

July 15, 2008

SJWT



Toronto Island Hike and Bike: (Saturday, July 12) Gord, Anthony, Gary, Sue, Harold, Lynelle. Don't forget our next hike – mark your calendar!

SUMMER EDITION 2008

Dear Friends,

Welcome to summer with this one-month special edition of all the great things happening at St. John's! Travel Safely. We look forward to seeing you.

Worship with us this Sunday, July 20: 10th of Pentecost: 8:30 Early Eucharist 10:30 Sermon: The Rev. Bob Shantz. Celebrant: Rev. Bob Shantz; Musicians: David Jones.

E-news Editor

We invite your interest in the ministry role of E-newsletter Editor: We are grateful for Marilyn Kluysskens' fine work over the past year as Editor of "News from St. John's." This fall, as we look to Marilyn's expertise in other roles at St. John's, we invite your interest in the role of E-newsletter Editor. You will find the role description attached. Please give it some thought and prayer and get in touch by mid-August.



Announcements & Events

Summer Tuesday Evening Worship

Every Tuesday 7:30 p.m. in the Garden Chapel from July 8 to August 28. Our theme this year is 'Who do you say that I am?' a reflection by different people on who Jesus is to them. How I describe my Faith.... Musician: Jaroslav Czerwinec, Accordion. The summer schedule:

Date	Leader	Celebrant
July 22	Tim	Bob
July 29	Tom	Bob
Aug 5	Gary	Gary
Aug 12	Catherine	Gary
Aug 19	Liz	Liz
Aug 26	Bob	Bob

For Leaders: remember to make sure that you have selected your hymns and reading at least a week in advance and have provided them to May Webster.

Breakfast for the homeless

The Leadership Team supports the invitation from St. Stephen's College Street for volunteers from St. John's to come once a month to put on breakfast for the homeless, beginning in September. Also, we need volunteers for August 10, from 7 to 9:15 am, as this will be an observation Sunday; this will help us find out what is involved. Think about whether this might be a way you might make a difference in the world. Sign up at the Action Desk.

Calling together our St. John's Youth Group

We held a great first meeting over lunch at the Purple Onion, with 8 youth and 2 adult leaders in attendance. In addition to great food and conversation, we came up with a lot of ideas for the fall, including a Dance Party, a Bake-Off, Games Day, and Visit to the Nursing Home. Our next event is a Barbeque and Water Fight following Worship on Sunday, August 17 – to be held in the Garden Chapel! You are very welcome to join us!

Great Upcoming Music!

July 20 and 27: David Jones, piano and organ.

Upcoming Hikes

September 6, October 4 – somewhere on the Bruce Trail...details to come! If you would like to be notified in advance, please contact our Outdoors Coordinator, Tom Gehrels, at mariengehrels@yahoo.com

