



# THE LINK



To KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN

**RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS**  
**ST. JOHN'S YORK MILLS ANGLICAN**

**'To Know Christ and Make Him Known'**

In my Lenten observances I am always brought back to the centrality of the CROSS as that is really what the gospel is all about. A brief story may explain more clearly what I mean.

Ernest Hemingway once told a tale to illustrate the popularity of the Spanish name 'Paco'. A father, he said, journeyed to Madrid to put an ad in the local paper: PACO, MEET ME AT HOTEL MONTANA NOON WEDNESDAY. ALL IS FORGIVEN. PAPA. The next day the authorities had to muster a squadron of the Civil Guard to disperse the mob of 800 young men who massed on the street in front of the inn.

So we stand at the door of the inn, hoping against hope that we are forgiven. And the Word of the Gospel tell us: yes, we are called by a Father who has been waiting for our return and that we are now bidden to come in and be seated at the banquet table. A ring is placed on our fingers and robes around our shoulders and sandals on our feet. The fatted calf is killed, the musicians are cutting loose, and the guests are getting down with some serious dancing.

The guests? We suddenly realize that all the other Pacos have also been invited, that the Father has welcomed home every prodigal from the far country.

That is what the CROSS has accomplished for all of us - if we so choose to accept it. This reconciliation means the restoring of the relationship between the entire human race and God, putting it back to the way God designed it. This merciful act by God in Christ is not just for us individually, but also for us collectively. As Oswald Chambers correctly said, "We are not here to develop a spiritual life on our own, or to enjoy a quiet spiritual retreat. We are here to have the full realization of Jesus Christ, for the purpose of building His body." *My Utmost for His Highest*. [Entry for July 12].

It is my hope that you will feel encouraged to come to St. John's York Mills and observe a Holy Lent and a Sacred Easter. In His work of sacrifice on that lonely CROSS all sin has been atoned for and we are now reconciled to our heavenly Father because of what He has accomplished. He is worthy of our praise so let us honour His name. 'O Come let us worship and fall down and kneel before the Lord our maker.'

God Bless you all.

Rev. Dr. D.V. MacDonald  
Rector, St. John's York Mills

- Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> - 7 a.m. – Holy Communion and Breakfast
- Thursdays 10:15 a.m. – Holy Communion

**MARCH 1 - 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

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

**MARCH 8 - 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

Holy Communion	8:00 a.m.
Holy Communion	9:30 a.m.
Holy Communion	11:00 a.m.
Alternative Worship	7:00 p.m.

**MARCH 15 - 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

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

**MARCH 22 - 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

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

**MARCH 29 - 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**

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



## LYCHGATE AND ADULT LITERACY

Lychgate ladies invite all parish members to join them at 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 12 to hear Adela Roki speak about adult literacy. Ms Roki heads up St. George's Adult Literacy Program (through the Toronto District School Board). Her talk will address topics such as how adults learn, the implications of adult literacy, and the relationship to crime.

Please join us that evening. For further information, contact Frann Harris through the church office at 416-225-6611 X221.

## PRAYER AND MEDITATION GROUP LENTEN STUDY

The Prayer and Meditation Group is pleased to be offering again a Lenten Study series on Wednesdays, during Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, February 25, after the evening service, in the Garnsworthy Room. We will be studying Thomas Merton's book 'Living Bread'. All are welcome. For more information, contact Bruce Williams 416-221-3256.

## FROM SPRING CLEANING TO THE CLOTHING BANK

New Circles Community Services has expressed their appreciation for many terrific clothing donations from parishioners in recent months. If you are Spring cleaning this month, please consider donating any gently used clothes, sheets and comforters plus winter coats for children, teens, men and women to their clothing bank (they are starting to stockpile coats for the beginning of next winter). This past January they gave away 400 winter coats, and a survey indicated that 40% of their clients are children who are living in poverty. If you would like to make a charitable gift, please make your cheque out to *New Circles Community Services*. They are located at 10 Gateway Blvd., Suite 100 (east of the Shell station on Don Mills Rd, 3 lights south of Eglinton Ave.) and Sara Morin can be reached at 416-422-2591 for further information. If you want to drop off a donation to the church instead, please call me at 416-488-6760.

