
THE COURIER

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THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY

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RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Coming soon to a bus shelter near you! I'm sure you've heard about the atheist advertising campaign that began in Britain and, according to reports, will soon be coming to the streets of Toronto. The adverts read: "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life." Well, God survived Stalin, so I suppose God will survive this latest campaign.

The United Church has welcomed it as opening a dialogue, although I'm not sure how much dialogue you can have through bus posters. Personally, aside from being an Anglican priest (no surprise which side of the question I'm on), I have a number of problems with the slogan.

There's probably no God – Even some people who support the campaign have complained about the word "probably." But after all there's no conclusive scientific evidence that God does not exist, or if there is I have yet to see it. I find even the word God problematic. Sure Christians, Muslims, and Jews believe in a personal deity, but what about Buddhists who – while undoubtedly religious – don't believe in a personal deity?

Stop worrying – Now there's a good one. Do you spend a lot of your time worrying about eternal damnation? I don't. That's not to say that I'm perfect. Far from it, but I don't spend my waking hours worrying about it. As a Christian I believe that Jesus came to reconcile us with God, imperfect creatures that we are. However, there are things we should worry about: crime, racism, poverty, hunger, etc. I hope my atheist neighbours will agree!

Enjoy your life – Thanks for telling me that without God I can enjoy my life, but I do that already. God is not some celestial killjoy who wants us to go around long-faced and miserable. Show me anything in the teachings of Jesus that says we should. It ain't there! Of course, I mustn't enjoy myself at the expense of other people but that still leaves lots of room for good, clean, healthy enjoyment.

That's what I think, anyway. And, by the way, Christians **are** allowed to think.

Yours in Christ,

Brian

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WARDENS' REPORT

As our parish activities and events of 2008 are culminated by our annual Vestry Meeting, it seems appropriate to further review the past year.

A new event, Oktoberfest was celebrated Saturday, October 18th in the Van-Lane Room and was enjoyed by those who attended as well as being a successful fundraising event. Thanks to organisers David Shelton, Gordon Stock, and Father Brian.

Choir Fest '08 was a new event held in our Church, Saturday, November 8th, for the East End Refugee Committee. Six choirs from other Churches in the area and our own choir provided a great musical evening for a large audience that filled our Church. Ted Reid arranged this entertaining event.

I October, the parish prayer programme began with a small group of volunteers organised by Bridget North and Craig Gustafson. Each parish family is contacted once a month to let them know that they have been included in the group's prayers that day.

"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.

Our first-ever Hanging of the Greens engaged our young people in the decoration of the Church for Christmas under direction of Joan Harding and Joan Hiscott of the Chancel Guild, who keep our Church beautiful for all our services.

Our normal fundraising events took place with the A.C.W. operating two Rummage Sales, the Daffodil Tea, and a Craft Sale and the Norway Group, a Raffle. Our thanks to Joan Hiscott, Bridget North, and Sylvia Kite for their continuing good work. Under the direction of Gordon Stock our third annual Book Sale was another financial success. This year Creative YouTheatre staged "Following the Yellow Brick Road," an adaptation of the Wizard of Oz under the direction of Jeremy Haynes and Jonathan Prideaux.

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Christianity 101 was conducted by Kevin Love, Wednesday evenings, January 7 to February 11, 2009. Kevin presented a basic explanation of the Christian faith. Susan Connor was welcomed to our pulpit at the 10:30 a.m. service, January 25, 2009 for a talk on a year spent teaching high school in a rural community in northern Ghana. Susan also worked on a small project with a local organisation called SINGH (Support in Northern Ghana). After the Service she gave a visual presentation of her experience in Ghana.

We are grateful for Father Brian Prideaux's continued spiritual guidance and his support of all activities and events in our parish. Children's Focus on Sunday mornings with a growing gathering of children at the front of the Church for Sunday School, supported by an enlarged Junior Choir, moves us to give special thanks to Ted Reid, Brian Fairbrother, and Kathryn Kern.

We thank our Deputy Wardens, Darleen, Emily, Gordon, and Jane for their help and support. We also thank Richard Fornuff, Treasurer; Bridget North, Envelope Secretary, and Craig Gustafson, Parish Secretary for their professional support.

