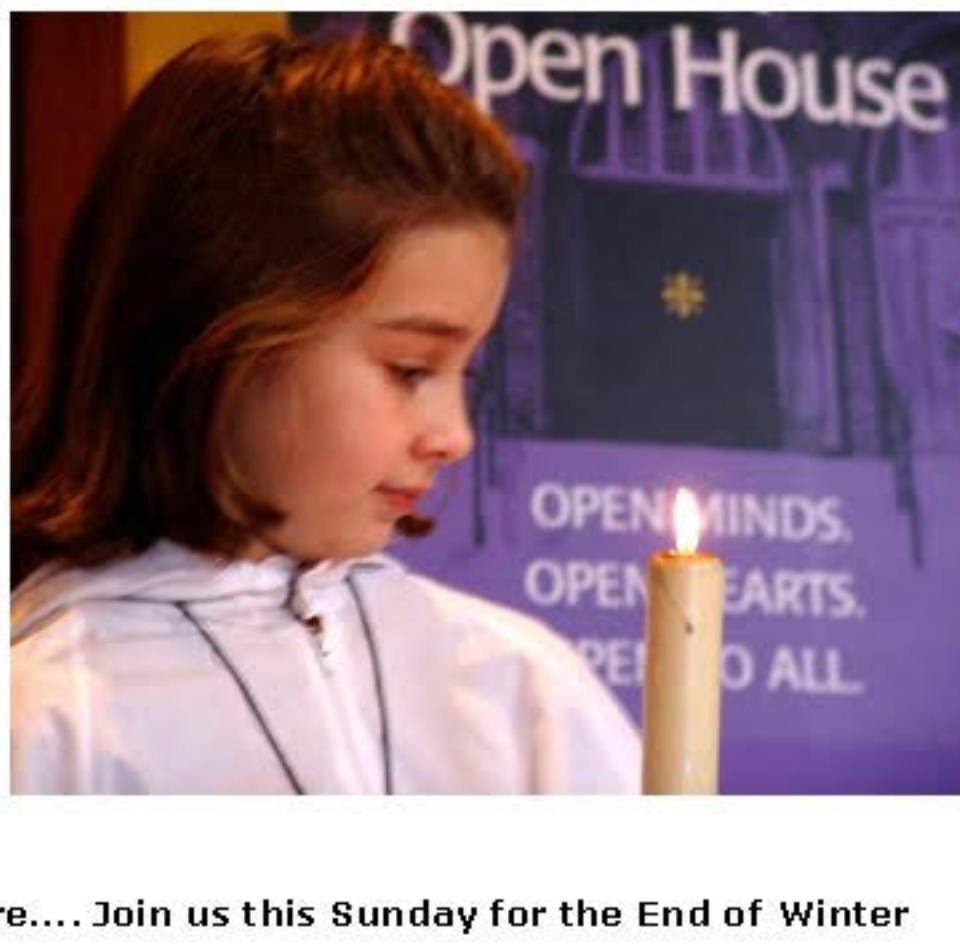


March 26, 2008

SJWT



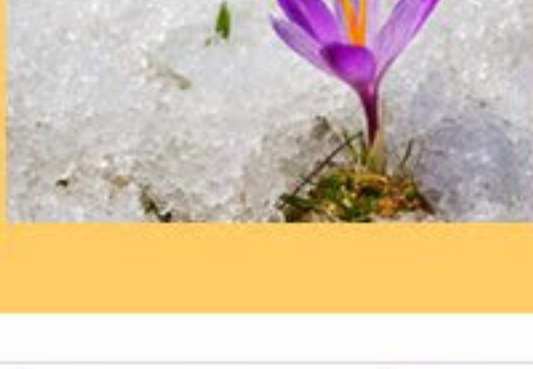
Dear Friends,  
**Spring is almost there.... Join us this Sunday for the End of Winter Family Walk!**

**Worship with us this Sunday, March 30: 2nd Sunday of Easter:**

8:30 Early Eucharist; 10:30 Eucharist; Sermon: Gary van der Meer; Celebrant: Gary van der Meer; **New Musicians: Freedomize!**. Refreshments following.

