

# THE FLAME AND THE CROSS THE NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Rector: The Rev. Dr Neil Mancor  
Secretary: Mrs Donna Howarth  
514-457-6934 20 November 2011

*He puzzled and puzzled till his  
puzzler was sore.*

*Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!  
"Maybe Christmas", he thought, "doesn't come from a store.  
Maybe Christmas, perhaps... means a little bit more!"  
-The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*

I wish you all a time of blessing as we head into the season of Advent and the celebration of Christmas. In the busyness of it all, it is not hard to forget the purpose of Christmas. Even in Church, we become so caught up with the romantic image of the babe in the manger, that we forget the purpose of Christmas.

*The Angel said to Joseph: Mary will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.  
Matthew 1.21*

The words of the Angel remind us of the purpose of Christmas: that Jesus came into the world to save people from their sin. The message of forgiveness for sin cannot be separated from the message of Christmas. This is the true glory of what God has done through his love for us.

*For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world,  
but to save the world through him. John 3:17*

*It is a message of unspeakable hope and joy, because it means true freedom for all who will receive it. In a world that is unable to forgive itself and shake off the darkness of sin and alienation, the promise of restoration in Jesus Christ is the hope beyond compare. So spread some hope and light; invite your friends to church this Christmas. Even better, introduce them to Jesus*



*Christ, who in love can save them. Yours truly,* **Neil** and his friend

Gifts that the Grinch cannot steal, include:

Suitcases for Africa Christmas Donation Cards, available at Countdown to Christmas, see page 4.

or [visit:www.suitcasesforafrica.com](http://www.suitcasesforafrica.com)

Unfortunately, the 2011 PWRDF Christmas Cards "Visible Spirit" are now sold out. Those wishing to support PWRDF through the Christmas Card program may still order the 2010 cards from Ricky de Castro at The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund:

80 Hayden Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2  
Tel: 416-924-9192 Toll free: 1-866-308-7973 Or <http://www.pwrdf.org>

World Vision suggests that we give so that others may help themselves, everything from five fruit trees for \$30, to two hens, (not to mention a rooster) for \$50, a goat for \$100, even a cow, if one has \$600 to spare. Call 1-800-844-7993 to speak to a customer service representative or go to [www.worldvision.ca/gifts](http://www.worldvision.ca/gifts)

**Lasting CHANGE**

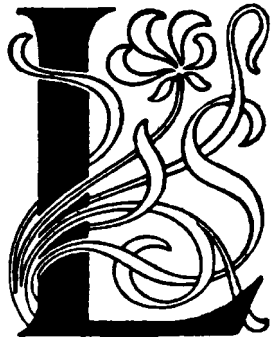
What happens when you give 2 hens and a rooster?

1. Every chicken is delivered to a family in need.
2. Each chicken can lay up to 150 eggs to eat.
3. More chickens are born to sell.
4. Sizalobuhle's mom, Zanzile, now has a thriving business.

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We all may then join the reformed Grinch and our families at the traditional table.



## Leadership Team Report

**Routine issues** have occupied the Leadership Team this fall. We have arranged for repairs to the roof over the tower and the incumbent's office. Waxing of the floor in the hall will occur soon. Ste Anne de Bellevue has agreed to designate additional reserved parking places for the church on St George St. We have applied for a grant for assistance in creating a handicapped washroom; we shall not know whether we have been successful until early in 2012.

**Effective communication** of important church events has been discussed by both Parish Council and the Leadership Team. Although information is currently dispersed in several ways, there is concern for parishioners who do not receive the sometimes urgent messages sent via email. We have decided to provide a few copies of each week's emails at the back of the church on Sunday and to resurrect the church telephone chain. Will Carter has expressed an interest in coordinating both of these services as part of a school project. Details are still being finalized, but you can expect to receive a friendly, informative St George's phone call in the near future.

**The Budget** is one of our primary concerns. Even a very conservative 2012 budget, with only minor adjustments for salaries and basic expenses over 2011, could leave us with an estimated \$15,000 deficit. Your commitment of financial support, while non-binding, will enable us to plan appropriately for the coming year. A simple guide for the amount to pledge, we suggest, is "Proportionate giving" (for example, a percentage of your annual income or the equivalent of an hour's wages). It also allows you to adjust that pledge if life's circumstances change. An easy way to help you fulfill your pledge is a "Pre-authorized remittance" (PAR), an automatic monthly deduction from your bank account. It presents the "first fruits" of your labour to God's work. In addition, PAR contributions help the church have a consistent income throughout the year. Your PAR pledge can be adjusted at any time, if necessary.

**Prayer:-** We urge you to prayerfully consider your commitment to the ongoing life of St George's Church. What does the church mean in your life? How important is Worship? Christian Education? Community Outreach? Pastoral Care? Fellowship? Facilities that allow us to pursue these activities? How important are the people touched and helped by St George's programs?