We look forward with optimism to 2009, and with your continued support we are confident we can overcome any challenges together.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Cameron & Suzanne Coxon

Enclosed with this month's Courier, you will find an envelope marked "COURIER." The cost of printing the Courier, like everything else, costs more. This includes postage, paper, ink, and electricity – all items that contribute to higher costs. Please help to defray costs by using the enclosed envelope.

Thank you very much in advance,
The Rector and Wardens

FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR

February 2 PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Jewish custom prescribed that forty days after giving birth to a child a woman should come to the Temple for ritual purification. This practice lies behind the old Prayer Book service of "The Churching of Women." Furthermore, it was customary to present every first-born male child publicly to God in the Temple. Therefore, Mary and Joseph went up to the Temple for her Purification and Jesus's Presentation. As they entered the Temple a devout old man, Simeon, full of the Holy Spirit and "waiting for the consolation of Israel," took the infant Jesus in his arms and praised God in the words of what we know as the canticle, *Nunc dimittis*. Later they encountered the prophetess Anna who also proclaimed Jesus to be the Messiah. Because in his canticle Simeon called Jesus "a light to lighten the gentiles," the *Nunc dimittis* was sung on this day in medieval times. Candles were blessed and lit and carried in procession through the streets. In the home a special punch was made and children were allowed to stay up until a specially lighted candle had burned down. For this reason, the festival is sometimes called "Candlemas."

Baptisms



January 11

Logan Reginald Ronald Muir
Justin Edward Lachlan Thoman



IN MEMORIAM

December 3, 2008
December 31, 2008
January 3
January 14

Norma Kerrigan
Robert Drake
Charles "Art" Kerr
Carol Kotowick

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Bible Lore

Last month we tested your Bible knowledge by posting ten questions based on the Bible. The answers are printed below – along with more questions!

Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel)

1. Who predicted the Babylonian Captivity of 70 years?
2. Who foretold the beating of swords into ploughshares?
3. This prophet went into exile in Babylon.
4. Identify the Persian king who permitted the Jews to return from exile.
5. Which prophet spoke about the "suffering servant?"

Minor Prophets (Hosea – Malachi)

1. This prophet backed Zerubbabel.
2. Obadiah spoke against which people?
3. At Pentecost this prophet was quoted about speaking in tongues.
4. Who was the prophet who was told to marry a woman of ill fame?
5. Which prophet spoke against Nineveh?

Answers to Last Month's Quiz

Pentateuch

1. Exodus 20.2-17, Deuteronomy 5.6-21
2. Noah: Rainbow (Genesis 9.12-13); Abraham: Circumcision (Genesis 17.10)
3. The tribe of Levi (Numbers 18.2-4)
4. The liberation of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt (see Exodus 12.1-13)

Historical Books

1. King Solomon (1 Kings 6)
2. Ruth (Ruth 4.17)
3. It was divided between Israel in the north and Judah in the south (see 1 Kings 12.1-20)
4. Ahab (see 1 Kings 16.29 – 22.40)
5. Samaria (1 Kings 16.24)
6. Assyria (2 Kings 18.11-12)

Monthly Chuckle

It's not always easy to say the right thing on the spur of the moment. We can sympathize with the chap who met an old friend after many years. "How is your wife?" he asked. "She's in heaven," the friend replied. "Oh, I'm sorry," stammered the man. Then he realised this was not the thing to say. "I mean," he stammered, "I'm glad." That seemed even worse so he blurted out, "What I really mean is, I'm surprised."



One Sunday a minister announced to his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17." The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

Book of Timothy



2008 Official Tax Receipts are available at the north entrance. If it is not picked up by February 22 it will be mailed.

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Norway Group News

by Bridget North

I am writing this at the end of January while looking forward to a busy month in February. By the time you read this, we shall have enjoyed a performance by The Jersey Boys at the Centre for the Performing Arts in North York.

Also in February, we shall be providing lunch at the vestry meeting on Sunday February 15. I hope that all parishioners will do their best to be there.

You are all invited to join us on Thursday February 26 when our speaker will be author and parishioner Susan Winlaw. Susan, and her husband Alex, have together written Car Advice for Women (and Smart Men). This seems to be a very timely topic! We hold our meetings here in the Van-Lane room at 7.45 p.m. and you are all welcome. Refreshments will be served.

