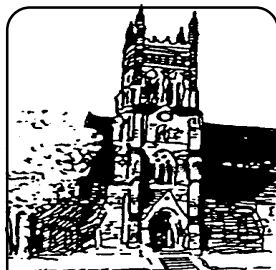


The *Georgian*

Lent 2009



*St. George's
Anglican Church
Place du Canada*

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Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
9:00am - 4:30pm

Church Open

Tuesday - Sunday
9:00am - 4:00pm

Rector

The Rev. Ralph Leavitt

Honorary Assistants

Rev. Canon Dr. Lettie James

Rev. Fred Tiplady

Deacon

Rev. Robert Bergner

Wardens

Richard Lord

Mark Diaczun

Church School

Co-ordinator

Jacki Brown

Organist and Choir

Director

Dr. Erik Reinart

Services

Sundays

9:00am Holy Communion

10:30am Main Service

(see calendar for details)

Wednesdays

12:15pm Holy Communion

5:30pm Holy Communion

**Lord, sustain us in our
fasting and sacrifice
during these forty days
of Lent.**

St. George's Newsletter
Vol. 09, No. 2

VIEW

From the Rector's Desk...

As we begin this Lenten season I invite you all, as the Ash Wednesday service says, "in the name of the Lord to observe a holy Lent". I hope you all will be able to attend church and may this season before Easter prepare you for the glory of the resurrection.

As I reflect on our current world situation, I feel we are ourselves in a penitential time. Things are rough. There is an economic meltdown caused by greed. The secular culture around us is rejecting God. Heavens, there are advertisements on busses in London refuting God exists! Peace in the world seems fleeting. Our world-wide Anglican Communion has problems. And here at home, Quebec is the least religious place in North America, and our Anglican population in the Diocese has dropped 70% in 25 years. We at St. George's are facing a deficit budget this year. Things are not "rosy". Things are rough.

Does this rough time indicate that God is far away? Not at all. Quite the opposite in fact. What it does indicate is that we, as God's people, have work to do to remind others of the good News of Christ. To remind the world of what really counts; of love, peace, relationship, compassion, worship and prayer.

And rough times mean we, as the people of God, also have to also make sure our priorities are in line. In my sermon, on our Annual Vestry Sunday, I outlined the focus I feel all people in the Parish should concentrate on this year. I refer to the Five Marks of Mission as outlined by the Anglican Consultative Council.

- 1 To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God
- 2 To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- 3 To respond to human need by loving service
- 4 To seek to transform the unjust structures of society
- 5 To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

It is, I feel, time to get back to these basics, and to stop worrying about worldly things that tend to distract us. To help us do that as Lent begins, these Five Marks of Mission will form the basis of our Lenten study this year. I will lead it along with our Curate Bob and our Honorary Assistant Fred. These Five Marks of Mission will also be at the center of the Corporation and Council goals and objectives for this next year.

I pray that these Five Marks of Mission will also be at the center of your heart and mind this year as you continue to fulfill the Lord's will here in Montreal in 2009.

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From the Rector's Desk... (Continued from page 1)

For with these at center stage, we will first of all remind ourselves once again of God's power and of God's redemption. Secondly, we will be able to reach out and share God's good news with others.

So, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we concentrate on these Five Marks, let us simply wait upon the Lord. Wait upon the Lord. And then, the words of the prophet Isaiah will once again be fulfilled to the glory of God. For "those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not be faint."

Let us continue to walk together in these rough times, let us be reminded again of God's power and majesty, and let us go forth building up the kingdom of God. For God is with us, right here and right now. Thanks be to God.

Ralph+

CONNIE KALDOR CONCERT

Juno Award winner, singer-songwriter Connie Kaldor will perform, once again, for us with a fund raising concert to benefit the Tyndale-St. George's Community Centre and the Heritage Fund of St. George's Church. It will be held at the church on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 8:00 P.M. Tickets are \$20. per person.



Beautiful delivery of well-crafted songs from the queen of the Prairies

"Just when you think you've got it all figured out, something roars in and it turns you about."

Connie Kaldor writes this and more about the unexpected twists and turns of life and love. Fact is, Connie Kaldor is a performer without borders. A contradiction in terms, she has flourished on the folk music scene for over two decades, yet her repertoire of original material blurs musical boundaries, embracing elements of gospel, rock, country and western, folk, blue grass and adult contemporary.

She is an artist of substance without pretension, witty and urbane without condescension. She is a fearless chronicler of the human experience without the folksong angst. She has recorded nine albums, sold tens of thousands of copies, but has never had a commercial hit.

Her live performances are legendary and her fan base broad and fiercely loyal. People come back to see her again and again because a Connie Kaldor performance is about more than just the power of music. It is also about the power of personality. What she says between songs is as intriguing as the lyrics she sings.

Like many prairie girls in the 50s and 60s, Connie grew up singing in the church choir and listening to Patsy Cline and The Beatles on her record player. But it wasn't until the 1980s, after four years spent performing with an avant-garde theatre company in Toronto, that Connie turned to music full time and was welcomed with open arms by the folk scene.

Co-Chairs: Sylvia Langdon and Thea Drummond

The Georgian View

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SONGS AND STORIES

This is a reminder about a “FUN’ d” raising concert at St. George's: "Songs and Stories" on the Underground Railroad, at the church on **Friday, Feb 27th**. Tickets are \$20.00 and there will be a small reception after the concert.

