



# Mustard Seed

Holy Trinity (Guildwood) Newsletter

Advent/Christmas 2008

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Insert with this issue:

- Calendar

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85 Livingston Road  
Scarborough, Ontario M1C 1K7  
416 261 9503

[www.trinityguildwood.homestead.com](http://www.trinityguildwood.homestead.com)

The Rev. Stephen Kirkegaard  
Priest

[kirkegaard@rogers.com](mailto:kirkegaard@rogers.com)

[officetrinityguildwood@rogers.com](mailto:officetrinityguildwood@rogers.com)

## You won't find the perfect Christmas gift in any store.



**The best Christmas gift didn't come from a store. It came from God.  
Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.**

**Festival of Lessons and Carols – December 21, 4:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve – December 24, 7:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Day – December 25, 10:00 a.m.**

## Holy Trinity Parish Leaders – 2008

■ <b>Priest</b> – Rev. Stephen Kirkegaard	Church:	416-261-9503
	Home:	416-266-8386
Church Secretary – Judy Baribeau	Church:	416-261-9503
■ <b>Church Wardens</b>		
Rector's Warden	Peter Mathews	416-283-6088
People's Warden	Flo Schwerdtner	416-284-6269
■ <b>Lay Readers</b>		
	Linda Epping	416-267-3635
	Peter Harris	416-703-5433
	Peter Mathews	416-283-6088
	Robbie Rhodes	416-266-8624
	Tim Wiebe	416-267-4788
■ Lay Delegate to Synod	Ellen Anderson	416-267-4788
Alternate	Robbie Rhodes	416-266-8624
■ Lay Pastor	Pat Every	416-265-7886
■ <b>Organist/Choir Director</b>	Peggy Wong	
■ <b>Management Team</b>		
Management Team Chair	Hank Rogers	416-266-4521
Communications	Patricia Eastman	416-261-7300
Education & Nurture	Patricia Murray	416-265-3302
Mission & Outreach	Sharon Trivers	416-284-2597
	Millie Laking	416-724-6340
Youth Group	Emma Price	416-281-1268
Secretary to Management Team	Isobel Wilton	416-266-7154
Mustard Seed Editors	Mary Beth Moffatt-Sinclair	416-261-6426
	Una Mawson	416-265-5433
■ <b>Parish Nurses</b>	Vivien Harris	416-703-5433
	Luciene Bailey	416-282-2484
■ <b>Readers' Co-ordinator</b>	Cathy Mathews	416-283-6088
■ <b>Coffee Convenor</b>	Beverley MacPhee	416-261-6370
■ <b>Altar Guild</b>	Linda Epping	416-267-3635
Flower Convenor	Isobel Wilton	416-266-7154
■ <b>Church Auditor</b>	Peter Harris	416-703-5433
■ <b>Envelope Secretary</b>	David Calvin	416-267-7058
	Beverley Rhodes	416-266-8624
■ <b>Sidespeople</b>	Don Sinclair	416-261-6426
■ <b>Treasurer</b>	David Tangness	416-283-6778
Bookkeeper	Janet Tangness	
■ <b>Welcome Ministry</b>	Sharon Trivers	416-284-2597

## Editorial Purpose and Procedure

The *Mustard Seed* is a seasonal newsletter for and about the people and activities of the Anglican parish of Holy Trinity Guildwood. Its primary purpose is to communicate the good news of God's love for us in Christ and to enhance and enrich the strong sense of caring community within the Holy Trinity family. It is a means of informing the community of, and inviting them to the rich and diverse liturgical, social and educational opportunities offered at Holy Trinity.

The editors encourage the submission of articles, photographs or insights, which are of interest to the parish and contribute to the mission and vision of our community.

At time of submission, articles should contain all required information and be written as completed articles. Material may be presented in either electronic or manual form. All contributions must be received by the deadline published in the previous issue unless editorial extension has been granted. The editors reserve the right to edit or decline any submissions. ♦

## Next Issue

The Mustard Seed is published four times a year.

Editors:

Mary Beth Moffatt-Sinclair  
marybdon@primus.ca  
and

Una Mawson  
una@mawson.ca

Production: Judy Baribeau  
Proofreading: Isobel Wilton  
Distribution: Victor Gough

Next Issue:

Sunday, February 22, 2009  
Materials Deadline: Sunday,  
February 1, 2009  
Please send material to  
Una Mawson

## Advertising in the Mustard Seed

Business card sized advertisements are accepted for insertion in the Mustard Seed for a \$25 fee.

## Used Postage Stamps

Please remember to save the postage stamps from the mail you receive. You may put them in the box marked "Stamps" in the narthex. They will be picked up quarterly and forwarded to the Canadian Bible Society.

