

Advent
2007

Thurible

St. Thomas's Anglican Church * 383 Huron St., Toronto, M5S 2G5 * 416-979-2323 * stthomas.on.ca



Special Vestry called
in January - 3

New vestments on
their way - 4

'Tis the season of
generous giving - 5

Parish pays tribute to
Jim Hunt - 8

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE

Church Directory Events

Tel: 416.979.2323 Fax: 416.979.0261

Website: www.stthomas.on.ca

Email: saintthomas@rogers.com

Rector: The Rev'd Mark W. Andrews,
416.979.2323 x: 1

Email: rector@stthomas.on.ca

Assistant Priests:

The Rev'd Canon Brian D. Freeland,
416.461.7025

The Rev'd Robert A. Ross,
416.268.9174

Rector Emeritus:

The Rev'd Roy A. Houlst

Honorary Assistant Priests:

The Rev'ds A. Thomas Little, Ian D.
Nichols and Canon W. David Neelands

Organist & Choirmaster:

John H. Tuttle, 416.516.2503

Organ Scholar:

Elizabeth Anderson

People's Warden:

Marlene Fader, 905.827.4718

Rector's Warden:

Kevin Toyne, 416.535-4941

Deputy Wardens:

Jim MacMillan, Charis Kelso

Financial Officer & Treasurer:

Peter Neelands

Bookkeeper: Greg Anderson

Church School Supervisor:

Diana Versegny

Nursery School Supervisor:

Heather McCann

Webmaster & Computer Consultant:

John Meadows

Email: john@meadows.online.com

Pastoral Care Contact:

Phyllis Garden, 416.466.1879

Outreach Contacts:

Maggie Helwig, 416.537.7290

Email: maggie@web.net

Bill Thoms

Email: bill.thoms@senecac.on.ca

Coordinator of Sidespeople:

Suan Seh Foo, 416.928.6809

Verger: Jean Paul Napier

Sexton: Colin Anderson

Administrator: Barbara Obrai

Church & Hall bookings

416.979.2323 x: 4

Thurible editors

Catharine Tunnacliffe and Patrick Cain
thurible@snappingturtle.net

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 – ADVENT I

7 pm: Advent Carols, Reception, and Dedication of the Fr Freeland Room

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

12:30 pm: Information session regarding the Parkdale Deanery in the parish hall (also see story page 3).

4:30 pm: Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament Holy Hour, with dinner following

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

EXULTATE CONCERT

8 pm: A Child's Christmas in Wales. For Exultate, Christmas isn't Christmas without a visit from our favourite raconteur Giles Bryant. We warm the dark winter night with songs, carols, and the beloved Dylan Thomas tale of Christmases gone by. 8 pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

All are welcome in the afternoon (finished by 5 pm) to help decorate the Church for Christmas.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21: 8 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22: 2 pm

& 8 pm

SINE NOMINE

Heaven Touching Earth: Two Medieval English Plays for the Advent Season.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 – ADVENT IV

7 pm: Nine Lessons & Carols, followed by a reception

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

10:30 pm: Organ Recital – La Nativite du Seigneur, Olivier Messiaen

11:00 pm: Midnight Mass

TUESDAY DECEMBER 25 – FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

8:00 am: Said Service

9:30 am: Sung Eucharist

10:30 am: Mattins

11:00 am: Solemn Eucharist

Note: No Evensong

SUNDAY DECEMBER 30 – SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Regular Morning Service Schedule

Note: No Evensong

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 – FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Regular Morning Service Schedule

7 pm: Epiphany Carols, then Reception.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

7:15 pm Advisory Board & Special Vestry

regarding Parkdale.

SUNDAY JANUARY 13 – BAPTISM OF THE LORD

12:30 pm Adult Confirmation / Refresher Classes Resume, new members welcome

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

AFFIRMING CATHOLICISM CANADA--TORONTO/NIAGARA AREA

Coffee and Conversation on the topic "To be in communion..." An informal presentation as well as an opportunity to ask questions of those who are privy to the key political and theological issues affecting the life of the Anglican Communion. The Rev'd Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan, Former member of the Windsor Report committee.

