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# THE COURIER

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Volume 3, Issue 8

May 2010

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY

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## PRIEST'S MESSAGE

**“The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul.” Acts 4:32**

This describes the dynamic Christian community in Jerusalem, which gave a powerful witness to the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This community was completely transformed by the presence of the risen Lord in their lives.

We as a Christian community need to embrace this experience of the resurrection by being present in our worshipping community on a regular basis to share in a common experience. On a Sunday morning, we have the common opportunity to hear the Word, the good news of Christ, to open our hearts and souls to receive the peace that is offered to us all.

What does it mean to be of one heart and soul? During this season of Easter, we celebrate our belief in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We are of one heart and soul when we receive the risen Christ in our lives and open ourselves to God's saving grace and love for us. Experiencing this profound love, leads us to the recognition of our need to acknowledge our own sinfulness, to seek forgiveness, and to be a forgiving community. To be of one heart and soul, we, therefore, need to be a loving and forgiving people.

We must also be willing to make room for Christ to enter our locked doors of fear, both as individuals and members of the church community. We need to unlock the doors of fear of change. We need to admit that too often we are willing to blame others for our own inadequacies. We need to ask ourselves when do we push our own agendas and ignore the needs of the community as a whole? What are our personal issues that get in the way of receiving the peace of Christ? Do we doubt our faith or the faith of

others? Or do we act as judges, seeing the speck in the other person's eye and ignoring the log in our own eyes?

This ideal Christian community that is described in Acts is one for which to strive. People come here looking for evidence of what it means to be a Christian. What are the signs of a loving community? At St John's, we are a community of one heart and soul when we seek consensus on issues with which we are faced, when we trust one another, when we give one another mutual support, when we listen to Holy scripture, and when we share in the Eucharist. We are of one heart and soul when we love one another as Christ has loved us – reaching out to one another and to the needs of all people. **Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Yours in Christ,

*Jennifer*

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## WARDENS' REPORT

What a month April 2010 has proven to be! As good news, we had a wonderful Easter week, great weather, and a successful Daffodil tea. On the flip side, St. John's experienced two break-ins that fortunately saw no one hurt, little stolen, and relatively small damage.

The Easter week started with a well-attended Palm Sunday service, followed by a meaningful Maundy Thursday dinner and service, which ended with the church altar laid bare. On Good Friday, several children attended the 7 stations service early in the morning, while the Good Friday service offered a sombre reflection on the meaning of Easter. The Saturday night Vigil saw the new flame lit (despite a very windy night), followed by a joyous Easter morning service. Our thanks to Rev. Jennifer and the entire worship team, including Brian and Kathryn, for a great Easter season. Equally, thanks to Ted and the Choir for their beautiful contribution.

The Daffodil Tea was held on April 17, and raised almost \$1,300. Thanks to Glenda Fairbrother, Joan Hiscott, Isobel Stewart, and Sylvia Kite for organising the event.

Unfortunately, break-ins occurred at St. John's on April 9 and April 15, likely by the same individual. In both instances, the motive appeared to be cash, and the office and sacrosanct received most of the damage inflicted by the intruder, including broken cupboards, filing cabinets, door locks, and doorframes. While work is now underway to fix the damage, we are assessing what changes can be made to mitigate future break-ins, including the possibility of a lock change. We welcome ideas for security solutions.

Almost six months have passed since Father Brian retired, and Rev. Jennifer joined us as Interim Incumbent. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jennifer for her continued efforts leading worship and providing ministry at St. John's. We know the change has been hard on some parishioners, however it has also been challenging for Jennifer, given the size of our church, and the length of time Brian served us. We ask that one and all keep an open mind, try something new, and most importantly, enjoy the worship and fellowship of our lovely church!

