

Jubilate!

Advent
2018

2018-12-02
A newsletter for
parishioners and friends of
**The Church of St. Peter
and
St. Simon-the-Apostle**

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Frantic Shopping or Quiet Preparation?

Geoffrey Sangwine



“Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” Luke 21.28.

It’s easy at this time of year to get so caught up in all the preparations for Christmas that we miss the point of the season and are even looking forward to January when things get back to normal. Amid the hustle and bustle, the Church comes along and calls us to something quite different: to step back and enter into a time of reflection and spiritual preparation.

Towards the end of the year the Church concentrates minds and hearts once again on specific themes as it celebrates the season of Advent.

From the Latin “*Adventus*” – coming – Advent is a season of preparation for the coming of Jesus. As Lent is a time of penitential preparation for Holy Week and Easter, Advent has evolved to take on a penitential character, in some traditions even a time of fasting before the feasting of Christmas. Many Christians in the Eastern Orthodox tradition refer to Advent as “Little Lent”. Since the sixth century in the Church there has been a four-week preparation period, a custom we continue to keep in this season.



Photo submitted by Spencer Higgins

Come December, I am often concerned that there must be some disappointed people who come through our doors, because instead of being a kind of countdown to Christmas, this season presents us with the themes of Christ’s coming in three ways: his coming long ago in Bethlehem; his coming at the end of the ages in final judgement; and his coming among us now. Thus, in the scriptures we hear stern prophesies about the end times, we meet St. John the Baptist with his call to repentance, and only towards the end of the four weeks do we meet Mary, and focus shifts to the imminent celebration of the coming of Jesus, the Word Made flesh.

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

So, Advent is an opportunity for us in the Church to step back and prepare and renew ourselves as disciples of the man from Galilee. Our corporate worship life is one important part of that, but what more can we do on our own to make this season more meaningful for us? Many people have adopted the custom of an Advent Wreath at home, lighting the appropriate candle at meal-time with a prayer - that's a great way to observe this season with children in particular. Some people take on spiritual reading or commit to a time of quiet and prayer each day. As a form of daily devotion I commend to you the Collect for the First Sunday of Advent found in the Book of Common Prayer, page 95, or the Book of Alternative Services, page 268, along with meditation on the Sunday Gospel and the Lord's Prayer.

On the First Sunday of Advent, we hear the words of Jesus in St. Luke's Gospel reminding us that "the Kingdom of God is near... be on guard". Our Lord is telling us to pay attention to the meaning of his kingdom. I suggest that we pay special attention to the words "Thy kingdom come" in the Lord's Prayer. Think about those words, and ask God to help you understand their meaning and implication for you, for the Church, and for the world. What does the coming of God's kingdom mean for our lives today? Let us remember that he comes to us, not as a ruler in a palace, but as a child born in a manger; not as one wielding frivolous power, but as a shepherd leading us - sometimes lonely, wayward and gone astray - to a place where there is no more sadness or pain, to a place of peace, wholeness and joy, to our true home.

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. Amen.

I wish you a holy and blessed Advent Season and all the joy of Christmas.

Geoffrey+

Holy Baptism November 18, 2018

Benjamin Matthew Oakley



Photo submitted by the Oakley family

FaithWorks



FaithWorks is the annual appeal of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto with a mission to build communities of compassion and hope. As

followers of Jesus, we reach out our hands in loving service offering help and hope to people in need.

FaithWorks feeds, shelters, nurtures and befriends over 30,000 people in our community and around the world every year.

Since 1996 FaithWorks has provided more than \$24 million to Anglican-affiliated ministries. We are reminding parishioners who support FaithWorks to make your donation through the parish which enables us to get a 15% return of your donation to support our own outreach ministry. Payments should be made to the Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle and allocated to FaithWorks. We will then forward the funds to the diocese on your behalf. Thank you to all who give generously to this important ministry.

Wardens' Report

Paul Faulkner



Signage has now been installed on both the Howard and Bloor Street sides of the church. A real special thanks to Father Geoff for bringing this together and also to Frank Hillis who facilitated all the arrangements needed to make this all work. Frank is arranging for some tree pruning to make the Howard street sign more visible as well as arranging for a floodlight to illuminate the name and new, brighter lights to make the doorways more visible.

We have new stand-alone hand sanitizer dispensers, one in the narthex and the other close to the kitchen as well as hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the church.

The Patronal dinner was well attended with delicious food being catered along with fine wines for dinner. The dance band was excellent. Thanks to all who prepared this event, especially Laurie Sanderson and thanks to all who supported this event.

New stained glass, refurbishing the sanctuary, and painting the doors are on temporary hold pending further review.

The front door has been adjusted and now opens and closes much more easily. Thanks to Spencer for taking care of this...now if only the handle...

The Wardens wish everyone a happy and joyful Christmas and prosperity and good health in the New Year.

