

Jubilate!

*Lent/Easter
2018*

2018-03-04

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

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*Memorial to the Women of
St Simon's 1983 designed
by Stephen Taylor for
installation in the church's
south transept.*

A Miracle!

Robin Davis

On Sunday, December 10, we were witness to a miracle of sorts in our parish. It was the children's musical entitled *Miracle on Bethlehem St.* Taking part were five children from our parish, four from San Lorenzo, two from the community, and three of our youth who joined in the production playing the Kings' roles. Starting with a few children in September, we rehearsed every Sunday through the fall. Week by week our group grew and the children really outdid themselves with terrific singing and wonderful energy that really brought the production to life. Thanks to Sophie and Glenna for their help with directing and to all the parents who pitched in in many ways. Thank you to our orchestra members from the parish and community, but mostly thank you to the children who have brought to us again the message of wonder and joy of Christ's birth in such a fun and heartwarming way. We are eagerly looking forward to getting the group together again next Christmas and tackling another musical.

*Children's Musical: Miracle on Bethlehem Street
December 10, 2017*



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*

A Word from the Rector

During Lent we are invited to think more deeply about the meaning of discipleship. In the gospels, Jesus himself gives us clear direction about this: “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me” (Mark 8.34). Picking up the cross is a fundamental part of the Christian way. For many, even today, people suffer and even die for the sake of the faith. For most of us this is not the case, but the idea of the cross, the way of the cross, is still essential. We pick up the cross in many ways -- by challenging injustice, through lives of forgiveness and mercy, by going the extra step for the other, by sacrificial living. There are many great things happening in our ministry that shows our dedication to that calling. As we look ahead I commend to you a few areas of focus that are important to our cross-centred mission.

Stewardship

It is time for us to have an intentional commitment to stewardship. In 2018 we are taking part in the “Growing Healthy Stewards” programme. This was created in the diocese for churches in the diocese and is proven way to help parishes become stronger and healthier. Stewardship is more than fundraising; it is a way of life that involves our time, talent and treasure. I urge us to think very seriously about this crucial aspect of our life together.

Discipleship

As a community of faith we are followers – disciples – of Jesus, here and now. There is huge need and huge potential for ministry here in the heart of downtown Toronto. How can we be faithful neighbours? What are the needs and opportunities around us and how can we witness to Christ’s love? St Simon’s Shelter does an amazing job serving the homeless and needy; but, is there more we could do, for the shelter and others, perhaps through parish nursing or other outreach initiatives? I see our ministry to families with young children as an essential way to reach out and grow. To that end we hope to hire a Director of Family Ministries and grow our Church School.

The Opportunities Committee is working hard to make connections with St James Town and the local community and our new Education Committee is being formed to encourage new ideas for outreach, learning and spiritual development.

Long-time parishioner and Server David Carrington has come forward with a sense of calling to the Vocational Diaconate. We will begin a discernment process that will require the formation of a small committee to work with the parish and David to move this forward. Please keep David and our discernment in your prayers.

St Peter’s and St Simon’s is a very special place – God is up to a whole lot here! Many people come through our doors and experience a sense of peace, beauty, stillness - a sense of the divine. Worship is at the heart of our life together. It is through our worship that is focussed on Christ crucified, risen and ascended that we grow more and more in our relationship with God and each other. Please join us this Lent, Holy Week and Easter as we worship God in the beauty of holiness and draw closer to Jesus Christ and his love that comes to us from his holy cross. May you have a blessed Lent and Easter.

Geoffrey+

Lent & Holy Week 2018

- Sunday, March 11 Lent 4 – 8:30 & 10:30 am
- Sunday, March 18 Lent 5 – 8:30 & 10:30 am
A Lenten Meditation through Music, Readings & Prayer
- Sunday, March 25 Palm Sunday – 8:30 & 10:30 am
- Thursday, March 29 Maundy Thursday – 7 pm
- Friday, March 30 Good Friday – 10:30 am
Ecumenical Walk at 8:00 am
- Saturday, March 31 The Great Vigil – 8 pm
- Sunday, April 1 Easter Day – 8:30 & 10:30 am

We will welcome the Right Reverend Michael Bedford-Jones to celebrate and preach.

