
THE COURIER

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THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY

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RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

The chocolate eggs and bunnies have been put away, but it is still Easter. We are in the midst of what is sometimes called "The Great Forty Days" between Easter Day and Ascension Day. We are told that during this time Jesus appeared to his disciples, teaching them and preparing them for the time when he would no longer be physically with them.

We will celebrate Ascension Day with a special evensong deferred, for convenience's sake, to May 24th – the Sunday following. I'm pleased that we will be doing so, not just for the music that will be glorious, but also because the Ascension is an important but little-observed festival. One reason may be that for the modern scientifically-oriented mind the Ascension is not easy to comprehend. We often picture Jesus blasting-off like a space shuttle.

However, that's not what the Bible says. Acts tells us that "as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1.9). Luke says that "he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven." Mark affirms simply that he "was taken up into heaven." Two of the gospels, Matthew and John, are completely silent on the mode of Jesus's departure. All we can safely say is that forty days after the resurrection Jesus was taken from the disciples.

Departure times are often growth times. When we leave home – for work, for university, for marriage – we leave the familiar and comfortable behind and move on to other things. Often these times are painful, but they are also times when we can grow, in knowledge of ourselves, of our world, of others. As we celebrate Jesus's departure from his disciples let us remember that after he went, he sent the Holy Spirit to be with them forever, and let us rejoice that the tiny Christian community grew and spread until we too were incorporated into Christ's continuing Body on earth.

Yours in Christ,

Brian

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WARDENS' REPORT

April has been a busy month at St. John's with Easter celebrations, the Daffodil Tea, and Anglicans Open Their Doors all taking place this month.

In financial news, our budget to the end of March shows that we are ahead of expectations, thanks to increased contributions from parishioners, some successful fundraising events, and increased income from usage of our building. The challenge will be to maintain this momentum during the summer when traditionally we see a drop-off in donations from parishioners and less use of our buildings.

Currently in the works are negotiations with Bell Canada to up-grade existing telecommunication equipment on our bell tower. This will result in an increase to the rent we currently receive from them as well as improvements to the landscaping of the south-eastern corner of the church, including the extension of the existing sprinkler system to accommodate the new plants. Work should start in the next few weeks.

Also this month, we should see the completion of work on our stained-glass windows. All the windows have been finished except for the main east windows around the altar. We have a shortfall of about \$9,000 in the stained-glass account when this work is completed. Names of the donor plaque will be in place for our patronal festival in June.

There were several incidents of vandalism in the cemetery over weekends in April with stones being knocked over and lights and windows being broken, sometimes just after being repaired from damage occurring the previous weekend. Unfortunately none of the damage was covered by our insurance as the cost of repairs for each incident was under our insurance deductible. The group of juvenile boys causing the damage were finally caught by Toronto police just after Easter after they set fire to a memorial wreath.

Finally, we are continuing to look into a small leak in the roof that is resulting in a very small amount of water coming in over the organ console. It seems like the problem may be with water pooling in the bell tower and somehow dripping through, but as the problem does not occur on a regular basis, it is difficult to find the cause.

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Coxon & Jane Roberts
Wardens

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Using Church Facilities for Non-Church Events

The church facilities are available for use for non-church events, such as meetings and parties. If you would like to use the church, please follow these steps.

1. Contact the church office to check availability and fees for required rooms.
2. Obtain and complete the "Request to License Rooms" form. **Return the form with payment of fees** (parishioners are entitled to a 50% discount; if you want special consideration, outline the reasons on the form for approval by the wardens; please note that more lead time is needed in order for the wardens to discuss).

You will receive a receipt from the office stating that payment was received. As you are receiving a service, a receipt for income tax purposes will **NOT** be provided.

3. Non-church events are **NOT** covered under the church's insurance policy. Obtain and complete an application for insurance coverage. Return it with a cheque made out to **the insurance company**.

The insurance company determines fees based upon the number of people at the event and if alcohol is served. The insurance company will provide a Certificate of Insurance, on which will include the amount paid. The church cannot issue receipts for insurance since the church does not receive the money.

Similar events can be covered under the same Certificate of Insurance provided: (a) there are not more children than adults at any one event, **AND** (b) no alcohol is served at any event.

4. If you are serving alcohol, obtain a liquor license from the Liquor License Control Board. Provide a copy of the license to the office at least one day before the event.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Parish Secretary.

