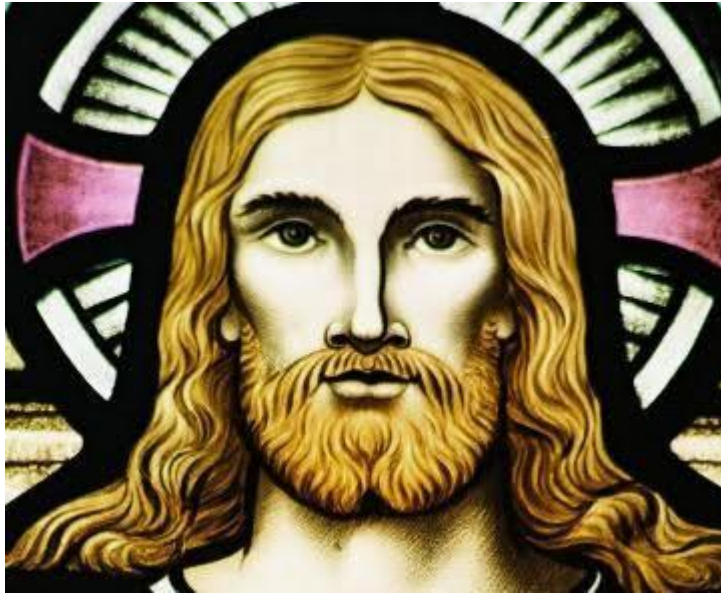


February 14
2010

SJWTS



Dear Friends,

Lent begins already! Give up chocolate? Or maybe pray more often... 5 weeks to work on finding your centre again in Christ.



Shrove Tuesday - Come to the Pancake Supper

Join us for pancakes on Shrove Tuesday at The Stop. (1824 Davenport Avenue at Symington). *\$5 per person; \$12 per family.* We will have a tour to see how our Local Foodbank works. Please bring a foodbank offering (cans or cash). Bring your Palms to burn in the mini-bonfire that makes our ashes for Ash Wednesday: If you like your Palm Cross, fear not! You will get another one on Palm Sunday, March 28! ***Pancakes on Tuesday, February 16, 6:15-8:00 PM.***

Worship with us on Ash Wednesday, February 17: 7:30 PM Scriptures: Joel 2:1-2;12-17; Psalm 103:8-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6,16-21. *Ashes in the sign of a cross on our foreheads, an ancient reminder that this life comes to an earthly end ...As we say at the graveside "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust..." These ashes form a prayer for help to become who we really are meant to be. Letting go of what holds us back from all God intends for us.*



Worship with us on the First Sunday in Lent, February 21: 8:30 AM Early Eucharist; **10:30 AM** Holy Eucharist: Scriptures: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2,9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13. Celebrant & Sermon: Gary van der Meer; Children's Focus: Brenda Stewart, Musician: Dorothy DeVal, *organ*, and Susanna McCleary, *violin*. Stay for Refreshments following Worship.

Lent Program: 5 Tuesday Evenings on Mission

Our program for Lent focuses on our understanding of **Mission** (as individuals and as a church community): *Teaching ½ hour & Worship ½ hour (Celtic Evening Prayers)*.

First Session: February 23, 7:30 to 8:30 PM. Historic understandings/uses of the notion of mission. 18th and 19th century mission of the Western European churches. Their tie to colonialism and evangelism/conversion. Cultural assumptions regarding God's approval of western civilization. Need to affirm a notion of mission that fits with our understanding of multiculturalism, evangelism and multi-faith relationships. A question for this Lenten series: What does mission mean for us as individuals and as St John's community? Worship: "Humility" To be able to find the faith to acknowledge both the positive and negative results of the church's mission activities. "Confidence" To be able to say that we are confidently searching for and where found affirming a new understanding of mission.

Second Session: Tuesday, March 2, 7:30 to 8:30 PM. To find an understanding of "mission" that honours the rich possibilities of this term.

Third Session: Tuesday, March 9, 7:30 to 8:30 PM. The misleading assumptions which create "them and us": a denial of our common humanity, desires, needs, hopes and dreams.

Fourth Session, Tuesday, March 16, 7:30 to 8:30 PM. What motivates us to reach out to others? To identify our personal needs that motivate us to reach out.