## THE COURIER

Lastly, one Deputy Warden position remains open, and we would very much appreciate a volunteer. The position requires attendance at the monthly Warden's meeting, participation, approximately once a month, as a "Duty Warden" during the 10:30 service, and occasional involvement at ad hoc events and meetings. It is great way to learn about the operations of the church, and an equally good opportunity to gain management experience.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gordon Stock & Suzanne Coxon  
Wardens

## Update from the Parish Selection Committee

by Gordon Stock, Chair

After completing and submitting the Parish Profile in February, the Parish Selection Committee (PSC) entered a quiet period while Bishop Yu started the search for candidates. In mid March, the committee met with Bishop Yu and he presented the group with resumés, followed by a second group of resumés in early April.

During the month of April, the committee has been busy visiting each candidate's parish, and interviews have started. We are planning to finish the interviews and church visits by early May, and expect to make our choice recommendation to Bishop Yu in the latter half of May. Overall we are very pleased with the calibre of the candidates.

Once the Bishop has received our recommendation, he will negotiate details with the chosen candidate and hopefully (!) confirm acceptance of an offer in early June. As we have mentioned before, our overall objective is to have the new Incumbent in place by September 1, 2010, however, if the person is available earlier, we'll welcome him or her! We do believe September is realistic, as the new Incumbent will need time to complete duties at the current parish, possibly move, etc.

We appreciate your continued thoughts, patience, and prayers, and are working as diligently as possible to find a new Incumbent. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk with a member of the committee (Suzanne Coxon, Richard Fornuff, Anthony Grange, Emily Hamilton, Johanna Miller, Jane Roberts, Gordon Stock).

## What We Like To Do ...

by Gordon Stock

*This is a new Courier section that is written by you! This column is open to everyone ... tell us what you like to do: a hobby, volunteer work, something at St. John's, etc. Submissions can be made on paper or electronically to Gordon Stock ([gordonandgenny@hotmail.com](mailto:gordonandgenny@hotmail.com)) prior to each month's Courier deadline. Entries will be published on a first-come basis, although we may print more than one entry each month, depending on article size.*

For the inaugural article, I will share with you my hobby of landscape painting. I started painting about 7 years ago, and have no formal training in the art. I can't say whether what I paint is "any good," but I enjoy the excuse to travel somewhere new, often in a canoe, and spend a few moments in peaceful solitude.

I initially started painting using water-based paints and copying photographs, and gradually moved outside to try the real thing. I soon found oil paints greatly superior to water-based paints, as the latter dries too quickly outside. My early attempts were very hit and miss, often the end result having a strange perspective, out-of-proportion objects, and I soon found out that oil paint, too heavily layered, easily turns into a grey mess. Like anything, practice has significantly improved my skills.

Over time, I have changed my technique by sitting while I paint, using a painting box to hold the painting board instead of an easel; I use smaller boards (usually 8" X 10") as lighting conditions change quickly, and I gave up cleaning my brushes between colours (the solvent contributed to my earlier problem with the paints turning grey). My best results occur when I apply the paint thickly, work quickly, and not worry about specific details. It's amazing how a spot of black can add depth to a stand of trees, or a few white lines add wind to an otherwise flat expanse of blue.

A few years ago, I took up canoeing as a complimentary hobby to painting, and this has allowed me to find some great scenes to paint: wind-swept islands, distant shores in the early morning or in warm twilight, and dark forests. Sometimes I also enjoy painting old farmhouses north of Toronto; I particularly like abandoned buildings that sigh and creak in the wind.

## THE COURIER

Painting is an inexpensive hobby that I encourage you to try. The rewarding moment occurs when you are able to find the "zone," and upon completion, sit back and realise you captured the moment ... not simply what a camera would see.



(Fall, Kennis Lake, Haliburton Ontario)

## Monthly Chuckle

### Lot's Wife

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted. "My Mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"



### Did Noah Fish?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."



### A Higher Power

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times, but there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

## The Prayer Nook

### ***The "Proper" Prayer Posture***

by Craig Gustafson

#### **"Just tell me what to do and I'll do it."**

How many times have we said this statement? How many times have we said it ourselves? I don't want to do the wrong thing; therefore tell me what to do. Or is it easier for other people to tell us what to do, rather than figuring out how to do something, or what works best for us? On the other hand, sometimes we feel threatened if someone tells us what to do or how to do it.

