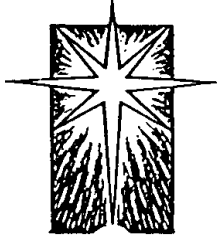


WESTMINSTER CHIMES



Saint James Westminster Church
115 Askin Street, London ON N6C 1E7
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Christmas 2007



RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christmas, my very favourite time of the year, is just around the corner. Already my family has been asking me what I want for Christmas. They do not appreciate my diminutive and unhelpful response, "I don't think I need anything." That was not always my response. In earlier years, particularly in childhood, the list would be long. It would often be filled with things that I didn't really need.

Thinking that we often ask for the wrong things reminds me of the Irishman who was walking along the beach one day just before Christmas. He saw a bottle lying in the sand. He picked it up and out popped a genie. The genie said, "Since you freed me from the bottle, and Christmas is coming, I will grant you three wishes."

The Irishman thought for a moment and said, "I'm feeling a might thirsty. I think I'll be wishing for a pint of stout." POOF! There was a pint of stout in his hand. He drank it down, and started to throw the bottle, when the genie said, "I'd look at that bottle again before I threw it if I were you."

So he looked at the bottle and it was magically filling back up with stout. The genie said to him, "That is a magic bottle, and it will always fill back up after you finish it." The genie then asked, "What other two wishes can I grant for you?"

The Irishman looked at the bottle in his hand and said, "I'll be taking two more of these."

We ask for the wrong things at times. My question to you right now is "What do you really want for Christmas?"

This is not the time for me to preach another sermon to you but I'd hope your list would

include a number of non-material things such as: more time with my family; more hope in my heart; more inner peace; more time to be able to serve the community ...

I believe the worship and the programs of the Parish will help you prepare for a most wonderful Christmas. May you receive the very best God has to offer... the gift of his son, Jesus.

God bless you all!!
Your friend and priest,



Kenneth

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 9th at 7:00 pm
Children's Pageant

December 16th at 7:00 pm

Our awesome and awe-inspiring **Lessons & Carols** service - the traditional Readings, Hymns and Anthems by Candlelight.
(Nursery provided)

December 23rd at 9:30 am

ONE service only, with brilliant guest artist,
Denise Pelley.

Christmas Eve

7:00 pm *Candlelight Service*
(with Nursery)

11:00 pm *Candlelight Service*

Christmas Day Eucharist at 10:00 am

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

The clergy of the parish will be bringing home Communion to about 30 people from the congregation. If you have not been on the list please contact the Church office at 519-432-1915.

WE DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS

The flowers and greenery for Christmas are purchased with donations given by parish members. There will be a notice included with the Sunday bulletins regarding this. All donations are most appreciated and will be acknowledged with a tax receipt. Please complete the form in the bulletin or call Rita Fawcett to arrange this. She can be reached at 519-858-3145.

This year we will be decorating the church on Friday, December 7th at 9 am. Everyone is welcome (yes, men too).



Do you have time, once a month, to deliver the Altar flowers to those who are unable to come to church due to illness, etc? It doesn't take a lot of time and helps brighten someone day. If you are interested, please speak to Rev. Ken Anderson or Barbara Giampa.

ADVENT EUCHARIST AND BIBLE STUDY with Ken

December 5th, 12th and 19th

Eucharist at 10 am

Study (of the book of Job) at 10:30 am

“One of the more fascinating books of the Bible”

WHEELS TO MEALS

A program for seniors living and eating alone on Sunday. **Our Christmas dinner will take place on December 16th at 5:00 pm.** Afterwards, for those that wish, we will attend the Lessons and Carols Service. Transportation is available by calling Esther Robinson (519-471-7923) or the Church Office (519-432-1915). Please plan to attend and bring a friend if you wish.



