

# THE SPOTLIGHT

St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole Church 80 George Henry Blvd., North York, Ont. M2J 1E7  
Tel: 416-494-7020 Website: [http://netcomsolutions-ont.com/st\\_matthews/](http://netcomsolutions-ont.com/st_matthews/)

## WINTER 2006

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

As the Parish Selection Committee worked very hard in the search for a new Rector, they advised me to assume I would be needed through the Easter season and to be prepared possibly for some time beyond if necessary.

So, I take a usual clergy winter break, in between Christmas and Lent/Easter, Jan. 29 – Feb. 13.

The Worship Committee has very enthusiastically recommended the following and I feel called to be the 'Chef of the Spiritual Buffet dinner' to offer the best and hope you can, according to your need give the time to attend. Pray that every program will be a transformation experience of Spiritual growth and don't pass on it lightly. If you cannot attend all, at least try to come to part of it. Just remember - do not starve your Spiritual need!

**DO YOU KNOW THE SEVEN 'I AM'** declarations of Jesus in the Gospel of St. John? They are all solemn proclamations of Christ to reveal God in Human history. Come and learn about.....

**Christ As:**

Bread of Life (6: 35), Light of the World (8: 12), Door of the Sheep (10: 7), Good Shepherd (10: 11), Resurrection & Life (11: 25), True Vine (15: 1), The Way, The Truth, The Life (14: 6)

*Wednesday morning 10 am. Eucharist.*

**Miracles of Jesus, St. John's account:  
The Seven Miracles (Signs of the Lordship)**

Water into Wine (2: 1-11),  
Healing of the Official's son (4: 46-54),  
Healing of a 38 year patient (5: 2-9),  
Feeding of 5000 (6: 4-13),  
Walking on the Sea (6: 16-21),  
Healing of the one born blind (9: 1-7),  
Resurrecting Lazarus (11:1-44)

*Thursday evening Eucharist 7:30 pm. and Holy Week – Monday & Tuesday*

**DO YOU KNOW THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS?**

Father, Forgive them for they know not what they do! (Luke 23: 32-38),  
Today thou shalt be with me in paradise. (Luke 23: 39-43)  
Women! Behold thy Son! Son! Behold thy Mother (John 19: 25-27)  
My God, My God! Why hast thou forsaken me? (Mark 15: 33-34)  
I thirst (John 19: 28)  
It is finished (John 19: 30)  
Father into thy hands, I commend my Spirit (Luke 23: 44-49)

**Dear members,**

If these basic faith foundations are not in your Spiritual inventory or repertoire, come and taste it, savour the Real JESUS LIFE offered in the Bible. Do not let too much cultural trend of human rights flood the Divinity of Christ.

Build up your Christian foundation this Lent and Easter! Life is too precious to go empty and unprepared to meet Christ!

Pray for your priest and pastor, for the True Provider and Interpretation of the Truth to fill him and all assistants.

*To be led and responded to by 7 pairs of members on Good Friday 12 noon – 3 pm. Volunteers who feel called, inform Fr. Edmund and we will prepare you*

**QUIET RETREAT SAT. APR. 8 AT ST. JOHN’S CONVENT CHAPEL**

Theme: Launching into the Deep  
Leader: The Rev. Canon Christian Wayne O.H. Former Prior of the Holy Cross Monastery, Missionary to Africa, Spirit-filled Retreatant.  
Fee: \$25, sign up before Mar. 15. Space is limited.

**WORSHIP WORKSHOP II SAT. APR. 29 AT ST. MATTHEW**

Theme: Meditating on The Holy Eucharist based on Henry Nouwen’s ‘Life of the Beloved’ and study the 9 forms of Eucharistic Prayers in the BAS (Book of Alternative Services)  
Leader: The Rev. Canon Edmund B. Der

**BOOK STUDY THURSDAY IN LENT MAR. 9,16, 23, 30, APR. 6 AT ST. MATTHEW**

Book: Henry Nouwen’s ‘Reaching Out’ (The 3 movements of the Spiritual Life)  
Time: following Holy Eucharist at 7: 30 pm (approx. 8:10 – 9:15 pm)  
Leaders: Tom McQuiston & Fr. Edmund

*Have you ever joined the pilgrimage of “The Way of the Cross” or sometime called Meditation on the Station of the Cross? It is an ancient devotional journey recently revived in the Anglican tradition to observe on all 14 stations of the Via Dolorosa, -the way of the Cross of Christ. We will experience this on the last two Sundays in Lent.*

**What is ‘Focus Sunday’?**

We have many ‘departments’ within the Parish and those who work in these areas fulfill many wonderful services behind the scenes and many of us are not aware of them.