When we are in a group we often want to know how the group does things so that we can follow their example. Our individuality, however, is compromised if we simply follow what others do. Worshipping together is no different. Although it is important for us to gather as a community and worship, taking Communion as brothers and sisters in Christ, in worshipping we need to find the posture that enables us to be in God's presence, and for the experience to be meaningful. Your posture of choice may be to sit, stand, or kneel, no matter what posture the person beside you chooses.

Author Finley Peter Dunne (1867-1836) wrote, "Comfort the afflicted, afflict the comfortable." Somewhere along the way the quote was changed to "God comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable." I come to church to be comforted and strengthened for the journey, not to be comfortable. Therefore, when I choose a posture for worship, my decision is based upon how I want to be in the presence of God that allows me to praise Him, and offer my concerns and listen to Him. The posture needs to be conducive to obtaining these objectives, at that point in time. I may choose a different posture for a different situation, or for the same situation at a different time.

Let us be mindful of the posture we choose to enhance our experience in God's presence.

**The church office will be closed  
Monday, May 24 For Victoria Day.**

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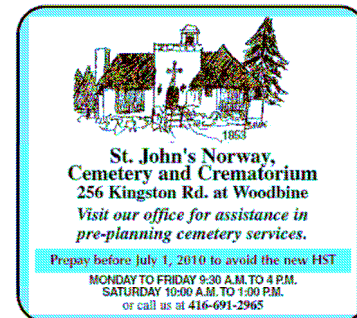
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### **St. John's on Twitter**

Our experiment with social media continues on Twitter since last fall. We now have 36 followers from around the world. That includes 4 parishioners. If you would like to join us on your Bell cell phone, your Blackberry, your iPhone, or online, you can sign up or just view our "tweets" at [www.twitter.com/stjnorway](http://www.twitter.com/stjnorway). Receive our 140 character messages about Lectionary readings, upcoming events at St. John's, and interesting retweets from other Christians. And please make suggestions about what else St. John's should be tweeting.

**twitter**

**Holy Baptism:** Sunday, May 23 and Sunday, June 27 at the 10:30 a.m. services. Preparation Classes will be held Wednesdays, May 5 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, speak to Brian Fairbrother.

**Spring Cleaning?**  
Save your used treasures for our annual



on May 8 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Call the church office for pickup or drop off  
Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon



there is still time to join  
the Norway Group on its outing to the

### Famous PEOPLE Players

Dinner Theatre Production of

### ROCK n' ROLL HEAVEN

Two "Kings" meet in Rock n' Roll Heaven  
and create an explosion in black light.  
You'll be moonwalking in blue suede shoes  
to the greatest beat the world has ever known.

**Thursday, May 13 at 6:00 p.m.**

Tickets \$53.50 including tax and gratuities

Call Bridget at (416) 694-2918 for more details

### The Ascensiontide Choral Evensong

**Sunday, May 16, 7:00 p.m.**

The continuing celebration of this special time when  
we mark the end of Jesus's earthly ministry.



## THE COURIER



plan to attend the

### "STRAWBERRY SOCIAL"

to celebrate  
the 160th Anniversary of  
St. John the Baptist, Norway Anglican Church

**Thursday, June 24 at 6:30 p.m.**

Hosted by the Norway Group

Featuring Dessert \* Door Prizes \*  
Entertainment

Tickets: Adults \$5 Children \$3  
Everyone is welcome!



### Golf Tournament

**Saturday, July 17**

**12:30 p.m.**

**at Cedarhurst Golf Club, Beaverton**

**\$50 for 18 holes**

non-golfers come to cottage on Lake Simcoe for afternoon  
potluck dinner after golf  
details and sign up on bulletin board downstairs

**Please join us for an informal Bible Study** on  
Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-2:30. Discussions  
will focus on the lectionary readings for the  
following Sunday. The themes will be related to our  
every day lives.

