



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

# JUBILATE!

## Church School

Sileen Philips looks back on how our children wowed us at the Children's Musical and let you know what has been happening in our Church School. Page 3.

## From the Organ bench

Robin reports on the Advent and Christmas singing season and looks ahead to Epiphany Pages 2 & 12.

## Synod 2019

Your Lay Synod Delegate, Paul Mitchell, brings you coverage of the Diocese of Toronto's November Synod. Pages 5 & 6

## Christmas Market recap

Find out who won the Quilt raffle and how much money the inaugural market made. Page 7

Incumbent: [Geoffrey Sangwine](#)  
Honorary Assistant: [Jennifer Matthews](#)  
Assistant Curate: [Michael Perry](#)  
Rector's Warden: [Ted Robinson](#)  
People's Warden: [Mary Martin](#)  
Treasurer: [Johan Van't Hof](#)  
Musical Director: [Robin Davis](#)  
Newsletter Editor: [Peggy Needham](#)  
Newsletter Production: [Michael Perry](#)



## What is a Canon?

*Fr Geoffrey Sangwine*

At Synod in November, our Diocesan Bishop, the Right Reverend Andrew Asbil, named twelve new honorary Canons of St James's Cathedral - I am delighted that my name was on the list! Since that announcement the main question many have asked is "What does this mean?" Before I get into an explanation, I want to clarify a few things: I am not heading off to war, not made of iron, won't make any more noise than usual, and I'm not leaving!

The origin of the word 'canon' comes from the Greek meaning a straight rod or bar. The term was used to describe the rules of an art or a trade, or to signify a list or a catalogue.



A Parish of the  
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The Anglican Church of Canada



Lessons and Carols service. Submitted  
by Deacon Michael

## From the Organ Bench

*Robin Davis*

I'm writing this article having just, with my wife Linda, put away the Christmas tree and all the decorations for another year. We're well into Epiphany and Lent is around the corner. It's been a wonderful yet very busy Christmas season for the choir and Music Department. In addition to our regular Sunday morning services we sang Advent and Christmas Carol services, choir members sang for the Christmas Market, the Santa Claus Parade, the Babe in the Barn at Riverdale Farm and enjoyed a Christmas party graciously hosted by Fr Geoff. Thank you to all of our singers, organists Alison, Johann, David and Maurice, and especially librarians Carol and Ian. With sheer volume of repertoire, planning, distributing, and collecting sheet music is no small task.

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In Christian language it was adopted to describe the list of books that the Church identified as Holy Scripture, liturgical rules especially concerning the celebration of the Eucharist and rules concerning the life and discipline of the Church; hence we refer to Canon Law. To this day, each diocese has a set of canons which are the benchmark for Church governance.

Over time, the term 'Canon' became an ecclesiastical title, applied to all the clergy on the official staff of a diocese. The title was gradually limited to those clergy belonging to a cathedral or collegiate church. They had a share in the church revenues and were bound to a common life of order and prayer. Before the 11th century a canonry was often consistent with the holding of private property and periods of non-residence; but from then onwards those continuing to maintain this mode of life came to be known as 'secular canons' to distinguish them from the regular canons who lived under a semi-monastic rule.

In many places today (the UK and elsewhere but generally not Canada), Residentiary Canons still form the permanent staff of Cathedral where they are responsible for the life, administration, maintenance and overall well-being of the Cathedral in which they serve. A 'non-residentiary canon' (often an honorary canon) is one who holds an unsalaried post but one which may be accompanied by certain duties and some privileges.

In the Anglican Diocese of Toronto and most of the Canadian Church, the term Canon is an honorific bestowed by the Bishop as a recognition for one's particular ministry. As well as being a regular celebrant at the Cathedral's mid-week services, I am the Bishop's Liturgical Officer for York-Scarborough and a member of the diocesan Postulancy Committee. It is indeed a particular honour to be named a Canon of the Cathedral which was for many years the church our family attended and an instrumental part of my formation not only as a cleric but as a person.

I hope this helps with the question. Thank you for the many words of encouragement and support given by so many of you.

