

December 12, 2007

SJWT



Dear Friends,

The new subway add is up! It is on the third posting from the High Park/Quebec stairs on the eastbound platform in High Park. The Runnymede posting is on the eastbound platform as well. Special thanks to everyone who agreed to have their pictures used, to Frans who took the great shots and to Susan Rynasko for the great design!



Worship with us this Sunday, December 16, Advent 3:

8:30 Early Eucharist; 10:30 Holy Eucharist; Sermon: Bob Shantz; Celebrant: Bob Shantz; Musician: Dorothy DeVal and Susanna McLeary.

Sunday School and Nursery during the 10:30 service; refreshments following.

Singing Group rehearsal after the 10:30 service for the Pageant.

### Christmas Carolling in Bloor West Village

Several of you requested to bring back Carolling in the Village, an event in which about 20 people participated last year.

The Bloor West Village Business Improvement Association has been kind enough to sponsor this event for us with a donation to our church.

So please come out in droves and bring your best singing voice! Please dress up in festive Christmas clothing - colourful in the spirit of the season, Christmas hats, Reindeer horns, Angel wings, anything colourful and Christmas-like will do.

We will meet at 7PM on Friday December 14th at the library on Bloor West and we will continue until we're tired. No doubt some of us will go to a pub afterwards to warm up!

Please let us know if you plan to attend by calling Tom Gehrels at (416)656-9111 or by e-mail at mariengehrels@yahoo.com



### Announcements & Events

#### Great Upcoming Music

Sundays at 10:30 sharp - December 16: Dorothy DeVal and Susanna McLeary; December 23: Jaroslav Czerwinec, accordion; December 24: 5:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Barry Short, organ.

#### Singing Group

Rehearsals will take place every Sunday after the 10.30 service for approximately 45 minutes. If you would like to participate or have any questions, please contact Barry Short at 416-762-1887. This singing group is rehearsing for the Pageant at December 23.

#### Midweek Worship Services

Thursday December 13, 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, with scripture discussion followed by home baked refreshments; Tuesday, December 18, 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, with Anglican Rosary and silent meditation.

#### Leadership Team Meetings

Next meeting: Monday January 7, 7:30—9.30 p.m. All meetings at the church.

#### Epiphany Potluck

Sunday, January 6, following the 10:30 am service. We will end our Christmas celebrations and welcome Gary back from his sabbatical. Sign up sheets at the action desk for main courses, salads, desserts, and other appetizers like bread and butter and cheese.

### Sixth Annual Robbie Burns Supper

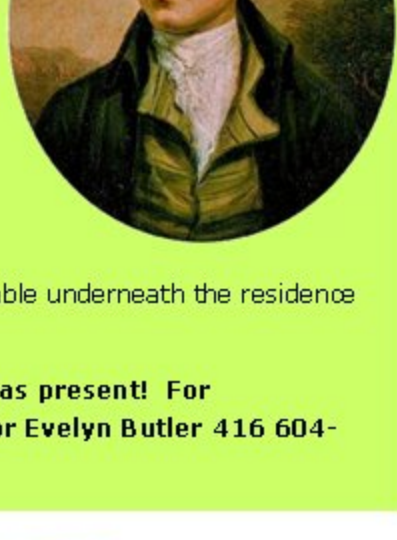
St John's hosts our 6th annual Burns Night Supper on January 26, 2008 in honour of 18th-century Scottish poet Robert Burns, a rowdy, boisterous man of the people who composed beautiful poetry and songs.

Our traditional Burns supper includes haggis enhanced with a dram of whisky, cock-a-leekie soup, roast beef, neeps (turnips), tatties (potatoes) and a whisky-laden dessert and non alcoholic desserts as well. This evening steeped in ritual, includes a tribute to the immortal memory of Burns, poetry, singing and lots of fun.

The evening starts with reception at 6:15PM, followed by the Marching in of the Haggis at 7PM.

This year the Burns Supper will be held at Grenadier Seniors' Residence, 2100 Bloor Street West at Clendenan Avenue. Indoor parking is available underneath the residence (entrance off Clendenan) at \$2.75 for the evening.

Tickets are \$30 each and make a great Christmas present! For more information and tickets call Bill Dunford or Evelyn Butler 416 604-8692.



Practicing for the Pageant play during Sunday school

### We need Props for the Pageant...

Catherine Laird has been working on the script for the Christmas Play and would like to work with props on the stage to make everything more visual. Simple things like props such as tables, lamps, rugs bells etc... simple yet meaningful.

If you could provide any of the following items, please contact Catherine.

- Large plants or undecorated Christmas trees, things that look like the outside.
- A back drop of the star shining in the night.
- A high desk area with a book that could represent a register.
- A desk with chair and bell that could represent an office.
- A sign that reads the Royal York Hotel.
- Flags. A picture of the Queen or something representing election time.



Singing Group Rehearsal for the Pageant

### Thanks:

Photographs: Thanks to Noelle Carbonne for her pictures from worship at St. John's last Sunday. And many thanks Susan Rynasko for organizing and designing the subway add!

### Peace Be Always With You



"The peace of the Lord be always with you."

What do we mean when we say this? We know deep down what we mean. This a prayer for the future, our worry for ourselves and our loved ones. How do we care about our lives and the lives of those we love and still live fully in this moment, the only time we really have? Perhaps our peace is fleeting because of our concern for the state of the world's political conflicts and environmental degradation. These are realities over which we, personally, have no control. How do we care about the world, and not be in denial about the immensity of the problems, and still live with hope?

Martin Luther was asked what he would do if the world was to end tomorrow? He did not say that he would pray, or go to confession, or try to win God's favour in some other way. He said he would plant a tree. He was making the point that today we live with the life God has given us because it is the only day we have. Tomorrow is in God's hands and we live as people of faith that God's great gift of life will be ours again tomorrow. Even if we know we are dying, today is the day we are alive. Today is the day of peace for us. Tomorrow will be the day of peace as well. Thus we pray "May of the peace of God be always with you." Amen.

The Rev. Bob Shantz

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.

