



THE ST. GEORGE DRAGON FLYER

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THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. GEORGE'S OF FOREST HILL ANGLICAN CHURCH

EASTER 2008

Dear Friends,

Through the season of Lent, those involved in the Lenten Book Study Group have been reading and discussing Sara Miles' wonderful book, Take this Bread: A radical Conversion. While on first appearance it seems to be about how a person who had previously shunned faith in all its many expressions, came face to face with Christ in the invitation to share in the Eucharist, and then went on to feed others by establishing a food pantry in her home parish of St. Gregory's San Francisco.

Were that the entirety of the message of this book, it would still be a very worthwhile read, but as we have read and discussed this little volume, we have found far more there than the first appearance would suggest. As we have seen and discussed what happened and is happening in St. Gregory's, the early reaction might even have been a little shock. But as you begin to look more closely, you see that the transformation that Sara describes in herself, and in her parish is nothing less than the Easter story living itself out yet again in a particular time and place. It is the story of God's call in an individual life, and in the life of a parish community to death and resurrection; to let go of those

things that are no longer working to spread the Gospel, and to embrace those things that will help us to serve those God has called us to serve, and to proclaim hope and new life in this community today.

Remarkable things have happened since we first faced the challenge of discerning God's vision for our parish. This book has served to remind us that those first successes, exciting as they may be, are not the end goal. We cannot become complacent, and simply sit down in the comfort of this place along the journey. God's love is still calling us forward.

This Eastertide, your parish council is inviting all members to come to a Vision check-up, of the sort where it matters not whether

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you have optical coverage. It is a night to discuss what we have accomplished, celebrate those things that are going extremely well, look critically at those areas where we need to apply a little more work, and set goals for where we hope to progress in the coming year or two. We have engaged the Very Rev. Terrance Dance – Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral – to lead us in this

evening of prayerful consideration, and have tentatively set a date of May 16th. Dinner will be provided for this great event.

Perhaps the most exciting part of this season of celebration of our Lord's Resurrection is the fact that though the story continues to be told 2000 years after the fact, it continues to be a powerful story that challenges us to open ourselves and our community to the new life that comes of faithful discipleship. May Christ richly bless each of you in this Eastertide.

Faithfully
Fr. Don

FROM THE WARDENS

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We are now in the season of Lent and Easter is fast approaching.

We have a number of council members who are not returning this year. We would like to thank them for their past service. These members are Lillian Cressman, Roberta Finnie and Margie Warren. These ladies have been members of our council for three years and each of them have been involved in a different committee.

We would like to welcome our new council members for 2008 as well as those returning for another year. Our new members are; Susan Butt, Nathan Butt (youth rep),

Valerie Cuthbert, Gerry McGregor, Karen Baker, Judy Proctor, Jean Horne and Andrea Balfour. Our executive consists of: Wayne Matheson – People’s Warden, Jim Stirling – Rector’s Warden, Reta Risto – Deputy People’s Warden and John Ryrrie – Deputy Rector’s Warden.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone for helping to reduce the deficit of 2007 from \$22,000.00 to \$2,500.00. What an incredible job the people of this parish have done in reducing the deficit by that great amount.

Our focus for this year of 2008 is to provide volunteers for our Deanery Habitat for Humanity house build, to start this spring. Our other focus is to eliminate the debt that St. George’s is carrying. More of these details will be given at a later date.

Easter is such an important season in the Christian faith. During this time, we need to do some self reflection on our own lives and spend some time each day in prayer, meditation, reading or listening to some spiritual music.

During the week of Holy Week at St. George’s, there are no meetings being held as we feel that this is one week the people need to have for their own spiritual awareness. At this time of the year, we need to turn our focus on the life of Jesus, the crucifixion and the resurrection. We offer many services during this time and a three day prayer vigil in the chapel. People can sign up for one or two hours at a time and spend it in quiet meditation.

We will be worshipping in the various services and hope to see you during some of the many services offered during the season of Lent and Holy Week.

Please find enclosed a Special Easter Offering envelope. If you are able to give a small extra amount this season, it would be greatly appreciated.

Yours in Christ, Your Wardens

NEWS FROM OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

As the Dragon Flyer goes to print the children of St. George’s are very busy preparing for Good Friday and Easter. Here is a quick overview of what will be happening for the remainder of the year:

Sunday, March 16th after the Palm Sunday Procession, we will be having an EASTER PARTY with lots of games (and treats!!!) .

