

July & August  
2010



## Summer Worship Services

### Every Sunday

8:00 a.m. Said Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

The Gathering (our evening service)  
will return on Sunday, September 12

### Wednesdays in July & August

6:00 p.m. 'Que & Pew  
BBQ & informal worship

## St. John's York Mills Anglican Church

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## RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

### A Work in Progress

*Philippians 2: 2, 4: "Complete my joy by being of the same mind... Let each of you look not only to one's own interest, but the interests of others."*

It appears that we are moving ahead toward an exciting new format of worship so that we may better reflect the unity of spirit that is so pleasing to God. After considerable discussion, and well over a year of prayer and discourse, we have decided to move to a unified service at 10 a.m. each Sunday morning.

Although I have long felt that God has been calling us to unity in our main Sunday worship, it has taken well over a year to discern whether this was the wisest path to take. After extensive conversation with the parish, your wardens unanimously agreed on this direction and, after much thought and analysis, the Parish Council provided its support.

I confess how impressed I've been with those to whom you have entrusted the leadership of the parish. I believe they all felt the need to honour the words expressed above in St. Paul's letter to the Philippians: they hungered to be of one mind and earnestly desired to consider not just their own interests, but also everyone else's.

In short, the wardens and parish council have considered in a real and prayerful way how best to approach the decade ahead. They have taken their responsibilities most seriously, and we should all give thanks for their sacrifice of time and energy.

What I find exciting about the new 10 a.m. worship time is the fact that it creates wonderful and numerous opportunities of creative ways to reach out to the secular world. For example, the new time slot allows room for adult education on Sunday mornings. Before long, I hope we will offer classes at 9 a.m., before the main morning liturgy, allowing us to provide even more knowledge to parishioners and help you continue to grow in your faith.

Almost three years have passed since we met at our council retreat. Since then, we have strived to develop St. John's as a teaching parish as well as a great place to worship. We continuously strive to develop our parish as a place where people can really wrestle with and question and grow in the faith, in keeping with our mission statement: **To Know Christ and Make Him Known.**

I am convinced of our need to be committed to becoming a learned congregation so that we can, in the words of St. Peter, "Always be

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**Rector's Reflections**  
**Continued from page 1**

prepared to make a defence to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you." (1 Peter 3:15). And I hope we will witness to others the love of God, not just by how convincingly we explain the faith—as important as that is to a culture hungry for thoughtful Christians who can explain why they believe—but by how we truly care for and honour each other. People are desperate for an experience of God, and the experience begins every Sunday with how we relate to and care for one another. When people “church shop” for a new home of worship, they will look at us first of all and measure us not so much by the hymns and songs we sing, but by how we love and care for each other.

I am convinced that we're on the right road. I am impressed by what I perceive as the increasing depth of spirituality in many of you who attend parish activities regularly. And I am hopeful, when I see the warm welcome with which you've greeted our new opportunities to worship and participate in thoughtful discussions: our Alpha Programs; our numerous Small Groups; and the evening service, which allows for discussion of the sermon and provides an opportunity to wrestle with the important issues we all face.

I also believe that a unified service will energize all of you who serve in so many ways each Sunday – whether it be organizing the Sunday School, the ushers, or those who volunteer to provide a most significant part of Sunday morning, coffee time. I am excited about the increased fellowship I see, and the opportunity we have to really get to know one another and be the support for each other -- all of which are essential to the strength and growth of the parish.

Last of all, I want to express how pleased I am to see the members of our music department working closely together to provide truly uplifting worship services. Indeed, we have a wide spectrum of needs to fill and we, your leadership team, are optimistic that we are going to continue to honour our past and, at the same time, be attractive to those not familiar with our deep Anglican traditions. This is an ambitious task for sure but, with God's hand guiding us, I am confident about the future of SJYM.

Know that, as we move into the next decade, the life of the parish is a work in progress. I can only pray

that you continue to find SJYM a place of worship, a spiritual home, and a place where you can truly encounter the living God in the person of Jesus Christ. May you be uplifted and encouraged in your journey to Know Christ and Make Him Known.

