

St. Peter's Keys

The Parish Newsletter for St. Peter's Anglican Church, Cabbagetown, Toronto

"I am the vine, you are the branches"

John 15:5

Note from the Publisher

We couldn't have pulled this newsletter together without the hard work of Peggy Needham, who made sure all our authors met their deadlines.

Advent is an exciting time for us, at St. Peter's: A Sunday School Pageant (see Fran's report on page 4!); the hymns and carols service the week before Christmas (see John's reflections on page 4!) and all the busy work of the social committee (page 5!) and the parish life committee (page 7!)

All I can think to say in reflection of all the people who have reported on the hard work they are doing for the church, is to remind our readers that that Advent and Christmas are a time for charity and giving. When we remember that the grace of Jesus Christ was brought into the world for our sake; and that we are called to share, through generosity, warmth and hard work his love and message with each other, and with the whole world.

Please think of your neighbours, and remember the church in your giving this advent, and that the greatest gift isn't money: it's your time and work.

Richard Birt, Publisher.



St. Peter's Anglican Church

188 Carlton Street
Toronto, ON M5A 2K8
Founded 1863

Website: www.stpetercarlton.ca

Email: stpetercarlton@gmail.com

(416) 924-1891

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Janet Sidey

<i>Rector's Warden:</i>	Matthew Beesley
<i>Deputy Rector's Warden:</i>	Pat Arnold
<i>People's Warden:</i>	Fran Brown
<i>Deputy People's Wardens:</i>	Peggy Needham & Betty Scantlebury
<i>Organist:</i>	John Terauds
<i>Newsletter Editors:</i>	Richard & Janine Birt

Our Mission Statement, which guides our decision making and priorities at St. Peter's says:

We are an inclusive Christian community:

- ❖ Welcoming people from different paths;
- ❖ Learning together;
- ❖ Caring for each other;
- ❖ Reaching out to our neighbours, in the service and love of God

The New St. Peter's Website

Our new website, www.stpetercarlton.ca, is up-and-running.

We recently contracted a new web hosting service, HostPapa, and since mid-May our new webmaster, Geoffrey Warne, has been working on a demonstration version of the website.

So far, there is a brief history of this church, a list of services, a calendar of upcoming events and activities, a contact page, and a page for church news.

It is a work-in-progress, and a more finished version will follow when we have more complete vision for our website. An advisory board meeting will likely be held to discuss the direction of the website development.

In the meantime, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Submissions, especially news and pictures, are also welcome. Please speak to Geoffrey or email him at: webmaster@stpetercarlton.ca.

Please check out the website and add it to your bookmarks.

Submitted by Geoffrey Warne

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Message from Janet

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I want to offer some reflections about spirituality and Christian community.

I frequently hear people say, I'm spiritual but I'm not religious. I do my own thing while I work in the garden or go running.

I find such statements curious. Yes, we can all enjoy the wonders of nature and who doesn't enjoy some quiet and peaceful time alone. However, spirituality' doesn't flourish in a vacuum.

Spirituality is not a 'nice feeling'. Spirituality is about relationship. Relationship with God is inseparable from relationship with others.

According to the biblical doctrine of creation, it is a fact that every human being is created in the image of God. Therefore, to show disrespect to anyone is a denial of God herself and tantamount to atheism. God created only one human being, Adam, at the beginning, to teach us that destroying a single life is equivalent to annihilating the entire human race. To humiliate a person is like murder, a sacrilege, a destruction of God's image. To spread a libellous story about anyone is to deny God's existence. Charity is the ultimate test of faith. You cannot worship the Creator unless you honour your fellow humans. Jesus sees compassion as the true test of spirituality by bringing compassion to the forefront of human behaviour.

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say to you, Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.' Mt.5.43-48

Blessings, Janet

Submitted by Janet Sidey

Ark Committee Report

The Ark Committee is very committed to the preservation of St.Peter's and continues to move the redevelopment forward as quickly as possible. At present we are stalled by some minor requests from Bishop Yu such as the rewording of the last motion. We will be meeting with the Bishop on November 20th after the church service. We hope to discern our next move in the redevelopment process.

