

June 19, 2008

SJWT



Hindu temple visit

Dear Friends,

Join us for our Annual Picnic Service this Sunday in the Backyard – the Gloriously Flowering Garden Chapel – and bring something for the Potluck Picnic. (Hint: We have 2 barbeques ready to be used...)

**Worship with us this Sunday, June 22: 6th of Pentecost and Backyard Picnic:**

8:30 Early Eucharist 10:30 Eucharist Sermon and Celebrant: Gary van der Meer; Musicians: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion. Potluck picnic, sign up sheet at Action desk.

**Teenager Lunch**

Attention 12 to 17 year olds at St. John's. Father Gary and the St. John's Youth Committee would like to invite you to join us for pizza lunch at Vesuvio Restaurant (3014 Dundas St. W., just east of High Park Avenue) after the 10:30 service on July 13th. Each attendee will be asked to contribute \$5.00 towards the cost of this lunch. For further information, please contact Brad Christakos (416-767-9347) or [brad.christakos@rogers.com](mailto:brad.christakos@rogers.com).

**Announcements & Events**

**Church Picnic**

**Sunday, June 22**, we will have our annual potluck lunch and backyard Eucharist. See sign up sheet at action desk.

**Breakfast for the homeless**

The Leadership Team supports the invitation from St. Stephen's College Street for volunteers from St. John's to come once a month to put on breakfast for the homeless, beginning in September. We will need 6 volunteers on Sunday 7 to 9:15 am, one Sunday per month. Think about whether this might be a way you might make a difference in the world. Sign up at the Action Desk.

**Upcoming Hikes**

**July 12, September 6, October 4** – Great details to come!

**Great Upcoming Music!**

June 22: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion; June 29: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion; July 6: David Jones, piano and organ; July 13: Glory Glory Hallelujah, praise band; July 20 and 27: David Jones, piano and organ.

**Worship with us during the week**

**Thursday, June 26, 10:30 a.m.** – Morning Prayer (with discussion, home-baked refreshments, and visiting).

**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.

**Sunday School Camp-Out:**

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**

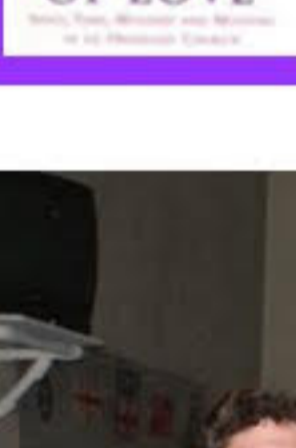
We will hold a One-Day Yard Sale on **Saturday, September 27**. Put the date in your calendar. Set your items aside in a box – Start now! Bring the box to the church in August and early September for storage on the balcony. For more information, contact Sue Ferguson, 416-769-5267.

**Update on Design for New Altar Frontals**

The congregation attending the services at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM on June 8, 2008 were presented with background information on symbols and asked What values or teachings would you want represented in our frontals? The following values and teachings were identified: a sense of soaring with God lifting us up, openness, spreading the news (a dove), taking the message out, community inclusiveness, child friendly, we are children of God, a family of God and a community of God, Christ in us and in each person, a sense of light, a challenging community, thoughtful journey, challenging journey, peace, joyous, embracing, hospitality. As well, some members proposed specific symbols: open hands (ascension window), flame, circles, table, water spouting out, a fountain, a water pitcher, gardens, flowers, crosses, wings in flight, wings lifting us up, doves instead of eagles, St. John's eagle, eagle with wings spread a fish in mouth and fish in beak, fish symbol and echoing our own symbols. This information will be shared with the artist who will design the frontals in contemporary art form.

**Anglican Presence in the Gay Pride Parade**

Plan to represent St. John's as a church that affirms gays and lesbians: **Run in the Pride and Remembrance Run: 5K, Saturday, June 28, 10:00 AM**; Walk with welcoming Anglican Parishes in the Parade: Meet at the Staging Area (Rosedale Valley Road), **Sunday, June 29, 1:30 PM**. A Great City Festival for the rest of the day!

