

THE SPOTLIGHT

St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole Church 80 George Henry Blvd., North York, Ont. M2J 1E7
Tel: 416-494-7020 Website: www.stmatthew.ca

AUTUMN 2006

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR – A BEGINNING

Our Anglican tradition holds at its heart a structure of authority and decision-making that holds in creative tension individual leadership (primarily that of the bishop, but at parish level the incumbent holding a license from the bishop) and the rightful involvement of lay people at all levels of planning and governance. On November 5, 2006, at 7 p.m., St. Matthew the Apostle's Church, Oriole, will formally reaffirm this relationship by setting in place a covenant with me, its new incumbent. We will pledge our agreement to each other in similar words.

I, the new incumbent, will commit myself to you as your priest and pastor, bringing my strengths and weaknesses, my hopes and concerns, my gifts and talents bestowed on me by God's grace, and will endeavour, with the help of God, to share with you in the ministry of this parish.

The people of St. Matthew's will then commit yourselves to bring your strengths and weaknesses, your hopes and concerns, your gifts and talents bestowed on you by God's grace, and will endeavour, with the help of God, to share with me in the ministry of this parish.

"Covenant" has the general meaning of a solemn undertaking or compact between two parties. Covenants arose as legal documents in the Ancient Near East in biblical times.

These divide themselves into two types, agreements between parties of equal standing and then others, between an overlord and an underling. However, for the Hebrew people, an extraordinary application of the term "covenant" came about from God's initiative. Although God's commanding sovereignty over the universe should have obliged us human creatures into a subservient role of supplicants for the covenant, God instead accommodated supreme, infinite Self to our limited and humble nature. God imparts a relationship to us in parity, requiring us only to keep the commandments in order for us to come under divine protection.

That the Almighty, Ruler of creation, has now bound such Sovereign Will to our interests astonishes us believers and places all of our human undertakings with each other as Christians under the consideration of what our God has done for us. By our normal reckoning of legal understandings, the parties to the contract agree on the condition that if one party reneges, the agreement is voided.

The defining point is determined by whether the contract has or has not been satisfied; that is, whether it proves mutually beneficial to the self-interest of the parties involved as they understand their own self-interest.

Redefined by what God has undertaken in covenanting with us, the covenants that we make with each other in our faith tradition now take on a perspective that is different than in civil proceedings. For us, self-interest becomes no longer the criteria for the success of the religious covenant, because the parties involved recognise the covenant to possess a meaning larger than what the parties alone bring to it or can know themselves. Following the divine example, our covenants in the Church maintain themselves by the affection and caring between the parties and by their willingness to bear the burdens of the other. When the covenants between Christians no longer fulfill the expectations of one side or the other, our assessment of continuing of the agreement always takes place within the parameters of forgiveness. This only follows God's own manner of dealing with us when we have failed in our obligations of the covenant God has made with us.

With regard to the covenant that we are about to make with each other, let me suggest some of the strengths that I believe each of us parties brings to the promises we will be making in the Service of the Induction of a New Incumbent. In my short time with the Selection Committee and since my arrival at St. Matthew's, I have observed a strong sense of community among the members of the congregation in your care for each other and your welcome to stranger. I see a good core of volunteers whose efforts bolster the ministry of all the people. You have fostered a superb sense of the importance of outreach to the needy and desperate in our society. You have lovingly cared for your buildings and worship space. Your worship services engage and uplift. I am excited by the potential that exists in the surrounding neighbourhood, and I believe that you are aware of the importance of developing contacts with newcomers.

For myself, I would hope to bring to our covenant a concern for the future growth of our Anglican role in this city. I find satisfaction when I can help others to more profoundly explore their faith, either by my preaching and teaching, or by my pastoral care and spiritual guidance. I find myself in recent years deepening in my appreciation for the importance of prayer in strengthening me in my life, and I want to share this awareness with you in my discussions with you. I have some ideas and experience about how we might deal with the increasing diversity of cultures and languages and religions in our urban society. I am deeply committed to supporting and drawing forth the gifts that each member has within our fellowship.

