

May 7, 2008

SJWT  
LMCS



Dear Friends,

**Is it musical theatre or liturgical drama? Be part of the inspiration as we celebrate the coming of God's Spirit to be with us!**

**Worship with us this Sunday, May 11: Pentecost**

8:30 Early Eucharist; 10:30 Eucharist; Sermon: Gary van der Meer; Celebrant: Gary van der Meer; Musician: Glory Glory Hallelujah, worship band; Refreshments following.

**Announcements & Events**

**Pentecost Drama Rehearsals**

We look forward to a liturgical drama for the celebration of **Pentecost, Sunday, May 11, 10:30**. We ask all participants to be part of our final rehearsal, this Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

**Great Upcoming Music!**

May 11: Glory Glory Hallelujah, worship band; May 18: Dorothy de Val, organ, and Susanna McCleary, violin and vocal soloist; May 25: Barry Short, organ and piano.

**Birthday Gift for Herald Buckle**

In honour of Herald Buckle's 90th birthday, be part of a gift to the church in Herald's honour: a bench in the back yard for meditation in the Garden Chapel. Place your contribution in an envelope marked "Herald's 90th". It is a blessing for all of us to share this day with Herald!

**Leadership Team Meeting**

The next Leadership Team meeting will be **Monday, May 12, 7:30 p.m.**

**Worship with us during the week**

**Thursday May 8, 10:30 a.m.** Morning Prayer, with scripture discussion followed by home baked refreshments; and visiting. **Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 a.m.** Morning Prayer, with Anglican Rosary and silent meditation;

**Gardening Day!**

Help us prepare the front garden and the backyard Garden Chapel for spring, **Saturday, May 10, 9am to noon**. Plan to spend the morning!

**Invitation to a House Blessing**

David Tindall and Jennifer Smerek invite the St. John's Community: "We've been in our home for a year, and we would like our house blessed in time for the arrival of our second child. We'll supply the meat for a barbeque and ask you to bring a side dish (also BYOB)." A house blessing includes a blessing prayer in each room, communion, and a Party! **Saturday, May 10, 3:00 p.m.** ...after gardening!

**Please RSVP: bjennifer@gmail.com**

**St. John's Spiritual Retreat at St. John's Convent**

The theme for our spiritual retreat is "Sacred Spaces" - Sacred Spaces within ourselves, in our homes, in our church, and around the world." Our retreat leader will be Sister Louise, SSJD. **Friday, June 13 to Saturday, June 14**. \$110, includes your own room and all meals. Questions and sign up: Lynelle Gehrels, 416-656-9111 and Joan Devitt, 416-766-3062

**Sunday School Camp-Out: Advance Notice**

The Sunday School Camp-Out will take place in the Church backyard, Friday, **June 20 after school to Saturday June 21**. Tents, Barbeque, marshmallows... Mark your calendars!

**A welcoming Narthex: Thanks!**

You will notice that the entrance to the church, the "Narthex" has been improved: **Nursery area, semi-private change table, sofa and chairs** (great area for the book study!), and just this week, **the Sound System!** Now if you need a moment on your own or with your child, you can be comfortable and hear the service. Thanks to all who helped us make this happen.

**New Altar Frontals**

The Decorative Arts Committee has been exploring the possibility of commissioning new altar frontals to:

- beautify our sacred space with high quality artwork;
- complement our colourful surroundings and stained glass windows;
- attract newcomers; and
- energize all of us who worship here at St. John's

Read more in the attachment about what will be done and how you can contribute.

**Book Study**

Readers of Eat, Pray, Love invite you to join them in reading a second book, "**The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions,**" by



Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright, (Harper, San Francisco, 1999).

Bishop Tom Wright of the Diocese of Durham, England presents a traditional view of Jesus, and Marcus Borg presents a radical progressive view, in dialogue with each other. Order it at your library, bookstore, or online. Potluck Supper and Discussion: **Wednesday, June 11, 6:00 p.m.**

**Training Wheels**

Here is a story from my childhood: I didn't learn to ride a bike until I was nine years old. In the first place, I didn't own a bike. My older sister had a bike, a CCM, but she hadn't used it since we moved to Saskatchewan from Ontario, because it had a flat tire; which my father somehow had never gotten around to fixing. My friends rode bikes, and I was envious. For a while I persuaded myself that it wasn't envy, that I didn't want one anyway, because they were stupid. At some point I changed my mind and decided I really wanted to learn. I wouldn't have dreamed of asking my father to buy me one of my own, as experience had taught me that he would have done so, and then proceeded to make me feel extremely guilty. (I was such a spoiled child.) Instead, I managed to persuade him to fix Cathy's so that he could teach me to ride that one. Never mind that it was a girl's bike.



Unfortunately my father's approach to teaching he inherited from his father. Here's how he was taught to swim, for instance: My grandfather picked him up and threw him into the river. It was good that we were living in Saskatchewan, with no nearby bodies of water to test this out on me. However, he used a similar method to teach me to ride Cathy's bike. He had me sit on the bike and begin peddling, while he held the back of the seat. Then, when it seemed I was balancing, he would give a good shove and let go. And I would fall over. After a few attempts at this, both of us lost patience and decided it wasn't working. Training wheels, I thought, would be a good idea; but alas there were none. Then I thought of enlisting my best friend Greg to help me learn. He would serve as human training wheels. I had him straddle the back of the bike while I was peddling, keeping it balanced with his feet. We did this over a period of several days, and then there was the moment when I realized he wasn't there anymore. He'd slipped off at some point and I was riding on my own. I remember the exhilaration I felt. Free at last!

One day, the disciples looked around, and Jesus wasn't there anymore. Luke provides us with a highly dramatic exit scene, but the upshot is that we should not expect Jesus to be physically present among us anymore, not for a long time anyway. Why not? He may be busy preparing a place for us, but surely he could have spared a few days now and then over the past two thousand years to visit the churches founded in his name. What a boost to faith that might have been.

But what Jesus did in his earthly life was demonstrate how it was possible for us to grow up, to grow into our true selves and into God. His continued physical presence might well have been a hindrance to that. Were Jesus to make occasional visits to us (like the Queen), our faith might degenerate into a kind of celebrity worship. It would become earthbound. Leave visions of Jesus to mystics and saints. The purpose of the Church is to become the Body of Christ, not to admire it.

And after all, Jesus did not leave his followers bereft - he sent to them the Spirit - which we're told was immensely exhilarating.

**Lord Jesus, give us grace and balance throughout our lives. Amen.**

*Brian MacIntyre*

*For meditation and reflection, consider the scriptures for next Sunday, May 11, 2008: Acts 2:1-12, John 20:19-23.*

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.

