

# THE FLAME AND THE CROSS

## THE NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Rector: The Rev. Dr Neil Mancor

Secretary: Mrs Donna Howarth

514-457-6934

29 April 2012

### *The Rector writes*

Dear Friends,

So much has been happening in the life of our congregation recently: a wonderful whirlwind of activity and energy. I am particularly excited about the photo-directory which is coming out soon. Such documents are like a snapshot, a window into our community at a moment in time. Even since we took the photographs, new people have come along to check us out, new members have been baptised: we are organic, we are alive.

The photo directory also reminds us that we are the Church. We are a group of Christians who worship in the Anglican tradition and seek to serve Christ in the people we encounter. The Scriptures have a beautiful picture of the Church:

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. Ephesians 2: 19-20.*

No longer strangers, fellow citizens, members of God's household, held together by Jesus Christ. And that is who we are at St George's: a wonderfully diverse group of members of God's household, united by our common belief in Jesus Christ. This photo directory gives a picture of what God's church looks like in our community. It is a snapshot of who we are right now.

Welcoming new members into our community, whose pictures are not in the directory, is about more than being friendly to them. It is about incorporating them into the household of God, recognising that they are fellow citizens, and that we are all united by our faith in Jesus Christ. I hope that all who look through these pages will be warmed by the sight of so many wonderful saints of God and imagine a place for yourself in the household of God.



Yours,

*Neil Mancor*

**Congregational meeting: 10 June 2012**



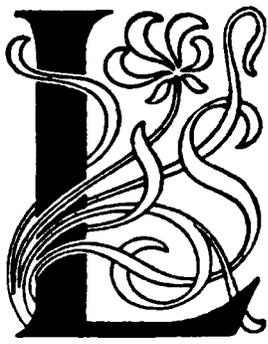
By the time you read this newsletter, we will have completed the survey component of the Natural Church Development programme at St George's. This programme was recommended to us by Janet Marshall, Congregational Development Officer of the Diocese of

Montreal, as a tool to help us consolidate the growth we have been seeing. It is always a thrill when people come to check out St George's and they do receive a warm welcome. We want to get better at retaining them and helping them become fully integrated members.

Natural Church Development begins with a survey of 30 committed members of the congregation. Your NCD team went to great lengths to develop a list of participants balanced by gender, age and length of time at St George's. NCD identifies eight quality characteristics which, when *all* are present to a sufficient degree, will practically *guarantee* numerical growth. These characteristics are:

- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Empowering leadership   | 5. Inspiring worship service |
| 2. Gift-oriented ministry  | 6. Need-oriented evangelism  |
| 3. Passionate spirituality | 7. Holistic small groups     |
| 4. Functional structures   | 8. Loving relationships      |

After the survey a report will be prepared which details our strengths and weaknesses in these areas. The idea is that we work on maintaining our strengths and addressing our weaknesses. We would then follow-up in a survey in two years. The members of the NCD coaching team are: Neil Mancor, Mary Ann Drolet, Gerry Zampini, Liz Carter and Phil Aussel.



# Leadership Team

*"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 he has given us".*

The Leadership team; Peggy Downey (People's Warden), Gordon Bingham (Deputy People's Warden), Marian V. Simpson (Rector's Warden), Jimmy Skerget (Deputy Rector's Warden), Kevin Glasgow (Treasurer), Gerry Zampini (Parish Council Chair) and Richard Howarth (recording secretary) meet on the third Wednesday of each month to discuss church matters. Our next meeting will be on 16 May 2012.

The beginning of this year has proven to be another wonderful period of time. We have successfully implemented safe church policies at St George's that are in accordance with the guidelines of the diocese. All volunteers who work with vulnerable people have been properly screened based on the ministry in which they are involved or perform. St George's now joins the few parishes in the diocese with a safe church policy in place.

We have also been successful in obtaining the Enabling Accessibility Fund grant and are looking forward to having a wheelchair accessible bathroom at the back of the church in the near future. This will complement our other reduced mobility elements such as the wheelchair accessible parking space, the accessible ramp at the entrance of the church, and the wheelchair accessible area within the church. Increasing the level of barrier-free elements in the church will provide better ease of access to people with reduced mobility while creating a more inclusive and welcoming environment. We thank God for making all these things possible.

Currently, we have a Natural Church Development (NCD) process in progress that has been facilitated by Janet Marshall, (Diocesan Parish Development Officer,) who briefed us on the topic in February. The NCD process focuses on the healthy growth of the church rather than its growth in numbers. It involves a survey that will identify the strengths and weaknesses, or the areas of growth that have changed within our church. This information will allow the church leaders to determine specific areas that require the greatest attention. By so doing, our church will grow into a healthy one, and ultimately lead to an increase in our numbers (though initially not the target). In maintenance, the broken chair lift that had been around for many years is finally gone, thanks to Gordon Bingham. Earlier in the year, some temporary repairs of roof were made in the Rector's office, as well as to leaks around the tower, painting of windows, etc. However, recently, additional work has begun to complete both roof repairs, over the Rector's office and in the church's tower.

In Financial matters, again this year, the cost of maintenance/cleaning has continued to be challenging; it has dominated our discussions. We have identified duplication in the janitorial services and have agreed that the cost be reduced. We are therefore working on ways to better resolve the issue. We believe that the reduction of these services will save the parish some substantial amount of money and we are looking forward to achieving other cost savings as well.