### **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**!!

## 6

### Shaping a New Kind of Church by Craig Gustafson

When I attended university in Winnipeg, I lived in one of the residences on campus, which was also an Anglican-affiliated college. We had a Dean of Residence, which was also the Chaplain of the College Chapel. Imagine my surprise when I read on the Diocesan Bulletin Board that one of the three Chaplains during my time at the college, the Rev. Jamie Howison, would be visiting Toronto to speak about a church that he had shaped with others that shared his vision.

Jamie had left the college to return to parish ministry during the summer before my last year. What I did not realise was that Jamie envisioned a different kind of church. The College Chapel had enabled him to try out some of the ideas that had been formulated, and to formulate new ones. In 2003, Saint Benedict's Table was born. Its premise is to invite EVERYONE to the Communion table, which is a pretty radical invitation, since only baptised people are invited to participate in an Anglican Eucharist.

In order to create a new church, the founders returned to the roots of Anglicanism (formed in the 16th Century) and the Early Christian Church (formed following Christ's resurrection). Few ideas are really new, but they seem new if they have been packed away for a long time until someone realises their value.

The following describes the shape of parish life of St. Benedict's Table:

- Evening worship, so that members can enjoy a day of rest with God and end the day with God in worship
- Children attend the service and are encouraged to participate
- Readings from Scripture and the Sermon occur in the midst of the congregation, half way up the centre aisle
- The Altar is on the same level as the congregation, immediately in front of the pews
- Musicians are situated beside the Altar
- The amount of service paper is limited so that people are looking up at the Altar (with no use of an overhead projector)
- The offertory plate is placed at the entrance, and not passed around during the service
- Meetings and studies incorporate food and/or drink, as a reminder of the Eucharist being the centre and the focus

## THE COURIER

Our parish participated in a survey for congregational growth, and has spoken about parish revitalisation. My intention here is not that we, the people of this parish, follow these aspects of St. Benedict's Table. They may not work for our congregation and/or our building. If we want to revitalise our congregation, however, we need to discuss "radical" ideas and decide what would work for us. As a congregation, we need to determine how we understand liturgy and worship, and how we enact liturgy and worship.

Many tools have been created that promise to deliver congregational growth, no matter the situation of the parish. Each parish, however, is different and must find its own solutions. Tools are simply resources. Congregational growth is conducted primarily through the liturgy. Since the liturgy in the Anglican Church is the responsibility of the priest-in-charge of a parish, changes to liturgy must be done with the permission and participation of the priest-in-charge. Regardless, change is needed if we expect a different result.



### IN MEMORIAM

December 7, 2009  
April 9

Marjorie White  
Gladys Holder

### 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.

**Deadline for the Next Courier is Sunday, May 23.**

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

Satan doesn't care what we worship,  
as long as we don't worship God.

Elders declare wars, but it is youth  
that must fight them.

He who has no fire in himself  
cannot warm others.

The Bible is most helpful when it is open.

### CALENDAR \*Weekly

#### MAY

Monday 3	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
Tuesday 4	10:00 a.m. – Beaches Fitness* 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 5	9:00 a.m. – MumNet* 1:00 p.m. – Bible Study 6:30 p.m. – Beavers 7:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer* 7:30 p.m. – Baptism Preparation 7:30 p.m. – Seton Area Forum
Thursday 6	9:00 a.m. – MumNet* 11:30 a.m. – Great Big Theatre Company 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 6:00 p.m. – Cantus Nova* 7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers* 7:30 p.m. – Rummage Sale Set up
Friday 7	9:00 a.m. – Rummage Sale Set up 8:00 p.m. – Silver Birch Alcoholics Anonymous*
Saturday 8	10:00 a.m. – Rummage Sale
Sunday 9	8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist* 10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist 7:30 p.m. – Venturers

