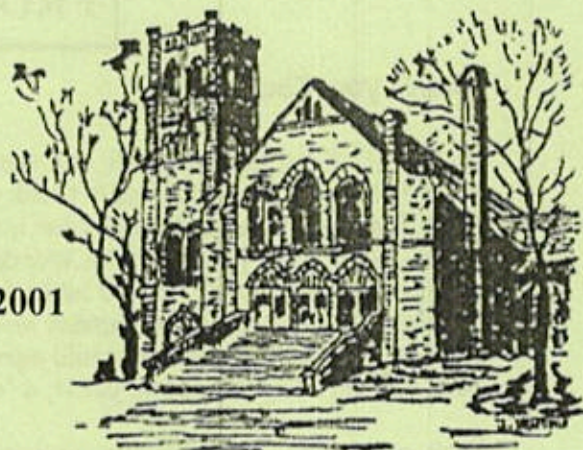


# St. John's Journal

St. John's Anglican Church, West Toronto  
288 Humberside Ave. (at High Park Ave.)  
www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish/stjohns/  
(416) 763-2393

August 2001



More so than January, the Fall seems a time for endings and new beginnings. How appropriate that we now say farewell to our wonderful Interim Incumbent Jack Adam and we welcome Gary van der Meer to our parish. This is also a good time to reflect on where we are in our spiritual journeys and where God is calling us this year.

## From our Interim Incumbent Reverend Canon Jack Adam

*Dear People of St. John's West Toronto:*

*The life that you and I have shared at St. John's over the last ten months has been for me an experience of grace. God's grace has come to me as we have shared in prayer, in liturgy, in study, in counselling and the making of decisions to further the life and ministry of the church.*

*Grace has come to me as my own spiritual journey of faith in Christ has been supported and enriched by the testimony, wisdom and generosity of spirit which have been shared with me.*

*What I have found particularly encouraging has been the integration of personal faith and concern for social justice and the well-being of the local community and the larger society.*

*I am indebted to all of you for the gifts you have given me, but I ask your indulgence in making some particular references. My special thanks to the church wardens, Evelyn Butler, Anthony Ruta, Iain Newbiggin, Greg Los; and to Sheila Crummey, Chair, and the other members of the Canonical Selection Committee. Although my contact with Gary van der Meer, our new Incumbent, has been limited, I feel confident that our Selection Committee has chosen well.*

*Last, but by no means least, I should like to express my gratitude to the members of our Pastoral Team who have played a major role in our shared ministry. Lynda Ward, James Bailey and Bruce Alton have each made their own unique and substantial contributions not only to our shared ministry but to my own spiritual journey.*

*May God out of the inexhaustable treasury of his love and power continue to bless you all in your life and ministry.*

*Blessings,*

*Jack Adam*

## FROM THE WARDENS

### Thank you Jack!

On behalf of the entire Parish, the Wardens would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Jack Adam for his tireless efforts as our interim priest. When Jack first met the Wardens to talk about his being interim, he said he had no interest in being a "caretaker" (in on Sunday morning, out by noon). I am sure everyone would agree that Jack was anything but, as he put it, a "caretaker".

Jack, as we bid you bon voyage, we want you to know that we are thankful for your ministry at St. John's and our prayers are with you and Margaret as you move on to your new life in your new home.

God Bless,

The Congregation of St. John's Anglican Church,  
West Toronto

P. S. You've gone and done it again. You've worked your way out of yet another job!!!!!!!!!!!! ☺

### Pre-Authorised Giving Programme

Although we are off to a slow start, the Wardens are hopeful that more parishioners will take advantage of the convenience of this programme. As we all return from holiday, we need to remember that the Church does not get a holiday from its expenses, but many of us do forget to make up our giving for the period of time that we were away.



### Welcome to Gary van der Meer!

We are very excited that the Rev. Gary van der Meer will be joining us as our new priest on September 2! We welcome him into our church family very warmly and hope that he will let us know what we can do to make him welcome. One of the most obvious ways in which we can welcome Gary is to set aside time to simply get to know him. Consider a coffee with Gary and if you can manage it - a meal in your home. I was lucky enough to host a dinner in my backyard this summer for the Selection Committee and Gary and found him to be a delightful person - eager to get to know us - and a comfortable person to talk with. We have much to look forward to in the months and years ahead!

