

St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole Anglican Church
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From the Canon's Keyboard:

THE BUSY FALL SEASON SOON BEGINS

September, 2004 is upon us. Some holiday time has been enjoyed by Susan and me and we plan to take our remaining two weeks in October. Between now and then, much will take place. While the summer has not been what one is used to in these parts, (and in many other parts as well), the time for some 'rest & recreation' is so important. Scripture speaks of Sabbath time—it is important on so many levels.

Our *Community Clothing Sales* resume on September 24, 7-9 p.m. The Clothing Committee invites your donations of good used clothing & small household articles once again. The Fall Sales continue on October 29 and November 26th. Some 'younger hands, arms and backs' are always needed on the Thursdays prior for set-up, around 7:15 p.m. and for take down at 9:00 on the sale night.

Church School classes begin on September 19 under the guidance of Lyn Atkins and her team. Should anyone who enjoys children wish to offer some time to this ministry, do speak to me. It may be for a short time period, just a few Sundays. Such a time is appreciated.

We celebrate two events on Sunday, September 26th. We *recall the life and witness of our patron saint, Matthew the Apostle and we celebrate our 40th anniversary as a parish!!* Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones will preside and preach at the 10:00 Eucharist. Following that service we will have an anniversary luncheon, knowing that the many offerings of a variety of international foods from our parishioners will make for a great feast. Newsprint for you to let us know what dish you are able to bring will be posted so do watch for that please. So much has happened and also changed since this parish began in the summer of 1964. We endeavor to look ahead and with God's guidance continue to be a beacon of the living Christ in this community and beyond. Delores Lawrence, Rector's Warden, is looking into a special 'St. Matthew's 40th Anniversary Wine' for this Fall, so do watch for news of this.

The Wardens and I wish to thank Bob Stevenson for his time spent securing repairs to the church parking lot. Many potholes have been filled in and a greatly damaged area on the Sheppard side has been repaved. The work cost just over \$3100 and any special donation towards the cost will be most appreciated. Bob, Wayne Wittner, and Jack Bresnahan have also spent some time in August painting some doors and other areas inside and outside the Church. We have been made aware of some leaks in the stained glass

skylight over the altar and we must look into this. If any one of you know of someone who could assist with necessary repairs, do speak to Delores Lawrence or Karl Kunz, our Wardens—you could leave information at the Church Office as well.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the *Youth of our parish*. Since the departure of Michael Kelly at the end of June, many have felt the loss and our parish does look into the hiring of a part time youth worker. Some inquiries have come my way and a committee of youth and adults will look into them.

It is also important to have you mark your calendars for *our Christmas Bazaar*, set for November 6th. Bonnie LaRue and many others are working hard on this special event. Those who come to it have found it over these past few years to be a very fine Bazaar and its reputation does grow. If you have any questions about it, phone Bonnie, at 416-495-7212. There will be more about this in the church bulletins as the Fall gets underway. In fact, George Sabourin (and helpers) will be at a Raffle Table beginning in September to ensure people are able to pick up books for sale or for personal purchase. Do watch for some lovely prizes being raffled off this year!

All of this is carried out in the context of the wider Church, of course. Our *new diocesan bishop*, Colin Johnson, will be installed at St. James' Cathedral on September 12 at 4:30 in a historical and impressive service. Bishop Johnson has been a suffragan bishop (assistant bishop) in the diocese, serving in the Trent-Durham area to the east of us. Our diocese holds two special Synods in November: the 13th will be a time to elect another suffragan bishop, replacing Bishop Colin, and on the 27th, *we meet to discuss the issue of the blessing of same-gender relationships*. As we look ahead to that major event, I invite you to a deanery event discussing the issue to be held on September 9th, 7:30 p.m. at the church of St. John's, York Mills. (19 Don Ridge Dr.).

Another notable date regarding a Diocesan Outreach Conference: October 2, 9-3:30 at the Tyndale University just off Bayview Ave., south of Steeles. This networking conference will feature Cathy Crowe, a nurse well known for her work with the homeless of our cities. Workshops will cover spirituality, social justice, the housing crisis, child poverty and much more. There is a form on the Outreach Board; you can contact Murray MacAdam, Social Justice & Advocacy Consultant at our Diocese, 416-363-6021, #240.

As you can see, much awaits us in just the next few weeks. In the long run, our Parish Planning Committee, under the guidance of Bob Stevenson, awaits further input from the Diocese as the diocesan study of each parish is finished this Fall. The wish to undertake a study of our site and buildings has not been forgotten—the dream to ensure continued ministry here as the next 40 years unfold is still alive!

In Christ,