



PAT'S PATTTER

St. Patrick's Church Newsletter

ADVENT 2011

www.stpatricksac.ca

Across the Rector's Desk

Watch for the signs.

In the gospel for Advent Sunday we are asked to watch for the signs.

What are we supposed to watch for? Well, signs of the **secular** holiday are easy to spot – very much in our face! Santa Claus is all around. Christmas music is everywhere you go and on all your favourite radio stations. The adverts on the TV are all about the 'holiday' season. The traditional decorations of lit Christmas trees, coloured lights, and reindeer are everywhere. Cards are arriving and presents being shopped for.

But **where is Jesus** – where is that wonderful message of the incarnation – where is the message that God, because he loved his creation so much, came down in human form to be born, live and suffer as we do? **That was huge.**

In the incarnation, we have a wonderful message of hope to give to a despairing world.

Hope that is seen in that tiny baby whose birthday we celebrate on December 25th.

So look behind all the noise of the season and **watch for the signs** that show that he continues comes to us in the most unexpected places.

Don't look in the palaces or even in a warm comfortable home. That is not where you will find him – that was not where Jesus was.

Look for him among the poor, the homeless, those displaced from their homes.

If you **can** get past the loud **secular** messages of Christmas, watch for him behind all the glitz and glamour – watch as he comes to you in a place which is far from fit for a king like Jesus did that day so long ago in a stable.

Enjoy the secular Christmas with family and friends but watch for Christ appearing in places outside your usual comfort zone.

Blessings for the holiday season and celebrate with joy the birth of the Christ child and, as you move into a new year, rejoice in the hope of the incarnation.

Your priest and pastor,

Rev. Claire

Warden's Corner

2011 is drawing to a close – it was an exceptionally eventful year for the parish. We bid farewell to an incumbent, Rev. Fran Kovar, hosted an interim priest, Rev. Steve Shaw, and welcomed Rev. Claire Goodrich Dyer, our current Priest-in-Charge. We shared our facilities and worship with St. George's parish, which has moved to a new home and assumed the descriptive new title of St. George's on Yonge.

The Rectory was refurbished for occupancy by Rev. Claire, with much of the work done by Bill Beatty, and some projects, such as main bathroom renewal, completed by a contractor. Ongoing maintenance at the Church continues to be a priority for the Warden's – replacement of the worn parish hall floor will soon become imperative, and we have earmarked some of the monies to be rebated from parishioners' gifts to the "Our Faith-Our Hope, Re-imagine Church" campaign to this purpose.

.... to all of you, sincere good wishes for a joyous Christmas season and a peaceful 2012.

The Wardens

TOY DRIVE

Since the use of Canadian Tire coupons has been dramatically reduced, we are more and more dependent upon cash donations to maintain the level of support previously enjoyed.

This is an appeal to your generosity – if you can help with Canadian Tire Coupons or cash it will be much appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to "St. Patrick's Church – Toy Drive". Receipts will be issued in the normal way. All monies and coupons donated will be used on a "2 for 1" basis in buying gifts for needy youngsters from Canadian Tire.

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

Bert Chandler



Parish Update

Our Faith, Our Hope – Re-imagining Church

We are finally winding up the Diocesan Capital Campaign. I believe it has been a great success at St. Patrick's especially with our aging community and the uncertainty of our future. Our total amount given or pledged has to date reached **\$76,295, 53% of the goal** that was set for us. It will go up a little before we finally finish, but I am more than pleased with the amount raised.

I would like to first express my thanks to those who have given – it reflects a strong commitment to your faith. Thank you to my right hand people, Patricia Boulton and Shirley Oxley who have persevered and met with me every week since the beginning of September. Thank you also to the others who helped with the phoning, Delores Thomas and Grace Elgersma.

Also thanks to Bert Chandler who came up with the idea of a St. Patrick's Scholarship Fund for Theological Students as the main focus of our parish case. This will ensure that, no matter what, St. Patrick's will be remembered.

When all the numbers are finally put together, I will make sure that the figure is put in the Fridge Notes.

Once more thanks.

Rev. Claire

Vestry – Sunday, February 26, 2012

following the 10:30 am service.

