



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

JUBILATE!

Wardens Update

Ted & Vanessa let you know what's been happening at SPSS while we have been away. Updates on the St. Simon's Shelter, on staffing, and renters. Page 5

From the Organ bench

Robin explain to us "how he does it" when he sits down at his computer to pull together the video and audio files to make our Sunday Digital Worship service. Learn the secrets of his technological wizardry. Page 15

Stewardship

Stephanie explains how you can contribute to this year's FaithWorks, which has received a special 100k matching challenge and highlights local ministry partners still working during the pandemic. Page 8

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



The Pentecost window in the Memorial Chapel above the altar

Re-entry into Church

Fr Geoffrey Sangwine

One of my favourite films is the 1995 blockbuster, Apollo 13. It is of course about the 1970 Apollo mission to the moon that faced the perilous situation of having an accident on the way that damaged the spacecraft so badly they needed to abandon the mission and try to get back to Earth. The words "Houston, we have a problem" are forever connected with that event. It is impossible to imagine the fear and uncertainty that faced the men on board and those at mission control who had to find a way to get them home and to re-enter Earth safely. Yet, against all odds, with the expertise and co-operation of many dedicated people, the bravery of the stranded men and no doubt by the



A Parish of the Diocese of Toronto Anglican Church of Canada



The Anglican Church of Canada

The Telephone Tree

Deacon Michael

Over the past few months, a dedicated group of parishioners have been reaching out over the telephone to help us stay connected while we are still apart. An initiative that began as a simple way of finding out who needs toilet paper has gradually evolved into a ministry of calling where new relationships are built, old ones strengthened, and where a compassionate listening ear from our parish is made available in these strange times.

Telephone captains receive a list of between 4 and 10 names and are asked to be in touch once every week or two. Sometimes they know the person on the other end, sometimes not; I am grateful for their courage and commitment to keep the SPSS parish family connected. I have a very fond memory from the early Covid days. After having spoken with a parishioner who had been called several times in one day, they said, 'I have received so many holy calls. I have been made righteous.' Thank you all for your holy calling.

In setting up our telephone tree, we know that some people would like a call more regularly and some people would like to hear from other voices in our parish. That's why we are shuffling the deck and re-doing our tree. If you are interested in being a telephone captain, please speak with Deacon Michael at 647.526.4393

grace of Almighty God, they did in fact make it back. It is amazing story of hope and light in the face of despair and darkness.

Amid the uncertainty of these times, we at St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle have not abandoned hope or plans for the future! The Church building is closed, but the Church is alive and well.

We have an amazing congregation that is supportive and prayerful. Our on-line worship continues to be appreciated by those within and beyond our congregation; our telephone tree is reaching out to parishioners; Zoom enables parish meetings to take place - yes, the Wardens and Advisory Board are still meeting! I am pleased to let you know about a new parish group we have established. With the guidance of a diocesan coach, Janet Marshall, we have re-positioned the former Mission Action Planning Team to be a team focussed on the many protocols that need to be put in place as we re-enter our church building - we are calling it "Apollo 13". Parish members of the Apollo 13 group are: David Carrington, Isobel Forest, Larry Krotz, Suzette Mafuna, Mary Martin, Peggy Needham, Michael Perry, Stephanie Woodside, and me. We are deeply grateful to Susan Bird who was key in getting the MAP process up and running and who is walking alongside us now as a support.

In February and March as the pandemic was coming ever closer to us, and when the notice came from the Bishop of Toronto on March 12th that churches would be closed, we faced a very uncertain future: "Everyone, we have a problem", are words that came to my mind. Since then we have worked hard to protect



The Apollo 13 launch vehicle being rolled out, December, 1969

each other by keeping our appropriate distance, “staying close, by staying apart” as the saying goes.

Now we are at a new phase in this journey as we begin to see the lockdown lifting and things gradually getting back to a new kind of normal. Two weeks ago, Archbishop Anne Germond with the support of all the bishops of the Provincial House - including the Bishop of Toronto - sent a letter affirming that churches would not re-open until September. Despite the recent decision of the Provincial government to allow faith communities to gather at 30% capacity, this decision still stands. There is so much we need to plan for and get ready in order to open our doors and welcome the faithful back into our buildings. This is a difficult decision, but I believe it is the right and prudent one to keep everyone safe.

We are coming to understand that coming back into the building will likely be a phased re-entry, meaning a gradual process. We will need to continue on-line worship and meetings, and we must develop a protocol for worship (for example how will the Eucharist be celebrated?) tracking attendance, flow in the building, seating arrangements, hospitality, meeting protocols and cleaning, just to name a few of the many details we need to consider.

