

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

From Steve's Desk

To be a Christian is to be a person in whom the Spirit of God dwells. The Holy Spirit enables us to live a Christian life by producing 'fruit' in our lives and by giving us 'gifts' with which to serve God.

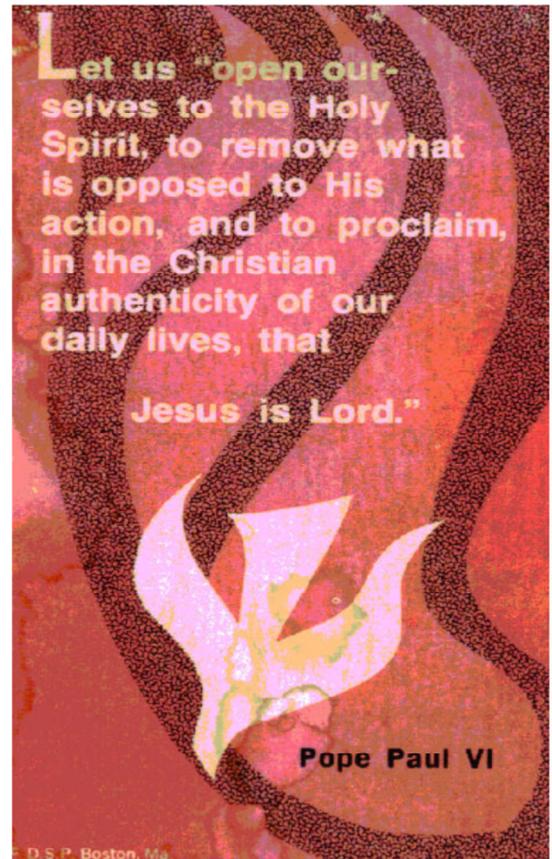
Within the church, there is always an excitement as we come to the Feast of Pentecost and the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit. At least that is how I always feel, because there is the sense of a present reality. God is really with us, among us, working his purposes of salvation in our lives. There is an expectation that we can know and experience the Holy Spirit in a fresh, direct and very real way.

We will read again the account in Acts of that day when in a unique and dramatic way God sent the promised gift of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples gathered in that upper room. In preparing the disciples for this moment, Jesus had told them:

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

For those first disciples it must have been an amazing experience. They could not have known what to expect, where it would take them, how it would all work out. The Holy Spirit brought a totally new dimension to their lives. They were literally launched into the new age of the Spirit, and the beginning of the church.

As 21st century disciples we also are being called to be witnesses to Jesus in our community and in our world. In our recent outreach service we were reminded of the demographic and other changes in our own neighborhood, and we know also that changes in our society and indeed events around the world are increasingly presenting challenges to Christians. Our need for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives as individuals, and together as the church, is as great as that of the early disciples. We too need guidance, discernment and prayer to be effective witnesses.



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However, often when we come to Pentecost, and in fact when we come to address God the Holy Spirit, we come with limited expectations, relying on routine responses and what is familiar. We want God to work but in a way that has no surprises!

For our church to flourish we will need the wind of the Spirit to blow us in new directions, individually and in our life together, in our worship and in our outreach.

Appropriately, the theme of our upcoming Prayer Breakfast is "Prayer and the Holy Spirit". Details of this and other events are set out in our newsletter.

In Christ's service
Rev. Steve Shaw

St. George Prayer Group invites you to
A Prayer Breakfast
Saturday, June 2, 8.30-12.30

The theme is "Prayer and the Holy Spirit" – a great theme for this season of Pentecost.

Prayer is a deeply personal activity between us and God, unique to each of us as individuals in our relationship with God.

But as in every area of our Christian life we can grow and enhance our own experience when we take time, with others, to learn more, be encouraged, renewed and inspired.

We have also issued an invitation to members of other churches in our Deanery to join us for this event.

So please join us..... for **breakfast** –

followed by some interesting **teaching** including a video -
group **reflection** and a concluding **Eucharist**.

....."8.30 on a Saturday morning to talk about prayer.....you must be kidding!"

....."True –there's never a perfect time.....but, on the other hand, God knows our time is precious, and He always shows up.....!"

Services			Summer Services (beginning Sunday, July 1)		
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist (BCP)	Sunday	10:30 a.m.	Choral Eucharist (BAS)
	10:30 a.m.	Choral Eucharist (BAS)	Wednesday	12:15 p.m.	Holy Eucharist (BAS)
Tuesday to Friday	8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer (BAS)	Regular services will resume Sunday, August 26		
Wednesday	12:15 p.m.	Holy Eucharist (BAS)			



Saint George – Patronal Festival



Church School & Youth Notes



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS:

Thank you to all who participated in our Good Friday Service this year. Thank you also to the two classes that created St. George. St. George will now join our dragon and find a home at the church.

TEACHER'S RETREAT: Saturday, May 5th our teacher's will gather for a retreat at the church. This day will give the staff an opportunity to spend a quiet time of reflection for themselves and to look at the future for the church school.

YOUTH AND JR YOUTH outing:

Trip to the Island
Sunday, June 24, leaving the church at 8:00 a.m. so we can attend the service at the Island Church of St. Andrew-by -the-Lake. Please bring a packed lunch. We will have fun at Centre Island and return to the church to meet our families by 3:00 p.m.

