energy and patience, and have had to be resourceful in keeping our worship and congregational life flourishing. Many of us may now be looking forward to reaching the finishing line! But I think we can be sure that God will set another race of faith ahead of us as we worship and serve Him in the new church and begin to reach out to others and engage with the community. It may seem a daunting task, but we will again rely, not on our strength, but on God's power at

Inside this issue:

From the Desk of the Parish Administrator	3
Church School Notes	4
Warden's Update	5
From the Prayer Group	6
The Person in the Pew	6
Thanks / Library News / Interesting Web Sites / Archives & Heritage	7
Calendar of Events / Services	8
Phone Information / Parish List	9
Stained Glass Windows	10
Pictures	11/12

work through His Holy Spirit; the power of God through Jesus Christ, at work in the church and in His world. This is the reality within which we live as Christians.

We are planning to make the Advent season at St. George one filled with celebration, fun and praise! We have the Advent Event lead by our youth on December 10; our afternoon and evening of carols and lessons on December 11; our dedication service December 18, and Christmas services on the 24th and 25th.

And it all begins December 3 with our official opening and ribbon cutting – what an Advent it will be!

This will be no time for being of ‘little faith’.

Let me conclude with a prayer I have found helpful, and through which the Lord has encouraged me these last few weeks:

“Almighty God, whose sovereign power none can make void: Give us faith to stand calm and undismayed amid the tumults of the world, knowing that all things work together for good to them that love thee; through thy beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN”

Rev. Steve Shaw



From the Desk of the Parish Administrator

To my brothers and sisters in Christ at St. George,

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter to you as your new Parish Administrator. I have three reasons to write to you.

First of all, I want to thank each person who has approached me and made me feel welcome. Usually it is not easy to be the new person, but you have made me feel at home in your parish. I have received many comments of appreciation for the work I am doing; I am very grateful and blessed to be working with you. I will strive to serve you to the best of my abilities, in return for the trust and confidence that your leadership has put in me. You have embarked on an amazing adventure, and I am honoured to work with you.

Secondly, I want to tell you a little about myself, hoping that others will approach me to introduce themselves, or visit me in the office during the week. I was born in Fort Frances, Ontario, which is half-way between Winnipeg and Thunder Bay along the Ontario-Minnesota border. I came to Toronto nearly 11 years ago, and joined the parish of St. John the Baptist, Norway in the Beaches. Allan Kirk was one of the parish's previous incumbents and Pam Prideaux is the daughter of Allan's successor. I am currently involved in the Screening and Prayer Ministries at St. John's, and the Prayer Ministry of the Toronto East Deanery for the Bishop's Committee on Prayer. Concurrently, I was the Parish Secretary at St. John for nearly 4 years, and the Church Secretary at St. Andrew's Japanese Church for more than 3 years, before coming to St. George.

Finally, with the additions to your parish staff, there are changes in roles of staff members. A large part of my ministry is to support you in your various ministries, such as typing, editing, printing, documents that you are preparing. My role is to support you so that you can perform your ministry as efficiently and effectively as you can. Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or e-mail to ask for assistance. Please remember that, in order to support each parishioner in a timely manner, the sooner I am contacted regarding a particular task or project the better, so that I can manage my time. I will also be managing the room usage of the church, facilitating communications (bulletin, website), ordering supplies, and keeping the parish list up-to-date.

I look forward to serving the people and with the people of St. George and its community in this important ministry.

Yours in Christ,
Craig

News from our Church School

COME JOIN US as we gather to learn and grow together in our faith journey.

The Excitement Mounts! These past Sundays we have begun the final phase of our journey to our new church building.

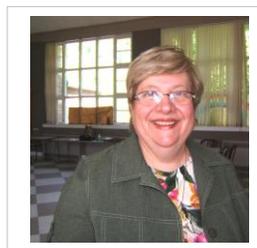
The church school staff eagerly set up in our final temporary spaces and a wonderful communion service was held in the basement level of our new church.

Registration will take place over the next few weeks as we welcome familiar and new faces to our 2011/2012 season.

CURRICULUM

"Akaloo" forms the basis for the youth discussion group that meets during the 10:30 service. The discussions take on topics that are relevant to this amazing time in their lives and is based on the teachings of the New Testament. Stephen Powell leads this group. We welcome back Aili Bloomquist who joins as a leader for a month in our winter term. Jennifer Ferdinands continues her role as social convenor for this enthusiastic gang.