Scott McDougall



## EASTER'S BRIGHT FLOWERS

*Help Transform St. John's into a Garden of Tranquility for Easter*

Throughout history, flowers have been brought to places of worship. To reveal one's love and faith, what better than flowers? Flowers speak a thousand words and express emotions that words alone cannot. The Festival of Easter marks the beginning of spring - that brings with it gorgeous blooms.

This year you are invited to share your time and talent in contributing to the beauty of the Easter worship services at St John's. We are looking for the many flower arrangers in the congregation to put their talent to work throughout the Church. You might choose a window ledge or, for a larger project, consider the Chapel, the Baptistry, either Narthex, or other favourite spot. For the true gardeners, there are the west and main entrances to the Church.

Saturday, April 11 has been set aside as a Quiet Saturday. The morning will begin with a short worship service before decorating begins. Participants should arrive with their own selection of flowers and plants - think Easter lilies, hydrangeas, azaleas, hyacinths, narcissus, tulips and other seasonal flowers in spring colors. Oasis and containers for the window sills will be available as well as a selection of vases and baskets.

We look forward to your participation in this commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope of life everlasting. To reserve your spot or for more information, contact Pamela Smith 416-245-8422 • [pamelasmith@direct.com](mailto:pamelasmith@direct.com) or Father David.

*For those who wish to take a less active role, watch for details on how you remember a loved one or give thanks with flowers, Easter Lilies, or other donation to the Easter Decorating fund.*



Once again St. John's is joining other area churches in the World Day of Prayer service to be held at **Trinity Presbyterian Church on Friday, March 6, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.** The church is located on Bayview Avenue just south of the 401. The entrance is from Truman Road (Southbound from 401 must turn left one block further south at Wimpole Drive). Prepared by the women of Papua, New Guinea around the theme "**In Christ there are many members, yet one body**", the service offers us an opportunity to meet with other Christians in this area and to prayerfully focus on issues affecting Christians world-wide. For further information, please contact Betty Sweeney or Olivia Lee through the church office, 416-225-6611.

PREPLANNING  
YOUR FUNERAL

A really bright idea.

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6150 Yonge St., Toronto  
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## THE SPIRITUAL LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN

"Look! See that smile? Your newborn baby is talking with an angel!"

As parents we are all very concerned about the developmental stages of our children's lives: physical, mental and emotional. As Christian parents we are further concerned about the spiritual lives of our children. In our ever-changing world, we can't keep up with all the busy-ness and numerous activities!

Children's spiritual lives are one area, arguably the only area, which cannot be judged or graded by well-meaning adults. Yet, our Creator always delights in and is awed by the child. For example, God knows that for the child the universe is contained in one small building block – whether the block lands on the top of the tower or under the chesterfield pillow – God is impressed!

Certainly, while all aspects of children's lives deserve our attention, it is their spiritual lives that can slip by unnoticed. It is true that children's spirituality is not confined to or defined by the church, yet the church does provide an important nurturing ground for our children.

**Our children deserve our respect in all aspects of their lives.  
Remember, the smile on your newborn's face is still there!  
And, so is the angel!**

*Jan Gardiner Williams  
Children's Minister*

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## BARNABAS BREAKFAST GROUP

Rev. Pat Blythe originally asked the FaithWorks and Outreach Committee if it could make St. John's more welcoming to those coming for a \$10 grocery coupon and a subway token on the last Wednesday morning of each month. This "call" was responded to generously by many parishioners at St. John's who care deeply about those less fortunate, and it has resulted in the monthly gathering of the "Barnabas Breakfast Group".

May Kong suggested that this group adopt the name *Barnabas* – a first century convert to Christianity and one of the earliest disciples, who is traditionally associated with encouragement and consolation. As well as offering a nutritious, light breakfast, we listen and offer our guests encouragement in their daily struggles. Despite all, this is a very happy group and there is great benefit for those giving as well as receiving. Over time, we have come to know our guests and look forward to seeing them again.

