
THE COURIER

Volume 2, Issue 1

September 2008

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY

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RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

When I was in elementary school (more years ago than I care to remember) an annual assignment was a composition on "What I did on my summer vacation." This year's vacation was a "trip down memory lane" for Lorna and me. We travelled to Pasadena, California, with our daughter Pam to visit Lorna's 98-year-old aunt. Christine Hardy is a former "Beacher" having grown up at 292 Woodbine, just north of Dixon. As a young woman she married a Presbyterian minister and moved to sunny California where she now lives in a retirement complex for Presbyterian clergy and their spouses. Uncle Banes died several years ago but Aunt Chris is a going concern!

While there we spent two nights aboard the Queen Mary, which is moored as a floating hotel in nearby Long Beach. This was a nostalgic experience for me. The last time I slept aboard the Queen Mary was in 1946 when I came over from England with my mother as a 3-year-old in a contingent of War Brides and their children. They have done a wonderful job of preserving the glamorous 1930s atmosphere of the ship although, it should be noted, they have also included "mod-cons" like computers and colour television.

But now we're back for a new season of activity and there is a sense of anticipation around the church. If you haven't been at St. John's over the summer you will notice that we are now using the new blue hymnbook, Common Praise. I've written more about it elsewhere in this newsletter. Change is not always easy; all I ask is that you give yourself some time to get used to it. There are lots of fine new hymns in the book along with many of our old favourites.

My thanks to Brian Fairbrother for his Sunday morning children's program through the summer. It was good to see so many young people in church. And a hearty thank you to those who volunteered to weed and water our flower beds. The church has never looked better!

Yours in Christ,

Brian

Deadline for the Next Courier is Sunday, October 5.

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

Donation Statements as of August 31

If you did not pick them up they will be mailed this month. Please check your statement carefully. Please call the office to let us know of any errors or omissions.

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WARDENS' REPORT

The summer at St. John's was a very busy time with a mix of new activities and the follow-through of past initiatives.

Ending our parish year in the spring and following through to the summer was our Stewardship Campaign that we undertook to prevent another budget deficit at the end of 2008. We received a total of 34 pledge cards and a number of increases by our automatic debit donors as a result of our campaign. Part of this campaign was to raise awareness among our parish family of the financial responsibility in belonging to our church community and we would like to thank every parishioner who responded to this message. Although our attendance was low during the summer, our overall deficit situation improved. Historically, we receive the largest amount of our donations from parishioners in the four months leading up to Christmas and our budget reflects this so it will be important to keep this financial momentum going through the fall.

After a long hiatus, it was great to see the work finally commence on our stained-glass windows in August. Our contractor, Luxfur Studios, had considerable delays in its schedule because of the wet weather, as much of the work cannot be carried out in the rain. Hopefully progress will now be sure and steady as they undertake the repairing and pointing of the west windows and continue with the south and north windows and our large east window.

As many parishioners are aware, we had a major fire in the cemetery on June 5 which resulted in the total loss of our Barn, the building used to store all the cemetery tools and equipment as well as some articles belonging to church groups. The loss included our backhoe that is used for digging graves. Although our insurers, Ecclesiastical, were quick to respond, our buildings and equipment were significantly underinsured and we will have to dip into our modest profits from the past two years to replace the building and equipment that were lost in the fire. We will probably not be able to rebuild until the spring and until that time, we are storing our equipment in a temporary storage container in the church parking lot.

The church was in great demand this summer with summer camps held by the Little Voices Dancing Feet and the Great Big Theatre Company, along with three

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movie shoots. Not least of these was a very successful Junior Choir Programme held by Ted Reid in the first week of August, as well as the great adventures of our own Indiana Jonah (Brian Fairbrother).

Finally, many thanks to Joan Hiscott and her gardening helpers who kept our Church grounds looking so wonderful and to all those who signed up to keep our coffee hour going through the summer.

