



The Flame and The Cross

The newsletter of
St George's Church

May 2011

1

Rector: The Rev. Dr Neil Mancor
Secretary: Mrs Donna Howarth
514-457 6934



Rector's Birthday

was celebrated in April. The occasion was marked by even more people in church, all occupying the front pews. The last few pews at the back of the church were sealed by birthday banners. On that particular Sunday, Church@4 was very well attended as many parishioners came to support and pray for Neil.

There was also a special birthday cake and candles prepared in his honour.



Many birthday blessings to Neil and his family.



Leadership Team

At their March 2011 meeting, the Leadership team welcomed its new members Peggy Downey (People's Warden), Gordon Bingham (Deputy People's Warden), and Marian V. Simpson (Rector's Warden). Continuing with the team are Jimmy Skerget (Deputy Rector's Warden), Kevin Glasgow (Treasurer), Gerry Zampini (Parish Council Chair) and Richard Howarth (minute taker).

The presence of the outgoing Wardens, Ann Cumyn and Sue Winn, facilitated the change-over as they passed on several files and documents, gave a detailed report on wardens' activities and made a number of meaningful suggestions and recommendations for the upcoming session. A big thank you to Ann Cumyn and Sue Winn for their invaluable contributions and tremendous work during their time in office and also for what they continue to do for St George's Church.

The team went on to highlight the different roles and oversights of the members such as duties related to maintenance, finance, cleaning, stewardship etc. Communication guidelines were also reinforced and activities were planned for the coming months.

Under Maintenance, some projects identified for repairs included the roof over Rector's office, leaks around tower and the painting of windows.

Under Stewardship, the goal of the preauthorized remittance (PAR) was to secure the Church's finances for the long term rather than fundraising for the short term. We would therefore like to thank those who have already signed up for PAR. We are hearing great things about the program and so would like to encourage others to consider signing up, too.

The Leadership team discussed a grant re-application for funds to install a wheelchair accessible washroom. There will be a second attempt to submit an application at the appropriate time. It is noteworthy that in year two of Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government of Canada built upon the success of the Enabling Accessibility Fund by providing additional \$45 million over three years. This is good news and so we are preparing to put in our request when the call for proposals is announced. In God we trust.

Marian V. Simpson

"We desire to promote unity in Christ Jesus, while respecting our diverse gifts. We will endeavour with God's help, to create an atmosphere which inspires a closer walk with God and with one another.

We are called to be servants under God and to fulfil His plan while being faithful stewards of all that he has given us".



Prayer

page four

Prayer has been defined as a *religious conversation*. If so, as a conversation, it must be two-way. It is not just a shopping list of requests or even entreaties, but a listening to God, for God and with God as well. And in that we may come to new understandings as recounted by Julian of Norwich.

“...I desired oftentimes to witten what was our Lord’s meaning. And fifteen years after, and more, I was answered in ghostly understanding, saying thus: ‘Wouldst thou witten thy Lord’s meaning in this thing? Wit it well: Love was his meaning. Who shewed it thee? Love. What shewed he thee? Love. Wherefore shewed it thee? For Love. Hold thee therein and thou shalt witten and know more in the same. But thou shalt never know nor witten therein other thing without end’; thus was I learned that Love was our Lord’s meaning.”

{ According to the Shorter OED, *witted* from Middle English, means possessed of understanding or intelligence. The verb *witter* means to inform, instruct; or to make clear (to a person). }

Every religion in the world has had a subset of devotees who seek a direct, transcendent experience with God....a personal encounter with the divine. When these mystics describe their experiences, they all end up describing exactly the same occurrence. Generally, their union with God occurs in a meditative state and is delivered through an energy source that fills the entire body. The Japanese call this energy source *ki*, the Chinese Buddhists call it *chi*, the Balinese call it *taksu*, the Kalahari Bushmen call it *n/um*, Islamic Sufi poets call it *the Beloved*, and Christians call it *the Holy Spirit*.

Elizabeth Gilbert

Prayer may be universal, but there are exceptions:

This is no doubt an apocryphal story concerning a small town bar in Texas which began construction on a new building to increase its business. A local church started a campaign to block the bar from opening with petitions and prayers. Work progressed right up till the week before opening when lightning struck the bar and it burned to the ground. The church folks were rather smug in their outlook after that, until the bar owner sued the church on the grounds that the church was ultimately responsible for the demise of his building, either through direct or indirect actions or means. The church vehemently denied all responsibility or any connection to the building’s demise in its reply to the court.

As the case made its way into court, the judge looked over the paperwork. At the hearing he commented, “I don’t know how I’m going to decide this, but as it appears from the paperwork, we have a bar owner who believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that does not.”

Baptisms

recently the congregation has welcomed at least two new members:

Nylan Alexander, Marion Ore's great-grandson, here watching his two big sisters welcoming him to St George's.



Emily Lamb's big brother, already baptized here, feels that he is an old hand in the ceremony.

On Easter Sunday, we welcomed two more: Claire Russell and her daughter, Layla Charlotte, who led her own applause.



Declaration: We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection and share with us his eternal priesthood.

Wherever I Go, St George's Goes With Me

A reflection by Sue Winn

In recent weeks I have been to a meeting of the Council of General Synod and have preached in different churches. When I am not at St George's, I am proudly representing my home parish in some other place. I enjoy my work as a Lay Reader as well as my role as a Diocesan Representative. Wherever I go I am asked which Montreal parish I belong to. I love to tell others about St George's!

People remember that St George's was where PWRDF (Primate's World Relief and Development Fund) was born fifty years ago. We are recognized as a church that sponsored a Refugee Family as part of the PWRDF 50th Anniversary Project. Our stories of Outreach and Pastoral Care draw much interest: a weekly pizza lunch for high school students, programs of DivorceCare, Boundaries, Studies for Seekers, Youth Group and a Sunday School that raises funds for the homeless! These are stories I love to share.

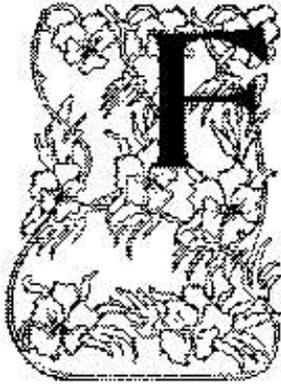
Thank you for your prayers for me. Knowing I am prayed for gives me strength and courage, clarity and peace when difficult decisions must be made.

In mid-May I will be representing the Diocese of Montreal at the Assembly of the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior in Kamloops, BC. I will be there to give some reflections on the partnership of our two dioceses, and to experience worship in some of their Indigenous communities. It will be a joy to tell the people of the APCI that St George's prays for them and Bishop Barbara Andrews every Sunday.

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§ In case you are wondering: APCI is northeast of the Vancouver area and includes 100 Mile House, Kamloops, Prince George, Lytton. It was an area that had many residential schools. It was because of these painful experiences suffered by the Indigenous people, that lawsuits bankrupted the Diocese of Caribou. All the assets of the Diocese went to pay legal fees. The remaining parishes make up the Parishes of the Central Interior, and they are building their life again in new ways. The Diocese of Montreal presented Bishop Barbara Andrews with a new crozier last November. She was left without any symbols of her office. They are still having to make huge decisions about their future.



Fun Raising or Fund Raising

whichever you wish!

Our usual Spring Fair fund-raising event will be replaced by two Garage Sales in May. The first will be on Saturday 21 May at Bob and Joanne Jackson's home, and the second will be at June Woodward's on the following Saturday, 28 May. We are asking all parishioners to donate their garage sale treasures to these events. All proceeds of these two garage sales will go towards St George's Church and its missions. Please start collecting and preparing your treasures for our Spring Garage sales! We will have a sign up sheet for volunteers to help set up, sell and take down, for each of these garage sales. We will advise you shortly as to where (not the church) and when to bring your donations. So please hang on to them in the meantime. Remember, "that something" that you no longer need, may be "that something" that someone else is looking for. Spring is a great time to de-clutter.

Fundscrip has regularly over \$1000 worth of sales every Sunday. This means a profit of at least \$30 for St George's.

Old Brewery Mission Lenten Banks

The Sunday School would like to thank everyone for their very generous support of our Old Brewery Mission Lenten Project. Lenten Banks may be brought in for the next couple of weeks and put at the back of the church or on the children's altar downstairs. Eventually all the coins will be rolled to give the parish a grand total for this project. Thank you for caring for those among us who depend on support from organizations like the Old Brewery Mission.

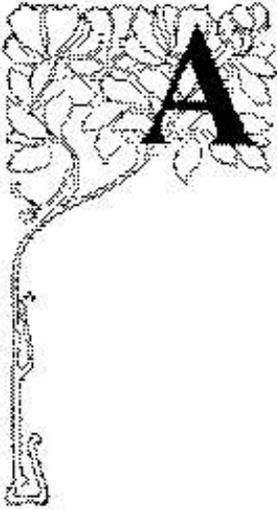
The Persian supper

raised \$300 for Monir and her family.

She was grateful to encounter so many friends and went home very happy. It was observed that she and her daughter, Komri, are acquiring two new languages, French and English, with amazing skill, after only six months in Canada!

Surely we have been blessed by that totally mythical saint: St Bea of a Generous Heart





Activities

Many are centered over food, such as the Persian Supper, pictured on the left, when on Saturday, 26 March, the mother of our sponsored family, Monir, prepared a feast for over 80 people from St George's and St Mary's. It was wonderful to welcome into our hall so many who have supported our sponsorship of this family from Iran. Our interpreters were with us, interested community members, and many friends of all ages. This was a lively evening of fellowship and learning. Please see our photos on the website: www.stgeorgesanglicanchurch.org.

The Seder Supper was held on Maundy Thursday.

Sunday School held a successful cupcake decorating day;



Not to mention an equally successful



Craft Day. The hats re-appeared on Easter Sunday,



as the Sunday School strutted its stuff, telling the Easter story.