The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine+

# The Seeds That Fell on Good Ground!

*Sileen Philips*

The SPSS family has continued to grow and be blessed with the presence and participation of children. Since this fall, we have welcomed 33 new faces ranging from ages 2 to 11. The boys and girls of SPSS have been quite busy building on the foundation of discipleship and scripture. The theme of the Sunday School this year is the “Fruits of the Spirit”. From readings to games, the children are learning what it means to be fruitful according Galatians 5:22-23 in a fun and spirit-led environment.

What have they been up to? For the Christmas season, the musical “Once Upon a Starry Night” was performed by our entire Sunday School and directed by Sophie Knowles and Robin Davis. Helping out with the production were Robin Cruikshank with sound, Fr. Michael with the lighting, and the unforgettable cameo appearances by Fr. Geoff and Carol Peck as “The Camel” and Caitlin Gossage and Ahmed Mozaffar with baby Charles as our Holy Family. The event was a huge success and well attended.



Photos submitted by Sileen Philips

Our children have participated in the main services, such as the lighting of the candles in the Advent wreath during the four Sundays of Advent. It has been quite a joy and they continue to grow in their desire to be part of what God is doing in the church.

Also, for the Christmas season, they constructed a miniature Christmas village that was on display in the Sunday School room. This was done in teams of four. The result was a spectacular and celebratory array of the talents of our children, displayed for all to enjoy. In addition, they made sun catcher ornaments for our beautiful Christmas tree.

On Christmas Eve, we held a service that was specifically directed toward children and families, led by Michael Perry. The form of the service was very informal and centered on the retelling of Christ’s birth from the perspective of peculiar witnesses —the animals! It was an evening event which mixed song, storytelling and improvisation. It was very well attended.

“...Children are a heritage from the Lord...” (Ps 127:3) and we are delighted to have them! For the spring, we anticipate a Spelling Competition. If you wish to be a part of that event, please contact me at [KIDScoordinator@yahoo.com](mailto:KIDScoordinator@yahoo.com) or 647-718-6728. It is going to be exciting!





Children's Musical photos submitted, including the title page photo, by Brooke Sales-Lee & Deacon Michael

# Regular Session of Synod 2019

*Paul Mitchell*

The 159th Session of Synod for the Diocese of Toronto took place in Richmond Hill on November 8th and 9th, 2019. SPSS was represented by your Synod Representatives Mary Anderson and Paul Mitchell. Also in attendance was Father Geoff Sangwine (announced towards the end of Friday evening session he will be made a Canon) and Deacon Michael Perry. We would like to share selected highlights with the parish.

Synod opened with a Eucharist for 600 Clergy and Laity. Hymns and prayers in this service and other services were offered in other languages including Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish and French. When all were singing lustily and praying together it was very moving.

## The Charge

Diocesan Bishop Andrew Asbil delivered his Charge to Synod. As his “hedge cutting story” unfolded, Bishop Andrew drew a parallel between cutting a parishioner’s hedge as a young boy and aspects of the church. It was most amusing! His thrust was that important parts of ministry are done by hand, through relationships, healing, shaping Sunday by Sunday. We, as a church, can’t expect to do what we’ve always done and expect different results. We need to twist and turn in the way we act, in order to be a viable presence in our community. God lives within us with a sense of expectancy, thus encouraging our parishes to take risks. Perhaps we need new models for doing community! He pointed out, that in the Toronto Diocese, there is space for all. We love one another as Christ loves us.

Bishop Andrew then introduced a pilot project; a project whereby Synod is to be governed more effectively and efficiently. As this new governance model would involve many recommendations and a change in Diocesan/ Synod Council membership, there was a great deal of discussion from the floor. Members agreed that less red tape was essential with fewer committee layers and committees having decision-making authority delegated to them. This motion passed. When changes to the Constitution and Canons for this pilot project were introduced again, there was much discussion. Many felt the process for accepting this new model was not yet in place. As a result, both motions failed. The pilot project will not go ahead at this time.



## Missional and Outreach Moments

Synod heard how churches/groups are finding new ways to connect to those who are not being reached by traditional forms of church.

- St. Martin’s Church, Bay Ridges – This church has intentionally chosen to increase their community presence by using social media.

