



Jubilate!

Pentecost
2018-05-20

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.stpeterstsimon.ca

Voice: 416-923-8714

From the Rector

Anointing and Laying on of Hands for Healing

“Is anyone sick among you? Let them call for the elders of the Church; and let them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise them up” (James 5.14).

For over a year now we have been offering the ministry of Anointing and Laying on of Hands for Healing. This takes place once per month, generally on the 4th Sunday when members of the congregation are invited to come forward with these words: “Holy Scripture teaches us that in acts of healing and restoration our Lord Jesus and his disciples laid hands upon the sick and anointed them. By so doing they made known the healing power and presence of God”. Here at St. Peter and St. Simon’s anointing is administered by Lay Anointers (Audrey Hughes and Diane Marshall) who are trained and licensed by the bishop as well as the clergy.

The Church’s ministry to the sick and to those in need is based on Jesus’ constant concern and care. It is supported by the Epistle of James noted above, with the admonition to the sick to call for the elders of the Church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. When we look at the words of James carefully we see three hopes, even expectations: the prayer of faith will save the sick; the Lord will raise them up; and their sins will be forgiven.

When we ask for God to heal us, we certainly look to him to take away our particular illness, pain or hurt, and there are many examples in scripture and even in life today when people are healed unexpectedly, even miraculously. Moreover, the advances in medical science and the work of care-givers are gifts to us, gifts I believe as a person of faith that originate from the Holy Spirit himself.

REGULAR SERVICES

Every Sunday

8:30am **Holy Eucharist**

10:30am **Choral Service**

Every Wednesday

11am **Holy Eucharist &
Anointing for Healing**

Last Tuesday of the Month

6-7 pm **Candlelight Evening
Prayer Service**

OTHER SERVICES AND EVENTS

Trinity Sunday

Sunday, May 27

Parish Summer BBQ

Sunday, June 17

**The Birth of St John
the Baptist**

Sunday, June 24

Incumbent: The Reverend Geoffrey Sangwine
Honorary Assistant: Jennifer Matthews
Music Director: Robin Davis
Newsletter Editor: Peggy Needham
Photographs and Visual Support: Mary Martin,
Stephanie Woodside and Frank Hillis.

But we also know that we are not always healed of our particular illness and that one day we all must face our mortality. I suggest that the meaning of this healing ministry is in the word “save”. When it is said that “God will save the sick”, it is much more than God intervening to take things away, as much as we might want and even need that to happen. For God to save us is really for God to strengthen us – to uphold us in our pain, to walk with us through all the changes and chances of this life, through the valley of the shadow of death, to forgive and restore us and to offer the promise of resurrection. So, when we come for healing we come for strength, for wholeness, for the assurance of God’s presence.

This ministry is a sacrament, one of the seven in the church. A Sacrament is “an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace” (BCP p. 550). The outward signs are oil blessed by the bishop, the laying on of hands and prayer. The inner spiritual grace is the assurance of God’s love and mercy in this life and in the life to come. God’s healing takes place in so many ways and we give thanks for this particular ministry of the Church, and so we pray: “Through this Holy anointing may the Lord uphold you by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit”.

Geoffrey+



“Oil for anointing, consecrated by the Bishop at the annual Chrism Mass and Renewal of Ordination Vows held in Holy Week”.

Photo submitted by Fr. Geoff

A note from Shelly Pollard



Shelly Pollard

To the wonderful people at St. Peter and St. Simon’s, I would like to begin by saying thank you! Thank you so much for welcoming me into your community. It is always difficult starting somewhere new, yet I was greeted with such kindness when I first started at SPSS. It was such a blessing to serve in so many ways and to spend every Sunday with you. I really enjoyed learning from everyone. I have grown so much both as a person and in ministry. I will take everything I have learned with me as I start my next adventure. One of my favourite things during my time at SPSS was leading the weekly Bible Study. It was such a great experience to spend time every week learning and growing with such a great group of people.

It has been an honour to learn from Fr. Geoff and Rev. Jennifer. Their wisdom and guidance will stay with me as I move forward into my Curacy. I thank them immensely for their time and teaching.

