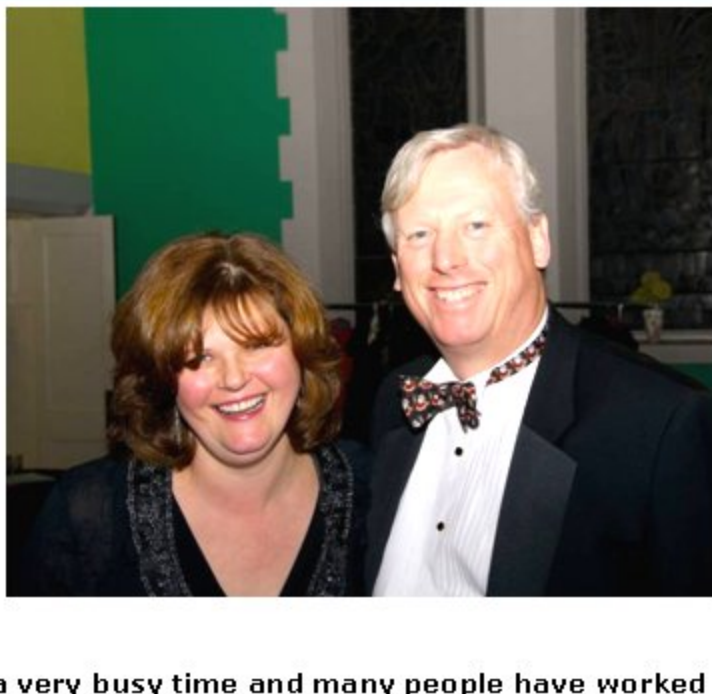


December 5, 2007

SJWT



Dear Friends,

We've been through a very busy time and many people have worked very hard to provide programs for the community and congregation that have been very well received and very much appreciated.

The Holly Tea and the Christmas Carol were a gift to the larger parish community. The community in which St. John's lives has received a thoughtful and gracious ministry from us for which they are grateful. And the "Guess who's coming to Dinner" was a way for us to provide important ministry to each other.

**Worship with us this Sunday, December 9, Advent 2:** 8:30 Early Eucharist; 10:30 Holy Eucharist; Sermon: Bob Shantz; Celebrant: Bob Shantz; Musician: Barry Short. Sunday School and Nursery during the 10:30 service; refreshments following. Singing Group rehearsal after the 10:30 service for the Pageant. (see further below)



### Announcements & Events

#### Great Upcoming Music

Sundays at 10:30 sharp - December 9: Barry Short, organ; December 16: Dorothy DeVal and Susanna McLeary; December 23: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion.

#### Midweek Worship Services

Thursday December 4, 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, with scripture discussion followed by home baked refreshments; Tuesday, December 12, 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, with Anglican Rosary and silent meditation.

#### Leadership Team Meetings

Next meeting: Monday December 10, 7:30 p.m. All meetings at the church.

#### Singing Group

Rehearsals will take place every Sunday after the 10.30 service for approximately 45 minutes. If you would like to participate or have any questions, please contact Barry Short at 416-762-1887. This singing group is rehearsing for the Pageant at December 23.

### Christmas Carolling in Bloor West Village

Several of you requested to bring back Carolling in the Village, an event in which about 20 people participated last year.

The Bloor West Village Business Improvement Association has been kind enough to sponsor this event for us with a donation to our church.

So please come out in droves and bring your best singing voice! Please dress up in festive Christmas clothing - colourful in the spirit of the season, Christmas hats, Reindeer horns, Angel wings, anything colourful and Christmas-like will do.

We will meet at **7PM on Friday December 14th** at the library on Bloor West and we will continue until we're tired. No doubt some of us will go to a pub afterwards to warm up!

**Please let us know if you plan to attend by calling Tom Gehrels at (416)656-9111 or by e-mail at mariengehrels@yahoo.com**



*All proceeds of the Christmas Carol went to The Stop Community Food Centre*



*Jim Crummey out in the cold... opening the doors for everybody at the Christmas Carol*



*What a beautiful view of the lovely evening setting and what a cast!!!*

#### Thanks:

Photographs: Thanks to Tom Gehrels for his pictures from worship at St. John's last Sunday and thanks to Frans Altena for his photos from the Christmas Carol. And many thanks to Sally Ritchie, the people from The Stop and everybody else who helped out organizing the Christmas Carol!

### The Spirit Yearns to be Born?



Once upon a time, you, dear reader, and I were nothing more than a "twinkle" in our parents' eyes. In that twinkle we lived as a possibility, an idea. We were in the world of spirit, not the material world we live in now. It seems to be the case that God has designed the world so that when desire and love come together, as happened between our parents, there is movement from the spiritual to the material. The intangible potential of who you and I were has become the bodies that we are. The Gospel of John describes it this way: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

We long to express the spiritual that broods in us and around us. We strive to give concrete expressions of our love and desire - just as our parents did. Thus, we bring a gift of flowers or wine to the one who is hosting a dinner as a token of our gratitude. At Christmas we give presents to each other as sign of our love and we understand that the gifts given to us are expressions of love returned.

We know that love, hope, joy and peace are what make our world go round in a meaningful way. We long for these enticing, mysterious powers to become manifest in our lives as confirmation that life is larger than we can imagine; that there is something to hope for beyond our imagining. As we pray each Sunday, "Glory to God whose power, working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine."

The brooding force of the Spirit in us and around us yearns to become tangible, yearns to be seen, touched, heard, tasted to remind us that there is more reason for hope and joy "than we can ask or imagine." This Advent let us wait and hope with confidence for the Spirit to be born again among us.

Bob Shantz

*For meditation and reflection in the coming week, consider the scriptures for next Sunday, December 9, 2007: Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12.*

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.

