

September 2009

September 6

14th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

September 13

15th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Holy Communion
& Baptism

September 20

16th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Holy Communion
11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
7:00 p.m. Dialogue Church

September 27

17th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Holy Communion
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
7:00 p.m. Dialogue Church

St. John's York Mills Anglican Church

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RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

To all of you it is my hope that you had a most blessed and refreshing vacation time. Life in the parish, however did not seem to slow down very much over these last summer months. Your finance committee has been working hard putting together the foundation of a new **Capital Development Fund** that is so necessary for the future preservation of our beautiful Church. The property committee continued to work over the summer attending to the constant **renovations** needed to improve the **downstairs Church hall** along with the plans to put in a **new front door** due to the kind donation of a parishioner and the direction of the Lychgate group. We even got **new signage** up in the Church so that people (especially our visitors) have an easier time navigating the endless corridors and hallways of St. John's. Of course there was also our weekly Que & Pew Wednesday night fellowship, Wednesday noontime communion services, weddings and too many funeral services. Indeed things have not really slowed down at all!

At another level your Parish Council was also wrestling with some very complex issues (so dedicated they even held extra meetings). There has been a strong movement asking us to seriously consider moving to an 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. service, instead of our current 8:00 a.m. (said service – a quiet communion), 9:30 a.m. (contemporary), and 11:00 a.m. (traditional choral) format. The premise for one main service at 10:00 a.m. was built upon our need to take St. Paul's admonition for unity seriously (especially in light of our biblical series on the letter to the Ephesians).

A majority of your council considered that one service in the morning would more successfully unify us, pull our resources together, and would allow for a different feel within the sanctuary with more people in attendance at one main service. For the most part many felt that the combined Sunday worship services often felt more unified than when we have divided ourselves over a number of services. It also would allow for one coffee time (drawing us together), the potential for an adult Sunday School in the morning with a suggested time of 9:00 a.m. before we gather for a combined 10:00 a.m. worship service. But there were obvious concerns about the nature of that worship. Would it be more traditional or contemporary or something blended? Also considered, however, many felt the styles of worship were so different, the needs so diverse that it would be best that we try to grow these individual services as they are presently constituted.

As your spiritual leader, pastor and priest and after listening to your council over a number of meetings I have decided that we will not

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Rector's Reflections
Continued from page 1

move to a 10:00 a.m. format in the fall. Although a good idea it may be a concept ahead of its time. Possibly another year with our present format we will see the necessary growth that is required for us to meet the challenges in the decade ahead. So come this fall we will return to our regular hours but there will have to be some changes to attract new people, young families and those who are alone and consider Sunday possibly one of the loneliest days of the week.

So for example, we will introduce the addition of **Morning Prayer** offered at the **11:00 service on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday's of the month**. But, the psalms or canticles may not always be chanted, possibly allowing us to sing them as congregational hymns. Although not a major change, things like this may allow our liturgy to be more inclusive to those who have not been to Church very much and yet adequately meet the needs of those who wish to still have worship in a more traditional format.

The 9:30 a.m. service also will have to see some changes in order to attract those who are spiritually lost and seeking a new spiritual home. As you may well know **Boni Strang** is no longer with us as our worship leader. We will be beginning a new search for someone who will be leading us in music with the same devotion and dedication she gave. To that point we have been receiving donations in honour of her ministry over these years and will be providing her with a gift on September 13th following the 10:00 a.m. service. We hope to see you there! I know Boni would be honoured with your presence. We will be moving back to the regular morning format on September 20th, 2009.

Something totally new is also happening. As of September 20th we will be starting a **weekly Sunday 7:00 p.m. service** under our young adult pastor's leadership. We have coined the name, '**Dialogue Church**' in keeping with the need to truly engage young people (or those young in spirit!) with the Word of God. This service will be much more informal than anything one might expect from traditional Anglican worship. Its focus is on excellence in preaching but allowing for much more dialogue, questions and answers in the midst of the service. We anticipate the music to be in the praise tradition and very uplifting.

