

THE Pews News and Views

Lent /Easter 2006

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St James Anglican Church Caledon East



**Dates
To
Remember**

- February 28th The Great Caledon East Pancake Race and Supper
Details in Sunday school news and church web site
- March 1st Ash Wednesday program for youth 9am-3:30pm
Bramalea
Imposition of Ashes services (details p.4)
- March 8th First presentation of "Lent At The Movies" (details p.4)
- March 18th Last of the Men's Breakfast season - Spring grounds
clean-up
- April 9th Palm Sunday and start of Holy Week.
(Schedule on p.4)
- April 28th to Sunday April 30th
Spiritual Quest Women's Retreat Week End
- April 30th Deadline for recipe submissions
for the St James Cookbook
- May 27th Amazing Auto Adventure (details p.6)
- May 28th Sunday School Flower Planting



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: Pentecost 2006

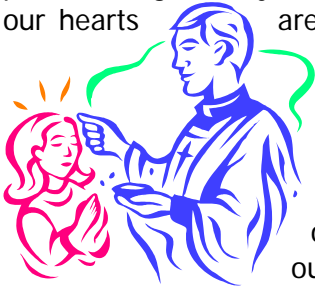
Deadline: April 30th 2006

Publication: May 14th 2006

A Word From John

The Reverend Dr. John Stephenson

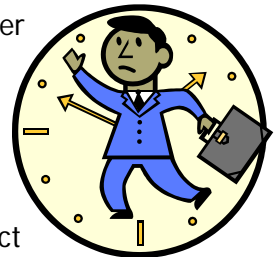
Over the Christmas season Carolyn and I watched the entire BBC production of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, that delightful exploration of English manners and morés in a by-gone era. A month later we also watched the production of Austen's other great story, *Sense and Sensibility*. As I have been thinking about Lent, I have been trying to capture what Lent means, I think that word "sensitivity" provides a good key: Lent is change in "sensitivity." With Ash Wednesday the atmosphere changes, our hearts are moved in a different direction. As we begin the march towards Easter we realize that we have business to do.



Lent should not be a morose sullen time in which we indulge in what some theologians call "worm" theology which implies that we should see ourselves as worthless rebellious sinners lower than low. Lent is not a time for obsessive preoccupation with human sinfulness compulsively reminding ourselves of how many times we fail to heed God's voice. Rather, as one writer eloquently put it, Lent is to be a time when we courageously conduct a moral inventory of ourselves. And the consequence of that inventory should be the identification of those things which have entered our lives that hinder us from loving God and our neighbour as we ought.

So how do we live Lent? How do we engage in this courageous moral self-inventory? Here are a few tips that may help you celebrate the season. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (March 1) which is marked by the ancient rite of the imposition of ashes, a ceremony that dates back at least 1000 years. During the service, believers are asked to come forward to the altar. The priest dips his thumb into a small container of ashes, and with it marks on each person's forehead the sign of the cross, saying the words from the book of *Ecclesiastes*, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." The ashes that are used come from burning some of the palms blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday. The liturgy and readings of Ash Wednesday provide a vivid sudden change in sensitivity. The ashes with the words accompanying them remind us that we are mortal, a consequence of living in a broken world in which there is sin.

To conduct your inventory you need space. Lent can be an ideal time to unclutter your life, even a bit. Stay home one more night of the week, forego a business trip, try to find a few more hours each week for you. So often people speak about Lent in terms of what they are giving up. Of course, sometimes in Lent giving up things is helpful. The choice to give up something may be the result of having found something in your life that is hurting you and your ability to love. By all means, give that up. Giving up something can also help us to focus as we conduct our moral inventory: if something is distracting us from being able to reflect and think, then for a time it may be wise to give it up.



Lent is not just about giving up things however. More importantly, it should be about adding things. Into some of that space you have created, add prayer and some good reading: try reading, for example, a book of Scripture (I'd recommend starting with the Gospel of John) and a Lenten daily devotional guide. This year I am most happy to tell you that I have acquired a number of copies of what I think is the best Lenten guide I have found. It's called *Bread and Wine* and will be available at the Church in the next few weeks. Lent is a good time, also, to enter into some new act of caring:

perhaps, for example, cook a pan of lasagna and take it over to *Choices Shelter for Homeless Teens* in Orangeville or give an extra monetary gift to an agency like *World Vision*.

Lent was meant to be a time that prepares us to celebrate again the wonderful joys of Easter. As the season slowly moves ahead it builds to the great climax of Holy Week. This year as in the past we will have a full schedule of services in Holy Week beginning with the Maundy Thursday potluck supper followed by the stripping of the altar.

This year I wish for all of us a holy Lent. I pray that as you enter into the change of sensibility that you will be drawn closer into fellowship with God's Spirit who is present with us because of the power of Christ's resurrection.

John +



Wardens' Report - February 006

Peter Sabbagh - People's Warden

Karen Carley - Rector's Warden

Bruce Neville - Deputy Rector's Warden

During last three months the Wardens have spent their time dealing with financial issues and preparing for Vestry. This time was divided into preparing the budget and filling all the committee positions which included a Deputy People's Warden, two new members to Synod and two alternate members to Synod. You will notice that we now have a high enough weekly attendance (107) to send two members to Synod instead of one.

Financial planning at St. James is difficult because 25% to 35% of our annual income from givings and donations comes in December each year. We would very much like to even this out throughout the year.

St. James has a **Pre-Authorized Gifts program (PAG)** which makes it easier to support the work of our parish through regular offerings. It is convenient to register and a void cheque is all that is needed. No more envelopes, cheque writing and bookkeeping on your part. It also makes it easier for the church to meet our expenses when there is a regular, dependable flow of contributions to the parish and Faith Works. Please consider joining this program. Your participation in PAG will be greatly appreciated by your wardens.

You may have noticed an increase in visitors at worship services and at coffee hour on Sundays. This is wonderful but there have been a few occasions when new comers at coffee hour were left by themselves in a strange place. We ask that all members make a special effort to treat visitors as you would like to be treated and give them a warm welcome. Thank you for your extra efforts.

Dr. Bob Williams presented us with a proposal for a senior's drop-in center for St. James. This was approved and will start on Friday, February 17, 2006. The seniors' drop-in center will move from a portable beside the fire hall to St. James. The original plan in building the St. James hall was to share

its facilities with the community at large and this is a continuation of that long term goal. The name of the centre will be the St. James Anglican Drop In Centre.

We are also embarking on a new initiative to support our local businesses in Caledon East. It began with selling advertising in the photo directory which raised \$2,450 to support our youth program. We will soon distribute a coupon/flyer package from local businesses. Watch for more to come.

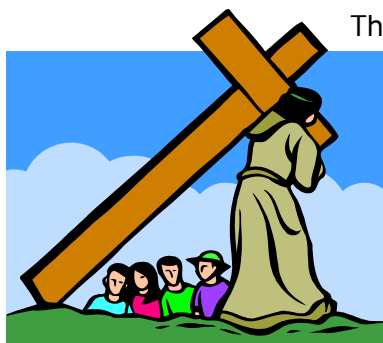
The rest of the time was spent on administrative duties including day-care meetings, license renewals and preparing for the Incumbent's week away. One meeting was a little more interesting when it ended in sampling three different types of sacramental wine. We hope that you like our decision.

And finally, we wish to say a very big Thank You to Karen as she finishes her 3 year term as Rector's Warden. Karen was always there when problems arose and tackled them head on. It has been a real pleasure working with you. And we give a warm welcome to Robin Holder as she begins as the new Deputy People's Warden.

Karen, Peter, Bruce

The Final Week . . .

John Stephenson



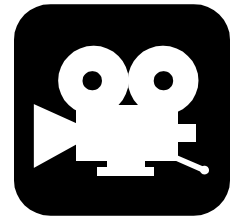
The most powerful time in the Christian calendar is the celebration of the truly awe-inspiring events of Easter. To appreciate fully the power of Easter Sunday, you are invited to join us on the journey that is Holy Week. It is only after walking with Jesus from the exhilaration of Palm Sunday through the darkness of the Garden of Gethsemane on Maundy Thursday, the horror of the cross on Good Friday, and the loneliness and sudden transformation to light and life that occurs during the Easter Saturday Vigil can one truly grasp the power of Easter Sunday. I hope that as a spiritual discipline you will consider joining us for some or all of this meaningful week.

Wednesday March 1	7:30 pm	Service with the Imposition of Ashes
Sunday April 9	11:00 am	Procession of Palms and Eucharist.
Thursday April 13	6:30 pm	Potluck Supper and informal Eucharist around the table in the Parish Hall and then for the quiet procession to the Church for the Stripping of the Altar.
Good Friday, April 14	10:15 am 11:00 am	The Stations of the Cross in the Parish Hall Solemn Meditation on the Cross.
Holy Saturday, April 15	7:30 pm	Lighting of the New Fire, Procession into the church and Holy Baptism
Resurrection Sunday, April 16	8:00, 9:30 (Cont.) & 11:00 am	The Lord is Risen!

Lent at the Movies – 2006

John Stephenson

Starting on Wednesday March 8, *The Many Faces of Jesus - A Different kind of Spiritual Discipline*. Five evenings of fellowship and discussion **starting at 7:00 pm.**
March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5



We live in a complex society that, through art and the print and broadcast media, is often reflecting on the great issues of life. For five evenings we will view movies together that raise important questions about life and death and God. Each night, we will view one movie and then briefly reflect on the ways in which it speaks to our faith and our faith speaks to it. The movies are all very unique and, on a variety of levels, fascinating.

Each evening begins promptly at 7:00 pm. The popcorn is free.

St James Cook Book

Carl Kinzinger



Calling all cooks – male chefs encouraged!

This is the second time of asking for our St. James Cook Book. We need your favourite "old family" recipes (no "Company's Coming" reprints, please). Submit up to 7 recipes, one in each category: Appetizers, Salads, Soups, Meat Dishes, Vegetables, Casseroles, Desserts (or anything I might have missed!).

We will form a committee to determine which recipes will be included. Please verify measurements and temperatures. Recipes selected will have your name printed "as submitted by...".

This is a major fundraiser for the church. We can raise a lot of money for St. James', but we do need your help. Let's all get behind this project.

Deadline for submission is April 30th, so we can have this book printed for the fall season. Please submit recipes either by hand delivery or by email to Ruth at office@stjamescaledoneast.ca or to Carl Kinzinger at cpk@sympatico.ca.

We look forward to being inundated with good eating ideas!

Murder Mystery Dinner

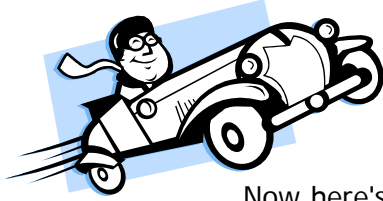
Carl Kinzinger

Thanks to everyone who made our 3rd annual Murder Mystery Dinner such a success. Everyone who attended had a great night out. The Brampton Music Theatre players did a superb job of presenting their play [and having some fun with members of the audience as the plot unfolded]. Bruce Cunnington produced yet another fabulous meal. Our 4th Murder Mystery Dinner is scheduled for February 10th, 2007. Mark your calendars now!



The Amazing Auto Adventure

Carl Kinzinger



Advance Notice... mark May 27th, 2006 on your calendar NOW. We are planning a mini fundraiser for the church. Entrants need not be parishioners.

Now here's something you can get into and have a great deal of fun. Take one car (yours, hopefully), you as driver and a partner to navigate and go on a scavenger hunt throughout our beautiful Town of Caledon. This is not a race, but a contest of skill and problem solving. There will be prizes! So get your team together and stay tuned for more information.

Registration: from 11:00 AM.

Start: from the church parking lot at 12:00 Noon.

Finish: back at the church for a BBQ from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Registration will be restricted to 25 cars and is \$50.00 (for car, driver and navigator) and \$10 for an extra adult passenger, \$5.00 per child. Sign up by calling the church office or email office@stjamescaledoneast.ca.

Visit our church website: www.stjamescaledoneast.ca for more details.

A Glass Of Milk

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door. Instead of a meal he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry so brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it slowly, and then asked, How much do I owe you? You don't owe me anything, she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness."



He said..... "Then I thank you from my heart."

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strong also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Many years later that same young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled! They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease. Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room. Dressed in his doctor's gown he went in to see her. He recognized her at once. He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day he gave special attention to her case. After a long struggle, the battle was won. Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was

sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words.....

"Paid in full with one glass of milk" (Signed) Dr. Howard Kelly.

Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed: "Thank You, God, that Your love has spread broad through human hearts and hands."

There's a saying which goes something like this: Bread cast on the waters comes back to you. The good deed you do today may benefit you or someone you love at the least expected time. If you never see the deed again at least you will have made the world a better place - And, after all, isn't that what life is all about?

The hardest thing to learn in life is which bridge to cross and which to burn..

GOOD FRIENDS ARE LIKE ANGELS, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE THEM TO KNOW THEY ARE THERE.

Kid's corner



Sunday School News

We're all excited about our Pancake Supper, which is coming up on Shrove Tuesday (February 28th). If you don't feel like making supper, let the Sunday school and Youth Group do it for you! What could be easier than pancakes with syrup, sausages and juice, tea or coffee...and all for the modest price of only \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children.

Just before the Pancake Supper, we will be running the Great Caledon East Pancake Race. It is open to adult female residents of Caledon East. The race starts at 5:15 PM, and terminates at St. James' bell tower. The winner is the first to kiss the bell ringer. If you can't run and flip a pancake at the same time, at least come out to watch!

Also coming up is our annual spring planting, which will be held May 28th. During Sunday school, we will be planting flowers in the beds around the church. Come dressed appropriately!

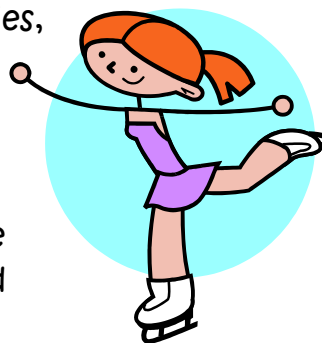
Advent and Christmas are always busy times at Sunday school. We had our annual Advent Craft Day, where we made Advent wreaths and other crafts, and enjoyed a simple supper of buns and soup. We had a great turnout of about 12 families.

Following the 11:00 AM service on December 18th, we presented the Christmas pageant. It was in two parts: In the first part, the Sunday school set up a crèche at the front of the church. Natalie was the teacher; Veronica, Lauren T., Erin, Matthew and Nathan were her students. Lauren G. was Joseph, Ainsley was Mary, and the shepherds were Keegan, Brooke, and Madison. We had a full complement of angels: Kira, Hannah, Kiara, and Megan.

In the second part, Robin performed the song, "Maria's Gift", while Samantha enacted the part of Maria. The song ended with the nightingale flying to the rafters, to the accompaniment of Dana's flute. Thanks to Travis for accompanying Robin on the guitar!

The Sunday school held its annual Penny Drive again this year. We raised \$126.50 (\$112.50 in pennies). We competed with the Sunday Schools of Bolton United Church (\$300), Caven Presbyterian Church (\$226), and Caledon East United (\$176, of which \$85 was in pennies). Thanks to everyone for bringing in their pennies, which we donated to Caledon Community Services, to help the less fortunate members of our community.

The annual Sunday School Skating Party had to be postponed because of the mild weather, but when we finally did hold it, we had a perfect day. The sun was bright, and the ice was hard and about as smooth as pond ice can get. We all had a great time!



Milestones

We offer our continued sympathy and support to those in our church family who grieve.
Please continue to pray for the families of Karen Payne and Jan Brouwer.