Our Apollo13 team has been meeting by Zoom on a weekly basis and will be reaching out to members of the congregation to assist us. Much of this is to be determined by the protocols that



We all miss being together for worship in our church building, but plans are under way to open again in September with new health and hygiene protocols in place. Photo Derrick Fagan.

the Diocese of Toronto is working on diligently and will provide to parishes very soon.

This is a journey that none of us could have ever imagined. There have been times when it has felt as if the darkness would overwhelm us; but friends, we are heading in the right direction. As we get closer to coming back home to Church, I hope we are comforted by the words of St. John. Reflecting upon the Incarnation, the Evangelist reminds us that “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1.5 NRSV Bible). Our mission is always to focus on that true light that enlightens the world - the Lord Jesus Christ in whose name we gather and worship and find strength. He is with us always, especially in times of uncertainty, and unto the end of the ages.

Please continue to keep each other and our mission in your prayers. May the eternal Light of Christ guide us on our way.

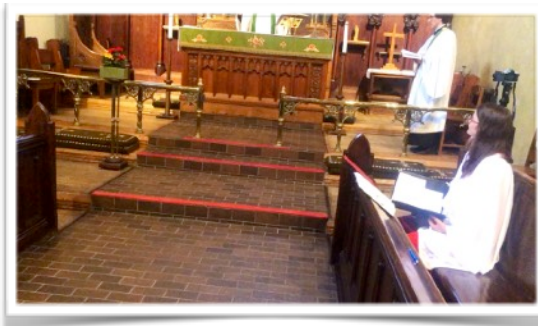
Geoffrey+



Daive and Lewis have been fixing up our building in our absence. Daive has painted the downstairs office hallway and Lewis, under the guidance of Colin Bird has sanded and re-stained the Howard Street Doors. Photo Deacon Michael



SPSS Friday Social Hour. Gathering as a community has been challenging during the global pandemic, but either via telephone or computer, we've been able to connect over Zoom. Photo composite, Deacon Michael



Getting the camera angle wrong during pre-recording! Thanks for sticking with us through all our bloopers as we learn new things.



A compilation of the Choir who have been recording music collaborative using the Acapella app. Digital readers, listen back to Stanford's Beati Quorum. Photo composite, Robin Davis

Warden's Report

Ted Robinson, Rector's Warden & Vanessa Scott, People's Warden

Despite the shutting down of so many church activities, the Wardens have managed to keep quite busy over the past three months. Our thanks to Stephanie and Laurie, our Deputy Wardens, and to our three Wardens Emeritus Mary, Paul and Colin for their support and wise counsel in what have been very challenging times.

We are very blessed at SPSS to have such a dedicated team of clergy: Fr. Geoff, Michael and Jennifer. They have continued to provide spiritual guidance to the Parish, leading wonderful worship services each Sunday and keeping in touch with many in the congregation, especially those who are isolated. And we must acknowledge the work of Robin and the choir members, not only for the exquisite music in the services, but also for the technical expertise required to make it all appear each Sunday.

St. Simon's Shelter

The lease with the Shelter was renewed mid-March, 2020 to the end of December, 2020. As soon as the city began to shut down, we were asked to extend the length of each day from 16 to 24 hours. This would allow the residents to stay in the Shelter and not have to go out into the streets during the day.

On March 27, 2020, an amendment to the agreement was signed allowing an extension of hours of operation of the Shelter to 24 hours with no increase in use of space. This amendment was to be in effect until June 30,

2020 with the option to extend if the city was still in Covid 19 emergency.

The Shelter then requested an expansion of space to include Macklem Hall. A second amendment to the agreement was reviewed by the Diocesan Bishop, Chancellor, and Trusts Committee and then approved as of April 17 to June 30, again with the option to extend if the city was still in an emergency due to Covid 19. Twenty-two residents were moved into the Parish Hall on April 22. The agreement excluded the AURA offices and specified that a safe corridor was to be maintained to the AURA office in the south-west corner of Macklem Hall.

In mid-May the city moved more than a dozen residents to a hotel in order to increase social distancing.



We uphold in prayer the residents and staff of the St. Simon's shelter, who have been living and working on the front lines of the global pandemic.

Photo: Deacon Michael

Unfortunately, two cases of Covid 19 were identified by late May. Eventually, 19 or 20 residents and staff tested positive, and two have died. The Public Health Department closed the Shelter for more than two weeks, allowing for isolation of all residents and staff. They ordered a deep cleaning of all spaces used before allowing the Shelter to reopen on Monday, June 8, with only 18 residents in the basement and 12 in the Parish Hall. So far there have been no further cases; we hope and pray that both staff and residents will remain safe and well.