In His Service

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



## THE LINK

**The Link** is published 6 times per year by St. John's York Mills Anglican Church. Items for inclusion are subject to editing and should be submitted to [thelink@stjohnsyorkmills.com](mailto:thelink@stjohnsyorkmills.com)

**Next Issue:** September & October - copy deadline is August 5th for a September 5th mailing.

## FROM THE WARDENS

Our parish picnic of Sunday June 13, 2010 was a day of worship, joyous celebration and great fun. Young and old enjoyed the hoagies, games, and the opportunity to visit with one another before the onset of summer. As the picnic drew to a close, we felt thankful for the many blessings God has bestowed on St. John's York Mills and we paused to reflect on the changes taking place in the life of the parish. During the service attended by almost two hundred parishioners, we celebrated the baptism of young Grayson William Charles Mitchell and the sixtieth wedding anniversary of Coreen and Charlie Fenton, beloved members of St. John's York Mills for many years.

Since we last wrote to you we are happy to report the following:

- **Attendance** at our 9:30 a.m. service has increased sharply. More and more children attend church school, and our numbers at 11 a.m. have been sustained. Sundays conclude with our evening service called The Gathering, a more relaxed style of worship with praise music, prayer, and a sermon that allows for questions and answers.
- **Our music program** is evolving. It includes our 11 a.m. choir directed by Robin Davis, our brilliant choir director and organist; our praise band at our 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. services, led by our talented music director Monique Ingalls; and our hand bell choirs under the leadership of the director, the one and only Carolyn Martin. All three groups bring a sense of excellence to their work, which glorifies God and is a true blessing to our congregation.
- **Our second Alpha program** has been very successful. Participants found the experience both meaningful and worthwhile.
- **Several Bible Study groups** continue to meet at the homes of various parishioners.

Drew's sermons continue to provide food for thought, and energize us as our parish pursues the goal of becoming a centre of learning and a magnet for parishioners (actual and potential). A recent market study of our neighborhood has revealed that we are

situated in a catchment area, where approximately 100,000 prospective parishioners live, 60% of which are young families. This finding presents a great opportunity for our growth.

This promising picture -- when studied with our goal of meeting the needs of current parishioners, developing increased spiritual understanding, and attracting new families to St. John's -- has led us to the decision to introduce a new schedule of services that will start on Sunday, September 12, 2010

We plan to continue to offer **our 8:00 a.m.** service, based on the **Book of Common Prayer**. At 10 a.m., a **family service** for all ages will be given. Communion will be offered each Sunday, and the supporting liturgy and music will embrace the range of preferences within our community, as much as possible. Our Sunday program will conclude with the informal Gathering evening service.

The 10 a.m. family service will leverage many of the strengths we all enjoy, complemented by an **adult education** program, an **enhanced education** program for **children**, and a time for socializing after church. Although there was general agreement around the time allocated for this service, a few parishioners expressed reservations about 10 a.m. -- some thinking it is too early and others thinking 10:30 a.m. is too late. We made a decision to start at 10 a.m. for the following three reasons:

- A majority prefers that time.
- A 10 a.m. service enables us to offer activities both before and after the service.
- A 10 a.m. service allows our seniors ample time to be back to their assisted-living residences for their 12 noon meal, and gives parents of young children the time to arrange lunch by 12 noon.

### Our Community

Our hope is that we will strengthen our sense of community with a larger congregation at the 10 a.m. service because we will draw from both the traditional services of 9:30 and 11 a.m., allowing the two congregations to share one mid-morning service and coffee time. We also look forward to presenting a

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## ALL THINGS CHANGE, BUT GOD

*If you're in a bad situation, don't worry. It'll change.  
If you're in a good situation, don't worry. It'll change.*

Change: the word terrifies and thrills me at the same time. Change is happening at St. John's, and the Youth Program is not immune.

As many of you know, I felt a call to work with the older teens last fall and it has been an amazing seven months. I wrote articles in this very publication about the things that we were going to do as a Youth Group and I'm happy to report that we've done not one of those things. Why? you may ask. I can only quote Roman Emperor Lothair the First, who said, "All things change, and we change with them."

I thought that I'd run the Youth Group just like it was run when I was a kid, with a dollop of how it was run when my daughter was in Youth Group. Of course, I'd listen to the kids and allow them some input. But, when you come right down to it, church Youth Groups don't change that much. I'm sure that God was having quite the chuckle at my expense. God was also leading me and letting me know that in order to serve Him in the twenty-first century, I needed to grow and change how I do things.

