

# WESTMINSTER CHIMES



**Saint James Westminster Church**  
**115 Askin Street, London ON N6C 1E7**  
**Telephone: (519) 432-1915**  
**e mail: stjameswest@bellnet.ca**  
**website: www.saintjameswestminster.ca**

**Christmas 2009**

## INTERIM RECTOR'S MESSAGE

"For unto us a child is born..." (Isaiah 9:6)

Earlier today in church (this is written on Sunday November 29<sup>th</sup>), we celebrated the first of the four Sundays in Advent. Many elements of the worship service illustrated that we had entered a new season of preparation for Christmas: the first candle in the Advent wreath was lit, our prayers included the Advent refrain "Lord Jesus, come soon!", the congregation sang the stirring Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," the choir sang beautifully (as always) an anthem with a contemplative Advent theme, and in the sermon I jabbered away about Advent being a time for "creative waiting."

My hope was that the congregation had been inspired by our worship to incorporate a little of the spirit of Advent into each day between now and Christmas.

But I was still a little fuzzy about how best to keep myself focused on the underlying message of Advent, and not become sidetracked by the unavoidable and largely enjoyable busyness of the next few weeks.

It was at that moment when one of our fellow parishioners unintentionally reminded me (and we need constant reminding, don't we?) of the whole point behind readying ourselves for Christmas during Advent. I was walking towards the parish hall after the worship service when he stopped me to say that he and his wife were expecting a baby. We often describe expectant mothers as "glowing," but this expectant father literally beamed radiantly as he told me his exciting news: a child is to be born. And what more need be said?

Over the coming four weeks of Advent I anticipate being distracted from the Christian message of the season hundreds of times. I suspect that you will be too. But this year, an expectant father's joyous news – "we're expecting a baby" – will be a helpful reminder that a similar announcement made long, long ago – "For unto us a child is born" – are among the most significant words we will ever hear and take to heart.



I wish all of you a peaceful Advent,  
 and a joyful Christmas.  
 Keith



## A Moment To Reflect In A Busy Season

On Tuesday evenings, during the weeks of Advent, (December 1, 8, 15, and 22), we will be gathering in the Chapel to steal a moment from the business of December to pause and reflect upon the miracle of the season. Gathering around the Lord's Table at 7:00 p.m. and concluding no later than 7:45 p.m., we will together pause to consider the gifts and challenges of this season. So, consider giving this early Christmas gift to yourself. You'll be glad you did.

Rev'd Val



## SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER



- |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dec. 6th</b>  | <b>Holy Communion 8:30 &amp; 10:30</b>                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Dec. 13th</b> | <b>Holy Communion 8:30 am</b><br><b>Holy Communion &amp; Children's Pageant at 10:30</b>                                                                                                               |
| <b>Dec. 20th</b> | <b>Holy Communion 8:30 &amp; 10:30</b><br><b>Lessons &amp; Carols 7:00 pm</b><br>Our awesome, awe-inspiring<br>Candlelight service with traditional<br>readings, hymns & anthems<br>(Nursery provided) |
| <b>Dec. 24th</b> | <b>Candlelight Communion 7 pm</b><br>(with Nursery)<br><b>Candlelight Communion 11 pm</b>                                                                                                              |
| <b>Dec. 25th</b> | <b>Holy Communion 10:00 am</b>                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Dec. 27th</b> | <b>Holy Communion 8:30 am</b><br><b>Communion &amp; Baptism 10:30</b><br>with <b>Denise Pelley, Soloist</b>                                                                                            |

## ADVENT: A Time of Waiting

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God...He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.*  
Isaiah 40:21-31

Advent is a time of waiting...and we all know about waiting. On some levels everyone is waiting for something. It seems to be part of the human condition. Sometimes our waiting is easy, perhaps requiring a little patience but not much else, like when we grab a number at the bakery, counting down to our turn at the counter. Sometimes our waiting can be full of hope and expectation as we wait for the birth of a new child or grandchild, or an anticipated promotion or new opportunity; and yet there are also those other times when our waiting can be more difficult, full of anxiety, pain and sorrow, as we from time to time might find ourselves engaged in a serious life struggle or are the companions of those struggling through daily challenges. But one thing is certain. In a world that gets faster by the minute, waiting challenges us. And it is even more certain that the more difficult the waiting, the more we are pushed to our limits.

When I was a little girl, my father used to call me the "Instant Kid!" You can guess how I got that name, I was *terrible* at waiting. If I wanted something, I wanted it right away, I did *not* want to have to wait for it. I saw no value in the "waiting part"; I only saw value in the "getting" part; for to me waiting represented a lacked of action. Waiting was all about inactivity, nothingness, empty space. As the years passed, I did get better at waiting and slowly came to realize that while waiting is part of the human condition, I can either wait well or *not* so well. Far from being a time of inactivity it becomes clear that waiting is quite the opposite. It can actually be a time packed full of action; t not action as I used to imagine it, but rather action as an opportunity given us to be shaped and formed by God, if we are open to that.