# Stephen's Space



*"In each heart there is a Bethlehem  
An Inn where we must ultimately answer  
whether there is room or not."*

*Ann Weems*

As we begin to decorate our homes in anticipation of Christmas guests, let's enter more deeply into the holiday, "holy day," spirit by taking the time to decorate our hearts that we might be ready to welcome the greatest guest of all, "Christ in us".

Advent can be a wonderful time of spiritual preparation. By reflection and prayer, reading and meditation, gratitude and generosity, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace would desire to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place.

It's important not to let our lives become so cluttered with busyness that there is no room left in the inn. Take time to celebrate, to enjoy the wonder, to let the music, words and worship of this Advent season work in you so that Christ may be born through you.

In Christ,

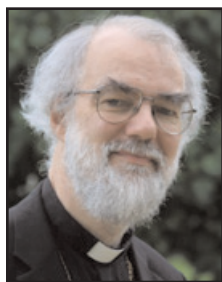
*Stephen+*

*The Rev. Stephen Kirkegaard*

The month of December can be such a whirlwind of activity: shopping for gifts, sending Christmas cards, attending parties, balancing year-end finances that the "reason for the season" can be lost.

## Listening Time

On Tuesday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m., the Christian Meditation and Spirituality



Group at Holy Trinity Guildwood begins a monthly audio series of Rowan Williams' talks on the Wisdom of the Desert in which he returns to the

fourth and fifth century desert fathers and mothers for wisdom and insight, and discovers that their spirituality resonates strongly with aspects of the modern spiritual search. The talks were recorded in 2001 at the John Main Christian Meditation Seminar in Australia.

Rowan Williams is the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury. His talks have also been put into a short 112-page book form entitled *Silence and Honey Cakes: The Wisdom of the Desert*.

The review in *The Tablet* said, "*Silence and Honey Cakes* is a profound yet readable book. Williams is a polished but unpretentious stylist who

communicates his ideas with conviction tempered by humility. A gifted contemporary theologian, he succeeds in appealing simultaneously to readers wishing to be educated as well as those craving for spiritual inspiration."

You can order the book directly from Amazon.com, the Anglican Book Centre or from Holy Trinity Guildwood (Tel. 416-261-9503, email [trinityguildwood@rogers.com](mailto:trinityguildwood@rogers.com))

Rowan's talk will be followed by a time for meditation and silent prayer.

One of the prayers inherent in this season of Advent is the prayer of stillness. It was the prayer of Mary, the Mother of God. In her silent prayer she heard the voice of God telling her of the Great Mystery which had been planted within her womb. To fully hear the Divine our hearts must be open and our minds still.



## Visiting with Stephen

I would enjoy visiting with you and getting to better know the Holy Trinity family. Places for us to meet could be your home or place of work, a coffee shop or restaurant or my office at Holy Trinity Guildwood, wherever would be most comfortable and convenient for you.

If I visit you in your home there is no need to go to any special fuss. The important thing is the opportunity to be together as children of God. Family members, fellow parishioners, friends or neighbours are welcome to join us

If you would like to visit with me, please speak with me and let me know. It would be a privilege to get to better know you and some of the story of your journey with God.

*Stephen*

The Christian Meditation and Spirituality Group meets the First Tuesday evening of every month in the Upper Room at The Church of Holy Trinity, Guildwood. The meeting is hosted by The Rev. Stephen Kirkegaard.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

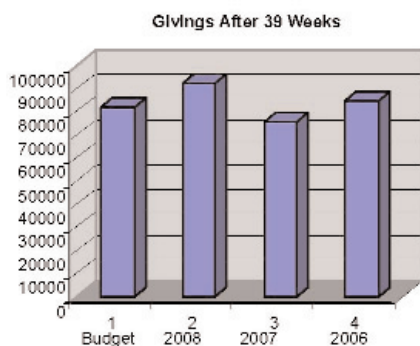
## A Word From the Wardens



This is the time in our Church calendar where we start to complete and tidy up the current year and begin planning for 2009. Two thousand and eight has been an eventful year for us, welcoming Stephen and Sandy to Holy Trinity, and for Flo and I, relearning and remembering everything we thought we knew as wardens. We are very thankful for the support that all of you have given us as retreat wardens.

### Givings

October was the first month when givings fell below last year's. October 2008



givings were \$2,400 below those of 2008 but \$800 over those of 2006. However, on a year-to-date basis, givings are 13% over plan, 22% over 2007 and 9% over 2006. Our givings budget from the end of October to year-end is \$28,000, which is slightly under givings for the same period for 2007 and 5% above 2006 levels. As we have had some expenses in excess of plan and it is clear that we will fall considerably short of our fundraising budget, we ask everyone to give this their prayerful consideration.