When asked to write about this Wednesday breakfast, one guest wrote: "There is such a warm welcome for all who come in. There is a great deal of God's love being offered. Pleasant and encouraging conversations and advice when people need to talk to someone about their lives, or a few moments of refreshing quiet when someone needs some time for themselves."

The Barnabas Group is thankful for the support of the Church and the participation of Rev. David Julien. The group also appreciates the help of the many parishioners who have generously contributed money, food, clothing and other donations to this very worthy cause. If you are interested in helping, contact Linda Bell through the Church office.

*...Linda Bell...*



## THE ARCHDEACON A.C. MCCOLLUM FUND BURSARY

The Archdeacon A.C. McCollum Assistance Fund was established in 1955 by the Vestry of St. John's York Mills Anglican Church, Toronto, through the efforts and generosity of Archdeacon McCollum and parish members.

They recognized the importance of supporting Anglican theological students in need. Each year, bursaries from the Fund are awarded to financially assist and benefit individuals studying for ordination and other Christian Ministry work in the Anglican Church.

Anyone studying at an Anglican Theological College in Canada, or abroad on the recommendation of their College, can apply. The students must be recommended by the educational institution in which they are enrolled, and show financial need. The student is asked to provide an essay with information about themselves, their aspirations, expectations for ministry, future visions and why they need the bursary. A committee of trustees reviews and awards the bursaries.

The Fund accepts donations as memorials and thank-offerings, and each year continues its valuable work. Since 1955 the Fund has awarded more than \$100,000 to over 200 students, who come from diverse cultures and backgrounds, from the Arctic and from across Canada. Every year we receive wonderful applications from individuals who are dedicated to the advancement of faith and the teachings of the Anglican Church.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2009 Bursary. Requests for application forms should be submitted to the church office. The deadline for receipt of completed applications is April 30, 2009.

For further information, please contact Venetia Cowie or Nancy Rickford, Office Administrator, at 416-225-6611.

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## PROFILE OF MINISTRY: THE BICKLEY FAMILY

The Bickleys seem to me to be a family who know Christ and work to make Him known to others. That is what inspired me to interview them for Profiles of Ministry. I asked them to share how they got to know Christ and how they strive to make Him known. Please thank them for their candour in sharing their faith.

The Bickleys realize that not everyone is aware of how Christ is working in their lives. A lot of people do not think of things in that way. The Bickleys never used to either. When Christ touches your life it manifests itself differently for everyone. Both Robin and Steve were raised in families that did not go to church regularly. So, what happened?

For Steve, it started when he attended a Christian athletic camp. He went there for five years and that is where he came to know Christ on a personal level. When Steve first went to the camp, all the other kids knew the Bible stories – really knew them – and Steve did not know anything about the Bible. After that he committed himself to reading the Bible so that the next year at camp he would be able to participate more. Steve asserts that getting grounded in scripture changes your life.

Robin really learned to know Christ when she and Steve took the Alpha course early in their marriage. Alpha helped them realize that there was more to being a Christian than just going to church. Getting to know Christ through a personal relationship with Him adds a whole new dimension and depth to one's faith. Learning this totally changed Robin's life. At a point in the course she was experiencing a whole new joy that was so different from any thing else she had ever experienced. Opening yourself to the Lord presents endless possibilities. Robin began to learn the stories of Jesus by reading them to the children. When you start learning about Jesus, you thirst for more – it is an incredible experience and one which builds on itself to encourage you to learn and read even more about our Lord.

After Alpha, the Bickleys joined a small group in their church and that is where their role as disciples continued. It was within the loving environment of the Christian community that Steve and Robin's faith was strengthened. This is a huge part of their faith journey. A couple of years ago they felt called to reach out to some of the young families at SJYM and give them the kind of spiritual support and encouragement that they experienced early in their own faith journey. Being involved in this kind of ministry helps them to keep growing, as they study the Bible and talk about their faith with others. That is why they host a small group and the *Questions and Coffee* group at their house – to encourage and enable others to see the sincerity and truth in the gospel of Christ.

