

Dear Friends,

**Our eyes are on current events as we seek the peace which passes all human understanding...come pray with us.**

**Worship with us this Sunday, November 16:** 8:30 Early Eucharist; 10:30 Main Eucharist: Celebrant: The Rev. Gary van der Meer; Sermon: Alain Brosseau; Musician: Dorothy De Val, organist; Susanna McCleary, violin and vocal soloist. Readings: Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30 . Sunday School and Nursery during the 10:30 service; Refreshments following.



***Playing 'O Canada' for Remembrance Sunday***

Daniel, Marilyn, Jamie, Dominic

**Midweek Services: Tuesday, November 18, 7:00 AM** - Morning Prayer; **Thursday, November 20, 10:00 AM** - Worship Field Trip to the Anglican Book Centre. 10:00 Meet at ABC; Buy books to read and discuss! Worship in the Chapel; Lunch at the India Hut at 11:30.

## Announcements & Events

### Breakfast for the Homeless

We are now assisting in the Breakfast Program at St. Stephen's on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month until the beginning of February when we will re-evaluate.

**Our St. Stephen's Dates: November 16, November 23**

### Holly Tea

Come to the Holly Tea! *Hang out and Meet the Neighbourhood* - last year we enjoyed so many visits with neighbours who appreciated hanging out in a church. To be prepared for the day, we are asking for baked goods, sandwiches, pourers of tea, knitters, sewers, painters, and crafters of any sort, people to help with the setting up and cleaning up. Speak with Joan Devitt to offer your assistance and we thank you in advance your response in making this a great fun filled experience!

**Saturday, November 29th, 2- 5 pm.**

### Book Club

We had a lively discussion and a great middle eastern dinner for Anita Diamant's *The Red Tent*, on Wednesday evening. The Book Club has chosen **Payback, this year's Massey Lectures by Margaret Atwood**. Consider debt in our households, our world, and our church... Margaret even considers the theology of Jesus' death as "payback." Listen to the Massey Lectures on Ideas, November 10-14, 9:00 PM on CBC Radio 1. **Tuesday, December 2, 6:00 Supper; 7:00 Discussion; 8:30 Depart.** *Sign up at the Action Desk.*

### Screening/Safe Church Training

**Sunday, November 23, after the 10:30 service.**

### Advent Wreaths

Make a wreath for your dinner table! Please sign up for either greens and candles only (\$12) or everything needed (\$20) by November 23rd. Payments for materials are to be placed in an envelope marked "Advent Wreath" and put in the collection plate. (Prepaid Only!) **Sunday, November 30th between 9:30 and 10:30 am**



**Ethel Jackson and Joan Knight**  
*New lay anointers for St. John's*

### Great Upcoming Music!

**November 16: Dorothy De Val, organ and Susanna McCleary, violin and vocals;** November 23: Ken Whiteley, blues guitar and mandolin; November 30: Glory Glory Hallelujah, praise band (Baptism); December 7: Jaroslav Czerwinec,

accordion; December 14: Allison & Gerald, southern gospel (Christmas Pageant).

### **Dig a well in Liberia!**

Let's take up the challenge and help Lifewater Canada dig a well in Liberia. The cost is \$2500. You will find the "Thermometer" of our support on the Action Desk. For our Outreach ministries, make your cheque payable to St. John's, with the organization name in the subject line. Is that enough close enough for you, or would you like to go to Liberia and take part??

