



# The Flame and The Cross

The newsletter of  
St George's Church

25 November 2012



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*Always winter and never Christmas!* “

Thus said Mr Beaver! Can you imagine that? It is a world without hope.

Living in Quebec, we may *well* be able to imagine a world of eternal winter, once the snow has settled in and the temperature has plummeted. For many of us, however, the snow also offers new opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and the company of those we love.

The idea of a world of endless winter without Christmas is a picture of our world without Jesus Christ. As when Aslan returned to Narnia and the thaw began, so too when Jesus Christ was born into our world he brought a new hope. It is the hope that the darkness of estrangement from God will be overturned by the light of his radiance amongst us. The hope that the reign of sin will be brought to an end, and the just reign of God will spread in human hearts.

And so Christmas comes in the depth of our winter. For Christ came into our world to restore us to God. When we, each one of us, give our hearts to our Saviour, his Kingdom comes and his light shines. Make this holiday season a time of recommitting your life to Jesus Christ, seeking to live under his just rule. For in Him, Christmas joy always comes rushing in with abundance.

**Isaiah 12:6** “... Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

May this winter be a time of blessed celebration of Christmas!

Yours, *Neil*



This is the page to save

## Christmas Services



02 December 10.00 a.m. White Gift Sunday

This is our opportunity to wrap gifts for needy children in plain, not ostentatious, paper, indicating only whether the gift is suitable for a boy or a girl and of what age.

16 December 10.00 a.m. Children's Pageant Service

At this service the Sunday School children have a chance to dress up and show off their thespian skills. The script is not necessarily the one you expect.

23 December 10.00 a.m. Carol Service

Take a deep breath, sing out and prepare to welcome our Lord.

24 December 4.00 p.m. Family Christmas Service

10.00 p.m. Choral Communion

Join the choir for this most festive of services.

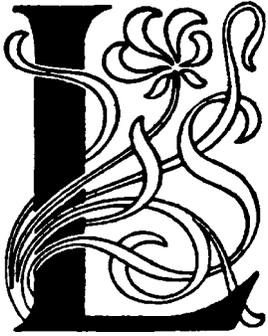
25 December 10.00 a.m. Christmas Day Service

For those of us who missed the 4.00 p.m. service yesterday but need an early bed-time. Meals on Wheels volunteers will be cooking downstairs at the same time.



Quiz: today, 25 November, is "Stir Up Sunday". Do you know why?

Hint: refer to page 259 B.C.P.



# eadership 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 (minute taker) continued to meet every third Wednesday of each month to discuss church matters.

This fall the Leadership Team has focused on routine facility issues, construction of the handicapped accessible washroom, the annual stewardship campaign, and oversight of the many activities and programs of the parish. It is especially exciting to see so many new young families to complement our active, joyful teenagers. We can be very proud of the youth ministry at St George’s. We are also very pleased with the vibrant small groups at work at St George’s in study, fellowship, and outreach and the enthusiasm of the entire congregation for our varied special events, such as Back to Church Sunday, the Marché de Noel, the upcoming Melodia Concert, etc.

In keeping with our desire for a safe environment, smoke detectors will be installed soon in the church and hall, and emergency phone numbers will be prominently posted. In addition, the church was recently inspected by the Ecclesiastic Insurance group from the Diocese to advise us on immediate and less pressing needs for church maintenance and safety. The few simple immediate concerns are being addressed.

Construction of the handicapped accessible washroom is well under way. Before the work began, the room at the back of the stage was redesigned and outfitted with clothes rods to become the new choir room. We thank Gordon Bingham for this bright fresh space. We remind you that at the Special Vestry Meeting held in June we enthusiastically agreed to support the washroom construction by raising \$10,000 - *above and beyond fulfilling our obligation to meet the 2012 budget.* Donations to the

washroom fund can be placed on the offering plate in an envelope marked WC Washroom. We thank you.