ANNUAL SCOUT-GUIDE SERVICE*Sunday, February 22nd at 10.30 am*

We will welcome members of Scouting and Guiding.
St. John's has a long involvement with both of these
world-wide youth movements.
Come out and support our youth!

Beginning to Pray with Others**Saturday, February 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon****at the Anglican Church of St. Martin in the Fields,**
151 Glenlake Avenue (near Keele and Bloor Streets).

The workshop will follow a simple process of leading
frightened, shy, silent pray-ers gently and logically to the
place where they are praying out loud confidently and
fearlessly. Particularly recommended for couples and
parents. For more information and to register,
call Carol-Anne at (416) 767-0253.

WALL·E**WALL·E Family
Movie Night****Saturday, February 21**6:15 p.m. Pizza &
Popcorn

6:45 p.m. Movie

**WALL·E Ash
Wednesday Programme****February 25**

Registration at 8:30 a.m.

Programme: 9-11:30 a.m.

Ages 4+

Snacks will be provided.

The education act allows students
to take time off school to attend
religious activities. A letter will be
given to each participant to take
back to school.

THE COURIER**Ash Wednesday****February 25****7:00 p.m.****Choral Eucharist with the
imposition of ashes****Through Lent With**

Wednesday Evenings in Lent

March 4 – April 1, 2009

7.45 to 9.00 pm

In the Downstairs Lounge

*Join us for a time of holy hilarity as we discuss the
spiritual insights of this popular "Britcom."*

More Upcoming Events →

World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 6 – 7:00 p.m.

St. John the Baptist, Norway

470 Woodbine Avenue (at Kingston Road)

Everyone welcome – men, women, children

Reception to follow

Storm alternative date is same as Youth Service below –
information at (416) 691-4560

Saturday, March 14 – 1:00 p.m. Youth Service

St. John the Baptist, Norway

470 Woodbine Avenue (at Kingston Road)

Everyone welcome – men, women, children

Reception to follow

For more information see page 7



Join the Fun!!

St. John's 4th Annual Used Book, Music, & Movie Sale

Saturday March 21, 2009 (9 am to 2 pm)

To volunteer or make donations*, please call
Gordon Stock at (416) 686-3249.

**Please, no textbook or magazine donations*

Join us on Saturday, March 28
at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Norway

**when the Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu
(Bishop of York-Scarborough)
visits the Deanery to**

Discuss Prayer

More information will be available in the bulletin

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HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT ST. JOHN'S

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2009

8.30 am – Holy Eucharist with Blessing of Palms

10.30 am – Palm Procession & Choral Eucharist

Monday in Holy Week

April 6, 2009

7 pm – Evening Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)

Tuesday in Holy Week

April 7, 2009

7 pm – Evening Prayer (Book of Alternative Services)

Wednesday in Holy Week

April 8, 2009

7 pm – Holy Eucharist (1962 Language Rite)

Maundy Thursday

April 9, 2009

6.15 pm – Passover Supper

8 pm – Choral Eucharist & Foot-Washing

9 pm – Watch in the Garden (to midnight)

Good Friday

April 10, 2009

9.45 am – Children's Good Friday Walk

11 am – Celebration of the Passion

Holy Saturday

April 11, 2009

8 pm – The Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Day

April 12, 2009

8.30 am – Holy Eucharist

10.30 am – Choral Eucharist & Confirmation

More people would learn from their
mistakes ***if*** they weren't so busy denying
they made them.

The Prayer Nook

The World Day of Prayer

In Christ, there are many members yet one body
Written by the women of Papua New Guinea

Pray for the People of Papua New Guinea

The women of Papua New Guinea (PNG) invite us to come with them to the "land of the unexpected," to join with them in the World Day of Prayer with the confidence that *In Christ, There Are Many Members Yet One Body*.

The independent state of Papua New Guinea consists of more than 600 islands. The second largest country in the South Pacific, one of PNG's most spectacular features is its variety of peoples and landscape. Papua New Guinea has one of the most diverse indigenous populations in the world, with more than 800 languages spoken among several thousand separate communities. From rugged mountains to sandy shorelines, coral reefs to active volcanoes, Papua New Guinea is the land of the unexpected, a land of astonishing natural diversity.

