
THE COURIER

Volume 2, Issue 2

October 2008

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY

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RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

October is the month when we give thanks for the blessings of the harvest. Even we urban dwellers need to take time to remember that the food we eat did not begin on a supermarket shelf but is brought to us by the labour of the many men and women who work in field and farm.

I began my ministry in a rural parish and came to have a deep respect for those engaged in agriculture. Today's farmer is more likely than not to have a university degree and to be conversant with the latest computer technology. Farmers often consider themselves to be businessmen and women just as much as someone working on Bay Street.

There is much about the farming life that has not changed in centuries – long hours of work coupled with the vagaries of the weather still make it a difficult and sometimes risky profession. But there is much to be said in favour of life on the family farm. For one thing, unlike their urban counterparts, young people on the farm have meaningful chores, which contribute directly to the family's welfare. I know of one teenager (now a man with kids of his own) who helped finance his education by harvesting the hay, selling it, and banking the proceeds.

My parish was in the Chateauguay Valley, dairy country, which meant some adjustments for me. Our wardens' meetings had to be scheduled around milking times (although it did mean we could meet during the daytime rather than at night). At this time of year, of course, our congregation would drop as farmers worked long hours to get in their crops of corn and hay. Thanksgiving for them was no token gesture. They were sincerely thankful when "all was safely gathered in."

As you enjoy your holiday weekend, you might spare a thought and a prayer for these wonderful, hard-working people.

Yours in Christ,

Brian

We Have Been Updating Our Records

Please check the address on **this envelope** to ensure we have the correct name(s) and address. Please call the church office to inform us of **ANY** errors or omissions. Please call if you believe we do not have your correct phone number as well. Thank you for your help.

Lost and Found: a navy hoody left at the cottage after the golf tournament in August. If it is yours, please call the church office.

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WARDENS' REPORT

Although September was a fairly quiet month, there has been a lot of planning and preparation for an exciting fall program schedule. Events that have already been announced, with details appearing elsewhere in this issue of the Courier are taking place at ST. JOHN'S, Norway:

OKTOBERFEST, Saturday, October 18th
ACW RUMMAGE SALE, Saturday, October 25th
CHOIR FEST '08, Saturday, November 8th
ACW CRAFT SHOW and RAFFLE,
Saturday, November 29th

In September it is always encouraging to see our Sunday morning congregation grow as many return after a busy summer. In particular, Children's Focus showed a substantial increase in children gathering at the front of the Church for Sunday School, supported by a significantly larger Junior Choir. Thanks to Brian Fairbrother, Kathryn Kern, and Ted Reid for their continuing efforts in their respective ministries. And with the help of the Junior Choir we are singing the Children's Recessional, "Draw the Circle Wide" better each Sunday. The future of our Church is looking stronger.

Harvest Festival was celebrated Sunday, October 5th with a great service as usual and the Church beautifully decorated with fruits, vegetables and other autumn accents thanks to the Chancel Guild. Thanks to the parishioners who made Thanksgiving Offerings and other Special Gifts. Pledge cards from our Stewardship Campaign are still being received and we trust that Stewardship support will continue.

At our last Wardens' meeting it was decided to replace the 300-watt Incandescent light bulbs in the large hanging light fixtures, which light our Church with Compact Florescent Light bulbs (CFLs). The intense heat of the 300-watt bulbs degrades the wiring within these light fixtures and we just received a very expensive bill to rewire one fixture. The electrician advised us to replace the Incandescent bulbs or face continuing wiring problems. Only recently have 60-watt CFLs been available which are equivalent in light production to 300-watt Incandescent bulbs.

Your Wardens continue to spend considerable time on cemetery matters because we have not yet found a Manager, complicated by the Barn fire. Our new Backhoe

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was received last week and was financed over 48 months at 0%, which will ease the immediate financial stress of being underinsured. Plans to rebuild the Barn are probably going to take considerable time to develop.