Father Geoff & Father Greg



*Photo submitted by The Reverend Greg Carpenter
of Church of St. Jude, Wexford*

*The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson
The Reverend Geoffrey Sangwine
and student assistant Shelly Pollard
November 26, 2017 Holy Baptism*



Photo submitted by Frank Hillis

Wardens' Report

Paul Faulkner & Mary Martin

It has been another busy three months for the Wardens since writing for the Michaelmas **Jubilate**. We thank Father Geoff for his leadership and encouragement throughout the year.

Sixty parishioners signed in at Vestry this year in the parish hall on February 25, 2018. The Budget for 2018 has been approved by the Wardens, Advisory Board and Vestry. The Audit for 2017 has been finalized and accepted by Vestry. Our Treasurer, Johan van't Hof, aided by David McPherson, spent many hours with the Auditors completing the Audit – thanks to both of them.

The support of the congregation for ministries relating to our refugee family, the homeless and for our own Shelter is greatly appreciated.

There is a new group of Wardens for this year. Paul Faulkner and Mary Martin remain as Rector's Warden and People's Warden respectively. Moveta Nanton is Deputy Rector's Warden and Christopher Ashby is Deputy People's Warden.

Thank you to both Marie Samuels-Isaac and Nadine Milne for their service and contributions as Wardens over the past many years, and particularly following Amalgamation. People like Marie and Nadine bring positive and intelligent viewpoints to the meetings and demonstrate their support for actions taken by the Rector, Wardens and Advisory Board.

The financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 reflect an adherence to most of the budget prepared December, 2017 with the exception of givings. Nearly all, if not all, of the deficit in the actual results versus budget projections can be attributed to a decline in givings. Moveta Nanton has kindly agreed to temporarily act as the Chair of our Stewardship Campaign until such time it becomes a co-chaired position. There are quite a few volunteers who are willing to work on this campaign, so it would not be a large burden on the co-chair. In the meantime 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.

Thanks to Chris Ashby and Laurie Sanderson who have agreed to chair the spring sale to be held on Saturday, May 12. We are sure that any offer of help would be greatly appreciated and that they will be speaking to the parish about it a later date.

Hold these “Future Dates”:

Spring Fair	May 12
Parish BBQ	June 17
Caribbean Night	September 22
Patronal Feast	November 4

The Reverend Jennifer Matthews

Fran Brown

As a baby of 7 months, Jennifer travelled with her mother, a war bride, from Edinburgh, Scotland. They were the only two non-military passengers on a naval ship, which arrived in Canada in a storm on December 1, 1944! They went to live with her father in Toronto where he was recovering from war injuries at Christie Pitts Hospital.

Of course, Jennifer automatically became a Canadian citizen, grew up, married and had two children, Michael and Sarah, confident in her voting ability. Horrors, when in 1967 the laws changed and citizenship papers were demanded! Luckily for us there were no deportation laws!

During her school years, graduating from William Lyon MacKenzie High School, Jennifer attended Downsview Church of the Apostle. At the age of 17 she had an amazing dream in which she was called by God to ordination. What a dreadful disappointment when she was told this was “not possible” and “not acceptable” to the Anglican Church. She could be a nun, however.

Thankfully, the cloistered life was not for her. Jennifer went to Toronto Teachers College and began work with the Toronto Board. She taught grades JK to 4 and specialized in the Orff instrumental music program. During this time, she studied part time for her BA degree, particularly fascinated with anthropology. Later she would travel to Israel, Greece, Scotland and Italy always interested in the ancient ruins and archeology. Immediately upon graduating in 1986 with a BA, she began her studies at Trinity College, at age 42,

beginning the realization of her dream. She was ordained in November, 1991. She was assistant curate at St. Margaret’s in the Pines, Scarborough. As incumbent she spent a rewarding five years at St. John’s Whitby where she led a Bible study group of 20 women! It was difficult to leave this active group but she was transferred to St. Matthias in Etobicoke, until she retired in 2009. Although she had been refused 25 years before, she was then entrusted with 2 different parishes and no assistants. What a change!

Jennifer did not fully retire until the age of 69. Before 2013 she was interim priest at St. John the Baptist, Norway and St. Columba's and All Hallows. After that she was honorary assistant at St. John the Baptist, Norway. Along the way she met Reverend Geoffrey Sangwine. They were on the same trip to Israel at one point.

