



# THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

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CANDLEMAS 2004

An occasional Newsletter for

Parishioners and Friends of Saint Thomas's Church, Toronto

## Wardens Report "A Very Good Year"

As we prepare for the Annual Meeting of Vestry on February 15, we should find a bit of time to reflect on the year just passed. In many ways, 2003 was a very good year for our parish community. Of utmost importance, of course is that at Candlemas last year, we welcomed Fr. Andrews as our new Rector. We are grateful for the leadership, enthusiasm, and energy that he brings to us, just as we are grateful that Frs. Ross, Freeland, Nichols, Neelands, and Little continue to serve God as assistant priests to our congregation. At Vestry we will attempt to express our thanks to the many stalwart staff and volunteers who have kept our church humming throughout 2003.

Financial statements for 2003 will be placed before Vestry. Although the numbers are preliminary at the time of writing, we can say that the budget deficit was much smaller than anticipated, largely because of a very generous increase in congregational givings. While additional support will be needed to close our budget gap in 2004, we do want to acknowledge the extra efforts that people are making. Details of the 2004 budget will be discussed at Vestry.

One other item of interest is that initial planning is now underway for a celebration of the parish's 130th Anniversary in the autumn of 2004. Let us spare a minute's thought for all those whose work and worship have helped build this little corner of Christ's kingdom since 1874, and resolve to shoulder together the responsibility for carrying on the mission 'til His kingdom come.



On the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, two members of the parish family were installed as Canons of the Diocese at St James Cathedral. Congratulations to Fr David Neelands, Dean of Theology, Trinity College and an Honorary Assistant at Saint Thomas's, and to Sister Constance, SSJD, who will shortly be celebrating her 100th birthday with the Parish. [See article p. 3]

## LENTEN & OTHER SPECIAL SERVICES

**SACRAMENTAL CONFESSION** The Anglican tradition in respect to Confession is that *All may, some should, none must*. The purpose of private confessions is to ease our conscience, to help in the healing of broken relationships, and to allow the Grace of God to make us whole again. Nothing could be more appropriate to undertake before Easter. *Confessions will be heard by the clergy throughout Lent on Fridays at 6pm in the Lady Chapel, or by appointment.* +MA

**CANDLEMAS, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2** Blessing of Candles, Procession & Solemn High Mass 6:15 pm

**SEPTUAGESIMA, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8** Reception after 11:00 am Mass to celebrate the 100th birthday of Sister Constance, SSJD. Preaching at 9:30 & 11:00 am Masses: The Rev Canon Harry Krauss, Vicar, Saint Thomas Church Fifth Ave, New York City. Canon Krauss will also be giving the sermon at the annual Choral Evensong of Thanksgiving for The Queen's Accession, to be held at St James' Cathedral at 4:30 pm

**SEXAGESIMA, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15** Low Mass: 8:00 am; Solemn High Mass: 10:30 am, followed by light lunch in the Parish Hall. Annual Vestry Meeting: 12:30 noon

**ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25:** Imposition of Ashes & Low Mass 7:30 am and 12:15 pm; Blessing & Imposition of Ashes & Solemn High Mass 6:15 pm

**LENT II, SUNDAY, MARCH 7** Holy Hour 4:30-5:30 pm, followed by Supper in the Parish Hall

**FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION, THURSDAY, MARCH 25** Solemn High Mass 6:15 pm, followed by Dinner in the Parish Hall and address by Fr Robert Crouse.

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### LENTEN BIBLE STUDY The Gospel of John

Monday evenings at the Rectory – Five Sessions – February 23 to March 22  
Light refreshments at 6 pm, Study from 6:30 – 8:00 pm

# The Rector's Message: Our Lenten Discipline

It was a little over a century ago that Arthur Evans discovered the palace of King Minos at Knossos on the island of Crete. It was an archeological dig that excited the world and led to a fascination with all things Minoan. Vast sums were spent by collectors and museums acquiring objects from the area. Scholars were enthusiastic in interpreting each new object that came to light.

Unfortunately, Evans' hired assistants were not only expert at piecing together fragments of statuary and jewellery, they were also expert forgers. So brilliant were they at carving and then aging their creations that Evans himself was fooled when these forgeries started to appear in antiquity shops in Europe. The scholars and the forgers fed each other. The original finds were written about and various theories published. This in turn inspired the forgers to create works of art that supported the theories. Evans then authenticated the forgeries which supported his hypotheses, which further inspired the forgers to create new and more fantastic objects.

Text books around the world show photographs and drawings of these forgeries as examples of early Greek art and as proof of an advanced civilization in Greece that rivalled Egypt and Mesopotamia. A whole civilization was created in people's minds that may have very little to do with historical reality. Many of the theories, however, must now be re-examined in light of the knowledge that many of the objects are of modern origin. It is a lesson for scholars, art dealers, and all of us, to take to heart. We find what we look for, not necessarily what is true.

This is a good lesson for us to consider in preparation for Lent. In Lent we are encouraged to look for what is

authentic in our life. We dig deep within our souls to uncover and bring to light what lies at our inner core. We know that the greatest treasure within us is the Image of God in which we are made. Ideally that image should not be buried very deeply. Our thoughts, our actions, our conversation, should all reveal that God's image burns brightly within us, so that all may see it.

Sometimes, however, that treasure is buried beneath sins and secrets and longings that belong to the things of this world, not to the Kingdom of God. The excavation of our souls in Lent is designed to bring these forgeries before the clear light of Christ so that they may be revealed for the frauds they are and so that the authentic treasure trove is easier to unearth.

The challenge is that, like Evans, we may already have an idea of what we are looking for. We think we know ourselves, both our virtues and our

sins, and so we often miss those things that are most obvious to others. A lenten discipline that is too lax may confirm us in our imperfect self-understanding, and allow our fraudulent selves to be held up as authentic, rather than the Image of God which lives at the centre of our lives.

Every lenten discipline should involve the reading of Scripture so that we have a clearer vision of Jesus in our hearts and minds, and a clearer sense of what the treasure within will look like. Then we are better able to undertake our soul-searching disciplines and profit from them. Lent is the necessary preparation for Easter, the celebration of the raising up to new life of the Son of God, and the raising up to new life of the Son of God in us.

With every blessing for a holy Lent,

+ Mark Andrews, Rector



*The Rector and Wardens recently decided that the monetary offering made to the Parish by couples being married at Saint Thomas's would henceforth be directed towards the Parish's outreach work. In this way, those participating in the counseling and liturgy comprising the Sacrament of Matrimony will immediately share in the outreach ministry of the Church, and so continue or begin, it is hoped, a life-long commitment to its work.*

## THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

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All uncredited photographs in this issue courtesy of Linda Russell, Parish Photographer

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: The Rector, Jean Nichols, Marilyn Ramsingh, John Aimers

## Parish Pledging Shows Healthy Upswing

by Anna Kennedy, Parish Treasurer

Year	Number of Pledges	Total of Pledges	Average Pledge
2001	49	\$ 79,812	\$1,628.82
2002	24	\$ 61,212	\$2,550.50
2003	13	\$ 38,628	\$2,971.38
2004	86	\$138,501	\$1,610.48

Of the 86 pledges made in 2004, 19 have signed up for "Pre-Authorized Giving".

