

Kirkbride Tidings

October 2006

The Official Newsletter of St. Bride's Church, Clarkson Ontario

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Home Groups

By The Rev. Stephen Peake

I hope you have all had a restful and refreshing summer—I know I certainly did! It is now great to be back at St. Bride's as we begin another year worshipping and serving God as a church family.

Last Spring many of us participated in a very successful 40 Days of Purpose Parish Mission. Over 150 members of our church joined a home group—some for the very first time—and met for a period of 7 weeks with others. Some of those groups continued on after Easter, and I think for almost all of us the experience of meeting together was rewarding and helpful in our spiritual walk with Christ.

When the 40 Days of Purpose ended, I indicated that we would start home groups up again in October and we now have those groups ready to go. We are not running as many groups, although if the interest is there we can easily create

more! The intent of these groups is to meet for three sessions of 6 weeks each over the course

...home groups are not a peripheral thing which the church offers, but they really are at the heart of why we exist at all. We will fulfill God's mission for the Church best when we meet together with others and when we can be "real" with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

of the next year. The groups will be learning and growing in Christ together and will be shaped around the 5 Purposes we explored last spring.

As I met with the Advisory Board and with the leaders of the groups for training, I have emphasized the importance of seeing home groups as existing at the very

core of our church life. There is a fundamental difference between functioning as a church WITH small groups as opposed to a church OF small groups. I truly believe that the Christian Church is meant to function as a community of believers who learn, and grow and share together. This can only really happen when people gather in small groups. Therefore, home groups are not a peripheral thing which the church offers, but they really are at the heart of why we exist at all. We will fulfill God's mission for the Church best when we meet together with others and when we can be "real" with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

I pray that you will consider joining a home group for the coming year. There is a group meeting on every weekday evening and on Saturday mornings so you can choose one which will work well for you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warden's Report

As we enter an exciting fall season at St Bride's, it is worth reviewing a very busy summer. In May we welcomed our new Associate Minister, The Rev. Stephanie Douglas-Bowman, and her husband Mike and daughter Tess. Stephanie has settled quickly into the Parish and become an important part of the ministry team. We are very pleased that she has chosen St Bride's and we congratulate her and Mike on the recent arrival of their second child, Jamie. Stephanie is now on maternity leave until next summer.

The addition of an Associate Minister is not the only good news on the staffing front. We have been fortunate to recruit a new part time Youth Minister, Simon Davis, to replace Stuart Kingston. We welcome Simon and we are sure he will be a great addition to the St Bride's team. Early September saw the arrival of Brian Wismath as our new Music Director, replacing Patricia Sheen. Brian comes with excellent credentials and we are confident he will continue to grow the music program at St Bride's.

These new additions meant we said goodbye to both Stuart Kingston as Youth Minister and Patricia Sheen as Music Director. Both Stuart and Patricia made significant contributions to the St Bride's Ministry and we thank them on behalf of the entire congregation and wish them God's blessings in the future.

In September we welcomed Bishop Peter Mason as a part time Associate. We are delighted to have someone of Peter's stature and experience join the ministry team at St Bride's. We encourage everyone to introduce themselves to Peter, Brian and Simon in the coming weeks.

The staff changes necessitated some reorganization of the facilities including an upgrade of the Parish Office, creation of two new offices behind the stage, and the conversion of the stage into a classroom for Cedarglen.

Staffing was not the only change taking place in the parish this summer. June saw the start of the parking lot construction. We thank both Denys Reades and Larry Tasker for bringing their professional expertise to the oversight of this project, ensuring that we ended up with a first class parking lot that will serve St Bride's for many years to come. We are very grateful to Joan and Jim Carson, Beth Clarke and others for their hard work and dedication in planting and maintaining the gardens at St. Bride's, and Edmead Turner for his diligence with lawn maintenance.

We look forward with great optimism to a future where St Bride's is even more alive and increasingly able to spread the Lord's word.

Early summer saw the installation of our new sign at the front of the Church. We are still experimenting with the sign and some changes will be made shortly which will enlarge the space for messages. The sign should help greatly in communicating St Bride's message into the community. We wish to thank Glenn Davis for all his advice and assistance throughout the project, Stephen Hamilton and Juliette Taylor for helping with sign messages, and Bob Kay

and others for making sizeable donations towards the cost of the sign.

In July we held another very successful Vacation Bible School with approximately 60 children attending. Thanks to Stuart Kingston, Nevella Schepmyer and all the many volunteers who made sure that this important outreach project was a success. Thanks also to Nevella for her contribution as our 2006 Summer Intern.