Let us therefore pray for each other as we begin our work together. Pray for me that I may soon learn more of your strengths and understand more fully the opportunities that God has set before us. I will pray for you that my time with you will see us building on all that God has brought you.

The peace and blessing of God be with us,
Rev. Brad Lennon

FAITHWORKS UPDATE

The latest FaithWorks results...\$528,638. at Oct. 16

2006 Goal...\$1,500,000

Percentage of goal 35.24 %

Campaign Progress – to Sept 30/06 to Sept 30/05

York-Credit Valley	65,416	107,415
York-Scarborough	132,078	116,919
York-Simcoe	55,422	66,058
Trent-Durham	43,038	65,067
Total Parish	295,954	355,459
Total Community	25,110	57,470
Total Corporate	117,416	167,835

CELEBRATING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Our new church year begins on December 3, 2006, the first Sunday in Advent. Advent means coming". So it is with expectation that we anticipate the arrival of Christmas, our remembrance of God's fullness coming to us in the birth of Jesus 2000 years ago.

However, just as Christ came to us so long ago, so we look to his coming again in fullness at the end of this age. Christ came, Christ will come, but Jesus Christ also comes to us now in our own times. At every service of the Sunday Holy Eucharist, our Lord and Saviour comes to us in our gathering and being made one with His body and blood in the bread and wine blessed for the recalling of Him. Therefore, please join us each Sunday at the regular services as the Church of Christ makes its preparations of the great Feast of Christ's birth.

Sun. Dec. 3 8 & 10 am.

Advent I, Holy Eucharist,
"Keeping Christmas in Perspective"

Sun. Dec. 10 8 & 10 am.

Advent II, Holy Eucharist,
"Playing Our Part in the Preparations"

Sun. Dec. 17 8 & 10 am.

Advent III, Holy Eucharist,
"The Prelude to Fire and the Holy Spirit"

Sun. Dec. 24 8 & 10 am.

Advent IV, Holy Eucharist,
"When the Overlooked
Take the Leading Roles"

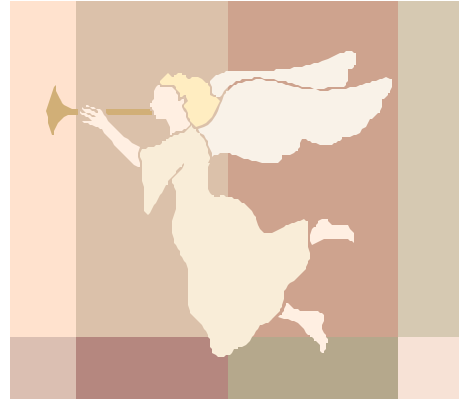
Christmas Eve, Sun. Dec. 24

7 pm. **Feast of the Incarnation**,
Family (sung) Eucharist,
"More Than a Memory"

11 pm. **The Midnight Mass**,
"Not Aloof, But Intimate"

Christmas Day, Dec. 25 10 am.

Sung Eucharist,
"Let Us Go and See"



Sunday Evenings in Advent

COME JOIN US AS WELL
FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS

A Special Storytelling Evening with the Rector

On December 3 at 7 pm the Rev. Brad Lennon will relate an Armenian folktale, "The Sheep Boy", a story which resonates with the symbols of Christmas and of Jesus' life. He will provide refreshments, as well as the entertainment. This is an opportunity for both young and old to get to know our new incumbent better.

Christmas Concert by Young People

The fundraising committee is planning this special event with the young people for all of us to share in the songs of the Christmas season for December 10 at 7 pm. Please mark your calendars and watch for further information

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Our perennial favourite of the Advent Season, choirmaster and organist David Braund and the St. Matthew's, Oriole, choir will lead us in this service of reflection and song on December 17 at 7 pm. It is free and children and young ones are very welcome.