PARISH COUNCIL MESSAGE

Each year, twenty-five people are asked to sit on our Parish Council to give leadership in the programs, finances and spiritual life of the parish. In late December, a Nominating Committee meets to ensure that we have the right balance of PC members. The Vestry, in January, makes the final decision as to the composition of the Council.

If you would like to be considered for membership please speak to Loretta Hillier, Warden, (434-3311) or to the Rector. The Council meets on the third Wednesday of the month. It is anticipated that most PC members will also serve on one of the sub-committees of the Council.

KITCHEN UPDATE

The kitchen committee has been hard at work behind the scenes for many months now and the kitchen design is nearing completion. The design task has been a complicated one that has involved a number of technical challenges in fitting a 2007 kitchen renovation into a 1957 building! Pat Malloy and his team at Blueline Design Services have been helping us through the complex navigation of building and fire codes and consulting with all of the relevant experts to develop a safe and workable kitchen. We will have final engineering drawings of the kitchen in early December that will put us in position to get the best possible quotations from local contractors for construction in the New Year.

If you have not had a chance to see the rendering of the design prepared by EndView Design, please take a few minutes to do so. A few of the highlights are:

- Better work flow with separate In and Out doors and defined work spaces
- Commercial appliances including a dishwasher that will wash up to 55 racks per hour, a cook top (6 burners and a separate griddle) with more than 13 square feet of cooking area and a coffee brewer capable of up to 19 gallons of coffee per hour!
- A large capacity hood that not only evacuates grease and odours, but adds air circulation to the Great Hall.

St. James owes a big thank you to the dedicated team that has worked so hard on this project. All of the team members have had the best interest of our congregation, and those in the community that our kitchen helps everyday, at the front of every decision along the way. It is their hope that our new kitchen will add to the brilliance of the Outreach Plus that is St. James Westminster.

Jon Galsworthy

WE'VE GOT MAIL!



Dear St. James Westminster Parishioners:

I wanted to write a brief update to let you all know how my fall studies and placement have been going. It has been a very busy fall but I have been really enjoying my studies in Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament, the major Pauline Letters, Field Placement, Systematic Theology-Spirit, Church and Sacraments and my elective in Christian Spirituality and Spiritual Direction. As you might expect with the end of term just five weeks away (where has the time gone?!?), there are a wide variety of projects and assignments awaiting my attention. Add to this my rotating responsibilities in morning chapel and my duties as Vice President of the Bishop Hallam Theological Society, and my days are wondrously full.

I have been very warmly welcomed at St. Michael's and All Angels where I am doing my placement and am finding it to be an excellent learning environment.

While I do not see many of you through the course of my day, I think of you often and always fondly. I appreciate your ongoing prayers as I continue in my studies and discernment process.

Yours in Christ,
Valerie Kenyon

Letter from Kitgum School

We greet you all in the name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

We the management of St. Janani Luwum Nursery and Primary School would wish to give you a lot of thanks and appreciations for your most valuable times you have accorded to support our school in our struggle to educate the Children of God.

God bless you all.

We have recieved the amount of US \$ 8.369.05 (UG shs 13.144.740) for Archbishop Janani Luwum school in Kitgum on the 5th July 2007.

we would like to use the money to build the Assembly Hall for the Memory of JEAN MCBRIDE. it will be a blessing when the management, parents, Children and the teachers have external exchnage programmes for the two institutions where necessary.

The School has the following Population: -

Nursery Pupils K 1- K3	37	Teachers	15
Primary Children P1 - P5	268	Classrooms Nursery	3
		classrooms Primary	6

The numbers are increasing every year and the pupils are growing both Spiritually and intellectually.

