

January 2, 2008

SJWT



Dear Friends,

**Happy new year! Join us this Sunday for the Celebration of the Epiphany and welcome Gary back from his sabbatical!**

**Worship with us this Sunday, January 6:** 8:30 Early Eucharist; 10:30 Holy Eucharist. Sermon: Bob Shantz; Celebrant: Gary van der Meer; Musician: Jaroslav Czerwinec. Sunday School and Nursery during the 10:30 service; refreshments following.

**Welcome home Gary!!**



**Epiphany Potluck Lunch**

**Sunday, January 6, following the 10:30 a.m. service.** We will end our Christmas celebrations and welcome Gary back from his sabbatical during this potluck lunch. If you would like to bring something... please bring **mains** or **salads**.

**Announcements & Events**

**Great Upcoming Music**

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. sharp - January 6: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion; January 13: Barry Short, organ; January 20: Dorothy De Val and Susanna McLeary, organ and violin.

**Midweek Worship Services**

Thursday January 3, 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, with scripture discussion followed by home baked refreshments; Tuesday, January 8, 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, with Anglican Rosary and silent meditation.

**Leadership Team Meetings**

Next meeting: Monday January 7, 7:30—9.30 p.m. All meetings at the church.

**Planning Day**

Saturday, January 12, from 9.00 a.m. to noon. Come and be a part of planning for the year 2008. Coffee and muffins provided followed by an outing to the pub.

**Screening Workshop**

Thursday, January 24, from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. For those who do any kind of volunteer activity in the church especially if helping with the children, the diocese requires that everyone attend a screening workshop. Workshop includes a video presentation along with discussion and it's FREE!

**Sixth Annual Robbie Burns Supper**

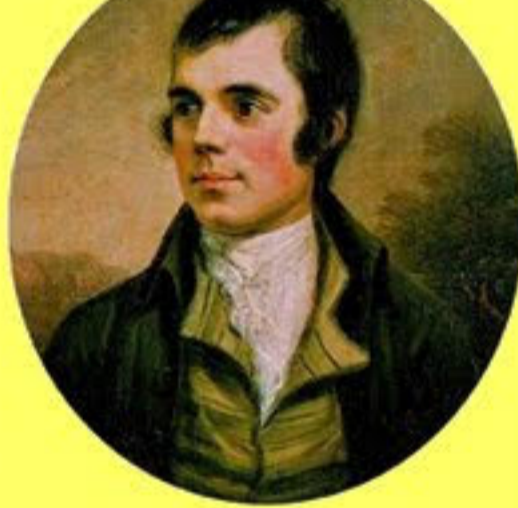
St John's hosts our 6th annual Burns Night Supper on January 26, 2008 in honour of 18th-century Scottish poet Robert Burns, a rowdy, boisterous man of the people who composed beautiful poetry and songs.

Our traditional Burns supper includes haggis enhanced with a dram of whisky, cock-a-leekie soup, roast beef, neeps (turnips), tatties (potatoes) and a whisky-laden dessert and non alcoholic desserts as well. This evening steeped in ritual, includes a tribute to the immortal memory of Burns, poetry, singing and lots of fun.

The evening starts with reception at 6:15PM, followed by the Marching in of the Haggis at 7PM.

This year the Burns Supper will be held at Grenadier Seniors' Residence, 2100 Bloor Street West at Clendenan Avenue. Indoor parking is available underneath the residence (entrance off Clendenan) at \$2.75 for the evening.

**Tickets are \$30 each. For more information and tickets call Bill Dunford or Evelyn Butler 416 604-8692. We welcome donations for raffle prizes.**



Jacqueline & Tanya Allison

**Thanks:**

Thanks to Evelyn Butler for providing most of the meditations over the last few months. Thanks to Frans Altena for his pictures from last Sunday.

**Guardians of the Faith**

To my surprise one Christmas day some years ago, I observed a woman throwing out her Christmas tree. She commented to me as I passed "well Christmas is over for another year." For me, Christmas had just begun. Her actions demonstrated what Christmas is for so many individuals; a secular occasion driven by commercial interests. The "Christ" part is absent or at best remembered only on December 25. The occasion of Christ's birth is too big an event to limit celebrations to only one day. The gift of God's presence among us, Emmanuel "God with us" deserves a lengthy celebration. In the Church we have given twelve days, December 25 to January 6, to celebrate Jesus' birth.

In the middle of the twelve days of Christmas celebration, two other significant events occur. Today we heard the story of Joseph's and Mary's flight into Egypt to save the Christ Child and this week we will move into a New Year. At a time when Christmas is a distant memory for some, we are reminded that from the beginning Jesus presence was threatening to those in authority and He had to be protected. Joseph was called by God to keep him from harm and to be Jesus' guardian. As Christians, we believe that Christ is here today and always present in us. We know, as well, that we have many competing interests to keep us from experiencing God's presence. How do we, as individuals and as community, acknowledge God' presence in our lives? How does God call us to be guardians of the faith?

The New Year, in the midst of our Christmas celebration, is a time to reflect on the past year and to consider how we will be guardians and protect the message that the Christ Child brought and continues to bring to the world.

**God, You have given us life and we welcome your coming, now and always. Be with us God to illumine and guide us. Amen.**

*Evelyn C. Butler*

*For meditation and reflection in the coming week, consider the scriptures for next Sunday, January 6, 2008: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm - 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12.*

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](http://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.

