

# The St. James'

# Parishioner

November 2009

St. James' Anglican Church 6 Hamilton Street Stratford N5A 7P4 [www.stjamesstratford.ca](http://www.stjamesstratford.ca)

From the Rector's Desk...

## My Heart Shall Sing

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring,  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears,  
For the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn.*

Last year during Advent we sang a wonderful setting of the Magnificat called the Canticle of the Turning. The beautiful words to the refrain are quoted above. The Magnificat is a song of praise to God for choosing a lowly woman to carry out the promise of salvation to all people. It is a song about how God so often does the unexpected... turning things upside down in order to fulfil a divine purpose.

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All throughout the scriptures we are given examples of how we have always been in a relationship with God. Through Abraham and Sarah, God gave the promise of a blessing to all nations. Through Moses and the prophets, God renewed the promise of salvation. But when was God going to fulfill this promise? How was God going to create a path of salvation for all people? How long would the people have to wait?

Prophets like Jeremiah watched for signs of when the time might be, and tried to help prepare the people:

*"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David." (Jeremiah 33:14)*

The Season of Advent speaks of God's desire to bring about a path of salvation for all people once and for all. God's passionate desire to find a way to bring us into a closer relationship with one another and with the Creator of the Universe; a relationship where God declares: "I no longer call you servants - I call you friends".

As we move through this Advent, let us remember that God has a passionate desire for us. Let us remember how God finds a path for us - even though it might be through a dark valley. Let us remember how God comes into our midst in ways that are often unexpected. And let us remember how, in the midst of our lives, we are being given the possibility of an intimate friendship with the Author of all life.

*Wipe away all tears,  
For the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn.*

Happy Advent and Christmastide!

*The Venerable Dr. Lorne Mitchell*



## Cadence Point

"Artists like Bach and Beethoven erected churches and temples on the heights. I only wanted... to build dwellings for people in which they might feel happy and at home." – Edward Grieg

When Sandra Mogensen took over the directorship of the St. James' parish choir, we were a body in need of healing and renewal. Today, we are a vibrant music ministry within the larger body of the church, and we have Sandra to thank for that transformation. The choir and the choir executive received the news of Sandra's resignation with a mix of regret and understanding. As "people of the way", we know what it means to live one's life as a series of responses to God's call. One doesn't always know when or where one will be called. Sometimes one doesn't even know what one is being called to, but that doesn't lessen the importance or the pull. The choir is grateful beyond words for the ministry Sandra has brought to us – musicianship of the highest calibre, a passion for the poetry of our hymns and songs, and a deep understanding of the interconnectedness of liturgy, word and music. If one can leave a place and a people in better shape than one found them, then one can be satisfied with a job well done. Thank you, Sandra, for reviving our spirits, but thank you even more for the gift of spirit – a light which we will carry forward in our music ministry.

And so, we have all reached another cadence point. The next few bars are as yet unwritten, but we move forward, bearers of the light and singers of the song, grateful for your time with us. Thank you, again, for creating a choir where all may "feel happy and at home." God bless you on your continued journey of faith.

John Hindley on behalf of the Choir of St. James'



## May Fayre

### ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW AND SALE

**Saturday May 1st, 2010 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Calling all artists and crafts people of St. James' Church!

We would like to showcase your talent. Contact Mary Lou Kingham today for a chance to display your original design work at next spring's May Fayre!

Further details and brochure available soon. Entry fees will go to support the ongoing work of our church.

Any questions should be directed to Mary Lou Kingham at 519-271-6798.

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## Upcoming Events

- Sat., Nov. 28 **Baroque and Beyond, 7 pm**  
Stratford Symphony Orchestra Concert
- Sun., Nov. 29 **CBC Christmas Carol, 4 pm**  
Featuring the St. James' choir and an impressive line-up of guest readers!
- Sun., Dec. 6 **Christmas Pageant, 10:30 am**  
**Angel Party, following the 10:30 am service**
- Sat., Dec. 12 **Contemplative Eucharist, 5 pm**
- Sun., Dec. 20 **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 7 pm**
- Thurs., Dec. 24 **Gathering at the Crèche, 4 pm**  
A telling of the Christmas Story for the youngest children.
- Sung Holy Eucharist with Carols, 7 pm**  
A wonderful family service.
- Sung Holy Eucharist, 10:30 pm**  
Solemn Holy Eucharist with the Choir, candlelight and carols.
- Fri., Dec. 25 **Holy Eucharist, 10:30 am**  
**Community Christmas Dinner, noon**



# YOUTH CORNER

## CLAY 2010

Over the next 9 months, you will probably be hearing more and more about CLAY! But what is CLAY, you ask? CLAY is the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth event that will be in London August 19-22, 2010. For many years, Lutherans have held these amazing nationwide youth events all over Canada, a different place every two years. Since we, Anglicans and Lutherans, are in Full Communion together, the Canadian Lutheran Church has invited Anglican youth from all across Canada to be a part of this event.

