

The Church Mouse



Fall 2007 Edition

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Parish Family,

WELCOME BACK

I hope you had a restful summer and are ready to get back into the swing of things. Although we still only have one hall, we are planning for a full fall program at St. George's. Our start up BBQ and Vestry meeting will take place on **September 9** following a combined Sunday Service at **10 a.m.** The Reverend Stephen Pessah has developed an outstanding ministry plan for our Sunday School and Youth Group building on the energizing VBS held in August. Our worship schedule, as of **September 16**, will return to three services on Sunday – **8:00, 9:00 & 10:30** – with our Wednesday services remaining the same. Evensongs are planned as well as special seasonal services. Periodic reminders will go out but hopefully with all the advanced planning events will already be on your calendars' so we can have maximum participation in these spiritually uplifting events.

Some of our special activities will have to be modified to "fit" our space constraints but St. George's has been gifted with some very creative people who I believe are up to the challenge.

Talking about challenges, we have our hall and roof problems. Hopefully by Vestry we will have some idea about what is going to happen and some timelines. The reconstruction of the Memorial Hall is certainly going to tax our collective patience and wills. Please continue to support and pray for your Wardens as we wade into these uncharted waters and hope we find that helping Hand of God if we start to sink.

Really that's what it is all about. No matter what we are doing together, whether worshipping God, enjoying our fellowship or raising money to pay the bills, if we do it as an expression of our faithfulness to God's love then we are the Body of Christ. As a community we have already shown where our hope and strength lies and I know we will continue to do so in the future. TO GOD BE THE GLORY.

By God's grace,

The Reverend David Warren

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Has anyone noticed the flower beds around the FRONT of our church? **SOMEONE** has been weeding, trimming and planting annuals making the beds look neat, tidy and colourful. Work has also started on the flower beds along the Memorial Hall side!

I do frequent the facility, yet to date, haven't seen who is responsible for this good deed. Perhaps many of you do know - but I do not - and just wanted to say a word of THANKS to the person, or persons, responsible for a job well done. Mother Nature has been unkind of late and the lack of rain is hard on our flower beds and lawns, however, our Tim tries his best to keep things watered, and thanks goes out to him as well!

An Observer





AWARD WINNING BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY

From the Holy Mountain, by William Dalrymple (915/DAL): 1997 Scottish Arts Council Autumn Book Award, shortlisted for the 1998 Thomas Cook Travel Book Award, the John Llewelyn Rjhys Memorial Prize and the Duff Cooper Prize.

Care of the Soul, by Thomas More (158.1/MOO): New York Times Bestseller and Book of the Month Club Selection along with its companion book *Soul Mates* (158.2/MOO) by the same author.

The Mitford Series about Father Tim, an Episcopalian priest by Jan Karon who became #1 bestselling author of the New York Times, nominated for an ABBY award by the American Booksellers Association in 1996, 1997, 1998, and.... (F/KAR)

Christ the Lord, Out of Egypt, by Anne Rice who departed from her usual subject matter after her return to faith in Christ in 1998 and is now dedicating her writing skills to the glory of God: New York Times Bestseller in 2006, selected by BeliefNet.Com as the best spiritual book of the year. (F/RIC)

Unholy Orders, a selection of short mystery stories with a religious twist by award winning authors, edited by Serita Stevens: an Agatha Award Nominee in 2000. (F/STE)

The Good Book: Reading the Bible with mind and heart, by Peter J. Gomes: a New York Times Bestseller in 1996 also became a selection of the Book-of-the-Month and Quality Paperback Book Clubs. (200.1/GOM)

The Jesus I Never Knew, by Philip Yancey: Voted 1996 Christian Book of the Year, and Gold Medaillon Award winner. (232/YAN)

The Case for Faith (231/STR) and ***The Case for Christ*** (232/STR), by Lee Strobel, a former atheist and journalist who investigated the toughest objections to Christianity and in the process found both Faith and Christ are both Gold Medaillon Winners.

And...in the Young Adult section on the wall where the TV is located...

Getting Near to Baby, by Audrey Coulounbis (YA/COU): winner of the 1000 Newberry Honor Book Award, American Library Association Notable Book of the year, School Library Journal Best Book of the Year.

Check them out! Better still....sign them out in the Red Duotang!

Barb Shotlander

WEDDINGS

Matthew Raymond Bryson

and

Sarah Heather Lawrence

May 12, 2007



Jan Alexander Hutchison

and

Amber-Lynn Beers

June 30, 2007



Brent Edwin Cusher

and

Susan Elizabeth Burke

August 18, 2007

BAPTISM

June 3, 2007

Jack Gregory Liness



The next service of Holy Baptism is scheduled for Sunday October 21, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. Baptismal training and rehearsal will be Friday October 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Interested parents should contact the church office and arrange to pick up Baptismal forms to fill out. There is a limit of four families per Baptismal service.

