

## Regular Worship

### Every Sunday

8:00 a.m. Said Eucharist

9:30 a.m. Family Eucharist

11:00 a.m. Choral Service

Morning Prayer on the first, third and fifth Sundays; Eucharist on the second and fourth Sundays

7:00 p.m. The Gathering

## Summer Worship

May 23 to September 5

### Every Sunday

8:00 a.m. Said Eucharist

9:30 a.m. Family Eucharist

11:00 a.m. Choral Service

Morning Prayer on the first, third and fifth Sundays; Eucharist on the second and fourth Sundays

7:00 p.m. The Gathering

## Bishop's Visit

Sunday, May 9, 2010

The Right Reverend Patrick Yu will be visiting St. John's on Sunday, May 9th. He will be preaching at both the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Please join us in welcoming our Area Bishop.

## St. John's York Mills Anglican Church

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## RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Over the last year your **parish council and wardens have been wrestling with the idea of combining the main services** on Sunday mornings. In our desire to grow the parish it is obvious some things need to change so that we can meet not only the needs of the faithful who attend on a regular basis, but also be truly attractive to those who do not yet belong to our faith tradition. **How do we move forward** trying to be attractive to a culture that is becoming increasingly secular? How do we move forward when our traditions and customs that have shaped and moulded us are becoming increasingly foreign to a culture shaped by technology? This has been the challenge your leadership has been wrestling with, and accounts for why we have been so slow in implementing any significant changes. These questions are not easily answered.

So, as we have created the opportunity to hear from you with questionnaires and web-site surveys [which you are still welcome to submit] it would seem important for us to **gather data from those who DO NOT presently attend Church**. As we have heard from so many of you [some 180 families/individuals have already responded] the question has been asked, what do other people think? What about those who are not part of the parish? Well indeed there is survey information at our disposal. I would like to share with you what some of that information tells us.

Veteran church observer Peter Steinke notes that the western **Church is experiencing a shift** from one historic period to another. The data he has collected tells us that the world around us is going to experience even more sweeping change [if that is at all imaginable!]. The question is – what will we embrace and what will we reject so that we do not lose fidelity with the authentic gospel and its mission. Here is what those seeking a Church seem to be saying to us.

- **People are less interested in an intellectual approach** to worship and are increasingly drawn to an **'experience' of faith**. Liturgies with endless words are not what they want. "Show me Jesus is real, don't just tell me." Newcomers want to experience a 'passionate spirituality', experienced especially when attending Sunday worship.
- Fewer and fewer people care about their family's traditions. Therefore denomination means very little. People will cross denominational lines while 'shopping' for a Church. Sadly for many of us, being **'Anglican' is of very little importance** to those seeking a new Church. I think this truth is one of the greatest challenges to us who care deeply about our traditions.

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

- Congregational membership is less organized around an immediate neighbourhood and more around regional areas. People will travel by car quite a distance to attend the place of worship that works for them. So **signage is all important** to our growth. I was speaking to one new parishioner the other day and he said that he had been living here for close to four years before he even knew we existed. No longer are we seen from the road and if we want to grow we must invest seriously in proper signage – especially on Yonge. If they don't know we are here they certainly will not come. In the meantime 'word of mouth' is our most effective form of advertising.
- The visual is replacing the verbal as a major avenue for communicating the message the Church wants to convey. The overhead screen [for example] is very popular with younger people because it is what they are used to and shaped by TV and computers. Is there a way to compromise in this regard and invest in monitors along the side of the sanctuary for those who like that kind of presentation? This would allow us to not block the **beautiful stained glass window that adorns our sanctuary**. But again this costs money and our budgets and income do not really afford us this opportunity. But if we want to meet the future with any success might we not 'have to' make such commitments. This is why our financial stewardship is essential if we hope to transition effectively into the second decade of the 21st century. **Tough and complex issues indeed.**

These are just some of the observations taken from those who are 'outside' the faith tradition. *The Link* really isn't the place for me to develop these and other points that tell us the culture is changing rapidly. But know that your parish council and corporation are really wrestling with how best to serve all of us most effectively given the resources we have at our disposal.