"Rock Solid" takes our children on a journey through the Old Testament during the fall and moves into the New Testament during the winter and spring. While this curriculum is not lectionary based it assists each class level with a better understanding of the scriptures and their importance for our lives today. There is time in the program for each child's creative side to shine. The lectionary lessons are interwoven with the topics covered. The teachers for this group include Kathy Baillie assisted by Debbie Gunraj, Geoff and Stella Clennett and Janet Kirk.



"Rock a Bye"! Pauline Leong assisted by Victoria Clennett and Cheryl Dawkins gently introduce these effervescent little ones to the Bible stories through music, a story and a little creative time.

There is plenty of time to just explore the age appropriate toys, puzzles and books that introduce them to our bible people.

We welcome once again Muriel Thompson as pianist for our Chapel time following communion.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS:

Please watch your bulletin or take home notices from classes to discover all the opportunities to gather for fellowship and fun.

We look forward to a very special year with each one of you.

Janet



Wardens' Update

Home Again, At Long Last

The wardens are pleased to finally be able to say that we have arrived at our new home, although not enjoying the complete building as of yet. The contractor has been hard at work cleaning up the last few details required by the City in order to allow us to partially occupy the building until it is fully completed. We expect that by the time this newsletter is published we will have been granted that access.

The first service in our lower hall was held on September 11, 2011 and our thanks go out to Buttcon, who opened the lower hall and garage to us to allow the service to happen.



It was great to see so many smiling faces at that first service. Hopefully, as word spreads that St. George is again open for business, we will have the opportunity to welcome back people who we have lost touch with over the past 2 years as well as many new friends from the community around Yonge and Churchill. It was nice to see John Kane at our first service. As you all know, we owe John and his staff a tremendous amount of thanks for allowing us the use of his Chapel for services since we left St. Patrick's. Both John and his staff were always gracious and welcoming hosts each week as we held lively and spirited services in a most unusual setting.

We hope that you have all had an opportunity to meet our new parish administrator, Craig Gustafson. If not yet, please make sure to drop in and introduce yourselves as he is now set up on the lower level in the new building. Craig has been busy packing, unpacking, sorting and organizing everything around the office with incredible skill, enthusiasm, and energy. In his spare time, Craig has also been contacting groups who used to make use of our building prior to the redevelopment and is planning and arranging space requirements. We are lucky to have been able to convince him to make the move to working here, and all of us look forward to a long and rewarding relationship developing.

There are a lot of great things planned here at St. George on Yonge in the near future, such as our first service in the new sanctuary when completed, our official opening, as well as several concerts and performances that have been planned. We also hope to see the Day Care up and running as well as a number of community facing activities. It is a chance for now for us all to make a real difference. Let's make the most of these incredible opportunities.

We can all be a part of the future, as shown in the pictures, with our members hard at work, hard at worship, and hard at play.

Doug Heyes, Egan Done



Prayer Group



There is a little song with the following words:

“Whisper a prayer in the morning,
Whisper a prayer at noon;
Whisper a prayer in the evening the evening
So keep your hearts in tune.

God answers prayer in the morning ,
God answers prayer at noon ;
God answers prayer in the evening
So keep your hearts in tune.”

These words offer the solution for difficult, disappointing and painful situations. Prayer is the lifeline to God who alone can resolve all our problems or give us peace to further wait. As we receive answers to our prayers we should remember to give God thanks. Thanksgiving should always be included in our prayers. Every breath is a gift from God.

The prayer group has met consistently throughout the past months. Thanks to one member of the group for allowing us to meet at her home. They continue to receive and pray for the requests that have been received. There have been many occasions to give thanks for answered prayers. Some feedback reflect different results than were requested but God answers in many ways according to his will.

Many prayers have been said for the completion of our worship space. We have been disappointed that deadlines have been changed a few times. God responds to us in his way and in his time. We continue to wait.

There are seven members in the prayer group. It would be great if this membership could grow. Pray about it.