A Focus Sunday will celebrate their gifts, interpret their ministries and also interest new people to become involved and trained as needed.

Department heads of Outreach, Sunday School, Choir, Youth, Altar Guild, Lay Reader and Sacristan, Servers, Greeters etc. – choose one Sunday to talk about it. Please speak to Fr. Edmund to make arrangements.

**FROM THE SCHOOL OF PRAYER**

*A sampling of prayers written by some members who attended the School of Prayer led by Fr. Der.*

**PRAISE THE LORD  
CREATOR OF THE WORLD  
MY SALVATION!**

*Joseph Vrana*

**WE ADORE YOU, WE PRAISE YOU  
WE BOW DOWN BEFORE YOU,  
O LORD OUR GOD.  
YOU ARE THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA,  
THE BEGINNING AND THE END,  
WE GLORIFY YOUR HOLY NAME  
IN JESUS NAME.**

*Bernice Vrana*

**CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE,  
WHAT BEAUTY YOU HAVE  
SURROUNDED US WITH.  
ALL GLORY AND HONOUR AND PRAISE  
BE YOURS.  
IN JESUS NAME**

*Bernice Vrana*

**DEAR LORD,  
WE THANK YOU FOR THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOU,  
FOR THIS COMMUNITY AND THE  
PEOPLE AROUND US.  
WE THANK YOU THAT WE CAN KNOW  
THE GIFT OF GIVING AS WELL AS  
RECEIVING.  
THANK YOU LORD. AMEN**

*Joyce Taite*

## LENT SCHEDULE

- Wed. Mar. 1      Ash Wednesday  
10 am. Holy Eucharist (said) Bible Study-1  
7:30 pm. Choral Eucharist & Great Litany
- Fri. Mar. 3      World Day of Prayer - 2 pm.  
All are welcome.
- Wed. Mar. 8      10 am. Holy Eucharist, Bible Study-2
- Thu. Mar. 9      7:30 pm. Holy Eucharist, Book Study-1
- Sun. Mar. 12      8/10 am. Healing Service-Testimony  
2 pm. North York Seniors Service
- Wed. Mar. 15      10 am. Holy Eucharist, Bible Study-3
- Thu. Mar. 16      7:30 pm. Holy Eucharist, Book Study-2
- Sun. Mar. 19      8/10 am.  
Dialogue Sermon with V. Seales  
7:30 pm. Evensong (David's Prayers)
- Wed. Mar. 22      10 am. Holy Eucharist, Bible Study-4
- Thu. Mar. 23      7:30 pm. Holy Eucharist, Book Study-3
- Sun. Mar. 26      8/10 am. Holy Eucharist  
and Mothering Sunday
- Wed. Mar. 29      10 am. Holy Eucharist, Bible Study-5
- Thu. Mar. 30      7:30 pm. Holy Eucharist, Book Study-4
- Sun. Apr. 2      8/10 am. Holy Eucharist  
and Passion Sunday
- Wed. Apr. 5      8/10 am. Holy Eucharist, Bible Study-6  
9:20 am. Pilgrimage, Way of the Cross
- Thu. Apr. 6      7:30 pm. Holy Eucharist, Book Study-5
- Sat. Apr. 8      9:30 am. - 4:30pm. Retreat
- Sun. Apr. 9      Palm Sunday (Gospel Drama Reading)  
8/10 am. Holy Eucharist  
9:20 am. Pilgrimage, Way of the Cross

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- Mon. Apr. 10      7:30 pm. Holy Eucharist
- Tues. Apr. 11      7:30 pm. Holy Eucharist
- Wed. Apr. 12      10 am. Holy Eucharist, Bible Study-7
- Thu. Apr. 13      Maundy Thursday  
7:30 pm. Holy Communion  
Stripping of the Altar and Foot Washing
- Fri. Apr. 14      10 am. Good Friday Liturgy  
11:20 am. Brown Bag Lunch  
12 - 3 pm. Meditation  
The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross
- Sat. Apr. 15      7:30 pm. Easter Vigil  
Lighting of the Paschal Candle &  
Holy Baptism, Renewal of Baptismal Vows
- Sun. Apr. 16      Easter  
8/10 am. Holy Eucharist  
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- Sun. Apr. 23      8/10 am. Dialogue Sermon  
7:30 pm. Evensong
- Sat. Apr. 29      Worship Workshop

### HOLY BAPTISM

If you have infants to be baptized, or adults wishing baptism please contact the office regarding preparation and pre-baptism education.