At present we have made no firm decisions about how best to navigate these rapids of change. But as you can see these are the kind of hard questions we all must face if we want to be a growing and vibrant community. **At present all I can say is that we are maintaining our present worship format and will move to our standard summer worship schedule**

**of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., on the May long weekend [the 23rd].** Presently, we have added another service, called ***The Gathering*, at 7:00 p.m. each Sunday night.**

I leave you with this last thought that I think is timely in that we have **Bishop Patrick coming to celebrate with us Sunday, May 9th, 2010. He will be preaching at both the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services that day.** In his last visit with us he echoed the thoughts of the late great **Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple** who said, "That the Church should always remember that it exists primarily for those who are not its members." This sounded pretty radical when he said it back in the 1940's and seems just as radical today. We need to always remember our primary task is fishing – fishing for people who need to be caught by the good news of the Gospel.

For your prayers, support, and continued commitment to St. John's – I pray



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

<p>PREPLANNING YOUR FUNERAL</p> <p>A really <b>bright</b> idea.</p>	 <p>6150 Yonge St., Toronto Ontario M2M 3W9 Tel. 416-221-1159 Web. <a href="http://www.rskane.ca">www.rskane.ca</a></p>
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***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:** July & August - copy deadline is June 5th for a July 5th mailing.

## WARDENS' UPDATE

We are faced with the fact that attendance had been gradually decreasing at both our 9:30 a.m. and our 11:00 a.m. services and, for this reason, our current challenge is to explore ways of attracting members to St. John's while still serving our current parishioners.

We are considering the prospect of combining our 9:30 a.m. service with our 11:00 a.m. service. It was suggested that doing this would streamline the activities of our volunteers and our clergy thereby affording them more time to focus on the quality of their respective roles and to make the most effective use of our resources. Our church school's growth and development would be optimized and time would be provided for adult Christian education on Sunday mornings. It was felt that worshipping all together at one service and enjoying coffee together afterwards would broaden our friendships within the parish, strengthen ties and, as a result, foster unity. The combination of the two groups would result in a fuller church with a more energized and inviting feel. These reasons prompted us to give the suggestion serious thought and a questionnaire was designed to provide us with information to help with the decision process.

We are delighted with the volume of responses we have received concerning the combined services survey and with the quantity and quality of the participation in our small group discussions so far. It is apparent that members of St. John's care about their parish and about its future. Thank you all for participating. While the results are still being tabulated and input is still being sought, some interesting points have been made. Your responses identify elements of the service that are important to you as parishioners and offer advice on ways to attract new members. The main points are as follows:

- Sermons were identified as the most important service element, both as a value to our current parishioners and as a way of attracting new members.
- Music was also considered to be important in both areas. Parishioners expressed pride in our choir and organ music. It was felt that newcomers would be attracted by great music. Slightly more people preferred traditional music provided by the choir and the organ.
- To retain newcomers we need to be a welcoming and friendly parish exuding a sense of community and fellowship.

- Liturgy was also a core value. Many parishioners place a high priority on Holy Communion and Prayer with some seeing the service as a time for prayer and quiet contemplation.

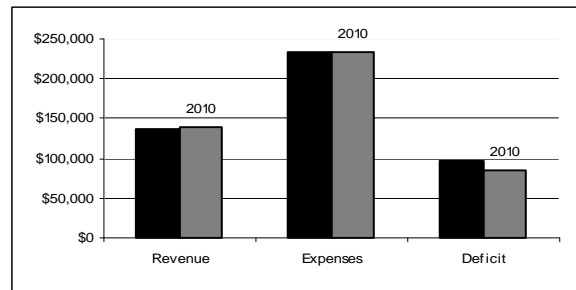
An analysis of the catchment area around St. John's identified a potential market opportunity of 100,000 individuals. The majority of this group is composed of young families. Our experience indicates that the young families prefer a contemporary service supported by a strong church school program.

Parishioners cautioned that the following qualities might discourage newcomers:

- Liturgy that is traditional, formal and difficult to follow
- Services that have an empty and uninviting feel due to poor attendance
- Members who don't appear open to being welcoming and friendly to new people.

This concludes our update at present. We want to thank you all once again and we ask for your prayers for wisdom and discernment as we contemplate the direction the Lord is calling St. John's parishioners to take in pursuit of our mission "To know Christ and make Him known."