An informal (yet reverent) Communion may be offered on many evenings. We are also hoping that we will not only attract those who have virtually no experience with the Church, but also for those who have found it too difficult to attend Sunday morning worship. If you are off to the cottage for the weekend you might just find this time slot something that will accommodate your busy schedule.

The other major initiative is the hosting of our **Alpha Program** beginning Wednesday nights for those who are simply questioning the Christian faith possibly for the first time. This wonderful, life affirming 10-week course is beginning September 23rd with an evening fellowship meal and a unique question and answer format that allows for an authentic inquiry into what it really means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Come along (regardless of age as there is a group for you!) and enjoy this powerful tool for changing lives.

So as many things will stay the same – there are many new things happening this fall at St. John's York Mills. We are hoping that within all of this diversity there is something that will meet your needs, hopes and aspirations.



In His Service,
Rev. Dr. D.V. MacDonald
Rector, St. John's York Mills

PRAYER LIST

In an effort to make our prayer list more meaningful, we are asking that the Sunday list be limited to the names of parishioners. During the intercessions offered on Sundays, time will be given for parishioners to pray for others whose needs are on their hearts. These names may be spoken aloud or quietly in your hearts. At the end of each month, a new blank list will be placed in the Narthex for parishioners' names to be entered.

In addition, the Tuesday Prayer Group is available year round to receive special prayer requests. These may be given to the office at 416-225-6611, ext. 221.

JUNIOR CHURCH: GOD IS EVERYWHERE!

Every Sunday our Junior Church children return to the service full of energy and the enthusiasm of learning about God and Jesus.

One Sunday, one little boy joined his mother waiting in the pew and said, "Look Mommy! There's God!" "Look! He's there and there ...G-O-D. God is everywhere! God loves me, Mommy!"

All hearts, in ear-shot, were touched by this young lad's joy of the Lord.

Now, would I spoil the story if I said that this lad was just learning to read and he was actually reading the screen: G-O-D!

No matter! You see, God IS everywhere: in the world

and at St John's and in our hearts. And, God does love us wherever we are!

We at St John's are very blessed to have a growing group of Junior Church children who are growing (not only in their size!) but in their faith!

We are off to another new beginning with dedicated volunteers: parents and church family adults and teens. While it is true that God is everywhere, there is nowhere else that I would rather be than with these little ones!

Join us any Sunday!

Junior Church has an amazing group of volunteers from teens, to parents, to grandparents, to friends ! If you would like to join us for one Sunday, or even more, you are most welcome!" Give me a call at 416-221-7066

Jan Gardiner Williams, Children's Minister

THE BELLS OF ST. JOHN'S

On Thursday, June 4th, 2009 a large coach pulled into St. John's parking lot. There were 33 ringers waiting with their bags. Tracy Lewis, an Ingram ringer, began a handchime group at Kensington Community School, so they joined the O'Neil and Ingram Ringers. En route to Ottawa we stopped at the Diefenbunker in Carp, ON. This is where the government officials would have gone underground in the event of a nuclear war. It is now a museum and open to the public.

We arrived at Carleton University, were allocated our rooms, had pizza and watched the ground hogs! Then we headed to the facility where all the bells were set up and had our first rehearsal with 300 other ringers. We had a terrific conductor from the states named Tim Waugh. The young people thought he was excellent and they learned a lot. We had 10 hours of rehearsals, workshops, great cafeteria meals, time together to learn a little more about each other, and a final concert on Saturday night.

We arrived home Sunday, June 7th somewhat 'rung out' but excited and inspired. To attend each ringer paid \$350. The Handbell Fund contributed over \$3,000 for the required chaperones and

transportation expenses. We work hard to be financially responsible; Musicfest, outside concerts and CD sales provide funds for our ongoing equipment needs, supplies and music purchases.

Now, another ringing year begins. This will be my 20th year directing bells at St. John's. There have been many wonderful, challenging, satisfying, rewarding, frustrating, meaningful, thrilling moments. I look forward to another year with the wonderful people who make up the handbell program.

