



PAT'S PATTER

St. Patrick's Church Newsletter

Advent - Christmas-

Epiphany 2007

www.stpatricksc.ca

Across the Rector's Desk

"Come, O Lord and set us free" – an Advent hymn

Free from what?

At one time church people would have had a ready answer: from sin and despair.

Sin has rather fallen out of our society's lexicon. There are churches that never mention sin because it is off-putting, the whole idea gets in the way of entertainment, getting younger folks to come and stay. And yet we don't have to look very far to see what sin looks like in our modern world: "Adult entertainment" is a billion dollar industry; girls and boys, young women are sold as sex slaves having been bought from their families or kidnapped or received false promises of work. The daily news offers example after example of sin: greed, violence, and apathy. The prophets of old would have no difficulty recognizing the kind of evil that they warned Israel and Judah was happening: "they did not do what was right in the sight of God". Obviously we need a saviour because we cannot do what is right on our own.

We could despair of making any change in our society or in our own

lives, give up and let the world "go to hell in a hand basket". And some churches do just that. There is no need to work for justice because the end of time and judgment day are near and the more depraved the society gets the closer we are. We need a saviour to give us hope.

We believe that God entered human reality to bridge the gap between God and us, a reality regardless of how that occurred. We believe that in the relationship we have with Jesus God becomes a part of our lives. And, yes, we believe that Christ will come again.

Each Advent season is a reminder of what we are supposed to be doing: expecting a new experience of Jesus in Christmas and actively waiting for his return by preparing the way through acts of love, justice and peace.

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.



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Warden's Corner

Here it is, fall again, and there are still things needing to be done around the Church and the Rectory.

We have installed new shutters on the Rectory and painted the frame around the front door to match the shutters, placed a new number signpost on the front lawn to make it easier for delivery people to find. There is painting needed to be done on the Rectory, especially the eaves and gables of the building. The fence around the private area is badly in need of replacement. These will have to be tendered in 2008.

We are going to have our fall cleaning of the church on November 24. We will be cleaning the pews and other areas of the church in preparation for our Advent season and Christmas.

We, the wardens, have looked into getting the windows in the office area double glazed and tinted to cut down on the summer heat, and this will in turn cut down on our air conditioning costs. This project was put on hold until spring.

A contract has been awarded to Alpha Color Painting & Decorating for the painting of the windows at the main entrance to the Church. This will be undertaken in the spring as it was too late to start the painting after the contract was received.

We are looking at replacing the ceiling in the Scout (Gym) Room to reduce health hazards. We have received one quote as to cost and are presently awaiting a second quote.

The Wardens would like to thank Bert Chandler for his help in keeping our finances in order and watching expenses for economies.

Christmas is a coming!

By Tuesday, December 11, I will give the collected Canadian Tire "money" to the good folks of St. John's York Mills who have been the prime movers behind this project and who accept the responsibility of obtaining and distributing the games and toys the coupons will provide (\$2.00 of toys for every \$1.00 of coupons.)

If you have any coupons, I'd appreciate receiving them before the deadline – may I suggest that you ask family and friends if they can help.



Many thanks for all your contributions; the youngsters will thank you also.

Outreach Corner

Merry Christmas,
Bert Chandler

In August of 2006 we donated \$500 on your behalf to a sewing project in Zimbabwe to help the mother of the conjoined twins. This was reported in a previous Pat's Patter. The Salvation Army captain, Doctor Thistle, has kept us up to date on what is going on in The Howard Hospital in Glendale Zimbabwe.

He writes of the difficulties they had in returning home in July and the problems that are encountered everyday: “electricity can be cut for 18 hours a day...our phone’s been down for the last two weeks...There has been no bread, milk or cooking oil at times due to price controls.” And yet he writes, “...These are days of acute concern for the nation of Zimbabwe. But this is not the time to withdraw essential services, medical, social and spiritual care to the quarter of a million people who look to Howard for help and healing. In reality the opposite response is required, a redoubling of our efforts to reach out in love to our community.”

Dr Thistle asks us to pray for economic and political stability in Zimbabwe, for the expansion of their AIDS education, treatment and care programs, for their community care programs, new staff housing, and support for the completion of the new Howard Hospital. Pray for the health and safety of the Howard family, and that the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be demonstrated by word and action through their lives.

