

SPIRIT OF THE SAINTS

This is your news forum for sharing reports on past events and posting details of upcoming events. Your submissions are welcome and appreciated - everything from editorials and anecdotes to poetry, suggestions and prayers will be included as space permits.

Still Reading???
Keep up the good work!!



Fr. Chris enjoyed a much-needed vacation in July. Apparently most of his time was spent in 'Porta Backyarda'.

We were fortunate to have Fr. Bob Schroeder and Brother George Crowther filling in in his absence.



"Tom and Jerry" Yard Sale at All Saints

All Saints held their annual Yard Sale on July 9th. It was a great success bringing in \$1,400. plus in sales. The highlight of the sale was the manic marathon of mouse-catching manoeuvres by Warden Tom Alcorn. The mouse wreaked havoc indoors and out causing squealing ladies to perch precariously on chairs in mortal fear. Tom, our hero and knight in shining armour,

ultimately apprehended the mischievous mouse and removed it from the church to the obvious relief of all.

On July 23rd, St. John's had a great yard sale too, though with far less excitement than the one at All Saints! A total of \$1,210 was raised. The hot dogs were great and everyone had fun in spite of the heat and all the hard work involved. Special thanks to Jean-Marc and Debbie for organizing the sale and for a terrific job of cleaning up after the event!

....One week later.....

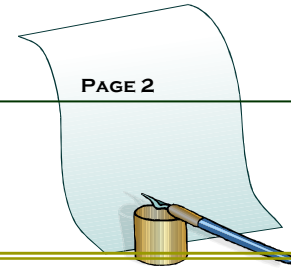


Congratulations to Deb and Jean-Marc Giroux who were married at St. John's on July 30th. It was a beautiful wedding and the reception was exceptional. Best Wishes for a wonderful life together!

Church Crawl 2011 was a huge success. At 9:30 a.m. Monday, August 1st, forty excited travelers climbed on the bus and headed for the Church of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph. What a beautiful church inside and out. After a very interesting tour, we headed for a picnic lunch at Riverside Park. Our next stop was St. George's Church, also in Guelph. There we had a tour of the church and then up we climbed to see the Carillon Tower. Whoa.....not a trip for the faint of heart....but truly worth it. Brian had the opportunity to play the carillon and delight the city of Guelph with some favourite hymn tunes. Last stop was St. John's Church in Elora. A charming little church where we were treated to the most delicious dinner including roast beef, roast potatoes, carrots, fresh beans and homemade pies! Tired, and very full, we climbed back on the bus for the ride home. What a great day!



FROM THE DESK OF FATHER CHRIS



So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.' – Mark 10:42-45

If someone were inclined to put together a compilation of all-time great statements of Jesus, I am sure you would find: *'For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many'* amongst them. Not only is it memorable but it describes concisely Jesus' work in going to the cross – transforming the normal way that people understand the world, leadership and power. We gather as the body of Christ because we believe in this vision of a renewed world; because we have seen it in Jesus and discovered it in the work of God's Spirit that calls and empowers us to carry on the Servant-work of Jesus in our communities and for individuals.

We might wonder how God accomplishes this work, the renewal of his covenant with creation, the overthrowing of powers and principalities and ushering in His reign of healing and justice. The answer is found in Jesus Christ who stands as the representative of God's chosen people as the Servant of all and it is precisely because He is the Servant of all that God's work is completed in the life, death and resurrection of this one man. It is because we believe this to be true and that this is the means of salvation that God's work resumes in and through us as the Servant-people of God for the sake of the whole world. As such the unlikely means by which God will turn right the things that are wrong, overthrowing the old order for the sake of the new, is through you and I. The crucifixion of Jesus was not the end as if we can go back to doing things by means of the order of this world. No! We are called to be servants because we follow the Servant King – the crucified and risen Saviour Jesus Christ. It is our baptismal responsibility to seek to implement what has already begun in Him in this world, by God's methods.

So in the words of St. Francis of Assisi, we need to *start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly we'll be doing the impossible.*

Your brother in Christ;
Chris+

'COME AS YOU ARE':

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

Back to Church Sunday is now the largest local-church invitational initiative in the world. It is based on the simplest and shortest step in evangelism – **that we should invite someone we already know to something we love**; invite our friends to our church.

The initial focus was to invite 'back' those who used to attend, but has since grown to include and ensure that anyone who doesn't currently attend can be guaranteed a warm welcome.