Bob Cameron & Suzanne Coxon
Wardens

FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR

October 15
TERESA OF AVILA

Born in Avila, Spain, in 1515 Theresa was a gifted and lively girl. Her father was pious but rigid. Her mother loved romance novels but because her husband objected, she hid them from him. This put Teresa in the middle, especially since she too liked romances. Her father told her never to lie but her mother asked her not to tell her father. She later said that she was always afraid that no matter what she did it was bound to be wrong. As a teenager she cared only about boys, clothes, and flirting. When she was 16 her father decided she was out of control and sent her to a convent, which turned out to be a lot less strict than he was! As her devotion and love of Christ grew she found the convent too lax and easygoing and at the age of 43, she became determined to found a new convent that went back to a simple life of poverty devoted to prayer. She helped found the reformed or discalced (barefoot) Carmelites. Teresa combined her life of contemplation with a keen interest in practical affairs. She wrote several books, notably The Interior Castle in which she envisioned the soul as "a castle made of a single diamond ... in which there are many rooms, just as in heaven there are many mansions." She describes the journey of the soul through these various rooms in its quest for communion with God. Theresa died in 1622. In 1970 the Roman Catholic Church named her a "Doctor of the Church," one of only three women to be honoured in this way.

Deadline for the Next Courier is Sunday, November 2.

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

Bible Lore

The ten Plagues of Egypt recounted in the Bible may have been due to environmental factors, according to Professor Roger Wotton, a biologist at University College London in a 2007 article. "Perhaps the ten Plagues teach us that many explanations are possible for one series of events, and warn against allowing belief in the truth of one explanation to inspire fundamentalism," he explains.

Professor Wotton says that the plagues described in the Book of Exodus were central to the liberation of the Jewish people from Egyptian oppression. "The succession of disasters," he argues, "demoralised the Egyptians and were seen as a victory for Jewish monotheistic beliefs ... It is not easy to be rational when faced with a plague and mythical accounts, often focussing on divine retribution and the supernatural, are common." Professor Wotton agrees that the plagues probably happened, but argues they have been "embellished, ordered and described through the lens of religious mythology."

The "rivers of blood" could have been caused by heavy rainfall on baked soil, leading to sediment-rich water flowing into the Nile from tributaries where the underlying soil and rocks are red. This sediment would have killed the fish. The plague of frogs could have been migrating frogs, or toads emerging from hiding places in damp undersoil after a sudden rainfall. Similarly, the plague of lice could have been the sudden hatching of lice throughout Egypt after rain that followed unusually hot and dry weather. The description of swarms of flies match the behaviour of dancing midges, which can sometimes be so dense that livestock have to be taken indoors to avoid asphyxiation. Again, unusual weather conditions could have led them to the Nile. An abundance of biting insects would have led to the "pestilence" that caused the death of the country's cattle. Similarly, boils on human beings could have been caused by insect bites. The "fiery hail" may have been the large hailstones accompanied by ball lightning that sometimes appears during severe, dramatic storms. The locust swarms would also have been caused by severe environmental conditions, and a dense storm could also have produced the darkening of the skies described in the Bible.

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Professor Wotton can't explain the most difficult plague, where God caused the death of the firstborn. "Perhaps it relates to some infectious disease, but why the effect on the firstborn?" he asks.

While the plagues as set down in the Bible can possibly be explained by weather conditions, a naturalistic explanation does not rule out God's agency and is further evidence of the historical accuracy of the Biblical narratives.

Monthly Chuckle

A minister was waiting in line to have his car filled with gas just before the Thanksgiving weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him in front of the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, "sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."



A minister in a denomination that taught total abstinence secretly enjoyed the occasional drink of peach brandy. Knowing this, one of his members gave him a bottle each Christmas. One year, when the minister went to visit his friend, hoping for his usual Christmas present, he was not disappointed, but his friend told him that he had to thank him for the peach brandy from the pulpit. So the next Sunday his friend sat in the church with a grin on his face, waiting to see what the minister would say. The minister climbed into the pulpit and said, "Before we begin, I would very much like to thank my friend, Joe, for his kind gift of peaches ... and for the spirit in which they were given!"



IN MEMORIAM

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| September 4 | Wilhelmina Tebbit |
| September 6 | Kenneth Campbell |
| September 22 | Caroline Wallace |
| September 22 | Catherine Maddocks |
| September 29 | Peter Kite |



Off the Grid: a carbon-neutral eco-conscious event for youth aged 11-17. November 14-16 at Canterbury Hills, Ancaster. Participants will "unplug" for 24 hours, learning about ways we can help ensure the earth's future. Cost: \$110, includes transportation, accommodation, meals, snacks, and an "Off the Grid" t-shirt. See Brian Fairbrother for details or pick up a pamphlet at the north door.