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### ***From the Wardens Continued from page 3***

wide range of music. In addition, we hope to encourage the participation of as many volunteers as possible for the positions of sides persons, greeters, coffee makers, readers, and assistants with communion services, to name a few. We plan to continue our alpha program, the small group Bible studies and we will continuously strive to enrich our Christian education program for our adults and our children.

Our new family service represents a new journey and an ongoing work in progress. We welcome your feedback as we implement this new program so that we can do what is best for St. John's York Mills. We also ask for your support, patience, and prayers as we proceed on this exciting path.

Peter Singer & Dunbar Russel, Churchwardens

So, I'm going back to the basics this summer and revisiting how St John's Youth Group will serve our youth, the youth that need us today and the youth that will join us tomorrow. Christian education and discussion will be a big part of this. It will include:

- learning how to maneuver in an increasingly secular world while still being a witness to Christ
- learning to be like St Francis of Assisi and "preach the Gospel always; when necessary, use words"
- and, most importantly, making sure that each week is fun.

I've reached out to a number of sources and I'm working on a general framework. There are days that I am spiritually lifted and days when I shake my head and ask why I'm doing this. But in all things, I know God wants me to do this and that He helps me day by day.

I hope that you all have a safe and enjoyable summer and I leave you with my final quote from Augusta Arnold Ward, "All things change, creeds and philosophies and outward systems — but God remains."

Stephen Monk, Youth Minister



## DEACON CATHERINE'S DIARY

What a privilege it was to lead an Alpha group last fall. Our small group continues to meet to study the book of Acts. Jesus promised (John 16:7, 13) the disciples that He would send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to guide them after He returned to heaven. Acts tells us how the actions of the apostles were inspired and guided by God's Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the power by which the apostles testified that Jesus is the Christ (Acts 1:8). Accordingly, "Acts of the Holy Spirit" has been suggested as a title for this book.

Jesus instructed the disciples as He commissioned them and us as well to "... be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). As we read and study Acts we learn what is our Jerusalem, our Judea and our Samaria. It is the world around us. Acts is the sequel to the Gospel of St. Luke. In Acts, Luke tells the story about the earliest years of Christianity and how it moved from its Jewish foundations and spread to the Gentile world. Acts enables us to understand the formation of the church and Christians as the new chosen people of God. Throughout Acts we are reminded that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament, He died on the cross, rose and ascended, as the Creeds tell us. We learn the stories of the witnesses to the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension and about how Jesus changed their lives. The Holy Spirit is with us today as the Comforter, reassuring believers that we are here as disciples of Christ to believe in Him and thus receive the gift of salvation. Acts recounts what Jesus continues to do through His church — even today — in the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit.

The Christ-Centred Character Team continues to meet regularly. The Centre for Excellence in Christian Education (CECE), which consists of members from SJYM, Church of the Messiah (COTM), and St Matthew's Oriole along with SJYM, is presenting a workshop for those who minister to our children. This workshop on Godly Play is scheduled for Saturday September 11, and it will take place at the CECE in the Godly Play room. We pray that God will direct us and enable us to build the resource centre so that it may serve the needs of those who work with our children and youth as well as provide an opportunity for them to share successes and dialogue about current practices.

Summer is short and, I hope, sweet for you — with lots of fun in the sun, at camp and at your cottages. Remember that the church is still open and has events planned for you. Help support our Wednesday evening gathering — your time for fellowship, prayer, studying, and discussing the Word.

In Christ,  
The Reverend Dr. Catherine Keating, Deacon

## MY BIG ANGLICAN FAMILY REUNION

Every summer we come together at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We get to spend more time with people we've only seen in passing during the year and it feels like a big church family reunion. So now, we're going to continue the party throughout the year.

I think it's great news but I understand that a year-long family reunion might be somewhat intimidating: the kids are loud, the old folks want to talk about boring stuff that happened in the past, and no one likes the same music or food. But we're family and we love each other so we find a way.

At St. John's we decided to blend elements of the various services we've had. Think of it as Grandpa bringing out his old Ella Fitzgerald albums and introducing the kids to a different kind of music. Later, the kids bring out their iPods with Rap and Hip Hop music to teach Grandpa a thing or two. Meanwhile, Dad is trying to find the 8-track player for his music. We may or may not become big fans of the different styles of music but if we listen with open minds and hearts we'll hear and appreciate what Dad, Grandpa and the kids like about their favourites.