As you can see from the chart above,

we have a much broader base of people making a financial commitment to the church now than four years ago. These are impressive results – thanks to all who responded to the Pledge Campaign last November. The 86 pledges represent 45% of the approximately 190 active envelope holders. Also, about half of the people that pledged in 2001 have continued to increase their pledges year over year since then. Please note that pledges can continue to be submitted via the Parish Administrator at any time.

# Sister Constance to Celebrate 100th birthday at Saint Thomas's

## 71 years of Religious Life – A Sister's memories

*[Sister Constance, SSJD, will worship with the Parish at High Mass on Sunday, February 8th, after which a Reception in the Parish Hall will celebrate her 100th birthday, February 2nd. In anticipation of this happy centenary, parishioners Margo and David Kent visited with Sister on January 13, the 71st anniversary of her admission as a postulant to the Sisters of Saint John The Divine. They kindly taped and then transcribed some of Sister's memories of her introduction to Saint T's and the religious life. Ed.]*

"My mother had gone to a school supervised by sisters (a dame school). She and my aunts were really 'associates' (though they didn't use the word); she belonged to a guild of the All Saints' Sisters in Baltimore, Maryland. There was a bit of racism at that time. Baltimore was a border city and still is to some extent. They were called the Guild but they did everything that Associates did.

"My mother should have had every reason to rejoice that I was going to be a sister. My family gave the sisters all kinds of food. The sisterhood had two orphanages, one for boys and one for girls. I was very much involved as a young person. I drove the sisters to market. I took the children out on Halloween. So my connections with sisters go back to my childhood, and I still have connections with the same sisters.

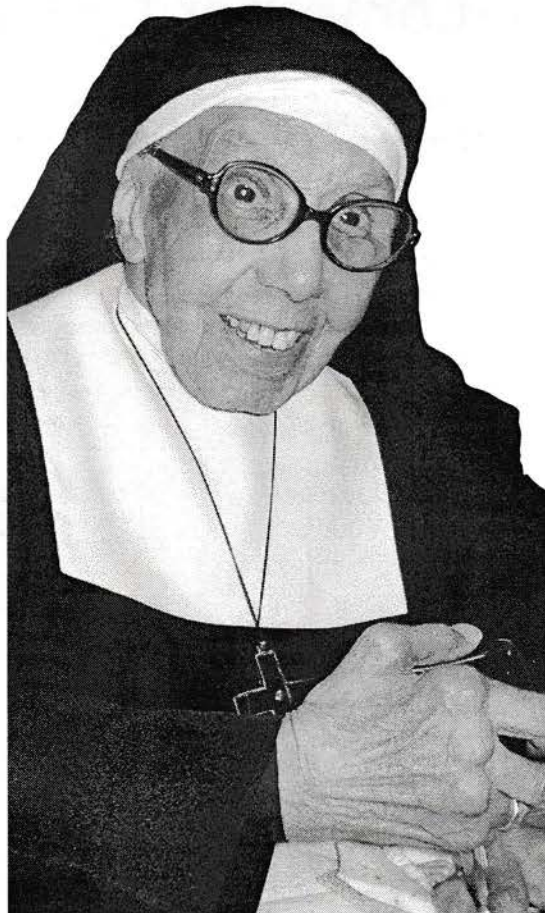
"If you're called, you have to go. My mother didn't accept my vocation, but I knew that I had a right to be a sister. Most of my family wasn't supportive, but there were no angry words. My father and mother simply had their own ideas. I had come to Toronto to spend a month at St. John's Convent on Major Street in July, 1932. This visit followed my first visit for Holy Week earlier that year. The sisterhood has to be able to see you.

"I couldn't join the All Saints Sisters because they wouldn't have taken a coloured girl. (That was never said in so many words.) However, they helped to arrange for me to come up here. They gave me a hope chest with a dozen serviettes, a dozen pillow cases, and

two dozen sheets. They embroidered my name on all my handkerchiefs. They did all of that.

"When the sisterhood has decided to accept you, then it is arranged. It's almost legal. The whole sisterhood sees you. They take you for drives. You meet the sisters who are coming home from branch houses. They are under no delusions about what you're like. Sister (later Mother) Aquila had just been admitted. When I arrived, two thirds of the sisters were sick. She and I got roped into doing all kinds of things. We were the two youngest. There was an epidemic of flu, and many sisters were in the infirmary. We worked in the kitchen and in the laundry. We took over. They appreciated us.

"While I was a postulant (I was admitted as a Novice six months later), I had many weekly duties. Anytime I was not occupied, I wasn't really happy. I didn't



*The Sister Constance, SSJD: A Living Rule*

dare think of not staying because I had burned all my bridges. I lived for Sundays and loved all that St. Thomas's entailed and represented. I was there steadily from 1932 until 1936. Mother Dora knew what I was going through. We had to do night duty. She would come and say goodnight. She gave me a hug and a kiss. She never missed a night. She always contrived to check on me. 'Are you all Right? Are you eating the proper meals?'

"The Sisters had a cottage at Port Sydney. We had to go there in the summer for two years after our admission. We couldn't go to our families. It was just firm. In fact, I didn't go home for ten years. In the meantime my father kept in touch with me. Mother Dora taught us chess at the cottage. She taught all of us the backstroke. But she never lost her dignity.

"Many years later my father's sister (a favourite aunt, Sue) invited me to come back for a visit when I was on vacation. My father arranged for me to go to her for a holiday in Somerset, Pennsylvania. All the cousins came up to see me. I did this for several years.

"Once Aunt Sue died, I couldn't go there. Mother and father wondered what would come of me. 'It's up to you, Grace,' my father told my mother. If she's to come back, you have to tell her. So she wrote me a letter and invited me home. We were reconciled.

"Fr. Stuart of St. Thomas's admitted me into the community as "Constance," a postulant, on January 13, 1933. Fr. Stuart was very close to us. He and Mother Dora were great friends. He was our chaplain. That means he was our confessor. He also spoke to us one night a week; I think it was at a Friday Evensong. On one of his visits he admitted me. We weren't afraid of him. He was part of the establishment. And Fr. Lyndon Smith was a great preacher, very scholarly. We were very glad. Of course, some thought he was too scholarly.

"We processed every Sunday to St. Thomas's. Mother Dora led the procession. She first straightened our collars. It was about six or seven blocks from

*continued on next page*

## Sister Constance...

*continued from previous page*

Major Street to Sussex. There was a dear lady who lived near the corner of Sussex and Huron. She was the widow of Bishop Sullivan. Someone came to take her to the cathedral, but she always waited to see us go by first. She wore a bonnet, would bow to Mother Dora, and wave a lace handkerchief.

"There were thirty or forty of us. We all went to church every Sunday. The Reverend Mother or the assistant or the novice mistress would lead. We marched in up the side aisle. Matins had just finished. We were seated by 10:45. We sat in the first three or four pews under the pulpit, depending on how many there were of us. We had the full service but we didn't make our communions. We had had our communion at our house and then we had breakfast. We always knelt until the church was almost empty. We left right afterwards. A lot of people would wait outside and wave to us. We didn't waste any time. There was no chatting. We processed back to the convent. We were very faithful and very prompt. We didn't miss a Sunday

"Mrs. Stuart and two other ladies constituted the ladies' choir. We could see her behind the boys' choir. They were quite hidden. That used to annoy us. They sang alto, probably. One of Sister Mary Olive's little brothers was in the St. Thomas's choir. They came in first. They had ruffs on their collars. Mother Dora said not to look at the little boys in case they started to giggle.

