
THE COURIER

Volume 2, Issue 4

December 2008

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY

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RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Sometimes at this time of year I like to observe, "Well, the days will soon be getting longer." That's putting a positive spin on the long, cold, dark nights we experience in November and December. But I'm not alone in needing to do this. The human longing for the return of the light is the whole rationale for the Advent Wreath we began lighting on November 30th. Each week we add one more candle to the ceremony and week by week our wreath does indeed glow more brightly until, at Christmas we light not only the four Advent candles but also the white Christ Candle. "The light shines in the darkness," says St. John, "and the dark has not overcome it."

May the approaching light of Christmas be more than an outward symbol to you. May it also be "an inward grace." Take time during the rush and bustle of the pre-Christmas season to reflect on the deeper meaning of the season. May the light of Christ shine into your soul, bringing warmth and peace.

Not everyone has a merry Christmas. Perhaps you've lost a loved one, or a job. There are many and varied reasons for some people to feel "blue" at Christmas time. Please remember that, come what may, you are a child of God – valued and beloved. If you find you can't "shake off" the blues, don't be embarrassed to seek professional help. You're not alone. Depression at this time of year is not at all unusual.

Whatever your circumstances I would like to extend to you my heartfelt best wishes. In many ways, St. John's has become a second family to me, and I look forward to working together with you in the new year that is just

around the corner.

Yours in Christ,

Brian

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.

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.

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WARDENS' REPORT

Our church life continued at a vigorous pace in November from the All Souls Service on Wednesday, November 5th concluding with the First Sunday of Advent on November 30th with several special events in between.

Choir Fest '08 took place on Saturday evening, November 8th, presented by The East End Refugee Committee and arranged by Ted Reid. It was a great musical evening with the large audience allowed to sign along on four occasions under the direction of Joy Horswill, Music Director at St. Aidan's Anglican Church. The other participating choirs were Beach United Church, Calvary Baptist Church, Fallingbrook Presbyterian Church, Kingston Road United Church, The William Graham Singers, and of course our own St. John the Baptist, Norway choir, which although one of the smallest, did our church proud.

Remembrance was celebrated on Sunday, November 9th and appropriately our student associate, Kevin Love, a former officer in the Canadian Army, gave a thoughtful and informative sermon.

"A Pilgrim's Story: a Family Event" took place on Sunday, November 23rd after the 10:30 a.m. service. Brian Fairbrother presented a visual retrospective with interesting narrative of his 21-day pilgrimage through Israel and Egypt. With selected photographs Brian took us on a guided tour from the heart of modern Jerusalem, north through Galilee, to the top of Mt. Sinai. Brian's commentary on historical sites and relating them to the Holy Scriptures plus sharing his emotions at various sites made the visual presentation almost like being there. Also as advertised we had a light but delicious lunch prepared by Glenda Fairbrother.

A successful Craft Show and Sale took place at St. John the Baptist, Norway on November 29th. A Raffle was held during the Craft Show with the 1st Prize being an elegant Handmade Quilt hand-stitched and donated by Gladys Maddeaux. The Craft Show and Raffle raised \$1,700 thanks to the Norway Group and the A.C.W.

The Light Fixtures in the rear half of the church now contain compact florescent light bulbs which appear to be providing at least as much light as the incandescent bubs

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in the front half of the church. Accordingly, we will be replacing the remainder of the light bulbs with compact florescent bulbs in the near future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Cameron and Suzanne Coxon

FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR

December 25
THE BIRTH OF THE LORD

Luke tells how the carpenter, Joseph, accompanied by his wife Mary who was in the late stages of pregnancy, came from Nazareth to Bethlehem, his ancestral home, to register in a census. Finding accommodation scarce they sought shelter in a stable and it was here that the infant Jesus was born. The song of angels on the hillside and the visit of the shepherds are Luke's way of attesting that this was no ordinary child but God incarnate. John makes the point in more theological terms, "The Word became flesh and lived among us." From the earliest times Christians have honoured the birth of Christ. By the year 330, soon after the end of the last great persecution, the church in Rome was celebrating the Nativity on December 25, a day on which pagans celebrated the feast of the sun god. The church may have chosen that particular day to encourage people to worship the Son of God instead. During the Middle Ages Christmas was celebrated with great devotion and joy. At the Reformation many colourful Christmas customs were suppressed but since then many of the old customs have been revived and new ones have been developed.

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.

Bible Lore

It's surprising how many common words are mentioned only once in the Bible – especially when a relatively specific word like napkin (Greek = soudarion) is mentioned three times – Luke 19.20, John 11.44, John 20.7.

Here are some of these "one-hit wonders." Please note the references are to the King James Version of the Bible.