Sheila Crummey

### Painting and Lighting

The Church will receive a much needed overhaul of its lighting and a new coat of paint on the heels of a successful capital programme to raise the funds to have both projects completed. Thank you to those who gave so generously to bring these projects to fruition.

The lighting will be done first as it will affect the colour chosen to paint the church.

### Wardens:

Anthony Ruta	416-763-2876 on.course@sympatico.ca
Evelyn Butler	416-604-8692 bdunford@pathcom.com
Iain Newbiggin	416-767-9533 sally.iain@sympatico.ca
Greg Los	416-766-4331 gnlos@home.com

### Welcome Back! Homecoming BBQ - September 16

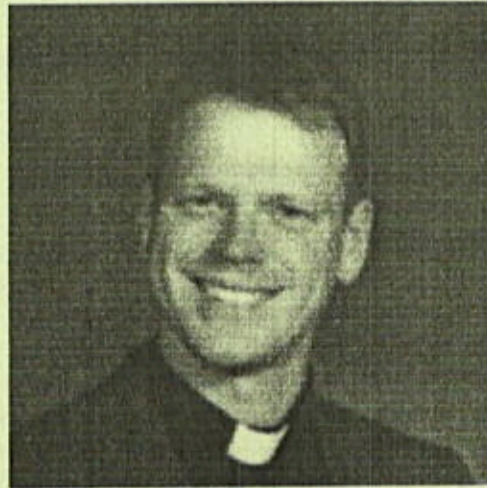
After the 10:30 a.m. Service

Drop by to say "Hello!", exchange summer stories and make new friends. St. John's tradition of good food, great conversation and fun times continues. Don't forget to sign up for the Christian Education program. All are welcome.

To help with the barbecue or to offer a potluck contribution, contact Bill Dunford at 416-604-8692 after Labour Day Weekend.

## MEET GARY VAN DER MEER

*We weren't sure whether we could get anything but dry facts into this edition of the Journal about our new Incumbent. Fortunately, Gary found an unexpected block of time in his busy summer schedule to have a chat with Bruce Alton. What follows is not a verbatim interview, but a reconstruction of some of their conversation we thought parishioners might like to read in getting to know Gary.*



**B.A.** *I'm glad you found some time to talk to me, and perhaps through me to some of the parish. You're on vacation [mid-July to mid-August], and you're just back from a Toronto-Montreal bicycle race. Did you beat the pack back just to talk with me?*

**Gary (laughing):** Well, it wasn't a race. It was the Toronto - Montreal Bike Rally for the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation. I have had the great privilege of sharing for the second time in an incredibly satisfying experience; this year I am one of 110 cyclists who collectively raised over \$300,000 for the work of this organization. But the reason I'm able to visit you today is that I have just had the good fortune of finding an apartment in Toronto! It's in the Roncesvalles Village, a healthy walk or bike ride to the Church through High Park. My dog will like that! The rent is a lot more than in Port Perry, but ...

**B.A.:** *Welcome to West Toronto! Or, rather, I guess I should say welcome back.*

**Gary:** Yes, in a way. I was on a field placement here at St. John's in my first year at seminary [Trinity College] back in 1989-90. Fr. Robert Hagler asked me to be a companion to two developmentally handicapped members in a group home. I brought them to church every week, integrated them into the worship, visited many parishioners with them, and prepared them for baptism at the Easter Vigil.

**B.A.:** *I remember you from those days. So this is like returning home? To Toronto, to St. John's?*

**Gary:** That's a hard question. My home? Well, I've lived in several places ...

**B.A.:** *Tell me about that.*

**Gary:** I'm originally from eastern Ontario, from Brockville. I attended U. of T., and lived in Toronto for over 11 years. But I have also worked at summer jobs in Holland (part of discovering my roots), and in Chicoutimi (part of becoming fluent in French). I've had church placements in Burlington, and in the Diocese of Cariboo, where I did my parish internship in 3 small churches north of Kamloops. I was ordained in the Diocese of Toronto, and went to Orillia, and then Port Perry, of course, where I've been for the past five and a half years.