Patronal Dinner



*Sheila Thomas, Joyce Brighty, Ann Nelis
Photo submitted by Mary Anderson*

Daiverzon Guillermo

Larry Krotz



Few of us likely ever see him, but we are all touched and enriched by his work. Daiverzon Guillermo (aka Daive) keeps our washrooms clean and tidy, vacuums the church's floors, changes burnt-out light bulbs, weeds the gardens, cleans up after not just the congregation but the many others who use our church building every day of the week. Traditionally, he would have been known as the 'sexton': he does renovations and repairs, watches the boiler, undertakes regular fire inspections, keeps the air conditioning running. When I seek him out for an interview, he is busy giving the walls of the Sunday School room a cheery new coat of paint.

Every job has its challenges, and being custodian/sexton/janitor at our large sprawling church with all its hidden surprises is no exception. To which Daive maintains an up-beat, positive attitude: "there are some challenges, but I find a way how to do it."

Daive grew up in the Philippines where he worked as a young man in agriculture, involved in the large-scale production of tomatoes. He emigrated to Toronto in 1994 with his first wife and, having skill at operating and maintaining equipment, secured a position in the facility department at the Wrigley chewing gum factory. But as is the case for many in industrial jobs, that one was to have an end point. In 2011, with the factory about to close down (in 2016 all operations for making chewing gum and the 383 jobs that went with it were moved to Gainesville, Georgia) Daive was at loose ends and in need of a job. It was then that he met church warden Paul Faulkner through a friend, was introduced to our building manager, Frank Hillis, and has been at St. Peter and St. Simon ever since.

Frank Hillis describes Daive as "doing the work of three people," (which is in keeping with many of the people who serve our church). He is efficient, conscientious, very hard-working, friendly, and never complains. "I work fast," Daive responds. "I look on the positive, not the negative," he adds. The journey to work every day takes him 35

minutes, from the Brimley and Ellesmere section of Scarborough where he lives with his second wife. In 2016 he luckily entered into this new marriage, inheriting through it two step-children and three grandchildren. “All girls.”

A job such as Daive does has its variety and its moments. The best part of it? “Even though I don’t come on Sunday,” he says, looking around at his on-going handiwork, “I feel part of the church; this is my place that I love.”



Daive

Photo submitted by Larry Krotz

CONCERNING THE PERMANENT OR VOCATIONAL DIACONATE

Information article No.1 of a series of 7

Geoffrey Sangwine



This is the first information article in a series to be provided over the coming months to assist members of St. Peter and St. Simon’s gather information on the Diaconate. Please keep in mind we are exploring the Vocational Diaconate and not the Transitional Diaconate which leads to the Priesthood.

Background on the Diaconate Ministry

In 1986 the 31st General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada requested its Committee on Ministry to “propose a plan to restore to our church a vocational diaconate.” Their plan to restore the diaconate was published in 1989.

In 1991, in response to a resolution of the Ontario Provincial Synod, the Diocese of Toronto established a Task Force on the Restoration of the Vocational Diaconate.

In 2017 two members of our congregation came forward with an interest in exploring the vocational diaconate. The Incumbent spoke with the bishop and subsequently with the head of the community of deacons to begin the process of discernment for the parish to potentially support this ministry.

The Vocational (Permanent) Diaconate

Many Canadian Anglicans know the Order of Deacon as an important but temporary office, filled briefly by men and women whose eventual goal is ordination to the Priesthood. The image of the office of deacon remains that of a transitional order, emphasizing servant ministry and the work of assisting the priest at liturgical and ecclesiastical functions.

This familiar notion of the diaconate dates from the Middle Ages, when the distinctive role of the deacon became a part of a progressive system of ordination that ran from “minor” to “major” orders. But the earliest church, starting in the first century, had employed an altogether different model of diaconate, one that developed from the practical needs of the church, i.e. assisting the Bishop in administrative and pastoral duties, material care for the needy, teaching the faith, and liturgical service. The deacon was responsible for outreach to the world, just as the priest was primarily concerned with ministry within the Church itself. Both were under the pastoral direction of the Bishop.

The General Synod Committee on Ministry’s “A Plan to Restore the Diaconate in the Anglican Church of Canada” clearly wants to follow the lead of the Early Church; the report quotes the (1962) Book of Common Prayer, saying that “.....” from the Apostles times there have been these Orders of Ministers in Christ’s Church: Bishops, Priests and Deacons.”

Why reconstitute the office now?

Although the argument from tradition and the practice of the Early Church is a strong one, the attempt to restore the diaconate springs more from the recognition that a need exists for the contemporary Church to recover its servant-ministry. Each order of the Church provides a particular form of ministry necessary to the

effective life of the Church. The restoration of the diaconate from the early church where bishops, priests and deacons was the norm, has been sparked by the need to enhance the Church's sense of mission to the world.

All Christians are consecrated by their baptism to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving their neighbour as themselves" (BAS, p. 159). Deacons are committed by their ordination to a special ministry of service, especially to the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely. This they do alongside the rest of the baptised, not in their place.

