



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

# JUBILATE!

## Choral Services

Robin Davis writes about the Advent Lessons & Carols Service and Nine Lessons & Carols Service. See page 23

## Reuniting families

Larry Krotz tells the stories of Rogers and Jomard, who with the assistance of the parish were reunited with their families this past year in Toronto. See page 2.

## The reredos

Fran Brown and the Rev. David Smith lead us through a theological explanation of the reredos, which is decorated wood carvings on the wall behind the altar of a church. See page 15.

## The first 100 years

Read part two of David McPherson's history of St. Simon's continuing from World War I to 1984. See page 8

Incumbent: [Geoffrey Sangwine](#)  
Assistant Curate: [Michael Perry](#)  
Honorary Assistant: [Jennifer Matthews](#)  
Musical Director: [Robin Davis](#)  
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## Moving Forward: Mission Action Planning

*Ted Robinson & Fr. Geoff on behalf of the Wardens*

"It is not the Church of God that has a mission, but the God of mission who has a Church." —Tim Dearborn, *Beyond Duty: a Passion for Christ, a Heart for Mission*

The Gospel imperative for us - indeed the great commission of Jesus - is for the people of God to be "missional", that is rooted in the reconciling love and mercy of Jesus Christ and participating in his work of bringing healing and wholeness to the world. Here at St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle, we are taking up the call



A Parish of the  
Diocese of Toronto  
Anglican Church  
of Canada



The Anglican Church of Canada



Muhammed, Jomard, & Ted. Photo  
Submitted by Deacon Michael

## Reuniting Families

### Larry Krotz

A wrenching aspect of the refugee process is how families get separated. When people realize they need to flee their home and seek asylum in some other country, they pretty much always leave everything behind including –or especially– their loved ones. This has been the case over and over for refugees St. Peter's and St. Simon's have sponsored going all the way back to the Vietnamese Boat People in the 1970's.

If, eventually, that huge gap in a refugee's life can be made right, it is a wonderful moment. Rogers Beyongyera fled Uganda to come to Toronto in 2008, found and attended St. Peter's Anglican Church on Carlton Street. On Monday, September 9 just past, Rogers' wife, Diane, and two young daughters, Ashley and Arianna, also arrived in Toronto after long airplane journeys that started in Entebbe, Uganda. It was a joyous reunion after ...  
(continued on page 7)

by taking a focussed look at our mission and ministry to strengthen the amazing witness to Jesus that has been and continues to be at the heart of this community of faith.

We have now completed the first phase of Mission Action Planning (MAP), which we began this past spring. First the Wardens' Council met with Susan Bird to initiate the process. Susan then interviewed at least 30 parish members and collected their ideas, which were collated and circulated to the congregation for reflection. We also formed the MAP working group, representative of the diversity in the parish. And we participated in two circles of reflection last month.

Our intention is to use this process to build on our strengths. There is no intention to tear down or replace what is central to our identity as a parish. We have already learned some important lessons – one key lesson is the need to communicate much more effectively with one another. We will not all agree on all issues, but we can listen respectfully to others' differing viewpoints and, most importantly, listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. No one of us has the answer for our future as a Christian community living out the Gospel message. Together our mission is to discern the direction that the Spirit is leading us, and to follow humbly and courageously.

We are now moving into the second phase of this journey. The Wardens' Council and the MAP planning team met on Saturday, November 23, to explore next steps. The steps will include reaching out to others beyond our parish members – including nearby parishes, especially those in our Deanery and some who have already gone through this process, and to other organizations both within our walls and those located nearby in the community. As the next steps unfold, we commit to frequent and regular communication with all parish members.

As we move forward, we want to thank all who have participated thus far, especially those who have agreed to be part of the MAP team, Susan Bird for her expertise in guiding the process and the time she has already devoted to this endeavour, and to all who participated in the reflection circles and who have sent in comments.

The members of the MAP team are Mary Martin, Michael Perry, Stephanie Woodside, Larry Krotz, Isobel Forrest, Peggy



Needham, and Suzette Mafuna. Let us pray for our parish and the MAP team: *Draw your Church together, O Lord, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving him in his mission to the world, and together witnessing to his love on every continent and island. We ask this in his name and for his sake. Amen+*

## Santa Claus Came to St. Peter and St. Simon

*Laurie Sanderson*

Santa Claus came to SPSS November 17 and it was fun! The Santa Claus parade start line was right at St. Peter and St. Simon's door, so we decided that hot chocolate and cookies were in order. We had a wonderful turnout of volunteers to make hot chocolate and coffee that were sold for \$2.00 to warm the cockles of the people watching the Santa Claus parade. We sold approximately \$800 worth of sweet liquid and had a lot of fun getting into the holiday season. It was a great opportunity to interact with the wider community. A big thank-you to the choir members for entertaining us with beautiful music. Many people stopped and were awed by the sound. We're all set to do it again next year if Santa decides to come by our neighbourhood once again. A big thank-you to everybody for all their hard work.



Photos submitted, including the title page photo submitted Laurie Sanderson & Vanessa Scott

# Wardens' Advent Message

*Mary Martin*

The past year has been extremely busy at St. Peter's and St. Simon's. It seems like yesterday, it was January!

With the help of Moveta Nanton and the Stewardship Committee we have had another brilliant Stewardship Campaign. Kudos to Mary Anderson and Stephanie Woodside for all of their hard work in drafting and revising the various letters being sent out and for a stellar Ministry Fair. Also thanks to Michael Perry and David McPherson for the "Financial Snapshot" and to all of the wonderful parishioners who have shared their personal story with us.

Our current financial statements show that we are on target for revenues. Our rental income is down, but thanks to Darleen Knowlton we have AURA as a new tenant as of the beginning of October. They are letting us use their boardroom table that has enhanced recent meetings in the Sitting Room. Darleen has also been helpful in getting us "one-off" tenants such as Elections Canada and a film crew for the series "In the Dark". Our leases are now up for renewal and we are in conversation with San Lorenzo and The St. Simon's Shelter with respect to renewal. The wardens also terminated the tenancy with Pastor Beza and the Church of Nations after a rather harrowing weekend conference at the church in the summer that taxed our resources and vexed our neighbours – something that has to our knowledge never occurred before.