Suzanne Coxon & Bob Cameron
Wardens

FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR

September 4 – ROBERT WOLFALL
First Anglican Eucharist in Canada

In 1578 the English explorer Martin Frobisher arrived at Baffin Island seeking the legendary "North-West Passage" to India. At the end of August or early in September of that year he landed on the shores of what is now Frobisher Bay, near the site of the present city of Iqaluit. Here, Master Robert Wollfall, described as a "minister and preacher," who was chaplain to the expedition, celebrated Holy Communion and preached "a godly sermon." This was the first recorded service in Canada using the Book of Common Prayer. The Book of Common Prayer, an attempt to reform the traditional Latin services and present them to people in their own language, was first published in 1549 during the reign of Edward VI. A second, more Protestant, edition of the Prayer Book was published in 1552 but was abolished in the following year when Mary, a Roman Catholic, inherited the throne. Her successor, Elizabeth I, reissued the Prayer Book in 1559. This is the book that Master Wollfall would have used on that cold arctic day. Four hundred years later, on September 3, 1959, in the reign of a second Queen Elizabeth, the Anglican Church of Canada adopted the current version of the Prayer Book.

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.

St. John's, Norway On Television

Over the summer a couple film companies used our facilities.



"Howie Do It" is a reality show from Howie Mandel for NBC and Global. The company used the worship area to film two scenes: a funeral and a wedding.

"The Session" is a new series on CBC. The company used the cemetery for a night scene.

The broadcast dates for these series have not yet been announced, but we will provide you with the information when it becomes available.



From the Green Priest

by David Bowring

My flowerbeds and backyard garden continue to produce beautiful and tasty things as I move into another phase of my project to merge my Ministry of the Word and Sacrament with my concerns about our stressed relationship with nature. More and more the themes of hope and celebration come to mind. To this end I have become a regular contributor to www.urbanministry.org/environmentaljustice and I am laying my plans to get stuff published on the Sojourner's website – www.sojo.net. This widely read progressive evangelical website (and its partner magazine) need some more Canadian input!

Closer to home, I plan a repeat of the wildly successful "100 mile meal." This is a Parish Event, which will take place on **Saturday, October 4**. This time I hope for some dishes with ingredients grown in our own backyards. In any case, when you come up with your hot pot, salad, stew, or dessert, would you write up a little about where you bought, or were given, the "local" ingredient? I would like to publish some of them in a later Courier – or maybe a blog.

I am convening a Green Committee to promote sustainable practices at St. John's. Please join us in the nursery September 21 after the 10:30 service for a brief discussion of details and to set a meeting time.

(416) 694-0100
skypilot@netscape.ca

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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY ANGLICAN CHURCH

470 WOODBINE AVENUE Toronto M4E 2H6

- 1st Prize – Handmade Quilt (Value \$300)**
2nd Prize – Gourmet Food Basket (Value \$125)
3rd Prize – Children's Basket (Value \$100)
4th Prize – Toiletries Basket (Value \$75)

DRAW TO BE HELD

November 29, 2008 at 1:45 p.m. at Craft Show

\$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00

Lottery Licence No. M 605832

The ACW is requesting donations of items from the congregation to make up the gourmet food and the children's baskets. Donations can be brought to church on Sundays and placed in the red bushel basket that will be marked "RAFFLE" during the month of September. Donations can also be dropped off in the church office every morning.

We are extremely lucky to have a talented parishioner who is currently making the quilt that she is donating to the raffle, so we hope that everyone will help with the sale of tickets.

We aim to sell 1000 tickets and all proceeds will be given towards the restoration of the stained glass windows.



Despite a bit of rain and unseasonably cool temperatures, the third annual **golf**

tournament was successfully held

August 9 at Cedarhurst Golf Club with a potluck dinner afterwards at David and Janice's cottage on Lake Simcoe. Four non-golfing spouses spent the afternoon indoors while 20 golfers hit the links, with \$10 of each golfer's fee going to the church. The winning team, whose names are engraved on the Jack McIlroy Memorial trophy (see it at the back of the church), consisted of Charlotte Empringham (from St. Paul's AC Beaverton), Ross Evans, Jack Martin, and David Moll. This year all golfers received prizes thanks to the generosity of Vic Sarju, Helena Shelton, David Moll, and Norma Green (from St. Paul's). A fabulous potluck meal was enjoyed thanks to everyone contributing food.

Norway Group News

by Bridget North

September rolls around again and we hope to see some new faces at the Norway Group this year. We hold our meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month and welcome all women parishioners of St. John's. We hold the meetings at 7.30pm in the Van-Lane room.

We are currently involved with the St. Anne's ACW in selling tickets for a raffle to raise funds to complete the repairs to the stained glass windows. We shall be looking for volunteers to sell tickets on Saturday Oct 4/08 and Wednesday Nov.12/08 at a table in the Eglinton Square shopping mall. Please let the church office know if you can help or come to our next meeting on September 25/08.

Looking forward to a busy church year with our ACW fellowship.

