
THE COURIER

Volume 3, Issue 4

December 2009

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY

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RECTOR'S LETTER

“Prepare the way of the Lord”

Advent is the season of new beginnings. During this season of Advent we are called to prepare the way for the marvellous event of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The question is: when we arrive at Bethlehem where there was no room in the inn, are we going to have room in our hearts to be open to the birth of Christ within our own lives? It is so easy for us during this season of Advent to be distracted by the “busy”ness of decorating our homes, purchasing presents, planning meals, and spending time with family and friends. All of these activities are part of the celebration. However this is only a fragment of what it means to be prepared for the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. During this season of Advent, I encourage you to use the **Advent Service for the Home**. It will be a focussed way of preparing spiritually for rebirth within your hearts – the transforming experience of the presence and deep abiding love of God.

This year let's follow the invitation of Ann Weems: “let's do what Mary did and rejoice in God, let's do what Joseph did and listen to our dreams, let's do what the Wise Men did and go to worship, let's do what the shepherds did and praise and glorify God for all we have seen and heard.”

May the blessings of God's peace, love, and joy fill your hearts this season and in the year to come.

Yours faithfully,

The Reverend Jennifer Matthews

An Advent Service for the Home

This booklet, which includes daily prayers and Bible readings for the season of Advent, is available on the literature table at the north entrance.

Sunday Flowers

If you would like flowers placed in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved-one, please forward request and payment (suggested donation of \$50) to the office one week in advance.

Christmas Flowers

The Altar Guild will be decorating our church for the Christmas season. If you wish to contribute for the purchase of flowers, please use a special gift envelope and mark it “CHRISTMAS FLOWERS” (suggested donation of \$10). If you wish memorial flowers, please include a note with your donation by **Sunday, December 13**. Thank you.

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WARDENS' REPORT

Our goodbyes to Father Brian concluded at our November 15th service where we presented him with gifts from all of us. The East Crypt is now renamed the Prideaux Room. We have a sizable sum to buy hymnals to dedicate in Brian's name, and Brian and Lorna have a memento of the Beach neighbourhood in the form of a painting of the beach by a local artist. The service concluded with a short ceremony to turn over the keys of the church back to the Wardens.

For those of you who haven't been to that corner of the cemetery, our new barn is up in all its green glory. Work continues on inside finishing such as the wiring and stairs.

In December we welcome our new Interim Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Jennifer Matthews, and enter the next phase of the process to hire the next incumbent. While Rev. Matthews leads our worship life, your Parish Selection Committee is working diligently on crafting the Parish Profile. This phase is called "discernment." The survey that many of you filled out in November is part of that discernment. Thank you for completing the survey. Your answers will contribute to a Profile that reflects who we are as a parish and what we are looking for in an incumbent. Watch for more announcements from the Committee and keep us in your prayers.

During this time of transition you may notice that we are discerning how to do some things that Father Brian used to do for us quietly in our physical building. Please be patient and kind as we sort things out. If you see a light that needs turning off, turn it off. If you see something out of place and you know where it goes, please put it back in its place. We are all stewards of this physical building, caring for its operation, with the same patience and caring we do for our fellow parishioners.

Happy Christmas to all from your Wardens,
Jane Roberts and Suzanne Coxon

**The church office will be closed
December 24 to January 3 inclusive.
The answering machine will be monitored.
Please leave a message and we will return your
call as soon as possible.**

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Advent and Christmas at St. John the Baptist, Norway 2009-2010

Saturday, December 19

Family Event

10:00 a.m. – Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 20

4th Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. – Christmas Pageant

7:30 p.m. – Candlelight Carol Service

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. – Family Eucharist

11:00 p.m. – Choral Eucharist

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist

Sunday, December 27

1st Sunday after Christmas

10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist & Informal Carol Sing

Thursday, December 31

New Year's Eve

11:00 p.m. – Sung Eucharist

Sunday, January 4

The Epiphany of the Lord

10:30 a.m. – Procession & Choral Eucharist

A SEASON TO SHARE

For some people in our community Christmas can be a difficult time. You can make the season brighter by putting a donation in the offering plate in an envelope marked "Share Christmas." Any amount, large or small, is appreciated. For an income tax receipt include your envelope number or name and address. Money received is used to assist people in our neighbourhood through the Christmas Bureau.

