



THE LINK



An active community of Christians loving and serving the Lord, our neighbour and each other.

From the Associate's Desk

April 2008

CHILDREN AND THE EUCHARIST

(Jesus said: Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Mark 10:14)

In **Baptism** we are made members of Christ's family and become heirs of the Kingdom of God. As baptized Christians we are full members in the Body of Christ, with all the privileges and responsibilities that that involves. Through baptism all the other sacraments become available to us, including the sacrament of Holy Communion. Thus, children who have been baptized are most welcome at the Lord's table. They need no classes, need to pass no exams; they are part of the family. If baptized children put out their hands, I will feed them. They do not need to know how the digestive system works before you feed them breakfast or dinner; they just need to be hungry. So too, your children don't need to know the theological rationale behind the Eucharist (do you?), they just need to want to share in the family meal with you and the rest of us.

None of us understands the mystery of God, nor do we understand the mystery of Christ's presence in the Eucharist, but we do know that, through the sacrament, Christ inhabits us, nourishes us, fills us with himself. Bring your children to receive the Eucharist and help them experience that they are indeed "Jesus kids" in this most profound way. They, like us, will grow into Christian maturity, and they, like us, will spend the rest of their lives on that journey.

Now some directions and information as to how to go about this:

... Parents of young children can break a piece off their wafer and feed it to their child. In that way they feel a part of the family. Forbidding them to receive until they have what we think is an appropriate amount of theological knowledge will exclude them. The message they get is that they are second-class citizens, and there is no such thing in God's Kingdom.

... Teach your children to hold their hands up to receive; give them a taste of wine at home so they know what it tastes like and don't say "yuk!" out loud at the rail. Do keep in mind, however, that we all need only receive the bread or wine to receive Christ. It is not necessary to receive both; that is our custom but it is not obligatory. If the children don't want the wine, don't force them.

... Please make sure your child eats all the bread before leaving the altar rail. The Sacrament must not be carelessly handled. It is to be consumed immediately.

... Parents who would like to borrow some background material for their school-aged children should speak to me and I will make sure you get it as soon as possible. Also, please speak to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Confirmation is the sacrament whereby we accept for ourselves the baptismal vows made for us at our Baptism.

...Rev. Pat+...

USED BIBLES

The Canadian Bible Society, 10 Carnforth Rd, Toronto – phone 416-689-3437 – would be very pleased to receive your worn out Bibles, in every language, that are still in readable condition! Please call ahead if you have a large quantity of used Bibles to bring in so that sufficient space is set aside in their warehouse. (Carnforth Road is one block west of Victoria Park Avenue south off Lawrence Avenue East.



- **Wednesday, April 2nd 7:00 a.m. service in the Chapel followed by breakfast**
- **Thursdays 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion**

APRIL 6 - EASTER 3

Holy Communion	8:00 a.m.
Holy Communion	9:30 a.m.
Holy Communion	11:00 a.m.

APRIL 13 - EASTER 4

Holy Communion	8:00 a.m.
Holy Communion	9:30 a.m.
Holy Communion	11:00 a.m.

APRIL 20 - EASTER 5

Holy Communion	8:00 a.m.
Holy Communion	9:30 a.m.
Holy Communion	11:00 a.m.

APRIL 27 - EASTER 6

Holy Communion	8:00 a.m.
Holy Communion	9:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer - Guards Service	11:00 a.m.

"A FAST FOR THE EYES"

With Ash Wednesday, most Christians enter a season of self-imposed discipline—Lent. During Lent parishioners turn inward and contemplate Christ's suffering and death. Lent is a season of fasting and many parishes prohibit flowers during this season. The practice of using only greenery to decorate the church during Lent began in the Middle Ages and was considered a "fast for the eyes". While our Canons do not direct an actual *ban* on flowers during Lent, an absence of floral arrangements could be described as a pious custom to heighten the sense of austerity in church during what is primarily a season of penitence. In 2009, St. John's will follow this custom.



Share a Smile –
It's Contagious

SPRING EVENTS FOR YOUTH
(please mark the following dates):

- Every Sunday 9:30 a.m.: Youth Drama and Discussion Groups
- Every Thursday 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.: Youth Room Makeover Madness
- April 6th – Youth Group drama outing to see St. John's Players Drama
- April 11th - 12th – Youth Retreat to Teen Ranch
- April 25th - 27th – Youth Synod at Durham College

USE OF GOOD CUTLERY – Over the past two or three years approximately 20% of the cutlery, purchased by The Metro Group for use at any Parish event where food service is involved, has disappeared. Therefore a sign-out system has been established. The cutlery may be obtained through Jan Allward in the Church Office, Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (please telephone first). The event planner will sign-out the cutlery needed and be responsible for its return (clean and counted). The Metro Group plans to replace the "lost" pieces to ensure that five-piece place settings for 100 persons will be available.