So it is with our 10:00 a.m. service, we're going to experience different kinds of music and other elements of worship. We won't like everything right away but I pray that with open hearts and minds we'll learn to appreciate our differences. See you at the reunion!

A. Lamb, One of the Flock



## SEVEN-ELEVEN: AN IDEA WORTH REPEATING

If you don't know the definition of a 7-11 chorus, allow me to explain that it designates a song in which the same seven words are sung 11 times.

I was once an outspoken critic of these repetitious choruses because I preferred my hymns and praise songs to be wordy, filled with theological content, and meaty doctrine.

However, I am a recent convert to repetitive songs.

While I admit there are more than a few of these songs that are insipid, I am now convinced that songs with only one or two ideas, repeated a few times, form an integral part of a healthy liturgical diet. If you're wondering how I came to this conclusion, let me briefly outline the two main reasons.

Repetition on a larger scale is integral to our Anglican tradition and spiritual practice. Most of you have probably noticed that we tend to say (and chant) the same words week after week. While some have argued that this repetition sometimes makes Anglican liturgy seem stale, lifeless, or dead, I humbly submit that the problem may be not with the liturgy. Rather, the liturgy may become boring or meaningless when we do not take responsibility to engage ourselves with the familiar words, and to recognize that God is our loving Father, redeeming Saviour, and life-giving Spirit, and that we need God's grace continuously.

So-called repetitive songs comprise the bulk of Christian hymns in the world. Our brothers and sisters in Latin America, Asia, and Africa regularly sing what detractors of the form call 7-11 choruses. Rather than being irritating, boring, or disposable, these songs are the building blocks of a profoundly meaningful tradition and the basis for a robust spirituality. Consider African-American spirituals such as "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" or "There Is a Balm in Gilead" or "Were You There." In the Passion week hymn "Were You There," each verse's lyrics consist of three iterations of the same phrase: "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" Yet, many Christians across denominational and racial lines consider this one of the most powerful Passion hymns, evidenced by its inclusion in nearly every denominational hymnal and in many contemporary services.

Why is this song so powerful? I suggest that it's because the time between each repetition of the question – which leaves room to reflect, petition, praise, and respond -- allows each of us to provide a deeply personal response in silence.

The question "Were you there?" is like a prism through which we contemplate our role: were we innocent bystanders, appalled at the injustice and cruelty, or were we complicit in our Saviour's suffering, by the things we have done or the things we have left undone?

I want to push my concept one step further by suggesting that we can actually begin to put our faith into practice by singing each repetition. For instance, take the song "Blessed Be Your Name," a popular modern worship song written in the wake of 9/11. Each verse of this song ends with these words:

Every blessing You pour out  
I'll turn back to praise;  
When the darkness closes in, Lord,  
Still I will say:  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed be your name.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
Blessed by your glorious name.

When we go through difficult times, repeatedly singing "Blessed be the name of the Lord" is an act of faith that involves gritting our teeth and, despite our doubts, managing to sing. As the simple words of the song bring to our minds our personal battles with the darkness—whether it be fear, loss, anger, depression, or loneliness—by singing, we put into practice St. Paul's injunctions to "rejoice in the Lord always" and to trust in God, whatever our circumstances.

The next time the choir or worship team sings a song that you find repetitive, and feel tempted to consign it to the 7-11 category, I invite you to reflect upon a few questions: What is God trying to show me through this song? Is there a particular lesson I have hardened my heart against, which God is trying to break through? What is the source of my resistance to repeating this particular set of words? As individuals, and as a congregation, we would reap

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## THE RINGERS, THE SINGERS, AND THE ZINGER

Thank you so much for your support of our Musicfest this year. As so many of you have said, "It was the best one ever!" I think the 1950s costumes added to the atmosphere of the "Jukebox Memories" theme, and we certainly enjoyed wearing them.

After church last week, I met someone in the hall who said, "I had never been to Musicfest before. But it was so much fun, I will be back." I couldn't believe there was actually someone at St. John's who had escaped my subtle ticket selling for so many years.