This four-day event includes having fun, worshipping, singing, making friends, giving back to the community, and forever changing the lives of participants, leaders, and volunteers. The National Planning Committee is expecting 1500-1800 youth to register! Youths must be between 14-19 years of age in 2010 to participate. This event only happens every two years, so if you know a youth who is 18 or 19, this is probably their last chance to go experience this.

Fortunately for us here in Southwestern Ontario, CLAY 2010 is in London, Ontario. I say 'fortunately' because two years ago 'Traveling Light' was in Whitehorse, and youth from our area were paying over \$1000 to attend (including travel). For 2010, registration is \$300 per person, accommodation and travel not included. We are looking at about \$100-\$150 for accommodation, possibly less. Hopefully we will soon have an information night for Parents, Youth, and any who are interested in volunteering.

For more information about CLAY, please contact your Youth Minister and CLAY's Social/Games Coordinator Katie-Scarlett MacGillivray at [ksmacgill@gmail.com](mailto:ksmacgill@gmail.com).

“...we are the clay,  
and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.”

—Isaiah 64:8b

## A Life-Changing Experience

by the Rev'd Lynn Mitchell

In June of 1976, when I was 15, my parents received a phone call from Henry Hill, then Bishop of the Diocese of Ontario, asking them if they would allow me to attend a national conference of Anglican youth to be held in Alberta. In my parish, there was no youth group. No one talked about “youth ministry”. I had no idea what I might expect, but my parents said yes, and off I went as one of two youth representatives from my diocese. What I experienced changed my life.

I met 90 other young people, ages 15 – 25, from every part of the Canadian Anglican Church. We talked, we planned, we prayed, we sang, we had fabulous worship services, we partied, we talked and talked, forging lasting friendships. I hadn't known that anything like this existed. Most of my friends at school did not go to church. The fact that I did – and liked it! – wasn't remotely “cool”. I had no idea that there were so many other youth who were excited about God and their faith and, yes, even the church! “Journey '76” as it was called, changed my life and the face of the Anglican Church of Canada. Many participants went on to become significant church leaders.....our Bishop Terry Dance is one of them.

You will read Katie-Scarlett's article about CLAY 2010 (1500+ young people!!!). We have an opportunity to send some young people from our parish on a life-changing faith adventure. And it's just down the road. Let's take advantage of it!!



## U2charist

By Melanie Hughes

It was a soggy, miserable October evening but Larry Davis, Stewart Davis, Austin Sebben, Tessa Sebben and myself met up at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. After a mass hand-washing operation and grace we were all set to partake in the pizza party. Tessa and I were recruited by Katie-Scarlett to hand out candles and programs as people entered. Tessa took her job quite seriously, even touring the cathedral to make sure nobody was without light or information. As the service was about to start, Tessa and I took our seats with the lads near the front of the church.

The band opened with a couple of tunes, the second of which was the processional music. What a sight, to see the crucifer, acolytes, ministers, and Bishop Bob Bennett singing and swaying to the rock music as they headed toward the front of the church! Some more tunes, prayers, and a gospel procession that featured more dancing and singing by the servers and reader.

Rachel Johnson, RN spoke about her time as a nurse in Africa. She encountered many challenges along the way, and her speech was very inspiring. More music, singing and dancing followed, then communion, and even more U2 music! At one point the singer ("Bono") was singing in the centre aisle of the church, and had Tessa sing a line or 2 of the song - she did a great job! Katie-Scarlett led the youth in a procession around the church that lasted right up to (and after) the Dismissal. Austin and Tessa each got autographs from the lead singer, then we made our way back home.

What a great evening!

## Life In the Eucharist

A Programme for  
Children (ages 7-9) & their Parents

Lent 2010

The *Life in the Eucharist* (LITE) programme is an opportunity for you and your child to learn more about our faith, the Eucharist, and our Christian community. It is a chance to have fun and to meet new people.

This year LITE is taking place during the Church season of Lent, on three Sunday afternoons, 1:30 - 3:00. "Lent" means "spring", and in the northern hemisphere spring is a time of new growth, new possibilities. The Lenten season has traditionally been observed by Christians as a time of spiritual new growth and possibility, as we prepare for Jesus' Resurrection at Easter.