The Deacon is the bridge – connecting people to people and connecting people to available help or services, as well as bringing the community's needs to the attention of the parish. Hopefully and prayerfully, the people then respond to the need.

Reference: Diocese of Toronto: *-Restoring the Diaconate to the Diocese of Toronto.*

The Altar Guild

Heather Ballon



I grew up in the shadow of the Altar Guild, though I had no idea what it was! We attended St. Simon's, and my mother referred from time to time to this mysterious organization. She was obviously dedicated to its good work, as

legend has it that she once took her watercolour paints and carefully did her best to paint over a well-trodden spot in the small oriental carpet before the altar!

On my return to Toronto after many decades away, I found that there was a need for more people to do that type of church work, and joined the group of volunteers, who welcomed another set of hands.

According to Google, Altar Guilds prepare the church and altar table for worship in much the same way as we prepare our homes for family and guests on special days. For us, this involves cleaning and often polishing communion vessels, making sure linens are clean and laid out, altar frontal and matching book markers are appropriate for the church season, and flowers on the altar and

in the church and chapel are freshly watered and well arranged. As we do at home, we also check for dust, especially on the top of the grand piano! The pews should be tidy, leaflets, children's corner and entrance in order.

Thanks to small teams of three or four Altar Guild members, all this can be achieved on Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays after the weekday service. What is important is that it be done with cooperation and good cheer.



Photo submitted by Marina Caytap

As in other volunteer jobs, we sometimes trade our days or give extra help where it is needed. Among our church members are a number who are talented in decorating the church for festivals and a number who just fill in where they can take orders!



Photo submitted by Marina Caytap

We all find that we acquire a sense of ownership and pride in our church as a result of being familiar with its needs and its members. The sense of family is our reward! But like any volunteer organization, we need to keep filling our ranks and also like other groups we welcome new members, women or men. We have men who are very good with flowers, very capable of helping select and tie up our Christmas trees and who are willing to lend a hand in many different ways.

Now that we have our two parishes united, we expect there will be an even greater pool of volunteers. The Rector and the Chair of the Altar Guild, Marie Samuels-Issac, are always available to answer questions and encourage members of the congregation to learn about and join in our work. The Reverend Jennifer Matthews is the chaplain of the Altar Guild and can also be contacted about our work.



Photo submitted by Colin Bird

The people who served on the Altar Guild in 2018 are Marie Samuels-Isaac, Joyce Brighty, Margie Huycke, May Lewis, Sheila Thomas, Ena Forde, Marjorie Philip, Marina Caytap, Joy Quan-Lee, Cynthia Roosevelt, Marian McPherson, Diane Birch, Alice Fox, and Heather Ballon. Barbara Towe is in charge of altar flowers. The new members of the committee added this year are Sheila Sangwine and Gloria Martin.

If you have wondered about those few parishioners who tiptoe out before the Postlude and into the Vestry every Sunday, you now know why they are doing so!

Following you will find pictures of the Altar Guild at work and of our wonderful celebration on October 28 with Ian Corlett, the chef, and Father Geoff adding to the fun.



Photo submitted by Marina Caytap and Ian Corlett

The Ministry Fair

Stephanie Woodside



A big thank-you to all who participated in our first ever Ministry Fair! The fair showcased the enormous amounts of effort, energy, and enthusiasm that go into making St. Peter and St. Simon the vibrant community that it is. It was also an occasion to see first-hand the extraordinary talent and time that community members devote to SPSS ministries.

A total of 16 groups were represented at tables set up in the Parish Hall. Committee chairs went to great lengths to create interesting displays that included posters, artifacts and other items of interest.

This event was organized under the leadership of the Stewardship Committee and spearheaded by Mary Anderson and Stephanie Woodside. Here are some pictures of the various displays and people who were present to discuss them.

Mary Anderson and Stephanie Woodside, the organizers of the Ministry Fair



Photo submitted by Stephanie Woodside

Mary Martin at the Wardens' table



Photo submitted by Stephanie Woodside

Bram and Elijah



Photo submitted by Stephanie Woodside

Vanessa Scott at the Choir table



Photo submitted by Stephanie Woodside

Sileen Phillips, Children's Ministry Coordinator, at her table



Photo submitted by Stephanie Woodside

Ian Corlett, at the Christian Education table



Photo submitted by Stephanie Woodside

 **You are Invited!**



End of Season Showcase from the St. James Town Children's Choir & ROTM Students

Enjoy choral selections from *The Sound of Music*, and other seasonal favorites.

When:
Thursday, December 13th, 7 pm

Where:
The Church of St. Peter & St. Simon-the-Apostle, Parish Hall
525 Bloor St E, Toronto, ON M4W 1J1

How Much:
Adults \$15, Seniors & Students \$10, Children under 12 FREE

Refreshments will be served.

Sponsor a performer!
Our talented young musicians appreciate your support. A donation of \$20 or more lands you a seat in the Sponsors section (front of house), pairs you with a chorister or instrumental student and provides you progress updates throughout the season.