QUARTER NOTES

by Ted Reid

Each Sunday as Anglicans we leave the modern world of computers, ipods and Tim Horton's to participate in an ancient rite which goes back some 2000 years. The eucharist began with Jesus himself, and its form developed through mediaeval and renaissance times to the present. Evening Prayer (or "evensong," when sung) and Morning Prayer ("matins"), Anglican offices with their roots in the ancient monasteries, were a common part of our worship until the late 20th c. when their use dropped dramatically, although both are still performed here and there.

It would be easy to assume that another service in our church calendar, the "carol service," also dates back into the distant mists of early Christianity, so it might be a bit of a surprise to realise that "the carol service" format was actually invented in the early 20th c. Indeed the form is so new that we even know who invented it. It was Dr. A. R. Vidler, the Dean of King's College, Cambridge, home of that most famous of choirs. Immediately after World War I, in 1919, Dr. Vidler sensed a need for people to come together to experience the story of Christmas in a more intense and focused way than the seasonal Sunday services provided. The "carol service," with its readings telling the story of fall, prophecy, annunciation and redemption, and the wonderful music which illustrates it all, was what he came up with. From this beginning, the Christmas Carol Service has spread all over Christendom, and the form has also been adapted to different seasons of the church year. Advent Carol services are common, and carol services for Epiphany, Easter and other church times are not unknown.

I was taken aback last year, at the reception following the Carol Service, when a distinguished lady of our congregation (who should have known better) came up to me and congratulated me on the "lovely concert." One of the features of the Carol Service is several carols sung by the choir alone, but no, Mrs _____, that doesn't make it a concert. I'm surprised at you! Nor is the Carol Service a special event "put on by the choir." I am asked each year by some kindly persons if I "want refreshments" after the Carol Service. The Carol Service is no more a choir event than is the Maundy Thursday service, or the Good Friday, or the 11th after Pentecost. It is part of the yearly worship cycle of the parish. And the decision to provide

refreshments (or not) is no more the organist's than for any other service, (although I appreciate the generosity in the asking!).

As Dr. Vidler intended, the Carol Service is your best opportunity to experience the Christmas story in a focused and intense way. The wonderful story is told again, the lovely carols are sung, and you get to sing lots of old favourites, all in one service. So don't come to the Carol Service to support the choir. Come (December 20th, 7.30 p.m.) to be part of one of the most beautiful, and new, services in our liturgical treasure house. Come and adore Him. Christ. The Lord.

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Nine Styles of Passionate Spirituality

by Craig Gustafson

In March, thirty people from the congregation participated in the Natural Church Development (NCD) Survey. The premise is that there are eight characteristics of a healthy church. One hundred questions assess the strength of each characteristic. Similar to a chain, the church can only be as strong as its weakest link, or characteristic.

Our weakest characteristic, as is the case for many Anglican churches, is "Passionate Spirituality." As you may have guessed by the name of the characteristic, Anglicans generally are not quick to share their faith and give testimonies. (It is interesting to note that our highest score was for a question that belongs to "Passionate Spirituality." ***I know that other church members pray for me regularly.***)

I attended a seminar about Passionate Spirituality, along with three other members of the congregation, conducted by Christian Schwarz, the survey's designer. (Approximately 100 people from different denominations and cities attended.) He uses three colours to demonstrate three ways a person expresses personal faith: green (world-focussed), red (scripture-based), and blue (spirit-directed). Within Passionate Spirituality there are nine styles: two are found in each colour, and the other three that are each a blend of two colours. These nine characteristics are placed on a circular compass.



