

# Message from Fr. Stephen



## The Blessing and Challenge of New Year

Each new year is a time to look back at what has gone before and forward to what lies ahead. In many ways, it is an opportunity for a “life inventory”. What has been going well? What hasn’t? Are there things I am doing that I no longer need to do? Are there things I am not doing that I should do? For many of us, those questions will revolve around health, weight and bad habits. And that is good. Anything to improve our lives and the lives of others is a good thing.

As members of St. John’s, it is helpful if we direct those same questions towards our relationships and spiritual lives. What has been going well? What hasn’t? Are there things I am doing that I no longer need to do? Are there things I am not doing that I should do? Improving our relationships and our commitment to Christ’s Church steers us closer to happiness than anything else.

As I look back, it has been a fulfilling year for us at St. John’s, but it has also had its share of challenges. We have lost the ministry of our two deacons but, bless you, the people of this parish have “picked up the slack”. Those who volunteer here are an amazing bunch of people and I am grateful for their service and dedication. I would like to challenge members of the parish who are not as active to think about ways in which you might engage in the ministry of the Church. You are all given gifts by God and called to use them in the name of Jesus. What will you do this year that you have not done before?

Perhaps the greatest challenge we faced as a congregation was the repair of our steeple. Our Wardens have done an incredible job managing that situation. Once we got inside the steeple we realized it was in terrible shape and it has cost us a great deal to put it back to rights for future generations. The downside has been a 33% decrease in our investment portfolio and taking on the obligation of a sizeable loan. It doesn’t take rocket science to figure out that this will have an impact on our finances in the days ahead. There has been a perception out there that we are a rich church – but we weren’t and we certainly aren’t now. The financial challenge ahead is real and will last for some time. So, I ask you: what will you do about it? How will you help your church meet the challenge so we can remain a healthy and vibrant community dedicated to the ministry of Jesus in the world?

Did you know that St. John’s has the lowest *per capita* giving of any Anglican Church in our Deanery -- and that our per person giving is well below half of the average across the Diocese? We, as a community, are good at lots of things, but many of us have a way to go when it comes to giving. A gift that sustained the ministry of the church ten years ago simply does not do so anymore. How can we change that?

Those, perhaps, are the particular questions God has put before us as the people of St. John’s as we enter a new year together. God bless you.

- Fr. Stephen

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### Sign of the Times



# Spiritual Development Committee

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## **Living, Praying and Greening with St. Francis of Assisi**

On Saturday, **February 25<sup>th</sup>**, we will be holding our annual **Quiet Day Retreat** in the peaceful surroundings of Canton United Church. This year the recently retired Reverend Canon Ann Smith will be leading us on a journey with St. Francis of Assisi. Three main themes will be explored:

- **Living the life of St. Francis:** So often we think of Francis as the Patron Saint of the bird-bath. In reality he is so much more. This address will open up his deep spirituality and how we can live it in our lives.
- **Praying with St. Francis:** His prayer life was so attuned to the world around him. How do we allow his spirituality to inform our prayer life?
- **Greening with St. Francis:** In his sensitivity to nature and the world around him, he speaks to our current ecological concerns.

Ann has recently retired to Port Hope from St. Francis of Assisi in Mississauga where she served as Incumbent. Ann felt a calling to the priesthood at a young age. At the age of seventeen she served as a teacher in an Indian Residential School in Fort George on the east coast of Quebec and later attended Trinity College and received a degree in Honour Music. She put her musical talents to use teaching music in the school system and serving as organist and choir director in a number of Anglican churches. When women were first ordained she made plans to return to Trinity College and was finally ordained in 1991. In addition to her last position at St. Francis of Assisi, Ann has served as Incumbent at St. Thomas, Brooklin and Curate at St. Timothy's, Agincourt.

If you would like to attend the retreat, contact Shane Watson at [shane.watson@me.com](mailto:shane.watson@me.com) or 905-885-8622 to sign-up. The day will run from 9:30 a.m. to about 4 p.m. and will include worship services, several talks, quiet time and a delicious lunch.