During our Stewardship Campaign, Neil has preached on stewardship from the Biblical perspective, and members of the Leadership Team have reflected on our budgetary needs and the rising costs we must meet. Be sure that you have read the Narrative Budget that outlines how our finances support the work of the church. It provides a realistic picture of the costs underlying the functioning of our church: small groups, our youth ministry, a safe, warm, clean facility, meaningful worship, skilled staff, etc. We ask you to consider prayerfully your pledge to St George's for 2013, using proportionate giving as a baseline (starting at 2½ % of your net income) and adjusting that amount as you are able. Please consider Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) to spread your donations evenly throughout the year. In this way you maintain your giving and it will provide a steady income for St George's. It is convenient, consistent, and flexible. Thank you, again. We look forward to sharing the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons with you at St George's. God Bless Us, Everyone.



**Parish council** has organized a wonderful concert

of Christmas music by the Melodia Choir to take place on Saturday, 1 December. Not only should it be a joyous occasion and introduction to the season, but if we sell more than 100 tickets, it should be a fundraiser as well. Please see Gerry Zampini. He may also have tickets for a couple of benefit performances by the Lakeshore Players early next year. Programs at the church are flourishing: Divorce Care has attracted people from as far away as the South Shore; Lorne Eason's Men's Group meets on Wednesdays; Liz Carter's Friday group "How people grow" is proving most successful, having as many as ten people at a time. FundScrip is perking up but needs many more regular subscribers. You have to buy groceries and if you do it at any one of ten different chains and on FundScrip gift cards, 3% goes back to St George's. You have to buy gas; if you do it on FundScrip gift cards, 1% goes back to the church. You have the gift-season looming - books are always welcome, Chapters/Coles/Indigo (all on the same card) kicks back 5%. Teenagers may prefer electronics, in which case buy Bureau en Gros cards (3%) rather than Future Shop (1%). It may seem like very small change but it adds up for the church at no expense to yourself.



o, it's not always about money; fund raising can be fun.

### A Talent Auction brings Joy All Year Long!

On 2 June 2012, at the St George's Talent Auction, Brenda and George Hatchell bought a day in Old Montreal with Sue and Eric Winn. With a tour of the Old City, a visit to Pointe-à-Calliere Museum and lunch at Les Pyrénées on Rue Saint Paul, both couples enjoyed this event on 24 October. This beautiful day provided the opportunity to know each other better and to share an unforgettable experience.



You may have seen Larry Wilson and Michelle Pailly working in the church gardens, weeding and clipping and cleaning, a gift bought by Eric. What amazing workers they are!

With a very busy Autumn of travel and meetings, Sue Winn has been so grateful for meals bought from Ann Cumyn. Sunday, 21 October, following the service, we all enjoyed cupcakes baked by Andrea Carter, another Talent Auction prize.

There must be many other stories of friendship and sharing of talents throughout St George's. This event was so much more than a fund raiser. It was a way to get to know one another in new and precious ways. This is an event we will look forward to repeating!

### Pennies for Projects

Last Spring, the Parish Council decided to collect pennies for special projects that needed to be done at our Church.

As the Canadian Government had recently announced the end of production of Canadian pennies in 2013, the Parish council suggested that we ask the members of the congregation to fill a large plastic water bottle, identified as **Pennies for Projects**, that Eric Winn had obtained. The congregation was asked to get rid of any unwanted pennies that had accumulated in homes, in closets and pockets.

Our parish reacted with much enthusiasm, and every week the plastic water bottle that was kept on the large table at the back of the church became progressively fuller. In fact, by the time we ended this special fund raising event, the plastic bottle was almost full!! Then came the time to haul this very heavy (over 100 lbs) bottle into my car, and into my home. Thankfully, my strong nephew from Sweden, Keifer, who comes down from Ottawa's Carlton University where he studies, cheerfully did this at the end of September.

Both he and my son Jase volunteered to empty the bottle, and proceeded to sort, count and roll the coins!!

In total, they counted and rolled 18,852 pennies, dimes nickels, quarters, loonies, two-nies, and several foreign coins from the Bahamas, Europe, Britain, South America, and the Philippines. Our congregation is obviously a well-travelled lot!!!



In total, \$551.10 Canadian dollars was raised thanks to your help and contribution. The leadership group will soon decide how best to use these funds.

In fact, this fund raising event was so successful, that we plan on using it again soon with the same objective.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this relatively simple but successful fundraising event.

*Gerry Lampini*

As for the Market on 3 November



The guides helped with lunch, Jennifer sold house ware and George presided at the kitchen ware table. And everyone else was there.

It raised over \$3,500.