On **Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> 2010**, there will be a brief information session for parents following the 10:30 service. There is no obligation to participate further. This is a time to get information and to ask questions.

To sign up for the Information session on January 24<sup>th</sup>, or if you or your child has a question and you're not sure of an answer, please contact the Rev'd Lynn Mitchell by phone at (519) 271 - 3572 ex. 207 or e-mailing [lynnmitchell@cyg.net](mailto:lynnmitchell@cyg.net).

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## From the Church School

By Nancy Packham

You may have noticed the long paper chain - 54 paper chain people! - in the Church School. Created by the 6-to- 8-year-old class, the paper chain forms a community. The class wrote a problem or concern that we might encounter on one paper person, and on the next paper person wrote a possible solution to that problem or concern. Note the heart created between the paper chain people when they hold hands. This reminds us that WE are part of a community called to work together and to show God's love and care to others.



# Enquiring Minds want to Know...

*Just what does a Verger do? Beyond wearing a neat gown and carrying a wand!*

The office of Verger has its roots in the early Anglican Cathedrals, at a time when clergy needed protection during public processions. The clergy and others assisting in the worship service would gather at an appointed spot in the town and be led by the verger to the cathedral. The verger would carry a staff called a "verge" which would be used to clear the path ahead. The vergers were also sometimes called upon to use the verge to fend off attacks on the clergy from those incensed by the property battles between England and Rome. Once inside the cathedral the verge was useful in clearing a path up the nave to the sanctuary; in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the main part of the cathedral served as a market place and public square. The verger's vestments were designed to accommodate on their person the vessels and books needed for the celebration of the Eucharist.

In addition to guarding the clergy during public processions, vergers were also responsible for the upkeep of the church buildings, preparations for the liturgy and grave-digging.

At St. James', the verger's primary function is to support the Rector and Wardens by ensuring that the Church is in a hospitable state and ready for Sunday worship, special liturgies and events. Secondary functions include providing assistance to the Treasurer, Custodian and Office Manager as needed and looking after a number of other items such as coordinating Open Doors and maintaining the parish archives. The specific duties range from the mundane - posting hymn numbers - to the complex - coordinating the numerous Sunday lay ministries with the schedulers. In between there are interesting jobs such as maintaining the Memorial Book, the Memorials for God's Holy Acre, attending weddings and funerals when Larry isn't available, and ultimately, my favourite, the ceremonial duties.

Helping me is what I call the Verger Team - Joyce Banks (Archives), Liz Simpson (Schedules) and, of course, Larry Davis (a myriad of things!).

Essentially, I'm here to make life easier for clergy, lay ministers and volunteers, so if there is something I can help with, please let me know.

*Jane Kirkpatrick, Verger*



## Hospitality Group

The first meeting of the season for the Hospitality Group was held on October 29 at the home of Carol Boone. The four new members were welcomed and the planning of the Angel Party was begun. It will be held **December 6** immediately following the 10:30 Service and Children's Christmas Pageant. We are always looking for volunteers to help with each of the events and if you would like to help us with the Angel Party, please do not hesitate to let us know.

The existing members of the Hospitality Group are Shirley Jeffrey, Nancy McCallum, Heather Proctor and the new members are Mary Carnie, Lori Colbeck, Karin Mussen, and Karen Wilson. We look forward to an exciting and fun-filled year of events.

**See everyone at the Angel Party!**

Respectfully submitted by Carol Boone  
Hospitality Chairperson  
519-273-2272



## *An Introduction:* **James Farmer**

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Motor Neuron Degeneration (MND) or Lou Gehrig's disease, is a rapidly progressive and fatal neuromuscular disease characterized by degeneration of a select group of nerve cells and pathways (motor neurons) in the brain and spinal cord. This loss of motor neurons leads to progressive paralysis of the voluntary muscles.

However, the diagnosis of MND remains a clinical one. Having excluded other diseases, a relatively rapid progression of symptoms is a strong diagnostic factor. Although an individual's progression may sometimes "plateau", it will not improve. The MND/ALS has no cure. Progression varies; some people such as Dr. Steven Hawkins have a form of ALS called neuro muscular dystrophy. He has said in the past in interviews that he thanks God everyday that he has this variety. My wife and I were told that ALS was life altering and our story was exactly that for both of us. You can find our story [here:](http://www.alsindependence.com/judy_and_james_farmers_story.htm)  
[http://www.alsindependence.com/judy\\_and\\_james\\_farmers\\_story.htm](http://www.alsindependence.com/judy_and_james_farmers_story.htm).

Who am I and how did I arrive at St. James'?

