

St. Anne's Church

270 Gladstone Avenue, Toronto

Newsletter Spring/Summer 2010

Join Us Each Week

Sunday, 9:30 AM

Morning Prayer and Meditation in the Parish Hall Chapel

Sunday 10:30 AM

Community Worship with Choir

Sunday 4:00 PM

River

Bridging culture and faith, this weekly worship service features live eclectic music, an informal message and adult-oriented reflective activities for deeper learning. Kids are welcome!

Community Dinner

3rd Sunday of Every Month

Dates for your Diary

June 20th St Anne's Feast Day

September 26th -Back to Church Sunday

Our Incumbent:

The Rev'd Lance Dixon

lance@stannes.on.ca

The Director of Community

Formation:

Rob Crosby Shearer

rob@jeremiahproject.ca

The Director of Music :

Daniel Norman

music@stannes.on.ca

What We Have Accomplished

As the school year closes and report cards are written, it is timely to record all the accomplishments St Anne's has achieved in the past 18 months.

Faith Forward Initiative – phase I: Identifying Ministry Priorities

Vestry 2009 –Outline of how initiatives will be built around three vital areas of ministry

Lent 2009; Congregational Survey – preferences in the three vital areas of ministry; worship, discipleship, outreach (42 surveys returned)

Spring 2009 – parish meeting to present the results of the survey -Top three survey interests

Worship

People were interested in more congregational participation in worship (especially singing)

Comfortable having children in worship

People were open to new elements of worship but within traditional style

Discipleship

I am interested in brief Christian education courses held twice a year

I am ready to take risks in trying new ministries to grow spiritually.

Outreach

Try new ways to reach out to people

Faith Forward Initiative – Phase II: Clarifying Core Values

Summer 2009 – the parish was invited to read the parish history booklet over the summer and reflect on questions regarding what successes they learned, what values they heard for ministry being emphasized through the years, what the parish has been most consistently passionate about. Fall 2009 – people's response sheets were collected (10 responses returned)

Faith Forward Initiative – Phase III: Visioning Day

November 2009 – the parish was invited over four weeks to participate in a full-day visioning workshop, including a panel of neighbourhood community leaders

December, 2009 – Visioning Day was held (13 parishioners attended the morning, 10 remained for the afternoon)

What we have accomplished so far

Worship

a) worship planning groups

- Dan was trained to lead worship planning groups that would increase participation of laity in worship

- four worship planning groups have created liturgy for the congregation: 2009 Patronal Festival, Welcome back Sunday Sep 2009, Palm Sunday 2010, Maundy Thursday 2010; the next one planned for 2010 Patronal Festival (average 5 parishioners participate)

b) healing and anointing services

- a succession of meetings were planned with the intercessors and prayer team on how to integrate the prayer ministries

- a monthly prayer cycle was created, as well as a prayer intercessory list with Keith Ferrel as coordinator

- Kim Malcomson received training and mentoring to offer anointing in the parish; 4 occasions for anointing have been offered to the congregation so far

c) increased congregational participation

- choir were moved from chancel to nave next to the altar

- summer 2009; 'favourite hymns' request sheet was created for congregants to provide input; these hymns continue to be used

Being called to the Ministry of Healing and Anointing

The Church's ministry to the sick and those in distress is based on Jesus' constant concern for the sick and for those in need.

The Diocese offers training and licenses lay anointers to undertake this ministry and we were fortunate to have Kim Malcolmson volunteer to participate in the training and offer her services to the parish.

Kim writes:-

"I hadn't seen the words for my commissioning as a

Parish Lay Anointer before the ceremony started, so it was a shock when Lance asked

"Do you believe that God has called you to this Ministry?"

Oh my goodness" I thought, "Should I say we should stop right here as I don't know what it means to be called by God?"

My next thought though, was that I can answer **"Yes"**.

I can look back and see the steps over many years that brought me to this point: to wanting this minis-

try again at St. Anne's, and to be a part of it.

This is how I understand 'being called'; that it is how we respond to what is before us, the choices that make us feel we are more fully ourselves. I wonder what others feel is meant to be 'called by God'

I'm grateful and honoured that my fellow parishioners give me the privilege of being with them as we together open ourselves to the healing power of the Holy Spirit."

Thank you Kim for stepping up to do this.

' I can look back and see the steps over many years that brought me to this point: to wanting this ministry again at St. Anne's, and to be a part of it.'

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

As part of our **SpiritKids** program, St Anne's is offering a seven week Sacred Music Program which began on May 9 to teach children the rich tradition of sacred music.

The children have been learning pieces to share with the congregation as they prepare to sing during the St Anne's feast day celebration on June 20.

Around a dozen children are taking part which includes three children from the community who have enjoyed the sessions planned by Dan

and coordinated by Moira Bayne.