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CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH RETREAT REPLACES MAUNDY THURSDAY VIGIL

Well, it's all set! We have booked bunkhouses at Teen Ranch for our Youth Retreat this month, April 11-12, 2008. We will be leaving St. John's as early as possible Friday afternoon, stay one night, and return Saturday evening. The (subsidized) cost for the retreat is \$80 per person and includes one trail ride, 3 meals in the Dining Hall, snacks, outdoor games, campfires, spiritual discussion, a late-night prayer service, and more. The Youth Retreat will be a great opportunity for St. John's young people to (re)discover God's presence in their lives, and reaffirm or create new and lasting friendships. All St. John's youth in gr. 6-12 are welcome, and some financial assistance is available. Registration forms are available on the Children and Youth Board in the Sunday School and must be returned to Dana Hibbard. Parent drivers are also needed. Please contact Dana Hibbard at 416-225-6611 (x226) or danaluccock@hotmail.com to offer to drive, or with any questions. Visit Teen Ranch's website at: <http://www.teenranch.on.ca/>

TORONTO YOUTH SYNOD APRIL 25-27, 2008

For the first time ever, every Anglican parish in Toronto can send as many young people ages 14-30 as they want to Youth Synod at Durham College this year. So let's try and get a bunch of us together from St. John's Y.M.! It'll be a weekend full of friends, worship with other young Anglicans, and decision making about the future of our church. We want to hear from young people like YOU! Please talk to Dana if you are interested in attending. More information will soon be available at: <http://www.toronto.anglican.ca>

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH DRAMA AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

Steve Bickley would like to invite all youth in grades 5-9 to join him during the 9:30 a.m. service in the Garnsworthy Room for an exploration of Christianity in a Pop Culture World on the following Sunday mornings: March 30th, April 6th, May 4th & 18th. On alternate Sundays, St. John's Drama Specialist Sally Armour-Wotton will be leading youth in a drama program based on the weekly bible lessons. Please join Sally in the Garnsworthy Room on the following Sunday mornings: April 13th & 27th, May 11th & 25th.

YOUTH ROOM MAKEOVER

Just think... new paint, slipcovers, wall-mounted stereo system, mini billiards table, board games, snacks and pop in the fridge...our Youth Room has such potential! I'm calling all youth (and any other parishioners with creative and artistic talents, especially for sewing, painting, and building) to help me and our new Sexton Matthew with a Youth Room Makeover. Throughout April and May, please meet Dana in the Youth Room during our weekly Youth Drop-In Time (3 p.m. - 6 p.m. on Thursday afternoons). We need your help!

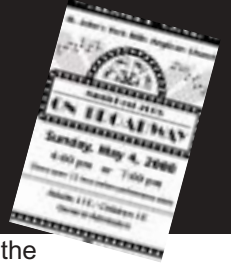
YOUTH GROUP THEATRE TRIP APRIL 6TH, 2:00PM

Come see St. John's Players perform in *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, playing at the Toronto Centre for the Arts (5040 Yonge St.). Tickets are \$15. Dana will meet youth who are interested in attending this play at 1:00 p.m. at St. John's and we'll travel to the theatre together (bring tokens for the subway). These shows often sell out – please contact Dana Hibbard at 416-225-6611 (x226) if you are planning on coming so she can buy tickets in advance.

The Link is published ten times per year by St. John's Church, York Mills. Items for inclusion should be submitted by the 5th of the previous month and are subject to editing.

Editor: Sheila Munro

Design: Karolina Hassani



It's that time of the year again, or it soon will be, come the beginning of May. Yes, you guessed it...MusicFest 2008, our 17th. Just think 17 years of MusicFest! Where has the time gone? This year's concert, **'On Broadway' is Sunday May 4, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.** Please note the new evening concert time.

St. John's Chorale and Praise Group will join our three handbell choirs to provide you with toe-tapping, hum along, yes I know that song, music as we **Give Our Regards to Broadway**. Selections from: **Cats, Rent, Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserables**, and some oldies from **Oklahoma and The Sound of Music** will be presented for all ages to enjoy. There's sure to be some songs you know and feel like singing along – we will provide a tune or two for you!

