

# WESTMINSTER CHIMES



**Saint James Westminster Church**  
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**Christmas 2011**

## Church Alive!

Of all the comments from visitors attending our parish, the one I hear most often is, "This is a lively place!" Visitors sense an energy and enthusiasm at St. James Westminster Church that is not apparent in many other Anglican churches. They experience a vibrant, thriving, multi-generational community where members feel good about their church and each other. Yes, we have superb worship, an excellent family life ministry, outstanding pastoral care and a multitude of programs and activities, but visitors sense our spirit – a church that is alive to God where Jesus is Lord and the Holy Spirit is active. No wonder visitors take notice of us – this parish proclaims loud and clear: God Is Here!

We have our challenges, to be sure. However, we are challenged as a parish because we are growing rather than declining, expanding our vision rather than restricting it, reaching more people rather than fewer people, and maintaining our church campus rather than allowing it to fall into disrepair. We are moving beyond our comfort zone, refusing to settle for the status quo, and stretching toward new horizons.

Somewhere I read about the difference between live churches and dead ones.

- ◆ Live churches' expenses are always more than their income; dead churches don't need much money.
- ◆ Live churches have parking problems; dead churches have empty spaces.
- ◆ Live churches have some noisy children; dead churches are quiet as a cemetery.
- ◆ Live churches keep changing their ways of doing things; dead churches see no need for change.
- ◆ Live churches are full of regular, cheerful givers; dead churches are full of grudging tippers.
- ◆ Live churches move ahead on prayer and faith; dead churches work only on sight.
- ◆ Live churches expand their church school facilities; dead churches have room to spare.
- ◆ Live churches welcome all classes of people; dead churches stick to their own kind.
- ◆ Live churches are composed of winners; dead churches are filled with whiners.
- ◆ Live churches have members who share their faith in Jesus; dead churches have members who don't have enough faith to share.

Would you agree with me that St. James Westminster Church is a live church and not dead? Therefore, it is a church worthy of our best efforts and financial support. Heather and I give generously and sacrificially to this parish and I hope you will also.

If you are not already doing so, in 2012 why not consider giving 5% of your income to the church and earmarking an additional 5% for other causes and charities? Some of us are giving a full tithe to the church, while others are striving to tithe. Some of us give special gifts for capital improvements and renovations, while others support need-meeting ministries. With your support, this parish will thrive in the coming years, impact our community, transform lives and be a beacon of hope in our diocese and in the Anglican Church of Canada.

On behalf of Heather and Allison, may I extend to you, the dear people of St. James Westminster Church, a blessed Christmas!

Your Friend and Rector,  
The Rev. Dr. Gary Nicolosi

## Christmas Worship Services

**Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 pm Christmas Lessons & Carols**  
with Candle Lighting, followed by holiday treats in the parish hall.



### **Saturday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**4:00 pm Family Eucharist  
with Children's Christmas Pageant**

**7:00 pm Christmas Jazz Mass**

**10:00 pm Solemn Eucharist of Christmas Eve, with Choir**

### **Sunday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY**

**10:00 am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion,  
with Hymns**

**Sunday, January 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY at 10:00 am**  
**Traditional Eucharist from the Book of Alternative Services, with Hymns**

### **Sunday, January 8 EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

**8:30 am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion**

**9:30 am Rector's Forum: A Study of Jesus**

**10:30 am Contemporary Holy Eucharist with Choir**

*Note: Please note the new times of many of these services.*

## We Decorate for Christmas

The flowers and greenery for Christmas are purchased with donations made by the parish members. All donations are most appreciated and will be acknowledged in your yearly tax receipt. Please complete the donation form included with the weekly church bulletin or contact the church office no later than December 15th.



