

THE Pews News and Views

St James Anglican Church Caledon East

Advent/Christmas 2006

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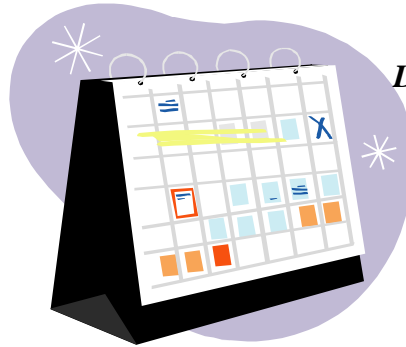
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St James' Anglican Church
6025 Old Church Road
Caledon East, Ontario L7C 1H8
Rector: The Rev. Dr. John
Stephenson
Youth Minister: Jonathan Massimi
905-584-9635
Email: office@stjamescaledoneast.ca
Web: stjamescaledoneast.ca



Dates To Remember

November 26	3:00pm – Georgetown Bach Chorale and Chamber Orchestra presents Handel's Messiah
December 3	4:00 p.m. - Advent Craft Day
December 15	Youth Christmas Formal
December 17th	Annual Christmas Pageant
December 23	Decorating of the church and Christmas tree at 10:00 am

For submissions in the newsletter:

Any member of the Parish of St James Caledon East may submit an article for the newsletter. To do so, email to newsletter@stjamescaledoneast.ca or leave your articles in writing or on a disc in the newsletter box at the church office. Articles are considered based upon space availability and relevance.

Thank you for your submission.

Next Newsletter: Lent/Easter 2007

Deadline February 4th 2007

Publication: February 18th 2007

A Word From John

The Reverend Dr. John Stephenson



We are on the cusp of the great wheel of time turning again. The New Year for the Church is December 3 this year, the first Sunday of Advent. As I look ahead I find myself mulling over three questions: what does the future hold for faith in our society? What does the future hold for our beloved Anglican Church both in Caledon East and throughout our country? What does the future hold for each of us as individuals and families?

In the limited space I have, let me say a few words about the first question. I am sure that we will be wrestling with the other two questions as the year unfolds.

By the time you read this, *TIME Magazine* will have published a very important cover story called “God vs. Science.” It seems that a number of scientists, chiefly biologists, have become quite angry: they are angry with attacks on the integrity of their findings by a wide spectrum of groups: the American Religious Right, the “Intelligent Design” school of thought, Roman Catholic scholars, and even from some of their own. And so these scientists have launched yet another offensive to show that God and science are totally opposed and that religious faith is not reasonable. Predictably, they have chosen the acerbic Oxford biologist Richard Dawkins as their spokesperson. Dawkins’ new book, *The God Delusion* is now in bookstores and causing quite a sensation in some circles. As *TIME* points out, these scientists with Dawkins at their head are seeking to dismantle the foundations of faith by showing, for example, that advanced brain mapping now gives a clear view of the brain processes and genetic dispositions that are responsible for religious experiences of wonder and awe and even the profound mystical encounters of the saints. All is explainable by biology they argue; faith is simply a product of our biological make-up. There is no God, they say: the need, the discovery, and the experience of God are simply due to our biology.

All this is not new. There are three major problems with their conclusion, however. I can remember fifteen years ago when Phillippe Rushton at the University of Western Ontario attracted such international outrage for his conclusions that different races were innately more or less intelligent depending on the size of their brains. When I wrote the President of the University to express my concern about Rushton’s views, I received a gracious but firm letter saying that his conclusions were simply the result of his biological research: get used to it. One of my dear friends, a professor of logic, said to me at the time that the problem with Rushton’s work was actually quite simple: Rushton and others like him were assuming that mind is synonymous with brain. Is our mind or to use religious language, our soul, reducible to **only** physical matter, a mass of cells that is the domain of biological study? Or, is mind or soul more than just the physical biochemical workings of the physical brain? The Christian answer would be that there is indeed more to our mind and wills, more to us as persons than just the mere physical matter that makes up our brains.