"But for St. Thomas's Church I don't think I could have stood the change. I lived for Sunday. I enjoyed the lovely leaflet edited by Fr. Stuart. I saved the leaflets for many years. He always wrote a message based on the particular Sunday. Without St. Thomas's, I simply couldn't have made it. I couldn't go back to Baltimore. My mother wouldn't have anything to do with me. I was one of two girls and I was a teacher and they were proud of my teaching. So if it wasn't for St. Thomas church, I don't think I would have stayed. We belonged to St. Mary's, one of the high churches in Baltimore. I was perfectly at home because St. Thomas's liturgy matched the liturgy of St. Mary's. I knew the ritual. I was very comfortable. We always went to the Three Hours Service on Good Friday. Derwyn Owen preached one of the last

Good Friday Three Hours before I went west.

"We were on the various guilds. Sister Barbara (later a novice mistress) was on the altar guild. We had two or three people on the altar guild. We made linens. I think we may have been in charge of the Altar Guild. The brass objects were big and heavy. They went on Saturday and did the brass then. Sisters also trained Sunday school teachers and provided teachers and acted as pastoral visitors, committee members, and Bible study workers.

"When the convent first moved to Willowdale in 1953, someone would pick us up and take us back to St. Thomas's for the Sunday service (at least for the first year). Then we started to attend the local parish church because it was so much more convenient. We had guests, and the sisters couldn't get away."

\* \* \*

Sister Constance has described the relationship between St. Thomas's and the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine in greater detail in *Household of God: A Parish*

*History of St. Thomas's Church, Toronto*, pp. 351-56.

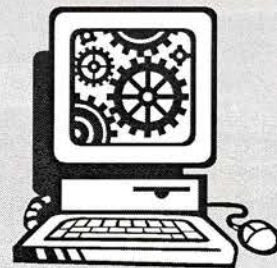
A few highlights of her long and distinguished service follow. From 1938 until 1955 she taught at, and became Head Mistress (1948) of, Qu'Appelle Diocesan School in Regina. Returning to Toronto, she was appointed Administrator of the Church Home for the Aged (1958-1972) and was invited by Bishop Garnsworthy to be the founding Chairperson of the Committee on the Elderly. She achieved an M.A. in Adult Education and Certificate in Gerontology in 1977 from the University of Michigan, and she has since received honorary doctorates (College of Emmanuel and St. Chad, Regina, and Trinity College, Toronto), provincial awards, and federal recognition. For the past thirty years she has worked with the elderly at St. John's Convalescent Hospital, St. Hilda's Towers, and Castle-Wychwood Towers. Her autobiography, *Other Little Ships: Memoirs of Sister Constance, SSJD* (published in 1997), contains additional details of her early years in Toronto.

## Computer Corner

*Parish CD-ROM Material Urgently Needed –  
Web Site Visitors up by 260%!*

*by John Meadows, Parish Webmaster*

Readers of past issues of the *Newsletter* may recall mention of a Saint Thomas's CD ROM that was to be ready last year. The project had to be delayed for a variety of reasons, but the good news is that it is definitely alive this year, although in a different format. As part of the 130th anniversary celebration, we will be releasing two to three DVD's. The first will feature the Easter Vigil 2000 service. Portions of this service are currently on the web site, but once some copyright issues have been dealt with this DVD will contain the entire service. This first disk should be available by the end of February. The second disk will either be the Patronal Festival as taped in 1999, or it is possible that we may tape the 2004 Patronal Festival and release that as the second DVD. We hope that a third DVD will also be available in 2004; this disk will be a grab bag of sorts, and we are still looking for more old photographs, tapes, and especially any home movies or home videos of Saint Thomas's in days past. If you have anything for the DVD, please contact John Meadows via email: [john@meadowsonline.com](mailto:john@meadowsonline.com)



Stay tuned for further details on when the first disk will be available!

# Stewart Bull: RIP

by Greig Dunn

Stewart Bull, a former prominent member of St Thomas's, died on November 17th. Many people will remember the terrific energy and enthusiasm that he brought to St Thomas's as coordinator of Outreach, as a member of the Spadina Bloor Interchurch Council, and as an eager participant in many other parish activities.

Born in Windsor Ontario and given a strong Anglo-Catholic upbringing, Stewart joined the Essex and Kent Regiment in 1940 and was despatched to England and then to active service in France. His competence and efficiency resulted in rapid promotion to the rank of major. While sheltering with his men on the eve of a battle, he arranged with the chaplain for a celebration of the Eucharist attended by many more people than had been expected. Next day as he courageously led his men forward, a bomb exploded close by, causing him severe injuries that resulted in the loss of one eye. Invalided out to England, he later returned home.

Continuing his interrupted career as a high school teacher, he soon moved to Toronto to be head of English at the University of Toronto Schools. Colleagues and former students remember him for fine teaching and for the great spirit with which he supported every school activity. And memorable he was. He loved poetry, and one colleague recalls his reading aloud Keats' "Ode to Melancholy" to a class as "if it were a call to arms."

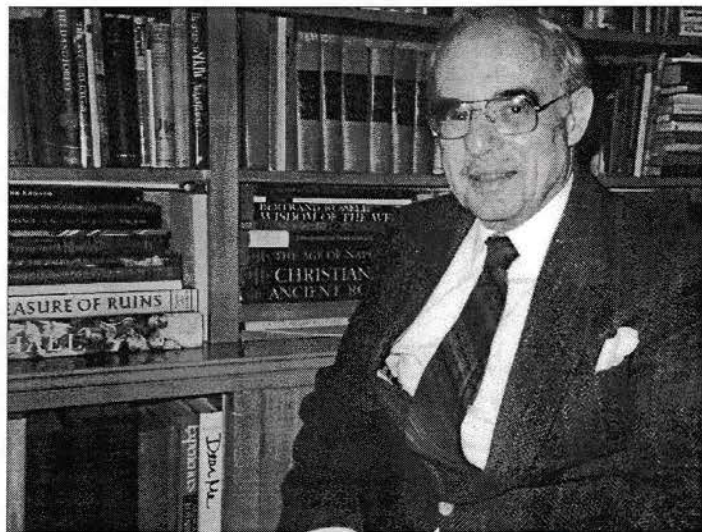
He continued a lifelong dedication to the military by taking over the cadet corps at UTS and by becoming associated with the Queen's York Rangers. He wrote their regimental history and was proud to present a copy in person to the Queen and later to meet her son Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment.

Stewart was devoted to his family: to his children and grandchildren, nephews and nieces, and above all to his wife Doris, who herself had a distinguished career in education culminating in her being Principal of St Mildred's Lightbourn School, formerly run by the Community of the Sisters of the Church. Doris describes their last few visits to England when she, unwell herself, led the way and Stewart, increasingly blind, followed behind carrying the bags.

