



# The Church Mouse

A Publication of ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, 9 Granville Street, Barrie, ON L4N 3K1  
Pentecost 2008 Edition

## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Parish Family,

### Did Jesus ask too much?

*“A man ran up to Jesus and knelt before him, and began asking Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ...and looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him, and said to him, “One thing you lack....” But at these words his face fell, and he went away grieved...” Mark 10:17, 21, 22.*

The story of Pentecost is about everyone hearing about the glorious work of God in Jesus Christ. It would appear from the story in Acts that everyone who heard Peter responded positively to his words. The truth is not everyone hears the encouraging life giving message. They only hear the **“BUT”** you have to do something now to bring this divine act truly alive in you.” Why is it so difficult for people to accept the **“BUT”** factor in our lives? No one is perfect. We all have things to work on. Why do people get their backs up when the suggestion is made ‘if you want that, then we want you to do this?’ This week I was told that, “Since the Anglican Church is dying you should be glad I’m even asking you to do this!” While this was from someone venting about a request made of them by another Anglican Church, I have heard it several times before. Whether I think the expectations maybe a little over-the-top or not, never the less, the concept of expectations seems to be a Biblical norm. If something is important to you, why would you hesitate to back that feeling up with some form of action? Even if it appears to be a little much for the nature of the request, why not enter into a discussion on the perceived disconnect between the request and the expectation. Both parties might find this dialogue informative and productive. It may not elicit cooperation, but listening to someone’s questions, always improves your presentation. My point is simply, a **“BUT”** should be followed by a **“WHY?”** which builds on the positive statements which preceded the **“BUT.”** In other words, what should always be happening in these situations is a productive dialogue which leads to understanding and informed actions which effectively address the search for “holiness”/wholeness. Giving someone a TO DO LIST (hoops to jump through), without the benefit of the understanding of how these activities impact their spiritual journey negates, for me, the purpose of spiritual leadership. I personally do not expect agreement or

compliance with what I would label “expectations” but I do hope that I can explain the **“WHY?”** I believe this to be a helpful way to meet the need someone presents me with.

Unfortunately, this brings us back to the Gospel story. Some will walk away because it was too much. The person I talked with is doing just that. They are walking away. They had ignored the Church for several years and when the Church asked them to show that what they were asking for was as important to them as it is to the Church, they were offended and ‘walked.’ The expectation may have been too much. It may not have been explained well enough. Who knows? The productive dialogue will never take place now. In my opinion both parties have lost.

Over the last six months several people have been putting their heart and soul into fixing up St. George’s. At the end of this Mouse you will find something that many Anglicans have problems with. We are asking everyone to help financially. I’m told this will offend some. Frankly, those most likely to be offended will not have bothered to read this. They will not have heard about the constantly leaking roof, or the fire, or how in spite of all of this St. George’s is growing and reaching out to meet the needs of the community. They will only hear **“BUT THEY WANT MY MONEY!”** They’re right, in that we need to pay for the repairs, but that’s not the bottom line. We want every one to enjoy what it means to be a part of the great things which God is doing here at St. George’s. This Anglican Church is not dying. We believe, celebrate and enjoy the Resurrection Gospel of Jesus Christ in all that we do. We are willing to invest in the living expression of Jesus Christ which this parish is. So, YES, we are asking you to participate in this glorious thing called Church.

Bottom line....if the expectations are too high when the Church asks something of you ....before you do that **“Anglican thing”** and just walk away, talk to someone. Even if, after the dialogue, there needs to be a time apart, I would hope that the following words are ones we can all see God’s grace in. **“Happy to meet. Sorry to part. Happy to meet again.”** We will keep a place at the Lord’s Table for you.

**“To God be the Glory, Great things He has done.”**

The Reverend David Warren

You're Invited to....

**The Re-Dedication of Memorial Hall**

- Sunday, April 27th at 10:30 a.m.

We will recognize and celebrate St. George's Day with the re-dedication of Memorial Hall.

Followed by...

**A Get Acquainted Pot Luck Luncheon**

- Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 am service  
**For Whom?** Newcomers wishing to meet long-time parishioners, Long-time parishioners wishing to meet newcomers.