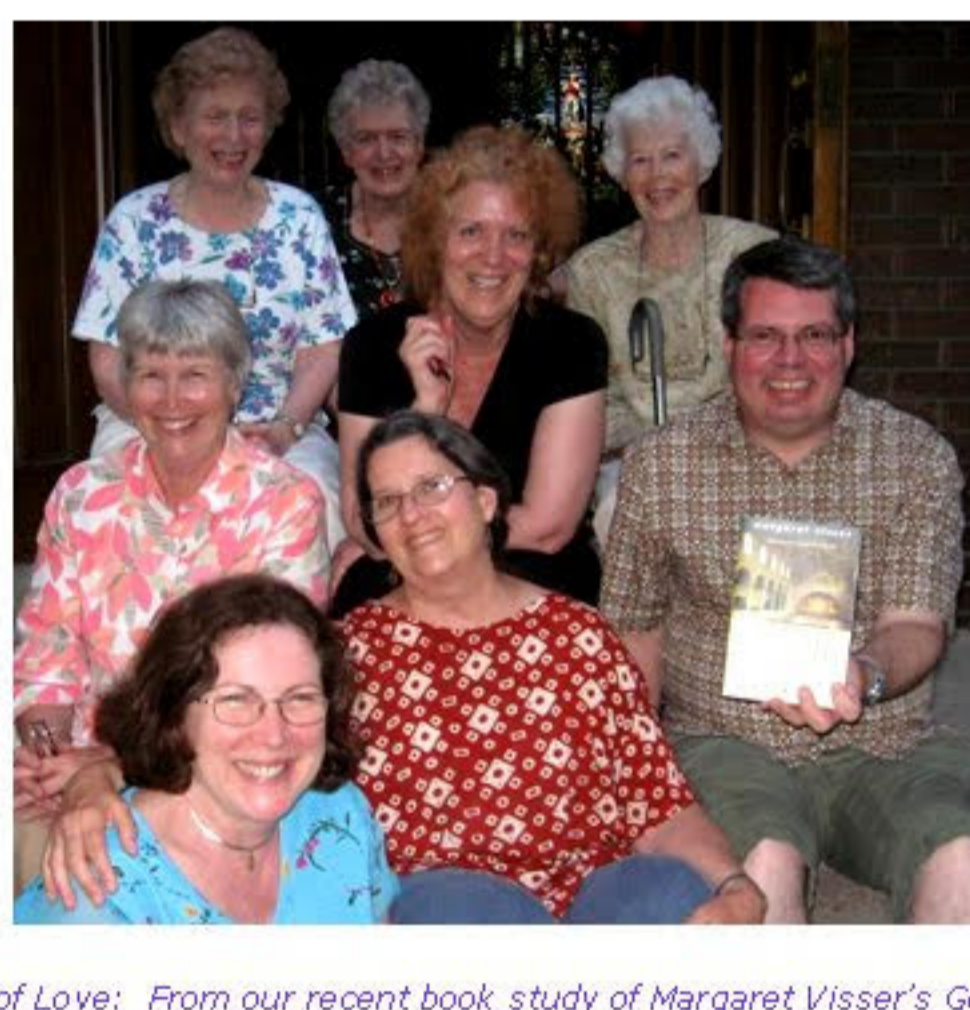
Advanced Notice

We will hold a One-Day Yard Sale on Saturday, September 27. Put the date in your calendar. Set your items aside in a box – Start now! Bring the box to the church in August and early September for storage on the balcony. For more information, contact Sue Ferguson, 416-769-5267.

New Book Study



This summer we invite you to join us in reading Jean Vanier's Becoming Human. From the Publisher's Notes: "In this provocative work, Jean Vanier shares his profoundly human vision for creating a common good that radically changes our communities, our relationships, and ourselves. He proposes that by opening ourselves to outsiders, those that we perceive as weak, different, or inferior, we can achieve pure personal and societal freedom. Our society shuns weakness and glorifies strength. By embracing weakness, however, we learn new ways of living and discover greater compassion, trust and understanding. This spirit of inclusion has extraordinary implications for the way we live our lives and build our communities." Come and be part of the discussion over a delightful French meal, Wednesday, August 13. Supper – 6 PM; Discussion – 7 PM.



Geometry of Love: From our recent book study of Margaret Visser's Geometry of Love: Mabel Anne Waters, Joan Knight, Brian MacIntyre, Sue Ferguson, Lynda Ward, Joan Scott, Joan Devitt and Ethel Jackson

Generations

Last summer I was reading physicist Brian Greene's The Fabric of the Cosmos, which attempts to explain to the layperson the current state of scientific knowledge of the origin of absolutely everything. I particularly remember one sunny August afternoon with this book, sitting on a park bench facing the lake in Port Credit, being awestruck with what I had just read: that some fourteen billion years ago, just twenty pounds or so of super squeezed matter expanded swiftly and exponentially; eventually giving rise to galaxies, stars, planets, this planet, life on this planet, human life; and quite lately to me on a park bench facing Lake Ontario, watching and listening to the waves lap against the shore. Exactly that moment. Or exactly this moment, the moment you are reading this.



In its own pre-scientific terms, the Bible tells the same story. Any reader of the Bible can trace themselves back to the beginning of creation, with the aid of the numerous genealogies contained within. But there is one significant difference. The origin of everything is not a few kilograms of "stuff", but a Person – a Person who named Itself to Moses "I am" or "I will be". Whenever you or I say of ourselves, "I am", it is a faint echo of this cosmic assertion of dynamic self-awareness that called and keeps calling the world into being, into relationship with Itself.

Both science and the Bible teach us that we are all related. Look at anyone – anyone at all – and recognize that you both share a common ancestor. Science has taught us that this is not only true for the human family, but that all living creatures on earth are descended from the same self-replicating molecule. So you can also look at your cat, or dog, even the meat and vegetables on your plate, and see them as your cousins, many times removed.

Of course, just recognizing a genetic relationship to another doesn't make for automatic peace and harmony. Jacob and Esau shared the same womb, but were rivals from birth, and were to become the ancestors of quarreling nations.

It is only when we realize our spiritual relationship to others – that others are just as real as we are, just as much "I" as I am – that we begin a long journey away from rivalry or indifference, towards mutually supportive and loving relationships.

Christians see Jesus as the supreme example of this. The stories of the Virgin Birth and his baptism by John depict him as someone who was born of the Spirit, "born from above". For him, the primary spiritual relationship to God was what mattered in life, and this was realized through service to others, not through competition and violence. The Cross represents the extent to which he was willing to go on this journey. In contemplating it and attempting to live up to it, we are rescued from the sorrows and terrors of our fourteen billion year journey, and that is another thing that should strike us with awe.

Creator of the universe, Father of infinite compassion, be near to us this day and always. Amen.

Brian MacIntyre

For meditation and reflection, consider the scriptures for next Sunday, July 20, 2008: Genesis 28:10-19; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-43.

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.

