



# THE ANGELUS

Your Neighbourhood Parish Newsletter

## JULY 27

### PATRONAL FESTIVAL

### FEAST OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE

8:00 am Said Mass

11:00 am

Solemn Festal Mass

Willan: *Missa Brevis II*

Tavener, *Dum Transisset Sabbatum*

*Reception in the Rectory Garden follows*

## Daily Masses

All Welcome

### MONDAY

6:00 pm Said Mass

### TUESDAY

7:15 am Said Mass

### WEDNESDAY

10:00 am Said Mass

*(followed by coffee hour & Bible Study)*

### THURSDAY

7:15 am Said Mass

10:00 am La Messa  
*(in Italiano)*

### FRIDAY

6:00 pm Said Mass

### SATURDAY

10:00 am Said Mass

5:00 pm Confessions

### SUNDAY

8:00 am Said Mass

9:30 am Sung Mass

*(Modern Language Rite)*

11:00 am Solemn Mass

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## RENOVATIONS

### A New Look

The first Sunday in June brought this suggestion from the rector, "Take a picture if you have your camera, - because the church will never look the same again". Volunteers packed hymn books, covered the organ and the stations with plastic, carried and moved precious contents to safety and had one last look at SMM as it has been for many years.

During the next three weeks, mid-morning Sunday masses moved to Trinity College Chapel, where we celebrated with familiar liturgies that, nevertheless, seemed strange in a different setting. Weekday masses continued to draw a faithful following in the basement. Celebrating the Feast of St. John the Baptist in Hiscocks Hall was stranger still. Fr. Ipema preached within inches of the ritual choir and remarked that at least there could be no complaints about their ability to hear him. Eating dinner in the Long Room brought back memories of parish life before the last renovation.

In the meantime, the church underwent drastic changes and discoveries. Workmen removed the floorboards and found unexpected hidden treasures: a broken sacramental wine bottle, a picture frame, and a kerosene lamp reflector - the last a reminder that the original church was built before neighbourhood electricity was available. Out front a large dumpster now held the original

A new sense of congregation.



flooring, while inside, construction of replacement joists and a new sub-floor began.

On June 29, we were back worshipping in the nave of the church in spite of ongoing construction in side chapels. We had a first chance to view the newly opened windows in the sanctuary, albeit through a maze of scaffolding. The building is now bathed in light. The change probably restores the vision of the original architect, Frank Darling of "an early and simple basilica", as David Grieg characterizes it in his parish history *In the Fullness of Time, A History of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene*. The effect is even more enhanced now that the gallery windows have also been opened.

The final result will be stunning if the work to date is any indication. What is also gratifying is the positive response of the people who live nearby, some of whom have entered the building for the first time. Living through renovation has its challenges but the parish is responding with enthusiasm, patience and hope and is continuing its life together as it moves toward this new stage in its communal experience. -NB



A new view from the choir gallery.

# From the Rector

The renovations to the church building have been underway now for six weeks. It has been slower than hoped for, but as expected.

Already these renovations have elicited some very positive comments from people in our neighbourhood. One person said to me that she was pleased to see the renovations, but wondered that since the Anglican Church was in trouble, where were we getting the money for the renovations. I explained that the Anglican Church had issues it was dealing with and that the congregation was supporting the renovations with their gifts. Other parishioners have had similar comments, which suggest that some people in the neighbourhood will understand that we are alive and well and hope to be even more welcoming.

As a parish we have become more welcoming than we have probably ever been, and yet there is always more that can be done. As a visitor standing at a coffee hour alone, it can be a very lonely moment in people's lives. It is part of our calling as individual members of the Body of Christ to welcome people into Christ's community. This may feel like too much stress for us at a time when most of us want to relax with friends and acquaintances. One of the marks of the Christian Faith is being hospitable.

