

BY GEORGE

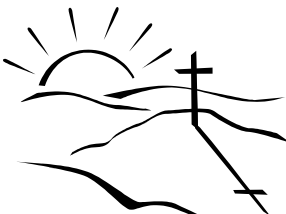
152Years

A MEMBER CONGREGATION OF THE ANGLICAN NETWORK IN CANADA (ANIC)

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*Thanks be to
God for his
indescribable
gift!*



The Musings of a Hockey-dad



I am the proudest hockey-dad in Canada. Matthew started his first year of organized hockey in October. Shortly into the season, he was promoted to the "A-line", an honour usually reserved for second year players. I could go to great lengths describing his strong skating, his great hands, or his ability to see the play shaping up, but his statistics speak for themselves. He has scored 17 goals in the past 6 games. Hat-tricks have become the norm.

It all began when he was 2 years old. Pappa bought him an inside hockey set, complete with mini-sticks and a goal. Matthew has spent virtually every waking moment shooting on the net, while his helpless teddy bear sits in goal. He loves the game.

When I'm home in the evenings, Matthew coaxes me into playing inside hockey with him. We play for hours! We take turns

in net and see who can score 10 points the fastest. I sit behind the net, holding only a stick in front to intercept his lightening shots. When Matthew's turn to be goalie comes around he stands firmly in front of the net - blocking 98% of the visible, without moving a muscle. Mats Sundin would have a hard time scoring with the tiny holes Matthew leaves open. So, I have to take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself.

The other day, when we were playing, my shot went wide and Matthew left the net to pass the soft puck back to me. I waited patiently for him to turn his back and walk back to the net and then BANG! I slapped the puck deep in the net, top shelf, while his back was still turned to me. He was heart broken. He looked at me with his huge eyes, a look I will never forget. It was the unmistakable look of betrayal. He could not believe that his daddy would do such a thing. I immediately realized that I had made a huge mistake. The satisfaction of

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the puck blazing into the netting was eclipsed by the disappointment of my 5 year-old son. I apologized and told him that I would never take advantage of him like that again.

So, from now on, when Matthew needs to leave the net, he says, "You can't shoot 'till I'm ready." And then he makes deep, honest eye contact with me and says, "Daddy, I'm trusting on you."

This is a powerful phrase, and especially in 5 year old vernacular. I'm trusting on you. When Matthew says that to me, Nothing in the world could entice me to breach that confidence - not even a wide open hockey net. Trust is a valuable commodity.

We, at St. George's, will finish our sermon-series on 2 Timothy on February 17th. It has been wonderful to take the time to look at this last letter of Paul captured in the New Testament. In it we find his last known words before being executed for his faith in Jesus. In chapter 1, verse 12, Paul tells his young prodigy Timothy that even in the face of his own suffering, he has found that he can place his trust where it is secure. Paul writes, "For this reason I suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know who I have believed and I am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day." Paul knew what it meant to suffer for his professed faith in Jesus. He knew that he would be executed for that very faith. Yet, he knew also knew that at the end of the day he could trust God with everything. Paul knew that his life, his reputation, his future, his everything was well cared for, precisely because he trusted God.

I imagine Paul sitting in prison, with the stakes far higher than any inside hockey game,

and praying, "God, I'm trusting on you."

You see, to be a Christian person means to trust God. To trust that he knows what is best for us. To trust his commands, even when they may seem folly. Trusting God means being willing to pay the price for faithfulness; like Paul, being willing to suffer. Because we trust God more than we trust ourselves. He can take better care of our lives than we can.

Unlike Matthew's experience of learning to trust his daddy, we learn to trust our heavenly Father because he never takes advantage of our faith. Our heavenly Father never lets us down. In the month of February let us look, individually and collectively to our heavenly Father and say right out loud, "God we trust on you!"

Ray David Glenn

The Collect for Ash Wednesday

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God,
who hatest nothing that thou hast
made, and dost forgive the sins of
all them that are penitent: Create
and make in us new and contrite
hearts, that we worthily lamenting
our sins, and acknowledging our
wretchedness, may obtain of thee,
the God of all mercy, perfect remis-
sion and forgiveness; through Je-
sus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[BCP]

Thanks be to God

Remembering Joy



On January 18th, Joy Crook, who many of us fondly remember, was gently ushered into glory to join her beloved husband, Fred.

Together, throughout Fred's ministry in Canada—Halifax, Toronto, and especially St George's, Joy walked quietly and humbly alongside, providing the necessary strength.

Returning to their homeland, England, Fred and Joy were united with their children Alison, Sue and Geof and were able to share in the happiness of many special occasions.

After Fred's death, Joy found it difficult to accept the void left by the passing of her beloved, despite the compassionate care and encouragement of her two special daughters. Life was never the same, especially as the trauma of poor health stripped away her independence.