Rev. Stephen Says

It's almost time...I would think as I waited patiently for the Vacation Bible School to begin. Listen! When you're eleven years old and it's the middle of August in Kirkland Lake, ON, this is truly something to get excited about. (Yes I did enjoy growing up in Kirkland Lake; No it was not the excitement capital of the world). While I enjoyed the singing, stories, games and crafts, I have to say one of the most memorable aspects for me were the volunteers who gave so generously of their time, talent, and treasure. I had the impression that they not only cared about the Gospel message they were sharing, but that they had a genuine interest in and compassion for all the young people that gathered each day. This is perhaps one of the reasons I have gravitated toward youth ministry over the years. I want to be, in some way, like those who have had an impact on my life. Perhaps you can relate to a certain degree. I'm sure if we all cast our minds back we can think of someone who influenced us positively in our youth.

When I think of people from Scripture who received influence at a young age, my mind inevitably goes to Timothy, who we learn from Saint Paul's writing was no doubt given profound encouragement in his faith from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5). In our world where so many voices vie for the attention of our young people, it is a mistake to think that they will somehow manage to get around to contemplating the Christian faith out of nowhere. While many youth do leave the faith and come back later on in life, they often have a basic understanding of who God is and who he wants to be in their lives.

It is with all this in mind that I ask you to prayerfully consider investing in young lives this Fall and Winter by becoming a Sunday School teacher. We are hoping to have classes for the following age groupings: Kindergarten to Grade 3; Grade 4 to Grade 7; and Teens. It is my firm conviction that this would be an experience that will serve to strengthen both the youth's faith and your own while together you explore the profound blessings found in this awesome God that we worship and serve. Please contact me if you are at all interested and I would be happy to give you more details.

Respectfully Submitted,



The Reverend Captain Stephen Pessah
Associate Priest, Youth and Young Family Minister

Upcoming Events

October 21 – following the 10:30 service, the Pastoral Care Committee will hold a **Get Acquainted Pot Luck Lunch** to honor those who have made St. George's their spiritual home during the past year. For newcomers, a church tour will follow the lunch at which time you will get an opportunity to meet the people in charge of various groups, learn some history of St. George's, and become acquainted with the "highs and lows" of our buildings. At this time it seems unlikely that Memorial Hall will be ready for use, so this will be an abridged tour. When renovations are completed, no doubt, we will all want to see the completed work. Again, remember...

October 21 Get Acquainted Pot Luck Luncheon

Further information and invitations will come at the beginning of October.

Barb Shotlander,
Pastoral Care Coordinator

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation Classes start **Sunday September 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.** For more information please call Rev. Stephen at 726-8121.

YOUTH EVENTS

WHAT IS YOUR REALITY?

York Simcoe Area youth event on **Saturday October 20, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.** at **St. George's Church**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Start up - Sunday September 9th

OUTREACH

The summer program is going very well. If you have not handed your stuff in there is still plenty of time. I don't sort them all out until the end of September – so for all you cottagers there is still plenty of time left.

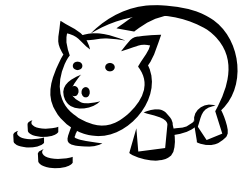
Soup Lunches – The committee has decided to extend our soup lunches to three this next year. I really do need some other people to make soup otherwise it cannot be a success if the same people have to keep making soup. The first one is October 28, and it will be for Habitat for Humanity. If you think that sounds familiar— it is – we were going to have it last year on the Sunday when the Great Fire broke out on the Wednesday – so they are not getting an extra one, just the one we owe them.

However before that takes place we will be having our COFFEE BREAK on September 23 to raise money for the Alzheimer Society. This is our third year but just for our newcomers – I ask many of you to bring goodies which we serve with coffee and everyone makes a freewill offering. Good deal, eh?

As many of you know Lloyd Jensen has been collecting Canadian Tire money for the outreach program and on Sunday presented me with a gift certificate for \$250.00 plus I was given \$28.00 in certificate and money. Betty and I are going to have a great time shopping. It will be shared with the David Busby Centre – Youth Haven – and The Elizabeth Fry Society. They are getting their wish lists ready. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in all these programs. It makes my job easier when you are all so receptive to the ideas and so giving.

Joan Rothon

Financial Planning



Our fire and the uncertainty of full details of our insurance settlement (both time and dollar amount) make it very difficult to plan the balance of the year.

The following positive results were obtained this year:

1. The first stock donation taking advantage of new tax rules took place.
2. Over \$32,000 was raised and paid out for roof repairs (we think all flat roofs are now in good shape).
3. Concert was a great success. We need someone to repeat it next year.
4. Shop and Support sold \$157,844 in shopping cards last year, raising \$5,691.00 net for our roof fund.
5. Outreach received \$250.00 in Canadian Tire money to spend for groups we support (A little spin off from our Spring Food Drive).