Room	Fee Per Hour (before discount) (subject to change)
Nursery	\$20
Kitchen	\$25
East Crypt	\$30
Van-Lane	\$40
Parking Lot	\$100
Worship Area	\$150

FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR

May 20 THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA

On May 25, 325 AD about 300 bishops gathered in Nicaea, now Iznik, in Turkey. Some of them bore scars from the persecution, which they had endured until recently. They came in response to an invitation from the emperor Constantine who favoured Christianity, hoping that it would unite his fragmented empire. He was to be disappointed. No sooner had persecution ended than controversy broke out over the nature of Christ's divinity. An Alexandrian priest, Arius, taught that Jesus was a specially-created divine being – more than human but less than God. His bishop, Alexander, tried to silence him but Arius refused to go quietly and he attracted many followers. News of the controversy reached the ears of the emperor who grew alarmed at this threat to the unity of his empire. He called a council, even placing imperial roads and conveyances at the disposal of bishops who short years before had been liable to arrest by imperial officials. The council opened in great splendour, with the emperor robed in purple, seated on a golden throne. On an altar in front of him lay a book of the four gospels. After an opening speech in which Constantine urged the bishops to seek peace and unity, they got down to business. By June 19 they had agreed on a creed and resolved a number of administrative matters, including the date of Easter. The council closed with a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Constantine's accession to power and a splendid feast was held at which rich gifts were bestowed on the assembled bishops. The Council was significant for the creed that it adopted. With some changes made 50 years later, it is still used today. The vote was not close – there were only two dissenters. Despite myths popularised by books like *The Da Vinci Code*, the council did not declare Jesus to be divine – that belief can be found as early as the writings of St. Paul – nor did it decide which books were to be in the New Testament – this was not even discussed. The contents of the New Testament had been largely decided by 170 AD – well over a century before Constantine was born!

Bible Lore

Here are the answers to our last Bible quiz.

Pastoral Letters, Catholic Letters, & Hebrews

1. Scripture is useful “for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3.16)
2. The troublemaker in 3 John is Diotrephes (3 John 9) and the good guy is Demetrius (3 John 12).
3. Luther didn't think much of the Letter of James because it teaches, “faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” (James 2.17). Luther taught that we are justified by faith alone.
4. The letters of James and Jude are traditionally ascribed to brothers of Jesus.
5. Melchizedek was the priest of Salem, and he is noted in Hebrews for having blessed Abraham (Hebrews 7.1)
6. According to Hebrews faith is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11.1).

Revelation

1. The church in Laodicea is criticized in Revelation 3.15-16 for being only lukewarm.
2. Describe the “four living creatures.”
3. The Lamb (the crucified and risen Christ) is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals (Revelation 5.9)
4. The city of God will need the light of neither sun nor moon because “the God of glory is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb” (Revelation 21.23)

If you look back over the past few months and find that you have correctly answered more than 50% of the questions, congratulations! You have successfully completed a university level “introduction to the Bible” exam.

Monthly Chuckle

One Sunday morning, the rector noticed a little boy staring up at the large plaque that hung on the back wall of the church. It was covered with names and Canadian flags were mounted on either side. The seven year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the priest walked up, stood beside the boy and said quietly, "Good morning, young man." "Good morning," replied the child, his eyes riveted on the plaque. "What is this?" he asked. "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. The little boy's voice was trembling, and barely audible, when he asked, "Which service, the 8.30 or the 10.30?"

Book of Timothy



Pandemic Preparedness

In light of recent warnings about pandemic, Bishop Colin Johnson has sent a letter to clergy reminding them of diocesan plans to deal with such an eventuality. Beginning immediately we will do the following at St. John's: a) all ministers of communion will use hand sanitizer; b) it is appropriate to receive in one kind (i.e. the bread only) if there is any concern about infection from the cup; c) the practice of intinction (i.e. dipping the bread into the wine) is DISCOURAGED as germs can be transmitted; d) if you are concerned about shaking hands during the peace, a smile and/or bow is quite in order. People with cold or flu symptoms are advised to stay home.

For more information see the diocesan website
www.toronto.anglican.ca

Donations to SINGH: Those of you who were able to attend the presentation at St. John's, earlier this year, given by Susan Connor, will be pleased to know that we were able to collect and send five hundred dollars to SINGH (**S**upport in **N**orthern **G**Hana). We expect to receive a report of the projects to which the funds were applied. Many thanks to those who responded to this appeal. We shall continue to send help if any more donations are forthcoming!