### Update on Church Finances (for the three months ended March 31, 2010)



**Revenue** \$139,112 this year vs. \$136,783 last year  
**Expenses** \$223,844 this year vs. \$233,438 last year  
**Deficit** \$84,732 this year vs. \$96,654 last year

While the deficit is less it is still very large. Donations this year are down 10.8% vs. last year. Due to ending 2009 with a deficit, our cash position is very poor. Without your immediate additional support we will need to use our Line of Credit within a few weeks. So we ask you to prayerfully consider stewardship gifts so that we can continue the work of this parish.

## DEACON CATHERINE'S DIARY

'Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!'

'Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and on those in the tombs bestowing life!'

We have just experienced a wonderful, in the true sense of the word, wonderful Easter week—and now, the Easter season continues for some 50 more days—that will take us well into May—praise God!

Praise God indeed. One way we praise and honour God is through the Eucharist—a time to give thanks to God. I find each time we partake of the Eucharist to be powerful—a time to focus on Christ—to take and eat—this is His body which was given for us—to take and drink for this is His blood shed for us for the remission of sins, we are to do this in remembrance of Him. It is part of the fulfillment of the new covenant Jesus has made with us. When I am setting the table and at the side of the priest during these moments it is absolutely incredible—I feel God's presence in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit—it all comes together there for me. Then I see all the people—the children—coming for Communion—communion with our Lord! I see you coming in prayer and reverence and it is overwhelming to me! Through all this I remember what Jesus did for us, how he suffered so that we might have life eternal. I rejoice being in Christ—being a child of God—

being part of the people of the resurrection!!! The Eucharist is more than a ritual for me—it a special way to be in communion with our Lord!

On Easter morning I read the Gospel of John about how Mary went to the empty tomb to look for Jesus—and he was not there! Yet He was there! She just did not recognize Him—until He called her by name! It reminded me of how we too can look for Jesus in the wrong places—where He is not; and how we are not able to hear Him call us by name—because He knows and calls us by name—but we cannot always hear Him calling us because we are so busy with the everyday pressures of life. We all need to make time for Christ in our lives, not just to hear God's call but also to listen so that we can discern what He is calling us to in our daily decision-making. It is when we are living at 'the speed of life' that we do not always take the time to go to the Lord for His advice, His comfort and support—and that is usually when we need to go to Him the most.

I pray that you and your families experience the risen Christ—that you will find Him—in the right place—perhaps in the Alpha course that is running right now! He is everywhere! I pray that you will find comfort and strength in the risen Lord, now and always.

Blessings to you and your families,

*In Christ,  
The Rev. Dr. Catherine Keating, Deacon*

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## JONAH AND THE WHALE

Poor Jonah! Trapped inside a whale for three whole days! Once released though, Jonah was so happy and thankful once he was released that he went forth and told everybody he met about God!

After our dramatic story about Jonah, we made puppets: whales out of colourful construction paper and Jonahs out of popsicle sticks.

Now, what was surprising was that all the children began to draw a sad-faced Jonah on one side of the popsicle stick and a happy-faced Jonah on the other side.

*Where did that come from?* No one gave the children directions on how to make a two-sided Jonah! Well, simply, they understood the story: Jonah

was sad about being trapped in the whale. But, once released and filled with God's love, Jonah was happy.

When we returned to the sanctuary for communion the children joined their families. As we were singing the recessional hymn one little girl raised up her arm with Jonah in her hand. With a bright and shining face she exclaimed, "I am showing Jonah's happy side because I am happy to know God!"

*Where did that come from?* No one gave her directions on how to joyfully worship God. It's just what happens when we are happy and filled with God's love!

*Jan Gardiner Williams,  
Children's Minister*

## A FUNNY THING HAPPENED TO ME ON THE WAY TO WORK TODAY

So, I was sitting on the subway the other day. It was stopped because of a “signal problem at St. Clair Station”. As a veteran “strap-hanger” on the TTC, I did what most everyone else does, pulled out some reading material to pass the time. This day, the book in my bag happened to be *The Bible*. It has a bright red cover with “The Holy Bible” in gold script. When I’ve pulled out my Bible, I’ve seen smiles, I’ve seen disappointed frowns, I’ve been accused of poisoning minds, but for the most part I’ve been ignored.

My seat mate that morning was a young man, about 17 years old. Earphones in his ears. I could hear the song rather clearly. It was The Clash. A favourite band of my youth. I smiled at the memories of 30 years ago. I could see out of the corner of my eye that he was looking at the Bible and frowning. After five minutes of this, he pulled the earphones out of his ears and pointed to the Bible. “Hey, how can you believe this God stuff?”