Please note that minutes of the Leadership Team meetings and current financial statistics are posted on the bulletin board in the church hall.

*Peggy Downey*



# Coming up for Christmas

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26 November 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.  
"Countdown to Christmas"

This event will take place in the church hall as part of the Ste Anne's Farmers' Market. Expect a bake table, lunch, a children's corner, marmalade and Christmas pudding, and a true St George's welcome. This is your chance to visit the Farmers' Market and to support our holiday fund raiser.



*From the Mancor family*

11 December	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP
	10.00 a.m.	Pageant Service
18 December	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion BCP
	10.00 a.m.	Lessons and Carols
24 December	4.00 p.m.	Family Service with Communion; featuring the Christmas service according to Charlie Brown
	10.00 p.m.	Choral Communion with Organ Concert
25 December	no service at 8.00 a.m.	
	10.00 a.m.	Holy communion with organ
1 January	no service at 8.00 a.m.	
	10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer with carols

## Looking Back to 2011

- We celebrated the marriages of Dave Wakely and Sandy Ransom  
Marylyn Moore and George Sklivas
- We baptised many, including Julia Howarth, first grandchild for Donna and Richard  
Zachary Wilkinson, first grandchild for Shân Evans
- On a sadder note, we shall miss Miriam Wilson and Allan Capel
- We note Helen Jones has broken her arm recently; she is at home and can be visited.  
Arch Jones is at St Anne's Hospital and can have short visits.  
Helen Capel likes to have visitors at her home.  
Rose Barnes has fallen and broken her pelvis. She is in the Lakeshore and needs our prayers. She welcomes visitors also.  
Neil can tell you how to locate her.

## Looking ahead

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**L**The Christmas Season of St George's Choir is approaching quickly. The music ministry at St George's is inviting all energetic choral singers interested in celebrating this wonderful time of the year to join them for the Sunday Services of Advent and Christmas Eve. Working under the professional guidance of the Choir Director, our dynamic vocal ensemble will be preparing beautiful anthems, like "Zion Hears the Watchmen's Voices" and "Flocks in Pastures Green Abiding" by J.S. BACH, and other celebrated traditional Christmas music. If you enjoy singing and want to get involved in the musical life of the parish, you are invited to come 5 or 10 minutes before the beginning of rehearsals on Thursdays. Organist and Choir Director Jean-François Gauthier will meet you and will hear you for a short audition in order to have you sing in the relevant section. Rehearsals are held every Thursdays from 7.15 p.m. to 9.15 p.m.

*Jean-François Gauthier*

## Sunday School

**S**We are straying from our curriculum and are studying some Old Testament stories for our Sunday lessons. We have been working on Joseph and the Coat of Many Colours. We hope to touch upon stories such as Moses, Creation, Jonah and the Whale. We have enjoyed the story of Joseph and are looking forward to the story of Moses, probably after Christmas. The Sunday School teachers have met to discuss their Christmas plans. The children's pageant will take place on 11 December at the 10.00 a.m. service. Shirley Taylor has scripted the play again and it is another "take" on the story. (that is the only scoop we are going to give out!) We are in the process of seeing how much interest we have from our young people and will need to start practising almost immediately.

On another note, we will once again be offering Suitcases for Africa Christmas Donation Cards. These make wonderful Christmas gifts. They will be on sale at the "Countdown to Christmas Event" on 26 November. They will also be on sale on Sunday, 27 November and every Sunday until Christmas (not, of course, including Christmas Day)

If anyone is interested in seeing some of Darlene's newest pictures from Kenya from her most recent trip for Suitcases from Africa, we will be showing them during coffee hour on Sunday, 20 November. The pictures will show some of the amazing projects being funded as well as some of the new projects being taken on.

*Mary Ann Drolet*



# New Season



This summer I have had to realize that I have entered a whole new stage of my life.

While I have felt my body ageing, until this summer I would not have called myself a senior citizen. That term conjures up images of someone really, really old. I guess I have been in denial!

This summer my grandsons arrived to visit, bringing girlfriends. My own children are reaching middle-age. When I started to use reading glasses, my children said, "Mother, really!" Now they need reading glasses too.

I am not only a grandmother to teenagers, I am a great-aunt to children of my nieces and nephews. I have decided they should all just call me Sue. No more titles please.

With two hip replacements, and wonky knees, I am very aware of high steps, my need for a railing or banister, my joy when there is an elevator, washrooms on the main floor of restaurants and churches. When most of our churches were built, obviously no one expected old or handicapped people to attend. Washrooms were buried in basements. Ramps were unheard of. Even the walk to the Communion Rail can be hazardous.