Since the crisis is not past, the Shelter has requested an extension of the current arrangement to the end of September, 2020. We are in the process of signing the new amending agreement. We are hopeful that by the end of September things will have improved sufficiently in the city so that we will be able to re-claim the Parish Hall for use by the church and its other tenants.

Other Tenants

Most of our regular users of the church have not been able to continue their activities. AURA has maintained their offices but has been working mostly from home. The Day Care, Homework Club and all other groups have not been able to continue their activities. This includes the congregations of San Lorenzo, of course. While this has meant a reduction in rental income, this has been partially balanced by increased revenue from the Shelter for their increase in hours and space. And we are grateful to the Diocese for the Jubilee that has been offered to all parishes in the Diocese for the months of April, May and June, in which they have paid the salaries and housing allowances of our clergy. We have also been blessed with ongoing financial support by our parishioners – those who have not been unduly

impacted financially by the pandemic. Our Treasurer, Johan, tells us that, as we go to press in late June, our finances are in good order.

Staff issues

We have been able to continue paying Daive and Lewis as before. Both are busy doing extra maintenance including a lot of much needed painting inside, as well as gardening outside. Thanks to Colin Bird who has been supervising the work.

Rosemary has been working from home for the past couple of months. She has been invaluable in keeping the office operational, with the help of Johan who delivers mail, signs cheques and has also been depositing cheques for us.

Robin has been working more hours than before, organizing, recording and uploading the weekly services which have been a focus of the worship life of the Parish. We continue to pay him as before. We are grateful to Robin for all he is doing. The choir leads are also being paid for their usual Sunday hours. As you may know, several of them have participated in the recorded services, as have other members of the choir. Thanks again to all of you!

Sileen has been leading Sunday School classes via Zoom. We are very fortunate to be able to keep the children actively participating in the life of the Parish at this time. No doubt they adapt to the changes more easily than some of us older folks!

The MAP initiative has a new name: Apollo 13 Re-entry. Under the direction of Fr. Geoff and Susan Bird, and with Diocesan support, they are exploring what it will mean for our Parish to reopen, we hope in September. Until then stay safe.

Ted & Vanessa

Our Changing Neighbourhood

Larry Krotz

This leaves it open for us to do something in response. The Howard Street side of St. Peter and St. Simon is a 2400 m square green gem that in

recent years has not been afforded much attention. Spurred by the city initiative and the changes that are taking place all around us, this should be our moment to turn that around. We have a process

to get the ball rolling. So far it has been difficult, but some time soon we hope those of you who are interested might be able to gather to blue-sky some ideas and spark discussion. The wardens will be the ultimate arbiters, but we can offer them options that we consider complimentary both to our church's mission and heritage, sustainable, and in keeping with our neighbourhood. Cost effectiveness and sustainability of maintenance will be factors to consider but at the outset no idea should be too outlandish. Feel free to dream. Because the city park will not commence construction until at least next summer, we have a year to work on this. If you are interested in being part of the process, I'd be happy to hear from you. l.krotz@sympatico.ca



60 HOWARD ST PARKETTE PLAN

Janet Rosenberg & Studio

The above drawing shows an exciting change coming down the track for our neighbourhood. Sometime as early as next year -when the 38-story condo construction known as Via Bloor has been completed at the east end of Howard Street- the city will construct this roughly 60mx60m parkette at the project's west end. It is part of the deal with the developer to create some green space, and will be a neighbour to us since that corner of Howard Street and Edgedale Road, is right across from SPSS' back garden. The design, by landscape architect Laurel Christie from the Janet Rosenberg Studio, promises pathways including one that will lead through to Bloor Street, a small water feature, play structures oriented to younger children, ornamental planting, benches and a berm all to create what looks like a mood of peaceful repose.

FaithWorks

Stephanie Woodside

St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle parish members have continued to give generously to our parish over the course of the current lockdown. We are most grateful for this continued support, which is an indicator of the strength and steadfastness of our parish community.



What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

As you continue with your support of gifts to SPSS, we would like to also shine a spotlight on the very important outreach ministries in the Anglican Diocese of Toronto that are being supported by FaithWorks, the annual appeal of the Diocese which helps to build and maintain communities of compassion and hope.

Here, we would like to highlight two organizations being supported by FaithWorks that that we believe are worthy projects close to home that we hope you would consider supporting:

1. **All Saints Church and Community Centre** on Dundas Street East which provides services for the homeless such as a drop-in day shelter with on-site nursing, computer access, nutrition and cooking programs, as well as a needle exchange.
2. **Flemington Park Ministry** which provides services for newcomers and refugees as well as for women suffering violence and abuse, and advocates for housing and food security for the all members of the Flemington Park neighbourhood.