We the management of St. Janani Luwum School send greetings to Bishop Ben and mama Alice, Andrea Kirkham, and her school Authority, Parents and the Children (we love them) and to George and our Mother Jean Mc. Bride. We pray that God Almighty continue keeping her (Psalms 31:3-5)

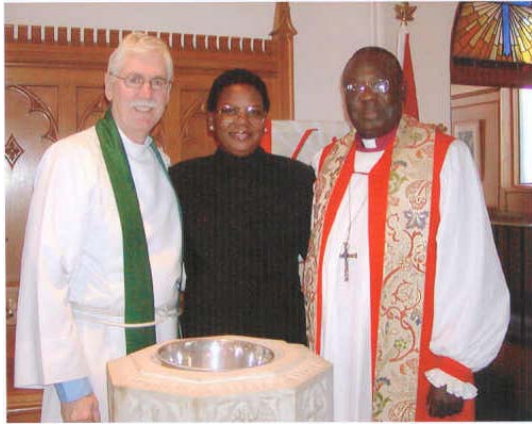
Thanks

Says Rev. Concy Amigo (Head Teacher)

Kenneth Arop P'Acire (Chairman School Management Committee)

BISHOP BEN OGVAL VISITS ST. JAMES WESTMINSTER

On Sunday, October 28th, St. James welcomed Bishop Ben Ogwal (a former theological student from this church) and his wife Alice to our 8:30 am service. Bishop Ben acted as celebrant at this service, following which many people gathered to share a continental breakfast and share memories.



Our rector, Archdeacon Kenneth Anderson with Alice Ogwal and Bishop Ben Ogwal.



Jean McBride, parishioner & long-time friend, with Alice Ogwal and Bishop Ben Ogwal.

Dear Ken:

Alice and I wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to you and Mary Lou for making it possible for us to not only visit with you and the good people of St. James Westminster but also to meet old friends from around the Diocese of Huron - joining in that great Service and making new ones like the Dixons and Margaret Aziz. It was good to meet the Bishops - Bruce and Bob and for taking us to the new Synod Office. It was good to have met the Chaplain at the College and the lady who agreed to process my Degrees for me. It was such a great joy to have met and prayed for Lois in the hospital and I heard that she is back home or at a rehab. centre. It was such a blessing to meet your sister Joan and shared a good tasty lunch together. Please convey our thanks to all who came out to the 8:30 AM Service and shared breakfast with us and also asked many questions about Uganda and our lives.

It was such a joy for us to meet again our good friends George Aziz, Jean & George McBride and Alice Richings whom we had dinners with on Saturday night and Monday night. We were so pleased because all of them have been sick and so it was a good opportunity to visit and we will continue to pray for each other. We have since spoken with all of them. George, Alice, Jean and George, thank you very much indeed. George, you are specially now invited to sit with Jean in Church, will you please!

Staying with Norma and Lew was just a delight because they absolutely spoiled us with so much cooking from the time we arrived at their house to the time we left. Everything was homemade and Norma put so much energy into everything she cooked. We will always be thankful for their love and hospitality. They truly have that gift. We will send them a thank you note under a separate cover.

Please convey our thanks to your daughter Hillary, Mark and little Sophia. I hope she is feeling better. It was good to have met your son Richard and his girlfriend Erica. We did speak with Richard when we called your house to thank you for everything. He is truly a good young man pursuing his education well. We wish him every blessing.

Finally, we thank you and Mary Lou again for making this possible and for the \$600 Canadian that helped with our transportation. I hope you had a good time at the Cottage up North.

Again, thanks and God bless
+Ben & Alice

REPORT ON PERU

Standing quite still, a little intimidated from our entrance into this cold, cement building, we watched as a huge steel door slammed shut behind us and several bolts clanked to lock us inside a women's prison in Lima, Peru. Reticent at first to even go inside a South American prison, we were assured we would find the Nursery area of the prison a pleasant experience. Concern for our safety and a language barrier had us a little uneasy as we surrendered our passports to the guards (these had to be faxed to the prison prior to our arrival). We had our forearms stamped with an ink stamp that allowed us to get in and out of the prison and then we were each led separately into a cubical where we were frisked, head to toe. We had two ladies from the Cathedral accompany us inside. 'Mother' Lucha, as known by the prison women, is a volunteer who teaches sewing, knitting and crafts at the prison - she only speaks spanish. Susan, the Dean's wife, was our interpreter.