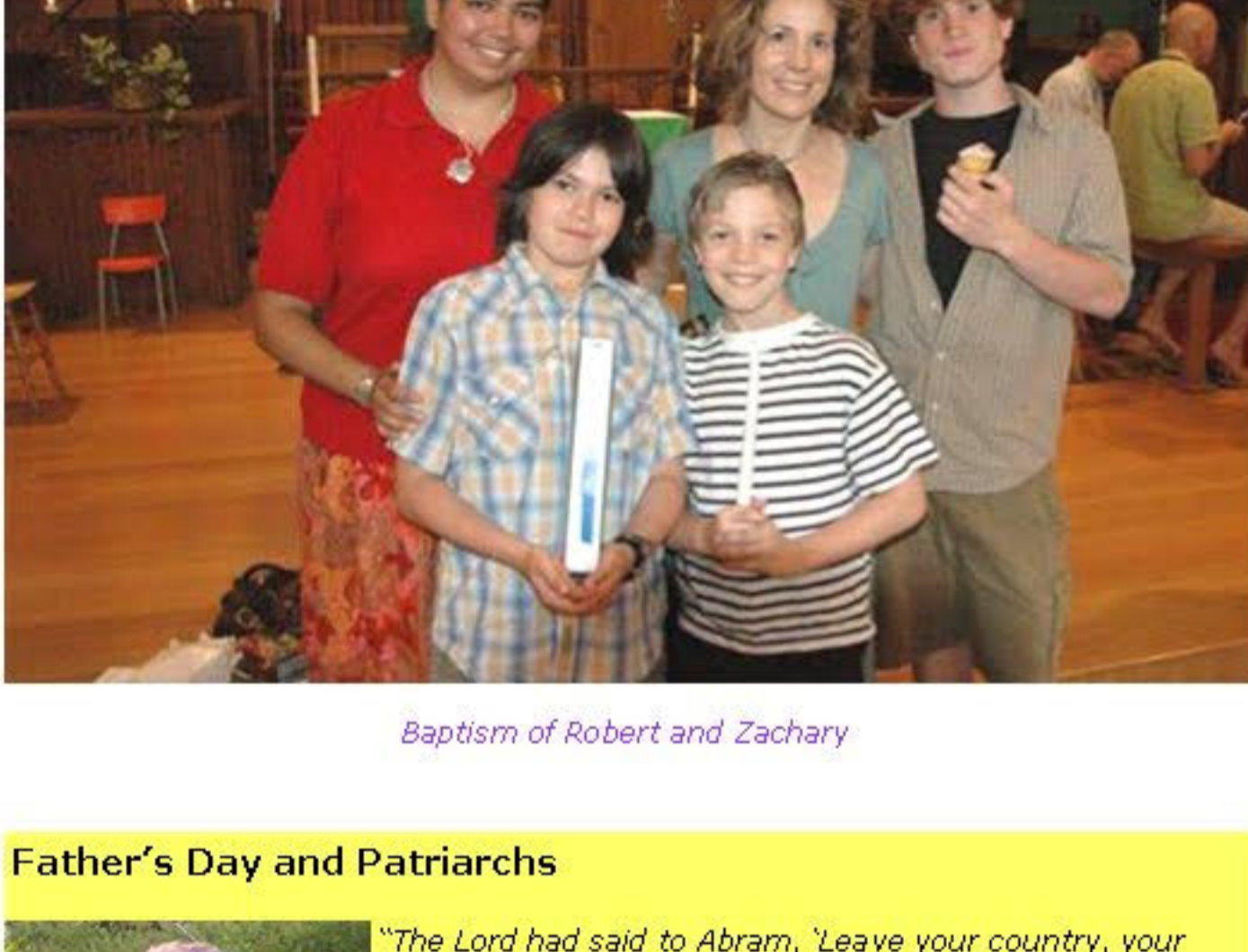


**St. John's Book Club – The Geometry of Love**

*'The Geometry of Love'* by Margaret Visser, takes readers on tour of an "ordinary church", Sant'Agnese fuori le Mura, a smallish Roman church dedicated to the fourth-century martyr Saint Agnes. Her work covers art, architecture, theology, myth, symbolism, history, Christian doctrine, with the subject church as a launching pad to find meaning in many symbolic places. In keeping with the location, our discussion will feature a (potluck) *Italian Pasta Dinner, Wednesday, July 9: 6:00 supper; 7:00 discussion.*

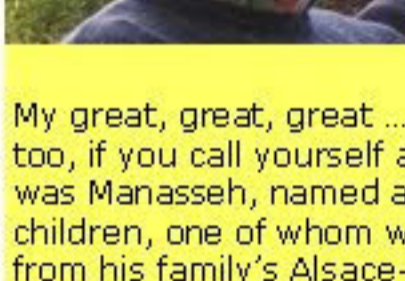


Liz McKendry, ordained Deacon at the Cathedral in Winnipeg, with her family, and her fiancé Andy Richens



Baptism of Robert and Zachary

**Father's Day and Patriarchs**



*"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.'" Genesis 12*

*"Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him."* Genesis 21

My great, great, great .... great spiritual grandfather was Abraham. He was yours, too, if you call yourself a Christian, Jew or Muslim. My biological great grandfather was Manasseh, named after one of the twelve tribes of Israel. He had eleven children, one of whom was my father, Armand. The name Armand filtered down from his family's Alsace-Lorraine and Swiss ancestry that provided both German and French influences. I was named Robert, after one of my father's brothers. I have no idea how a Scottish name entered the Mennonite world. My son's name is Christopher. Christopher means "Christ bearer." Christopher is married to Cindy whose spiritual grandfather is also Abraham. If they have a son it will be interesting to see what they name him given that Cindy is a Jew.

These names – Abraham, Manasseh, Armand, Robert, Christopher – reveal a profound fact of life that we take for granted most of the time, and that is that each generation, while it carries the genetic and cultural identity of its past, is called upon to create the world anew. Each individual must claim the world he was born into as his own, just as his name is his own. This all started with Abraham when God said to him I will give you a son but he will inherit "a land that I will show you." Abraham was called to trust God that his child would survive in a world with which Abraham was not familiar.

This happened to my father and me. He was born on a farm, left school in grade five, worked in a factory and on a farm his whole life. I was born in the city (Kitchener), lived for twelve years on a farm and then followed a strong pull to return to the city. I think my father thought I would never leave school. I have worked as a professional all my life. My father never really knew the land that he entrusted to me. He wanted me to have more than what he had.

I wanted Christopher to have important things that I never had as a boy such as exposure to art, literature, travel, and the wonderful stimulation of urban life. He knows this world in a way I never will. He is more at home in Toronto than I will ever be. He is making contributions to it that I could never make. Each generation makes the world anew.

This seems to be how, as Christians, we say the world works. We are co-creators with God, venturing forth into a world that will be shown to us. We must fashion, according to the needs and opportunities of our time and place, a world of justice, peace, and mercy that will be inherited by the next generation of sons – and daughters.

**I am grateful to co-create with God. Amen.**

Bob Shantz

For meditation and reflection, consider the scriptures for next Sunday, June 22, 2008: *Genesis 21:8-21; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 10:24-39.*

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!

**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.