On Good Friday, all of our hard work on the Stations of the Cross will be on show at the Family service at 2 p.m. We need many families (including grandparents if possible!!) to participate in this amazing, intergenerational service.

There will be no Sunday school on Easter Sunday.

From March 30 to June 1 we will be learning about interesting people of the Bible. During recent Sundays we have met: Bartimaeus, the Woman at the Well, and Mary. In coming weeks, the children will learn about several other significant figures from the Bible. We will also be preparing for Pentecost and the Intergenerational Service. Every 3 or 4 weeks we will have our “Freeplay” Sundays with unstructured time and children joining their families for Communion.

Please note that there will be no Sunday School on May 18 (Victoria Day weekend)

We will have our closing party on Sunday, June 8.

A big thank you to our teachers and volunteers from the Sunday School coordinators and children. If you have any questions about our program or would like to get more involved please feel to contact one of our coordinators: Alison Olmsted (884 4287), Kate Durdan (746 7806), Barb Heppler (886-6039)

CALLING LITTLE DRAGONS!

GODS CREATION

Plans for our summer camp have begun. This year our camp will run for eight (8) weeks from Monday June 30/08 to Friday August 22/08. The last week of summer is left open for clean up and to prepare for September’s Sunday school classes.

You will find more camp information and camp registration forms on the site. Meanwhile, if you know a teenager 15 yrs. or older and who would like to apply for a position as one of our very energetic camp counsellors you can obtain a staff application form from Val in the church office or at the back of the church in the Narthex by the mailboxes.

Our overall theme this summer will be “GOD’S CREATION”; with weekly themes of sun, moon, stars; earth and sea; plants, grains and fruits; fish, birds and sea creatures; animals, domestic and wild; people (diversity); green earth (ecology, recycling, how to heal our earth; Peace on Earth.

Our fee will stay the same as last year - \$110.00 per week per child. We will again, as part of our outreach, offer bursaries (full and partial) to those families who are experiencing financial difficulty.

If you are able to help support our camp once again this summer, it would be very much appreciated. We are looking at ways to try to cut our costs this year, so we can break even, keeping in mind that our camp is a not-for-profit camp. Already \$2,500.00 has been donated to help start us off this year.

Thank you to everyone who helped to support Little Dragon Summer Camp with financial help or time.

I encourage you to come into the camp this summer and see the happy faces, as children, no matter what their circumstances are, all smile in the same language.

More information will be in the weekly bulletin at the beginning of May/08.

**JOHN RYRIE:
THE NEW DEPUTY IN TOWN!**

John Ryrie, who has recently become one of our four wardens, has been a member of the congregation since 1986, when he and his wife Marg and their three boys moved from St. John the Evangelist to St. George's, largely because of the very active Sunday School program. He is by training a secondary school teacher of English – graduate of both the University of Waterloo and Queen's. From 1979 to 1995, John taught at KCI. Since 1995 he has been the president of the teachers' bargaining unit of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation in Waterloo Region, working for and on behalf of

roughly 1300 local high school teachers. For the last couple of years, he has joined his wife singing in the senior choir and has coordinated the counters who record collection offerings each Sunday. He has also been a member of Parish Council. His predecessor, Mary Lynn, has passed a substantial set of church keys to him; he has indicated that it could be several years before he figures out what all of them are for.

The Diaconate - A Servant Ministry

Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.....

Since being raised by the Parish to the process of ordination as a Deacon, many of you have asked me "what IS a deacon?" and "what does a deacon DO?". The word Deacon probably brings to mind a freshly graduated seminary student in his or her first official position - this is what the church calls a "transitional deacon"; sort of an "entry level" position for those called to ordination to the priesthood. It is usually short-term and temporary, like on-the-job training for new priests. This is not me. My calling is to a permanent diaconate, in other words, once ordained as a deacon, that is what I will stay. I keep my full-time job (darn!) and do my work on a volunteer, part-time basis.

Simply put, a deacon is a servant of Christ in the world. The word itself comes from the Greek, *diakonos*, or servant. Deacons have a long history in the Church,

especially the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran denominations, and are distinctively called and ordained to work alongside others in service. We serve as ambassadors for the church, relating the mission of the church to the world we serve. A deacon brings the needs of the world to the church, and leads the church in its mission to the world. The deacon is ordained to lead and assist the parish, as servants of Christ, in charity work and outreach. As the Body of Christ, we are all called through our Baptism to be the servants of God in the world. It is the deacons' job to work alongside the parish in our mission to others. Deacons serve in hospitals, hospices, and women's shelters; they run charity kitchens, drop-in centres and homework clubs, just to name a few, all in the name of Christ our Lord and the parishes that support them.

