

April 9, 2008

SJWT



Geneva & Dionne Watson

Dear Friends,

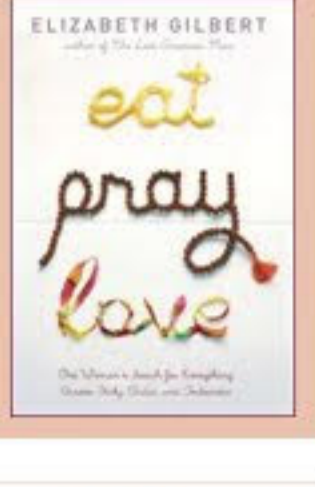
Each day brings new experiences of the sacred, and we invite you to share these ones at St. John's!

Worship with us this Sunday, April 13: 4th Sunday of Easter:

8:30 Early Eucharist; 10:30 Eucharist; Sermon: Gary van der Meer; Celebrant: Gary van der Meer; Musician: Barry Short; Refreshments following.

Eat Pray Love

The Thursday Morning Worship participants invite you to accompany them in reading the book, "Eat, Pray, Love" by Elizabeth Gilbert. Get it from your local bookstore or call the church office as we have a few extra copies.



Read the book this month and come and talk about it at the Potluck Supper and Discussion, **Tuesday, April 29, 6:00 p.m.**

Announcements & Events

Field trip to the ROM!

At a recent Bishop Spong lecture, we heard that following Darwin, we can no longer think of ourselves as less than we were (before the Fall), rather we are more than we were. Let's understand Darwin for his own sake. Meet us at the ROM this **Friday, April 11 at 6:30** and we'll tour the Darwin exhibit together. Let's see where these faith conversations take us.

Great Upcoming Music!

April 13: Barry Short, organ and piano; April 20: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion; April 27: Anne Lederman, fiddle; and Tom Leighton, piano.

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.

Worship with us during the week

Thursday April 10, 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, with scripture discussion followed by home baked refreshments; **Tuesday, April 15, 7:00 a.m.** Morning Prayer, with Anglican Rosary and silent meditation;

Worship Field Trip – St. Anne's Church

This year, Bishop Poole invites all the congregations of York-Credit Valley to "Glimpses of Glory" the York-Credit Valley Easter Carol Service, **Sunday, April 20, 4:00 p.m.** at St. Anne's Anglican Church on Gladstone Avenue. St. Anne's is a Canadian landmark: the church interior was painted by members of the Group of Seven! The Choirs and Choristers of all York-Credit Valley area churches are welcome to take part in this festive service. If you wish to be part of the mass choir, you are expected to be available for a 2:00pm rehearsal on April 20th, and should contact the Director of Music, Christopher Dawes, c/o the Church of St. George-the-Martyr, 416 598-4366, chris.dawes@orgalt.com. Music will be provided immediately after Easter, and must be prepared in advance of the 20th. Choristers are requested to bring copies of "Common Praise" on the 20th.

Gardening Day!

Help us prepare the front garden and the backyard Garden Chapel for spring, **Saturday, May 3.** Plan to spend the morning!

York-Credit Valley Area Ministry Day - Passionate Spirituality "...life to the full."

Keynote address: "Passionate Spirituality: An Anglican Oxymoron" by the Venerable Michael Patterson. Archdeacon Patterson serves as Executive Officer for Diocese of Niagara. Prior to his current ministry, he served as Director of Evangelism for the diocese as well as priest in various parishes. **Workshops:** *Passion for Evangelism* – The Rev. Dr. Duke Vipperman, Church of the Resurrection; *Passion for Justice* – The Rev. Canon Jeannie Laughrey, All Saints Sherbourne Street; *Passion for Children's Ministry* – The Rev. Amy Crawford, Children, Teens and Youth Coordinator for the United Church of Canada; *Passion for Stewardship* – The Rev. Canon Peter Walker, St. Peter's Church, Cobourg; *Passion for Planting* – The Rev. Jenny Andison; **St. Paul's Bloor Street. Saturday, April 26, 8 am to 3 pm.** Lunch will be provided for those who request it in advance. There will be a \$10.00 charge to cover the cost of the lunch. The Franklin Horner Community Centre is located at 432 Horner Avenue (between Kipling and Brown's Line) in Etobicoke. It is accessible by TTC from Kipling Subway Station (there is a stop right in front of the facility). Telephone is 416-252-6822. See the Poster in the Narthex.

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".

St. John's Spiritual Retreat at St. John's Convent

The theme for our spiritual retreat is "Sacred Spaces" – Sacred Spaces within ourselves, in our homes, in our church, and around the world." Our retreat leader will be Sister Louise, SSJD.



Friday, June 13 to Saturday, June 14. \$110, includes your own room and all meals. Questions and sign up: Lynelle Gehrels, 416-656-9111 and Joan Devitt, 416-766-3062



Thanks again to our great new musicians Leah, Andrew, Mike and Laura for playing last two Sundays!



St. John's runners at the Harry's Spring Run-Off.

Left to right: Gary van der Meer, Jim Crummey (he went for best dressed runner!), Chris Barnett and Tim Taylor.

Jesus the Rabbi – The Teacher

In the days immediately following the crucifixion of the rabbi Jesus, his followers, who were also his students, tried to make sense of Jesus' death. To no avail. They were serious students but still they did not understand; they needed one more lesson. Jesus appeared to them, knowing their need for more teaching. "Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures." (Luke 24:27) It seems that Jesus' followers needed to have a summary of all the teachings they had heard. We can appreciate this need.

Dedicated students get lost in thoughtful reflection with each new lesson. They do not see, and are not expected to see, the big picture. They follow the teacher who has tapped their interests and abilities and who has not betrayed their trust. Consciously and sub-consciously, the students observe how the teacher lives with his or her knowledge, modeling their behaviour on their teacher's way of living and instructing.

Jesus, however, did not stay on for any length of time. "Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight." (Luke 24:31) They were now on their own. The wise teacher knows that student life must end. One may want to be a student for the whole of one's life, but at some point it is required to give away what one has received. The student must assume the role of teacher. Such a teacher also knows that he, too, needs to move on and become a student again. He gives away who he is, dies to whom he is, so that he may live.

Jesus had said to his disciples, "When you eat and drink this bread and wine we become as one." (Matthew 26:26-27) This is true for us as well. While we will always, 'till the day we die, learn more and more of who we are in Christ, we are also now teachers of what we have learned. Indeed, we have been commissioned to speak with authority in his name. Let us be wise and compassionate teachers as Jesus was.

God, what are you asking me to teach? Amen.

Bob Shantz

For meditation and reflection in Holy Week, the scriptures are truly rich: You might consider one for each day: Sunday: April 6, 2008 – The 4th Sunday of Easter: Acts 2:42-47; John 10:1-10.

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.