**Decorating the church will take place on  
Friday, December 16th at 9:30 am.  
Everyone is welcome!**

## Christmas Home Communions

The Visitation team will soon be preparing to take home communions out to those no longer able to get to worship services on Sundays. If you would like a visit, or know of someone who would, please speak to Rev'd Val or call the office at 519-432-1915. We would be pleased to visit and take Christmas communion and greetings from the Church to any wishing it.



## **Advent Series – *For the Journey***

### **16 Ways to Energize Your Spiritual Life**

Do you have questions about your personal faith? Are trials getting the best of you or does your spiritual life just need a boost? If so, join Heather Nicolosi at a special 4-part Advent Series held on Sunday mornings (November 27, December 4, 11 and 18) from 9:30 to 10:15 in the Westminster Lounge and on Wednesday mornings (November 30, December 7, 14 and 21) from approximately 10:30 to noon. The Wednesday class will have more discussion and interaction. Class topics are:

#### Week 1

1. Know the major players – Who’s on first
2. Know who you are in Christ – Stranger or Friend
3. Know your enemy – No Mr. Nice Guy
4. Know what it takes – Guts and Glory

#### Week 2

5. Techniques to jump-start your prayer life
6. Techniques to bring the Bible alive
7. The importance of fellowship and prayer partners
8. Learning to listen to that still small voice within

#### Week 3

9. Why embracing trials and tribulations can build your faith
10. Understanding road blocks to spiritual growth
11. Remove barriers that bind
12. Why giving is so important

#### Week 4

13. How traditionalism can limit your spiritual life
14. What is your role in the kingdom of Heaven?
15. Cleanliness or Godliness
16. Your Destiny: God’s got a plan and it’s never too late to pursue it

### **A New Church Year...Some New (and old) Routines for Children and Youth**

Beginning on Sunday November 27 all ages will gather together at 10:30 am to light our Advent Wreath before going to groups and classes. The Nursery will continue to open at 10:15 for our smallest members. Youth classes are offered on the second and fourth Sundays of the month and a youth discussion group happens every third Sunday.



Over Advent look for our Giving Tree, created by the Church School as a place to collect hats, scarves and mittens which will be shared after Christmas so everyone has a safe and warm winter – watch God’s abundant love grow before our eyes!

As both Christmas and New Year’s Day fall on Sundays we will not be offering formal programs for children and youth and pray that these are times of both fun and rest for our families. Of course all ages are more than welcome at any of our services. Don’t forget the Pageant at 4 pm on Christmas Eve and the Jazz Mass at 7 pm or even the more traditional service at 10 pm!

***Blessings for a season full of joy and wonder from your Family Ministry Staff...  
Katy Clark, Shannon Kelly, Matt Martin, Laura Manias and Rev Gerry Adam***



*Let this be a sign to you:  
in a manger you will find an infant  
wrapped in swaddling clothes*

**Good news...It's time to get ready  
for our Annual Christmas Pageant!**

Come be part of the story of Jesus' birth  
on Christmas Eve at 4 pm.

There will be a rehearsal on Saturday  
December 17 from 10 am to Noon.

There are lots of parts for all ages!

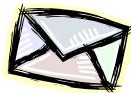
Sign up by contacting our Director of  
Family Ministry, Rev Gerry Adam:  
family@stjameswest.ca

**Servers**

We are very pleased to announce that we  
have five new and enthusiastic youth  
servers who are currently being trained.  
Your patience is appreciated as they learn  
their new role. If you know of any others  
who may be interested in joining this min-  
istry, please let Rev'd Val know. Training  
is provided, and no previous experience is  
needed.

**Now is the Time**

The offering envelopes for 2012 will be  
issued very shortly.



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

Please submit any requests or queries by Fri-  
day, December 9<sup>th</sup>:

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

**TASTE OF TAIZE REPORT**

Against the backdrop of a Paris cityscape  
and the flickering candles of Taize about  
one hundred and forty St James friends  
gathered in support of our youth pilgrims  
who will be journeying to these destina-  
tions next August 2012.

