

# Message from Fr. Stephen



In just a few weeks we will enter the longest season of the Church Year: the Pentecost Season. The word Pentecost comes from an ancient word that means fifty. Pentecost Day is the fiftieth day after Easter. It is the day when we celebrate the birth of the Church, made real in the world by the gift of God's Spirit.

The Pentecost season stretches all the way from Pentecost Sunday until Advent. The liturgical colour during this time is green, reminding us that this is a season of growth. In many ways, this long, green season represents our lives as Christians. It, like our daily lives, is a time when we take all we have learned about the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus and try to apply it to how we live our lives. It encourages us to ask questions like, "What am I called to do as a Christian?" or "What would Jesus do if he were in my shoes right now?" But our faith is not just about asking questions, it is about acting in faith – trusting in God and trying to live lives that make a difference in the world and bring glory to our God and Saviour.

In this long, green season, I encourage you to ponder what it means for you to be blessed by the power and presence of God's Spirit. The Holy Spirit is how God is with you at every moment of every day of your life. Do you and I acknowledge that presence? Do we listen for the prompting of the Spirit? Do we allow the Spirit to guide us in goodness and love for God, ourselves and others. These are the questions of our daily walk with the Lord – questions that this long, green season of Pentecost helps us answer and live.

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### Sign of the Times



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What is the oddest piece of furniture at St. John's? The shopping cart, of course! Thanks to the work of the Outreach Committee and the generosity of Scott Davis at Davis' Independent Grocer, we now have a fun way to bring attention to our support of Fare Share Food Bank. You'll see the shopping cart out for Food Bank Sunday (the first Sunday of each month) waiting for your donations. At other times it will be parked in the church tower, where you may leave food donations at any time. Thank you for your support of those who have a hard time making ends meet in these tough economic times!

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Welcome, Deacon Sheila!

Earlier this year, we had the joy of welcoming Sheila Archer to our parish. Formerly a Deacon in the Parish of Perrytown, Sheila brings with her years of experience in ministry and a special concern for the marginalized. While Deacon Sheila and Deacon Barb Russell do similar things on a Sunday morning, their diaconal ministry is quite different.

One of the key things to remember is that the ministry of deacons is not carried out among the people of the parish. Rather, it is a reaching out to the wider community with the love of Christ, and ought to be aimed at the marginalized. That is why Deacon Barb oversees Outreach, for instance. That said, deacons also encourage members of the parish to use their gifts in ministry outside the parish.

Here is a brief summary of what Sheila will be doing in the Port Hope area:

1. Sheila will reach out with the love of Christ to those living in Nursing Homes who have no pastoral care from local churches. These people will be identified by the nursing home staff as
2. people who are especially lonely and need to see a caring face from time to time.
2. Like all deacons, including Deacon Barb, Sheila will be available to provide funeral services for people who have no connection to a church.
3. Sheila will form a spiritual support group for women in the area who are searching for God in their lives. Her aim is to help them grow in faith and minister to one another.
4. Finally, Sheila will conduct grief workshops a few times each year in cooperation with our local funeral homes. These will be open to all in the community who are struggling with the loss of loved ones.

Please make Deacon Sheila feel welcome and pray for her as she serves Christ in our area.

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## Cards of Thanks

It is with heartfelt gratitude that during my darkest hours this past year the prayers, blessings and many kind gestures were received from St. John's parish fellowship. Through your support when life felt so impossible you came to my rescue in prayer saying "give the gifts of strength, healing and recovery" to fight this disease. Even with uncertainty of the future, here I am on the road to recovery and strength building as well as having a renewed relationship in God's unconditional love.

Thank you Father Stephen and the fellowship of St. John's church for being there when I was in need. I pray for good things to happen to you all. This experience will not be forgotten.

God bless you all.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Lees



## Thank You!

I just wanted an opportunity to thank all of you for your support and faith in me as your Warden over the past 6 years. It was a great learning experience for me on all levels. After being a member of the Advisory board for 6 years I had, what I thought was a good foundation of Parish Activities so being a Warden should not be too difficult. It was not difficult it was time consuming and demanding. Making the job as Warden manageable was the willing, faithful, committed and knowledgeable people I had the good fortune to work closely with. Sam Hutnyk, Jim Hunt, Sue Foote, Aldo D'Agostino, Robert Kyle and Bev Kelly allowed me to learn along side them, supporting me when I needed support and reassuring me when I had doubts. Fr. John Read and Fr. Stephen Vail have been a great source of knowledge, guidance and direction throughout my term as People's Warden.