Great, I say to myself, an atheist kid who wants to have a subway debate. An Apologist I’m not but I gird my loins and answer, “I just do. I’ve read and talked to people, looked at what has happened in my life and decided that there is a God who loves me.”

“Well, I don’t know about that ‘loving us’ crap. He’s not doing any favours for me lately.” He then starts on a laundry list of things that have happened to him. His father hates him because of the way he looks, his girlfriend dumped him, school sucks because the teacher won’t give him extra help, and his friends think he’s lame because he doesn’t want to get high anymore. This list went on. And then he says, “I tried doing the praying thing and it didn’t work. What am I doing wrong? Has God given up on me?”

A chill ran through me. I’m supposed to be a Youth Minister. I’m supposed to have the answers. I took a breath and said a prayer: “Don’t let me mess this kid up.” Aloud I said, “Of course God hasn’t given up on you. He loves you. No matter what you do, he will always love you. God never said that He’d make it easy for us. We’re going to mess up. Life is going to suck sometimes. It’s how we deal with those times that are important. Keep on praying. He answers every prayer. Sometimes the answer is ‘No’ or ‘Not Yet’ but he will answer. You just have to pay attention and listen. Think about asking the right questions,

praying for the right things. He loves you; he’ll help show you the way”

The subway jolted and began to run into the station and the Bible fell from my lap onto the floor. The Kid picked it up. It was opened to Psalm 136. We both looked at the page. His eyes grew large. He pointed to the text “Holy Crap...OK God, I get it....Thanks Mister!” The doors opened and the Kid bolted out.

As I write this, I’m thinking of what I didn’t say. Didn’t ask him if he went to church, didn’t ask him to go to Youth Group, and didn’t even get his name. Part of me thinks I messed up. But then again, I remember what page the Bible fell open to.

***It is he who remembered us in our low estate,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever;  
and rescued us from our foes,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever;  
who gives food to all flesh,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.  
O give thanks to the God of heaven,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.***

OK God, message received. Thanks!

Stephen Monk  
Youth Minister



## NEW CIRCLES COMMUNITY SERVICES

Throughout the last few years, St. John's parishioners have been very supportive of New Circles Community Services, both with donations of clothing and household articles, and with financial contributions. As Scott McDougall has described in our parish bulletins, New Circles has been in existence since 2005 and is a much needed support system for families living in Flemington Park, Thorncliffe Park, Victoria Village and other areas in the GTA.

There have been so many rewarding experiences being a volunteer at New Circles, and I am proud to be associated with it. When you enter the building at 10 Gateway Blvd., you can't help but be impressed by the physical set-up, including the reception area with toys for the children. The dignified shopping experience has separate boutiques for women, men and children, with all items cleaned, pressed and sized. The registered families are given appointments to shop once every three months and there is nothing more touching than seeing the excitement of a client who has found the perfect winter coat with a matching scarf, warm boots and gloves. The prom graduation boutique in the spring is another chance to see the joy in the faces of the teen girls who find their dream dresses with all of the accessories for this special time in their lives.

It is a wonderful opportunity to meet some of Canada's new immigrants and one can't help but admire their strength and positive attitude. Many of the clients volunteer at New Circles and this provides them with the opportunity to practise speaking English, to develop job readiness skills and to be mentored by other volunteers and staff. We all celebrate when a volunteer has developed enough confidence to apply for a retail position and reports that "she got the job!"

In her latest newsletter, Jane Craig, our very warm and caring executive director, included the following testimonial from a client at New Circles:

"Presently I am volunteering at New Circles where I found out that many people get a lot of help to start their new life in Canada. This has shown me how Canada is so generous and helpful to people who might have lost hope. New Circles gives you hope and trust that you can be someone no matter what circumstances you have come from."

Thank you St. John's parishioners for supporting this very worthwhile organization.

*Carol Ball,  
Volunteer*

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## MOORELAND'S CAMP

For the past few years St. John's has joined St. Timothy's and Grace Church On-the-Hill for a volunteer fall work weekend at Mooreland's Camp near Dorset. It's an amazing opportunity to help others while you are having fun. Families, youth, singles and couples, newcomers and old hands of all ages are encouraged to come! Please contact David Jefford at 416-221-0770 or e-mail him at [d.jefford@gmail.com](mailto:d.jefford@gmail.com) if you would like to be part of his team this **September 24th to 26th**.