Family is important to her as she keeps in touch with her sister and before he died, her brother. Both siblings always teased her about being “the Scot” and not as Canadian as they were. Jennifer has three grandchildren- Elizabeth age 18, Catherine age 15, and Anastasia age 13, with whom she is involved as often as possible.

Although she may seem quiet and shy (her words), this very accomplished woman assesses her comfort levels and soon her gifts of human insight and empathy are very evident. Also, her quick smile and laughter treat you to her great sense of humour. She is a long- time quilter and misses her group at present. She is an avid reader, especially appreciating writing on spirituality and historical fiction.

Jennifer has a positive philosophy and insight into aging – “the challenge is learning how to be!” This can apply to any age as we explore what is possible and keep active. We are grateful she is able to share her experience, knowledge and generosity with us. Thanks be to God and to prayers answered!



Photo submitted by Father Geoff

Easter tales of our resident church mouse

Marian McPherson

Some years ago at a time when our altar was firmly attached to the east wall of the chancel, it was decided to place a large loaf of bread surrounded by fresh grapes at the back of the altar in readiness for our Easter service. Upon arrival on Sunday morning, the altar guild team was met by a horde of fruit flies feasting on the grapes. The grapes were quickly removed leaving the bread in place. By mid week when the guild members checked the bread, it was discovered to be amazingly light – its entire interior having been eaten. Somewhere there must have been a very full and contented church mouse sleeping it off.

On another Eastertide occasion, our parish hostess thought it might be appropriate to serve hot-cross buns following the Good Friday service. Buns were purchased and placed in the oven “on low”. Upon checking towards the end of the service, the hostess was horrified to discover that once again our resident mouse had attacked, and in so doing had left evidence of his misdeed, leaving only the fragrance of hot-cross buns for the congregation to savour.

In the words of Robert Burns, our church mouse was no “wee sleekit cow’rin, tim’rous beastie”.

Perhaps our mouse is now looking down at us from mouse heaven.

The Saviour’s Prayer

On January 18, Suzette Mafuna, Diane Marshall, Peggy Needham and Geoffrey Sangwine attended Keepers of the Water, a vigil of lament and thanksgiving at Holy Trinity. Diane requested that we include the following prayer used in the service in our newsletter.

Eternal Spirit,
Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love-maker,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The Hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your Justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings,
Your Commonwealth of Peace and Freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth!

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another,
forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and for ever. Amen*

*This Paraphrase of the Lord’s Prayer is by Jim Cotter and is found in the New Zealand Prayer Book He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoak.

Frank

Larry Krotz

When the lights are on, the heat working, the snow has been cleared, the message on the outdoor sign is current, the lounge or the hall rented out to a group, a wedding or funeral booked, behind it all is Frank Hillis. Calmly moving through the background of almost every event, Frank is, in church parlance, the ‘verger’ for St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle Church. By his own description he is the building manager, events coordinator, “go-to guy”. He looks after the whole building, including the 65-bed shelter. He supervises the maintaining and cleaning of the church by custodian (aka sexton), Daiverzon Guillermo, ‘Daive’, “who does the work of three.” (Outdoor gardening and snow clearance are contracted out.)

When things break down he approves any repairs, gathers quotes and, in liaison with the church wardens, mainly Paul Faulkner, approves all bills. In his distant past, Frank enjoyed a career in clothing sales at Toronto’s downtown Eaton’s store until the company famously shut its doors in 1999. He was 61. He came to St. Simon the Apostle originally as a congregant and started volunteering for various duties. “Since I spell ‘no’ Y-E-S,” he quips, his volunteer duties soon became practically a full-time job, which then got formalized into his present position. He lives nearby and can be found at the church any day of the week and almost any hour of the day or night, his office is his mobile phone and laptop, set on a coffee table in front of the sofa in the Joan Stanley Lounge.

In the early days of his tenure, the men’s shelter under the church hall was similarly just getting underway as a church-run Out of the Cold hospice, with mattresses on the floor and meals prepared in the church kitchen. Frank remains the liaison between the church (now the landlord for the city-run program) and the shelter.

Beyond its sanctuary, St. Peter and St. Simon sprawls in every direction into rooms, halls and spaces. A large part of Frank’s job is to make sure those diverse spaces get used, and are available to serve the needs of both parishioners and outsiders.