By the middle of August our new organ was installed and we have now had the chance to enjoy its beautiful sound. A big thank you to Bruce Anthony and Larry Clements for their work in selecting and obtaining the new instrument, and to Edmead Turner for his assistance in the installation of the organ. This wonderful instrument will enrich our services for years to come. We so enjoyed the special organ recital featuring acclaimed organist William Maddox, and thank Wendy Davies, the

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Financial Statement: August YTD 2006

Receipts	August 06 YTD	August 05 YTD
Open & Envelopes	209,395	197,647
Seasonal & Youth	7,379	5,648
Sub Total	216,774	203,295
Rent	20,100	19,116
Elliott Trust	21,502	13,853
Other	7,995	15,118
Total Receipts	266,371	251,382
Expenses	August 06 YTD	August 05 YTD
Salaries & Benefits	124,804	98,051
Other	82,045	93,365
Total Parish Expenses	206,849	191,416
Diocesan Assessment	43,777	37,360
Parish Outreach	3,032	2,010
Reserve Allocation	8,000	8,000
Loan Interest	2,837	2,081
Transfer to Capital	-	2,634
Total Expenses	264,495	243,501
Balance	1,876	7,881

The YTD statement, up to and including August, shows a Receipt over Expense surplus of \$1,876. Our total receipts are higher than 2005 thanks to the generous giving of the congregation, the timely receipts of income from the Elliott Trust Fund and more members of the parish joining the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) program this year. Expenses are higher this year due to higher salary costs and a higher Diocesan Assessment. †

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Stewardship Committee and the many volunteers for organizing this event.

Finally, we would like to thank all who have contributed to our capital campaign this year. In 2006, our goal is to raise \$75,000 towards the cost of all of our capital projects. Your continued support and participation in the life and work of St. Bride's is greatly appreciated.

We give thanks for Rev. Stephen's leadership during a time of growth and change at St. Bride's. We look forward with great optimism to a future where St. Bride's is even more alive and increasingly able to spread the Lord's word. *Don, Colin, Brad & Doreen*

From Blair Barnsdale:

"In August, I finished my two year diploma course at the Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts in Toronto. This past summer, I was in the college's musical "Thoroughly Modern Millie". Thanks to everyone who was able to attend this final school production.

"I appreciate all of your support and encouragement along the way. Currently, while looking for an agent, I am working at Montana's as a server outside of Erin Mills Town Centre."

Late breaking news! Blair has landed the part of Benjamin in a local production of "Joseph" - look for him in Spring 2007!

The Ordinary Thing

By Kristen Schlauderaff

Now Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever, and immediately they told him of her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up and the fever left her; and she began to serve them. *Mark 1:30-31*

I met Alma almost twenty years ago. She was another one of those quiet, almost silent women who is too easily forgotten. She counted herself among the thousands of nameless, faceless women who sit in church basements and quilt. The church was tiny and in rural southwestern Iowa. On a regular Sunday, thirty was a good crowd; seventy would pack the place. But this was a Wednesday, and the women had gathered to quilt. They did real quilting, the hand stitching with small tiny stitches. Their motto was "Quilt. Don't Baste." Every Wednesday they met to quilt. Each year at the end of August they auctioned off the quilts to support the Ladies Aid and pay the church utilities bill for the year.

Every once in a while, besides the fine stitching, they tied a few quilts for Lutheran World Relief. This was one such quilt, tied and finished. Alma took it home late Wednesday afternoon to finish the binding—the edge, for those of you who are not quilters. I happened to be on my way into town on Thursday, late morning and stopped by Alma's house. It could not have been even ten o'clock. She was pressing the edges of the Lutheran World Relief quilt. The binding was already on, neatly finished, and she was giving it a final press. I said, "Alma, you are amazing." In typical female and Norwegian fashion, she replied, "Oh, this is nothing."

It could have been the big moneymaking quilt for all the attention she gave it, for the priority and urgency of her work. But it was not. It was not a quilt that would rest on a bed in a well-built and properly appointed house. It would be the floor of someone's home, or perhaps the roof over someone's head. It would be the major source of insulation against the cold in a home somewhere thousands of miles away. The person or family that would benefit from Alma's care and diligence would never know her name.

This is so often the case. We do not even know her name. We know only that she was the mother-in-law of the most prominent disciple. It is curious to me that the wife, Peter's wife, is even more invisible. The only way we know that one of the disciples was married was that he had a mother-in-law and that Jesus healed her. Silent. Nameless. You can easily miss her as you read through the Gospel, or as you listen on a Sunday morning. Once every three years in the depths of January or February, you might catch a glimpse of her. But she is there. He healed her. Jesus healed her. Then she got up and did what she always did. She began to serve them. Nothing spectacular. Nothing out of the ordinary. It was just a return to her normal way of life. The way she always did things. She served

them. "Oh, this is nothing," she might have said.

But this was no small thing. Do not miss it. Sometimes, I think we are under the impression that the only service that counts is the big and spectacular project.

