



THE ANGELUS

Your Neighbourhood Parish Newsletter

Sunday, July 25

11:00 am

*Patronal Festival:
Procession and
Solemn Festal Mass*

Saturday, September 18

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

*Fr. Harrison conducts
a Quiet day at
St. John's Convent*

Sunday, September 19

4:00 pm

*Induction of the
Rev'd David Harrison*

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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Meet the Harrisons

Fr. David and his wife and family are now residents after a month of commuting and as they get to know us, it is also good for us to get to know them better. Sitting down recently in the office, David talked about coming back to Toronto, a city where he has spent the greater part of his life.

"I grew up in Etobicoke and went to public school and Etobicoke Collegiate", he said. "Actually I arrived at Etobicoke Collegiate just as the Greig brothers were leaving it so we didn't quite overlap. Then I was off to Trinity College where I studied history and political science and lived in residence. In those days I was also studying organ and was allowed to practice at SMM; so walking along Harbord past Harbord Bakery and the many restaurants is something very familiar to me.

He observed that music has always been part of his life. "My father and grandfather were both musicians so I joined the choir of St. James Cathedral at age seven. When my voice changed I became the choir librarian and then a server and sub-deacon, studying organ with Norman McBeth, who was once Assistant Organist of SMM.

He met his wife Mary Lou, a student at Victoria College, when they were both fourth year history students. A passion for Canadian federalism motivated him to complete an MA in Canadian history at York University. This led to a position with the Government of Ontario where he worked for the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, with a stint at the Ministry Finance. "They were exciting times to be in government work and I was heavily involved with the Charlottetown Accord during 1991-1992."

David was lucky to have an understanding boss who supported

him in starting a Master of Divinity at Trinity in 1994, - though he wasn't committed to ordination at that stage. Two leaves of absence made it possible to spend nearly a full year focusing on theological studies and he earned a M.Div in 1998. But the arrival of twin girls didn't make this the best time to start work in a parish. He was able to take a seven month parental leave to be with the girls full-time after they were born. The new parents and babies turned up a few times at SMM in those months.

David was ordained in 1999 and served a curacy at St. John's Port Hope under the Rev'd John Read, (the son of bishop Allan Read) and the growing family adjusted quickly to small town life. "At that point, we vowed we would never go back to Toronto", he said.

In 2001 David became incumbent of St. Thomas' Church, Brooklin. The village church had been built in 1869 and held 90 at a squeeze. But the original population of 1800 had already grown to 7,000 when he arrived, and is 17,000 today. He was aware from the beginning that there were conflicting views as to how to move forward and one of the earliest tasks was to lead the parish in developing a vision for its future. Consensus was reached in about a year and a half and the parish embarked on creating one of the few new church buildings in the diocese. In the process the parish grew from a weekly attendance of about 100 to an average of 160 per
(continued on back)



L to R: Sarah, Mary Lou, David, Rachel.

From the Rector

In my first homily at SMM – on the occasion of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi – I related a story originally told by John Wimber. The irony wasn't lost on at least one listener, for John Wimber was a famous charismatic pastor and one of the founders of the Vineyard Movement, a "neocharismatic evangelical Christian denomination". Not exactly a natural voice to hear from the SMM pulpit! But it is a story worth telling, I think, and one worth re-telling here.

Wimber tells a story of a member of his congregation who approached him on a Sunday morning in a very agitated state. It turns out that this particular parishioner had, the previous week, encountered an individual who was in enormous need. The parishioner poured out his frustration to John Wimber: "This man needed a place to stay, food, and support while he gets on his feet and looks for a job", he said. "I am really frustrated. I tried telephoning the church office but no one could see me and they couldn't help me. I finally ended up having to let him stay with me for the week! *Don't you think the church should take care of people like this?*" John Wimber paused, thought for a moment, and then said, "*It looks like the church did.*"

When the history of the Christian Church of the last 50 years is written, I suspect that among the principal themes will be the renewal of the centrality and primacy of baptism as the rite of Christian initiation. Accompanying this renewal has been attendant reforms in the liturgy to emphasize more deeply the gathering of a community, the ministry of *all* the baptized, and the sending out (the *mission*) of the Church to be the Body

of Christ in the world.

It is worth pointing out that SMM has been in the forefront of the movement to recapture these theological and liturgical realities within the catholic expression of Anglicanism, *including* the full inclusion of children in the ministry of the church as baptized members of Christ's Body. (It is also worth pointing out that the word *mission*, so often associated these days with the evangelical expression of the Church, is a richly catholic word, sharing its roots with the word *mass*. *Ite, missa est. Go, the mass is ended. Go, you are sent. Go, you are on a mission.*)

Over the past year, SMM has undergone a great deal of change. You have recognized and celebrated the faithful and dedicated ministry of Fr. Harold. You have undergone an extensive consultative process to develop a parish profile, which helps to name and calibrate the strengths and challenges of the parish and to elucidate a vision for the future. You have been cared for and sustained by Fr. John as the interim priest-in-charge. And now we have begun our ministry together.

