

February 27, 2008

SJWT



Dear Friends,

As we move with great speed towards our Annual Meeting and towards Easter, it is in the spirit of a Holy Lent to move through each day, cultivating awareness that we live in God's loving presence.

Worship with us this Sunday, March 2: Lent 4: 8:30 Early Eucharist; 10:30 Eucharist; Sermon: Gary van der Meer; Celebrant: Gary van der Meer; Musician: Anne Lederman and Tom Layton. Refreshments following.

Follow-Up to Commitment Sunday

This coming Saturday, the wardens will meet to plan the annual meeting and the priorities of the coming year based on your responses on your Commitment Cards. If you have not yet submitted your Commitment Cards, please consider dropping them off at the church in a sealed envelope, or giving them to your Visitor to do so on your behalf. It is very important to us that the coming year reflect the energy and concerns of all of us.

Thanks so much, Carrie, Joan, Tim, Bill and Gary.

Announcements & Events

Lenten Program

St. John's will host a shared Lenten program with Redeemer Lutheran Church, Wednesday evenings, February 27, March 5, 12, 19, 7:30 - 8:45 pm. The program will be held at St. John's. Bob Shantz will present his new book, 'Windows on our Souls' along with artist Sarah Hall and art historian Peter Larisey. Learn about art, the early Christian catacombs, stained glass, and theology (Bob's writings!). The evening will include reflections, concluding with Lutheran Evening Prayer, Musician: Barry Short.

Slide Show of England

As part of the Lent Program on Wednesday evenings, Gary will show slides of England: Cathedrals and Churches as Sacred Space, Weird and Wonderful, Tonight! February 27, 7:30 p.m.

Great Upcoming Music

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. sharp - March 2: Anne Lederman and Tom Layton; March 9: Barry Short, organ.

Midweek Worship Services

Thursday February 28, 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, with scripture discussion followed by home baked refreshments; Tuesday, March 4, 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, with Anglican Rosary and silent meditation. During Lent, Tuesday Morning Prayer begins at 7:00 a.m.

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'.

Annual Vestry Meeting

The Wardens propose that the Annual Vestry Meeting be held Sunday, March 9th following the 10:30 service. This is a change from the original announcement to allow time to prepare our plans incorporating your responses to the Every Member Visit and Commitment Sunday.

Nursery Get Together

We're planning a get together of parents to talk about the nursery. Parents and children are invited to the Smerek/Tindall home on Saturday, March 1 at 3:30 p.m. Contact Jennifer Smerek, 416-537-4679, bjennifer@gmail.com.



Deputy Warden needed

The Wardens and Incumbent invite nominations for the role of Deputy People's Warden. A Warden serves 3 years (part of the time as deputy warden and part as a full warden). Wardens work as a team with the Incumbent in sharing the leadership of the parish. If you are interested or you would like to nominate someone, please get in touch with one of our current wardens. Deadline: Friday, February 29. The team is meeting Saturday, March 1 to plan for the Annual Meeting.



Trish & Marilyn



Catalina



Trish, Gary & Jacqueline



Chris & Caitlin



Lynda



Gary & Brenda

Skating Outing at Rennie Park 2008



Robert & Zachery



Carrie putting on the skates!

Thanks:

Thanks to Noelle and Lynda for their beautiful photos from last Sunday. Thanks to Tom Gehrels for the meditation below.

The Mix of Talents that makes us Tick

As a relative new member of St. John's I have always been impressed with the energy that makes our community so special. New ideas for events are constantly being launched. Spiritual explorations take place outside of the scheduled services on a regular basis. Outreach is something we all practice. Through all this we show that we truly are "not a Building", but a community of caring believers committed to Christ.

And we are doing it right - people keep joining our congregation and they stay, make new friends, and find spiritual guidance.

I remember when I just joined I was trying to find my footing in how I could be an engaging member of St. John's. I was a little frazzled by the going-ons around Commitment Sunday and all the focus on Time and Talent and Treasure. I didn't think I had talents I could share with my church and my first instinct was to run and hide.

But then I started thinking more about what I could do for my church rather than what my church could do for me. And I found talents I didn't know I had! Many others engaged in a similar personal exploration and we pulled off some great events together.

To name but some of the hugely successful fundraisers, spiritual and social programs we had in 2007, there were: the garage sale, the walkathon, Guess who's coming to Dinner, the Holly Tea, planned and spontaneous bible study groups, A Christmas Carol, hikes and bike rides, a Sunday School camp and a hugely successful Sunday School program, skating, Tuesday night services in the "Garden Chapel", the Pride BBQ, a spiritual retreat, an ice cream social, and the Lent program.

When you think of it, we are a pretty engaged group of people with lots of different talents! And 2008 is shaping up to be an exciting year where we have planned events similar to 2007. To pull it off, we are going to need your talents, time and treasure!

If this whole Commitment Sunday seems a little much, and your first instinct is to run and hide, think again. Every one of us possesses different talents and it is the mix of talents we have available at St. John's that make us tick. It is as it is said in 1 Corinthians 12: "Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body".

Maybe you are the ear, the foot, the eye or the hand this reading refers to. We all have something to bring to our community, both small gifts and large. Our challenge is to find our personal talents (as well as time and treasure) we can share with each other and make it work to the best of our ability.

When I embarked on this journey of personal discovery I found it one rich in growth and fulfillment.

God of plenty, may I be filled with your spirit to continue doing your work. Amen.

Tom Gehrels

For meditation and reflection in the coming week, consider the scriptures for next Sunday, March 2, 2007 - The Third Sunday in Lent: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:1-14; John 9:1-41.

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.