I will never forget my time at SPSS and the warmth and friendship I have experienced at this church.

Thank you all for your kindness to me and William.

Many blessings,
Shelly



*Counter Point Concert Full House on
March 24, 2018*

Photo submitted by Frank Hillis

The Wardens' Report

Paul Faulkner, Rector's Warden

Our Easter Sunday service was as elegant and meaningful as ever – wonderful music provided by the choir and organists and excellent preaching by our guest preacher, the Right Reverend Michael Bedford Jones. We give thanks to Marie Samuels Isaac and her volunteers for the flower arrangements. Before the Palm Sunday service, Marie and other volunteers had prepared the palm crosses and fronds.

We were able to have all the lighting in the church (bulb replacement and refocusing) completed prior to Easter week.* We appreciate and give thanks to Fran Brown and all the parish hostesses and their volunteers; who have to share the kitchen with the shelter caterer – not any easy arrangement. He has pretty well taken over the whole area.

Tridel has begun construction in earnest to the east of the church. We were unsuccessful in trying to have them assist in solving the pending parking challenges. However, we feel that we have gained a possible sympathetic ear in the city planning department concerning our parking plight. And we are becoming a more active participant in the local area business community.

First quarter financials have been presented to both the Wardens and the Advisory Board. Givings continue to lag. However an energetic and active Stewardship Committee under the chairmanship of Moveta Nanton is working towards solving some or all of this challenge. Work on lighting the south side area of the church is in the works as is looking at options for new signage on both sides of the church.

Interviews are being held for the position of a Sunday School person, and we hope to have someone in place by June 1, with Sunday School running throughout the summer.

Frank Hillis, our verger and event coordinator, has elected to give up his verger duties and concentrate on his events' coordinating and working with the various trades that are employed by the church from time to time. The wardens are looking at finding a verger to oversee the church on weekends.

During the summer the shelter is planning on holding six BBQ's that the parish is invited to attend. Time and place of these BBQ's will be noted in the weekly bulletin.

Our parish BBQ is scheduled for June 17 following the 10:30 service. Please plan on attending this excellent social time in the life of our parish.

Sunday June 17 is the last day of the regular choir until September. As in the past number of years, there will be a smaller summer choir at the 10:30 service.

The Wardens wish all a safe and restful summer.

*Did you know that the earliest possible date for Easter in the West is March 22, which last fell in 1818 and won't fall again until 2285? The latest is April 25, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038. (Quoted from Surprise View, April 2010, the church magazine of Kirkbymoorside, Gillamoor, Fadmoor, Farndale and Bransdale in Yorkshire, England)

Advisory Board News

Fran Brown, Advisory Board Chair



There have been two successful Advisory Board meetings in March and April. There were lively discussions by the 15 members present about many parish concerns

Photo submitted by Stephanie Woodside

and events, with members taking ownership of the many items and acting to facilitate any changes needed.

The Advisory Board is made up of the priest, wardens, treasurer, music director, one member from each volunteer group and two from the congregation. At SPSS that is up to 25 people. Each one of these is expected to report on group activities, answer questions and present any new concerns or new ideas. Advisory Board members are consultants, but the final say in all matters belongs to the priest and the wardens. The chairperson is required to make sure time is fairly shared and order is followed. The secretary keeps notes, files the reports and submits the minutes. Other church members may attend but do not vote on any issues.

As we listen to the many group reports we all gain insight into the workings of the church, its complexities, continuity and challenges. The Board has approved the new Mission Statement, ‘Growing in Christ Together,’ as a cornerstone for new beginnings. One new initiative is to involve our neighbourhood in Church and social needs in our future plans. We have recognized the need for greater communication by selecting a new portable banner, and two new electronic signs for Bloor and Howard Streets. Our website is close to completion.

There is renewed interest in the work of the verger and sexton and the establishing of a maintenance manual. Concerns were raised about outsourcing some of the cleaning and repair work due to the high use of the church building with extra rentals, events, and demands on our staff. Some items are cleaning of the church and hall floors, the kitchen stove, kitchen repairs, choir loft ceiling repairs, a new pump for the fountain, better snow removal and general cleaning. Recently all light fixtures received replacement bulbs. These items are ongoing and are within the budget. We have not yet resolved the upcoming parking problems. We look forward to the Stewardship program. We are thankful to all who continue to give generously of their time and effort in all church matters.

