

# Jubilate!

Advent  
2017

2017-12-03

A newsletter for  
parishioners and friends of  
**The Church of St. Peter  
and  
St. Simon-the-Apostle**

525 Bloor Street East,  
Toronto, ON M4W 1J1  
Email: office@stsimons.ca  
Web: www.stsimons.ca  
Voice: 416-923-8714



## Singing a New Song

*Geoffrey Sangwine*

On Sunday, November 5 at 4 pm, we had a glorious Festal Evensong to celebrate All Saints. It also was a chance for us to celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of our coming together as the parish of St. Peter and St. Simon- the-Apostle.

The psalm appointed for the service began with these words: “*O sing unto the Lord a new song, for he hath done marvellous things*” (Ps. 98.1).

For the past year, as we have lived and worshipped together, there is a real sense that we are singing a new song to the Lord. This has been a year of getting to know one another, of listening, learning and growth. As much as it is heartening to see an increase in attendance, it is even more so to see people growing in faith and in relationship.

When our parishes amalgamated, there was quite a discussion about the name we would have. It was possible that a whole new name could have been given to us by the bishop, as has been so with some other amalgamations, for example the amalgamation of four parishes in the west end – St. John’s, Weston, St. David, Lawrence Avenue, Church of the Good Shepherd and Church of the Advent - this grouping now has the name the Church of Martha and Mary. It is a lovely name and understandable that a new name was necessary because of four joining into one. For us it was different; there was a desire to retain our traditional names, so the bishop agreed with our request to combine the two. It is a long name sometimes shortened to “SPSS”...but it is distinctive, as are the saints who are our patrons! We know quite a lot really about St. Peter. He was a simple fisherman, quick to step up to the plate, and prone to all the human follies we know so well. He was chosen by Jesus at the shore of the Sea of Galilee and followed Jesus through his ministry in that area. Peter proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah at

### *Parish Dinner November 5*



*Photo submitted by Frank Hillis*

*Incumbent:* The Reverend Geoffrey Sangwine  
*Honorary Assistant:* The Reverend Jennifer Matthews  
*Music Director:* Robin Davis  
*Newsletter Editor:* Peggy Needham  
*Newsletter Technical Advisor:* Malcolm Jackson

Caesarea Philippi, yet he denied Jesus on the night of betrayal. Finally Peter followed in Jesus' steps, becoming the "rock of the church", one who gave his own life for the sake of the Gospel and who is buried in Rome. Thank God for Peter, for his witness and example.

Of Simon, on the other hand, we know relatively little. He appears on the list of the twelve Apostles in the New Testament. He was called "the Zealot", which suggests that he once belonged to a Jewish resistance movement. Motivated by religious fervour, the Zealots used any means, even terror, to overthrow Roman rule and revive Jewish independence. Simon may have initially followed Jesus in hopes that he would "restore the kingdom to Israel".

The western Church remembers Simon and Jude together because, in the seventh or eighth century, the Church of Rome acquired some supposed relics of both apostles and placed them in a single shrine. October 28 is probably the anniversary of the shrine's dedication. In spite of the little we know of Simon, we know he was a faithful follower of the Lord. We also keep in mind that Christ is often made known by acts that are quiet and unknown by most, yet remembered eternally by God. Thank God for Simon and for the hope he gives that our deeds, however small they may seem, are known by God.

Like our patron saints, we are called to be disciples, to be followers of Jesus Christ in our own time and in this place. As we move into the future, we look to their example. But above all, we look to the example of Jesus himself. At Evensong on November 5, the second lesson was the account of the feeding the five thousand. Jesus fed the multitudes with loaves and fish. Much was made out of very little and lots was left over. So too, we are called to follow him in feeding others. In our community there are many needs, many who need to be physically fed. There are also many spiritual longings, loneliness, emptiness, fear-- all are very real, and as a community of faith, we have a vital role to play as a place that feeds others, above all with Jesus Christ, who is himself the bread of life.

As we begin a new year in the life of the Church in Advent, may we at St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle continue to "sing a new song unto the Lord", being strengthened in our mission and being renewed in our discipleship.

*Geoffrey+*



*Photo submitted by Robert Gretton*

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## **Wardens' Report**

*Paul Faulkner*

It has been another busy three months since writing for the August Jubilate, for the Wardens. In light of Pam McConnell's passing a letter was written to John Tory expressing our concerns regarding the Tridel buildings and the impact on parking. We have also continued negotiations with Tridel regarding the same thing. No replies as of this writing.

Our stewardship campaign continues, albeit more slowly than anticipated. You can assist this ministry by moving to pre-authorized giving, making an increase in your regular giving or making a onetime donation to the church. Our financial statements to the end of October reflect an adherence to most of the budget prepared last December with the exception of givings. Nearly all, if not all of the deficit in the actual results vs budget projections can be explained by the decline in givings.

Your support for the various ministries relating to our refugee family and the homelessness, as well as the support for the Shelter is greatly appreciated. Elsewhere in this newsletter are suggestions where your support can be directed. Worthy of note this year, the Shelter is asking for backpack donations again but have expanded this program to include boots. It was noted during last

year's backpack fund raiser that many of the shelter residents needed new footwear, especially for the winter weather. Hence the new campaign for boots. Your donations can either be made through giving to the church or giving to the shelter as both have charitable status. The shelter fundraiser held in late October was very well received and was very successful. The next major activity for the shelter residents is their annual dinner which will be on December 13 this year.