## THE COURIER

Monday 10	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 7:30 p.m. – Scout Group
Tuesday 11	4:00 p.m. – Little Voice Dancing Feet
Wednesday 12	1:00 p.m. – Bible Study 6:30 p.m. – Beavers 7:30 p.m. – Baptism Preparation
Thursday 13	1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 7:30 p.m. – Norway Group
Friday 14	9:00 a.m. – MumNet* 11:30 a.m. – Beaches Fitness*
Sunday 16	10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist Guest Preacher: Susan McCulloch, FaithWorks Campaign Manager 7:00 p.m. – Ascensiontide Evensong 7:30 p.m. – Venturers
Monday 17	9:30 a.m. – Ecumenical Bible Study 5:00 p.m. – Kuma Martial Arts 7:00 p.m. – Guides 7:00 p.m. – Pathfinders
Tuesday 18	7:30 p.m. – Wardens' Meeting
Wednesday 19	6:30 p.m. – Scout Banquet
Thursday 20	1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group
Sunday 23	10:30 a.m. – Holy Baptism & Choral Eucharist
Monday 24	<b>COURIER DEADLINE</b> <b>VICTORIA DAY</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
Tuesday 25	4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 7:30 p.m. – Amnesty International 7:30 p.m. – Cemetery Board
Wednesday 26	6:30 p.m. – Beavers
Thursday 27	4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet 7:30 p.m. – Norway Group
Sunday 30	10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist 7:30 p.m. – Venturers

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

# FaithWorks

**“Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine ...”**

**On Sunday, May 16 we will welcome Susan McCulloch, FaithWorks Campaign Manager, as our Guest Preacher at the 10:30 a.m. service.**

**Our Parish goal for 2010 is \$6,000** of which up to \$1500 would be matched, for a total FaithWorks contribution from St. John the Baptist, Norway of over \$7500! In order to qualify for the match, all contributions must be received and forwarded to the diocese no later than October 31, 2010. Please make sure your donations to FaithWorks are made through St John’s. A percentage of the money raised remains in our church.

I felt it was important for you to know where your money will be spent to help others. Included in this edition of Courier are just 3 organisations that are helped by FaithWorks. More about these and other agencies can be found at [www.toronto.anglican.ca/images/up-FW\\_Manual\\_\\_2010.pdf](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/images/up-FW_Manual__2010.pdf)

If you have any questions please call me at (416) 698-7129 in the evenings.  
Pat Murray

<p>All Saint’s Church Sherbourne Rev. Canon Kate Merriman <b>marva@allsaintstoronto.com</b></p>	<p>If you had no family support, no secure place to call home, no job, too little income, and significant physical and/or mental health problems ... where would you turn? How would you want to be received? What help would you expect? All Saints’ Church, Sherbourne Street engages and works with extremely low-income single adults. It offers a place of sanctuary where basic daytime needs are met and important services are offered, where the needs and questions of the human spirit are taken seriously, and where faith-seekers are offered support, fellowship, and educational opportunities.</p>
<p>Flemington Park Ministry The Rev. Helena–Rose Houdcroft Director <b>fmp.director@bellnet.ca</b></p>	<p>Flemington Park Ministry is a Christian presence in the community of Flemington Park, ministering to spiritual, emotional, and physical needs by seeking and serving Christ in all people. We serve those who are poor and marginalised — including single mothers, those living in subsidised Metro housing units, and the longer-term unemployed on Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Programmes. In addition to a drop-in centre, our programs include: prayer and worship, seniors outreach, welcome strangers, after school programme, food and fellowship, food bank, STAR (skills, training, access, resources).</p>
<p>The DAM (Develop, Assist, Mentor) Carol Reist, Executive Director <b>carol@thedam.org</b></p>	<p>Today’s youth live in a world where they feel a tremendous amount of pressure to conform to negative stereotypes. They grow up with fear and prejudice combined with the desire to belong and be accepted. Our current youth culture is primarily image-based, which is incredibly harmful. Bullying masquerades as friendship. Friends call each other “idiot” and “loser” and psychological violence is the norm. Bullying occurs friend to friend to friend. Youth violence, especially assaults, continues to increase. The Dam is the community that has stepped up to assist and mentor youth. We connect with youth-at risk and young moms.</p>