

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 13th
Christmas Carol Service
with 'Praise Unlimited'
starting at
6:30 PM

Wed., December 16th
WRRRA - Ladies Night
at St. Aidan's
6:30 PM

Sunday, December 20th
Children's Service &
Christmas Pageant
10:00 AM

Thurs., December 24th
Family Service
4:00 PM
Christmas Eve Service
10:00 PM

Friday, December 25th
Christmas Day
10:00 AM

January 9th or 16th
(possible event) evening
of dinner and sing-along
Fun event for all!
"A Meal and Music"
7:00 to 9:00 PM

Tuesday, February 16th
Pancake Supper

Wed., February 17th
Ash Wednesday Service

ALL OF OUR 10:00
AM EUCHARIST
SERVICES OFFER
SUNDAY SCHOOL
AND NURSERY CARE

For more
information on any
of these services
and/or events
please contact the
church office at:
905-845-6111



ST. AIDAN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Reflections from the Rector

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Wow!!! It's hard to believe that just a few years ago a small group of faithful people dared to dream and to now be able to see those dreams becoming realities. We dreamed that God was calling us to reach out. We dreamed that St. Aidan's could become a "community hub" serving God in the West River Area by understanding and partnering with others to meet the needs of the neighbours outside our walls.

Small but determined, we studied the needs with help from our friends at St. Jude's. We defined our mission and set about aligning the use of our space to better meet our mission goals. At the centre of all of the change we held on to what was Holy, focusing our worship, our study our sacrament and our prayers to welcome the stranger, to feed the hungry, to embrace those in need with the love of God and to share what little we have with others trusting that not only would it be enough, but hoping, like the parable of the "Feeding the 5000", it would become more than enough.

In many ways we are seeing this miracle unfold before our eyes. A glance at the calendar for any given month will show that indeed we are becoming that hub. In addition to the Nursery School, Kindermusik, ESL, AA, TOPS, Girl Guides, and WRRRA we are now home to a CMHA Bi-Polar group, a Self Esteem Support group and two new afterschool programs serving approximately 50 children from Oakwood School.

As the way in which we serve God at St. Aidan's changes, we are finding that we have to change as well to better facilitate our service to God. A few months ago, we sold our pews and installed new movable sanctuary seating. We have a project team with a few helpful professionals from the Diocese that are helping us to transform our space to make it more multi-use and accessible and we hope to see that project take shape in tangible ways next year.

In November the West River Residents Association Ladies held their Ladies Night out in the Sanctuary and the event went over so well they plan to use the space again in December. As a community of faith we are growing and it is our hope that by being faithful to our calling to "be" the church in this place, we will ensure the legacy of St. Aidan's will continue long into the future.

In just a few days we will showcase some of our innovative plans for the future and our vision for this church in the West River area at our Diocesan Synod and I hope that some of our hard work will inspire others to dream and to risk for God. As we enter into the season of Advent, a season of hope and expectation, my prayer is that Spirit of hope and faith and love will carry us through to the upcoming transformation with grace and peace.

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Cheryl Fricker
Rector

Reaching Out

A church can be intimidating on a first visit. Church websites give us a chance to introduce ourselves and to open a virtual door to the world.

When we began to plan the new church community website at St. Aidan's, it was a chance to look at ourselves and think about who we are and how we can set people at ease. The basic information was easy, the church name, the time of the Sunday service and the location of the front door. We added a map and some directions for visitors.

Then we added a picture. It shows the congregation heading into the church as the bell rings for the morning service. There we are, walking up the path and shortcutting across the lawn, families, couples, singles, older, teens, and small kids tossing the fall leaves. The Minister is holding the door open.

"That's us," the picture says, "We're going into our church, come on in!"

We are working on the second version of this picture. It isn't ready yet.

With help, and advice, and support, we are reaching out to our community and they are coming to meet us. There's a co-op nursery in the basement, and a seniors' exercise class. People practice their English in the corner of the church in the afternoon and music and drama for local youth sets up after school. A group meets in the evening to prepare care packages for people in the local shelter. We collect food, and toiletries and socks and soup bowls for all sorts of projects. The local residents' association, who meet in the church, have landscaped a corner of our yard.

We are blessed in our local community, a quiet place defined by roads, railway and the steep valley of the creek. It's a neighbourhood where people talk to each other, put tubs of flowers on the street corners and get together for potlucks in the church basement. There's an interesting mix of small houses and big, and high and low rises. The local school has a lot of new immigrants and there is interim housing down the road.

If you would like to meet our neighbours, take a rake, or a snow shovel or a wheel barrow out front of St. Aidan's and passers by will stop to encourage your efforts.

The community around our church needs community space - we asked and they told us so. We are working on the redevelopment of our worship space, to make it a multipurpose space, where we will praise God, and offer our community the meeting place they would so much like to have.

Every year, St. Aidan's invites the community in for carol singing and hot cider. We light the candles and people pack into the rows of seats with kids on their laps and crowd around the walls. We sing old favourites and comic songs about dogs and Christmas, and figgy pudding. The kids and the choir bounce around the church singing, and sometimes the overhead words don't catch up.

Ann Wood

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

US anthropologist (1901 - 1978)



ArtHouse - Kids and youth get creative at St. Aidan's

After the service on Sunday, November 1, Don Pangman (St. Jude's, Oakville) told us about two exciting new programs that started at St. Aidan's in September. Don is the Founder and Artistic Director of ArtHouse, a new program for children and youth that introduces them to the creative arts - drama, music, dance, graphic arts and cooking. Don has worked hard with our Rector Cheryl to bring the first two elements of this program (drama and music) to fruition. This is a tremendous example of St. Aidan's working in partnership with others to address important community needs.

Over 40 Oakwood Public School children participate in these after school programs. The children walk with volunteers from the school to the church, where they are greeted with some food (muffins, cookies, fresh fruits and vegetables) provided by Food For Life. Many of them may not have had a nutritious breakfast or lunch that day.

On Wednesdays, the Theatre Arts Program under the leadership of Kip Longstaff (Appleby College Drama Teacher) and 11 Appleby student mentors engage about 20 children in fun games and encourage participants to act out parts and be creative. The children also spent the first six-week semester making masks, learning the techniques of creative design and construction. This 1 1/2 hour session ends at 5:00 pm sharp when parents arrive to pick up the students. On the final Wednesday of the semester, parents attended to watch their children perform - a wonderful ending to a most successful session.

On Thursdays, a one-hour program entitled A Chorus of Voices under the leadership of Diana Isherwood, former music director at St. Mildred's School, has about 20 children singing together around our new piano, in a fun and structured environment. The community has already embraced this program, as the children will be performing at the Oakville Children's Choir's Community Concert at Appleby College on December 12th. Immediately following A Chorus of Voices a 1/2 hour informal session called "Chill with an Artist" invites mentors to inspire the young students with demonstrations, stories or games. The mentor could be a musician, an artist, or someone with other creative talents.

Both of these ArtHouse programs will start up again in the New Year. ArtHouse is supported by grants and fundraising through another Don Pangman brainchild - Festival Quatro - a cultural series which builds awareness and profiles wonderful local and world-renowned artists in four concerts each year. The first Festival Quatro concert, held at St. Aidan's in August, was a terrific success and featured 15-year old Jazz Pianist Alex Ernewein, Soprano Clodagh Earls, 14-year old Classical Pianist Jason Lee and Literary Artist and Author, 14-year old James Valitchka.

We offer a very warm welcome and congratulations to ArtHouse for a successful launch! Parishioners interested in volunteering with the ArtHouse initiative should speak to one of the Wardens or the Rector.

Richard Bradley - Nov/09



For attractive lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry. For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day. For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone. People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone. Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms. As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.

Audrey Hepburn
1929-1993

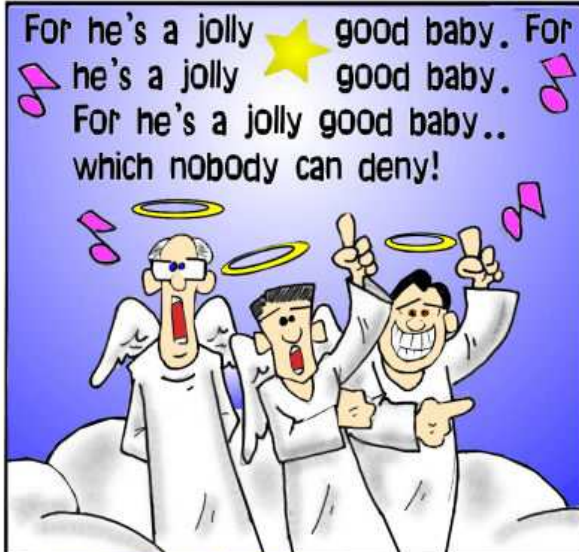


There are many ways of submitting articles to be added to the messenger. You can email (dwharton2@cogeco.ca) it, hand deliver, or place in the Messenger mailbox (found in the hallway by the office). You can submit at anytime. We are always looking for interesting stories, informative articles and even a good joke or two.

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending, then having the two as close together as possible.

George Burns
1896 - 1996

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



The **Realms of Glory Choir** tryouts for that first Christmas night included this spirited ditty. BUT as we all know, 'For he's jolly good baby' never became a Christmas classic.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



While the shepherds were speechless in the presence of the newborn baby Jesus, Sal the Sheep summed up that first Christmas night very nicely.

TWO MEN ARE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND. THE ONE MAN SAYS TO THE OTHER, "I'M AFRAID NO ONE WILL FIND US", THE OTHER MAN SAYS IN RETURN, "I GIVE \$100,000 TO MY CHURCH EACH YEAR. MY PRIEST WILL FIND US."



Treasurer's Corner

"An opportunity to address some ideas from the world finance and their implications"

Mental Accounting

"In economic theory, money is fungible, meaning: a dollar is a dollar is a dollar, and people can move it from one use to another at will. People, however, tend to organize their transactions in a way that makes money much less than wholly fungible. For example, business budget constraints may make it possible to do one thing but not another, such as replacing an existing computer at corporate headquarters but not installing one at all in the branch plant office. Individuals often apply similar boundary constraints, such as saving at low interest rates for an education fund while paying much higher rates for a car loan. These self-imposed constraints on purely rational economic behaviour are called mental accounting, where people's preferences depend on their reference points, not on objective outcomes alone." Extracts adapted from "The Psychology of Decision Making" by Amos Tversky, Professor of Behavioural Sciences, Stanford University.

Some interesting questions arise from this "behaviourist" school of economics.

- We follow normal legal and accounting rules and split our church finances into three separate Funds (General, Capital, Memorial). Do we allow this practice to help or hinder us in engaging with the Bishop's vision for abundance?
- When you plan your personal contributions to the church, do you engage in "mental accounting"? After your personal needs are budgeted, what other factors determine your own reference points for church giving?

How Goes the Treasure?

Messages in Christian journals usually seek to answer questions about "our Treasure" in a very Spirit-filled way. Questions such as: does the Spirit inspire all our works? Are we growing in the Spirit ourselves, in the church and for others? Are we still eager to bring family and friends into relationship with Him through the church? These are the real questions, more so than anything I can ever write about our church finances. Indeed, a focus on finance for its own sake is traditionally the fast lane to the Fourth Circle!

However, the Corporation played a wistful jest last February and drafted me as Treasurer. Since that fateful, dark night I have often pondered the question "How goes the Treasure"? Everybody wants to know. Really! The Diocese asks for financial returns. The Canada Revenue Agency cuts down a beautiful tree each year to send us forms. I report to Parish Council and Corporation. Oh, how to put the fun back into finance?

Applying the spirit of perestroika, I have come to the opinion that we should report our financial condition on an ongoing basis to those who have an interest in the success of St. Aidan's: the congregation at large and friends of the church in the community. The Messenger and the church website are ideal media. I will beg my dear spouse, the website co-ordinator, to add a new web page and not edit my poor words too harshly.

So, do not let your eyes glaze over, here is the St. Aidan's Church Financial Summary.

Net Assets as at September 30th 2009:

Unrestricted Operating: Cash and Investments, net of amounts owed:	\$ 48,444
Restricted-Use Operating: Cash and Investments, net of amounts owed:	\$203,196
Church Building & Fixtures (historic costs)	\$186,674
Capital Renovation Fund: Cash, Investments & Renovation progress:	\$ 95,284
Memorial Fund: Cash and Investments, net of amounts owed:	\$ 56,246
Total Net Worth	<u>\$589,844</u>

Fiscal Year to date Operating account:

Revenues (contributions, fundraising, rentals)	\$ 67,370
Diocesan expense subsidy	\$ 9,000
Expenses (before subsidy)	\$111,860
Deficit for the nine months	<u>\$(35,490)</u>

Comments: The key issue here is that the general revenues cover only 60% of our operating needs. Expenses are broadly in line with budget and historic spending levels. 90% of our costs are payrolls, premises and the DMM (Diocesan Mission Ministries) levy, all of which represent fixed costs over an annual timeframe. Operating deficits in this and prior years have been met by specially authorized withdrawals from investments accumulated through generous inter-vivos and testamentary gifts from the congregation.

In 1974, the Parish Net Worth was \$110,896. Now, it is \$589,844. Borrowing a line from the movie Jurassic Park, "Life finds a way". And so we too will seek a Way.

Derek Wood

Some background to our challenge to conserve our world! Michael Edwards, Parish Environmental Steward

THE CHALLENGE

A **fundamental change** has taken place in the relationship between people and the Earth. This change requires an equally fundamental **change in the way that we govern ourselves.**

Just one lifetime ago, basic food, clothes and shelter made up the bulk of our needs. Today, individually and collectively, we consume vast quantities of metals, chemicals, pesticides, fertilizer and, to make it all possible, a lot of energy. Our mushrooming consumption stretches the Earth's ability to absorb our waste.

This immense expansion of demands has brought about the fundamental change. This change means that the underlying assumption, that well-being is the product of material expansion, can no longer be valid. Perpetually expanding production and consumption cannot serve our children's children. Indeed, such expansion, along with the military adventures necessary to keep it supplied, are the greatest dangers that we face.

The fundamental change is well illustrated by the east coast fishery. Since people began to fish, we could always catch more fish by applying more effort, more boats and more nets to the task. This is no longer true. **Fish catch is no longer limited by how much we invest, it is limited by the number of fish in the sea.** Once so abundant that they could be caught with buckets, the east coast Cod is now an endangered species. This is a wake up call which we ignore at our peril. **Similar limits are looming with forests, fresh water, soil fertility and energy.**

This change is crucial. Adopting policies and activities which respect the change are as critical to our long term well-being as the air we breathe. It requires that we develop ways for everyone to participate in gainful activity without resorting to wasteful, exploitative practices.

The world view of growth everlasting was born in the childhood of human experience. Our demands were tiny, compared to the Earth's abundance. The view that we have an infinite world in which to grow has nurtured humanity through its childhood and well into adolescence.

We need to recognize that we are now a physically mature species and that we must govern ourselves with respect for the limits of our planet. This does not mean that our opportunities are finite, however. Preventative health care and education, for example, are not limited. They expand almost entirely by sharing information, without drawing heavily on the material world. With good health and knowledge, people can lead secure, fulfilling lives with a minimum of disruption to planetary life.

To choose sustainability is to choose the cyclic management of natural resources, the reduction of waste, economics that include everyone and a willful transition toward renewable energy. It is also a vote for the celebration of life and the unlimited opportunities which understanding, appreciation, communication, creativity, sport and mutual care offer.

A QUESTION OF DIRECTION

In what direction do we move to achieve the sort of world we want?

There are two options offered by different sectors of society:

A) Economic Expansion

Proponents argue that people express their will through how they spend their money. Free markets will shape the future through the laws of supply and demand. The greatest good is achieved by expanding economic activity; earning more and consuming more. The more money that changes hands, the better off society is.

B) Sustainability

looks into the future with concern for generations yet unborn. Ecological laws of resource availability and the ability of the biosphere to absorb waste are respected. The goal is to manage our affairs in ways that strengthen community cohesion and the health of the natural world. Our purpose is to maintain healthy secure livelihoods for all and to celebrate learning, love, laughter and other benefits of being human on a fine planet.

Would policies based on sustainability provide for human need as effectively as those presently serving economic expansion?

A great deal depends on which value public policy is based on:

- It determines the way in which tax money and public lands are used.
- It established a standard against which citizens weigh their own value systems.



Greening Your Home...Ideas for Living Sustainably

Lighting

- replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents
- use motion sensors with outdoor lights
- turn off the lights when you leave the room (a light that is off uses no electricity!)

Heating/Cooling

- reduce the temperature in the winter and wear sweaters indoors to stay warm
- plug air leaks (use caulking around windows and weather-stripping around doors), and don't forget to close your fireplace damper
- upgrade the insulation in your basement, walls and roof
- install storm or double-glazed windows, and close the drapes or blinds on the south side during hot summer days
- put in a high-efficiency gas furnace (if you can afford it, think about installing a ground-source heat pump or solar panels)
- use a programmable thermostat set 1-2 degrees down in winter (and up in summer if you've got air conditioning)
- consider joining a renewable energy supplier

Appliances

- buy appliances that meet Energy Star efficiency standards
- set your dishwasher on air dry
- wash your clothes in cold water
- use a clothesline or drying rack instead of a dryer
- use a microwave instead of a stove



Water

- lower your hot water temperature to 49°C (120°F) or even lower
- install low-flow showerheads and low-flush toilets (or insert a water-filled, sealed plastic bottle in your toilet tank to reduce water volume)
- fix any leaks - including dripping taps and running toilets

Garden / Lawn

- replace your grass with ground cover such as white clover, or use low maintenance native plants
- use a push mower, with sharp blades (optimal grass height is 3 inches), leave grass clippings on the lawn and rake leaves onto the flower beds
- avoid over-watering, and water early in the morning when it's cooler
- avoid using chemical fertilizers and biocides, employing organic alternatives instead
- plant trees for shade and enjoy the birds and squirrels
- consider using a rain barrel and redirecting eaves trough downspouts into your garden



Stewardship - Aligned with a New Vision for Niagara

On November 12 at St. Aidan's, Bishop Michael Bird outlined his new Vision for Niagara Diocese. Bishop Michael asked us to envision a Diocesan future in which parishes follow Christ passionately, seek excellence in all their activities, practice justice and grow in faith. This vision will be pursued through:

- Life changing worship experiences
- Outstanding leadership for ministry
- A flourishing culture of innovation
- Prophetic social justice initiatives, and
- A generous culture of stewardship

The foundation for the new vision for Niagara consists of six core values - spiritual discipline, diversity, honesty, integrity, passion and hard work.

So building a culture of stewardship in every parish is at the heart of Bishop Michael's vision. Good stewardship means taking responsibility for the vision - ensuring that future generations have the resources and the tools to continue in God's work. Stewardship means acknowledging and giving thanks for the benefits and blessings we experience in our lives, and seizing the opportunity we have to turn our blessings - our talents, time and treasure - into the "ways and means" for fulfilling the covenant made at our baptism. As Christians we are called to love our neighbours as ourselves, to feed the hungry and attend to those among us who are without shelter, hope, a supportive community or other necessities of life.

At St. Aidan's we have tried to instill the notion of "year-round stewardship". In other words, it's not just an Easter or a Christmas thing, and it's not just about money. Our parish needs all of us to be involved, to the extent that each of us can contribute as ministers, workers, planners, communicators, gardeners, leaders, cleaners, teachers, mentors, organizers, technicians, musicians, thinkers, creators, visitors, writers, readers, cooks, bottle washers - and many other volunteer functions.

Good stewardship - managing our talents, our time and our treasure effectively - is a cornerstone of the Bishop's new vision for St. Aidan's and every other parish in Niagara. In October, parishioners received a letter, a stewardship commitment card, a pre-authorized payment form and a "time and talent" sheet to complete and return by November 15th. These materials are intended to help individuals and families plan how they want to contribute to the mission and programs of our parish. The information received will also help in parish planning and budget-setting for the coming year. The Rector and Wardens extend their thanks to all who have returned their commitment information for the coming year - and for those who have not had a chance to do so, it's never too late to give this your prayerful attention and response!

Richard Bradley - Nov/09

St. Aidan's Children's Ministry is doing very well. The children enjoy the theme based approach with songs, games and other activities. We have had positive feedback from the children, parents and teachers. This is very rewarding. We would love to have a larger group, so if you know any parents, neighbours or friends who would like to join us, please invite them to come. A phone call to the church office for any additional information people might wish would be welcomed.

We are already looking forward to our next term (January to June) when our theme will be Treasure Cove (sort of a beach theme).

Judy Edwards
Sunday School Co-ordinator

**RAINFOREST
ADVENTURE**



**ST. AIDAN'S
ANGLICAN
CHURCH**

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PEOPLES WARDEN
SHEILA THOMPSON

DEPUTY RECTORS WARDEN
DIANE CREW
DEPUTY PEOPLES WARDEN
BONNIE GRANT

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT.

WWW.STAIDANSOAKVILLE.ORG



Building Project Progress

St. Aidan's building project is moving forward, slowly but surely. With able leadership from Steve Fricker, the project team assembled and submitted three grant applications in the spring and early summer. These included submissions to the Enabling Accessibility Fund, a program operated by the Office for Disability Issues (Human Resources and Skills Development Canada), the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and the Anglican Foundation of Canada. An amazing amount of work and attention to detail went into the preparation of these grant applications, and the team hopes to hear from all three funding sources by early December.



Work with the architect continues with a review of our priorities and projected costs following the first set of concept drawings and costs, which were received in April. The objective of this review was to identify the most essential components of the renovations to meet

our twin goals of increased accessibility and functionality – and to lower significantly the overall project budget. The focus now will be on the renovations to the main floor, especially the creation of a new sacristy and storage space, renovation to the sanctuary and stage area, accessible washrooms, a new door and ramp at the north transept, a new entrance and lift at the south side, refurbished flooring and a hospitality area at the east end of the nave. Upgraded electrical capacity and air conditioning on the main level remain as priorities, as does the possibility of adding accessible washrooms on the basement level. As a result of this review and re-focus, the project team will be amending the project plan to reflect the new project scope and priorities.

In many ways, the building project continues to challenge our small parish. It is, however, the key to fulfilling our desire to work in partnership with others to meet important community needs. Even as we work to make our space accessible and multi-functional, we see the possibilities beginning to emerge – a wonderful fund-raiser concert presented by young, up-and-coming artists – the Arthouse program for children and youth, bringing drama, music and art to children and young people in our community who would not otherwise experience these forms of expression – a special dinner and night out for women in our community. These results sharpen our resolve to see our building project successfully completed – to enhance our own worship experience, and to ensure that we are both connected and relevant in our community outreach and mission.

Richard Bradley