In these early weeks at SMM I have been impressed by the talents, commitment and diversity of our parish community. Here there are *charismatic* people; that is, people with *charisms*, with gifts, for the sustaining and building up of our parish life and our mission to bring the saving good news of Christ to the world. People with the gift of vision, the gift of caring, the gift of music, the gift of teaching, the gift of communicating, the gift of hospitality, the gift of faithfulness in prayer, the gift of leadership, the gift of thinking outside the box, the gift of thinking



PHOTO: GREG BOLTON

inside the box, to name just a few.

I look forward to the future and to getting to know more of you, as you get to know me. I am also conscious that *The Angelus* is distributed to a wider circle of friends of SMM, what I've heard called the *SMM diaspora*. To you, I say that it is a distinct delight to be part of a parish which attracts and keeps such loyalties, sometimes even at considerable geographical distance. Please do stay connected.

My prayer for SMM is that we lean into the abundance which God has provided, that we will continue to raise up the gifts that God has bestowed upon this parish, that we will reach out to grow in the strength and scope of our community, in our liturgies, our ministries, and in our outreach, so that we can continue our witness to the Body of Jesus Christ – Risen, Ascended, Glorified.

Yours faithfully,
Fr. David Harrison
Rector

Musical Events at Mary Mags

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3/2010
@ 7:30 pm

Windago directed by Elaine Chois, performs music of Canadian and Toronto composers.
Proceeds to the Healey Willan Fund



SUNDAY, AUGUST 8/2010
@ 3:00 pm.

Schola Magdalena Sings Hildegard; Mediaeval Music for Women's Voices

LABOUR DAY WEEKEND

SMM hosts a visit from the Selwyn College Choir

Parkdale Deanery – Mission Possible

Parkdale Deanery's Ministry Development Council assumed a new role as of the fall of 2009. Its members had met for a two year period as parish representatives, but without a clear mandate or financial resources. But in pondering whether the Council should disband, the members recognized that their strengths included strong relationships and shared experience and they wanted to carry on. With that new understanding the Council has sought to support grass roots development and shared ministries. One of the results was a successful program entitled Mission Possible during Lent 2010.

The Diocese had offered a program, but in reviewing it, we realized that we could go beyond and develop our own. Our five sessions focused on different aspects of our common life together. Brian Clarke brought us up-to-date on the demographics of our inner city parishes. Jim Houston asked us how to respond to a hypothetical withdrawal of our exemption from municipal taxes – and we were somewhat embarrassed to find more reasons to agree with the withdrawal - on the basis of sharing our buildings with the wider community, - than to object. Dorothy Peers led us through a session exploring how to reach out to our community more effectively. Heike Walden reported on the current development of the Jeremiah Community, a new missional community planted at St. Anne's. In the final session, Norah Bolton provided some tools for looking at changes affecting the wider cultural environment, including parish churches. Representation from six of the seven parishes was consistent throughout the five weeks and we learned much in working together.

Maundy Thursday also provided a memorable joint effort. We began with an interpreted Sedar and mutual foot washing at Parkdale Community Church (located within Epiphany & St. Mark), moving to the traditional liturgy and stripping of the altar and finally to a vigil in a nearby park. Members of five congregations participated, including our own.

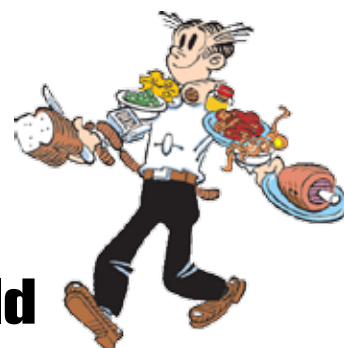
Finally we were asked by Bishop Poole to provide feedback to the Diocese regarding a church plant for St. George the Martyr scheduled to begin later this year. We were pleased to offer suggestions based on our experience in Parkdale, as well as to challenge both the Diocese and ourselves how to learn from these new missional initiatives

To learn more about mission and new ways to approach it, plan to attend Mission Shaped Intro this fall for six consecutive Tuesdays beginning September 14 at Trinity College. A group from SMM intends to attend these sessions, but the course is also offered on other evenings in different parts of the city.



Stratford Trip Revived

After a brief hiatus, the Parish Stratford Trip has been revived and will take place on Saturday, September 4. We will see Christopher Plummer in "The Tempest. Tickets cost \$100, which includes the bus and matinee theatre tickets. Bring your lunch to picnic on the banks of the Avon, or join others at one of Stratford's many restaurants. Bentley's Inn has long been a favourite with SMMers! Tickets are limited, so reserve early. Contact Ted Parkins: 416-767-8631.