Everyone is welcome to attend, so feel free to invite a friend.

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## **More to the Movies: Have a Little Faith**

What do a Jewish rabbi from a thriving synagogue in suburban New Jersey, a former drug addict turned Christian pastor of a crumbling inner-city Detroit church, and an award winning sportswriter have in common? They are all real-life characters portrayed by actors Martin Landau, Laurence Fishburne and Bradley Whitford in the movie Have a Little Faith. The movie tells the true story of Mitch Albom's (author of Tuesdays with Morrie) encounters as he moves between very different worlds—Christian and Jewish, African-American and white, impoverished and privileged; and how, with a little faith, these men make a big difference in the lives of others. **This Hallmark Hall of Fame movie is the next in our More to the Movies series that will be held on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 7 p.m. sharp.** Please come and enjoy the movie, discussion and popcorn in the lower parish hall. Due to some depictions of drug culture, the movie is suggested for those who are teens or older. For more information or to sign-up contact Shane Watson ([shane.watson@me.com](mailto:shane.watson@me.com) or 905-885-8622).

## St. John's Kids' Club Calendar - Winter/Spring 2012

- January 8 no Kids' Club
- January 15 **Boy Jesus in the Temple**  
**Jesus is Baptized**
- January 22 **Jesus in the Wilderness**  
Children's Eucharist
- January 29 **The Mustard Seed**
- February 5 **The Great Pearl**
- February 12 **The Good Samaritan**  
Children's Eucharist
- February 19 **The Great Banquet**
- February 26 First Sunday in Lent
- March 4 Second Sunday in Lent - Children's Service  
no Kids' Club
- March 11 Third Sunday in Lent  
**Jesus and the Children**
- March 18 Fourth Sunday in Lent  
**Jesus and Bartimaeus**
- March 25 Fifth Sunday in Lent  
**Jesus and Zacchaeus**
- April 1 Sixth Sunday in Lent - Palm Sunday  
Jesus the King
- April 8 Easter Sunday  
**Jesus is Risen: Appearance to Mary Magdalene**
- April 15 **Children's Easter Service**  
no Kids' Club

April 22	<b>Jesus is Risen: Road to Emmaus</b>
April 29	<b>Good Shepherd and the Wolf</b>
May 6	<b>Good Shepherd and The Lord's Supper</b>
May 13	<b>Thomas</b>
May 20	<b>Ascension</b>
May 27	<b>Pentecost</b> Children's Eucharist
June 3	<b>Fruits of the Spirit</b>
June 10	<b>Prayer</b> Last Kids' Club until September
June 17	<b>St. John's Outdoor Worship and Picnic</b>
July 9- July 13	<b>Operation Overboard: Dare to go Deep with God!</b> 9:00 am to 12 noon Ages 3 to grade 6
September 9	Kids' Club resumes Children's Eucharist

#### How to Make Matzo Bread

Matzo bread is an unleavened bread that is eaten during Passover. It reminds us of time when God delivered the people from slavery to freedom. Unleavened bread must be made without using yeast, baking powder, or baking soda. Matzo bread is similar to crackers. This is the bread we use for Children's Eucharists.

#### Things You'll Need

2 cups of flour  
1 tsp. of salt  
2 tbsp. of vegetable oil  
1/2 cup warm water  
Small bowl  
Oven  
Cookie sheet

#### Instructions

1. Combine the flour, salt and oil in a bowl and mix.
2. Slowly add the warm water until the mixture reaches a dough-like consistency. You may not need to use all of the water.
3. Break your dough into small balls. Allow the balls to sit for 30 minutes to gain consistency.
4. Place the small balls on metal baking sheet flattening them out to be cracker-thin in the process. Use a rolling pin to do this.
5. Bake the bread in a pre-heated oven at 425 degrees for 10 minutes (turn after 5 minutes).
6. Remove the bread from the oven when corners of bread reach a golden brown color.



## JAM (Jesus and Me) Youth Group

2011 was a good year for JAM. At our first meetings in January and September we begin with a planning, development and games night. At these meetings we plan our activities for the next 4 to 6 months.

