

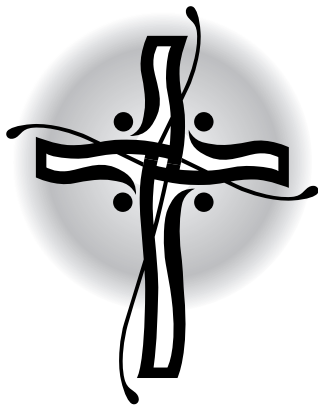
The Islington United Church



LINK

Newsletter

The Holy Week Horizon



Rob Fennell, Minister of Congregational Development

*C*rowds of people carpeted the road with their cloaks, and some cut branches from the trees to spread in his path. Then the crowds in front and behind raised the shout: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the heavens!"

Matthew 21:8-9

The season of Lent in which we now find ourselves leads ineluctably each year to the celebrations and observances of Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve Vigil and Easter Sunday – the Day of Resurrection. It is an extraordinary and timeless time, as we join with Christians from all over the world, and from generations before us, to prepare ourselves for the great proclamations of this season: "Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again."

Together with my teammates in ministry and all our lay leaders, I invite you to participate in worship during this holy and surprising season of Lent, and especially in the very moving and meaningful worship opportunities of Holy Week (please see details on the back cover). As we gather in Christ's name to worship the one true God, to breathe in God's presence, to turn our lives over to God, and to seek God's help, we find that we are inspired, made strong and sent forth with joy to serve others and to honour God in all that we do and are.

God has brought out the people with rejoicing, his chosen ones with shouts of joy.
Psalm 105:43

May Christ's peace fill you, surround you and bring you joy. See you in worship.

Rev. Rob Fennell ❀

This is Your Invitation to Communion

Holy Communion will be celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 20 at both the 9:30 A.M. and 11:15 A.M. Services of Worship. We hope you will be able to share these very special services with us. As at other Communion Services, there will be Benevolent Offering envelopes in the pews to allow you to participate in our ministry of outreach to our community.

Name _____

Elder _____

District _____

Telephone _____

Environment Group

Diane Anger

Water is one of God's most precious gifts to His people. It is also becoming increasingly urgent that we work together to find ways to conserve water and put them into practice. Here are some suggestions:

- In the kitchen, don't leave the water running when preparing food or when you require a drink of cold water.
- Keep a jug of drinking water in the fridge to avoid waiting for cold running water.
- Reduce water flow from your taps by 25% by installing a low flow aerator on your faucets.
- The bathroom represents about 50% of your home's total indoor water use and toilets account for 28% of indoor use. Retrofit your toilet by installing devices to reduce the amount of water used in a flush.

Replace your shower head with a new low-flow model, and install low-flow aerators on your faucets.

- In the laundry room buy a horizontal axis (front-loading) washing machine. It uses up to 75% less water.
- Water your lawn in the cool part of the day. Adjust the blade level of your lawn mower from six to nine centimetres. The City of Toronto has a program to disconnect your downspout and attach it to a rain barrel. This helps reduce basement flooding and also saves rainwater that you can use for indoor and outdoor gardening.

The Environment Group meets on the third Wednesday evening of the month. We cover a broad range of discussion subjects such as how pesticides are utilized internationally, the Kyoto Accord, water conservation, heating problems in old buildings and improvements to the Humber watershed. We welcome new members. For information, contact Diane Anger at 416-233-0350. ❀

Pastoral Care

Audrey Stevens

Here we are already – in the fourth month of 2003! Time is flying, and each year we become more aware of how the Pastoral Care Ministry is touching the lives of members of Islington United and the surrounding community.

On February 11, the Pastoral Care committee hosted an Afternoon Tea at Richview Residence for those members and former members who reside there. Everyone appreciated the opportunity to visit and chat over tea and cookies with friends, Linda Wheler and members of the committee.

On the second Tuesday of the month, a worship service is held at Beechwood Place, conducted in turn by Laura Kennedy, Linda Wheler and Mark Aitchison. After three years of providing music for this service, Ken Sharpe retired on December 31. Thank you Ken for sharing your talents as a piano virtuoso – we all enjoyed it so much. Marion McKennedy has now accepted the joy of bringing music to the members of Beechwood who enjoy the service greatly.

The Senior Bridge group continues to meet every second Tuesday afternoon in the Reception Room. If you would like to enjoy a pleasant afternoon with congenial contemporaries, consider joining this group – a time for bridge, tea and

cookies and friendly conversation. If you are interested, contact the convenor, Claire Tettmar at 416-233-2230.

The Spring Seniors' Celebration, coordinated and hosted by Glendene Tutton, will be held on Wednesday, April 9. At 11:30 A.M., a short worship service in the sanctuary, including communion, will be followed by lunch in the Stewart East Hall. The Priscilla Unit will provide lunch and the Toronto Banjo Band will entertain. The senior members of our congregation look forward with pleasure to this celebration – if you would like to attend, contact Sally Goodwillie in the church office.