Well to begin with I am the long haired fellow sits near the back on the left side facing the front. I am growing my hair for Locks for Love, my older sister is a 4-year survivor of Breast Cancer. I have donated money in the past via the Walk for a Cure. Donating hair that turns into a wig so someone can feel comfortable about themselves while fighting Cancer seems right to me so I am doing this. Judy did not like my hair long but understood why I was doing this. We had a deal: I could grow my hair but had to grow back my moustache which I had most of our marriage. Wife is gone but kept the moustache for some reason; it is still part of the deal. Have considered taking it off a couple of times but a deal is a deal...

Judy was near the end of her battle. Dr. Edwards was at the house to see her and talked with me and the VON service nurse. Time was just about up for my girl I learned on the Monday, August 31, 2009. Tuesday was respite day where I got 4 hours to do shopping and have a bit of rest. This Tuesday I went down to Victoria Lake to collect my thoughts. Judy had only wanted to be cremated but nothing past that. I went to W.G. Young Funeral Home and made arrangements for cremation. I asked about a scattering garden at the cemetery, which I knew existed in our previous community. I was informed that St. James' had such a garden "God's Holy Acre" so arrangements were made.

I came in to choose a spot on the wall for my girl. I chose on top of the wall looking towards York Street and the Lions Pool. Judy was all of 5ft 2inch and putting her along the top of the wall she could be taller than most just a bit of fun and an ongoing joke we had during 22 years of marriage. Judy loved the look of the church and William Street during our many times visiting the area before we moved here. She also liked shopping along York Street, we even had a clock redone at Antiques in Time last spring. The clock was damaged in our move, works wonderfully now. Of course this is where I met Meg in the church office. I arranged for the tea after Judy was put in garden. Judy's service was on our 23rd Wedding Anniversary September 26,2009. Judy's name went on the wall on September 25,2009. I thank all the ladies who made such a nice lunch on that day. To Lorne thank you I don't know if I ever said that but I did mean to so thank you.

While in just before Judy's service I was informed about St. Francis Day. Which was my first foray into the church. I brought Lucy my wife's 19 year old cat to St. Francis Day. I met Carla and Indra Binns, although I probably just introduced the cat not myself. Indra told me of her goldfish and how she has kept it . It was very enjoyable and I have arrived all but one Sunday since then. I don't sleep well so one Sunday I did sleep some in the morning. Better to snore in bed than in Church. There will be Sunday 29th November when I must travel to Peterborough, Ontario for a Life Celebration of my father.

I make a visit to see the garden and friends at the church at least once a week if I can.

From James Farmer



# Looking Ahead to Lent 2010

Our Evening Lenten series this year will be built around the book

## Tokens of Trust

### An Introduction to Christian Belief

by Rowan Williams,  
Archbishop of Canterbury

Engaging the classic statements of the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds, Archbishop Rowan Williams guides readers through the central elements of Christian faith.

What does it mean to believe in God? Can God be almighty in the midst of so much evil and disaster? How am I to understand the meaning of Jesus Christ's ministry and resurrection? To what purpose is the church called? And what does it really mean to follow Christ in today's broken world?

Tying the answers to all these questions together and addressing perplexities such as the possibility of miracles and how to read the Bible, Williams demonstrates that each of the basic tenets of Christian faith flows from one fundamental belief: God is completely worthy of our trust.

With vast knowledge of Christian history and theology and characteristically elegant prose, Rowan Williams is a superb and compassionate guide through the richness and depth of Christian faith.

**6 Tuesdays @ 7 pm, beginning February 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Led by the Ven. Dr. Lorne Mitchell**

Watch [www.stjamesstratford.ca](http://www.stjamesstratford.ca) and the Sunday bulletin for further details to come in January.

## A Lent Bible Study

Wednesday mornings during Lent at 9:00 am. We will be reflecting on the Sunday scripture readings. Participants are invited to stay for the Eucharist at 10:00 am.

**Led by the Rev'd Lynn Mitchell**

## **Parishioner Articles...**

...are welcome from one and all! We'd love to hear from you, so send along what you've got! Have you seen an article, story, or upcoming event you'd like to share with the parish? Or do you have a story to tell about yourself? This is a great opportunity to let the parish know what special moments and people we all have in our lives! Send your submission to editor Melanie Hughes at [stjamesparishioner@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesparishioner@gmail.com) or hand it to Meg Gonder in the Church Office!

## The 2009 Edition of the Holly Wreath Shoppe "A Roaring Success!"

*Thank you everyone for your support!*



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Holly Wreath Shoppe  
"A Roaring Success!"



# 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Bells