Fifth Session: Tuesday March 23, 7:30 to 8:30 PM. Service" to guide our understanding of mission. To be of service. To be a servant. Service as a "calling" – is it a full time or part time calling? The importance of self-care.

Announcements & Events

Breakfast for the Homeless

Our St. John's Community organizes offers the Breakfast Ministry at St. Stephen's Church (just north of Kensington Market) on the Third, Fourth Sundays of Each Month (plus Christmas Day and sometimes the Fifth Sunday). Be part of the First Shift (begins at 6 AM) or the Second Shift (begins at 7 AM). Contact Tom Gehrels to be part of it: 416-656-9111, mariengehrels@yahoo.com. This Month: **Sundays, February 21, 28.**

Support for Repairs

We ask your financial support for the following unbudgeted expenses: Elevator Motor Replacement \$3000. Pick up a film canister for **Loonies for Lent** with an eye to the actual cost of the elevator, and its importance for accessibility.

Messy Church

Worship for 2-6 year-olds and their Families and Friends. January Theme: Who is Jesus? **Saturday, February 27, 3-5 PM.**

Book Study

"The World Needs Your Kid: How to Raise Children Who Care and Contribute" by Craig and Marc Kielburger (authors of "From Me to We"). **Thursday, Feb. 25, 6 PM Supper, 7 PM Discussion. Potluck sign up sheet at Action Desk.**

Annual Retreat

Phyllis Tickle – "The Great Emergence" This year, we are joining a larger retreat to be led by Phyllis Tickle: 21st CENTURY CHRISTIANITY AND 21st CENTURY CHRISTIANS. Phyllis Tickle, widely-published and well-known retreat leader, will lead us in reflection on three key questions: What is happening to us? Why is it happening? Where are we going? The retreat will wrap up with a discussion of how we go forward together as Christians in the emerging church of the 21st century. Fee \$250 residential, \$150 commuters, deposit \$50. See details on the Action Table. **May 14-16; Begins at 4 pm Friday, ends 1:30 pm Sunday.**

Great Upcoming Music!

February 17 (Ash Wednesday): Jaroslaw Czerwinec, *accordion*; February 21: Dorothy DeVal, *organ*, and Susanna McCleary, *violin*; February 28: Anne Lederman, *fiddle*, and Tom Leighton, *keyboard*; March 7: Glory Glory Hallelujah, *praise band*; March 14: Ken Whiteley, *blues guitar*; March 21: Jaroslaw Czerwinec, *accordion*.

Thursday Morning Worship - Every Thursday 10:30 AM followed by visiting over tea and home-baked refreshments. Fourth Thursday of the month is Holy Eucharist with Ministry of Anointing for Healing.

Update on Children and Youth at St. John's

Hello Everyone, I want to give you an update on our plans with the young people of St. John's.

We have started to include young people as readers on the worship schedule. I have noticed that parents are coming up as support when your child reads - I really like this touch, and I hope you are as proud of your kids as I am! The new worship schedule continues the experiment because it is working really well!



Here are our upcoming events:

Sunday 21 Feb, 5:30 - 8:00. Potluck Supper with Parents and Children

Sunday 28 Feb, noon. *Skating at Rennie Park - an event for our whole community*

Sunday 7 March 5:30 - 8:00 Youth Group Movie Night - Please suggest a great discussion movie!

Sunday 18 April after Church. Earth Day Walkabout: Up to Dundas, west and then down Runnymede, eastward along Bloor to the west end of High Park, south along west side of the park to Lakeshore and east to Parkside, up to Dundas and back!

Sunday 16 May 3-5 pm. Pool Party - we want to rent the pool at Western Tech or HumberSide, \$10/person; \$20/family to cover rental cost.

Friday June 11 - Sunday June 13. Family Camping Retreat at Camp Wanakital

With thanks to Brad Christakos who shares organizing children and youth events with me.

Gary

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* of the faith.

Each Month we have Messy Church - a worship service designed for the needs of 2-6 year olds and their families. In December, we held Jesus' Birthday Party. Some of our children have been asking who Jesus is, and why didn't he attend his own birthday party! Wouldn't it be great to have help with challenging questions like this one. Have a look at our monthly handout for parents to help you answer - for yourself first, and then in an appropriate way for you're the children in your life!

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.

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.sjw.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.

