

June 11, 2008

SJWT



Dear Friends,

Friendship with God flows so naturally into friendship with each other. Come be among friends this Sunday!

**Worship with us this Sunday, June 15: 5th of Pentecost and Anointing:**

8:30 Early Eucharist 10:30 Eucharist Sermon and Celebrant: Gary van der Meer; Musicians: Glory, Glory, Hallelujah. Refreshments following.

**Upcoming Baptisms:**

Plan to be with us as we celebrate the **Baptism of Robert Heal and Zachary Cardwell, this Sunday June 15 at 10:30.** We remember Robert, Zachary, their families, godparents and baptismal sponsors in our prayers.

**Announcements & Events**

**Great Upcoming Music!**

June 15: Glory Glory Hallelujah, praise band; June 22: Ken Whiteley, guitar; June 29: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion.



**Final payments due for St. John's Spiritual Retreat at St. John's Convent**

Please make the final payment of \$80 (for a total of \$110) by cheque payable to St. John's Church, West Toronto. Questions and sign up: Lynelle Gehrels, 416-656-9111 and Joan Devitt, 416-766-3062.

**Worship with us during the week**

**Thursday June 12, 10:30 a.m.** Morning Prayer, with scripture discussion followed by home baked refreshments; and visiting. **Tuesday, June 17, 7:00 a.m.** Morning Prayer, with Anglican Rosary and silent meditation;

**Summer Tuesday Evening Worship**

Every Tuesday 7:30 p.m. in the Garden Chapel **from July 7 to August 28.** Our theme this year is *'Who do you say that I am?'* a reflection by different people on who Jesus is to them. *How I describe my Faith....* Musician: Jaroslav Czerwinec, Accordion.

**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!

**Advanced Notice**

We will hold a One-Day Yard Sale on **Saturday, September 27.** Put the date in your calendar. Set your items aside in a box – Start now! Bring the box to the church in August and early September for storage on the balcony. For more information, contact Sue Ferguson, 416-769-5267.

**Leadership Team Meeting**

**Monday, June 16, 7:30 pm** at the church.

**Altar Frontals**

We invite your input in designing the new altar frontals, **next Sunday, after the 10:30 service.** Give some thought to symbols that illustrate and evoke our St. John's values and the seasons of our faith. We are halfway to the fundraising target of \$1000 to commission the designs by artist Willem Hart, and invite your continued support.

**Church Picnic**

**Sunday, June 22,** we will have our annual potluck lunch and backyard Eucharist. See sign up sheet at action desk.



*St. John's hikers on the Bruce Trail last Saturday:*

*Gary, Anthony, Brad, Lynelle and Tom*

*Thanks to Tom Gehrels for organizing!*



**My Sister Marijke's Story**



A little while ago I received a letter from my sister. Enclosed with it was an article which opened with a page-sized photo of her riding a bright red bike. Her long blond hair flows in the wind, a smile splits her face from ear to ear and she raises a fist triumphantly in the sky. It is not how I remembered my sister.

I remembered her sitting in a wheelchair, tired and grey-looking, worn and old before her age. Fifteen years ago she was diagnosed with ME, a disease also known as chronic fatigue syndrome. What should have been a bright future turned into a nightmare of weakness and exhaustion. She had to drop social contacts as conversations took too much energy from her. There were days when she was too tired to scratch her nose and often she was in bed for months on end. Unable to move arms or legs she became dependent on a motorized wheelchair.

Halfway this period she made a decision. She had been reading books by Corrie ten Boom, and was struck by how Corrie had accepted Jesus as her master. This became an inspiration to my sister and it led her to pray for her healing and to send someone her way that could heal her.

Then about a year and a half ago, as my sister was on her way back from town in her wheelchair, a man walked up to her and asked her if she knew that God could heal her. My sister answered she knew and she asked the young man to pray with her. This they did, after which the man walked off saying "Jesus just healed you". Somewhat baffled, my sister continued on her way home. She felt how energy started to course through her body. I like to believe it was the Holy Spirit who descended on her. When she arrived home she got out of her wheelchair and started walking.

My sister has been leading a normal life ever since and it is her unrelenting faith in God that lead her to where she is.

I am reminded of this unrelenting faith when I read passages in the bible. There is the story of the paraplegic who is told by Jesus to get up and pick up his bedroll and go home. He does so without a moment's hesitation. (John 5: 8-9) Or there is Abraham who does as God directs him, leaves his home and family behind, all because he simply believed. (Genesis 12: 1-9 and retold in Romans 4: 13-25) And there are the stories throughout the Gospel of the disciples unquestioningly following Jesus when they are asked to (e.g. Matthew 9:9).

My sister's story is an inspiration to me. It helps me to look to these stories in a fresh way. In today's world we are so much trained to question and to enquire. We forget to stop asking questions and instead just trust in God.

**God, may you give me the wisdom to trust you. Amen.**

*Tom Gehrels*

*For meditation and reflection, consider the scriptures for next Sunday, June 15, 2008: Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8, Matthew 9:35-10:23 .*

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.