The Property Committee (Doug Burgess – chair, Keith Pickett, Doug Smith, Paul Fraser and Dave Kelly) has been a valuable addition to our Parish Organization. The number of repairs, large and small, that have been completed over the years could not have been accomplished without this committee or their dedication in maintaining our Parish buildings. The countless hours that have been spent creating signage, child proofing doors, replacing floor tiles, cleaning eaves and duct work, re-decorating etc.. could not have been possible without each and every one of the members on the Property Committee working together. A special note goes to Dave Kelly for his outstanding contributions that he has made in making sure our buildings are clean and ready for operation. The countless hours he has spent painting, tiling, renovating have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. A job well done Dave!

The Health & Safety Committee (Doug Burgess, Dave Strong, Betty Hunt, Barry Mason and Claudia D'Agostino) conducts checks each month to ensure our buildings are safe for all users. The Health & Safety Reports that are created each month are submitted to the Property Committee to deal with any repairs that are needed. Without these individuals taking an hour or two a month of their own time to check the grounds, we would not have a safe environment to Gather or Worship in. Thanks for all your effort in ensuring that the time we spend together as a Parish Family is a safe one.

The Advisory Board has been a wealth of ideas, opinions and knowledge. Each and every member on the board has contributed so much to the life of the Parish, whether it is bringing forth a new fundraising idea or showing a sign of support to a fellow member, it all makes a difference in who we are and who we become. Thanks for making a difference.

Lastly I would like to take the opportunity to thank my family. My family is a major part of who I am. If it were not for the support of my parents, Helen and Fred Ashby, I would not have been as involved at St. John's as I have. They have led by example for so many years themselves that involvement in the Church has become who I am, it is part of my daily routine, it is part of me as a person and I am proud of that. Also a huge supporter of mine is my husband Shane and my two children, Spencer and Sydney. If it were not for their understanding that, "Mommy has a meeting" or "Mommy has to count the money" or "Mommy....." I could not have done the job I did. I am thankful that Shane is involved in our Parish as a Lay Reader and Spiritual Development Committee Member, Spencer attends Church and was the littlest shepherd in the Christmas Story (he can't wait until next year) and Sydney attends Kid's Club and cannot wait to be in the Christmas Story (an angel – of course). Shane may have been frustrated at times with how much time being a Warden has taken me away from him and the kids, but he always was there with words of support and encouragement. I am thankful for all my family has done for me over the years and I am looking forward to spending more quality time with my family in the year ahead.

As my term as Warden has ended I am glad to welcome aboard Pat Honey as my replacement. Pat will be a wonderful addition to the Team. She is full of energy and enthusiasm. Pat has a lot to offer and she is a quick learner. I am pleased that Pat accepted the position as People's Warden. She will represent us well.

Karen Watson

## FOCUS ON OUTREACH

An parish expense of \$200 may not seem like much in the grand scheme of things, but together with contributions of a similar amount from fourteen other churches from nine denominations in the Cobourg-Port Hope area that \$200 has a significant impact among the needy of our communities. The organization that transforms the money into help is Neighbourlink Northumberland.

One or two people from St. John's driving someone to a doctor or answering the phone for one morning a month may not seem like very much, but when they are joined by volunteers from ten other churches that's quite a team of Christians working quietly in our communities.

One of the short-term goals identified at St. John's Visioning exercise was to develop our relationship with Neighbourlink Northumberland. Neighbourlink has been serving in this area for 17 years, and operates on two distinct fronts. Food distribution, especially milk and other staples, goes on regularly behind the scenes and with the financial support of the County of Northumberland. More up front are the number of daily soup kitchens operated during the winter. Then there's the telephone "help line".

The simplest description of this service is "putting those in need in touch with volunteers who can help". In the few days that I have been on phone duty I've received requests for "personal needs packages" (these are prepared by volunteers from donated personal hygiene items), been able to find a ride to and from Port Hope for a man in need of a doctor, been asked to find someone to walk with an elderly man, and so on. It doesn't always work out, but usually it does.