**B.A.:** *Are your parents Dutch Anglicans?*

**Gary:** No, my parents are Canadian, at least they came to Canada in their teens, with their families, and the Dutch Reformed Church is my church background. My parents wanted us to have a wider ethnic experience of being Canadian, and in my teenage years we went to the Presbyterian Church. Then when I went to the University of Toronto, studying history, I learned about the Reformation in Europe and in England. Peter Richardson — a friend of yours — taught a course on the English Reformation period. He emphasized something he called an "ethos of comprehensiveness of diversity" — people who have different theological outlooks and different worship preferences agreeing to make a home together in one church. I thought "finally this makes sense." When I was ready to explore getting involved in church, rather than just studying it from a distance, I remembered his comments and gravitated towards Anglican churches. I ended up at St. Thomas' Church on Huron Street, all excited about refugees and social change and justice and making the world a

## Meet Gary van der Meer (continued)

better place.

**B.A.:** *And lots of incense and ... liturgical processions, and so on?*

**Gary:** Sure. "Smells and bells," as they say. That part of it seemed odd to me, but the living out of it was right on, and my reformed roots had to give way! I think as a result I have a greater appreciation for movement and drama as an expression of faith. I first encountered the B.A.S. in Confirmation class there, and after reading the introduction I was sold on it. More scope for drama and action, more room for lay participation, and we pray in the language in which we live.

**B.A.:** So you went to seminary to be a B.A.S. priest.

**Gary:** I wish it were that simple! (No, actually, I don't). I worked in the business world for a couple of years. Insurance. Stock brokerage firm. After I entered the M.B.A. program at York University in 1988, I found myself questioning the "me-first" priorities. I wanted to test the assumptions and values of the market place, but quickly turned to challenging them and looking at the ways in which non-profit organizations (like the Church) could meet the demands of the market and yet remain faithful to their own values.

**B.A.:** *That's a tall order; maybe "the" issue for the church in the so-called "first-world."*

**Gary:** I think so. And at the same time, I began to explore the possibility of ordination in the Anglican Church. The next year, in 1989, I started to do theological studies at Trinity College, concurrently with my business studies at York.

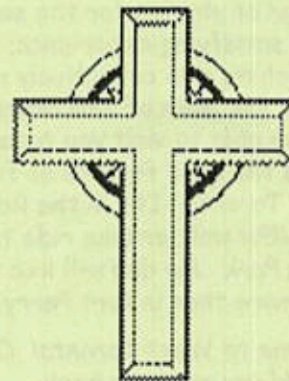
**B.A.:** *With a view to a parish priest on Bay street?*

**Gary (laughing):** No! But you've put your finger on one thing we've talked about — my relationship with the city of Toronto. Toronto is where many of my friends and family live now — it has been my home away from home for the eight years that I have been away. Coming back is a natural step. Toronto is also an interesting place in which to experience how Canadian values are challenged and rethought. I've experienced something of rural and small town Canada, and I have loved it. But here I am, and glad to be back. I read that

St. John's would be searching for a new incumbent, I submitted my name for consideration right away. I felt "at home" here quickly back in 1989, and I was sure I would quickly feel that way again. St. John's liturgy, at least as I remember it, is also home to me.

**B.A.:** *And what about St. John's? What do you foresee here?*

**Gary:** Oh, it's much too early for me to say where I think the parish should be heading (though I have some ideas)! I plan to do a lot of visiting, listening and learning over the next few months. I look forward to meeting everyone — I understand St. John's to be a community that is rich in diversity and talent. You already have a long story of discerning how to be faithful to the gospel, now it is time for us to figure out together to what future God is calling us. ♦



## Welcome to St. John's, Gary!

Rev. Gary van der Meer will have his first Sunday at St. John's on September 2. Come join us at either service and say "Hi!"

## The Induction and Dinner

All are welcome to join in the festivities as Rev. Gary van der Meer is officially inducted as Incumbent of our parish by the Most Rev. Terence Finlay, Archbishop of Toronto.

BBQ Dinner            6:00 p.m.  
Service                7:30 p.m.  
Reception to follow. Further details to be announced.



## MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD

One of the "perks" of working in academia is the healthy vacations which are offered to allow faculty to recharge. What my friends and business associates can't quite seem to understand is that my holidays cannot be taken during the summer because Sheridan College operates on a trimester system, that is three terms over 12 months, and the graduating class takes its last courses during the summer term.

At the moment I have a two-week break before the fall term begins. Enough time to mark projects from the last term and prepare some lesson plans for the next.

Similarly at St. John's there has been no down time, with weekly worship, preparations for the arrival of our new Incumbent, planning for the 2001/2002 *Music at St. John's—Concerts with a Cause* series, and choosing repertoire for the choir to tackle during the fall.

Over the past two years, I have been on the organizing Committee for the **Toronto Organ Festival** which took place July 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. This is an event that is hosted by a different Canadian city each year, and this year featured a roster of international performers playing many of Toronto's great organs. It is slated to return to Toronto next in the year 2009. Because of my teaching I couldn't take in the whole event, but I did participate as I was able. A highlight of the event, for me, was a number of workshops with the Rev. Dr. Marva Dawn. Dr. Dawn, a theologian and musician, has written extensively on the theology of worship in our time and on the subject of "being" the Church in a consumer society. (Dr. Dawn will be participating in a symposium at Wycliffe College next spring—I would like to see a group from St. John's attend some of this event.)

Another project of mine has been the publication of a book, *The Organs of Toronto*, which is scheduled to be printed in the fall. I have been working on this publication with Alan Jackson, who did much of the work associated with our replacement console and is the "dean" of local organ builders. Alan has provided technical and

historical descriptions of some 38 organs, and I have provided an architectural context for each of these instruments, and sometimes a smattering of social history as well.

This richly illustrated publication will highlight the instruments featured during the Toronto Organ Festival as well as an additional thirteen organs of special interest—some for historical value and some in order that as many different organ builders as possible might be represented. On this last account I have been able to include the organ of St. John's Church, West Toronto. Photographers are slated to be to the church over the coming weeks, if we can get some light onto the organ for their work!

Hopefully you will be reading this article wanting to put some "musical" dates in your fall calendar. Here are a few to record:

**Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>,  
8:00 to 9:30 p.m. — Choir Rehearsals** recommence. Note the change of evening from Tuesday (by popular demand). New members welcome (just speak with me)! Enter the church using the door at the end of the driveway. Unfortunately we still don't have any lights in the chancel, so we will be having the piano moved to an area of the church where light is to be found (likely the baptistery area)

**Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> — Homecoming Service**, will be the first occasion when the choir will be contributing to worship this fall. The choir will also be singing for the induction of **Rev. Gary van der Meer** on **Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. —** First concert of the 2001/2002 season for our **Music at St. John's — Concerts with a Cause** — series featuring folk singer Susan Hookong. Volunteers are needed to assist with this concert and others in the series.

James Bailey  
Director of Music/Organist  
537-4140 (daytime) or 530-4147 (evenings)

**Thoughtful Lyrics, Intricate Rhythms, and Evocative Melodies:  
Susan Hookong-Taylor and Friends**

Music at St. John's is thrilled to announce the return to St. John's on **Saturday, October 20, 2001** at 8:00 p.m. of singer/song-writer **Susan Hookong-Taylor** for another inspiring concert! Susan, who accompanies her vocals with guitar-playing is joined by **Colleen Allen** on saxophone, flute and back-up vocals, and **Alejandra Nunez** on a dazzling array of percussion instruments and back-up vocals.

Susan Hookong-Taylor has been performing her unique blend of folk, jazz and world music for many years in and around her home in Toronto. She has been hailed as a singer with "flawless range and commanding poise," and her compositions, full of "cogent lyrics and soaring melodies." Colleen Allen and Alejandra Nunez are both well-established musicians in Toronto's jazz community.



In the spring of 1999, Susan released her latest CD "She-La." It is a rich tapestry of thoughtful lyrics, intricate rhythms, and evocative melodies encompassing songs of worship, justice, peace and piece of mind. Susan works in Christian music ministry, directing a contemporary choir and providing weekly music for a Chaplaincy in downtown Toronto. Recently she was the music director for a weekend retreat with Jean Vanier, and she has worked on musical projects for such organizations as JustUs (a prison outreach program) and Out of the Cold.

