
THE COURIER

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THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY

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RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Have you had enough of elections yet? No sooner had Canadians gotten through a Federal Election than our attention shifted to the United States where the presidential race was grinding to its conclusion. The excitement over Barack Obama was reminiscent of "Trudeaumania" in Canada in the late 1960s. A charismatic candidate, Obama captured the imagination, not only of Americans, but also people around the world.

We tend to be cynical about politicians, witnessing all the jokes about their folly and their corruption. Well, there is enough foolishness and corruption around to lend a ring of truth to our cynicism. And I don't think they help their cause either. When candidates put out "attack ads" the message we get is that no politician can be trusted.

However, in my time I've had the privilege of knowing several politicians and even having some as parishioners. It's a job that takes an incredible toll on personal and family life. The hours are long and the demands are incessant. Attacks on policies are fair game but I hope that we can stay away from personal attacks. Think what state the country would be in if good people stayed out of public service because they didn't feel it was worth the price.

Sunday by Sunday, we pray for the leaders of our country, our province, and our city. My prayers are sincere, even if the individuals represent a party of position with which I disagree. Is it wrong of me to hope that they may have a change of heart? Perhaps not, but I also know that in the congregation there are those who are very happy with them.

Let's hold Prime Minister Stephen Harper, MP Maria Minna, and President-elect Obama in our prayers with thanksgiving that they are willing to serve and in the hope that they will govern wisely and seek the common good.

Yours in Christ,

Brian

A SEASON TO SHARE

For some people in our community Christmas can be a difficult time. You can make the season brighter by putting a donation in the offering plate in an envelope marked "Share Christmas." Any amount, large or small, is appreciated. For an income tax receipt include your envelope number or name and address. Money received is used to assist people in our neighbourhood through the Christmas Bureau.

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WARDENS' REPORT

October always seems to be the month when the church really springs back to life after the summer, and this past October has been no exception. Our children's ministries continue to grow and both our Church School and Junior Choir are well attended. Our small group of servers continues to give dedicated and much appreciated service and help to add a youthful dimension to our Sunday worship.

Several events have taken place this month. Our first Oktoberfest, held on October 18, followed the popularity of last year's spaghetti dinner and was a fun family event that was very successful in raising funds for our Christmas outreach programme. The Rummage Sale held on the following weekend was also a big success, despite the discouraging weather, raising \$1,400 for the A.C.W. Our first ever Youth Fair took place on Sunday, October 26 and was an impressive showcase for the many and varied kinds of youth-oriented activities that are hosted by our church. Also this month, the parish prayer programme started with a small group of volunteers contacting each parish family once during the month to let them know that have been prayed for that day. Many thanks to all the volunteers who have made these events possible and who help to make our church a community.

Thanks to these and other past fundraising endeavours and the Stewardship Campaign that we launched in the Spring, we are continuing to hold our own on the financial front. Contributions from our parishioners are holding steady and increased revenues from licensing our building have helped to keep our budget balanced. Budget projections for the remaining two months of the year reflect that this is the time when we receive the most in donations from our parishioners; therefore it will be important to keep the momentum going if we want to finish the year without a deficit. Many thanks to all those who faithfully support us through weekly envelope and monthly direct debit contributions.

Work continues on our stained-glass windows and the goal is be finished before the end of the year. The outside work is being completed first and the workers will move inside to complete the job. In the Cemetery, we have moved into the planning phases to replace the barn that burned down in June. We have added another temporary

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storage facility in the north end of the church parking lot that will be used to store sidewalk salt over the winter.

Suzanne Coxon & Bob Cameron
Wardens

The Hundred-Mile Meal

by Bridget North

I made my plum pie with Italian prune plums purchased from the East York farmers' market held on Tuesdays across from the East General Hospital. They are grown in Niagara on Milan Bizjak's tender fruit farm near Beamsville. According to an article in the Star on October 1, 2008 the farm was started 35 years ago by his parents when they emigrated from Slovenia. The Italian plum is about the size of a walnut and has a bright green flesh inside a dark violet skin. It is very tasty!

The recipe for the pie came from a Mennonite cookbook called Simply in Season by Mary Beth Lind and Cathleen Hockman-Wert. My daughter-in-law and I both use this cookbook and we recommend recipes to each other as we try them. The shortcrust pastry is delicious!

The hundred-mile meal is a great way to become aware of the local farmers working to bring food to our tables.

Bible Lore

On November 30th – the 1st Sunday of Advent – we begin the lectionary cycle for year B. The lectionary is a three-year cycle. Last year the Old Testament readings focussed on the opening books of the Bible: the ancient creation stories; the lives of the patriarchs; and the career of Moses, Israel's great lawgiver. This year we will trace the history of Israel, its ups and downs, its great kings and its bad ones, ending with the tragic fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians. The gospel readings from the New Testament will largely be drawn from the Gospel of Mark, the shortest gospel in the Bible. These readings will occasionally be supplemented by readings from John's Gospel. So buckle your seat belts and travel with us back to Bible times and discover their meaning for us today!

FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR

November 10
LEO THE GREAT
Educator and Bishop of Rome

Before becoming Pope in AD 440, Leo had already served as deacon to Popes Celestine I and Sixtus III. Deeply conscious of the authority inherited from Peter and his successors, Leo strove to increase the influence and prestige of the papacy. His sermons and letters portray him as a clear, forcible, and intelligent pastor. In 451 a council met at Chalcedon, near modern Istanbul, to discuss whether Christ had one or two natures. Leo's Tome, which asserted the union of the human and divine natures of Christ in one person, formed the basis of the Council's ruling. During Leo's lifetime the Western Roman Empire had entered on the decay leading to its collapse. In 452 Attila the Hun invaded Italy and sacked Milan. Leo captured the imagination of Europe by going out to meet them, accompanied only by two unarmed men, and persuading them to withdraw beyond the Danube. Three years later the Vandals invaded Rome. Leo was unable to save the city but negotiated a treaty providing that churches would be spared and the people sheltering in them would be unharmed. He died in 461 and is buried in St. Peter's basilica.

WEDDINGS



October 25
Christopher Jorge & Rachel Wong



IN MEMORIAM

January 27, 1997	John Pendrel
September 29, 2007	Mary Pendrel
August 20	Frederick Massie
September 29	Edith Lessel
October 13	Selby Wemyss

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Monthly Chuckle

One day a man telephoned the church office. He said, "Can I speak to the head hog at the trough?" The secretary thought she heard what he said, but said, "I'm sorry, who?" The caller repeated, "Can I speak to the head hog at the trough?" She said, "Well, if you mean the rector, then you may refer to him as 'Father' or even 'Reverend' but I would rather that you not refer to him as the 'head hog at the trough!'" To this the man replied, "Well, I was planning on giving \$100,000 to the building fund." To this the secretary quickly responded, "Hang on, I think the fat pig just walked in!"



The preacher was growing concerned about sparse attendance, so he published this item in the church bulletin:

This ... is ... the ... way ... the ... church ... sometimes ... looks ... to ... me ... when ... I ... go into ... the ... pulpit

It would look like this if everybody brought somebody else to church

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The Biennial Prayer Conference

by Bronwyn Rowley

On October 17 and 18, the Diocesan Prayer Conference was held at the Church of St. John, York Mills. Dr. Harry Robinson was the keynote speaker. I had met Harry at St. George's Church in Hamilton more than 50 years ago. At that time I was awed by his love, joy, and commitment to Christ. Time has only magnified these attributes.

His theme was ***prayer as the central dialogue*** as it is crucial in our relationship to God and to others. Prayer was described not as waving our hands urgently to attract God's attention, but God tapping us on the shoulder and asking us to listen. Prayer is a two-way dialogue.

The conference was attended by a friendly, enthusiastic group of 174 people. Dr. Robinson's presentations were followed by smaller group sessions. There was a lively and open exchange of queries and ideas at the two sessions I attended.

Thank you and God bless the organisers (which included Craig Gustafson) and the participants.

Thank you to the four people from our parish that attended.

An Advent Service for the Home

This booklet, which includes daily prayers and Bible readings for the season of Advent, will be available on the literature table at the north entrance. The booklet was available last year in the November edition of the Courier.

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.

Norway Group News

by Bridget North

This is a very busy month with all the church activities! The rummage sale raised \$1,400. Many people helped in the setting up and on the day itself. Many thanks to all who came out and shopped. The money raised will help towards meeting the church budget. We are in danger of facing a deficit this year.

The next fundraiser that the Anglican churchwomen are involved with is the Craft Show and Sale on Saturday November 29th. If you can donate any crafts to the ACW table please let us know.

We still have raffle tickets to sell. The first prize is a beautiful quilt stitched and donated by Gladys Maddeaux, one of our church members. There are many, many hours of work lovingly stitched into that quilt! It was well appreciated when we went to Eglinton Square last week. We shall also be serving a soup/sandwich lunch, so plan to come out on the day. It is a popular event!

The Out of the Cold programme at Eastminster United Church starts this month and we, at St. John's, support the clothing room. We always need socks and underwear, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, and deodorant. We give out warm clothing that is also donated by individuals from many congregations. We have a red bushel basket in the church to receive donations.

The A.C.W. would like to thank everyone for all the help in putting up tables and taking them down, sorting the mounds of rummage, shopping, and packing up the remains. It was very much appreciated. At the end of the day, we raised \$1,450.

LETTERS TO A BELOVED LADY



In our Advent Bible study we will look at three small books at the back of the New Testament, the three Letters of John, small but vital to our understanding of the faith and of the early Christian community.

Who is the "Beloved Lady"? Come and find out!