FROM YOUR WARDENS' KEYBOARD

A lot has happened at St. Matthew's over the past few months which we have embraced with both patience and humor.

First of all, our interim Canon Der remained with us as our spiritual leader until the end of August. During that time we all benefited from the many services – Healing services the last Sunday of every month; Evensong etc. which he held during his tenure. We at St. Matthew's were honoured to celebrate with Canon Der and Margaret their 45th Wedding Anniversary and his 45th Anniversary to the priesthood. We wish them well as they take an extended vacation to the Far East.

We also had our Inaugural Volunteer Recognition service this summer, where M.P. Ms. Yasmin Ratansi presented certificates of appreciation to some of the many volunteers within the parish. We will continue with this practice as there are so many that have and continue to work so diligently for the good of all at St. Matthew's. Summertime at St. Matthews was a very busy period due to the required renovations in our building and the Rectory. Please see our Treasurer's report for costing details. Thanks to our contractors, we are finishing up on target.

The improvements are wonderful and upon seeing our new washrooms and the spruced up new lower hall, we hope you will agree. Also, with superior lighting all 'round the exterior of our building, we hope you will feel more secure at night-time.

Two teams of contractors worked with us, one headed by Paul Taylor, the other by Wayne Wittmer and they did a terrific job. Also, our warmest thanks go to Elan Seales for painting the entire rectory and walls & doors downstairs in the church.

Finally, under renovations, we all have reason to be proud of the newly decorated rectory with its lovely hardwood floors and new fixtures throughout.

Another feature of the summer activity was the installation of two illuminated plaques on a wall in the Narthex, containing the names of Wardens who have served St. Matthews from 1964 - 2006.

As we write this report, the new electronic sign is being manufactured for a mid-November placement on Sheppard Ave. Trenching for power lines is completed and the computer is being readied to send out preprogrammed messages, visible to east and westbound traffic.

The Reverend Pat Blythe joined us mid-August to the end of September, during which time she became a grandmother for the second time. We enjoyed the six weeks she spent with us and wish her well in her new assignment.

With great patience and anticipation, we welcomed our new incumbent, Fr. Brad Lennon and his wife Elizabeth (Lizzie) on October 1, 2006. Fr. Lennon was the previous incumbent at Holy Trinity Church, Guildwood from 2000 -2006, and is currently Regional Dean of the Scarborough Deanery. As the Lennons continue to settle themselves into the Rectory and church life at St. Matthew's, I'm sure we will all do our part in making them feel as comfortable as possible as they make their transition. Please don't be shy and introduce yourselves to them. They have more names to remember than we do. We hope to see you there at Fr. Brad's Induction Service on November 5, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthew's.

The Wardens would like to say a special "Thank-You" to the Selection Committee for their dedication and hard work over the last 18 months. A special "Thank -You" also to the congregation for upholding them in your prayers during that time.

So as we move into the Advent Season (stay tuned for further details on our Advent schedule), may we all continue to give of our talents and time as we strive to maintain what many of us refer to as our spiritual home.

God Bless ++

Yours respectfully,

Delores Lawrence, Rector's Warden
Charlene Yeates, People's Warden
Bob Stevenson, Deputy People's Warden

FINANCIAL REPORT

In this article, I wish to bring all parishioners up to date on where this parish stood financially. First of all, let us look back at the earlier parts of this year.

In February, at our annual Vestry, we passed an annual operating budget of \$208K. Our income was to come mainly from two sources, envelope giving and honorariums for usage of our building. We had also budgeted some monies in the amount of \$ 6,000 for repairs to the rectory.

Along with these, the proposed renovations to this building, (four washrooms, the lower church hall, exterior lighting and a new outside sign) were also approved and permission was granted to the Wardens and Treasurer to obtain a loan of \$ 75,000 from CIBC through the arrangements made by the Diocese, and to repay this loan, a Capital Funds Campaign was also approved.