Empire	Esther 1.20
Farm	Matthew 22.5
Grease	Psalms 119.70
Handwriting	Colossians 2.14
Industrious	1 Kings 11.28
Kicked	Deuteronomy 32.15
Taverns	Acts 28.15
Vein	Job 28.1
Yell	Jeremiah 51.38

The word "belch" is mentioned only in Psalm 59.7, which is surprising, since belching was considered a polite show of respect to one's host after eating a meal. Curiously, "Jewish" turns up only once (in Titus 1.14) although the word "Jew" is mentioned 28 times. Incidentally, there are no words or names in the Bible that begin with "X." The Persian king Xerxes is referred to in the Bible as "Ahasuerus" (see Esther 1.1,2).

WEDDINGS



November 22

Scott Bristol & Maria Bernardez
Travis Watts & Lenora de Moor

Baptisms



November 2

Rowan Charles Grange Marshall
Evan Blaine Rieveley

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IN MEMORIAM

January 28
November 13

Florence McKim
Lillias Tomlinson

Monthly Chuckle

A man was coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door to shake hands as he always did. He grabbed the man by the hand and pulled him aside. "You need to join the Army of the Lord!" said the pastor. The man replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, pastor." Then how come I don't see you in church except at Christmas and Easter?" the pastor asked. The man whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."



TRY THIS!

Hold this paper close to your nose and breathe deeply.

- ★ If the sheet turns blue, you need to see a doctor.
- ★ If it turns green see your dentist.
- ★ If it turns red see your bank manager.
- ★ If it turns black check your will and see your lawyer immediately.

However, if it doesn't change colour there is nothing wrong with you and there's no reason why you shouldn't be in church on Sunday.

An Advent Service for the Home

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

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**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. It is scheduled to debut on Friday, January 9 at 8:00 p.m.

"Being Erica" (originally titled "The Session") is a new series on CBC, scheduled to debut in January. The company used the cemetery for a night scene.

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.

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Norway Group News

by Bridget North

Many thanks to everyone who has donated warm clothes and toiletries for the Out of the Cold Programme! We plan to give each person a Christmas bag with gifts of gloves and a toque plus any treats that we can collect in the next couple of weeks.

Once again we shall be sending donations of baby and infant needs to Moorelands for distribution to new mothers. I have placed the playpen in the north aisle and we shall look for donations up till Christmas.

On Thursday December 11th, at our next meeting, we shall be discussing the book, Kabul Beauty School, by Deborah Rodriguez. Anyone interested in joining us in this discussion should come to the Van Lane room at 7:30 p.m.

Best wishes for a healthy Christmas season.

The A.C.W.

would like to thank everyone for all the help in selling tickets for the beautiful quilt donated by Mrs. Gladys Maddeaux. We were able to achieve our goal of selling 1,000 tickets with proceeds approximately \$1,700.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The daughter of one of our parishioners was the lucky winner.

1st Prize – Quilt: Susanne Linn

2nd Prize – Gourmet Food Basket: Sandra Cox

3rd Prize – Children's Basket: Darleen Knowlton

4th Prize – Toiletries Basket: Vi King

We express special thanks to Carolynn Parsons who sold a great many tickets.

Deadline for the Next Courier is Sunday, January 4.

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

LETTERS TO A BELOVED LADY

In our Advent Bible study we are looking 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!

7:45 – 9:00 p.m.

December 10 *Live in the Truth (II John)*

December 17 *Imitate What Is Good (III John)*

Sidespersons' Breakfast

Sunday, December 14th at 9:15 a.m. in the Van-Lane Room. Open to anyone interested in knowing more about this ministry of welcome. Call Glenda Fairbrother at (416) 698-8971 to let us know if you plan to attend.

**A professional reading of
Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol**

Tuesday, December 16

6:30 p.m. – Toronto Beach Chorale

7:00 p.m. – Performance Begins



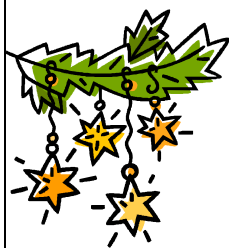
St John the Baptist, Norway
Anglican Church

Christmas Carolling Lead by
the Toronto Beach Chorale

Tickets are \$15 each

All proceeds will go towards the Community Centre 55
Share A Christmas Programme

For more information please contact Nancy at
(416) 691-1113 ext. 224 or nancy.cc55@bellnet.ca



**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 encouraged
Light lunch provided

Annual Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 21, 2008
10.30 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate this story
which is new in every generation



**Candlelight Carol Service
The Words and Music of Christmas**

Presented by the Choirs
Directed by Ted Reid

Sunday, December 21
at 7:00 p.m.



**Ring in the New Year
With Family and Friends
Wednesday, December 31**

7:30 p.m.	Hors d'oeuvres
8:00 p.m.	Potluck supper
9:00 p.m.	Family games
11:00 p.m.	Worship service & carolling
12:00 midnight	Bell ringing followed by refreshments



Please sign up outside the kitchen. The
main course is supplied for the dinner.
Suggestions are listed on the signup
sheet. Rides home will be arranged for
anyone requiring transportation.

Christianity 101

Wednesdays, January 7 to February 11

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

See page 6 for more information.

Annual Vestry Meeting

All written and financial reports must be in the office by
Monday, January 12. Financial statements must be
reviewed. Speak to the wardens for more information.