### Thank You

Our thanks to Hank Rogers and all of the Management Team who have pursued their ministries over 2008. Some members of our Management Team have

indicated that they would wish to pursue other ministries in the upcoming year and we hope that others in our parish will look at this opportunity to step into a parish leadership role.

We are very thankful of the unseen support of our parish secretary, Judy Baribeau, our financial team of Janet and David Tangness, and our auditor, Peter Harris.

My personal thanks to Colin MacPhee and his team who have undertaken the birdhouse challenge and made it a reality. This ministry will raise over \$1,000 for The Bridge before year-end.

This was clearly a transition year – we opened the year with a new incumbent and two new (recycled and slightly wrinkled) wardens. We are envisioning 2009 as a year of renewal for Holy Trinity, Guildwood.

### Looking Forward

It is clear from all we are thankful for in 2008 that we are very comfortable with the current state of our parish. Unfortunately, it is equally clear that the status quo is not enough to sustain the parish in the years to come. While our finances are in reasonable shape and our numbers have stabilized and may even marginally increase by year-end, it is important to realize that we are recycling much of our parish leadership and have no viable succession plan for the current leadership.

We have discussed this many times over the past 20 years. We have looked at several initiatives to better serve our

parishioners and our community over these years, and we have made some inroads – parish nursing being an excellent example. However we have yet to be successful in attracting a new generation of parishioners and leaders to take Holy Trinity forward.

In 2009, we will be looking at the demographic opportunities for growth, and then at what we need to do as a parish to share the Gospel and bring others into a new life-giving relationship with Christ.

We will have to examine a number of practices that we are “comfortable” with and look outside the box to determine if we need to alter or change.

Change can be unsettling, but not if you are part of the decision making process, and help to make the change possible. This is where we truly need your support.

Wardens, incumbents and management team may be the catalysts to change but it is all of us together who choose to make it happen or to remain status quo.

While Flo and I admit to being spoiled with the support that you have given us in 2008, please forgive us if we look to you for even greater support as we put our parish under examination in 2009 and make critical decisions as to how to move forward.

Thanks again for being there for us.

God Bless,

*Peter Mathews, Rector's Warden  
Flo Schwerdtner, People's Warden*

## Parish Register

### Funeral

**Charles Donald Muir**

Died September 28, 2008

and his funeral was held at  
Holy Trinity on October 3, 2008.

*Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord,  
and let light perpetual shine upon him.*



## Welcome

At a coffee drop-in recently we were talking about how to be a welcoming church. Jim and I visited several churches (all Anglican) over the summer and were intrigued by the differences as well as similarities in the way we were (or were not) made to feel welcome. "So what made you feel welcome?" someone wanted to know. Here are some of the things:

■ **Someone to greet you at the threshold.** When you're coming into an unfamiliar church, even when it's your own denomination, you don't know the customs of that particular place, or where the washrooms are, or even where the sanctuary is.

■ **Someone who makes sure you have what you need.** This is often a printed bulletin that tells you what the service is, what page it's on in the prayer book, what hymns you'll sing, etc. "Hello, welcome!" is nice too. (In one church the ushers were so busy talking to each other they almost missed us.)

■ **A word of welcome in print.** The best we saw was the first page of a bulletin headed WELCOME! "We are

delighted that you have chosen to worship with us this morning," it began, and continued with a description of the Christian community in that church and the diverse backgrounds of the people who come through their doors. There was an invitation to stay for coffee, and useful notes about nametags and nursery care.

■ **A sense of being included.** One church had a home-grown setting of the service, but since they failed to give us the music (everyone knows it, right?) we could not join in. Another was keen to get its fall programs up and running and, instead of a sermon, leaders of the different organizations treated us to lengthy descriptions of their programs. We were sorry that on the particular Sunday we were in town, the focus was so inward looking.

The most welcome we felt in any church was when we ran into someone we knew from way back when, who offered to sit with us and later introduced us to some other people and took us on a tour of the building.

*Rachael Boles*

*Editor's note:*

*Rachael's personal observations on this topic are timely since the wardens and others will be reviewing our own Welcome procedure in the next few weeks with a view to improving it. If other parishioners have experiences of this nature to contribute to the discussion, Flo Schwerdtner would be glad to receive them.*

## Birthday Blessings

As a member of the parish family, if you let us know the date, we would like to celebrate your birthday by including you in Sunday morning prayers at the appropriate time. Please inform Judy Baribeau (416 261 9503) of your birth date or put your name on the calendar on the bulletin board in the narthex designated for this purpose.



As you know, Stephen Foster is serving with the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan and will be away for Christmas. If you wish to contact Stephen, his address is:

**Capt. Foster, SM 314,  
HSS, Role 3 MMU  
KAF,  
PO Box 5058 Stn. Forces  
Belleville ON  
K8N 5W6**

No postage is required for Christmas mail if you take it to the local postmaster.

