

Nick's News

Church of St. Nicholas Birch Cliff, 1512 Kingston Road, Scarborough, M1N 1R7 (416) 691-0449

Calling all rummage!

Clear your clutter and donate to the sale

That psychedelic strobe light probably seemed like a really good idea at the time. Remember all the fun you used to have in your basement dancing around while the strobe light made you look like you were moving in slow motion?

(Well, you actually were moving in slow motion, but that's a conversation for another time.)

Anyway, said strobe light is probably doing nothing more than taking up space now that you've committed to a life of clean living, so why not donate it to the Parish Guild's annual Rummage Sale?

Please save your rummage – whatever that is – donations until March 24, as storage space is limited at the church due to the proliferation of Father Kevin's old Teen Beat magazines.

The sale itself will take place Friday, April 25 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Anyone who is able to help out before, during or after the sale is asked to contact **Rose Servos** at (416) 691-9089. ■

Church School happenings

March a busy month for kids of St. Nick's

By Angela McCulloch

St. Nicholas Church School

There are a number of exciting things taking place at Church School this month. Instead of splitting into three different Church School classes, the children will be joining as one group to work on a number of Outreach Projects.

Every Easter, the Altar Guild organizes the delivery of Easter flowers and cards to our parishioners who are unable to attend church on a regular basis.

The first three Sundays in March have been spent making Easter cards that will be included in this year's delivery. We're planning to make 30-35 cards and we have jobs for all ages.

During March, the Church School will have its own Food Bank box. Children are being asked to bring in non-perishable items throughout the month. All items will be delivered to the Churches by the Bluffs Food Bank.

On Sunday March 30, Doug Goss will be giving a talk to the children about the food bank and all the work it does in the community.

Lent is a time to focus on Jesus' life and his many teachings. During this month, please visit the Church School room and pick up the many word puzzles that will be available for the children to complete at home. All puzzles will focus on Jesus' life or the parables.

There will be a children's program during the Good Friday service and Easter Sunday during the 10:30 a.m. service. ■

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Wardens' Report

Annual Vestry meeting was a success

Our annual Vestry Meeting was held Feb. 3 after the 10:30 a.m. service and was once again an informative session.

It also marked a new beginning for the Parish Executive Committee. We wish to thank all who attended the meeting, those who submitted reports to the meeting and **the McLean family** for a wonderful brunch.

A special word of thanks is extended to the Churchwardens who stepped down at Vestry, **Angela McCulloch** and **Malcolm Moffat**. Your wise counsel will be missed. We are grateful for Angela's continuing involvement with our Church School and that Malcolm is continuing as our Property Supervisor.

We are looking forward to working with the newly elected and appointed Parish Council. Our first Parish Council meeting is scheduled for immediately after Easter on Wed., March 26.

The snowy winter has been a challenge. We thank you for your patience in this regard and also thank those who have assisted with shoveling. As reported at Vestry, a contractor has been hired for snow removal and has recently salted the parking lot.

In early May, we will welcome **David Bryant** to our ministry team as a full-time intern for a four-month period. David attended and was introduced at the Vestry meeting.

We encourage you to consider signing up as a host for Coffee Hour after the Sunday 10:30 a.m. services. This is an important time of fellowship that many of us enjoy. **The McRae family's** willingness to step in to the blank spots on this roster is very much appreciated.

Best wishes to you and your families for a joyous Easter season.

Joan Wilson – Rector's Warden

Doug Goss – People's Warden

Brian Todd – Deputy Warden

Mark Trumpour – Deputy Warden

Tip of the Hat

Thanks to those who make St. Nick's better!

The Wardens would like to offer a Tip of the Hat to:

Edith Diggins and the group that have worked with her on the Lenten Lunches.

The Sidespeople for a very successful Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday.

Arthur and Sara McLean for hosting a delicious brunch at the Vestry Meeting.

Freda Gearing and **Suzanne Lehtinen** for coordinating the Women's Breakfasts.

Andrew Reeves for coordinating the Men's Breakfast. ■

Spring Fling Shindig

Play games or dance the night away

Winter got you down? Developed a hernia from all that shoveling? Well, the Social Committee has just the thing to raise your spirits.