In April, the Wardens and Treasurer, realized that the repairs of the Rectory will be in excess of what was passed at Vestry, and came back to a special vestry to obtain extra funds to a total of \$ 16,000, and the parish will apply for a grant from the Carleton Fund at the Diocese to the amount of \$ 5,000.

Arising from Vestry approvals, we applied to the Diocese for permission to approach CIBC for the loan, which we eventually received from CIBC in June. This loan was for \$ 75,000 as requested to be repaid over 5 years.

We started our renovations and have now basically completed in the Rectory, and many of you would have seen the changes there, and Fr. Brad and his wife are now comfortably settling in.

Our application for the grant from the Carleton Fund was denied under the principle that "*grants are to made only to parishes which could not otherwise do the necessary work without serious prejudice to their ministry*". This meant that the parish would have to find these extra funds.

Here is the status on each of the projects that we embarked on this year.

Rectory:

As worked progressed in the Rectory, it was found that other changes were needed. As eztras, we proceeded to change all the lighting fixtures in the rectory up to date. There were also some unexpected plumbing work to be done, and the hardwood flooring was a bit over budget. However, with the assistance of Elan Seales, who did all of the painting in the rectory, the projected cost of the renovations to the rectory will be completed at approximately \$ 15,000. Well within budget. The entire cost of this will now be out of the Operating Budget.

Offices:

The rector's office has been renovated and refurbished. New carpets were laid in all of the offices. These expenses were out of the operating budget.

Despite these expenses, overall, our operating budget is running only \$ 2,000 behind budget, however our **envelope givings** are lagging behind budget by nearly \$ 9,000 – we have some major catching up to do, and it is hoped that with normalcy returning to this parish, parishioners will return and catch up with their envelope givings.

Our other major income source – **Licensing Fees** are running about \$ 4,000 above budget, and thanks to Jane O'Keefe for administering this ministry so well.

However, our main saving was in the area of personnel cost mainly in the area of benefits since we did not have a Rector during these months. So overall, at the end of September, we are holding our own in the Operating Budget, but could do better.

Church renovations:

We received our loan, and launched our capital fund campaign.

The outer lights are installed and those who utilize this building at nights can now appreciate what has been done in the interest of safety and there we have had to add additional lights to what was planned to properly illuminate the parking lot. The cost of this project is slightly over what was estimated due to the necessary additional lights.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

In the lower church hall, after some lengthy deliberations, it was decided by the Wardens and Treasurer to apply drywall over the existing brick walls. This added a further \$ 10,000 to the overall cost for the renovations to this room. It was thought that with a new ceiling being installed, it was the appropriate time to do this. The lower church hall is nearing completion. With the additional work being done here, the costs will be again over the estimated amount.

The washrooms are now clean and inviting, and while there are some very minor finishing touches to be done, these renovations will be below estimates.

The new sign has been approved by the city. Trenching for the electrical work will begin shortly in the parking lot, and the sign will be installed at the end of November, in time for Christmas. Again it is estimated that this will be within the estimates for this project

The costs of these renovations will be under the Capital Reserve Funds, and current and future repayments and interest for the loan will be paid out of this fund. Our Capital Fund Appeal was started May 1, with our target for this campaign being approximately \$ 90,000. To date, receipts through the appeal totals \$ 20,000 with further pledges of \$ 9,000. If we can repay this loan before the five years, we stand to save quite a bit in interest. Our concern here however is that many of these donations are one time donations, and while many of these donors have indicated that they will consider their financial status later to determine their ability to give further donations, we have to consider what can happen down the next 4 ½ years

On behalf of the Wardens, I would like to thank those who have already contributed and urge those who have not yet donated to this appeal to do so. It is your building, your Christian home, our Christian home. There was good news (quite a bit) and some not so good news. The message I would like you to take away after reading this somewhat lengthy article is to try to contribute whatever you can give to the Capital Fund Campaign and to try to catch up with your regular envelope donations after the summer months, and as we settle into a fresh start.