**What to Bring?** Your favourite dish (preferably for 4-6 people)

**Purpose?** Meet the officers on the back of the bulletin. Take a tour of the church and learn about our history, concerns and perhaps what talents you may be able to contribute to the parish life.

**"Golden Oldies" in the Library**

We have some not so new gems that are timeless in their message. Explore!

Selections from the writings of one of the world's greatest philosophers and theologians in *The Pocket Aquinas* (201/AQU)

*A Shepherd Remembers* by Leslie D. Weatherhead (223.2/WEA). A devotional study of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm written before the State of Israel was born, it still accurately portrays shepherding and the land as it remains today.

Herbert Lockyer in *Seven Words of Love* (232.96/LOC) exposes an authentic love that embraces all mankind in the seven words uttered from the cross.

In Thomas Kepler's, *The Meaning and Mystery of the Resurrection* (239/KEP), the author argues that without Jesus' resurrection there would be no early church, no New Testament, no religion called Christianity.

*Candles in the City* by G. Curtis Jones (260/JON) examines the relevance and problems of our church today by looking at the 7 churches in the Revelation of John.

A collection of poems, quotations to both inspire and lead to reflection is found in *Apples of Gold*, compiled by Jo Petty (811/PET).

Betty Smith's, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (F/SMI), sets forth a poignant, deeply understanding story of childhood and family relationships.

An historical fiction by Godfrey Turton, *My Lord of Canterbury* (F/TUR) presents a biographical novel



**THE ST. GEORGE'S BOOK CLUB**

To bring any of you up to speed with what has been accomplished at St. George's Book Club since its inception, I am including a little review of each of the books that we have read thus far. In November, we met to discuss *Left to Tell*, by Immaculée Ilibigiza.

"An inspirational, life-altering book. Once you turn that first page, you're changed forever. You will never forget Immaculée and what it means to embrace life in the darkest of times."

-Cindy Pearlman, *New York Times* Syndicate

In early January we met to discuss the book *Christ the Lord, Out of Egypt* by Anne Rice.

From Publishers Weekly "The emotional heart of the story—Jesus' gradual discovery of the miraculous birth his parents have never discussed with him—picks up steam as well, as he begins to understand why he can heal the sick and raise the dead.

In February we read and discussed Anita Diamant's book, *The Red Tent*. From Publishers Weekly . . . . Diamant succeeds admirably in depicting the lives of women in the age that engendered our civilization and our most enduring values.

In March we looked at *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett. "An extraordinary epic buttressed by suspense ... a mystifying puzzle involving the execution of an innocent man... the erection of a magnificent cathedral... romance, rivalry and spectacle... a monumental masterpiece... a towering triumph from a major talent!" - *ALA Booklist*

This month (April 30) we will discuss *Watermelon Syrup* by Annie Jacobsen and next month (May) we will read and discuss *Mistaken Identity Two Families, One Survivor*,

**We are pleased to announce that  
The Right Reverend George Elliott,  
Area Bishop of York-Simcoe  
has appointed  
The Reverend David Adams  
Honorary Assistant at St. George's.**

**The official welcome for Rev. David Adams  
will take place Sunday April 27, 2008  
at the 10:30 a.m. service.**

## OUTREACH

We have been very busy in Outreach. The casseroles/money have been coming in fast and furious. Thank you so much for your support.