God also called Robin to build the children's library at SJYM. She wanted to enable our children and families to share the word of the Lord by reading books together. In this way the Word is perpetuated and spiritual formation develops. Steve and Robin and the children help with church activities in different ways but their calling is in helping to make the Word of God known. They invite you to attend a session of *Questions and Coffee* at their home and/or visit the library to share the Lord's story with your family.

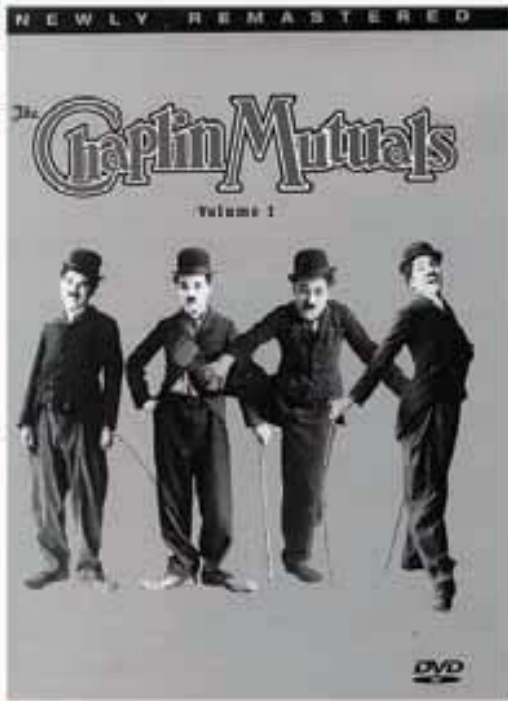
They have lived life with Christ at the centre and lived life without Christ at the centre, and know that life is better with Christ at the core. They see their ministry as what God has called them to do – to know Christ, love Him and be grounded in Him, so that when the storms of life come they will not be washed away. They encourage their children and others to enjoy the same in Christ.

We are grateful for the ministry of the Bickleys and pray that God will use them to help inspire others to develop an intimate relationship with Christ.

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nation ... teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age...* (Matthew 28:19)

*Gratefully submitted by The Reverend Dr. Catherine Keating, Deacon*

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## SILENT FILM NIGHT – SATURDAY, MARCH 28

This year's final film night on March 28 will feature 3 of Charlie Chaplin's best short films from the period 1916-1917. They are referred to as "The Chaplin Mutuals" and have been expertly re-mastered and restored.

Visit [www.stjohnsyorkmills.com](http://www.stjohnsyorkmills.com) or call 416-225-6611 for more information.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

For those of you who don't know, my father is an Anglican priest, and I began going to an Anglican Church when I was a small child. To this day, however, I primarily identify myself as "Christian" and not "Anglican". The history of the national Church, like that of nationalism itself, is a fascinating study. And, like nationalism, when we become too dedicated to the ideology or the structure, we lose sight of both the greater community - the purpose that unites us - and the smaller cultural communities, which enrich us.

I'm a Canadian, but that is not an identity to hide in, unable to see that such a nationalistic identifier is but a workable, divisible, governable concept rooted in geography. That is to say, to be a Canadian, or any other nationality, is a modern invention of organizational thought. And we've lost the purpose, if we use our flag to conquer, to oppress, or to ignore what lies beyond us. Because I am Canadian does not mean that I am the same as my neighbour, as it does not mean that I no longer have to care about my East Indian brother, or recognize my connection to my Romanian sister. We are all human together. We are all unique, children of God.

So too does this apply to Anglicanism. Our denomination has emerged from a historical, national context that precedes denominations altogether. Before we are Anglicans, we are each called by Christ. Before we had candles, and linens, and the Book of Common Prayer; before we had liturgy, and altar rails, and vestments, we were the Body of Christ. And we still are. Candles are nice; liturgy makes things smoother; the Book of Common Prayer was a great cultural innovation; but none precede true worship, which is to offer ourselves as a living Sacrifice to Christ.