We would like to thank the Vestry for their continued support. Bravo!

Many thanks to the members of the Ark Committee- Matthew Beesley, Fran Brown, Peggy Needham, Betty Scantlebury, Pat Arnold, Marjorie Philip, John Terauds, Richard Birt, David Lougheed, Peggy White, Geoff Warne, Arthur Warren, Mary Martin, Diane Marshall, Janet Sidey.

Submitted by Fran Brown

Fudger House Report

We continue to enjoy our weekly service at Fudger House each Friday at 10am. We have a team of 7 volunteers, including Lucie Simons, Jim Colling, Pat Arnold, Vivian Barnett and Claudine Boulert from St. Peter's and usually have a congregation of about 35 residents.

Ernie Wesley also volunteers on a Saturday morning. Sometimes staff or visitors of the residents join us too for our service which is led by Reverend Janet Sidey, Harold Jenkins or Pamela Lucas twice a month, and Fudger House Chaplain Herb Harms on the remaining Fridays of the month. We are fortunate to have Phyllis Cooper play the piano for us, and resident Alf Roberts too.

Alf enjoyed coming to St. Peters for the Thanksgiving service recently and hopes to join us again on future Sundays. The team has many decades of volunteering together, with new volunteers always welcome.

After the service, the volunteers have coffee/tea and cookies and share a great time of friendship and fellowship with shared stories, news and joke telling.

Submitted by Claudine Boulert

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Report from the Rector's Warden

There is lots of activity at St. Peter's coming in 2012. The Regent Park School of Music will join Mid-Toronto, Scouts Canada and our other tenants. November and December are always busy times with license agreement renewals, insurance applications, and all the paperwork needed to set us on track for 2012. Thankfully, our boiler and heating system is in good repair and ready for the coming winter.

At the end of December, I will be stepping down as Rector's Warden. This is a big decision for me, as I have been a Warden at St. Peter's since returning to Toronto from Fredericton, New Brunswick in 2007. During that time, I learned a great deal about the history and workings of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Toronto Diocese and of course St. Peter's. One of my earliest projects was to rebuild our sign on Carlton St., a project that involved searching for, and photographing church signs to find the ideal model for St. Peter's. After searching for many weeks, I found the perfect sign at St. George's Anglican Church in New Hamburg, Ontario. After seeking proposals from several sign companies, we found the right partner and now have a great sign out front to communicate with the community. My most daunting assignment was assisting with finding the replacement for Reverend Judy, as the new priest would have a great impact on the future direction and continued growth of St. Peter's. I was thus very pleased that Reverend Janet chose to join us. The next big project is, of course, redevelopment of our buildings. This will continue to be a focus of the Wardens.

Lesia and I first joined St. Peter's in the autumn of 2003, with the intention of baptizing our newly born daughters, Madeline and Emily. After several meetings with Reverend Judy, including a visit at our home, in January 2004, Emily and Madeline were duly baptized. It has been said that the fastest way to have someone leave a church is to baptize their children; so I expect many were surprised that the Beesley brood continued to regularly attend Sunday services.

Cont.

When we moved to Fredericton in 2004, we continued to attend Sunday services whenever we visited Toronto. Over the last eight years my family and I have grown to value and cherish our relationship with St. Peter's and its wonderful congregation.

Beginning in early 2012 I plan to assist with connecting and promoting St. Peter's to the community, including advertising and communicating in local print and on-line media, community blogs, and local events. I will have an update on these projects in the next Newsletter.

Matthew.

Submitted by Matthew Beesley

Open Doors at St. Peter's!

Did you know that Mid-Toronto has programs here 6 days a week?

