



# The Flame and The Cross

The newsletter of  
St George's Church

13 September 2009

Rector: The Rev. Dr Neil Mancor

Secretary: Mrs Donna Howarth

## **R**ector's reflections

I hope you all had an enjoyable and refreshing summer season. I, for one, very much enjoyed my holidays, especially my trip to Penticton, BC, to visit my mother and family.

As a priest, one does not very often get the opportunity to see what is happening at other churches. So for the past four weeks, I have had the opportunity to worship in different churches, both locally and in British Columbia. Doing so this summer has reminded me of two things: how vast our Anglican family is, and how fortunate we are at St George's.

Our Anglican family is vast: a wide, diverse collection of communities which spans the country, the continent and the world. No two congregations are exactly alike: all are, in their different ways, quite idiosyncratic. That is the glory of Anglicanism! The truest differences between congregations have less to do with theological positions and much more to do with the different ways we express our Christian faith and Anglican identity in our time and place, in the buildings we use and with the people we are. I think it is always good to remember that we are part of something much larger than ourselves as Anglicans. Ours is not a congregation unto itself, but together we are members of a Diocese, an Ecclesiastical Province, a National Church and a worldwide Communion. It is always good for us to find ways to participate in this wider life of our Church, and I particularly encourage you to attend our diocesan conference Synod this Fall. I myself was elected to represent the Diocese at the Provincial Synod which is meeting in the middle of September in Gander, Newfoundland. Whilst I am very excited about travelling there, it is an important part of my work as a priest to participate in the governance of the Church to which we all belong.

Attending other churches also reminded me about how fortunate we are at St George's. When you attend the same church every week, you can easily overlook the many blessings that you have, and we have many things going right for us. We have a lovely building (which needs some loving care, but it is still a great facility); we have a dedicated organist and choir (with an ever improving organ!) who work very hard all year long to help us with our worship; we have a diverse and active congregation: it is quite impossible to keep the members of St George's down! I find that on Sundays there is a lively energy about the place, which has to do with the joy all of us feel at being members of our Church. Brothers and sisters, we have much to thank God for and an excellent basis upon which to continue moving forward as a congregation.

For that reason, I encourage you to consider participating in one or both of two major initiatives this Fall. The first is Refugee Sponsorship: St George's is participating along with St Mary's Kirkland in sponsoring a refugee family this Fall. It is an exciting and godly endeavour, and the more people involved the better. Second is the Christianity Explored Course which will be held on Monday afternoons and evenings. This course is a short-term commitment which will focus our attention upon Jesus as he is presented in Mark's gospel. It is for anyone who wants to grow in his or her faith, get more information, or learn the basics of the Christian faith. It is meant to be a relaxed and enjoyable experience, in which any and all questions are welcomed. I encourage you to participate and bring a friend.



Yours, as ever

Neil

The focus will be on **Mark's Gospel**, who Jesus was, what his aims were, and what it means to follow him.

21 September - 30 November: Mondays 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. or 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

To register contact our Church office, Donna: 514-457-6934 [st\\_georges@bellnet.ca](mailto:st_georges@bellnet.ca)

# CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

# Parish Summer

such as it was,



started with refreshment, or as David would say on page 4, as a family: even if some were excluded.



**Sue Winn** went to the Arctic, here meeting a lay reader. Her article is on page 7

**Liz Carter** went to Newfoundland and Labrador. Her story is also on page 7

**Sarah Marshall** became a grandmother.

**Daphne Ardell** is getting better. She tells us how on page 6

**Senior wardens** had setbacks; Ann dislocated and fractured an ankle and Sue has had a hip replacement. While the second event was planned; the first certainly was not!



**Harriet Tunmer** found herself feeding dead chicks to the eagles at the Ecomuseum.

**Sue Tweddell** has the Book Nook up and running for you to browse and borrow on the honour system.



## From David

It's always gratifying for a person to be able to do something worthwhile, to make a contribution, even when the years are accumulating. My having been able to officiate at the Sunday Services on three Sundays in August when Neil was on holiday gave me such gratification. I felt that I was in a family situation; thank you for being the Christian family that you are.

A parish family, such as ours at St George's, is different in some respects from, but similar in others to, our families in our homes. There we see one another every day, we share meals, we rub shoulders and get to know one another well. We accept one another as we are. The parish family, on the other hand, meets only weekly, and although we share a meal, the Eucharist, it is far more solemn than our sometimes noisy gatherings around the table at home. There are, of course, other occasions when we meet as a parish family, and there are opportunities for members of the parish family to meet in groups for study, for work projects, for outreach to others. On any Sunday morning, too, there are usually some people present whom we do not know; they may be visitors or newcomers or simply fellow-parishioners whom we haven't yet met.

It sounds as if I'm saying that the human family is the ideal and the parish family can learn from it, but in fact, the parish family comes first. The parish family is the foundation on which the human family is built. It is in the parish family that we learn and live what it means to live in right relationship with God and so in right relationship with one another. We then carry this with us into our home life.