Volunteers from the choir have also offered their support each week to introduce the children to the fun of making music together.

The children have been introduced to the concepts of melody, harmony and rhythm and a chance to experiment with a range of percussion instruments

It is envisioned that the sessions will be repeated and anyone who would like to

volunteer to help with future sessions or knows a child who would be interested in joining the next series should let Dan or Moira know.

This is a very encouraging beginning to this new program which continues and enriches the history of music at St Anne's.

Be sure not to miss June 20th to hear and celebrate the children's efforts.



TREASURER'S CORNER

The response to the invitation to join Pre Authorised Giving (PAR) has been encouraging. 15 parishioners now use this approach to have their monthly amount of givings to St. Anne's deducted automatically from their bank account. It is convenient for the individual and lends stability to the cash flow of the church. If you are interested, the information about the program and application forms are in a clear plastic container affixed to the wall just inside the glass doors of the church.

Please accept my appreciation for maintaining the level of givings in the first five months of 2010.

If you are going away during the summer, please try to make your regular offerings up front.

My other role is to help look after the needs of our buildings. There again there is some good news. Those of you who have been in the chapel lately will be aware how badly the windows leaked during the

winter. They have just been replaced, as have the windows in the Guild Room on the top floor.

We have carefully removed the stained glass window in memory of Canon Skey's wife Helen. It will be restored as an independent hanging and mounted in either the chapel or the Skey Room itself when finances permit.

Diana Schatz
Treasurer

' If you are going away during the summer you are invited to sign up for PAR... application forms and information available at the back of the church'

ANNOTATIONS *From the Rector*

Well winter sure did leave in a hurry! And it's hard to believe that we are already on the verge of leaving spring into the hot days of summer. It is worth taking every moment we can to enjoy the splendor of the spring colors of blooming flowers and green shoots before they fade into the heat of summer. It is amazing to think all that life was only a short time ago buried under the frozen ground and pale white of winter. Then, almost imperceptibly, as the frost gave way to longer days of sun and warmer wind, life appeared from the dead branches and barren ground. Spring holds such deep mystery and life. It is a wonderful time of year to witness the gifted touch of our Creator.

Like the temporal season of spring, this past season of ministry at St. Anne's has also been one of preparing the ground for new ministry opportunities. Like the first days of spring, on the surface not a lot seems to be happening. But, like nature, under the surface the Spirit is continually at work fostering new life as it seeks fertile ground in the life of the Church to plant gifts and resources for ministry. It has been encouraging to see people taking the 'unseen' spiritual work of preparing the ground for ministry seriously. While a few hands may have been on the till, there are more who have offered time of prayer and words of encouragement as ways to 'fertilize' the soil at St. Anne's. And this is just as essential as the practical labour!! (In fact, as one person once explained to me, real prayer is always practical in its outcome.)

We are beginning to see the fruit of working at a new form of children's ministry. This has been developed by Dan Norman, and adult choir members provide leadership while Moira Bayne, a person who joined the parish last year, acts as coordinator. The Sacred Children's Music Program has welcomed three new children from the neighborhood, including those who had been attending before, and we look forward to what they have to offer during our patronal festival! Speaking of patronal festival, this year our celebration will include reflections from people on what St. Anne's has meant to them in the past, what it means for them today, and what their hopes are for St. Anne's in the future. With our children providing a special musical offering, including an

anthem from the choir, I hope you will make sure to join us for this annual occasion. We welcome the addition of two more people to the adult choir, and appreciate the ongoing service offered by the worship guilds who prepare the place for worship every Sunday and serve so faithfully at the altar, and greet us at the doors. Well done!

Much work has been done to budget for needed repairs to the parish hall, with another dozen windows just recently replaced in the chapel and upper Guild room (the stained glass window safely stored away). I know the Board appreciates the continued financial support of the congregation. It is encouraging to hear from them that financially we are where we hoped to be at this point of the year. This is another great indication of people's hope for the future ministry at St. Anne's! I am as committed to enabling the morning congregation to grow in ministry and worship as I am to the other initiatives through the Jeremiah Community. To that end, I have been in conversation with the diocese about support for a part-time pastoral assistant for the morning congregation. Because of my responsibilities being split between the Jeremiah projects and our congregational life, a part-time pastoral assistant dedicated to supporting the congregation in developing its vision and gifts for ministry is crucial. It is important to note that the diocese is supportive of this as well, and wants to assist in making this happen. I hope to have more news to share about that before long.