Rentals of space, he notes, form a substantial part of the church income. Among the plethora of outside renters are both one-offs and “licensed” or regular clients from musical groups and choirs to prayer groups, the Ryerson University-operated childcare centre, the San Lorenzo congregation, and a Kenyan congregation who meet every Sunday downstairs. Juggling these and making sure their needs are met is a major part of Frank’s duties.

Of note among the users of the church are movie producers. Last year saw about a dozen occasions when the church -or part of it- got employed as a location for some film or television shoot. Memorable among these going back over time was the 2011 shooting of a psychological thriller called *Dream House*, with 007 actor Daniel Craig. Producers have insurance to cover any damage they might inflict and generally leave the place so tidy you wouldn’t know they were here. They also have the best catering, observes Frank –“I eat really well when one of them is here.” In all such interactions, Frank tries to make sure the church’s fundamentals are respected. “I always look at an advance copy of the script to make sure the story is one that respects the church.” The most testing part of Frank Hillis’s job is coordinating communication between the many church and non-church users to avoid the headache of double-booking. The most satisfying part is enjoying the comments of the outside people who come in and appreciate “what a nice church this is”.

Frank Hillis in the Audio Room



Photo submitted by Larry Krotz

The R.O.T.M. (Reaching Out Through Music)

The R.O.T.M.(Reaching Out Through Music) concert was held on December 1. This group gives piano, guitar, and violin lessons at St. Peter and St. Simon's to kids living in the St. Jamestown community. If you wish to know more about this group, contact Frank Hillis who submitted this picture.



*Photo submitted by Frank Hillis
Getting ready for Christmas in Allen Gardens.
Submitted by Frank Hillis*



Government of Ontario resources for seniors

Diane Marshall

1-888-910-1999 infoseniors@ontario.ca

Seniors in Ontario have access to many health care programs and services in their communities. Find health care services at Health Care Options. Get more information about how to access provincial health care programs and services including:

- the Ontario Drug Benefit Program – helps people age 65 and older pay for prescription drugs (with a valid Ontario health card)
- the Low-Income Seniors Co-Payment Drug Program – helps seniors with low incomes (under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program)
- the Assistive Devices Program – provides support if you have a long-term physical disability and provides access to personalized assistive devices
- Health Care Connect – helps you find a doctor or nurse practitioner if you don't have one
- Telehealth Ontario – call this confidential telephone service for health advice or general health information from a registered nurse
- Thehealthline.ca–find a list of health and community services in your area
- ConnexOntario – provides information and referral services to access mental health and addictions (drug, alcohol, problem gambling) supports across the province.

Baby Jesus Comes to Cabbagetown



Photo submitted by Mary Martin

One January afternoon in 1999, my friend Mary Martin and I were strolling through our neighbourhood, Cabbagetown, talking about the Christmas pageant. Mary's church, St. Peter's on Carlton Street, used to produce a pageant every Christmas Eve at nearby Riverdale Farm, with local churchgoers playing wise men and shepherds, and at the end, a family with a real baby sitting in the straw of the barn. The Farm's animals loitered in their stalls on the periphery, snorting out icy December steam.

But the minister who loved singing and theatrics had recently moved away. There'd been no pageant that past December. Mary and I mourned the loss. Going to the Farm was a joyful way to spend Christmas Eve, moving with the crowd, singing the grand old carols: "O Little Town..." "Silent Night." "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear." Now the pageant would be no more. Until Mary turned to me as we walked and said, "Why don't we do it?" And I looked at Mary and said, "Well - why not?" How hard could it be? Get a bunch of people to act the parts, tell our friends, et voila. Fellow Cabbagetowners, among them Lesia, her husband Matthew Beesley and their children, volunteered to help, and we were off.

I undertook the writing of our pageant script, a masterpiece of simplicity designed for an amateur cast, with stirring lines like, "Look, the star!" We cast anyone we could drag in, mostly our children and friends, and importantly, a couple with a baby

who agreed to spend Christmas Eve sitting in an unheated barn. A seamstress neighbour turned bits of material into cloaks and headdresses; the other costumes we fashioned out of bathrobes and sashes, with tea towel headgear for the Wise Men. For the final tableau in the barn, we bought angel wings for the little ones who'd stand in the manger, and for Mary, a length of bright blue sari silk from Goodwill to drape around her winter coat. It was hard to pull the busy cast together to rehearse their lines. So on opening night, which was also closing night, I as co-producer, playwright, and stage manager hadn't even met some of them. And yet at 7 p.m. there they all were, in costume, with almost two hundred people waiting. And so it began.

