



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

JUBILATE!

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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
Envelope Secretary: Paul Mitchell
Music Director: Robin Davis
Jubilate! Editor: Peggy Needham
Jubilate! Production: Rosemary Hendra



Fr. Geoff celebrating the Day of Pentecost

Through all the Changing Scenes of Life

The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine

The old saying is certainly true: "There is nothing certain but change."

The last fourteen months of pandemic – "COVID-tide" as some of us in the Church refer to it – has been a strange combination of experiencing change while staying relatively still. Openings, closings, adapting to using new technologies for work, communication and worship have kept us busy in this time when being able to pivot is a key need. Yet alongside this, there is a sense that time has stood still, and we are waiting for something new to happen.

After the day of resurrection, the disciples experienced something similar. Jesus kept appearing to them. They needed to adapt to changing circumstances. A huge change came forty days after Easter when Jesus ascended from their sight to the right hand of God the Father. There they were waiting, yet again, for something new to happen. They were promised a gift – the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of a new community, the Church, a promise fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost.



*Trilliums at SPSS
Photo: Nancy Nourse*

From the Organ Bench

Robin Davis

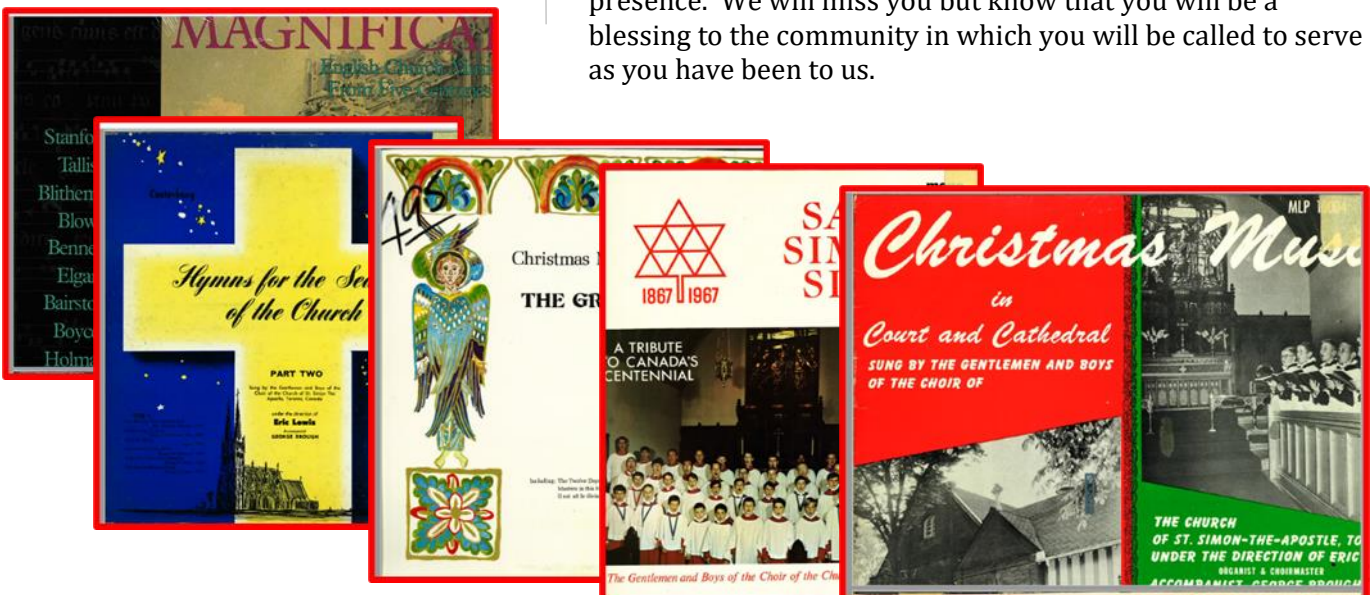
One of the little blessings of COVID-tide is the opportunity to do some creative things using technology in ways we would not have dreamt of a year and a bit ago. Here's something that I've enjoyed doing and I hope you've been uplifted by.