Everyone enjoyed the music provided by  
Suzanne and Duncan Grant, delicious  
hors d'oeuvres prepared by Chef Les  
Cooks, served by our young people and a  
very engaging live auction led by Derek  
Chick!

Many of you have heard me say more than  
once from my perspective within the Dio-  
cese of Huron as the Director of Huron  
Church Camp, we here at St James have  
an exceptional and unique program for  
youth and their raising up in faith and  
participation in the church - it was quite  
striking and quite moving to see this in  
action at this event!

On behalf of the families and especially  
our young pilgrims I extend heartfelt  
thanks to everyone who made this inspir-  
ing evening a great one! Not only are we  
on our way with our fundraising we en-  
joyed fellowship and fun as we supported  
the raising up of our young ones in faith!

*May God continue to be with us all on this  
awesome adventure! Gerry*



**Holy Baptism** is scheduled for  
December 18th. Please speak with Fa-  
ther Nicolosi if you are interested in  
baptism for adults or children. No one  
is ever turned away for Baptism,  
whether a member of the church or  
not.



# A Study of Jesus

*“Who do you say that I am?” (Mark 8:29).*

*This is one of the most important questions the Bible asks of every human being. Who do we say Jesus is? Is he a prophet, a teacher, a miracle worker, a revolutionary...or something more? Who is this Jesus that claims over two billion followers in the world today?*

**On Sunday, January 8, from 9:30 to 10:15 am in the Westminster Lounge,  
I am going to begin a 26-week study on the life of Jesus.**

As we study his journey from pre-existence to the cross and beyond, you will gain a working knowledge of his life and ministry. More importantly, with God’s help you will be moved to become more Christ-centered in your life and more Christ-like in your lifestyle.

Unlike many Bible studies, this one will be a harmonistic study of Jesus’ life. That means the four gospels will be studied in parallel form in order to provide one continuous narrative of his life. Sometimes a harmonistic study is confusing because of apparent discrepancies among the gospels. However, the gospel writers make no attempt to present the life of Christ chronologically. Instead, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they select and arrange the life of Christ according to their individual emphasis, so as to present a particular portrait of Christ to their readers. Therefore, in each gospel the life of Christ is presented in the context of each author’s theme, rather than in chronological order. As a result, each gospel is unique, yet complimentary, and supplementary, not contradictory, to the other gospels.

This 26-week study will provide a guide for those who desire seriously to study the life of Jesus. My hope is that you will be drawn into a closer relationship with Jesus and come to know his personal, powerful presence in your life.

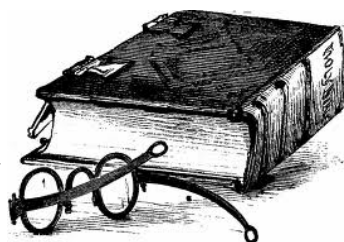
Study sheets will be provided at each session. To prepare for the classes, you may want to have a good study Bible, a harmony of the gospels and a reliable Bible dictionary. After each session, review your notes and, if possible, join a discussion group to reflect on the session’s themes. You will learn more with others than by yourself.

Finally, pray about your participation. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance to open your heart and mind to God’s message for your life. Even if you know very little about the Bible, you will gain a great deal from the course. So come to class, invite your friends, and be prepared to have your life transformed in Jesus.

The Rev. Dr. Gary Nicolosi  
Rector

## Read any good books lately?

Our St. James Westminster Library needs donations of books that you have read, found helpful and would be willing to donate. We would be interested in receiving reference books and any items that explore the many aspects of faith and Christian discipleship for all ages. Questions? Please speak to any of us at the Library table on Sundays, or give leave a message at the church office (519-432-1915) and someone from the Library Committee will get back in touch. Thank you.



## Pilgrimage 2012

The countdown is on! With just under 9 months to go the Taize Pilgrims of 2012 continue to be busy. Through the next year you will be seeing a lot of us as we move into adult roles in the church, as we host fundraisers, as we ask for your help in our faith development, as we plan Taize services with those who have gone before, and as we build momentum to take us to Taize France.

