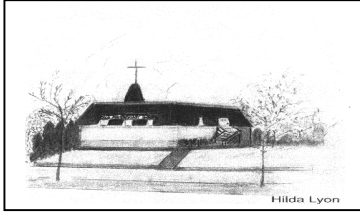




REACHING OUT

Newsletter of St. Joseph of Nazareth Anglican



Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (NIV) Isaiah 7:14

C'est pourquoi le Seigneur lui-même vous donnera un signe, Voici, la jeune fille deviendra enceinte, elle enfantera un fils, Et elle lui donnera le nom d'Emmanuel. (LSG) Ésaïe 7:14

4nd Quarter

December 2011

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Rector's Warden:
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People's Warden:
Paul Yaxley

Treasurer:
C.I. Petros

Other members:
Linda Bridgeman
Ron Brittain
Gwen Mohamed
Steven Wensley
Ann Yaxley

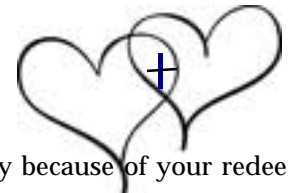
Lifetime Members:
Richard Bridgeman
Rawle Nicholls
Allan Schofield
Don Shewan

Sunday School Superintendent:
Beverly Cohen-Millar

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HEART TO HEART



WHY ME, LORD? WHY ME?

Lord, why am I the woman who lives each day with joy because of your redeeming grace, and another sits hopelessly in the desert with a dying child in her arms?

Why am I the one living in a safe and secure part of the world, with access to food, housing, medical care, and transportation, when others die of malnutrition and illness near and far? Why me, Lord...to have the loving family, caring friends, supportive brothers and sisters in Christ, and a place to fellowship and worship you in freedom, when others don't?

Lord, who am I that you should grant me favour, heal me of my illnesses or comfort my sorrow; protect my children and watch over my spouse? Why me, Lord...that you enlarge my territory with new opportunities, people and ideas each new day, guiding me in my coming and my going. Yes, Lord - why me - that you keep your hand upon me and bless me indeed? Why me, to receive so much when many live in need and despair?

WHY ME, LORD...WHY ME? Were I to count ALL my blessings, I would need not ask for one more thing of you, except to let me humbly serve you all the days of my life.

Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits-
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

(Psalm 103: 2-5)

- Gwen Mohamed

From the pastor`s desk



“Praise him with trumpets. Praise him with harps and lyres.

Praise him with cymbals. Praise him with loud cymbals.

Praise the Lord, all living creatures!” Psalm 150:4-5

“Faithful ones, as I write this, we are in the season of Advent. Advent is the season that immediately precedes Christmas. It is during Advent that we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. Advent serves as a reminder that we are waiting for the return of our King. We are to be ready, with our ‘lamps lit’; ready to go with Him, wherever He may lead us.

I hope that we will all profit from this time of serious reflection on our relationship with our Lord. The readings we will hear in the coming weeks will illustrate that the coming of the Lord will not be a joyous celebration for everybody. Matthew 24 tells us that life as we know it will cease. The coming of the Son of Man is described as a day that will occur without warning. We are told that two people may be standing together; one will be ‘taken away’, while the other is left behind. On the surface, this may seem like a random event.

We are told, “Be on your guard, then, because you don’t know what day your Lord will come”. (Matthew 24:42) We are forced to think about what we might be doing when our Lord comes. Will we be taken, or left behind?

Matthew 25 points to the way we live, the way we treat others who are in need, as the determining factor in our quest to be Heaven-bound. Do we feed the hungry? Do we take care of the poor? Do we visit those who are sick or in prison?

These are important questions to answer. We see that Jesus identifies strongly with the poor and disenfranchised. Our Lord states that the way we treat people touches Him directly; it is as though we are helping (or ignoring) Him.

I believe it is also important to honour Him with the way we worship. We recently had a Caribbean Gospel concert at our church. It was a wonderful celebration. That night, we praised our Lord with anything that was not nailed down! People were singing along, clapping and dancing, laughing and loving being with God’s people.