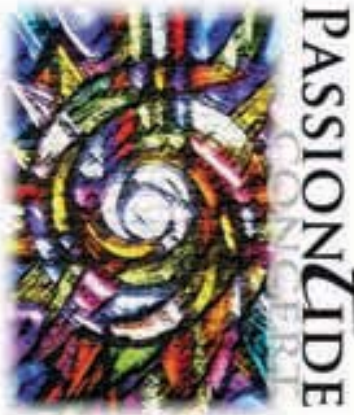
And this point must be understood to speak to a generation not versed in denominationalism. To be Presbyterian, or United, or Baptist, or Anglican does not matter to a people who don't know Christ. Whether we use the BCP or the BAS is a discussion that most individuals under 30 couldn't be bothered to even entertain. There is nothing wrong with either; instead, we lose seekers if we think that Anglicanism is more important than Christ himself.

This is why, amongst many other things that we are doing, we are attempting to build an **Alternative Service** for individuals who might not care about denominations. If you know of someone who might be interested in alternative expressions of worship, invite them out to one of these services, which are currently being held at **7 pm on the second Sunday of every month**. If you are interested, come yourself. This is not just for youth, but a way for all of us to primarily identify ourselves as children of God, and present the Gospel of Christ without limitation.

*Aaron Smith*  
Youth Minister

The Link is published nine 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



..... transcendent music to soothe the soul and lift the spirit .....

Driving through the Appalachian Mountains in rural Virginia late one night last year a piece of music happened to be played on a Christian music radio program that struck me profoundly. The piece was the Son of God Mass, by British composer, James Whitbourne.

The scores have been purchased and we're looking forward to performing the mass setting as part of our **PASSIONTIDE CONCERT ON APRIL 5.**

I'm impressed how the composer has combined elements of jazz improvisation from the soprano saxophone with an interesting, yet completely accessible contemporary classical style of writing for choir and organ. The result is a fusion of styles with a unique, very spiritual characteristic, which the Choir has also been quite taken by. We are so pleased that Bruce Redstone, a member of our parish and an exceptionally talented saxophone player, and Bill O'Meara, organist (of St. John's Silent Film night's fame) will be joining with the Choir of St. John's York Mills, on **Palm Sunday April 5 at 7:00 p.m.**

Also on the program will be three settings of the *Agnus Dei* (O Lamb of God) by Samuel Barber, Paul Halley and Sergei Rachmaninov, and a setting of the penitential Psalm 22, by a very talented young local composer Jason Locke. The Choir had the privilege of performing another of Jason's compositions with the Canadian Sinfonietta at Glenn Gould Studio in December.

Tickets will be on sale after Sunday morning services, from the church office, or may be reserved by emailing [music@stjohnsyorkmills.com](mailto:music@stjohnsyorkmills.com), \$15 for adults and \$10 students/seniors.

While rehearsals are well underway, if you'd like to join with the Choir for this concert, please contact me as soon as possible and plan to attend rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 8:30-9:30 p.m.

*Robin Davis,  
Organist and Choir Director*



*M*usic with a beat!

*U*nbelievable Price

*S*t. John's, Flemingdon Park and  
Sleeping Children benefit

*I*nvoke Family, Friends & Neighbours

*C*hance to Participate

*F*abulous Fun, Talent & Variety

*E*veryone Welcome

**SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2009**

*T*ickets & Time:

Adults \$15 - Children \$5

4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Doors open at 3:30 & 6:30 pm



## HANDBELL GIFT KEEPS ON GIVING

In 1978, St. John's York Mills received a three-octave set of English Handbells as a memorial gift from the family of Shirley and Norman Ingram. Thus, the Ingram Handbell Choir came into being. Since then, additional bells have been added and St. John's is blessed with three active Handbell Choirs comprised of adults, teens and youth.

In order to share the gift of bells, music and talent at St. John's, the Handbell Choirs, Praise Team and Choir perform an annual concert, **MUSICFEST**. We donate a portion of the proceeds to charity. In recent years, Musicfest has supported several charities including **Sleeping Children Around the World**. This Toronto charity distributes 'bed kits' to children in poor countries and ensures that 100% of the donations reach the children.

This year we will also donate 500 boxes of Kraft Dinner to the **Flemingdon Park Ministry Food Bank**. **FIRST**, we will use the Kraft Dinner to have some fun at the concert!

Please come and bring friends to have fun and shake it up with us because this year

**"WE'VE GOT RHYTHM!"**