



PAT'S PATTER

St. Patrick's Church Newsletter

Fall 2007

Across the Rector's Desk

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13

Do we really believe that? Or is our faith half-hearted? Is God really interested in us? There are those who would say God is not involved in our lives at all: a kind of watchmaker who wound up the world and then left it to its own devices. Then there are those who so trivialize God that God is interested in helping a team win a sports event.

There must be another way of understanding God's power in our lives and in our world.

The Hebrew Scriptures present the picture of God calling a people to worship, serve and obey him and in return he would be their God, but not a god who could be manipulated to do what the people wanted like so many of the pagan gods. Rather this God invited the Hebrew people into relationship with him and to live lives of justice and righteousness, morality and fairness. When it was difficult to follow the unseen God, God continued to call his children back to their roots, to be with them in exile and to work through other nations to bring them to a realization of their role as a light to others and to strengthen them in their allegiance to him.

The Christian Scriptures continue this way of thinking about God: that God calls people into relationship with himself and with others. There is no service of God without service to neighbour. We can be intimately connected to

God in this life and in the life to come through the mediation of Jesus Christ.

It is that connection that gave Paul strength that convinced him that no matter what befell him, God would be with him. At no time would he be alone. The martyrs throughout the ages have also depended on the power of Jesus Christ in their lives. The larger purpose was to build communities of love and compassion that would then welcome others to be part of their fellowship with God.

What then of us? Do we let God strengthen us in all things or do we think that it is only when we get what we want that God is with us? We may not like the answer that we get when pain and sorrow surround us, when loved ones die, when it seems as though injustice wins, when change threatens what we have always known. We may be afraid of what the future holds for us as individuals or for our parish and what we may have to do. It is however, God's strength that helps us endure.

The Church office is open Tuesday to Friday from 9am – 1pm. Feel free to drop by or to call and chat or make an appointment and come in.

If you are unwell at home, going into hospital or know someone who is, please give us a call. I would like to be able to pray, bring Holy Communion or simply visit with you.

In case of pastoral emergencies, please call the Church office at 416-225-5151 or the Rectory at 416-221-2024

www.stpatricksac.ca



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Warden's Corner

The Sloped Pathway and Handrail have been completed. This project took us a little longer to complete, but it is a great help to those who found the step a problem for entry to the church via the East Entrance.

We have signed the License with the North York Obedience School to commence their term with us beginning in September. They will be using the Parish Hall Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 – 10 pm

We had a very successful clean up day in May. With the gardens being weeded and new flowers planted, The Chapel was given a good cleaning by Casey Herbert the same day.

We need to have a fall clean up. No date has been set for this as yet. It would include the cleaning and dusting of the church pews.

We will be having the Fitness for the Young at Heart again beginning on September 14 at 10am in the parish hall. It will be held the 2nd and 3rd Fridays of the months.

The Kitchen upstairs by the common room has been cleaned and repainted.

The repairs needed to the Bell Tower can be put on hold for now with a minor amount of repairs being needed.



Children's Christmas

About this time of year children begin hoping for a visit from Santa Claus, for the majority in our affluent society that hope, happily, will be realized. For others in desperate situations, Santa will need some help. Help that we can offer by collecting Canadian Tire "money".

Those Canadian Tire coupons that I am collecting will be used in December to buy \$2.00 of toys for every \$1.00 of coupons for some of Toronto's needy children.

Your assistance and that of your friends will be much appreciated.

Thanks!
Bert Chandler

Announcements

To all St. Patrick's parishioners!

We know that all good things must come to an end, and so I bid you a very emotional goodbye.

I have decided to take on full time employment in Thornhill.

With my son, Daniel, going into high school (where has the time gone) I have more and more time to dedicate to work. I am also looking ahead to University costs.

My last work day at St. Patrick's will be September 11th .

Where do I begin to thank and try to put into words what this church has meant to me? I will miss all of you terribly. I thank the St. Patrick's churchwardens, Bill Beatty and June Holstead for always being flexible and understanding. I thank whole-heartedly Bert Chandler for always having my monthly pay cheque ready on time which was a huge help to me. I thank Rev. Fran for being my confidant, sympathetic ear and friend in the time we have worked together, and I also thank Mrs. Bette Madill for the morning wake up calls at 9:01am just to see if we were doing our job.

To the rest of you, who I would love to name individually but probably wouldn't have the room, I thank you for being the wonderful people you are and for making this place so much more than a building and so much more than a job but somewhere I have loved being a part of.

With all my love,
Susie Baccin.