- Sharing Circle, Allen Gardens, Toronto. This is a weekly gathering of men and women on the margins of their community, who pray, drum, dance, eat and socialize, to support each other, in order to survive each day.
- Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program (YMAP) – Using different models, youth are encouraged through mentorships and relationships, to be future lay leaders.  
Guest Speaker

Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat, theologian and activist, began her story at creation: humanity in God's image to tend and keep the earth, or, as she noted, began with a "culinary indiscretion." In 3 parts, she moved along a time line to the new creation: a new heaven and a new earth, when God dwells with us. We are not there yet. We may be at a moral crisis point concerning our environment and our choice of economic ease. We need to break our dependency on the world economy and produce/purchase locally, including food, clothing, art. Where do we find ourselves today as a church: on marriage, indigenous relationships, discipleship? God laments in our brokenness. God hopes for a different ending; how the world can be!

An opportunity was provided for members to attend sessions on a variety of topics. A cocktail reception followed with a cash bar. This time is always well spent as it encourages members to socialize, network and conduct any required business. It was followed by plated dinner, with Dr. Keesmaat continuing her story before Evening Prayer.

Synod resumed **Saturday morning** with a Remembrance Day Commemoration, followed by Morning Prayer.

A "Word to the Bishop" was an opportunity for members to speak openly about the topic of

equal marriage. It was an interesting hour as many diverse voices were heard.

Elections for Provincial Synod, 2021 were held. The province is comprised of Toronto, Niagara, Huron, Ottawa, Ontario, Algoma and Moosonee Dioceses. 4 clergy were elected and 4 laity acclaimed.



### Financial Reports and Motions from Diocesan Council Members

Synod received and approved financial documents for 2018 and received an update for 2019. Priorities and Plans for 2019-2021 and the budgets for 2020 and 2021 were approved. The assessment rate for 2020 and 2021 was also approved. Motions approved:

- To encourage parishes to curtail single-use products
- To develop an Affordable Housing Plan to respond to the housing crisis
- To develop and propose environmental policies and resources for all diocesan operations.

At every Synod, there is a free and open time for members to air comments about any topic relating to the Anglican Church of Canada or the Toronto Diocese. It can be most interesting!

Bishop Andrew gave his concluding remarks, again referring back to his "hedge cutting" story.

## Sunshine Coast Correspondent

*Diane Marshall*

In the engagement with the Sechelt First Nation, and the Indigenous Book group I've joined, I am learning more of what it means to live with a "borderlands consciousness" (Gloria Anzaldua), to enable humility by defining ourselves by what/who we include, not by what/who we exclude.

I pray that St. Peter & St. Simon's, as well as my parish here of St. Hilda's, will continue to be inclusive communities of faith, hope and love.

Every blessing for 2020, Diane

## Christmas Market

*Fran Brown*

On Saturday, November 30, the Hall came alive with 13 vendors, baking and church crafts, a lunch café and musical interludes. Many thanks to all those who made this possible and to all those who supported this fund raiser and festival of fellowship. At 2 pm we had the raffle draw for the quilt and the many other prizes. Again, thank you to all who bought and sold tickets for the raffle.

The raffle netted \$1644, and the market \$ 2600. So, the first roof repair was covered as hoped, with the raffle dollars, and the next repairs have a head start on payment.

A special thanks goes to the bakers and preservers, the crafters, the sandwich makers, the security detail and to the musical groups- the SPSS choir, the St. Jamestown Children's Choir, the strings Quartetto Spontaneo, and the Alison and Jared popular duo.

It was fun and the vendors want to return- a sure sign of a great success!! Peace to all.



Above: the market viewed from the choir loft. Below left: Brooke Sale-Lee displays her wares. Below right: Ann Nelis wins the Quilt. Submitted by Deacon Michael and Brooke Sales-Lee