What sort of volunteers are needed? The needs are often not known in advance, but people willing to drive, be a friend for an hour or two, provide in-school help, fix a plumbing problem, are all good people to have on the list. One problem is that even if you are on the volunteer list you might never get a call. But that's just like jury duty and most of us are happy if we never get that call!

If you are interested in adding your name to the Neighbourlink volunteer list please speak to Deacon Barb or Father Stanley. You could also phone 905-373-1558. Someone will be on duty Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-12 noon, or leave a message.

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### Dime a Day

#### **Brief description:**

We launched "Dime a Day" in January, 2009

Participants put a dime each day into a can (supplied by us) and approximately monthly, deposit the money collected into our bank account at the CIBC, or bring it into church for us to deposit into the bank.

We then forward the money to an organization called Keiskamma Canada who are working in the villages on the Keiskamma river in south east Africa to combat the AIDS epidemic.

#### **Current status:**

We have about 120 participants and we sent the first \$200 to Keiskamma in March and a further \$300 in April and anticipate \$300 each month going forward.

Of course, the more participants the more we can support the work, if you would like to join us by taking a can, please call Barb Russell (905-885-2171) or Keith Pickett (905-885-2803)

#### **Keiskamma Activities:**

The Keiskamma Trust have been working in South Africa for about eight years, they provide medicine and medical support, education and employment in the communities they serve; they encourage art, music and organic gardening to provide food.

The following is a statement from their first newsletter issued early this year:

"We are a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the holistic care of the communities that live in the area alongside the Keiskamma River in the Eastern Cape. We combine health, art, music and education initiatives in an integrated fight against poverty and HIV/AIDS, working to restore hope and health to every member of the community"

## St. John's Parish Retreat

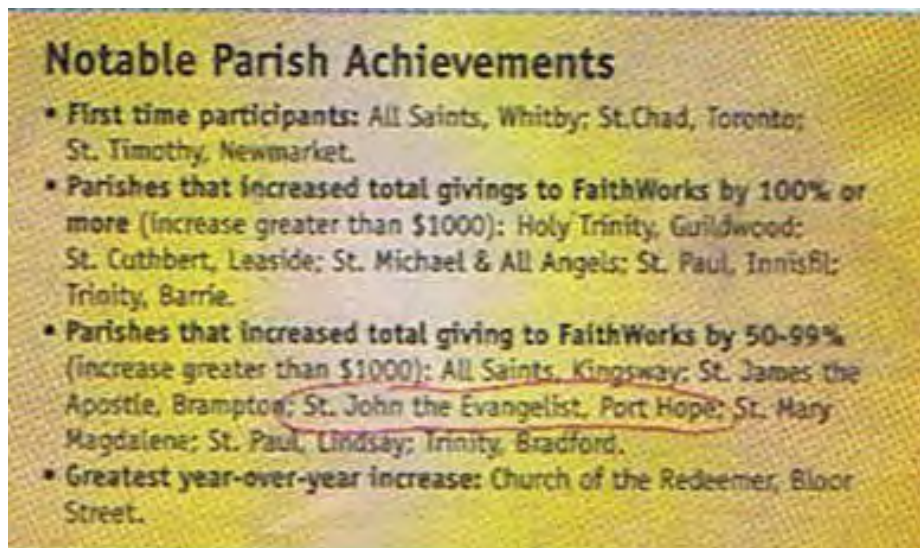
A clear and very cold February Friday evening found the parishioners from St. John's checking into The Convent of St. John the Divine in Willowdale. After we had all touched base and made our beds, we attended Compline accompanied by Taize Prayers with the sisters. We enjoyed a delicious meal of chili (in silence) and then attended our first session with The Reverend Joan Waters-Garner, retired priest and organist at St. Nicholas, Scarborough. The theme of our retreat was "Hearing One Another into Speech." Through the use of questions, "How then, shall we live?" and reflections on readings we asked ourselves "What did the story say to me?" and "How does the story relate to my life?" We were asked to explore "the tragic gap" in our lives. One of the most difficult exercises that we experienced was not to comment on the statements or reflections made by anyone in the group. We met 4 times over the weekend pondering our thoughts through stories and personal journaling. In between, we took part in the routine of the convent joining the sisters for their daily offices and the celebrations of the Eucharist. One could not help but be affected by the surrounding calm and peaceful nature of the convent. At the Eucharist on Sunday morning, and indeed all the services in the beautiful chapel, I was deeply moved by the poignant statue of our Lord suffering on the cross with the accompanying figures of His Mother and the Beloved Disciple. The sisters live by a simple ministry, "Do whatever He tells you." We were indeed motivated to not only "hear one another" but to listen and act as Our Lord tells us.