Please join us for this concert of soaring song and spirit and invite your friends along!

**As Promised, the Answer to A Riddle:**

Who said that singing is like praying twice?

Answer: St. Augustine.



*With Jesus in me, who can be against me?  
Now my heart is on fire and my soul has been set free.  
I can go anywhere and know You are with me.  
With Jesus in me I can do anything*

(from *Jesus in Me* by Hot House)

**Rock at St. John's presented a Youth Concert with a Cause**

By Cecilia Henderson & Marion Karasiuk

Thanks to the band and to youth and adult volunteers from St. John's, St. Olave's and Runnymede Baptist Churches, the Hot House Youth Concert on the evening of Saturday, March 24th was a big success. There were about 140 people at the concert. The band played wonderfully from 7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Everyone had a great time and kept it safe. There was a "pizza with the band" event after the concert until about 9:30 p.m. This also went extremely well. The band signed lots of autographs and chatted with the audience. Near the end a draw for an autographed Hot House CD and \$20 gift certificate to Cameron's Christian Bookstore was held. The night's big winner was Lawrie Bull! (Also Hot House CDs leftover from promoting the concert were given to St. John's youth.)

The profits of this concert (together with additional donations from people in the parish) are going to sponsor a child overseas through World Vision. The St. John's youth chose a child called Maria Paulina from Columbia. She is 5 years old, in good health and not in school. She lives with her mother who is too ill to work. Her father abandoned the family. Enough money has been

## Youth Concert (continued)

raised to support Maria for one year, and we hope to have another youth concert next year to raise money for next year's support. Also, at least two other youth groups who attended the concert took the lead from St. John's youth and decided to become child sponsors too.

Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered at and supported the Hot House concert!  
Thank you also to everyone who donated to the cause of the concert, sponsoring a child overseas through World Vision!



## Meet the Original "Lion King"

C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" is undoubtedly one of the greatest children's stories ever told. St. John's is considering bringing in Brookstone Performing Arts, touring production of this classic story on Sunday, December 2, 2001 in the afternoon. Brookstone's acclaimed production has played for sold-out audiences all around Toronto. It is ideal for families with children from ages 4-11, and for anyone who knows and loves the Chronicles of Narnia!

A proposal has been prepared and is before the wardens. Tickets would be about \$9 or \$10 each. If you would like to see this production come to St. John's and would be willing to attend, promote and/or help out with it, please contact Marion Karasiuk (416-604-1591, mkarasiuk@home.com) or Andrea Ruddy (416-769-7948, cmrd@sympatico.ca).

Experience the Deep Magic.

# Children and Youth at St. John's

*I have not stopped giving thanks for you.*  
(Ephesians 1:16)

Parents of children and youth at St. John's want to offer a BIG THANK YOU to Lynda Ward for all her work researching, planning, coordinating, obtaining resources for, and in many cases teaching Christian Education through Lent and Easter up to Pentecost! Thank you also to those who helped Lynda decorate the church for various Theme Sundays and those who helped deliver the Christian Education program through this time!



## Exploring Christian Education

There are two forums on Christian Education coming up in September. The first, a **Christian Education Seminar**, will be held on **Saturday, September 22** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Metropolitan United Church. If you would like to know more, please call Lynda Ward at 416-763-2393.

The theme of the second forum is **Teaching and Learning in the Parish** and it will be held on **Saturday, September 29** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 227 Bloor Street East. The following workshops will be offered: 1) Youth Ministries, 2) Creating Effective Adult Learning Experiences, 3) Learning in Multicultural Settings. For more information, please phone 416-363-6021, ext. 27, or email jmarshall@toronto.anglican.ca.

## Getting Ready for the Fall

Sign up for our new Christian Education program for children and youth on **Homecoming Sunday, September 16**. We look forward to seeing new and returning faces and hearing about your summer holidays!

Everyone is invited to attend a Christian Education Planning Meeting on **Sunday, September 9** after the 10:30 a.m. service. Men, particularly fathers are especially encouraged to attend. We appreciate comments and suggestions from everyone and we welcome help. For more information, please call Lynda Ward at 416-763-2393.