**End of Winter Walk**

Sunday, March 30, after the 10:30 service, end of winter walk - 12:15PM from St. John's. 'Make your own sandwiches' are available before we leave church. We will walk the trails of High Park, ending up at the Grenadier Café around 2PM. Those who want to stay for a bite to eat can do so. This is a great opportunity to bring your children along, so we look forward to seeing you there!



**Announcements & Events**

**Great Upcoming Music**

**March 30 and April 6:** Freedomize! From the downtown twenty-something church Freedomize: Andrew, guitar; Leah, vocals; Mike, drums.

**Writing Cheques to St.John's**

Our bank has tightened its rules about cashing cheques written to St. John's. Our official name for banking purposes: **"St. John's Church, West Toronto"**.

**Leadership Team Meeting**

The next Leadership Team meeting will be **Monday, April 14, 7:15 p.m.** These meetings are where the St. John's community coordinates our Events Calendar and provides support to the people organizing and leading Events. It is also a great place to bring new ideas for our community.

**Midweek Worship Services**

**Thursday March 27, 10:30 a.m.** Morning Prayer, with scripture discussion followed by home baked refreshments; **Tuesday, April 1, 7:00 a.m.** Morning Prayer, with Anglican Rosary and silent meditation. **Tuesday, April 1, 3:00 p.m.** Monthly Communion Service at Runnymede Hospital.

**Movie Day**



Come to the Movies on **Saturday March 29.**

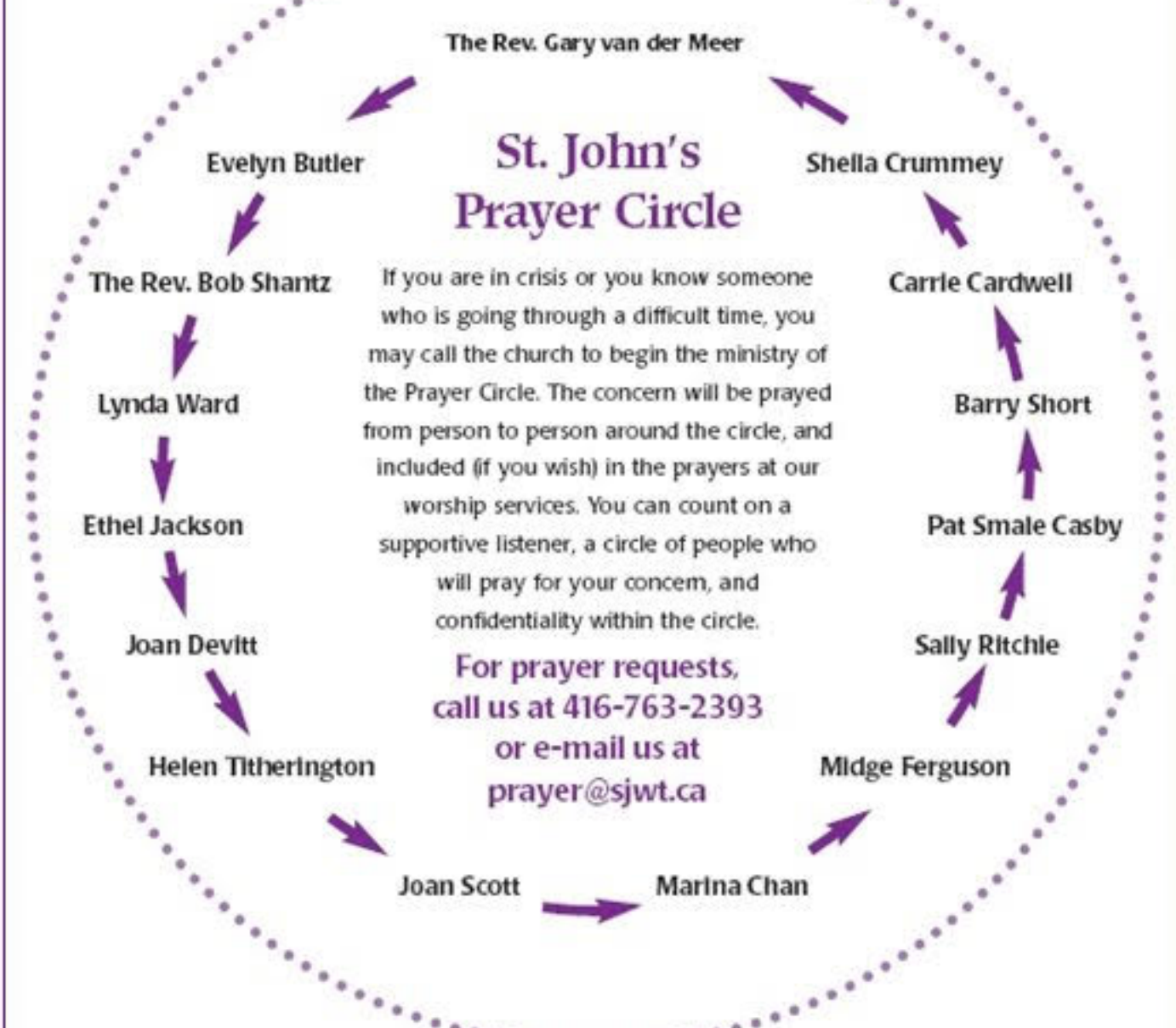
**If you'd like to join us, there are still some tickets available !!**