There are many ways we continue to need your support – first and foremost we need your prayers as we move on to this exciting part of our faith life development. We may also need your help in lending your expertise to us as we start new endeavours.

We will be having many fundraisers (not all here at church!) and we hope you will be excited as we are about them. We will be continuing our fundscrip program, This year we will be selling *Las Chicas Del Café* coffee by the pound. You still have time to buy a *Christmas tree* to be picked up/delivered in early December. We are also investigating an *Electronic Equipment Disposal* as a fundraiser It is an exciting time with so much to do.....watch for more information coming your way.

If you have any questions or ideas contact any of the pilgrimage families or Gerry, Val or Gary!



### **T.A.C.O.S. Youth Group** **(Teens Attached to Christ Our Saviour)**

The TACOS youth group is a group of teens (usually grade 6-9) who meet every Monday evening 6-7:30 pm at St. James Westminster. Every week we play games, eat snacks, and talk about scripture and our faith. The last few weeks we've been studying the book of James.

We have also: volunteered for the food bank, watched movies, played "minute to win it" games, and play hide and seek.



"TACOS is fun!" - *Colin Carruthers*

"TACOS is friendly, nice, God-Like. It helps us understand God." - *Daniel Aldcroft*

Future activities we'd like to do include tubing, random acts of kindness, visit with Elvis Presley, laser tag, bake and cook together, study the book of Romans ...and of course, eat pizza, drink pop and watch movies together!

It's a great time of friendship, conversation and fun; a time when even the youth pick up the Bible and put down their cell phones.

We hope to continue to do fun activities that are also in the spirit of Jesus. Please join us!

For more information contact

Matt Martin ([mattelvismartin@gmail.com](mailto:mattelvismartin@gmail.com)) or Laura Manias ([l\\_manias@hotmail.com](mailto:l_manias@hotmail.com), 519-630-2363)

Or join our Facebook group (search T.A.C.O.S. - Teens Attached to Christ our Saviour

## Prayer Bracelet Workshops

A special thanks to Welwyn Katz for leading 17 participants through her prayer bracelet workshops! Not only did these workshops raise \$343.00 for St. James, but they were also an opportunity for some wonderful fellowship.

Thank you Welwyn!



## The Bishop's Prayer Conference

On Friday, November 18, and Saturday, November 19, the Bishop's Prayer Conference, organized by the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, was pleased to welcome the Archdeacon Paul Feheley to St. James. He was well received by participants and accordingly to their evaluations, his reflections were very meaningful. Bishop Bob was also able to be with us for the morning, sharing his thoughts on prayer, commissioning Anglican Fellowship of Prayer representatives, and celebrating at our Eucharist. What a treat to have this conference right here in our own home. A special thanks to the Prayer Fellowship and friends who sponsored the delicious luncheon and refreshments. Next year's date for this conference has been set as **Saturday, November 3, 2012**, and will be exploring the topic of the transformative power of prayer. Hope to see you there.



## Notice of 2012 Vestry Meeting

Mark your calendars: the annual Vestry Meeting of St. James Westminster Church will take place on **Sunday, January 29** in the parish hall after the 10:30 Eucharist. More details in January, but all parish reports should be forwarded to the office by January 9, 2012.



## Lenten Retreat

On Friday, March 9 and Saturday, March 10 we are again this year planning a Lenten retreat with the Sisters of St. John the Divine, at their convent in Toronto. We will spend the Friday evening in our own group, and Saturday join in with a scheduled quiet day: **Called to Serve**. Jesus said to his followers: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23). The path is not easy. All of us who choose to follow Jesus through service to God and one another, will discover the importance of being present to God in this moment, so as to allow God's transforming power to change us as we open ourselves to God through prayer. Please consider making this retreat a part of your Lenten preparation and speak to Rev'd Val about costs and details.