The following is a list of Scripture passages that have been used by the group in recent meditations:

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Genesis 20:1-13

Luke 7:1-10

1 Kings chapters 7 and 8

Submitted by Margie Lyttle

This poem originally appeared in “Grapevine,” the magazine of the Diocese of Brechin in the Scottish Episcopal Church

The person in the pew

I hail a quiet hero, the champion of the age,
Unknown to fame and fortune, no strutter on life's stage;
The humble representative of folk like me and you:
I sing an unsung champion: the person in the pew.

He'll never hit the headlines; he'll rarely cause a stir
(Forgive me ardent feminists, if I say “him” not “her”)
But faithfully on Sundays you'll find him on his perch
Upholding the traditions – a pillar of the church.

He sits where he has always sat while, all around him, change
Brings odd new prayers and modern hymns and service orders strange
He pays his dues discreetly, signs covenants on cue:
What would we do without him – the person in the pew.

Though prelates may pontificate and curates come and go,
The layman's there to hold the fort, and it was ever so.
Should you seek a staunch supporter, you'll not have far to search:
His presence keeps the roof on – he's a pillar of the church!

On High days and on holidays you'll find him in his place,
In sober dress and countenance, and the Episcopal Church face.
But mock him not nor spurn him, but give the man his due:
He's the ultimate survivor – he's the person in the pew.

Merci Lucy & Murray

Lucy & Murray recently moved away from Toronto. They were avid members of this parish. Lucy ran the library cart for many years and she always did a superb job at promoting the books and the library. I have helped out with the library cart for the past sixteen years and it has been great to work with Lucy. We miss Lucy & Murray and hope that they can visit us when in Toronto. Murray was a member of the property committee and a big help to many.

The library room will be ready when the construction is complete. Stay Tuned!! There will be room to browse, borrow & read soon. There are some new and oldies but classics in storage at the moment. There are still St. George cookbooks available at \$5.00 each and they make good gifts especially for birthdays & Christmas. I can take cookbook orders.

What books are on your night table? I would like to compile a reading list of books of interest that you have read. This is a great way to reconnect with lost or forgotten books or to discover new titles. This reading list will be available in the new church library. If you would like to write a book review for this newsletter that would be good also.

Sites to See

These websites are worthwhile to see. You may already be familiar with these or they may be new to you.

www.victoriaandalbertmuseum.com This website contains a vast collection and database of museum and art design spanning many centuries. There are historical & traditional knitting collections, free vintage patterns & textile galleries to name just a few. Queen Victoria & Prince Albert would be amused at this very detailed website of royal family history.

www.ashmoleanmuseum.com This website of art & archaeology hails from the University of Oxford and features a comprehensive collection of ancient cultures from their physical remains. There are several artists' depictions of Jesus and Christian symbols made into carved ivory, wood, and sandstone panels. Some of these artists' works are painted and gilded.

www.googleart.com All about art can be found on this website.

www.anglicandiocesetoronto.ca This a very informative website with many resources and links to other places. You can span the globe without leaving home or work.

You might want to increase your daily bread / fibre intake with these two websites.

www.oremus.com

www.dailyprayer.com

Archives & Heritage Photos Information:

Do you have any vintage photos or articles of interest about St. George Church? These photos would be on display during the open house and dedication Sunday in December. If you would like to loan or donate any photos or articles for these displays please stop by to see me (Lori) during coffee time after the 10:30 a.m. service.

Submitted by Lori Grauds

Upcoming Events & Services

Saturday, December 3

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Ribbon Cutting and Open House

Sunday, December 4

Service of Thanksgiving and Commitment
Sunday for ***Our Faith – Our Hope*** Diocesan
Fundraising Campaign

Saturday, December 10

6:00 p.m.

Advent Event

Sunday, December 11

5:00 p.m.

Carol Sing with refreshments

7:00 p.m.

Service of Carols & Lessons

Sunday, December 18

10:30 a.m.

Service of Dedication & Holy Eucharist

NOTE: no service at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m.

Pageant & Holy Eucharist

10:30 p.m.

Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist

NOTE: no service at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 1

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

The Epiphany of the Lord with Holy Eucharist

Calendar of Events



Services

(beginning Sunday, November 27)

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist (BCP)
	10:30 a.m.	Choral Eucharist (BAS)
Tuesday to Friday	8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer (BAS)
Wednesday	12:15 p.m.	Holy Eucharist (BAS)



The Elevator and Stairways

Our new building is equipped with an elevator, so that every level (parking garage, lower level, main level, and upper level) are fully accessible.