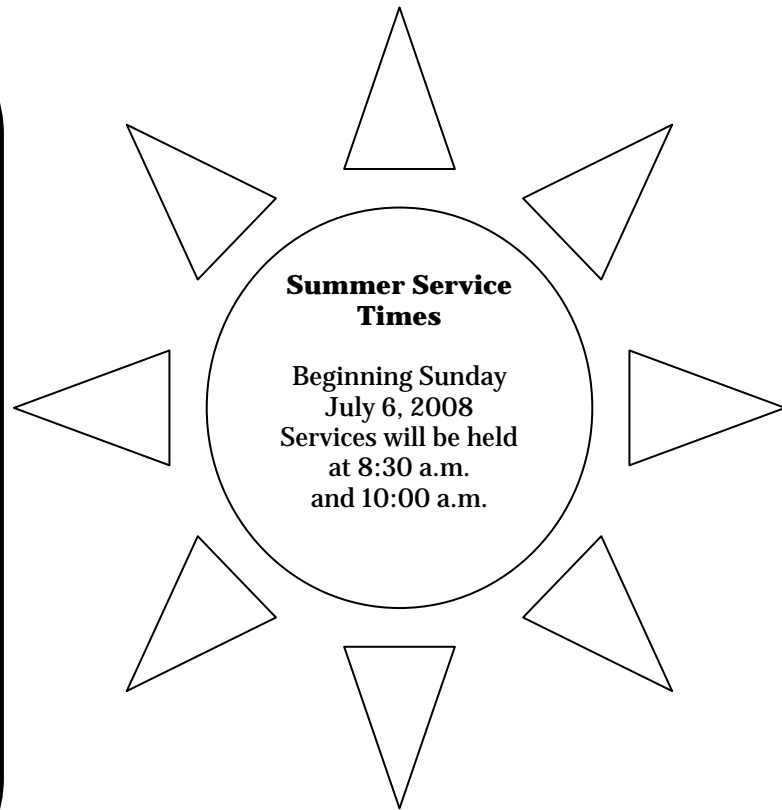
This season we held three soup lunches. Your Outreach Committee thought we would go outside the box and have a soup lunch for charities that we don't support in the church per se. There are many groups out there who need help, but obviously we cannot help everyone. However, we thought a Soup Lunch would be a great way to give a lift to three such agencies. Habitat for Humanity - David Busby Centre (who we do support) and The Barrie Literacy Council.

The Summer program will be starting up again in June. Watch the bulletin for more details.

Teddy bears are still going strong. I have put a lot of cotton in the office. If anyone wants to knit dishcloths for the Bazaar that would be great.

*Joan Rothon*

Chairman



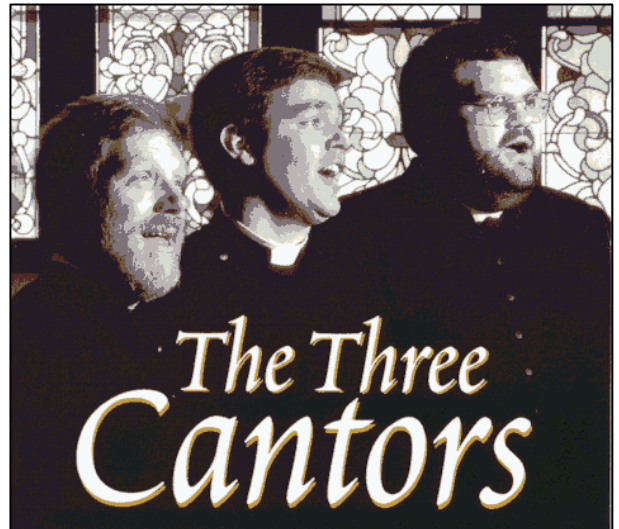
### Last Call for Favorite Prayers to share!

Please put your submissions in my church mail box by May 1. Here are some samples of what I'm looking for. *Grace Haldenby*

#### PRAYER OF AN AFRICAN CHRISTIAN

Oh God enlarge my heart  
that it may be big enough to receive  
the greatness of your love  
Stretch my heart  
That it may take into it all those  
Who with me around the world  
Believe in Jesus Christ  
Stretch it that it  
May take into it all those who  
Do not know Him but are my responsibility because  
I know Him.  
And stretch it that it  
may take in all those who are  
not lovely in my eyes and whose  
hand I do not want to touch.  
Through Jesus Christ, my Saviour