However, our financial statements also show that our expenses are quite a bit over budget. There

have been some unforeseen expenses – being fined by the City of Toronto for Fire Code violations was unpleasant, time consuming and expensive, as was getting work done to clear the violations. Thanks to Colin Bird for his leadership in resolving this. There were additional expenses in getting the newly leased premises for AURA ready. Again, with guidance from Colin Bird, the wardens have authorized minimal repairs to the roof. Over the summer we had ongoing problems with the washrooms in the basement.

As we approach that time of year for preparation of the 2020 budget, we are focused on reducing our expenses and hopefully eliminating an annual deficit. Thanks to Johan van t'Hof for all of his input, especially with respect to utility costs and sound advice for budgeting.

Mission Action Planning under Susan Bird has resulted in two very thought provoking "circles". All of the wardens are in agreement that we need to better communicate with members of the parish. The wardens continue to support the Mission Action Planning that goes hand in hand with Stewardship. The core group is scheduled to meet on November 23rd.

We have submitted an application for **Toronto Doors Open** next May and should hear by the end of the year if our application has been accepted. Volunteers will be needed. Discussions can be had about serving any kind of refreshments.

The sexual assault lawsuit has been a sensitive issue for some months and the wardens are relieved that it is now out in the open. There has not been much reaction from members of the congregation – but the wardens are very receptive to having discussions as needed. We have retained a lawyer to deal with sexual assault



lawsuit – an unforeseen expense. We are waiting on confirmation of insurance coverage from nearly 50 years ago – we have proof of insurance, but not a copy of the policy, plus the original insurance company has been sold a couple of times over.

We are also involved peripherally in another lawsuit involving an estate of a former parishioner in which there are three different wills and various competing claims. The church stands to benefit if will number one is upheld, but not otherwise. We are maintaining our presence in the proceedings for information purposes only at minimum cost, but the church is not participating actively.

Santa Claus Parade Sunday proved to be a lot of fun and the hot chocolate and coffee were much appreciated. Kudos to Laurie Sanderson – and all of those people who endured the cold: Joy, Marina, Fran, Cynthia, Colin and a very red-nosed, Michael Perry. Hopefully our presence on Bloor Street has been enhanced.

We are look forward to the Christmas Market on Saturday November 30th.

We wish all of our fellow members of the St. Peter's and St. Simon's community, the very best for the upcoming Christmas season and for the New Year. —*Mary Martin on behalf of Ted, Laurie and Vanessa*

## Decorating the Family Christmas Tree

*Rev. Michael Perry*



Photos Submitted Laurie Sanderson & Vanessa Scott

When you are little, the build up to Christmas is the best time of the year. In my family there were a few special rituals that are associated with this time. There is the Gingerbread House, which when finished my sister would protect with great vigilance. It would be well into January before my dad would start to gradually pick away the jujube roof



shingles or the candy cane picket fence.

There would also be all the Christmas concerts. I both sang in the school choir and played in the school orchestra, which meant that I would dash from the risers in the gymnasium to the stage and pick up my violin. For many years my godmother sang in the Orpheus choir and their Christmas concerts were a cherished family experience. But my favourite family ritual from this time was when we would decorate our Christmas tree.

My family waited until Christmas Eve to decorate. There was a very practical reason for this: my dad would wait until the last possible minute to buy a tree to ensure that we got the best possible price. He would triumphantly say “\$25 bucks, originally \$60,” when we walked in the door. One year, when the last minute selection was particularly shabby, my dad removed the branches from the back side of the tree and added them to the front to help fill out the tree’s foliage. And one year, my dad didn’t go out to get a tree (we were adults at this point, which did not make it ok, but we were able to take the blow better.) However, on a winter walk on the 27th we scooped up a discarded tree from some neighbours who had left it out on their lawn. It was still great fun decorating it on the 27th!

My family has some very old Christmas ornaments that have stories and memories attached. There is also a clear division about how the ornaments must go up: all the angels go at the top of the tree as they reside in heaven, the drummer boys, toy soldiers, and nutcrackers go below. And then there are ornaments

that belong to me and ones that belong to my sister: I have a green horse, she has the red one. Lastly, there are the Christmas ornaments that are childhood creations: the walnut Reindeer with pipe cleaner antlers; the candy cane that has manage to keep its eyes glued on after all these years, and the pretzel face that has a ruby red nose.

Now Yvonne and I have started our own Christmas tree traditions. We have a modest collection of Christmas ornaments and we add one or two new ones each year. A few years ago my parents sent along my family’s Christmas ornaments, since they decided to stop having a tree (although my dad still helps my sister get hers.) The family ornaments were carefully divided between my sister and me. I think my favourites are the red Christmas apples. They are a decoration that has existed in my memory as far back as it goes. Have a blessed journey this season of Advent. Enjoy decorating your homes for the festive season.



Photo Submitted by Deacon Michael



## Reuniting Families, continued from page 2

... much thanks to the work of the SPSS Refugee Committee— the Canadian government finally accepted the paperwork to get this little family reunited in the apartment Rogers, now a Canadian citizen employed as a social worker for the Salvation Army and an organization called Reena, so lovingly prepared for them in the Don Mills and Sheppard neighbourhood.