If we accept one another as we are in our homes, it is because in our parish family we as Christians know that God has given us a place, that He has accepted every one of us as we are and that we in all our relationships should do the same.

**David**

### H1N1 Season

To prevent the transmission of viruses, when taking Communion please refrain from dipping the bread in the wine with your fingers (known as intinction). This passes many pathogens into the cup. If you do not wish to share the common cup, you could acknowledge the cup by holding it when the ministrant comes and speaks the words to you. Traditionally, it is sufficient to take the bread alone to have made your Communion.

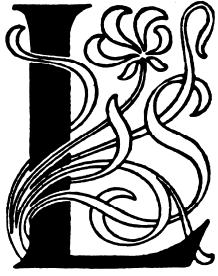
### Events coming up

Pizza lunch for Macdonald High School Students – Wednesdays  
Christianity Explored – Mondays, 21 September to 30 November,  
PWRDF 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service - Sunday, 20 September, 4:00 p.m.;  
supper served afterwards.

Women's Communion Breakfast – October (See bulletin for date)

Talent Auction – 24 October.

Confirmation – by Bishop Barry on Sunday, 1 November, 10:00 a.m.



# Leadership Team Report

Summer has come, although for a long while this was in doubt, and gone. The church seems to run on several calendars. The ecclesiastical (church) year begins with Advent, the fiscal year starts 1 January and the church volunteers begin their year of service at Vestry in February. However as far as many activities go, these seem to follow the school year: Sunday School, Choir and, of course, Welcome Back Sunday.

We are looking forward to Neil's second year as our Incumbent and some new programs for the fall. Your team, having spent some time in getting to know one another, is now ready to address some of the major maintenance issues, including the tower re-pointing and the front façade. Quotes have been sought and we hope there will be action in the Fall.

There is a minor change to the composition of the team. Jim Downey found that pressure of work made it difficult for him to continue as Assistant Treasurer. Thank you Jim for all you have done. To our delight, Kevin Glasgow, our Treasurer, has agreed to undertake all the work relating to our finances. Thank you, Kevin.

We hope that you noticed that there was action in the summer. Thanks to the generosity of some members of our community, we were able to repair the wall from the former church that protects the 'quiet garden'. In particular we would like to thank David Ogden for his energy and encouragement in this project.

Lastly, this has been a summer with a difference; active wardens were a little thin on the ground. It is at times like this that one is aware of the great community spirit that exists at St George's. People were so wonderful in their willingness to help and Neil was generous with his holiday and found time to be involved with the contractor who was working on the wall.

Welcome back to a new year and may it be a great one for all of us! With God's grace, may we continue to nurture those within our community and reach out to the community that surrounds us.

**Sue, Ann, Liz, Jimmie,**

**Kevin, Gerry and Richard**

## Some people stayed at home

### Daphne Ardell writes

13 August represented my one year anniversary, one I never expected, post surgery. In this past year I have undergone chemotherapy and radiation, treatments completed at the end of June. While I continue to go every 3 weeks until February 2010 to the oncology clinic for a special infusion, a measure of true recovery can now begin.



I just want to acknowledge the support of my church family. Some of you encouraged me to accept Meals on Wheels, others provided home cooked meals, phone calls, home visits, drives and above all, many prayers. This support was offered in so many ways.

My faith, God's grace and His word sustained me while the support of my family and friends saw me through this challenging time. On this day I give thanks to God for each and everyone who accompanied in whatever way on this journey. You know who you are. God Bless.

### Libby Madramootoo reports

This summer I have been learning how to use my new digital photo organizer program and digital scrapbook software. I am also learning to scan, email and import photos from a CD. I have also organized the church photos from 2005 – 2008 by date and event. As a result, the Volunteer Honoree books will be coming later, as soon as I have all the appropriate photos. In order to collect photos of as many people as possible, there will be a box at the back of the church for you to deposit an envelope with your name on it. In the envelope please:

1. put a good studio picture of yourself and your family or a very good snap shot. Everyone is a volunteer so your turn will come. In the past I put some grainy pictures in the Volunteer Album but from now on I'd like to do better.
2. add pictures of baptisms, confirmations etc. Be sure to include names and dates.

### Casey needs help!

For Meals-On-Wheels which has been operating out of St George's kitchen for over twenty years. Three times each week, we deliver delicious hot meals to people at the west end of the West Island. We are currently in need of volunteers to cook, deliver meals and wash dishes. Are you able to give 2 hours a month to help? St George's MOW program runs Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Please contact the following, and let us know when you can help.

Cooks: Harriet Tunmer 514-457-5559; Drivers: Pat Niazi 514-457-5141; Dishwashers: Casey Stilwell 514-425-2199

### On a lighter note

An apocryphal story:

An atheist hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians, Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.

The lawyer pleaded, saying, "Your honour, Christians have Christmas, Easter and others.

The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, but my client and all other atheists have no such holidays." The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do.

Your client, counsel, is woefully ignorant. The calendar says 1 April is April Fools' Day.

Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, 1 April is his day. Court is adjourned."

## Other people traveled over the summer:

**Liz Carter** went to what felt like the end of the world and back.

We drove from Montreal to PEI, took a ferry from PEI to Nova Scotia, another ferry from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland, and yet another ferry from Newfoundland to Labrador. We got off the boat and drove straight to the information centre where we bombarded the girl behind the counter with questions about life in the small communities of Labrador. She in turn asked us where we were from, and on hearing we live in Montreal she proudly announced she would be attending CEGEP in the fall, John Abbott College! Her first time away from home, a friend has organized an apartment for her in Vaudreuil. She was excited but a little nervous of her new adventure I am sure. I think it took me all of two seconds to start talking to her about life at St George's, and suggested she watch out for our Student outreach events. Two days later, we stopped in a restaurant two towns away for lunch, we got to talking to the waitress who proudly said, "My daughter is going to Montreal for CEGEP this fall." I said, "Let me guess; she works at the information centre?" Her mother took our phone number. It's a small, small world.

### **Sue Winn**

On 25 June, left Montreal to fly five hours north into the Nunavik region of Quebec.

I was traveling on behalf of the national Partnerships Committee of the Anglican Church of Canada, to visit an Inuit priest in his community of Inukjuak. Iola Metuq is a priest who wants his community to know they are part of a wider church, prayed for and supported in their daily lives, and assisted financially through the work of the Council of the North.

As you will see, when I have an opportunity to share my slides with you, the landscape is barren, but beautiful. The Inukjuak River is high and rapid, running towards Hudson Bay. The treeless rock formations are dramatic, and the tundra sprouts small wildflowers among its dry grasses. The winters are long cold and dark, and I learned that there is also fog and wind in the Spring when the ice breaks up and the warmer air hits the permafrost. Three hours into my flight I was told we might not be able to land because of dense fog, and have to return to Montreal to try again the next day. With my bags full of fresh strawberries and tomatoes and small hams, I was more concerned about my load of produce than anything else. In the end, we did land in Inukjuak, and those headed for other destinations were turned back.

As you will see, when I have an opportunity to share my slides with you, the landscape is barren, but beautiful. The Inukjuak River is high and rapid, running towards Hudson Bay. The treeless rock formations are dramatic, and the tundra sprouts small wildflowers among its dry grasses. Because the ice had broken up, there was a spirit of excitement as canoes were launched for fishing expeditions, and families began to set up their white summer tents on the land. The caribou would be running soon and the game would be plentiful. Children were darting about on bicycles and youth were heading out onto the land in small all-terrain vehicles.

Friends were sharing freshly-caught arctic char, delighting in this delicacy, raw and cold. When I returned home I knew I would miss the wide openness, the freshness of wind and water, and the warmth of my new friends. At the same time, I could hardly wait to dig my toes into green grass, and to visit a local market to buy freshly grown produce, delicacies that I hope I will never again take for granted!



## Anniversaries

### 50<sup>th</sup>

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, originally called "The Primate's Relief Fund," had its official beginning in St George's Church, Ste Anne de Bellevue. It was developed as a response to the Springhill Mine Disaster in Nova Scotia in 1958. It soon became apparent that the response was an important way for Anglicans to offer assistance in times of urgent need.

Fifty years ago, in September 1959, a General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada took place on the Macdonald Campus of McGill University, with all religious services held in our church. At that Synod, PWRDF was incorporated into the mission of our national church.

On Sunday, 20 September, at 4:00 p.m., a Celebration Evening Service will be held in our church, and you are all invited, encouraged, urged to be here. Many people from churches throughout the diocese will be with us. Bishop Barry Clarke will preside. Choirs of Trinity Memorial Church and St George's Church will lead our singing. This promises to be a very special time.

Following the service, supper will be served in our hall by the ladies of St Clement's Church in Verdun. Everyone is invited.

During this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PWRDF, one of the projects supported across Canada, is the sponsorship of 50 refugee families. A number of St George's members have been meeting with people from St Mary's Church in Kirkland, as well as representatives from other churches, to discuss participation in the sponsorship of a family. We hope that we might enter into this project as part of our St George's Mission outreach.

We are proud to be at the center of PWRDF's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, and remember with gratitude all those church leaders who played such a key role here at St George's 50 years ago.

### 150<sup>th</sup>

This year we are celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Synod of the Diocese of Montreal which was held in 1859. A couple of big events have been organized to mark this anniversary. The first was a celebratory Eucharist held in the cathedral on 7 June. The second, a pilgrimage to early parishes in the Richelieu Valley will take place on 26 September. At least 150 people from around the Diocese are taking part in this event. The 150<sup>th</sup> Synod will be held on 12, 13 and 14 November. This is a Conference Synod in which the first two days will be mainly devoted to sessions on Mission-versus-Maintenance. These sessions will be part talks and part discussion led by the Rev. Dr Ian Douglas of the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Mass. These sessions are open to everyone and there should be much to learn that will benefit St. George's community.