In this captivating one man show, the Reverend Robert Bergner plays the Reverend John Newton -- former slave ship captain, former anti-slavery activist, author of the celebrated hymn Amazing Grace -- as Newton recounts the extraordinary stories, sings the extraordinary songs, and brings to life the extraordinary characters of the Underground Railroad, that invisible line which carried slaves from bondage in the southern United States, through the hidden dangers of the northern states, into freedom in the British territory of Canada.

Come learn the coded meanings of well-loved spiritual songs such as Swing Low Sweet Chariot and Deep River. Come hear the stories of Underground Railroad conductors such as Harriet Tubman and Calvin Fairbanks. Hear, also, of the somber, violent, often tragic ways of plantation life. Come rejoice as the Gospel Train rolls inexorably northward towards the promised land of milk and honey and freedom -- Campground, Canaan...Canada!

By Tony Hadley

A Thank You to Our Parishioners

You might think all is doom and gloom for our wonderful parish after two years of deficits, but as treasurer, I don't see it that way. I focus on what we have accomplished and each day I think of the generous people who, in the past, had the vision and foresight to endow our church with the reserve funds that have helped us get through this difficult time.

How can we justify having these deficits? The answer is that we can only do this if we have a plan to turn things around in future and fortunately, our corporation is working on this. Our “site committee” is looking at ways for gaining increased revenues from the development of our property. Our challenge for the future is to not only put ourselves back into a balanced budget position, but also to create additional funds in order to reach out and help others. In the meantime, let's thank all those who have contributed so much to our parish in the past year. Let's thank those who made extra large special donations. Their gifts have been instrumental to our survival. Let's thank all those who have given generously each week to the best of their ability. Their support means everything. I don't want to forget those who organized the “fun” fundraising events that took place last year. You not only raised money, you allowed us to enjoy ourselves all in a good cause and to get to know each other better. Our thanks to those responsible individuals who helped organize the major repairs to our beautiful buildings and to arrange for repairs to the leaking roof, the crumbling steps and broken windows.

And where would we be without the support of the Guild? Our Guild is a great and wonderfully supportive group whose help makes all the difference. Your treasurer thanks all of you. I see what comes in and goes out. I know many of the stories of quiet generosity that take place and I am most grateful to each and every one of you.

Tom Burpee, Honorary Treasurer

In an interview by Paul Bradshaw with Rick Warren, Rick said:

People ask me, what is the purpose of life? And I respond: In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity. We were made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in Heaven. One day my heart is going to stop, and that will be the end of my body— but not the end of me. I may live 60 to 100 years on earth, but I am going to spend trillions of years in eternity. This is the warm-up act - the dress rehearsal.

God wants us to practice on earth what we will do forever in eternity. We were made by God and for God, and until you figure that out, life isn't going to make sense. Life is a series of problems: Either you are in one now, you're just coming out of one, or you're getting ready to go into another one. The reason for this is that God is more interested in your character than your comfort. God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy. We can be reasonably happy here on earth, but that's not the goal of life. The goal is to grow in character, in Christ-likeness.

This past year has been the greatest year of my life but also the toughest, with my wife, Kay, getting cancer. I used to think that life was hills and valleys - you go through a dark time, then you go to the mountaintop, back and forth. I don't believe that anymore. Rather than life being hills and valleys, I believe that it's kind of like two rails on a railroad track, and at all times you have something good and something bad in your life. No matter how good things are in your life, there is always something bad that needs to be worked on. And no matter how bad things are in your life, there is always something good you can thank God for.

You can focus on your purposes, or you can focus on your problems. If you focus on your problems, you're going into self-centeredness, "which is my problem, my issues, my pain." But one of the easiest ways to get rid of pain is to get your focus off yourself and onto God and others.

We discovered quickly that, in spite of the prayers of hundreds of thousands of people, God was not going to heal Kay or make it easy for her. It has been very difficult for her, and yet God has strengthened her character, given her a ministry of helping other people, given her a testimony, drawn her closer to Him and to people.

You have to learn to deal with both the good and the bad of life. Actually, sometimes learning to deal with the good is harder. For instance, this past year, all of a sudden, when the book sold 15 million copies, it made me instantly very wealthy. It also brought a lot of notoriety that I had never had to deal with before. I don't think God gives you money or notoriety for your own ego or for you to live a life of ease.

So I began to ask God what He wanted me to do with this money, notoriety and influence. He gave me two different passages that helped me decide what to do, II Corinthians 9 and Psalm 72. First, in spite of all the money coming in, we would not change our lifestyle one bit. We made no major purchases. Second, about midway through last year, I stopped taking a salary from the church. Third, we set up foundations to fund an initiative we call The Peace Plan to plant churches, equip leaders, assist the poor, care for the sick, and educate the next generation. Fourth, I added up all that the church had paid me in the 24 years since I started the church, and I gave it all back. It was liberating to be able to serve God for free.

We need to ask ourselves: Am I going to live for possessions? Popularity? Am I going to be driven by pressures? Guilt? Bitterness? Materialism? Or am I going to be driven by God's purposes (for my life)?

When I get up in the morning, I sit on the side of my bed and say, God, if I don't get anything else done today, I want to know You more and love You better. God didn't put me on earth just to fulfill a to-do list. He's more interested in what I am than what I do. That's why we're called human beings, not human doings.

In the happy moments, PRAISE GOD. In the difficult moments, SEEK GOD. In the quiet moments, WORSHIP GOD. In the painful moments, TRUST GOD. And, in every moment, THANK GOD.

Submitted by Tony Hadley

Rick Warren is author of "The Purpose Driven Life" and pastor of Saddleback Church in California.