Daiv, our custodian, in addition to his regular duties, has been painting around the church, particularly in the parish hall. The roof on the southwest portion of the church has been replaced. We have also had three more pews shortened to accommodate parishioners who need more space. Light bulbs in both the parish hall and sitting room have all been changed to LED's which has resulted in lower than expected hydro bills.

Since the installation of the new dishwasher in the kitchen, our water consumption has been halved. We continue to experience some boiler issues but these are being addressed. We also continue to work on balancing the various heating elements throughout the whole church. There are three first aid kits in the church: one in the sacristy; another in the kitchen and a third in the office.

Items of interest from earlier parish happenings: Father Geoff's induction, September 10th; Caribbean night – decision to allocate funds raised to Caribbean disaster relief, September 23rd; Blessing of the animals – no horses, cows, sheep or pigs - but nine dogs, three cats and two rabbits, October 7th; Shelter fundraiser – very successful, October 19th; All-souls requiem choir presentation, November 2nd, Patronal dinner – over 100 attendees, November 5th. Please speak to a Corporation member for more information.

We are entering a very busy church year beginning with four baptisms on the last Sunday in November when Bishop Kevin will also be in attendance. The first Sunday in December is our annual Advent service followed by Christmas cake and sherry. Later in the month of December will be our annual lesson and carol service followed by cider and festive treats. Please plan on attending these services.

Again this year the Warden group has worked very effectively with each other and Father Geoff. The staff have also worked effectively and well not only with one another but also the Wardens – thank you.

We wish all, a happy and joyous Christmas and may your New Year be one of good health and prosperity.

#### *Father Geoff's Induction*



*Photo submitted by Frank Hillis*

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## **From the Organ Bench**

*Robin Davis*

Musically, it's been a very busy but joyful fall season. From Fr. Geoff's Induction Service, to the Patronal Evensong, to the Commemoration of all Souls Requiem Eucharist service on November 2. This last-mentioned service included the music of Marcel Durufle's **Requiem**, sung by our choir accompanied by a former St. Simon's organist, David Smith.

While new to the parish, this service has grown, and a number of guests commented to me personally about how moving they felt it was. The music was professionally recorded, and I'm happy to give a CD to anyone who would like a copy.

Coming up, we have a fabulous group of talented children who have been working hard since September towards our December 10, 3 p.m. production of a staged Christmas musical, **Miracle on Bethlehem St**. This charming musical was last staged at the former St. Simon's in 2012. This year's cast of about 12 includes children from our parish joined by children from San Lorenzo Ruis and the community. Bethlehem has never been busier! Caesar's Census has the entire town in a

frenzy. And of course, everyone's favourite innkeeper plans to capitalize on the coming crowds. He's decided to make his inn a luxury inn complete with valet camel hitching and a fig on every pillow. The musical tells the Christmas Story in a touching yet profound way with clever dialogue and a combination of familiar carols and catchy tunes. The production will be directed by a team of parishioners including Sophie Knowles, Glenna Sims-Bonk and me.

Our **Advent** (December 3, 4:00 p.m.) and **Christmas** (December 17, 4:00 p.m.) **Carol Services** are special Sunday afternoon services with a special focus on the biblical readings and music of the season. The music for both will continue with our focus this year on the music of Canadian and especially local composers. Of these, Don Macdonald's "There Is No Rose" (Advent) and Robert Anderson's "The Huron Carol" (Christmas) are new to us, beautiful pieces, and ones we are looking forward to sharing. The services will include lots of traditional carols, seasonal delectable treats and beverages. The music for the Christmas Eve service this year is planned to include Vancouver's Stephen Hatfield's Missa, "Our Lady of the Snows."

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## **Our New Refugee Family – Wasim, Zelal and Meryem**

*Ted Robinson*

The Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle was approached by AURA in early September and asked to consider taking on responsibility for a Syrian refugee family, who arrived July 11, 2017 in Toronto. They had been sponsored by the Nightingale group, who had sponsored the family and settled them in St. Jamestown, very near to our church. Most of the money required for the support of the family had been already raised; we were being asked to amalgamate with the Nightingale group to add people and logistical support, as well as assuming financial responsibility for the family for the remainder of the year to July 11, 2018.

With the support of the committee members and Fr. Geoff we approached the wardens and were given permission to proceed. Ian McBride the

Director of AURA met with the Nightingale group who agreed to join with us in supporting this young family. Our expanded committee has met on two occasions in October. Funds which had been held at St. James Cathedral have now been transferred to St. Peter & St. Simon, and a revised budget has been prepared for the remaining 8 ½ months.

Our new family has three members; Wasim (father), Zelal (mother) and baby Meryem (age 8 months). Wasim has studied engineering in Damascus, Zelal worked as a physiotherapist for seven years in Aleppo. They met in Turkey after leaving Syria, married there and then Meryem was born in February 2017, shortly before they left for Canada. They are excited to be here, and look forward to establishing their life as Canadians. All three joined us for the All Saints Festival Dinner celebration, where they had a great time and met many members of the congregation. We have received donations of furniture to complete furnishing their apartment, which is in St. Jamestown, very near the church. They have been assisted in shopping for winter clothing, found new health care for them close to home, and we are now looking for appropriate day care and/or babysitting so that Zelal can take ESL classes. Wasim has recently started an excellent new ESL course arranged for him by AURA. The priority for both of them during their first year is to learn English.