You can read more about these ministries here:

<http://allsaintstoronto.com/>

www.flemingtonparkministry.com/

More on how FaithWorks works:

SPSS will benefit from parish members supporting FaithWorks because our parish will be able to retain 15% of the amount we raise through our appeal, which will go to supporting our own outreach ministries.

Last year FaithWorks Toronto raised \$1.3 million in total in support of Anglican-affiliated ministries throughout the Diocese and around the world. This year's campaign is poised to do even better as a generous donor has offered a \$100,000 matching challenge grant for all new and increased donations. That means for every dollar raised by a parish, FaithWorks will receive an extra dollar. And we have almost reached our goal: \$80,000 new funding has been raised.

Donations from the parishes in 2019 amounted to \$716,136, a 6 per cent increase over 2018. This represents the highest parish giving result in five years. Of the 156 parishes that participated in the 2019 appeal, 75 increased their giving. Parishes were able to keep \$80,008 to support their own outreach ministries within their local community. The parish campaign also made \$35,807 available for Area Ministry Grants.

How to give:

Individuals can participate by writing a cheque, made payable to SPSS but designated for 'FaithWorks/and the name of the ministry you would like to support'. Please submit your cheque as you have been doing by mailing it in or dropping it off at the church. Our mailing address is: 525 Bloor St E, Toronto, ON M4W 1J1. If you give online via the FaithWorks website, unfortunately, SPSS does not retain 15% of your gift, so we encourage you to give through the parish with a cheque. If you would like more information about FaithWorks, you can speak with Fr. Geoffrey or Deacon Michael.

Empty Church, Full Heart

Vanessa Scott

On the very first day of lockdown, March 15, I took this photo in the church. I'd gone in as a Warden to help support and direct anyone who arrived that morning having missed the shutdown notice.

It was a very quiet and surreal morning. Only one person had missed the notification and come to SPSS, and they were assisted by Fr Michael. I chatted with Ted and Geoff and Michael in the church office, and we talked about the enormously long lines at the supermarkets and what we knew so far about the coronavirus.

It was at the beginning of the food and toilet paper panic, and everyone was grabbing anything they could and shelves were emptying fast. I'm not sure that that much canned corned beef, oddly-shaped pasta, and packages of dried beans

have ever been sold in Toronto in a single weekend. Non-essential businesses had just begun to shut down. The news from Spain and Italy was dire. It was a scary time.

After we said our goodbyes and stay safes, I went up to the church for a moment of respite. I've always found that there is an immense and awesome beauty to an empty church - especially at night, the space yawns above into the blackness and contains the echoes of a thousand hymns and homilies. But I have never in my life been in an empty church on a Sunday morning.

I am not ashamed to tell you I cried a little. I took a lonely moment to mourn the morning that wasn't happening - we'd probably have been in the middle of communion right then. I



Photo Vanessa Scott

wondered if I'd ever have communion again. I wondered what choir would look like. I wondered if the church would survive this.

I tend to process emotions through music, and I find paying attention to the song my subconscious kicks up at times of crisis is important. The song that kept occurring to me that day was “Surely the Lord is in this Place.” And at its surface, this is pretty obvious for a haunting melody for an empty house of worship.

But I’ve been thinking about that text for a while now. I went back to the original text - Genesis 28: 10-17 - and it refers to Jacob, sleeping rough in the wilderness, a rock for his pillow, dreaming of a ladder to heaven and a promise for the descendants of Abraham to have a place to belong on the earth. And I started to think of the ways that we use buildings to trap and stand for concepts - justice, medicine, order, learning, religion. But these concepts exist outside of their buildings, and so too does faith. Faith cannot be trapped or contained. Faith can be refreshed, faded, reinforced, broken, renewed, remembered, pretended, revealed, explored, forgotten, and discovered.

Surely the Lord is not only in this place, but is everywhere where we seek to find fellowship and hope.

Our Bell is Ringing!

Fr G+

Thanks to Lewis Kabonde our Sunday Sexton, the church bell is now being rung twice a day, at noon and at 7.30 pm. Why at those times? Lewis came to us with the idea to show support for front line workers. At first he wanted to begin at 6.30 am! Mindful of not wanting to curb his enthusiasm, but also mindful of the neighbours, we decided to start at noon and thus follow the monastic custom going back to the 11th century known as “the Angelus”, a prayer of devotion to the Incarnation accompanied by the ringing of a bell. The

Angelus is often prayed at 12 noon, a custom retained by the Anglican Sisters of St John the Divine in Willowdale. The bell is also being rung at 7.30 pm in support of frontline workers.