With sadness we announce:

At home with his family, the Rev Canon Jim Tiller died Wednesday, August 8 at 5:45 pm. There was a private family funeral in Niagara Falls. Visitation was at the R.S. Kane Funeral Home, Monday August 13 and a memorial service to celebrate Jim's life was held Wednesday August 15 at 11:00am in St George's Church, Pickering Village.

Canon Tiller was the rector here from 1961-1992 through the formative years of this parish. Longtime parishioners will remember his wit and energy, his presence and his leadership.

Beyond our Borders

Zimbabwean Sewing Project

Last fall the Outreach Committee took the initiative to help the mother of Zimbabwean conjoined twins, who were separated at Sick Kids Hospital, to find a way of supporting her children. Prayerful research led us to Dr. Paul Thistle, a Salvation Army missionary doctor working in Zimbabwe. He suggested a sewing project that would help not just one family, but also other families in the community.

In August 2006, while on home visit, Dr. Thistle spoke passionately at St. Patrick's about the social and economic conditions in Zimbabwe caused mainly by political upheaval and HIV/AIDS. There are one million orphaned children, their parents having died from AIDS; the absence of able bodied men and women (teens to early 40s) who should normally be contributing to the economic well being of the society. They have either died from AIDS or are too ill to work. St. Patrick's Outreach Committee



made a donation to be used to buy sewing machines to get the project underway.

It is our hope that this project will be beneficial to the women and their communities for a long time.

The women in the picture are happily showing their work. The young boys are the separated twins. For more information on this Project Speak to any member of the Outreach Committee

From the Treasurer:

How are we doing?

Financially, not well!

Income to date has been much less than expected, with the result that our assets, which at the end of July were \$43,903.00, are down \$16,000.00 since January 1st.

Whilst we can expect the situation to improve over the Fall and Winter months, we'll need extra help to restore the assets to the previous level.

Just for Laughs!

Jesus and Satan were having an on-going argument about who was better on the computer. They had been going at it for days, and frankly God was tired of hearing all the bickering.

“That’s it!” said God. “I have had enough. I am going to set up a test that will run for two hours, and from those results, I will judge who does the better job.”

So Satan and Jesus sat down at the keyboards and typed away.

They moused.

They faxed.

They e-mailed.

They e-mailed with attachments.

They downloaded.

They did spreadsheets!

They wrote reports.

They created labels and cards.

They created charts and graphs.

They did some genealogy reports

They did every job imaginable.

Jesus worked with heavenly efficiency and Satan was faster than hell.

Then, ten minutes before their time was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, rain poured, and, of course, the power went off.

Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld.

Jesus just sighed.

Finally the electricity came back on, and each of them restarted their computers. Satan searched frantically. “It’s gone! It’s all gone! “I lost everything when the power went out!”

Jesus quietly printed out all of his files from the past two hours of work.

“That’s not fair!” Satan screamed. “He cheated! How come he has all his work and I don’t have any?”

God just smiled. “Jesus saves!”

A couple lived near the ocean and used to walk the beach a lot. One summer they noticed a girl who was at the beach pretty much every day. She wasn't unusual, nor was the travel bag she carried, except for one thing; she would approach people who were sitting on the beach, glance around furtively, then speak to them.

Generally the people would respond negatively and she would wander off, but occasionally someone would nod and there would be a quick exchange of money and something she carried in her bag.

The couple assumed she was selling drugs, and debated calling the cops, but since they didn't know for sure they just continued to watch her.

After a couple of weeks the wife said, "Honey, have you ever noticed that she only goes up to people with boom boxes and other electronic devices? Tomorrow I want you to get a towel and our big radio and go lie out on the beach. Then we can find out what she's really doing."

Well, the plan went off without a hitch and the wife was almost hopping up and down with anticipation when she saw the girl talk to her husband and then leave. The man walked up the beach and met his wife at the road. "Well, is she selling drugs?" she asked excitedly.

"No, she's not," he said.

"Well, what is it, then? What does she do?"

The man grinned. "Her name is Sally, and she's a battery salesperson."

"Batteries?" cried the wife.

"Yes," he replied. "She sells C cells by the seashore."

Attitude

Guy was a pastor in the United Methodist Church which is known for moving its clergy frequently. One day a tornado hit town, and Guy and his wife Vickie took refuge in the parsonage closet.

After the tornado passed, they emerged from the closet which was the only part of the house left standing! Though they lost everything, they had come through unscathed. Vickie looked at the debris around them and said, "Wow, Guy! This is wonderful! This will be the easiest move we've ever made!"