Let's see how the year unfolded:

- Late January & early February we baked Cookies and Muffins to be bagged, tagged and delivered to various members of our Parish Community. The response was overwhelming. We had many cards of thanks and to our surprise monetary donations, which were greatly appreciated.
- "Bring a talent night". We all are given a talent so we all have one to share. JAM is a very musical bunch - Peter plays the Baritone, Alex plays the Tuba, Tyler can juggle & play the drums (but not at the same time) and Steve White is great on the guitar.
- The theme for movie night in March was "How do we deal with Tragedy?" and a great movie for that was "We are Marshall".
- Paige and Alex participated with other youth in the area in a 29.5 hr. fast on Good Friday at St. Thomas Anglican Church in Brooklin. Funds raised went towards Tsunami Relief in Japan.
- JAM also participated in the 4 on 4 for Food Floor Hockey Tournament, which raised money to purchase Food for those less fortunate in our community.
- In June we played Lazer Tag at Zap Attack in Peterborough and another night we had a BBQ and games before we broke for the summer holidays.
- September we painted another JAM Banner and some JAM T-shirts
- The theme for movie night in October was "Impacting Others" and a great movie for that was "Radio".
- JAM help at the Parish Halloween Party by assisting at the fishpond and the craft table.
- JAM and Kid's Club joined forces and drove to Cold Springs to journey back in time with "The Bethlehem Walk". After the walk we returned to the Parish Hall for Pizza, drinks and a movie. 48 (in total) children, teens and adults attended this event.
- Peter, Colin and I went to St. Peter's in Cobourg for a games night with their Youth Group. We are also planning a "Rock Band" night in January 2012 together.
- December's meeting was a Christmas Party with lots of games, friendly competition, food and a movie.
- JAM also were cast members in "The Christmas Story"

If you would like to follow JAM, check out our Facebook Page for upcoming events, great past event photos or just tell us what you think. There is a link right from the Church Website (<http://www.stjohnschurchph.ca/>).

JAM consists of 7 members: Alex Foley, Chase Long, Colin Sears, Tyler Elliott, Anne Smith, Peter Kyle and Paige Kreps. We have a lot of fun together but it is not without the support of our Parish that we are able to do that. Throughout the year Parish members have been very generous and we are very thankful for that support. By participating in our Bottle Drive, we were able to raise \$155 for the Rector's Discretionary Fund, which helps those in our own Parish Community. Our Gift cards sales this year raised \$186. This money also goes into the Rector's Discretionary Fund (a total of \$341 in all for 2011). Other donations that we received throughout the year were from our Muffin and Cookie deliveries (a venture that was NOT meant as a money raiser but as an act of kindness) and from Sunny Bissett, who crushes pop cans and takes them to Wakely's for money and that money she donates to JAM. Without your support JAM would not be able to fulfill our Mission statement **Learn Love Serve**. We are a Christian Community dedicated to helping others know God's love in their lives through worship, learning, and caring for others. Thanks!



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Our Annual Vestry Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5th, following the 10:30 service. Lunch will be served. Those submitting reports are asked to do so by no later than Sunday, January 22. E-mailed documents make Laurie's life much simpler!

## Synod Report for the Eagle

This year we were privileged to attend the Diocese of Toronto 154<sup>th</sup> Session of Synod held at The Doubletree Hilton Hotel near the Toronto Airport, on Friday November 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday November 26<sup>th</sup>. The programme was well designed, planned, implemented and condensed to eliminate the need for Thursday evening allowing for the maximization of time usage and efficiency and overall reducing Synod related costs. General Synod's Vision 2019 initiative has Five Marks of Mission the last of which is "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth." This is part of the overarching theme of Continuing in the Apostles Teaching: Building Communities of Hope and Compassion through Healthy Vibrant Parish Ministries and the context in which Archbishop Colin Johnson lead the discussion. The Agenda Committee therefore adopted the theme: *Celebrating this fragile earth: Growing Communities of Hope and Compassion*.