I cannot help thinking that this would be a good state for our Lord to find us in. If Jesus had walked in the door, I think He would have been pleased, even if He could not find a seat! God’s people were sharing their dancing, singing, and musical talents, all for the glory of our Lord. It was easily one of the high points of my ministry here.

Let us praise the Lord with all our might. Let us praise the Lord without ceasing. Let us praise Him any way we can. Let us invite as many people as we can to join us. Let us gather together and **PRAISE THE LORD!**

Yours in Christ,

Christopher Belle





EDITORIAL



The Real Christmas Story



The Christmas story is beautiful. Jesus' birth being foretold by the angel, the star leading the wise men to Bethlehem, angels appearing to the shepherds and,

of course, the baby born in manger. The Messiah born to redeem God's people did not just begin with the angel appearing to Mary. It predates this event by centuries. Jesus' birth was foretold in Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6 and Micah 5:2. This Everlasting King was promised to us when God called Abram in Genesis 12:1-3.

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Centuries later in 2 Samuel 7, God fulfills this promise and Nathan received His words: ⁸ "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel... Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth... ¹² When your days are

over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son... ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.'"

God made this promise to David to be fulfilled through his descendants.

Luke explains that Jesus is the new king in 1:35. The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

The word "overshadow" is linked to a covenant. This shows that this child will be king. Jesus will be the king that will sit on the throne of David and will rule forever fulfilling Nathan's prophecy.

The Christmas story does not end there, it continues with Jesus' journey to the cross, his death and his glorious resurrection. You see, Jesus had to die and rise again to accomplish the mission—to accomplish our redemption.

What does Christmas mean to you? For us as Christians, it should mean that Christ came so that we will be forever with Him in this eternal Kingdom.

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SERVICES

Saturday, December 03 — Christmas Dinner at 5:00pm

Sunday, December 04—White Gift Sunday

Saturday, December 10—Bluegrass Christmas Concert and Sing-A-Long at 7:00pm

Sunday, December 18—Baptism and Sunday School Presentation during 10:00 am service then Jesus' Birthday Party

Sunday, December 18—Service of Lessons and Carols at 7:00pm

Saturday, December 24— Family Service at 7:00pm

Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day Service at 10:00am

Saturday, December 31—Watch Night Service at 11:00pm

Sunday, January 01—Naming of Jesus Service at 10:00am



REFLECTIONS



AMAZED

“You will be amazed at how the Lord will use you in other people’s lives once you adjust your life to his ways. You will be many things for them: a re-proof, a refuge, a point of hope, a reason to go on, a source of strength, a calming influence and so much more. It’s wonderful to realize (to your surprise) how he chooses to use you as a vehicle to help restore those who’ve strayed so far. ” (excerpt from Job by Charles R Swindoll)

Sometimes I feel a bit like Job. You take one step ahead something happens and you take two steps back. Now when things happen I say, “Okay Lord what now”. Believe it or not an answer will come, sometimes not as fast as I would like. We just have to remember that God will not give us more than we can handle. If I say that Jesus is my Lord and Savior to someone and I get no response I don’t push the issue. Maybe what I say will give them some hope.

All God wants us to do is try. One of the messages from the bible is “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three ; but the greatest of these is love” 1 Corinthians 13:13 . The message of our saving grace from God is love.

Jesus loves all people. The outcast, the blind, the lame, sinners, are all equal in his sight. Jesus wants us to do the same and to pass the message that there is hope in our confusing world . I know if we help one person see the hope in our Lord we’ve done what we should do.

God has a plan for all of us. We can’t see it now but just put your trust in the Lord and you will be amazed at how God uses you. No matter what, remember that “God Loves you”

- Steven Goodhue

9/11 WHAT WERE YOU DOING?

Like a lot of people that day I was sitting in a car listening to the radio. The song was interrupted by an announcement that a passenger plane at 8:45am had flown into the WTC in N.Y City. What! I was driving a customer to his workplace and we both listened in shock at the unfolding events. Then another hit the other tower and they both collapsed.

As reports came in the Pentagon was hit and a plane crashed in Pennsylvania. my thoughts and the thoughts of a million others was how could “God let this happen”. It wasn’t God who did this. It was a terrorist act driven by hatred. That day God was there.