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I think we are under the impression that the only service that counts is the big and spectacular project... It is doing the little, ordinary things of life, that offer us the opportunity to witness to the love of God in action, to see the kingdom of God in our midst.

The Grandmothers-To-Grandmothers Gathering

By Muriel Krizanc

"Today, we demand the ear of the powerful... In the short-term, we do not need a great deal, but we do need enough; enough to safeguard the health of our grandchildren and of ourselves; enough to put food in their mouths, roofs over their heads and clothes on their backs; enough to place them in school and keep them there long enough to secure their futures. For ourselves, we need training, because the skills we learned while raising our children did not prepare us for parenting grandchildren who are bereaved, impoverished, confused and extremely vulnerable. We grandmothers deserve hope. Our children, like all children, deserve a future. ***We will not raise children for the grave.***"

These words come directly from a document known as the Toronto Statement. This is the joint communiqué from the African and Canadian Grandmother groups to be taken to the HIV AIDS Conference and to the United Nations. The full statement is available for anyone who would care to read it. It is I assure you, well worth the effort.

I was proud and humbled to be a registered delegate to this gathering. It was a truly amazing experience; unlike any I have ever experienced before or am likely to experience again. My goal in attending, was at least figuratively, to sit at the feet of the African grandmothers and hear from them directly what it was that they needed and what we in Canada could do to help. On reflection, that sounds rather passive and by noon of the first day, I recognized that passivity simply was not possible.

My first small group session heard from a tall, slim, dignified woman who slowly rose to speak through an interpreter. The woman's words



Stephen Lewis & Lucia Mazibuko © Moni Kim

seemed to come very quickly -- in an almost staccato cadence --- while the interpreter spoke so softly, she was barely audible. The primary speaker's eyes were what attracted me as much as the terrible truths she unfolded before us. Those eyes literally glittered (almost like diamonds) with, I thought, the weight of years of unshed tears. In short, she told of the



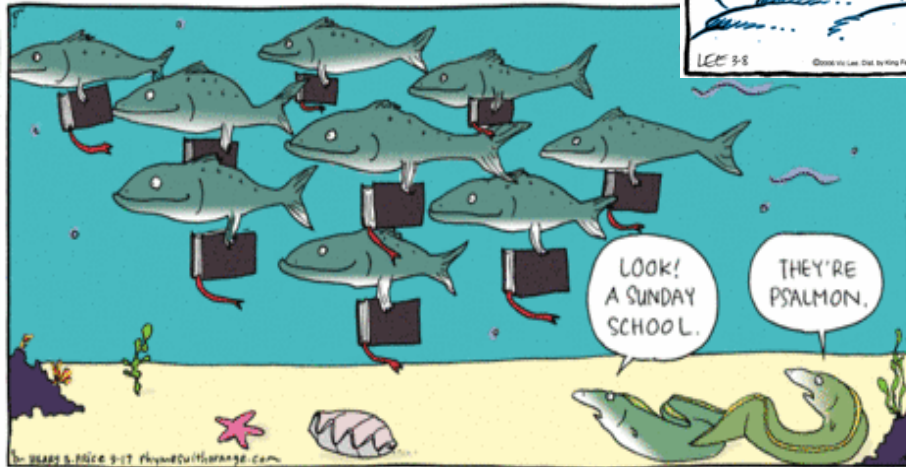
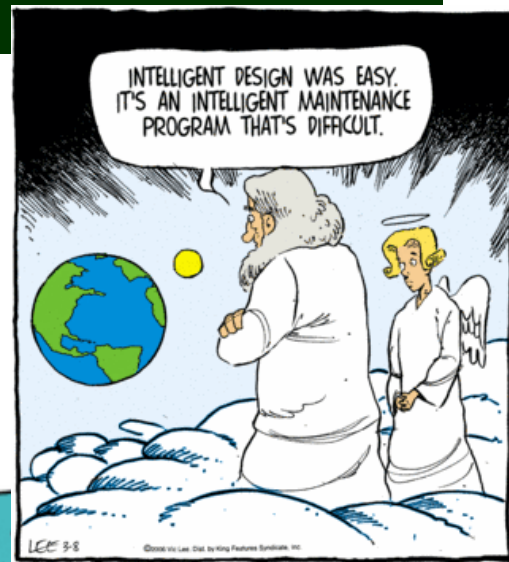
Canadian and African grandmothers.

"weaponizing" of HIV AIDS in her country. She spoke of soldiers on the "other side" of her nation's civil war; who were themselves infected, raping her and then tying her up to watch while they repeatedly raped her daughter and grandchildren. She now cares for her living grandchildren --- four in all if memory serves me correctly, and does it without regular income, in circumstances that from the standpoint of our world, deny comprehension.

