

October 2,
2008

SJWTS



Dear Friends,

The news here is a door into a full experience of community gathered together by God's love. You are welcome.

Worship with us this Sunday, October 5

8:30 Early Eucharist; 10:30 **Thanksgiving for the Life of Herald Buckle**; Celebrant and Sermon: The Rev. Gary van der Meer; Musician: **Ken Whiteley**, Blues on guitar. Refreshments: **Sundae Sunday!** Support the Sunday School Retreat at Camp Wanakita; Bring your friends for the Sundaes! 2:00 to 4:00 **Pet Blessing**: Drop-in with Pet Owner Vows; Animal and Human refreshments served.

Fall Colours Hike

This Saturday, October 4, come out for our fall colour hike and earth blessing! We will leave from church at 9AM sharp and go to the Hockley Valley for a 3-4 hour hike. Afterwards there may be time to go to a pub, or to pick some of Ontario's crops at a nearby farm, depending on group interest. Bring water, some warm clothing and a picnic lunch!

Contact Tom Gehrels, 416-656-9111.

Yard Sale Results

I grew up with the saying, **“Lord, I’ll do the work if you do the worrying.”** Before last Saturday’s yard sale, there was a lot to worry about: Would people donate? Would there be enough volunteers? Would people buy? Would we have the church cleaned up and ready for Sunday morning? And by 4:00 Saturday, the church was vacuumed and all unsold goods had found a home. **Thanks be to God – our sale was a great success from beginning to end.** And thanks to the people of St. John’s who did all the work. It is amazing what people will buy! Our yard sale cleared \$2800 for the ministries of St. John’s Church. ***Sue Ferguson***

Announcements & Events

Prayer Circle Meeting

The Prayer Circle will meet to update the intercessory prayer list and the process for **crisis telephone prayer**. Monday, October 6 – 7:30 PM at the home of Sheila Crummev.

Youth Group

Pizza and Movie Night – Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade: What are all those references to Jesus and the Chalice? **Sunday, October 19, 5:30 PM**. \$5 each to cover pizza costs. Contact Brad Christakos: 416- 767-9437. And save the next date: Sunday, November 9, after the 10:30 service: Remembrance with Special Guests.

Book Study

Our next book, chosen by this month's participants, is **Anita Diamant's *The Red Tent***. This novel retells the Genesis account of Jacob, his wives and children, from the point of view of the women in the story. Read along and join us for a Middle Eastern supper (to go with the location of the book). **Wednesday October 22. 6 PM Summer; 7 PM Discussion.**

Breakfast for the homeless

Thanks to our St. John's participants in the Breakfast for the Homeless this past Sunday. **We are the "Church on Duty" for the 4th Sunday of each month** at St. Stephen's Church, College Street. Sign up at the Action Desk or ask Sally Ritchie for further information. Our St. John's dates: **October 26**, November 23, December 28 .

Outreach Presentation - Lifewater Canada

We welcome an opportunity to learn about Lifewater Canada, a Christian charity which is dedicated to providing clean drinking water and sanitation solutions to people in Liberia, Nigeria, Kenya and other countries around the world. Alex Campbell will present the work of Lifewater Canada during the 10:30 service. **Sunday, October 26, 10:30 AM.**

Pre-Authorized Giving

There is **something meaningful in the physical act of placing an offering** in the offertory basket each week. We now have plastic cards available to place in the basket for those who choose to contribute financially through automatic bank withdrawal. The cards are available on the offertory table on the left near the entrance to the church.

Great Upcoming Music!

October 5: Ken Whiteley, guitar; October 12: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion; October 19 & 26: Anne Lederman and Tom Leighton, fiddle and piano.

