

Message from Fr. Stephen



I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed time with the people you love. In our Church calendar, we have moved from the Christmas season into Epiphany. In many ways, both seasons are about gifts. In Christmas, we celebrate the gift of God’s Son to us. In Epiphany, we recall the gifts of the magi – gold, frankincense and myrrh – and we ponder what we might offer to this newborn King.

Of course, the best gift we can offer to Christ is the gift of ourselves - to return His love by offering Him our love. But love is an empty word if it is not expressed in actions. We may say we love God, but that talk is meaningless if we do not actively love God and those around us. This season asks us to think about how we can love God in our lives.

At St. John’s there are lots of opportunities for you to express your love for God in action. You can become a more generous giver. You can offer your time to support the ministries of the Church and our outreach programs. You can figure out what gifts, what talents, God has given you and make sure you use them not simply to enhance your own life but to touch the lives of others. There are loads of things we can do if we just sit down and think about it.

Gold and frankincense and myrrh are pretty odd gifts to give a baby. But those gifts were not only expressions of who Jesus was and is – king, and God, and sacrifice – they were expressions of adoration and love from those who gave them. What will you give him?

Stephen

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Sign of the Times



Spiritual Development Committee

THE SPIRITUALITY OF EMOTIONS

Father David Harrison, a former curate here at St. John's, will be leading a Quiet Day on Saturday, February 20. This Quiet Day will provide the opportunity for participants to explore a range of human emotions and the spirituality of each of them, reflecting on Jesus's own emotions as he journeys from the desert, to the Cross, to new life.

Join us as for this day of liturgy, addresses and quiet time to explore the spirituality of temptation, anger, despair and serenity. The day will be held in the in the peaceful surroundings of Canton United Church. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Watch the weekly bulletins for details or contact Shane Watson (e-mail: shane.karen@sympatico.ca | phone: 905-885-8622) to express your interest.

MEETING JESUS AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME

The Lenten season will begin with our Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday February 17th. Join us on the five subsequent Wednesday evenings (February 24, March 3, 10, 17 and 24) for this Lenten Study, led by Father Stephen.

The evening sessions will begin with a simple soup supper at 6 p.m. followed by the study at 7 p.m.

Watch the weekly bulletins for more information or contact Shane Watson (e-mail: shane.karen@sympatico.ca | phone: 905-885-8622) to express your interest.

Thank You

I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere Thank you to Father Stephen for his many visits and to all the wonderful members of St. John's for all their prayers, and for all the cards they have sent to me, and the phone calls and visits. It was very much appreciate.

Don Grimshaw



Northumberland Youth for Christ

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September 29, 2009

Dear Rev. Stanley Isherwood and Friends who collected the pop cans:

Thank you so much for your recent efforts towards the cost of renovations at The Silverworks. After all was said and done we raised \$107.00 from the pop cans plus two donations adding up to \$75.00, which came as a result of the Pop Can Drive. This gave us a total of \$182.00 towards the cost of the renovations. It has been a successful Pop Can Drive!

We have also received an anonymous donation of \$160.00 that came in before the drive and another donation after! One of the local churches has promised some funds to help us out financially as well.

We have been blessed to receive donations of 2 x 4's, drywall, a kitchen sink and taps, and a set of kitchen cabinets! All of these things go a long way to reducing our cost!

Also, three of my current volunteers at the Silverworks have extensive experience in the construction and plumbing fields! And two of the local churches have pledged physical support of this project.

God has richly blessed us at this time! And I for one am truly grateful! It seems God is answering our prayers before we even have chance to ask them, as I have not had to put in a formal request for donations (beyond pop cans) of help or money!

We are planning to put in the kitchen within the next two months and the bathroom will probably follow shortly after that.!

Thank you for your part in this!

God bless you for your partnership with us in this ministry.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christine Moss", written over a circular stamp or mark.

Christine Moss
Cobourg Staff

Kid's Page

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.

John 3:16



The Youth Group has had new leaders since this September. Jackie, Stacy and Steve have had a great time hosting several events for the youth including a rock band night and a pizza party with plans for many exciting events to come in the new year. We have lots of great ideas but any suggestions are welcome and we'll try to make things happen. We started the year off with a games night that quickly led to the classic game of hide-and-go-seek with a twist - we played in the dark. We were supposed to have a marshmallow roast but had to cancel due to the weather. We definitely plan to roast marshmallows in the future though! The next event was a Mario Kart tournament. We were quite impressed with Jackie's driving skills... perhaps a real go-kart race could happen in the future to test her?!? And we have watched movies in the youth room and at the theatre. The most successful event so far was Rock Band - the band will be back together soon - check out the YouTube video. We were all amazed at the serious skills that the kids had and we were very happy to have in attendance Jackie's fiancé Bruce (congrats guys!!!) and Father Stanley. It was an awesome night. The make-your-own-pizza party was a great way to end 2009 and we had special guests - Father Stephen, Fiona and Thomas! We even had some musical entertainment. Thanks to all the kids for coming out and we hope to see you on the first and third Fridays of every month! We hope that you guys have enjoyed it as much as we have!

Jackie, Stacy, Steve

Do you think that your life doesn't really begin or at least start to be fun and entertaining until your 16, 18, or 21? If so, do I have some new information for you.

I know of a commitment that you can make in your life right now when your 12-13 years old. It could completely change how you live your life, how you view the people around you, and how you understand and what you believe about God. One more important point is that it could be the most outrageous, action packed adventure you will ever go on! Are you interested?