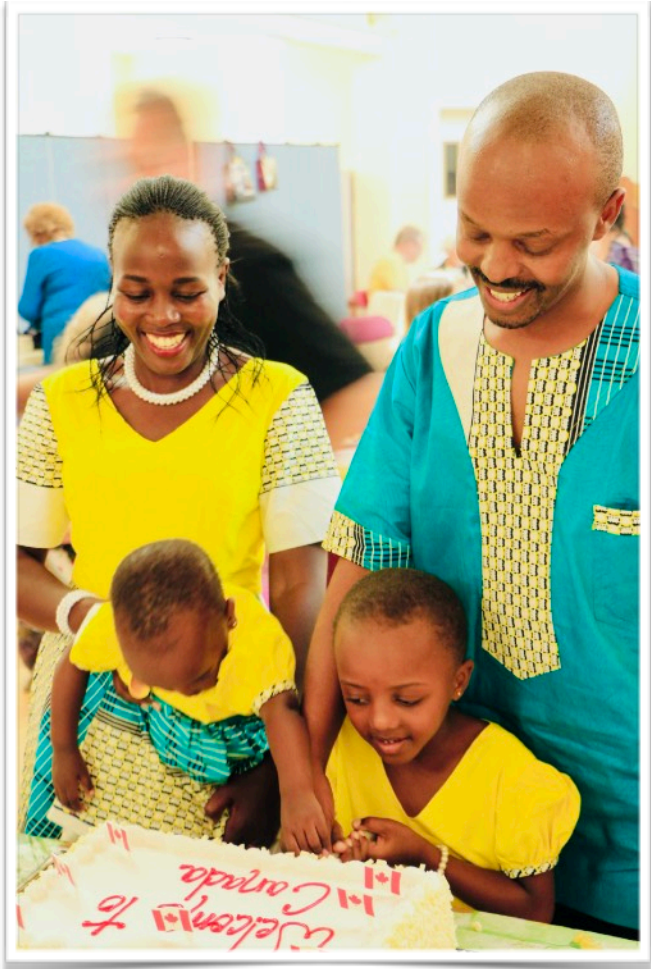
Another family reunion was accomplished last spring when Jomard, the father of Mohammed Al-Bayati, arrived in Toronto from Turkey. Our church sponsored Mohammed in 2016 when he came from Turkey after fleeing war-torn Syria. Jomard, who is 60, now joins his son and his son's new Canadian family, wife, Sara, and two daughters, a son, and another on the way. Mohammed, who was born in Baghdad in 1988, had seen little of his father for twenty years as the elder Al-Bayati had gone off to Yemen before, like his son, ending up in Turkey as a refugee. Such is the turmoil and displacement of the Middle East these days.

Jomard now passes his time taking English classes. He also hopes the reunification process might continue if his wife, currently still in Baghdad, Iraq, can come at some future date.

Are these two family stories the rule for how things turn out for refugees to Canada, or are they the exception? Ted Robinson, who has been part of the refugee committee going back thirty years, to 1989, chairing it in recent years, allows that these are rare opportunities to complete a story. The church this time round faced different challenges for each family. Diane and her daughters were not officially refugees, but immigrants. The church's role was to support Rogers when he needed legal advice to prepare their paperwork and -in one tense moment- invoke our own political connections through parishioner Bill Graham when a sticky bureaucratic hurdle needed to be crossed. In Jomard's case, the church was

approached by son, Mohammed, to take on his father as a sponsorship in the same way the parish had sponsored him. The church was able to do that and remains in the process of negotiations about whether it can do the same for Mohammed's mother, Bushra, Jomard's wife still currently in Iraq.

Rogers Beyongyera recounts that the enterprise to bring his family together was "difficult and challenging," but "people here gave me hope." Such support, for him, signified a continuation of "ways I've been led to belong. God has blessed us."



Rogers, Diana, Ashley, & Arianna cut their welcome to Canada cake at the luncheon that they hosted for the parish as thanksgiving for their support in assisting Rogers to bring his family to Canada. Photo submitted by Deacon Michael

## Part II: The first 100 years of The Church of St Simon-the-Apostle 1883-1984

*David McPherson*

The Great war of 1914-18, not unexpectedly, had a shattering impact on life at the Church. It was stated that “practically every member of the Young Men’s Bible Class enlisted.” Of the many names which appear on the Honour Roll for that war, 38 members of the Parish lost their lives.

The Rector Dr Cayley died in 1921 and was replaced by The Reverend F.H. Brewin, the third Rector of St Simon’s. In 1916 Mr J W F Harrison, who had served as Organist and Choirmaster for 28 years, ever since the opening of the Church, resigned and Mr George Crawford was appointed in his place.

In the summer of 1922 the site of the Rectory was changed as its previous quietness was lost due to increasing traffic in the area and the construction of the Prince Edward Viaduct. Those in the neighbourhood were transfixed as the Rectory was lifted on 100 jacks and moved on rollers, towed by horses, inch by inch to its new location at 9 Glen Road just north of Howard Street.

At the Vestry meeting in 1926 it was reported that there was still an outstanding mortgage debt balance of \$14,500 on the building and therefore the Church had not yet been consecrated. At the Patronal Festival that fall half of the remaining balance was presented as a thank-offering.

In 1928 Mr Crawford resigned as organist and choirmaster and was replaced for three years by

Mr Davidson Ketchum. He was then to be replaced by Mr Eric Lewis who was said to “have carried the choir of men and boys to further heights of fame and honours” and continued on until the 1960’s.

Through the years since 1926 the fund for payment of the mortgage continued to grow and on October 30, 1938, with the Primate Most Reverend Derwyn Owen officiating, the Service of Consecration took place as the Church’s debt was cleared.

With the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 once again many St Simon’s parishioners enlisted and tragically 16 of those men lost their lives.

In April 1941 The Reverend F H Brewin resigned as Rector due to ill health and was replaced by The Reverend Canon Clarence Moulton, Archdeacon of Simcoe.

In 1946 over \$60,000 was raised from appeals to fund the building of the Memorial Chapel in 1950. It was dedicated on November 16, 1952 at the Remembrance Day service. The unveiling and dedication of the War Memorial Tablet had taken place on October 19, 1947. The Chapel was to be a memorial to those who lost their lives in the Second World War.

In late 1950 an offer to purchase the Glen Road Rectory and adjacent land was received and approved at a special Vestry meeting. The proceeds were to be applied to the purchase of a new Rectory at 12 Maple Avenue in south Rosedale.

In the spring of 1952 a new organ console was installed with two new stops added and the reeds re-voiced. The console was sunk 19 inches below the Chancel floor and repositioned so that the organist would face east rather than west.



New clergy stalls and choir seats were added from a special bequest. During 1954 and 1955 numerous improvements were made to the building and property of the Church. The Church basement and gymnasium were major beneficiaries of those improvements.