It started from two separate calls to the church office over the last six months or so inquiring about some old LP recordings made by the St. Simon's Choirs over the past 63 years. One of the inquiries was from a former chorister from the 1950's. Had we digitized them? Well.... No, but I thought to myself, this is a part of our history and it should be captured and made available for download on our website. The first step was to get in touch with Digital Treasures in Downsview and arrange for them to professionally convert the old LP vinyl records into digital media files. Some of the records were in better shape than others and there were even a few places with skips that we were not able to fix. (If anyone has a copy of the original LP's I'd love to borrow them and edit over the skipped places.) ...cont'd on page 12

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Here we are, two millennia later, the community of Christ who gather in his name to worship the Lord and to proclaim his love. We do so with a rich diversity. As Anglicans we are connected worldwide through the Anglican Communion; as Christians following the ancient tradition we are connected to other Christians through the creeds, the scriptures and through faith. In a changing world and in a challenging time, it is comforting that the affirmation of the Church and the Gospel message is unchanging, directing us to Almighty God, the one who in the words of the old hymn "changest not."

There is change happening in our parish. Sometime later in the summer or perhaps in the early autumn we anticipate a return to in-person worship. Having worshipped remotely for such a long time, this is a change, and a welcome one, though we will need to continue our diligence with safety protocols. St. Simon's Shelter has now moved to the former Isabella Hotel and this, of course, has implications for our relationship, and the ways in which we will continue to share ministry with them. Another change, and one that is sad for us, is the departure of the Reverend Michael Perry. Michael's curacy ended officially on April 30th. With the support of the bishop, we have been able to extend his time with us as he continues the interview process with the diocese. Michael has been a real blessing to our parish. What a different curacy he and others in his cohort have had than any of us previously! Under ever-changing circumstances and the need to adapt quickly and patiently, Michael has risen to the challenge with dignity and wisdom beyond his years of experience. He is now actively pursuing his first parish appointment as Incumbent. That is a wonderfully exciting (and a bit scary) experience for a new priest, and we wish Michael and Yvonne every good wish and blessing as this unfolds. Thank you, Michael, for your ministry among us – for your friendship and prayerful presence. We will miss you but know that you will be a blessing to the community in which you will be called to serve as you have been to us.



Original covers from some the rerecorded LPs

In late June we will host a farewell celebration for Michael and Yvonne. It would be wonderful to have this outside and in-person, but we will need to wait and see how things unfold. Details will be coming soon.

As we find ourselves anticipating a new normal, I have been reflecting on several questions: what do we want and need to take with us into the future? What do we want and need to leave behind? COVID-tide is giving us an opportunity to learn and to grow as individuals and as a faith community. This is certain: we have a mission to seek Christ and make him known in every corner of life. Let us not forget, he is marked with the scars of his suffering and death. The pains of the world are raised in glory with him at the right hand of the Father, which affirms that God in his abundant mercy draws the whole world to himself and in Christ makes all things new, even through all the changing scenes of life.

*We saw his light break through the clouds of glory
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place,
As earth became a part of heaven's story
And heaven opened to his human face.
We saw him go and yet we were not parted,
He took us with him to the heart of things,
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
Is whole and heaven-centered now, and sings;
Sings in the strength that rise out of weakness,
Sings through the clouds
that veil him from our sight,
Whilst we ourselves become his cloud of witness
And sing the waning darkness into light;
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
Which all creation waits to see revealed.*

*"Ascension Day" from Sounding the Seasons
by Malcolm Guite*



Bed #3 before.... Photo: Carol Peck

May we all have a quiet and blessed summer as we continue our journey in faith.

Geoffrey+

Wardens' Report

Vanessa Scott, People's Warden

This issue's Wardens' Report comes to you from the middle of yet another lockdown. At the time of writing, the lockdown has just been extended for a further two weeks into June. It's easy to feel like it's lasted forever already, and without a real end in sight, it's hard to see how we can come back to the way of life we knew. And yet, this, too, shall absolutely pass.