This year, the Diocese of Huron kicks off Back To Church Sunday on **September 25, 2011**. It is a special day set aside to invite and welcome people to a church near them. On this day, churches across the Diocese and across Canada will open their doors and welcome everyone who would like to rediscover church. *'Only 2 percent of church members invite an un-churched person to church. 98 percent of church goes never extend an invitation in a given year.'* – LifeWay Research.

Organizers say that most people who leave church haven't lost their faith in God they simply fell out of the habit of church attendance. Some moved or had a change in their life situation or they had a falling out with their former church and simply drifted away. Most often, life became too busy. This means there are many people who may be open to returning to church if only someone would extend an invitation.

So what is it all about then? Back to Church Sunday is all about the people who are not here. It is about reaching the people who are not here through all of you, the people who are here. It is about redefining success from being about a percentage or a number to an understanding of success being one person inviting one person. We are better together, and as Christians we believe that we best support success when we all act together as One Church.

Stay tuned for how you can support this initiative right here at All Saints and St. John's and in the meantime spend some time each day in prayer asking God who to invite, because He is already active and working on someone you know!



STEWARDSHIP THAT MATTERS

Make New Stories of Hope

“And he said, ‘Let anyone with ears to hear listen!’” – Mark 4:9

Perhaps you remember the hymn, ‘*Tell me the old, old story*’? No? Well then, here’s a little reminder:

Tell me the old, old story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. Tell me the story simply, as to a little child, for I am weak and weary, and helpless and defiled.

Tell me the story slowly, that I may take it in – that wonderful redemption, God’s remedy for sin. Tell me the story often, for I forget so soon; the early dew of morning has passed away at noon.

Tell me the story softly, with earnest tones and grave; remember I’m the sinner whom Jesus came to save. Tell me the story always, if you would really be, in any time of trouble a comforter to me.

Tell me the same old story, when you have cause to fear that this world’s empty glory is costing me too dear. Yes, and when that world’s glory is dawning on my soul, tell me the old, old story, Christ Jesus makes thee whole.

Jesus had a habit of telling stories about normal things that happened in everyday life, but told in such a way that the ordinary became extraordinary by demonstrating God’s grace and mercy for the world. These stories were more than entertainment for the listeners gathered around, they were an invitation to ask some simple questions: *How do I fit into this story? Who am I in this story?* See, part of stewardship is the stewardship of imagination! It is about retelling the old, old story in a new way as God’s grace and mercy continues to be poured out through our actions in this world.

Listening isn’t something that comes easy in this world full of noise and we’ve become a people who too easily tune out the world around us. Jesus sets a counter-cultural example for us by taking time to listen; listen to children play, listen to a blind man who cries out despite being told to be quiet. He listened when Martha had a question and often he’d listen to God by going off to a quiet place.

In the stories that he shared was an invitation to the people – an invitation for us – to listen with all that we are to the presence of God in everyday life. The ultimate surprise for those who would hear: an invitation to be part of God’s story.



ASK FR. CHRIS

Question: What is the difference between spiritual and religious?
Is it ok to be spiritual and not religious?

Answer: No doubt you have heard at least once someone say that they are spiritual but not religious – usually meaning, they aren't interested in attending an organized or institutional church. As we seek to be more mission focused it would be good to have some understanding of what is going on here as it's an answer we will likely continue to hear as we invite people into relationship with us and with God.

So what does it mean to be spiritual? Many have taken this to mean that they believe in God or a divine being and as such on their own time in their own way offer worship and prayer. There are other ways of looking at it. The root word spirit comes from the Hebrew and Greek words for breath, air, and wind. In a number of biblical passages there are references to God breathing in, on humankind to provide, give and sustain life. In Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones (Ezek. 37:1-14) for example, God demonstrates His power by giving new life to a former people. In another instance you may recall a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3:1-21) where Jesus speaks about being born again of the spirit from above - an invitation to a new kind of life that is marked by an attention to grace through faith. In a biblical sense then, all living creatures are spiritual by virtue of being given breath, but there is more, to be spiritual is to choose a relationship with all that is holy.