Guest speaker was Stephen Scharper, Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, who presented several segments, accompanied by audio and visual presentations giving us a global awareness of the fragile earth and the message that there is still HOPE. He emphasized the urgency that we take seriously our responsibility both individually and collectively to be missionally directed to sustain and renew the life of the earth. We are called to "Live simply so that others may simply live."

In addition to the formalities required to conduct the business of synod, reports, motions, voting, finances etc., the agenda was well balanced to include concurrent breakout workshops that followed the theme, liturgy and worship, bible study, table discussions, question and answer periods, members time (open mike) for members to ask questions, present concerns and comments. Many display tables were set with information on programmes and ministries within the diocese as well as resources.

At the end of synod Archbishop Johnson assured us that advocacy about poverty and housing at the diocesan level will continue. The world is desperate for hope. As Christians we have a gospel of hope, and Christ is in our midst.

He presented us with the following four questions:

What is God doing in your neighbourhood?

What are you doing in your own parish church?

Where are you going to join in?

Why is it worthwhile?

Overall our synod experience was interesting, informative and enjoyable. We had an opportunity to meet new people, reunite with others and join in worship as a diocese.

Submitted by

Marion Huffman and Jackie Foote

Green Wood Coalition and Partners in Weekly Community Meal Report  
Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Many representatives from churches and other organizations were present for this meeting. David Sheffield led the meeting. Some of the items that were discussed are listed below:

**Scheduling:**

- Some expressed a concern on “how many” we expect for future dinners. It’s always been open to the community who are in need of food, but the new location will serve that better (almost 70 for dinner tonight).
  - o David and others think it’s possible to go up to 100 with it being opened to the community. But in the winter months, it could be more. If unsure, call Jean and ask how many have been coming out lately (about 2 weeks before it’s your turn). This gives you an idea of how many to cook for.
  - o Just seeing 100 people coming out for dinner in this very small town shows you how much poverty there is.
  - o One suggestion was that St. John’s and St. Mark’s team up, as St. Mark’s is expressing interest in being more involved, which would help with the 3 teams at St. John’s, who are a little low in numbers per group.
  - o A survey taken said that approximately 30 to 40 hours of volunteer work go into each Wednesday night meal, so while it is a burden of love, we must think of ways to lessen the burden from group to group, in order that the volunteers enjoy this as much as the attendees do. Otherwise it turns spiteful, which is definitely not wanted.
  - o If money is an issue, ask your church to supply you with the money for the meat, as this is the most expensive, and needed item.
- Possibly David could speak at some of the organizations to tell the story of why we do this, and who it helps, and what the main goals are. David is open to do this.
- Suggestions were made on how we make conversation with the attendees. Some were, “hi, my name is Jane”, “check out that weather today”, “how was your day today?” etc. Some may not want to talk, and that is okay. It’s just the thought that we will sit and eat with them that is good.
- It was suggested that the folks who attend know about the Treasure Trove at St. John’s church, as they are so close when coming to dinner here. John and Jackie to speak with the coordinator of Treasure Trove to see if Green Wood Coalition could be given some “free” vouchers, for those who don’t have \$2 to buy clothes.
- Contact person if schedules are becoming a problem: Jean Irving 905 885 9697.
- The 2012 schedule is being put together now.

**Food:**

- Portions of food were part of a discussion. It is clear that the mandate of Green Wood Coalition is that the attendees are not “served”. When someone is holding the spoon, they hold the power, and one of the purposes is that they don’t feel “powerless”.
  - o Large portions taken at one time, and sometimes nothing left for the people at the end of the line. It was agreed that the meat is the biggest problem, so it is fine to have the meat served at the end, and okay to serve a good portion to each. They will be told to come back for more.
  - o David will continue to remind people from the beginning of each meal to keep others in mind so that everyone has a good portion for dinner, and of course they can come back for seconds.
  - o It was agreed.

