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January 21  
2010

SJWTS



**Dear Friends,**

**The Primate reminded us about the servants who assisted at Jesus' first miracle.  
Miracles await: Lift your mind from your own stuff...**

**Robbie Burns Dinner:** Come be part of the great annual event with fantastic meal and entertainment. Tickets: \$35. Contact Evelyn Butler or Bill Dunford, 416-604-8692. The dinner will be held in the Banquet Room of the Grenadier Retirement Home, Bloor & Clendenan, **Saturday, January 23, 2010, 6:30 PM Reception; 7:00 PM Supper.**

**Worship with us this Sunday, January 24: 8:30** Early Eucharist; **10:30** Holy Eucharist;  
Scriptures: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Luke 4:14-21. Celebrant:  
Gary van der Meer; Sermon: Brenda Stewart, Musician: Ken Whiteley, *blues guitar*; Stay for Refreshments following Worship.



**Natural Church Development Survey (NCD):** Next Sunday, January 24: The end of January is the one-year anniversary of our first NCD survey with (NCD). In 2009, we addressed the results, using our strength of "Loving Relationships" to grow in "Passionate Spirituality." Our second NCD survey will show our progress and lead into our plans for the coming year. Survey follows the 10:30 Worship this Sunday.

## Haiti Relief



*We have family connections in Haiti... How to help: Make your Cheque payable to the **Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**. Put "**Haiti Relief**" in the subject line and **the Canadian Government matches dollar for dollar**. Bring your cheque with you Sunday, and we'll make sure they get it right away. Or mail your cheque: **80 Hayden Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2**.*

### **Breakfast for the Homeless**

Our St. John's Community organizes offers the Breakfast Ministry at St. Stephen's Church (just north of Kensington Market) on the Third, Fourth Sundays of Each Month (plus Christmas Day and sometimes the Fifth Sunday). Be part of the First Shift (begins at 6 AM) or the Second Shift (begins at 7 AM). Contact Tom Gehrels to be part of it: 416-656-9111, [mariengehrels@yahoo.com](mailto:mariengehrels@yahoo.com). This Month: **Sundays, January 24, 31.**

### **Annual Vestry Meeting**

Please begin to submit reports for the Annual Vestry Report.

Meeting: **Sunday, February 7, noon.**

### **Support for Repairs**

We ask your financial support for the following unbudgeted expenses: Asbestos Abatement \$3600; Elevator Motor Replacement \$3000.

### **Messy Church**

Worship for 2-6 year-olds and their Families and Friends. January Theme: Who is Jesus? **Saturday January 30 and Saturday, February 27, 3-5 PM.**

### **Book Study**

"The World Needs Your Kid: How to Raise Children Who Care and Contribute" by Craig and Marc Kielburger (authors of "From Me to We"). There are 2 discussion sessions (held at the Church):

*First Session: Tuesday, February 9, 6:30 Potluck, 7:30 PM; INCLUDES CHILDCARE!*

*Second Session: Thursday, Feb. 25, 6 PM Supper, 7 PM Discussion. Potluck sign up sheet at Action Desk.*

### **Screening**

Thanks to all who participated in the Screening Evening. We will hold another session to coincide with Vestry and new ministry roles. **Thursday, February 4, 7:30 PM.**

### **Annual Retreat**

Phyllis Tickle – "The Great Emergence" This year, we are joining a larger retreat to be led by Phyllis Tickle: 21st CENTURY CHRISTIANITY AND 21st CENTURY CHRISTIANS. Phyllis Tickle, widely-published and well-known retreat leader, will lead us in reflection on three key questions: What is happening to us? Why is it happening? Where are we going? The retreat will wrap up with a discussion of how we go forward together as Christians in the emerging church of the 21st century. Fee \$250 residential, \$150 commuters, deposit \$50. See details on the Action Table. **May 14-16; Begins at 4 pm Friday, ends 1:30 pm Sunday.**

### **Great Upcoming Music!**

January 24: Ken Whiteley, *guitar*; January 31: Douglas Millar, *organ*; February 7: Jaroslaw Czerwinec, *accordion*; February; February 14: Glory Glory Hallelujah, *praise band*.



*...fantastic music this Sunday by Ken Whiteley...*

**Thursday Morning Worship** - Every Thursday 10:30 AM followed by visiting over tea and home-baked refreshments. Fourth Thursday of the month is Holy Eucharist with Ministry of Anointing for Healing.



## This Week on the Spiritual Path

Any spiritual path involves practice and preparation. Practice makes the path more satisfying and meaningful, whether it is yoga, or Buddha, or *Jesus*! How do we practice? We live the values of the Christian life. We cultivate our relationship with God. We worship together, and we *prepare ourselves* to 'meet God' in worship. Here are my suggestions for this *your practice* this week.

1. **Read:** Sunday readings in advance: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Luke 4:14-21. What are the main ideas that seem important to you? Predict: What will the sermon be about? (Brenda is preaching at both services).

2. **Think:** From the readings above, consider **Psalm 19**. Notice how the author is focused on the theme of "delight." Whether natural wonders like the sky and the sun or the ways of God as codified in ancient texts, our response is joyful awe, described as "rejoicing the heart" and "enlightening the eyes." Facing such beauty, I desire to be purified, to be better than I am, to ask "Clear me from hidden faults." Spend some time in delight: places, people, activities. Notice how much more effective this is than the waving finger of "should." Delight calls forward the better you.

3. **Pray:** "What is more desirable than gold and sweeter than honey in the comb...for you?"

4. **Act:** Do your thing! For the person who needs it... for the delight of being able to do it... And afterwards: Who benefits when I do this?

*Worshipping as a community is a very important! You will get more out of it, and have more to give of yourself if you work at your practice of the Christian Life.*

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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!**

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## **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.