How I came to this place in my spiritual journey is a long story, but for many years I have felt called to serve Christ in his church, and have done so faithfully here at St. George's. My special ministry

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on behalf of our parish is with Habitat for

Humanity Waterloo Region, where I am the chair of the Faith Relations Committee, helping to spread the mission of Habitat to churches and other faith groups in our area. Here at home I will be working with Stewardship to help grow our parish through community fellowship, developing opportunities to invite our neighbours and friends to experience St. George's in fun and interesting ways. As I have special interests around women's issues

and children, I hope to find other ways to help our parish to nurture in those areas, both here and in the community. With God's help, I will find many ways to serve in my new role.

Where do I go from here? Well, having been approved by the Bishop and by the Huron Board of Deacons, I have a number of courses in Christian education to complete, as well as two internships at the discretion of the Bishop. You will remember Ted Winter during his internship here. I have my own chaplain, Karen Kovats from St. David's Cambridge, and hope to find a spiritual advisor to help me on my journey. Once all the prerequisites have been completed, I hope to be recommended for ordination.

I feel blessed and grateful to my St. George's friends and family for your faith and confidence in raising me to fulfill my vocation as a Deacon.

Laurie Childs

OUR FOSTER CHILDREN!

St. George's currently sponsor two young boys with the "Christian Children's Fund of Canada".

Yussif Fusheini resides in Ghana, Africa with his mother, father and grandmother. He is five years old and is in Preschool 1. His favourite subjects are drawing and writing. Yussif and his family are from the Nanumba ethnic group and speak Nanunli. They are Muslims by faith. Their home is built from mud and has a grass roof. Their crops are grown mainly for personal consumption, but must also be traded or sold to make other ends meet; however, yields seldom last through the year.

Vijal Vadham resides in India with his parents and a sister. They are Christians. Vijal is nine years old and is in grade five. His favourite subjects are English and science. The parents depend on seasonal and unsteady work to make a living.

Through our sponsorship these children receive an education, medical care, clothing and nutritional support. Your support is helping to provide the invaluable gifts of hope and opportunity to a child in need. Child sponsorship also reaches out to the child's family and community through projects that help to provide schools, clinics, clean water and sanitation, and support for small enterprise developments that all lead to a self-sufficient, independent community.

We wish to thank Betty Ukrainetz for her ongoing commitment in corresponding with these two boys!

The total cost of this sponsorship of two children per year costs approximately \$780.00. This is funded partially by the "Pancake Supper" and the balance from general Outreach funds.

The Outreach Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of St. George's for their ongoing support of this project!

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Team's mandate is to maintain ongoing contact between the church and those members who, for one reason or another, can no longer attend the regular services and activities of the Parish. This could be a long term situation due to age or

infirmity, or short term due to sudden illness or other crisis. If you know of someone who no longer attends due to illness, age or other similar reasons, please let Fr. Michael know. We also maintain contact with those who are facing hospitalization, or who are absent for other reasons. We can only be as successful as you, the parishioners allow us to be. If you know of someone going into hospital, facing serious illness or are no longer able to get out to church, let us know. We cannot support our people if we don't know there is a problem. Call the office and Val can pass the message on to Fr. Michael, or call him directly at 519-568-7000. Thank-you for your ongoing support.

FROM THE JUNIOR CHOIR TO...

Former long-time Junior Choir member Angela Childs is singing with Sound'n Grace, a contemporary gospel choir in Warsaw, Poland. She auditioned for the group in October, and since then has taken part in workshops, concerts and gospel festivals around Poland. They sing in English, but Angela is the only native speaker. Most recently the choir entertained a packed house at a popular Warsaw jazz club, were featured on television, and shortly will be singing a gospel Mass in one of the local churches. They have just cut their first demo CD and hope to receive airplay on Polish Christian radio. Check out this link for photos (click Galeria) and other news, but be warned, the site is in Polish! www.sng.art.pl

Angela is the daughter of Bruce and Laurie Childs, and granddaughter of Marian Kidd. She lives and teaches in Warsaw.