I remember once visiting a church in London, England, on Sunday. As is my habit, I do not wear a clerical collar when I am on holiday as I want to experience the welcome extended to a visitor. The congregation for the Sung Mass numbered no more than 20. After Mass a sideswoman invited me to the crypt for coffee. The invitation being extended I went down, bought my drink and sat down on a bench. I was alone. Then three or four parishioners descended, and passed by me without a greeting. Then the vicar came by and greeted me with a hello and the five of them stood together conversing. This was not an experience to be repeated, and yet despite the most elaborate systems for identifying visitors most parishes I have visited have failed to make me feel welcome.

It seems to me that individual members speaking to visitors is what it is all about. When I greet visitors at the door after Mass, I sometimes ask nearby parishioners to accompany them downstairs to the coffee hour. The idea here is to have a parishioner begin the conversation and then to introduce the person to others. Most of us are reserved when we meet visitors. We don't want to overwhelm them and yet we want to make them feel welcome. It is an essential mark of the Christian community to show hospitality and to welcome all God's people and help them to realise that here they can

A medallion saved from the gallery during renovations.



find a spiritual home and community here.

At our patronal festival or, feast of title, we shall have many former parishioners as well as many visitors. It is a moment when we can show generous hospitality to our visitors. I remember that in the first parish where I served the rector would insert in the leaflet this sentence: "Visitors, please be friendly to our parishioners, because they are shy."

As we renew our building we shall also have to renew our community so that others may join us with St Mary Magdalene in offering our prayers and praises to God for our risen Lord and for the hope of the fullness of life offered to the human race through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Father Harold

## WEBSPOTTING

All eyes will be focused on Lambeth in the coming weeks and there will undoubtedly be much coverage by the secular press. To get the official message, log onto [www.lambethconference.org](http://www.lambethconference.org), which has extensive information about the programmes and schedules for bishops and their spouses, as well as details of fringe events. On this site another useful document is *Signs on the Way*, focusing on St. John's Gospel. It is intended for bishops and their spouses to use during the conference. but all members of the Anglican Communion are invited to share in this study.

The Anglican Journal will give up to-the-minute reports at [www.anglicanjournal.com/world/anglican-union/lambeth-2008](http://www.anglicanjournal.com/world/anglican-union/lambeth-2008)

Sites like *Anglicans Online*, *Thinking Anglicans* and *Episcopal Café* will also offer current news. The latter recently noted that several American and English bishops will be "blogging" to their dioceses back home, and, probably, some Canadian bishops will do likewise. That's quite an innovation, since the technology didn't even exist at the time of Lambeth 1998.

According to a release from the planning group, "The purpose of the Lambeth conference 2008 is to enable bishops to discern and share their Anglican identity and become better equipped as leaders in God's mission. The Lambeth Conference in 2008 will be different: it will not resemble a parliamentary debating chamber with a string of resolutions but will aim to provide time and space for spiritual reflection learning, sharing and discerning. Among the topics it will address are the Millennium Development Goals, HIV/Aids, Ethical/Green Living, Anglican identity and Covenant, The Listening Process and relationships with people of other faiths."



## Staff Changes

Colleen O'Reilly is the new Administrative Assistant at SMM, having taken over for Brin Conard, who now is enjoying her new baby daughter, Kate. Colleen originally hails from the U.S., and is a recent graduate of the University of Toronto in Fine Art History. She can be found in the Parish Office from Tuesday to Friday, 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m, and reached by email at [office@stmarymagdalene.ca](mailto:office@stmarymagdalene.ca).

# Out of the Cold Provides Relief



Once a month, from November to April, SMM serves a Friday dinner to guests who come to St. Stephen in the Fields. We are one of four parishes and organizations participating in the feeding programme designed to help those in our immediate community.

"At our last dinner, we had over 120 guests," reports Brian Clarke, the coordinator of the programme. "The place was packed. We are the last venue to close for the season, so there was no other place our guests could go. Thank goodness our volunteers showed up in full force and with more food than usual. We were able to feed all who came and to feed them well. For dessert

each guest received two ice cream sandwiches and a piece of cake. Of our approximately 30 regular volunteers, 15-18 were on for that evening."

Programme volunteers prepare food, set up the dining room, serve and interact with guests, wash dishes, and clean up, all in an informal but highly efficient way. The programme benefits not only those who have a good meal but also the volunteers who enjoy getting to know one another and working together. Out of the Cold has become SMM's largest outreach endeavour.