# My Stewardship

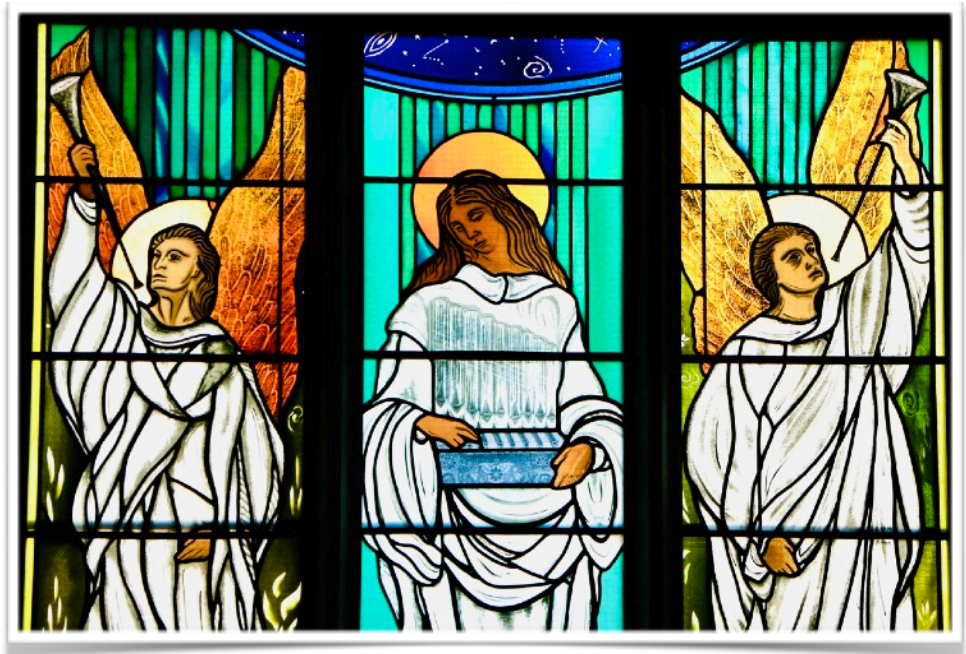
*Nancy Nourse*

It was a number of weeks ago that Moveta invited me to speak to you, to share a little about my personal journey in the Anglican Church, to share my relatively recent experiences in joining the parish of St Peter and St Simon and to present my notions of stewardship. However, ever since grade school, I've found that any real engagement with a particular assignment usually has involved my reshaping and often redefining the parameters of the task. Yes, "perverse and foolish oft I've strayed" but in this instance, as a cradle Anglican, I felt my personal story is both somewhat banal and a little irrelevant to the topic of stewardship. Instead it is the three words of stewardship, **Time**, **Talent** and **Treasure**, that have captured my attention and about which I'll speak today.

First of all, I'll speak of **Treasure**. God has bestowed upon us a vastness of treasure: a planet with life-sustaining sunshine, revitalizing waters, verdant lands to feed our bodies and beautiful vistas to feed our souls. He has offered each of us an individual life in which we can think and feel and do and build things and paint pictures and make music and run races and write poetry and just be. He has given us a community of others with whom we can share, learn, nurture and live in relationship. He has filled our world with great natural and mineral resources in abundance. And in our human weakness,

because we sin, He gave us His only Son to redeem us. Truly this is a Loving God whose gift-giving to us seems to know no bounds. And yet how we have failed to respect and value these treasures!

The Parable of the **Talents** found in both Matthew and Luke teaches us that we are indeed



Nancy Nourse's favourite stained glass window, is the St. Cecilia window by Sarah Hall, 1997, in the north transept, which features St. Cecilia at the centre, flanked by trumpet bearing angels and musical notes below. Photo: Deacon Michael

actively responsible for the nurturing of and building upon what we have been given, while to bury our talents in fear is the action of the wicked, lazy and worthless. Long before I learned that the "talents" of this story were actually very large sums of money, I read into this parable that Jesus requires us to exercise and grow what talents we have, joyfully returning them with added value to His service.

Through **Time** we have seen many human gifts bequeathed to the Church: illuminated manuscripts, great medieval cathedrals, and



here, our own stained glass, font, altars and rood screen are all examples. Then there's the liturgy of the mass, matins and evensong, the beautiful language of Cranmer, and of course the centuries of glorious music for the services. From our forebears we have received these priceless gifts, produced only through a lineage of prayer, study, and dedicated time, caring, and devotion.