Your Contribution Statement for January to April 2009 is included with this edition if it was not already picked up.

The A.C.W. is selling copies of its cookbook originally published in 2003 for \$10. Available during coffee hour or through the office.

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.

**Deadline for the Next Courier is
 Sunday, May 31.**

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

For the Food Cupboard

Donations of canned beans and fruit would be appreciated. Please leave in the yellow basket in the north aisle.

**Sunday, May 21st
The Ascension**

Choral Evensong at 7 pm

Reception to Follow



Help us celebrate this special time when we mark the end of Jesus's earthly ministry.

Ascension

A date to mark in your calendar!

**FIND OUT WHERE
YOUR FOOD COMES FROM:
VISIT A FARM WITH US**

Saturday, June 13th

A day for the whole family!!



☆ Leave St. John's around 9 am

☆ Travel by mini-bus

☆ Lunch at the farm

☆ Back home about 5 pm

Exact cost to be determined (will depend on factors like numbers, ages, cost of lunch, etc) but may be around \$50 each.

We will organise a "children's track" if enough children are signed up.

**2nd Annual Whiskey Challenge
Monday, June 15 at 7:30 p.m.
Details Coming Soon**

Confirmation

Margaret Hannah Farr
Lillian Ione O'Brien Davis
Natasha Karen Sarju

**Reaffirmation
of Baptism Vows**

Kathryn Kern



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St. John the Baptist, Norway
Golf Tournament and Potluck Dinner
at Cedarhurst Golf Club &
Mappledar Cottage, B60 McLennan's Beach,
at Beaverton on Lake Simcoe
Saturday, July 25

First tee-off at 12:30

David will call you with your time

Non-golfers invited to cottage in afternoon
for swimming, games, visiting

Cost: \$50** for 18 holes of golf
cash or cheque payable to David Moll
pay David the day of the tournament
golf carts available, pay Cedarhurst
directly

Bring: golf gear, sun screen, swim suit, towel,
water shoes, lawn chair, if possible, your
potluck contribution*, AND your own cold
beverage

Sign up on the bulletin board outside the church
office as golfing or not, indicating what you will
bring for the meal (*appetizers, cold plate main
course items, desserts). Tea and coffee provided.

** \$10 from golf goes to the church

Baptisms



April 12

Adam Gregory Rieveley
Danielle Elizabeth Anne Rieveley
Cali Joan Snyder



April 6
April 21

IN MEMORIAM

Marion Robertson Gould
Edgar James Renouf

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SATURDAY 10:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
or call us at 416-691-2965

CALENDAR

***Weekly**

MAY

- Monday 11 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
8:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous Big
Book Discussion Group *
- Tuesday 12 11:00 a.m. – Beaches Fitness*
4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet*
5:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers*
6:30 p.m. – Brownies
- Wednesday 13 9:00 a.m. – MumNet
6:30 p.m. – Beavers
7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist*

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- Thursday 14 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 15 9:00 a.m. – MumNet*
8:00 p.m. – Silver Birch Alcoholics
Anonymous*
- Sunday 17 8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist*
9:00 a.m. – Girl Choristers*
10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist
- Monday 18 **VICTORIA DAY – OFFICE CLOSED**
5:00 p.m. – Amnesty International
- Tuesday 19 7:30 p.m. – Wardens' Meeting
- Wednesday 20 9:00 a.m. – MumNet
5:00 p.m. – Scout Banquet
Baptism Preparation
- Thursday 21 9:00 a.m. – MumNet
- Sunday 24 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist
7:00 p.m. – Ascension Evensong
7:30 p.m. – Venturers*
- Monday 25 9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet*
9:30 a.m. – Ecumenical Bible Study*
5:00 p.m. – Kuma Martial Arts*
- Tuesday 26 7:30 p.m. – Amnesty International
- Wednesday 27 9:00 a.m. – MumNet
6:30 p.m. – Beavers
Baptism Preparation
- Thursday 28 9:00 a.m. – MumNet
6:15 p.m. – Seton Area Training
7:30 p.m. – Norway Group
- Sunday 31 10:30 a.m. – Holy Baptism & Choral
Eucharist
- COURIER DEADLINE**

JUNE

- Monday 1 7:30 p.m. – East End Refugee
Committee
- Tuesday 2 7:30 p.m. – Advisory Board
- Thursday 4 7:30 p.m. – Wedding Rehearsal
- Saturday 6 1:30 p.m. – Wedding
- Sunday 7 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist

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