The second problem that these scientists fail to consider is that science was meant to be a humble instrument to help us understand our world. Science was meant to answer “how” questions. It was never meant to answer and cannot answer the more important questions such as “why?” When these biologists exclaim that they now know how Francis of Assisi had a mystical experience, all they have shown is the methodology God used to enable humans to experience Him. Why God made Francis the way He did and why God decided to give Francis his experiences are deeper questions that cannot be answered by science (and that drives some scientists to distraction).

Lastly, in every age in western society since Galileo there have been those among the greatest scholars who have argued that religion and science are totally compatible. In today’s world, this new offensive for atheism has been met with strong resistance by major scientists themselves. Francis Collins, the Director of the Human Genome Project, for example, is a committed Christian as are some of the greatest physicists of the day such as John Polkinghorne who taught theoretical physics at Cambridge and who late in life has now become an Anglican priest.

If you have been shaken by some of the articles that have appeared in recent weeks, I would simply point out that our faith has both survived the intellectual attacks *du jour* for 2,000 years and produced in every age most able minds that have argued convincingly that God does exist, that He loves us, and that faith and science are not enemies but rather joint helpers for the accomplishment of God's purposes. I think it was Martin Luther who said, "Science is the humble servant of Truth." If you would like some enjoyable reading in this area I would recommend you start with Alister McGrath's *The Twilight of Atheism: The Rise and Fall of Disbelief in the Modern World* and Collins' *The Language of God*. McGrath is an Anglican and Principal of Wycliffe Hall at Oxford and Collins is currently well-known for his work with the Human Genome Project.

As for the second and third questions I posed at the beginning, the answers will come with living in the next year. As we go forward, however, we can go forward with confidence in the God who is there and who hears and responds to our prayers and who has revealed Himself so decisively in His Son, Jesus.

John+

Wardens' Report – May 2006

Bruce Neville - Rector's Warden

Karen Carley - People's Warden

Robin Holder – Deputy People's Warden

The repair and protection of the large stained glass window is under way and it should be completed and reinstalled in the near future. The smaller window will not, however, be ready for awhile - thank-you to the Sunday school for the charming temporary replacement!



At our "Welcome Back Corn Roast" in September, we were blessed with a visit from Bishop Philip Poole. The bishop had a great time and was among the last to leave. We were delighted to meet and welcome him to St. James'.

I hope everyone has had a chance to fill in our survey and return it to the boxes provided at the church. Your answers will be important in planning for our future life at St. James'.

Thank-you to Bruce Neville for all the time he dedicated to the demographic study he presented to the congregation recently. If you missed that presentation, copies are available at the church.

Has everyone noticed our new Bulletin Board located on the wall outside the ladies' washroom? Now everyone should know what is happening at our facilities and when events are scheduled. Please speak to Ruth in the office to book an event or to add information to our bulletin boards.

Our church has become a very busy place with many and varied things happening. During the week we are hosting groups of young people on spiritual retreats. The hall is booked most evenings and on Saturday morning for a variety of community activities.

The wardens are working on the budget for 2007. Please keep us in your prayers as we plan for the upcoming year. Do read the article on the PAR program in the newsletter and consider signing on. If you do not participate already, you will be receiving a call in the near future to discuss this worthwhile program. Shop and Support is another source of income for St. James', an easy way to shop at all your favourite stores and help with parish finances at the same time. Please speak to Sandra Morrison or Cobina Price-Jones to get involved. We continue to struggle with debt at St. James' and we need to work together to work our way back into the black!

Advent Services

Candlelight Advent Communion

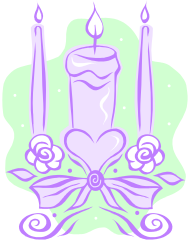
Wednesdays in Advent

December 6, 13, and 20 at 7:30 pm

featuring

Three Advent Homilies

by John Mason Neale



John Mason Neale was one of the greatest hymn writers in the English language. A devoted Anglican who co-founded the Anglican order of the Sisterhood of St. Margaret, Neale wrote a series of brief but brilliant sermons on the "black letter days" in the Book of Common Prayer, those days that remember minor feasts in the Church Calendar. These three were written for Advent.

Christmas, Christmas, Christmas is coming . . .

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. As we seek to care for all the needs of the parish, we have decided that the following will be our schedule over the Christmas season.

Sunday December 17

11:00 am - The Service of Lessons and Carols with Children's Christmas Pageant (8:00 and 9:30 services as usual)



Sunday December 24

10:00 am – The 4th Sunday of Advent (1 morning service only)

5:30 pm – A Child's Christmas Eve - A Eucharist designed for young children and children

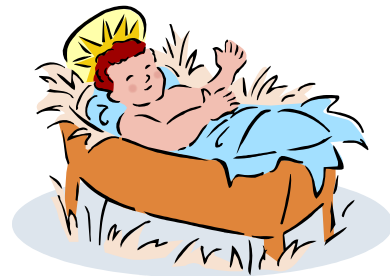
7:00 pm – A Quiet Christmas Eve - A BCP Eucharist for seniors and those who wish an early night

11:00 – A Christmas of Joy - BAS Sung Eucharist with Choir

Monday December 25

10:00 – Christmas Morning - A Brief and Peaceful Christmas Morning Eucharist with Carols.

(If you have never tried this service, it is a delightful way to begin Christmas Day)



Pre-Authorised Remittance (PAR) program

Neil Price-Jones

St. James Caledon East currently offers the Pre-Authorised Remittance (PAR) program (formerly the Pre-Authorised Giving program) for the convenience of the parishioners.

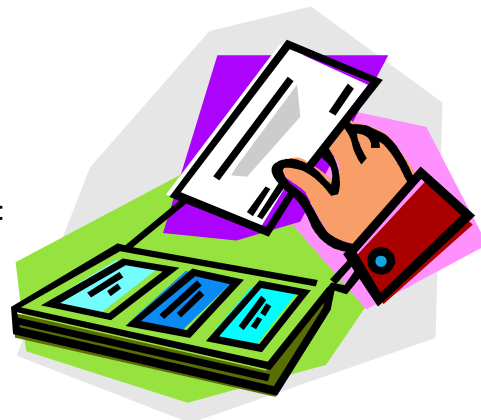
PAR offers you the convenience of having your contributions to the church withdrawn once a month from your account rather than supplying a weekly envelope.

- It avoids unnecessary trips to the cash machine or extra withdrawals from the bank.
- It can also reduce cheque usage and charges.
- Lastly it reduces paper waste and bother.

How does it work?

This works the same way as any other withdrawal program such as:

- Cable bill
- Phone bill
- Credit Card
- Property Taxes (Town of Caledon)
- Mortgage



When is the withdrawal?

On a fixed day each month (currently the 21st of the month), the program automatically withdraws an amount set by you from your account and transfers it to St. James'.

How may it be credited?

The amounts may be credited to any of the programs supported by the church, in any proportion you direct:

- Regular Giving
- Faithworks
- Special Outreach
- Youth Ministry

May I change the amount?

You may change the amount for the following month at any time, or the proportions allotted each program at any time.

What are the advantages (again)?

- No search for the envelope and cheque book or cash on Sunday morning.
- Less cost for cheques in a year.
- Flexibility to add amounts for special occasions (like flowers).
- Smaller statements from the envelope secretary (and less garbage all around).

How do we enroll?

Enrollment is simple: fill out the yellow form, attach a cheque marked VOID and place it in an envelope with Neil Price-Jones and PAR on the front. Place it on the offering plate and it will be picked up the following week. Withdrawals will start the following month.

Thanks.
Neil



Church Library News

Deirdre and Bob

Have you been to the church library? If not, we recommend a visit.

Do you know Bob Waller and Deirdre Fowler? They are our library coordinators, charged with the task of re-cataloguing the church's current collection. This will be done using the recommendations of the Church Library Association of Ontario's guidelines, followed by many other church libraries. Deirdre and Bob will be adding new items to our library shelves and weeding out books that are old or in bad shape, or don't meet the criteria to be of interest to Christians or of a Christian nature. Short reviews of books soon will appear in the weekly bulletin to tempt you to explore what we have on offer in the library.

The library's computer (now equipped with a larger monitor) is available for responsible use when the church is open.

We would like to hear from you. Do you have items of interest that you would like to see in our library? Please find us, tell us or leave us a note in the library. Deirdre can be reached at email: tdqh@hotmail.com, and Bob at email: Robert.waller@explornet.com.

Sites to visit: Check out a major work of English literature, The Book of Common Prayer. Explore more than two-dozen variants and related works at <http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/>.

Movies to see: To be released on December 1st from New Line Cinema, a movie entitled "The Nativity Story". See the trailer at <http://www.thenativitystory.com/>.

"I cannot read ALL THE BOOKS in the world, so I just read the best - from my church library." Linda Stockton-Wigmore, church library bulletin.



Youth Group News

Jonathan Massimi

It has been an eventful couple of months in the area of Youth Ministry with our mural painting in September and our Trick or Can event on Halloween, where we collected several baskets of food for Choices Youth Shelter. We also made changes in our youth meeting times, we now meet every Sunday at 9:30AM for a Youth Worship Time, followed by a 30 Minute Snack Time followed by our 11:00 AM J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) Session where youth discuss issues that are relevant to their lives and faith. We are also looking forward to our Youth Christmas Formal on December 15th.

Blessings
Jonathan

Make Your Christmas Gifts Work Harder

Cobina Price-Jones

Christmas is fast approaching, as I'm sure your children and grandchildren are happy to remind you. While visions of sugar plums are dancing in THEIR heads, YOU are counting the shopping days left until Christmas!

Do your shopping the easy way: use the **Shop & Support program** at St. James'. When you do, a percentage of every dollar you spend goes to support St. James' ministries - ministries such as Worship, Adult Education, Sunday School and Youth Group.



Just see how easy it is for our fictional Jamieson family to raise money for St. James'. The family consists of two parents, 9-year-old James, 13-year-old girl Jessica and Jemimah the dog.

Gift For	Gift Cards to Buy	Amount Raised for St. James'
James	\$50 EB Games	\$1.50
	\$25 Toys R Us	\$.50
Jessica	\$25 HMV	\$.50
	\$50 Old Navy	\$2.50
Mom	\$25 Body Shop	\$1.25
	\$50 La Senza	\$2.50
Dad	\$25 Sport Mart	\$1.25
	\$50 Canadian Tire	\$1.50
Jemimah	\$20 Petcetera	\$1.00
Grandma	\$25 Crabtree & Evelyn	\$2.50
Grandad	\$25 Sport Mart	\$1.25
Auntie Jenn & Uncle Jeff	\$25 Kelsey's/Montana's/Swiss Chalet	\$0.75
Teachers	\$25 Wendy's (book of 5 gift certificates)	\$1.25

By using the **Shop & Support program** for their Christmas shopping, the Jamiesons raised \$18.25 for St. James'...and it didn't cost them anything extra.

They don't have to miss out on the fun of shopping – when Dad buys the La Senza card, he can take it into the store and personally select a gift for Mom. Being frugal, he'll be glad to use his own cards to shop the post-Christmas sales.

So, when you are doing YOUR Christmas shopping, consider the **Shop & Support program**. Your gifts will bless St. James', as well as their recipients.

Sunday School News

Members of St. James' Sunday School have been glad to welcome back our old friends this fall - and to see some new faces, too! We already have been busy, making a stained-glass stand-in for the window that's being repaired in the church. We hope that everyone is enjoying our efforts, as we think our temporary window looks very pretty in the sunshine.

Advent and Christmas are a busy time of year for us, as they are for everyone else at St. James'. We will be having our annual **Advent Craft Day on Sunday, December 3rd at 4:00 p.m.** This year, we will be having a pot luck supper, and we will be inviting families to sign up for the food they want to bring. (While some of us wouldn't object if everyone brought dessert, we know that the Moms and Dads might not like that!) The Sunday school teachers have their thinking caps on, and they are sure to come up with some fun crafts. Everyone is welcome - both the young and the young-at-heart!

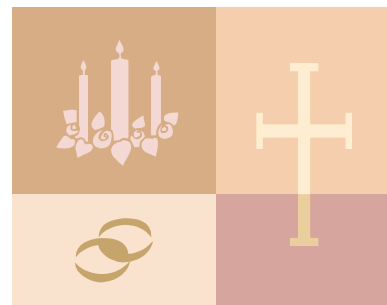
We will be performing our annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17th. We hope that lots of Sunday school students will be there to help out! It's always fun to perform for the congregation.

Remember to save your pennies for our annual Penny Drive. Gluttons for punishment that we are, we have issued a challenge to the Bolton United, Caven Presbyterian and Caledon East United Church Sunday Schools. We also will try to involve more Sunday school competitors, so watch us up the ante!

The Sunday school also is planning a repeat of its successful Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race and Pancake Supper. We hope that it will be bigger and better than before (especially as we are working to overcome logistical problems with the supper). In the meantime, mark **February 20th on your calendars**; we'll provide more details closer to the date.

Milestones

Since the last Newsletter, important life passages have been marked in this parish. We congratulate all those who have made new beginnings in the past few months and offer our continued sympathy and support to those who grieve.



Baptisms

On All Saints Day, we welcomed into the family of God

Lauren Clara Stark
Kaelyn Madison Bell
and
Nina Alexis Brown.

Put me on the Refrigerator ☺

St. James' Anglican Church, Caledon East

Worship Schedule – January - February 2007

DATE & TIME	LITURGICAL DAY	SERVICES
Wednesday Dec. 6	1 st Week of Advent	7:30 pm Candlelight Eucharist
Dec. 10	2 nd Sunday of Advent	8:00, 9:30 (Cont.), & 11:00 am Eucharist – BAS
Wednesday Dec. 13	2 nd Week of Advent	7:30 pm Candlelight Eucharist
Dec. 17	3 rd Sunday after Pentecost	8:00 am – Eucharist BCP 9:30 am (Cont.) Eucharist 11:00 am – The Service of Lessons and Carols with Children's Pageant
Wednesday Dec. 20	3 rd Week of Advent	7:30 pm Candlelight Eucharist
Dec. 24	4 th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve	10:00 BCP Eucharist 5:30 pm – A Child's Christmas Eve 7:00 pm A Quiet Christmas Eve 10:15 pm Carols in the Parish Hall 11:00 pm A Christmas of Joy
Monday Dec. 25	Christmas Day	10:00 am – Christmas Eucharist (BAS)
Dec. 31	The 1 st Sunday of Christmas	8:00, 9:30 am (Cont.), & 11:00 am Eucharist – BAS
Jan. 7	1 st Sunday after Epiphany	8:00, 9:30 (Cont.) 11:00 am Eucharist – BAS
Jan. 14	2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	8:00 am – Eucharist BCP 9:30 am (Cont.) Eucharist 11:00 am – Morning Prayer – BCP
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Jan. 21	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)	8:00, 9:30 (Cont.), & 11:00 am Eucharist – BAS
Jan. 28	4 th Sunday after Epiphany	8:00 am – Eucharist BCP 9:30 am (Cont.) Eucharist 11:00 am – Eucharist – BCP
Feb. 4	5 th Sunday after Epiphany (Septuagesima)	8:00, 9:30 (Cont.), & 11:00 am Eucharist – BAS
Feb. 11	6 th after Epiphany (Sexagesima)	8:00 am – Eucharist BCP 9:30 am (Cont.) Eucharist 11:00 am – Morning Prayer – BCP
Feb. 18	Last Sunday after Epiphany (Quinquagesima)	8:00, 9:30 (Cont.), & 11:00 am Eucharist – BAS
Feb. 21	Ash Wednesday	7:30 pm The Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist (BAS)
Feb. 28	1 st Sunday of Lent	8:00 am – Eucharist BCP 9:30 am (Cont.) Eucharist 11:00 am – Eucharist – BCP