

# THE SPOTLIGHT

St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole Church 80 George Henry Blvd., North York, Ont. M2J 1E7  
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## SPRING/SUMMER 2006

### FROM FR. EDMUND, INTERIM PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

Dear St. Matthew Family,

When Bishop Blackwell, the interim bishop for York Scarborough Area called me on Tuesday Holy Week to inform us of the sudden turn of events that the new Rector cannot come, I was as everybody must have been shocked but not jostled off base for as a clergyman you are called to meet any emergency and always can come up with contingency plans. The Bishops have asked me to hang in and provide a stability for the parish of St. Matthew for 4 more months till end of August and I have to send apology to many parishes which have engaged me for summer Sunday supply. I do hope the new search process will be expedited and the new Rector will come early in the Fall. I have had planned to be away in Asia from September to December and I am stretching myself to the limit. However I hope I can take some time off in the summer with the help of many of you.

As I was reading the spiritual wisdom of the Celtic tradition I learned that Cardinal John Newman summed up beautifully with the idea that to grow is to change and to be perfect is to have change often, change, therefore, need not be threatening and it can in fact bring our lives to perfection. The soul love risk, it is only through the door of risk that growth can enter.

So, this is a parish without a Rector but not the sheep without a Shepherd. With such able and responsible leadership of the Wardens and Treasurer with dedicated Advisory Board, all programs will go on and life will prosper, All fund-raising event must march on as planned. We are launching the CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN of \$75000 for a major renovation as this is urgently needed.

Anyone living in a forty year old house can see the urgency of upgrading and modernization and we have the Vestry and Bishop's approval as well as the Bank loan completed. I propose a plan to encourage members to give sacrificially either as a one time giving or by installments of 4-6 months. A simple formula will help especially for long time old member, count the number of your life in St. Matthew, give the multiple of 10 or for students in part time jobs or pensioners, give in the multiple of \$5. If we have 10 major gifts of 5000 to 2000 we can hit the target soon.

Summer blossoms and grows into summertime and nature is bedecked with colour. There is the lushness everywhere, a richness and depth of texture.

Summertime is a time of light, growth and arrival.

You feel that the secret life of the year, hidden in the winter and coming in the spring, has really blossomed in the summertime. Thus, when it is summertime in your soul, it is a time of great balance. You are in the flow of your own nature. (fr: Spiritual Wisdom from the Celtic World by John O'Donohue) I hope your summer will be a time of spiritual renewal to draw you closer to God, and there are many churches nearby your cottage or resort too. The Worship Committee had proposed some very creative services for Sundays and many forms of ministries will be recognized and honoured and members talents and gifts will be needed. Since this will be my last Spotlight message, I wish you all many Blessings from God and please remember to continue to pray for Margaret and I.

(Canon) Edmund Der+

## FROM YOUR WARDEN'S KEYBOARD

Thank you to Fr. Edmund for his spiritual leadership over the past few months. Vestry was held on February 26<sup>th</sup> and the Advisory Board membership remains unchanged as this will provide our parish with ongoing leadership until the new Incumbent is in place. Parishioners were invited to attend the regular monthly meetings of the Advisory Board. Lent began early March and Fr. Edmund was very busy during this Lenten season. Many activities took place and parishioners were able to participate in the variety of activities that were planned. These were well received and much positive feedback was conveyed to the Wardens.

The Parish Selection Committee continues its search for a new Rector. A meeting was held with Bishop Blackwell the outgoing interim Bishop and incoming Bishop Yu to discuss going forward in our selection process after the announcement that Rev. Rob Pierson was no longer coming to St. Matthew as the new Rector. The meeting was positive and various alternatives were explored. Our parish has the support of the Bishop and the Diocese and they continue to uphold us in their prayers. The process continues and the Selection Committee will keep the parishioners updated as may be necessary.

Renovations have started in the Rector's office and in the Rectory. A motion was passed at a special vestry to proceed with the much needed renovations of the Rectory and to approach the Diocese for a grant of up to \$5,000 to subsidize the overall cost. The funding for the upgrading for the four washrooms, the improved signage on Sheppard Ave, the upgrading of the lower church hall, and the improved lighting in the parking lot and surrounding areas has been approved by the Diocese and a loan for \$75,000 is now in place at the CIBC. A special capital campaign was launched recently and special letters have been sent out

to parishioners. Donations are welcome and appreciated. The capital campaign thermometer is located near the entrance to the sanctuary and we are hoping that it will begin to rise in the very near future so that we can realize our goal of paying off this loan in five years. Our budget is on target and our Treasurer will provide the details in his report.

