

April 30, 2008

SJWT



Dear Friends,

Join the party this Sunday as Herald Buckle receives the blessing of a 90th Birthday ... and thank God for all your blessings!

Worship with us this Sunday, May 4: 7th Sunday of Easter:

8:30 Early Eucharist; 10:30 Eucharist; Sermon: Gary van der Meer; Celebrant: Gary van der Meer; Musician: Ken Whiteley; Refreshments following.

Announcements & Events

Herald Buckle's 90th Birthday:

On **Sunday, May 4** come celebrate Herald's 90th birthday as we fete him with a special lunch after 10:30 service. Everyone is welcome.

Pentecost Drama Rehearsals

We look forward to a liturgical drama for the celebration of **Pentecost, Sunday, May 11, 10:30**. Rehearsals for the drama, adapted and directed by Robert Shipman, **each Sunday morning after coffee(!)** beginning at 12:30. Musicians for the Pentecost Drama: Glory Glory Hallelujah (our new music group from Freedomize). Mark your calendar for a great celebration in worship.

Great Upcoming Music!

April 27: Anne Lederman, fiddle; and Tom Leighton, piano; May 4: Ken Whiteley, guitar; May 11: Glory Glory Hallelujah, worship band.

Volunteer on the Board of Early Enrichment Daycare

The Early Enrichment Daycare (founded by St. John's) is governed by a Board, made up of 7 members: 3 Parent Representatives, 3 Church Representatives and the Incumbent. The wardens invite expressions of interest in serving as a Church Representative. The Board meets 9 times per year on a weekday evening. We are grateful to Anne-Marie Mohler who has completed a term on the Board. Allan Waters and Jill Arthur continue to serve as Church Representatives. Please speak to Gary or a warden to express interest.

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 1, 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, with scripture discussion followed by home baked refreshments; and visiting. **Tuesday, May 6, 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**. 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 3, 3:00 p.m.** ...after gardening!

Please RSVP: bjennifer@gmail.com

Refreshments on the Worship Schedule

Before the busy months of summer holidays, we do need a few new names to do refreshments, otherwise we unfairly rely on the same people again and again. Refreshments in summer is lemonade and cold drinks. Please consider taking a turn - speak to May Webster. For training on refreshments, please speak to Sue Ferguson.

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



Joan & Indra during the "Eat, Love, Pray" study potluck supper

Intimacy

We have all experienced intimate relationships. Indeed intimacy and healthy relationships go hand in hand. Intimacy is basic in any meaningful relationship, the basis of friendship, and one of the foundations of love.

Intimacy can also be identified as knowing someone in depth, knowing many different aspects of a person or knowing how they would respond in different situations, because of the many experiences you've shared with them. Indeed, the well known psychologist Erick Erickson identifies as a developmental stage of the young adult Intimacy versus Isolation. Adults need to be able to form intimate relationships so that they can avoid isolation.



During the 11 years that I worked some 70 kilometers from where I lived, I had limited time to form this kind of friendship outside my workplace. When I retired I discovered that I was isolated and needed to develop intimate friendships where I lived. I am happy to say that my situation is now changed and I have intimate friends close by.

I think that today's readings demonstrate that God longs for us to be in an intimate relationship with God. We know that to form an intimate relationship we need to spend time with the other to get to know the many different aspects of the person and to develop a deep trust of the person.

Jesus and the disciples had travelled around the countryside and experienced life together for several years. During that time they got to know one another in depth and developed an intimate relationship. In today's reading from John we hear Jesus' assurance that even though he is physically leaving the disciples they will continue to experience him and God intimately in their lives through the Holy Spirit. Jesus also indicates that the same relationship is there for us.

My own feeling is that to develop an intimate relationship with God we need to be aware of God's daily presence in our life. In the Celtic tradition the belief is that we look for God in each person we meet and trust that they see God in us. For others, God's presence may be realized through daily reading, quiet meditation, or prayer. In all our ways we can be strengthened by the words of Paul Acts 17:27-28,

"... indeed he (God) is not far from each of us. For in him we live and move and have our being."

Loving God we give you thanks for your steadfast presence in our lives .

Evelyn C. Butler

For meditation and reflection, consider the scriptures for next Sunday, May 4, 2008: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53 .

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.