### **Carolling in the Bloor West Village**

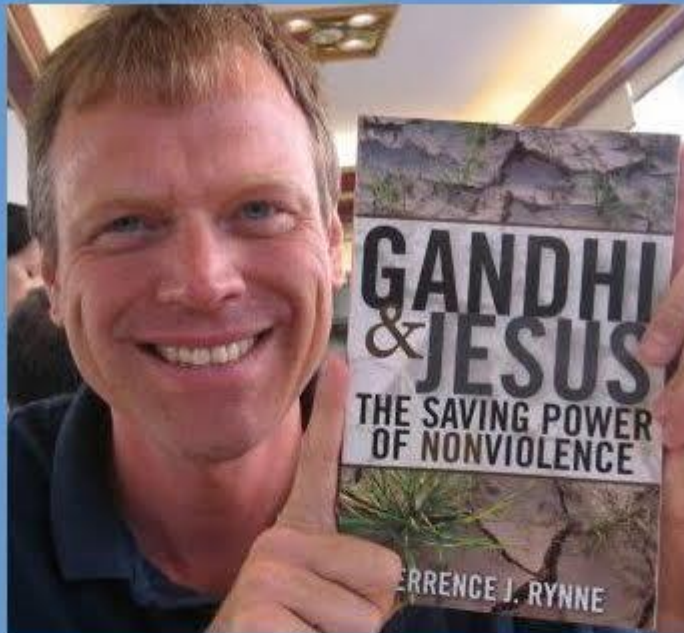
Carolling in the Village is back by popular demand! We will sing until we are tired or cold. Afterwards there will be a pub visit. Bring your best singing voice and good cheer! We will start at the Runnymede Library (Glendonwynne and Bloor) and walk west along Bloor Street. **Thursday, December 18, 7 PM SHARP!** Contact Tom Gehrels: [mariengehrels@yahoo.com](mailto:mariengehrels@yahoo.com) or (416) 656-9111.

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### **Come with us to the Lecture by John Dominic Crossan**

Travel with us to Newmarket for John Dominic Crossan's lecture ***The First Christmas?*** Based on his recently published book (co-authored with Marcus Borg). Crossan and Borg join forces to show how history has biased our reading of the nativity story as it appears in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Their purpose is to show that the Christmas story, read in its original context, is far richer and more challenging than people imagine. This lecture is sponsored by Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Newmarket. Tickets \$20. For more details, and to sign up, contact the Rev. Bob Shantz, [bobshantz@rogers.com](mailto:bobshantz@rogers.com). **Friday, December 5, 7:30 PM, Sir William Mulock Secondary School, Newmarket.**

## Learning and Growing in Faith



Gary van der Meer

Gary is reading *Gandhi & Jesus: The Saving Power of Nonviolence* by *Terrence J. Rynne*.

"I am fascinated that Gandhi, who remained a devout Hindu all his life, looked so deeply into Jesus - especially the Sermon on the Mount - to develop his **nonviolent approach to change**: "My experience tells me that the Kingdom of God is within us, and that we can realize it not by saying "Lord, Lord" but by doing his will and his work. If therefore, we wait for the Kingdom to come as something from outside, we shall be sadly mistaken." As people became aware of Gandhi, they often described his approach as passive resistance. Gandhi referenced Jesus to clarify this: "Europe mistook the bold and brave resistance, full of wisdom, by Jesus Christ, for passive resistance, as though it was of the weak. As I read the New Testament I detected no weakness and no passivity about Jesus as depicted in the four gospels." He sought to replace passive resistance with something like "Soul Force." He made up the Indian word Satyagraha: "Truth (satya) implies love, and firmness (agraha) engenders and therefore serves as a synonym for force." He wanted it to connote "**firmness in the truth**" or "the Force which is born of Truth and Love or nonviolence." I am intrigued to see what else I might learn about Jesus from Gandhi .

*Gary van der Meer*

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

# Christianity 101

**C-101 is here.** The 5 sessions conclude this coming Tuesday Evening.  
*Everyone is welcome to participate and learn!*

## **5. How we live the faith at St. John's.**

Tuesday November 18 – Presenter: Marilyn Kluyskens

We live the Christian Life by deliberately returning to Jesus in companionship with our community at St. John's. This final session of Christianity 101 puts together the themes of the whole 5-week program as we reflect on how we practice Christian faith. At St. John's, our practice is Inclusive Progressive Welcome and Hospitality, but how does that look at home and at work?



### **Format for Each Evening of Christianity 101**

**6:30 PM - Light Supper** of hearty soup or chili, bread and cheese (We ask a \$5.00 donation in the basket to cover our costs, with special thanks to Lynda Ward for preparing the meal).

**7:30 SHARP - Program Begins:** Presentation (supported by a slide show or handout). Each evening also includes your invited participation in Discussion/Questions or an Experience.

**8:45 PM - Session Concludes.**

***Is Christianity 101 for you?*** Are you new to faith or newly back to church? Have you been part of church for a long time, and do you want to be more confident when people ask you questions? Are you looking for an introduction to "Christian Basics" as you prepare for Baptism, Confirmation, or Marriage? Would you like an orientation to the values and practices of our community at St. John's – and the connection between our values and the Christian Life?

*For these reasons and more: **Everyone is welcome.***

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.