The kick off for Faithworks campaign took place after Easter and this special appeal is a much worthwhile cause to Outreach in the Diocese. Your support is much appreciated. Fr. Edmund will be celebrating his 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Priest and we say "CONGRATULATIONS" to him for his dedication to the Ministry and wish him all the very best for the future and to his wife Margaret, we also extend our best wishes.

The Wardens commend all the committees, our cherished Treasurer Clifford Wong for all the hard work that is being done, the commitment and the dedication is certainly appreciated. Our parish continues to be a warm and inviting sanctuary for all. Let us continue to keep up the good work and to support Fr. Edmund in his Ministry at St. Matthew the Apostle Oriole. We certainly appreciate all that he has done and continues to do to the glory of God.

The Advisory Board will have its final meeting in June and its BBQ on June 5<sup>th</sup> and will take a break for the summer. Our Church Administrative Assistant Jane O'Keefe will also take a break for the summer, a message will be left on the answering machine with contact information. Fr. Edmund will also take some well deserved time away during the week as he has worked very hard during the Lenten season and is deserving of his time away.

## OUR WEBSITE

We no longer have to enter the extremely long URL to get to St. Matthew's website. Gone is the [http://netcomsolutions-ont.com/st\\_matthews/](http://netcomsolutions-ont.com/st_matthews/) We need just enter the new URL as follows,   
stmatthew.ca  
Have a look, you may be pleasantly surprised.

## A REPORT ON PARISH/RECTORY RENOVATIONS

At Vestry time, many months ago, a motion was presented and approved to permit us to go forward to acquire a sufficient loan to pay for renovations covering four necessary priorities. That loan has been approved and work is underway. We will all benefit if you feel you can contribute to help us pay back the five year loan. We appreciate and thank you for your contributions. Our objective is to maintain St. Matthews' appearance in the most welcoming manner possible. Following is a basic description of the plans in progress.

### Exterior Lighting

It is our wish to provide increased security and safety. For that reason, we are replacing roof level spotlights throughout the circumference of our church with a new photo cell lighting system. This will illuminate our dark parking lot with energy efficient lights of 70 and 400 watts power, each using one half the energy of our old lights. Strategically placed, eight high pressure sodium (yellow) spots and eight high pressure floods will cover areas previously dark and make footing across the parking lots much safer, especially in the winter. A well lit environment can also discourage vandalism.

### Washrooms

All four washrooms will undergo renovation. This will include new lighting, toilets, sinks & taps, counters, mirrors, floor tiling, baseboards, cleansing & sanitation. Not only will parishioners appreciate this improvement but so too will all our valued rental clients. These include the Montessori School, the Kumon math class, Weight Watchers, our AA friends and the Yoga class.

### The Lower Church Hall

This large room will be renovated with a new drop ceiling, new fluorescent fixtures, removal of the sound proofing materials on the upper walls, added heating fixtures, tile flooring, painting and additional electrical wall plugs. Expanded usage is then available for receptions, large meetings, entertainment events such as dances and the enhancement of our monthly Clothing Sale.

Here again, our valued clients will appreciate the improvement – The House of God, the Kumon School and the Weight Watchers. The improvement can also attract other prospects.

### A New Sign

An illuminated sign will be produced by the Pattison sign group, a company noted for its work with many other churches in Toronto. The sign will show the name, St. Matthew the Apostle - Oriole Anglican Church, as well as our distinctive cross and the Diocese of Toronto logo. Phone number and address will also be present. There will be an illuminated computer controlled message centre across the sign, designed to carry all the information we wish to program, to be read by passersby. e.g. time of services, church events of public interest, time & date, all this computer controlled from within the church office. This sign, positioned approximately where the existing wooden sign is, should stand out like a beacon on Sheppard Ave.

This completes the information on the four renovation projects for which a loan was acquired. Following is a description of two renovations apart from the loan, financially structured within our fiscal budget.

### The Rectory

While the kitchen and the main bathroom on the second level were both upgraded in recent years, other parts of the home require renovation to meet to-days standards. The rectory, now approximately 45 years old, is actually due for a major face lift. We have assistance ready to make this possible within a currently unspecified time frame.

### The Rector's Office

This room, previously used by Rev. Canon Greg Physick, has been renovated, and is currently awaiting the new occupant. Furniture is next. The upgrade included drywalling, new carpet and baseboards, painting of all trim, ceiling & door and new wiring.

Submitted by *Bob Stevenson, Deputy Warden*

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Quarter 1, 2006

After a solid 2005, we looked forward to 2006 and hoped this trend would continue.

I am pleased to report that at the end of the first quarter 2006, our operating funds were \$ 6.0K ahead of the budget plans. This despite both Open and Envelope offerings being behind that of both budget and 2005 actual. This was partially offset by our Licensing Fees income, which was ahead of budget, by nearly \$ 2.0K.

However the bulk of this surplus was made possible by the controlled spending of our Wardens. This resulted in our operating expenses being \$ 4.5K below budget plan.