Please pray for our new family – Wasim, Zelal and Meryem as they accommodate to life in Canada. While there will be many challenges for them, we know that they wanted to come and start a new life here, turning down offers of citizenship in Turkey and choosing Canada instead.



*Photo submitted by Mary Martin*

## Hospitality Team

*Fran Brown and Marina Caytap*

A huge thank you goes to Father Geoff for getting the Hospitality Team established. About 15 church women, Winston, and Geoff had a delicious lunch prepared by Geoff. This was a chance to discuss the changes made since the amalgamation and to look at future events and expectations. We were able to establish a small committee as listed on the new bulletin board. We hope parishioners will speak to this group any time there is a concern or a thank you needed. We are mainly interested in continuing the very popular coffee hour and assisting with any small group meetings or special speakers, that may require a quick lunch or any coffee and treats.

There have been minor changes and repairs in the kitchen with re-labelling of the cupboards. This is ongoing as we seem to reuse old space and discover new needs. So many volunteers have worked together with the special events and we thank Laurie for managing the shopping and catering.

*The Kitchen Crew*



*Photo submitted by Frank Hillis*

Please glance at the new bulletin board from time to time. There may be an event you are interested in. It is also possible to offer coffee hour supplies if you are unable to help but would like to contribute. We are enjoying the wonderful cheddar cheese Paul has been providing!

One of the needs is the organising of a set-up team – with muscles to assist with tables for church events. If you are able – man or woman – please speak to the Hospitality team.

Many thank to all volunteers.

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## A Little Church History

*Diane Marshall*

I'd like to share a piece (in contemporary English) by the remarkable Catherine of Siena, a 14<sup>th</sup> century mystic and Church mediator (invited to the Papal courts during the time of the divided Papacy). She was a minister to the poor, the sick, and to prisoners. She lived from 1347-1370, dying at the age of 33. She was born at the time of the Black Plague which was sweeping Europe; her twin sister dying at birth.

Catherine's "Dialogues" were a summary of her theology, her spirituality, her pastoral concerns, and her intimate relationship and "dialogue" with God. She became the first woman to be published in an Italian dialect, and was later declared a Saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

**From "The Dialogues" of Catherine of Siena, c. 1378-9:**

**God Speaks:** "I send my light to give sight to the blind and knowledge to the ignorant.

To the intellectual I give an eye with which to discern my truth. I send the fire of my truth to consume the darkness, to shed a light that is beyond nature so that even in darkness they shall know the truth...

Because their minds are endowed with my light, and infused by my grace,

... all have come to discover light in darkness and have learned how to turn darkness into light."

**I respond:** "Be my companion through the darkness of this life. You are here.

You, who by your very presence can reveal the light in every darkness, can teach us how to turn every darkness into light.

Send your light to give sight to those of us who walk blindly on our way, and who journey without knowledge of you and your love.

You have loved me even before I existed,  
And knowing this I can place my trust in your  
love and set aside every fear.”

(From *Set Aside Every Fear: Love and Trust in the Spirituality of Catherine of Siena*; John Kirvin, Ava Maria Press, 1997)

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## **BACK TO SCHOOL – AFTER AGES**

*Suzette Mafuna*

As a young woman, I managed to make some dumb and crazy decisions in my life like getting married and having children at a very young age and leaving school before I could finish my studies. But thankfully, I have matured and learned to make some very smart decisions like walking out of an abusive relationship and leaving my birthplace at age 50 to resettle in Canada. But my most mind-boggling decision, and one that continues still to amaze with its challenges, is the decision to go back to school.

I spent many years of indecision mulling over it, fretting over it and agonizing over it till I saw an advertisement and write-up about a bridging study programme at York University. I was attracted to it because the content of the course was something very close to my heart. It was a course on Women's Studies. It looks at gender issues, the status of women globally, as well as economic and socio-political issues that impact on women's development and advancement and those that impede women's progress and lead to women's disenfranchisement.

I was almost discouraged when I realized how far I would have to go to attend the course, but my interest was so triggered that I did not allow any distance to be an obstacle. I was very grateful to find that while the venue was far away, I could easily access it via the TTC. The course was free, but I needed money for books. No problem, I had a little stash for rainy days, so I enrolled. The course took place in the evenings from 6 pm, meaning I was only making my way home around 9:30 pm.

The course required a lot of analytic writing and critical thinking as well as extensive research, which is another essential component of the course. All very intimidating for someone who has been out of school for a long time. What

emboldened me and pushed me forward was my confidence regarding my writing skills, so I jumped in while still holding a full-time job.

It was difficult, with very taxing weekly essay-writing assignments and academic textbooks to read. I was in great trouble, but I persisted. By the time I wrote the final test, I knew I would not do so well, so I prepared myself for the worst. Indeed, my C grade was not satisfactory, so I enrolled to repeat the course and passed it with an A. This grade allowed me automatic entrance into graduate study at York. This was provided, of course, that I continued with the Women's Studies course, which at York is referred to as Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies. That is my major.