Waiting well, it would seem is actively engaging ourselves in lives of confident expectation. In waiting well we are promised both a renewed strength in our continuing, and the gift of a new perspective, but not just any perspective. This new perspective will be that of an eagle who flies high above the situations of any particular moment and is in her circular motions able to grasp the bigger picture and the larger view in a single glance.

So as we begin this new season, this season of joyful expectation of Christ's coming, may we all be reminded of the renewed strength and fresh perspective given to us by our God; and at those sometimes challenging times of our waiting, may we confidently fix our eyes, our hope and our hearts fully upon Christ Jesus.

Val Kenyon  
Assistant Curate



**TAIZE**

**PRESERVES**

**RANGERS**

**CHRISTMAS PARISH BAKE SALE & MINI BAZAAR**

**December 6th after Both Services**

Purchase and enjoy lots of mouth-watering goodies.  
Also do some Christmas shopping!

**DELI ITEMS**

**BAKING**

**PERU**



## FAITH QUEST SUNDAY SCHOOL

The St. James Faith Quest has had a busy fall. Since the Harvest edition of the chimes, we have learned about Daniel in the Lion's Den and praying like Daniel using ACTS - Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication/Send Help. In November we learned about All Saints, specifically St. Paul using a computer program in the Mouse House, St. Nicholas in the Bread of Life Cafe, and in the Creation Station Mother Teresa (who is actually not a saint yet, she was beatified in 2003 as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, but it teaches us about the process of becoming a saint).

We are currently learning about the role of Angels and Shepherds in the advent birth narrative. We have created 3D angels and shepherds in the Creation Station, explored the story with Fluffy and God in the Mouse House, and watched the movie *The Stableboy's Christmas* in Holywood.

Here's a question to ponder - why do you think God shared the news of Jesus' birth with lowly shepherds? Ask one of our Faith Quest kids (grades 1-5) - they might have the answer for you!

The St. James Young Children and Worship class is also doing well. We invited the Rev. Sue Malpus (Diocesan Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator) to lead a training in the YCW program philosophy. It was a small group, but very successful. Hopefully we can repeat this training in the new year for more volunteers.

November 29th marked the annual Advent Intergenerational Event - We enjoyed a worship lead by Rev. Val, making crafts and cookies for our families and St. James shut ins, and fellowship as we shared a pot luck dinner. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped this event be successful!

December 6th we hosted a parent and volunteer appreciation breakfast. We used this time to offer training and rejuvenation. We are truly thankful for everything the youth and adult volunteers do for our young children. More volunteers are always needed - many hands make light work!

### Sunday School events to look forward to:

**December 13th** - During the 10:30 service the children will present the play "The Christmas Present."



**January** - the parable of the "Prodigal Son"

**February** - Psalm 23

**February 17th, 2010** - Ash Wednesday Children's Program

A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas to all!  
Laura Manias and Ann Teetzel De Bono

## 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 (226) 663-6100.

This year we will be decorating the church on Friday, December 11th at 9:30 am.

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's day. If you are interested, please speak to Barbara Giampa.

## CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

The clergy of the parish will be bringing home Communion to about 30 people from the congregation. If you, or someone in your family, would like a visit please contact the Church office at 519-432-1915.



## SAMARITAN'S PURSE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

53 boxes were donated of useful and delightful Christmas gifts for children in developing countries. \$300 was also given to help send the boxes to their destination.

Thank you for your generosity.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Committee is happy to report that the Bishop has presented three excellent candidates for our consideration. Over the last month, members of the committee have been visiting the candidates' churches and have been preparing interview questions.

We have interviews arranged with all three candidates and will move forward with the selection process in a prayerful and deliberative way. Please look forward to more news early in the new year.

Merry  
Christmas

## FROM THE BACK PEW



### King of the Hill

Lloyd 'Mo' Morrison

"It's going to be a thin Christmas."

"No worse than last, I guess."

That's about all I heard as I came through the doorway and into the warm kitchen where my mother and 'Grampa' were taking a breather before the rest of the gang came in for dinner. We called it dinner then, but it was at noon and there was only about a half-hour to get eight of us kids and in and out and back to school.

It was only a couple of years into the Great Depression and history tells us there was no place harder hit than southern Manitoba, particularly in the small towns where 'living off the land' was not an option.

But I didn't know it. I thought it was a wonderful place and time to be ten years old and, aside from having to wear hand-me-down pants passed on from an uncle who had gone to war and had previously been worn by my three older brothers, really didn't have a care in the world.