For tickets and information, please contact
ed.rotm@gmail.com or call 416-421-8518
reachingoutthroughmusic.org

CHRISTMAS CAN STILL CHANGE THE WORLD!
The Advent Conspiracy is an international movement centered on bringing a deeper meaning to Christmas during the Christian season of Advent. The movement is characterized by its four founding principles: Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All.

We invite you to consider joining the Advent Conspiracy by supporting the Pikangikum Water Project:

- buy less “stuff” this Christmas
- instead, give the life-giving gift of water through the Pikangikum Water Project. You can give money directly through our church or through the PWRDF.



This is the Kingdom of Ealdormere.

Some of the People Who Rent Space in Our Church

Frank Hillis



A group called the Society for a Creative Anachronism (a Middle Ages historical group) which exists worldwide meets in our church. They celebrate the Feast of the Bear which

dates way back to medieval times in Romania. They hold tournaments, dances, feasts, sword fighting etc. This past feast was the fourth one held at the church.

Photos submitted by Frank Hillis



Sham

Laurie Sanderson



Zelal, Wassin and Meryem welcome the new member of the family, Sham. Sham was born October 5 and is settling nicely into her new life. It was a delight to visit with them and get to know the new arrival.



Photo submitted by Laurie Sanderson

Asia Biba

Carol-Faye Petricko



Following an order of the Pakistani court overturning the conviction for blasphemy of a Christian woman, Asia Bibi, aged 47, and ordering her release from prison where she has been confined for eight years, thousands of ultra-conservative Islamists poured onto the streets in protest.

Concern has been expressed that Prime Minister Khan has capitulated to these religious conservatives. This has resulted in Asia Bibi remaining incarcerated.

Ferry de Kerckhove, a former Canadian high commissioner to Pakistan, has stated that the federal government must press the Pakistani government to allow Bibi to leave the country. He warned that if she is not permitted to leave, she will be murdered.

Let us pray for Asia Bibi and Christians worldwide who are suffering for the faith of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Keep Your Fork

Joyce Brighty



Have you read this story or has someone told it to you? Many of us will nod “yes!” There is a reason people keep passing it on to their friends. Thanks to Joyce for giving us a chance to enjoy it once more.

There was a woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. As she was getting her things “in order”, she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. The woman also requested to be buried with her favourite Bible.

Everything was in order and the pastor was prepared to leave when the woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. “There’s one more thing,” she said excitedly. “What’s that?” came the pastor’s reply. “This is very important,” the woman continued. “I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.” The pastor stood looking at the woman, not knowing quite what to say. “That surprises you, doesn’t it?” the woman asked. “Well, to be honest, I’m puzzled by the request,” said the pastor.

The woman explained. “In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, ‘keep your fork’. It was my favourite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety

chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder ‘What’s with the fork?’. Then I want you to tell them ‘Keep your fork...the best is yet to come’.

The pastor’s eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the woman goodbye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She KNEW that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the woman’s casket and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing and her favourite Bible and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the pastor heard the question “What’s with the fork?” And over and over he smiled. During his message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. The pastor told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you, oh so gently, that the best is yet to come.

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us. Show your friends how much you care.

Canada’s Process of Gaining Convention Refugee Status: and how we can help at SPSS

Diane Marshall



A few weeks ago, I wrote the following to Fr. Geoff and a few select people on the Refugee Committee (The letter X replaces the name of a parishioner applying to remain in Canada):

“Today was a very gruelling 4 1/2 hour session at the Refugee Hearing.

The Judge was very thorough and went through X’s refugee claim in a very detailed way. While asking highly detailed questions about the severe torture, he didn’t re-traumatize X further (than X already was) by asking the details of torture of the violent death of a family member. At times it seemed that the Judge was respecting the fact that X has severe PTSD, and at other times I did not feel he understood the overwhelming trauma X had experienced.

I was the only observer and supporter for X (and we went out afterwards for lunch together). The refugee lawyer seemed very able, and when he finally had a chance to give his additional legal information and summation, he was able to speak to the reality of the violent gangs and cults in the country the refugee claimant was fleeing.

It is now in this single Judge’s hands. He will issue his written decision after further consideration.

It is only a year since X arrived in Canada, and stayed at a Toronto shelter. At that time X began attending SPSS. X is a remarkable person with much to offer Canada, and I can only hope and pray that the Judge will grant Convention Refugee Status. Meanwhile, X has a good job, using prior educational experience and training. X has been sustained by personal faith and by the fellowship of our SPSS community.”

Sadly, this week X learned that the Judge had turned down the refugee claim. Even the lawyer was stunned, and to be honest, I was furious! The grounds given related to some of the details of the abuse, that in the hearing were not as explicit as in the formal written refugee claim. As a registered Psychotherapist with over 40 years experience working with trauma survivors, I am fully aware of how trauma memories can seem fragmented under acute stress (like in the Hearing). It was so obvious to me that X was having vivid flashbacks and shaking, all consistent with a Post Traumatic Stress response.