Overall, we continue our solid financial status during the first quarter, but must endeavor to get our envelope giving back on track as we move into the renovation stage.

Submitted by,  
Clifford Wong, Treasurer

### Capital Funds Appeal

At Vestry on February 26<sup>th</sup> 2006, a motion was accepted to do the following:

Renovate the four washrooms  
Replace the Sheppard Avenue signage  
Improve the outer lighting of the Church  
Renovate the Lower Church Hall

Total cost of which is about \$ 82,000.

In order to realize this challenge, it was agreed that the Wardens and Treasurer should seek the diocesan approval to acquire a loan of \$ 75,000 from the CIBC through the diocesan agreement with that bank.

We have moved ahead on this and have now received all approval and the loan was received on May 1, 2006.

Along with these improvements, we now move into the third section of this plan – the repayment of the loan. At Vestry on that date, the Wardens

and Treasurer were given approval to launch a Capital Funds Appeal to repay the loan. Over 5 years the cost of the loan will be \$ 13,000 meaning that we will have to repay \$ 88,000.

The Capital Funds Appeal is now officially launched!

It is very apparent that not everyone will be able to give much to this, but every donation counts.

All donations will be tax deductible.

Letters and pledge forms will be distributed to all members of the congregation. Donations can be a one time pledge or over a number of weeks/months or years.

If there are any questions, please speak to a Warden or the Treasurer.

A thermometer of the status of the pledges and actual donations stands in the hallway, **let us make the temperature rise.**

## BAZAAR NOTE ~ 2006

CHURCHMOUSE PANTRY is looking ahead to the BAZAAR....

Anyone making jelly, jams or preserves this summer we would love you to donate some of your favourite bottles to our Bazaar pantry.

Need some supplies or recipes?

Please call Linda 416 502-9623.

Hopefully everyone has been saving those preserving jars you have purchased with jellies etc. over the past year. We need the "small" jam or jelly size with the mason screw lids. New lids are used however the glass jar sections are reused each year. Help keep our overhead down by saving any and returning to us. There is a basket in the Narthex to gather these. Much appreciated by the Church mice.

## EXPLORATION ~ BY JENNIFER GODKIN

At the beginning of last fall, I had an exciting opportunity to explore and to study at Trinity College, University of Toronto. The first course that I took at Trinity (a credit towards my graduating degree at York) was the “History of Eastern Christian/Orthodox Churches, Chalcedon to 21<sup>st</sup> century”. The exciting aspect was that this course was a very first in many ways. This course was the first credited course that students may earn towards an Adult Education Certificate in Orthodox Eastern Christian Studies at Trinity. This course was an overview of the major developments of experiences of various churches in the Eastern Tradition. Beginning with and around the Council of Chalcedon in 451 with discussions and an exegesis of various primary texts that concern the ways in which to define and to be able to articulate the union of the divine and human nature of the Incarnate Christ (the human Jesus) and how these various definitions from theologians differ. There were attempts to reconcile the division during the fifth and sixth centuries but by the seventh century, the controversy emerged to develop the Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian and Syrian Churches.

The course also explored the Iconoclast controversy and the second council of Nicaea of 787. That was a response to an edict written by an emperor in 726 in attempt to forbid the use of images and icons within the church and by the end, the council favoured the restoration of icons and images to the church. One argument in favour of the agreement relates back to the core theology of Orthodoxy from first Genesis referring to “Let us make humankind (adam) in our own image” (Genesis 1:26-27). This specifically referred to a spiritual likeness. The details of the course ended with Photian Schism and the council of Constantinople IV of 870, when the ultimate division for the Western Latin Churches occurred and it continues its journey of claiming papal authority. This

covers briefly the first five centuries of history. The students agreed to divide the course into two segments, the next segment to come during the Michealmas or Winter term.

The Second Course that I took during the Winter Term was “Anglican Formation and Spirituality”. The course was challenging because it not only demands wisdom from the group but also became a time for individual spiritual growth of our own personal wisdom and experiences as well. The course explores various spiritual practices, both historically and in the present culture.

As a group, we explored and experimented with the leadership of some practices such as drum circles, walking the Labyrinth, bead making and Anglican Prayer beads, sewing, and forms of contemplative meditations (i.e. Stations of the Cross and meditative exercises on Scripture ... etc. The importance of the course was to challenge our own prayer lives, to introduce different forms of prayer to reflect on the five categories (adoration, thanksgiving, confession, intercession, and petition) and the offices (times of prayer i.e. morning midday, evening ...etc.) of the prayer life. A number of readings by theologians, priests, bishops, monastics and the Saints of the Church accompanied the course. Readings from “The Confessions of St. Augustine”, Dante, Thomas à Kempis, John Wesley, and our own Anglicans such as William Law and John Keble, became our topics of discussion. We responded to the questions of, what does this mean to us now, how does God relate to humans, and how we as humans relate or respond to God’s initiative? Prayer is a dialogue between God and us and it takes practice, involving our whole selves, recognizing that “the whole is greater than the sum of the parts”. Through the course I gained a greater appreciation and became more intuitive of the endlessness of our own creativity to the extent of our imaginations in the practices of prayer. As Paul said to the Ephesians, “Glory to God whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20).