Coffee, Tea & Conversation, 10:30-noon. No charge; free-will offering. RSVP to the Rev'd Robert Ross: 416-268-9174 or robert.ross@tdsb.on.ca. St. Thomas's celebrates Mass on Saturdays at 10 am.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24 –

LENT III, followed by VESTRY

8:00 am, Said Service; 9:30 am, Mattins; 10:30 am Combined Service; 12 pm Lunch; 1 pm Annual Vestry Meeting; 7 pm Evensong & Devotions.

Note: Confessions are heard on Fridays in Advent, following the 5:30 Mass, or by appointment

NOTE ON THE COVER

Quatrefoil on the western exterior of Amiens Cathedral, depicting Micah's prophecy concerning the future reign of peace in which nations will beat swords into plowshares and wage war no more.

This beautifully detailed representation depicts two metalsmiths. The one on the right has a large supply of swords that he has been breaking with a hammer; the broken swords fall on the floor. The smithy on the left picks up the broken pieces and works them into their new use in the forge, fed with air by the bellows on the far left. 1220-1240.

Vanderbilt University Divinity Library

Parkdale update

Special Vestry called for January 8, 2008

A number of parishioners have been very involved in responding to the efforts of York-Credit Valley Area Bishop Philip Poole to restructure and revitalize ministry in the seven parishes that make up the Parkdale Deanery.

Two years of work by both the Parkdale Deanery Commission and the Parkdale Deanery Development Council have resulted in a Commission report in 2006 and "Report on Redeveloping Ministry in Parkdale Deanery for the Anglican Diocese of Toronto," presented in July 2007.

The latest report was written by Paul McLean of the consulting firm Potentials, and will soon be made available on the website www.parkdaledeanery.ca, along with other more recent documents. One of the proposals raised by the report suggests that the seven parishes be combined in some way. However, there is consensus among the parishes of the deanery, and recently also with Bishop Poole, that the recommendations of the Potentials report will not be acted on.

Still there is need for action. Some have proposed joint efforts or partnerships with other parishes such as St George the Martyr and St Stephen in the Fields. Others have proposed shared service models for matters such as property and office administration while leaving each parish otherwise autonomous. And others are proposing collaborative efforts in evangelism, education, and outreach. The bottom line, though, is that there are significant financial issues to address in at least two of the seven parishes.

As some of you may know, the Parkdale Deanery Development Council consists of representatives from each parish. The Bishop has asked each parish to decide whether it wishes to continue to participate in the work of the Council. While this Council has functioned primarily as a discussion group for the past year, we are hopeful that it will soon begin to play a more strategic role and recommend sustainable solutions.

At the most recent meeting of the Advisory Board, it was agreed that a Special Vestry be called to "approve ongoing participation in the Parkdale Deanery Development Council and support for its principles and membership." As a result of this request, the Corporation has called a Special Vestry for **January 8, 2008 at 7:30 pm** to consider these opportunities and challenges, and also to decide whether we should continue to participate.

There will also be an educational event in the parish for those interested in learning more about what has been going on in Parkdale, what impact it will have on us and what we can do to be engaged in the revitalization of the Deanery. This event will be held on **Sunday, December 9, 2007 starting at 1 pm** in the parish hall. We will both make brief presentations and then open the floor to questions and discussion. With the help of John Meadows, we hope to record this session and make it available on the parish Web site.

We encourage all members of the parish to attend these events and make their voices heard.

KEVIN TOYNE and ROB KENNEDY

Nominations for Vestry 2008 now open

The next Annual Meeting of Vestry is **Sunday, February 24, 2008 at 1pm, following a combined service at 10:30 am and lunch at noon**. If you are interested in seeking one of the elected positions or would like to nominate someone for such a position, please contact a member of the Nominations Committee. A list of available positions is posted on the website.