Last year we really enjoyed ourselves and the team I led worked hard to complete 10 bunk beds. Others sewed banners, painted, sorted donated clothing, etc. The Saturday campfire singsong and Sunday worship service led by Rev. Greg Symmes of St. Timothy's and Rev. Mary Lewis of Grace Church on-the-Hill rounded out the weekend.

*Dave Jefford.*

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## PRISON MINISTRY

*Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them. (Hebrews 13:3)*

The Don Jail visitation program needs volunteers. If a challenging but fascinating ministry interests you please contact Deacon Bruce Williams, 416-221-3256.

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## PRAYER & MEDITATION

*Stand in awe... Commune with your own heart and in your chamber and be still. (Psalm 4:4)*

The Prayer/Meditation group meets weekly from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings until mid May. The group breaks for the summer but will resume in the fall. For more information contact Bruce Williams at 416-221-3256.

## SUMMER IN THE CITY

During the school year St. Stephen's Downsview Youth Covenant (DYC) runs a homework club in the Jane and Wilson area. Starting this July they will once again be running Noah's Ark Summer Camp for six weeks. The camp serves children ages 6 to 12 and also Leaders in Training (LIT), where youth of ages 13 to 16 join the camp in a volunteer capacity. These teenagers help out with programs and learn valuable skills that will make them employable in a summer camp setting. Over the years, a number of LIT's have been hired by Noah's Ark.

The types of support needed by DYC this summer include:

- The camp incorporates recreational activities with intellectually stimulating activities, and seeks every opportunity to expose the children to activities they would not normally have access to. They are looking for volunteers who have expertise in particular areas such as golf, chess, visual arts, and crafts (e.g. crochet, knitting), etc.
- The children bring their own lunch, but daily snack donations of food items like popsicles, water, fruit juices, chips, cookies, whole fruit—apples, oranges, bananas and any non-perishable food item except for peanut butter are required.
- Many of the DYC families cannot afford to have multiple children attend the camp and do not want to separate their children. Please consider sponsoring children for one week or more (each space is \$60 per week). Donations are also appreciated to sponsor weekly trips and activities.

To help out or make a tax-deductible donation to this fine organization please call them at 416-809-4639, or simply make your cheque out to "St. John's York Mills Outreach" and note DYC on the memo line. Mail your cheques to the office or place them in the collection plate.

For more information, call me at 416-488-6760 for more information.

*Scott McDougall*

## PRAYER CONFERENCE

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 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

The conference will also include music, worship and workshops.

This year's conference is designed to give you a new awareness of God's outrageous love for you. Mark your calendars now and watch this space for more information.

### Volunteers Needed

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

If you are interested please contact Betty Sweeney at 416-445-4323.

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## YORK GROUP

Reluctantly, the York Group found it necessary to disband and our final meeting was held April 27th. It was a sad time for us; however looking back, we have enjoyed 50 plus years of sharing our faith, fellowship, time, talent and treasures with the parish. As our activities came to a close we were thankful we had been an important part of St. John's for so many years.

For information regarding the afternoon bridge, please contact Margie Kidd at 416-488-4079

## MUSICAL MUSINGS

Our Lord is risen—Alleluia! It was a great blessing to me to see the signs of vitality, new life, and growth in our music ministries as we commemorated the death, burial, and resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Holy Week offered several of the finest examples of the varied music-making traditions at St. John's. These complementary musical offerings—from the jubilant sounds of bells leading the Palm Sunday procession, to the soaring strains of Mozart's Requiem, to the contemplative guitar and piano-accompanied singing during Maundy Thursday's foot-washing—made this Holy Week a wonderful time of reflection and prepared the way for the joyful praise of the Easter season.

At the 9:30 a.m. service, we have been blessed with both new equipment and personnel. You may have noticed the recent appearance of some much-needed new equipment, including new and better microphones, microphone stands, music stands, and an amplifier. Thanks for these wonderful items are due to music staff member Gerald Flemming and Fr. David Julien, our resident music equipment experts, and to Bill Dennis for kindly picking up much of the new equipment. On Easter Sunday, we were pleased to welcome several new participants to our 9:30 a.m. worship team: Derwyn and Wanda Costinak, new and faithful attenders of St. John's, and Brian Hull, long-time St. John's member and drummer extraordinaire.