Let us keep this parish as a beacon in this community – we will have the perfect sign in November to exhibit this outwardly.

Yours respectfully, *Clifford Wong, Treasurer*

Our Outreach Committee took a well deserved rest during the summer months. Please check the Outreach board for display of Outreach programs supported on behalf of St. Matthew and other informative mail that is posted there.

Some of our members attended an all day Outreach Conference at Tyndale College on October 14th. Ms. McCain, an Anglican who has worked for decades on behalf of children and families, was the keynote speaker at the fourth annual Outreach Conference. The event was hosted by the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Board and was well attended. We urge you to visit www.toronto.anglican.ca for more information on all conference workshops.

Our Community Clothing Sale sorting team started sorting and pricing in early September for our monthly Clothing Sales. Thanks to all those who spend endless hours helping with this important ministry. To the helpers who come out on the set-up nights and the actual sale nights, we thank you for your continued support. Our September Sale was another great success and an opportunity to see Christ in the faces of others.

Please mark your Calendars and plan to attend the **St. Matthew's 2006 Open House on Saturday December 2nd from 3pm ~ 5pm**. Your donation of food for this event is much appreciated. As usual the Committee will be accepting food donations starting Friday December 1st.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Outreach meetings which are held each month on the Sunday that follows the Clothing Sale in the Welcome Room at 9am. We welcome Fr. Brad and look forward to working with him. We continue to thank God for the opportunity to do this work, and ask for your continued prayers as we do so.

Submitted by *Val Seales, Co-Chair*

REACHING OUT

At the last meeting in the Spring of our four-part study series on Henri Nouwen's, "Reaching Out – The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life", we took the opportunity to reflect back and consider the many new insights and understandings this rich spiritual resource had given us.

Ten parishioners took part in the frank and open discussions we had on the often challenging issues the book raised for us – issues that are often taken for granted, or issues we thought we already knew all about.

We came to see the need for dealing with the despair and self-centredness of loneliness, and to appreciate the meditative nature of solitude. It is in solitude we come to understand ourselves and learn to reach out to others.

The illusions of superiority, righteousness or immortality we create of ourselves influence our behaviour and the way in which we relate to others. Only by clearing away presuppositions and prejudices can we enter into a true dialogue with others.

Prayer, both private and corporate, is the foundation of the spiritual life. Henri Nouwen introduced us to the three guidelines he considers most helpful in developing a satisfactory prayer life: a contemplative reading of the Bible; listening to God's voice; being obedient to a trusted spiritual guide. The role of the spiritual guide is to alert us to the false voices we may mistake for God's true voice.

In trying to be hospitable, we too often smother our guest with trivial conversation and don't allow space for the guest to reveal the gift that she/he has to offer. Hospitality is an occasion for the sharing of the gifts we all have.

We confronted some of the paradoxes of our faith:

- "Poverty of heart" leads to fullness with God.
- While we search for power, it was Jesus who "emptied himself".
- We are lead from "false certainties to true uncertainties".
- We have to learn how to pray, while we can only receive it as a gift.

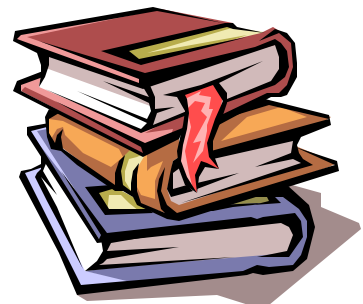
The Christian community is "a waiting community". Its destiny lies in the divine call beyond the sense of social belonging that the corporate life of the church provides. We are not "primarily for each other but for God".

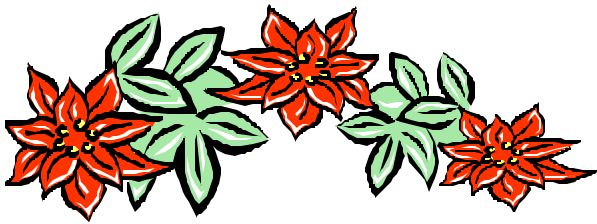
There are many ways of being a Christian as people find their own individual way to reveal their potential to love, to give and to create.

