



FAME

AND

# THE CROSS

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

1 March 2009

Rector: The Rev. Dr Neil Mancor

Secretary: Mrs Donna Howarth



Dear One and All,

The Christian season of Lent is upon us. Lent is that period of forty days of fasting and prayer which falls before the observance of Holy Week and Easter. The point behind fasting and prayer is not to inflict as much pain and discomfort as possible upon ourselves! The point is to spend this time investing in our relationship with God so that we might be more responsive to His work in and through us. The *Book of Common Prayer* uses these words for the first Collect of Lent:

*O Lord, who for our sake didst fast forty days and forty nights: Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to thy Spirit, we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness and true holiness, to thy honour and glory; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.*

What that means for us all is that we should aim in this Lent season to do, or not do, things that will help us grow in our relationship with God. At our Ash Wednesday service, three questions were put to us to consider during this season:

1. What does God want me to learn on my personal journey through Lent this year, about God?
2. What does God want me to learn, on this Lenten journey, about the world and other people?
3. What does God want me to learn, during this Lenten journey, about myself?

Rather than fasting from chocolate, fast from using the internet for 30 minutes a day, and spend that time reading the Scriptures and thinking about them. Give up your expensive coffee at Starbucks each day, and donate the money to Suitcases for Africa or Mile End Mission or PWRDF. You don't have to give up coffee altogether (this would lead to a **very** unholy Lent!), just get a cheaper one. Ask yourself honestly: when was the last time you *actually prayed for something*? Lent is about investing in your walk with God, and fasting of any kind is meant to help you do just that.

Read through the *Gospel of Mark*, which is the gospel being read in all the Churches this year. Or read *The Shack* by William P Young. You can get it at Costco. A very different presentation of the Christian experience, this book touches a nerve in a powerful way.

Lent is a wonderful season, but you have to take the journey to reap the benefits.

Yours,

Neil



Fast from unrelenting pressure; feast on unceasing prayer.  
Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ dwelling in them.  
Fast from emphasizing differences; feast on the unity of Life.  
Fast from anger; feast on patience.  
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.  
Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.  
Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.  
Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.

# Vestry

Our Vestry for the year 2008 took place in the church on 15 February 2009, the Rector presiding. A new Corporation team was elected or appointed, new ministries set up and people responsible for most of the ministries were either appointed or re-appointed. The full list appears on pages seven and eight of this newsletter; I suggest that you tear it out and keep it for reference. If you are receiving this by email, it can be saved and printed separately.

A highlight was taking farewell of Libby Madramootoo and thanking her for all her enthusiasm as our People's Warden. Using all her scrapbooking skills, she will be continuing as our "Memory Keeper". Ann Cumyn presented a cheque in favour of Suitcases for Africa to honour her contribution to the Corporation team and to Bart Sellitto, the outgoing Treasurer. One crucial ministry, that of making sure that new members and visitors are made to feel welcome, is still looking for a leader.



The extremely important decision was made on the distribution the money received from the sale of the Pincourt Rectory. We had hoped for \$160,000 but received \$150,000. An earlier proposal was rescinded, and it was then agreed:

- a) to reimburse the various funds from which \$40,000 had been borrowed towards repairing the roof,
  - b) to put \$35,000 into a Repair Fund, and
  - c) to set aside \$75,000 as a Reserve Fund, to be used only with Vestry permission.
- As far as the organ is concerned, some of last year's surplus (estimated at \$18,000) has been set towards paying for the church's commitment to this year's organ refurbishment.

## Fundscrip

Remember that it is the retailers who pay St. George's Church for your shopping! FundScrip profit to date for 2009: \$484.61. Every purchase makes a difference; please consider it.

If you need help getting started, contact: Liz Carter, [Lizzi36@yahoo.com](mailto:Lizzi36@yahoo.com) or at 514-426-2341.

## Rentals

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We have wonderfully useful spaces. Long term users include; A.A. and Al-Anon; Girl Guides, Brownie and Sparks groups for sleep-overs; birthday parties which need lots of play room; and Miss Darlene's Nursery School which holds its end of

year festivities in the hall. Major activities are the Drama School run by Mrs Doerr every Thursday (all day) and the Ste Anne's Market which becomes a hub of activity on winter Saturday mornings. Many come simply to enjoy company, have coffee and soup from TWIGS and listen to live music in the background.