If you would like to be part of the growing music ministry during the 9:30 a.m. service, we would invite your participation in two ways:

1. If you like to sing or play an instrument, we would love for you to be involved in our music-making! In the near future, borrowing the excellent idea of St. John's choir, we are planning a "worship team member for a Sunday" in which you can join a small vocal ensemble which will help to lead congregational singing. Before that time, if you are interested in playing an instrument or singing during the service, please contact me at [mingalls@stjohnyorkmills.com](mailto:mingalls@stjohnyorkmills.com).
2. If you would rather not participate musically but would still like to help out, we are very much in need of individuals to serve once per month in our visual media department. If you are interested and available to sit in the balcony and manage the slides once per month, contact me at [mingalls@stjohnyorkmills.com](mailto:mingalls@stjohnyorkmills.com) and we can arrange for a 15-20 minute training session with the computer program.

May the celebrations of Eastertide and the coming season of spring fill you with all joy as we serve our risen Lord!

*Monique Ingalls*

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## MUSICFEST THANK YOU

Thank you and bravo to everyone who had a part in the Musicfest 2010 production of Jukebox Memories.

Choirs, ringers, families, friends and parishioners all joined together to support our 19th Musicfest. The support group for an undertaking like this is crucial and all of you are very much appreciated. The production team did an awesome job. Everyone using their God given gifts and talents, I'm sure pleases our creator.

Musicfest 2010 will have happened when you get this Link. I have confidence that it will be great because of all the wonderful people who have rallied to support me.

*Blessings,  
Carolyn Martin*

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## ORGAN MUSIC & HISTORICAL FESTIVAL 2010

Join organ fans from around the world for this event taking place in Toronto from **July 9 to July 12, 2010**

Programming of this Festival includes:

- 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 oldest Organ in the city of Toronto at St John's York Mills

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

## FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

With all the recent discourse on service times and styles of music etc. the thought occurred to me to share publicly a basic philosophy if you will, about music in worship, which has been at the core of my ministry/vision/calling. I consider it a privilege to teach music and develop the skills of singers in a Christian setting, and help others discover the passion for taking an active role in leading the music of our communal liturgy. For me personally, this role is centred on three guiding principles listed in order of importance.

1. Music performed in a worship service is an offering to the Glory of God and is in its very essence, worship. As we offer only our best to God, it is important that music is presented at as high a standard as possible given the resources of the participants.
2. Music performed in a worship service will, I hope, bring the listener to a closer place to God, whether the mood or theme of the particular repertoire be that of joy, peace, comfort, etc.
3. Music performed in a worship service should be pleasing to the ear and contain an element of "entertainment" value to the listener and/or participant.

This is not to discount or criticize different motivations or perspectives, just to share some personal views. Thanks for the opportunity.

*Robin Davis*

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## JOIN US FOR AN ORGAN CRAWL!

Did you know that some of the pipes we hear on the organ at St. Johns are over 100 years old? Ever wondered what makes a pipe organ sound? On Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup>, after the 10:00 service, you can learn all about the "King of Instruments" and check out some of the more than 1,200 pipes in our organ. The tour will last about 20 minutes and kids both young and old are welcome.

*Robin Davis*

## ORGANIX COMES TO SJYM!

Now in its 5th year, ORGANIX is a month long festival featuring many of the fine pipe organs in the GTA. SJYM will host a silent film as part of this series on **Saturday, May 22 at 7:30 p.m.** The film/concert will have free admission with donations appreciated. The featured film is *The Eagle* a 1925 romantic adventure film set in imperial Russia starring the legendary Rudolph Valentino. Known as the "Latin Lover" he was one of the most popular stars of the 1920s and one of the most recognized stars from the silent film era.

Organ accompaniment will be by Andrei Streliaev, an up and coming silent film accompanist in Toronto who also works as an accompanist for the National Ballet of Canada. Details about this event and many other concerts featuring a number of international artists including Frederic Champion (France), Eugenio Maria Fagiani (Italy) and James David Christie (USA) are available at the website: [www.organixconcerts.ca](http://www.organixconcerts.ca)

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## PASSIONTIDE THANK YOU

A telling comment mentioned by several people after the concert, was that they found the music of Mozart's Requiem to be "uplifting". To me, despite the somber text, the music itself speaks with such certainty and power of God's eternity, it has a transcendent effect on both the performers and listeners.