This year there was also a Community Dinner funded by a parishioner in our own building two weeks after Easter. It was cooked by David Roth and well supported by additional volunteers and, although we had fewer guests than anticipated, the evening allowed volunteers and guests to sit down to eat together and to visit. Those who did attend were very appreciative and we hope to have another such event in the future.

# Church Development Programme Approved

At its June meeting, the Advisory Board recommended that our parish participate in Natural Church Development, a programme designed to stimulate health and growth in parishes. Earlier in the year, the Board heard about the idea in a presentation from Dave Robinson, the Diocesan Congregational Development Officer.

Natural Church Development is a new way to think about church growth. Earlier in the year, our own church growth task force had met to explore modest ways to be more welcoming. Like other previous initiatives, this task force recognized the need for more comprehensive methods in this area. The paradigm for the NCD programme is to view the church as a living organism. It is a long term strategic process for progressively improving the church health.

At its heart is a diagnostic tool that measures the current situation by a

survey completed by parish leaders and others. The results are then combined to provide a comprehensive picture of the current state of the parish. The process is repeated in yearly cycles to measure the rate of change and improvement.

The programme reminds us that there are principles by which God sustains and grows living things in the world, - and that the local church is also a living organism which God has created and now sustains. It stresses that the quality of a parish is the foundation for quantity of membership.

Originally, one thousand churches in 32 countries were surveyed to determine the existence of common principles producing healthy church growth independent of denomination, theology, country, culture, leadership style, size or ministry model. At the beginning of this year more than 54,000 surveys had been conducted, confirming the reliability and accuracy of the original research. Ultimately, eight quality characteristics have been identified. All of them contribute to growing spiritual maturity. All are thoroughly biblical in their approach.

Nearly 100 parishes in the Diocese of Toronto, including St. Martin in the Fields, are participating in the programme or planning to enter it soon. At SMM, we will hear more about this programme in the fall.

# The Gallery Choir is a Winner



The Gallery Choir won the coveted award as best choir in Canada in the church/temple category of the CBC's National Choir Competition.

The win had an exciting finale, in which their final competitor was a neighbouring Toronto choir from St. Thomas's Anglican Church.

Competition rules are stringent. Works must be unaccompanied and a submitted tape, not exceeding 18 minutes, has to include four works of contrasting styles, periods and moods. The performance of these choices must also demonstrate respect for the tradition of the category. One selection must feature a Canadian composer

The choirs moved successfully through regional and national quarter finals. Then, national semi-finalists performed live-to-air from several locations throughout Canada on April 30. Following these performances, each choir had to prepare a new programme eight minutes in length. An enthusiastic audience was present to cheer on the choir in Toronto at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church as they performed Tallis's *O Sacrum Convivium*, Stephanie Martin's *Drop, drop slow tears*, and the Sanctus and Benedictus from Willan's *Missa Brevis #1*.

Both church choirs gave outstanding performances but, ultimately, SMM took first place. Stephanie Martin, SMM's conductor, praised John Tuttle's sister parish down the road and also noted that her volunteer choristers would be back the next night singing the Ascension Day mass in the parish church.

Later, in May, the winning choir performed in a gala concert in Laval - as well as singing mass in St. Rose Roman Catholic Church. The sponsor of the event provided all expenses for travel, accommodation and hospitality for participating choirs. The Gallery Choir's moving renditions of three new selections, including Stephanie Martin's rousing arrangement of *Down to the River to Pray* charmed all those in attendance, as well as CBC Radio Two's national audience. Congratulations to all for this outstanding achievement.

# Remembering Donald Belway

## A brother's tribute

I have been asked to pen a tribute to my dear brother, Fr. Donald Belway. It is a great privilege to do so. As my senior brother, Donald shared with me a lifetime of faith and ministry, although these ministries took us in quite different directions and to different experiences of pastoral care. Donald was called to a rich life as the Incumbent of many parishes, while I felt a call to Africa, where I have been for 25 years. Yet always we shared the closest of interests and concerns.