In this woman (the first from whom I heard), and in all of those who told their stories and tried to share their dreams of a better tomorrow, I never once heard so much as a hint of self-pity. That first workshop hit most of us (including the African grandmothers) very hard and as a solution to the effect of the impact, the African women requested that every workshop from then on, be ended with song. These strong, sensitive, creative, effective women seem to be able to reach into the very core of their souls and find the will to go

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I had to laugh!



St. Bride's Calendar of Events

October - December 2006



October

- 8 Thanksgiving Sunday
- 10 Advisory Board Meeting: 7:30PM Fellowship Room
- 21 The Arctic Fellowship 6:30PM @ Fellowship Room
- 22 Bishop Larry Robertson from The Diocese of the Arctic preaches at all 3 services
- 28 "No-Fear" Evangelism with Jenny Andison
- 29 Baptism Service at 9:15AM

November

- 5 Remembrance Sunday Service 9:15 AM Service—there will be no 11 AM service.
- 7 Caring & Sharing Gathering 7:30 PM
- 14 Advisory Board: 7:30PM Fellowship Room



December

- 10 Annual Christmas Pageant 9:15 AM
- 12 Advisory Board Meeting: 7:30 PM Fellowship Room
- 13 ACW Christmas Party: 7:30 PM Fellowship Room
- 16 Christmas Miracle 8Am-2PM
- 17 Lessons and Carols Service 7:30PM
- 24 Christmas Eve: : 5:00PM Children's Service, 7:30PM Holy Communion (BAS); 11:00PM Holy Communion (BCP)
- 25 Christmas Day : 900AM Holy Communion (BCP)

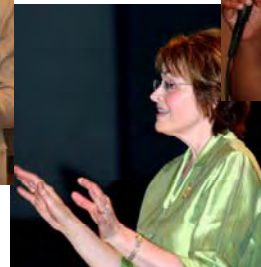
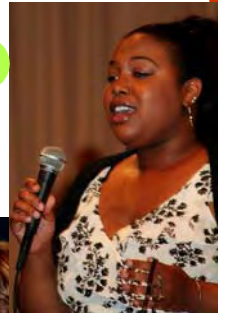


St. Bride's Scrapbook

We had a Fiesta!



And a concert for The Compass.....



And Stuart and Iris got married.....



Children and AIDS

By Linda Tripp, World Vision Canada

This morning – as we worship together here – over 30,000 delegates from around the world are gathering in Toronto for the 16th International AIDS Conference. The theme of this conference is – Time to Deliver. There will be many voices – many messages – many calls for action.

But I want my voice this morning to be a call for the children – the children who are infected and affected by this dreaded pandemic.

World Vision's Vision Statement declares:

Our vision for every child life in all its fullness

Our prayer for every heart – the will to make it so.

Today – there are 15 million children who have been orphaned by AIDS – 12 million are in Africa. And every day 1800 more children are infected either through mother to child transmission during birth or breastfeeding, through tainted blood, through unsanitary needles – or through rape. These children do not have life in all its fullness.

So what is God calling us – His church – to do? There are some very practical actions we can take. But first, come with me to Uganda, and see how AIDS has undone years of successful development work.

Many years ago, Siskei Village was a very poor village. There was a lot of illness and death, especially among children due to dirty water drawn from a stagnant pond, several kilometers away. The women were all tired and anemic from overwork and many lost babies in childbirth. But the elders of Siskei village had a vision that things could be better for their people – they just needed help in getting started. They contacted a development organization with links to Canada and invited them to their village. Through a series of agreements, a community development project was started with people of the village, the Municipal Council, the local church and the development agency all working together. Things started to change.

The Mugerwa family began to gain control of their lives. Previously, they had no resources

to buy tools or good seeds and their soil was marginal. Their four children showed early signs of malnutrition because of a poor diet. None of them were in school because their parents could not afford the school fees, uniforms and books required.

But through community development, Mr. Mugerwa was able to take out a loan, buy better tools, some fertilizer to improve the soil, a goat and some chickens. The children were enrolled in the sponsorship program and started school. With the addition of milk and eggs to their diet, the children excelled in their studies.

A well for clean water was dug at the edge of the village. Within weeks over 85 percent of the intestinal and parasitic diseases in the village were eliminated. Attitudes and relationships in the village improved as well. Worship services were more meaningful as people found new ways to support each other and work together. A youth group was started and soon included almost every young person in the village. They were involved with outreach to other communities. The people gave thanks to God for all that they had accomplished together. Their future was bright, and they rejoiced in the possibilities that were now within reach for their children.

Then it started. People would become tired, then too weak to work. They would grow thin, get sores on their bodies and succumb to respiratory diseases. In every case, they eventually died. It took a long time for information to reach the health care workers in the clinic that the disease was transmitted through sex. But sex was not something polite people discussed. And unfortunately, it was common practice for men to participate in extramarital sex, often with prostitutes.