Lyn Bradshaw



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## Well Done St. John's Church Faith Works 2008

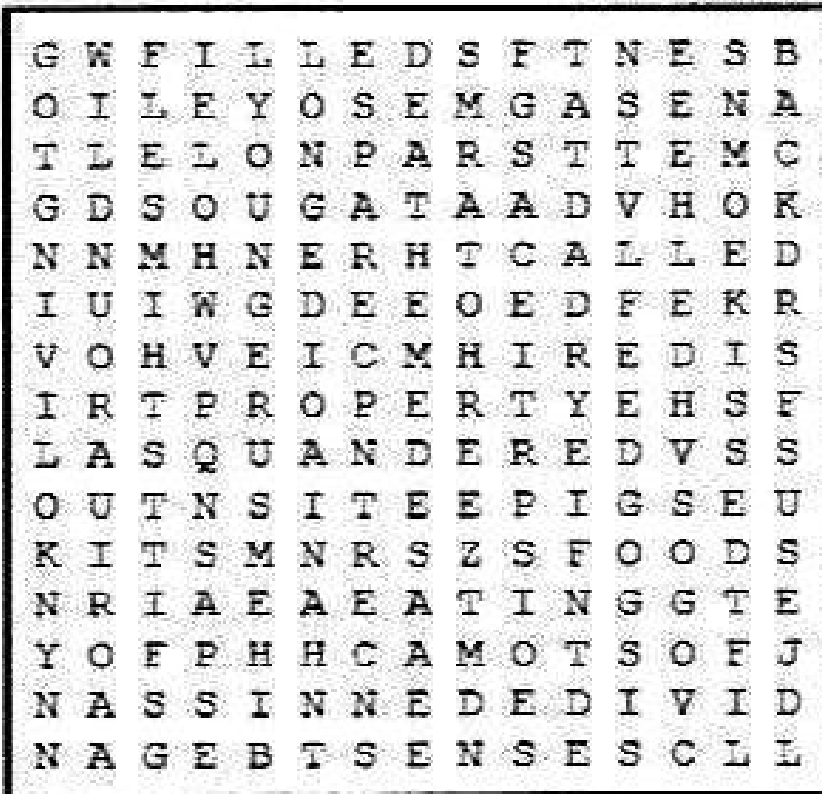


# Kid's Page

## Bible Wordsearch

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Luke 15:11-21



## Parable of the Prodigal son

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| ARMS       | JESUS      |
| AROUND     | KISSED     |
| BACK       | LIVING     |
| BEGAN      | LONGED     |
| CALLED     | MEN        |
| CITIZEN    | OUT        |
| COMPASSION | PIGS       |
| COUNTRY    | PROPERTY   |
| DEATH      | SENSES     |
| DISTANT    | SENT       |
| DIVIDED    | SEVERE     |
| EATING     | SHARE      |
| ESTATE     | SINNED     |
| FAMINE     | SON        |
| FATHER     | SPARE      |
| FEED       | SPENT      |
| FIELDS     | SQUANDERED |
| FILLED     | STARVING   |
| FOOD       | STOMACH    |
| GOT        | TOGETHER   |
| HEAVEN     | WHOLE      |
| HIMSELF    | WILD       |
| HIRED      | YOUNGER    |

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

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Psalm 47

MORE PUZZLES AT:  
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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**COME DISCOVER THE *E.D.G.E.***  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