Picture a life-size dartboard laying flat. Nine people stand along the edge, an equal distance between each person. The nine people walk toward the centre, toward a deeper faith. Two people who are next to each other appear to be walking in the same direction. On Christian's circular compass they

have much in common, and share many aspects of their own unique journey. Two people who are standing on opposite sides of the dartboard appear to walking in different directions. Although they have the same goal, they have very different experiences, and they have difficulty communicating with each other about their journeys. You can imagine that in any given congregation all nine styles would be represented, and that there will be tension among people as they strive for a deeper faith.

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Each attendee completed a survey to determine our preferred style, our second preferred style, and so on to our least preferred style. Then we stood in a circle, representing the compass, according to our preferred style. (The four people from our congregation described themselves using three styles that we were next to each other.) Then each of us met with someone from the opposite side of the compass to talk about our preferred styles. Of course, each person has varying degrees of each characteristic; one characteristic alone does not describe one person completely.

My results were interesting to me because the order of my preferred styles jump around the compass. Because two styles that are next to each other have similar traits, it makes sense that a person would have similar scores for both of them. A person with preferred styles that are not next to each other on the compass demonstrates a willingness to learn from other styles, and from the people who have those other styles.

Tensions within a group (including a congregation) are to be expected. As difficult as it is, we need to embrace our differences in order to learn from each other. We are all on a journey, and we have different experiences and perceptions to share with each other. With God as our Leader, we will find effective and respectful ways to communicate our styles to each other in order to enrich our personal faith, and to enrich the life of our church.

NEEDED: COURIER ARTICLES

We need your help in filling spaces in the Courier. If you would like to contribute occasionally or regularly (either for the "Church Calendar," "Bible Lore," "Monthly Chuckle," or if you have an idea for a new article), please speak to the Parish Secretary. Also if you attend an event, either inside or outside the parish, consider writing about it.

This is **YOUR** newsletter!!
We want to hear from **YOU!!**



WEDDING

November 14

Glen Schnioffsky & Sarah Evans

Sunday School and Family Programmes

The Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, December 19 – 10:00 a.m.–about noon



Our newest annual tradition. Join us for a time of fun, family, and traditions as we prepare our church for Christmas. Light lunch will be provided.

Christmas Pageant Service

Sunday, December 20 – 10:30 a.m.

Join in with us as we re-enact the story that never grows old. To participate (kids & adults) please talk to Kathryn Kern or Brian Fairbrother. Angels, sheep, shepherds, and others needed, talking and non-talking roles available. Practices take place right after church every week.



Ring in the New Year With Family and Friends Thursday, December 31

7:30 p.m.	Hors d'oeuvres
8:00 p.m.	Potluck supper
9:00 p.m.	Family games
11:00 p.m.	Worship service & carolling
12:00 midnight	Bell ringing followed by refreshments



Please sign up outside the kitchen. The main course is supplied for the dinner. Suggestions are listed on the sign-up sheet. Rides home will be arranged for anyone requiring transportation.

Annual Vestry Meeting

All written and financial reports must be in the office by **Friday, January 15**. Financial statements must be reviewed. Speak to the wardens for more information.

If possible, please send reports to admin@stjohnsnorway.org

Reports will be available **Sunday, February 7**.
The Vestry meeting will be **Sunday, February 21**.

World Day of Prayer Festival Day For All Organisers

Saturday, January 16

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Timothy Eaton Memorial Church
230 St. Clair Avenue West**

Please bring a sandwich
\$10 is suggested to cover the costs
For more information, speak to Craig Gustafson

Host Country: Cameroon
“Let Everything that has Breath Praise the Lord”

Tree Ornaments: Community Centre 55 produced some ornaments featuring our church, as well as Community Centre 55, the Queen Streetcar, and the Woodbine Race Track. The ornaments are available in the church office for \$10 each to support the community centre.

From Susan Winlaw

I saw this message to a YouTube video on twitter. It has such a strong message.