Parishioners may still be nominated from the floor, but all interested persons are encouraged to speak with the Nominations Committee in advance. Short bios of nominees will be circulated to parishioners, and there will be a Nominee's Forum immediately prior to Vestry 2008. The Nominees' Forum will be an opportunity for parishioners to learn more about those who have agreed to stand for election.

The members of the Nominations Committee for Vestry 2008 are: Rector Mark Andrews (rector@stthomas.on.ca, 416.979.2323); Charis Kelso (charis.kelso@sympatico.ca, 416.590.7401); David Kent (davidkent@rogers.com, 416.766.4450); Elizabeth Bamsley (eebamsley@yahoo.ca, 416.467.0481).

Worship

SUNDAYS:

Masses 8am (BCP, Said Rite); 9:30am (BAS, Modern Sung Rite); 11am (BCP, Solemn High Rite)

Said Mattins: 10:30am

Solemn Evensong & Devotions: 7pm

WEEKDAYS:

Daily Mass 5:30pm Mon & Fri; 12:15pm Tue & Thu; 7:30am Wed; 10am Sat

Mattins: weekdays 8:30am; Sat & statutory holidays 9:30am

Evensong: 5pm Mon, Thu & Fri; 5:15pm Tue & Wed

Meditation follows Wed Evensong,

Outreach

OUTREACH: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

We're reaching the end of our weekly meal season, and we'll soon be returning to preparing hot meals once a month at St Stephen's in the Fields. We've provided food and social space for more people this year than ever before, averaging close to 100 people a week in midsummer, and 175 at our Thanksgiving turkey dinner.

This wouldn't be possible without many dedicated volunteers and supporters. The St Thomas's congregation continues to be amazingly

generous in donations of time, energy, food and money; the way that parishioners have risen to the ongoing challenge of providing for our always growing number of guests is constantly impressive.

This also seems like a good opportunity to thank some of our outside supporters. A number of local businesses donated food for our Thanksgiving dinner, and we'd like to thank:

- Dominion
- Dooney's Café
- G's Supermarket

- The Ferret and Firkin
- Insomnia Cafe

Show your thanks by giving them your business next time you're looking for a place in the neighbourhood!

Special thanks as well to Bloor Street United Church for letting us use their space. Our Thanksgiving crowds have now far exceeded the number of people we can seat in our hall, but thanks to Bloor Street United, we were able to provide a comfortable sit-down meal for everyone. They've also provided their hall for us to use on those rare occasions when the parish hall isn't available.

The parish garden, of course, continues to be a wonderful resource for the meal program, providing much-appreciated fresh organic vegetables for our guests throughout the summer.

In other outreach news, St Thomas's parishioner Dan Josselyn has joined the diocesan HIV/AIDS subcommittee, and is working on an event for World AIDS Day. Some St Thomas's parishioners will also be organizing a visit to our MPP, Rosario Marchese, to press for the development of a provincial poverty reduction strategy and specific targets for affordable and subsidized housing. We are talking to the Education Committee about joint events for 2008, perhaps including an event focussing on housing and homelessness, as well as a possible talk by a visitor from East Timor.

For more information about outreach at St Thomas's, contact Maggie Helwig, 416-537-7290, maggie@web.net. MAGGIE HELWIG



The Diocesan Altar Guild has stepped into high gear working on our new white vestments. But when you consider the intricacy of the design and the number of stitches required to bring that design to life, "high gear" still means that delivery is some way off. Nonetheless, our own Altar Guild is beginning to look at their next vestment project. High on the list of priorities is to reproduce the simple and elegant black vestments made by the women of St Thomas's during the First World War, which now are very fragile. **THE ALTAR GUILD**

Heritage needs your help

As the year draws to a close, we will soon receive our statements of givings and pledge forms for the new year. Many parishioners make pledges, and we are all familiar with the ritual of regular giving. But another attractive way to contribute financially to the parish is by making a donation to the Heritage Fund.