Vestry report items are due to the Church Office by January 29.

Just for Laughs!

ACTUAL CHURCH SIGNS

Source: bob.osborne@tiscali.co.uk

KEEP USING MY NAME
IN VAIN
I'LL MAKE RUSH HOUR
LONGER - GOD

READ THE BIBLE.
IT'S USER FRIENDLY
PLUS WE OFFER TECH
SUPPORT HERE ON
SUNDAYS AT 10:30

HONK IF YOU LOVE
JESUS ... TEXT
WHILE DRIVING IF YOU
WANT TO MEET HIM

Thinking of others ..

Prayer Corner

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness, send
your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for
Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to
hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things
look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways
long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your
presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet
seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"
Amen.

Henri J.M. Nouwen

*You are invited to submit a prayer for publication –
it can be a favourite or one composed by you.*

Delores Thomas

Parish Newsletter Prayer Coordinator
Fellowship of Prayer
Bishop's Committee on Prayer



Christmas Services

(Please note time of services)

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| December 24 | Christmas Eve
10:30pm <i>Candlelight Choral Eucharist</i> |
| December 25 | Christmas Day
10:30 am Holy Eucharist |
| December 29 | 10:30 am Mid-week Eucharist |
| January 1 | Christmas 1
10:30 am Holy Eucharist |



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, December 18	Bake Sale and Carol Sing
Sunday, January 22	Soup Lunch
Sunday, February 19	Pancake Lunch
Sunday, April 1	Palm Sunday Bake Sale
Saturday, April 28	“Down Memory Lane” Celebration (watch for more details on this!)

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

BOOK CLUB

The “Book Club” is a group of people who love to read books and enjoy discussing them. Anyone can attend a meeting, but it’s helpful if you have read the book of the month. The group meets from 9:30 am to 11:30 am in the church on the 4th Friday of each month, October 2011 to May 2012, except November.

After the December 2nd meeting (discussing “The Help” by Kathryn Stockett, we’ll resume again on January 27 to review “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” by Mira Bartok. The schedule for the remainder of this session is: February 24 - “Blind Faith” by C. J. Lyons, March 23 - “ Shake Hands with the Devil” by Romeo Dallaire, April 27 – “Safe Haven” by Nicholas Sparks, May 25 - “The Egoboom” by Steve Maich and Lianne George.



Upcoming Services

Dec. 4	Advent 2 – Commitment Sunday BCP Holy Communion Sung Eucharist	Jan. 29 8 am 10:30 am	Epiphany 4 BCP Holy Communion Morning Prayer
Dec. 10	(Saturday) Healing & Bereavement Service	Feb. 5 8 am 10:30 am	Epiphany 5 BCP Holy Communion Morning Prayer
Dec. 11	Advent 3 BCP Holy Communion Sung Eucharist	Feb. 12 8 am 10:30 am	Epiphany 6 BCP Holy Communion Sung Eucharist
Dec. 18	Carols & Lessons BCP Holy Communion Sung Eucharist	Feb. 19 8 am 10:30 am	Last Epiphany BCP Holy Communion Sung Eucharist
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist	Feb. 22 7:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Sung Eucharist	Feb. 26 8 am 10:30 am	Lent 1 BCP Holy Communion Sung Eucharist
Jan. 1 (2012)	Epiphany Sung Eucharist	<u>Mid-week Eucharists: (subject to change)</u>	
Jan. 8	Baptism of Christ BCP Holy Communion Sung Eucharist (Episcopal Visit)	Thursday, December 8 – 10:30 am	
Jan. 15	Epiphany 2 BCP Holy Communion Sung Eucharist	Thursday, December 15 – 10:30 am	
Jan. 22	Epiphany 3 BCP Holy Communion Sung Eucharist	Thursday, December 22 – 10:30 am	
		Thursday, January 5 – 10:30 am	
		Thursday, January 12 – 10:30 am	
		Thursday, January 19 – 10:30 am	
		Thursday, January 26 – 10:30 am	
		Thursday, February 2 – 10:30 am	
		Thursday, February 9 – 10:30 am	
		Thursday, February 16 – 10:30 am	
		Thursday, February 23 – 10:30 am	