On Sat., April 12, St. Nick's will host its Super Spring Fling Dinner and Dance in Robinson Hall. It promises to be the social event of the year, in no small part because Malcolm Moffat will be offering dance lessons to anyone who is interested.

The event gets underway with a reception at 6 p.m. that is followed by a home-cooked roast beef dinner at 7 p.m., and then the fun really starts.

If baby needs a new pair of shoes or your better half requires a stunning array of fragrant bath products, feel free to take part in the Games Night portion of the program. Of course, the games of chance are meant to be nothing more than a harmless diversion, so please gamble responsibly.

You can also dance the night away and enjoy the company of the good people of St. Nick's. The highlight of the evening promises to be when DJ Owen plays Macarena and YMCA back-to-back. Yes, I really do like doing the Macarena. There, I said it. I feel better already.

Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased from Brian Jones, Joan Alkerton or Reg McRae. ■

St. Nick's Calendar

Wed., March 12 - Palm cross- making gets underway at 7 p.m.

Thurs., March 13 - Card Party in Robinson Hall at 1 p.m.

Sat., March 14 - Women's Quiet Day at St. John's Convent

Wed., March 26 - Parish Council meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Thurs., March 27 - Worship Committee meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Sat., April 5 - Women's Breakfast at 9 a.m. in Robinson Hall.

Toronto Maple Leafs play the Montreal Canadiens at 7 p.m. in their last game of the regular season. There will be no playoffs until further notice. Check back with us, oh, in about five years, okay?

Wed., April 9 - Executive Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Sat., April 12 - Spring Fling Dinner and Dance starting at 6 p.m. in Robinson Hall. Dance lessons from **Malcolm Moffat** to follow.

Thurs., April 17 - Card Party in Robinson Hall at 1 p.m.

Sat., April 19 - Men's Breakfast in Robinson Hall at 8:30 a.m.

Wed., April 23 - Parish Council meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Fri., April 25 - The Parish Guild's annual Rummage Sale goes from 6-8 p.m.

Sat. April 26 - The Rummage Sale continues from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Would You Believe?

Let's have more success in Year 2

While looking for something to fill this space, I came across a book by **Tom Harpur**, one of Canada's most prominent writers on religious and ethical issues.

The name of the book is *Would You Believe? Finding God Without Losing Your Mind* and I thought I would share a passage from the book with you:

"Why, then do I believe in God? Put as simply as possible, I do so because quite literally, to quote Martin Luther from another context, 'I can do no other.' This does not mean that belief and faith come easily to me, that I have no doubts, or that I am a believer by constitution, temperament or from a lack of exposure to the arguments and criticisms of atheists, agnostics or others.

Most readers of my books and columns over the years are acquainted with the skeptical bent of my mind and of my deep respect for evidence. Like my New Testament namesake, Thomas, I ask for upon which to build any edifice of trust. However, the best way I can explain why I believe is to say that in the end I find myself compelled to believe.

It's a compulsion that flows from the head and also from the heart. It comes from both aspects of the brain, the logical and the intuitive. Indeed, it's ultimately an affair of body, mind and spirit. After years of study, of travels around the world, of rich experience in several callings, I must confess: nothing else makes as much sense to me.

'This cannot be an accident!' That's how the late **Gordon Sinclair**, the radio and television personality – whose attacks on organized religion were well known – once replied when I asked him how he felt on looking up at night and seeing the vast panoply of stars above his Muskoka cottage.

'There are galaxies beyond galaxies beyond galaxies,' he said. 'At that point, I must believe in God.'

This admission, made during an interview for a television program I once hosted, called *Paradox*, surprised many viewers at the time because of Sinclair's notoriously loud, public professions of agnosticism over the years.

He went on to say he agreed there must be 'some kind of divine purpose' in and behind the universe but that he could not accept a God who intervenes in human affairs. Asked whether his idea of God was that of one who is, 'somehow then outside, dispassionately watching everything,' he replied: 'I don't know.' " ■