Somehow, it is difficult to accept that this special lady has left us. No more will a letter come through the mail or a delightful "hello" come over the phone.

Joy would have celebrated her ninetieth birthday on January 31st.

Her happiest memories of worshipping with friends at St. George's and her love for Charlie, especially for his presence at Fred's passing, provided a never-to-be-forgotten gift during this difficult season.

Adele Smith



for his indescribable gift !

My Walk With God



When Ray David asked me to share about my walk with God, I thought sure why not, there couldn't be that much to say. But I thought wrong. My walk has been short, and only since the summer of 2006 have I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

Some of you may be thinking, "Wow I've seen him around here since he was just a little baby. How can he have only been a Christian for a year and a half?" The truth is yes, I have been around that long, and in that time I've gone to Sunday school, I've heard all the stories, and I've watched all the Veggie Tales, but for a long time I never knew God. I had never felt Him in my heart.

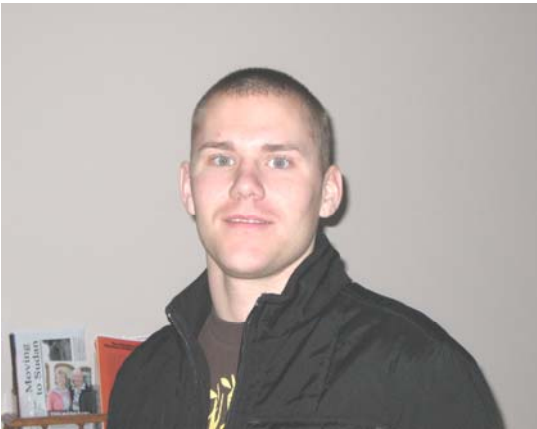
Of course I knew He was there, but I had never accepted His unconditional love. I had never embraced His touch. But the Lord finds all of us, and in the summer of '06 He found me. He had been knocking on my door for years and I never answered. Finally with some help from a camp counselor and the mission trip to Toronto, Jesus became the center. My life changed completely now that it revolved around God. God changed my life when I finally chose to embrace the fact that Jesus is life, Jesus is love, and that Jesus has loved me since before time even existed.

It took me a long time to learn that, but life has been indescribably better ever since. Yes, I still go through tough times, and I still struggle at things, but knowing that the Lord is with me, and will be forever, that makes it all worthwhile. That's what makes the troubles insignificant, knowing that there's a better place and that one-day Jesus will take me there. But, in the meantime I'm going to do exactly as he has asked and spend my life bringing others to the Lord, as He intended, and I'm going to do this as long as He wants. Because that is what living is all about.

Ryan Wilson

Thanks be to God

Welcome Matt Baker



The editors of By George have the distinction of being the first to introduce Matt Baker to that great Canadian establishment, Tim Hortons. We had coffee with Matt and chatted about his new role at St. George's.

Matt comes from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. He tells us that there is not only a Pittsburg accent, but a particular Pittsburg language, a body of words and expressions understood only by the citizens of Pittsburg. "Riddup your room" means tidy your room. And in Pittsburg an elastic band is a "gum band."

Matt actually lived in McKees Rock, a region on the south east side of Pittsburg. He described that area as a sad place. You didn't have to look far to find crime and violence. Matt is the only Christian in his family; he has been walking with the Lord since he was 21.

Matt's life story is a witness to the grace of God and also to the fact that the Lord honours even a brief encounter of a child with the gospel in a Christian church or a Christian camp. Matt first encountered the Lord when he was thirteen through a local church and soon after at a church camp where he accepted the Lord.

What followed was a period of some years of family breakdown and pain, little personal support or supervision. Matt found himself alone, looking in all the wrong places for happiness, and sliding progressively downhill. No one seemed to notice or care. Nevertheless, God had not forgotten him.

When Matt was in his freshman year at college, he was compelled by a scheduling "accident" to take a course in the history of Christianity. Though there was no intended persuasion, just hearing Scripture again started Matt thinking. He began noticing how desperate and in pain the people around him were and acknowledged that he was in the same boat.

Some months later, during the summer between his freshman and sophomore year, God confronted him when he was alone in his room. That was a turning point

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for his indescribable gift!

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and he surrendered his life to the Lord. On Saturday night he went to a church service, threw up his hands and worshipped the Lord. God said to him, “Go and tell people what I’ve done for you.”

Amazingly, shortly thereafter, Matt found himself back at the camp where he had met the Lord at the age of thirteen, this time ministering to young people. He loved this and knew that this was his calling.

What has the Lord laid on Matt’s heart for the young people at St. George’s? Matt has a heart for evangelism and outreach. He envisages reaching out and drawing in all kinds of young people. He plans evenings for discipleship of our young people and also evenings for outreach. He looks forward to sharing his love for street evangelism with our young people and to training them in this ministry. Time and time again Matt has witnessed miracles that happen in brief quick encounters on the street. “Really, just walk in the Spirit,” Matt says.