- The Beavers and Scouts are here 2 nights a week?
- Tai Chi has classes Friday night?
- AA meets on Saturday and SA on Tuesday night?
- The Regent Park School of Music holds after school classes in Vocal, Percussion and Steel Pans 3 afternoons a week?
- The Cabbage town Choir has their concert on Sunday Dec 18th?
- The music school has their concert on Sunday the 11th?
- Our Doors are Open from 1-3pm from Tuesday to Thursday for the use of our quiet Sanctuary- over 80 people have passed through since September?

We Welcome all Community participation and hope to increase this over time. Thanks to our volunteers who oversee the spaces.

Submitted by Fran Brown

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Reflections on Advent

Three nights after Halloween, I went out to walk the dog to see that one of my neighbours' balconies was all lit up with a Christmas tree and other decorations. It coincided with all the Christmas ads that started running on TV.

It made me think about how, with each passing year, it becomes more and more difficult to explain why we don't start singing Christmas carols and hymns in church as soon as the Santa Claus Parade is done.

This is one of those times of year where the secular and sacred calendars really do clash. But it doesn't have to be that way.

In the practicing Christian's calendar, it's not Christmas until Christ is born, in a smelly, prickly, undecorated barn, on Christmas Eve.

In the secular calendar, the weeks leading up to Dec. 24th are about preparation. We are, metaphorically speaking, setting the fruitcake in its rummy wrap, figuring out who to invite over for a party, and putting checkmarks on our shopping lists.

But we're not opening the presents until the actual day.

It's that way with our worship and hymns. We look at where we are and who we are – imperfect human beings waiting for Salvation – and see the coming of our Savior. We do it in prayer, contemplation, hope – and eager anticipation.

Think of golden-oldie hymns like "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" or "Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending," and you get the picture.

Of course, we all love the great Christmas carols, which is why we get to sing a few at our Lessons & Carols service ahead of the great day itself. So, if you really can't wait until the 24th, join us on Dec. 18th, and share in the joy to come.

Submitted by John Terauds

St. Peter's Church School

The Sunday School has continued to enjoy steady attendance of 8 to 12 children. The routine of entering the classroom before church begins works well. This provides an added time to complete crafts and enjoy more of the games and songs as suggested in the One Room Sunday School program we are following. The children who attend regularly are becoming very familiar with stories from the Bible. They are also so happy to see each other again and to share in the learning and fun.

We look forward to the Christmas play on December 11th as the children will be reading parts and singing, for the Advent theme of John the Baptist. Most will be dressed in an angel costume and are asked to wear a white top if possible. Any help making angel wings would be greatly appreciated.

Peggy Needham participated in a Christian Education Conference on November 5th and feels gratified that we seem to be moving in the right direction. It is always good to get inspired about ways we can continue to build our team of teachers and helpers and discover new activities which we can explore.

We are asking parents to take a turn as an assistant in the Sunday School once a month or as often as possible as we need to supplement our helper list. This would require that a parent stay in the classroom until the time of the Eucharist, but no preparation is needed beforehand.

The children are learning the meaning of the Holy Eucharist by their attendance at the rail each Sunday. Those that are confirmed may receive the Bread and the Cup. Those that are baptised may receive the Bread only. All others are able to receive the Blessing from Reverend Sidey.

Thank you to the faithful teachers Betty Scantlebury, Dawn Lewis, Pat Arnold, Peggy Needham, Fran Brown, and the assistants Randy Pierce, Catherine Munro, and Mary Wangalwa.

Submitted by Peggy Needham

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Taizé

Do you ever wonder who wrote a hymn or why it was written? Actually, our hymnal gives us some of that information after each hymn.

We all have our favourites. Some of my favourite hymns are ones I feel I've been singing all my life. But there is another set of hymns, very short ones, which I think are now very important to my spiritual life. These are the hymns that come from Taizé. In the back of our hymnals, we find a long list of hymns that come from Taizé.