*JULY 6<sup>TH</sup> - JULY 10<sup>TH</sup>*  
*9AM - 12PM*

*AGES 3 - GRADE 6*

*VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:*

*To help with the children*

*To decorate*

*To bring snacks*

*To run event stations*

*THINGS NEEDED FOR DECORATING :*

*Artificial Christmas trees*

*Ferns or large potted pots*

*Tents*

*Sleeping bags*

*Lawn chairs*

*Stuffed animals(raccoons, bears and other wildlife)*

*Camp stoves*

*Coolers*

*Small inflatable swimming pools*

*Lanterns*

*Flashlights*

*Binoculars*

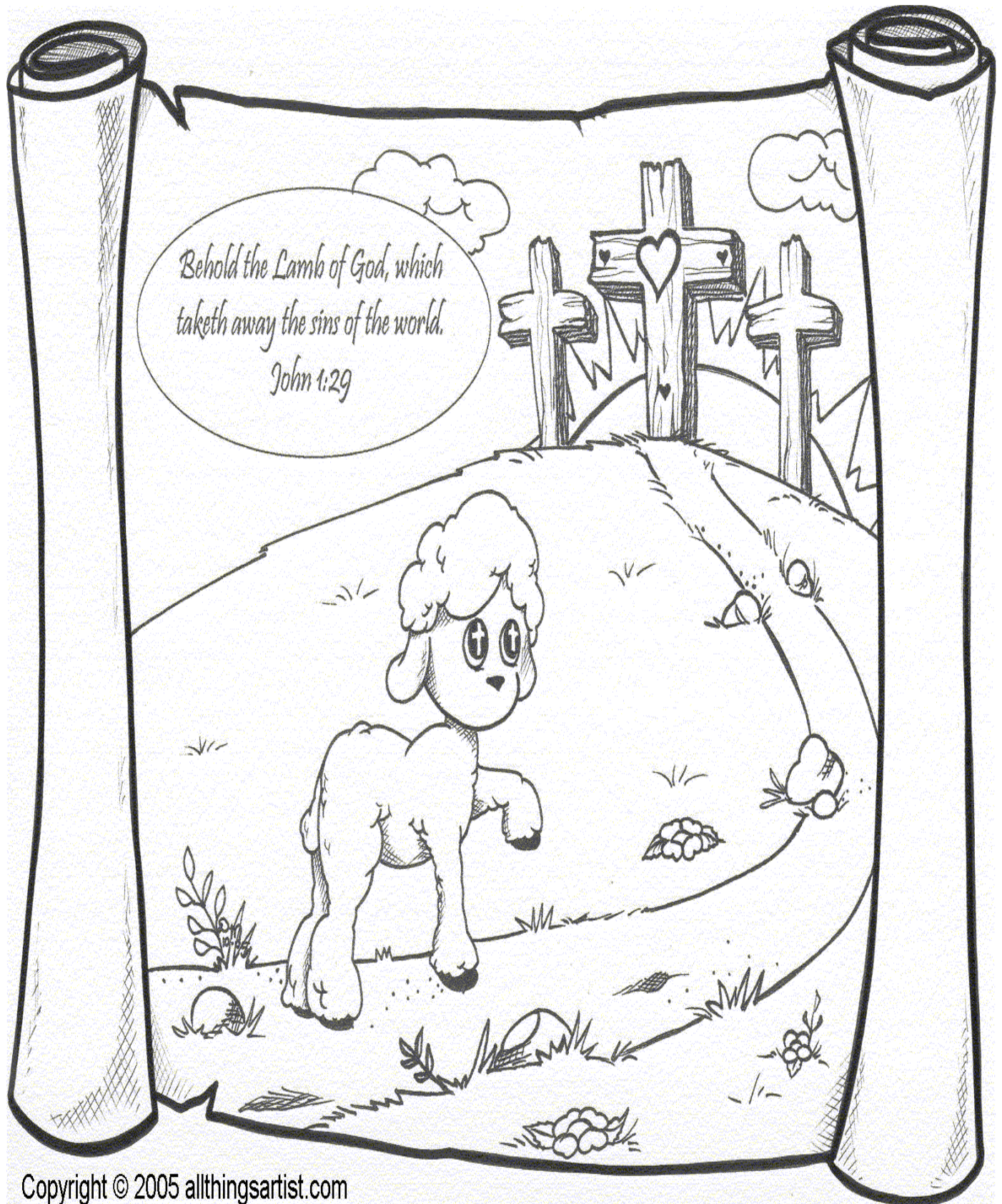
*Maps*

*Ropes*

***BASICALLY ANY CAMPING AND EXTREME SPORTS GEAR SUPPLIES*** (Things  
donated for decorating can be dropped off starting June 22-26, with your name on it)

*For more information contact: Marianne Woodward at 905-885-6718 or Jenny Foote at 905-376-9458*

# Kid's Colouring Page





We welcome a new member into the St. John's family



Members of the Choir practice Jaine's new Gloria.



Thanks to the Chancel Guild, the Church looked lovely for Easter.



## HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

February 2010

Led by  
The Rev'd Stephen Vail  
&  
The Rev'd Geoff Sangwine

*Experience the landscape of the Bible  
and the culture of the Middle East.*

*Walk in the steps of the Patriarchs,  
Prophets and Jesus himself.*

*Our pilgrimage will include visits to well-known biblical sites  
and will include time in Jordan.*

*Join us as we visit this ancient and Holy Land in February 2010.*

**Only 6 more seats are left, so speak with Fr. Stephen  
as soon as possible.**

**(Cost: approx \$4000 pp)**

**Ancient biblical/historic sights include:**

MEGGIDO, NAZARETH & CANA

CAESAREA PHILIPPI

JORDAN BAPTISMAL SITE

THE GALILEE: Tiberias - Capernaum – Tabgha – Mt of Beatitudes

MASSADA & THE DEAD SEA

PETRA & MOUNT SINAI, BETHLEHEM

JERUSALEM: Old City, New City, Western Wall, Mt of Olives and the Palm Sunday Route, Via Delorosa,  
Calvary,  
Church of the Holy Sepulchre and more!

**There will be an information meeting about the trip with Ami Lohr of  
Amiron Travel  
on Wednesday, June 3 at 7:30 pm.  
All are welcome!**

## SLO-PITCH CHURCH LEAGUE

### INTERESTED?



- 1 **THURSDAY EVENINGS**
- 2 **8:30 PM @ WLADYKA PARK**
- 3 **BEGINS THURSDAY MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>**
- 4 **ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME**
- 5 **COST \$40/PERSON OR \$70/COUPLE**
- 6 **ONE FUN TOURNAMENT ON SATURDAY JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> AT WLADYKA PARK (MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW)**

**CONTACT KAREN OR SHANE WATSON  
905-885-8622  
SHANE.KAREN@SYMPATICO.CA**

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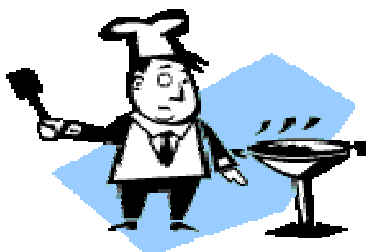
### CALLING ALL CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

You are invited to a volunteer, THANK YOU BBQ.  
If you volunteer in any way at St. Johns, Father Stephen and the Wardens would like to show our appreciation.

Date: Saturday, June 13, 2009 @ 5:30

Location: The Parish Hall

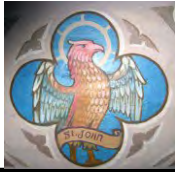
Please RSVP to Bev Kelly @ 905 885-5376  
or email [bev.kelly@sympatico.ca](mailto:bev.kelly@sympatico.ca)  
by June 7, 2009



**ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

42 South Street  
Port Hope,  
Ontario  
L1A 1R8

Phone: (905) 885-2171  
Fax: (905) 885-7592  
Email: stjohns@stjohnschurchph.ca



We're on the Web at  
[www.stjohnschurchph.ca](http://www.stjohnschurchph.ca)

# Parish Calendar

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time &amp; Place</b>
<b>Pre-Synod meeting</b>	May 14, 2009	7:30 pm, St. Luke's, Peterborough
<b>Annual Spaghetti Supper</b>	May 30, 2009	6:00 pm, Parish Hall
<b>Pentecost Sunday, Guest Celebrant and Preacher is Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones</b>	May 31, 2009	10:30 am, St. John's
<b>Family Eucharist</b>	June 7, 2009	10:30 am, St. John's
<b>Volunteer Appreciation BBQ</b>	June 13, 2009	5:30 pm, Parish Hall
<b>Outdoor Service &amp; Parish Picnic</b>	June 28, 2009	10:30 am, Church grounds
<b>Camp EDGE, Vacation Bible School</b>	July 6 to 10, 2009	9 am to noon St. John's Parish Hall
<b>Family Eucharist</b>	July 12, 2009	10:30 am, St. John's
<b>Port Hope's First Annual Joseph Scriven Weekend</b>	September 12 & 13, 2009	Watch local paper for details
<b>Parish Breakfast</b>	September 20, 2009	9:30 am, Upper Parish Hall
<b>Camp EDGE Reunion Sunday</b>	September 20, 2009	10:30 am, St. John's