Matt is an athlete with experience in weightlifting and wrestling. He has already begun as a volunteer with the coaching staff in wrestling at a local high school and to become acquainted with local high school students.

We asked Matt his favorite Bible verse. He said Romans 12: 1 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”

Matt is pleased to be on staff in a church with a sound Biblical message and founded on Jesus Christ. His heart for evangelism is certainly consistent with the St George’s leadership and direction.

We look forward to praying for Matt as his work continues and to seeing the Lord work among our young people and those in the community.

Mary Ann and Jane

ROMANS 1:16 [NIV]

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Thanks be to God

Who's Who & What's on at St. Georges

Nursery

Care is available for babies and toddlers at the 10:30am service.

Ray David Glenn 905-336-3145

Family Ministries

Sundays during the 10:30am service

Sunday School Programme for 3 years to Grade 5. Each of the three classes use Bible stories, craft and songs to learn about Christian Faith and grow in their love for Jesus

Ray David Glenn 905 336-3145

Youth Programme

Matt Baker 905 878-1363

Music Ministry

The Choir sings at the 10:30am service in the Sanctuary

Church office 905 878-1363

Prayer Chain

Confidential prayers daily. Please call with prayer requests for yourself or others.

Eileen Phillips 905 681-6850

Alpha

A series of talks on key issues relating to the Christian faith. Each evening includes a meal and group discussion. Offered in the fall at the church.

Donna Rigo 905 854-0197

Home Fellowship and Bible Study Groups

meet during the week at the church or in homes. Please call to find out about locations, times and study topics

Dave Shantz 905 854-1013

Greg Culver 905 854-1181

Adult Education (Potter's Wheel)

Events that provide teaching for adults on Christian subjects and issues. As announced.

Ron and Pam Bales 905 827-1097

Church Library

The library contains a wide range of books, videos, tapes and magazines with Christian themes, for both adults and children.

Gillian Fernie 905 319-2916

Sermon Tape/CD Ministry

Copies of Sunday sermons are available on audiocassette (\$2.00 and CD (\$2.50). Turn-around time from date of request is two weeks. Request forms are in the Narthex.

Betty Pristol 905 873-1918

St. George's Men's Group

Praise, prayer and study over coffee.

Held on the third Saturday of the month at the church.

Rick Carpenter 905 690-3086

Women's Ministries:

Annual Conference and Vespers Evenings. Events designed so that women can draw together spiritually, through fellowship, worship, teaching and sharing.

Karen Wilson 905-659-1775

Visitation Ministries:

Congregational Visiting. Those who wish to have a pastoral visit should call the church office.

Seniors' Pastoral Care and Institutional Visiting.

A ministry to St. George's seniors and their families. Also to Milton Hospital, and area seniors' residences.

Kathy Powell 905-335-5399

St. George's Knights

Sports group for those 14 years and older. Softball with the Milton Inter-Church Mixed Softball League in the summer.

Richard & Ruth Mills 905-878-3849

Baptism for Children and Adults

Preparation for Baptism includes a visit with the clergy. Held periodically. Rev. Charlie Masters 905-878-1363

Communion Preparation for Children

Classes for children and their parents are held on four consecutive Sundays after the 10:30am service, usually in Advent or Lent. Rev. Ray David Glenn 905-336-3145

Marriage Seminar

Five sessions for those about to be married. Led by church members. Held annually.

Ray David Glenn 905-336-3145

Parish Council advises the Rector and Wardens on all church matters. All are invited to attend the monthly Parish Council meetings. Please call the church office for more information.

Property and Maintenance Group

Responsible for the ongoing maintenance and care of the church buildings and parking area.

Brian Duke 905 689-3897

Cemetery Group

Responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the cemetery and the grounds.

Wayne Neeb 905 659-0402

1 Corinthians 1: 18

[NIV]

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

for his indescribable gift!



Greetings from Scott Lewis

Hello from Prey Veng, Cambodia. This is Scott Lewis, living and working in Cambodia with the Mennonite Central Committee. Since my last update/article for By George, my work in Cambodia has picked up considerably. I am now actively working with two Cambodian non government organizations (NGO) that are involved in community/economic development projects. One organization is called ODOV (Organization to Develop Our Villages) and the other is a newly formed NGO called Love Cambodia. I am helping with writing proposals to potential donors, arranging meetings, assisting with long range planning for both organizations, as well as making field visits to see first hand some of the farmers/people being helped by ODOV, and to see how the support received from the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is helping people.