WEDDINGS



June 14 Joel Wilson & Lona McLeod
June 21 Duane Cummings & Sierra Ainsley
August 23 Claire Hoy & Sarah Orviss

The Painter

A painter named Wayne was very interested in making a penny where he could. He often thinned down the paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened he got away with this scheme for some time, but eventually the wardens of St. John the Baptist, Norway decided to do a big restoration job, through the R&R Fund, on the outside of one of the building. Wayne won the bid with his low price. Wayne was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder; the sky opened and the rain poured down, washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Wayne clear off the scaffold to the lawn among the Cemetery gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint. Wayne was no fool. He knew this destruction was a judgement from the Almighty. He fell down on his knees and cried, "Oh God, forgive me! What should I do?" From the thunder, a mighty voice spoke, "REPAINT! REPAINT! AND THIN NO MORE!"

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Bible Lore

A dramatic new theory has been proposed regarding Noah's Flood, described in Genesis 6-9, and promising archaeological research has begun to confirm the evidence behind the theory.

William Ryan and Walter Pitman, two American geologists believe that the origin of the many flood stories in widely separated cultures can be found at the end of the Ice Age many thousand years ago. During the Ice Age, the Black Sea was an isolated freshwater lake surrounded by farmland. About 12,000 years ago, as the Earth began growing warmer, glaciers in the Northern Hemisphere began to melt. As a result oceans and seas grew deeper. About 7,000 years ago seawater from the Mediterranean pushed northward, slicing through what is now Turkey. Funnelled through the narrow Bosphorus Straits, water flooded into the Black Sea with 200 times the force of Niagara Falls. The Black Sea rose, flooding coastal farmland. Seared into the memories of terrified survivors, the tale of this flood was passed down through the generations and eventually found its way into the Hebrew scriptures, as well as into numerous similar legends in other cultures. Underwater research by Robert Ballard has turned up evidence of the ancient shoreline of the Black Sea, some interesting artefacts, and remains of human habitation that pre-date anything previously known. Radiocarbon dating of mollusk shells also supports the theory of a freshwater lake inundated by the Black Sea some 7,000 years ago.

Scanty evidence and a hypothetical theory do not constitute conclusive scientific proof, but all legends are based on some human experience as well as vivid poetic imagination. This explanation of the Flood story does seem at least plausible and warrants further investigation.

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In May the Provincial Government proposed to remove the Lord's Prayer from the legislature's daily agenda. Christina Blizzard, who is a Queen's Park Columnist for Sun Media (and who is a member of the congregation), wrote an article about the scheme. Following is an excerpt. To read the full article, visit http://www.torontosun.com/News/Columnists/Blizzard_Christina/2008/05/11/5532531-sun.php

We express our thanks to Christina for allowing us to reprint the following.

Ah, the Power of Prayer

It takes a lot to get thousands of thoughtful, church-going people irate about one issue, but that's just what happened this spring when Premier Dalton McGuinty and government House leader Michael Bryant decided it was time to end the practice of saying the Lord's Prayer before each daily session of the Legislature.

The website set up for people to express their views crashed because so many people tried to e-mail the premier to express their outrage.

Even the premier's mother was irate at the suggestion.

The Lord's Prayer that is said in the chamber isn't even the Anglican one. It is the Catholic version – without the "for thine is the kingdom" doxology. While the doxology wasn't included in the gospel versions of the Lord's Prayer, it was a part of contemporary Jewish worship.

The version of the Lord's Prayer traditionally used by English-speaking Catholics and Protestants alike is credited to a law of Henry VIII in 1541.

In the time of the Tudors, of course, with the back-and-forth between Catholic and Protestant faith, you could be burned at the stake not adhering to the right wording of the litany.

In the end, the government was forced to back down – slightly. They have now decided they will start each day by rotating prayers of seven other different faiths each morning, starting in May with a native prayer.

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The Prayer Nook

Do You Believe in the Power of Prayer?

We, at St. John's, have a prayer group, the members of which have agreed to include all the parishioners of St. John's in their prayers each month. This will mean that seven or eight families will be added to their prayers each day. They will inform the seven or eight families that they have been included that day by sending them a quick phone message. We do not wish to be intrusive with this message but hope to strengthen each family's day by the knowledge that it is important to the community here at St. John's.

On Sundays, during the prayers of the people, the whole congregation will pray for those parishioners whose names appear on the prayer cycle.