The beginning was hard with a lot to contend with - from acclimatizing to the culture of academia in a huge, reputable institution with thousands of young students, a myriad of different buildings to maneuver around, as well as to large classes especially in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies. Again, thanks to Canada's generous social system, I was able, because of my age, (no I'm not telling!) to have my tuition fees waived. All I had to worry about was the cost of books, the enrollment fee, and other insurance costs. Otherwise, I would not have been able to afford university study even if I had continued working and earning a salary.

There were lots of pre-school requirements so I only enrolled at the last minute and for this reason, I was not able to access a minor course of my choice. All the classes were full so I chose Swahili in African Studies. There is a way to change a course after the start of classes, but the process is quite tediously long and complex.

So here I am, in my second month of study and all my initial trepidation is taking a back seat. It is still hard to be in class with cute young things, but I stopped worrying about it the minute school started. I have a lot of moral and hands-on support and mentorship mainly from the University that is available to all students, especially first-year and mature students. I am coping very well with my major, but Swahili is a big problem even though it is wrongly assumed that because I come from Africa, Swahili should be smooth sailing. It is not.

Swahili is more than 1000 years old and is derived from Arabic, Bantu languages, some Persian and a bit of English. The whole language structure of Swahili is very complex and takes quite a lot out of you, so I am really battling.

I wrote my first assignment for my major this week and did very well. I also wrote a Swahili test and knew as I glanced at the test paper that I was not going to make it. I am not looking forward to these results because I know I have done very badly. So maybe I will switch to a different easier-to-handle course next semester or maybe I will just repeat Swahili next year; who knows!

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## Mohammed Al Bayati

*Laurie Sanderson*

There is wonderful news about Mohammed Al Bayati, the new Canadian who was sponsored by St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle. Mohammed and Sara Majeed are to be wed! Mohammed has only been in Canada just over a year and has found his love and become a father. Mohammed, Sara and their two children, make up this happy new family. Sara is finishing up a hospitality programme in Centennial College, Marwa is in JK and Safa is in Grade 1. Mohammed is working hard at Amazon and looking to further his education in engineering. Mohammed and Sara will be married December 28.

Ted and Isabelle Robinson and I attended the engagement party at Sara's home in August. Please send your good wishes and prayers their way.



*Photo submitted by Laurie Sanderson*

*Our two most recent refugee families both attended the Parish Festival Dinner on Sun Nov 5th.*

*Photos submitted by Mary Martin*



*Mohammed Al-Bayati, his new wife Sara and her two daughters, Safa and Marwa. The church sponsored Mohammed, a refugee from Iraq, who arrived in August 2016. Fifteen months later he is settling into life in Canada, has been working full time for more than 8 months.*



*Zelal Elberra, Wasim Zahra and baby Meryem - our new refugee family from Syria. They arrived in Canada in July 2017.*

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## Refugee Fundraiser Evening

*Colin Bird*

Save this date! On December 15, we will be presenting an evening of good music and a reading of Dylan Thomas' A Child's Christmas in Wales. Our readers will feature CBC radio personality Tom Allen and Canadian actress Jayne Lewis who have very kindly agreed to donate their efforts for the evening.

Start time will be at 7:30 pm. Remember to save room for dessert – refreshments will be included at intermission. All proceeds will benefit the refugee

projects of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle. Stay tuned for further plans for this fun evening.

I will be selling tickets every Sunday. Tickets will also be available at the door or by placing a 'will call' order through the church office, 416-923-8714 ext. 201 All tickets \$20.

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## **Kevin Sinclair**

*Fran Brown*

We know Kevin for his gracious prayers, his dramatic recitals and his unwavering care for his mother, Lissett. We also know his specialty ackee and saltfish, and his expertise at dancing, from the Caribbean Festival.

Did you know he loves reading, especially West Indian Literature, and writers from the 50's like Richard Wright, James Baldwin and Maya Angelou? He watches the X Factor, Grim and How to Get Away With Murder on TV. He has an eclectic taste in music and enjoys singing. He has over 1200 Facebook friends, most of whom are his past students and who say he made school interesting and that he had a positive impact on them! Lucky kids!!

On August 21, 1962, he was born the third brother, in Coleyville, Manchester, Jamaica. Both brothers now live in Bermuda. He attended the Christiana Moravian Primary and Secondary Schools and Knox Community College. He realized at an early age that he had a knack for theatre. While attending these schools he participated in the yearly festival of the Jamaican Cultural Development Commission. He was a member of the Christiana and Knox speech and drama clubs. He enjoyed the competitions and won 7 gold medals over the four years at high school. He also took 2 silver and 1 bronze in drama. He felt his teacher, Linda Smith, was very influential in helping him develop his talent in the arts. Three of the gold medals were presented to him by the Honourable Louise Bennett who was the judge at the Festival Finals. We were fortunate recently to hear Kevin's dynamic presentation of her writing.

On graduating from Knox, Kevin was awarded a scholarship to the Jamaican School of Drama, as well as entrance into Teachers College. His decision was difficult as he had always wanted to be a teacher. However, drama beckoned and his studies lasted from 1981 to 1983, as well an extra year to complete a certificate in drama in Education and Theatre Arts. This meant he was qualified to teach drama in high school as well as pursue acting – a dream come true for him. Kevin taught English and Drama for eight years at Jose Marti High School. His students won numerous medals and awards for their theatre and festival productions. He also acted for eight years with the Little Theatre Movement and National Pantomime. He says theatre in Jamaica is as vibrant now as it was then.