Advisory Board volunteers include two members of Synod who will participate in the election of the Archbishop, our librarian and our adult Christian education leader. We expect to have regular Sunday school soon. Many events are in the Sunday Bulletin and on the notice board for all to examine. All parishioners are encouraged to participate in the many activities.

Update on Refugee Ministry of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle

Ted Robinson, Chair

Syrian family Wasim, Zelal & Meryem Zahra
Wasim continues to attend ESL classes five days a week. His English has improved significantly in the past few months. He is now beginning to explore possibilities for part-time work, and is looking ahead to training courses to enhance his employability. Zelal is trying to arrange day care for Meryem so that she can devote more time to ESL classes – currently limited to once a week. Zelal and Wasim are expecting their second child in early September. While this is exciting news, it will add to their financial challenges going ahead. Our responsibility for this family extends to the end of July. We will be focusing on helping them to plan for the transition in the next three months.

Iraqi family Jomard & Bushra Al-Bayati
Mohammed’s parents were notified of an interview at the Canadian Embassy in Ankara, Turkey on April 18, 2018. His mother Bushra was unable to attend the meeting (she is still in Iraq with her daughter). Jomard did attend the meeting and is now waiting to hear the results; if he is accepted, the next step will be to undergo a medical assessment.

Rogers Beyongyera’s family in Uganda
Rogers has been contacted by the Immigration Department and asked to attend a meeting entitled a “conversation” about his wife and children. This is one stage before a formal interview. The conversation is scheduled for June 2.

Please pray for all of our refugees – especially for those awaiting clearance from Canadian officials – that they may be accepted and allowed to join their families here in Canada.



*Photo submitted
by Diane Marshall*

2019 Choir Tour to Gloucester and Chichester Parishioner Attendees

Vanessa Scott

From August 11-25, 2019, the St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle Choir will be the choir-in-residence at the cathedrals in Gloucester and Chichester, spending a week at each location. The schedule will include twice-daily rehearsals, and daily evensong services. These tours are a wonderful way to bring the top-notch music of our SPSSTA Choir to a wider audience, and to spread the ministry of SPSSTA far a-field. The Choir will be organizing a number of fundraiser events in the time leading up to the tour, and we hope to see you at all of them to help us support our international ministry! If you would like to join the fundraising committee, please speak to Mary Anderson.

The 2019 Tour has a limited number of spaces in addition to the choir members for parishioners wishing to accompany the choir on tour. The group will fly into and out of Heathrow or Gatwick and meet the tour bus there. For those considering joining the tour, please speak to Vanessa in the church office before September 2018. We will have an open information meeting in September (exact date TBA) to finalize details; any interested parties are asked to firmly commit to joining the tour by that meeting. You will be welcome to join us in the choir lodging, group outings, and in travelling between the cities via tour bus.

It's important to be mindful that the choir will be "working" during this fortnight, so parishioner attendees on the tour must expect to arrange their own daily experiences. Regrettably, we have also been informed the cathedrals and lodgings are not guaranteed to be mobility-accessible, due to the age of the buildings. There may also be significant amounts of walking and stairs necessary on a daily basis. Please consider these locational restrictions in your planning!

If you might be interested in taking on the responsibility of being the Parishioner Coordinator during the tour, being accountable for parishioner outings, daily sightseeing, and general well-being, please speak to Father Geoff.

Meet some of the members of the St. Peter & St. Simon's Choir

Stephanie Woodside

Photos submitted by Stephanie Woodside

Over the next few issues of the Jubilate newsletter we will feature some of the faces of our choir.

Here are the first few:



Mary Anderson

Mary has been singing in this choir since 2011. She sings in the Soprano section. Notes of

interest: Mary has been singing in church choirs for 51 years. Since retirement, Mary has been taking printmaking courses and creating a variety of sewing projects. Her two snowshoe cats also keep her amused.