Thankfully, our Church is able to support X in an Appeal, and we have located a refugee lawyer who is willing to take on this case, and is very capable in arguing an Appeal (which will be before a different Judge).

Let us continue in our Prayers of the People, and individually, to hold refugees in our prayers, remembering that the Holy Family were themselves in need of flight, and were refugees in Egypt when Christ was an infant. Herod’s slaughter of the innocents in Bethlehem so long ago continues in different forms and guises in our world today. So may we at St. Peter and St. Simon always be mindful of the stranger in our midst, and welcome them and extend hospitality in Jesus’ name.

St. Peter & St. Simon Choir Members – Part 2

Stephanie Woodside



We continue with our series that highlights members of the choir.

Alison Jane has been singing alto in the choir for the past year.



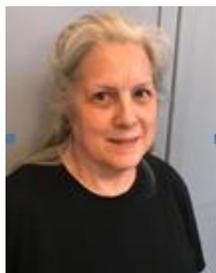
Notes of interest:

Alison was organist at St. Peter's Anglican Church, and has felt warmly welcomed by the congregation, organists, director and choir at SPSS. She notes that it is a joy to be a part of the rich,

Photo submitted by Vanessa Scott

liturgical tradition of the Anglican Church and to be a part of the SPSS family. Alison enjoys piano and organ accompaniment, 18th and 19th century poetry, acrylic painting, interior design, and house sitting for her canine friends.

Carol Peck sings 1st soprano.



Notes of interest:

Carol first came to the then St. Simon's in the early 1980s, when she was a reader and was on the Advisory Board. Since she couldn't pass the physical for the Gentlemen and Boys choir, she eventually left for greener choral

Photo submitted by Vanessa Scott

pastures. Returning for a christening a few years ago, she commented to a chorister that, as a soprano, she had particularly appreciated the beautiful descants during the service. The next thing she knew, she was being introduced to Robin and promising attendance at that Thursday's choir practice. As well as singing soprano, she is choir librarian-- and responsible for finding beautiful descants for Sunday services!

Ian Corlett has been singing with the choir since 2012. He sings in the tenor section.



Notes of interest:

While primarily a singer now, Ian began his experience in church music as an instrumentalist; he took up the trombone as a boy and played for a decade in Salvation Army bands. He reads Hebrew and Greek, and is currently working

Photo submitted by Vanessa Scott

on a new translation of the Bible into English. He is an avid reader more generally, especially enjoying works of history or philosophy. He also enjoys cookery and expanding the range of tasty foods he can craft.

Danielle Dudycha joined the choir in the spring of 2017 and sings in the alto section.



Notes of interest:

Originally from Kitchener-Waterloo, where she began studying the violin until age 21 when she then decided to pursue singing full-time

Photo submitted by Vanessa Scott

and completed her B.mus as a voice major at McGill University. Danielle recently performed Ravel's *Trois Poèmes de Mallarmé* with full ensemble in the Mountain View Concert Series, and debuted the role of Terinka in the Canadian premiere of Dvorak's opera **Jacobin**. Other recent performances include a *Pamina* with the Bay of Island Music Festival, also with the Méditerranée Institute Concert Series, *Constance* with Concert Opera and *Zerlina* with *Opera By Request*. Past roles include *Susanna*, *Musetta*, *Le Feu et le Rossignol* from *L'enfant et les sortilège*, *Rosina*, *Bastienne*, and *Tirésias*.

Hugs For Grandma

Marie Adams



Being a good grandma requires patience, tolerance, lots of love and a large cookie jar and lollipops. Grandmothers have so much love, family history, frequent kisses! They always find a way to mend a broken heart, wipe tears on their laps, with a big hug. God made grandmothers to pray and to carry their love for their grandchildren all the way to heaven.



Photo submitted by Marie Adams

From the Organ Bench

Robin Davis



I find myself writing this article having just arrived home Sunday evening from the Remembrance Day *Lux Aeterna* service commemorating the 100th anniversary of Armistice. The service

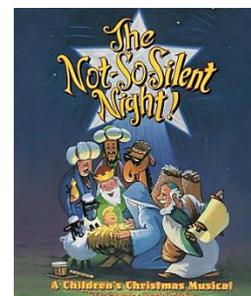
honoured the young men from the combined parish, who served and sacrificed in World War 1. The readings, poetry, war letters and music from our choir were presented simultaneously as names, images and stories of the young men who served in the war were shown on the screen. The preparation and research that went into the video presentation was no small task, and for much of this I am very grateful for the help of Diane Way and Carol Peck. Thank you also to the many parishioners who submitted names and stories, and especially Ted Robinson for the incredible collection of letters written by his great-uncle William Allen. It has been personally a humbling experience, having a peak into these incredible peoples' lives, people for whom their church meant so much. From William Statham, who not only sang in the choir, but also played on the St. Simon's Lacrosse team and St. Simon's Junior Hockey team to Harold Mitchell who was a member of St. Peter's, who enlisted with his friends from the St. Simon's Bible Study Class. By the time the newsletter is published, I will do my best to edit and produce the slide show with the music and readings from the service, and upload it to the church website where anyone can view it. I believe there is an initiative under way to prepare a similar effort for those who served in WW2. Stay tuned for more on this.