Approximately 550 people attended our two performances, 250 or so for the matinee and 200 in the evening. The audience did a great job of singing with us, and their performances of the Chicken Dance and "The YMCA" were terrific. You Danced. You sang. You rock!

From the proceeds we donated 15 bed kits to Sleeping Children Around the World, and their chair Dave Dryden was at the evening performance to accept the cheque. My husband Peter really enjoyed Dave's comment about "the ringers, the singers and the zinger" – me!

We will give the church a cheque for \$1800.00, part of which goes to the choir budgets. That amount is just from the proceeds of Musicfest. Later, for Harvest Thanksgiving, we will look at our bottom line and make a further donation to the church.

Thanks again for your continued support of the Handbell Program. And thank you in particular for your wonderful support and caring this year for Peter and me, and Christine and the boys.

### Musical Offerings

Over the summer we order our music or needed equipment and make sure all our bells are cleaned and checked. This is actually a fairly big job, as we have 99 bells in our two sets and another 37 in my three-octave set. (I bought these so I can start a bell choir, when I go to the retirement home!)

Our intergenerational choir voted overwhelmingly to continue making music. So, give me a call if you're a Mom, a Dad, or a Grandparent with a child in grade 5 or up and you want to join us in September. Of course, kids on their own are most welcome too.

Older teens with a music background are needed for the Brass Choir. Please call if you know someone who could join us, and I will follow up.

If you want to make a musical offering or if you have ideas for next year's Musicfest, please contact me, Carolyn Martin: 905-881-1140 or [bells001@rogers.com](mailto:bells001@rogers.com).

Have a wonderful summer. Make beautiful memories. See you in church.

Carolyn Martin, Handbell Director



### Seven Eleven Continued from page 6

enormous benefits if we treated repetitive songs as spiritual disciplines, as ways to exercise our spiritual imaginations and attend to our spiritual well-being.

*Please note: I will repeat this message as often as necessary.*

Monique Ingalls, Music Director, Evening Service

### Planned Giving

Many people give generously to St. John's in their wills, yet in many cases the will does not stipulate how the donation is to be spent. Your Parish Council has determined that such non-designated donations be given 45% to Church Operations, 45% to our Capital Action Plan, and 10% to Faithworks.

For more information about Planned Giving, please contact the office: 416-225-6611.

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

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### Que & Pew

July 7 to August 25, 2010

Join us on Wednesday evenings for Que and Pew, starting July 7, at 6 p.m. We'll have a BBQ (hotdogs and hamburgers supplied, potluck for everything else) followed by a short worship at 7 p.m. Our theme this summer is the Parables of Christ. For more information, contact Stephen Monk: [youthminister@stjohnsyorkmills.com](mailto:youthminister@stjohnsyorkmills.com)



### Organ Music & Festival

July 9 to July 12, 2010

Join organ fans from around the world for this event taking place in Toronto

The program will include:

- The world premier of Andrew Ager's Sonata for French Horn and Organ
- A 90 minute walking tour, highlighting 200 years of music in the City of Toronto
- A day listening to and exploring the S. R. Warren Organ of 1863-89 at St. James Cathedral
- A chance to hear and learn about the St. John's York Mills organ, the oldest in the City of Toronto

For more information, please go to [www.organfestivaltoronto2010.yolasite.com](http://www.organfestivaltoronto2010.yolasite.com) or phone 647-822-2530.

### Godly Play

Saturday, September 11, 2010

#### What is it?

Godly Play is a creative and imaginative approach to faith formation that has its roots in the work of Maria Montessori. It was created over 30 years ago by Jerome Berryman, an Anglican priest, and it has been used and developed over time by people around the world as a way of teaching and being with children. Godly Play uses symbols, beautifully crafted materials, rituals, and silence as well as

stories to convey biblical traditions and practices of the Christian church.

Godly Play recognizes that children already know and experience God but may not have the language or opportunity to talk about and explore their experiences, thoughts, questions, and feelings. Godly Play provides children with an occasion not just to learn about God's love, but also to discover God's love in the midst of a supportive community and environment. It helps children learn Bible stories and religious language and to use them to make meaning.

I invite you to the first Godly Play workshop at SJYM.

#### What will we do?

- You will experience Godly Play stories and questions in a fully equipped Godly Play space.
- You will learn about the values inherent in Godly Play.
- You will discover how Godly Play is used with children.
- You will have the opportunity to work with the story materials and practice storytelling.