Thank you to all who attended and especially to our choir and guest singers. The first half of the program included some Passiontide hymns, enthusiastically sung by the choir and audience, and also a beautiful setting of the Kyrie by a member of the choir, My Isaac Han, from his *Missa Pastorale*. The orchestra members from the Canadian Sinfonietta Chamber Orchestra performed exceptionally and the choir and soloists sang the Mozart with great musicality, precision and passion. Thank you to all! What a wonderful experience to be a part of. Thanks to the great support, the concert was as much a financial success as a musical one.

*Robin Davis*

## LAY PASTORAL INITIATIVE

### Time To Downsize? In Need Of Home-Care Options?

During home visits, your Lay Pastoral associates became aware of the need to collect some basic information to provide some initial guidance to parishioners and their families when the time comes to consider a move from a primary residence, or perhaps just to enlist the services of practitioners to come to the home.

A number of publications, guides, and website listings are now kept in the Church Office and can be easily accessed. The material will be kept current. We cannot obviously recommend one particular facility over another; however, the material available will allow for a comparison of "apples to apples".

Information on Long-Term Care in Ontario is comprehensive. The role of Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) is explained in detail. Often there is some confusion about the different types of facilities such as Nursing homes, Retirement Centres, Seniors' Apartments, Supportive Housing, Community Support Services, and Respite Care. Methods for how to research these and other facilities are available. Please feel free to access this material at any time. You will be asked to sign it out so we can keep track. Should you have any questions, please contact Linda Grasley through the Church Office.

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### HELP NEEDED:

We are currently seeking someone with a vision to plan and coordinate the Harvest Festival (October 3rd) and Thanksgiving decorating initiative — as well as someone to plan and coordinate the Advent and Christmas decorating initiative. Planning needs to start now! Contact Pamela Smith (416-245-8422 · [pamelasmith@idirect.com](mailto:pamelasmith@idirect.com)) or Fr. David if this is a gift you have and are willing to share with the church.

With the summer swiftly upon us we are looking for parishioners able to join the Chancel Guild in May and commit to this special housekeeping ministry over the summer months. Contact Pamela Smith (416-245-8422 · [pamelasmith@idirect.com](mailto:pamelasmith@idirect.com)) or Fr. David.

## AN EASTER THANK YOU!

Our many thanks to those who worked so hard to adorn our church for the celebration of Easter: Mark Anderson; Carol and Vern Barney; Joan Beckett; Karen, Joanna, and Carley Campbell; Venetia Cowie; Bill Dennis; Linda Grasley; Sue Huggard; Liz Keddie; Yvonne McGregor; Sylvia Raynham; Mardi Saunders; Barbara Shearer; Pamela Smith; and Peg Trow.



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## FLOWER SUNDAY

Our 12th Flower Service is planned for **Sunday, May 23 following the 10 o'clock service.** (This is the Victoria Day long weekend when there is just one service.) Through hymns, Bible readings and prayers, this worship service offers an opportunity to remember our loved ones who are interred in our Churchyard. You may place flowers at the graveside as a reminder of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, who gave us the gift of eternal life. An offering for the upkeep of the Churchyard will be gratefully accepted.

If you will be away and would like flowers placed at a graveside, please deliver plants or flowers, clearly marked, to the Church before you leave, and the Churchyard committee members will make sure they are taken to the graveside on Sunday.

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Our Hands Move Hearts

## THE PERFECT PASTOR

The perfect pastor preaches exactly 10 minutes.

He condemns sin roundly but never hurts anyone's feelings.

He works from 8:00 a.m. until midnight and is also the church janitor.

The perfect pastor makes \$40 a week, wears good clothes, drives a good car, buys good books, and donates \$30 a week to the church.

He is 29 years old and has 40 years experience.

Above all, he is handsome.

The perfect pastor has a burning desire to work with teenagers, and he spends most of his time with the senior citizens.

He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his church.

He makes 15 home visits a day and is always in his office to be handy when needed.

The perfect pastor always has time for church council and all of its committees.