Upcoming Events

- Week of Guided Prayer – April 27 to May 4. Betty Tansley is chairing this retreat in the midst of the busyness of life.
- Healing Ministry – September 12 and 13. Under the direction of James Wagner of Columbus, Ohio, Sally Hubbs, Shona Kindness and Linda Wheler are working together to plan and implement this event.
- Men's Day Apart – Saturday October 25. Ted Wilson is Chair of this wonderful gathering to be held at Islington Golf Club.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Psalm 100:2 ❀

Refugee Support Committee

Laurie-Beth Davidson

The Committee has been meeting regularly since the arrival of the **Cardozo** family from Colombia in the fall of 2002. They have made great strides in the short time they have been in Canada, and all are improving weekly with their ability in English. Ivan has been participating in the Wednesday English Conversation group at the church and he and Mary Patry attend ESL through the LINC program daily. The children are adjusting well. Laura is in Grade 4 at Eatonville Public School and Mafe, who turned 5 in February, is happy in the daycare facility at LINC. The winter weather has been a challenge for all of them, but they are adapting well! We are job-hunting now for Ivan.

The **Diako** family from Iran has been here for one year. Under the Joint Assistance Sponsorship program with the Federal Government, they have one more year before they must be independent. Nasrin has made excellent progress with her English skills and hopes to enter the nursing profession in the future. Parisa, her 18 year-old daughter, chose to return to Turkey in January to marry her boyfriend, whom she met while a refugee there. Pargol, age 13, is extremely happy in Grade 8 at Bloordale where she has received several "good citizenship" awards from the school and she looks forward to entering high school in the fall. We are hoping to help Nasrin find part-time employment in the near future as she continues her studies.

Fund raising events are necessary as we are awaiting decisions from Visa posts overseas regarding the **Seid** brothers from Ethiopia, presently refugees in South Africa, and Assefa, a young Ethiopian man presently

a refugee in Uganda, and friend of Wassihun whom we sponsored 2½ years ago. We pray for positive outcomes in the overseas decisions.

Our next fundraiser is a Spring Luncheon/Musical Concert on Sunday, April 13, immediately following the second service. Dennis Punter, a new member of our congregation, and his colleague Marianne Gast, a talented concert pianist and organist will present the 2:00 P.M. concert in the Sanctuary. They will provide us with duets and solos on piano and organ. Luncheon/Concert tickets will be \$15 each and concert-only tickets will be \$10 each. We will be selling tickets for this event from mid-March onwards. As the event is on Palm Sunday, it's a wonderful opportunity for you to invite family and friends.

The Spring Flower Sale of impatiens, petunias and fuchsias will take place just before the long weekend on Thursday, May 15. Flowers must be pre-ordered and prepaid this year and will be on sale from mid-April onwards.

We have been grateful to so many of you for your donations in the past to furnish apartments for our newcomers. However, as our storage space at the church is very limited, we can no longer accept donations dropped at the church on an ongoing basis. If you have a specific furniture item you feel may be useful, call Laurie-Beth to see if we have an immediate need.

We pray for our families in various stages of sponsorship. Thank you for all your prayers and support for our continuing program for refugee support. If you have any suggestions regarding first time Canadian employment possibilities for our newcomers or any questions about fundraising events, please phone Laurie-Beth at 416-233-9873. ❀



Fall Seniors' Celebration



Photos from the Fall Seniors' Celebration held on October 9, 2002.

Light Patrol

Lisa Page

Lord, speak to Me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone; as you have sought, so let me seek your straying children lost and alone. O lead me, so that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet; O feed me, so that I may feed your hungry ones with manna sweet. O teach me, so that I may teach the precious truths which you impart; and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart. O fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'er flows in kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Voices United 589

As I continue my outreach with the Light Patrol, I listen for the Lord to speak to me. I pray that He will lead me; I pray for guidance and trust, for strength, compassion and wisdom. I pray that I will be able to offer comfort and love to the many in the darkness. I pray for healing of their brokenness. I pray for myself that I will remain strong and faithful. I thank Him for shining His light on my path, for His guidance is a true blessing.

As I write this, the temperature outside is minus 17. I wonder how many of my friends from the street will find shelter this evening and how many will stay "home." "Home" for them is a tent, a bridge, a sleeping bag, and I pray that the cold weather doesn't take any of them from us. Winter changes everything on the street; day and night are one and the same; sleep seems to be the

only refuge for some. We are so fortunate to have a vehicle that our friends can access – a place where they can warm up, eat, have a hot drink, gather necessities, and hopefully reach out. Some are "tough guys" and say they can handle it, yet next to bravery stands wide-eyed innocence peeking out from under a hood and your heart feels like breaking. The season is bleak and bitter and one has to wonder how they survive ... do they have any hope? ... is there room in their hearts for Jesus? Lord, speak to me ...

Many of you receive my weekly e-mails updating you on my "visits of hope" and I thank all of you for your prayers, ongoing care and support. I would especially like to thank everyone who made the December dinner for the homeless a great success. Our friends were so grateful for perhaps the only real dinner they would receive this year. You made that possible with your generous gifts and hospitality. I am so very proud to be a member of Islington United Church and proud to know all of you.

I am being stretched and formed. I wear my heart on my sleeve, and my soul and heart are open to His words. I welcome this time of learning and discovery. My journey has really just begun and I know He has good things in store for me!

Peace, Lisa

(If you would like to be added to my Light Patrol list or would like more information, please contact me at lisa.page@sympatico.ca) ❀