Alternatively, Stephen's e-mail address is  
[canadianvegiboy@rogers.com](mailto:canadianvegiboy@rogers.com).

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**Note:** I wanted to add my thanks to the "family" at Holy Trinity for taking such a supportive interest in my son's deployment to Afghanistan. I know your cards, letters and emails are giving him a lift and a valuable connection with home.

*Mary Beth Moffatt-Sinclair*



## Reminder

The Jim and Rachael Boles Choir Fund continues to welcome donations. Funds are required to purchase much-needed new choir robes and for other choir-related expenses.

## Parish Nurse Fitness Challenge



# Walk to Bethlehem

By the time the *Mustard Seed* is in your hands, we will have landed in Europe. We are flying across the Atlantic Ocean, instead of trying to walk on water, from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Dingle Point in Ireland, a distance of 3,063 km. This will give us a very good chance of completing the distance to Bethlehem by Christmas. However, it is still about 5,000 km from Dingle Point to Bethlehem so we need everyone to continue their exercising. Please phone or email your distances weekly so that we can update the map and let everyone know just where we are. We have altered the route slightly, which reduces the distance we have to travel by about 300 km.

Our first European stop is the Dingle Peninsula in Ireland. This area offers some of Ireland's most beautiful scenery – Iron Age stone forts and early Christian oratories. Gaelic is still spoken

by many people and road signs are not written in English – so watch that you don't get lost.

We will pass through Killarney National Park, which has several beautiful lakes and Waterford, which is Ireland's oldest city. It was founded by the Vikings in 914. Reginald's Tower, built in 1185, stands on the site of the original town. It is the oldest civic building in Ireland. We journey on to Wexford and Rosslare where we take a high-speed ferry across the Irish Sea to Fishguard in Wales, a journey of about four hours.

After we land at Fishguard we pass Parc-y-Meirw with its row of ancient "standing stones", and Prescally Hills where "blue stones" were mined and shipped to Stonehenge. There is also an Iron Age hill fort on the hill. We continue through the town of Merthyr Tydfil to Newport where you can see

the 15th Century cathedral of St. Woolos and then across the Clifton suspension bridge, 245 feet above the estuary of the Avon River, to the city of Bristol. There are many historical churches and other buildings to see here, dating from the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. Henry VIII gave cathedral status to an original Norman church in 1542.

We then head for Bath. Here you can soak your tired feet in the Roman baths. The town was established on the site of a Roman camp established about AD44. We continue south-westward and pass Stonehenge, the finest Bronze Age (about 1800 – 1400 BC) sanctuary in Europe, and on to Salisbury. You may have read the book by Edward Rutherford, *Sarum*. Salisbury Cathedral has the tallest spire in England.

From Salisbury we travel through the busy city of Southampton to Portsmouth, first seaport of the Royal Navy and departure point by Admiral Lord Nelson for the Battle of Trafalgar in which he was killed aboard his flagship, HMS Victory which remains in dry dock there. Later, Portsmouth was the assembly and departure point for the D-Day invasion in WW2.

Here we take a ferry across the English Channel to Le Havre in France. Our journey will continue through Paris and Dijon in France to Milan and Padua in Italy, Geneva and Lake Lugano in Switzerland, Zagreb in Croatia, Belgrade in Serbia, Skopje in Macedonia, Thessalonika in Greece, Istanbul and Ankara in Turkey, Tarsus and Damascus in Syria, and finally into Israel to Nazareth and Jerusalem and finally Bethlehem in the West Bank, where we can, in spirit, join the shepherds to witness the birth of our Saviour.



## *Festival of Lessons and Carols*

with the Holy Trinity choir  
and the Alto Trio

Sunday, December 21, 4:00 p.m.

Refreshments following

Donations to our Outreach Fund appreciated

*Vivien Harris*

# Bloopers

Thanks to Millie Laking for submitting these bloopers reputedly extracted from real church bulletins and reprinted here.

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals!

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoons.

The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5 p.m. Prayer and medication to follow.



## Ever feel Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right?



Ever feel as though Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right or the Secular Left? *Saving Jesus* is a modern exploration of Jesus Christ for thoughtful Christians and non-Christians alike. The 12-session program explores the life of the historical Jesus and the continuing significance of the Risen Christ. Each evening has a video presentation by scholars and leaders such as Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Matthew Fox, Amy-Jill Levine, James Forbes and a host of others for a conversation around the relevance of Jesus Christ for today. The discussion will be led by The Rev. Stephen Kirkegaard and Hank Rogers.