Out of the Cold

For over 10 years now, SMM has participated in the Out of the Cold program. One Friday night each month, from November through April, volunteers meet in the kitchen of St. Thomas to prepare a nourishing, large-portioned, high quality meal for between 80 and 125 participants. On any given night there will be about 20 volunteers busy in the kitchen, cooking, greeting, chatting, serving and cleaning up.

Brian Clarke, Convenor of the programme says "Out of the Cold is a way one can personally make a difference in the lives of other people. There is nothing so basic, so fundamental as food. It's essential for living. As well, eating with others is a profoundly social action. OOTC volunteers come from various parts of SMM's worshipping life and being involved in OOTC has deepened our sense of Christian service and of community."

Parishioners are encouraged to support "Out of the Heat", one of the few such programs operating in the city over the summer months. We try to staff the third Friday of the month and provide sandwiches, fresh fruit and vegetables to more than 125 guests. Please contact Brian Clarke for more details.

Natural Church Development 2010

Natural Church Development is a journey toward congregational health. Some years ago, a German Lutheran pastor was curious whether it were possible to find common characteristics shared by healthy churches. After studying 1000 churches in 32 countries, he was able to identify eight characteristics, now validated by nearly 60,000 surveys in 70 countries across a variety of Christian denominations and traditions. Our latest survey is one of them.

The survey is administered to 30 men and women who represent long time

and new members of SMM. As well, the participants are chosen from those in leadership positions who are also members of small groups. The survey positions a parish on a scale of 100. The average church will score 50, with 70% of parishes falling between 35 and 65; 15% fall below 35 and 15% fall above 65. Each church receives a score, based on their average of the eight characteristics. A good balance among the characteristics is seen as more important than high scores in one or two areas.

SMM members completed their second survey at the end of 2009. In our first survey, our minimum factor, or lowest quality characteristic, was "Needs Based Evangelism". While at first we balked at the term, we changed our perception when we understood it as "bearing witness" to our faith. It was encouraging to see that our result in this quality characteristic was higher this

year. Simple awareness of the fact that we have tended to focus on the inner life of the parish has made a difference. Our need to be more open in expressing our faith to others comes at an opportune time, when the whole church is starting to focus on mission. Since our total score did not change substantially, it is clear that we still have work to do.

To bear witness to our faith does not mean standing on street corners or knocking on doors. We are reminded to use our strengths to invite others to join us. This year those strengths are twofold. Inspiring worship is something we understand and practise. Equally strong is gift-based ministry; we can recognize the strengths of our parishioners and put them to work. You will hear more about how we can build on our strengths and remove some of the barriers of our weakness in the coming months.

Meet the Harrisons

(Continued from front cover)

Sunday. Its predominantly young families were recently delighted to attend the dedication of a new church built at the cost of five million. David praised the strong lay leadership who steered the planning and construction process, leaving him to focus on the task of strengthening the new community who would worship there. He noted that he has no reservations about lay leadership at SMM and has already seen a wide range of diverse talents and capabilities.

SMM was never entirely off the radar. "My encounters date back to the '80's", he said. "I remember serving as sub-deacon when the Cathedral clergy and servers led a Marian Festival mass. I recall that Nicholas Jamieson and Ron Payne were in charge as MC's and I had to navigate through an unfamiliar missal under their watchful eyes. I substituted for Robert Bell at SMM a few times. We came to the folk mass now and then. I also served on a joint SMM/Trinity search committee in 1997 and became acquainted with some current parishioners through that. Stephanie Martin and I served together on the executive of the Toronto Branch of the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

So there are plenty of connections".

When asked to describe his wife, Mary Lou, the first word that came to mind is 'Multi-talented'. "She also has worked in government, largely in the provincial Ministry of Culture. At one stage she was a caterer. Recently she has been the writer/editor of the *Brooklin Town Crier*, published semi monthly".

Among Mary Lou's passions are HIV-AIDS and she has been active in raising money for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Another passion is the Girl Guides of Canada. Her own daughters are Pathfinders, a program for girls 12-14, where girls plan their own activities under the guidance of an adult leader. Since she discovered that there isn't a local program in our neighbourhood in Toronto, she is already working on starting one. Still another keen interest is Rotary. A former president of the club in Whitby, she was recently honoured as a Paul Harris Fellow, one of Rotary's highest honours. She has already joined the Toronto Sunrise Rotary Club, which meets at the Arts and Letters Club – another SMM connection. Her husband describes her as a person who has great gifts at connecting people and making things happen.

The Harrison daughters have already enjoyed a taste of big city life with a

glimpse of the Queen on Sunday as well as soccer fans celebrating on College Street; they head for Guide Camp in July. They will attend King Edward School in the fall. Like their father they are already good musicians as well as seasoned travellers spending last summer with their parents in Grahamstown South Africa.

Fr. David ended by observing that if people think he is rather young, they might be interested that he has arrived here at the same age that Fr. Harold was when he did. We know that David is more than up to the challenge and wish him and his family well as they settle in to their new life among us.

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