*Taken from "Bearing our Sorrows"*  
ed. By Ashcroft and Elliott



7:30pm  
Wednesday May 14, 2008  
The First Christian Reform Church,

33 Shirley St., Barrie.  
Sponsored by St. George's Anglican Church  
and St. John's, Craighurst

Tickets \$20 available from the church office  
726-8121

All proceeds to PWRDF, St. John's and St. George's Building Funds

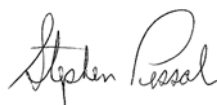
Rev. Stephen  
Says

It won't be long before young people will be settling into their summer routines which will inevitably include: summer jobs, swimming, boating, fishing, golf (oh yeah!), and let's not forget that long anticipated trip to the amusement park! What isn't to love about being violently thrown into every imaginable direction in two to three minute segments? It's really not so bad, I suppose, as long as you plan your meals carefully so as not to find yourself on the "Jet Screamer" right after lunch! Admittedly I am a huge fan of the Roller Coaster and avail myself of the opportunity whenever possible, which isn't often as my children have yet to catch the "Coaster" bug! When you think about it, it does tend to border on the absurd to think that you climb the first hill one spine tingling "clink" at a time only to be released into a breath-taking hurtle at break-neck speed down the first hill and up the next and so on. If you're lucky, the first hill will cast you into a series of twists and loops that pretty much leave your lungs in your throat for the rides duration! While reading this I do have to wonder what the attraction is; but the real mystery is why, after subjecting myself to such abuse, am I quite prepared to stand in line another hour to do it all over again? Somehow the twists, turns, ups and downs become an irresistible lure that hook people for the rest of their lives!

As it so happens our Vacation Bible School this year is called *Son World Adventure Park - A Thrilling Ride with Jesus* and as you might imagine follows an amusement park theme guiding participants through a Biblical adventure that will teach them lessons about Belief, Action, Forgiveness, Obedience, and Choosing to live for Jesus on a daily basis. This of course will be done along with the usual Bible Club fare of games, stories, crafts, music, and of course awesome carnival snacks! I will take this opportunity to formally invite all interested youth ages 5-12 to join us the week of Monday July 7<sup>th</sup> thru Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please mark these dates on your calendar and join us for the ride of a lifetime!

Now before you think this has been nothing more than an elaborate V.B.S. advertisement, I want to issue a reminder that youth programming such as this does not happen by chance, but rather involves careful planning and a lot of prayer and hard work on the part of many. I would also like to suggest that the only way our youth program here at St. George's will grow is through the efforts of a "team" of dedicated leadership. While I am greatly indebted to those who have come alongside me thus far, I am cognizant of the enormity of the task and the help that is required to sustain consistent youth ministry. With that in mind I would like to issue an invitation to anyone who wishes to explore the possibility of working with me to continue to build a ministry that will profoundly impact the lives of our youth for years to come. The possibilities range from bi-weekly/weekly meetings to after school clubs. I assure you, we have at St. George's tremendous potential to further grow the ministry that has begun - but we cannot do it without help. Training will be provided over time for those on the team, but I think you will find, like my experience on the roller coaster, that the seemingly daunting twists and turns, ups and downs of youth ministry are, in the end, the very elements that will draw you in deeper than you imagined and keep you interested for years to come. I am reminded in Philippians that although the Apostle Paul's ministry took him around many tentative and sometimes even dangerous corners, he could say confidently at the end of the day, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Phil. 4:13). May God enable us to perceive what our involvement might be with regards to our youth program and forge ahead confidently knowing that come what may, the adventure will indeed be one through which Christ will sustain every step of the way.

Respectfully Submitted



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

# Nathan and Matthew's Kids Column

Hey kids!

Which is your favourite artist?

- a) The Jonas Brothers
- b) Corbin Bleu
- c) Hannah Montana
- d) Cheetah Girls

Submit your answer to Rev. Stephen's mailbox.

## JOKES:

Q: Which flowers are fun to kiss? A: *Tulips.*

Q: What do you get if you cross a porcupine and a sheep? A: *An animal that knits socks!*

Q: What did the hurricane say to the tornado?

A: *Let's blow this town!*

Q: Why do you measure snakes in inches?

A: *Because they have no feet!*

Q: What happens when a frog gets stuck in the mud? A: *It gets unhoppy!*

## STORY:

A man brought a lion back from Africa. One day he was walking with a lion on a leash, a policeman stopped him. "You can't walk around with a lion. Take him to the zoo!" "OK," said the man. The next day the policeman saw the man and the lion again. "I thought I told you to take the lion to the zoo", he said. "I did" replied the man, "today I am taking him to the movies!"

You are welcome to submit  
Your own jokes or riddles to  
Rev. Stephen's mailbox.



Vacation Bible School  
July 7-11  
9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
For Children  
Ages 5-12 years

A thrilling ride with Jesus!