The Bishop's Committee on Prayer

**Presents
The Biennial Prayer
Conference**



Prayer: The Central Dialogue

Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18
St. John, York Mills Anglican Church

**Featuring Theme Speaker
The Rev. Dr. Harry Robinson**

Choose 2 of 14 Workshops

Cost:

\$60

Before October 1: \$55

First-Time Attendee: \$50

Full-Time Students: \$15

Friday Evening: \$25

Saturday Evening: \$40



**Registration Forms are
Available on the Table at
the North Door**

For More Information,
Contact Carol-Anne (416) 767-0253

SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG

Over the summer, with the support of the Advisory Board, we have introduced Common Praise, the new hymnbook of the Anglican Church of Canada, into our worship. Our previous red hymnals were deteriorating and there is no prospect of them being reprinted and over the last few years there have been sufficient donations to make the purchase of a new hymn book possible without making a big dent in our parish budget.

When the red Hymn Book was first published in 1971 the compilers sought to provide a representative selection of the best of our existing hymn tradition and to introduce new hymns into that tradition. Many new hymns from that book have found their way into our repertoire, including:

All My Hope on God Is Founded
All Poor Men and Humble
Let There Be Light
Lift High the Cross
Tell Out My Soul

Others have not stood the test of time and are rarely, if ever, used:

A Workman In a Village Home
God of Concrete, God of Steel
Stars of Ice
King of the Martyrs Noble Band
Thank You, O Lord, for the Time That Is Now

In the Anglican Church of Canada there has developed a pattern of introducing a new hymnbook every thirty years or so – 1908, 1938, 1971 and 1998. Let's note, incidentally, that the "new" book is now 10 years old – we've hardly rushed into using it! The hymnody of the Church is a living tradition and it's now time to do in our own day what others have done before us: keep the hymns we love, bid farewell to those we no longer use, and introduce some new hymns into our repertoire.

You'll find that Common Praise contains over 200 familiar hymns, like:

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
Holy, Holy, Holy
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Onwards Christian Soldiers
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

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There are a number of well-known hymns not in the red book which have found their way into Common Praise, hymns such as:

Amazing Grace
Angel Voices Ever Singing
Christ the Lord Is Risen Again
The God of Abraham Praise
When Morning Gilds the Skies

On the other hand there are a few hymns that have not been included which will be missed by some:

Lead On O King Eternal
Lord of the Dance
This Is My Father's World
Welcome Happy Morning
Who Would True Valour See

As with the red book and its predecessors there has been a certain amount of text revision. In many cases lines with words like brothers, men, sons, etc. have been changed in favour of more inclusive language. A few references to our images of God (Father, King, etc.) have been changed but most have been left intact. Archaic terms (like thee and thou) have sometimes also been changed. Approximately 110 familiar hymns have been left unaltered, 85 slightly altered, and 10 significantly altered. By and large the compilers have done a good job of making discreet alterations that blend well with their surroundings and over time these changes will come to feel quite natural.

During the process of changing the books over it was noted that while we have enough books for an ordinary Sunday, we may run short on special occasions. There is a particular need for more copies of the "words only" edition. Donations for the purchase of more books are always welcome. The cost a book (either the words or the music edition) comes to about \$25. Simply put your cheque in the offering marked "Hymn Book Fund." We will issue a charitable receipt for income tax purposes.

- - Brian Prideaux

Please note: This article owes a great deal to a leaflet originally prepared by Michael Capon for Christ Church Cathedral, Fredericton, to whom grateful acknowledgement is given.

35th/37th Toronto Scout Group Registration Night

At St. John's, Norway

Wednesday, September 17th
6.30 - 8.00 pm



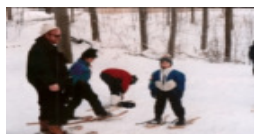
Programs for boys and girls ages 5 years old and up.

- * Beavers (ages 5-7)
- * Cubs (ages 8-10)
- * Scouts (ages 11-14)
- * Venturers (ages 14-7)
- * Rovers (ages 18-26)



HAVE FUN!

For further information call
Ed Harrison at (416) 755-2502



SERVER TRAINING

Saturday, September 27th
11 am - 2 pm

*We'll meet at the church
for training
followed by lunch*

*Youth 10-years-old and up
are welcome to come
and learn more
about this important ministry.*

*If you have questions speak
to Darleen Knowlton or the Rector*



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes begin on Sunday, September 28th following the 10.30 a.m. service. Our first session is a "meet and greet" to enable youth and their parents to find out about the program. Attending this session does not commit you to joining the class. Why not join us on the 28th and learn more about this journey in faith? Candidates should be at least 14 years old or in grade 9.