In 1958 The Reverend Canon Moulton retired and was replaced as Rector by The Reverend Canon Hugh Bedford-Jones whose son Michael was later to become an Area Bishop in the Diocese of Toronto. In 1962 the organ was installed in its then configuration by the famous Casavant firm of organ builders. A special campaign was organized to raise the necessary funds. Canon B.J., as he was affectionately known, carried on as Rector until his retirement in 1972 when he was succeeded by The Reverend Canon David Crane who was well known for his excellence in preaching. When he ultimately had to retire in 1988, because of a serious illness, the Parish awarded a homiletics scholarship in his name to a student at Wycliffe College. A plaque below the church pulpit commemorates that award. Of interest is the fact that the then Reverend Colin Johnson, who served his Curacy at St Simon's under Canon Crane, would later become the Archbishop of Toronto and Metropolitan of Ontario. In its first 100 years St Simon's would have only 6 Rectors.

In 1980 the brilliant musician Dr. Derek Holman joined the Parish as its organist and choir director replacing Ned Hanson who preceded him. Dr Holman was later to take the choir of men and boys to England in 1988 and 1991 which included singing the services at Westminster Abbey on both occasions and at Norwich Cathedral and York Minster Cathedral.

As the Parish's centennial was approaching a decision was reached to form a committee about a year in advance to arrange a series of events to celebrate that occasion. Those included a display of wedding gowns from the period provided by and worn by parishioners and friends and a special Service of Thanksgiving in the presence of the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.

The first 100 years of the Parish concluded with a magnificent dinner, which included the full choir, in the Great Hall at the University of Toronto's Hart House.

*Sources: Much of the information in the history of the Parish up to 1957 has been drawn from a pamphlet entitled "Church of St Simon-the-Apostle 1883 - 1957" compiled by Grace Evans which in turn was apparently compiled from other Parish histories and weekly bulletins. Information in later years has been drawn to a large extent from my memory as a member of the parish for many years.*

## Caribbean Night Report

### *Marie Samuels-Issac*

Caribbean Night began under the direction of a former Curate, Keith Nevel, who was very interested in West Indian culture. He travelled to Coddington College in the Barbados several times. After these visits Michael was inspired to support the theological college through a ministry in the parish of St. Simon's. Since that time we have raised annually \$1,000 through our Caribbean Night Festival for Coddington College, with the remainder of the funds returning to the parish. This year we raised over \$2,000 and all the tables were full. In fact, we had to set up extra tables at the last minute.





Caribbean night, September 28th.  
Photos submitted by Deacon Michael



## Reaching Out Through Music

### *Virginia Envoy*

Reaching Out Through Music (ROTM), established in 2007, continues to benefit from operating several of its programs out of the church of St. Peter & St. Simon. We are currently seeking an additional Board member to join our team to assist us to continue to bring high quality music education to the children and youth of St. James Town. At the heart of the organization is the St. James Town Children's Choir, as well as small group and private lessons in ukulele, piano, violin, guitar, and voice.

In 2018, ROTM underwent a significant reorganization. After devoting over ten years to the organization, Co-Founder John Loosemore retired, and an Executive Director was installed. Our programs continue to grow and flourish, and our efforts to reach more and more newcomer families in the neighbourhood are succeeding.

ROTM seeks a fundraising professional or an individual with connections in Toronto's philanthropic community. The Board meets roughly six times yearly at a downtown location.

As with so many not-for-profit organizations, sustainable funding is always a challenge. If you, or someone you know, would like to join our team, please contact [ed.rotmn@gmail.com](mailto:ed.rotmn@gmail.com).

For an in-depth look at the organization and what has been achieved the last several years, please visit [www.reachingoutthroughmusic.org](http://www.reachingoutthroughmusic.org) and click on the Annual Report link on the menu bar.

## The Gift of Legacy Giving

### *Stephanie Woodside*

There are many ways to give and through the Joyful Giving Campaign, we are keenly aware of all the gifts of time, talent and treasure that parishioners contribute to our parish.

One other way of giving that we would like to highlight is Legacy Giving. Remembering this parish in your estate planning is a highly effective way to ensure the ongoing viability of the parish of St. Peter & St. Simon and all its ministries.

Legacy Giving, or planned giving, as it is also called, is a decision of generosity and faith, and participation in the mission of our Church and is a tangible expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving to God. It will help the ministries you care about to not only continue but to thrive. Through a gift in your will you demonstrate your passions, values and hopes. You may also be able to make a larger donation than may be possible during your lifetime.

Ways of Legacy Giving are outlined below. It is best to seek expert advice from a financial advisor and your lawyer. Detailed information is also available at the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation web site:

<https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/>

### Bequests

By naming The Church of St. Peter & St. Simon-the-Apostle as a beneficiary in your Will, you can give a percentage of your estate, a sum of money, a gift of property or a gift of securities. Your estate will receive a tax receipt for the value of the gift, which may reduce your taxes payable by your estate.

### Gift of Listed Securities

When you donate publicly traded stock and securities, you will receive a tax receipt for the full appreciated value of a donation of publicly traded stock or securities, and you will not be subject to any capital gains tax.

### Life Insurance

Gifts of life insurance are an affordable way to



make a difference. A modest annual premium paid over time will result in a significant future legacy.

### **Gift of Retirement Plan (RRSP, RRIF)**

Retirement funds you no longer need can have a tremendous impact when donated to the parish. When you name SPSS as a beneficiary, your estate will receive a receipt to offset taxes due from the distribution of the RRSP or RRIF, which are among the most heavily taxed assets you own.

### **Gifts of Real Estate and Tangible Property**

A gift of real estate enables you to make a bigger charitable difference than you may have thought possible. It also helps you avoid estate taxes, and minimizes or eliminates any burden placed on your heirs. Note to those who have already made a bequest provision: the beneficiary should be the Church of St. Peter & St. Simon-the-Apostle.

We hope this information is useful in your estate planning. Please contact Fr. Geoffrey in the office at 416-932-8714, ext. 202 for further information.