We ask that you take the stairs if you are able, so that the elevator will be available for people who need to use it.

Immediately outside our worship area in the narthex, there is a stairway that leads to the parish hall and additional washrooms.

There are also stairways at the south end of the building, and between the parish hall and playroom. These two stairways serve all floors.

We also ask that children only use the elevator when accompanied by an adult.



Our New Telephone System

We express our thanks to Richard Snider for setting up our new phone system. When you call you will be able to listen to recordings or dial the extension for the person to whom you would like to speak.

When you call you can dial the following:

- 1 – to be connected to our pastoral cell phone; you can dial this number quickly in the case of a pastoral emergency; members of our pastoral staff will take turns carrying the cell phone
- 2 – to listen to a recording of our location, office hours, and website
- 3 – to listen to a recording of our services
- 4 – to listen to a recording of special services & events
- 5 – to listen to a recording of a list of extensions

You can dial the following extensions to reach:

- 500 – Main Reception
- 501 – Craig Gustafson, Parish Administrator
- 504 – Michael Leach, Organist & Choir Director
- 505 – Steve Shaw, Priest-in-Charge
- 506 – Janet Kirk, Pastoral Associate
- 507 – Pam Prideaux, Assistant Curate
- 510 – Allan Kirk, Honorary Assistant
- 550 – Daycare Office
- 557 – Custodian

Updating Our Parish List

At our services on Sunday our Greeters have been asking members to complete a census form so that we can obtain names of family members, e-mail addresses, mailing address, and telephone number.

If we have identified your household as being a member but we have not received a completed census form, you will find a form included with this newsletter (or as an attachment if you received the newsletter via e-mail).

If we have identified your household as being a friend (you no longer attend St. George but would like to keep in touch and receive information about special services), we have included a census form as well (or as an attachment if you received the newsletter via e-mail).

We would appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to complete the form and return it as soon as possible. If you would like the form to be sent to you via e-mail, please send a request to office@stgeorgestoronto.ca

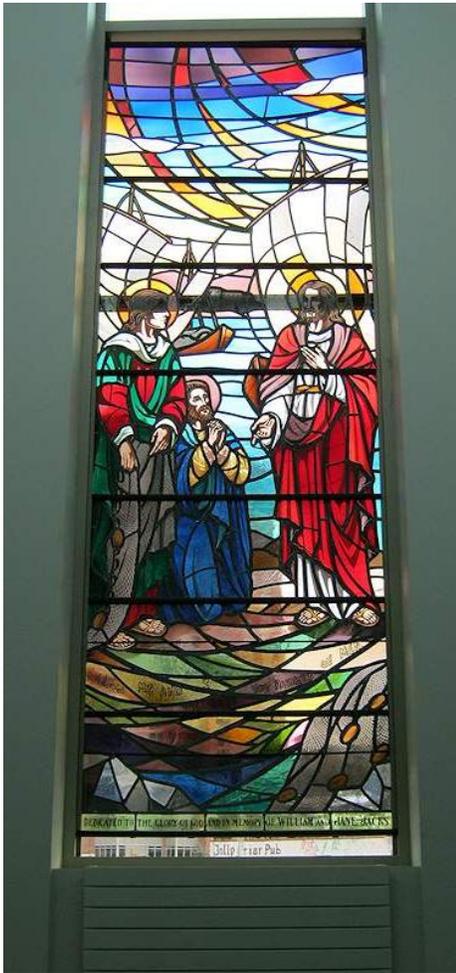


Coffee Hour

We hope that you stay following services for a time of fellowship. We express our appreciation to Jennifer Schmidt for coordinating this ministry.

In order for coffee hour to be in an easily accessible space for everyone, it will be held in the narthex. We ask that everyone be respectful of the space, as it is immediately beside the worship area. We ask that parents keep a close eye on their children, as they are responsible for their children during coffee hour.

Stained glass windows are now installed



Our last Service at St. Patrick



Services at R.S. Kane's Chapel



New Building in progress





The next edition of the newsletter will be coming out on Sunday, December 18, 2011

Deadline is Friday, December 9, 2011

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



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

Sunday Services at: 8:00 am & 10:30 am
Link Service - 3rd Sunday of the month at 9:15 am
"To nurture our relationships with God in Christ,
with one another, and with our community."

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

5350 Yonge Street, North York