For awhile people did what God wants us to do. The healthy reached out to the many who were hurt physically and emotionally. People from different

backgrounds tried to make sense of it all. Some unselfishly left their workplaces from far and near to sift through the wreckage looking for survivors. Many trained and untrained listened to people in their anguish and tried to comfort. Many of God’s messengers were there that day. There were numerous heroes there that day. Again I ask do you believe God was there that day? I know he was there. No matters what troubles we face God is there if we ask. God is our refuge and our strength. I’m glad he’s on my side. All that is asked of us is to believe in him and trust his guidance in our lives.

Just remember that, “God Loves You”

- Steven Goodhue



REFLECTIONS



A GHOST STORY

On a wintry day in January 2007, The Washington Post set up an experiment to see how the public would react when confronted with genius. They arranged for a young man to set up as a street musician against a bare wall, near a trash can, at a metro station in the heart of Washington, DC during the morning rush hour.

The musician was Joshua Bell, a former child prodigy and now one of the world's finest violinists. He has performed for President Barack Obama and the First Lady and at the reopening of Ford's Theater (the site of Abraham Lincoln's assassination). Joshua Bell played the soundtrack for the 1998 movie *The Red Violin* and was the soloist in the motion picture, *Defiance*. Only three days before The Washington Post experiment, Joshua Bell had filled the house at Boston's Symphony Hall.

Donned in a baseball cap and a long-sleeved t-shirt, Joshua took out his Stradivarius, worth somewhere in the region of \$3.5 million dollars and began playing. Gene Weingarten, a staff writer at The Washington Post wrote the following:

Three minutes went by before something happened. Sixty-three people had already passed when, finally, there was a breakthrough of sorts. A middle-aged man altered his gait for a split second, turning his head to notice that there seemed to be some guy playing music. Yes, the man kept walking, but it was something.

Things never got much better. In the three-

quarters of an hour that Joshua played, seven people stopped what they were doing to hang around and take in the performance, at least for a minute. Twenty-seven people gave money, most on the run—for a total of \$32 and change. That leaves 1,070 people who hurried by, oblivious, many only three feet away, few even turning to look...there was never a crowd, not even for a second.

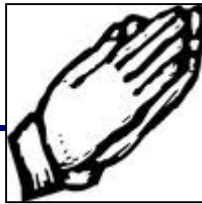
I do not know whether or not I am surprised by the result. However, what really caught my imagination was written further on in Mr. Weingarten's article when the tape from the hidden camera was speeded up:

The fiddler's movements remain fluid and graceful; he seems so apart from his audience—unseen, unheard, otherworldly—that you find yourself thinking he's not really there. A ghost. Only then do you see it: He is the one who is real. They are the ghosts.

I could not help but think that in my own life am I, too, a "ghost"? Do I fail to see the reality of God? Do I rush by him so bogged down with my own cares that I miss the music of eternity? Sadly, much too often.

- Pat Wood





PRAYERS and petitions

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. (NIV) Hebrews 5:7

C'est lui qui, dans les jours de sa chair, ayant présenté avec de grands cris et avec larmes des prières et des supplications à celui qui pouvait le sauver de la mort, et ayant été exaucé à cause de sa piété. (LSG) Hébreux 5:7

We pray for those who have requested our prayers in their time of need and those who we know are in need of prayers:

Passmore Barrette
 Marlene Brittain
 Ron Brittain
 Christine Dawson
 Myrtle Duffy
 Patrick Duffy
 The Gowan Family
 Emile Gariepy
 Marie Harper
 Ann-Mary Harvey
 The Maynard Family

Gwen Mohamed & Family
 The Mizener Family
 Rawle Nicholls
 People of Haiti
 People of the Horn of Africa
 People of Japan
 People of Libya
 People of Thailand
 People of Turkey
 James Skerritt
 Jayme Skerritt

Charlie Slade
 Debbie Sheppard
 Maureen Strain
 Doreen Schofield
 Sheila Tibbo
 Peter Trickey
 Bethany Wallis
 Doris Yaxley
 Ann & Paul Yaxley
 Beverley Zimmerman

We also pray for those members of our parish who will be travelling during the Christmas season. May the peace of God be with you and may He keep you under His care and grant you a safe return. We pray also for peace on earth and goodwill to all as we celebrate the coming of Jesus.