#### Who is leading it?

Amy Crawford is accredited as a teacher and trainer of Godly Play. She has been using Godly Play in church settings for 13 years. Amy lives in Toronto and works as the Program Minister for children, young teens, and youth at the General Council Office of The United Church of Canada.

#### How do I register?

Contact: Rev. Dr. Catherine Keating, Deacon, St. John's York Mills, [ckeating@stjohnsyorkmills.com](mailto:ckeating@stjohnsyorkmills.com)  
Cost: \$25.00

### Roots Among the Rocks

August 18, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Come to church August 18 at 7 p.m., to see and hear *Roots Among the Rocks*. The stories you will hear come from the people who make up the church we call home. Based on interviews with Christians from coast to coast, the show brings the Body of Christ home to us and asks the question: Who is Church?

Characters tell their stories around a kitchen table, friends whisper in church pews, some choose to leave church and others choose to stay.

Music, poetry, dance, and drama combine to explore just what brings us together. The performance journeys through the themes of Sunday Morning, Identity Crises, Resilience and Grace, Confession and Absolution, and Finding Home.

**Warning:** *Roots Among the Rocks* is written for the whole church. The cast confronts issues of identity, community, trust, and forgiveness. We believe that anyone 12 years of age or older will enjoy it.

**What does it not contain?**

It does not contain violence, swearing, nudity, smoke effects, reality TV hosts, strobe lighting, an obligatory kiss scene, or robots.

**So, what's left?**

It does contain confession, dance, poetry, drug addiction, humour, cancer, biblical stories, St. Augustine, an irreverent tribute to Sunday morning worship, human sexuality, rocks, prayers, hopes, dreams and rap.

**For more information**

Contact the office: 416-225-6611 or [admin@stjohnsyorkmills.com](mailto:admin@stjohnsyorkmills.com).  
For more information about the show go to: [www.rootsamongtherocks.blogspot.com](http://www.rootsamongtherocks.blogspot.com)

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**Welcome Back Social**

**September 12, 2010**

It's still June, but summer will fly by. And, before you know it, the calendar will say September 12, 2010. Please take a minute to mark it as our Welcome Back Sunday Social for all St. John's parishioners. On that day, St. John's will celebrate with fellowship, food, and fun after the 10 a.m. service. Details will follow.

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**Back to Church Sunday**

**September 26, 2010**

St. John's will be joining thousands of other Christians around the world in inviting their friends back to church on September 26th. Back to Church Sunday is a worldwide initiative that started in England in 2004 and has spread to thousands of churches in 15 countries around the world. Consider whom you might invite. Details will follow.

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**The Alpha Course**

**Wednesday, September 22, 2010**

**(to be confirmed)**



We've had such positive feedback from participants this year that we plan to continue to offer the Alpha course in fall. Course volunteers are meeting this summer to look at the successes and challenges we've faced over the past two sessions. We'll also explore other courses we might offer to people who have already taken the first Alpha course. Please stay tuned for more information.

In the meantime, think and pray about whom you might invite to take the course, and whether or not you have some time to offer as a volunteer (a few hours or a weekly commitment). For more information, contact Catherine Bryant or David Julien at 416-225-6611 or by e-mail: [alpha.sjym@gmail.com](mailto:alpha.sjym@gmail.com). Or visit the Alpha Canada website at [www.alphacanada.org](http://www.alphacanada.org).

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**Tuesday Bible Study**

**Tuesday, September 15, 2010**

The Tuesday Bible Study will begin again on Tuesday, September 15 at 10 a.m. We will meet for one hour in the Sheppard Room, to continue our study of Acts. Everyone is welcome. Previous attendance is not necessary, so please feel free to join us. For more information, contact Olivia Lee, via the office: 416-225-6611.

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**Terracotta Warriors**

**Sunday, September 26, 2010**

The Lychgate Group invites parishioners to join our visit to the Royal Ontario Museum for the Terracotta Warriors exhibit, Sunday, September 26th at 1:30 p.m. We will receive a private lecture, a guided tour through the exhibit, and a souvenir book for each participant. Cost is \$45.00 for adults and \$41.00 for seniors. Please contact Ellen-Jean Dewberry: 905-477-1935 or [ejdewberry@rogers.com](mailto:ejdewberry@rogers.com).

