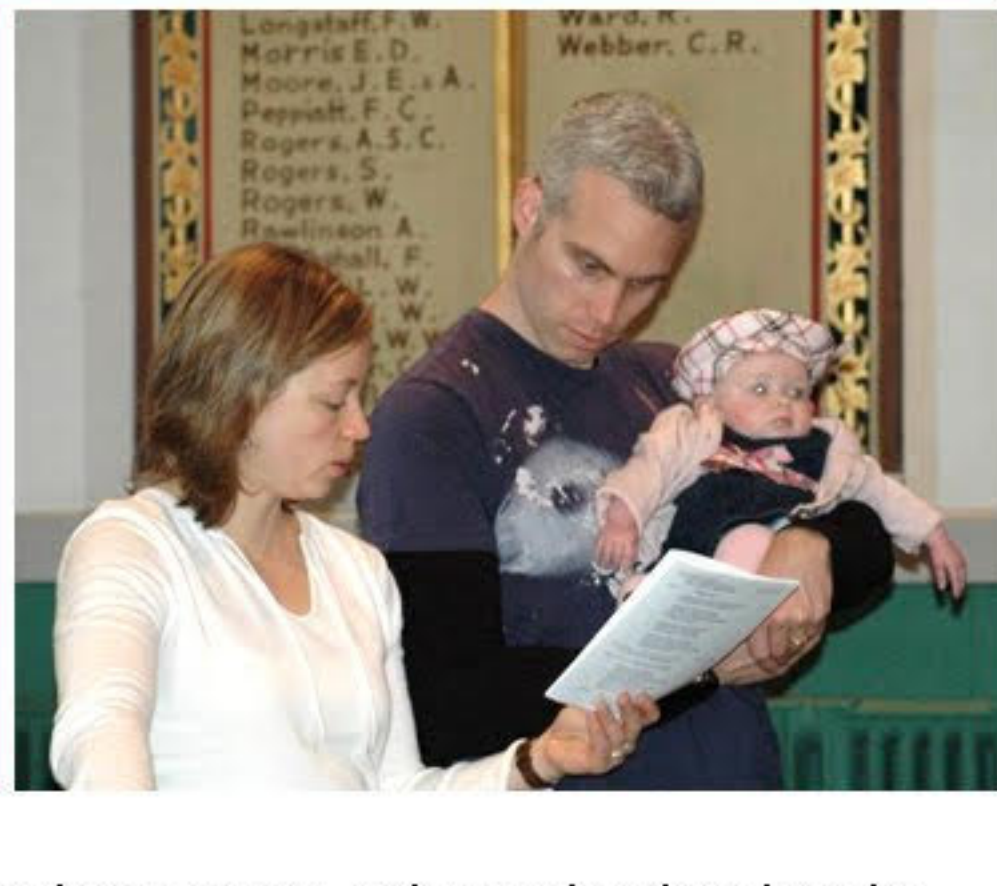


May 28, 2008

SJWT



Dear Friends,

This month, as we welcome Geneva, Robert and Zachary into the Family of God, we are witnesses. God opens the welcome to each of us!

Worship with us this Sunday, June 1: 3rd of Pentecost:

8:30 Early Eucharist 10:30 Eucharist Sermon and Celebrant: Gary van der Meer; Musician: Anne Lederman and Tom Leighton, fiddle and piano. Refreshments following.

Announcements & Events

Great Upcoming Music!

June 1: Anne Lederman and Tom Leighton, fiddle and piano. June 8: Bruce Reid.

Upcoming Baptisms

Plan to be with us as we celebrate the Baptism of Geneva Watson, Sunday, June 1 at 10:30. We will celebrate the Baptism of Robert Heal and Zachary Cardwell, on Sunday June 15 at 10:30. We remember Geneva, Robert, Zachary, their families, godparents and baptismal sponsors in our prayers.