## **Ministry Fair**

*Submitted by Stephanie Woodside*



A lively Ministry Fair was held in the Parish Hall on Sunday, September 29th. This year the fair had the overall theme of "Come Find a Place to Serve." We had great participation from all ministry groups and fantastic attendance. The organizers wish to thank all the committee chairs for their great efforts with their tables and everyone who attended.

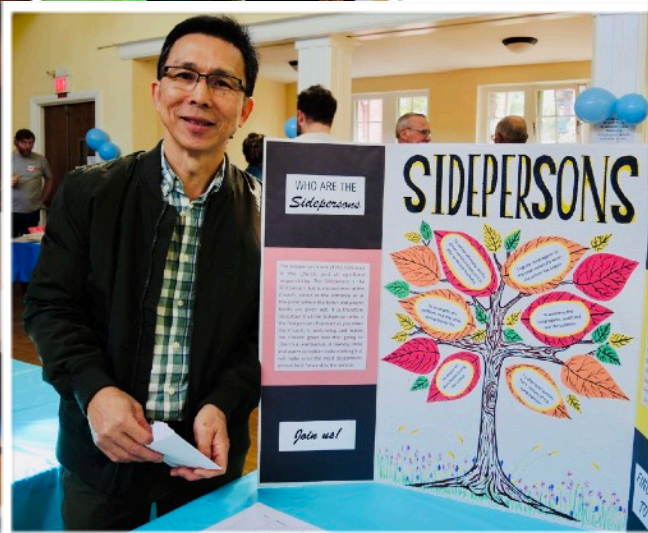
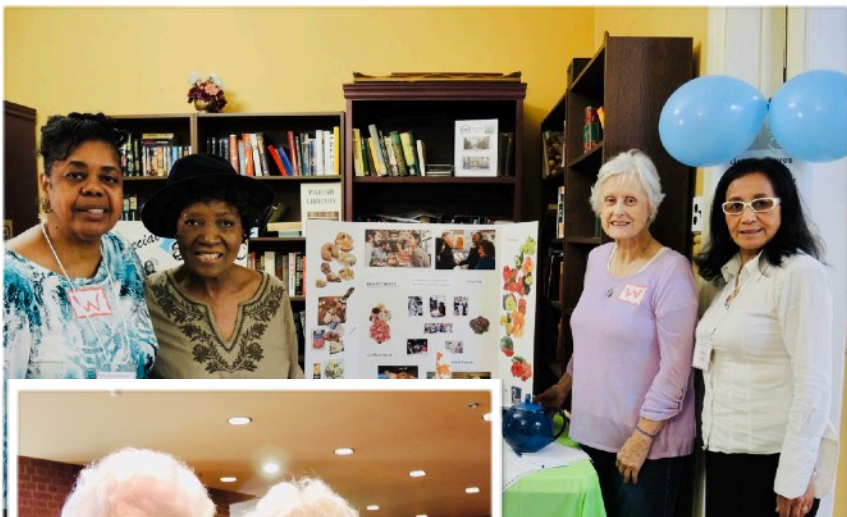
A new feature this year were the passports that were handed out to all attendees; these were stamped at each table that was visited and then entered into a draw. Winners were Marian McPherson, Michele Hynes, Darleen Knowlton, and Noah Cruickshank.

We also had prizes for the best decorated tables. The 1st place finisher was the Children's Ministry table, organized by Sileen Phillips, the 2nd place prize went to the Sides Persons table which was run by Vincent and Cynthia Wong and the 3rd place finisher was Fran Brown's Hospitality Table. Congratulations to all!

The popcorn machine (courtesy of Fr. Geoff) and the Prosecco table (ably managed by Spencer Higgins and Larry Krotz) added to the festive spirit in the hall.









# Stewardship – My Faith Journey

*Paul Mitchell*

I grew up in the East End of the City just over the Bloor Viaduct off of the Danforth. My family identified themselves as “Anglican” on the Census.

From a young age I attended church weekly. I did in fact try many of the major denominations – Salvation Army, United, Baptist and finally Anglican. When people would ask me about my denomination, I would reply “I am a Christian first and Anglican is my denomination.” During high school and into my 20’s, I dropped off from attending church. Then, around the age of 30, I said to my Aunt Florence, “How about we go to St. Barnabas on the Danforth for worship one Sunday?” I worshipped at that parish for about 2 years. In that 2 years I got baptized, was confirmed, and celebrated my first communion. Three for the price of one

On the advice of a friend, I dropped into St. Peter’s one Sunday and ended up worshipping there for the next 30 years. I was involved in so many ministries over this period. Almost every aspect of parish life including Churchwarden, Treasurer, Coffee hour Coordinator, Head of Servers, Coordinator of Chalice Administrators and, last but not least, Chair of the Parish Life Committee.

I started the Parish Life Committee way back in 1992 and was the Chair of that committee for 20 years.

My involvement at St. Peter’s left me with a feeling of joy and contentment. Working with like-minded Christians is a wonderful experience

and I have made some lasting friendships along the way. No church can function unless members give their time, talent and treasure and I would strongly encourage involvement at all levels of church life.

For the past 5 years I have been worshipping at St. Simon the Apostle —now renamed St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle. I was so thrilled with the amalgamation that took place in October, 2016. So many of my old acquaintances from St. Peter’s are now worshipping with me again. blessed with a majority of men and women of goodwill. God has placed us here in downtown Toronto with all its associated problems where of our own strength, we could do no good thing, but in Him, we care for and have compassion for those in need and try to bring hope to those in despair.



Veteran server, Paul Mitchell joins the ranks at SPSS in Fall.

Photo: Deacon Michael

I come to church on a Sunday to hear a good sermon (Father Geoff and Deacon Michael always deliver good ones) and to hear our lovely



Choir. I always leave inspired and uplifted.

On a weekly basis I come to the church with Joy Quan-Lee to count the Sunday collection. I am also a Greeter, Server, Member of the Stewardship Committee and a Lay Delegate to Synod.

Because of sacrificial giving, I have learned about the joy of giving, and have grown in faith and trust. For me, I feel good when I know I am offering my gifts to God. I have become a better manager of the 90% that is left.