He never misses the meeting of any church organization and is always busy evangelizing the unchurched.

The perfect pastor is always in the next church over!

If your pastor does not measure up, simply send this notice to six other churches that are tired of their pastor, too. Then bundle up your pastor and send him to the church at the top of the list.

If everyone cooperates, in one week you will receive 1,643 pastors.

One of them should be perfect.

Have faith in this letter. One church broke the chain and got its old pastor back in less than three months.

by Father McGinn



## ALPHA UPDATE

We are well underway with our spring session of The Alpha Course. Over 20 people are meeting Wednesday nights to explore and ask questions about Christian faith.

The evening always starts with a communal supper. This time around, we have past Alpha participants setting up, cleaning up or helping out in the kitchen. So far two of the small groups have volunteered to cook for one of the weeks. Even the Youth Group has got involved. There are still jobs to be done—any and all help will be gratefully accepted. Sign up at the Volunteer Board in the Narthex!

One of the highlights of The Alpha Course is the Holy Spirit weekend. If you have ever participated in an Alpha course and have been unable to attend the weekend session we invite you to join us on **May 28 and 29**. We'll be holding the event in town (location to be determined) starting Friday after dinner and ending before dinner on Saturday. Not only do you cut down on the travel time, you get to sleep in your own bed!

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Catherine Bryant or David Julien



## AN IDLE TALE

One of the many things I love about our parish family is the care and dedication we give to the work of the parish. There is an energy, an excitement to our life together. Of course, as we both look to the future and provide for the maintenance of our facility, the workload increases. Will we have enough time and money to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves? Is a day long enough to contain everything that must be done?

The modern day is work oriented and begins with an alarm clock in the morning. It is centered on *self*, on what must be *done*. We wake up weighed down by what we are responsible for and what others expect us to accomplish. The ancient Hebrew understanding of "day" was quite different from our own. A day was the rhythmic pattern of God's grace. A day was "evening and morning". In the evening, we rest prayerfully and God is at work fulfilling his promises to us, his covenant with us. In the morning, we wake *in anticipation* of God's call to participate in what he has created during the night. We respond through faith and work to our calling. But God's grace always comes first. We enter our work well after it has actually been started and put into place.

This is the resurrection pattern of life. We can see this pattern in Luke's account of the discovery of Jesus' resurrection (Luke 23:54 - 24:12). During Saturday's Sabbath rest, Jesus has lain in the grave, separated from any human activity. Finally the sun sets and the Sabbath is over. Night falls and the first day of the new week looms just ahead, at the rising of the sun. Evening and morning--a new day. The disciples wake to the new day burdened with questions. What are we supposed to do now? What is expected of us? The women told the other disciples that they have met two heavenly messengers who confirmed their own discovery that Jesus had risen from death and was no longer in the tomb. "But," Luke tells us, to the disciples "these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them." After all, their life had just been rocked by frightening changes. They had plans to make and actions to take. Otherwise, nothing was going to happen! They soon discovered that plans made long ago had been carried out, and action taken, while they slept.

The resurrection happened at night, in the dark. The sunrise revealed evidence of the victory over death already won. During God's ordained sabbath rest, while his people prayed and slept, Jesus slipped out of the grip of death to a new life, a gift of the power of God the Father.

Each morning of life, and that of our parish, let us rise from our prayers and rest in anticipation. Eager for God's call to join in his work, participate in what he has created for us, for his world, while we rested. Do not be anxious about what the coming days hold for St. John's. God will always have been at work well before we even begin. If this is how our days start, we will not experience the new life in Jesus Christ as an idle tale.

*Rev. David Julien  
Associate Priest*

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## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to our church family at this sad, sad time in our lives. Our son Daniel's passing so suddenly on Easter Monday was devastating. In the days that followed, the feeling of being surrounded by so many loving arms has been quite overwhelming. The clergy, music directors, staff, ringers, choir were all so much appreciated. Parishioners have been dropping by with food and hugs. For someone who really doesn't cook very much, I want to say the food has been terrific. However, the hugs have no calories and feel really good.

Bells played and the Choir sang, "He will lift you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand."

Christine and the boys, Sean, Patrick and William, Andrew, Pam, Peter and I thank you very much for your support. Peter and I truly feel like we are held in the palm of your hands as well as God's.

*God bless,  
Carolyn*