Then the village Chief got thin, two of the Municipal Council members, and even one of the church elders. It seemed that they were burying someone almost every month. Some of the wives of the men already sick or dead started to get thin. With AIDS, as they now knew it was called in the cities.

The very fabric of their village was being torn apart. With the Chief dead and several other

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village leaders sick, meetings were no longer held, important issues went unaddressed, people started quarrelling. The well fell into disrepair and three of the teachers at the school died, causing classes to be cancelled and several children to fail their exams. There was constant fear and suspicion. What was happening to all the progress they had made? What was happening to their dream?

Mrs. Mugerwa's life changed forever when she woke to find her husband wet with sweat and unable to stand. He lost strength quickly and she had to take over caring for the crops. Annet, her daughter, was the first to be pulled from school to do all the domestic chores and help care for her father. Any savings the family had were quickly used up for medicine to ease his pain. Next the boys dropped out of school to tend the crops but they lacked the necessary skills to farm so the crops failed and the family food source and income plummeted. Mr. Mugerwa died and his family buried him on their land.

Mrs. Mugerwa fell ill herself and knew she had AIDS, and would die. The children were frantic. At night they listened to the painful cough of their mother. Annet, 12 years old and the only girl, felt the burden for her mother.

In the village everything was coming undone. The school was now closed and it was common for a grandmother to be caring for 15 or 20 grandchildren at a time. They wept in the knowledge that they no longer had the strength to properly care for their families and that a generation was disappearing before their eyes. Houses fell into disrepair and crumbled because the children did not know how to fix them... many households were headed by children. Finally, Mrs. Mugerwa was buried beside her husband.

This was the situation when I met the Mugerwa children; Annet, Alex, Lawrence and Ritton. By the time their house had fallen

down and they lived in what had been the cooking shack, about 8' x 6' with a dirt floor, holes in the roof and walls, no beds, and no lock on the door. Alex tried to find work as a day labourer but had no tools. Annet cooked the only food they could afford – cassava, a starchy food low in protein and vitamins. Alex wept as a child by his mother's grave in spite of the fact that, as the eldest boy, he was now expected to be a man. When I asked Alex what he feared most, he said, "The dark. I am afraid when it gets dark". For Alex, Annet,



Alex, Annet, Lawrence and Ritton all became sponsored children with World Vision.



Lawrence and Ritton, and for the more than 15 million AIDS orphans there is no parent to run to in the dark. They are alone. That night, as I lay in my warm bed in a safe hotel room in Kampala, I wept for these children. I prayed that somehow God would protect them, tonight and into the future. This is how AIDS is affecting children in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The story of Siskei village and the Mugerwa family is a composite of many stories [of communities in Africa]. The Mugerwa children are real. Unlike North America, the vast majority of those infected with HIV / AIDS in the developing world have no access to drug cocktails, health services, hospices and support groups that can improve and extend their quality of life.

Should we care? As Christians the answer is obviously yes. And yes, we should find ways to be involved. Jesus calls us to care for the widow and the orphan, to seek justice for the abused and protection for the vulnerable. Surely he is calling us to care for those who fall victim to the AIDS pandemic. I believe that responding to the AIDS pandemic is an opportunity for Christians to be a prophetic voice.

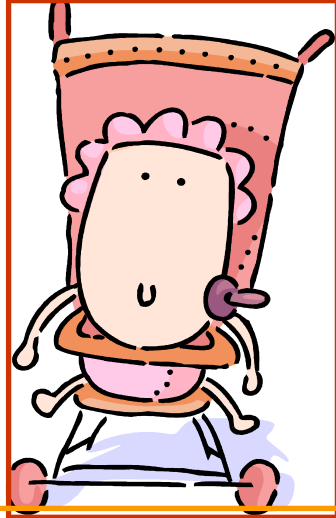
Tell your MP you want Canada to support AIDS work, especially for the children. Support

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An Explanation Of God

Submitted by Susan Finlay and attributed to an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista, CA. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to "explain God."

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.



One of God's main jobs is making people... He doesn't make grownups, just babies.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them

and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.

His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.



God's second most important job is listening to prayers...

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And...that's why I believe in God.

The Ordinary Thing (Continued from page 4)

The complex organization that reaches far and wide, the newsworthy event, the award winning program. We get so caught up in wanting to do the life changing, dramatic deed that we neglect doing the little things. We miss the need at hand, the little gesture that can mean so much. We miss the opportunity to serve in our own backyard because we think there is only need on the other side of the globe.