Looking for a change in acting and economics, Kevin decided to move to Toronto and in 1991 settled with his Mom, who had been here for 10 years. He found a venue with Marcia Brown and Sandra Witter as The Jamaican Players, performing many gigs for social events and at the Jamaican Canadian Centre, as well as a yearly play, until 2005. He was the star lead in the play, **The Burglary**, at the St. Lawrence Centre, a Gamut Theatre Production.

For 17 years, Kevin worked for Ricoh Canada in Mississauga, beginning in machine maintenance, then moving to dispatch and finally to installation manager for southeast Ontario for his last 7 years. Since 2010 he has been the primary full-time home care giver for his Mom. He has also taken the Personal Support Worker course and has cared for two people in his apartment building. He has enjoyed travel across Canada and several trips to Jamaica with his Mom. Although he loves Toronto, he is "a country boy at heart" and appreciates sharing the cottage country with friends – a quiet, peaceful way of life.

Kevin is grateful for his St. Peter's family and now his St. Simon's friends. We are happy to be able to share his great sense of humour and laughter, as well as his kind and thoughtful spirit. May God continue to bless you always, Kevin.

*Shelter BBQ*



*Photo submitted by Frank Hillis*

**"Kas Kas" (Gossip) by Louise Bennett Coverley, as spoken by Kevin Sinclair on Caribbean Night**

Louise Bennett Coverley or Miss Lou, OM. OJ. MBE. (7 September 1919-26 July 2006) was a Jamaican Poet, folklorist, writer and educator. Miss Lou wrote and performed her poems in Jamaican Patois or Creole and worked to preserve the practice of presenting poetry, folk songs and stories in patois. Her writing has been credited with a unique perspective on the everyday social experience of the Jamaican people.

Here is one of her poems 'Kas Kas' (Gossip) translated into English.

Do you see my trials now,  
That slender gal Wingy  
Wants to put me in gossips  
And big lying story.

She sent someone to call me the other day  
And when I went, my child,  
The whole family gathered around me  
As if I was kerosene oil.

They said that someone told Miss Terry.  
And she told her daughter,  
That Lou is walking around  
And defaming her character.

And the person who told Miss Terry.  
Said that someone who knows Wingy,  
Said that Wingy told that person  
And that person must be me.

When they started chatting,  
I was so glad I wasn't oil  
Because I would have caught fire,  
The way my temper boiled.

I plastered my mouth on them,  
I would not take it like that,  
That did not know that I know  
The rightful way it went.

I heard that Jane said that Imo said  
That Amy said that Sue  
Tell somebody that Miss Matty said that  
She heard that Sam beat Lou.

I only whispered it to Fan  
And she interfered and told Ju.  
He told Dot, Dot pinched it and told Vie  
And Vie went and told it back to Sue.

Then Sue asked Matty, and you know  
The size of her mouth.  
She called Wingy's name and then  
The whole story broke out.

But Lou said that Sam did not beat her,  
He only threw a stone,  
And it accidentally hit her,  
And broke her collar bone.

I wheeled right through the gate,  
And all the called I wouldn't look.  
I have no business in their gossips,  
For my life is open book.

*Jim Colling in Allan Gardens*



*Photo submitted by Frank Hillis*

## The Caribbean Party

*Suzette Mafuna*

I recently experienced a wonderfully organized and most exciting church event: the Caribbean Party. This year's annual party was indeed a real sizzling hot, Caribbean night!

If anyone had had any doubts about how the two parishes could successfully come together as one to worship with great passion and dedication together, this party certainly put paid to such doubts. It was an excellent and ample illustration of how successful the new merger between the two parishes has proven to be.

From the design and organization of the event, the flurry of plans, to the actual staging of the party, the members from both original parishes worked diligently together and stood side by side to make this event so successful that it stretched to late evening, making it difficult to end the party, no matter how tired from dancing everybody was feeling.

The plans by the organizers started much earlier in the year with various meetings for allocation of duties, menu and programme design. The date was set, followed by a furious sale of party tickets.

The party started on quite a subdued note as guests started trickling in wearing their finest to await the start of the party. There were copious servings of punch, wine and ginger beer - the kind of ginger beer you have never tasted before, obviously brewed with great love and patience. The event started with a blessing from our priest, Father Geoffrey. The meal was a lavish affair with trays and trays of delicious food to cater for the different pallets of the guests. There were different kinds of meat, all cooked in various ways. There was fried or grilled chicken, stewed meat and curried goat as well as the ultimate staple, peas and rice. A separate table was laid out for all kinds of delightful desserts and fruit.

With the evening's ticket draw, winning ticket numbers won their holders a wide range of enviable prizes. Music played over the dinner then several vocalists and an MC took over the entertainment for the night.

The outstanding entertainer was none other than the incredibly multitalented Kevin Sinclair. He took to the stage like a pro, starting with a hilarious take on Caribbean traditional cultures. On stage, he got transformed from the studious, subdued and somber religious passage reader into a most wonderful animated comic. He was so funny in his comical gestures and crazy jokes he had people killing themselves with uncontrollable, raucous laughter. He was hilarious.