By attending this concert you will benefit St. John's and two chosen charities as the proceeds support each. Our two charities this year are: **Sleeping Children Around the World (SCAW)** a local Canadian charity providing bed kits to children around the world and **Street Outreach Services (SOS)** – a Faithworks project helping homeless youth at risk in Toronto. The handbell program at St. John's is self-supporting and money from the concert is given to the church each year as well.

What else does this concert represent? For the younger participants especially, it is the culminating activity of 8 months spent learning, playing and being exposed to a variety of music and different instruments. Along with concerts and St. John's services, it is a goal that we aim for, beginning in January after a busy Christmas Season. Ringing bells allows us to make new friends, learn co-operation and teamwork and increases self-confidence and self-esteem for all age groups.

Now that you know the date, time, benefits and some of the songs, I'm sure you will want to attend this year's concert. As one of the adult ringers commented, "Each year MusicFest gets better and better!"

Stephanie Brander
Ingram Ringer, MusicFest Co co-ordinator

PS: See you May 4th and please bring a friend so they can be part of the fun. The Brass Ringers are planning a ringing tour to Quebec City **May 15 – 19, 2008**. I'll tell you more about that later.

...Carolyn...

INVITATION TO THE OCCUPIED GARDEN

How did the Nazi Occupation of Holland change forever the lives of two Dutch sisters and their friends and families? Come and find out on Thursday, April 10th, when the sisters, now Canadian authors, discuss how and why they researched and wrote *The Occupied Garden*.

Lychgate Ladies, who will host the sisters, invite all parishioners and friends to join us that evening for the reading, discussion and refreshments. We also invite you to purchase the book beforehand from us for \$20.00 (retail price is \$30.00). Please send your email indicating:

- the number of copies you want
- the service you normally attend.

to: Ellen-Jean Dewberry and Frann Harris, Lychgate co-chairs for 2007-08.
Email ejdewberry@rogers.com or franharris@hotmail.com

THE METRO GROUP
WE'RE HAVING A PARTY A CELEBRATION
PROJECTS FIFTY YEARS
CAMARADERIE SHORTBREAD
FUN

Saturday, April 19, 12:00 p.m.
Tickets are \$25.00

Who'd Have Thought?

Many years ago I met the guest speaker for the **Metro Group's Fiftieth Anniversary Luncheon**. It was after Evensong in Trinity College Chapel. A mutual friend introduced us and I do not think that either of us foresaw today, when one of us would be a Bishop and would be speaking to a group of Anglican Church women who are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Metro Group.

The Right Reverend Victoria Matthews is the first female bishop consecrated into the Anglican Church of Canada. She was ordained to the Episcopate of the Diocese of Toronto in 1994. In the Toronto Diocese she served as Suffragen Bishop. Ordained to the Priesthood, Diocese of Toronto in 1980, she became the incumbent at All Souls Anglican Church, North York. It was while she was at All Souls that I met Bishop Matthews again. We would run into each other in Bayview Village and share a coffee and some time together. I remember these times as calming and pleasant, although I do not think that we discussed or solved any great problems.

Friends from All Souls (now the Church of the Incarnation) have followed Bishop Matthews' career as she moved to Alberta to be Bishop of Edmonton and served at Synod. They greeted the news of her return to her hometown, Toronto, with great pleasure. Bishop Matthews is the Bishop-in-Residence for the Winter Term 2008 at Wycliffe College; her undergraduate degree was earned across the street at Trinity College, as was her Master of Theology. As Bishop-in-Residence she will teach in the pastoral department, preach, and take part in the College Discernment Day.

"We're Having a Party" on **April 19th**, at 12:00 a.m. to **celebrate The Metro Group's Fifty Years** of service to the Parish of St. John's York Mills. We are delighted to have Bishop Matthews as our Guest Speaker for the very special luncheon. All the ladies of the ACW here at St. John's are invited to celebrate with us, to share some memories, and to listen to our Guest Speaker.

...Sheila Munro...

I would like to share with you a little story that I think has its parallels with the modern Church. Several decades ago an inventor had a daring vision for a better kind of watch. After working on his idea for some time and building a prototype, he decided to go to Switzerland, the world capital of watch making, to seek backing for the manufacture of his new design. When the renowned Swiss watchmakers examined his invention, they said, "This is not a watch. It doesn't have hands to tell time. It just has little numbers. You have to have a big hand and a little hand to make a watch." Then, when they opened the back, they were even more negative. "This thing doesn't even have gears or springs or jewels. It is just a lot of electronic parts. This thing is not a watch!" And they would have nothing to do with it. So the inventor took his revolutionary idea to Japan where he found industrialists who weren't so sure what made up a watch and who agreed to manufacture his idea. And, of course, you know, the rest is history. Most watches today are electronic and are made in the Far East instead of Switzerland.