And speaking of spring bringing new life, it is wonderful to see the birth of Rob's twins! Two months now and they are growing in health - and vocal lungs! This has been a true sign of the season we are in. I am glad to have Rob back from his parental leave. This spring has also been a busy time for me as I try to complete my doctoral dissertation - I have already postponed graduation twice! I am grateful for the extra



The Ministry Team: Lance Dixon and Rob Crosby-Shearer

'this past season of ministry at St. Anne's has also been one of preparing the ground for new ministry opportunities'

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From the Board of Management

In April 2010, I assumed the chairmanship of the Board at Lance's request to free up time for him to focus on the demands of the joint ministries of the two congregations. The Board was pleased to welcome Karen Taylor, a member of the Jeremiah Community, following the annual vestry meeting. Our treasurer, Diana Schatz continues as a member of the board *ex-officio*. David Roeder and Roy Schatz continue in their role as wardens and Roy also ably serves as secretary. Nancy Mercey has also joined us as a deputy member in order to familiarize herself with our work.

Since the Vestry meeting we have made the Diocese aware of the heavy workload of our incumbent as well as reviewing the Jeremiah Project to date.. We are also mindful of a couple of good questions at Vestry that have asked for a clearer plan for the St. Anne's Congregation with strategies to strengthen it. Work on these has begun and we will continue to give you news of the developments as the year proceeds. I am grateful for the commitment of my fellow board members as we continue to develop our new role in the strengthening of both our congregations.

As I write, General Synod has just begun and it will present us with new emphasis on a missional role at every level of our beloved church.

Norah Bolton

Chair, Board of Management

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- 5 new servers have been trained to assist during service
- 3 new choir members have joined since beginning 2009
- regular congregation attendance has increased slightly
- regular offering has remained stable
- first Sunday of month anniversary and birthdays are recognized during worship with cards and singing
- 2 new lay pastoral visitors were trained
- fall 2009; luncheon meeting with Chancel guild hosted at Rectory
- fall 2009; 3 training sessions with Altar guild
- fall 2009; luncheon meeting with Servers guild in Music room; lay person appointed to coordinate 'Back to Church' Sunday for the fall 2010

Discipleship:

- Lent 2009; Wednesday Bible Study (avg. 5 participants)
- Spring 2009; two prayer workshops led by Rev. Christian Swayne (9 Participants)
- Fall 2009; prayerful listening workshop led by Rev. Christian Swayne (12 participants)
- Dec 2009; Visioning Day workshop (13 participants)
- Lent 2010; Missional church learning study (4 from St. Anne's)

Outreach:

- effort made at making room for Jeremiah project programs to function
 - hosted G-12 summer arts youth program
 - Matthew House weekly refugee support group
 - bike donation initiative
 - community forum hosted at St. Anne's
 - weekly after-school program at AMG
 - monthly free concert with Urban Flute ensemble
 - monthly music meditation circles and weekly art meditation in chancel
- (all these have been included in the morning congregation ministry highlight insert; all volunteers welcome to join)

Also

- quarterly parish newsletter published highlighting up to date information about the parish
- newcomer cards were produced to be distributed in Sunday bulletins, including a section for current members to make comments or request contact regarding specific issues

Well done St Anne's - Not too many parishes can compete with this list!

"Love God with all your heart. And love your neighbour as yourself."

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hard work board members and volunteers have put in during this last month while I've spent extra hours at the study desk. I am almost there!

Also, we have been busy figuring out how to effectively make room for more people to move into the neighborhood to help with outreach initiatives. The board approved a proposal for Rob and Meagan to house a small community of adults in the rectory starting in June. They will continue to develop programs to reach out into the neighborhood, and provide hospitality as a sign of Christ's presence to the community. With my family moving into a coop housing unit at Alexandra Park, at Dundas and Bathurst, this move balances out financially for the parish, while enabling a community to grow in the parish that can focus on outreach programs.

I am pleased to see relationships happening organically between the two congregations, and individuals from the neighborhood moving freely between both congregations. Allowing people to naturally build relationships is the right approach to enabling creative and healthy cross-fertilization. Again, in this season of early spring, we are seeing positive signs of that. With prayer and positive support from both sides we hope to see real fruit of these seeds planted emerge. Of course, what that looks like only God really knows!

My appreciation to the prayer group for continuing the good work of holding up the needs of the congregation. The ministry of healing and anointing being offered by Kim Malcomson has been most welcomed. This is a result of the prayer group identify the healing

ministry early on as a priority for this parish. We will continue this as a regular part of the last worship service of each month."

One of the exciting initiatives we have been preparing for is the 'Back to Church Sunday' event coming in September. Nancy Mercey is coordinating this effort to reach out to the neighborhood with the invitation to join St. Anne's for a Sunday! Because so much these days relies on good first impressions, let's all do our part at seeing what we can do to 'get the house ready' for new guests to arrive. We all are aware of the importance of ensuring newcomers feel welcome and included in the life of the community. Every opportunity to invite someone to experience the grace and love of God in the midst of a worshipping community is worth every effort. Let's put our best feet forward. God will determine the rest!

Have a blessed summer in the fruitfulness of this Pentecost season,



Lance