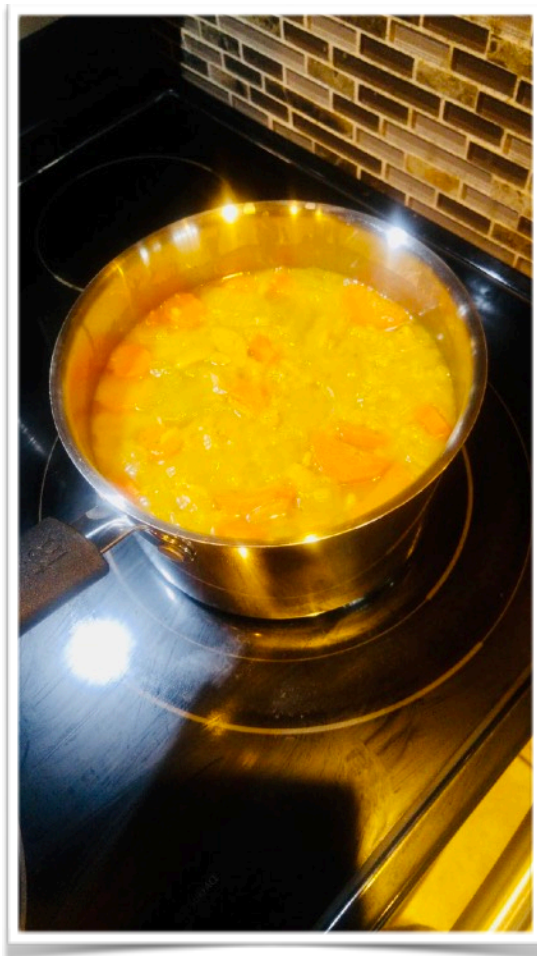
Lewis ringing the bell. Photo Deacon Michael

Whenever the bell rings we are reminded about the glory of God, Christ’s presence in our midst and our vocation to shine his light in the world through worship, service and praise. A number of neighbours have called and e-mailed to say they find the bell very comforting - I certainly do as I hear it when I’m in the office! Thank you Lewis for this great initiative!

My “Soup of the Week”

Paul Mitchell

Ten weeks ago, I started preparing a hot “Soup of the Week.” Once made, I delivered it to some elderly residents in my condo building. Also, each week I posted a picture of it on Facebook for my friends. Thank you to everyone who took time to like and comment on my soups. I have been keeping track of all the likes and comments for each soup. I am happy to report that the winning soup was from Week 5, “Cream of Zucchini and Herb.” After a couple of weeks break, I will be preparing “cold” soups. Hope you will like them as well!



One of Paul’s weekly soups. You can follow along with his lockdown cuisine on his Facebook account.
Photo Paul Mitchell

If you were ever under the mistaken impression that zucchini is a flavourless vegetable, you’ve got to try this soup: Cream of Zucchini and Herb Soup

2 tbsp olive oil
 1 medium onion, chopped
 1 clove garlic, chopped
 6 medium zucchini, cubed
 2 small potatoes cubed
 1 red bell pepper, chopped
 1 tbsp dried parsley or ½ cup chopped fresh parsley
 ½ tsp dried basil
 ½ tsp dried oregano
 ½ tsp dried thyme
 ½ tsp black pepper
 1 bay leaf
 6 cups vegetable stock
 ¼ cup dry white wine
 2 cups milk
 ½ cup table cream

- ❖ In a large non-stick soup pot, heat the oil. Sauté the onion and garlic for 2 minutes or until the onion is translucent.
- ❖ Add the zucchini, potatoes, red pepper, parsley, basil, oregano, thyme, black pepper, bay leaf, stock and wine.
- ❖ Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes or until zucchini and potatoes are cooked.
- ❖ Add the milk and cream; simmer another 5 minutes.
- ❖ If the soup is too thick, add some more stock or milk.
- ❖ Remove the bay leaf.
- ❖ Using a hand blender, puree the soup and serve immediately. Serves 8.

Finding Hope in a Time of Global Pandemic

Diane Marshall

25 May 2020

Dear friends at St. Peter and St. Simon, I send greetings from the Sunshine Coast in B.C.!

As I sit this morning to write the Prayers of the People for Pentecost for the parish of St. Hilda, I am remembering with much love the years of worshipping together with so many of you (since 1994 at St. Peter's). And the profound meaning found in the unity that is ours, wherever we are, in God's love and grace through the hope that is ours in and through the Presence of God's Spirit active in the world, and amongst us.

