

Message from Fr. Stephen



On Sunday, September 27 we will join Anglicans across the Diocese of Toronto as we celebrate “Back to Church Sunday”. Originating in England, “Back to Church Sunday” is a simple way to invite those around us into the life of our community and the life of faith. It also reminds us of the importance of evangelism in our lives and the life of the Church. Without people telling one another about Jesus, none of us would be sitting in pews today. More importantly, none of us would know the joy, peace, hope and love that Jesus brings to life.

For many Christians, evangelism is a scary word. We often think it is the stuff of Sunday morning broadcasts, not every day Christian living. But that is not true. Jesus calls us all to witness to the life-giving power of the Gospel and tell others about it. I once heard evangelism defined as “one hungry person telling another where to find bread.” To me, that seems like a very simple yet apt description of what evangelism is about.

For years, people who study Church sociology have been telling us that the main way churches grow is by lay people inviting their friends, neighbours and family members to church with them. That is what “Back to Church Sunday” is about. Here’s what Bishop Linda has to say about it: “I think this is a challenge to the people who are currently in the pews to think about questions like - ‘Why would I invite somebody?’ ‘Why am I here?’ ‘What is important about this?’ And I hope it’s about more than just bringing more bums into pews to pay the bills. There has to be a reason to come to church.”

In a week or so, invitation cards will be available for you to make use of as September 27 approaches. People often think it is the job of the clergy to invite people to church, and I suppose it is. But what really works is when you, ordinary people in the pews, invite people to join us in worship. Let me stress that this is not about inviting someone who already attends a church. Rather, it is an opportunity to help someone you care about connect to Christ. I hope you’ll do it. I would love to see 100% participation in this great event. After all, we have something wonderful to share. My hope is that inviting others to join our community becomes a way of life for us and not just a special event.

God bless you,
Stephen+

Note: September 27 was to be our annual Jazz Service. This has had to be cancelled because Mike Janzen is no longer able to be with us. For more information on “Back to Church Sunday” see: www.toronto.anglican.ca and www.backtochurch.co.uk/

Inside this issue:

Parish News	2
Joseph Scriven Memorial Celebration	3
Kid’s Page	4
New Sunday School Program	5
Focus on Outreach	6
“Dime A Day”	7
Parish Calendar of Events	8

Sign of the Times



Christmas Story



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH 50th Anniversary presentation of The Christmas Story



This December marks the 50th year that members of St. John's Church have presented the town of Port Hope with an opportunity to witness the marvel of the birth of Jesus. The wonderful story has been performed by the youth and adults of the parish, some even having three generations participating. It is a moving experience as you present your faith to the town. Youth groups from the town make the effort to attend and our Christmas Story is the first experience of Christianity that their members experience. Rehearsals present an unique chance for the adults in the parish to get to know some of the outstanding youth we have within our church. A great deal of effort goes into presenting this production and a dedicated core of volunteers stand ready to organize another successful year. The casting is done after Halloween and rehearsals are every Sunday through November. There are many roles both on-stage and behind the scenes that must be filled. Please take some time to consider this opportunity, especially in this golden anniversary year.

Watch the bulletin for more information.

Spiritual Development Committee

Fall Bible Study

Do angels really have wings? Do they protect people from harm? Can people become angels after death? Ongoing bible study was one of the goals identified by the parish during the Visioning weekend held in 2007. So this year, in addition to our traditional Lenten study, we will also be holding a bible study in the fall, leading up to Advent, about angels. The study will differ from the Lenten study in that rather than being lecture based, it will be discussion oriented. The study will explore what the bible says about angels in four study sessions to be held on Wednesday evenings in the lower parish hall at 7 p.m. beginning on October 28 and concluding with an Evensong service on November 25th. You can sign-up on sheets that will be available at the back of the church beginning in early October or by contacting Shane Watson

(e-mail: shane.karen@sympatico.ca or phone: 905-885-8622).

Joseph Scriven Memorial Celebration

We cordially invite you to join with us in a special Joseph Scriven Memorial Celebration, September 12 -13, 2009 in Port Hope, Ontario. The programs celebrate the author of the well-known hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus". For further information please visit the Joseph Scriven website at www.josephscriven.org »

Saturday, September 12

- 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 3:00 pm: Two Hour Bus Tours to area Scriven Sites escorted by Peter Brotherhood: \$10.00 per person. Call 1-877-238-9132 for reservations. Bus tours depart from Memorial Park.
- 10:00 am to 5:00 pm: Joseph Scriven Memorabilia will be on display at the Port Hope Public Library across street from Memorial Park.
- 11:30 am to 1:30 pm St. Paul's Presbyterian Church will host luncheon. Tickets are \$10. for adults and \$5. for children under 12. Call 905 885 2622 for advance tickets or purchase at the door. Church chime will be played at intervals throughout day. Church will be open for viewing from 11:00 A.M. through 4:30 P.M.
- 2:00 pm Official dedication of refurbished Joseph Scriven memorial with a new dry stonewall enclosure.
- 4:30 to 6:30 pm St. John's Anglican Church will host a BBQ on its lawns. Tickets are \$12. for adults and \$6. for children under 12. Buy tickets in advance at Holton Flowers, 62 Walton Street or at the door. Only steps away from The Port Hope United Church, it's the perfect way to eat before strolling to the concert. Information about the barbeque is available by calling 1-800-811-1131.
- 7:30 pm Evening concert at Port Hope United Church featuring local talent: Cheryl Dunn and other soloists, choirs, audience sing-along, bands and musical ensembles. Free, with donations appreciated at the door to support the local Benevolent Society.