The deadline has officially passed, but registrations are still being accepted. Speak to Brian **TODAY!**



Prayer: The Central Dialogue
The Biennial Diocesan
Prayer Conference
Friday, October 17 &
Saturday, October 18

Anglican Church of St. John York Mills
 Registration forms are available
 Call the church office



AT ST. JOHN'S, NORWAY
Saturday, October 18th
 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

We hope to see you there!

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes begin on Sunday, October 19th following the 10.30 a.m. service. It's still not too late to join us. Candidates should be at least 14 years old or in grade 9. Confirmation will be held on Easter Sunday, April 12th at the 10.30 a.m. service, Bishop Patrick Yu presiding. For more information about the program speak to Brian Fairbrother or the rector.

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RUMMAGE SALE

EVERYTHING AT LOW PRICES!!

Saturday, October 25

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Any treasures to donate?

Call the church office at (416) 691-4560 for pickup,
 or drop off during the week between
 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon



ANNUAL ALL SOULS SERVICE

Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at 7 pm

During this service we will read the names of those who died during the past year and whose names are recorded



in our parish registers and well as those whose names we have been given. If you have loved ones to remember please contact the church office at 416-691-4560 by Monday, November 3rd.

PREOCCUPIED WITH MY FATHER

Holocaust Education Week Event
at The Beach Hebrew Institute
109 Kenilworth Avenue

(co-sponsored with St. John's, Norway)

Thursday, November 6th at 7 pm

GUEST SPEAKER: SIMON SCHNEIDERMAN

Simon Schneiderman was born in a displaced-persons camp outside Munich in 1947 to parents who had survived the Nazi concentration camps. Schneiderman's book Preoccupied With My Father began as a book based on an exhibition of drawings, paintings, and text about his father Yoel who died in 2002. The book was published last year.

We have had excellent Jewish support for these programs when they are held at St. John's. Let's show our Jewish neighbours the same support this year when it is their turn.



The East End Refugee Committee
proudly presents

Choir Fest '08

Featuring massed choirs of 8 EERC member churches

Saturday, November 8, at 7:30 pm

St. Johns Norway Anglican Church
470 Woodbine Avenue

LEST WE
FORGET



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY November 9, 2008

Join us again this year at the 10.30 a.m. service, when we remember those who served and those who gave their lives in time of war so that we could live in freedom and peace. The present service of Canadian troops in Afghanistan adds special meaning to this annual commemoration.

We will welcome to the service representatives of Scouting and Guiding, the Royal Canadian Legion, and the Toronto Scottish Regiment.

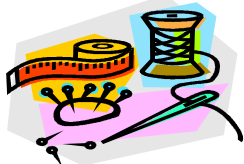
The traditional remembrance ceremony will be held at the war memorial at the west end of the church.

CRAFT SHOW & SALE

Scarves * Jewellery * Pottery * Hand-Knitting
Fleece Clothing * Christmas Crafts * Floral Designs
Wreaths * Candles * Quilting * Baby Outfits
Paintings * Photography * Baking * Doggy Needs
and Many Unique Gift Items

Soup & Sandwich Combo \$5

Saturday, November 29
9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
St. John the Baptist, Norway



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.

All Our Days is a publication of the Diocese of Toronto. It includes suggested Scripture readings for each day of the week, along with a prayer cycle. Throughout the year we are asked to pray for every bishop, deanery, and parish in our diocese. Each week's cycle can be picked up on the table at the north entrance. The aims of **All Our Days** are to learn more about our faith through reading of Scripture, and to pray for the Diocese. On the reverse side, you will find our other cycles of prayer.

Sunday Flowers

If you would like flowers placed in the Sanctuary, please forward request and payment (suggested donation of \$50) to the office one week in advance.

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WEDDINGS

September 14
Benjamin Carey & Jennifer Dyer

St. Monica's Place

has a Food Bank. They always accept donations,
including ready-to-serve food and cooking ingredients,
cereals, canned milk, and condiments.