*Marian V Simpson*

## *Financial update* as of the end of the first Quarter of 2012.

In order to let all members of St George's understand our financial stewardship situation, please see the summary below as of March 30, 2012.

|               | Budget   | Actual    |
|---------------|----------|-----------|
| Giving:       | \$36,250 | \$29,038  |
| Total Income: | \$40,749 | \$31,847  |
| Expenses:     | \$40,910 | \$44,574  |
| Bottom Line:  | -\$161   | -\$12,727 |

While this may initially appear fearsome, it is actually quite typical for Q1 as we have major heating, insurance and cleaning expenses, while not seeing the upside of the Christmas celebrations to offset the giving patterns. However, it does show the need to balance our giving over the year and not leave it to year end to catch up as it does put us into a cash management challenge with a \$12K shortfall to cover.

Should you have any questions please feel free to ask me anytime: 514-453 0883



*Kevin Glasgow*

The counting team hard at work, trying to make sure that amounts eligible for tax credits match the relevant envelopes. If they get it right, Richard will keep smiling.



a not so young  
seminarian's very  
short  
story

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Not so very long ago, a not so young seminarian was assigned as a student to the Anglican parish of St George's in the idyllic community of Ste Anne de Bellevue. It is a parish community that loves God and seeks to respond to that love, in worship, in life and with one another. It strives to be meaningful to the greater community at large, interacting with groups that wouldn't generally associate with the church per se. This warm and inviting parish community, familiar to the seminarian, embraced this not so young seminarian with open arms, open hearts and discerning minds. They encouraged him in all that he did, directing their kind comments toward his encouragement and self-improvement, helping to guide and to shape his spiritual and vocational development.

The parish's rector, a wise, enthusiastic and patient man, is dedicated to the community's life and well-being. He continually encourages the parish community to look to God in exercising its gifts and talents, both for their own well-being and the well-being of the community outside itself. And as he encouraged and challenged the community, he has also not hesitated to encourage and challenge the not so young seminarian, including him in as many leadership roles and activities as the seminarian, being only part-time, was able to handle. Continually he gently but firmly challenged the student's own self-limitations, encouraging him to assume a leadership role with confidence and humility. He enabled the seminarian to begin to find his own vocational voice amid missteps, miscues and mistakes. And not once did the seminarian detect any sense of impatience or frustration from the parish priest at the not so young seminarian's forgetfulness and slow comprehension. The parish priest, who at times would willingly and graciously step back so that the seminarian could step forward, always found positive things to say about the seminarian's vocational development when the not so young seminarian could not see it for himself.

It has been the parish's and priest's care and concern for the not so young seminarian's vocational development that has him looking forward with anxious anticipation to the next chapter in their relationship together. Although the not so young seminarian will be even more not so young when he returns to the community after a brief hiatus, he knows that the parish's and priest's exuberance, enthusiasm, encouragement and good-will will energize and enliven his own ministry among the

A Not So Young Seminarian in the middle and on the job at Easter.





# *N*ews around the *parish*

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## *The Girls*

are home from Peru:



## *The Telephone Chain*

needs another volunteer. Not all of us have email and this ministry is needed for everyone to be kept in touch. Please phone Will Carter at 514-426-2341 if you are able to lend us a dialling finger and helpful ear.



*The Men* are enjoying breakfast, but it may

be noticed that the photographer's omelette is getting cold.

And they are still serving coffee after the 10.00 a.m.

service on the last Sunday of the month.



## *Baptism*

of Damian Joseph Maughn, wearing his great-grandmother's baptismal gown, took place on 15 April 2012.



As you may have noticed from page 4, our financial situation is not too robust.

Although our focus should be on our spiritual growth; nevertheless we do have our more mundane responsibilities. For example:

*Suitcases for Africa* Decorated cupcakes for sale after 10.00 a.m. services, the Book Nook and other efforts have raised enough money (over \$1,130 in total) to send four suitcases, (transport is around \$240 each) to a boarding school in Kenya. The suitcases contained desperately need school supplies and sheets.



*FundScrip* is a completely painless way to raise money for the church. If you buy a gift

card for \$50, you may buy \$50 worth of goods; you get the full value. It is the shop which gives the church the 3% to 10% of that amount. So, if you have to spend \$100 on groceries anyway, why not buy a \$100 gift card? Liz Carter has them all on her table every Sunday and immediately the church has the \$3.00. Even better, sign up to the FundScrip website through Liz and order your cards through the web. Liz will have them waiting for you and you pay her. No worries about cyber theft of your credit card number.

*Talent Auction* We remember the parable of the talents, but in the New English Bible and in the NIV the word is translated as “bags of gold” and scholars note that each “talent” is worth about 20 years of a labourer’s wages. Whichever translation is meant, the point remains that we are given something of value, such as a skill, that we should strive to increase in value and then, most importantly, return it to “the King” as in the parable. St George’s is offering us an opportunity to do just that. Each of us has some “talent” in the modern meaning of the word, be it to baby-sit, rake leaves, bake pies or cakes, cater lunches or dinners etc. We submit our talent on the form at the back of the church, and after a convivial pot luck supper on Saturday, 2 June, those “talents” will be auctioned off for the benefit of St George’s

. *Penny Drive* Do not let copper burden your pocket; the massive jar is at the back of the church, just waiting to be filled up. Already rolled would be nice.