This past two and a half months of lockdown here on the Coast (B.C. reported the first cases in Canada of CoVid-19), have been a time of reflection, and – for me – of learning to live again with my film-maker daughter, Liz, who left home 32 years ago to attend film school! She had come out for a quick visit prior to the release of her new film “Meat the Future” at the Hot Docs Film Festival, and got stranded here when the Coast especially (airport, ferries and all) went into a kind of lockdown. So we have been isolating together for 2.5 months, as her film was premiered by Hot Docs on CBC & CBC Gem, and will be further released through the Hot Docs Festival online. It is a very timely film when the world is discussing animal-to-human zoonotic diseases (like SARS, and now CoVid-19), and there are epidemics within meat packing plants throughout the U.S. and also in Alberta. So I work out of my room here in my condo (with a lilac tree in bloom for 4 weeks now outside my window!) reading and seeing clients on ZOOM, while Liz does all her live interviews (New Zealand, Singapore, England

and Europe, New York, Hollywood, etc.) from the dining/living room. It's not been difficult, and in fact is rather fascinating!! We have been blessed, here on the Coast, with an early Spring, with all its colourful splendour, and Liz and I have had daily walks in nature. In the past week, as things have been slightly loosened here in B.C., we have had wide “social distancing” visits with my sister and her daughter, and brother and his daughters (Liz's cousins), as well as with her brother Michael and his wife Sonoko and my grandson Kaishan. My oldest grandson Quinn came up from Vancouver two days ago, and we visited at the beach- sitting on logs spaced apart - with him and my great-grandson Kohl, which was special.

So what is “Hope in a Time of Pandemic”? There have been so many lives lost worldwide, and still so many new outbreaks, and here, as there in Ontario, warnings of a ‘second wave’ coming in the Fall. It has been heartbreaking and deeply worrying. How many more deaths will we bear witness to in our generation? My grandmother lost five sisters to the Spanish Flu 100 years ago. What will happen to our loved ones, to people living in refugee camps throughout the Middle East, Bangladesh, Africa? How will the homeless in our own country, and the Indigenous communities being exposed to the virus by pipeline construction camps in the north, survive? How will our society reconstruct itself in the new normal that will need to become our future? I am working online with many clients who have real fear for their lives and with young people (my grandchildren included) who don't know yet what realistic hope there will be to fulfill many of their plans for the future. What is the future for these young lives?

These are questions we face not only personally, but as world citizens, and as concerned Christians.

I am mindful of the early Church who also must have asked similar questions under persecution, and later during the Black Death throughout Europe, and also the disciples confused about what their future would entail when their beloved Jesus left them. But they – and we – were and are called to hope, faith, and love, and these are action words – verbs, not simply nouns or adjectives. I have tried to enable my young clients online to plan what they can do, to show kindness and love to those with whom they live, to find joy in the emerging beauty of spring and things they watch and see online. Perhaps it is as simple as what we pay attention to, what we attend to. For me, I have found the online ZOOM services at St. Hilda’s hope-giving, and hearing of solutions to the food crisis through the dialogues happening around Liz’s film, to be deeply encouraging. God knows that our hearts need to live out of a root of hope, and not despair, of love, and not indifference, of faith and not fear. May we all, across the miles, from so many different backgrounds there in your

**We believe in the Spirit who blows through our lives:
unsettling us,
stirring us up,
propelling us forward.**

—◆—

**We believe in the Spirit who comes as a fire:
warming us,
empowering us,
re-making us.**

—◆—

**We believe in the Spirit who frees our tongues:
for talking of God,
for prayer,
for advocacy.**

—◆—

**We believe in the Spirit:
the Counsellor,
the Helper,
the Breath of God. Amen .**

PRAYERS FOR ALL SEASONS, YEAR A, EDITED BY ELIEN TURNBULL

parish, and here in ours, find new ways to be followers of Jesus, and of living in hope during this tragic time of worldwide Pandemic.

With love in Christ,

Diane

New Choir Member

Maciej (pronounced Mah-chay) and Anna Bujnowicz are the happy and proud parents of their son Nicholas who was born this past January. Maciej joined our choir also in January as a Bass Section Lead. Maciej teaches piano, voice, and guitar privately and comes to us having previously sung as a lead at St Paul's Bloor St and St James Cathedral. Maciej is originally from Poland and came to Canada to study voice at the Glenn Gould School of Music. We are so pleased to welcome Maciej to our choir family.



Maciej & Nicholas. Photo Robin Davis

How we do it

Robin Davis

I was recently asked to contribute an article describing the process of getting our Covid-19 period services recorded and prepared for the Sunday morning on-line service. I will do my best to describe the process without getting too tediously technical, but before that I want to relate, that everyone participating in the recordings appreciates the privilege and blessing it is to be able to do so. We always think of you, the members of our parish family who are suffering in forced absence as we (the lucky ones) have this opportunity in our small physical community. The future is still in flux, however; it seems like there is a light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully we will be able to gather in larger and larger numbers soon.