Bruce Trail Hike

June 7: hike the Bruce Trail with outdoor litany, followed by visit to the Creemore brewery and Peter Cellar's pub. Leave from church at 9AM sharp. Bring water, picnic, warm and waterproof clothing, sturdy shoes, bug repellent, camera. This hike will be 3-4 hours and will take in some amazing crevice caves on the trail. Plan to be away until at least 6PM. For more information, contact Tom Gehrels, 416-656-9111 or mariengehrels@yahoo.com.

Worship with us during the week

Thursday May 29, 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, with scripture discussion followed by home baked refreshments; and visiting. Tuesday, June 3, 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, with Anglican Rosary and silent meditation;

Note new time for Summer Tuesday Evening Worship

Every Tuesday 7:30 p.m. in the Garden Chapel from July 7 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.

Final payments due for 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. Please make the final payment cheque payable to St. John's Church, West Toronto. Questions and sign up: Lynelle Gehrels, 416-656-9111 and Joan Devitt, 416-766-3062

Sunday School Camp-Out: Advance Notice

The Sunday School Camp-Out will take place in the Church backyard, Friday, June 20 after school to Saturday June 21. Tents, Barbeque, marshmallows... Mark your calendars!

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.

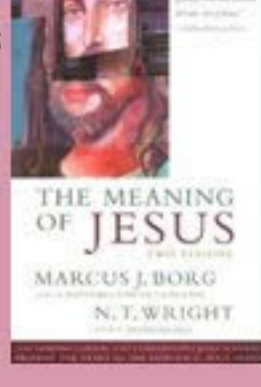
Leadership Team Meeting

Monday, June 16, 7:30 pm at the church

Book Study

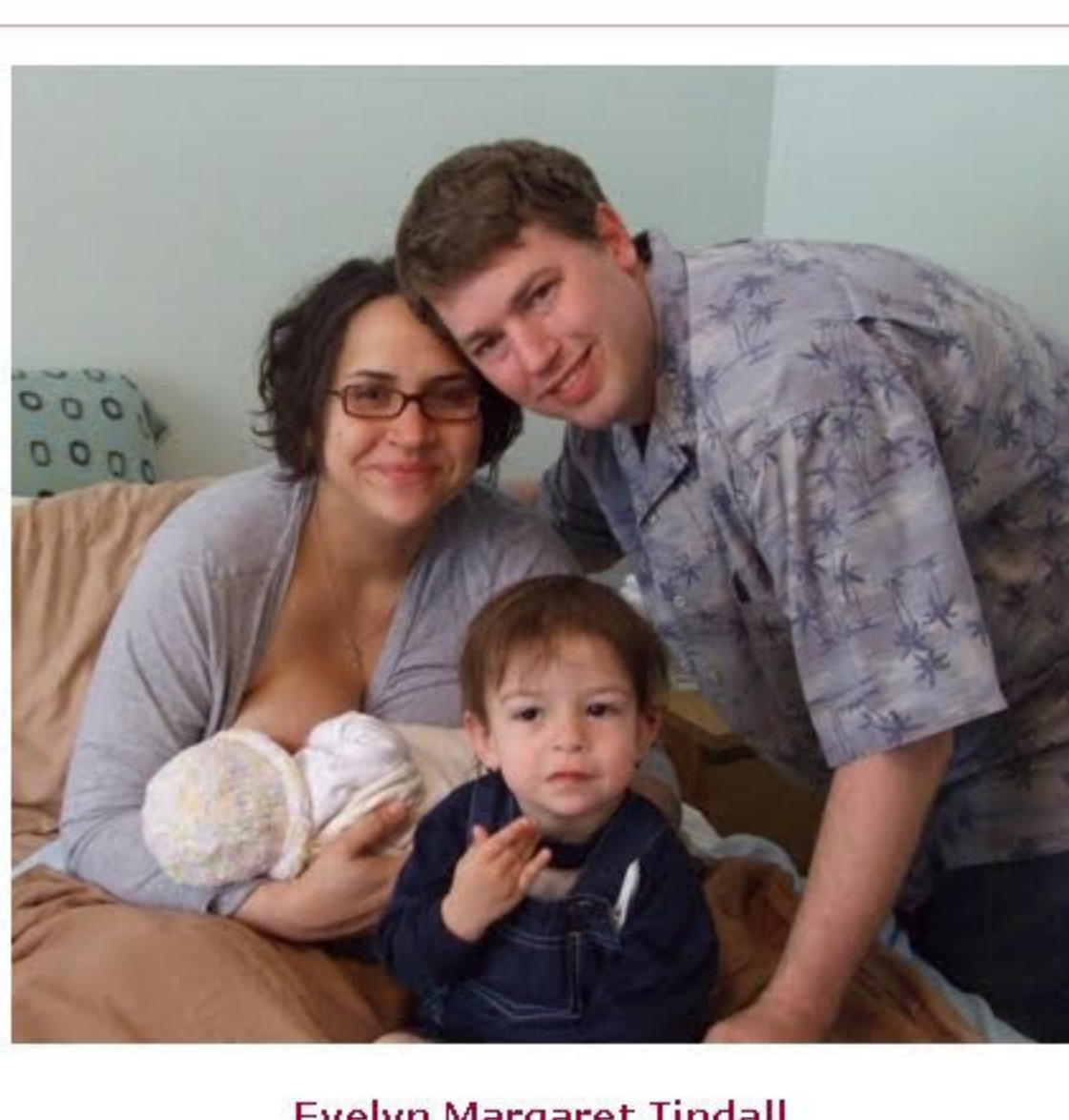
Readers of Eat, Pray, Love invite you to join them in reading a second book, "The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions," by Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright, (Harper, San Francisco, 1999). Bishop Tom Wright of the Diocese of Durham, England presents a traditional view of Jesus, and Marcus Borg presents a radical progressive view, in dialogue with each other. Order it at your library, bookstore, or online. Potluck Supper and Discussion:

Wednesday, June 11, 6:00 p.m.



Thanks:

To all those who participated in helping us to celebrate Doors Open Toronto in this space. And thanks to Jim Crummey for his photo of Sean, Dionne and Geneva.



Evelyn Margaret Tindall Jennifer, David and Declan and newborn Evelyn. Welcome to God's World!

Worried?

Before I did my taxes, I worried about them.

Will I get a refund? What shall I do: Go on a long vacation? Repair the furnace? The trip surely sounds nice. But I don't want to live in a cold house next winter. Oh, imagine if we have another winter like last. That would be a disaster! Which reminds me, before next winter I need to clean the gutters. My neighbour had a leak in his house when his gutters overflowed. Rotted right through the floor beams! Which reminds me: I think the shower isn't caulked properly. What if the floor beams under the tub were to rot? What if... What if... What if...



As human beings we are capable of doing some amazing things with our minds. We can worry about our retirement twenty years from now, about tomorrow's day at work, about an argument we had three months ago or indeed about our leaking shower. But when we take ourselves away from the chatter in our mind and just look at things objectively, what good has worrying ever done? Has it ever constructively solved a problem? Or did it just get in the way of solving it? What happens to you when you worry?

Matthew puts it well in chapter 6, verses 26 and 27: "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" A little further he continues: "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

It is a good reminder that there are more important things than worrying. If we put our trust in God that he will provide, we would stop worrying and our lives will become so much richer for it. After all, God will never forget about us. Another reminder from the Prophet Isaiah takes us even further: "I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands." (Chapter 49) The Apostle Paul puts it this way: "Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich!" (1 Corinthians 4:8) Once I realize that God will give me everything I need, and has already done so, I am free!

Words! Will God follow through? My life experience tells me that God has already done so, and will again. I will caulk my shower. But I am confident that my life is in God's hands.

Help me trust that you will provide for me. Amen.

Tom Gehrels

For meditation and reflection, consider the scriptures for next Sunday, June 1, 2008: Genesis 6:9-22, 7:24, 8:14-19; Psalm 46; Romans 1:16-17, 3:22-31; Matthew 7:21-29.

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.