Katherine Jones

Katherine has been singing with the choir since 2011 and is a soprano. Notes of interest: She found out that her father, uncle,

and grandfather all sang at St. Simon's in the mid-50s to early 60s. Katherine also sings in two other Anglican churches: at the Wednesday candlelight service at St. George's On-The-Hill in Etobicoke (where she has been singing for nearly 30 years, and where her father and sister still sing in the Sunday choir), as well as in the St. Thomas Huron St. evensong choir. She grew up going to the Toronto Diocesan Choir School camp in the summers, so has always sung as much as possible!



William McCullough

William joined the choir in 2017. He sings in the tenor section.

Notes of interest:

William is an enthusiastic debater.



Jenny Cohen

Jenny has been singing with the choir since 2011, she sings in the alto section. Notes of interest:

Jenny also sings occasionally with a small choir at Beth Tzedec Synagogue. She has also been a cantorial soloist for High Holiday services at Temple Emanu-El Beth Shalom for 10 years.

Jenny enjoys occasional concertizing and freelance singing around Toronto. She has a special fondness for Art Song, the operas of Handel, and new music. She particularly enjoyed singing in a double bill of John Beckwith's "Night Blooming Cereus" and Michael Rose's brand new "A Northern Lights Dream" last summer.



Dianne Way

Dianne joined the choir in 2016 and sings in the soprano section. Notes of interest: Dianne is a retired law professor who likes to cook and read.



Vanessa Scott

Vanessa has been with the choir since Christmas Eve of 2015. She is a soprano. Notes of interest:

Vanessa is very fond of sparkly jewelry! And according to her, she crochets well and paints poorly. Vanessa also loves puzzles and mysteries!



My Two Easter Bunnies

Margie Huycke



Below you will see a picture of my two great-grandsons, Cole, 3 months old, and his brother Reid, 2 1/2 years old.

Photo submitted by Stephanie Woodside

Reid and Cole live in Collingwood with their parents, my grandson Doug and his wife Sarah and their dog, a chocolate lab and a cat, Sammy. Both Doug and Sarah work at Osler Bluff Ski Club. Their parents live nearby, and as I have a condo there, we see each other frequently, especially in winter. They even had Reid out on the hill on skis this winter!



Photo submitted by Margie Huycke

Remembering Your Birthday!

Marjorie Philip

If you would appreciate a birthday card from our Church, make sure your name is on our Birthday List. All we need is the date and month of your birthday (not the year). Call Marjorie Philip at 416- 421- 4942, or call the church office secretary, Vanessa. *

* Editor's note: I love receiving the birthday card from the church Marjorie sends out every year!

Our Place in the Changing Neighbourhood

Larry Krotz



As many of you will be aware, the neighborhood around St. Peter and St. Simon's is undergoing change –future

Photo submitted by Stephanie Woodside

new condos (and new neighbours) to the east, already new neighbours in condos to the west, a continuous flux to the south in St. Jamestown and Cabbagetown. We are putting together a working group to think about our neighbourhood and brainstorm about our place in that dynamic. What is our response to the changing neighbourhood? What will it take to let these thousands of new neighbours know about us? What will it take to make them welcome should they show up at our doors?

We are going to start the process with a brainstorming session on the evening of Wednesday May 23 at the church. We welcome any who want to be part of either that single event, or the process that goes forward. Contact Larry Krotz l.krotz@sympatico.ca



*Classical Guitar Society of Toronto
In the Parish Hall on April 21, 2018
Photo submitted by Frank Hillis*

Growing in Christ Together

Ian Corlett

The Christian Education Team at our parish has recently begun its work, to facilitate spiritual growth in our congregation, through knowledge and understanding of our faith and our scriptures. The Team is pleased to present its first offering, an opportunity to get to know the Bible more intimately through in-depth study of the Gospel of Matthew.

All those interested are cordially invited to join in this study. Led by Fr. Geoff, it will meet at the church on four successive Wednesdays at 7:00, starting on 30 May. Each session will have a light supper beforehand, at 6:00 (donations for this are welcome).

Everyone interested is encouraged to sign up, on the sheet on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. Alternatively, you can email me at tenjou99@gmail.com to let me know of your interest.