## MESSAGE FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Come and enjoy the Choir, the Servers, the Lay Reader and the Sacristan, the Greeters, and of course our Sidespeople, the readers, and the intercessors, and the Organist who all work hard to offer their best to God. No, we don't want to forget the Priest who also spends hours in preparation, prayers and study to work up a sermon, so we hope many can come. So we have some special Sundays when other people will be honoured and recognized. Do come and praise God for their ministry and contribution in thanksgiving.

May 14: Mothers Day , honoring all mothers, (Grandmothers, Godmothers, aunts, and altar guild members who followed the foot steps of St. Mary, the mother of Our Lord )

May 21, Youth Sunday, with focus on the needs of the youth. We will hear reports from Jennifer Godkin and Megan Roberts our two delegates to the Diocesan Youth Synod. Please report to the office if you have 2006 graduate(s) in your home, graduates of high school and college/university. We would also like to honour them.

May 28 : Outreach Sunday, we are inviting speakers of the FaithWorks assisted agency to come and speak to us, we would also like to honour our Outreach Committee members.

June 4<sup>th</sup>: Pentecost Sunday, we will invite readers from our multilingual communities to read prayers that should be exciting to praise God in different languages.

June 11: Trinity Sunday, you will see posters with Trinity Symbols. This is also the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood for Father Edmund, he was ordained deacon at 4 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, Huntington, West Virginia, USA. Pray for him.

June 18: Fathers Day, inviting some fathers to give witness to the blessing of God in their fatherhood process.

June 25: Aging and Saging, we like to honour all the seniors in the parish, inform us in the office of church members over 90, we would like to recognize them and hear their story. We know of Eula Chambers, 102 and some her 'juniors' who still come regularly.

### *Other upcoming services*

May 25 Ascension Day, service at 7:30 p.m., choral Eucharist.

May 21 Evensong in Plain Song mode at 7:30 p.m.

June 18: Evensong in Taize music.

Come and enjoy all these, or even if you cannot come, pray for us in support.

Enjoy your summer by reading the psalms and the Song of Songs in the Old Testament, they are delightful reading.

## THE 5 FINGER PRAYER A PART OF OUR LIVES

1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the Prime Minister, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our little finger the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

A QUOTE FROM.....

**Anam Cara**

'Spiritual Wisdom from the Celtic World  
by John O'Donohue

A BLESSING FOR OLD AGE

**M**ay the light of your soul mind you,  
May all of your worry and anxious-  
ness about becoming old be trans-  
figured,  
May you be given wisdom for the eye of your  
soul,  
to see this beautiful time of harvesting.  
May you have the commitment to harvest your  
life,  
to heal what has hurt you, to allow it to come  
closer to you and become one with you.  
May you have great dignity, may you have a  
sense of how free you are,  
and above all may you be given the wonderful  
gift of meeting the eternal light  
and beauty that is within you.  
May you be blessed, and may you find a  
wonderful love in your self for your self.

Death: the horizon is in the well

**T**HE UNKNOWN  
COMPANION

**T**HERE IS A PRESENCE WHO WALKS  
the road of life with you. This  
presence accompanies your every  
moment. It shadows your every thought  
and feeling. On your own, or with others, it  
is always there with you. When you were born,  
it came out of the womb with you; with the excite-  
ment at your arrival, nobody noticed it. Though this  
presence surrounds you, you may still be blind to  
its companionship. The name of this presence is  
death.

We are wrong to think that death comes only at  
the end of life. Your physical death is but the  
completion of a process on which your secret com-  
panion has been working since your birth. Your life  
is the life of your body and soul, but the presence  
of your death enfolds both. How does death mani-  
fest itself to us in our day-to-day experience? Death  
meets us in and through different guises in the  
areas of our life where we are vulnerable, frail,  
hurting or negative. One of the faces of death is  
negativity. In every person there is some wound of  
negativity; this is like a blister on your life. You can  
be quite destructive towards yourself, even when  
times are good. Some people are having wonderful  
lives right now, but they do not actually realize it.  
Maybe, later on, when things become really diffi-  
cult or desperate, a person will look back on these  
times and say, 'You know I was really happy then  
but sadly I never realized it.'

Submitted by W. & Z. McOstrich