The infectious music simply moved everyone's spirit to head towards the dance floor. Caribbean dance styles were on display as everybody on the dance floor tried their best to keep pace with the exotic island dances. Kevin was masterful in his dance moves, so was our very jolly Father Geoff who displayed some mean dance steps.

The dance floor had such a pull nobody wanted the party to stop. Surprisingly, everybody turned up for church the next morning looking fresh as daisies, hard to believe these same people had danced the night away on the previous night. Many of us can hardly wait for the next Caribbean party.

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## God is a Musician Too

*Alison Jane*

*Allan Gardens*



*Photo submitted by Frank Hillis*

Members of St. Peter's are well acquainted with my love of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century poetry, particularly as it relates to music, art, and spirituality. Recently, I looked back to the article I wrote for the final *St. Peter's Keys* newsletter

where I struggled with and contemplated the closing of our beloved church. I turned to Keats, Wordsworth, and Browning and their aesthetic ideals and values to gain clarity and meaning. A year later, I feel blessed to be a part of the St. Peter's and St. Simon's church family and have gained a deeper understanding of my Anglican faith. Within this new experience, I am able to identify more with the words of a later poet and with the many dimensions and gifts which God provides: *"There is a place beyond voice, where the music is heard, and is not music, / where the voice is heard but is not the voice, / where the cadence of God prepares us, for which the art has predisposed us.*



*Photo submitted by Frank Hillis*

This is from Pier Giorgio Di Cicco's beautiful poem, *"Poetry and Liturgy."* Di Cicco (b. 1949 in Italy) moved to Montreal in 1953 and then to Toronto in 1956. He attended the University of Toronto and in 1984, after a prolific career as a poet, entered an Augustinian monastery north of Toronto and ceased writing and publication for a period of fifteen years. He was grateful for this contemplative life and the menial duties of washing dishes and cleaning: "The smaller you make yourself, the closer you feel to God." Later, his shift away from a temporal existence allowed him to embrace and explore his fascination with prayer: "It was through language that I discovered prayer. It was through poetry that I rediscovered prayer. I didn't stop writing poems. I didn't stop creating. I didn't stop singing. I just sang in a different direction." Di Cicco received a Master

of Divinity (1990), was ordained in 1993, and worked as an assistant pastor in four Toronto churches. In 2004, he was made the Second Poet Laureate of Toronto.

I am drawn to the musicality of Di Cicco's voice and the subtlety of his polymetric rhythms. The imagery found in the opening lines of the poem is visited and expressed often throughout the poem:

*God is a musician too, and all mediums are arbitrary to Him,  
a blind man tapping with a cane  
is tapping the poem of His prayer,  
for it is only the sentiment  
that means anything to God;  
not the medium,  
it is like water; if it will not flow here,  
it will flow there.*

Although I did not really understand the 'flow of sentiments' in early childhood piano pieces, I was drawn to works like Walter Carroll's *Sea Idylls* suite which allowed me to live in a place of serenity and comfort for hours. That spiritual connection is expressed differently by many musicians.

I recently read Jehan Alain's prefatory note to his *Easy Suite for Piano*. These pieces were not meant for concert performance, and Alain calls them a "series of impressions," whose aim is attained if the reader suddenly meets him/herself in one of the lines, stops, is touched, and then goes on, "having received a little of that sweetness that bathes you when your eyes meet a friend's."

When Di Cicco resumed writing poetry and publication, he realized that poems could be seen as "prayers for public eavesdropping . . . fodder for praise and oblation, if not outright confessions of love and thanksgiving. "I see poetry pretty much as what God writes of our lives, and our poems as synchrony with the music He composes":

*I sing for you.  
I am made for song.  
It is my purpose to invent new music,  
as a kind of prayer  
that everything is, a cane tapping,  
a child running, the way*

*a leaf falls in its arpeggio,  
 everything states “consort,”  
 “orchestration,” and even music is to Him  
 what is unrecognizable to us:  
 the poor conversation, the bad day;  
 it is our forcing  
 of a called tune that makes us deaf.  
 For His music weaves  
 like wind, taking a sudden turn,  
 holding up leaves, blowing the snow.  
 We tap into His music and  
 call it a page, a song.  
 When our will is congruent to  
 what we hear,  
 we are poets, and people of prayer.*

Di Cicco suggests that poetry is “the project of the artistic, to end up being the poem that God writes, / and to testify to it by the benediction of words, or act, or glance, / or simply breath.” He concludes his poem with what rings true to the voice of the poet: it is “not the fixed harmony of the spheres, it is not the ever-shining light of God, it is not the truth as absolute and the goal of the journey; it is the music as God calls it that day, and the singing of it is the arrival of the timeless.”

Many aspects of Di Cicco’s writing resonate with me when I consider the one-year anniversary of our amalgamation. The image and metaphor of the human heart which permeates the poet’s work includes not only sacrifice and loss, but gratitude, charity, grace, and an expression of life’s profound sacredness. These ideas were beautifully expressed in Fr. Geoff’s homilies at our November 5 services to mark our amalgamation.

