



# THE FLAME AND THE CROSS

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

22 November 2009

Rector: The Rev. Dr Neil Mancor  
Secretary: Mrs Donna Howarth



ector's  
eflections

*This is the irrational season,  
When love blooms bright and wild,  
Had Mary been filled with reason,  
There'd have been no room for the child.  
- Madeleine L'Engle*

Dear One and All,

So quickly the year has passed, and the seasons of Advent and Christmas are upon us. Already busy lives will become even busier in the rush of preparations, purchases and parties. Everything reaches a frantic peak on Christmas Eve and then stops as we gather into our families to celebrate Christmas together.

Busy-ness is a cardinal feature of our lives in this time and place. We are busy at work, home and play. We do many activities, we keep ourselves on the run. So often we are busy doing good things: helping others, rushing our children to and fro. But in the busy-ness of it all we lose something precious: we lose the moment. The moment spent with a child, or a friend, husband or wife. The moment of meaningful connection to another human being. The moment of presence.

Advent and Christmas are meant to call us out of the frantic into the calm; out of the hurry and into the moment. This season deeply challenges our culture, because it tells us that beyond the frenzy of activity which is our lives, there is something higher, deeper, more profound than anything our world has to offer. This season calls us to the moment when the Angel came to Mary and she consented to the gracious activity of God in her life. This season calls us to the moment when the Holy One came down and entered into our world and into our lives. We gaze upon the child born in the manger and remember that He is the Lord God Almighty, He is infinity born into limitation, and He is light born into darkness. And all those things we hold most dear, all those activities we must do, all the rushing, dashing around, are placed in the light of eternity. Do we really need to do all that we do?

I call each one of us to examine our lives this Advent and Christmas in the light of Infinite who became finite. To take the moment this season offers us and order our lives in the light of eternity. What is most important? For we have but one life to live, and God wants us to live lives of peace and fulfillment, to know the fullness of joy even in a troubled world, to live in the moment of his love for each one of us. There is much joy to be had in the simple love of God, family and friends.

Yours as ever,



*Neil Mancor, Parish Priest*

An alternative Christmas Pageant as reported by a friend of the editor.

“This morning in the service while we were milling around and greeting each other, the choir must've come down and sat in the first three rows, because as we found our way back to our seats we saw they'd been replaced by seven kids, standing scattered in the choir seats, silent, blank-faced, like mannequins.

Lively music started, and two other kids did a convincing mime of washing a plate of glass window between us and the mannequins. By now we are riveted. A third girl joins the window-washers, carrying a box of props. Each of the three takes out a costume, sorts it out, and clothes the mannequins one by one. Moving mannequin arms into sleeves isn't easy, nor is fixing headdresses.

The music has become more christmassy – a couple of carols now.

And we're looking at two kings (one was sick), a robed young girl and an older boy, two rough-clad country types, and behind them all, the tallest girl, dressed as an angel, complete with a halo. The prop girl now takes a baby from the cardboard box, carries it on to the stage, lifts up Mary's arms to hold it. And at the advent of the child, in silent, peace-filled dignity, Mary sits down. She looks at the baby, Joseph stands by her side, the kings kneel, and so do the shepherds. And as the music becomes "Silent Night", they quietly progress off the stage, through the church, as if they were a baptismal family showing the new life to the congregation.

The congregation sits silent, silent, absolutely silent. Unmoving. Then eyes and cheeks are wiped by men and women alike.”

The Light of the World has come; all are made alive.



# OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS

Thanksgiving and Hallowe'en are over and truckloads of Christmas trees are beginning to fill the corners of shopping centre parking lots. The secular world has begun its ritual! Our Church season of Advent begins at the end of the month when we too will begin our anticipation of the commemoration of the birth of Jesus. The gifts of the Magi were gifts to a King, gifts that could be given at any time. Christians, while celebrating with gifts to family and friends at Christmas, also celebrate with gifts of service throughout the year. We, on the Leadership Team try to make our gifts of service to God relevant to the needs of St George's community. Sometimes we do well and sometimes we do less well.

You will have noticed the work being done on the outside of the church. Look up and see the cross, now proud to have played such an important part in our salvation. We have been blessed with some fine days and hope that the work will be completed by the end of the month. Unfortunately this work does not cover the tower's wooden frames. Advice is currently being sought on the best way to keep these cedar frames in good condition. You will be informed before any work on this area is done.

This is the time of year when we begin our budget building and our ministries for the coming year. Before asking for pledges we hope to tell you of the needs as we see them and our dreams for improvement. St George's budget is your budget and we

will be seeking your input during the budget building process. **Budget Sunday will be 7 February**, at which time a draft budget will be presented for your comments and further input. Your final input will be given at the **Annual Vestry Meeting to be held on Sunday, 21 February**.