WOW Cats, having rehearsed in the hall, put on their Christmas show in the church. Elections Quebec and Canada use the stage for electoral list revisions because, now that the chair lift is operational, the building is accessible to those in wheel chairs if they are sufficiently strong to transfer themselves into the chair lift. A company which was filming at John Abbott used the hall and nursery as a rest station for their crew for three 24-hour days, one of which happened to be a Sunday. The congregation was heroic: the refreshment hosts lugged the coffee urn



and mugs upstairs to the back of the church and the Sunday school commandeered the Rectory living room. The film crew did their part, even sweeping the floor before they left; Heather was grateful. In the end, the church made just under \$1,000.

Slowly, the kitchen is being up-graded. The new gas stove is in and operational. Counters are still disaster areas and will be so for the next month or so. Meals on Wheels is battling on. Val Stoczek was working while the hood was being installed and the stove was still occupying more than its fair share of space.

## *More happenings*

The hall during coffee hour after Ursula Rose's baptism was packed not only with Engelsman/Dubeau family members but with everyone wishing her well.

Jennifer Otto's youth groups use the hall on Wednesday afternoons and evenings and occasionally Sunday afternoons.



Wednesday lunch time is Pizza Time for MacDonald High students.



## *Come and Journey:* A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

I was one of ninety pilgrims who left Montreal on 12 February 2009 for a visit to the Holy Land. With Bishop Barry Clarke as the host on this trip, and three other clergy leaders, Michael Johnson, Janet Griffith-Johnson and Norman Casey (from Toronto), all well-experienced from past visits, we were in good hands.

The first leg of the trip was to Athens, Greece where we spent a day visiting the Acropolis, the Parthenon and Mars Hill, places that brought back so many school-day memories of Greek mythology, History of Architecture and History. We enjoyed a sunny day and beautiful views of the Mediterranean Sea.

*Sue at Masada* →



The following day we flew to Israel, landed in Tel Aviv, and travelled to a Guest House on the Ein Gev Kibbutz on the Sea of Galilee. The area of Galilee was much as I had imagined it from Sunday School stories that unfolded on a felt board. Rolling hillsides would have served as amphitheatres for Jesus as he taught. The Sea is large and changes rapidly when storms arise. The Sea was calm the morning we rode on a boat to a mid-point between the two shores, then enjoyed a quiet time of worship as the waters lapped around us. I recalled the times when Jesus escaped the throngs of people to be alone and pray to God. We toured the countryside, visiting places with names I have read so many times in my life: Caesarea, Mount Carmel, Haifa, Capernaum, Nazareth, Mount Tabor, and Bethlehem. In each place

we read the scriptures that told the stories of Jesus' miracles and teachings. As the sun was setting, we celebrated the Eucharist on the shore of the Sea. The

wind rose, the skies were gray, just as they would have looked when Jesus' disciples were caught in the storm and Jesus walked to them and calmed the storm.



The Old City of Jerusalem, although more densely populated than in Jesus' day, still has the narrow streets and busy commerce that would have been Jesus' path to the cross – what a fascinating city. I am certain that I will have many opportunities to share with you the sights and sounds of these biblical places. From Jerusalem we traveled across the desert lands where Bedouins still herd their sheep

and camels, and live in clusters of huts, just as Abraham and Isaac would have lived. We climbed through the ruins of Masada, the summer fortress of Herod the Great, then had an opportunity to swim in the Dead Sea.

On the way back to Jerusalem, we spotted a Bedouin shepherd with his camel on the roadside. We stopped to take photos, and I had an opportunity to ride the camel! This was a bit scary, actually!



I am sifting through my 400 photos to assemble a slide show to share with you all.

As you can imagine, there are many stories to tell. Over time, I will look forward to going back again and again in my mind to the places that have taught me so much about the life and times of Jesus, and to retell the “old, old stories”!

*Sue Winn*

## *Book Nook*



The Book Nook is growing apace. Eric Winn has been assembling new bookcases and filling them with a wonderful selection of books for everyone. A comfortable armchair is there to persuade you to browse as is a box for your contributions to Suitcases for Africa.

If you come by on Saturday mornings, Eric and Heather Fox will be there, sewing and pasting old volumes and giving them new life. The young are not forgotten; several bookcases have books for the junior set and even more beautiful, a tiny rocking chair, just the right size for the very young.

## *Women of the Parish* have plans:

Second Saturday of the month will be designated as Women’s Breakfast, although we may not have them consecutively, but a few times a year. Marion Shama hosted one on 14 February.

Fourth Saturday of the month will be designated as Women’s Faith Sharing Morning. A program will be developed to provide an opportunity for us to share our faith with one another. No homework, no advance work needed. This will also be used as a form of outreach. The next meeting will be held on 28 March at 8.30 a.m. in the Chapel.

*Liz Carter*