**~He Is God~**

**He is the First and Last,  
The Beginning and the End!**

**He is the keeper of Creation and the Creator of  
all!**

**He is the Architect of the universe and the  
Manager of all times.**

**He always was, He always is, and He always  
will be ...  
unmoved, Unchanged, Undefeated, and never  
Undone!**

**He was bruised and brought healing!**

**He was pierced and eased pain!**

**He was persecuted and brought freedom!**

**He was dead and brought life!**

**He is risen and brings power!**

**He reigns and brings Peace!**

**The world can't understand him,**

**The armies can't defeat Him,**

**The schools can't explain Him, and The leaders  
can't ignore Him.**

**Herod couldn't kill Him, The Pharisees  
couldn't confuse Him, and The people couldn't  
hold Him!**

**Nero couldn't crush Him, Hitler couldn't  
silence Him,**

**The New Age can't replace Him, and "Oprah"  
can't explain Him away!**

**He is light, love, longevity, and Lord.**

**He is goodness, Kindness, Gentleness, and God.**

**He is Holy, Righteous, mighty, powerful, and  
pure.**

**His ways are right,**

**His word is eternal,**

**His will is unchanging, and His mind is on me.**

**He is my Savior,**

**He is my guide, and He is my peace!**

**He is my Joy,**

**He is my comfort,**

**He is my Lord, and He rules my life!**

**I serve Him because His bond is love,  
His burden is light, and His goal for me is  
abundant life.**

**I follow Him because He is the wisdom of the wise,  
the power of the powerful,  
the ancient of days, the ruler of rulers, the leader of**

**leaders, the overseer of the overcomers, and is to  
come. And if that seems impressive to you, try this  
for size.**

**His goal is a relationship with ME!**

**He will never leave me,**

**never forsake me,**

**never mislead me,**

**never forget me,**

**never overlook me and**

**never cancel my appointment in His  
appointment book!**

**When I fall, He lifts me up!**

**When I fail, He forgives!**

**When I am weak, He is strong!**

**When I am lost, He is the way!**

**When I am afraid, He is my courage!**

**When I stumble, He steadies me!**

**When I am hurt, He heals me!**

**When I am broken, He mends me!**

**When I am blind, He leads me!**

**When I am hungry, He feeds me!**

**When I face trials, He is with me!**

**When I face persecution, He shields me!**

**When I face problems, He comforts me!**

**When I face loss, He provides for me!**

**When I face Death, He carries me Home!**

**He is everything for everybody everywhere,  
every time, and every way.**

**He is God, He is faithful. I am His, and He is  
mine!**

**My Father in heaven can whip the father of  
this world.**

**So, if you're wondering why I feel so secure,  
understand this...**

**He said it and that settles it.**

**God is in control, I am on His side,  
and that means all is well with my soul.**

**Everyday is a blessing for GOD Is!**

**PASS THIS ON IF YOU BELIEVE IT...**

**I love the Lord and thank Him for all that He has done in my life; therefore I'm passing this on.**

**I love Jesus, does he know? Have I ever told Him so? Jesus loves to hear me say, That I love Him every day.**

*If you think this is neat, please pass it on to all of your friends. If you do not pass it on, nothing bad will happen, but you will have missed an opportunity to "Reach out and Touch" a friend or a loved one.*

*A pastor once stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best."*

#### **THE READERS OF 'FORWARD DAY BY DAY'.**

**Here is a new version just for us who have white hair, or no hair at all. For us over 40 (or even those almost there) and all you others...Check out this newest version of "Jesus Loves Me". It is quite cute, so read, sing and enjoy:"**

As many of you may know, I took over the distribution and collection of funds for the Day by Day booklets. I too enjoy the booklet, as I find it to be very inspirational and interesting reading. Each edition is written by a different writer, whether it is lay or clergy, male or female. The many different stories and daily readings of these individuals always leave me wanting more.

#### **'JESUS LOVES ME'**

**Jesus loves me, this I know, Though my hair is white as snow. Though my sight is growing dim, Still He bids me trust in Him. (CHORUS)**

I will continue the process that worked before and ask that everyone please pay the sum of \$8.00 to cover the 4 issues for 2006 (\$2.00 per book). Your payments could be made to the church office, on the collection plate or to me directly. Thanks to those who have done so already. Booklets will be left in the Narthex for pickup. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you, *Valerie Seales*.