The first year, Christmas Eve of 1999, it was 18 below and snowing, and the carols we'd printed in the program went on for so long as our teeth chattered that I ended up shouting, "Cut to the last verse!" on every one. We redid the songbooks after that. As baby Jesus began to wail, an old man turned to me with a beatific smile and said, "At least in one place, it feels like a real Christmas." And then he realized that the goat in the stall behind him was nibbling on his jacket. The third year a young shepherd forgot her line and the narrator had to prompt, "Perhaps there's a baby? A star? Leading you to the baby?" Every year we had trouble finding Wise Men; something our pageant, and the world, have in common. My daughter liked to tell everyone she was the star, which she was, holding a long pole topped with a bamboo star draped in Xmas lights. When the shepherds cried, "Look, the star!" she flipped a switch and the lights twinkled. The magic of special effects.

This past year, a new thrill: the fine voices of members of the choir from St. Peter and St. Simon's led the crowd in song, bringing our pageant right back to its roots.

Every year, a new laugh, a new mishap. What matters is that we all end up in the lower barn with the cows, the goats, the sheep, and the family with their tiny perfect child, surrounded by angels with tinsel halos and big white wings. There, in the sweet tang of animals and straw, the crowd sings

“Silent Night,” and every year, exhausted and elated, I cry. .

Author’s note: The pageant is a community event and is always looking for volunteers. If you’re interested, please get in touch with Beth Kaplan, beth@bethkaplan.ca.

Edited article submitted by Beth Kaplan, a friend of Mary Martin and Malcolm Jackson



Update on our Ministry to Refugees as of Jan 28, 2018

Ted Robinson

Since the last Newsletter, we have continued to work closely with Wasim, Zelal and Meryem (who will be one year old on Feb 23.) They are a delightful young family, living very close to us in St. Jamestown. Currently Wasim is attending ESL classes full time; we hope that Zelal will be able to start regular classes when Meryem is one year old and will have more access to day care. During the month of January, several female members of the committee met with Zelal to get to know her, and give her an opportunity to practice English. On Dec 15, Colin Bird organized a fundraising event for our refugee ministry entitled A Child’s Christmas in Wales (a story written by Dylan Thomas.) Wasim, Zelal and Meryem all attended and thoroughly enjoyed the event. Thanks to Colin who was able to raise \$2,600 towards our refugee ministries.

We are responsible to support Wasim, Zelal and Meryem until mid-July, 2018. By then we anticipate that Wasim will be working and that they will be self-supporting.

As many of you already know, last year we completed our commitment to Mohammed Al-Bayati, our young Iraqi refugee, who is recently married, working full time, and doing well. We also committed to sponsor Mohammed’s parents.

His father Jomard is in Turkey as a refugee. His mother Bushra is still in Iraq. By the end of June, AURA (The Anglican United Refugee Assistance Program) submitted an application to the Canadian Government on their behalf. In August we heard that their documents had been forwarded to Ankara, Turkey. So far so good: and now we wait – and pray! The best guess is that it will be several more months at least before they are called for an interview.

Another ongoing aspect of our committee’s work is to support Rogers Beyongyera in his application to bring his wife and two daughters to Canada from Uganda. Here the main challenges are bureaucratic, despite the Canadian Government’s declared intention to reunite families. Rogers is a member of our parish, and is well established here since he arrived in Canada several years ago.

We continue to accept financial donations for our ministry to refugees – and value equally any donations of time spent getting to know and supporting our refugees. Let us know if you would like to help. Thanks to all who have helped and continue to do so. Please remember in prayer our refugee families and all who work to support them.

Committee Members:

Ted Robinson (chair), Laurie Sanderson, Barbara Pearson, Peggy Needham, Diane Marshall, Diane Birch, Sheila Thomas, Cathy Graham, Marie Samuels-Isaac, Paul Faulkner, Mary Martin, Malcolm Jackson, Fr. Geoff Sangwine, - and from outside our own parish Terry Quinn, Sue Chenette, Lisa Kowalchuck, Klaus & Marjut Dunkirk.

Sheila Thomas holding Meryem whose mother, Zelal, is smiling in the background.



Photo submitted by Ted Robinson

*Meryem with another member of the Refugee
Committee, Lisa Kowalchuk,*



Photo submitted by Ted Robinson



*Mohammed and his wife Sara
Photo submitted by Mary Martin*

Please Take A Stand

Diane Birch

In the 1970's, I was hired by the Federal Government (by a division then called Health and Welfare) to supply nutritional support for indigenous people, mainly those living in the Rainy River area. The Federal Government was responsible for all native reserves in Ontario. Serious health problems had occurred for these people living in the English-Wabigoon River System who contracted Minamata disease, a neurological syndrome caused by severe mercury poisoning. The fish they caught to eat had been poisoned.

Companies in this area were dumping mercury upstream. This went on in the 50's, 60's and 70's. When the sin of these companies was identified, their response was to do nothing. They claimed the system would correct itself.

So what we did was to buy fish from Manitoba which was shipped frozen to Rainy River. We built freezers to keep the fish. The freezers often broke down due to children throwing rocks into the mechanism. Then we trained the men to fix the freezers. The next problem was that the women were not familiar with cooking frozen fish. Their normal cooking technique was to throw fresh fish into boiling water where it would congeal, but frozen fish falls apart. So we hired home economists to teach the women cooking. All this was alien to their culture.

The dumping of mercury did not stop. Politicians are now denying that they knew about it in the past!

I am forever humbled by the Christian Spirit that exists in these communities despite all the hardship.

What can we do? We can pressure politicians to take action.

Persecuted Christians

Carol-Faye Petricko

I urge my fellow parishioners to pray for Christians who are enduring ongoing persecution in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq.

Many feel that persecution of Christians is being underreported in main stream media.

The Middle East is the cradle of Christianity and these Christians who pray in Aramaic, the language of Jesus, desperately need our prayers.*
*donations to support persecuted Christians can be made at www.samaritanspurse.ca

Good Friday Walk

Cathy Graham

This year we will again be participating in the Ecumenical Good Friday Walk through St. Jamestown. This is a very meaningful experience that has been going on for some years now and is a good way to begin the Easter celebrations.

All those interested are invited to meet on Friday March 30 at 8 am at Our Lady of Lourdes Church (520 Sherbourne Street) where the Walk begins.

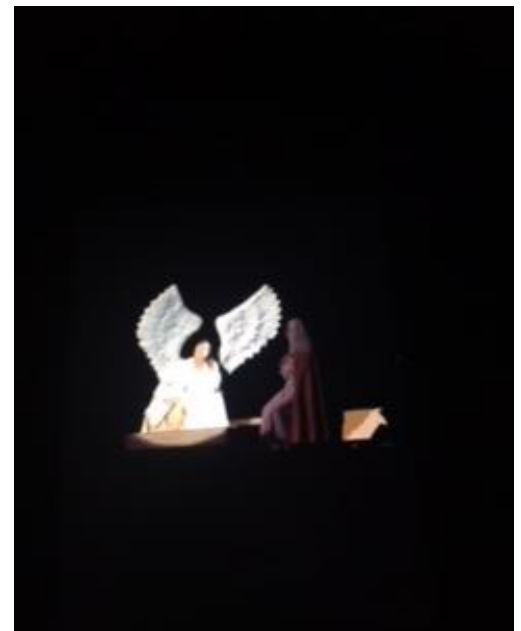
We are led on a route through St. Jamestown, stopping at various points to listen to a brief reading done by members of the churches in our area. We end the walk at St. Peter and St. Simon's where a nice cup of hot broth along with coffee and tea await us, finishing up in good time for the 10:30 service.

Everyone is welcome to join in this annual event that has become an important part of our Easter worship.

The Christmas Story at Holy Trinity

Two choir members, Emily Thompson-Savage and Ian Corlett, performed in the Christmas Story this year. Last year, Emily played the role of Mary and this year she was Mary at some performances and the angel Gabriel at others.

Here are two pictures: Emily as Mary and Ian as Joseph and Emily as Gabriel. Aren't the angel wings fantastic?



The Power of Music: A Reformation era tale

Jim O'Brian

It seems that music in religion has always supported feelings of elevated spirituality, of reverence, of simple praise and thanksgiving. The haunting muezzin's call to prayer, traditional monastic plainsong, the great works of Bach and all that European Christian music bear witness to this.