Whether or not there is respect for any of these human treasures of worship, every generation is entrusted with their stewardship. What is chosen to be carried forward and what is to be jettisoned is determined—*whether intentionally or not*—by our day-to-day practices. While not all decisions result in an event as drastic as the bombing and loss of Coventry Cathedral, everyday sloppiness and neglect can just as easily tarnish or completely lose the liturgical and musical treasures of our church. In contemplating the role of time, do we honour the value of the current and fashionable in an effort to be popularly relevant, or do we hold that fine devotional music will transcend the trendy? My mind's eye recalls from our recent residency at Gloucester Cathedral, two young girls utterly transfixed by our singing of Orlando Gibbons' early 17th century *Magnificat*. The integrity of the word and the music surpassed the everyday and spoke to them directly and authentically. Surely we must continue to be responsible stewards of this form of worship in order to continue reaching future generations so that it may endure the heavily-weighted tyranny of immediately-current fads.

What **the Church of St Peter and St Simon** offers each Sunday is deeply rooted in the tradition of Anglican worship. It is the time-honoured beauty of the ritual and the scope and quality of music-making that drew me to this spiritual home and it is what keeps me here. As

stewards of Anglican worship, our Geoffrey and Robin are treasures themselves, providing us with such informed, caring, and mindful leadership. They deserve and need our on-going support in doing so.

I hope my musings on these three little words of **Time, Talent** and **Treasure**, have explored some ideas behind why they are so very important. It is not just our own time that we must gladly offer in worship and service, but also our valuing and honouring of the time that our fellow parishioners and all those who have gone before us have also dedicated to doing God's work. It is not just about employing one's own talents toward the operation of our Christian community, but also the offering of support and encouragement so that others too, may develop and grow. Most of all it is about valuing all the treasure that daily surrounds us in our natural environment, in our rich cultural legacy of our church, and in our relationship with God and our neighbours. As Matthew stated "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." To know how bountiful God has made our lives, is to know how generous our hearts must be in sharing our Time, Talent and Treasure. And I would just like to repeat what Father Geoffrey stated in today's sermon: "May we respond to the call appropriately".



Nancy Nourse at the Parish BBQ last June.  
Photo: Mary Anderson

## St Simon's Shelter Christmas Dinner

*Paul Faulkner*

On December 11th, the St Simon's Shelter hosted its annual Christmas Dinner for its residents. Since the early 2000s the parish council and a few volunteers, led by May Lewis, have offered their time (and some Jamaican baking!) to serve the meal and share in table fellowship with the shelter residents. There were about 20 members of SPSS on hand this past year and on the menu this year roast beef, salmon, scallops, and veggies with apple strudel for desert and hot cider.

More important than the service of the meal, the Christmas Dinner offers us the opportunity to sit down and share a meal and conversation with the residents of the shelter. Sometimes the conversation is lively and sometimes it is more reflective, but it is always an opportunity be together and to build our relationship. Several shelter residents drop in and out of our church services throughout the year, but the Christmas Dinner is an opportunity to meet with them at one of their events.

After the meal, Santa (Fr Geoff in disguise) made an appearance to help distribute gifts to the residents: these included boots, gloves, and coats to help the residents

during the winter months. These gifts have been supported by the parish through the Shelter



Backpack fundraiser, with at least 10 backpacks being donated through our parish this past year.

The Shelter board is now looking at doing an additional fundraiser to provide more winter clothing and, in particular, safety boots for the residents who are employed in the construction industry, where steel-toed boots are a safety requirement.

Thanks to all who took the time to share this meal with our closest neighbours. Regularly hearing their stories and enjoying their company was the true gift that this evening offered.

## Winter Survival Kits

*Brooke Sales-Lee*



For three years, parishioners at SPSS have donated items for winter survival kits for our neighbours experiencing homelessness. While in past years we managed about 30-35 kits, this year people went above and beyond, donating enough items (and volunteer time) to

make over 50 kits! These kits are made of items requested by front line workers and people experiencing homelessness themselves, including socks, lip balm, and gloves. On December 8 and 15, we delivered the kits to the Allan Gardens Food and Clothing Share; some kits were handed out immediately, while others were distributed by volunteers doing street patrols at night to help people sleeping rough or in distress. Thank you to everyone who donated time, money, or goods to help our neighbours!