Studying, discussing and reflecting on Henri Nouwen's "Reaching Out" was a worthwhile and inspiring experience. It gave us food for thought on how to nurture our spiritual life at St. Matthew the Apostle.

Submitted by

*Kyn Barker,
Ruth Johnson,
Tom McQuiston.*





CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & CRAFT SALE
NOVEMBER 18TH – 10 A.M.-2 P.M.

Your church, St. Matthew's, is calling on your help and support for one of our major **FUND-RAISING EVENTS OF THE YEAR.** Your involvement is valued and important. What can you do? Read the following bazaar update carefully, and then contact **BONNIE LARUE (416-495-7212)** or any of the following conveners:

BRAD'S BOTTLES: This table is under new spiritual management this year!

CALL BRAD LENNON at Church office
OR CLIFFORD WONG at 416-498-6942

Think of anything you can put in a bottle or purchase in the same. This table always sells out fast and can never have too many donations. Suggestions include gourmet bottles, bubble bath, wine, other spirits, bottle with a gift coupon enclosed, bottle with cash or candy inside, use your imagination and bottle it.

TRINKETS AND TREASURES:

MARY FOX 416-493-3209

Mary needs jewellery, linens, gently used lingerie, china, gift house wares etc. This table gladly accepts any regiffable treasure in excellent condition. So check your cupboards, attics, jewellery box and gift cupboard and see if you have an item or two that could grace Mary's table.

CHURCH MOUSE STITCHERS:

JANICE SANDERS 416-491-6422

Janice needs your handmade creations – the more variety the better – afghans, winter wear, any donations of hand knit/crocheted garments or household items would be appreciated.

LEISURE WORLD:

DAVE OR RUTH JOHNSON 416-493-2035

Dave & Ruth are taking in any book you yourself would like as a gift – examples, bestsellers, classics, recent edition hobby books, children's books etc.

Please **NO** magazines, textbooks, manuals, condensed Reader Digests.

Donated games, CD's, DVD'S, puzzles in perfect condition are also popular sellers.

MEN AT WORK:

NORM FOX 416-493-3209

Always a popular table, always a variety of quality handcrafted wood items – Norm & his fellow carpenters welcome all hands – what can you contribute?

BAKE TABLE:

SHIRLEY STEVENSON 416-269-5760

Shirley and her bakers are in need of all kinds of baked goods. Pies, butter tarts, shortbread, loaves, tea biscuits are always in demand. Please deliver your donation to St. Luke's Room the afternoon or evening before the bazaar, Friday, Nov. 17 or Saturday morning by 9:00 a.m.

CHURCH MOUSE PANTRY:

LINDA SKELTON 416-502-9623

Interested in donating a few bottles of your favourite preserve? Your homemade specialty will help us stock our pantry shelves for the bazaar. Jams, jellies, chutneys or pickles are but a few examples of bottled goodies you might consider donating.

LUNCH ROOM:

VAL SEALES 416-490-0943

Our ever-popular home-style buffet lunch will be served in the Welcome Room. Val needs a variety of hot and cold finger foods (savories and sweets) as well as salads, sandwiches, squares and cookies. A sign-up sheet to list donations will be posted early November. Volunteers to set up and help with kitchen preparation and clean up are also needed.

THE SILENT AUCTION:

JANE O'KEEFE at the Church office

This table offers new/used good condition items for silent (written) bids. The last bid offered at closing time of the Auction 'wins' the item. Jane is always looking for articles for this table so please contact her if you have something to offer.

PRICING DAY: NOVEMBER 13TH:

Conveners need time to price items to be sold at their tables. Please drop off your donations of books, crafts, bottles etc. by November 12th to the Church Narthex area or contact the convener to discuss drop-off. *This early deadline excludes all baking/food donations.*