I feel blessed to be a part of this congregation and to continually experience the liturgy of search and find which Di Cicco’s poem represents. In particular, Fr. Geoff’s ministry and the music ministry of Robin Davis continue to inspire and support my faith, and enrich my life each week. Thank you for providing “*a place of blessing, a way of listening, a way of speaking*” so that I may better feel into the cadence that is God.

*St. Peter's Door*



*Photo taken by Frank Hillis*

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**Reflections on “Being God’s People:  
 Embracing Difference, Building Solidarity”  
 2017 Toronto Diocesan Social Justice and  
 Advocacy Conference**

*Diane Marshall*

On Saturday, November 4, Suzette, Brooke, Peggy, and I attended this year’s remarkable conference, held at St. John’s York Mills. We were inspired, challenged, and deeply moved by the worship, music, and the keynote address and workshops.

Dr. Carl James, of York University, spoke on the ways in which racism is embedded in the institutions and structures of our society, and not solely as an issue of personal, or even interpersonal, prejudice. He discussed the fact that racial inequality occurs without necessarily saying that everyone in the dominant white culture are all racists. He spoke about the difference between equality of opportunity vs equity and justice.

Whether addressing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, or Black Lives Matter, or anti-Muslim sentiment and fear of what is different and unknown, he asked us to consider the way in which “whiteness” is unconsciously embedded as the norm, and as neutral, while everyone else is “different” or the “other”. White advantage is structural. But to be fully human “we must pay attention to suffering, to poverty, to exclusion, to unfairness, to injustice”. The face of poverty in our country is not predominantly white. The face of those suffering injustice is not predominantly white.

As a white, privileged woman in this society I have been able to have an education, raise children, travel, and grow older without the obstacles that my brothers and sisters, made equally in the image of God, have encountered when, as a result of their colour or race, they are rejected from employment opportunities, or turned away from housing, or deprived of education due to attending substandard schools, or scrutinized when travelling. I haven't lived in a northern First Nations community where there has been a water advisory and no plumbing for the past 20 years due to inept government policy.

My parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles weren't forcibly taken away from their communities to live for years in an abusive residential school. I also haven't been subjected to the rejection and fear from others because my skin is darker than my African and Caribbean and South Asian clients have described to me in psychotherapy. My sons were not subjected to police carding due to the colour of their skin. And I don't live in earth's southern hemisphere which is being overwhelmingly affected by climate change, by extreme droughts and flooding, to which my African and South Asian brothers and sisters are increasingly subjected.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu described "Ubuntu" in his historic address a few years ago at the University of Toronto, when he received an Honorary Doctorate from Trinity College. He said that among his people in South Africa, "a person is a person through other persons". This reflects the Biblical calling in Galatians that In Christ "there is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female". We are all one in our risen Lord and Saviour.

So in reflecting on the theme of the Diocesan Justice and Advocacy conference, I am so grateful that we at St. Peter's and St. Simon's are able to celebrate our first year of coming together as two different parishes, and yet as fellow sojourners in this journey of faith. It seems to me that, by the grace of God, we are learning to walk together, to embrace our diversity, and to build solidarity between and among us.

## Summer BBQ



*Photo submitted by Frank Hillis*

Barbara and Duncan Towe's friend, Ken Gould, sent this poem to them last Christmas and they want to share it with us to be read in this season.

### Jesus

A manger in a stable  
A stable in a town  
Baby Jesus with his mother  
His Father looking down

Joseph is sitting quite close by  
A kind and simple man  
He knows not of Mary  
Or of God's larger plan

*The Reverend Rylan Montgomery with daughters,  
Mairi and baby Caragh.*



*Photo submitted by Frank Hillis*

Jesus Christ is born  
We call it Christmas Day  
God sent him here for all mankind  
To help us find our way

So here we are on Christmas Eve  
Tomorrow is the day  
Amidst the gifts and celebration  
Leave some time to pray

Pray for love Pray for Peace  
Pray the world to be  
Why God sent Jesus to Bethlehem  
For you and for me.

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## The Advent Conspiracy

*Peggy Needham*

I have been attending the wonderful Outreach Conference of the Diocese of Toronto in October every year for many years. Several years ago at the conference, I attended a workshop about the Advent Conspiracy and it has been part of my Christmas season ever since.

The Advent Conspiracy began with a few churches deciding they wanted to be generous and loving in a more Christ-like way at Christmas time. It has now spread into a global movement to spend less on "stuff" for Christmas presents, and instead to give the gift of water to those in need. Here is a great video that you can watch and think about before making your Christmas gift plans. You won't be sorry! It will add meaning to your Christmas this year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MoYeeIW22x>  
A

You can participate in the Advent Conspiracy by giving the gift of water to a Canadian Indigenous Community in need. Since 2007, money has been raised for clean running water in Pikangikum, Ontario. This work is ongoing in Pikangikum, and the Advent Conspiracy is also looking for how its work may expand in the future to other First Nations communities without access to clean water.

You can make your gift to the Advent Conspiracy through the Primate's Fund, being sure to specify Pikangikum. And one of the wonderful things about this project is that local youth are being trained to install the equipment necessary to take clean drinking water into homes, youth who had little hope of employment possibilities where they lived.

## Letters to the Editor

I would like to make a small correction to the Michaelmas issue of **Jubilate!** Marjorie Philip's Recipe should read Corn Casserole...not Cornbread. Attached is a picture of the finished product.