Service, faithful service, is at hand, even as the kingdom of God is at hand, very near you, and in your hearts. She got up and began to serve them. There is only one other place in Mark's sparse Gospel where that word is used. That precise word. To serve. For the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. It is the little things, doing the little, ordinary things of life, that offer us the opportunity to witness to the love of God in action, to see the kingdom of God in our midst. It is the day-in and day-out practice of serving, in ordinary, simple ways that mold and shape our hearts into disciples, into servants of God. It is the practice of serving, a way of living that forms us into God's people.

During World War II, a little village in France saved the lives of hundreds of Jewish children. La Chambon was the regional headquarters for the Nazis, and yet, under the very noses of the Germans, hundreds of children were kept safe

for years. French families pretended the children were their own. No one let the secret out. No one spilled the beans. The people themselves knew the stories of persecution.

Their ancestors were Protestants in France when that was a dangerous thing to be. So there was, it seems, some measure of empathy. Nevertheless, it seems remarkable that the secret would hold, as more and more children arrived. As more and more mouths had to be fed and bodies clothed, as more children had to be housed and hidden. No one grew weary and let the secret out. No one rebelled and refused by letting the Nazis know about the children. When it was all over, and they were asked, "Why did you do it? How did you do it? The answer was, "This is nothing special. This is who we are. This is how we live. We could do no other." And what made them who there were? It was the day to day, year after year choice of serving. It was the practice day after day, year in and year out of seeing the need of another and tending to that need. It was the practice of faith. It was the practice of discipleship. It is

as simple as picking up a can and putting it in a pile. One can means nothing. One act means nothing, but multiplied over and over, it becomes a mountain. More than picking up the can, it is seeing a need and responding. It is a way of looking at the world. It is the practice of responding, of connecting with the need of someone else. It is the simple, and not so simple task of getting up and doing what needs to be done, just because you see it, just because you feel it, just because you hear the call of God to do it. You will never win a Nobel

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It is the simple task of doing what needs to be done, just because you see it, just because you feel it, just because you hear the call of God to do it. You will never win a Nobel Prize for it.

The Parking Lot: Where we are at?

Submitted by Denys Reades

Those of you who were around during the summer endured the challenge of wondering which entrance (if any) would be open each week! Anyway, the work by the contractor, Pacific Paving, is now completed and we can enjoy the more welcoming reconstructed parking lot.

Thanks to Larry Tasker, who provided on-site supervision during some critical periods and also Harley May, who stepped in to trim trees at very short notice and then disposed of the old wooden ties at the end.

As most of you are aware, the parking lot is gently sloped to get water to run off. However, there are a few areas with some shallow



DELIVERING THE ASPHALT ON A HOT SUMMER'S DAY.



THE BULLDOZER MAKES OUR DRIVE SMOOTH AND EVEN.

puddles after rain (to slope it more would have been more costly). The puddles seem to dry up within a day, but please take care when the first freeze arrives in case these spots have not dried and are icy.

The two interlocking brick pathways initially had a steep slope and have been re-laid. You should now find the pathways easier to navigate.

We hope that you find the new parking spaces easy to use and sufficiently wide. We hope to designate some spaces for Visitor Parking soon.



Jonah Bible Study

Monthly studies in the 'Book of Jonah' on the first Saturday of the month at 8.30am - in the Library. In addition, Peter Rowles will share a little of his expertise in Greek word translations, as before. We'll have the coffee brewing - come and bring a friend! *Jeff & Cynthia Stringer*

(Continued from page 9)

a HOPE child with World Vision. As Christians we are compelled to respond to God's call to both comfort the sick and demand justice for the oppressed.

Isaiah 1:17 says: Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.

Micah 6:8 says: Love, Mercy, do Justice and walk humbly with your God.

Pray for the outcomes of the AIDS conference in Toronto, that it truly will be a Time to Deliver, especially to the children.

Pray that Christians around the world will respond with compassion. Pray that the voices of the children crying out for justice will be heard.

It is evening in Uganda now, and it is dark. But it is with joy that I tell you that Alex, Annet,

Lawrence and Ritton all became sponsored children with World Vision. They returned to school and received vocational training. They have a garden with vegetables and a pig and chickens. They are part of a group of other child-headed households that receive counselling and support from the World Vision staff and trained villagers. They also have a small but sturdy brick house, with a lock on the door. Alex is not so afraid now.



You see, we can make a difference.

Submitted by Catherine Sople. Adapted from a sermon preached at St. Bride's Anglican Church: Sunday, 13 August, 2006 by Linda Tripp, Vice President, Public Affairs, World Vision

Need a friendly visit?

By The Rev. Stephanie Douglas-Bowman

Do you find yourself struggling more and more to get out to church? Are you missing the fellowship of friends at St. Bride's, due to ill health, challenges around transportation or other personal factors? Perhaps you find yourself trapped at home, struggling with feelings of loneliness.