The life of the parish continues. Our community has lost beloved friends and family members this year, and we have not been able to mourn together. Babies have been born, and couples have been joined in marriage, and we have not been able to rejoice together. We hold on to the promise that we will find a time to mark these occasions when we make it to the other side – there will need to be a time when we are able to look back and honour the moments we were not able to mark. There will be a time of healing to come, and our community will be there to experience it together.

Our live stream team continues to be an essential vector to bringing our worship from the empty pew to the kitchen table or the telephone. We are very excited to be mounting the permanent camera at the back of the church in the next couple of weeks. You'll notice during the broadcasts or service recordings that the picture will be more stable – no more shaking when anyone needs to walk by, better focus on the



... and after! Photo: Carol Peck

subject of the shot – and it should give us better and more consistent angles for viewing the pulpit, lectern, choir stalls, and altar. This is a real investment and will continue to be useful to us in the years to come, as we broadcast services, celebrations, concerts, and funerals when people cannot be physically present. The advances we've made in communicating to a dispersed audience will not be lost once we do regain the ability to attend the church again.

The most impactful news the wardens have to share in this Jubilate! issue is the departure of the St. Simon's Shelter. At time of writing, all of the residents have been housed in alternate accommodation and will not be returning. The Shelter staff members are dismantling the beds and office, and will be fully out by early June. I encourage you to read Ted's touching retrospective of the 20-year history of our parish and the Shelter. We continue to search for the right tenant to move into our building – whatever happens, it is certain that a new tenant will bring a lot of change to both the building and the way we use it.

Our newly formed Garden Guild is working on making good changes to the floral health and appeal of the building, ready for us to enjoy when we're back and in the coming years. They've performed a soil assessment and are working to fertilize and aerate the flowerbeds to ensure a fertile growth period. I'm sure that when more weddings take place at SPSS, brides and grooms will enjoy having their photos taken in front of a more polished backdrop.

This, of course, brings up the question of when, exactly, we will be back. We still don't know. At time of writing, the news is full of the phrase "one-dose summer," meaning that as many Ontarians as possible will get at least one dose of the available vaccine options against COVID, but that we won't expect a significant majority of people to have had a second dose for full protection until mid-Fall. SPSS will be following the Diocesan guidelines for reopening as they are given to us.

It is a promising sign that the American CDC is very optimistic about life for the post-vaccinated being much the same as 2019 life – including group singing, which I know is deeply missed at



*New faucets in the Ladies Washroom
Photo: Vanessa Scott*

SPSS. I have had one dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine myself – no side effects to speak of, and the peace of mind is wonderful – and I look forward to my next dose in August. I was among the last of the Corporation team to receive a vaccine; the SPSS leadership team will be happy to assist anyone who wants a vaccine to book one, please just reach out to any of us if you have questions or need support.

Father Michael's time with us was extended for a few months, and we are very glad to have the extra time. He will be with us on staff until July 31, although he plans to take his mandatory vacation period during the month of July. Please be sure to drop him a line to say goodbye if you have time before he goes – we have been very, very blessed to have him with us as long as we have. We are certain that he will be a welcome addition to whatever parish is wise and lucky enough to hire him.

Finally, thanks to the Property Committee's efforts, the small but significant upgrades to the building continue steadily – I really do think you will be amazed at the many little changes around the place. The pictures really don't do it justice – the whole mood of the building is slowly changing from beloved shabbiness to an effortless elegance. Just look at the picture of the new faucets on our downstairs sinks! I'm sure you can't wait to be washing your hands here soon. Whether you're wearing a mask or not at the time, be sure to smile at yourself in the mirror as you do – on that day, we'll have made it through.

