



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER -1991

RESOLUTIONS

A little less impatient
 With those we deem too slow;
 A little less of arrogance
 because of all we know;
 A little more humility, seeing
 our Worth is slight;;
 We are such trivial candles
 compared to stars at night.

A little more forgiving and
 swifter to be kind;

A little more desirous the word
 of praise to find;

The word of praise to utter
 and make a heart rejoice;

A little more careful to speak
 with a gentle voice.

A little more true eagerness
 To understand each other;

A little more real striving to
 help a shipwrecked Brother.

A little more high Courage to
 each task that must be done;

There be our resolutions--

And God help everyone!

"Carnegian"



TO THE P...

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

In our Planning Day summary statement we described St John's as a Community centered in God and prayer, in which everyone is welcomed, accepted and enabled to function.

The key activity in enabling all this is Prayer. Without prayer the activity won't be God centered. For how can our activity be centered in God if we have no knowledge or experience of God's will and purpose...

And if it is not God centered it won't welcome everyone. For in order to be a community a group must center in something, and the boundaries of that something set the boundaries of the community and its welcome. Only God is boundary-less.

And if it does not welcome everyone then it will also limit the areas of acceptance and function for even those members who are welcomed. You will be welcome as long as you fit within the acceptable norms.

We are so accustomed to living in communities NOT centered in God and prayer that we take exclusion and exclusive standards for granted, as "the way things are". I sometimes hear the statement, "if people don't like our way of doing things they can go some place else." But who is the "our" that has decided what OUR way is. If we are truly inclusive then anyone who comes through the door (that is has been Baptized, since that is our agreed upon "door of entry") has become one of US, and we have therefor been changed by their coming. There is no Them and Us. If that is really NOT what we mean then it is dishonest of us to say that everyone who is Baptized is welcomed to share at the Eucharist.

This is not to say that St John's is NOT a welcoming community, for it is often reported to be so by visitors. But it is to remind us that we are only beginners in living the fulness of life in Christ. And therefor we must pray hard that God will open our hearts and minds that living fully in the Holy Spirit we may become the loving, welcoming, open, community God wants us to be.



ON BEING AN INCLUSIVE PARISH

Our parish planning day summary statement makes "inclusion of neglected groups, for example youth, teens, singles, elderly, single parents, ..." as a major priority.

One aspect of working towards this goal is to insure that our language is as free as we can make it of exclusive usage. Things tend to become what they are called, and consistent use of a male oriented terminology tends to the impression that the male version is the "normal" one and that a female in such a position is "strange".

Another example is the use of Family oriented terminology when we mean community or group. As in "family parish", "Couples" as in "couples club", "Parents" as in "The children will put on a play for the parents," unless we intend the event to be exclusive. Family is a perfectly good word, BUT in common usage today family means "mother, father and children" and may be heard as excluding persons NOT married: in fact all the groups specifically mentioned in our commitment quoted above.

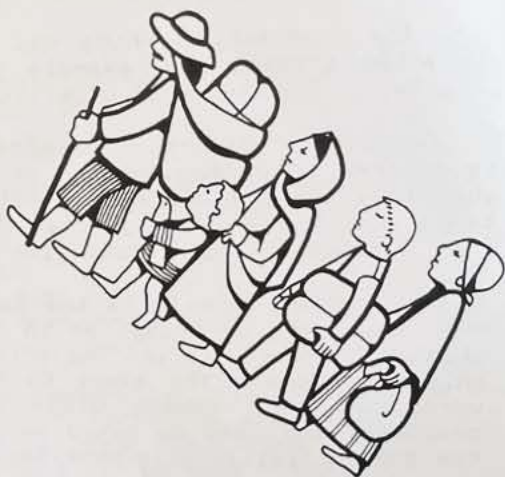
Nothing in this should to be taken as denying that families have special needs, and that St John's IS committed to meeting those needs, it is right that we have, from time to time special events for families -to which others may come if they wish. BUT Equally we must, from time to time, have special events for singles, or the elderly or the childless or those who want more quiet, or women, or men and so on, recognizing that they too have special needs, inclusive does not require us to DENY that some people and groups have special needs.

But the main celebration must remain the celebration of our Communal membership in the ONE family of God. Our goal should be to make the principle Eucharist each Week as fully inclusive as possible, , and meet special group needs at special supplemental events .