The Heritage Fund was formally established in 1995 with a view to funding long-term maintenance and improvements in the parish, which cannot be funded from our day-to-day budget. It was originally made possible by the generous bequests of Mary King and Rita Joyce Cudney. Since that time, other gifts and bequests have added to the Fund. As directed by their wills, or heirs, the Beverley Matthews Fund supports student choir section leads, and the Alan Hartley Fund will be set up to support the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

A policy was initiated a couple of years ago to ensure that people who leave bequests to the parish are remembered perpetually. Consequently, a portion of the bequests received from the estates of Nina Hope Morley, Constance Smith, and Dale McCarthy, will be set aside to establish permanent funds in their name within the Memorial Fund.

While the fund was originally created to support capital maintenance projects, the purposes have expanded to encompass a broad range of initiatives. Several funds have been established under the umbrella of the Heritage Fund, including:

► **Organ Completion:** The purpose

of this fund is to finance additional work to complete the restoration of the organ.

► **Father Brian Freeland Room:** The purpose of this fund is to complete the restoration of the space next to the kitchen, which will be dedicated on December 2.

► **Green Energy:** This fund is intended to provide for an environmentally-friendly heating and air conditioning solution for the Church. The anonymous donor who established this fund is hoping that this initial gift will provide the impetus for the parish to look for other



donations, and grants, to help the parish reduce its carbon footprint.

► **Choir Music:** This fund supports the ongoing maintenance of the choir sheet music library.

► **Gene Stewart Memorial Lecture fund:** Contributions to this fund will create a lasting tribute to Gene Stewart through an annual lecture program with the theme of "Repairing the World".

► **Prayer Books/Hymnals:** This fund helps to ensure that sufficient prayer books and hymnals are available to parishioners.

► **Window Preservation Fund:** A generous gift made many years ago has been mostly spent making repairs, but a small sum remains as

the basis for future donations to this worthy heritage preservation cause.

► **The Foundation Stones Fund** was established as part of the parish's 130th Anniversary celebrations, and supports a variety of parish programmes including music, outreach, and the general work of the parish.

► **The Heritage Fund** is also the place where organizations and guilds, such as the Acolyte and Altar Guilds hold their monies. These funds are held by the parish but spent only at the direction of the Guilds.

This is not an exhaustive list of the special funds within the Heritage Fund, but it does illustrate the scope of the Fund.

The monies contributed to the Heritage Fund are managed by Corporation in accordance with the wishes of the donors. The funds are invested along with the Larkin Fund in the Jarislowsky Fraser family of funds which is in turn overseen by the St. Thomas's Investment Advisory Committee. As part of its governance, the Finance Committee ensures that the investment returns are allocated appropriately.

Please consider making a donation to your favourite program or project, be it organ, music, vestments, green energy, or to the general upkeep of our buildings. Planned giving is an effective way to leave a legacy to the Church, and many parishioners have established ways in which they will continue to support the ministries they value after they have joined the company of saints.

Please speak with Jim MacMillan, the Rector, or with me, if you would like to consider making a bequest.

TIM WRIGHT

Repairing The World takes off

On October 19, the parish hall was awash in yellow: yellow balloons, yellow mums, and yellow hard hats labelled "Gene Stewart Lecture: Repairing the World." The sunshiny colour reflected the celebratory mood as the Rector officially launched the Gene Stewart Lecture.

Enthusiastic members of the St. Thomas's family enjoyed an inspiring evening of gourmet hors d'oeuvres (thank you, John Aimers, John Gardham, and Carol Kysela), wine, and warm camaraderie. Ticket sales for the raffle were brisk. Winners took home tickets to the TSO's Messiah and Exultate's Child's Christmas in Wales, an original oil painting and necklace, and last, but possibly most coveted, a fine bottle of single malt whiskey. Congratulations to Mairi Cowan, Marlene Fader, Ann Welsh, Fr. Jeff Sangwine, and Hannah Whitmore.