## Girl Guides at St. John's

Guiding is alive and well at St. John's! On three evenings a week, groups of lively, enthusiastic girls from 5 to 17 years of age, and their leaders, meet in the church basement (a.k.a. "the Daycare") for a program of "fun with a purpose." Guiding gives girls the opportunity to develop self-esteem and initiative, to learn valuable life skills and to explore the world around them in an atmosphere of co-operation and trust.

### Meeting Times:

SPARKS (ages 5 & 6)	Tuesdays	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
BROWNIES (ages 7 & 8)	Thursdays	6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
GUIDES (ages 9 to 11)	Wednesdays	7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
PATHFINDERS (ages 12 to 14)	Tuesdays	7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
RANGERS (ages 15 - 17+)	Tuesdays	7:30 to 9:00 p.m.



We are always looking for women (age 18+) to come and "play with us!" Anyone who is looking for a challenge, and an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the girls in our community, may apply. No experience is necessary — training and fun are provided. For further information, call Nan Weston (416-766-6663).

## Our St. John's Family

*This is where we can share what is happening in the lives of our St. John's community. We would love to hear more about our church family and friends. Please send notes to the church office or to Andrea Ruttty (416-769-7948, [cmrd@sympatico.ca](mailto:cmrd@sympatico.ca)).*

### Congratulations to Karen and Colin

Karen Burch and Colin Pottie were married on April 21, 2001 in Richmond, Virginia at Karen's home church, Trinity United Methodist. Karen is now living in Richmond, where she has just begun medical school at Virginia Commonwealth University (Medical College of Virginia). Colin is still in Toronto for the moment, continuing his work as a clinical supervisor at the Muki Baum Association, an organization that serves adults with a dual diagnosis (developmental disability and mental illness). He will move to Richmond sometime after the New Year.

### Note from Karen:

*I'm very grateful for the two years I've had among you as a member of St. John's; being a part of your worshipping community has been very life-giving for me during my time in Toronto. Thanks especially for your prayers, support, and friendship in the various transitions which have been a part of these two years for me: looking for work, preparing for marriage, and preparing for medical school. So many of you have touched me with your kind attentiveness and faithful lives along the way. Also, Colin and I have enjoyed your lovely wedding gift of the tea towels — thank you. Peace, blessings, and a spirit of loving truthfulness be among you on your continued journey together, Karen Burch*

You can contact Karen at:  
8311 Bronwood Rd.  
Richmond, VA 23229  
USA  
email: [burchka@vcu.edu](mailto:burchka@vcu.edu)



## Discuss the Questions of Life Over Dinner (or Breakfast) This Fall

Alpha is a contemporary and practical introduction to the Christian Faith for adults. In weekly sessions, beginners, sceptics, lapsed and long-time church goers gather to watch a video presentation and then discuss meaning-of-life type questions like "What is the purpose of my life?", "What happens when I die?", and "What relevance does Jesus Christ have today?" In the middle of the course a Saturday retreat is a special time away to rest and reflect with friends in a quiet setting.

In the discussion groups there are no teachers, just facilitators. Alpha is a safe, confidential, and non-judgmental place to voice doubts and explore faith issues. All participants are accepted as they are and encouraged to ask any question.

Alpha courses starting:

### Wednesday Evenings:

Starts September 19 at 7:00 p.m.  
with Dinner and video "Christianity: Boring,  
Untrue, and Irrelevant?"  
Subsequent Wednesday Evenings at 7:15 p.m.  
with dessert and coffee.  
Ends December 5.

OR

### Tuesday Mornings (Childcare provided):

Starts September 18 at 9:15 AM  
with Breakfast and video "Christianity:  
Boring, Untrue, and Irrelevant?"  
Subsequent Tuesday Mornings at 9:15 AM  
with muffins and coffee.  
Ends December 4.

**Location:** Jewitt Hall, attached to Runnymede United Church on the west side of Runnymede half way between Bloor and Annette.

**Cost:** No charge for the course. (Small per family charge for users of childcare at the Tuesday Morning course.)

Come and check out the first session of either course! Invite a friend to join you! There is no obligation to come to the remainder of the course.

For more information or to register contact Marion Karasiuk (416-604-1591, mkarasiuk@home.com) or Lynda Ward at the church office (416-763-2393).

You can check out the Alpha Canada website: <http://www.alphacanada.org>.