Taizé is a community in Burgundy, France, founded by Brother Roger in 1940. He came to this semi-abandoned village in his mother's native region, to offer a welcome to Jews fleeing the Nazi persecution and to work out a call to follow Christ in community, a community that would attempt to live out the Gospel call to reconciliation day by day. Taizé and the brothers who live there have continued to welcome victims of war and injustice. Many young people from all over the world, and adults too, come for short periods of time. All are searching. For the community, the question was and is, "What can we offer them?"

Prayer and silence are at the heart of the Taizé experience. Taizé has spawned a unique style of worship music that has become popular in churches, retreat centres and seminaries throughout the world. Taizé music emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from Psalms or other parts of the Bible, repeated and sometimes also sung in canon. The repetition is intended to aid meditation and prayer.

Two years ago during the stay of two interns, Julie and Wendy, St. Peter's enjoyed several Sunday Taizé vesper services. And now, regularly, during and after the Eucharist, John Terauds leads us in singing songs from Taizé.

As Brother Roger, founder of Taizé, said, "A great simplicity of heart underlies and sustains a contemplative prayer. This process of self surrender may be sustained by simple songs, repeated over and over."

Watch for Taizé songs in our service, and note how they make you feel. If you have a chance, you can look on YouTube and listen to people from all over the world singing Taizé songs in Latin and in their native languages. Music can be such an important part of our worship and prayer life. I am grateful for the music from Taizé.

Submitted by Peggy Needham

Worker Bees

Every two weeks a few worker bees (Venita, Marjorie, Everton, Betty and Ashley) gather at the church to do odd jobs. The furniture in the church needs polishing, the glass windows need cleaning, the silver and brass need to be polished, cobwebs need to be removed, and the church pews need dusting.

In the kitchen, we clean the stained cups, the fridge, the microwave and the stove. We also clean inside the cupboards and wipe down the walls. Our new project involves removing the stains created by spilled food from the chairs in the parish hall

After completing our duties, we gather around to have cookies/cake and tea and to chit chat before leaving to go home. We desperately need help. How about joining us occasionally?

Flowers near the Altar

The donations of flowers for memorials, thanksgiving and other events make our church look beautiful. You are always welcome to donate or help with the flowers. Please see Marjorie Philip.

Submitted by Marjorie Philip and Betty Scantlebury

Treasurer's Report

The year to October 31, 2011

Envelope Givings:

Budget:	\$45,833
Actual:	\$44,687
Variance:	\$1,146

Please remember the financial needs of St. Peter's.

Submitted by Paul Mitchell

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Update on Former Parishioners

Whatever happened to Sybil Likely?

Recently, Sibyl Likely who was a parishioner at St. Peter's and sang in the choir sent the following in an e-mail to Peggy Needham:

I work assisting people with serious mental health issues, including those with serious addictions, to maintain their supports. I am a supervisor of three shelters, housing 166 people. I have 60 staff, and it is a joy to help them to grow their skills. As an agency, we are working on developing a model of Community Development that includes and engages as many of our clients and neighbours as possible. In my spare time, I am making a documentary with a friend about how our community has treated people who are 'mad' throughout our history. I am supporting Occupy Toronto, and praying that a leader will emerge, to explain to us that we are the problem, and that we must treat consuming not as a frivolous pass-time, but as a necessary aspect of life, that we must approach with consideration, kindness and intelligence. Things are as easy or as hard as we make them, as always.

I enjoyed my time with you guys, and am grateful that there are so many kind and loving people nearby.

Love and hope,

Sibyl

Here's what we know of other former Parishioners we no longer see in the pews...

- **Ian McKinnon**—returned to Halifax N.S. to his job as teacher of Fine Arts at NSCAD. He enjoys his apartment overlooking the harbour, reconnecting with old friends and painting once again. He has returned to St. Paul's where he sings in the choir. He wishes us well in our redevelopment project.
- **Arthur Warren**—has returned to his home in Victoria B.C. and his family and friends there. We thank him for his contribution to our Ark project, especially in the printing of the final proposal.

Cont.