But this 'thin Christmas' suggestion did set up some wonderment. What did it mean? Did it mean that Aunt Jessie, the only relative we had who was gainfully employed, and was counted upon for an annual box that arrived from Eaton's each year wasn't going to come through this time? Aunt Jessie was a nurse, and lived away off 'in the city', (Winnipeg). She had never married and was thought to be quite rich - probably paid more than two or three hundred a year my eldest brother had said.

Maybe she was going on a diet again and this 'thin' business was just that. I sure hoped that was the case.

### FACE TO THE SUNSHINE

This Fall, after all the book sales and expenses were finalized, St. James was able to send a contribution of over three thousand dollars to the Huron Hunger Fund.



Here follows a note of appreciation from our Bishop:

*On behalf of the Huron Hunger Fund, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks for you generous donation of \$3266.15.*

*This contribution, from the profits of the sale of Archdeacon Ken Anderson's book, Face to the Sunshine, is greatly appreciated and on its way to help those facing desperate emergency situations, and to implement programs that educate in areas of health care and skill development. The quality of life for many, especially children, will be helped because of your contribution.*

### NOW IS THE TIME

The offering envelopes for 2010 will be issued very shortly.

Now is the best time to request envelopes or to make changes to your envelope account, especially the choice of which family member will receive your charitable donation receipt for the upcoming year.

Please submit any requests or queries by Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>:

- \* to the Church office in writing OR
- \* to Christine Thorpe (envelope secretary) by telephone 519-858-1752 or email [cthorne@isp.ca](mailto:cthorne@isp.ca)



Thank you for your prompt attention.  
Christine



### NEWCOMER LUNCHES



A special thanks to Natalie and Tim Tattersall and Loretta and Brian Hillier for their gracious hospitality in hosting the two recent newcomer lunches. What a wonderful way for those new to St. James to connect to the more "seasoned" parishioners and for us all to get to know each other a little better. Without question, both the food and the fellowship were fantastic!

Newcomer lunches happen several times throughout the year. If you were unable to attend these recent lunches, don't be shy. Just let us know and we'll be sure you're on the next guest list.

## ST. JAMES YOUTH

*The vision of our youth groups is to be God centred and to demonstrate our faith through action. We are rooted in the diverse Anglican tradition. Through worship, teamwork, talent, resources and dedication, we are: a place of worship, an environment in which to build skills, develop one's self and grow in relationship with God, and a community that inspires and empowers all who are involved and all who are touched.*

A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas to all!

St James Youth activities are often noisy, always lively and engaging. We are so thankful to have the support of staff, volunteers and the parish in general in this journey as we walk together with our young adults. The events we plan and participate in are many and varied, but always get us talking about, and living out our Christian faith and our relationships with one another while we create the Kingdom.

Just this past month our Junior Disciples (grade 12/post secondary group) met and enjoyed a meal together and then set to baking desserts for the Community Dinner served weekly by our sisters and brothers at St John the Evangelist. We learned that tea towels do not always make the best potholders and that the new oven has a delayed timer on it that may slow down the baking process! This we did for the Huron Week2Serve initiative—it was so much fun that we will definitely come up with another such project in the new year.

All of our youth were very interested in what this month's guest speaker had to say about her experiences in Africa over the past two years. Marissa Izma (from St. James, Stratford) and her friend Kimberly Hurlley set out for Zambia in January of 2008 with no agenda and no affiliation with any organization. From this adventurous beginning, and with the help of the locals in a rural village called Kibombomene, these two 24 year olds have created Same World Same Chance ([www.sameworldsamechance.org](http://www.sameworldsamechance.org)), "a project with the central intention to build a sustainable high school and health clinic for orphaned and vulnerable youth". St James Youth will continue to follow Marissa and Kimberly's work and support them as they continue this inspiring endeavour.

Our Taize 2010 youth continue to plan and fundraise for their pilgrimage in July. Fifteen youth and their 4 leaders will set off to discover a community of faith like no other where thousands of young people from the world over gather weekly with the brothers of Taize for prayers, song, bible study, fellowship and a wonderful cross-cultural experience. To support this blessed journey we will hold a fundraising event on February 6 in conjunction with a London Knights hockey game. Stay tuned for much more information—but mark your calendars now!! To learn more about the Taize community, go to: [www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr). A big thank you goes to the Tribe youth (Taize 2009) for leading us in Taize prayers at Sunday Night Live in November and December.

In other outreach projects our youth have served at a Community Dinner at St John the Evangelist (thank you Brian, Michelle, Kaylee, Holly, Alison and Maddie) and led worship at Trafalgar Terrace (thank you Tribe members and leaders!) Here at St James our youth are involved as youth group members, fundraisers, intercessors, readers, servers, Sunday School leaders, lay administrators, sidespeople, Sunday Night Live worship leaders, Community breakfast volunteers and much more.