Become one in spirit



TO THE PARISH



CLOTHES AND TOYS FOR EQUADOR

Sheila and Juanito live in Canchagua, a small village in Ecuador's central highlands. They share this harsh climate with the six hundred other villagers, living in the cold of the Andes at an altitude of two thousand metres. The village is sustained by the tireless efforts of parents who tolerate separations of weeks to find and accomodate work, and children who care for their smaller brothers and sisters while at work in their tiny family plots of land. Canchagua is home to roughly 100 families. In the near future, aided by a generous financial donation, their children will receive the clothing contributed by members of our church. These clothes will complement the torn, too-small clothing which inadequately covers the children of Canchagua today. This is being made possible by the support of CARE, which will distribute the clothing in Canchagua.

Thank you for your overwhelming support. We collected ten garbage bags of clothes and toys.

Judy Wolover and Donald Sibley*

* Don is my brother, who is arranging to send our donation of clothing and toys, and who spent time in the village.





Please !

HELP WANTED!!!

BE A PARISH HOST!

The committment of time and effort is very small. The satisfaction of being part of the Liturgy and the life of the Prish is great. All you do is pick a Sunday at your own convenience, bring the bread and wine for Communion and carry them in the Offertory Procession. Also, prepare and serve the tea, coffee and juice downstairs and clean up. There are usually several people who will help, so you won't be alone.

SEE KATHY GOWER TO SIGN UP!

The Lighter Side

THE VERGER was pleased to inform the congregation that their priest had recovered from his illness and displayed the following notice: "God is good. The Vicar is better." - *Christian Crackers*



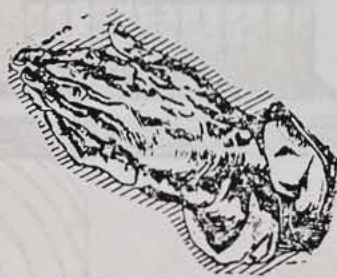
The English bishop said he would like to give the blessing at the end of his first service in Uganda. He picked up the printed service paper, raised his hand for a blessing, and very slowly and solemnly said in Luganda, "Do not take away the service paper!"

— Parish of Coley & Norwood Green, Halifax

Diocesan Prayer Conference
St John's, York Mills. Oct 25 & 26, 1991

Workshop topics include:

Setting priorities through prayer, Prayer and the Work place
Discovering ourselves through prayer, Learning to Meditate
Dealing with the "hard times in prayer, Leaning to pray
Praise in prayer, Centering prayer, Prayer and healing,
Prayer and contemplation, Scripture and prayer,
Realizing Gods' presence in prayer, and much more .



SOME THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

"I am off to the hospital next week", says your next door neighbor, "please say a prayer for me."

Everyone knows that as Christians we are supposed to pray regularly. But how does one go about doing that and how much is required. There are of course no hard and fast rules about it, but as a base line for checking your prayer performance, I suggest this; if you spend LESS THAN one hour a week in prayer apart from prayer in church you probably need to examine your life style.

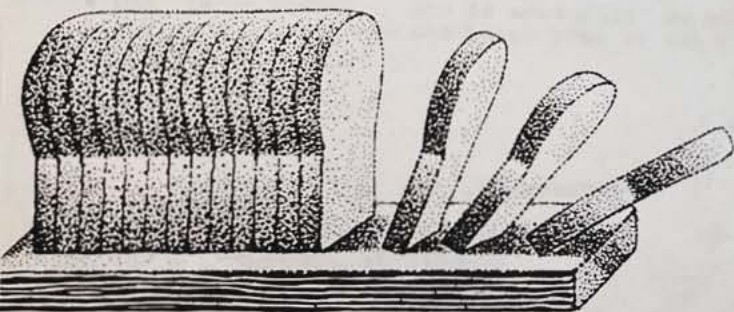
Prayer can include meditation, bible reading, reading or saying prayers, intercessions, thinking about things with God, there are many acceptable forms. Below are details about a Diocesan prayer workshop. But important as it is to learn how to pray, it is even more important just to DO it.

Everyone needs exercise; you can join a health club and with expert advice build up super fitness, but you can get about 80% of the benefits of physical fitness just by doing a bit more walking than normal. You don't have to be an expert in prayer techniques, but you DO need to spend some time doing it.

Learning to pray is like learning to walk. It is a natural ability and mainly has to be encouraged. You learn to do it by trying. Marathon walking, Mountain Climbing, dancing, and such like variations are enrichments of the basic skill and well worth learning, but optional extras. But while there are some people physically unable to walk who have to learn alternative methods of ambulation, I know of no disability that prevents prayer.

The real problem is testing results. In walking if you start here and end up over there and nothing hurts, you have succeeded. So how do you know if you have prayed? How do you know if you have loved? If you have been hospitable?, If you are having fun? Of course we KNOW, and yet most of us have moments when we wonder if this that I am experiencing is "the real thing" Is there more and I am missing out?