Whether we like it or not society is moving ahead at a pace many of us find difficult to navigate. We in the Church must also see that these changes do indeed affect us even though the elemental truth of the Gospel of Jesus hasn't changed. How we express it however, may well have to change if we want to be a vibrant and growing congregation in the decade ahead. Many of us prefer a quality old fashion 'Swiss' watch and although I believe there will always be demand for such an item we must be prepared to look at some of these new 'digital' ways of telling the time.

In keeping with this reality your new parish council is going to be going on 'retreat' to reflect on these matters and search for clarity of purpose and vision so that we may touch our community with the good news of Jesus Christ. I pray for your prayerful support as we all do our best to plan for the future here at SJYM.

God's richest blessings to all of you
Drew+
Rector, SJYM

FLEMINGDON PARK MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We often are asked what type of outreach volunteer work is available for parishioners at St. Johns. The FaithWorks supported Flemingdon Park Ministry is in need of people who could learn to do intake with new clients during food bank hours (Tuesday's 11am – 1pm, Wednesday's 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. and/or Friday's 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.). They have also begun a men's program and could use some competent male mentors or group leaders; and the food bank coordinator could use a strong person to help unload the truck on Mondays and help put food away. Please contact Rev. Helena Houldcroft at (416) 425-1841 or flemingdonparkministry@bellnet.ca if you would be interested in helping with this important ministry.

FaithWorks and Outreach Committee

LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF, PLEASE

Father Drew asked me to introduce myself to you. My name is Sheila Munro. I am the editor of the Link. I will not tell you how long I have been editing but I did start with the yearbook at Lawrence Park Collegiate. Not counting my work at Lawrence Park, I have edited close to 450 texts including articles for scientific journals, elementary school texts (In English and French), Masters and PhD theses, elementary school dictionaries, reports and manuals. I enjoy editing because it allows me to help others using a natural talent that the Lord has given me.

I am a member of the Editor's Association of Canada and take at least one of their training programs every year to refresh and update my knowledge of the use of the English Language. I have also proofread the last two issues of their Ontario branch Newsletter, 'Edition'.

I enjoy editing your Newsletter and am available to answer any questions that you might have about its contents or layout or...

DOREEN HANDLEY – PROFILE IN MINISTRY

Doreen has been a parishioner since 1956, when she came to SJYM with her parents. She is a 'cradle Anglican' i.e. she was baptised Anglican as an infant. Doreen's maternal grandparents were Anglican missionaries in the China Inland Mission. Doreen's mother was born in China. Her father had travelled to China, met and married Doreen's mother in Shanghai. Doreen was also born in Shanghai, China. She and her parents were interned in a Japanese prisoner of war camp from 1941-1945. Upon their release they returned to Shanghai. In 1947 they travelled to England and while they were away the Communists took over Shanghai and confiscated their home and all their belongings. Doreen and her parents came to Canada. The family lived in St Catharines moving back to Toronto in 1956, when they started attending St. John's. Doreen was married in St. John's in 1959 and her three children were baptised in St. John's and her parents and husband are buried in the churchyard. SJYM is her spiritual home. It is where her loved ones are - both past and present. Doreen attends church regularly and you will often see her with one or more of her three grandchildren, two of whom have been baptised at SJYM.

Presently Doreen is the volunteer parish screening coordinator for SJYM and handles the 'Responsible Ministry Screening in Faith' program for the Diocese of Toronto. All those involved in ministries designated as high risk are required to submit to a police check. Initially, in 2003, this involved a detailed listing of all the ministries at SJYM. Then Doreen and Mary Lewis, Associate Priest, conducted the Diocesan risk assessment of each ministry. At the start this took up a significant number of volunteer time and Doreen was at training sessions and at the church for three or more days a week until the program was established. Doreen continues to coordinate this program for our church and the time commitment is about a half day per week.

This and her grandchildren take most of Doreen's time at present. Doreen is a retired Social Worker who provided family therapy and counselling. In the past Doreen has taught Sunday school helped with getting and maintaining the advertising for our church calendar and the Link. Doreen is a person of faith who attends church regularly as well as the Tuesday morning prayer group.

We are blessed to have Doreen at SYJM as she too is a blessing to us and her family.