I would like to take the time to describe a recent trip I took with field staff from ODOV, through some very dusty roads (this is the dry season in Cambodia), to see some of the fruits of ODOV's work in rural Cambodia. The organization runs training sessions for farmers on planting vegetable gardens, raising chickens, starting fish ponds, and/or making natural fertilizers. The people that receive these trainings will have small plots of land, where they will grow rice, but will also need to supplement their diet with other sources of food. Chronic food shortages, lasting 3-6 months, are the norm in the district of Mesang, where ODOV operates, so even the smallest bit of help will go a long way to preventing malnutrition and the effects on people (especially children). Some of the farmers I saw had very little, but were thankful for the seeds, chickens, or fingerlings (small fish) and knowledge they had received. I was pleased to see many families who had benefited as a result of this work.

This recent outing has left me with a sense of humility, along with a reality check about my own life. Whatever little problems I may have in Cambodia, I will never have to worry

Thanks be to God

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about where my next meal is coming from, or if I can afford to buy medicine when I get sick. The other thought I am left with is one of being extremely thankful for the life I have, and for the opportunities I have had to study, travel, and see other parts of the world. The ability to grow up in a stable environment, free of violence and fear; to go to school for as long as I wanted; and to grow up in a safe and loving home is something I shouldn't take for granted.

I hope I will always be grateful for the life I have, and the opportunities available to me. I praise God for the family He has blessed me with. Thankfulness is definitely on my heart, and I am thankful for having a wonderful home church like St George's, which I have used as a base from which to explore the world.

As for what I might give up for lent this year, I think it will be complaining. Life in Cambodia is different, there will always be challenges, but I will always have the freedom that comes from an organization backing me, a loving family back home, and my Canadian passport, which allows me to travel and to seek protection if I were to ever need it. Most Cambodians, like many people in the world, don't have those protections, - and in the grand scheme of things, I don't really have a right to complain.

This update is long overdue, but I hope I will be forgiven for not writing in a while. I would love to hear from you, if you would like to write or know more about the Mennonite Central Committee, Cambodia, or what I am doing here please write to me in the address below. I have recently completed one year of living in Cambodia, and will be here for two more years. I am thankful for the sense of purpose, energy and conviction I have been experiencing in Cambodia and pray that each one of you would find the same sense of purpose in your daily lives.

Blessings to you all,

Scott Lewis

My email address is idsforme@gmail.com, and my postal address is:

PO Box 481
Phnom Penh,
Cambodia.



for his indescribable gift!

From St. George's With Love

[in the mind of a child . . .]

"I loved my Nanny's house. We had lots of fun when I visited her and I loved to play dress up in her big attic. However, Nanny has had to move into a facility where she can be cared for. I miss the visits we used to have at her house and I miss her big house.

Her home is different and it is still new to me but there is lots to like about Nanny's new home. There are lots of areas to visit. People are so happy to see me and they especially like my new shoes and my curly hair. Nanny eats in a fancy dining room with many friends. The people that help her are nice to me and they take real good care of Nanny. There is entertainment and music to enjoy and a birthday party every month. Nanny keeps a bowl of candy on her window sill for visitors. There is a little shop where we can have ice cream together. We can take Nanny outside on nice days for a walk or bring her to my house for special times. Nanny has her own room, her own TV and her own radio.

I am happy to see Nanny in her new home, and now I am going to think of ways that I can make my time with her as special as she used to make our time together at her house."

When situations change so much, we often lose our ways of communicating. It takes a little work and creativity to reestablish them but they can be so worthwhile for all involved.

Next issue we will look at the role children can play to brighten Nanny and/or Poppa's day when they come to visit in the facility. Again, I am still open to new suggestions and always seeking to learn from your experiences.

Blessings!

Kathy Powell

Seniors' Pastoral Care Resource Person

Thanks be to God

sunny days

Stuff the Sunday School Cupboard – with Food!

For our winter mission, the children (and all their friends) are collecting food for St. Matthew's House and we hope to fill the Sunday school cupboard to overflowing.

We are asking our children to “earn” a box or can of food to bring along each Sunday, by helping out at home with small tasks. We are asking parents to reward their children with a gift to bring along to church any Sunday.

Please support our children by bringing in a can or box each week and leaving it on the “sorting table” outside the Family Room. As part of their classes, the older children will sort and fill the cupboard for a “hands-on” experience.

Our deadline is Easter. Do you think we can fill it to overflowing?



for his indescribable gift!



PRAYERFULLY SPEAKING



“Batteries Not Included”

For about thirteen years in the 1970's-80's, I worked as the associate director of a non-denominational Christian retreat centre near Campbellville, ON, west of Toronto. Part of the purpose of our ministry was to strengthen those who were striving to “bloom where they were planted”; clergy and laity who were often labouring in churches or dioceses that offered very little in terms of spiritual nurture or evangelistic zeal. We became an oasis in the desert of unbelief and liberal scriptural interpretation.