What then is an understanding of the term religious? The word religion according to modern scholars such as Tom Harpur and Joseph Campbell favour the derivation from the Latin *ligare* (binds, connect), probably from a prefixed *re-ligare* 'to reconnect,' which was made prominent by St. Augustine. To be religious then or to follow a religion is to connect or reconnect oneself to a community that is bound by a prescribed set of beliefs and rituals. Traditionally this is understood in terms of the summary of the Law: *The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

.....Continued on Page 6

ASK FR. CHRIS continued from Page 5

Where does this leave us? With an appreciation for the spiritual and an understanding that being spiritual is only one piece of the larger puzzle. It is important to be aware of the spiritual dimension of life which means sensing the sacred not only within ourselves but also among other people in community. In short, no one can be healed or made whole in a vacuum. Religion occurs in conjunction and as a response to the spiritual because we need to work things out together, puzzle them out together, struggle together, try out our thoughts and ideas about God with each other, mess up and work to do better next time – together. Yes, it is messy and sometimes frustrating but God intends us to be in community. What it boils down to is that life cannot be about God and myself, about only me and the Holy. True religion while discriminating is ultimately intended to bind us together in service to the holy for the sake of all creation. Yes, organized and institutional religion is imperfect, but when it strives to function according to God's ways and for God's sake it is on the right path.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

HOLY EUCHARIST PART I: COME

We settle in and gather ourselves in an attempt to turn off the noise in our heads, dismiss the worries, the 'To Do' lists, the afternoon plans and just BE. We choose to sit and rest into the fellowship of those gathered in the presence of God and His love for us. We stop to soak in the true and living God in the here and now with everyone gathered for worship.

God is and has called us and desires a relationship with each of us. Our worship is designed to assist us to find ourselves and to help each other respond to God's call. It is a choice to be part of this gathering, and all of us have chosen to sacrifice something else to be here.

Perhaps while we are gathered the name of someone or many will enter into our thoughts and you will pray for them. Perhaps you've been carrying something burdensome with you and it'll finally fall off your tired shoulders and you can leave it at the altar in God's good care. Coming together in worship is one of the many ways we can be with and experience the grace of God.

Come, Let us worship!



THE THIRTY-NINE ARTICLES OF RELIGION

Article V – Of the Holy Ghost

The Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty, and glory, with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God.

This article is believed to have been added in 1563 by Archbishop Matthew Parker (b.1504-d.1575). Signs of trouble and controversy were becoming evident by 1563 as both Parliament and Convocation were worried about the hostility of France in the south of England and the dangers from Mary, Queen of Scots in the north. With the revival of the Council of Trent, with increasing Papal propaganda on the one hand and Puritan propaganda on the other, Parker set out to provide uniformity in doctrine for the Elizabethan Church. As such he reduced Cranmer's Articles of Religion (1563) from forty-two to thirty-eight in number which became the Thirty-Nine Articles in 1571, intended to set down the fundamental points of belief for the Elizabethan Church.

With regards to the Holy Ghost we see in the Old Testament the Spirit of God portrayed as God in action. The Spirit's distinct personality has yet to be fully recognized. It isn't until we're introduced to the teaching of Jesus and the New Testament – generally speaking – that a clear understanding of the Spirit being both Divine and a Person comes into view. The Spirit's divinity can hardly be questioned (Mark 3.29; Acts 5.3-4; 1 Corinthians 3.16 & 6.17 for example) however, the Spirit's personality was less quickly understood. As is often the case, our use of language became the stumbling block. The word *pnuema* could be used to denote *wind* or *spirit* or *spiritual influence*. To complicate matters further, the word *pnuema* is used both about the Person of the Holy Spirit and of the gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit. The language of Scripture speaks about the Spirit as a person (John 14.26 & 15.26; Romans 8.26-27; 1 Corinthians 12.11; Galatians 5.18; Ephesians 4.30). The Holy Spirit is joined to the Father and the Son in such a way as to make it impossible to conceive of the Spirit as simply a divine influence.

The general mind of the early Church was very clear about the Holy Spirit and we find a strong belief expressed in her life and worship. The Church baptized in the three-fold Name and required candidates for baptism to acknowledge the Holy Spirit no less than they would the Father and Son. The presence and power of the Spirit was a given in Christian experience not just an object of study.

....Continued on Page 8

THE THIRTY-NINE ARTICLES OF RELIGION

Article V – Of the Holy GhostContinued from Page 7

The inclusion in the statement that the Holy Spirit is *of one substance with the Father and the Son...* was an addition in response to the Arian controversy. Arius (250 AD – 336AD) a Christian presbyter in Alexandria taught that the Son was a creature and not fully divine and therefore the Holy Spirit whom He sent must be even more creaturely and less divine. At a Roman Synod in 369 the full doctrine of the Trinity was affirmed and again in 381 at the Council of Constantinople any other teaching was expressly condemned. The doctrine of the Spirit was worked out by the Cappadocian Fathers [Basil the Great (330-379); Gregory of Nyssa (c.330-395); Gregory of Nazianzus (329-389)] although there had not been any real doubt about the Spirit's divinity in the Church at large.