CURRICULUM NEWS:

Now that we are safely settled in our new church the teachers have met and discussed curriculum changes for the fall. Our present "Rock Solid" is being changed and we have decided to return to

a Lectionary based program. Our new curriculum will begin in September. It is called "SPARK" and promises to include material for families to share together throughout the week. Details about this material will be available during Registration time in September. If you wish to discuss this change please feel free to speak with Janet Kirk either by email or calling the church office and extension 506.

This coming fall will include a new class for our Junior Youth. This wonderful group are not quite ready for the Youth Class but beyond the children's program so we are creating one just for them that will include opportunities to take part in the services, social gatherings for just this group and some gatherings with the older youth.

We hope to have two leaders for this age 11/12 years that would take month about with the class. This is a very important and exciting ministry and if you feel called to this ministry please contact Janet. Material, Training and support will be provided.

TEACHER APPRECIATION SUNDAY will take place on Sunday, June 10th. This is an opportunity to say a special thank you to our very dedicated volunteers who work each week with our children and youth. Church school classes will take place until the end of June with open sessions the last two Sundays.

During July the Nursery area will be open but not staffed.

There will be a program for children two and up during August with the Nursery area open for parent and child needs.



Upcoming Services & Events

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Seniors' Moments

Downsizing and De-Cluttering

Wednesday, May 30 - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
All seniors are welcome. It's not just stuff; it's MY stuff! After all these years, you should see some of the stuff the Downsizing Divas have found! Everyone has their own motivation for downsizing – moving, mobility, messiness ... and this presentation will have you laughing AND learning! Refreshments will be served.

Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, June 2 - 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
The theme is "Prayer and the Holy Spirit." Everyone is invited. The morning will offer times for prayer, viewing a video on the Holy Spirit, and a presentation on prayer, concluding with Eucharist. Please sign up in the Narthex, or speak with Margie Lyttle, Lori Grauds, or Chris Shaw **by Sunday, May 27**. There is **no charge**, but donations of non-perishable items for the food bank would be welcome.

Marion Singers Concert

Saturday, June 2 - 7:30 p.m.
An evening of glorious *a cappella* music. Tickets available during coffee hour or through the office: \$15 for adults, and \$10 for seniors and children.

Parish Games & Barbeque

Saturday, June 9
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$5 for adults, and \$3 for children under 12
Good fun awaits you with games, food, and fellowship. GAMES will begin at 4:00 p.m. with food and fellowship to follow.

Newcomers Lunch

Over these last months, it has been exciting to see people visiting St. George on Yonge, and we have been pleased to welcome them to our new building and our community. We want to encourage them in their faith journey and celebrate the ways they enhance our community life.

On Sunday, June 17, all those who have joined our church community since we moved back to Yonge Street are warmly invited to join us for a "Newcomers Lunch" after the 10:30 service. This will be a time for enriching friendships, meeting the leaders of our church, sharing information about St. George on Yonge, and answering questions. Lunch will be served at 12:15 in the upper level.

Parish Announcements

E-100: Essential 100 Challenge, Everyone is invited, Each Wednesday Evening. 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Coffee and dessert, followed by a guided discussion of key biblical passages from both the Old and New Testaments that will give us an introduction to the sweep of the biblical story. Please pick up a copy of the **Discussion Guide** in the Narthex.

Fergie's Knights: Come join the Knights on the 4th Thursday every month. The longest journey begins with just one small step. Take that first step and join Fergie's Knights for spirited conversation, a cold beverage, and great food at the "Frog & Firkin" (4854 Yonge Street, across from the Sheppard Centre on Yonge Street) at 6:00 p.m. to approximately 8:00 p.m. For more information on how to be knighted call (416) 225-1922.

A Junior Youth Class Will Begin in September. Our hope is to have two leaders that would lead this class. If you feel called to this very important ministry, please speak to Janet Kirk or call her at the church office at (416) 225-1922, ext. 506. Material and training will be provided.

Responsible Ministry: Screening in Faith

The Anglican Diocese of Toronto adopted the **Responsible Ministry: Screening in Faith** Policy Programme in February 2003 to assist parishes to ensure their places of ministry are safe and healthy, especially for vulnerable children and adults who come to them in trust. It is the means by which the Diocese responds to our call to offer our best to those we serve. It is necessary, therefore, that we discern gifts and determine a person's suitability to a ministry position.

People involved in ministries that are assessed as medium-risk must attend a sexual misconduct policy workshop every 3 years. People involved in ministries that are assessed as high-risk must attend a sexual misconduct policy workshop every 3 years, and must complete a current police record check every 3 years.

Notifications have been sent to parishioners who need to attend a policy workshop this year, and to parishioners who must complete a police check this year.

We have planned the following Policy Workshops:

- Sunday, June 3, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Room 214 – Meeting Room #4 (Upper Level)
- Tuesday, June 5, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the Main Level

Please let us know which session you plan to attend by sending a message to the office at office@stgeorgestoronto.ca or (416) 225-1922. As most people who need to attend the workshop will be available for the Sunday workshop, please consider attending the Tuesday workshop if you are able.

If you need to complete a police check, please follow the instructions on the forms sent, and then meet with the Rev. Steve Shaw, who will witness the documentation.

The next edition of the newsletter will be coming out on Sunday, September 2, 2012

Deadline is Thursday, August 16, 2012 at 3:07 p.m.

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



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

**REMEMBER,
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
AT ST. GEORGE ON YONGE CHURCH**

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

5350 Yonge Street, North York