*Stain glass window tour April 25, 2018
organized by the ROM
Photo submitted by Frank Hillis*

Diane Marshall on Caring for Creation

Peggy Needham

Did you see Diane's article in the April issue of The Anglican?

Diane Marshall

Her first paragraph stated: *The Anglican Communion's fifth Mark of Mission calls us to "strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the earth." But what does it mean to be an earth-keeper, that first mandate given by God to*



Photo submitted by Stephanie Woodside

humanity in Genesis? And the last paragraph finished with: "Today, at a time of climate crisis, we who are people of hope and followers of Christ's call to love justice and seek mercy, must speak out on behalf of the creation. We are members of the "beloved community" that has struggled throughout history for class, racial and gender equality and justice, in the Church and in society. Our voice needs to be heard in advocating for the earth, our island home in the universe."

On April 22, Earth Day, I was privileged to read the Prayers of the People, large parts of which were composed by the Diocesan Creation Matters Committee of which Diane is a member. That section of the Prayers ended with these words: *Creator God, we enjoy the abundant fruits of the earth, Yet, we acknowledge that we in the developed world have often wasted the gifts of the earth, taking more than our share, leaving our sisters and brothers in other places in poverty and need. Renew our minds and transform us into servants of the earth, so that her richness and bounty will sustain, not only us, but generations to come after us.*

Diane is traveling in South Africa and will be back with us on May 20. I am hoping she will share stories from her trip in the next issue of Jubilate! You will hear some wonderful news! And perhaps Diane will help us to know what else the Creation Matters Committee is doing.

An Issue of Awareness/Concern

Carol-Faye Petricko

Parishioners should be aware that a Toronto-based chain of ice cream parlours has discovered blasphemy to be a good sales pitch. Founded by Andrew Richmond and Amin Todai in 2015, this new and growing chain goes by the name Sweet Jesus. An ice cream flavour on offer is Sweet Baby Jesus, and employing as much sacrilege as possible their advertising is replete with Christian symbols, including a rosary, a crucifix with a corpus and angels.

I am asking my fellow parishioners to stand up for Jesus by boycotting this business and requesting their families and friends to do so as well.

A petition calling for a change of name has already been signed by more than 11,000 people. The petition reads: "Both in their promotional materials and menu selection, it is plain to see that Richmond and Todai have every intention of mocking Christ and Christianity."

The petition can be found on the Internet at CitizenGo.org

Supporting our Church Ministry with Time, Talent and Treasure

Stephanie Woodside



As Anglicans, we are inheritors of a Gospel faith within a specific liturgical and cultural tradition. It is a tradition rich in worship, sacrament, fellowship, and service to each other and beyond our faith communities. Throughout the 450+ year history of the Anglican Church, each generation receives this Gospel tradition and is called to steward it for a time and then pass it on to generations that follow. At St. Peter & St. Simon-the-Apostle we are following in these footsteps with renewed energy. A Stewardship Committee has been established for this purpose.

The committee consists of Moveta Nanton, Winston Isaac, Ted Robinson, David Carrington, Mary Anderson, Paul Faulkner, Father Geoffrey Sangwine, and me.

Why We March in Pride

Brooke Sales-Lee

The committee - and our parish as a whole – has decided to adopt a stewardship program known as Growing Healthy Stewards. This program has been developed to help us grow and strengthen our community and has been widely tried and tested by parishes in the diocese of Toronto. It is centered on three organizing principles: time, talent and treasure. To help us achieve the goals of the program, we are being aided by the presence on the committee of Gary Shaw, who is joining us as a “coach.” Gary has experience leading his parish of St. Clement’s in successful stewardship activities.

In the coming weeks and months you will see outreach efforts that will include events that are meant to build awareness and support for our parish commitments. Some of these events will be:

- a volunteer recognition event
- a ministry fair
- an event to highlight our forthcoming

Joyful Giving Campaign

As well, you will receive written information about how you can help to ensure the success of our parish. For example, we will be sending information on how you can help by arranging for monthly pre-authorized payments, as well as information on legacy giving.

Our renewed stewardship efforts come at a pressing time for our parish. As you may know, there is a \$60,000.00 budgetary shortfall for 2018. At the Vestry meeting, the parish community agreed that a special appeal to all parishioners is necessary to meet this shortfall. More information will be sent to you directly about this important appeal.