Thank you to readers and those who submitted photos and other materials that contributed so much to the service. A special thank you to our choir members and organists who have worked very hard to provide for 7 musically full services in the last 4 weeks including 3 Sunday afternoon services. No time to catch our breath I'm afraid with Advent around the corner.....

Choir Tour

Plans are well under way with both our tour and fundraising activities. Our Autumn Leaves Salon Concert on Oct 6 was well received and we are well on our way toward our goal needed to support the tour. A huge thank-you to all of our choir leads and David Smith, our accompanist, who graciously donated their services for the event. We are delighted to have a growing contingent of “groupies” (partners of singers) and friends from the congregation who will be joining us on the tour. We are also very grateful for some generous donations received in support of the tour.

Our next Fundraising event will be a dramatic reading of Dickens' **A Christmas Carol**. We are very excited to have returning performers Graham Gauthier, Rex Southgate, and John Sheard. In addition Peggy Needham and Ann Bisch will be joining the cast. Tickets are available after church on Sundays or at the door. I'd suggest coming early for good seats as this is expected to be a popular event. We have a wonderful group of young people who have been very hard at work preparing for this years' Christmas musical, "The Not So Silent Night." We have been rehearsing every Sunday after church since September. The musical will be on Sunday Dec 16 at 3:00. There is no charge for admission. Please come out and support the talented and hard-working kids we have at our church and their friends from the community, who have come on board to join the effort.



And Coming in 2019!

Mary Anderson



Come for a magical evening of great music, food, drink and unique auction items at our Sweetheart Soirée fundraiser to support the choir's UK tour in 2019. Put February 9th on your calendar as a

date to remember. You don't have to have a sweetheart to attend. Just invite your special someone, friends or family to get treated to the musical talents of the choir and friends. A delicious dinner of tapas food will entice your taste buds. As the evening unfolds, bid on some great silent auction items that will be showcased. We look forward to pampering you at this special event that is sure to please. Tickets are \$60 per person and \$100 for a couple, and are available from December 9th after church services.

October 10: Seniors Eucharist and Lunch
Photos submitted by The Reverend Jennifer Matthews



Sweetheart Soirée
Gala

Saturday, Feb 9, 2019
6:30 pm

Dinner
Silent Auction
Cabaret Entertainment

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

\$60 per person
\$100 per couple

The St. Peter & St. Simon's Choir invite family, friends, and the community to this Gala event at the Church in support of their UK Tour to Gloucester and Chichester Cathedrals.

GIVE YOUR HEART TO THE UK CHOIR TOUR 2019

*Photos Taken at the Patronal Dinner
Photos submitted by Mary Anderson*



Welcome!



Photo submitted by Diane Marshall

*Children in our Sunday School
Elijah, Brandon and Keira*



Photo submitted by Sileen Phillips

My travels in northern Ontario Reserves

Diane Birch



In 1977, Health Canada decided to hire a dietitian to develop programs for the native populations. I was hired as Chief Nutritionist for the native population of Ontario. Some of my travels were quite funny and others very serious.

My first trip was in May. I arrived in my high heels and lovely matching coat and dress with a very efficient briefcase in hand. As I stepped off the plane in Moosenee onto the gravel runway, I realized my first mistake. Secondly my spring coat and sleeveless dress were not warm enough for a cold temperature.

The chief met me in his SUV and drove me to the edge of James Bay where we went by canoe to Moose Factory Hospital built on an island accessible by canoe in summer and skidoo in the winter. (Only some idiot bureaucrat would do something so stupid!). There I sat in my high heels and peach outfit with my briefcase and suitcase. In the morning when I woke it was pitch black but actually sunny as the screen was coated with black flies. Next day I was off to Fort Albany by canoe. Sitting with a straight back in my heels and spring coat I sat and waited. Then after ½ hour I turned around to see why we weren't moving to discover the fellow taking me had the whole engine apart! Postponed that day.

Following trips I wore running shoes and long pants and a jacket with long sleeves and elasticized wrists to keep the bugs out. I discovered the Indigenous had a unique sense of humour especially as it applied to silly "white" folks from Ottawa. I was teaching a class on weight loss and one lady said she lost 6 pounds in a week. After congratulations and much laughter from the group, I asked how she had done this, and she said she had her leg amputated. On the serious side was the mercury poisoning in the fish in the English Wabigoon river where the men fished.