Thank you for your continued support of the handbell ministry at St. John's . See you in church. Oh, and by the way...**MusicFest is Sunday May 2, 2010!!**

Carolyn

PREPLANNING
YOUR FUNERAL

A really **bright** idea.



6150 Yonge St., Toronto
Ontario M2M 3W9
Tel. 416-221-1159
Web. www.rskane.ca

FOOD, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!

Join us for a **Welcome Back Reception** on **September 13th** after the 10:00 a.m. service. Please bring your "Finger Food" contribution (e.g. sandwiches, cheese/dips/crackers, meatballs, etc.) into the Garnsworthy Room before the service. Hot and cold drinks will be provided. This event will provide you with everything you need to get back into the swing of things after summer vacation:

HANDBELL PROGRAM

As you might have noticed our Sunday School is full of young children but we are missing the age group (11 – 13) that begins bells. If you know of anyone outside the church please recommend our handbell program to them. The O'Neil choir below is the one that needs ringers.

O'Neil Ringers – Grade 6 and up: Practices are on Mondays from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. beginning September 14/09. (Grade 5's considered on an individual basis)

Brass Ringers – Grade 9 and up: Practices are on Sundays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. beginning September 13/09.

Ingram Ringers – Adults: Practices are Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. beginning September 14/09

Questions? Call Carolyn Martin at 905-881-1140

WINTER IS COMING

This past January, **New Circles Community Services** clothing bank gave away 400 winter coats, and a survey indicated that 40% of their clients are children who are living in poverty. Please consider donating gently used winter clothes, sheets and comforters. They are located at 10 Gateway Blvd., Suite 100 (east of the Shell station on Don Mills Rd, 3 lights south of Eglinton Ave.) and can be reached at 416-422-2591 for further information. If you want to drop off a donation at the church instead, please call Scott McDougall at 416-488-6760.

ST. JOHN'S CHOIR

Choir rehearsals start Thursday, September 10 at 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in joining is invited to attend

Be a choir member for a day!

Not sure you want to join? Try it out at the 11:00 a.m. service on **Sunday September 20**, Just come to our choir rehearsal Thursday, September 17 at 7:30 p.m. Sign up now and take the music for the Anthem home with you. Everyone is welcome!

Please contact Robin Davis 905 409 6121 or email robin.davis@rogers.com.

CABARET & SILENT AUCTION

Presented by The Lychgate ACW Group, St. John's Choir and the Praise Team .

On **Saturday October 24, 7:00 p.m.** in the auditorium, we will feature delectables by the ladies of Lychgate and the dulcet and sultry tones of the choir leads. Back by popular demand, this fundraiser helps support our choral music program as well as other worthy causes through the Lychgate group.

Auction Items Needed!

Could you spare sporting event or concert/opera/ballet tickets, host a golf or tennis game, provide handyman services, donate a work of art or donate some homemade preserves or baking?

We also would greatly appreciate any assistance in running the auction and soliciting auction items. If you have items to donate, or can help out, please call Robin Davis at 905-409-6121, or e-mail robin.davis@rogers.com.

PRAYER & MEDITATION GROUP

The prayer/meditation group ("The Toronto Contemplative Prayer Group") will resume meeting **October 14, 2009** at the church in the Garnsworthy Room from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you would like to deepen your prayer life, please contact Deacon Bruce Williams at (416) 221-3256.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

The **Tuesday Bible study** will resume discussion of Mark's gospel beginning Tuesday, September 22 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sheppard Room. Each week we consider one passage from the "Passport to Life" booklet on Mark's gospel, beginning this time at page 17. All are welcome and previous attendance is not necessary. Together we explore the life and teaching of Jesus and the implications for our own lives. With freedom to question and to share personal experiences, our aim is to get to know one another better and to encourage one another in our Christian journey. Copies of the booklet are still available for \$3.00 through Olivia Lee or by contacting the office.