Stewart and Doris came to St Thomas's when Stewart's younger brother Edgar was rector here and remained for many years afterward, but as health problems pressed ever harder, they returned to their former parish of All Saints Kingsway nearer their home. The funeral held there on 22 November and well attended by family, friends, former school colleagues and members of the armed forces, was a rich tribute to a remarkable man.

## Carol Kysela adds:

When I first came to St. T's in 1978 Stewart was a regular intercessor at the 9:30 mass. I was so very impressed with his teacherly attitude toward the congregation in leading us through the intercessions he had prepared for us for the day. I can still remember the confident way he would organize himself at the front of the congregation in order to read his intercessions, how he would take his reading glasses out and put



Stewart Bull: soldier, teacher, churchman

them on, arrange his papers on the little reading stand in the midst of the people, then eyeing us first from under his bushy brows, begin instructing us on the method and focus for the intercessions that day. It was the first time I realized that someone could stand in a house of God, speak original words from the heart and give non-ritualized instructions to the congregation. He was very clear with his instructions so that once the intercessions began, there would be no hesitation or fumbling around from the congregation... He was probably the beginning of my understanding that one could link one's public worship practice with one's personal and civic concerns.

Stewart represented St. Thomas's in the INTCH organization [an Inter-Church organization in the Annex which organized social outreach programs] and was a formidable advocate for that organization. There was no question that he felt the organization could do so much more if St. T's would simply put some energy and resources behind its membership. As well, he made personal sacrifices financially in order to contribute the maximum amount possible to St. Thomas's needs... In this he also assumed a teacherly attitude, explaining that it was possible to budget one's personal resources in a disciplined fashion in order to contribute to the creation of the Kingdom on earth.

## Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament



### Lenten Holy Hour

Led by Fr Brian Freeland

Readings and hymns and quiet time  
for meditation

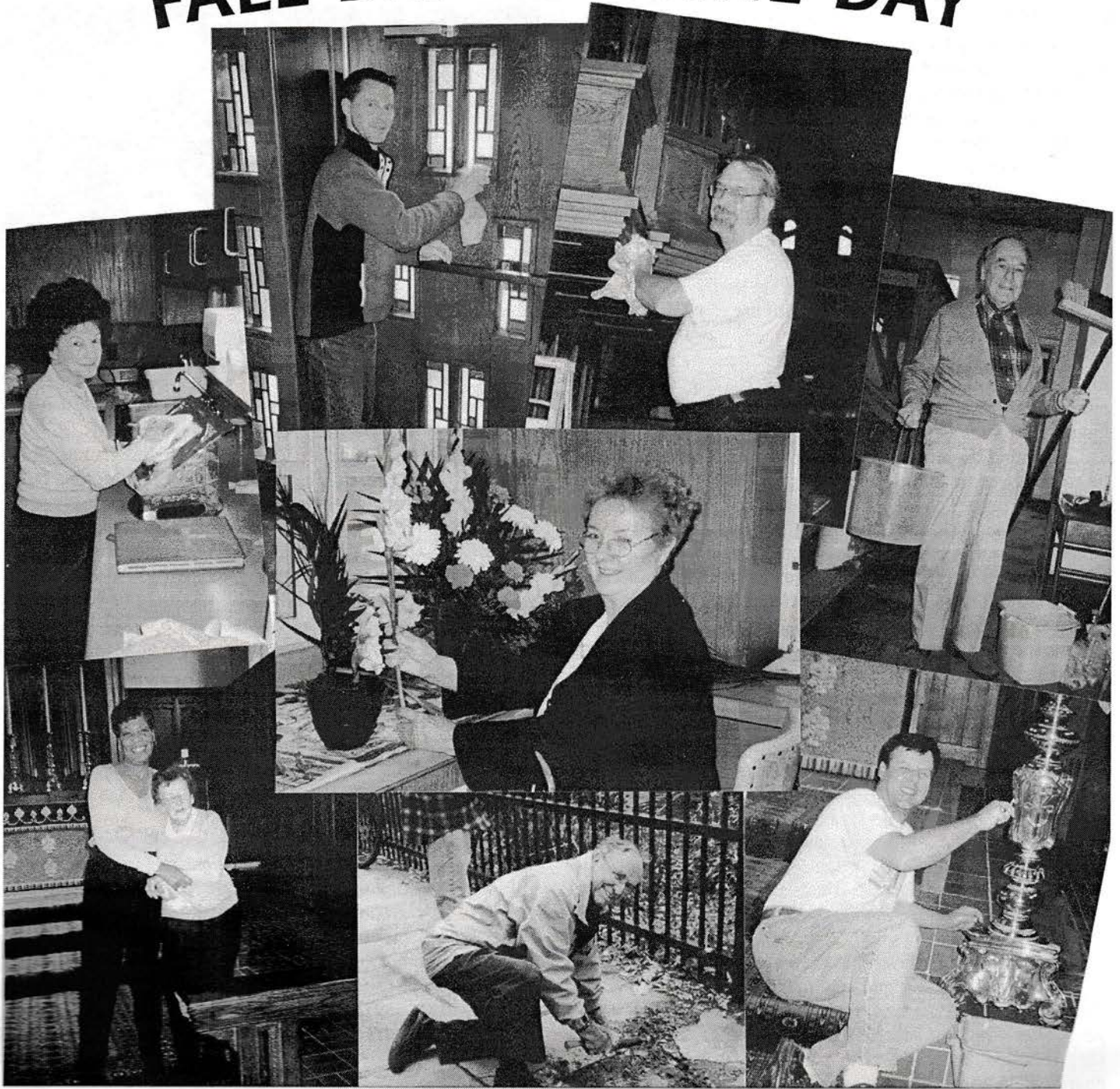
A wonderful way to add to your  
Lenten Discipline

Lent II: March 7, 2004- 4:30-5:30 pm  
followed by supper in the Parish Hall

Everyone welcome. Information:

Ruth Baillie (416) 231-4508

# FALL BENEDECTINE DAY



Dr Foo writes: "The varied faces and tasks of the November 15 Benedictine Day – Labore est Orare. With warmest thanks and appreciation to all who took part, not forgetting the members of the Altar Guild of our Catholic parish for whom the whole year is a perpetual Benedictine Day."

PHOTO CREDIT: Suan Seh Foo

The next Benedictine Day will take place on SATURDAY, MARCH 20th. Everybody welcome for all or part of the day – a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners as we join in light maintenance and general cleaning activities. We usually gather for a cup of coffee around 9:00 am in the Parish Hall, interrupt our work for Mass at 10:00 am, enjoy a convivial lunch and finish our labours by around 3:30 or so. Information available from Gene Stewart: [genestewart@sympatico.ca](mailto:genestewart@sympatico.ca)

## Parish to Celebrate 130th Anniversary in the Fall

*Parish Mission, Homecoming, Vestment Display among celebration highlights*

The Rector, Wardens and a number of parishioners have been meeting informally to consider how St Thomas's might appropriately celebrate its 130th anniversary this year. Conversations have borne in mind the desirability for observances to centre on re-affirming the Parish's unique Anglo-Catholic heritage, possibly through a teaching mission; on proclaiming the richness of our tradition to the neighbourhood and beyond by means of a special musical event and a vestment display; and by welcoming former parishioners and friends as well as our Annex neighbours during a Homecoming Weekend – all of which would be intertwined with celebrations of the Mass and the Daily Offices which constitute the true heart of this church. Tentative dates suggest celebrations – designed to be self-financing – will run from Michaelmas through to the Feast of Dedication. As different Parish organizations consider how they might contribute to the Anniversary, parishioners should watch the *Newsletter* and the Saint Thomas's website for further information.