BOOK TALK

The Harlot at the Side of the Road: Forbidden Tales of the Bible

Jonathan Kirsch

Ballantine Books, 1997

ISBN 0-345-41882-4

I have quite a large library of books on theology and religion here at home. This morning, after I read in the Globe and Mail that the Canadian Family Action Coalition has managed to convince the government to withhold funding to any arts group whose work is deemed 'inappropriate' (by the CFAC of course - censorship at its most egregious), I remembered this book, found it on the shelf, and was immediately caught up in the stories inside the covers.

Suffice to say, the Bible never would have received a penny of government funding had the CFAC been around when the church fathers were making their initial decisions about what should and should not be included in our book. I've got to tell you, our Bible is a pretty racy and shocking document. I can't think of a single film, TV show, or published text created in the last 25 years which could hold a candle to some of the stories told in this holy book. David Cronenberg, eat your heart out. Sex. Violence. Scandal. Adultery. Murder. Forbidden love. You name it; it's there between the covers of the Bible. These are stories about real people, often the forgotten and nameless women of the Bible, who experienced events which would certainly have led to a PG18 rating if turned into a film today. Not a lot of sermons are preached on these stories. Indeed, many people are unaware that these stories are even in the Bible.

So, if you'd like to read about some of the stories we rarely (or never) get to hear about in our nice, respectable, middle-class moral religious lives, this might be the book to start your journey. And maybe someone could mail a copy to the CFAC and ask them their opinion on it. After all, they're the ones saying that modern arts don't reflect the Christian morals of most Canadians. Family values, anyone?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Want to Know More About ROOF?

On Sunday, April 6 we have invited a guest speaker from ROOF to our 8:15 and 10:00 services. Please come and give Sara a "warm" St. George's welcome and bring any questions you might have!

Celebrate With St. Monica House!!

St. Monica House is holding their "4th ANNUAL HIGH TEA"! It is being held at the Victoria Park Pavilion on Sunday May 4th beginning at 1:30PM.

Tickets are \$35.00 a person. To order please call Judy at 519-884-7853 (you can book a table of ten people!)

Family Fun Night and Potluck Supper

Saturday April 12 - 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. There will be games, contest, and prizes - fun for everyone! Kids, bring your parents! Parents, bring your kids! Bring grandpa and grandma! Bring a friend or neighbour!

Sign-up sheet soon in the Narthex, or contact Laurie Childs or Rosemary Pitts if you are attending. [so we have an idea on numbers]

Upcoming Autumn Retreat

Once again, the women of St. George's will have the chance to spend a week-end together, reading, praying, sharing stories and forging friendships. A retreat has been planned for the week-end of October 3-5, 2008 (Friday night through Sunday noon) at the beautiful Canterbury Hills Conference Centre located near Hamilton.

This year, the retreat will be led by Joanne Pepler, an experienced facilitator, who will help attendees reaffirm and further develop their personal spiritual journey.

The conference centre has room for 22 attendees. The cost will be approximately \$235.00, which will cover two nights accommodations, two breakfasts, two lunches, one

zehrs
tapes

The Superstore has informed St. George's that they will no longer accept Zehrs receipts for the Save-A-Tape program. As a result St. George's has stopped collected them.

Thanks to all who supported this fund raiser in the past.

dinner, and the facilitator's fee. A deposit of \$200.00 will be needed by June 1, 2008 to hold the reservation for us.

If you are interested, watch for more information in the Sunday bulletins, as well as in the newsletter. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex after Easter.

For more information, talk to Marg Ryrie (she's in the choir - soprano section) and she can try to answer any questions you may have. If there is sufficient interest, and all the spaces get filled, perhaps we can organize another women's retreat. After all, who said you could only have one retreat a year?



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday March 16 th	Palm Sunday	8:00 am 10:00 am
Monday March 17		7:30 pm
Tuesday March 18 th		7:30 pm
Wednesday March 19 th		7:30 pm
Thursday March 20 th	Maundy Thursday	7:30 pm
Friday March 21 st	Good Friday	10:00 am Meditations of the Cross 2:00 pm The Way of the Cross
Saturday March 22 nd	Holy Saturday	8 pm The Great Vigil of Resurrection
Sunday March 23 rd	Easter Sunday	

FOR COMING ONLY TO CHURCH ON EASTER SUNDAY IS LIKE ARRIVING AT A PLAY IN TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STANDING OVATION. YOU HAVE MISSED THE BIG EVENT!