Marjorie Philip



*Photo submitted by Fran Brown*

**Editor's reply:** Dear Marjorie, Thanks for pointing out the need for a correction. We are happy to think about your wonderful dish once again! And to feature the picture of what is obviously a casserole, not a bread.

We hope that should any parishioners want another copy of the recipe, having made the error of disposing of the Michaelmas issue, that you will be able to furnish them with it. We will be happy to reproduce the recipe for distribution.

We welcome future Letters to the Editor, feeling that communication among parishioners is one of **Jubilate!**'s goals.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Vigorous, vital, great vibes!

Old or young they offer abundance

Laughter, listening, lunch

Unwavering commitment, e-mails and meetings

New ideas, new life, new members

Thoughtful, thumbs up through thick or thin

Enjoying meeting and sharing with others

Ever faithful, respectful of needs

Reaching out with coffee, flowers, hammers and  
saws and many caring actions

Smiling through aching feet, simply returning to  
do it over again!

*Anon*

We thank our SPSS volunteers, men, women and children, who continue to provide so many opportunities for worship and fellowship! Some are members of a continuing group and some are able to offer much needed one-time service as they are available. And some of us are just grateful for the chance to participate in all the activities offered.

Peace and joy from A Thankful Parishioner.

*Baby Allana is held  
by her big sister. They  
are still living in  
Uganda. We are  
hoping that the  
Canadian government  
will permit them and  
their mother to join  
Rogers here in  
Canada very soon.*



*Photo submitted by Rogers Beyonyera*

## **The Best Gift**

*Marie Adams*

Thank you, God

For sending Jesus at Christmas.

He came to die for us

To give us joy, love, peace

Salvation and comfort,

To prepare a home in heaven for us.

You need no money to buy these gifts

No gift bags, no bows.

No wrapping paper, no stress.

Tell some one about Jesus

That could be

The greatest gift for Christmas.

“A smile is a light

In the window of your soul.”

Merry Christmas, everyone!

## **Holy Baptism**

On November 5 we were delighted to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism with the Innes family:

*November 5, 2017*

*Charles John Innes with parents*

*Alexander & Amanda Innes*



*Photo taken by Mary Martin*

### **In Memoriam**

Carolyn Barrett

Sylvia Lois Kendall

Derek Wilson Sabbage

Diana Margaret Scandrett

*Rest eternal grant to them O Lord.*

*And let light perpetual shine upon them.*

**The Church of  
St Peter and  
St Simon-the-Apostle**

525 Bloor St East,  
Toronto, M4W 1J1  
416-923-8714  
www.stsimons.ca

**Clergy**

**Rector**

The Rev'd Geoffrey Sangwine  
ext 202  
incumbent@stsimons.ca

**Honorary Assistant**

The Rev'd Jennifer Matthews

**Student**

Shelly Pollard

**Wardens**

Paul Faulkner, 416 423-5739  
pauldfaulkner@hotmail.com

Marie Samuels-Isaac,  
905 789-7618

msamuels1939@gmail.com

Mary Martin 416-968-2326

mmartin@mpdlawfirm.com

Nadine Milne 416-966-4988

Moveta Nanton 416-493-2805

moveta.nanton@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Johan van 't Hof, 647 202-9985  
jvanthof@tonbridgecorp.com

**Director of Music**

Robin Davis 905-409-6121  
robin.davis@rogers.com

**Honorary Assistant Organists**

Maurice White

Johan van 't Hof

**Children's Ministry**

Nadine Milne

and Ely Jacobe-Galingan

**Event Coordinator**

Frank Hillis, ext 207  
events@stsimons.ca

**Sexton**

Daiverzon Guillermo

**Office Administrator**

Vanessa, ext 201  
office@stsimons.ca

**Worship with us**

**Sundays**

**8:30 am**

*Holy Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)*

**10:30 am**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month – Choral Eucharist (Traditional)*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month – Choral Matins*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month – Choral Eucharist (Traditional)*

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month – Choral Eucharist with Anointing  
(Contemporary)*

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – As Announced*

**Special Services at St Peter and St Simon-the-Apostle**

- Sunday, December 3 – Advent 1 – 8:30 & 10:30 am  
Advent Lessons & Carols 4 pm
- Sunday, December 10 – Advent 2 – 8:30 & 10:30 am  
Children's Musical 3 pm
- Sunday, December 17 – Advent 3 – 8:30 & 10:30 am  
Nine Lessons & Carols 4 pm
- Sunday, December 24 – Advent 4 – 8:30 & 10:30 am  
Christmas Eve 10 pm
- Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day 10:30 am
- Sunday, December 31 – First Sunday after Christmas
- Sunday, January 7 – The Baptism of the Lord
- Sunday, February 11 – The Last Sunday after the Epiphany
- Sunday, February 18 – The First Sunday in Lent
- Sunday, February 25 – Annual Vestry

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*We acknowledge that we are in the traditional territory of the  
Mississaugas of the New Credit, the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunees,  
and the Huron-Wendat, on whose land, and by whose water we gather to  
talk, listen, learn, worship, share and heal together in the name of our  
Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.*

*"The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it,  
the world and all who dwell therein."*

*Psalm 24.1 (BAS p.732)*