- **Left-overs:**
  - o Now that we are at St. Mary's school, and we have ovens, should a team arrive early, they could put their dish in the oven, or plug in their crock pot. It was generally agreed that most groups show up 10 minutes before, so there isn't a 2 hour period involved.
  - o It was understood by all that there wasn't a problem with anything except meat, to take back with them. The discussion on the meat was that the department of health agreed that as long as there wasn't longer than a 2 hour period, the meat would be fine to take back. That was a great relief.
- Safe food handling: there are courses that should be taken if not already done, so that we are always working with integrity with the food.
- Nutrition: It was agreed that the dinners be well-balanced, covering the food groups, but to remember that the food liked best is what they remember from home. Nutritious and delicious!

**Communications:**

- Meal host ideas:
  - o To have a volunteer each Wednesday night to "welcome" and ask any questions on the way in.
  - o To have a volunteer each Wednesday to be the "hand sanitizer" person, giving each one in line that wanted it, a squirt before picking up their meal.
  - o To have a "go-to" person so that if there are questions asked of the group that evening, they would be able to point that person out, or if see something that could be improved going forward, so we're always communicating.
- Newsletter / email:
  - o It would be good to have a newsletter / email once a month and send to the coordinator of each organization. They can take it back to the larger group, and it keeps them in the loop as to how they are contributing to this cause.

**Special Events:**

- As a fund raiser and to bring awareness to the folks who attend, on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Capitol Theatre, there will be a concert, "Till Things are brighter" and an Art Show in the foyer at the Capitol Theatre. Advanced tickets can be purchased from The Ganaraska Art Store on Walton Street for \$20 or at the door for \$25. Posters were given to all who wanted to post them at their organizations.
  - o Out thanks to Cameco for giving 100 free admission tickets in order that the less fortunate can attend this event.

**Contact Information: website: [www.greenwoodcoalition.com](http://www.greenwoodcoalition.com)**

**Dinner Coordinator: Jean Irving 905-885-9697**

**email: [greenwoodcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:greenwoodcoalition@gmail.com)**

**Face Book: Green Wood Coalition**

Its morning, I awaken.  
Slowly, carefully, from my bed, I rise  
Finding balance, the walls my support,  
Moving, one step, then another, stretching .....  
Muscles ache, joints are sore, and I'm in some pain,  
thanks to Parkinson's and yes, my increasing age

I could complain, and certainly have.  
“Life’s not fair”, (And that’s certainly true.)  
“Why me?, What happened to who I used to be?”  
Enough already....., in time, *in their own time*,  
my body and mind unite, working together.  
Soon I’m up and ready  
To face the world, another, new day

Complain, not me, not today or tomorrow.  
Instead I reflect. Remembering family and friends  
Whose battles are over, their pain now gone,  
Gone too soon, often too young. If only  
and always we had just one more day!  
On reflection, my aches, and difficulties are reminders:  
I’m here and *I’m alive*.

Complain? Not today or tomorrow I decide.  
Instead I rejoice. The pain, difficulty and the aches are a sign.  
A reminder all day and every morning:  
I’ve made it to this day, and *I’m alive*.  
There are things to do, people to see,  
places to go, memories to make and to share.

### I do rejoice

by : Bill Andrus  
Port Hope, Ont.



Thank You St. John's for once again supporting our Christmas Hamper program. With your help we were able to support 6 Port Hope families including 16 children. Be sure to check out the " Thank You" card from the Salvation Army on the Outreach board in the Narthax.

The Outreach Committee.

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## Parish Calendar

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time &amp; Place</b>
<b>Kids' Club Resumes</b>	January 15, 2012	10:30 a.m. Service
<b>More To The Movies</b>	January 21, 2012	7:00 p.m. sharp
<b>NCD Survey Participants meet</b>	January 29, 2012	After the 10:30 Service
<b>Annual General Vestry Meeting</b>	February 5, 2012	After the 10:30 Service
<b>Pancake Supper</b>	February 21, 2012	5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	February 22, 2012	
<b>Parish Lenten Quiet Day</b>	Saturday 25, 2012	Canton United Church
<b>Children's Service</b>	February 26, 2012	10:30 a.m. Service
<b>Holy Week begins (Choir Cantata)</b>	April 1, 2012	10:30 service