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The Gospel of Matthew: A series of ten Ecumenical Bible Study sessions, Mondays from September 29 to December 8, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist, Norway. Studies, including some accounts not found in the other Gospels, will be led by Sister Brenda Duncombe, D.M.J. Late registrants are welcome and the fee of \$25 covers all sessions. For information and to register, telephone Jean at (416) 694-5969.

100 Mile Meal

A Parish Event

Saturday, October 4

See "From the Green Priest" on Page 3
for More Information

Harvest Festival

Sunday, October 5, 2008

Holy Eucharist at 8:30 & 10.30 a.m.



Donations of fruit & vegetables may be left at the church on the preceding Friday or Saturday morning. We are also encouraging parishioners to bring donations of tinned food, pasta or other non-perishable food on Sunday morning for our food cupboard that has depleted over the summer. Cash donations in lieu of produce are also welcome.



ANNOUNCING OKTOBERFEST

AT ST. JOHN'S, NORWAY

Saturday, October 18th

We'll see you there!

Doors open at 6.30 pm

Admission: \$15 (adults)
\$10 (children 12 and under)

Includes meal, coffee, tea & pop
alcoholic beverages paid for separately

Proceeds to our Christmas outreach program

For tickets see Gord Stock, Dave Shelton
or call the church office at 416-691-4560

We hope to see you there!

Baptisms



June 22, 2008

Madison Eleanore Leighton
Chloe Nivea Sehmrau

August 24, 2008

Danielle Chantale Corona Moll

Monthly Chuckle

A man stopped to chat with a farmer who was erecting a new building. He asked, "What are you putting up?" The farmer replied, "Well, if I can rent it, it's a rustic cottage. If I can't, it's a cow shed."



A legal firm sent flowers to an associate upon the opening of new offices. Through some mix-up the card that accompanied the floral piece read, "Deepest Sympathy." When the florist was informed of his mistake, he let out a cry of alarm. "Good heavens," he exclaimed, "the flowers that went to the funeral said, 'Congratulations on Your New Location.'"



IN MEMORIAM

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| January 17 | Shirley Hawes |
| May 13 | James Ford |
| May 27 | Thomas Richardson |
| May 29 | Daisy Somers |
| June 20 | Florence Swann |
| July 3 | Edward Pyke |

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CALENDAR

*Weekly

SEPTEMBER

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Monday 15 | 5:00 p.m. – Kuma Marital Arts* 7:00 p.m. – Guides* |
| Tuesday 16 | 5:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers* 6:30 p.m. – Creative YouTheatre* 6:30 p.m. – Brownies* |
| Wednesday 17 | 6:00 p.m. – Scout BBQ Registration 7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist* |
| Thursday 18 | 9:00 a.m. – MumNet Registration 7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers* 7:45 p.m. – Cemetery Board |
| Sunday 21 | 8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist* 9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers* 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist* 12:00 noon – Green Committee 7:30 p.m. – Venturers* |
| Monday 22 | 9:00 a.m. – Little Voices, Dancing Feet* |
| Tuesday 23 | 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices, Dancing Feet* 7:30 p.m. – Wardens' Meeting 7:30 p.m. – Amnesty International |
| Wednesday 24 | 6:30 p.m. – Beavers* |
| Thursday 25 | 1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices, Dancing Feet* 7:30 p.m. – Norway Group |
| Saturday 27 | 9:30 a.m. – MumNet Childcare Workers |
| Monday 29 | 9:30 a.m. – Ecumenical Bible Study* |

OCTOBER

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Wednesday 1 | 7:30 p.m. – Seton Area Forum |
| Thursday 2 | 9:00 p.m. – MumNet* |
| Friday 3 | 9:00 a.m. – MumNet* |
| Saturday 4 | 6:00 p.m. – 100 Mile Meal |
| Sunday 5 | COURIER DEADLINE |
| Monday 6 | 7:30 p.m. – East End Refugee Committee 7:30 p.m. – Scout Group |
| Tuesday 7 | 7:30 p.m. – Advisory Board |
| Wednesday 8 | 6:00 p.m. – Willow Lane Condominium |
| Thursday 9 | 1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group 7:30 p.m. – Norway Group |

Please inform the office of any errors or omissions.
Thank you.