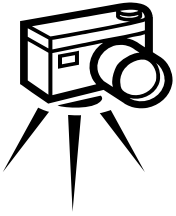
The only item we were permitted to bring into the prison was a roll of film. It had to be handed over to the prison guards who inspected it and loaded it into a prison camera - the guard was the photographer for the initial few pictures. Hats and sunglasses were forbidden, just in case one of the inmates took them and tried to use them as a disguise to escape. The women in this prison are in for a variety of reasons, but the most common reasons are drug trafficking and murder.

We were led through a courtyard where prison women sat in the blazing sun, not really having much to do. The women leave their cells at 7 am and are not allowed to return until bedtime. Walking through the courtyard reminded us of scenes from movies, where inmates are 'hanging out'. Some were lined up waiting to use the pay phones, others huddled and cuddled together.

Upon entering the nursery area, we were greeted by a large sign - "Welcome Canadians". The atmosphere changed once inside the nursery. Children from birth to 3 years are allowed to stay with their mothers in the prison - 42 children were there at the time of our visit. We visited classrooms for ages one, two and three. I fell in love with a beautiful wee girl with black, curly hair walking towards me. I knelt down and put her on my knee with my arm around her. After a few minutes I took my arm away, thinking she probably would join the other children. Instead she took my hand and placed it around her again and then kissed me on the cheek. No language barrier - only God's love. In the last room, Debbie and Eleanor had a chance to hold newborn babies. It is hard to fathom that these children will spend the first three years of their life in a prison. Inmates act as nannies and teachers to get out of prison quicker for good behaviour. On a child's 3rd birthday, a party is held and then the same day the child is taken away from the mother and given to a grandparent, relative or foster family. One can only imagine the heartache a mother must go through having to say goodbye to her child while she spends years in prison. Sometimes the lives of the children on the 'outside' are worse than being in prison, depending on where the child is sent. In prison, mothers must purchase their own formula, diapers and baby food. If there is no one to help financially, then the child will be given bread and milk.

Part way through our tour, the guard handed us the camera to take some pictures that we wanted. It was impossible at this point to take pictures of the general population, only the nursery area. We were ushered outside to a courtyard, where we were served refreshments. At this point we were greeted, "Welcome, we have a special show for you. Thank you for your big heart in helping us". A fashion show was presented to us with the children's outfits being made by their mothers. Lucha teaches these women crafts, possibly to use once they are released. Upon completion of the fashion show, a dance was performed by a young girl who has been in prison for 4 years so far, and has 16 more years to go. Handmade purses were displayed and we were encouraged to purchase, to help these moms feed and clothe their babies. This was a very special day for these women. Some of the wool and sewing supplies that we brought with us were given to Lucha for her 'girls'.

Showing our stamp to the guards on our way out, we were led back to the courtyard and entrance room. The guarded door was unbolted again and we found ourselves standing on the 'outside', thankful we had decided to visit the prison women and take home a memory which we will never forget.



NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY

Every four to five years our church authorizes the publication of a new Photo Directory that will include parishioners' individual or family photos. We use this intensively as one tool to help us recognize one another and remember names.

We are encouraging everyone to take part. There is no cost to you AND you receive a **free** copy of the directory just for having your photo taken.

Photo sessions will take place in January and take only about 35 minutes. *Please help us* by scheduling your own appointment on the sign-up sheets in the Great Hall.

BAPTISMS

Our next service of Baptism is December 30th, the last Sunday of the year. Please speak to Ken or Ann for more information.

FROM THE BACK PEW

Getting out of the Slough of Despond

I haven't thought of the word 'slough' for years, and wouldn't have again had I not been roaming around in my Thesaurus looking for a synonym for melancholy and came across 'slough of despond'.