## More good news for Reaching Out Through Music!

*Virginia Envoy*

This past December, at the *Joy All Around* concert, **ROTM** became the recipient of the first annual Joseph & Gloria Sheard Memorial Scholarship, presented by John Sheard. This generous donation ensures that two deserving ROTM students, a boy and a girl, will receive well-deserved support for their ongoing lessons in the instruments they study. This year's recipients are **Cassius Francis**, piano, and **Thaanya Aswathaman**, voice. Both these students show exceptional promise and dedication to their area of study. And, not surprisingly both this young man and this young lady started with **The St. James Town Children's Choir** when they were elementary school aged children. We are very proud of them, and most grateful to John Sheard for this extraordinary gift.

Upcoming events for The St. James Town Children's choir include a most exciting opportunity to perform with **The Canadian Opera Company** in its production of Humperdink's *Hansel & Gretel*, an opera for young audiences. The SJTCC will perform in a family friendly version of this stunning rendition of the Grimm fairy tale on the main stage of The Four Seasons Performing Arts Centre. Mark your calendars, and bring your

youngsters to the performances February 13th or 15th. Tickets available through: <https://learn.coc.ca/eventsprograms/childrenyouthfamilies/opera-for-young-audiences>

ROTM will once again hold its annual fund raising concert later this spring. Stay tuned for more details, and, please be in touch to book tickets and lend your support.

ROTM is most grateful for the ongoing support and hospitality of SPSS for hosting our many

activities and music programs. Thank you!



John Sheard congratulates Thaanya.  
Photo: Virginia Envoy

## Flute Street

*Nancy Nourse*

**Correction:** We are sorry but we originally published information for a concert that already happened last spring! Flute Street does have a Spring

Concert planned for 2020, however. It will be on **Saturday May 9th at 7:30 pm**, right here at St. Peter and St. Simon's. **Flute Street** is Toronto's Professional Flute Choir, featuring a fourteen member ensemble, playing eight different sizes of flutes ranging from the piccolo and treble flute to the very rare contrabass and double-contrabass flutes. Nancy Nourse, a member of the SPSS alto section, is the artistic director and Lisa Jack, the ensemble's conductor.

## From the Organ bench, continued from page 2

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Looking forward we have 2 special evening services coming up.

**Evensong on Jan. 26** will include a *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* Setting by Thomas Walmisley (which is also being sung at the cathedral for Fr. Geoff's Honourary Canon Installation Service.) The choir anthem will be *Tu es Petrus* by Palestrina. The text of this 1569 composition includes (translated) You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church. This is a new piece (for us) and I was struck by the dual themes of the recognition of our Patron Saint and the mission we share to continue the building of his church.

On **Ash Wednesday** we will be again singing the beloved Allegri setting of the *Miserere Mei* with the glorious floating soprano solo high C's. The version we will be singing this year is a setting based on some recent scholarly research by Ben Byram-Wigfield, which has a number of "corrections" to the version made famous over the past 60 years by King's College, Cambridge. This service will be at **7 p.m. on Feb 26**.

Through the month of February we are looking forward to singing a number of spirituals in recognition of Black History Month. We will also be including in services a number of hymns which have been asked for by members of our Caribbean community. I am working with some of our kids rehearsing to sing the spiritual *Aina* that Good News arranged by Moses Hogan for the morning service on Feb 9. We are rehearsing Sundays after church from 12 to 12:30 and all children are welcome. We would love to have any singers from the congregation (particularly from the Caribbean community) join with the adult choir

who would like to sing the spirituals. We rehearse Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m.

In the choir, we were saddened to say good-bye to bass section lead Alan MacDonald who has a new career opportunity with St John's Elora, a fully professional choir that is associated with the Elora Festival Singers. We wish him the very best in his new position. We are thrilled to welcome back Jenny Cohen from her maternity leave. We are also very happy to welcome John White recently joining our Bass section as a volunteer.

## Epiphany Events

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- ❖ Sun, Jan 26, 4 pm, *Evensong and Parish Dinner/Dance*
- ❖ Sun, Feb 9, 12.15 pm, *Pre-Vestry Meeting*
- ❖ Sun, Feb 9, 10.30 am, *Black History Service*
- ❖ Sun, Feb 23, after the 10.30 service, *Annual Vestry Meeting*
- ❖ Feb 26, Ash Wednesday, services @ 11 am and 7 pm

Next issue of *Jubilate!* **Lent & Easter**

**Submission deadline:** Sunday, March 15th.

**Publication deadline:** Sunday, March 29th

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

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