Lastly, we turn to what is meant by the language of the Article which speaks of the Holy Spirit as *proceeding from the Father and the Son*. Here the term *proceeding* is used, simply because it is the language of Scripture (John 15.26; Acts 2.33; Romans 8.9; Galatians 4.6; Philippians 1.19; 1 Peter 1.10-11). The presence and power of the Holy Spirit known to us in creation is the same presence and power of Jesus Christ. This is to say that the Spirit is mainly revealed to us as the Spirit of the Incarnate one, not just the Spirit of God as the energy behind creation, but the Spirit of God Incarnate. Through the Spirit we share the saving power of Christ. This great truth is secured by the affirmation of the Spirit proceeding not from the Father alone, but from the Father and the Son.

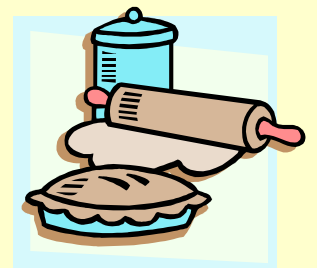
Sources: E.J. Bicknell: *A Theological Introduction to the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Church of England*. 3rd edition. pages 119-124.

<http://www.tudorplace.com.ar/Bios/MathewParker%28ArchbishopCanterbury%29.htm>

MEAT PIES FOR SALE!!!

St. John's ACW has meat pies for sale.....
savory, yummy, delicious,
mouth-watering meat pies!

Get yours now just \$3.00 each.



COMING EVENTS

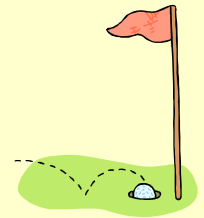
DIOCESAN GOLF TOURNAMENT



An exciting day of fun and fundraising will be had by one and all at the

3rd Annual Diocese of Huron Golf Tournament

on September 10th, 2011.



This year it will be held at Ingersoll Golf Club: 51 Holcroft St. West, Ingersoll, Ontario.

The tournament supports outreach ministry in Huron through the Faith-in-Action Trust Fund. This year we dispersed \$13,000 dollars to support ministry initiatives around the Diocese including the Meal Program at Grace Anglican, Brantford.

\$125 per Golfer early registration price if registered by August 1, 2011; \$140 per Golfer after that date. Deadline for registration is August 26, 2011. Not a golfer? Join us for dinner only for \$30 dollars a person. Registration forms can be found online at: <http://diohuron.org/what/stewardship/golf.php> or ask Fr. Chris.



St. John's Annual

Spaghetti Supper

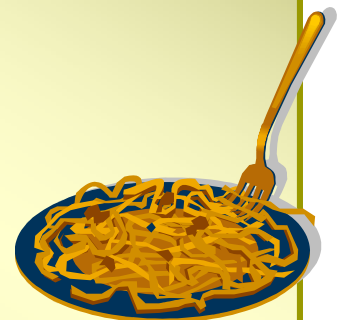
Friday, September 30th from 5 to 7 pm

All you can eat spaghetti, home made
garlic bread, Caesar salad and
dessert buffet.

Tickets \$10.00 in advance

\$12.00 at the door

Children 1/2 price





THE EDEN PROJECT

Early in the year, Fr. Chris suggested an initiative called 'The Eden Project'. The idea was to start a garden at St. John's and grow fresh vegetables and fruits. The produce would be donated to the 'Daily Bread' program at Grace Church.

It wasn't until June that the project actually got under way. A couple of friends agreed to help. They brought a tiller and worked up a small garden plot for us. Other friends donated tomato plants and others donated tomato cages and a garden hose and nozzle.

A total of nine tomato plants were stuck into the soil by amateur gardeners and much to our surprise.....they survived! They've only been watered two or three times and were otherwise neglected even during the unbearably hot dry days of July. The Ultimate Gardener was obviously tending our little Eden even when we weren't.

So far we've harvested three quarts of cherry tomatoes to donate to Grace Church. There will be more to pick next week and the week after that. It's not much, but it's a start.

Everyone is encouraged to help. Perhaps with just a little more work and some good planning, we'll be able to have a nice variety of fresh produce to donate next year.



SPIRIT OF THE SAINTS NEWSLETTER



Well folks, we are now entering our second year for the Newsletter. At this point in time I would like to thank all those who have contributed articles, coming events, poetry and suggestions. I would especially like to thank Fr. Chris for the incredible amount of work he puts into the articles for each and every edition. Without his input and fresh ideas the newsletter would have little substance.

