

September 25,
2008

SJWTS



Dear Friends,

This is an important week for us at St. John's: Come and be part of it!

Worship with us this Sunday, September 28: 8:30 Early Eucharist 10:30 Celebrant and Sermon: The Rev. Gary van der Meer; Musician: **Glory, Glory, Hallelujah**, Worship Band.

Congregational Meeting



Sunday, September 28, we will hold a congregational meeting after the 10:30 service to discuss our plans for ministry at St. John's, in light of financial and building challenges as outlined in a letter sent to all parishioners at the end of August. The wardens have met with Bishop Poole and provide an update on costs and possibilities at this meeting. We ask everyone in our community to pray as we prepare for this conversation:

Prayer for the Ministry of St. John's Church, September 2008:

Loving God, we give you thanks for the gift of life, and for this journey of ministry we share as St. John's Church, West Toronto.

As you call us to serve you in our neighbourhood and in our world, we ask your blessing in all that we do.

We especially ask for guidance and strength in the coming months as we meet, plan and make decisions about the future of our parish community. Help us to hear each other in our concerns and to support each other in our hopes, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Yard Sale!

We need your stuff, and we need your help! Saturday, September 27 is the day of the yard sale, 08.00 am start. Try to bring your large items on the Saturday! We also need more

volunteers! For more information, contact
Sue Ferguson, 416-769-5267.

Announcements & Events

Breakfast for the homeless

We have been invited to be the Church on Duty for the 4th Sunday of each month at St. Stephen's Church, College Street. Each **Sunday we need 4-8 people: An early shift starting at 6:00 AM and a later shift starting at 7:00 AM, both concluding at 9:00 AM.** Tasks: Giving out food, putting out, clearing up and washing dishes, and interacting with the people who come for breakfast. Our St. John's dates: **September 28**, October 26, November 23, December 28 .

Great Upcoming Music!

September 28: Glory Glory Hallelujah, Praise Band; October 5: Ken Whiteley, guitar; October 12: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion; October 19: Anne Lederman and Tom Leighton, fiddle and piano.

Sundae Sunday

Sunday October 5, following the 10:30 service, St. John's Church School will be hosting their first fundraising event towards the Sunday School Retreat at Camp Wanakita. **For only a Toonie each!** You may even want to try more than one! Come and be a kid again for a Fantastic, Fun-filled Day! And most importantly, BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!!

Pet Blessing

Bring your pets for our annual Pet Blessing. Blessings take place on a drop in basis – crackers provided for animals and humans. **Sunday, October 5, 2-4 PM**

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.

Next Hike

Join us for fall colours on **Saturday, October 5, 9 AM.** Last week's Rouge River hike was rained out, but the Farmers' Almanac promises great weather on the 4th!

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.**

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.**

Learning and Growing in Faith



Matthew Christakos

Matthew is reading **The Manga Bible. From Genesis to Revelation**. Matthew chose it because he likes comics, and because it is the Bible. Matthew intends to compare the stories to ones in the Bible we have in church. Matthew 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 Matthew wants to be included! Remember Matthew as he reads!

Confirmation Preparation/Baptism Preparation/Marriage Preparation: **We are in the process of developing our own Christianity 101**. It will be a 5-session program made up of slides, video clips, reading and discussion. The topics:

1. Why Jesus?
2. The Anglican Church, Christianity and World Religions.
3. The Eucharist and the Worship of the Church.
4. Prayer.
5. How are we to live – how is God calling us?

These sessions will be offered beginning after Thanksgiving. Everyone is welcome to attend. These sessions are ideal if you are new to church, newly back to church, or if you want an orientation to how we approach the faith at St. John's.

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

Walk for Witness: The Millennium Development Goals

While our Anglican Bishops were meeting this summer for the Lambeth Conference, Bishops and religious leaders from other faith traditions came together on July 24 for the Walk for Witness in support of the Millennium Development Goals. These goals are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration that was adopted by 189 nations-and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000. The eight goals are:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education; Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women; Goal 4: Reduce child mortality; Goal 5: Improve maternal health; Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability; Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development.

After the March, Prime Minister Gordon Brown addressed the gathered bishops: "...Let me thank all men and women, bishops, families, from the hundred and thirty countries who are represented here today. Let me tell you there are millions of people whom you may never meet, who owe you a debt of gratitude for the work that you do in upholding the cause of the poor. ... This has been one of the greatest public demonstrations of faith that this great city has ever seen. And you've sent a simple and a very clear message – with rising force, that poverty can be eradicated, poverty must be eradicated, and if we can all work together for change, poverty will be eradicated. ..." Prime Minister Brown summarized many social changes brought about by activism from the churches, recalling slavery, wars and apartheid. "I believe you have marched because whenever you see suffering you want to heal it, whenever you see injustice you want to rectify it, whenever you see poverty, you want to bring it to an end. And has that not been the message of the Churches and faith groups throughout the ages?"

Gordon Brown brought us this sobering assessment: "The Millennium Development Goals that the Archbishop has just mentioned said that by 2015 we would cut infant mortality by 2/3, and maternal mortality by ¾. But on present rates of progress, let us be honest – we will not achieve that change in life, not in 2015, not even in 2020, or 2030. We would not under present rates of progress achieve it until 2050, and lives are being unnecessarily lost as a result of our failure to act." Goal after goal, Brown summarized the lack of progress. Then he called for action: "And I ask you finally to have confidence. Have confidence that all people around the world of good will, people of faith, conviction and religious belief, will ensure in the words of Amos that justice will flow like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream, and there is nothing that we cannot do for justice if what we do for justice is doing it in unison and together. Let's work together for the transformation we know together we can achieve."
Gary van der Meer

**The call to justice and outreach comes from God in many voices.
Amen.**

For meditation and reflection, consider the scriptures for next Sunday, September 28, 2008: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-4, 12-17; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 21:23-32.



Tanya does the Sunday School Craft

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.