In his *Outline of History*, H.G. Wells tells the story of John Huss and leaves us with yet another slant on the music of religion. Huss was a learned Czech who lectured at the University of Prague in around 1390-1400. The Catholic Church was in absolutely appalling shape at the time. It was the period of the Great Schism – two Popes (!) with each excommunicating the other's adherents, and widespread greed and corruption. Huss, influenced by Wycliffe of Oxford, was vigorously advocating reform.

By 1414, an effort – the Council of Constance – was being made to tidy up the Church's affairs. Huss, an outspoken religious voice, was given a promise of safe conduct and called upon to express his views. The council apparently didn't like these. They condemned him as a heretic and burned him alive in 1415 (Some safe conduct!) A colleague of Huss, Jerome of Prague, was burned the following year.

Hussite Bohemia rose in revolt against "Christendom" – by now united under one Pope, Martin V. Martin proclaimed a crusade "for the destruction of the Wycliffites, Hussites and all other heretics in Bohemia." And four such crusades were unsuccessfully pursued. Finally in 1431, a strong, and unruly crusade was mounted under the Margrave of Brandenburg. It invaded Bohemia, inflicting horrible atrocities on innocent Bohemians.

At this point I hand over the story to H.G. Wells: "It was at three o'clock on August 14, 1431, that the crusaders, who were encamped in the plain between Domazlice and Horsuv Tyn, received the news that the Hussites, under the leadership of Prokop the Great, were approaching. Though the

Bohemians were still four miles off, the rattle of their war-wagons and the song, "All ye warriors of God", which their whole host was chanting could be heard. The enthusiasm of the crusaders evaporated with astonishing rapidity. Lutzow (Lutzow's Bohemia) describes how the papal representative and the Duke of Saxony ascended a convenient hill to inspect the battlefield. It was, they discovered, not going to be a battlefield. The German camp was in utter confusion. Horsemen were streaming off in every direction, and the clatter of empty wagons being driven off almost drowned the sound of that terrible singing. The crusaders were abandoning even their loot. Came a message from the Margrave of Brandenburg advising flight; there was no holding any of the troops. They were dangerous now only to their own side, and the papal representative spent an unpleasant night hiding from them in the forest... So ended the Bohemian crusade."*

It's a good story...except for poor old Huss. When Russia invaded Finland, before the 39/45 war, the papers praised the brave Finns, heartened by a diet of Sibelius' Finlandia, but they didn't suggest the Russians were deterred. If Trump were to send a force into Canada to put us straight on something or other, should we hit 'em with the full Mendelssohn Choir fortissimo?

*The *Outline of History*, pages 711-712.

A German Connection

Robin Davis

Our choir's spring concert this year presents 3 wonderful yet contrasting works, all connected to Germany. Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's *Berliner Messe* (or *Berlin Mass*) is a mass setting commissioned for the 90th *Katholikentag* at St. Hedwig's Cathedral, Berlin in 1990, scored for SATB soloists and organ. Pärt is credited as being the most performed living composer in the world for seven consecutive years, and his style described as that of mystic minimalism. Josef Rheinberger was an organist and composer, born in Liechtenstein and resident for most of his life in Germany. His best known choral work, the gorgeous *Abendlied*, is the 3rd in a set of 3 *Geistlicher Gesänge* (3 Spiritual songs).

Rhienberger is a contemporary of Brahms with influences of Mendelssohn, Schubert and Bach. The *Missa brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo*, is a mass by Joseph Haydn. The *missa brevis* (short mass) was written around 1775 for the order of the Barmherzige Brüder (Brothers Hospitallers) in Eisenstadt, whose patron saint was John of God. Scored modestly for soprano, four-part mixed choir, two violins, organ and bass, it is known as the *Kleine Orgelmesse* (Little Organ Mass) due to an extended organ solo in the *Benedictus* movement. Haydn played the organ in the first performance in the hospital chapel. "Kleine" (little) may refer to the composition as well as to the organ, because the instrument there was a positive with only six stops and without pedal.

The choir will be joined by organist David Smith and a string trio. The concert will be on Sunday April 22 at 4 pm. Tickets are \$25 regular and \$20 for Students, Seniors and unwaged and will be available in March following our 10:30 services, on line from <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-german-connection-choir-concert-tickets-42759116669> or at the door. Donations in support of the concert will be greatly appreciated and fully receipted.