Many people, particularly the elderly, find themselves isolated due to life circumstances. One of the aims of the Lay Pastoral Care Team at St. Bride's is to ensure that the sick, the elderly or the isolated remain connected to the body of Christ through friendly visits. This team of people from our parish are not counsellors. They are not serving as social workers.



...they act as brothers and sisters in Christ, who are there to listen, to pray and to encourage.

Rather they act as brothers and sisters in Christ, who are there to listen, to pray and to encourage.

At times, Stephen, Keith, Peter or myself will connect people we have visited with a team member. It would also be fine for anyone in the parish to contact the chair of the Lay Pastoral Care Team, Jack Ferguson, at 905-822-4534.

As a team, these lay leaders are committed to confidentiality, and have received training for this ministry. If you or someone you know could

use a visit, please take advantage of this exceptional ministry.

**"If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together."
1 Corinthians 12:26**

Thanksgiving Reflections

Lowell Yoder shares this perspective, with the following list

"The life of thankfulness, biblically speaking, is lived in view of the hard things of existence. As the life of thanksgiving deepens, we discover that the more mature prayers of thanksgiving are not those offered for the obvious blessings, but those spoken in gratitude for obstacles overcome, for insights gained, for lessons learned, for increased humility, for help received in time of need, for strength to persevere, for opportunities to serve others."

(Fleming Rutledge, *The Bible and The New York Times*.)

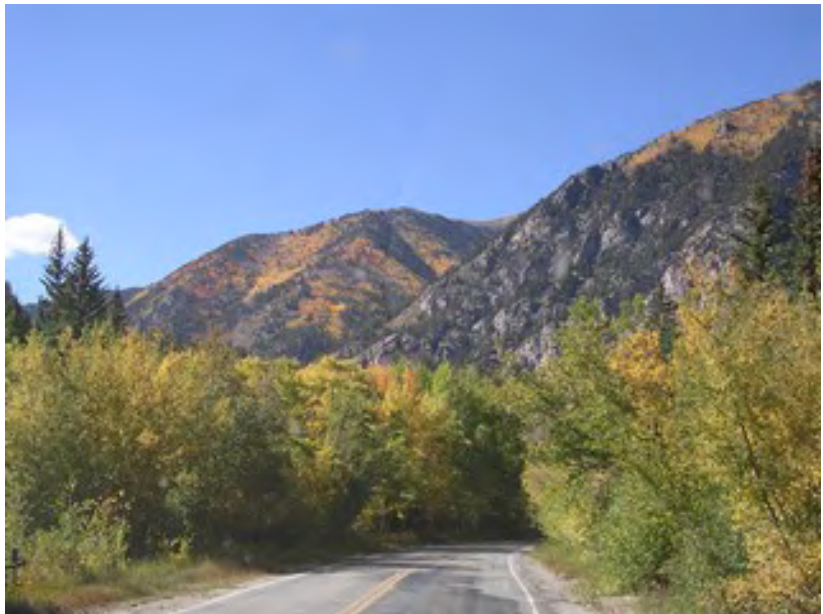


I am thankful for...

- The mess to clean up after a party, because it means I have been surrounded by friends.
- Household chores, because it means I have a home.
- The man behind my pew who sings off-key, because it means I can get to church.
- The teenager who is complaining about doing the dishes, because it means he is at home, not on the streets.
- The alarm that goes off in the early morning hours, because it means I am alive. †

The Ordinary Thing (Continued from page 11)

Prize for it. The one who benefits will never know your name. It is the silent, nameless, faceless effort that will never be recognized, except by the one who came to give his life as a ransom for many. And he will say, "I know you. When I was hungry and you fed me. I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless and cold and you gave me a house and a quilt." Do the ordinary thing. Take on the little task at hand. Build a mountain, not just of cans. Build a mountain of little, ordinary acts of compassion and you will, by the grace of God, have a faith that can move mountains.



Build a mountain of little, ordinary acts of compassion and you will, by the grace of God, have a faith that can move mountains.

The Lesson of the Geese

Have you ever wondered why geese heading south for the winter fly in "V" formation?

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the bird immediately following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock has at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on it's own. People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are travelling on the lift of one another.

When a goose flies out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone. It quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front of it. If we have as much common sense as a goose, we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others. It is harder to do something alone than together.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back in the formation, and another goose flies to the point position. It is sensible to take turns doing the hard and demanding tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent, needing each others skills, capabilities,



and unique arrangements of gifts, talents, or resources.

The geese flying in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. We need to make sure our 'honking' is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the productivity is much greater. The power of encouragement is the quality of honking we seek. Otherwise it's just - well - honking!

When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot down, two other geese will drop out of formation with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it dies or is able to fly again. Then, they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their flock. May we be willing for and worthy of such friends when we are in need!

We needn't be scientists to learn from God's creation. We only need to observe and allow God to reveal His wonders to us.