Midweek Worship

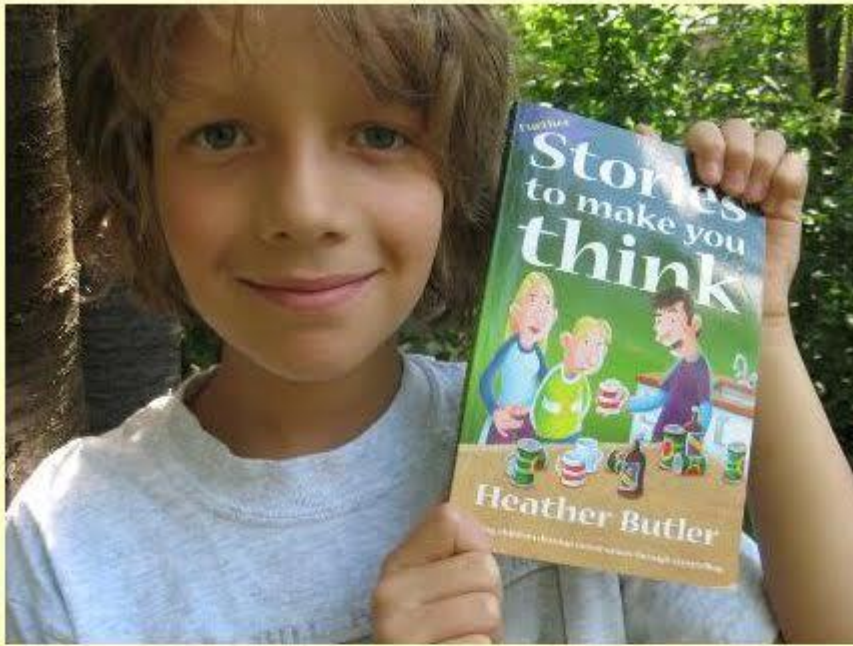
Tuesday, Oct 7 - 7 AM: Morning Prayer – Feast of St. Francis of Assisi: Galatians 6:14-18; Matthew 11:25-30; **Thursday Oct 9 - 10:30 AM**: Morning Prayer: Exodus 20:1-20 (The Ten Commandments). **Visiting over Tea & Baking follows each service.**

Congregational Meeting



The Wardens express thanks to all who attended the Congregational Meeting held last Sunday. We are grateful for your ideas, and we will be providing details about the **Futures Committee** that is being organized to report to our Annual Vestry Meeting in February 2009. The Wardens will report on the meeting this Sunday, and also provide a written report.

Learning and Growing in Faith



Daniel Christakos

Daniel is reading *Stories to make you think*. Daniel chose this book because "I like to read fictional stories about values because it is a good way to learn how to interact with people." Daniel will try to find Bible stories about the same values. Daniel is not preparing for Confirmation at this point in his life. Other people around him are reading to learn about God and grow in faith, and Daniel wants to be included! Remember Daniel as he reads!

Our own **Christianity 101**: Christianity 101 is an orientation to the way we practice Christian faith at St. John's. Christianity 101 is intended as part of the preparation for Confirmation, Reaffirmation, Baptism, Marriage. Christianity 101 is also a refresher for all of us about how our St. John's activities, ministries and priorities fit with our faith. **Each Evening: 6:30 Soup; 7:30 Program; Concludes 8:45 PM**

1. Why Jesus?

Tuesday October 21; Presenter: Frans Altena

2. Being Anglican and being Christian among World Religions

Tuesday October 28; Presenter: Dionne Watson

3. The Eucharist and the Worship of the Church.

Tuesday November 4 – Presenter: Gary van der Meer

4. Prayer

Tuesday October 11 – Presenters: Sheila Crummey, Bob Shantz

5. How we live the faith at St. John's

Tuesday November 18 – Presenter: Marilyn Kluyskens

What would you like to learn about as you grow in faith?

Pet Blessing



St. Francis of Assisi was born into a wealthy cloth merchant family in the late 12th century. Around age 20, he had a chance encounter with a leper which left him appalled at his own uselessness. He renounced his family wealth to serve the poor as a way of serving Christ. A movement of people gathered around him and he trained them in presenting Jesus' love to the ordinary people in Italy. The tradition of blessing animals draws inspiration from stories of how Francis, expressing his love for Christ, preached to the *Birds* and befriended a *Wolf*. Our Pet Blessing will call us to our responsibilities of care for the animals in our care through promises made by Pet Owners:

As God cares for us, so we are to care for God's creatures. Let us commit ourselves, in the presence of God, to the care of our pets.

Will you care for your animal companion as God's own creature?

I will, with God's grace.

Will you be mindful of its Christ-like vulnerability?

I will, with God's grace.

Will you love and protect your animal companions as long as they live?

I will, with God's grace.

Will you be faithful and kind, in good times and in bad?

I will, with God's grace.

May God, to whom all life is precious, grant us grace to fulfill our promises and to show mercy to all creatures as he has shown mercy to us. **Amen.**

Our love and responsibility for animals is an entry into the many ways God will call us to love and serve throughout our lives. **Sunday, October 5, 2-4 PM ***

Drop In * Animal and Human Refreshments. Vows: With thanks to St.

Cuthbert's Church in Oakville.

Gary van der Meer

For meditation and reflection, consider the scriptures for next Sunday, October 5, 2008: Exodus 20:1-20; Psalm 19; Philipians 3:4-14; Matthew 21:33-46.

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.