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**Call to Prayer**

**Wednesday, October 13, 2010**

The Prayer/Meditation Group will resume meeting, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., in October. If you want to deepen your prayer life, please contact Deacon Bruce Williams at 416-221-3256 (X2).

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## MORE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### Prayer Conference

October 22 & 23, 2010

#### God's Outrageous Love

The Toronto Diocesan Bishop's Committee on Prayer (BCOP) invites you to attend their prayer conference on October 22 & 23, 2010, at St. John's York Mills. The theme of the conference is "God Yearning to Hear." The two-day conference, designed to give you a new awareness of God's outrageous love for you, will also include music, worship and workshops.

During the conference, the Rev. Mike Flynn, Director of FreshWind Ministries in Camarillo, California, will give three addresses:

- Prayer is a relationship
- Intercession – Releasing His Power
- Practicing His Presence is Fun

Mark your calendars now and watch for more information in the next issue of *The Link*.

#### In Return, He Asks for Your Help

As you can imagine, planning a prayer conference is a big task. The planning committee is looking for three or four people to prepare and serve beverages during registration on Friday evening, and to help with coffee breaks and lunch on Saturday. In exchange you will be able to attend the conference free of charge.

If you are interested in attending the conference, or volunteering, please contact Betty Sweeny at: 416-445-4323.

### 2010 Men's Dinner

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Ever wondered if you're alone in your thinking, or whether others agree with your insights on a certain topic?

If you have wondered, I invite you to the Men's Dinner in November—where you will gain insight into your own views, and that of others.

We have an exciting new speaker this year in John Wright, Senior Vice President and Managing Director of the Ipsos Global Advisor Public Opinion Polling Division. In addition to having had his own radio show on CFRB for 15 years and being a regular co-host and anchor on Canada's business news network (BNN), John has appeared on every major news channel, from CNN to Al Jazeera, and been quoted, literally, everywhere in print around the world.

John has also co-authored three national best-selling books with colleague Darrell Bricker and he will give us a presentation on their latest book *Canuckology—From Dollars to Donuts, Canada's Premier Pollsters Reveal What Canadians Think and Why*. According to the publisher, *Canuckology* is filled with hilarious insights from every province and territory, and peppered with fun factoids and quizzes.

Please mark your calendars now and reserve Thursday, November 18 for an exhilarating presentation and a wonderful evening of camaraderie. Additional details will follow.

For more information, contact Jay Burford

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## NOTICES

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### Metro Group

Our Group held its final luncheon before disbanding on June 14. There is no turning back the calendar to when we had boundless energy for activities and projects such as the annual Bazaar, staffing the Crèche, rummage sales, flower sales, and all our other activities. For more than 50 years, we have enjoyed being in a Christian community of fellowship, learning and supporting one another -- through good times and bad. Our home is still St. John's, and our friendships will continue well on into the future.

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### Clergy Visits

Anyone who would like a visit - especially from the clergy - are invited to contact the office at 416-225-6611 or [admin@stjohnsyorkmills.com](mailto:admin@stjohnsyorkmills.com) and we will do our utmost to respond at the earliest convenience.

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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### Don Jail Visits

The Don Jail visiting program needs volunteers on Monday afternoons. Although the program takes place every week, but we usually take turns and go once or twice a month. It's not as difficult as you may think to visit inmates. Invariably, they are appreciative and sometimes they may offer startlingly original spiritual insights that make the program very worthwhile. For more information, please contact Deacon Bruce Williams 416-221-3256.



### The Chancel Guild

The Chancel Guild is coming out of hiatus. Parishioners interested in making a commitment during summer to this special, weekly housekeeping ministry should contact Pamela Smith at 416-245-8422 or [pamelasmith@idirect.com](mailto:pamelasmith@idirect.com)

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### Harvest Festival Coordinator



Pamela is currently seeking someone with a vision to plan and coordinate the **Harvest Festival** on October 3, 2010, and the Advent and Christmas decorations. Planning needs to start now. If you are interested, please

contact Pamela Smith at 416-245-8422 or [pamelasmith@idirect.com](mailto:pamelasmith@idirect.com)

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### Camp for Big Kids

For the past few autumns, St. John's York Mills has joined St. Timothy's and Grace Church On-the-Hill for a volunteer work weekend at Mooreland's Camp near Dorset. It's an amazing opportunity to have fun while helping others paint, repair, and prepare the camp's facilities for the following summer. One of the highlights of the weekend is the Saturday night campfire-singsong. This fall – as always – everyone is invited: families, youths, singles, and couples, newcomers and old hands of all ages.

