

December 11
2009

SJWTS



Dear Friends,

When someone smiles today, let a smile leap up from inside you! It is amazing how another person's joy *moves*...

Worship with us this Sunday, December 13: Advent 1: 8:30 Early Eucharist, Readings at 8:30: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-9; Luke 3:7-18; Sermon at 8:30: The Rev. Bob Shantz; **10:30** Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant: ***Everyone come in Costume for Palestine in the Year Zero***: Celebrant: The Rev. Gary van der Meer; Musicians: Jaroslaw Czerwinec, *accordion*; Coffee and refreshments following.

More about the Pageant: Rehearsals: Saturday 9:00 AM (in the church); and Sunday 9:00 AM (in the main room downstairs). Bring costumes and cameras!

Come to the Novena: *A Novena is a 9-Day Prayer.* In Ecuador, people get together in each other's homes for prayers at the manger scene and a simple supper. We are doing it! **9 Days. 9 Meals. 9 Prayers.** Sign up and Come for Supper. \$10/adult; \$5/child. All proceeds to the Sunday School Retreat at Camp Wanakita, June 2010.

Thursday December 15: At the Church, hosted by Gary

Friday December 16: At the Home of Jacqueline DaCosta and Santiago Holguin

Saturday December 17: At the Home of Evelyn Butler and Bill Dunford

Sunday December 18: At the Home of Sean and Dionne Watson

Monday December 19: At the Home of Michael and Jackie Allison

Tuesday December 20: At the Home of Carrie Cardwell

Wednesday December 21: At the Home of Tim and Trish Taylor

Thursday December 22: At the Church

Friday December 23: At the Home of Jacqueline DaCosta and Santiago Holguin

Dinner and Prayers between 6:30 and 8:30 PM. Address Details and Sign Up Sheet at the Action Desk in the Church.



Make your Christmas Plans

Christmas Caroling: Meet at Runnymede Library, Glendonwynne and Bloor and we will sing and walk westward, concluding with a pub visit; **Friday, December 18, 7:00 PM SHARP.**

Christmas Pageant: We invite everyone to come in costume (adults included) for Palestine in the Year Zero; We are meeting at "The Little White Inn." Sunday, December 13, 10:30. Rehearsals, directed by Robert Shipman and Catherine Laird: *Sunday, December 6, noon; December 12, 9 AM; December 13, 9 AM (Dress Rehearsal).*

Messy Christmas Party: Our monthly "Messy Church" (especially for 2-6 year old children and their families) will be a celebration of **Jesus' Birthday Party.** *Saturday, December 19, 3-5 PM.*

White Gift Sunday: Bring contributions for our Food Drive. The Children will collect your contributions in a *Shopping Cart* during the Children's Focus, and we will deliver them on Monday to *The Stop (Please leave Gifts unwrapped); Sunday, December 20, 8:30 & 10:30.*

Christmas Eve: Family Eucharist at *5:00 PM*; Christmas Carols at *10:00 PM*; Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist – *10:30 PM*. A glass of wine follows if you would like to stay!

Christmas Day Breakfast for the Homeless: Start Christmas Day by making a difference for other people. Help us serve Breakfast at St. Stephen's Church (just north of Kensington Market on College Street). Bring: Ham, Your Christmas Morning Singing Voice! Please sign up at the Action Desk so we can arrange rides together. *December 25, 6-9 AM.*



Announcements & Events

Book Study

Next Book: *The World Needs Your Kid: How to Raise Children Who Care and Contribute* by Craig and Marc Kielburger. Let's teach our children the 3 C's: compassion, courage and community. From the Publishers: "Inside this guide to parenting is a profound philosophy that encourages children to become global citizens. Drawing on life lessons and success stories Marc and Craig Kielburger demonstrate how small actions make a difference in the life of a child and ultimately change the world... Craig and Marc Kielburger are the founders of Free The Children. Their work has been featured on The Oprah Winfrey Show, CNN, BBC, and The Today Show, and in Time and The Economist." **Tuesday, January 19, 6 PM Dinner; 7 PM Discussion.**

Youth Group Movie Night

Hang out with your friends for a movie on the Big Screen in the Church: \$5 pizza supper; **Sunday, January 10, 5:30 PM.**

Screening for a Safe Church

For those in active ministry - whether volunteer or employed - every three years we update our understanding of boundaries for a safe church, as required by the Sexual Misconduct Policy of the Diocese of Toronto, our church's insurance policy, and because we want to give our best welcome to EVERYONE to St. John's. If your role gives you access to people or our church's confidential financial information, your role is "high risk" and requires the training plus a police records check. A "medium risk" role requires the training evening. And to learn more about good boundaries, anyone who is interested is welcome. Mark your calendar for one of **Monday, January 11, 7:30 PM or Thursday, January 14, 7:30 PM.**

Primate's Visit

The Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada will be preacher and celebrant at St. John's on Sunday, January 17! Worship with us. Hear a vision for the whole church.

Great Upcoming Music!

December 6: Ken Whiteley, Guitar; December 13: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion; December 20: Glory Glory Hallelujah, praise band; December 24, 5:00 & 10:00: Douglas Millar, organ; December 27: "Spirit in the Sky."

New Year's Eve Lunch - Morning Prayer at 10:30, followed by Lunch at Fatima's (that great new restaurant at Dundas and Clendenan!). We have made a reservation so we need to know numbers! All are welcome.

This Week on the Spiritual Path

Any spiritual path involves practice and preparation. Practice makes the path more satisfying and meaningful, whether it is yoga, or Buddha, or Jesus! How do we practice? We live the values of the Christian life. We cultivate our relationship with God. We worship together, and we *prepare ourselves* to 'meet God' in worship. Here are my suggestions for this *your practice* this week.

1. **Read:** Sunday readings in advance: Jeremiah Zephaniah 3:14-20; **Philippians 4:4-9**; Luke 3:7-18. What are the main ideas that seem important to you? Predict: What will be sermon be about? (Bob is preaching at 8:30).

2. **Think:** Notice the Rejoicing in the Philippians reading. Paul is writing from prison to the community that has contributed so much to his work. Despite imprisonment he is full of joy, and encourages the people who support him to keep their minds on their highest ideals: "...*whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing...*" **We do have a choice about where we place our thoughts.** How are you choosing to place your thoughts these days?

3. **Pray:** *The Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr*

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; Courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardship as the pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that our Loving God will make all things right if I surrender to God's will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with our Caring God in the next. Amen.

4. **Act:** Talk to someone who is joyful. (You know who they are!) Open yourself, and let the joy you hear come into you.

Worshipping as a community is a very important! You will get more out of it, and have more to give of yourself if you work at your practice of the Christian Life.

Gary

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.