Donald was my inspiration and mentor. After his conversion to Anglicanism (at St. Thomas Church, Toronto), he brought me along into the church. We both attended the same schools and went to Trinity College, Toronto, where together we majored in English and philosophy, and then theology. A very keen and gifted

student, he usually stood at the top of his class, both at U. of T. and in Divinity. Many of us sought his scholastic advice, to our great relief and satisfaction.

Looking far back on our early lives, I remember that my brother was the musician of the house. From an early age, he loved music and studied piano for 12 years and then pipe organ for four years. He was a gifted pianist and organist; and, while still at university, he delighted many with his credible piano performances. During the war his keen ear for music enabled him to enlist in the Air Force and become a Wireless Air Gunner. He could send and receive Morse Code with a rapidity few others could emulate. So much for the flexibility learned in the execution of complex Mozart sonatas!

I must not overlook Donald's great love of rural Ontario, especially its lovely farms, some of which he knew well. Both of us spent many a long summer holiday working on such farms. At 18, Donald could pitch in with all the chores of seeding and harvest. He positively adored cattle, which were, he thought, next to some dear relatives



and friends, the finest of species. Whenever he had a garden, as in Grafton, he produced wonderful vegetables for his table and gave many away to grateful friends.

This brings me to Donald's kitchen and table. Everyone who knew him considered him a very fine cook. Few could turn out such scones and pastry. His blueberry pies were the greatest of culinary triumphs.

Have I covered all that prompts me to write? Far from it, but I have touched on some endearing facets of the beautiful life that he shared, in great affection and in great fun too, with scores of friends. And thank you so much for loving my brother. I am aware that he continues to pray for us all. Alleluia

- Fr. Murray Belway

# The Parkdale Council Continues

The Parkdale Ministry Development Council completed its spring meeting schedule with emerging recommendations and an

increased sense of realities facing this large and complex part of our city. It had received a new mandate to continue its work from parish vestries early in 2008. Indeed, most vestries passed the motions unanimously. In rotation, each church hosted a meeting, a process which also provided good opportunities for members to get to know one another better over dinner.

At the first meeting in February, two task forces were struck to develop ways to work together on administration and programmes. These gave preliminary reports in March when an additional task force to work on evangelism was formed. These all reported again and received considerable feedback in April. The May meeting dealt with updated statistics and finance and the final one in June focused on finance and building issues.

A number of matters are under ongoing discussion. These include some common issues. Most parishes are difficult to contact by phone since they seldom have a live person at the end of the line.

All parishes purchase supplies but don't

have the volume to attract discounts. All parishes need contractors, but don't always have access to good ones. Other concerns include becoming more aware of ourselves as a deanery through joint worship services. Furthermore, resources, including study group leadership, could be shared. Rental space could be better coordinated. There is also a need for more interaction with our neighbourhoods. Finally, there are opportunities for joint promotion and activities.

Updated statistics and financial information provide some sobering food for thought.

- We are doing well with the limited resources that we have
  - Membership is declining and maturing in most parishes
  - We are basically serving 628 people for Sunday worship
  - We are a very small number in the total society that surrounds us
  - There are marked differences in the day-to-day financial realities of the parishes
  - Several of our buildings are frequently empty and closed
  - Our vision is frequently constrained by having to ask "What can we afford" rather than "What do we want to do?" and only after that, asking, "Where do we find the money?"
  - The functionality of our space is often an issue. In every case buildings were created to serve the needs of another era
- The year ended with a joint picnic on the lawn at St. Matthias and it was gratifying

to see a turnout of close to 50 people for this event. In the fall recommendations will come to the parishes. The Parkdale Deanery website ([www.parkdaledeanery.ca](http://www.parkdaledeanery.ca)) has been updated and you can read minutes of meetings and other news there. There is also a Parkdale blog ([www.parkdaledeanery.blogspot.com](http://www.parkdaledeanery.blogspot.com)) which posts frequent notices of events and also invites your feedback and thoughts on how to make Parkdale parishes a vital presence as the Body of Christ in this place.



Published by  
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