The first plan was to fly in frozen Winnipeg Gold Eye fish for the residents to eat. Next we had to build freezers to keep the fish and they kept breaking down as the children would throw stones into the motors. The situation was too urgent to constantly get technicians from Dryden to come and fix the freezers, so we taught the men how to fix the freezers. Then the women were used to cooking fish by throwing it in boiling water where it would congeal, but frozen fish falls apart. We then hired home economists to teach them how to cook frozen fish.

We made many recommendations including the need to clean up the water. That was in 1978. Here we are in 2018 and nothing has been done. Most government bureaucrats are idiots, and my travel budget was eliminated . How could I get my job done? In frustration I quit.

So many other issues : 5-6 families living in 1 house due to inadequate housing, cold houses due to improperly installed windows, coal stoves providing heat makes it hard to breathe, water so poor in quality it can't be drunk, but is often used for washing clothes or bathing the children resulting in severe skin infections.

We are a rich country and there are no excuses for these situations. Solutions are simple and just need a little creative thought and quick action.

Our support of the Attawapik community getting clean water is one way. I hope you will write your MP's asking them to take action to support improvement in living conditions for our indigenous populations in the north. Canada can do much better!

A Plea **Against** Euthanasia

Ted Robinson



My father-in law died on April 24, 2017 at the age of 99 years 9 months. He suffered from vascular dementia, which gradually took over his life after a stroke when he was 95. He lived with his daughter and

me for 7 years after his wife died, but when we could no longer care for him, he was admitted to a nursing home, where he spent his last 21 months.

His condition caused a great personality change; he did not understand his limitations, and he was extremely angry and felt abandoned when we took him to the nursing home. For the next year he lived with his anger. He could not understand why God was allowing this to happen to him.

Throughout his life he had lived a life of faith. [He told wonderful stories of reliance on his faith in God when he left home and family in Egypt to travel as a visitor to Canada. On the way he preached at Hyde Corner in London, met the Anglican Bishop Goodwin-Hudson there, and was later allowed to stay in Canada because the

Bishop's sister worked in the Canadian Department of Immigration.]

A year later he was admitted to Acute Care Hospital with a major hemorrhage. He survived and when he returned to the Nursing Home there was a gradual change in his perspective. He began to appreciate and thank his caregivers. There was a hydro pole outside his window which reminded him of the cross of Christ. I was never clear whether he thought it had been placed there just for him or not, but it was for him a comforting reminder of his Saviour. Shortly before he died he shared with his daughter the perspective: " I know I'm not well, but I am far better off than many others." He came to a resolution of his state of being and was at peace. One day after lunch he fell asleep as was his usual routine. This time his heart gave out and he did not wake up – or rather not in this world. Fittingly, he died on April 24th, the day the Armenians remember the genocide.

Albert was a survivor of the Armenian genocide in Turkey (the Ottoman Empire) where he was born in 1917. For us – and we believe for Albert – this was a "good" death.

So... what if he or we had chosen to end his suffering 21 months earlier? He was certainly suffering, with not much to look forward to, and ostensibly nothing to contribute to society. Why not end the suffering, give the bed to someone else, end the economic burden to society? For Albert this would never have been a choice, but for others, and other families, this will now become ever more tempting. In Albert's case, he would have been deprived of the peace which came to him in his last months. His caregivers would have missed out on the gratitude that he expressed. His daughter would have carried feelings of guilt, which have been assuaged by knowing that her father died at peace. And there is the couple who came faithfully each week to visit him, because he had been important in their faith journeys, and who consider every visit to be a blessing to them. All that would have been lost. Who are we to presume to decide that our life (or that of a family member) no longer has meaning – to become as God and decide to end out life?

What has happened to our faith? Within the community of Christians what applies in the secular worldview does not necessarily apply to us. May God grant us the faith to “run (to the finish) the race” set before us.

Note: The author and editor would welcome your feelings and your personal experiences regarding the topic to be printed in future Letters to the Editor.

*Fen Receiving 30 year Service Award
from Toronto Police Chief*



Photo submitted by Moveta Nanton

Christmas Is Coming! and Remembrance Day is Past

Paul Faulkner



From my summer reading -
So, how many presents are there
altogether?

Partridges: 12; Doves: 22; Hens 30; Calling birds:
36; Golden rings 40; Geese 42; Swans 42; Maids
40; Ladies 36; Lords 30; Pipers 22; Drummers 12

Like some other well-known Christmas songs,
“The Twelve Days of Christmas” is a very old
carol, dating as far back as the 1500s.

We have the same number of partridges as
drummers (12 of each); doves and pipers (22 of
each); hens and lords (30 of each) and so on. So
the easiest way to count our presents is to add up
to the middle of the list and then double the result:
 $(12 + 22 + 30 + 36 + 40 + 42) \times 2 = \mathbf{364}$.

My “True Love” in the song refers to God. Thus,
each of the following gifts are to be understood as
gifts from God. So for example, the partridge in a
pear tree refers to Jesus Christ on the cross. If you
google the song you will be able to see what the
other gifts represent.

