

January 9, 2008

SJWT



Dear Friends,
The mystery of life has sadness and joy always intertwined. God's gift of community is our way to face all of it together.

Bruce Alton

We are saddened to inform you that Bruce Alton past away on Tuesday night January 8. We give thanks for his life, mourn his death and pray for his family and many good friends.

Here are the details:

Visitation: Friday January 11, 6.00 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Turner and Porter, Yorke Chapel, 2357 Bloor Street West at Windermere.

Funeral: Saturday January 12 at St. John's Anglican Church West Toronto, 288 Humberstone Avenue at 2:00 pm. Reception immediately following.

Worship with us this Sunday, January 16, Baptism of the Lord: 8:30 Early Eucharist; 10:30 Eucharist; Sermon: Gary van der Meer; Celebrant: Bob Shartz; Musician: Barry Short. Sunday School and Nursery during the 10:30 service; refreshments following.



Planning Day

Because of Bruce Alton's funeral this Saturday, the Planning Day has been rescheduled for **Saturday, January 19, from 9.00 a.m. to noon.** After a successful 2007, where the St. John's congregation stepped up to the plate during father Gary's sabbatical, we are now ready to work on our vision for 2008 and beyond.

The entire church community is encouraged to attend so we can decide what is important to all of us and plan the future of St. John's together !

Coffee and refreshments will be served, all we need from you is your enthusiasm and great ideas! Afterwards there will be a social at a pub.

Announcements & Events

Screening Workshop

Thursday, January 24, from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. For those who do any kind of volunteer activity in the church especially if helping with the children, the diocese requires that everyone attend a screening workshop. Workshop includes a video presentation along with discussion and it's FREE!

Great Upcoming Music

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. sharp - January 13: Barry Short, organ; January 20: Dorothy De Val and Susanna McLeary, organ and violin.

Midweek Worship Services

Thursday January 10, 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, with scripture discussion followed by home baked refreshments; Tuesday, January 15, 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, with Anglican Rosary and silent meditation.

Leadership Team Meetings

Next meeting: Monday January 28, 7:30 p.m. All meetings at the church.

Commitment Sunday

As St. John's continues to grow towards a true programme church, your participation in the form of time, talent and treasure will become increasingly important. During the every member visits in January and February, each Parish member will be given their commitment cards to fill out. On Commitment Sunday, February 24, church members will hand these in at church. Think about what you can do for our community as we all have something special to give. We encourage you to give generously of your time, talent and treasure!

Skating Outing

February 24 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Polish up your skates and enjoy life at Rennie Rink (at the bottom of Runnymede)! Bring sandwiches, hot drinks and snacks and enjoy a winter outing with your friends from St. John's!

Sixth Annual Robbie Burns Supper

St John's hosts our 6th annual Burns Night Supper on January 26, 2008 in honour of 18th-century Scottish poet Robert Burns, a rowdy, boisterous man of the people who composed beautiful poetry and songs.

Our traditional Burns supper includes haggis enhanced with a dram of whisky, cock-a-leekie soup, roast beef, neeps (turnips), tatties (potatoes) and a whisky-laden dessert and non alcoholic desserts as well. This evening steeped in ritual, includes a tribute to the immortal memory of Burns, poetry, singing and lots of fun.

The evening starts with reception at 6:15PM, followed by the Marching in of the Haggis at 7PM.

This year the Burns Supper will be held at Grenadier Seniors' Residence, 2100 Bloor Street West at Clendenan Avenue. Indoor parking is available underneath the residence (entrance off Clendenan) at \$2.75 for the evening.

Tickets are \$30 each. For more information and tickets call Bill Dunford or Evelyn Butler 416 604-8692. We welcome donations for raffle prizes.



Cy Weston and Sue Heal during the Potluck Lunch last Sunday

Thanks:

Thanks to Noelle Carbonne for her pictures from last Sunday.



Epiphany

For many years I didn't give much thought to the word Epiphany. I probably thought that it was just another way of saying the visit of the Wise People or the 12th night of Christmas. A radio journalist, discussing his "epiphany" about

some matter, helped me gain a better appreciation. As I now understand it, an Epiphany is an inspired understanding arising from a profound insight or awareness. This realization or revelation gives us a new and deeper understanding. At this season of Epiphany and as we enter a New Year wouldn't it be fitting for us to commit ourselves to gaining a deeper understanding of God's purpose for us? Few of us, I would suspect, can recognize as easily as Paul did in his letter to the Ephesians 3:2-3 God's purpose for us. We may have to commit to consciously undertake searching for God in our lives. I think the story of the Wise People of the East who took time to find the King can serve as a good model for us.

To observe the star, the Wise People must have been searching the skies looking for new stars and new signs. We too must take the time to actively search for new insights and new signs of God in our lives. When we get glimpses of new insights it may be risky for us to move forward. Perhaps painful memories will come flooding back. Although we may be fearful of dark times in our lives, we also know that if we confess to God we no longer need to carry any guilt associated with those dark times. Uncertainty may also prevent us from seeing the way forward. Like the Wise People, if we are to gain new insights, we have to be prepared to step forward in faith, trusting in God, and encounter darkness or uncertainty. In the course of our search we may at times feel lost, far away from God. During these times we can seek help from others just as the Wise People did when they were lost. Finally, we must be prepared to accept what God reveals to us. In the story told by Matthew "When they saw the star had stopped they were overwhelmed with joy..... They knelt down and paid the child homage".

What light has God given you and how will you go about realizing this light in you? .

Be Thou my vision O God of my heart...waking or sleeping Thy presence my light. Amen.

Evelyn C. Butler

For meditation and reflection in the coming week, consider the scriptures for next Sunday, January 13, 2008: Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17.

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.