On Sunday March 21st confirmation classes will start! I know that typically confirmation classes do not normally mean lots of fun, interesting, and adventurous times; but trust me, it will. I don't want to be bored while I am teaching it and so therefore you can expect reading from our confirmation books and the bible too of course, but also hands on opportunities to make our lessons come alive and lots of question and answer times where we can just chat and talk about something you have always wanted to know about, God, or the church but just haven't asked yet. I love music and movies so you can also count on many of the lessons having movie and music clips to add fresh new ideas to the topics at hand.

So what are confirmation classes all about? In infant baptism we have parents and God parents that make a commitment to God and the church that they are going to make sure that the child being baptized is going to be raised in a godly way. Confirmation is when that same child which is now usually around 12 to 13 years old can make their own promise to the church and to God about how they are going to live their life. During classes we will have eight weeks of learning what and why we say the words we say every Sunday morning and what is going on with those bowing and hand signals that clergy and others do during the service.

Please look for more information in the church bulletin as March 21st comes closer.

FOCUS ON OUTREACH

Our Parish has formed a Prayer Chain. An Intercessory prayer Chain is a group of people that has been called to the ministry of praying for others on an ongoing basis. They have committed themselves to pray regularly, confidentially and individually, for the people and concerns that are requested of them. They form part of a chain through which God's love flows, and they circulate prayer requests and results among themselves via a communications chain. Anyone who wishes to hold up a person in prayer must have that persons' permission to do so. Your contact for prayer requests is Jackie Brinblecombe at 905-885-0218.

Praying for others is a privilege and a gift to each one held up in prayer. I encourage everyone to take full advantage of this new ministry in our midst.

The Reverend Sheila Archer, Deacon.

Parish News

Vestry 2010

Our Annual Vestry Meeting will follow the 10:30 service on Sunday, February 28, 2010 regardless of the weather. Vestry Reports are due no later than Monday, February 8 and will be distributed on Sunday, February 21. The late date of the meeting is due to the Parish Holy Land Pilgrimage.

According to the Canons of the Diocese, the following persons are eligible to vote at Vestry: "persons sixteen years of age and over who have been members of and worshippers with this congregation for at least three months prior to the annual meeting of the vestry."

This year we have three positions open for election: Advisory Board Member, Regular Synod Delegate, and Alternate Synod Delegate. Regular Synod Delegates are members of Advisory Board and must be willing to attend monthly board meetings as well as Synod. Nomination forms are in the January 10 Sunday bulletin. Simply follow the instructions to nominate someone to these positions. For more information on Advisory Board and Synod, please see www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Children's Services

Beginning this year, our Family Eucharists will be replaced by Children's Services. Children's services will be Eucharists and will resemble the Family Eucharists you are used to. However, the children will take a larger leadership role at these services. Also, some of the music will be oriented more to the children and will include songs they know from Kids' Club and Vacation Bible Camp. These services will also be significantly shorter than Family Eucharists were. We hope that people of all ages will enjoy worshipping together at these gatherings. However, the 8:30 service remains an option for those who prefer a quieter experience. Children's Services will be held five times each year: Vacation Bible Camp Kick-Off Sunday (sometime in Lent); the Children's Easter Celebration (the Sunday after Easter Day); Vacation Bible Camp Reunion Sunday (in mid-September); the Children's Advent Service (in early Advent); and the Children's Christmas Service (on Christmas Eve). For more information on Kids' Club and Children's Ministry please contact Marianne at stjohnskids@bell.net.

Communications Committee

Early in 2010 a new Communications Committee will be serving the parish. The brainchild of a previous Vestry meeting, this committee will assist groups and individuals to communicate information both within the parish membership and to the wider community. They will also assist in making sure that our Website, Sunday bulletins, the Eagles, signage and advertising are all as effective and helpful as possible.

Parish Website

Over the course of the past year, our Parish Website has taken on a whole new look. We are grateful to all who have made this possible, especially Brian Dench, our Webmaster, and Robert Kyle and Jackie Foote, who provided most of the photographs. The Website is updated weekly, so please make use of it to find the information you may be looking for in various aspects of parish life. Check it out at www.stjohnschurchph.ca and make sure you bookmark the site!

The Eagle

Several of you have signed up to receive The Eagle electronically rather than through mail delivery. Thank you! This helps us reduce waste and paper costs, as well as making the job of our faithful mail deliverers a little easier. If you have not yet signed up for e-delivery, please log on to our parish Website and follow the instructions in the column on the left of our homepage. You may also download The Eagle directly from the Website.

Pre-Authorized Giving

Approximately 40 members of St. John's make use of the Pre-Authorized Giving Plan. If you feel comfortable joining the ranks, it would be highly appreciated. Pre-Authorized giving ensures that your support of our ministry is regular, even when you travel or are ill. As you can imagine, this makes budgeting and financial planning much simpler for our volunteer Churchwardens. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Laurie Woodruff at stjohns@stjohnschurchph.ca or 905-885-2171.

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We're on the Web at
www.stjohnschurchph.ca

Parish Calendar

Event	Date	Time & Place
Parish Breakfast	January 24, 2010	9:15 am, St. John's Parish Hall
Parish Holy Land Pilgrimage	January 31—February 14	
Vestry Reports due	February 8, 2010	Church Office
Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper	February 16, 2010	Lower Parish Hall
Ash Wednesday	February 17, 2010	
Parish Lent Quiet Day	February 20, 2010	Canton United Church
Annual General Vestry Meeting	February 28, 2010	Parish Hall
Children's Lent Service	March 7, 2010	
Confirmation Classes begin	March 21, 2010	Watch bulletin for details
Palm Sunday	March 28, 2009	
Maundy Thursday	April 1, 2009	
Good Friday	April 2, 2009	
Easter Sunday	April 4, 2009	
Confirmation	May 23, 2010	