THE BARNABAS GROUP

The **Barnabas Breakfast Group** has continued to work throughout the summer on the last Wednesday morning in the month by offering hospitality and fellowship to those in need. About 40 people receive pastoral counseling as well as a nutritious meal, a grocery store voucher and a subway token at this time between 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. These people are particularly vulnerable as budgets are cut back during the recession. If you are able to give some time or financial support to this group, it would be greatly appreciated. For more information contact the Outreach Committee through the Church Office or Linda Bell at 416-481-5559

URGENT REQUEST

Flemingdon Park Ministry is in great need of donations like tuna, pasta sauce, pasta, baby formula, food and diapers; and can always use the staples of rice, flour and oil that they downsize into smaller containers (our drop off box is in the Narthex). On Oct. 4 there will be a poverty walk in Flemingdon Park to benefit their Food Bank and they are looking for walkers who are pledged plus any sponsorship possibilities. They also need vinyl or leather couches and chairs (because of cleaning issues) for their new drop-in centre. For more information please contact (416) 425-1841 or flemingdonparkministry@bellnet.ca.

LYCHGATE LINE-UP FOR FALL

Lychgate ladies look forward to the **September 10** meeting and to giving a warm welcome to current and potential members. Although we had hoped to have a presentation by Dave Toycen of World Vision Canada, we will dedicate the meeting to business matters.

We are very pleased that, on **October 8**, David Julien will lead a group discussion of The Shack and that, on **November 12**, Linda Grasley will speak about restorative justice.

Lychgate meets the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m., in the Garnsworthy Room. The 20 members of Lychgate invite all women of the parish to join them for these and other activities.

Dead Sea Scrolls Come Alive!

We are also happy to announce that we've reserved space at the ROM for a lecture cum tour of the Dead Sea Scrolls on **Sunday, October 4**. We are pleased to invite you and your family and friends to join us.

We have reserved an afternoon time slot for a limited number of parishioners. Total cost per adult is \$39.00 and \$36.00 per senior. Your firm commitment is required by Monday, September 14.

To register or obtain more information about this or any of the fall and winter programs,, please contact Ellen-Jean Dewberry at 905-477-1935 or Frann Harris at frann.harris@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER FOR JAIL

The Don Jail visiting program needs volunteers. If you are interested in this very fulfilling ministry, please contact Deacon Bruce Williams at (416) 221-3256.

The Link is published 10 times per year by St. John's York Mills Anglican Church. Items for inclusion should be submitted by the 5th of the previous month and are subject to editing.

Editor: Sheila Munro

GOOD BYE FROM AARON

By the time most of you read this, Meredith and I will no longer be sitting beside you at St. John's on Sunday's. The third pew up from the middle on the left hand side will be sadly vacant. I've been accepted to continue my studies, (Master of Sacred Theology at the University of the South: Sewanee) and Meredith will resume working in Nashville, TN. Those who know me know that academia is a passion of mine. --I love to study and I love to teach. This offer from Sewanee is a great opening for both Meredith and myself, as it will allow her to begin working again in her field, and will allow me to work towards a doctorate.

Unfortunately, our decision also brings us a great deal of sadness. Although we have only been here for a year we have grown close to many in the community -- St. John's has warmly welcomed both of us and made us feel very much at home. Our biggest disappointment is the speed with which this decision had to come, and our inability to say goodbye to everyone in person.

Before I go:

On the community: this is your strength. It's not your building, not your music, not your preaching, not your liturgy, not your money, not your history, and quite assuredly not your programs. I hope I needn't repeat this. St. John's is the people. It's the main reason we came.-- the way that we were warmly greeted by the wardens through the interview, and the way we were hosted by members of the community at the decision making time. It's the invites for lunches, dinners and coffees and the genuine interest that parishioners hold in the lives of others. It was, and is the open hearts of all at the Church that have a genuine desire to touch others. This is hard not to be contagious.

Continue to be the people that loves as Christ loved (he gave up his life for another).

On the youth: What parent expects their youth to be just like him or herself? Rather a wise parent helps nurture the abilities of his child to be able to grow up and make her own choices, and discover their own interests and passions. Why then do churches often expect the next generation to become nothing more than perfect clones of the current generation?