As we pray with the women of PNG, we will learn about the country's intricate cultures and social challenges including concerns about growing domestic violence, the spread of HIV/AIDS, and difficult land and resource issues. On the World Day of Prayer, all people of faith are welcome to worship together, to join the women of Papua New Guinea in Christ's unity.

Please join us, and invite your friends and family to attend the World Day of Prayer service and learn more about Papua New Guinea and its unique culture and heritage. Join Christians in more than 170 countries around the world and 2,000 communities across Canada who will gather on the World Day of Prayer to pray and act in solidarity with the people of Papua New Guinea.

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Friday, March 6 – 7:00 p.m.



St. John the Baptist, Norway
470 Woodbine Avenue (at Kingston Road)
Everyone welcome – men, women, children

Reception to follow

Storm alternative date is same as Youth Service below – information at (416) 691-4560

Saturday, March 14 – 1:00 p.m. Youth Service



St. John the Baptist, Norway
470 Woodbine Avenue (at Kingston Road)
Everyone welcome – men, women, children

Reception to follow

In Canada, the World Day of Prayer is coordinated by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. To learn more about WICC, please visit the website:

www.wicc.org

The World Day of Prayer has its roots in an ecumenical day of prayer organised by women in Canada and the United States in 1920. This event became the international World Day of Prayer in 1922, and Christians around the world began celebrating this event on the first Friday of March.

The Anglican Journal

All members of the Anglican Church of Canada are entitled to receive a **FREE** copy of this informative magazine each month. If you would like to receive a paper copy please write a note to the church secretary or visit **anglicanjournal.com** The publication is also available on the website.

The church office will be closed
Monday, February 16 for Family Day.

Deadline for the Next Courier is Sunday, April 5.

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

Sunday Flowers

During the season of Lent there are no altar flowers. Memorial flowers will resume on Easter Sunday, April 12.

Easter Flowers

The Altar Guild will be decorating our church for Easter Sunday. If you wish to contribute for the purchase of flowers, please use a special gift envelope and mark it "EASTER FLOWERS" (suggested donation of \$10). If you wish memorial flowers, please include a note with your donation by **Sunday, April 5.**

CALENDAR

*Weekly

FEBRUARY

Monday 16	OFFICE CLOSED – FAMILY DAY 5:00 p.m. – Kuma Marital Arts* 7:00 p.m. – Guides* 8:00 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book Discussion Group*
Tuesday 17	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. – Wardens' Meeting
Wednesday 18	6:30 p.m. – Beavers* 7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist
Thursday 19	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers*
Friday 20	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 8:00 p.m. – Silver Birch Alcoholics Anonymous*
Saturday 21	6:15 p.m. – Movie Night
Sunday 22	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist* 9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers* 10:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer (Scout & Guide Service) 12:00 noon – Confirmation Class* 7:30 p.m. – Venturers*

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Monday 23	9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet
Tuesday 24	4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 7:30 p.m. – Amnesty International
Wednesday 25	8:30 a.m. – Children's Ash Wednesday Programme 7:00 p.m. – Choral Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes
Thursday 26	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. – Norway Group
Friday 27	9:00 a.m. – MumNet

MARCH

Sunday 1	10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist & Installation of Officers 2:00 p.m. – World Day of Prayer Rehearsal
Monday 2	9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 7:30 p.m. – East End Refugee Committee
Tuesday 3	4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 7:30 p.m. – Advisory Board
Wednesday 4	7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist* 6:00 p.m. – Willow Lane Condominium Association 7:30 p.m. – Seton Area Forum 7:45 p.m. – Lenten Study*
Thursday 5	9:00 a.m. – MumNet
Friday 6	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 7:00 p.m. – World Day of Prayer Service
Sunday 8	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS Turn clocks ahead 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist*
Monday 9	COURIER DEADLINE 7:30 p.m. – Scout Group
Thursday 12	1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group 7:30 p.m. – Norway Group
Saturday 14	1:00 p.m. – World Day of Prayer Youth Service

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