## Property Committee

### Kitchen Renovations, Storage Space and Archives Refurbishment to be 2004 Priorities

*by Gene Stewart, Chairman*

A review of the past year's Property Committee activities would indicate that it was a fairly active year in which a number of projects were completed, some new projects commenced and some new practices were initiated. Most important, however, is that we can take joy in the commitment and active participation of several of our Committee members and other parishioners in our continuing maintenance activities.

Some of the major projects undertaken and completed this year were the cleaning, repair and renewal of the eaves and roofing drainage systems on all buildings, renovation and replacement of the roofs over the front and rear decks on the Rectory, renovation of the front deck on the Rectory, exterior painting of the Church, Parish Hall and Rectory, purchase of a new Garden/Garbage Shed, installation of flushing controls and a new motor for the boiler and wrapping of some of the heating pipes, and the installation of a new electrical panel serving the east end of the Hall and the kitchen.

A start was made on cleaning out some of our storage areas. There is much

to do here and this will be one of our main activities in 2004 in our ongoing efforts to recapture and make more useful our sorely needed storage rooms, cupboards and closets.

Some initial investigations was carried out on a sound system for the church by Janet Burnie and Robin Lable. The Canadian Hearing Society were contacted and a presentation was given by them on various systems we could consider. Further studies will follow.

We had several well-attended Benedictine Days in 2003. Considerable work was carried out on the gardens under Jennifer Grange's direction. Two good sessions were held in the Fall to clean, dust and polish the Church. These Benedictine Days are proving to be very successful in not only maintaining our premises but also in enriching our Parish life through "Good Works" involving a number of willing parishioners. *Four Benedictine Days are scheduled for 2004 – Saturdays March 20, June 5, Sept. 25, Nov. 6.*

Next year we look forward to the long awaited renovations to the kitchen under the direction of the Kitchen Committee. This work will certainly be the most ambitious activity in 2004. Thus we will be keeping other property maintenance and capital expenditures to affordable levels and concentrating much of our effort on low cost activities such as storage area renewal and care of our archives.

*Gene Stewart* has stepped down as Chair of the Committee and he has been replaced by *Robin Lable*. Robin has been an active member this past year and brings some good experience and a solid commitment to the work ahead. Gene will continue on as a member.

## New Book in the Parish Library

*The Question of God: the world views of C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud* – A psychiatrist and professor, Armand Nicholi based this book on a popular course he teaches at Harvard. He compares the philosophy, life events, and writings of his two subjects. Of particular interest is how Lewis and Freud, the Christian and the atheist, each handled crises in their lives.



*Jennifer Grange was one of about 25 parishioners who enjoyed Advent Bible Study at the Rectory. Led through musical aspects of Handel's Messiah by Larry Beckwith, and the Scripture texts which constitute the libretto by the Rector, the group enjoyed a final evening with a dinner followed by attendance at Tafelmusik's performance of the Oratorio.*

## Social Committee

by Susan Clarke, Chairman

Advent and Christmas season provided several opportunities for fellowship in the Parish Hall. Receptions took place after the Evensong with Advent Carols on Nov 30 and the Nine Lessons on Dec 21: these evenings were filled with great seasonal foods and refreshments. A variety of Christmas treats, cheeses, sandwiches and hot apple cider were just some of our offerings.

Another highlight was the visit of Archbishop on December 7th to preside and administer Confirmation. After the 11:00 am Mass, cake was served to all in the Parish Hall to celebrate His Grace's visit and the new confirmands.

Epiphany brought yet another reception after Evensong of Jan 4th 2004. This evening was well "in tune" as our choirs prepared and served delicious food. Upcoming events include the visit of Sister Constance to St Thomas's on Feb 8th to mark her 100th birthday with cake in the Parish Hall following the 11 am Mass; our reception after Candlemas on Feb 2 and the Mardi Gras Evening Feb 20th.

Thanks to all those who donated food or took time to help in setup or cleanup. Your participation made possible the continued building of Saint Thomas's fellowship and the maintenance of our tradition of "gourmet" hospitality.

## Liturgy Group: Visit to Holy Blossom Temple

by Jeff Creighton

On Saturday, December 20, parishioners of St. Thomas's attended a Shabbat morning service for the first day of Hanukkah at Holy Blossom Temple. Holy Blossom is one of the oldest synagogues in Toronto: the present building dates only from 1937, but the congregation worshipped previously in the synagogue on Bond Street (now St. George's Greek Orthodox Church). We were welcomed by David Hart, parish archivist and lifelong congregation member (old enough to remember worshipping in the Bond Street synagogue), who met with us afterwards to field our questions.

As a Reform congregation, Holy Blossom has always taken the view that the traditions of orthodox rabbinic Judaism need to be treated critically, and adapted to the conditions of modern Western life. On entering, for example, we were told that head-covering was optional. But, testifying to a new appreciation within Reform Judaism of some of the old traditions, a significant minority of the men and a few women now wear the yarmulke and prayer shawl. The service, partly sung (in Hebrew) and spoken (in English), was long (even by St. Thomas's standards!) and included two bat mitzvahs, as well as the singing of the Hallel psalms

for Hanukkah. The familiarity that the worshippers have with their liturgy is wonderful, and the Hebrew refrains were sung with verve.

After the service, Mr. Hart took us up to the front and opened the Ark, to show us the Torah scroll used in worship, and two antique Sephardic Torah scrolls in elaborately ornamented metal casings.

In addition to their love of worship, the people at Holy Blossom have a strong commitment to Jewish education, and to working with poor and marginalized people; their Out of the Cold programme is one of the largest and most popular in the city. Their Associate Rabbi, Yael Splansky, will be participating in the Children of Abraham interfaith dialogue sponsored jointly by St. Thomas's, St. Mary Magdalene's and Trinity College in March.

The Liturgy Group, which made the excursion to Holy Blossom, is the brainchild of St. T's parishioner and acolyte *Riva Lieflander*, and its members are drawn from St. Thomas's, Trinity College and the Sacred Music Society. They have already attended a Ukrainian Catholic service (in November) and aim to continue meeting once a month to experience different liturgical traditions.

