

April 24, 2008

SJWT



Dear Friends,

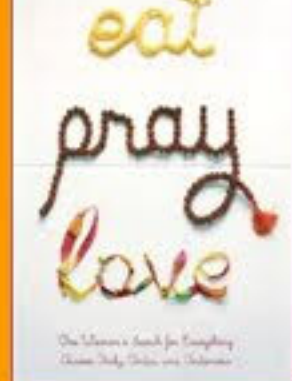
God is in us, around us, and where our eyes meet – be at peace as you are surrounded by a Community of Love!

Worship with us this Sunday, April 27: 6th Sunday of Easter:

8:30 Early Eucharist; 10:30 Eucharist; Sermon: Gary van der Meer; Celebrant: Gary van der Meer; Musician: Anne Lederman and Tom Leighton; 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, **Potluck Supper and Discussion, Tuesday, April 29, 6:00 p.m. Potluck begins at 6pm. Book Discussion begins at 7pm.**

Announcements & Events

Pentecost Drama Rehearsals

We look forward to a liturgical drama for the celebration of **Pentecost, Sunday, May 11, 10:30**. Rehearsals for the drama, adapted and directed by Robert Shipman, **each Sunday morning after coffee(!)** beginning at 12:30. Musicians for the Pentecost Drama: Glory Glory Hallelujah (our new music group from Freedomize). Mark your calendar for a great celebration in worship.

Great Upcoming Music!

April 27: Anne Lederman, fiddle; and Tom Leighton, piano; May 4: Ken Whiteley, guitar; May 11: Glory Glory Hallelujah, worship band.

Volunteer on the Board of Early Enrichment Daycare

The Early Enrichment Daycare (founded by St. John's) is governed by a Board, made up of 7 members: 3 Parent Representatives, 3 Church Representatives and the Incumbent. The wardens invite expressions of interest in serving as a Church Representative. The Board meets 9 times per year on a weekday evening. We are grateful to Anne-Marie Mohler who has completed a term on the Board. Allan Waters and Jill Arthur continue to serve as Church Representatives. Please speak to Gary or a warden to express interest.

Leadership Team Meeting

The next Leadership Team meeting will be **Monday, May 12, 7:30 p.m.**

Worship with us during the week

Tuesday, April 29, 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, with Anglican Rosary and silent meditation; **Thursday May 1, 10:30 a.m.** Morning Prayer, with scripture discussion followed by home baked refreshments;

Gardening Day!

Help us prepare the front garden and the backyard Garden Chapel for spring, **Saturday, May 10**. 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"**.

Bishop's Company Dinner

The Bishop's Company is holding a Gala Dinner on Wednesday, April 30, with special guest, Valerie Pringle. Last year, the event generated over \$95,000, which was used to equip the College of Bishops in responding to a variety of emergencies facing our clergy, including but not limited to: healthcare needs, unexpected travel requirements, a housing crises or funeral costs, none of which is covered by our diocesan operating budget. Details: **Wednesday, April 30** – Reception at Church of the Holy Trinity, followed by dinner at the Marriott Hotel. Single Ticket price: \$175. Parish Table (10) \$1600. Starts at 6:00 at Holy Trinity. Dinner at the Marriott at 7:00. Evening ends around 9:30.

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

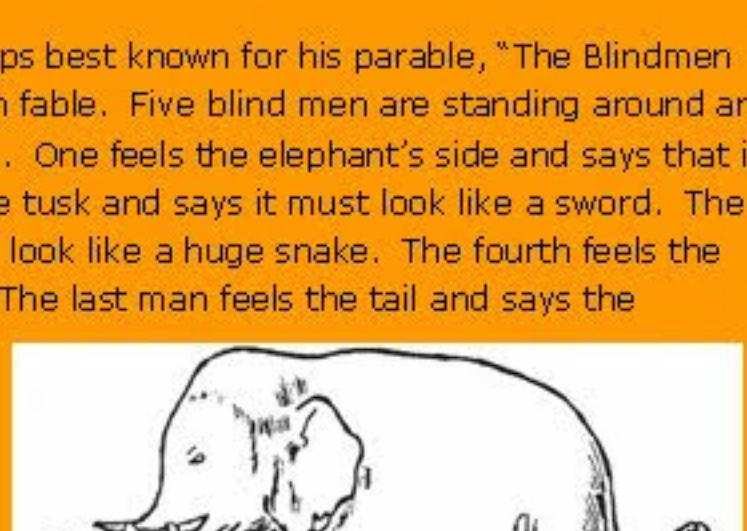


The Way He Is

John Saxe an American poet is perhaps best known for his parable, "The Blindmen and the Elephant" based on an Indian fable. Five blind men are standing around an elephant wondering what it looks like. One feels the elephant's side and says that it must be like a wall. Another feels the tusk and says it must look like a sword. The third feels the trunk and says it must look like a huge snake. The fourth feels the ear and says it must look like a fan. The last man feels the tail and says the elephant must be like a rope.

Saxe ends his parable like this:

*So oft in theological wars,
The disputants, I ween,
Rail on in utter ignorance
Of what each other mean,
And prate on about an Elephant
Not one of them has seen!*



How often have we not heard people debating the "true" nature of God – we hear one thing from the Buddhist tradition, something else from the Jewish faith, yet something else from Muslim tradition and yes, even within our own Christian faith tradition, we have a variety of views on the issue. This week's gospel reading almost makes the Christian feel smug about being a Christian. Jesus is heard saying: "I am the way, truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by me!" WOW!

I think that we have often used this text to say things like – "Ours is the way because yours is not. Jesus is the only way to God" and so on. So often it is used to make other people who do not believe in Jesus or don't believe in him like "we" do, or don't read the bible the same way as we do, feel excluded and on the outside.

What strikes me most about this gospel reading is that Jesus says this to people who have been around him for so long, watched his every move, listened to his every word and yet still ask the question: "Show us the Father". Did they not get it? Am I getting it? I hear Jesus saying that his way is a broad and all-inclusive highway. He constantly moves beyond the boundaries that created by society: He searches for the one sheep that is lost...he tells us that he has many other sheep that are not of "this" fold... he sows seeds in many different places... he loves the son that stayed at home and worked the farm as well as the prodigal son... he is the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep ... all of them. For me this is so comforting. There appears to be room for ALL no matter who you are. This is the Way He is, this is the Truth He is, this is the Life He is. We can all access the Father.

In our search to create a world like this and in striving to see the way he was and is and the way we all still need to be become, we pray:

Lord, show us the way. Amen.

Barry Short

For meditation and reflection, consider the scriptures for next Sunday, April 27, 2008: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21.

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.