Choir Trip Planned for Summer 2019

Robin Davis

The St. Peter & St. Simon-the-Apostle choir is thrilled to be going back to England to sing services in two historic cathedrals. Our last tour was such a rewarding and enjoyable experience, a number of us felt afterwards that we should start immediately planning the next. We plan to travel via London on Monday August 12, 2019, returning on Monday August 26. We will be singing a total of 13 services including Daily evensong and Matins, Eucharist and Evensong services on Sundays. The schedule will also include days off for travel and sightseeing. Gloucester is in southwest England near the Welsh border on the bank of the River Severn bordered by the Cotswolds to the east. Chichester is located in the south of England just over 10 km from the coast. Over the next year and a half we'll be organizing some fun activities and events to help raise funds for the tour. As on our last tour, interested singers, partners and travel companions are welcome to join us, keeping in mind that there may be some significant walking distances between our lodging, the cathedral and rehearsal locations.

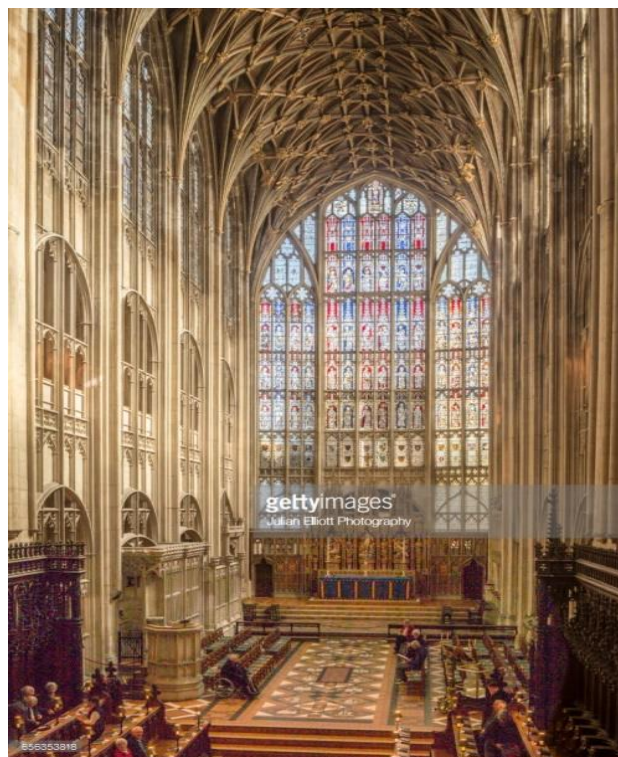


Photo submitted by Robin Davis



Photo submitted by Robin Davis

Holy Baptism

On November 26, 2017 we were delighted to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

*Kamara family and
Emanuel family*



Photo taken by Frank Hillis

Nine Lessons & Carols, December 2017



Photo submitted by Ian Currie

A Very Special Family Day!

Sophie Knowles

Today was extra special because our family of three came home together for the first time. Welcome home Connor! We are so thankful to God and our healthcare system for his life and health. Sixteen days, 3 hospitals, 3 ambulance rides, umpteen caring nurses and doctors, including at least 2 brought in on call for him during his first 36 hours, and lots of love from family and friends has brought us to today. Thank you!!!

Sophie Knowles (St. Peter & St. Simon's Choir Lead) and David Cumming with baby Connor.



Photo submitted by Robin Davis



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

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2018



*On the Mount of Olives overlooking the Ancient City of Jerusalem.
Photo submitted by Ted Robinson*



*Sunrise over the Sea of Galilee
Photo submitted by Ted Robinson*



*Renewing our baptismal vows at the Jordan River near Jericho.
Photo submitted by Father Geoff*



Amphitheater at ancient Tsiporra



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

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Nadine Milne

Event Coordinator

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Sexton

Daiverzon Guillermo

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, March 11 Lent 4 – 8:30 & 10:30 am Choral Matins
- Sunday, March 18 Lent 5 – 8:30 & 10:30 am
 “A Lenten Meditation through Music, Readings & Prayer”
- Sunday, March 25 Palm Sunday – 8:30 & 10:30 am
- Thursday, March 29 Maundy Thursday – 7 pm
- Friday, March 30 Good Friday – 10:30 am
 Ecumenical Walk at 8:00 am
- Saturday, March 31 The Great Vigil – 8 pm
- Sunday, April 1 Easter Day – 8:30 & 10:30 am

We will welcome the Right Reverend
Michael Bedford-Jones to celebrate and preach.

*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)