### "PARTY GRAS"

A CELEBRATION OF  
TOGETHERNESS AT ST. THOMAS'S

An evening cabaret with light  
refreshments

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2004  
7:30 pm

Gather for drinks, finger food  
and table talk

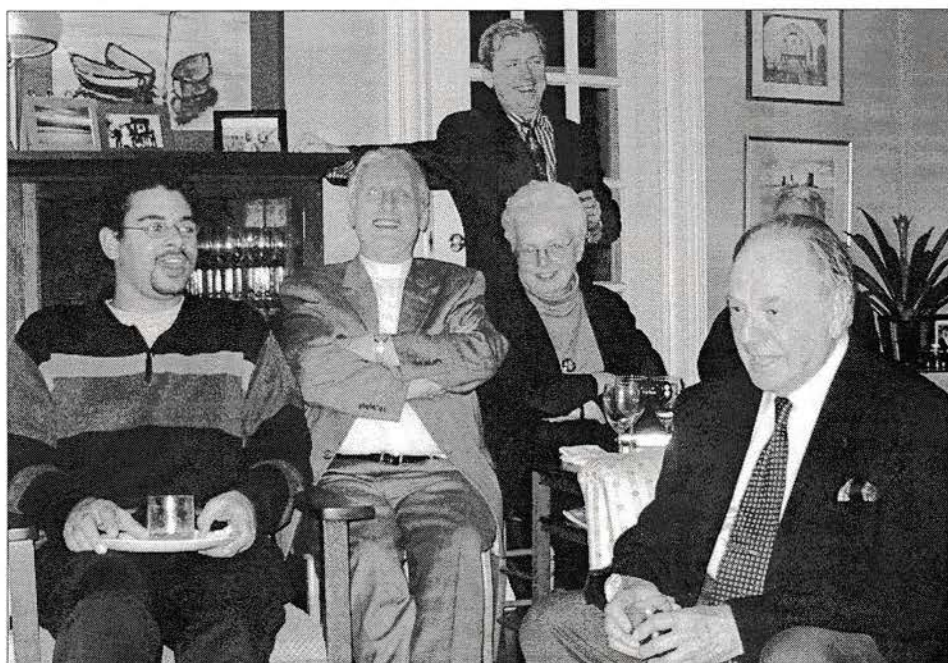
Cash Bar – Lucky Draws  
Music and song by parishioners  
and choir members

Tickets \$15.00 from the Parish Office,  
in the Hall after Sunday Masses  
or at the door if still available  
(seating limited to 80)

Information and offers of raffle  
items (gratefully received)  
please contact the organizers

EARL BARNESLEY (416) 467-0481  
barnesley@idirect.com

FR JIM HUNT (416) 789-3506  
jimhunt@colosseum.com



Amongst those enjoying the Epiphanytide Acolyte Party at the Rectory were (l-r) Vince Meade, Fr Ian & Jean Nicholls, David Montgomery and Walter Hardacre.



## CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

### *Two Evenings of Inter-Faith Dialogue during Lent*

The Human Experience of God; Voices from the Children of Abraham, a program of two evenings of dialogue regarding the shared religious heritage of the story of Abraham for Moslems, Christians and Jews, will be presented at the George Ignatieff Theatre on March 9 and 11 at 7:30 pm.

St. Thomas's parish, in conjunction with the Faculty of Divinity at Trinity College and St. Mary Magdalene's Parish, have been working with Dr. Margaret MacMillan, Provost of Trinity College; Rabbi Yael Splansky of Holy Blossom Synagogue; Bishop John Boissonneau, Auxilliary Bishop in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto; and Islamic Scholar, Reem Meshal, from McGill University and the University of Toronto in order to seek a way for Moslems, Jews and Christians to talk to each other, to determine the grounds for a conversation, a way of creating a new sense of home in the world, a way beyond tolerance, to the point where we are able to enjoy our differences and yet remain faithful to the principles and practices of our different traditions. The need to find conversational ground is intense in our post 9/11 world where we find that history provides us with good reasons to respond with hate and fear of each other, a reality that liberal theology has often failed to recognize.

We have turned to the stories of Abraham because these stories provide a

definition of faithfulness and they mark the beginning of the monotheistic experience for Jews, Christians and Moslems. Stories are often able to provide additional layers of insight that philosophical discussions can miss. Classic stories, such as those of Abraham, have been providing generations with paradox and questions, new for each age, just as the thin thread of a man's faithfulness fed the development of three rich mines of tradition. Thus it is that we ask if these stories and our listening to them can lead us into a new sense of hope for a future together.

Each evening will consider one of the episodes in Abrahams's journey with God. The first evening we will look at "The Call" when Abraham begins his journey; the second evening we will consider the complex and wrenching story of "The Binding." The evenings will be moderated by Dr. MacMillan and will include a period of audience discussion with the speakers as well as short presentations from each regarding the foundational impact these stories have had on each tradition.

The evenings are free, but seating within the George Ignatieff Theatre is limited, so overflow space will be provided. *The Theatre is located on the ground floor of the Larkin Building of Trinity College, directly south of the former location of Varsity Stadium at 15 Devonshire Place between Hoskin Ave. and Bloor St. W. For additional information see St. Thomas's Web site or phone Carol Kysela at (416) 461-9595.*

## Advent Flyer Welcomes Neighbours

by Ann Welsh

"I came because I got your flyer." That's what a number of people attending Advent and Christmas services at St. Thomas's in December said to Fr Andrews.

The Advent Flyer was the first in a series of five flyers that St. Thomas's will produce and distribute within our parish boundaries over the next several months. This is a pilot project to see if flyers are a better and less expensive way to publicize our services and events. Traditionally, we've advertised our holiday services in the Saturday religious directories of the daily newspapers. This is expensive and may not be effective in reaching people in our own neighbourhood. Flyers mean we can target our service information to people who live in the parish. They also give us the option of including more information and photographs.

*The Rector* wrote, designed and produced the Advent flyer. A private delivery service printed and delivered it (at a very reasonable cost and being respectful of households with "no flyer" notices). In addition to the flyer, we were able to place advertisements in the religious directories of the Toronto Star and the Globe and Mail – thanks to the generous donations of some St. Thomas's parishioners.

Thanks to Webmaster *John Meadows*, the St. Thomas's web site had an Advent 2003 link featuring services and events. With the help of the Kitchen Renovation Committee, we offered visitors to the web site the opportunity to download "Advent Treat" recipes from "Recipes from Smokey Tom's". We launched this with a news release following "Stir Up Sunday" (the Sunday before Advent).

Parishioner (and expert sign maker) *Robert Lambert* is working with Fr Andrews and the Communications Committee to improve signage inside and outside the Church and Parish Hall. A new bulletin board (from an anonymous donor) in the Parish Hall entry hall features "This Month @ St. Thomas's" and makes information about upcoming events and services easy to find.



*Members of the Acolyte Guild join the Rector and parish clergy in front of the High Altar on the Feast of the Epiphany. Fr Andrews is flanked (l-r) by Frs. Little, Lloyd, Neelands, Freeland, (Vince Meade, Subdeacon), Nicholls, Ross & Mulholland.*

# WHAT IS EFM?

## Equipping For Ministry May Launch Second Group at St T's

by Fr Robert Ross

Every second Saturday morning, a group of 13 adults meets at St Thomas's for Education for Ministry, an extension programme of the University of the South, a highly regarded Anglican arts and theological college in Sewanee, Tennessee (some of the English literature academics in the congregation will be familiar with *The Sewanee Review*, a scholarly journal). Are the participants candidates for Holy Orders? No; most certainly not! They are ordinary Christian men and women who are engaged in a serious study of Holy Scripture, Church History, Historical Theology, and Systematic/Philosophical Theology. There is no "teacher" for the group, other than the texts provided by the university, although each EFM group has a trained "mentor" (usually a person with some theological education). The ages of the participants vary from 20-something to plus-65. Why are they doing it? Simply put: To better understand the Christian tradition (and how it has been received by Anglicans) so that they might more fully live out their baptismal promises in the world; in other words, that they might be better "ministers" or servants of Christ.