- **Suzette Mafuna**—is recovering in Lakeside rehab and long term care centre. Thank you to all the St. Peter's people who have continued to visit and to support her with their prayers. Her sister Josephine and her niece visit from the U.S. as often as possible.
- **Iris De Peazer**—has recovered well from her eye operation after a month of care at Fudger House. She is happily back in her apartment. She enjoys the church bulletin delivered by Helga every Sunday and her phone contacts, especially with Vernita.
- **Audrey and Rick Godfrey**—are looking forward to receiving the Newsletter and hope to attend one of the Christmas services.

If you know about other former parishioners, and how they are doing, please let us know for the next newsletter!

Submitted by Peggy Needham

Introduction to our new Student

Hello St. Peter's Carleton! It is an honour and a privilege to be able to learn the priest-craft in this congregation. I am here as the 'Student' until early April while in second year at Wycliffe College working toward a Masters of Divinity. My home church is Elliot Lake (about six hours north of Toronto); it has about the same size congregation, although the building is quite new by your standards—fifty-five years ago there was no town at all, only a dirt road to a mine site.

By the grace of God, I am a postulant with the Diocese of Algoma, and look forward to returning to the Near North when graduated. Being raised on a farm in southern Ontario, the beauty of the lakes, rocks and trees is irresistible.

I look forward to serving you in the coming months, and thank you for grace I know I will need as I learn the practical aspects of priesting. God bless you, both individually, and as a congregation as you seek to glorify God and work out His will!

Submitted by Sherry Dejong

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St. James Cemetery

Have you ever visited St. James Cemetery on Parliament St. south of Bloor? There is a chapel in the cemetery called St. James-the-Less. The cemetery was created in 1845 on a 65-acre piece of land, once owned by John Graves Simcoe, and deeded to the Anglican Church of Toronto by Bishop Strachan. The chapel was erected in 1858 as simply a mortuary chapel. Later, in 1863, Rev. Samuel Boddy, the chaplain of the cemetery, began to conduct services there. As the congregation expanded, it led to the creation of both St. Peter's Church, at Carlton and Bleecker Streets, and St. Simon's, north of Howard Street. After that, St. James-the-Less was closed to regular worship. Rev. Samuel Boddy was the first rector of our church.

Why not visit St. James Cemetery and the chapel and think of those who were there worshipping until our St. Peter's was built?

*Submitted by Peggy Needham
on behalf of Isobel Allen*



St. James-the-Lesser Chapel

Upcoming Events at St. Peters

- **Sunday, November 20:**
Celebration of September, October, November and December birthdays during coffee hour
- **Sunday, December 4:**
Glorified Christmas Coffee hour and Snowflake Sale. Attention all you bakers out there! If you can bake something yummy please speak to Paul Mitchell (416-269-8952)
- **Sunday, December 11:**
Annual Sunday School Advent Pageant presented during service
- **Sunday, December 18:**
Annual "Carols and Hymns" Advent Service with visiting musicians
- **Sunday, December 25:**
Christmas Day service

Winter Events 2012

- **Monday, January 23:**
Turkey Dinner at Noon
For the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul
- **Sunday, February 19:**
Pancake and Sausage Lunch
For the beginning of Lent
- **Tuesday, February 28:**
Annual Vestry Meeting
Sandwich Lunch
- **Saturday, March 31**
Euchre Tournament

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Parish Life Committee

Our Flea Market held on September 10 was again a success!

Homemade Goodies	\$523
BBQ	\$239
Table Rentals	\$220
Treasures	\$277
<hr/>	
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,259

Thirty-four people came on our 23rd annual day bus trip on Saturday, October 1. We enjoyed a visit to a country store in Richmond Hill, a tour and tasting at Magnotta Winery in Vaughan, a delicious lunch at the Mandarin Restaurant and the afternoon was spent at the McMichael Art Gallery in Kleinburg. Our raffle raised \$164 for the church. Lucky winners were: Helga Baiersdorfer (Domino Pizza), Paul Mitchell (LCBO), Marjorie Philip (Cineplex) and Everton Morris (Tim Hortons)

Our 2nd annual Euchre Tournament was held on Saturday, October 15 preceded by a light lunch. Twenty attended this event and an astounding \$580 was raised from the tournament, 50/50 draw and sale of our homemade products. Well done!