This summer Eric and I travelled to Newfoundland. We walked a lot...at our own pace. We wore serviceable walking shoes. We both took a walking stick and enjoyed sitting from time to time on benches provided, gazing at magnificent views and feeling enormously thankful for God's Creation and for the health to experience so much beauty.

We drove north along the coast of Labrador to a place called Mary's Cove, then took a ferry to an island called Battle Harbour. In the 1770s this island developed into a thriving saltfish capital. Today it is a village managed by a Historic Trust, with buildings restored so that visitors can experience a fascinating era of Labrador history. At one end of the island is a lovely Anglican Church, painted white with a red roof, and two lovely outhouses to match!



As I gazed down the rocky slope to these necessary structures, I decided I would never again complain about

basement washrooms, especially when the snows fall and the biting winter winds howl.



I am thankful for each new day, for so many interesting opportunities as a lay reader, for my work within the church and the diocese. I enjoy my changing role within my family. I have many precious friends and a wonderful church community. The advantages to being a senior far outweigh the difficulties.....but that's a message for another time.

*Sue Winn*

# Budgets might be a Bore but they are essential

Because of your generosity,  
we ended the year with a modest surplus of \$589.  
we completed the Casavant Pipe Organ restoration earlier than planned and under budget.

Because of the generosity of anonymous donors,  
we were enabled to pay for our Youth Ministry Coordinator. Kisha Joseph is bringing energy and vision to this vitally important area of ministry.  
We renovated our washrooms! Beautiful, new and pleasant facilities were created for all to enjoy.

## Challenges facing us:

In our 2011 Budget, we all agreed a plan which required a 10% increase in giving. Many of us have not adjusted our giving and we barely squeaked by. Continuing to support our Youth Ministry Coordinator means we all need to increase our giving. Important issues which cannot be ignored remain to be addressed in our building. Creating new ministry opportunities to ensure the long-term vitality of our congregation involves financial investment. Not long ago, Gerry Zampini and Kevin Glasgow played out a skit to show that we while have accepted that milk , apples and eggs may have doubled in price over the last fifteen years, we have not recognized that the costs of the church may have suffered a similar increase. And that we have not adjusted our giving accordingly.



If we do not wish to end up \$15,000 in the hole at the end of 2012, let us ALL rise to support our church!



## Worship

This area of ministry involves not only regular Sunday services but also

- Liturgies designed to facilitate meaningful worship
- A secretary who prepares the weekly bulletin
- Organization of those who read lessons, lead prayers, administer communion, serve as greeters and counters and our wonderful group of servers
- Priest and pastoral visitors who visit and bring communion to shut-ins
- An enthusiastic and committed choir director and choir

**Cost of ministry:** \$34,232

**A new member of our congregation says...** "I felt immediately at home. I needed a place that would welcome me without judgment and I found this at St George's." **Priceless**



## Christian Education

This area of ministry includes:

- A well equipped, competently staffed Sunday School and youth worker
- Special children's events celebrating church festivals
- Preparation for Baptism, Communion, Confirmation and Marriage
- Weekly Bible studies
- Maintenance of the parish library and the purchase of new books
- Effective communication through our seasonal newsletter, pew leaflet and website

**Cost of ministry:** \$24,844

**A young family says...** "The Sunday school has really made a difference to our family. The teachers are creative, caring and very dedicated." **Priceless**

**A child says** When I go to Sunday school I feel happy. I can't wait to join the Youth Group next year!" **Priceless**



## Community Outreach

This area of ministry includes:

- DivorceCare, Single&Parenting and Boundaries courses
- Christmas Hamper, Turkey, Shoebox Drive and Toy collection
- Primates World Relief and Development Fund
- Fellowship for seniors and shut-ins Food Bank, Pizza Lunch and ministry to local students

**Cost of Ministry:** \$10,000

**A friend said...** "Thank you for the turkey and the Christmas hamper. You made our Christmas!" **Priceless**



## Pastoral Care

This area of ministry includes:

- Home visiting
- Prayer shawls
- Clergy and lay visitation for those shut-in or hospitalized
- Counsel and direction on family, marital and vocational issues
- A listening ear on the telephone and a secretary who can connect those in need to those who can help

**Cost of ministry:** \$22,064

**A parishioner says** "When I was in hospital, a St George's prayer shawl was brought to me right away. I wrapped myself up in the prayers and love of the community. Thank you!" **Priceless**



## Facilities'

Costs include:

- Repairs and Maintenance
- Heating and electricity
- Insurance
- Janitorial contracts
- Snow cleaning and grass cutting
- Alarm and security

**Cost:** \$55,560.00

**A new member says...** "We just walked into the Church and knew we were home!" **Priceless**