Friday evening was the time set aside each week for public worship, teaching and prayer where hundreds came to be ministered to, and to get their “spiritual batteries charged” for the next difficult week ahead. For over twenty years, the “Friday night meeting” and many others like it across Christendom, provided spiritual growth and a safe haven for many who might have otherwise starved to death spiritually. It met a definite need of that era.

Special conferences and services also meet a similar need in us as we seek to set aside a day or weekend where we can lay down temporarily the responsibilities of our normal life and spend some concerted time in focusing on the Lord in the company of other believers. Such experiences are vital to our health and growth. Although Jesus would not allow Peter, James and John to linger unduly on the Mount of Transfiguration, He did orchestrate this “mountain-top experience” for them (Luke 9:28-36).

As an intercessor yearning to know more about what it means to “pray without ceasing”, what I am wrestling with is the prevalent concept of having our “spiritual batteries” charged. To me, this suggests that we are built with spiritual “rechargeable” batteries, like cell phones, iPods or digital cameras, and are quite capable of functioning on our own for a period of hours or days until our batteries run down. Then it's off to the current version of the Friday night meeting to “plug in and get recharged”.

This practice seems to fly directly in the face of the words of Jesus found in John 15:

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Thanks be to God

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“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15: 4,5 [NIV]

It’s significant to note that Jesus did not say, “Remain in me for a little while, and then go off on your own until you feel yourself running dry.” No, He says, Look, all you branches. Remain, abide, stay plugged into Me, because you can’t bear any fruit running around on your own. It will amount to nothing!

“But, Lord,” I cry out, “Surely there’s something I can do for you on my own. It’s important to me to feel like I’m bringing something of value to the table. How about my theological training, or my years of ministry experience? I did a three day fast once. These things must count for something, don’t they? Surely they’re batteries of a sort that I can run on, even if it’s only for a little while . . .”

“Apart from Me you can do nothing!”

My pride continues to sift through the ashes of my own squalid righteousness, hoping against hope to find some minute trace of personal virtue that I can claim as my own. I know it’s got to be in there somewhere!

“Apart from Me you can do nothing!”

Our two sons have formed a small media/photography business and they spend much of the day working on their Macbook laptops. Our elder son’s computer was older and for a period of time he was unable to use it apart from having it plugged in because the internal rechargeable battery died. Although he was able to function normally in the work he had to do, he found the lack of battery power confining because he couldn’t use it everywhere he wanted to: outside on the deck, at the cottage, or in the car. Staying plugged in had its definite restrictions.

Remaining in the vine has a similar restriction: we must lay down our sense of independence and conform to the will of the One who is providing the power. Many times

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for his indescribable gift!



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when I have felt periods of spiritual dryness or fatigue, I soon discover that I have unplugged myself and am off pursuing my own agenda or personal kingdom building. When it's all about me, and not really about Jesus, I'm unplugged, and it shows.

I don't believe that God ever intended us to "run on batteries", unplugged even for a moment from our Source. We are effective only to the extent that we remain in the Vine. Learning to abide in that Vine through reading the Word, worshipping Him and giving thanks for His great salvation, meditating on His beauty, and striving to be in constant communication with Him will bring us closer to the place where our prayers and intercessions will "bring forth much fruit". Amen

Garth V. Hunt

This article was originally written for the February 2008 Essentials 1ST Friday Call to Prayer

. . . Now, I saw in my dream that the highway up which Christian was to go was fenced on either side with a wall that was called salvation. Up this way, therefore, did burdened Christian run, but not without great difficulty, because of the load on his back.

He ran thus till he came to a place somewhat ascending; and upon that place stood a cross, and a little below, in the bottom, a sepulchre. So I saw in my dream, that just as Christian came up with the cross, his burden loosed from off his shoulders, and fell from off his back, and began to tumble, and so continued to do till it came to the mouth of the sepulchre, where it fell in, and I saw it no more.

Then was Christian glad and lightsome, and said with a merry heart, 'He hath given me rest by his sorrow, and life by His Death.'

[From "The Pilgrims Progress", John Bunyan (1678)]

Thanks be to God

Scholars Meeting Jesus

From the Informational to the Relational to the Transformational (a.k.a. “What *are* those McDougalls really up to?”)

In our ministry among international grad students and visiting scholars at the University of Victoria, we discover that many of them have very rudimentary knowledge (if any) about the God who loves them. Yet they are voracious learners, sponges for anything that will increase their skill set and add to their quiver of coping mechanisms in their quest for success. While it would be easy to simply dispense information to these keen learners, our conversations with them are not primarily information-based but rather relationship-fostering. Certainly, we methodically unpack scripture with them, all the while correcting misinformation about God, creation and humankind. And certainly, we help them discern the distinctives of Jesus’ view of success and significance. But there is more at stake here than mere religious comparison-shopping.