The word slough itself isn't very elegant but it does describe an element of my prairie boyhood landscape – a patch of wetland, or would-be wetland if the rain ever came. It could be a veritable wonderland if conditions were right. It would hold the first green shoots of spring, the first families of frogs: tadpoles, then peepers, which would morph into full-fledged Bullfrogs among the bulrushes. There might be a family or two of Mallard or Pintail ducks, maybe some Prairie Chickens or Hungarian Partridges nesting on the edges with gophers peeping out of their holes a little further out in the prairie grass. Maybe even a willow tree on this 'treeless' land.

Why would anyone want to leave this sort of place to go across a continent and an ocean to find themselves in the mud-hell trenches of Flanders where much of the Canadian army fought – and died in the Great War as it came to be known?

Which brings me back to melancholy. For a number of reasons this year's Remembrance Day turned into more like Remembrance Month for me. My wartime (WW2) navigator as well as our mid-upper gunner had been sidelined with poor health earlier on so our 'crew' events – at home, the Legion and mess became solo ones for me this year.

On the plus side a small gathering for worship at Grandwood on the 4th, an excellent service at St. James on November 11, and a beautiful evening concert at Wesley-Knox next door the following Saturday made for much personal reflection on the subject of war and remembrance. Not all of it negative.

The enthusiastic singing of Oh Canada at all these events reinforces the idea that there has been a resurgence of understanding of sacrifice in our nation. Perhaps this is due to the reporting on our soldiers in Afghanistan or perhaps it is a sign of maturity in our society. At any rate, this old airman appreciates it.

Lloyd 'Mo' Morrison



ST. JAMES SKATING PARTY DECEMBER 14TH from 7 to 9 pm

at

Storybook Gardens

The twinkling Storybook skating trail has been reserved just for St. James parishioners. Please bring a donation for the Food Bank and join us for this fun evening. The kids are welcome to bring a friend. The concession stand will be open to us for snacks and beverages.



FAMILY MINISTRY MATTERS



We have been talking and learning about Advent and Christmas over the past few weeks with our Faith Quest kids. We have heard Christ's birth story as told by the angels who brought the good news to Mary and to the shepherds. To enhance our studies we have made angel

Advent cards and Angel cookies, played computer games and watched 'A Charlie Brown Christmas'. This movie really does focus on the real meaning of Christmas—surely, everyone remembers the little forlorn tree left all alone. We can draw parallels between the care that Jesus showed to the unfortunate and the outcast and the care shown by Charlie Brown to that little tree.

The Birth story from the point of the Wise Men is a great way to look at Christmas and we will do just that as we wait to celebrate the coming of Jesus. The concepts we will share with the kids during their workshops are very simple: God leads us to Jesus; Jesus is the light of the world; we are called to offer our gifts to Jesus and as followers of Jesus, we worship him as our Lord. Our workshops will include: a puppet show, a kitchen project, computer games and watching the movie 'Jacob's Gift'. In each of these classes the children will learn about the many ways that they can offer their gifts to Jesus and to others.

This season we look forward to some wonderful St James events including our Advent Intergenerational Potluck on December 2nd, the Christmas play called "Christmas Then and Now" and our St James Storybook skating evening on December 14 from 7-9 pm.

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers who share their gifts with our kids generously every week in order to make this Faith Quest Sunday School work so well.

ST. JAMES YOUTH

What a great fall we have had together in our 4 youth groups here at St James. Along with our regular program of meetings and guest speakers, we have had a thought-provoking youth service centred on poverty, our reactions to it and actions we can take towards understanding and eliminating it. We look forward to our next service on December 2nd when the focus will be on Advent and the waiting time before Christmas. Each youth group will make an Advent wreath for their meeting room as a reminder of the significance and the rituals of this season for Christians. We will liven things up on Sunday, December 16th at our regular meeting time with an Advent celebration including making decorations, treats and music.