But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? Job 12:7-9

Submitted by Pat Rooke.

Grandmothers To Grandmothers (Continued from page 5)
forward through the most amazing wellsprings of faith and in their song and dance!

I sincerely hope that in the not too distant future, I will have the opportunity to share more of my experience with you. I am so very proud of and grateful for the help and support of the St. Bride's family in my allotted task of equipping kitchens, for Anne-Marie May, assisted by Catherine Soplet, who photographed the march and Sunday gathering and for Norma Patterson and her Irish visitor David, who came the day before the delivery and helped Rene and I put together the kitchen boxes. What we had estimated would take most of the day, ended up taking a little over two hours. There's nothing like fun and Irish humour to make time fly.



A group of grandmothers sing and dance to raise awareness about AIDS in Toronto, Sunday, Aug.13, 2006.

My final thoughts are of the grandmothers. It is impossible to describe those remarkable African women in glowing enough terms - heroic, smart, resourceful, generous, infinitely caring and, in spite of everything they have to cope with as they deal with this terrible scourge, positive and daring to dream, even in the face of the harshest reality imaginable. In

spite of challenges like exhaustion, worry, in some cases ill health, and language and communications difficulties, their humble, unshakeable faith, innate humour and indomitable strength shone through.

As for those of us from Canada who had the privilege of attending the Gathering; we came away with a new understanding and a determination to do whatever was within our capacity to help our African sisters in every way possible!

In their own words.....

From Bishop Peter Mason: I am delighted to be joining the St. Bride's ministry team, and looking forward to meeting church members. I was born and raised in rural Quebec, and studied at McGill University for seven years. During that time I met and married Carmen, and subsequently we had three children, two daughters and a son. We served in parish ministry in Montreal and Halifax for nearly twenty years. In 1985 I was appointed Principal of Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto. Seven years later I became Bishop of the Diocese of Ontario, centred around Kingston, and enjoyed a decade of service in that capacity. More recently I have returned to Wycliffe on a part time basis, as Director of Development and Communications, concentrating on stewardship and fundraising. I expect to keep up limited connections with Wycliffe, because of my abiding conviction that the wellbeing of our church is closely tied to the caliber of our clergy and lay leaders. In addition to our three children, Carmen and I are blessed with four active grandsons!

From Simon Davis, Youth Minister: Greetings St Brides! Thank you so much for your lovely welcome for me, it has been so great to settle into my new ministry with you all. I am so happy to be a part of the St Bride's family in my return to Mississauga after living in Toronto for a year serving as a worship leader and helping out with the youth group at Christ Church Mimico. I'm excited to join the ministry team here working with youth, a passion I have found from my time at Christ Church, summers at Ontario Pioneer Camp, serving on the York/Credit Valley Area

Youth Council, as well as doing campus ministry with St Bride's own David Kingston at Erindale College. In my spare time, I am also a student at the University of Toronto at the Mississauga campus, just beginning the fourth year of my philosophy degree.

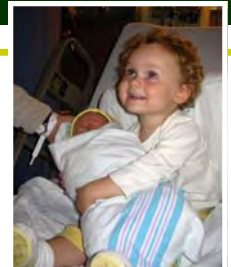
This year is shaping up to be an exciting one for youth ministry at St Brides. The larger ministry team is very excited to launch into a new school year of youth ministry. I am proud that St Brides is so committed to building up the body of Christ among the young people of this parish and our excellent team of youth volunteers have been working hard to plan and run our program for this year. Our goal is to encourage youth in growth spiritually with God and socially within our church community so if you're in grades 6-12, come on out on Friday nights for youth group from 7 – 9:30 and keep an eye out for outings, retreats and special events. First up on the event docket is The Bishop's Cup Floor Hockey Tournament on October 21st. See you there!

From Brian Wismath, Music Director: I began my choral career as a chorister in the Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir. After completing a Bachelor of Music degree (piano and voice) at Queen's University, I received a Master of Music degree from the University of Arizona in choral conducting. I have been fortunate to study with some of the finest instructors in North America. When I am not at St. Bride's Church, working with the adult choir and praise team, I enjoy being the associate conductor of the Orpheus Choir of Toronto and the operations manager of the Exultate Chamber Singers. It has been pleasure working with the St. Bride's community and staff in preparation for our musical offerings.

Tess becomes a big sister!**Brand new Jamie**

Tess is pleased to announce the birth of her baby brother, Michael James Douglas Bowman, to her parents, Stephanie and Mike, Wednesday morning, October 4th at 4:55 a.m. Jamie weighed in at a substantial 8 lbs 6 oz, and is 20 inches long. Tess says "Baby *sooo* cute." Her parents agree!

From a very happy family, *Stephanie, Mike, Tess & Jamie*



Tess & her new brother :
"Baby *sooo* cute!"