Our services are planned early in the week with Alison Jane preparing the bulletin document. If the choir anthem is to be including "Virtual" voices, the music score and an audio recording are sent out so our singers can learn and prepare their parts. Since we aren't having Thursday weekly rehearsals at the moment, our singers are on their own as far as learning their parts is concerned.

We are uniquely blessed at SPSS to have a priest in Fr. Geoff who is not only a very gifted singer but also able to sing two different voice parts (alto and bass). With a limit on 5 people most churches would have no hope of offering liturgical choral based music in the full 4 parts. There have been occasions where Fr. Michael has had to "absent" himself from the room to accommodate the organist (me) and 4 singers. There have been other times when the organist part has been pre-recorded on the organ's computer by Maurice or Alison, allowing me to conduct and/or sing with the group. We have done our best to present music in the "fullest" sense possible in order to maintain the feeling of our SPSS worship experience, while keeping everyone safe and feeling secure in the

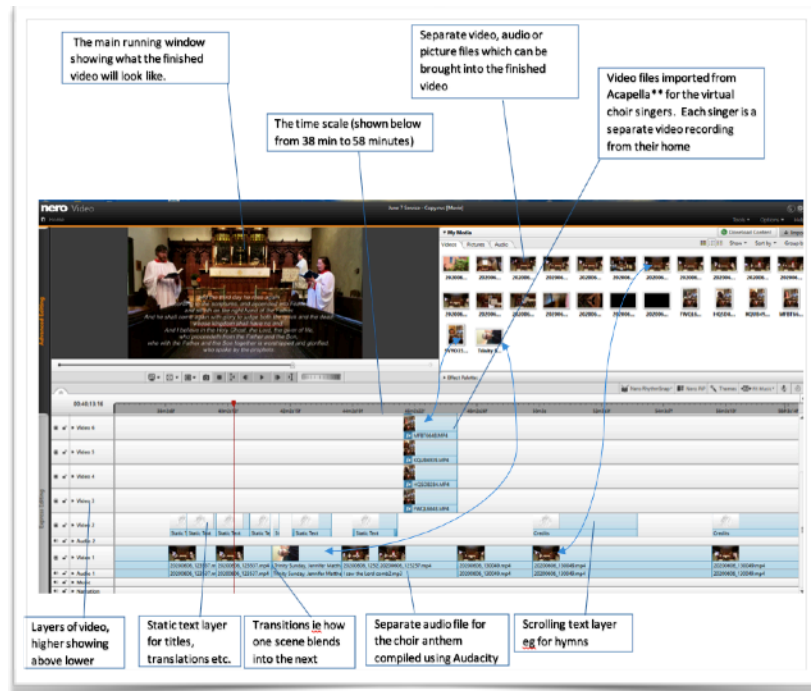
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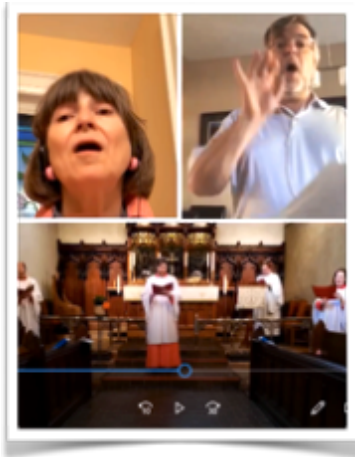
Our group (of five) has been meeting at about 10:30 on Saturday morning at which time the altar is prepared, the flowers arranged and the music for the service is rehearsed. Fr. Michael sets up his camera and I use my cell phone camera to record the service. Except for reposition of the cameras eg for the sermon, the cameras are stationary on tripods. There is no separate videographer involved.

By about noon, we are into the actual service. While we try to experience as much as possible the flow of the service, there are often stops and starts to retake an "oops" by the organist or other members of the group. We finish the service and its home to edit. Once editing is finished the service gets uploaded to the church YouTube channel and parishioners can log on or call in to participate in the services.

Now comes the technical bit.... a peek into the editing process. There are 3 different software programs used to assemble everything. They are NERO Video editing software, Audacity Audio editing software and Acapella (an iPad/iPhone app) for bringing in the virtual choir voices.

NERO Video editing software looks like this





Assembling the Virtual Choir using the Acapella App.