I made mention of the Carillon in Amherst NS in
the last **Jubilate!** From a recent reading *The
Dalesman*, (September 2008!) there is an article
concerning additions bells for York Minister as
follows: “York Minster has become the first
cathedral in England to have a full carillon of
bells, after twenty four bells were added to the
existing eleven of the Nelson chime earlier this
year. York will now join all major cities of
Northern Europe in having a carillon to add to the
ambience of the city....The carillon of thirty-five
bells now means that many more hymn tunes can
be played to announce evensong...” If you google
York Minster there are more recent updates to this
article.

The 4 pm Service on Remembrance Day was – “?”
- I search for the right adjective. The music and
poetry was on point – Stephanie Woodside read a
poem in German. Letters over different years
during World War I from Ted Robinson’s great
uncle were read throughout the service and a final
letter from the uncle’s mother acknowledging
condolences on the death of her son. Robin and
Geoff put together a slide show with photographs
of many of the parishioners from St. Simon’s and
St. Peter’s who died, who are listed as having died
in WW1, including their regiments and where and
how they died. There were other photos from the
Huycke and McPherson families and from Diane
Marshall and Larry Krotz. Unintentionally, the
slide show continued beyond the end of the
service. Nearly 100 people sat in absolute silence
as the names and pictures continued to flash by.
We rang the bell at sunset. Perhaps “Memorable
and Moving” is the right way to describe it.

*The Most Reverend Colin R. Johnson is at
St. Peter's and St. Simon's as we celebrate the
Feast of St. Michael and All Angels and Confirmation with
The Reverend Geoffrey Sangwine
September 30, 2018*



*Marina Caytap, Brooke Sales-Lee and Steven Ketola
Photo submitted by Spencer Higgins*

Manulife Building
*More than 11, 800 flags planted for
Remembrance Day Commemoration
Each flag represents 10 soldiers who died.*



Photo submitted by Frank Hillis

*Holy Baptism November 18, 2018
Benjamin Matthew Oakley*



Photo submitted by the Oakley family

*Holy Baptism November 24, 2018
Lucian James Lech Polewczyk*



Photo submitted by Laura Doak

Holy Baptism

Connor John Cumming
Henry Somerset Stephen Denning
Benjamin Matthew Oakley
Lucian James Lech Polewczyk

Holy Matrimony

Josh David MacEachern & Lina Courtney Taddeo
Ahmad Mozaffari & Caitlin Eloise Gossage
Gary Sylver Coutts & Barbara Lynn Green-Parker

Burial

Sonja Bird
Evelyn Baird
Geoffrey Wilkins



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

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Sunday, 2 December (Advent 1):
Advent Lessons & Carols with
Reception, 4 PM
Stewardship Commitment Sunday

Saturday, 8 December:
The Marion Singers In Concert
At St Peter And St Simon's
7:30 PM

Sunday, 9 December (Advent 2):
Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol,
4 PM

Sunday, 16 December (Advent 3):
Children's Musical
The-Not-So-Silent-Night, 3 PM

Sunday, 23 December (Advent 4):
Christmas Lessons & Carols with
Reception, 4 PM

Monday, 24 December: 10 PM
Christmas Eve Festal Eucharist

Tuesday, 25 December: 10:30 AM
Christmas Day Sung Eucharist

2019

Sunday, 6 January: Epiphany

Sunday, 13 January: 10:30 AM
Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 20: 10:30 AM
The Feast of the Confession of St. Peter

February: Black History Month
(special events TBA)

Saturday, 9 February:
Valentine's Cabaret with Choir

Sunday, 24 February:
Vestry after 10:30 AM service

Wednesday, 6 March: 7 PM
Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, 14 April: Palm Sunday

Sunday, 14 April: 4 PM Choir Concert
with Stainer's Crucifixion

Thursday, 18 April: 7:30 PM
Maundy Thursday Liturgy

Friday, 19 April: 8 AM Good Friday
Ecumenical Walk, 11 Solemn Liturgy

Saturday, 20 April: 8 PM Easter Vigil

Sunday, 21 April: Easter Day

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

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Sexton

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Office Administrator

Vanessa, ext 201

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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, December 2 – Advent 1 – 8:30 & 10:30 am
Advent Lessons & Carols 4 pm
- Sunday, December 9 – Advent 2 – 8:30 & 10:30 am
Preacher: The Rev'd Canon Judy Rois
Executive Director of The Anglican
Foundation
Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol 4 pm
- Sunday, December 16 – Advent 3 – 8:30 & 10:30 am
Children's Musical 3 pm
- Sunday, December 23 – Advent 4 – 8:30 & 10:30 am
Nine Lessons & Carols 4 pm
- Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve – 10 pm
- Tuesday, December 25 – Christmas Day – 10:30 am
- Sunday, December 30 – First Sunday after Christmas
- Sunday, January 6 – The Epiphany of the Lord
- Sunday, January 13 – The Baptism of the Lord
- Sunday, February 24 – Annual Vestry

*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)*