#### **SIDESPERSIONS' REPORT**

**YES, JESUS LOVES ME... YES, JESUS LOVES ME... YES, JESUS LOVES ME FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.**

Thanks to all who came to the refresher and training session on **Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> 2005**. We went through the Sidespeople procedures and there was a question and answer period. The Sides Teams continue to do good work by welcoming and assisting the Rector/Celebrant and the congregation to prepare for the weekly worship. Thanks again to you all, for your continued commitment to this special ministry. Keep up the good works.

**Though my steps are oh, so slow, With my hand in His I'll go. On through life, let come what may, He'll be there to lead the way. (CHORUS)**

"Remember to always appreciate all the different people in your life". *Valerie Seales 10 am*

**Though I am no longer young, I have much which He's begun. Let me serve Christ with a smile, Go with others the extra mile. (CHORUS)**

#### **OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT**

**When the nights are dark and long, In my heart He puts a song. Telling me in words so clear, "Have no fear, for I am near."**

**(CHORUS)**

Our Mission Statement: 'To seek and serve Christ, the Outreach Committee reaches out in humility and love to promote justice through education and community service'

**When my work on earth is done, And life's victories have been won. He will take me home above, Then I'll understand His love.**

**(CHORUS)**

As always the Outreach Committee works on behalf of the Parish to promote activities that allows us to reach out to the Christ that is within ourselves and in the many we serve at the Clothing Sale and also to the many, whose lives we touch through our financial giving's.

The Outreach Committee continues to be very active. Meetings are held on Sundays @ 09:00 in the Welcome Room each month following the Clothing

Sale. We welcome all to join in on the discussions and become involve in the many outreach projects going on at St. Matthew the Apostle.

Submitted by,  
*Chair, on behalf of the Members of Outreach  
Committee*

Look for a more comprehensive report in the Vestry package that will be distributed shortly.

## **‘SPOTLIGHT’ on 2006 Fundraising Activities**

### **Annual and Proposed Events**

**May 7: Brunch and Silent Auction**

Chairpersons: *Valerie Seales* (416) 490-0943 and *Jacqui Getfield* (416-444-4097)

**May 13: 2006 Annual Walk-A-Thon**

Chairpersons: *Peter Bates* and *Elizabeth Roberts*

**June 17: Annual Parking Lot Sale**

Chairpersons: *Bob and Shirley Stevenson* (416) 269-5760

**June 17: Summer B-B-Q**

This event will be held at the Parking Lot Sale. Details on this will be available by March 1. If interested in assisting with coordinating, please contact *Jacqui Getfield*. (416-444-4097)

**September/October Caribbean Night**

Chairperson: *Robbie Roberts*

This is a new event for movers and shakers. Dust off your dancing shoes; brush up on those dance moves; get ready and get fit!

**November 4 (tentative date) Annual Christmas Bazaar**

Chairperson: *Bonnie La Rue*

**December 2: Annual Raffle Ticket Sales**

Chairpersons: *Jacqui Getfield* and *Felicia Roberts*.

**(Date undecided) Christmas Concert**

*Megan Roberts* will coordinate this new event. Preliminary details on this will be available by March 15.

**(Dates undecided) Monthly Games Evening**

Cards, dominoes, board games etc. to be held once every month. If interested in attending or assisting with coordinating, please contact *Jacqui Getfield*. (416-444-4097)

**Ongoing 50/50 Draw**

It was decided that in addition to a larger annual 50/50 Draw, at each event we will hold smaller 50/50 draws. A coordinator is being sought for each draw, if interested please contact *Jacqui Getfield*.(416-444-4097)

**Ongoing Pennies from Heaven**

**Coordinator:** *Peter Bates*

Please gather your pennies and donate them to St. Matthew The Apostle~ Oriole.

**Other proposed events** that are being tabled until further notice or someone volunteers to coordinate them:

~Movie Night

~Kidz Evening Out

- ~Reading Club Membership
- ~Golf Day
- ~Mini-seminars and Conferences

*Respectfully submitted, Jacqui Getfield, Fundraising Chair*

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

It is a pleasure to be able to give a very positive report for 2005.

Despite envelope income being below that of 2004 and way behind budget by over \$ 4,000, the parish ended the year with total income for the general operating funds being \$6,000 over budget (\$ 5,000 over 2004.) This was mainly due to increased income in our licensing fees and fundraising.

Expenditure for 2005 was about \$ 5,000 above budget (\$ 4,000 above 2004). We therefore ended 2005 with a surplus of about \$ 1,300.