One way to check out your prayer style is offered in the Diocesan Prayer conference described below. Meet with others to share insights and experiences and strengthen your own faith and performance.



We take
A bit of bread
A sip of wine
Work of hands
and
Fruit of vine
and then become
a living tree
branches all,
you and me.
Body of Christ
Gift of Our Lord
We are one
Forevermore. (Amen.)
L. Woolrich



ANSWER TO PRAYER

In response to whether or not our prayers are answered, St. John Chrysostom tells us, "Prayer is a great blessing if it is practiced in a right inner state and if we teach ourselves to give thanks to God, both when we receive what we ask and when we do not receive it."

"For, when He gives and when He does not give, He does it for your good. Thus when you receive what you ask, it is quite clear that you have received it. But when you do not receive it, you also receive because you thus do not receive what is undoubtedly harmful for you. Not to receive what is harmful means to be granted what is useful. So, whether you receive what you ask or not, give thanks to God in the belief that God would have always given us what we ask were it not often better for us not to receive it."

Sincere prayer is never left unanswered one way or another. It will be rewarded in some form. Sometimes, instead of what we seek, God sends some other good which is more profitable for us. However, at the time we may not be aware of it or in what form it has been given. We must be convinced that prayer never goes unheard.

When it comes to prayer we must be patient and believe it is always fruitful. Therefore we need to pray with patience and give thanks to God for all things...both when He gives and when He does not give what we ask.





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Over the past number of years the primary focus of the Christian Education Committee has been the education of the children, principally through the Sunday school program. However, it has now become apparent that the parish wishes to directly address the christian education of the youth and adult members of the congregation. Accordingly, it has been decided to create 3 Christian Education Committees for next year, 1 to deal with the children (nursery through grade 5), 1 to address the needs of the youth and 1 to deal with adult education. In addition, there has been a move to achieve greater interaction between christian education and the liturgy committee. Both committees have had similar goals but have traditionally sought to achieve them through different forums. In order maintain open lines of communication between all the committees there will be shared membership among them.

Mara Nickerson will remain the Chairperson of the childrens education committee, Sheila Crummy has agreed to organize the youth committee and an interested individual is still needed to spearhead the adult committee.

We also hope to achieve greater integration of christian education and in particular, activities which may have been thought of as primarily oriented to the children, into the general congregation. More of the activities and events will be organized and planned by ad hoc committees of interested parishioners, including representatives of christian education, rather than being the exclusive responsibility of christian education. It is our hope that this will foster the intergenerational spirit which we believe to be fundamental to St. Johns.

In the past few years the church has employed a divinity student to assist the Christian Education Committee. Over this past year we have appreciated the help of Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell. However, we now believe that the primary elements of the children's christian education is sufficiently well organized and members of the committee committed, that we can take over ourselves many of the tasks previously done by the student. However, the church is hoping to have a student do a field placement with the parish next year.

All of these changes represent our belief that christian education is not just for children. It must be a parish wide concern and have the commitment of all members of the congregation. We hope that each member of the congregation will consider contributing some time to an aspect of christian education which is of particular concern or interest to them, whether as a Sunday school teacher, doing a focus or being a member of one of the committees. The most ongoing aspect of christian education is the teaching of Sunday school and teachers are needed for next year. The Sunday school program is taught from a wonderful curriculum called "The Whole People of God". The curriculum for each lesson is well laid out and easy to follow. A sample has been included with this Newsletter.* The year is divided into units which each last from 5 to 7 weeks. Our hope is that no teacher need teach more than 1 unit throughout the year so as to give them a chance to participate in the "upstairs" liturgy as well. Anyone who would consider teaching can speak to any one of the Committee members, any of which will be happy to answer any questions you may have. If anyone would like to sit in on a class at any time they are more than welcome to come down any Sunday. If anyone would simply like to help out without actually teaching we can always use another pair of hands in the craft portions of the class.

1990/91 Christian Education Committee

Mara Nickerson - Chairperson

Marion Barr

Sharon Barnes

Sheila Crummy

Pip McKen

Adrienne Roffey

Anne Ruta

Dean Samaras

Mabel-Anne Waters

Cynthia Stoddart-Webster



KIDS' KORNER

Getting ready for Jesus' story
Matthew 13:1-23

Complete the dot-to-dot. Where did Jesus teach? Color the picture.



Bible verse

The letters for the missing word are in the boxes. Draw a line from each box to the blank where the letter belongs. Write the letters in the blanks.

Jesus sat down to _____

Matthew 13:1 (adapted)

e c t h a

I love you, Jesus

Learn to sign this phrase. Teach it to your friends.





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