Our youth have also been involved in some community building when 'The Tribe' group attended the Victoria Park cenotaph service on Remembrance Day and 'The Seekers' group led a service for seniors at Trafalgar Terrace. We have had some fun and socializing too with a raucous trip to the Belmont Corn Maze, a Halloween themed Friday night social and a cooking night with our most recent Taize pilgrim group right here in the St James kitchen. This particular evening was eventful as a few of the youth peeled potatoes and browned ground beef for the first time, and had fun doing it. It truly was an exercise in teamwork and giving, as all of the casseroles and lasagnas were put in the freezer to be ready for those in our parish who may be ill, grieving or celebrating a birth. Thanks to all who participated and watch out for flying clementines!

*A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas to all!
Ann Teetzel De Bono, Director, Family Ministry*

The Presence of Christmas William Arthur Ward

1) "Christmas is not just a season,
Christmas is not just a day,
Christmas is more than a reason
For parties, presents and play.

2) Christmas is truly the essence
Of joy that the Savior brings;
Christmas is surely the presence
Of Jesus, the Kings of Kings!"

GREEN TEAM REPORT

The Green Team is pleased to report that we have met monthly since September and are very encouraged by the support of the parish staff and volunteers. We continue to discuss what we at St James can do to preserve our sacred world. Our Action Plan includes exploring the following: an energy audit of the building, Fair Trade coffee at events and Coffee Hour, monitoring our water usage, use of recycled paper for office use, more efficient recycling and lighting systems and the use of pesticides on our property.

We are guided by an organization called *Faith and the Common Good*, which is a national interfaith network dedicated to bringing people of all faiths together to dialog and take action on issues of creation care and eco justice. *Faith and the Common Good* “encourages interfaith/ intercultural dialogue, education and unified action for people everywhere. By acknowledging our diversity as well as our common interest in caring for others and the planet, we will model a 21st Century way of life.”—website: www.faith-commongood.net

The following excerpt is from their *Green Guide for Faith Communities*:

Why should we look after the natural world? Our whole world, built and organic, personal and professional, embodies the divine. All elements, animate and inanimate, are imbued with spirit and are part of the web of creation.

We are one species in a wonderfully complex, interactive matrix of living beings. Since time immemorial, these myriad life forms have collectively created a healthy environment for life on this planet; the only place in the universe where we know life exists

For too long, humans have treated the Earth solely as a resource for meeting human needs. Our actions are now threatening the biospheric systems on which all life depends, causing climate change and the worldwide destruction of forests, fisheries and wildlife.

Life is sacred—and we must do what we can to preserve it.

BEAD FOR LIFE EVENT

As many of you know, we had a fun and successful BeadforLife event on November 20th, where we raised over \$1600 in support of bead makers and jewelry makers in Acholi, Uganda. Thanks to Ronda, Holly and Stephanie Pearson for organizing this wonderful evening. More information is available on the Beadforlife.org website.

ACES HIGH

A social group that meets on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday of the month to play bridge and euchre. You do not need a partner, but are welcome to bring a friend. Please arrive at 12:45 pm to begin playing at 1:00 pm SHARP.

Refreshments served. \$2.00 cover charge.

Chairperson: Lyon Barnum 519-453-3034

“POWERHOUSE OF PRAYER”

Prayer Workshop at St. James Westminster

Saturday, February 9/08 from 9 am to 3 pm

Facilitator: The Rev. Jane Fletcher

More details to come in the new year.

Contact Bette Cunningham at 519-686-0650 for more information.

NEW ST. JAMES YOUTH WEBSITE, linked to our regular St James homepage

Our Family Ministry assistant, Jen Cripps is a computer and graphics wiz and put together a fun and useful website full of photos and info on what we our St James youth and their fabulous leaders are up to. There are monthly calendars, making it easy for families to plan activities, and lots of other great stuff—so have a look and see if you recognize anyone. Thanks again Jen and thanks also to Tim Fewster for his help in making this website a reality!