## Reflections on Alpha

By Marilyn Shortt

My experience with Alpha has been a rewarding one. I have found that my Christian life and Spiritual life has increased immensely over the time of taking Alpha and being involved with it. My prayer time and bible reading are becoming more alive. Experiencing the Holy Spirit working in you is hard to describe but I know he is around me most of the time. I feel the breeze or wind sometimes and know he is around. I have enjoyed going on the Prayer Walks that are held every month in connection with the other churches in the neighbourhood.

By taking Alpha, you meet a variety of people with different thoughts or ideas on Christianity. Alpha is a good way to get to know your basic Christianity and learn about it. The most rewarding part I find is the Holy Spirit Retreat Day where you are away all day with prayers, Communion — a time of prayer with the chance to be filled with the Spirit. I usually come home from these retreats filled with spiritual joy and delight along with a renewed spiritual life ad full of the Spirit. These are my reflections of Alpha.



## Ongoing Programs



*After this the Lord sent them two by two ahead of him to every place where he was about to go.*  
(Luke 10:1)

Every month on the **first Tuesday** of the month people from various churches in our neighbourhood meet for a **Community Prayer Walk**. The starting location is a local church (varies from month to month) where we first pray for the hosting church. Following these prayers, people go out in pairs and walk around the neighbourhood, asking for God's blessing on homes, businesses, schools, police and fire stations, churches and everyone living, working and meeting in our area. It is a great way to get more closely in touch with the needs of your neighbours! After the walk, we return to the hosting church for refreshments and fellowship. The starting location of the monthly walks is published in the bulletin or contact Marion Karasiuk (416-604-1591, mkarasiuk@home.com).

*We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.*

(1 Thessalonians 1:2)

A couple of people meet **every second Monday** night (8:00 - 9:00 p.m.) at the church to pray together for the parish and neighbourhood. Any one who is interested in joining is most welcome! Please contact Evelyn Butler (416-604-8692) or Marion Karasiuk (416-604-1591, mkarasiuk@home.com).

### Food and Fellowship with the Dinner Club

We begin the Fall with Gary's Induction Dinner but we are looking for suggestions for where to dine in October. If you have an idea, please give Carol Alton a call at (416) 762-8664. Kids are definitely included.

### Coffee Time

We love chatting with our St. John's family, friends and visitors over refreshments. Donations for coffee time, especially goodies, and offers to help are always appreciated. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact Nan Weston (416-766-6663).

## Events of Interest

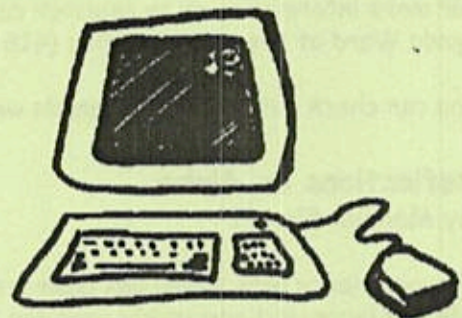
### Urban Issues Forum

Tuesday, August 28, 2001

Our Parkdale-High Park M.P. Sarmite Bulte will be hosting a forum on Urban Issues and the role of the Federal Government. Special Guests for this event are Judy Sgro, M.P., York West; Bryon Wilfert, M.P., Oak Ridges; and Alan Tonks, M.P., York-South Weston; all members of the Prime Minister's Task Force on Urban Issues.

The forum will take place at the Loyola Arrupe Centre for Seniors, Downstairs Activity Room, 1709 Bloor Street West.

For more information, please call Paul Seppala at (416) 952-0823.