There are so many needs in our world that it can seem overwhelming; we can however help in one small corner.

THE MYSTERY, THE GIFT

It could all fall apart—
The sun, dimming to darkness,
The moon drifting off into space,
The world itself sucked into a cosmic
hole
Where everything would be lost:
The Grand Canyon and the Mona Lisa,
Bach’s Passions and Shakespeare’s
sonnets,
The whispering wind in tall pines,
The elegy of the faithful tides,
The scent of morning coffee,
The mystery of a baby’s heartbeat.
But these still hold together,
Bound to us and to each other
By something like gravity,

Shining and durable as a promise.
What is it
That makes the sun rise, the earth
turn?
What is it that makes
The blood pulse through limb and brain,
The child cling to mother,
The lovers dance,
The dying sing at death?
It is the infinite mystery,
The force indwelling all creation,
The gift within all gifts.
It is love.

--*Timothy Haut, January, 2007 in
Rumours – an e-zine for Christians with
a sense of Humour*



Christmas Services

December 24

Christmas Eve

4:30pm "Family Service" with Pageant
Come and sing many of the familiar Christmas Carols, participate in the Pageant and informal communion service, experience Silent Night by Candlelight.

9:30pm Candlelight Service
Soloist Marleena Harvey
A formal celebration of "Midnight Mass" a little earlier in the evening

December 30

Christmas 1

10:30am Carol Sing and informal Eucharist.

January 6

10:30am Epiphany or Twelfth Night

We end the Christmas season with the Eucharist and Potluck Lunch.

Learning Opportunities

Book Club

Meets the fourth Friday of the Month. All are welcome to join the lively discussion of character, theme and plot as they reveal elements of spirituality. January's book is *The #1 Ladies Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith. There will be no gathering in December.

Advent Preparation

Advent Vespers November 27 to December 18, "Flames for the Faithful".

2008 envelopes will be available starting the 1st Sunday in December.



Coming Attractions

Planned by the Special Events Committee for enjoyment and fellowship.

Any profit from these events is placed in the Capital Expenditure Fund.

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| Saturday, December 1 | 7:00pm Mega-City Chorus Tickets \$15
A concert featuring a cappella singing by a men's chorus and with selections by St Patrick's Choir. There will be refreshments and home baking to purchase |
| Sunday, December 16 | Bake Sale following the 10:30am service
Don't bake? Get your Christmas goodies here.
Bake? Add something new to the tried and true. |
| Sunday, December 23 | 10:30am Traditional Service of Carols and Lessons
Brunch \$10.00 |
| Monday, December 31 | 6:30 – 9:30pm New Year's Eve Party
Come and toast the New Year, a little early: music and dancing, light refreshments. |
| Sunday, January 6 | Epiphany service followed by a Potluck lunch |
| Friday, January 11 (Ongoing) | 10:00am Fitness for the Young at Heart
Gentle exercise to maintain muscle tone, balance, and prevent stiff joints. The group will meet the 2nd and 3rd Fridays, January to May. The first meeting is January 11, 2008 |
| Saturday, January 19 | 6:00pm Murder Mystery Dinner
Come to a Wedding and guess who did it. |
| Wednesday, February 6 | "From Pancakes to Ashes!"
6:00pm pancake supper
7:30pm Ash Wednesday Service |

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

Up-Coming Services

December 2 Advent 1

8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Choral Eucharist

January 6 Epiphany

8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Choral Eucharist

December 9 Advent 2

White Gift Sunday
8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Choral Eucharist

January 13 Baptism of the Lord

8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Choral Eucharist

December 16 Advent 3

8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Choral Eucharist & Healing

January 20 Epiphany 2

8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Choral Eucharist & Healing

December 23 Advent 4

8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Festival of Carols and
Lessons

January 27 Epiphany 3

8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Morning Prayer

December 24 Christmas Eve

7:00pm Contemporary Eucharist
9:30pm Choral Eucharist

February 3 Last Sunday after Epiphany

8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Choral Eucharist

December 25 Christmas Day

February 6 Ash Wednesday

7:00pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy
Eucharist

December 30 Christmas 1

8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Choral Eucharist & Carol
Sing