NEXT YEAR

1. Year one of the Roof Fund – we estimate we will need to raise about \$110,000 by June 30, 2010 to complete all repairs. Note: Last year we raised over \$42,000 and have about \$10,000 left at this time.
2. I hope Canadian Tire money for Outreach will be in excess of \$500. Note: Save it up - \$25 or more = tax receipt.
3. SHOP and SUPPORT The following formula will raise \$11,000 net for next year.
(60 x 52 x 100 = 11,000)
4. SOMETHING NEW (maybe)

We are looking into U.I.F.'s in July 2013.

More information to follow.

The New Fall Sunday School Program

When we come back to Sunday School this fall, the program will be a little different as we will be following a new curriculum. We have decided to try a user-friendly curriculum that is based on the lectionary. This will help to ensure that your children are learning something relevant to what you as an adult church member will be hearing in the service.

Starting in September, the Sunday School children will be returning to the church service in time to be welcomed into the communion service. This is an important change for our children since we believe that communion is a significant opportunity to join together as the whole body takes part in the one body. We will need your assistance as parents at this time since we are expecting the children to remain with you throughout the rest of the church service.

Lloyd Jensen

Saturday October 6, 2007
Gaither Homecoming "Give it Away Tour"
at Copps Coliseum, Hamilton, Ontario.

Featured performers include:

*Gaither Vocal Band,
Ernie Haase and Signature Sound,
Gordon Mote, Lynda Randle, Jessy Dixon,
Jeff and Sheri Easter and Ben Speer.*

Tour Departs:

Barrie, Kozlov Mall at 1:30 p.m.
Barrie, Tollendale Village at 1:50 p.m.
Barrie Tour Office at 2:25 p.m.

Cost: \$108.00 (includes GST)

Includes: evening buffet at the
"Plainsman Restaurant" followed by the
performance.



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*Many thanks to all our church family, for all your cards
and the welcome visits and support you have given us.
We do appreciate and feel very blessed to receive it.*

Alfred and Marjorie Boyd

Thanks

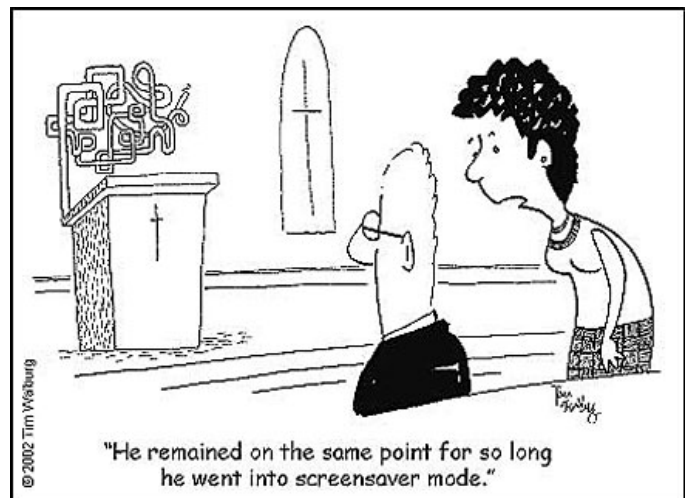
To all of you who made our
vacation Bible School possible!

We really appreciate the time, talent and treasure that
you invested in the lives of the children at St.
George's Barrie and in the surrounding
community!

Blooming by Beth Pessah

I have been admonished many times to
"Bloom where [I'm] planted" but let me tell
you as someone who has been planted and
re-planted a few times, that saying is much
easier said than done. I have not always had
the greatest success at blooming or even
wanting to bloom in all conditions. Sometimes
I have felt more like a weed that needed to be
pulled than a lovely flower bursting forth into
bloom. There have even been times when the
thought of being pulled up and discarded
brought a greater sense of relief than the
thought of being transplanted or, worse yet,
fertilized. Let's face it some soil conditions lend
themselves to a more comfortable growth
experience; a sunny flower bed with many
other beautiful flowers just seems to create a
better atmosphere. Perhaps it is easier to
bloom when those around you are
encouraging you with their own blooms. To be
planted alone in sterile, dry and
undernourished ground is very difficult and
some might even say a waste of seed. Those
places are indeed a test and trial that make it
hard to even hope for the nourishment of
warming sun and refreshing rain. Once you've
been parched it is tough to remember what it
was like to be refreshed.

So now that we have been once again
transplanted and the shock of the move has
worn off and my roots are settling down into
the soil, I am happy to report that I sense the



beginning of a blooming season. It is wonderful to feel the sunshine on my face and to experience the urge to stretch forward and grow into this beautiful garden at St. George's. Thank you so much for providing a place of warmth and nourishment, I anticipate many beautiful seasons of growing and blooming together. Let's hope we can encourage each other to be more flower than weed!