### Get connected and keep in touch!

St. John's Yahoo Group Mailing List:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stjohnstoronto>

St. John's Web Site:  
[www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish/stjohns/](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish/stjohns/)

## Calendar of Events

*Everyone is Welcome! For details on these events, please see inside this Journal.*

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| September 2  | Rev. Gary van der Meer's first Sunday at St. John's   |
| September 9  | Christian Education Planning Meeting<br>• After the 10:30 a.m. service  |
| September 16 | Homecoming Sunday - BBQ<br>Children's Christian Education Program Sign-Up   |
| September 22 | Christian Education Seminar<br>Metropolitan United Church<br>• 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.   |
| September 27 | Induction of Gary van der Meer as New Incumbent<br>• 6:00 p.m. BBQ Dinner<br>• 7:30 p.m. Service<br>Reception to Follow                                     |
| September 29 | Christian Education Conference:<br><i>Teaching and Learning in the Parish</i><br>St. Paul's Anglican Church, 227 Bloor St. East<br>• 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. |
| December 2   | The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe (Proposed Event)   |

### Music at St. John's - Concerts with a Cause Tentative Schedule

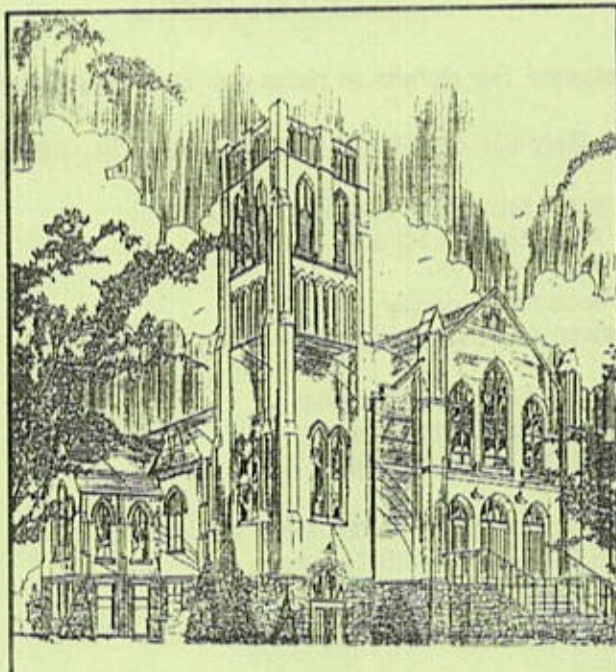
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|----------------|---|
| October 20     | Susan Hookong (guitar, vocals), Colleen Allen (saxophone, flute, vocals) & Alejandra Nunez (percussion, vocals) |
| March 23, 2002 | Lori Gemmell (harp) & Denise Williams (soprano)   |
| April 20, 2002 | Onyx Wind Quintet   |
| T.B.A.         | Amber Bishop (soprano)  |

All concerts at 8:00 p.m. For more information, please call the church office at (416) 763-2393. Volunteers and new Concert Committee members are needed.

### Weekly

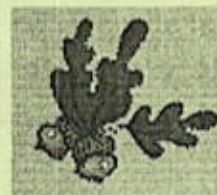
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|--------------------------------------|--|
| Every 2nd Monday<br>8:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Prayer Meetings (call to confirm)<br>Call Evelyn Butler (416-604-8692) or Marion Karasiuk (416-604-1591) for info. |
| Wednesdays<br>8:00 - 9:30 p.m.       | Choir Practice<br>Call James Bailey (416-537-4140, days) or (416-530-4147, evenings) for info.                     |

Watch for updates to this Calendar as the Committees and Groups get started for this year.



### A Brief Word from the Editor

Contributors to this newsletter: Rev. Jack Adam, Marion Karasiuk, Anthony Ruta, Sheila Crummey, James Bailey, Carol Alton, Bruce Alton, Lynda Ward, Nan Weston, Marilyn Shortt and Karen Burch. God Bless You All!



As always, I am thankful for all the contributions to this newsletter and I am amazed at how it all comes together.

I am excited about this period of transition that our church is in and all the possibilities that this holds. I can't wait to see what new opportunities for deepening our faith and awareness arise and how our existing groups are revitalized. I encourage everyone to take part in the evolution of St. John's and to get to know the members of our parish better. Watch the newsletter and weekly bulletins as we keep you up to date on what is happening around St. John's and within our wider community.

All the best for you and your family,

Andrea Ruddy  
(416-769-7948, [cmrd@sympatico.ca](mailto:cmrd@sympatico.ca))



### St. John's Anglican Church, West Toronto

288 Humberside Ave. (at Quebec Ave.), Toronto, Ontario, M6P 1L5  
416-763-2393 [www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish/stjohns/](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish/stjohns/)

Yahoo group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stjohnstoronto>