



**Dear Friends,**

**This Sunday we focus on God's will to restore all things to good, a vision for the world that Jesus called the 'Kingdom of God.'**

**Worship with us this Sunday, November 23: 8:30** Early Eucharist; **10:30** Main Eucharist: Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Gary van der Meer; Musician: Ken Whiteley, guitar; Readings: Ezekiel 34:11-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46. Sunday School and Nursery during the 10:30 service; Refreshments following.



**Evelyn: Baptism in 2 Weeks!**      *Photo by Frans Altena*

**Midweek Services: Tuesday, November 25, 7:00 AM** - Morning Prayer; **Thursday, November 27, 10:30 AM** - Holy Eucharist with ministry of Anointing. Midweek services are followed by visiting over tea and home-baked refreshments. All are welcome.

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## 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 23**

### Screening/Safe Church Training

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

### Superman! The *Second* Youth Group Movie Night

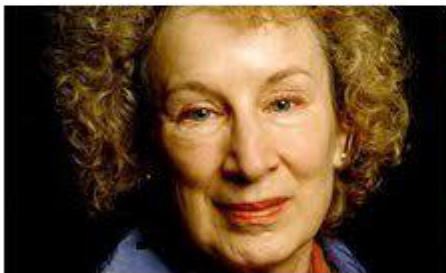


We invite youth to our *second* movie night: Come and see Superman at Heather and Robert's place. What's so interesting about Superman, and what does he have to do with church!? We'll have pizza and popcorn: Dinner contribution \$5 per person. You are welcome to bring friends! **Sunday November 23, 4:30 PM - Concludes 8:30 PM**

### 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. And we hope everyone will come and meet the neighbours! **Saturday, November 29th, 2- 5 pm.**

### Book Club



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." **Tuesday, December 2, 6:00 Supper; 7:00 Discussion; 8:30 Depart.** *Sign up at the Action Desk.*

### 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**

### Lecture by John Dominic Crossan



Travel with us to Newmarket for **John Dominic Crossan's lecture "The First Christmas?"** The lecture is based on his recently published book. Learn more about how history has biased our reading of the nativity story as it appears in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. The Christmas story is far richer and more challenging than people imagine! Lecture sponsored by

Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Newmarket. Tickets \$20. For more details contact the Rev. Bob Shantz, [bobshantz@rogers.com](mailto:bobshantz@rogers.com). **Friday, December 5,**

7:30 PM, Sir William Mulock Secondary School, Newmarket.



### Let's 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 to take up the challenge?**

### Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! Christmas Concert

Andrew, Leah, Mike and Laura invite their friends for a Christmas Sing-Along. They are playing Christmas Carols, and introducing a few songs from their new album! **Saturday, December 6, 7:00 PM - here at St. Johns!**

## Christianity 101

**We have completed our first session of Christianity 101!** Over the course of the 5 weeks, we explored: "Why Jesus?", "Anglicans, Christianity and World Religions", "Worship and the Eucharist", "Prayer", and a final creative review of all the topics intended move us toward living the faith: "Taking our tools and using them" or "moving from Secondhand to Firsthand Religion".



*I want to thank our leaders: **Frans Altena, Dionne Watson, Sheila Crummey, Bob Shantz, and Marilyn Kluyskens.** This Sunday, you will see Marilyn's creative insight in a community artwork. Thanks to all of you!* Thanks to our soup-makers. Our attendance was in the range of 20 each week. We welcome your growth in knowledge, faith, and "Firsthand Religion".

*Gary van der Meer*

# Learning and Growing in Faith



**Catherine Laird**

Catherine Laird is reading *How to Pray: A Practical Handbook* by **John Pritchard**.

"For many of us prayer is such a struggle: Am I saying the right words? Am I doing it at the right times of day? Do I need to begin and end in a certain way?"

"A book that simplifies this is right up my alley. The book tells me that praying is something we all do unconsciously. It might be when I am angry, frustrated or shocked at something that has happened to someone else. It might when I notice a beautiful sunset or a colourful garden. If I hear a wonderful song or a story that is heart-stopping. This book says to recognize these moments and something stirs inside me, and to savour them. John Pritchard's book makes it so easy. Prayer is not a super-spiritual technique. How I pray now: I pray being in the moment, in the Now. I got this from the book.

***Catherine Laird***

*Catherine is our Sunday School Coordinator. She will be received into the Anglican Church by Bishop Poole at St. John's on January 18, 2009.*

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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!**