The Girl who Silenced the World for 5 Minutes

Powerful & important message for all adults

<http://bit.ly/78fUgE>

Deadline for the Next Courier is Sunday, January 10.

**Please send submissions to
admin@stjohnsnorway.org or place them
in the mail rack outside the office.**

For the Food Cupboard

Donations of pasta and canned or bottled sauce would be appreciated. Please leave in the yellow basket in the north aisle.

NEEDED: strong man to push man in wheelchair once a week and other times when there is entertainment on the first floor. Remuneration given. Phone Lorna Johnson at (416) 699-4017

We require people to make bread for Sunday services. For information phone Joan Hiscott at (416) 461-2704.



IN MEMORIAM

November 18 Mavis Tullett

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Monday 7	9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 9:30 a.m. – Ecumenical Bible Study 5:00 p.m. – Kuma Marital Arts 7:00 p.m. – Guides 7:00 p.m. – Pathfinders 8:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book
Tuesday 8	10:00 a.m. – Beaches Fitness 5:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers 6:45 p.m. – Girl Choristers 7:30 p.m. – Amnesty International
Wednesday 9	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 6:00 p.m. – Kuma Martial Arts 6:30 p.m. – Beavers 7:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m. – Parish Selection Committee
Thursday 10	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers 7:30 p.m. – Norway Group
Friday 11	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 8:00 p.m. – Sliver Birch Alcoholics Anonymous
Saturday 12	6:00 p.m. – Crafts
Sunday 13	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist 12:30 p.m. – Pageant Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. – Venturers
Monday 14	9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 9:30 a.m. – Ecumenical Bible Study 5:00 p.m. – Kuma Martial Arts 7:00 p.m. – Guides 7:00 p.m. – Pathfinders 7:30 p.m. – Scout Group 8:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book
Tuesday 15	5:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers 6:45 p.m. – Girl Choristers 7:30 p.m. – Wardens' Meeting
Wednesday 16	9:15 p.m. – Fitness Class 6:00 p.m. – Scout Christmas Party 7:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer
Thursday 17	7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers
Friday 18	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 8:00 p.m. – Sliver Birch Alcoholics Anonymous
Saturday 19	10:00 a.m. – Hanging of the Greens
Sunday 20	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. – Christmas Pageant 7:30 p.m. – Carol Service
Monday 21	5:00 p.m. – Kuma Martial Arts 8:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book
Thursday 24	7:00 p.m. – Family Eucharist 11:00 p.m. – Choral Eucharist
Friday 25	10:00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist 8:30 p.m. – Silver Birch Alcoholics Anonymous

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Sunday 27	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist
Monday 28	8:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book
Thursday 31	7:30 p.m. – New Year's Eve Party 11:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

JANUARY

Sunday 3	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. – Procession & Choral Eucharist
Monday 4	9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 5:00 p.m. – Kuma Marital Arts 7:00 p.m. – Guides 7:00 p.m. – Pathfinders
Tuesday 5	4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 5:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers 6:45 p.m. – Girl Choristers 7:30 p.m. – Advisory Board
Wednesday 6	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 6:30 p.m. – Beavers 7:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m. – Seton Area Forum
Thursday 7	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers
Friday 8	9:00 a.m. – MumNet
Sunday 10	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist
COURIER DEADLINE	
Monday 11	7:30 p.m. – Venturers 9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 5:00 p.m. – Kuma Marital Arts 7:00 p.m. – Guides 7:00 p.m. – Pathfinders 7:30 p.m. – Scout Group
Tuesday 12	4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 5:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers 6:45 p.m. – Girl Choristers
Wednesday 13	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 6:30 p.m. – Beavers 7:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer
Thursday 14	9:00 a.m. – MumNet 1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers 7:30 p.m. – Norway Group
Friday 15	VESTRY REPORTS DUE 9:00 a.m. – MumNet

Please inform the office of any errors or omissions. Thank you.

Please note: the Wednesday evening service will be cancelled on December 23 and 30.