Kids Corner

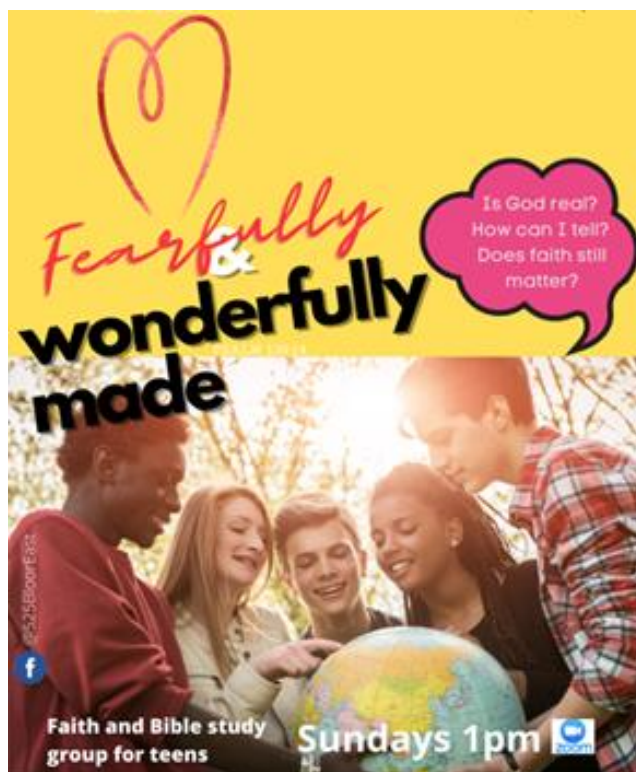
Sileen Phillips

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

On Easter Sunday, April 4, the Child, Youth and Family ministry of SPSS launched an extension to the Sunday School program geared specifically toward youths ages 12 to 18. It has been successfully launched as a pilot project with fourteen youths in regular attendance each week, and is eight weeks long.

This extension of Sunday School seeks to engage young people of that age group in biblical learning and Christian education at their level of maturity and understanding. The sessions are on Sundays from 1pm to 2pm and much like Sunday School for the under 12 group, involves Bible reading, exciting discussions, fun trivia and games. Some of the youths are local but others, at least six of them, are from a different country.

The curriculum takes its setting primarily in the Book of Genesis to help some of the youths who were not raised in Christian families. The objective is to ultimately build the faith of these youths as they come to understand who God is and how important they are to Him. In these times of uncertainty, crisis and with the rising number



of youths who are struggling to maintain mental wellness, the goal is to lead them to where they can choose to have a relationship with God, which will lead to healing, mental stability and strength amid the pressures they encounter at this stage in their lives. The group is called "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" from Ps. 139:14.

Meet Siyani

This is Siyani who turns 11 on May 25.



Siyani Photo: Sileen Phillips

What I like about Sunday school is super book* because we get to learn what happened in the past and talk about it.

*Siyani is referring to Superbook, an animated series of Bible stories.

Gab from the Garden Guild

Nancy Nourse

Gone at last is the winter's snow, revealing the multiple garden beds of SPSS and their many challenges for the members of the fledgling Garden Guild. While so much of day-to-day life has been altered by the ongoing pandemic lockdowns, this year's new greenery poking up through the earth, the trilliums, the Solomon's



*Lewis Kabonde and Linda Gordon
Photo: Nancy Nourse*

Seal, tulips, lilies and our returning daffodils are just the kind of reassurance and joy we so long for. Sprouting up just below the busy pixels of our Bloor Street sign, the nodding, cheerful narcissus yellows speak of the promise and rebirth of spring and our Easter redemption.

After several years of at least partial neglect, SPSS's newly-formed Garden Guild has been preparing for the rather large task of rediscovering, rejuvenating, and refreshing our parish grounds. While the wintery months actually saw only two lively discussion sessions over Zoom, with the onset of spring has come some action. Fifteen different garden beds in addition to the courtyard were identified, mapped and numbered, thus making it possible to converse more easily about priorities of our focus, planting goals, and division of labour. Thanks to Takota Kemp with his new-fangled drone and his high-tech and agricultural expertise, we now have a very thorough soil analysis of our property. Hardly surprising was it to find that that the salt content was significantly high in the gardens bordering the Bloor Street sidewalk and that much enrichment to the soil was needed for almost all of the church grounds.