In order to have our choir members join in the on-line anthem, the video recording from the morning needs to be sent out so that the singers can video record and

add their voices. The first step in editing is to extract the anthem video and import it into the acapella program. As NERO is PC based and Acapella is Apple, this is where the grey hairs come from. With a little pixie dust and a few unchristian words, we eventually end up with the video in the Acapella app which looks like this. The recording link gets emailed to choir members and each have an opportunity, using the Acapella app, to record their part at home. Here I have added a conducting track and Nancy is singing from home, recording on her iPhone, while listening and watching the morning performance. She is using headphones or earbuds so that the recording does not pick up the previously recorded live performance. The Acapella app then allows her to "share" her recording back with me. The video and audio are separated and Nancy's voice recording does not include the morning recorded performance. The separated video and audio files (after converting formats) are then imported back to the PC. This process is done for each of the participating singers separately. Now it's time to combine the Audio recordings. This is done using Audacity software.

Using Audacity to edit sound

I use Audacity to edit the regular Sunday morning recordings which are uploaded onto the parish website.

Here is what the audio compilation in Audacity from the June 7 service looks like. The top 2 lines (stereo) are from the morning recording.

Next Mary Anderson's recording and John White's.

Each person's recording gets the volume adjusted for balance and

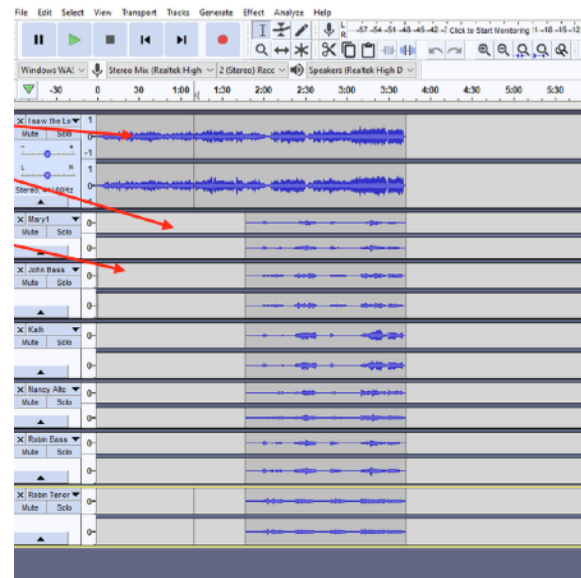
if necessary, adjustments for timing, background noise etc. can be made.

I then add electronic reverberation to help blend the voices and give the impression of our singing in a larger space (rather than at the kitchen table). Reverb also creates the illusion of there being a larger ensemble in the sound.

The tracks are then compiled into one stereo track which then gets imported back into NERO.

The video files previously imported from Acapella** are then brought back into NERO, aligned with the compiled audio and cropped so only the singer is shown.

Sometimes Preludes or Postludes are recorded separately or previously recorded performances (e.g. from our UK tours) have been incorporated into the videos. Once the video is finished editing, it needs to be compiled. This takes about 2 hours of the computer processing on its own. Once it



finishes compiling, it's ready to be uploaded to YouTube. The files are quite large so the upload can take another 1 - 2 hours. So far we've only been late once, and that was due to my messing up the YouTube channel upload.



Robin, hard at work editing the Digital Service for the Third Sunday after Pentecost. Photo Robin Davis.

My apologies for the more or less occasional "bloopers"! With the limited time line there's usually not enough time (if I want to sleep) to properly proof the recordings. In truth, the process is not as bad as it sounds, and it's a joy to do. I so appreciate the support of everyone else involved, especially our singers and the encouragement and expressions of appreciation from members of our parish, for whom this has helped in our staying connected to each other, our parish and loving and merciful God.

Staying in Touch

Get email updates

Every week we send out Email updates. You can subscribe to get Email Updates directly from the bottom of our website homepage. **Visit www.stpeterstsimon.ca**

Have you visited the website lately? On the homepage you will find three important resources:

- **Digital Services**, where you can watch and listen back to pre-recorded liturgies.
- **Bulletins**, where you can download a copy of the bulletin and follow along.
- **Diocesan messages**, where you can find other messages from our Diocesan Bishop.

Zoom Coffee Hour

Join us at 11:45 on Sundays (no internet or computer required). Details about how to Zoom in via your computer, mobile device, or telephone are emailed out with Parish updates. See the **Zoom help guides** on our website at

<http://stpeterstsimon.ca/whats-on/parishupdates/>

Do we have your most current contact details?

Stay in touch with us during this period when we are unable to gather together as usual. Email **office@stpeterstsimon.ca** to confirm your telephone number, email, and address.

Next issue of *Jubilate!* **Michaelmas**
Submission & Publication deadline:
Fall 2020, pending the re-entry of church

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

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