### 2008

1. Nov. 26 – Introduction: Jesus through the Ages
2. Dec. 3 – Who was Jesus? Featuring Matthew Fox
3. Dec. 10 – What Can We Know About Jesus (and How)?
4. Dec. 17 – The World into Which Jesus Was Born. Featuring John Dominic Crossan

### 2009

5. Jan. 7 – Jesus' Birth: Incarnation
6. Jan. 14 – Teachings of Jesus: Wisdom Tradition. Featuring Bernard Brandon Scott
7. Jan. 21 – Jesus' Program: The Kingdom of God. Featuring John Dominic Crossan
8. Jan. 28 – Jesus' Ministry of Compassion
9. Feb. 11 – Killing Jesus, Part One: Who Killed Jesus? Featuring Amy-Jill Levine and Helen Prejean
10. Feb. 18 – Killing Jesus, Part Two: The Atonement. Featuring Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker
11. Mar. 4 – The Resurrection of Christ. Featuring James Forbes
12. Mar. 11 – Why Jesus Is Worth Saving. Featuring Marcus Borg

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**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
**Wednesday evenings 7:30 p.m.**  
**starts November 26**

# Recent Activities at Holy Trinity



Harvest/Thanksgiving Multi-cultural Pot Luck Lunch, October 19. Thanks to Peter and Cathy Mathews for organizing this and to all those who contributed a wide variety of food items for all to enjoy. As usual when we meet for food and fellowship, this was a popular event attended by more than 70 people. Thanks also to all those who set up tables and the many who made light(er) work of the clean-up.



# Birdhouses and Wind chimes



Working on an idea initiated by Peter Mathews, Colin MacPhee volunteered to co-ordinate this project, finding a source for the specific lumber required and recruiting construction crew. Some cut wooden parts and created kits, and others assembled them (some did both). Those involved were Barrie Morgan, Chris Hamill, Alf Parke, Don Sinclair, Dennis Helm, Peter Price, Mike Henley and John Hetherington.

Colin made all of the wind chimes kits, as well as custom packaging for them (from cardboard tubes donated by John's Flooring), and was assisted by Beverley who became expert at the intricate threading process and was helped by Stephen Kirkegaard and Isobel Wilton.

**Pick-up is on Saturday, December 6, and Saturday, December 13,  
at the church between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.**

Many, many thanks to all who took part in this project.  
All proceeds will go to The Bridge through  
FaithWorks.



## Comments on Lambeth Conference

As part of our Wednesday evening prayer, reflection and study process, parishioners heard The Reverend Stephen Kirkegaard, Hank Rogers and Peter Harris share their thoughts on last July's Lambeth Conference.

The Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops from around the world takes place every ten years. One of its goals is to identify and strengthen different parts of the Anglican Communion throughout the world.

Stephen Kirkegaard emphasized the positive spirit and feeling of the conference which used an African deliberation process called *Indaba*. It is based on the ideal of purposeful discussion of our Anglican experience about the common concerns of our shared life. *Indaba* acknowledges first and foremost that there are issues that need to be addressed effectively to foster ongoing community living.

### Many wish to be a church of inclusion

Everyone acknowledges the spirituality and holiness of the Archbishop of Canterbury as we all struggle to hold onto unity. Many of us also wish to be a church of inclusion which we feel forms an important part of social justice.

Hank Rogers, Dennis Helm and Peter Harris attended Bishop Johnson's debriefing on Lambeth earlier in October. Hank saw Lambeth as in the nature of a very long retreat with some important growth in spirituality and fellowship. Many, however, feel disenfranchised by the issues of gender and sexual inclusion. "A significant number of Canadian Bishops are frustrated by the moratorium on blessing same sex unions and by the incursion of foreign bishops in their diocese to minister in an unauthorized manner." These incursions, as Hank emphasizes, are looked on by many as "diocesan border crossings". This practice was, up to now, virtually unheard of in the Anglican tradition covering many centuries."



Peter Harris and Rev. Stephen Kirkegaard review the report from the Lambeth Conference

### Walk for Witness Rally

Peter Harris showed pictures of the Walk for Witness Rally held on July 24. Hundreds of Bishops and their ecumenical and inter-faith brothers and sisters walked from Whitehall in London to Lambeth to promote the goals and effective timely realization of the United Nations Development Fund Millennium Development Goals. The over-arching goal is to reduce worldwide poverty by one half by the year 2015. The world community is not on track. Peter Harris emphasized that although it would only take an extra \$60 billion a year, shared among all developed nations to meet these goals, the world currently spends one trillion (one thousand billion) annually on armaments to sustain war.

Because of the current worldwide financial crisis, the Wednesday evening group felt it was ironic the world governments and financial communities could find more than 800 billion dollars in the United States (the total incidentally is four trillion worldwide) to bail out the banks and other financial institutions while one billion people worldwide live on less than a dollar a day.

### Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals are realistically divided into eight sub sectors covering food security, women's rights and other targets.

Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of Britain, delivered an inspiring speech to the conference. Many said it was the best they had ever heard on the subject of social justice. He said in part that "the poor of the world have been patient but a hundred years more is too long for people to wait for justice and that is why we must act now."

The Prime Minister confirmed the role of the faith community emphasizing "there are millions of people whom you may never meet, who owe you (the faith community) a debt of gratitude for the work you do for justice and humanity.

### A Time of Respect and Listening

Above all, as our own Bishop acknowledged earlier in October, Lambeth was a time of mutual respect and listening to each other, to other peoples of God and those traditionally considered not the people of God. Then, most importantly, praying for each other – especially for those with whom we differ.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Lambeth Conference

Continued from Page 10

**Suggested web sites for further research**

- <http://www.undp.org/mdg>
- <http://lambethconference.org/reflections/document.cfm>

The website for the Anglican Church of Canada has current news on the Canadian Church.

- <http://www.anglican.ca/index.htm>

The official site for the Anglican Communion.

- <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/index.cfm>

The official site for the Lambeth Conference.

- <http://www.lambethconference.org/index.cfm>

Material relating specifically to the proposed Anglican covenant are found at the link below. This page describes the various documents which have emerged. The Covenant Design Group developed the St. Andrew's Draft (see the links on the right side of the page). This draft was discussed at Lambeth and the responses of the bishops were collected as the Lambeth Commentary (link in paragraph 5, and at right side of page; click on Responses for additional responses). This draft and the commentary will be discussed at the Primates' meeting in January, and at the meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in May.

- <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/commission/covenant/index.cfm>

*Peter Harris*

## Diocesan Outreach Conference

On October 4, the Diocese held its annual Outreach Conference at Holy Trinity School, Richmond Hill. Attendance gets larger each year with many "new faces."

This year the feature speaker was Armine Yalnizyan of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. This organization is an independent non-partisan research institute concerned with the issues of social and economic justice. One of its mandates is to formulate financially responsible policy alternatives to federal and provincial budgets.

Ms. Yalnizyan's speech was timely as she spoke in the midst of the financial meltdown on Wall Street and reminded us that the current economic climate does not bode well for the poor.

Inequality in our society is more unequal than ever.

**Did you know?**

- The top 100 CEOs in Canada make an average of 8.5 million dollars each, a 250% increase over the past 10 years, compared with average employee earnings rising from \$32,000 to \$39,000 in the same period. Taking into account 19% inflation, the earnings of the average employee has **STAYED THE SAME.**

- Ontario is the most unequal province in terms of income distribution. In the 1970s, the top 10% of income earners made 27 times the amount of the bottom 10% of earners. Now, 25 years later, the top 10% earn 75 times more than the bottom 10% of earners.

- Half of the jobs in the service sector earn less than \$10 per hour. One million Ontarians earn less than \$10 per hour.

- The Price of obtaining an education has risen 300% in a decade. Education in today's economy is more important than ever.

**This is a pivotal moment in history**

Newfoundland and Nova Scotia have had for some time an official anti-poverty strategy which is operative. This is in spite of the fact that, until recently they were "have not" provinces

We need both justice and charity. Charity is short term and compelling, and personal. Justice demands a humane public policy.

We can help by supporting the Ontario 25/5 program. A large number of voluntary organizations participate in a coalition of voluntary organizations which intend to hold government to its promise to reduce poverty in Ontario by 25% in five years. You can assist in this effort.

**Please see the following websites**

- <http://25in5.ca>
- <http://toronto.anglican.ca> – Click on "Government Urged to Deliver on Poverty Reduction Plan"
- <http://policyalternatives.ca>

Please consider attending this conference next year. You will find it directly addresses the issues of our time in an exciting and engaging manner. We will alert you in time for next year's enrolment. There is a very modest enrolment fee which includes a great lunch.

*Peter Harris*

**Paul Ainslie**

Councillor Ward 43  
Scarborough East

Scarborough Civic Centre  
2nd Floor  
150 Borough Drive  
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*Thank you*

... to all contributors to the *Mustard Seed*.

**Contributors to this issue are:**

Rachael Boles	Peter Mathews
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## Verna Parke

A “few” years ago, in a farmhouse near the small town of Bun Clody (Newtownbarry), County Wexford, Ireland, a group of farm hands was having lunch in a large farmhouse kitchen when the sudden and unexpected cry of a newborn infant was heard from above. Purportedly, one of the startled hands exclaimed, “O my God, what’s dat?” Verna Parke’s introduction to the world was the harbinger of the significant impact she was to have on so many people she was later to come into contact with.