At each seminar, participants (representing each of the four years of the programme) take turns "presenting" some aspect of their reading. A typical discussion could include the geographical details of the Joseph novel (year 1), aspects of the Gospel of Luke (year 2), the doctrine of the Trinity (year 3), and Hermeneutics and Fundamentalism (year 4). Amazingly, we often find fascinating connections between these disparate elements of the tradition! Naturally, we are always short of time to finish our discussions!

In addition to the a lively discussion of the "content" provided by the EFM texts (written by professors from the University of the South, School of the Theology), the EFM seminar also provides an opportunity to connect Holy Scripture and tradition with one's own life experience, with contemporary culture (broadly interpreted), and with one's own deepest beliefs. Various "models" of theologi-



Advent II, December 7th, found His Grace the Archbishop of Toronto at Saint Thomas's to preside, preach and confirm. The Archbishop joined the confirmands at a post-service Reception: l-r: Cynthia Yip, Alessia Liberatore-Williams, Ann Welsh, Alain Brosseau and Timothy Wright.

cal reflection, developed over the years by Sewanee, provide a framework for this conversation.

My own experience with EFM began in the early 1980s, when I was a priest in the Diocese of Kootenay, British Columbia. The Bishop in that diocese brought the program to Canada. There are now over 500 students in Canada – in dioceses from Victoria to Newfoundland – and thousands of other graduates. EFM has spread throughout the world, with seminar groups in Great Britain, Europe, New Zealand and Australia, and South America. It is also used by Roman Catholics, Lutherans, and other main-stream Christian denominations.

The genius of the program is that it is both academically rigorous and thorough, but written in a way that is accessible to non-specialists. While it takes for granted the critical advances of the last 200 years of biblical and historical studies, it is not excessively "liberal" or "conservative" in bias. Most importantly, through theological reflection, the programme stresses growth in understanding and faith, not simply the "debate" of doctrine or belief. Participants find that it is in really listening – both to the written text and to the human "text" (i.e., the deepest and most cherished beliefs of others in the group) – that true growth in faith occurs. It is a method that could be of some use to the Church in this diocese and elsewhere as we grapple with some very contentious issues in the household of God over the next few months and

years!

The EFM group at St Thomas's is "full" right now (in fact, we are over-subscribed), but we hope to start a second group this fall. Participants commit to one year at a time. The tuition is \$400 per year. Stay tuned for more information.

*St Thomas friend and Trinity College student Fr William Craig preached at the morning Masses on the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul. An extract from his Sermon follows:*

"If we are Christ's body, then we are the instrument by which He works in the world, both to one another, as Ananias ministered to the blind Saul, and to the people around his. Saul's conversion, his call by Christ even when he counted himself the greatest enemy of Christ, shows us the loving mercy of God, in that while we are enemies, while we are sinners, God saves us in Christ. God's will is to give the same loving mercy to the world through us. When we do not act in mercy and forgive others in the same way, we impede His will... We must forgive first, while others are still our enemies; we must not expect them to change and become good before we forgive, for that is not how God has treated us... It is not easy, but it is our simple calling: since God treats his enemies like his friends, we must do no less."

## FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

"WHO HAS THAT BEAUTIFUL VOICE?" is a frequently heard question after one of the three choral services offered to God each Sunday at Saint Thomas's. With this issue the Parish Newsletter begins to profile some members of our choirs, beginning with two of the section leaders. [Ed.]



**Janice Kerkkamp**, contralto, has been a section lead in Saint Thomas's choirs (currently, 11:00 and Evensong) since 1989. She is a member of the Exultate Chamber Singers (since 1983) and Sine Nomine Ensemble for Medieval Music, and has been singing for the High Holiday services (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur) at Holy Blossom Temple for the past nine years. Janice holds a MusBac and a BEd from the University of Toronto. As a freelance singer/flautist she is a frequent guest artist with other choirs and ensembles. Janice teaches flute, musicianship, and music theory (all levels). Her husband, *John Meadows*, is a baritone in the 11:00 choir, and her daughters, *Julia* and *Laura*, participate in the 11:00 liturgy as boat-bearers.



**Bryan Martin**, bass section lead, has been a member of the Evensong choir since 1994, and the 11:00 Mass choir since 2001. Before that, he sang at Deer Park United Church for 16 years, and was also the choir director at St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. He is also a founding member of the medieval music ensemble Sine Nomine (which calls St. Thomas's home). His "day job" is at the Music Library at UofT, where he catalogues compact discs, wrangles computers, and is the resident early music guru. He has been married for 20 years to his charming and beautiful wife,

*Cathy*, and has 2 teenaged sons, *Jimmy* and *Sandy*. In what he laughingly calls his spare time he enjoys fixing his house and his computers, and watching his sons curl (winter) and play baseball (summer).

### ORGAN NOTES

*John Tuttle* writes: The 32 foot digital stop has arrived. The hardware is installed, but the stop has not yet been voiced and regulated for our space. By the time this is in print, you will, no doubt have heard, and noticed (!) a new dimension to the sound of the instrument. You can see the most impressive bit of hardware involved in the acquisition of a speaker to give effect to this new sound, located in a box the size of a small refrigerator which now lives behind the choir stalls on the South side.

### MUSIC NOTES

At the High Mass of *Candlemas, Monday February 2 at 6:15 pm* the choir will sing *Healey Willan's* lovely setting of the Mass, *Missa Brevis IV*. The distinguished Canadian composer (1880-1968) was for many years organist and choirmaster of the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Toronto. This mass setting, based on the Christmas sequence of *Corde Natus Ex Parentis*, was written in 1934. Parishioners will know it as the tune for "Of the Father's Love Begotten." Portions of this melismatic melody appear in the Kyrie, Sanctus and Benedictus. The whole Chant is contained within the Agnus Dei. The motet will be "When to the temple Mary went" by the German Johann Eccard (1553-1611), while the service will also include some very beautiful organ music for the occasion by Bach from the Orgelbuchlied, and the fugue on *Magnificat (Tonus Peregrinus)* from his Miscellaneous Chorales.

At the High Mass of *Ash Wednesday, February 25, at 6:15 pm* the mass setting is by the English composer *William Byrd* (1543-1623) whose *Mass for Five Voices* was originally written for the feast of Corpus Christi. Simple in performance, classical in its precision and balance, the Mass is unusual in that Byrd provided music for the Kyrie, which hitherto had not appeared in English mass settings. Ironically, the Mass could not be performed liturgically when it was written as Elizabeth I had suppressed the Latin Mass along with other "popish" practices. The choir will also sing *Gregorio Allegri's* (1582-1652) haunting *Miserere*. Taking as its text the penitential Psalm 51, the work is known for its haunting top C, sung by a single soprano in a small choir, physically separated from a larger choir, sweeping fauxbourdon-style harmonies alternating with simple plainchant.

## Kitchen Renovation Underway Soon

The Kitchen Renovation Committee is thrilled to announce that Corporation has given us the green light to proceed with construction of our new kitchen. We hope to begin in early summer and finish by Sept. 1, in time for the 130th anniversary of the parish. There are adequate funds to complete a basic renovation.