Submitted by Paul Mitchell

The Church and the World

On October 24th, the Anglican Church's Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, was one of the signatories to an "Interfaith Call for Faith and Action on Climate Change" which was presented to Members of Parliament, and released to the press. It is a remarkable document, the first of its kind in Canada where leaders from all Christian denominations, plus Muslim, Jewish, Bah'ai, Buddhist, and other faith communities expressed their concern that Canada develop a cohesive plan to face the climate change crisis threatening especially the global South.

Cont.

The statement calls on our Government to develop a clear plan and policies which can be measured and implemented with regards to carbon emissions, etc. so that Canada can be responsibly represented at the upcoming international Conference on Climate Change in South Africa later in November. The Statement begins by acknowledging the spiritual aspect of climate change, as follows:

"We recognize that at its root the unprecedented human contribution to climate change is symptomatic of a spiritual deficit," write the leaders. "Excessive self-interest, destructive competition, and greed have given rise to unsustainable patterns of production and consumption."

Submitted by Diane Marshall

Divine Silence

Here at St. Peter's you will notice that from time to time in the liturgy, silence is kept. The first time you encounter such a silence, it may seem awkward, because you might not know how to use it. The key is to let God use it. You may reflect on the reading or sermon you have just heard, but most of all, try to still your mind and listen. For us to hear God speak, we must be quiet and listen.

Silence is an integral part of worship for us at St. Peter's. It allows us to take time to listen for the "still small voice" of God rather than filling every moment of worship with human language or music. There is a qualitative difference to participatory silence in a context of common prayer as compared to being quiet by oneself (which has its own value). It focuses our attention on the present rather than rushing from one part of the service to the next.

As Anglicans experience it, within breaks of silence, "we listen, we engage, we reflect, we move on, we stay grounded."

Submitted by David Lougheed

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Member Profile: John Varley

A recent welcome addition to St. Peter's Church community, John Varley was attracted to the Anglican Church because it offered the colour, music, collegiality and warmth that he needed to feel spiritually connected.

Before John came to St. Peter's he was active in two west end churches, St. John's (West Toronto) and All Saints', Kingsway, in Etobicoke, serving twice as a Rector's Warden, twice as an Advisory Board member, as Chair of Sidespersons, a chalice, lay reader and for seven years as Chair of the Ontario Synod's Secretariat for Government Relations.

For six years, he oversaw the Out of the Cold homeless shelter each Friday at All Saints'. He got an annual Christmas concert started which drew 600 to 700 people and raised up to \$10,000 annually to support that Out of the Cold program.

When he moved downtown in 2008, John found St. Peter's and the personal guidance from Pastor Judy Herron-Graham. It was not just Judy, however, that made him feel welcome, but the warmth of the parishioners, the music led so beautifully by our organist and choir director, John Terauds, and the service (especially the Peace.) Here he found a new home: an inclusive, friendly group that reached out to support the community, and yet also believed that beautiful surroundings stimulated spirituality.

John found that at St. Peter's he was finally free to become honest about who he is, and to bring Naveen Pathania to Sunday services. On June 25th Reverend Janet Sidey and Reverend Harold Jenkins honoured John and Naveen with their presence and prayers at John and Naveen's wedding. John was taken aback by the effusive greetings at St. Peter's when their wedding was announced as a blessed event the following Sunday.

Cont.

John is especially happy to assist at the communion table and as a lay reader, and take part in Richard Birt's dramatic events before Christmas and Easter.

He is very glad that St. Peter's now has weekday hours when it is open to visitors, including himself, who can enjoy quiet time and meditation in the presence of icons and candles in the chapel in the sanctuary.

We are grateful that John has chosen to join our church family, and returns even after his move back to Etobicoke last year.

Submitted by John Varley