As always, we are open to your suggestions, comments and even constructive criticism. 😊
How can we make the newsletter better??? Is there something you'd like to see included in the newsletter? Are there things about it that you don't like? Please take the time to let us know how we're doing. Call, email, snail-mail, in person...whatever your preference, your feedback would be greatly appreciated. Thanks!



SCRIPTURE CHALLENGE

As part of our ongoing education at All Saints and St. John's, I'm putting out the challenge to us that we can read the entire bible in 365 days. Part of formation and being Christian means knowing the story of God's salvation as it is contained in Holy Scripture.



Thursday September 1: **Song of Solomon 5-8**

Friday September 2: **Ruth**

Saturday September 3: **Lamentations 1-3.18**

Sunday September 4: **Lamentations 3.19-5**

Monday September 5: **Ecclesiastes 1-3**

Tuesday September 6: **Ecclesiastes 4-8**

Wednesday September 7: **Ecclesiastes 9-12**

Thursday September 8: **Esther 1-3**

Friday September 9: **Esther 4-8**

Saturday September 10: **Esther 9-12**

Sunday September 11: **Daniel 1-3**

Monday September 12: **Daniel 4-6**

Tuesday September 13: **Daniel 7-9**

Wednesday September 14: **Daniel 10-12**

Thursday September 15: **Ezra 1-4**

Friday September 16: **Ezra 5-7**

Saturday September 17: **Ezra 8-10**

Sunday September 18: **Nehemiah 1-3**

Monday September 19: **Nehemiah 4-6**

Tuesday September 20: **Nehemiah 7-10**

Wednesday September 21: **Nehemiah 11-13**

Thursday September 22: **1 Chronicles 1-3**

Friday September 23: **1 Chronicles 4-6**

Saturday September 24: **1 Chronicles 7-10**

Sunday September 25: **1 Chronicles 11-13**

Monday September 26: **1 Chronicles 14-16**

Tuesday September 27: **1 Chronicles 17-19**

Wednesday September 28: **1 Chronicles 20-22**

Thursday September 29: **1 Chronicles 23-25**

Friday September 30: **1 Chronicles 26-29**

Contact Information:

Father Chris Travers:

Phone: (519) 304-5226

Email: stjohnsbrantford@gmail.com

Email: allsaintsmtplesant@gmail.com

St. John's: (519) 752-8844

Website: www.stjohns.brantanglicans.net

All Saints: (519) 484-2715

Website: www.allsaints.brantanglicans.net

The Newsletter is posted on the website in full colour!!!

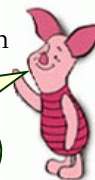
Newsletter submissions:

Nancy Koop

Phone: 519-756-3325 or

Email: nancy-koop1@rogers.com

Piglet says, "See you in October and PLEASE submit your October newsletter items by Sept. 27th"



And remember.....








....God loves YOU!!!



SEPTEMBER 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Back to Church Sunday</i> <i>Who are you Inviting??</i></p>	<p>St. John's ACW has meat pies for sale. \$3.00 ea. Get some soon!</p>					
<p>All Saints 9:30 St. John's 11:15</p>	<p>LABOUR DAY</p>		<p>Fr. Chris at BGH Chaplain's Committee meeting am</p>	<p>Fr. Chris at Clergy Day in London St. John's ACW meeting at 1 pm All Saints Choir Practice 4 pm St. John's Choir Practice 6:45 pm</p>		<p>Diocesan Golf Tournament</p> 
<p>All Saints 9:30 St. John's 11:15 Sunday School Blessing of Backpacks</p>		<p>All Saints Parish Council Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>All Saints ACW meeting 10 am</p>	<p>Fr. Chris BGH Chapel Service at 10:30 a.m. All Saints Choir Practice 4 pm St. John's Choir Practice 6:45 pm</p>		
<p>All Saints 10:30 <i>Flavoured Sunday</i></p> 		<p>St. John's Parish Council Meeting 7 pm</p>		<p>All Saints Choir Practice 4 pm St. John's Choir Practice 6:45 pm</p>	<p>First Day of Autumn</p> 	
<p>BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY All Saints 9:30 St. Johns 11:15</p>			<p>Fr. Chris at Clergy Conference in Niagara Falls Euchre at All Saints 1 pm</p> 	<p>Fr. Chris at Clergy Conference All Saints Choir Practice 4 pm St. John's Choir Practice 6:45 pm</p>	<p>St. John's Spaghetti Supper 5 - 7 pm</p>  <p>Fr. Chris at Clergy Conference</p>	