As an only child, her early years were somewhat solitary. Her Dad developed TB when she was less than a year old and had to spend the next four years living in a hospital and at his parents’ place where he could be taken care of. Verna’s Mum lived and worked on a farm with Verna’s aunt and uncle, which meant that there wasn’t much time to cater to a child. This “aleness” had positives as well as negatives, as Verna developed a lifelong love of reading as well as the invaluable gift of liking and being comfortable in her own company.

By the time she was five her father had come home to live and was developing the strength to work again. The family moved around a fair bit as he found progressively better jobs and finally settled on a 1000 acre estate called Castletown in County Kildare near Dublin, where he managed a staff of 22



## Stars in our Midst

men in maintaining the estate. This property, with its 365 windows, would become the home Verna remembered best and the place of some of her best childhood memories.

At the age of twelve she was sent to a boarding school about three kilometres away from the estate. It was here that she finally found the “siblings” she had always craved, making her years at the school some of her happiest. She says it was strange walking to church “crocodile style” with the school and not having personal contact with her parents who were sitting in adjacent pews. After high school Verna moved to Dublin where she attended a commercial college and became an executive secretary. It was here that she reconnected with Alf, whom she had met years before when they were only twelve.

**The Move to Canada**  
After a couple of years of dating, Alf wanted to emigrate to Australia, but Verna wanted nothing to do with that plan. She was, however, willing to give Canada a try, so six months after Alf left, Verna sailed from Liverpool to Montreal on the maiden voyage of Cunard Lines’ ship *Saxonia*. What a thrill for a young woman to experience all the luxuries of a brand new ship and be met in Montreal by a flotilla of Canadian ships.

One of the first things Alf and Verna did in Canada was to become active in the AYP (Anglican Young People’s Association) at St. Paul’s, Runnymede, where Verna developed her dramatic side, acting in the association’s plays.

Back in the 50s this was a huge organization which provided most Anglican young people with an active and fun social life. Married at St. Paul’s in June of 1955, Verna and Alf continued their involvement in the church after moving to Scarborough, at St. Peter’s, Brimley Road.



Verna at Castlemore, 2008

**Founding Member of Holy Trinity**  
In 1966 they moved to “The Guild” where they joined the founding members of Holy Trinity, Guildwood. Since then, Verna has been a part of almost everything that has ever happened in the parish; her history and Holy Trinity’s have grown in tandem over the last 47 years. When it comes to involvement in Holy Trinity, it is impossible to write about Verna’s involvement without acknowledging the huge complementary contribution made by her husband, Alf. As a strong church man himself, Alf supported Verna in all her activities and encouraged her to be all she could be.

With two small daughters (Gail and Dianne) at home, you would think Verna’s time must have been somewhat limited, but she still managed to be an active, long-time member of the Altar

*Continued on Page 13*

**Verna Parke***Continued from Page 12*

Guild (for many years the Head), sing soprano in our choir since its inception, as well as maintain active membership in the Women's Auxilliary (later the Anglican Church Women).

There is one comical story about Verna carrying the Eucharistic vessels in a suitcase to the public school where services were held before there was a church building, and the suitcase popping open, spilling its precious cargo onto the sidewalk. Fortunately, nothing was damaged, but it is humorous trying to imagine the look on Verna's very expressive face. I'm sure her great sense of humour would very quickly have replaced the surprise, but I love to picture it.

Within two years of the inception of Holy Trinity, their son, Stephen, was born, but Verna apparently didn't miss a beat in the life of the church. In fact, as she continued with her church commitments, she went to Ryerson to study library science and subsequently worked part time at both the Guildwood and Cedarbrae libraries for many years. Sounds a bit like another EverReady bunny, doesn't she?

**Graduates from University**

As if raising a fine family, looking after a home, selling Beauty Counsellor products with a toddler (Stephen) in tow and being active in her church community wasn't busy enough, Verna courageously decided at the age of 52 to go to the University of Toronto to get her Bachelor's degree in English – a high point in her journey of lifelong learning. She loved every minute of it, saying that among the students there was "no age", so she felt very much at home in that milieu. It is a source of great pride to her family that she achieved this goal and her daughter, Dianne, was exceptionally proud to be standing behind the camera at her mother's graduation just as her mother had done for her the year before.

In more recent times Verna served faithfully for two years as a Warden,

graced us regularly at Sunday services with scripture readings that fairly sang through her charming Irish lilt and took many roles in Christmas plays and dramatic readings.

She was a driving force in many fund raising events (including sitting under an umbrella to encourage donations for a new roof), helped with bazaars, pot luck dinners, picnics, hosted Friday night youth Bible studies in her home and was instrumental, along with her good friend, Una Mawson, in enticing many of the women of Holy Trinity to attend the annual AWARE conference. She wholeheartedly embraced the Cursillo movement, which encourages people to explore their own faith journey and to live their faith more fully back in their own communities.