If possible, please send reports to
admin@stjohnsnorway.org

Reports will be available **Sunday, February 1.**
The Vestry meeting will be **Sunday, February 15.**

Christmas at St. John's, Norway

Saturday, December 20, 2008

Family Event

9:30 a.m. – The Hanging of the Greens



Sunday, December 21, 2008

4th Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. – Annual Christmas Pageant

7:00 p.m. – Candlelight Carol Service

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

Christmas Eve

7.00 p.m. – Family Eucharist

11.00 p.m. – Choral Eucharist



Thursday, December 25, 2008

Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. – Sung Eucharist

(Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday, December 28, 2008

1st Sunday after Christmas

10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist & Informal Carol Sing

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

New Year's Eve

11:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist



Sunday, January 4, 2009

The Epiphany

10:30 a.m. – Procession & Choral Eucharist

Tree Ornaments: Community Centre 55 produced some ornaments featuring our church, as well as Community Centre 55, the Queen Streetcar, and the Woodbine Race Track. The ornaments are available in the church office for \$10 each to support the community centre.

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Evangelism and our Christianity 101 Course

Evangelism. For too many Anglicans this is the scary E-word that's done by other people, not us. Yet the call of Jesus is clear: "make disciples of all peoples" (Matthew 28:19). How are we to do evangelism today? Here is one way, which I would like to ask everyone to try.

First pray. Pray that God will show to you who in your life is open to his Kingdom. Then look at all your friends, neighbours, relatives, and co-workers. Who appears to be a spiritual seeker? Who has talked about God with you in the past? Who seems to be weighed down with worry and stress about wrongs they have done or that have been done to them? These are the people to talk with about Jesus.

Not everyone is gifted with the ability to explain all about Christianity, but everyone can say what Jesus has done in the person's life, and everyone can issue an invitation to our upcoming Christianity 101 Course. A basic explanation of the Christian faith, it will be held at the church from 7:00-8:30 p.m. starting Wednesday, January 7 until February 11.

Everyone is welcome. That includes everyone in the parish who is interested in an overview of what we believe, and seekers who want to know what God has done in Jesus Christ.

Here is a challenge for all of us: Tonight, pray to God to put one person who you know well on your heart. Then talk with that person. Invite him to the Christianity 101 class. Because Jesus has blessed and forgiven us, we all have a part in joyfully taking that blessing and forgiveness to the world.

For further information, please telephone Kevin Love at (416) 917-1527.

5 Kittens born early November are looking for loving, permanent homes. Their mom's owner could not provide for them, therefore they need a home. Please call Bronwyn at (416) 699-8438.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Monday 8	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
Tuesday 9	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. – Amnesty International
Wednesday 10	6:30 p.m. – Beavers 7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist 7:45 p.m. – Advent Study
Thursday 11	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group 7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers 7:30 p.m. – Norway Group
Friday 12	9:00 a.m. – MumNet
Sunday 14	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist 12:00 noon – Pageant Dress Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. – Venturers
Monday 15	9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 3:00 p.m. – <u>A Christmas Carol</u> Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. – Kuma Martial Arts 7:00 p.m. – Guides 7:30 p.m. – Wardens' Meeting
Tuesday 16	5:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers 6:30 p.m. – Creative YouTheatre 6:30 p.m. – Brownies 6:30 p.m. – <u>A Christmas Carol</u>
Wednesday 17	6:00 p.m. – Scout Christmas Party 7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist 7:45 p.m. – Advent Study
Thursday 18	7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers
Friday 19	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 1:00 p.m. – Hanging of the Greens Set up
Saturday 20	9:30 a.m. – Hanging of the Greens
Sunday 21	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers 10:30 a.m. – Christmas Pageant 7:00 p.m. – Carol Service

Wednesday 24	7:00 p.m. – Family Eucharist 11:00 p.m. – Choral Eucharist
Thursday 25	10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion
Sunday 28	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist
Wednesday 31	7:30 p.m. – New Year's Eve Party 11:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

JANUARY

Sunday 4	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. – Procession & Choral Eucharist
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COURIER DEADLINE

Monday 5	7:30 p.m. – Venturers 9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 5:00 p.m. – Kuma Marital Arts 7:30 p.m. – East End Refugee Committee
Tuesday 6	4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 5:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers 6:30 p.m. – Creative YouTheatre 7:30 p.m. – Advisory Board
Wednesday 7	6:30 p.m. – Beavers 7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist 7:00 p.m. – Christianity 101 7:30 p.m. – Seton Area Forum Baptism Preparation
Thursday 8	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 9	9:00 a.m. – MumNet
Sunday 11	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers 10:30 a.m. – Holy Baptism & Choral Eucharist 12:00 noon – Confirmation Class
Monday 12	VESTRY REPORTS DEADLINE

Please inform the office of any errors or omissions.

The church office will be closed from December 24 to January 2 inclusive. The answering machine will be monitored. Please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.