Sunday, September 13

- 11:00 am Special Joseph Scriven outdoor service in Memorial Park hosted by First Baptist Church. Other local church services will also pay tribute to Joseph Scriven's memory.



**JOSEPH SCRIVEN
MEMORIAL
CELEBRATION
PORT HOPE, ON**

SEPT. 12-13, 2009

WWW.JOSEPHSCRIVEN.ORG

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Kid's Page



New Sunday School Program Introduced!

Young Children and Worship is the new Sunday School program being adopted by St. John's Kids' Club. *Children and Worship* is cross-cultural and is being experienced in a variety of Christian denominations in North America, England, Hungary, Romania, Ukraine, South Korea, and South Africa. The program works well for a Sunday School with children of various ages and abilities.

Children and Worship presents biblical stories and parables using wooden figures to illustrate. The approach is of a sensorimotor style. Children *experience* rather than just learn about God and worship. The program is based on the four-fold order of worship, uses the liturgical year, and uses "signing" which teaches children that all people of varying abilities are welcome.

At the beginning of each children's worship session, we assemble and meet together in our special "place". We greet each other (with word and sign) – *The Lord be with you; and also with you*. A "Child of the Day" is chosen. We sing songs and give our offering. We prepare to hear a story of God by singing and signing – *Be Still and know that I am God*. A story or parable is presented using wooden figures and then there is a time to wonder and then respond with art and craft. We close by singing and signing a benediction – *Go now in peace, may the love of God surround you everywhere you go*.

For further information contact stjohnskids@bell.net or visit www.childrenandworship.org.

Resources: *Young Children and Worship*
by Sonia Stewart & Jerome Berryman
Published by Westminster John Knox Press
Louisville, Kentucky 1989

Following Jesus
by Sonja Stewart
Geneva Press, 2000

FOCUS ON OUTREACH

Get out your calendars and be sure to mark these two dates.

Prepare yourself for some healthy activity in the fresh air and support outreach too! Set aside Sunday afternoon on October 4th and watch the weekly bulletins for more details. A little hint—you might want to brush the dust off your trainers.

You won't want to miss our expected visit from RACHEL JOHNSON. Rachel has returned to Canada from her time in Africa during which she provided nursing care to children with the HIV/AIDS virus. On October 18th Rachel will share with us some of her experiences during her months with the Keiskamma mission. Don't miss this opportunity to hear directly from her about her work and receive a first hand description of the AIDS epidemic in Africa. Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information.

If you have an idea for an outreach activity, be sure to pass it along to one of the Outreach Committee members. We have a great team made up of Nancy Nichols, Mary Ellen Goucher, Pat Honey, Don Grimshaw, John LeCain, Dave Bradshaw, Keith Pickett and Dn. Barbara Russell.

“Dime a Day”

The outreach committee is planning a lunch to take place in the parish hall following the 10:30am service on Sunday, October 18th.

Rachel Johnson RN, BScN, will be guest speaker at the lunch and will talk about her experiences in the south eastern part of South Africa where we are sending our “Dime a Day” contributions.

All are invited and if you have family, friends or neighbours who may be interested in this program, bring them along.

Please make a note of the date, **October 18th**, and plan to be there.

Christian One Liners

Don't let your worries get the best of you;
Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

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Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited
Until you try to sit in their pews.

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Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.

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It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

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The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose,
But mosquitoes come close.

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When you get to your wit's end, You'll find God lives there.

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People are funny; they want the front of the bus,
Middle of the road, And back of the church.

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Opportunity may knock once,
But temptation bangs on the front door forever.

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Quit griping about your church;
If it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

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If a church wants a better pastor,
It only needs to pray for the one it has.

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

Parish Calendar

Event	Date	Time & Place
Kid's Club resumes	September 13, 2009	St. John's Parish Hall
Joseph Scriven Memorial Celebration	September 12 & 13, 2009	See article within
Parish Breakfast & Vacation Bible School Reunion	September 20, 2009	9:20 am, St. John's Parish Hall
"Back to Church" Sunday	September 27, 2009	See article within
Outreach Committee Walk-a-thon	October 4, 2009	See article within
Rachel Johnson speaks about her ministry to children with AIDS	October 18, 2009	See article within
Parish Life Committee Tour	October 26 to 28	
Family Halloween Party	October 30, 2009	6:00 pm, St. John's Parish Hall
Annual Christmas Tea & Bazaar	November 21, 2009	St. John's Parish Hall
Cheryl Dunn Concert and Dessert Party	November 21, 2009	Concert in the Church with reception in the Parish Hall