

November 21, 2007

SJWT



Madeleine & Joshua

**Dear Friends,
Make new friends, enjoy the fun and join us this Sunday for worship and the baptism of Madeleine James!**

Worship with us this Sunday, November 25: 8-30 Early Eucharist; 10:30 Holy Eucharist and Baptism of Madeleine James; Sermon, Bob Shantz; Celebrant: Bob Shantz; Musician: Anne Lederman. Sunday School and Nursery during the 10:30 service; refreshments following.

Bring your coffee downstairs for **Sunday School Check-in!**



Catherine & kids during Sunday School

Holly Tea

This **Saturday, November 24, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm**, church will be open for all the people of the neighbourhood as we serve tea, coffee, refreshments and home baked goods. We want to get to know our neighbours and you have a chance to get to know the fabulous people of St. John's. During Holly Tea home baked goods will be available for sale - support the ministry of St. John's by purchasing your Christmas goodies from us! Buy your tickets from Joan Devitt.

Announcements & Events

Upcoming Baptism

Madeleine James, November 25.

Great Upcoming Music

Sundays at 10:30 sharp - November 25: Anne Lederman, Celtic Fiddle; December 2: David Jones, organ and piano; December 9: Barry Short, organ.

Midweek Worship Services

Thursday November 22, 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, with scripture discussion followed by home baked refreshments; Tuesday, November 27, 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, with Anglican Rosary and silent meditation.

Christmas Caroling in Bloor West Village

Join us for an old fashioned carol sing in Bloor West Village, Friday, December 14, 7:30 pm. Speak with Tom Gehrels for more information.

Advent Wreath making

On Sunday December 2, we will make wreathes for home celebration in the parish hall from 9:15 to 10:15am, between the two services. Be sure and sign-up at the action desk so that sufficient materials may be ordered. The cost is \$10 for renewables: greens, candles, ribbons. Please remember to bring your wreath form, centre piece and tray. The costs is \$16 for a new advent wreath form, centre piece and all the other materials. Please bring your money with you on this day if you are participating.

Leadership Team Meetings

Next meeting: Monday November 26, 7:30 p.m. All meetings at the church.

"A Christmas Carol" still needs your help!

This CBC-sponsored event on **Saturday Dec. 1** featuring: Mayor David Miller, Bob Rae, Arlene Perly Rae, TVO Host Steve Paikin, Soupepper Artistic Director Albert Schultz, Archbishop Terence Finlay, Actress Anita La Selva and Soprano Mary Lou Fallis. Tickets are \$25 or \$15 and are available from Sheila Crummey, Sally Ritchie or Lynda Ward.



Help is needed with: putting posters up, setting up on the day of, cleaning up after the event, providing poinsettias (it's easy!); and donating special items for the silent auction. We also need boxes for the food donations; please bring them to church this Sunday.

Please call Sally at 416-767-9533 if you can help or sign up at the action desk.



Left to right: Tanya, Jacqueline, Harold & Marina and Tyler in the background



Having fun during the service!

Thanks:

Photographs: Thanks to Frans Altena for his pictures from worship at St. John's last Sunday.



126 Years of Music (at least)

Today we mark the 126th anniversary of the opening of the first St. John's church. This isn't the anniversary of its founding - while doing research at the time of our Centennial, it was discovered that there was a Vestry in 1879 (which probably meant that there was a congregation in 1878!). So, because we had always celebrated the church's anniversary on the third Sunday in November, it was decided that what we would celebrate would be the opening of the first church in 1881.

Singing was a part of people's lives in 1881. It was not reserved to professionals, or special choirs or groups, but was part of people's social lives: families spent time together singing, couples courted at singing 'schools', and so on. Accompaniment, when there was any, would have been simple: a piano or button-accordion, perhaps a fiddle, maybe a pump-organ in a wealthier home. These instruments would also have been common in church. St. John's was never a 'pioneer' church, but I doubt that the first church would have had an organ when it opened.

In selecting the music for today, I wanted to get some sense of hymns that our founders would have known and sung. I found it interesting that many of the hymns that we now consider 'golden oldies' would not have been known by our founders, or they would have been their day's newest thing. The writer of the tune for 'O Jesus, I have promised', for instance, was born in 1874; the writer of the alternate tune would have been 22 in 1881. The composer of 'God who gives to life its goodness' was born in 1936, and the composer of the music in 1907. The composer of the music to 'Guide me, O thou great Jehovah' was born in 1873.

The history of the final hymn, 'We would be building' is a little different. There was until 25 or so years ago a social group at St. John's: the Married Couples' Club (in its final years called the Circle of Friends). After dinner and a programme, the group closed its meetings with this hymn, which was very possibly written by one of the members of the group - I have been told that the words were definitely written by a panshoner. Gary has dubbed it 'the Parish Hymn'.

Let us give thanks, today, for all the people who have worshipped here, and who have sung here.

May Webster

For meditation and reflection in the coming week, consider the scriptures for next Sunday, November 25, 2007: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ps. 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

P.S. I hope you find it helpful to get an update like this from St. John's Church, West Toronto. If you would like something listed in the announcements, or if you know someone who would appreciate receiving this, please contact me. If you would prefer not to receive news from St. John's in this way, please also let me know.

Best wishes, Gary+

Check our website. www.sjwt.ca
And remember this!

We are not a Building!

We are an accessible, accepting, diverse community. We are young and old, able-bodied, and disabled, employed and unemployed. We are married, single, divorced, straight and gay. We are from all over the world, yet we could live next door. You will find open minds and open hearts at St. John's.

The mission of St. John's Church is to build a community of caring believers committed to Christ, to work for justice and service to all in need. We gather to praise God, and to give and receive support to meet the challenge of our daily ministries. We call on all who will to come and join us.



Welcome to Church!