Romeo Dallaire will provide the inaugural lecture on February 26, 2008 (symbolically, Gene Stewart's birthday). But to help guests envision the purpose of the lectures, Ed McDonough invited them to participate in a unique competition to nominate people whom they see repairing the world today as possible future speakers in the series. Mary Suddon carried off a bottle of wine for her winning suggestion.

Father Mark Andrews spoke of Gene's life long association with St. Thomas's, the warmth of peoples' affection, and their respect for Gene. As he said, "It seemed so thoroughly appropriate to remember Gene by having a lecture series on topics that were close to Gene's heart."

Sue Joel, Gene's widow, also spoke. She remarked on her husband's love of travel and his deep concern about the condition of the

world today. These were, she said, the factors which made the lecture series so appropriate. Sue, whose faith community is at Holy Blossom Temple, spoke affectionately of St. Thomas's as "admittedly, not her church, but, assuredly, her family." And she also spoke about how deeply grateful she, and all of Gene's family and friends were, when St. Thomas's approached her with the idea of the lecture series: "the timing was right."

We thank the Gene Stewart Lecture Committee for their work, dedication, and contributions: particularly Sue Joel, Janet Stewart, Susan Haig, Rob and Anna Kennedy, Carol Kysela, and Father Mark Andrews.

Don't forget, though the fundraising campaign is off to a healthy start, your donations are still needed and can be received until December 15.

JACQUELINE GIBBONS

St Thomas's Nuit Blanche draws crowd 1,500 strong

Last fall, the Rector was woken at 3 am by duelling poets in B.P. Nichol Lane. This was, of course, one of many performances that took place as part of Toronto's first Nuit Blanche, a "free all-night art thing"; and this was the initial inspiration for St Thomas's participation this year.

In the end, over 1,500 people visited us over the course of the night of September 29 to 30th, and a few even returned for the Michaelmas services on Sunday morning. In the church itself, Larry Beckwith organized a wonderfully varied music program throughout the night, and visitors also explored Willem Hart's Angel Room and Advent banners, Robin Kingsburgh's angel posters

and "quotation wings", and our T.S. Eliot windows, lit up from the parking lot.

In the parish hall, conceptual artists Amy Lam and Yuula Benivolski presented a quieter and more meditative space, a "miraculously" floating boulder. Sadly, poet Jordan Scott was unable to be in Toronto due to flight delays, so his planned reading room became an installation on the themes of darkness, absence, and written text.

Outside in the garden, we offered refreshments throughout the night, and at dawn St Thomas's and Coach House Books co-presented a reading by Coach House authors Jessica Westhead, Sean Dixon and Mark Truscott.

Volunteers agreed that people were impressed and engaged by our program, and many of them said that St Thomas's was an oasis of peace and quiet in the middle of a very crowded and noisy (and mostly heavily corporate-sponsored) night. Huge thanks are due to all the artists mentioned above, and our large team of volunteers, especially Charis Kelso, Jeremy Remple, Jim MacMillan and Peter Neelands.

We very much want to be involved in Nuit Blanche again in 2008, and to start our planning much earlier this year. Stay tuned for the establishment of a Nuit Blanche working group, and perhaps a call for programming ideas. MAGGIE HELWIG

Three tributes to Jim Hunt

RECTOR LOOKS BACK ON "LIFE LIVED WELL"

Father Jim Hunt will be greatly missed at Saint Thomas's. He was not here very long as an Honorary Assistant, but his pastoral care made a real difference in the lives of numerous parishioners. He visited and befriended the sick and shut-in, and others in emotional and spiritual distress found a wonderful pastor in him. Jim was deeply compassionate and very generous with his time and wise counsel.

Jim loved the parish, and loved to celebrate the mass here. He appreciated the liturgical richness and diversity found at St Thomas's. It was a treat also to see him working with the young people in the parish and encouraging them to develop their skills as thespians and hams.