Four Wednesdays from 7.45 - 9.00 pm

November 26 *Light and Darkness (I John 1.1 - 3.24)*
 December 3 *God Is Love (I John 4.1 - 5.21)*
 December 10 *Live in the Truth (II John)*
 December 17 *Imitate What Is Good (III John)*

ADVENT EVENT

Friday, November 28, 2008
6.00 pm



Help us prepare to welcome the Christ Child at Christmas. A potluck supper will be followed by crafts and activities. The evening will close with a short service and the blessing of the Advent Wreath.

Sunday School Fundraiser

Bake Sale at the Craft Show and Sale

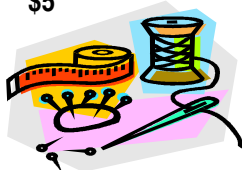
We are asking for donations of baking. Please drop off on Friday at the church or on Saturday morning. Clearly mark the item for the Church School. We also require people to be at the sale.

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



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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

Annual Christmas Pageant **Sunday, December 21 – 10:30 a.m.**

Join with us as we re-enact the story that never grows old. To participate, talk to Kathryn Kern or Brian Fairbrother. Talking and non-talking roles are available. Rehearsals will begin **Sunday, November 23 following the 10:30 a.m. service each week.**

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SUNDAY

December 7, 2008
 at both the 8.30 and 10.30 am services

We will welcome the Rev. Dr. Ann Jervis,
 Professor of New Testament at Wycliffe College

The author of several books on St. Paul, Dr. Jervis has taught at Wycliffe College since 1990. She also has a cross appointment at Trinity College. One of her areas of interest is women in the early church. Ann is a priest of the Diocese of Toronto and is honorary assistant at the Church of the Redeemer in downtown Toronto.

Hanging on the Greens **Saturday, December 20** **9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Join us to decorate our place of worship
Families and teens
Light lunch provided

Sunday Flowers

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

Christmas Flowers

The Altar Guild will be decorating our church for the Christmas season. If you wish to contribute for the purchase of flowers, please use a special gift envelope and mark it "CHRISTMAS FLOWERS" (suggested donation of \$10). If you wish memorial flowers, please include a note with your donation by **Sunday, December 14**. Thank you.

Deadline for the Next Courier is

Sunday, November 30.

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

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**

NOVEMBER

Monday 10 9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet
9:30 a.m. – Ecumenical Bible Study*
5:00 p.m. – Kuma Marital Arts*
7:00 p.m. – Guides*
7:30 p.m. – Scout Group

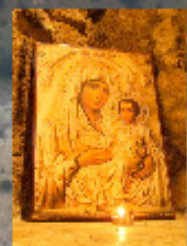
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Tuesday 11	4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet* 5:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers* 6:30 p.m. – Creative YouTheatre* 6:30 p.m. – Brownies*
Wednesday 12	6:30 p.m. – Beavers* 7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist*
Thursday 13	9:00 a.m. – MumNet* 1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet* 7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers* 7:30 p.m. – Norway Group
Friday 14	9:00 a.m. – MumNet* 4:00 p.m. – Off the Grid Departure
Saturday 15	9:00 a.m. – Deanery Prayer Meeting
Sunday 16	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist* 9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers* 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist * 11:45 a.m. – Off the Grid Arrival 7:30 p.m. – Venturers*
Monday 17	9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet
Tuesday 18	7:30 p.m. – Wardens' Meeting
Friday 21	6:00 p.m. – Wedding Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. – Wedding Rehearsal Party
Saturday 22	2:30 p.m. – Wedding
Sunday 23	12:00 noon – Pageant Rehearsal*
Tuesday 25	7:30 p.m. – Amnesty International
Thursday 27	1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group 7:30 p.m. – Norway Group
Friday 28	6:00 p.m. – Advent Event 9:00 p.m. – Craft Sale Set up
Saturday 29	9:30 a.m. – Craft Sale
Sunday 30	COURIER DEADLINE

DECEMBER

Monday 1	9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 7:30 p.m. – East End Refugee Committee
Tuesday 2	6:30 p.m. – Advisory Board Potluck (rectory)
Wednesday 3	7:30 p.m. – Seton Area Forum
Thursday 4	10:00 a.m. – MumNet Fundraiser
Friday 5	6:00 p.m. – Marriage Preparation
Saturday 6	8:30 a.m. – Marriage Preparation

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



A St. John's Family Event

Join us for a light lunch following the 10:30 am service Sunday Nov. 23, 2008.

Your free-will donation will generously support youth initiatives at St. John's.

A Pilgrim's Story

During this visually captivating retrospective of a 21-day pilgrimage through Israel and Egypt, Brian Fairbrother will guide you from the bustling heart of modern Jerusalem, north through Galilee and share with you the incredible quiet of a sunrise atop Mt. Sinai. All while encountering the historical sites where the stories of the Holy Scriptures came to life.