Please prayerfully reflect on the many blessings you have received from the Lord. In that context consider a gift that is appropriate for your situation. Remember that everyone is important and has something to give back.

Let us pray.

*Heavenly Father, we acknowledge you are the owner and we are the managers of what you entrust to us. Help us to live for you each day and to generously share the time, talents, and treasures you have given us. Amen.*

This is a written version of the short oral presentation Paul gave at the end of a church service



The Stewardship committee would like to thank Gary Shaw for his guidance and support during the last 18 months as worked with us as a Stewardship coach to help implement diocesan best practices in our parish. We will miss you Gary and hope that we will see you soon at some of our special liturgies.

## Awakening the Mystique

*Fran Brown with the wisdom of Rev.*

*David Smith*

Ah! The wood is glowing and reaching out to tell its ancient history. The iconography of the church is based on the number three. Can you see the stories of three in the reredos\* and throughout the church? Especially examine the three panels behind the Altar.



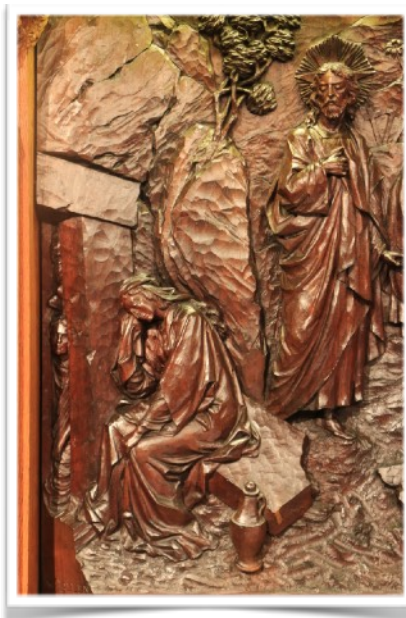
Let us begin with the central panel. The two wonderful six-winged cherubim (previous page) in the ancient temple, guard the Holy of Holies, the Shekinah, or the Glory of God. Behind them and the beams of light, it is said, lie the Ark of the Covenant, two stone tables and manna, representing the presence of God on the Earth.

*Isaiah 6:1-3 1. In the year that the king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2. Above it stood the seraphims; each one had 6 wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.*

Above this centre panel is the IHS, Latin initials for 'Jesus Hominum Salvator', translated as Jesus, Man, Saviour. These words are repeated in the retable below. Above, the cross recognizes the risen Christ. This panel then, represents a combination of God's covenant before and after the resurrection. The base of this panel could be said to be a design of water or clouds, different to the other two panels. The three crosses of Calvary and the Mount of Olives are depicted near the top. The two side panels could be said to represent the dawning recognition of Jesus as the risen Saviour. There is no cross above them.

On the **right side**, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Mary sits weeping by the open tomb, consoled by one of the angels peering at her from the side, the jar of anointing oils by her feet. The rough ground of the earth is the base for the beautiful foliage, plants and vines framing this scene of the first Easter morning. Mary the mother of James, and Salome are seen fleeing from the empty tomb to Galilee to relate their vision. Two angels are peering out from behind the rock on the left.

*Luke 16: 1-8. And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had brought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. 5. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrightened. 6. And he said to*



*them, be not affrightened. Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen: he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. 8. And they went out quickly and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they anything to any man; for they were afraid.*

*St. John 20: 11-13 11. But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the sepulchre. 12. And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, Where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 And they said unto her, Woman why weepest thou? She said unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.*

Again, the crosses of Calvary and the Mount of Olives are depicted at the top of this scene.

The **left panel** shows Jesus dining with the two strangers met on the road to Emmaus. Luke 24:13. There are many details from the wooden floor with the basin and towel used for foot washing, the amazement on the faces as they recognize Jesus, the bread and the wine representing the first eucharist, to the halo of Jesus, now appearing as the risen saviour, that draw us into this 3d scene. Note the garden at the top.



*Luke 24- 35 30. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them. He took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave to them. 31. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.*

The original altar might have been surrounded by wall hangings that helped echo the voice of the priest as well as decorate the space behind the Altar. We are fortunate to have these beautiful sculptures, carved by W. J. Allen, sculptor, in 1915, commissioned by the company of L. Rawlinson,



in loving memory of Alice Eleanor Parsons, 1861-1914. The wood is believed to be walnut.

Many parishioners have asked about the pulpit. The three figures around the pulpit are three Old Testament heroes. Moses with the horns of glory, holds the tablets with the Ten Commandments; St. John the Baptist, the last of the prophets, carries the Torah. Elijah, the greatest of the prophets, guards the scroll of his prophecy.

There are many more symbols and depictions around the church. Look for the threes and sevens for the next time.

\*reredos: a screen or a decorated part of the wall behind the altar of a church.



Reredos photos submitted by Deacon Michael





# The Wednesday Morning Service

*The Rev. Jennifer Mathews*

Every Wednesday the community gathers to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Anointing is also offered. The service is followed by a luncheon. It is a very meaningful celebration for me whether I am sitting in the congregation or presiding. It is a close-knit community that is very welcoming to anyone who wishes to participate.

Recently we moved the service from the Chapel to the main worship space. To keep a sense of intimacy, we use a portable altar at the foot of the stairs leading to the high altar.

I have made a Laudian cloth and frontal for the altar. The frontal is a modern design that I found on the internet. It is called a knotted cross. I framed it to resemble a stained glass window. The jewel-toned colours are also reflected in our stained glass windows. The colours that I chose represent the seasons of the Church Calendar. Purple is for Lent, green for the season of Pentecost, blue for Advent and red for Pentecost, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and

for martyrs and saints days. The white is for Christmas, Easter, Baptism and other feast days. The quilting on the white areas is a labyrinth. The labyrinth is used for walking meditation. Our Convent of St. John the Divine in Toronto has a labyrinth.

While making this frontal, I prayerfully thought of the people of this very loving, faithful community.