Continue to allow the youth and young adults to have a sense of ownership over the community--if this is giving them the space to explore worship in their own way at the Evening Service, that is fabulous. Ownership is empowering, and makes one feel like they are truly welcome. It doesn't mean that you have to give up your own identity, it means that you have to allow the younger ones to be who they are to be.

Don't fear change. God has his hand on every generation.

On Christ: What is the Church but the bride of Christ? It isn't a social gathering, a community centre, a spirituality club, a centre for enlightenment and well-being, nor a group of do-good committees. It's not in a building, or the hair that rises on the back of the neck in a song. It's not in the liturgy or the performance, or the good works.

"... the church is not a religious community of those who revere Christ, but Christ who has taken form among human beings." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Ethics) Christ is at work in you in all that you do. If this isn't true, then you are not in Church.

This isn't some empty philosophy or impotent metaphor. It is Christ in you, in the world, in power. To that end, we don't have to gather on Sundays, we get to gather on Sundays. We get to encourage one another, and pray together, and express our hope and our thankfulness to the Lord who provides all things and fills us with hope with all that is yet to come.

Even as I leave, I leave hopeful about where St. John's is headed and there was nothing but support from the community for many of the new offerings that we were building for the youth and young adults. The Evening Service (or Dialogue Church) is great way to offer a style that might be refreshing for young and older people alike. I leave confident of the timing: it's not about me, God is at work, and it is evident in St. John's.

For all you are, and all you have been, thank you! For all we haven't been able to say goodbye to, goodbye for now. May St. John's be a place where all grow in faith, and where Christ makes himself known in the community and in the world.

Yours, Aaron Smith

DEACON CATHERINE'S DIARY

Since my return from Downunder in March I have resumed full time employment at the Ministry of Education where I am an Education Officer. As a result, my involvement at SJYM has lessened. I am still involved with the Chancel Guild and Lay Pastoral Visiting.

As part of my Diaconal ministry I am active in the Christ Centred Character (CCC) Team, and was a founding member of this team. For some time we have been meeting to discuss the implications of the Character Education initiative in the Ontario School Systems. The trend in North American education has been towards the promotion and formation of "character" in students. The CCC team believes strongly that the Anglican Church should develop a response to this movement that will help parish-level faith formation remain relevant to the children and youth in our churches. To this end, we are developing the "Christ-Centred Character" initiative that seeks to educate Christian educators about what is happening in Ontario schools and resource them to integrate a specifically Christian vision of Character into their programs in the church.

As we met, it became increasingly clear that even if we develop resources to help educators, there is no clear way to educate the educators about them. We need a place where people can go and learn how to teach religious instruction. They need to be able to look at the latest resources and talk with other educators about them. In our search for a model able to empower religious educators, several of us thought of the resource libraries we had known in other dioceses. Specifically, we decided to create a library of resources relevant to Christian education and spiritual formation for all ages.

The CCC team applied to the Diocese of Toronto for funding to support an Anglican Resource Centre for Religious Educators. SJYM has graciously agreed to supply some space in the Education Wing. Since both Jan Gardiner Williams and Aaron Smith are on the CCC Team, it makes it easier to work together and support one another. We are still waiting for a response from the Diocese on whether or not we will have any funding. Bishop Yu has been extremely encouraging and supportive of this initiative. We have The Rev. Tay Moss, Incumbent of Church of the

Messiah on our team as well as his Children and Youth Minister, Kerrie Fulton. This year Ed Nelles from York Region has joined our group and a fellow deacon, Kyn Barker has also shown interest. We are grateful for this added support. Currently, we meet on an irregular basis at SJYM while this initiative continues to grow.

The Reverend Catherine Keating, Deacon

DAVID'S UPDATE

It is a good thing that there is only this small space available for my update. I am slowly typing this, one left-handed keystroke at a time. If I had more space to fill, I probably wouldn't make the publishing deadline. As some of you know, I injured my right arm just before I was to return from holiday. The injury was serious enough to require immediate surgery on the 18th of August. My arm is now encased in a cast and sling. I hope to have this removed in another week or two. In the meantime, everyone has been so kind and helpful. I am practicing Ravel's *Piano Concerto for the Left Hand* to retrain my brain functions and trying to figure out how to celebrate the Eucharist with only one arm!

I'm so looking forward to worshipping together with you all again after our summer holidays. My prayers, as always, are with you all.

Rev. David A. Julien

CHURCH FINANCIAL POSITION Jan- July 2009

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Last year</u>
Income	\$483,875	\$351,300	\$400,450
Expenditure	\$483,875	\$473,600	\$496,300
Deficit	\$0	(\$122,300)	(\$95,850)

Now that the stock market is recovering please consider donating shares for 100% capital loss. Please use the enclosed share transfer form.

Thank you,
John Davies & Michele McDonald
Wardens

ALPHA

As part of our vision “**to know Christ and make Him known**” St. John’s is offering The Alpha Course starting **September 23, 2009**. It’s going to be a great program - there are already 50 people signed up!

The Alpha Course includes ten weekly sessions and an amazing weekend getaway that comes halfway through the course. At each session people enjoy great food, laughter and learning in a fun and friendly atmosphere where no question about life and God is seen as too simple or too hostile ... questions like: Is there a God? Why am I here? Where did I come from? Where am I going?

There’s something for everyone!

Participate: It’s perfect for seekers, new Christians or anyone wanting to brush up on the basics.

Volunteer: Whether you’re available for the whole course or just a few hours, there are many ways you

can help. Our greatest need is for the Dinner Crew. Since each evening starts with dinner, we need a dedicated team to shop, prepare the meals and clean up. Many hands make light work so we’d like to form a large team to look after this task. Let us know how you can help – one time, every week or anything in between.

We also need greeters, set up and take down crew, and help coordinating the weekend away (we’ve booked Fairhavens Retreat Centre near Beaverton). There’s lots to do so let’s make this a whole parish event!

Alpha starts on Wednesday, September 23rd with “no obligation” introductory dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed a presentation and small group discussions. The evening ends at 9:15 p.m.

For more information

Speak with Fr. David or Catherine Bryant, e-mail alpha.sjym@gmail.com or visit the Alpha website: www.alphaCanada.org

2009 MEN’S DINNER

St. John’s York Mills Anglican Church Annual Men’s Dinner for 2009 will be held on **Thursday, November 19th**.

In 2007, Ted Barris came and spoke to us about Canada’s role at Vimy Ridge and the effect that this battle had on Canada as a country. He spoke of the Canadian individuals that were involved and the impact they had on the battle. His presentation was extremely well received and there were a number of requests to have him come back as our speaker.

On November 19th, it is our good fortune to have Ted Barris return. He will give a presentation on his latest book *Breaking the Silence: Untold Veterans’ stories from the Great War to Afghanistan*.

“Ted Barris is an accomplished author, journalist and broadcaster. As well as hosting stints on CBC Radio and regular contributions to the Globe and Mail, the National Post, and various national magazines, he is a full time professor of journalism at Centennial College in Toronto. Barris has authored 15 non-fiction books, including the national bestsellers *Victory at Vimy* and *Juno*.”

From his most recent book, he will once again bring us the unique recollections of individual Canadians and their experiences. These are the untold accounts of our veterans, usually “... reserved for Remembrance Day or the Legion lounge.” They went untold because our veterans felt that nobody was supposed to see them be emotional, and “Nobody was ever to know the hell of their war.”

“About 25 years ago, Barris began breaking through that silence.” Because of his unique interview skills, he found that veterans would talk to him, set the record straight and put a face on the service and sacrifice of men and women in uniform. “As a result of his work on 15 previous books, Barris earned a reputation of trust among Canada’s veterans. Indeed, nearly 3,000 of them have shared their memories over the years, all offering original material for his books.” Ted will bring these stories to life for us.

Please mark your calendars now and reserve November 19th for a brilliant presentation and a great evening of camaraderie. Details regarding the timing for the reception and the dinner, and ticket availability etc. will follow in future editions of *The Link*, and on the Notice Board.

Jay Burford
