

C.A.P. PROGRAM YEAR 2011

The year 2011 saw a dramatic change for the CAP Program. Because Rev. Michelle owns her own home, having her as our permanent priest at St. Mike's resulted in the rectory being unused as a living quarter. The corporation suggested the possibility of using it instead of the apartment we were renting. The congregation approved the recommendation at our vestry meeting last January. This was then brought to the attention of WICA (West Island Citizens Advocate). We gave them a tour of the rectory and they were very enthusiastic. This happened around mid March. The landlord of the rented apartment was approached to advise him of our intention to terminate the lease. He agreed, and a date of June 1st as set for the last rental payment. The apartment had three tenants and WICA set out to find a fourth as the rectory had four bedrooms. They did come up with a new tenant and the rectory was made liveable. Having not being used as a residence for a few years some cleaning and sprucing up had to be done. Walls, floors and windows were cleaned and some window screens were replaced. Stove, fridge and dishwasher were cleaned and sanitized and light bulbs were replaced where necessary. Basement rooms were cleaned and surplus furniture etc. was disposed of. We were now ready for our new house guests.

Michael, James, Joshua and Alex moved in last June. Rooms were selected according to seniority and we helped them set up.

After a few months of residency, the church held a welcoming reception and a house blessing room by room by Rev. Michelle and members of the parish.

The general manager of WICA and other members were present for the reception. It should be pointed out that the apartment program when started some twenty years ago was a joint effort between us and the parish of St. Thomas a Becket. They continue to support us with an annual financial contribution. They were also represented at the reception. Their Rep is also a member of the board of directors of WICA.

It has now been six months since the fellows moved in and they continue to maintain the home immaculate condition and with the help of WICA volunteers they have plans to transform the back yard and plant veggies and flowers.

The fellows are now members of the St. Mike's family and volunteered with the preparation of the Christmas baskets. They have also offered their services to help with any task within their capabilities in the Church. Alex has been a regular attendant at the 10:00 am service and has volunteered to be a member of the sidesteam.

The church gains by having someone living in the rectory and taking care of it and paying the costs. On an annual basis, the church is ahead by about \$13,000.00.

We look forward to enjoying many more years with our St. Michael's house residents.

Respectfully submitted,
Alf Gill