We are very grateful to all in the parish who have generously donated to the fund and who have supported our fund raising events. Thus far we have received three memorial gifts to the memory of *Ted Stanton, Gail & Jack Burden*, and *John Pye*. There will be hand-painted ceramic plaques permanently displayed in the new kitchen acknowledging each memorial gift.

At the time of our initial fundraising, a few parishioners indicated that they would delay donating to the fund until construction was a reality. Now that we have reached that state, we are asking anyone who wishes to contribute to the kitchen fund, in the form of a donation or a memorial gift, to contact *Anna Kennedy*, the church treasurer. She can be reached at 416-308-8192.

For more information about the kitchen please contact one of the co-chairs, either *Marion Dorosh* at 416-482-2243 or *Carol Kysela* at 416-461-9595. We welcome all comments and queries.

## Two Parishioners Receive Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

**Earl Barnsley, Christine Hurlbut**  
honoured for VoicePrint activities

At the December OVS Award Ceremonies held in Toronto, Saint Thomas parishioners *Earl Barnsley* – Coordinator of Sidesmen and Women – and *Christine Hurlbut* – an Altar Guild member – were honoured by the Government of Ontario for their dedicated service to VoicePrint, an organization which tries to assist blind, low-vision and other print-restricted Canadians by providing access to magazines and current affairs through broadcast and other media. The Volunteer Service Award is an element of the Provincial Honours System designed to celebrate the contribution of volunteers to community organizations.

## Saint Thomas's Church

### DIRECTORY

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Rector [rector@stthomas.on.ca](mailto:rector@stthomas.on.ca)

Rector: Fr Mark Andrews (416) 345-8787

#### Assistant Priests:

Fr Brian D Freeland (416) 461-7025

& Fr Robert A Ross (416) 588-6946

#### Honorary Assistant Priests:

Frs A. Thomas Little,

W. David Neelands & Ian D. Nichols

#### Layreaders:

Walter O. Hardacre & Mary Suddon

#### Churchwardens:

Nigel Wright (416) 362-7711 &

Marilyn Ramsingh (416) 465-1921

#### Deputy Churchwardens:

Patricia Kennedy & Gene Stewart

#### Organist & Choirmaster:

John H. Tuttle (416) 236-2750

#### Parish Administrator:

Barbara A. O'brai (416) 820-3560 cellular

Financial Officer & Treasurer: Anna Kennedy

Bookkeeper: Greg Anderson

Church School Supervisor: Diana Versegghy

Nursery School Supervisor: Maggie Murre

Web Master & Computer Consultant:

John Meadows [john@meadowsonline.com](mailto:john@meadowsonline.com)

Coordinator of Sidesmen and women:

Earl Barnsley (416) 467-0481

Sexton: Colin Anderson – Church Hall

Bookings: Mary Suddon (416) 924-6179

### WORSHIP AT SAINT THOMAS'S

#### SUNDAYS

Masses: 8:00 am (BCP, plain celebration);

9:30 am (BAS, Sung); 11:00 am (BCP,

Solemn High)

Mattins (said) 10:30 am – Solemn

Evensong & Devotions 7:00 pm

#### WEEKDAYS

Masses: 5:30 pm Monday & Friday –

12:15 noon Tuesday & Thursday

7:30 am Wednesday, 10:00 am Saturday

Morning Prayer is said daily 8:30 am,

Saturday 9:30 am

Evening Prayer is said daily at 5:00 pm,

except Tuesday and Wednesday at

5:15 pm. Candelight Meditation follows

Evening Prayer on Wednesday.

Confessions: At times announced or by  
appointment with any of the Parish Clergy

## PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

As you read of the diverse life of this church, it becomes clear that Saint Thomas's offers a host of ways for parishioners and friends to become more closely involved in the work of the Parish as well as of the many organizations which make their home here. Here are contacts who would welcome your inquiry and assistance. You can find them at mass, or leave a message at the Parish Office.

#### ORGANIZATION/ACTIVITY

Canadian Tire Money/  
Cookbook purchase

CD-ROM project  
loans of archival materials

Church School  
teaching, enrolment

Communications Committee Writers, copy-editors, proof-readers. Desk-top publishing and word processing support (need own computer and software) to assist in creating flyers and posters. Parishioners with media relations expertise and fax/internet access capability. Assistance with putting up posters on U of T Campus for Lenten Inter-faith program. Assistance with distributing materials to other Toronto Anglican Churches on Lenten Inter-faith program.

Confraternity of the  
Blessed Sacrament

Daily Offices  
officiating, reading Lessons

Education Committee  
planning Parish teaching events

Lenten Bible Study

Parish Newsletter  
Writing, production, delivery

Property Management  
Committee

Light maintenance, carpentry & general clean-up

Social Committee  
Event planning and kitchen volunteers

The Society of Mary

#### KEY CONTACTS

Marion Dorosh (416) 482-2243  
or at the kitchen counter after Sunday Masses

John Meadows:  
[john@meadowsonline.com](mailto:john@meadowsonline.com)

Diana Versegghy: [diana.Versegghy@ec.gc.ca](mailto:diana.Versegghy@ec.gc.ca)  
(416) 979-2323

Ann Welsh (416) 972-1930 – [awc@interlog.com](mailto:awc@interlog.com)

Fr Freeland

Any of the Parish Clergy (416) 979-2323

Carol Kysela (416) 461-9595  
[mckys@idirect.com](mailto:mckys@idirect.com)

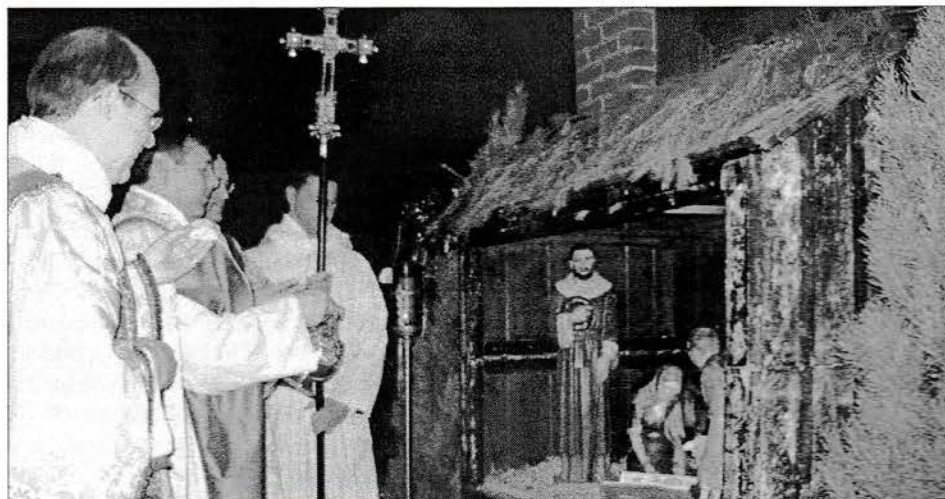
Rector or Parish Office (416) 979-2323

John Aimers (416) 975-2608  
[john.aimers@sympatico.ca](mailto:john.aimers@sympatico.ca)

Gene Stewart  
[genestewart@sympatico.ca](mailto:genestewart@sympatico.ca)

Susan Clarke (416) 484-8164

Fr Ross, David O'Rourke



The Sacred Ministers and Nigel Wright, Crucifer, visit the Creche on Christmas Eve