If you would like to be part of the team for the weekend of September 24 to 26, please contact Dave Jefford: 416-221-0770 or [d.jefford@gmail.com](mailto:d.jefford@gmail.com)

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### Lemonade on the Lawn

If you've never had your own lemonade stand, here's your chance!

Summer is here and, as tradition dictates, we're moving our post-service fellowship outside. We need your help. Here's all you have to do: make the lemonade mix we provide, serve it, and do a bit of cleanup.

If this job description brings back fond memories, please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the volunteer board in the Narthex.

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### Knitting Supplies Needed

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health desperately needs old or unused wool and needles for a knitting class. If you can help please contact Joan Hudson: 416-225-6905

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## OUTREACH

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### Noah's Ark

Noah's Ark Summer Camp will run this summer from July 5 to August 13, and will again be operated by St. Stephen's Downsview Youth Covenant (DYC). The camp serves children 6 to 12 years of age and Leaders in Training (LITs), who are 13 to 16 years of age. These teens work at the camp in a volunteer capacity and learn valuable skills that make them employable in other summer camp settings.

DYC needs your help as follows:

- Volunteers with expertise in golf, chess, visual arts, or crafts (e.g., knitting)
- Snacks such as popsicles, bottled water, fruit juices, chips, cookies, whole fruit, and any non-perishable foods, except peanut butter. (The children bring their own lunch.)
- General donations to sponsor weekly trips and activities

Sponsorship to allow one child or more to attend camp for a week or more (\$60 per child, per week). Many DYC families cannot afford to have multiple children attend the camp, yet don't want their children to be separated. To help out or make a tax-deductible donation to this fine organization, please contact them at (416) 809-4639 or [dyctoronto@rogers.com](mailto:dyctoronto@rogers.com).

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### Help Support Bill 23

On March 31, 2010, a private member's Bill was introduced by MPP Toby Barrett (PC). On April 22 the Bill passed second reading, and its tabling before the finance committee is pending. The intent of the Bill is to increase employment opportunities for recipients of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), while allowing them to retain more of their earned income and personal assets. To accomplish this objective, it is necessary to amend the existing legislation.

The Outreach Committee requests your kind assistance in sending an email or letter of support to your MPP regarding the Bill, encouraging the government to submit the Bill to the finance committee.

For more information about the Bill and why the Committee requests your support, please go to: <http://www.stjohnsyorkmills.com/outreach.html>

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### FPM Summer Camp

Flemingdon Park Ministry will provide summer camp this year, from July 5 to August 20 (7 weeks). The camp program will be expanded to include about 75 disadvantaged children and 10 staff members, including trained volunteer youth leaders. Camp organizers would appreciate help with craft supplies and financial assistance.

They would also like to hear from you if you have a personal connection that might help them plan an interesting outing for these campers. For more information or to make a donation, please contact Rev. Helena Houldcroft: (416) 425-1841 or [flemingdonparkministry@bellnet.ca](mailto:flemingdonparkministry@bellnet.ca)

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### Barnabas Breakfast Group

This program is thriving and growing in numbers every month. Volunteers continue to provide the participants with a hot breakfast, snacks to take away, tokens, time with clergy, and a time of fellowship. While there is a roster of volunteers, not everyone is available each month. So, if you're interested in helping on the last Wednesday of each month, please contact Linda Bell, through the Church Office: 416-225-6611. To those of you who generously support the program with your time and donations, a big thank-you.

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### Inter-Faith Food Bank

Flemingdon Park Ministry's recent move to 10 Gateway Blvd. is working out very well.

The FPM Food Bank is now independently incorporated and an historic agreement is in place, which involves three different Muslim organizations that assist in the management and operations.

Parishioners are asked to remember the food needs of the community over the summer months. In particular, community members need tuna, pasta and pasta sauce, baby formula and baby food, and diapers. In general, they like to receive staples of rice, flour, and oil (which they put in smaller containers).