Rev. Jennifer and the Wednesday Morning Service behind the altar adorned with the new Laudian cloth. Photo: Deacon Michael





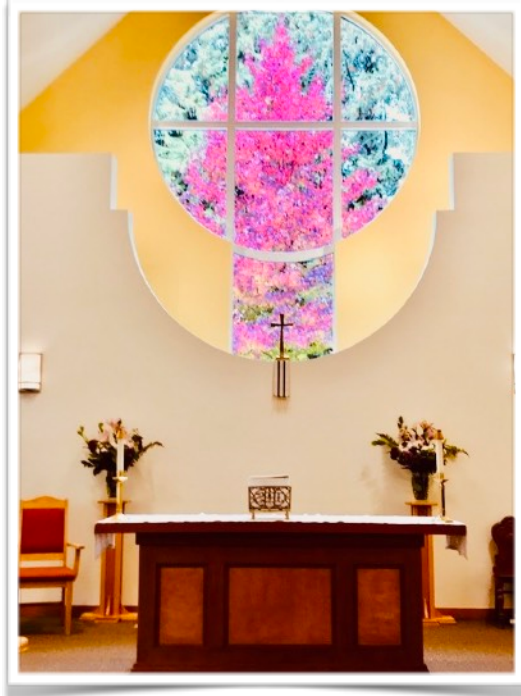
Bishop Andrew+ makes an Episcopal visit for All Saints when Isobel Forrest was confirmed and Eric Tanner was received into the Anglican Communion





# News from our Sunshine Coast Correspondent, St. Hilda's, Sechelt

*Diane Marshall*



I have been enjoying worshipping in this small and beautiful church, with a welcoming community of a wide range of parishioners.

The church does much outreach in the broader community - including film nights, Bible studies, Taizé services, prayer shawls gifted to the elders at the Sechelt Nation, and the Siyaya Reconciliation movement together with the Sechelt people. I am attending a fascinating book study group, together with my sister Nancy, reading *Integral Christianity: the Spirit's Call to Evolve* by Paul R. Smith.

Our interim priest Rev. Ayooob Adwar, was a Chaldean monk and priest in the ancient Assyrian Christian Church of Iraq, and as his people were persecuted and scattered, their historic city of Mosul bombed by Assad, he eventually fled to Turkey. From there he made his way to Canada via England, where he was accepted into the Anglican Church of Canada. St. Hilda's has given him a warm welcome, and he brings to us a richness of faith, tradition and culture. I enjoy meditative walks in the Labyrinth outside our entrance to the church.



St. Hilda's altar, labyrinth and Rev. Qyoooh Adwar and Diane Marshall. Photos: Diane Marshall

## Editor's Note, Peggy Needham

What if you SPSS parishioners sent to the next ***Jubilate!*** and ***Jubilate!'s*** after that, the names of books you have read and recommend? I look forward to your responses!

## Note from the Editor

*Peggy Needham*

What brings you joy at St. Peter and St. Simon's? There are so many things for me to list! But I will tell you about one which is on my mind today... because it is my birthday. My first birthday card this year came from all of you. It was signed St. Peter and St. Simon's. Did you know that at St. Peter's Marjorie Philip always sent out birthday cards to parishioners? When St. Peter's joined St. Simon's, Marjorie asked if the tradition could happen here. I think it is a lovely way to make people feel connected. I feel blessed to be part of this parish.

So now I invite you to think about contributing to a future newsletter. What brings you joy at St. Peter and St. Simon's?

## Give Back: not just for Advent

*Brooke Sales-Lee*

Many people think of Advent as a season of giving. In the Middle Ages when the season of Advent was established, it was a time of penitence and fasting—no Advent calendar sweets then! Later the Church relaxed the fasting rules but maintained the penance and encouraged almsgiving, or giving to the poor. Thus, far before charitable donations were tax deductible, at the end of the calendar year and beginning of the Christian year, Christians gave alms and prayed to prepare for the coming of Christ. This attitude continues today in our liturgical calendar and in our lives, as people rush to volunteer, donate money and goods, and take a moment to teach the next generation to give back. For many Anglicans in the GTA, however,

this season of giving does not begin in December or November but is a lifelong commitment and expression of their faith. And for those people, and those who would like to be those people, the Diocese of Toronto supplies the Outreach and Advocacy Conference each fall.

In years past, sessions have touched on reconciliation, “greening” initiatives and creation care, partnering with secular organizations to help vulnerable neighbours, interfaith efforts, and engaging youth in the Church. I have personally attended the last four conferences and found my mind expanded, my heart filled, and my soul buoyed up by the fellowship, shared wisdom, and collected prayers of the organizers and other attendants.

Many of the insights from conferences have stayed with me through the years and come to mind particularly as the weather grows cold. Last year someone who worked with people experiencing homelessness reminded us to “meet people where they are” and encourage generosity in whatever form people are ready to give, but also noted that the bottle of brandy we may see someone on the street drinking might serve the purpose of keeping them warm in the night air, helping them sleep on the hard concrete, and staving off the debilitating and often dangerous symptoms of withdrawal. I have not worried about panhandlers buying alcohol since and felt moved to give more freely when I had change to spare. A keynote speech at the first conference I attended forever changed how I read the grisly bits of the psalms we often skip in church, where the psalmists call for the death and destruction of their enemies; we were reminded that many psalms are written in the voice of those who have faced oppression, enslavement, genocide, and terror, and their call for God to avenge this is a natural response to their trauma. The speaker



then reminded us that these circumstances exist today, and that we should remember this when we are shocked by responses to ongoing horrors that are less than beatific.