If we recall that we ourselves have been befriended by God and are not somehow smart enough to have ‘chosen the right team,’ we ourselves will echo his love for the stranger. You see, it’s only then that our posture among university students, staff and faculty will be radically engaging without adopting any unfortunate posture of ‘storming the gates of the academy’ or ‘rescuing unsuspecting students from the clutches of benighted science.’ With the natural ease of Jesus himself, we will find ourselves eating and drinking and discovering hitherto unexplored friendships. With the attractive zeal of Barnabas, we will discover real conversation with real persons and not endless sparring contests, ill-concealed jockeying to gain the upper hand. We will listen—really listen—to alternate viewpoints, with a view towards understanding.

It is rare for a person to come to Christian faith solely because an intellectual stumbling block has been removed. Much more common is the steady wooing and nudging of the Holy Spirit fleshed out through real persons like you and me. And it is this relational embodiment of the truths of the gospel that is compellingly transformational—in us and in the people we serve. As we rub shoulders with those in our communities, let me encourage us to be men and women who think incisively, who befriend wholeheartedly, who labour unstintingly and who love both God and our neighbour with a creativity that only the Holy Spirit can craft through us. Will you pray for us (as we do for you) that God will do something surprising of his grace through the likes of us?

Daniel McDougall (for Sandi, Connally and Morrigan)

tel. (250) 294-4777



for his indescribable gift!



RECENT WOMEN'S EVENTS

Heart, Humour and Hormones!

Over 50 women enjoyed great fellowship, crafts and group discussion at a luncheon on Saturday Feb. 2nd at St. George's. Our guest speaker, Nancy Revie, made us laugh and prayerfully consider the stress in our lives, giving us suggestions for coping skills to help us handle things differently when those hormones kick in! We welcomed many newcomers and friends including our youngest – 2 week old Rebecca.

Our next event is our weekend retreat May 23 - 25 entitled "Missions – Abroad and in our Backyard". More information will follow but please save this date!



Thanks be to God

Housewarming Luncheon

On January 20, the women of the parish gathered for fellowship to celebrate with Judy the Masters' move to their new home.



for his indescribable gift!



ST MATTHEW'S HOUSE

CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY - 2007

This Christmas season we adopted 4 families. This was down from last year as time became an issue and also 4 of the teens required winter jackets. We were able to purchase the 4 requested jackets at Walmart, our store of choice for most purchases. Walmart seemed the most economical. As well, they offer gift receipts which allow for exchange should the item(s) not fit. Since most people adopting families prefer younger children, we chose families with teenagers who were still in school.

Jeans were the other popular request. Because fit is so important to teens we decided to give gift certificates, again to Walmart, to enable the teens to purchase jeans for themselves. Other requested items were socks, underwear, gloves and hoodies. We were able to provide these gifts through Margaret Hunt's superb shopping skills. Two boys requested hockey sticks and these were included in their gift bags.

Within the program there remained some "unadopted teens" without sponsors. With money we had not spent we purchased gift certificates at HMV for CD's for the unadopted teens. While we were not able to meet the full need, we did provide gifts for 4 more teens.

Each family received a food voucher based on \$25.00 per person. These vouchers were redeemable at No Frills, Fortinos, Super Store and Loblaws, all available in the Hamilton area. The vouchers could be used for food purchases only.

- ☐ Family #1 was a single mom with 2 teenage boys and a teenage daughter.
- ☐ Family #2 was a single mom with 2 teenage boys and a teenage daughter.
- ☐ Family #3 was a father and mother with 2 teenage boys and two teenage girls.
- ☐ Family #4 was a parent with 2 teenage boys and a teenage daughter.

Thank you, for your support of this program and for the gifts. Thank you also for your donations during 2007 of clothes, games, food, and miscellaneous items which you dropped off in the St Matthew's House crates. This is an on-going project: these items are delivered, usually weekly, to St Matthew's House and disappear quickly when put on display in the reception area. I say "usually weekly" as sometimes my car just isn't big enough and some things have to be left until the following week.

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Thanks be to God

Overheard by the Font (& elsewhere)

HERE'S A DEAL!

Free to a good home:
A 30" stovetop in excellent
condition.
Call Jim or Lynda Carlson
at
(905) 659-0251

an opportunity

A DVD entitled "**A Crossroads**" is available from Richard Myers or from Ron Bales. It contains interviews with Rev. David Short and theologian Rev. J. I. Packer about St. John's Shaughnessy (Vancouver) and Anglican Re-Alignment.

*We rejoice with parents Laura and Shawn
McLaughlin in the safe arrival of Rebecca Susan , born
Monday, January 21st. (Rebecca is a granddaughter of-
Linda & John Calbery.)*



**Two brides-to-be:
Jessica Culver and Suzie Masters**

Jessica and her fiancé Mark Underdown are looking forward to their wedding at the end of May.

Suzie and Thomas Hollema are planning to be married in late summer.

The St. George's family wish both couples every blessing!

for his indescribable gift!



Christmas adopt-a-family

(Continued from page 18)

Thanks go to Margaret Hunt whose help makes this program possible. I would never be able to make the program happen without her. Also, thanks to Susan Neeb who was part of the team this year. Dave Shantz, continues to be the “master packer”, able to find corners in my car that I would never see. Thank you Dave! And thanks to each of you for the contribution you have made to St Matthew’s House. Thank you!

We always appreciate donations of grocery bags.

Yours in Christ

Betty Pristol

Praying for Felix

Since I started the "Felix Update" email, which now goes to all St. George's people who have supplied their email addresses to Richard Myers, several people have asked: "Who are Felix and his family, the Dicksons?"

Briefly, Chad and Sharlene Dickson have two daughters, Eve aged five, and Joelle aged 3, and one son Felix. Felix was born just two years ago with biliary atresia, a malfunction of the liver and bile duct. Since his birth, we have prayed constantly for his healing and growth. We also pray especially when he has to go to the hospital or clinic for regular check-ups and occasional minor procedures.

I hope that this introduction is helpful. Thank you all for your prayers, love, and material support for this family who are faithful members of our congregation.

Jenny Stodart.

Thanks be to God

CHECK YOUR GATES

A LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Nehemiah was a Jewish exile in Babylon and cup bearer to the king about 440 BC. When he heard that the wall around Jerusalem was broken down and its gates burned, he wept. For some days he mourned, fasted and prayed to God, confessing his sins and the sins of the people of Israel. God heard Nehemiah's prayers and moved the heart of the pagan king to allow Nehemiah to return to rebuild Jerusalem. The king gave him letters of reference for safe passage and for access to the necessary timber. In the Book of Nehemiah this amazing story unfolds. Despite opposition from within and without, the work progressed under the brilliant leadership of Nehemiah, who was himself under the Lordship of God.

Chapter three covers the reconstruction, gate by gate, and the portions of the wall between them, giving credit to all the families involved in the work, together with their nationalities and pedigrees. Although the text is repetitious in its details, and one is tempted to skim over the difficult names, from the simple names of those broken and burned gates, there are lessons to be learned that could serve as a Lenten discipline. Nehemiah begins at the Sheep Gate in the north east corner of the wall around the old city of Jerusalem and travels counter-clockwise in his narrative of the rebuilding of those ten gates and adjoining walls. Let's tag along with him.

The Sheep Gate, verse 1: The Bible tells us (Isaiah 53:6) that we all, like sheep, have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way. In Luke 19:10 we read that Jesus has come to seek and to save the lost. Jesus is the Rock upon which our faith stands. Any repairs needed here?

The Fish Gate, verse 3: Fishermen from the coast entered here to sell their catch at the market just inside the wall. Jesus has called His disciples to be "fishers of men" (Mark 1:17). When did you last gossip the gospel?

The Old Gate in verse 6 is thought to have belonged to ancient Salem, built by Melchizedek. Although believers are new creatures in Christ, daily they must wage war on the old, sinful nature. Paul says, "Put off the old man and put on the new man". (Ephesians 4:22-24)

The Valley Gate of verse 13 corresponds to the Jaffa Gate of today's Jerusalem. It reminds us that the Christian must accept the presence of valleys in life. Be willing to occupy the lowly places in rank and service. As Peter says (1Peter 5:5)

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for his indescribable gift!



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"Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another."

It was **the Dung Gate**, verse 14, through which garbage was thrown from the old city into the common sewer that ran to the Kidron Brook. Likewise the believer must throw out the garbage that seeks to fill his mind. Philippians 4:8 it! You may not be able to control what thoughts come into your mind but you can control how long you leave them there.

The Fountain Gate, verse 15: Jesus said, "If a man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water (the Holy Spirit) will flow from within him." (John 7:37-38) How do you quench your thirst?

The Water Gate, verse 26: Water is to the human body what the Word of God is to the spirit. When Jesus prayed to the Father for future believers in John 17:17, He prayed, "Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth." If this gate is not in good repair, the enemy will enter with false teaching and you will not know the difference. Do you know the Word of God?

It was through **the Horse Gate**, verse 28, that the cavalry charged en route to battle with the enemies of Israel. When the Christian knows the Word of God, "the sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17), he or she is equipped to follow God's call into battle against the world, the flesh and the devil.

The East Gate, verse 29: The only door into the Tabernacle where Israel worshipped God in the wilderness was on the east side. The gate into the Temple in Jerusalem was also on the east side. Jesus said, "I am the gate. Whoever enters by Me will be saved." (John 10:9) Enter by this gate. Experience Him! Worship Him!

The Inspection Gate of verse 31 reminds us that every believer will one day appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the reward for his or her deeds, good or bad, done while living on planet earth. (2 Corinthians 5:10) You are accountable. Are you making good choices?

In verse 32 we have come full circle, back to the Sheep Gate, where thousands of sacrificial lambs entered yearly to await slaughter in repetitious Temple sacrifices for the sins of the people of Israel. Jesus, the Lamb of God, was sacrificed once to take away the sins of all who believe in Him. When your gates are damaged, broken and in need of repair, come to Him. He will make you whole.

Pam Bales

Thanks be to God

Understanding the season of Lent

Pancake Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday, traditionally precedes the beginning of 40 days of fasting prior to Easter. On this day there were feasts of pancakes to use up all the fat, butter, milk and eggs, some of the foods forbidden during Lent. In our family, Pancake Tuesday usually meant my dad would try once again to flip the pancakes up to the kitchen ceiling, and as I remember, never reach anywhere near it. That never deterred him from trying the next year. It was one of my favorite days, one in which dessert was served as dinner! The meaning behind our traditional meal was lost on me until many years later but I was schooled to see Lent as a time set apart for personal discipline.

In the early church, new Christians prepared for baptism at Easter by observing a period of penitence and fasting. Over time, Lent became a season of looking at the depth of one's own sin and turning away from it. It became a time for learning how to follow Christ, and to listen to the Spirit, a time of renewal.

Lent is a time when we turn our gaze toward Good Friday and ask ourselves, "How could someone love me so much that he would go through something this awful?" How are we doing? We try. We fail, as we always do. One of the things we learn in Lent is how inescapable is our sin. When we struggle to give some tiny aspect of our lives over to God, we discover how out-of-reach is a whole life of godliness. No matter how passionately we try, we end up failing again.

But then, that's why He did what He did, something only He could do. All we can do is fall at Jesus' feet. And trust Him. In repentance we ask our Lord to clear our lives of sin. He will take us, and the Holy Spirit will lead us along that road. Through the Spirit, we *can* love God better. The Bible tells us much of what we need to know. Other believers (also led by the Spirit) can help us. His presence is among us, and with us, and in us. Knowing that, we can stand ready for Holy Week.

In Lent we discover the parts of ourselves we don't want to discover, through prayer, fasting, and other disciplines, as we turn away from that which does not please God. There is just a glimpse of the glory of Easter through the darkness of Good Friday. Christ has taken the burden, and you don't have to carry it anymore. Don't you want to follow that kind of a God?

Naomi Neeb



for his indescribable gift!

<p>St. George's Anglican Church LOWVILLE Ontario Canada</p> <p>7051 Guelph Line R.R. #3 CAMPBELLVILLE Ontario L0P 1B0</p> <p>Phone: (905) 878-1363 Fax: (905) 878-4633 Email: stgeorgesanglicanchurch@bellnet.ca Web Sites: www.stgeorgeslowville.org www.stgchurch.com</p>	<table> <tr> <td>Rector</td><td>Rev. Canon Charlie Masters</td></tr> <tr> <td>Curate</td><td>Rev. Ray David Glenn</td></tr> <tr> <td>Youth Minister</td><td>Matt Baker</td></tr> <tr> <td>Seniors' Pastoral Care</td><td>Kathy Powell</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ministry Coordinator</td><td>Naomi Neeb</td></tr> <tr> <td>Church Secretary</td><td>Donna Rigo</td></tr> </table> <p>Services are for the whole family and everyone is welcome.</p> <p>Sunday Morning 8:30 am Morning Prayer or Holy Communion 10:30 am Morning Prayer or Holy Communion 10:30 am (Downstairs) Family Service</p> <p>Nursery and Sunday School for children up to age 11 and Youth Program for grade 7 to 12 during the 10:30 service</p>	Rector	Rev. Canon Charlie Masters	Curate	Rev. Ray David Glenn	Youth Minister	Matt Baker	Seniors' Pastoral Care	Kathy Powell	Ministry Coordinator	Naomi Neeb	Church Secretary	Donna Rigo
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. . . But I replied, 'Lord, I am a great, a very great sinner.' And He answered, 'My grace is sufficient for thee.' Then I said, 'But, Lord, what is believing?' And then I saw from that saying, 'He that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst,' that believing and coming was all one; and that he that came, that is ran out in his heart and affections after salvation by Christ, he indeed believed in Christ. Then the water stood in my eyes, and I asked further, 'But, Lord, may such a great sinner as I am be indeed accepted of Thee, and be saved by Thee?' And I heard Him say, 'And him that cometh to me I will in nowise cast out.'

[From "The Pilgrim's Progress", John Bunyan (1678)]

upcoming events

PRAYER TIME	Tuesday evenings in the parlour, 6:30–7:30
ANNUAL VESTRY	February 10, after the 10:30 service
MEN'S GROUP	February 16, 7:30–10:00 a.m.
SPECIAL VESTRY	February 17, after the 10:30 service

*Thanks be to God for his
indescribable
gift!*