Truly wonderful Anglican youth-related sites and blogs you will want to check out: [www.saintjamesyouth.ca](http://www.saintjamesyouth.ca), [www.huronyouth.ca](http://www.huronyouth.ca), [www.justgeneration.ca](http://www.justgeneration.ca), [www.generation.anglican.ca](http://www.generation.anglican.ca)



### ADVENT INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP & POTLUCK DINNER

Huron youth are highlighted each month on the back page of the Huron Church News. Check it out to see stories, photos, book reviews and resources all dedicated to enriching the Christian experience of our young people.

### UPDATE ON KITGUM SCHOOL

In August, we sent \$3849.89 in American funds to our school in Kitgum. Bishop Ben told me that's more than a million Uganda shillings. I haven't heard anything from them yet. Thank you to the people who donated.

Love and hugs,  
Jean McBride

## *Archdeacon Jack Doidge's 70th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood*

A remarkable achievement, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of Archdeacon Jack Doidge, was celebrated at St. James Westminster, London, during Sunday worship services on October 25<sup>th</sup>. St. James Westminster was also where Jack was baptized in 1915, ordained by Bishop Allen Seager in 1939, and served as assistant curate. His distinguished career included appointments as rector of several parishes in the Diocese of Huron, and wartime service as a military chaplain in Quebec and British Columbia, before moving to Winnipeg in the Diocese of Rupert's Land. In 1962 Jack became rector of St. Matthias, Westmount and Archdeacon of Montreal where he served until his retirement in 1983. After an absence of forty-four years, Jack and his wife Betty returned to St. James Westminster where they have been cherished parishioners for the past twenty-six years.



Until just two years ago Jack was a very active honorary assistant to the rector of the parish, and participated in officiating at worship every Sunday. At the worship service commemorating Archdeacon Doidge's seventy years of ordained ministry, several tributes were read, including personalized messages from the Governor General of Canada, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, and the Bishops of the Diocese of Huron. The liturgy that day included some of Jack's favorite hymns and scriptural passages. Everyone who knows Jack would agree with Betty, his wife of sixty-two years, who has described him as "a devoted and concerned priest, and all round jovial human being, with a hearty laugh."



## **MALT SHOPPE MEMORIES**

The St. James Westminster family enjoyed another evening of musical fun and fellowship on November 7<sup>th</sup> with "Malt Shoppe Memories" featuring "The Satiniques".

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Please note the following events below and be in touch with Rev'd Val should you wish to participate in any of them.

#### **Baptismal Preparation Class**

Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

#### **Service of Holy Baptism**

Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

#### **Life in the Eucharist:**

#### **A Communion Program for Children**

Early in new year

#### **Confirmation Preparation Classes**

#### **for Adults and Youth**

Late winter, early spring



### **MISSION TO PERU**

We are planning to return to Peru in March, 2010.

When you are holidaying this season, please keep our "friends in Peru" in mind and save the hotel shampoo, body wash, and lotion.

The Rake Family

Don't miss Ann De Bono's article on her United Nations Commission on the Status of Women experience this month in the Huron Church News, timed to recognize Human Rights Day on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

## *An Update from the St. James Westminster Church Foundation*

The Directors of your Foundation determined this year that a review should be undertaken of the by-law which governs the operation of the St. James Westminster Church Foundation. This has led to the development of a series of amendments which will be taken to the next annual meeting of Vestry, scheduled for January 31, 2010. Article 14 of the by-law calls for any proposed amendments to be reviewed for input by both Members of the Foundation and by Vestry, prior to being accepted by a subsequent meeting of Foundation Directors and Members. A meeting of Directors and Members held on November 18, 2009, endorsed the proposed changes, and supported their being taken to Vestry. In order that those who are interested may review the proposed changes as soon as possible, both a summary and the full text of the By-Law including proposed amendments will be available in the church and from the church office starting on December 6, 2009. The full text of the by-law will be part of the agenda package for the Vestry meeting.

While many of the changes are of the so-called "housekeeping" variety, (such as changing the name of Board of Management to Parish Council and Auditors to Accountants) there are some substantive changes proposed. For example, it is proposed to increase the number of elected Directors to eight from six and to introduce a normal maximum of two four-year terms for Directors.

Please review this material at your convenience. Any questions should be directed to John Thorpe. (519-850-9977 or at [jbmthorpe@gmail.com](mailto:jbmthorpe@gmail.com))

John Thorpe, Chair,

St. James Westminster Church Foundation



### **What Do We Love About Christmas?**

What do we love about Christmas;  
Does our delight reside in things?  
Or are the feelings in our hearts  
The real gift that Christmas brings.  
It's seeing those we love,  
And sending Christmas cards, too,  
Appreciating people who bring us joy  
Special people just like you.

*By Joanna Fuchs*