In our parish life we are called to meet many challenges together. As we grow in community and communion, remember that our success will be based on our work together as we meet our many stewardship challenges and opportunities, which impact on the community that we serve.

Each year, previously as distinct parishes and last year for the first time as the amalgamated parish of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle, the people of SPSS have marched with the group Proud Anglicans in the Toronto Pride Parade.

We do this for several reasons. One is to show support for our own parishioners, clergy, and staff in Toronto who identify as LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Trans, Queer); they are with us as family in Christ and children of God, and we want them to know they are loved. It is also great fun; I personally grew up in an affirming church in the Bay Area and went to Pride to watch the Parade in San Francisco as a family event, but after marching with the Anglicans for the first time in 2016, I was so filled with the joy and love of the event, and so touched by the emotional “thank yous!” and “God bless yous!” shouted by the crowd to us as we passed by that I knew I wanted to return every year I was able.

We also do this as ministry and outreach. The emotional reactions from the crowd are not in a vacuum, and neither are they something most Christians expect to get when they go out advertising that they are Christians representing a church and not providing a community service. The answer here is, of course, that we are providing a community service by marching in the Pride Parade.

For many of our LGBTQ+ siblings, church and family have been places of rejection and hurt. Even those who may be supported by family might find it hard to reconcile their own faith and spirituality with the overwhelming negativity we see from Christian churches towards LGBTQ+ people. Simply going out into the world and loudly declaring “YOU are welcome, YOU are loved, WE welcome you, WE love you” can be the difference between hope and despair for those who have been told Christianity and queerness are forever in conflict.

Micah 6:8 asks us, “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Come join us for a justice-, love-, and kindness-filled walk (or bus ride!) this June.

Note: The Pride Parade will take place in the afternoon on Sunday, June 24. There will be a double-decker tour bus available for those who would like to participate but cannot walk the length of the parade route. For more details, check out the Proud Anglicans group on Facebook or speak to Brooke.

What is the Opportunities Committee?

Brooke Sales-Lee, Chair

Recently someone asked me what the Opportunities Committee does, exactly. It’s not immediately apparent from the title, and not many churches have such a thing.

The Opportunities Committee was established in early 2016 following a Parish Retreat. According to the original Chair, the Committee was “committed to building on our vibrant parish and growing our congregation, rejuvenating what has worked well and welcoming fresh ideas.”

Two years later, we needed more concrete direction. To that end, in March of 2018, we established a new mandate:

The Opportunities Committee’s role is to connect the parish with the community.

It will welcome, discern, and implement new ideas.

It will focus on the local and parish community.

To further focus this mandate, we agreed that the focus of the Committee would be social justice and advocacy and those events and programs joining the parish with the wider community, be that the local, regional, or beyond. Both of our former parishes had a long history of working on issues of poverty. In keeping with the Diocese of Toronto’s vestry motions of 2017 and 2018, we are going to be working with our Indigenous Priest, Chris Harper, and Bishop, Mark MacDonald, to identify ways to support our Indigenous neighbours facing poverty in Toronto

and act upon those ideas. There is also particular interest in issues of health, housing, food security, and the environment, and we will welcome ideas both for short term or immediate action or for longer term planning and discernment.

If you wish to bring an idea forward, please feel free to speak with me or drop by a meeting to see what we are doing. The dates and times of Opportunities Committee meetings will appear in the Fridge Notes. All are welcome, and while we cannot implement all ideas, we welcome new voices, thoughts, and experiences to help us grow into a mature parish of active and loving Christians.



*New lighting for the nave
Photo submitted by Frank Hillis*

Going home to South Africa

Suzette Mafuna



I recently travelled to South Africa to support my younger sister, Dr. Josephine Norwood, at the launch of a documentary, **The Children of Drum**, that she had co-produced with

Photo submitted by Stephanie Woodside

fellow US professors in the media and education fields. The documentary features the investigative journalistic work of our late father who specialized in exposing the racist government’s atrocities that targeted black people and threatened their lives.