Another important date is the **Christmas Fair on Saturday, 5 December**. The proceeds from which, together with the \$1,198.23 raised at the Spring Fair, go towards our Mission Commitment of \$4,000. This commitment is used by the Diocese in its mission work which includes contributions to Mile End Mission, Action Refugiés and Tyndale St George. Any shortfall in the proceeds from these two fairs will be taken from our operating budget. Your support is essential!

By the time you read this, Synod will have come and gone. At the conference part of Synod – Mission and Maintenance – St George's will have been represented by eight people: our delegates, Sue Winn and Joanne Ross, the latter replacing Ann Cumyn who is now the Deanery delegate; Elizabeth Carter, Marian Simpson and Bruce Downey; and both our priests, Neil Mancor and David Conliffe. Their picture is on page six. We will not go unnoticed!

As we contemplate the awe and simplicity of the birth of Jesus, may Christmas be a time of blessing for you and your families.

*Sue, Ann, Liz, Jimmie, Kevin, Richard and Gerry*



*orry to have to mention money, but  
let's make raising it fun.*

### *Fundscrip*

Did you know that:...

- \* If you buy a \$50.00 grocery card through our FundScrip program each week you will earn \$50.00 for St. George's *AT NO COST TO YOU!*
- \* If you find one friend to follow your lead, you will earn \$100.00 for St. Georges *AT NO COST TO YOU!*
- \* If you AND your friend ask another friend to buy a \$50.00 grocery card each week, you will earn \$200.00.
- \* Imagine if you gave birthday, anniversary, weddings, Halloween, and **Christmas gift** cards this year!

For more information, speak to Liz Carter, 514-426-2341, [lizzi36@yahoo.com](mailto:lizzi36@yahoo.com), or come shop at the FundScrip gift card table during coffee hour.

### *St George's Christmas Fair, Saturday, 5 December*

is one of two events that provide our support for the Mission work of the Diocese and our witness to our community and a time for sharing our gifts and joys with one another. It will take place at the same time as the Ste Anne's Market, from 10.00 a.m. until 2.00 p.m. Because the Market is so busy this year, with a number of new vendors, the Christmas Lunch will be served downstairs, and the Bake Table and Crafts will be upstairs, using the same entrance to both the Market and the Fair.

Please begin to plan your baking, pie-making, or other contributions, for which we will all be most grateful!

Our noble coordinators include:

Ann Leduc who is supervising the lunch,  
Donna Howarth and Liz Glasgow who will be coordinating the Bake Table,  
John Mayo who has given us some lovely wooden crafts to sell,  
Eric Winn who will organize the Book Nook and  
Mary Anne at the Suitcases for Africa table.

All these individuals can use help, and you may want to speak to them personally.

We will also need volunteers to set-up on Friday the day before from 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. and to dismantle our tables at 2.00 p.m. on Saturday.

# The Story behind the Talent Auction

This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> year of PWRDF, the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund which was initiated in 1958 in response to the Springhill Mine Disaster in Nova Scotia.

Anglicans responded in unprecedented numbers. In 1959, at a General Synod held in Ste Anne de Bellevue, at Macdonald College, the Anglican Church of Canada adopted the Relief and Development Fund as part of the Mission of the wider church. Later it came to be known as the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, or PWRDF.

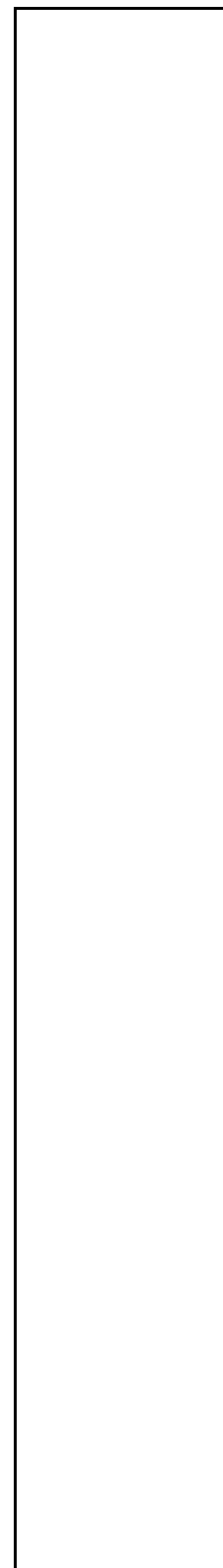
In this 50<sup>th</sup> year, a most important project is the Family Sponsorship Program. Fifty families, currently living in bleak refugee camps, have been approved by the Canadian government to live in Canada if sponsors can be found for them. It is hoped that all fifty of the families will be sponsored by Anglican churches across Canada. These families have been assured of their visas, and have passed medical tests. Now they await an invitation.