Donations can be left in baskets in the north aisle clearly
labelled "St. Monica." We will ensure the food is
delivered.

CALENDAR

***Weekly**

OCTOBER

Monday 13

Tuesday 14

THANKSGIVING DAY – Office Closed

4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet*

5:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers*

6:30 p.m. – Creative YouTheatre*

6:30 p.m. – Brownies*

7:30 p.m. – Eco Committee

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|--------------|---|
| Wednesday 15 | 6:30 p.m. – Beavers* |
| | 7:30 p.m. – Holy Eucharist* |
| Thursday 16 | 9:00 a.m. – MumNet* |
| | 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet* |
| | 7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers* |
| Friday 17 | 9:00 a.m. – MumNet |
| Saturday 18 | 8:30 a.m. – Scout Apple Day |
| Sunday 19 | 8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist* |
| | 9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers* |
| | 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist |
| | 12:00 noon – Confirmation Class |
| | 7:30 p.m. – Venturers* |
| Monday 20 | 9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet* |
| | 9:30 p.m. – Ecumenical Bible Study* |
| | 5:00 p.m. – Kuma Marital Arts* |
| | 7:00 p.m. – Guides* |
| Tuesday 21 | 7:30 p.m. – Wardens' Meeting |
| Wednesday 22 | 7:00 p.m. – Baptism Preparation |
| Thursday 23 | 1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group |
| | 7:30 p.m. – Rummage Sale Set up |
| | 7:30 p.m. – Wedding Rehearsal |
| Friday 24 | 9:00 a.m. – Rummage Sale Set up |
| Saturday 25 | 10:00 a.m. – Rummage Sale |
| | 11:00 a.m. – Wedding |
| Sunday 26 | 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist |
| | 1:00 p.m. – Youth Fair |
| Tuesday 28 | 7:30 p.m. – Amnesty International |
| Wednesday 29 | 6:00 p.m. – Seton Area Registration |
| | 7:00 p.m. – Baptism Preparation |
| Thursday 30 | 7:00 p.m. – Seton Area Registration |
| | 7:00 p.m. – Choir Fest '08 Rehearsal |
| Friday 31 | 9:00 a.m. – MumNet* |

NOVEMBER

Sunday 2

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Turn clocks back

10:30 a.m. – Holy Baptism & Choral
Eucharist

COURIER DEADLINE

12:00 noon – Confirmation Class*

Monday 3

7:30 p.m. – East End Refugee
Committee

Tuesday 4

7:30 p.m. – Advisory Board

Wednesday 5

7:30 p.m. – Seton Area Forum

Saturday 8

3:00 p.m. – Choir Fest '08 Rehearsal

7:00 p.m. – Choir Fest '08

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

WOULD YOU LIKE TO:

SING? SERVE? LEARN A MARTIAL ART? ACT?

Announcing

**ST. JOHN'S NORWAY
FIRST ANNUAL
YOUTH FAIR**



At St. John's Norway, we play host to a number of widely varied groups offering engaging activities for children of all ages.

Come and talk with representatives from the Creative Youth Theatre, Girl Guides, Kuma Martial Arts, Scouts, Little Voices Dancing Feet, Mumnet, and of course,

St. John's own:
Children's Choir, Servers Group, Youth Group and Sunday School.

October 26, 2008

1:00 - 4:00 pm

(free Hot Dogs and drinks)

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY
ANGLICAN CHURCH**

Welcoming Hearts, Minds and Spirit

Norway Group News

by Bridget North

In September, many of us enjoyed an evening at the movies with Meryl Streep in Mamma Mia.

This month we plan to be busy preparing for the Rummage Sale, so do remember to bring us stuff to sell, then come down and find some new "treasures" to fill that empty space in your home! We can use some volunteers on Thursday, October 23rd after 7:30 p.m. and all day Friday the 24th, to

help with set-up. On Saturday, October 25th, we need help with the sale between 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is always a need for people to clean up at the end of the sale so that the rooms can be used on Sunday.

We still have raffle tickets to sell for the quilt raffle and we need volunteers on Thursday, October 30th to sell tickets at a table in Eglinton Square Shopping Centre. Do let the church know if you have an hour or two to give to a good cause!