We were also able to transfer \$11,000 into the Capital Reserve Funds, which now totals at almost \$19,500. Considering all the expenses we had over the past years, this is a very healthy balance.

Congratulations to you all for making 2005 so financially successful.

Let us now look at 2006. At the time of writing this report, a number of unknowns still exist, namely, a new Rector, what direction will he/she take. What about Youths? Adult Education/Music and the list go on.

However, a budget of \$ 216,000 was presented to Vestry for approval. This includes provisions for a Rector with 10 – 15 years of experience. It allows for increased spending in the area of Adult Christian Education, increased Utilities costs, increased Property Taxes, and a transfer to Capital of \$ 4,000. In order to meet this budget, it is imperative that the level of giving in 2005 be maintained. It is expected that there will be lower income from fundraising.

This however, deals only with the General Operating Budget.

This year it is imperative that we look at the fabric of the building. There are four main improvements that the Wardens hope to take this fiscal year, depending on approval from Vestry.

These are

1. Upgrading of the four washrooms
2. Renewal of the sign on Sheppard Avenue
3. Upgrading the Lower Church Hall
4. Improved lighting in the parking lot and surrounding areas

These upgrades will be costly and on approval from Vestry, we will be seeking to obtain a loan from a financial institution through the Diocese. As this proceeds I will keep you up-to-date.

However, this will entail a Capital Fund Appeal as this loan will be repaid over a determined period of time. (Would it have been wonderful if we had these monies in the bank!). Your support and generosity will be appreciated over this period. There will also be many fundraising events to support this appeal.

In order to monitor these financial requirements, a motion will be put to Vestry to create a Financial Committee, which will consist of the Treasurer, at least two Wardens, the Fundraising Chair and two members-at-large.

Please continue to support your parish in all ways that you can. Let us make St. Matthew a brighter beacon in the community and beyond

Respectfully submitted, *Clifford Wong, Treasurer*

### **'THE UNCOMFORTABLE BENCH' - January 2006**

It's been a busy, exciting, and difficult Advent and Christmastide for the choir. In 2005 we experimented with a later starting time for the Festival on Nine Lessons and Carols, this allowed us to start in complete darkness. (It also gives the choir a break between the morning service and returning to prepare for the Carol service). For those of you that have not experienced this service, it begins in darkness and everyone is given a candle. During the singing of "Once in Royal David's City" the candles are lit the warm light spreads throughout the church. The symbolism continues as the Christmas story unfolds in words and music. As always, we spent many extra hours practicing for the event, while keeping to our standards of music from week to week. For a small choir, this takes consistent effort and planning as well as excellent rehearsal attendance throughout.

For the first time that I can recall at St. Matthews, we held an Epiphany service "On the day" at 7.30pm on Friday January 6<sup>th</sup>. It was a beautiful service with Epiphany music and a thought provoking homily from Father Edmund.

There will also be the possibility of attending monthly evensong during the first few months of 2006. If you're not familiar with this service it's an opportunity to sing the Responses, a Psalm, Canticles (the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis) and enjoy some of the beautiful evening hymns that were written when it was customary to attend Evensong each Sunday. It's a peaceful and reflective service to end the day. It may be said or sung.

They who visit (especially those who have experienced a wide variety of places throughout the Anglican world) have commented on the quality and robustness of congregational singing at St. Matthew's. I treat the congregation like a "full choir" and the "choir" as a "semi-chorus". I have always done this in my churches. Have you ever noticed that the whole congregation "retains pitch" in the hymns, even if left unaccompanied? It's no fluke! Try to notice if the organ and congregation "match" after singing an unaccompanied passage. Hear it?...!

Please do not forget the organ "voluntaries" which take considerable time (often years) to prepare and can be difficult, requiring great concentration.

We are already looking ahead to music in Lent and Easter to help St. Matthew's prepare for a thoughtful Lent and a joyous celebration of Easter.

Please do not forget us in your prayers.

Respectfully submitted, *David Braund, Music Director & Organist*

### **ALONGSIDERS REPORT - JANUARY 2006**

With the support and encouragement of Father Edmund a short Bible study is now offered to our young people after church on most Sundays following the 10.00 Eucharist. Alongsiders are just what the name implies, a small group of people learning and discussing the Bible alongside the youth.

Starting in October with some encounters with God we are now progressing to “complainers” which something which we can all relate to! This study is based on a book by Marcia Hollis titled “God Meets Us Where We Are” and deals with a wide range of complaints and complainers.

Respectfully submitted, *Angela Braund*