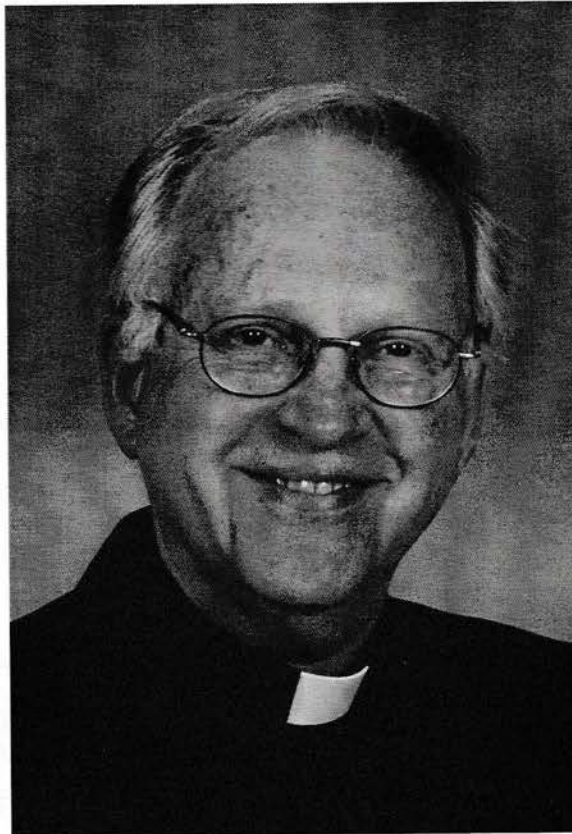
On what turned out to be his final Sunday in the parish Jim had a friend, Fr Stephen Crisp, visiting with him from Montreal. It was lovely to see Jim showing Fr Crisp around his parish, and introducing him to his people with enthusiasm and pride. Despite having told people that he didn't feel one hundred percent, his vitality that morning gave no indication of his frailty.

It is very rare and quite marvelous to have heard so many people express their gratitude for having known Jim. In fact never have I met such large numbers of people who have felt the need to say aloud how important someone has been to them. Family, friends, and perhaps students most of all, identified Jim as one of the most significant posi-

tive influences of their life. Gratitude is what shall come to mind when I remember Fr Hunt.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Christ's faithful servant, James Edward Hunt, and for his family and friends who mourn. And give thanks to God for a life lived well. MARK ANDREWS, RECTOR

REMEMBERING A FRIEND



AND "UNCLE JIM"

I first met Jim Hunt in the late 50's when as a divinity student at Trinity College he was assigned to do some field work at our family's parish, St. Mark's West Toronto.

Fr. "Ted" Tucker was the rector and he arranged for a Church School teacher retreat at the Aurora Conference Centre. Then and there Jim and I became friends during a late night wide ranging conversa-

tion during which we first discovered that among many things we were fellow travelers on the ever broadening road toward spiritual enlightenment.

Indeed it was on that journey of faith that our friendship deepened and developed. It was during the two terms spent as a student at St. Marks that Jim quickly became part of our family. He often fondly recalled Mom's breakfast feasts after the 8 am mass and the aroma of home baking that pervaded the house. We had many a Sunday dinner together with Mom and Dad and my sister following afternoon church school sessions or other parish events. Jim and I shared a special bond with Canon Tucker whose devotion and spirituality inspired so many.

I also recall a memorable trip to New York in the early 60's. Jim had been drawn to the possibility of an association with the Order of the Holy Cross and asked me to accompany him on an exploratory visit to the main house in West Lorne, N.Y. When we left there we headed on to New York City where within four days we saw three Broadway shows - *Hello Dolly* with Carol Channing, *Funny Girl* with Barbra Streisand and a revival of *Kiss Me Kate* with Alfred Drake.