My father was assassinated on his way to meet a source of inside information related to another scandal he was investigating. The documentary featured interviews with living journalists of the 50's Drum era, their living children, as well as a younger cadre of black journalists who continue to operate under the most trying political and social changes. The film has received several recognition awards and nominations in Africa and Europe. It was nominated for the African Film Festival contest and hence its first viewing was held at the renowned Market Theatre in the Johannesburg city centre.

In spite of a long and stressful series of flights, I am in extremely good spirits as I land in Johannesburg. Before I can reach my son standing there to drive me from the airport, I encounter several guys offering me a ride. They are not polite, they are not asking but demanding to drive me to my destination. Fortunately, I have been warned about the taxi shysters who operate at the airport and who have been known to abduct their passengers to unknown destinations and rob them of all luggage and money. The scams are so sophisticated that there is a network of criminals who have internal spies who keep tag on travellers, what kind of luggage they carry and what destination they are headed to. So even if you don't take the scam taxi and get picked up, if you have been targeted for theft, a strange vehicle follows you to your destination and you are either accosted en route or on arrival. Sometimes travellers unwittingly draw attention to themselves by travelling with designer luggage and jewellery as well as exposure of the destination's physical address. The thugs have inside information about anyone whose destination is an up-market suburban home or hotel. This address is indication of your perceived wealth and so one becomes a target for theft.

My son Khotso and I share a teary, long embrace and then we drive to a close friend's home where I am to spend the night with my sister. Our first cousins Tham Tham and Mpumi visit us but our joyful reunion is interrupted by an irate phone call warning us about the noise.! So in the early hours of the morning we pack it up for the night.

Our cousin Mpumi and her husband Dali Mpofu agreed to host our party at their massive three storey house that's sound proof and sits on top of a mountain where one can host any level of noisy parties without any neighbours' complaints.

On the big day of the launch, my sister, son and my sister's US colleagues and I piled into my son's car and headed for the Market Theatre. What an amazing and exciting welcome from my dad's and my former fellow journalists. This event allowed our loving close family members to reconnect and catch up with each other's news before the start of the screening. I watched only half of the documentary as I had to go shopping for the party with my son and to help my cousin Mpumi Mpofu and her sister Tham Tham prepare the party setting and food.

Traditional African food was ready when the US guests arrived as we wanted them to get a taste of authentic home cooked African cuisine. The VIP of the evening was internationally acclaimed veteran photojournalist Peter Magubane, one of the bravest, most creative and skilled photographers of the apartheid era who risked death and arrest to get "that" photo.

A fine evening of African food, music, photo ops and animated chat lasted until the early hours of the morning.

The next day was an early start for the four sisters and my son to visit family graves, a traditional thanksgiving custom for connecting with ancestors. It is a time for thanksgiving and a chance to present to our spiritual departed special requests for intervention in overcoming obstacles or life problems.

The farewells were long and painful but significant in that we all parted with strengthened feelings of connectedness and a significant revival of old family ties.

Editor's note: Some members of the parish are hoping to arrange for a viewing of the film, **The Children of the Drum**, in the future at our church.

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

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

Clergy

Rector

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

Honorary Assistant

The Rev'd Jennifer Matthews
647-546-0580

Wardens

Paul Faulkner, 416 423-5739
pauldfaulkner@hotmail.com
Mary Martin 416-968-2326
mmartin@mpdlawfirm.com
Moveta Nanton 416-493-2805
moveta.nanton@gmail.com
Christopher Ashby 416-922-7371
cpa@intelmat.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

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

1st Sunday of the Month – Choral Eucharist (Traditional)

2nd Sunday of the Month – Choral Matins

3rd Sunday of the Month – Choral Eucharist (Traditional)

*4th Sunday of the Month – Choral Eucharist with Anointing
(Contemporary)*

5th Sunday – As Announced

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

- Sunday, May 27 – Trinity Sunday
- Sunday, June 17 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Baptism at 10:30 am
- Sunday, June 24 – The Birth of St John the Baptist
- Sunday, August 5 – Eve of the Transfiguration
- Sunday, September 30 – Choral Eucharist with
Confirmation at 10:30 am
Celebrant: Archbishop Colin Johnson

*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)*