As you may have noticed in *The Anglican*, Adrienne Clarkson, has been named a patron of this project. She is Anglican, a former governor general and came to Canada as a refugee herself.

St George's is working alongside St Mary's in Kirkland, and with two other churches offering some financial support, we are hopeful that we will reach our first target of \$10 000 by mid-November. This figure would cover the first six months of expenses for the family. The total needed for the first year would be \$20 000, and then the family would be eligible for other kinds of support.

We will know more about our family in a few weeks, names, ages, country of origin and their story of flight and travel.

How wonderful it will be to know that we can make such a difference in the lives of others!



# P eople P icture P age



**Compass** - on 4 October, there was pizza and pie making. The students made, baked and ate; then followed a candlelight service with Eric on a projector upstairs, with songs for a more modern charismatic service. This is an initiative by Neil to reach out to college students - if you feed them, they will come.



Even if Gerry had to show off his apple peeling skills, the results were worth it.

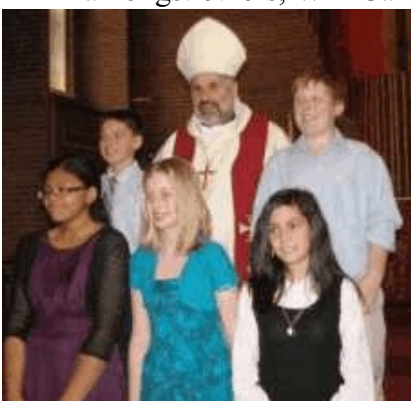


**Synod** - As Sue said on page 3, our delegation was high powered: here they are with the speaker Ian Douglas.



**Confirmation** - the bishop has confirmed, amongst others, Will Carter, Emily Digiacomio,

Teresa Stilwell, Sheridan Harel and Gabriel Skerget, not to mention Flordespina Dodds.



Continued: -



On Saturday, 24 October, 2009, the **Talent Auction** began!

Despite a sudden illness that deprived us of our Auctioneer, a fire that destroyed Marco's Pizza in Ste Anne, and power failures in and around our church, the Talent Auction happened! Dessert was served at 7.00 p.m. and the Auction began at 7.45 with Sue Winn and Gerry Zampini as hosts and auctioneers.

Amid much laughter and teasing, the crowd bid on each other's gifts of meals prepared, book restoration, original paintings, leaf raking and dog-walking, to name only a few of the marvelous offerings. Eric Winn bought so many food offerings that many wondered if Sue ever feeds him! Over \$1100 was raised on the evening of the auction, and \$400 was added on Sunday as unsold items continued to sell!

The Auction has taken on a life of its own, and will continue until the first week of December. Parishioners continue to add items to the list, and an updated list is available each Sunday in November. At the time of this submission, the total has reached \$1865 for the sponsorship of a refugee family!

St George's is a church of many talents! It has been fun to uncover many hidden talents and to share our gifts with one another for an important cause. For information about the auction, please contact Sue Winn at [swinn2006@sympatico.ca](mailto:swinn2006@sympatico.ca) or 514-457-0736.



## Repairs

As reported by Sue (wearing quite a different hat than the one above) on page 3, there is work being done on the tower.



## The Market,

already a great draw on Saturdays, will be sharing space with the Fair on 5 December, but by that time, the offerings may not be as succulent as this the display on the right.



# Coming up:

page eight

## Advent & Christmas Sermons

This year, our sermons will focus on the *prophets* of the Old Testament. The reading each week contains a glorious promise about the coming Messiah. As we go through the weeks of Advent, we will gain a larger picture of the Messiah, as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

22 November Christ the King  
Sunday

*Revelation 1:4-8 Our Glorious King*

29 November First Sunday of  
Advent

*Jeremiah 33:14-16 The Righteous  
Branch*

6 December Second Sunday of  
Advent

*Malachi 3:1-4 The Lord Appears*

13 December Third Sunday of  
Advent

Family Service

*Zephaniah 3:14-20 The King is with  
you*

20 December Fourth Sunday of  
Advent Carol Service

*Micah 5:2-5a His Greatness*

24 December Christmas Eve

4:00 Children's Service

10:00 Holy Communion

*Isaiah 9:2-7 His Name Will Be*

25 December Christmas Day

10:00am Holy Communion

*Isaiah 52:7-19 Songs of Joy*

27 December First Sunday of  
Christmas

*Luke 2:41-52 My Father's House*

**At the Cathedral,** on 6 December at 6.00 p.m.: – a service of remembrance on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the massacre at the École Polytechnique.

## The Advent Virus: Warning .....

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of **The Advent Virus**:

\* An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.

\* A loss of interest in judging other people.

\* A loss of interest in conflict.

\* A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)

\* Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.

\* Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.

\* Frequent attacks of smiling.

\* An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.