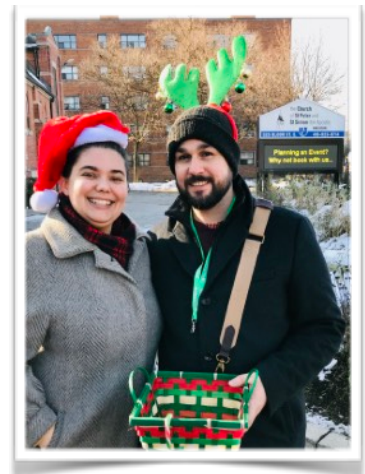
The conference has also provided concrete steps and advice for people who wish to do good through the Church. A session this year suggested how churches might build resilience in the parish and wider community through partnerships with secular organizations that share in our values around creation care (environmentalism) and feeding the world in body and soul. The keynote spoke to finding ways to work past frustrations in doing hard, necessary work that brings us in contact with people in the most dire circumstances. A session that I did not get a chance to attend spoke to the ways we can do more than simply acknowledge the people who lived here before us with “living land acknowledgements.” The conference brings together so many minds, hearts, and souls who wish to do God’s will on earth and make it a healthier, safer place that often even lunch sparks conversations that both enlighten and inspire, leading to great new ideas for how we as Church can do more without breaking the bank or requiring an army of volunteers.

But of course, Advent is when charities find themselves with an army of volunteers, and often when we, as church folk, have the least time. Our lives are busy, filled with every care of the secular world, and often a few extra things thanks to our calling as Christians. Whether we are typically consumed with ensuring the linens are correct, practicing a descant for an evensong, or checking the roof isn’t leaking too badly and the boiler works, Advent and Christmas bring so much more for us to do. Extra services, extra people, travel, cooking, baking, shopping, and all while trying to remember to slow down, do good,

prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for the coming of Christ. No wonder the Social Justice Committee of the Diocese plans their big event for October! But we, too, feel the call to do more, do better, give more, give better. To our families, friends, and those we might not know but whose cares weigh on our hearts; those who lack food, shelter, warmth, love and comfort. Advent has moved from a season of slowing to one of a snowball rolling downhill as we pick up more and more to do.

So this Adventide, I would call you to do less. At the risk of sounding like my more radical siblings in Christ, put the Christ in Christmas this year. Go to church, spend time with loved ones, and instead of rushing to do enough good in this short season, think about how

you might stretch that good through the coming year. We cannot know but would probably guess that Christ isn’t coming December 26 or even January 6. Pray about how you might live out “thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth.” And remember that the Church has resources available to you. The Opportunities Committee will be ready in January for the results of your prayerful reflections over Advent, and the Diocese will have a great big conference ready to keep you going next year. I look forward to hearing how the Spirit has moved you, and I wish you a very blessed Advent.



Brooke & Chris at the Santa Claus Parade. Photo submitted by Vanessa Scott

## The Stars are really Ready to Shine! *Robin Davis*

The young people of our church are hard at work learning their lines and practicing the songs for the sure to be, Smash Hit revival production of *Once Upon A Starry Night*. What a talented group of kids we have! They are doing an amazing job. The really exciting part is that, for the first time, all of the actors are from our own parish! With our



growing Sunday School, we finally have the numbers to do this. While we miss the participation of children from San Lorenzo and the outside community, through largely Sileen's hard work,

we've managed to gather our own wonderful group.

The musical is a delightful telling of the Nativity through the eyes of the Stars in the heavens watching the people "down there", who "seem to have forgotten some important things". The audience will meet the Camel with an attitude and the King/Wise man who isn't too sure about the prospects of assigned mode of transportation with said camel.

The children will be accompanied by an instrumental ensemble of violins, flute, oboe, keyboard, piano and percussion. It's sure to be lots of fun for all ages. There is no cost to attend.

**The performance will be at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec 15th in the auditorium.**

## The Services of Lessons and Carols, *Robin Davis*

At SPSS we have the wonderful tradition of offering services with Carols and Lessons celebrating both the themes of Advent and Christmas. The ***Advent Lessons and Carols*** will be on Sunday Dec 1 at 4:00 p.m. and the Christmas Traditional ***9 Lessons and Carols*** on Sunday Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> also at 4:00 p.m.

Considering the much longer history of our other "normal" liturgical forms (Eucharist, Mattins, Evensong etc), the Carol Service model is a newcomer. According to Wikipedia...

In 1880, the Rev Edward Benson, at that time Bishop of Truro conducted the first formal service of "Nine Lessons and Carols" on Christmas Eve. Benson, concerned at the excessive consumption of alcohol in Cornish pubs during the festive season, sought a means of attracting revellers out of the pubs and into church by offering a religious celebration of Christmas. The idea for a service consisting of Christmas music interspersed with Bible readings was proposed by a member of the clergy of the cathedral, Rev. George Walpole (who later became Bishop of Edinburgh). The service was made famous by the choir of King's College, Cambridge where it was first presented on Christmas Eve 1918, a mere 43 days after the ending of the Great War.

While some attending the services for the first time, may mistake them for a concert, that is far from the intent. They are intended as an opportunity to worship as we are being drawn into the true experience of expecting Christ's coming and celebrating the joy of God's incarnation on earth. The sacred music of these services whether sung communally or by the choir is as always, an offering of our best to God, and a facilitator for each of our own spiritual nourishment and transformation.

While hopefully not excessively, we do hope you will join us after each of the Carol Services for alcohol (wine or sherry) and other delectable treats served in the church auditorium.

[e-readers: Listen to a Christmas choir medley from 2018 on our website on the Advent & Christmas page.](#)





## Advent & Christmas Events

- ❖ Sat, Nov 30th, 10-4,  
*Christmas Market*
- ❖ Sat, Dec 1, 4 pm, *Advent Lessons & Carols*
- ❖ Sun, Dec 15, 4 pm,  
*Children's Musical*
- ❖ Sun, Dec 22, 4 pm, *Nine Lessons & Carols*
- ❖ *Christmas Eve, 5 pm*  
communion service with  
carols and the Christmas  
story for children

- ❖ *Christmas Eve, 10 pm,*  
candlelit with traditional  
festal Choral Eucharist
- ❖ *Christmas Day, 10 am*



Next issue of *Jubilate!* Surprise, it is an  
**Epiphany special** 🙌🙌🙌

We couldn't wait to tell all the wonderful stories from our parish. For the **Epiphany Jubilate!** we will be receiving your *Advent & Christmas* stories only.

**Submission deadline:** Sunday, January 12th.

**Publication deadline:** Sunday, January 26th

***Jubilate!*** is a newsletter for the parishioners and friends of  
**the Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle**