

# THE SPOTLIGHT

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WINTER 2004

## FROM THE CANON'S KEYBOARD

Some thoughts on Lent

*"I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God."*

We began our Season of Lent with those words of Ash Wednesday noted above. Such words call us into a time in the Church Year that seems so far removed from how we live our lives nowadays. As one periodical notes, 'they are words that echo the ancient view that Lent is a special season - a holy season - which can be a great gift...'  
When we look at the themes, we can carry out simple exercises in this season leading up to the Queen of the Festivals, Easter.

**Self-examination:** Let us look at our day-timers and our cheque-books. Where does the majority of our time and money go? What do such windows into our lives tell us about who and what are really important to us? How do we live out values that are of God?

**Penitence:** How do we acknowledge our sinfulness? How do we seek forgiveness? What aspects of our lives separate us from God and humankind?

**Prayer:** As someone has said, 'prayer does not change God, it changes us'. To be still in a time of prayer gives us a time to listen to what it is God may be asking of us.

**Fasting:** This may mean giving up one meal some days, one item of a favorite food or drink throughout the season or eating less at every meal. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are two major Fast Days of our tradition: on such days a simple bowl of soup, a piece of toast, a little salad may be your choice for a meal. It is in dealing with this discipline that we can identify, if only for a short time, with those who have so little and with Jesus in his wilderness time. In such a way, we become aware of our abundance and grow in ways to share.

**Almsgiving:** How do we reach out to those in need? As we cut down on some things, perhaps the savings can become a gift to others. The FaithWorks program in our Diocese is one important way in which we can give financial assistance to help any number of people in need - a person on the street, a child and mum in a shelter, a family with a loved one in jail, teens in need, a refugee family, a homeless person, and so on. Do read the important mailing to come your way this Lent and give, please.

**Reading & Meditating on the word of God:**

To take some time to delve into a passage, a story, a parable, a text from Holy Scripture takes us into the eternal. When we enter into the pages of that vast library of readings, we will read a story with new eyes and learn something about God's love. When we read the New Testament, we learn about that love lived out in the person of Jesus

By the time you read these words, Lent will be well underway. What have you done differently to this point in time? What will you do the rest of Lent? God bless us all.

**LENT: A TIME FOR STUDY AND REFLECTION**

Wednesdays in Lent bring an opportunity to gather around the altar in the Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. Following the service, we move into the St. Luke Room for a time to study and reflect on some passages from scripture. Tom McQuiston and Canon Greg will facilitate this study.

- March 3: Mark 8:1-10  
Feeding of the 4000.
- March 10: Mark 3:13-19  
Disciples are chosen.
- March 17: John 6:27-40  
'I am the bread of life.
- March 24: Mark 4:30-32  
The mustard seed
- March 31: Matthew 13:1-9  
The parable of the sower.
- April 7: Mathew 20:1-15  
Workers in the vineyard and their pay.

Wednesday nights in March bring us an opportunity to join in a study at All Souls' Anglican Church on Clairtrell Rd. (Bayview/Sheppard). The Rev. Michael Clarke, new part time assistant curate there offers a unique series, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

**March 3:** Finding the crucified Christ in the face of 'the least of these my brothers'. Michael & a daughter will present a drama related to life on the street

**March 10:** 'God calls us to join Him in the creative process'. A native artist will join us with his art & testimony.

**March 17:** 'On Eagles wings'. Meditative music & a dramatic reflection on the love of Jesus. Text, Isaiah 40:31.

Other themes to be confirmed.

Contact Canon Greg if interested.

**SERVICES FOR LENT AND EASTER DAY**

**Ash Wednesday, Feb.25**

Said Eucharist, Imposition of Ashes **10:00 am.**  
Sung Eucharist, Imposition of Ashes **7:30 pm.**

**Each Wednesday in Lent. 10:00 am.**  
Said Eucharist, Reflection

**Holy Week:**

**Monday, April 5 7:00 pm.**  
Said Eucharist, Reflection

**Tuesday, April 6 7:00 pm.**  
Said Eucharist, Reflection

**Wednesday, April 7 10:00 am.**  
Said Eucharist, Reflection

**Maundy Thursday, April 8 7:30 pm.**  
Sung Eucharist Washing of Feet and Stripping of Altar

**Good Friday, April 9 10:00 am.**  
Solemn Liturgy of the Day

**Easter Day, April 11 8:00 am.**  
Said Eucharist  
**10:00 am.**  
Choral Eucharist

Bring your little hand-bells to ring in the good news of the Resurrection.

## **Notes on the Administration of St. Matthew's**

Delores Lawrence continues as Rector's Warden and the People's Warden elected at the recent Vestry (annual meeting of the parish) is Karl Kunz. Delores and Karl handle the business matters of the parish and depend on a variety of people to assist them. Jane O'Keefe, parish administrator and secretary, is in the Church Office Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Jane deals with phone calls, usage of the rooms and halls, office administration and so on. Each Warden has a mail slot in the Church Office and mail can always be left for them there. Their telephone numbers are also in the weekly leaflet. Cliff Wong has been appointed by the Wardens to act as Treasurer and his duties include the paying the bills and providing periodic financial statements to the Advisory Board. This Board meets the first Monday of each month, nine times a year and is made up of various officers, people from committees, and 'members at large'. The Wardens, at this point in time, take turns chairing the meetings. You are welcome to attend any Advisory Board meeting in the Welcome Room, beginning at 7:30 pm.

## **FROM YOUR WARDENS**

On behalf of the Wardens a very big thank you to all those who participated at Vestry. A special thank you to the Outreach team who helped with the refreshments and tidying up.

It is that time again, when we all start to prepare for the Lenten season at St. Matthews. Welcome to Karl Kunz our new People's Warden. Karl usually worships at the 8:00 am service, it will be refreshing to have a Warden at the earlier hour. Karl will from time to time attend the 10:00 a.m. Welcome to all the new members of the Advisory Board and thank you to those who will be continuing for another year.

Your Wardens are entrusted with the financial management for the Parish and one of the duties includes counting the offerings on Sundays. Your Wardens from time to time will ask other parishioners to assist on any given Sunday. A schedule is prepared in advance and circulated. The counting is carried out with at least two in attendance.

Once the offering is collected, the counters must make sure that the amount of money that is in the envelope does match the amount that is written on the outside of the envelope. If this is not written on the envelope (and so often times it is not) the counters will carry out that function. Should you have any special offerings, you can identify it under "other". After totaling the offering and clearly making sure that the proper credits are given to the parishioners, the amount is totaled, sealed in a deposit bag and is deposited in the night deposit at the bank.

The envelopes are given to the Envelope Secretary – Janice Sanders together with a listing of the envelopes and a summary. – Janice credits the parishioner's accounts, and at the end of the year a proper tax receipt is given. The Envelope Secretary does provide a quarterly update to all parishioners. Should there be any errors on your statement, please bring this to the attention of the Envelope Secretary or to your Wardens. We can assure that there is strict confidentiality of information surrounding your offerings.

The Treasurer, who is appointed by the Wardens, prepares the Financials and these are distributed frequently at the Advisory Board meetings for review. Prior to the annual Vestry meeting, usually held in February, an audited financial statement is presented to the Parishioners. Please feel free to ask questions of your Warden on these and other issues at any time.

Respectfully submitted  
Delores Lawrence ~ Rector's Warden,  
Karl Kunz ~ People's Warden

## FAITHWORKS 2004

This annual financial appeal of the Diocese will soon be upon us; in fact, this year, we will mail the material to each home in the season of Lent.

Lent has traditionally been a time for special financial offerings, amongst other disciplines which you have read about in Canon Greg's reflection for this issue. Actually, we have already had a presentation on one of the partners in FaithWorks: the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. Kyn Barker shared some good thoughts on PWRDF back in January. In March there will be a presentation by some members of the Outreach Committee: they will highlight some of the special ministries that receive some funding through the gifts of people across this Diocese through the FaithWorks program. Canon Greg will also deliver some thoughts on this one Sunday.

Watch for your mailing about FaithWorks. Many people depend on our financial gifts. The material will name the ministries to receive some funding - ministries within our own Diocese of course and across the world.

Thank you for whatever gift you are able to give to this worthwhile cause in our Church.

*'I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me'. (Mt. 25:35-36)*

## THE PRIMATE OF CANADA AND THE BISHOP OF TORONTO

A few weeks ago, it was announced that Archbishop Michael Peers, Primate of Canada (the Senior Bishop of our National Church who speaks on behalf of the Church) would retire as of February 1.

A new Primate will be elected at General Synod which meets near the end of May through until June 4th. General Synod is the gathering of the Bishops, clergy and lay representatives from all the dioceses across Canada. General Synod meets every three years.

Just recently, our own Diocesan Bishop, Archbishop Terry Finlay, announced his retirement as of June 11. An Electoral Synod will be called for sometime in June and this Diocese will elect a Diocesan Bishop to oversee this vast Diocese. Archbishop Finlay has served as Bishop for 18 years. He also served a term as Metropolitan (thus the term 'Archbishop').

The Metropolitan oversees the ecclesiastical Province, in our case Ontario, with its seven dioceses.

The Bishop of Toronto is not automatically the Metropolitan--the Provincial Synod elects such a person. This Diocese of Toronto has five Bishops: The Diocesan, plus four Suffragans (assistant bishops): our own Michael Bedford-Jones, Colin Johnson to the east, George Elliot to the north, and Ann Tottenham to the west.

## YOUTH MINISTRY TAKES TIME

Not too long ago, on a Sunday afternoon, I found myself frustrated. I was annoyed that the music store that I had intended to visit (for the purpose of buying a new guitar) was closed. Not only that store, but every music store seems to be closed on Sundays. I guess, like the few other remaining businesses that do so, like banks and hairdressers, they prefer the old fashioned way.

After trying two other stores – only to find them to be closed as well – I gave up and resigned myself to waiting until Monday to go looking. But the occasion of being frustrating was instructive, to say the least. I realized the degree to which I, and I think many of us, expect things immediately. This theme has been discussed a lot since the 1980's, when people began referring to the "microwave society" and wanting everything in no time at all.

That problem has only be magnified by the advent of personal computers and the internet, and the shift has gone from wanting everything immediately, to expecting everything immediately. But that is not how most things operate in life.

Most things take time – lots of time. Especially starting a youth ministry. Kids need to get used the idea. Parents need to be sold on it. The youth minister needs to settle in. The group needs to find and / or create an identity and focus for itself. The congregation needs to adjust its mindset, and learn to embrace it. These things are largely underway at St. Matthew's and in many ways, I am pleased, as are many members of the congregation.

As I mentioned at Vestry, this congregation has not been content to simply let youth ministry be taken care of "on the side", but has embraced the youth, our ideas, our activities, allowed us space (both social and physical) and encouraged us. Some of the best support has even come from those who don't have kids in the youth group!

My thoughts are at this time to encourage you to continue to embrace the youth ministry as a congregation. The success of youth ministry does not stand or fall on one person or even upon a particular group of youth, but upon a congregation's vision for and commitment to youth ministry for the long term.

Michael Kelly, Youth Minister