From Rumours: the e-zine for Christians with a sense of humour.

Special Services

September 30 Harvest Festival

10:30am

A celebration of the bounty of our country that serves to remind us of our responsibility toward God's creation.

November 1 All Souls Day

10:30am

A time to remember those who have died during the year, and to rejoice with all those who have gone before us.

November 4 The Feast of All Saints

10:30am

Where would we be without the examples of the Saints? People, with every human foible, who have left a legacy of what it means to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

November 11 Remembrance Sunday

10:30 am

The Great War was fought to end all wars and yet Peace eludes us. We gather to give honour to those who gave their lives in service to their country.

December 23 Advent 4

10:30am

Choir Presentation of Lessons and Carols.
The traditional Christmas presentation of Nine Carols and Lessons.

Learning Opportunities

Early Christian Art

Tracing the origins of Christian Art from the time of Augustus Caesar to 500AD, focusing on wall painting and mosaic.

2 sessions September 18 and 25 at 7:30pm.

As a minimum of 8 persons is necessary please call the Church Office to register.

Book Club

Meets the fourth Friday of the Month beginning September 28 at 9:30am. All are welcome to join the lively discussion of character, theme and plot as they reveal elements of spirituality. September's book is The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards. In October we will discuss The Alchemist by Paul Coelho and in November The Colony of Unrequited Dreams by Wayne Johnson.

Bible Study

Amos & Hosea: Boundaries, Tough Love, Amazing Grace

An 8 week course from October 2 until November 21 at 7:30pm. Tuesdays at 7:30pm

"This study challenges us to be boundary crossers; to cross the boundary between religion and politics, or that boundary between 'us' and 'them'".

Looking Forward

Advent Meditation November 27 to December 18.

Coming Attractions

Planned by the Special Events Committee for enjoyment and fellowship.
Any profit from these events is placed in the Capital Expenditure Fund.

Sunday, September 16

“Bringing back the Sheep” luncheon following the 10:30am service.
The summer is almost over, and we take this opportunity to be together as a parish family after the summer months. Shepherds’ Pie, Salad, Apple Pie and Apple Crisp, \$15.

Saturday, September 29 Autumn Leaves Dinner 6pm

Just before Harvest Festival, a dinner of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, veggies and pie, a glass of wine and thou. Tickets are \$28.
Door prizes.

Saturday, October 14 Trip to the Cranberry Festival in Bala

We had such a good time last year we would love to go again. See the Bog, eat lunch at the Anglican Church, enjoy the displays of art and crafts. There is cranberry wine tasting, apple fritters, and an autumn nip in the air. If you would like to come and be part of a car pool, speak to someone from the Special Events Committee.

Saturday, October 27 Card Party 12:30pm-4:00pm

We serve homemade sandwiches, squares and tarts. Door prizes, table prizes and more. But, bring your own cards. Tickets are \$16.

Saturday, November 17 Auction

Call the Church now to get your donation into the catalogue

Sunday, December 17 Bake Sale

Don’t bake? Get your Christmas goodies here. Bake? Add something new to the tried and true.

Sunday, December 23 Advent Potluck 11:45am

Following the Service of Lessons & Carols we start the Christmas season together.

Monday, December 31 New Years Eve Party 7:30pm-9:30pm

Come and toast the New Year, a little early: music and dancing, light refreshments.

For more information on any of the events, please call the Church office, 416-225-5151.

Up-Coming Services

September 2 8:00am 10:30am	Pentecost 14 Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist	October 28 8:00am 10:30am	Pentecost 21 Holy Eucharist Choral Mattins
September 9 8:00am 10:30am	Pentecost 15 Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist	November 1 10:30am	All Souls Day Requiem Eucharist
September 16 8:00am 10:30am	Pentecost 16 Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist & Healing	November 4 8:00am 10:30am	Feast of All Saints Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist
September 23 8:00am 10:30am	Pentecost 17 Holy Eucharist Choral Mattins	November 11 8:00am 10:30am	Remembrance Sunday Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist
September 30 8:00am 10:30am	Harvest Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist	November 19 8:00am 10:30am	Pentecost 24 Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist & Healing
October 7 8:00am 10:30am	Pentecost 19 Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist	November 25 8:00am 10:30am	Reign of Christ Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist
October 14 8:00am 10:30am	Pentecost 20 Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist		
October 21 8:00am 10:30am	Pentecost 21 Holy Eucharist Choral Eucharist & Healing		