In 1968 when Elizabeth and I were married at St. T's, Fr. Edgar Bull was celebrant, Canon Tucker, who had just retired from St. Mark's, married us and Fr. Jim Hunt was best man. He subsequently became our daughter Lissa's godfather at her baptism

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here in 1973 – a role he maintained always with love and support. Just two years later he baptized her sister Stephanie here and later was part of the baptisms of some of our grandchildren.

Fr. Hunt ministered part time in many parishes through out the diocese before and during the 25 years or so that he taught English and drama at Martingrove Collegiate, where he produced countless plays with outstanding success. In fact he often provided the musical accompaniment at the piano. (Our daughters loved to come with us and his family to see Uncle Jim's shows.)

A few years ago Bishop Joe Fricker appointed Fr. Hunt to a special pastoral assignment at St. Clements, Eglinton during a difficult period. When his term ended the new rector there, Cheryl Palmer, suggested during a casual conversation with Jim that St. Thomas's may afford him some well deserved peace and solace. I was overjoyed then when he arrived in our midst and watched him quietly and steadily become absorbed into the St. Thomas' parish family. He was deeply moved by the prayerful spirituality of this "Household of God."

As he came to know more and more fellow parishoners he spoke of the wonderful diversity of individuals bound to this parish by their love of the faith as uniquely expressed here in word and music and sacrament focused liturgy. When in due course our rector invited Fr. Hunt to become an honorary assistant, he readily accepted. Thus began an all too brief but joyful ministry here.

He so often spoke to me (even the day before he died) of his love for this parish – people and clergy, and

of how comfortable and at peace he felt in what had indeed had become his true "spiritual home."

James Edward Hunt touched the lives of so many, family, friends, students, colleagues, church folk and those outside the church by his quiet, compassionate acceptance of each individual as a fellow child of God. I am forever grateful for his loving, caring friendship and his innately prayerful spirituality and for the warmth of the embrace he received from our beloved St. Thomas' parish family. EARL BARNESLEY

FAMILY MEMORIES

Jim chose St. Thomas's Church as his place of worship. He quietly grew comfortable and felt welcomed, going on to be asked to be an Honorary Assistant, a role he accepted with great honour. I learned that he referred to your setting as his "spiritual home."

Gentle Jim, as I fondly thought of him, was called to the priesthood during a summer as program director at Northwood Camp. He graduated from Divinity at Trinity Col-

leagues yet never leaving their church involvements. As everyone knows, whose ear I can bend, I tell them of Jim's greatest ministry, 27 years teaching English and Theatre Arts at Martingrove Collegiate.

As his students and colleagues reflected this past month, he quietly guided young people to believe that each was special, had a unique gift and encouraged them to discover how to develop their dream.

One very special student and life-long friend, Stephen, had his son Alec sing at the Requiem Mass, another asked me to place his "letter of goodbye" to "Sir" under Jim's pillow. With permission I read and learned how Jim helped Adam "to be the person he is to-day." Many of these young people were in the Musicals and Theatre that Jim created-all "Top Drawer" -and imagine the sets.

As the first born to Peg and Jim Hunt, his parents worshipped him and as a sister, I was the luckiest person in all the world. Bill, our younger brother, felt Jim's strength always. Bill and Linda, their three

"He spoke of the wonderful diversity of individuals bound to this parish by their love of the faith as uniquely expressed here"

lege. His first parish was in Rupert's Land. At his ordination at the Cathedral in Winnipeg by Primate H. Clarke, (the only ordinand) he did not appear at the end of the procession for a notable period, having been stopped outside by a bicycle rider to sign a telegram (a Jimism).

After parish ministry positions, Jim and a few of his Trinity colleagues stepped into alternate ca-

children and grandchildren are ten in number. The children are the joy of your lives, shared so closely (like grandchildren) in Jim and my life.

Thank you all on behalf of my family for the love and support you have shared with Jim and now his family. It is a profoundly difficult time and I thank you and anticipate your ongoing support.

JO-ANNE HUNT