For those of you who have already bought tickets, please make sure you are at 66 Pacific Ave at the following times:

- 12.15 pm Ratatouille
- 2.15 pm Casablanca (first show)
- 4.30 pm – dinner for visitors of both Casablanca shows !!!!**
- 4.45 pm Casablanca (second show)
- 6.45 pm Monty Python & The Holy Grail
- 8.45 pm The Bourne Ultimatum

BRING YOUR TICKETS: it includes the address and phone number to get access to the building! The cinema is located on the lower level of 66 Pacific Avenue (High Park Minto Buildings). Please call 647-262-8015 to get access to the building.

**All proceeds will go to St.John's.** For more information or to buy tickets, please contact Marilyn at 416-551-1990 or info@marilynklusens.com



*Gary van der Meer*



*Robert Shipman*

**Love: Unconditional and Limitless**

As I read the scriptures for today, I was struck by the words of Jeremiah 31:3 – "I have loved you with an everlasting love." The psalm also refers to everlasting love. Reflecting on these words, I came to a realization that the crucifixion and resurrection are about God's unconditional and limitless love.



We tend to see God in human terms. We feel we have to earn God's love. Marcus Borg reminds us that God accepts and loves us just as we are and that the Christian life is not about getting right with God. God has taken care of whatever we think separates us from God. God did this through Jesus who was the once-and-for-all sacrifice for sin. The Christian life is about developing our relationship with God in this new framework. In other words, God has set the conditions for us to form a new kind of relationship that is based on a deep attachment with God: A relationship with God that enables us to love others. I compare the importance of developing this deep attachment with God to the importance of early infant attachment. Attachment theory defines a child's first relationship as a love relationship that will have profound long-lasting effects on an individual's subsequent development. Early infant attachment is central to healthy child development and lays the foundation for relating intimately with others, both spouses and children.

I feel that the infancy stage of our spiritual development is similar to the infancy stage in our childhood development, of relationship building between infant and parents. Like infants with their parents, we can develop a deep attachment to God by experiencing God's constant and enduring love for us, even when we goof up. As we develop, we begin to realize that by God's grace we are called to love others, even people we may consider the most unlike us or most unlovable. In childhood development, once we have reached adulthood we cannot go back to infancy. However in our spiritual development journey, we may need to return to the infancy stage to strengthen our attachment with God whenever we realize that we are unable to respond in loving ways to situations that seem to threaten us.

How do we develop a deep attachment with God? We may have different ways: Solitary activities include the discipline of prayer, selected books, and silent reflection. Community activities include weekly corporate worship, discussion groups, outside activities and an opportunity to listen to others' life experiences. We need both.

What actions demonstrate that we can love unconditionally? The following are some examples: What stands have we taken on unpopular social justice issues? How do we ensure that we have a variety of events so that people with all abilities can participate? Who do we hang out with? When have we made social time for people who may not be able to ask us back? How do we ensure that newcomers are not left out? How do we learn each person's name? When we pray for victims of violence do we also pray for the individuals who have caused the violence?

**God, we want to know your love as a lived experience so that we can see all human love as love without conditions and limits. Amen.**

*Evelyn C. Butler*

*For meditation and reflection in Holy Week, the scriptures are truly rich: You might consider one for each day: Sunday: March 30, 2008 Acts 2:14a, 22-23, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31 .*

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.