**Outreach at Holy Trinity**

Looking back, I suspect that one of Verna's most significant contributions was back in the early 80s when she was involved with Outreach and initiated research into the feasibility of developing some of our ample church property for a seniors' residence, modeled on one built by St. Luke's church around the same time. It was before my membership in the HT family, but I have heard that Verna worked tirelessly to research this project and bring it to a reality. However, the plan was aborted when demographic studies determined that there was ample housing for seniors in the area at that time.

Later, in the 90s, driven by the conviction that our property could be put to much better use than mere parkland, Verna was again part of a committee to prepare proposals to build "assisted living" apartments for people with various disabilities. While the research was sound and the enthusiasm well sparked by people like Verna, the flame of this project was snuffed because government funding for such housing had dried up. Without government grants a project of this magnitude could never be undertaken by such a small parish, regardless of its riches of commitment, Christian love, and land. It was not for lack of trying on

Verna's part that our property was never developed.

**Leisure Time**

In their younger days Verna and Alf loved to camp with their kids, travel as much as possible, swim, play tennis, party with their friends and live life to the fullest. Today they live a slightly less hectic life in a condo but still travel quite often and spend many months at the cottage in Muskoka. They have five flourishing grandchildren (aged 7-21) with whom they have always loved to spend time.

At Holy Trinity today Verna's bubbly personality is not as noticeable as it used to be, as she is away so much, but she will always be a huge part of our family life. As one of our few remaining original members, she has made an enormous investment in our parish family – a debt which we can only hope we repay in some measure through love, friendship and support. She says we do. The Christian home and family Verna so generously nurtured through its infancy, teens and adulthood is a place in which she feels loved and cared for.

It's your turn to sit back now, Verna, and reap the rewards of your hard work and dedication. Thank you for the example of your strong faith, your dedication, your beautiful voice, your humour and your never-failing friendship. We're immensely grateful.

*Lovingly submitted by  
Mary Beth Moffatt-Sinclair*

## CPR Course Available at Holy Trinity

A training course in cardio pulmonary resuscitation and use of a defibrillator will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. We must have a minimum of eight persons. Cost is \$40. Please sign up with Vivien Harris or Luciene Bailey.

# Holy Trinity Kids

What is the most special thing about coming to Church with your family at Christmas?

To me, it is the special Christmas music. Colour this picture and make a list of your family's favourite Christmas songs.

**MAKE A  
JOYFUL NOISE**



My favourite Christmas songs:

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Be sure to come to our special service of Christmas music on December 21, 2008, at 4:00 p.m.

# Holy Trinity Youth

Christmas is ...

- \* Spending time with my family
- \* Seeing people I have not seen for a long time
- \* Resting and catching up on my sleep
- \* Eating too much good food
- \* Shopping for just the right gift...
- \* Getting just the right gift
- \* Going to Church with my family and
- \* Thanking God for the time we can spend together at this special time of year.

Hope to see you all at one of the Christmas services.

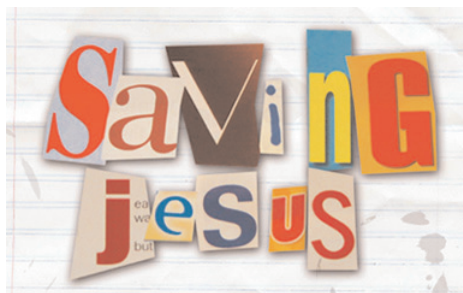
So what is new?

We know that there is a large group of Holy Trinity youth out there and we need to catch up with each other. So watch your email inboxes or Facebook pages for an invite to a get together over the holidays.

## Have a Merry Christmas



# Upcoming Events



This is a 12 session program exploring the life of the historical Jesus and the continuing significance of the Risen Christ. Starts Wednesday, November 26, 7:30 p.m. See Page 7 for details.






## Listening Time

Meet with the Christian Meditation and Spirituality Group on December 2, 7:30 p.m. as we begin a monthly series on talks by Rowan Williams on the Wisdom of the Desert. The group will meet the first Tuesday of each month. See Page 3 for details.



## Christmas Services

-  Festival of Lessons and Carols – December 21, 4:00 p.m.
-  Christmas Eve - 7:30 and 11:00 p.m.
-  Christmas Day - 10:00 a.m.

Invite family and friends to join you for these services



## Birdhouses and Wind Chimes

Pick up on Saturday, December 6, and Saturday, December 13, at the church between 9:00 a.m. and noon.



January 31, 2009 – See Page 13 for details.



## Vestry – Sunday, February 8