A PRAYERFUL THANK-YOU

I would like to thank the many people of St. Joseph's for your prayers in my time of crisis. My mom Ida went into the Montreal General for what she thought was a case of double pneumonia. It became apparent that it was a lot more serious and she was admitted into the I.C.U. She was diagnosed with a very serious disorder by the name of Wegener's Granulomatosis. It causes an inflammation of the blood vessels which can cause a failure of the lungs.

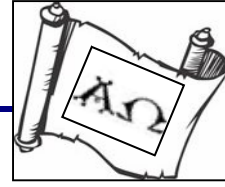
Through the prayers of the congregation and a surprise visitation from our priest my mother miraculously made a full recovery. I truly believe that prayer does work every time I visit and talk to my Mom on the phone. We do have an awesome God who watches over us. Praise His holy name.

- Ida Goodhue





Quiz page



Bible Quiz

Crime and Punishment

by Mary Benoy

1. What is the royal law that James refers to in the New Testament?
2. Complete the quotation from Hebrews, "God is a _____ fire."
3. What did God say would happen to Adam and Eve if they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil?
4. How did the Lord destroy Sodom and Gomorrah?
5. Complete Jesus' teaching from Matthew, _____ is the gate and _____ is the road that leads to destruction.
6. In the parable of the talents, what happened to the man who hid his one talent in the ground?
7. When Paul despaired of getting justice, to whom did he appeal?
8. How many brothers did Abimelech murder, as recorded in the book of Judges?

1. James 2:8

2. Hebrews 12:29

3. Genesis 2:17

4. Genesis 19:24

5. Matthew 7:13

6. Matthew 25:25

7. Acts 25:11

8. Judges 9:5

Who am I?

by Dulcy Belle

This prophesy foretold my coming in Malachi 3:1, "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD God Almighty. I have been called the new Elijah. Unlike others before me, the Spirit filled me from in my mother's womb.

Answer: John the Baptist





Bits and pieces



WEEKLY/MONTHLY MINISTRIES

Flight Club - Last Monday every month at 5:30pm

Confirmation Class - Sundays at 5:00pm

Men's Bible Study - Wednesdays at 9:30am

Women of Faith - 3rd Monday every month at 7:00pm

Family services - Congregation members interested in assisting with planning the services are asked to speak to Rev. Belle, Robert Millar or Paul Yaxley.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Council Meeting and Potluck—Tuesday, December 06 at 6:00pm

Please refer to the weekly bulletin 'Celebrate' for other activities and dates.

H.O.P.E

Remember H.O.P.E. when you are preparing your shopping list and checking the weekly flyers. When there is a special ("2 for 1" or "6 for 3") or something free (like at IGA when you buy more than \$70.00 of groceries) pick up some of those specials along with your regular shopping. Even if you don't eat those particular food items, someone else does! If you get the "freebie" for the week at IGA, bring it to church and put it in the box for H.O.P.E. All non-perishable food items are very much appreciated.

THANK YOU

Our first Annual Caribbean Gospel Concert was held October 22. It was a blessed event. The church was packed and chairs had to be added to accommodate the masses. People were singing, dancing and praising God. We are very grateful for the many guests artists and congregation members who blessed us with their talents as we sang praises to God's honour and glory. Thank you Faustina for all the effort, time and insight that you put in to the organizing of this event. Thank you also to the congregation members who Faustina brought on board to assist with the various tasks—setting up, kitchen duties, etc. We look forward to next year!

On October 16, the Parish held a reception to celebrate the 10th anniversary of my Induction as priest of this parish. I would like to say how grateful I am to all the organizers of this gathering. It was a wonderful surprise. I thank God for uniting us and for the ministry we have shared. God bless you all from my heart.

-Christopher Belle

NEWSLETTER ENTRIES

Just a reminder that all submissions and prayer requests for the next edition of the newsletter must be received by January 14, 2012. It will be available by the end of January. Entries may be handed in directly or sent by email to stjoesnews@gmail.com.