Organized by our Garden Guild chair, Carol Peck, GARDEN DAY at SPSS, our first real event, took place on the morning of Saturday, May 15. Master gardeners from our congregation, avid amateurs and even just hearty and willing parish volunteers arrived--masked and physically distanced—all eagerly prepared to get digging. Existing plants were duly noted, many weeds were extracted, bushes pruned, and loads of soil and fertilizer were distributed, spread about, and worked into the soil. For me, the long months of COVID-19's indoor isolation slowly began to evaporate with every pull of the hoe as I attacked the compacted earth and added layers of sheep manure nourishment. Special words of thanks must be offered to both Daiv and Lewis for their ongoing attention to our property's needs and in particular for their support of the Garden Guild's efforts.

How rewarding it was to witness the renewed commitment to the natural beauty of our parish grounds! Soon we shall see some young seedlings added to the beds of returning day lilies, coneflowers and hosts. Through the coming warmth of the summer season, I hope that our revival of interest in our church's gardens will manifest itself in the visible blossoming of our love of God, for each other, and for our neighbours living in the community in which we are all planted. Oh, how full of anticipation is the writing of our gardens' next chapter!



*Marina Caytap, Diana Way, Nancy Nourse, Carol Peck
Photo: Vanessa Scott*

News from the Refugee Committee

Barb Pearson, co-chair

Bushra Ahmed Abdulateef Al-Bayati arrived safely from Iraq three weeks ago, landing at Pearson Airport. She then stayed the mandatory three days at a government hotel near the airport. (Bushra is the mother of Mohammed and wife of Jomard, our two previously sponsored refugee arrivals.) She was subsequently able to spend the required 10-day quarantine at her son's and daughter-in-law Sara's home in Scarborough.

Upon receiving the negative result of her Day 10 Covid test, she was taken to Service Ontario to apply for her OHIP and photo ID card, and she was also able to open a bank account. So, thankfully these basic activities have been accomplished.

Unlike previous refugee arrivals, due to the pandemic, it's not easy to access goods to share and help to set up, so we are also thankful that Bushra is now living with her husband Jomard in Brampton. (The only thing Bushra needs is a chest of drawers.) She also has a sister living in Brampton, another helpful thing!

I've had a few video chats with Bushra, a very lively person! Her comprehension of English seems excellent, but she's not all that comfortable speaking, which is not unusual for newcomers. However, she is quite able to communicate in writing... another good thing!

Bushra has enjoyed celebrating Eid with her family! She's very grateful to be here and to meet her grandchildren! She is looking forward to meeting us, whenever that will become possible.

Parish Milestones

Congratulations to Daiverzon Guillermo on his 10 years at SPSS!

Back in May 2011, Daiverzon was hired by the then St Simon's. Thank you Daive for all you have done in the past ten years. For those of you who haven't met Daive, here is an excerpt from an article by Larry Krotz published in Jubilate! in 2018.



Daive in the Courtyard Photo: Fr. Michael

Few of us likely ever see him, but we are all touched and enriched by his work. Daiverzon Guillermo (aka Daive) keeps our washrooms clean and tidy, vacuums the church's floors, changes burnt-out light bulbs, weeds the gardens, cleans up after not just the congregation but the many others who use our church building every day of the week. Traditionally, he would have been known as the 'sexton': he does renovations and repairs, watches the boiler, undertakes regular fire inspections, keeps the air conditioning running. A job such as Daive does has its variety and its moments. The best part of it? "Even though I don't come on Sunday," he says, looking around at his on-going handiwork, "I feel part of the church; this is my place that I love."

Craig Anderson

With sadness we write of the passing of Craig Anderson on 4 May. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary and her family.



Craig Anderson Photo: the Anderson Family

Fr. Michael remembers Meta Alleyne

25 October 1934 – 5 May 2021



Meta Alleyne Photo: SPSS Collection

Meta Alleyne passed away in May after a short time of being ill with cancer. Back in the days before the pandemic, Meta phoned me and asked if we could visit her fellow parishioner, Jim Colling. Meta and Jim lived in the same apartment building. In visiting Jim, Meta's nursing instincts would come to the fore. She had a long and happy career at Fudger House, where she continued to volunteer after her retirement. With Jim, Meta's small, subtle gestures and kind words were not flashy, but just enough that when we said goodbye and asked if we should drop in next week, Jim always said yes.

Meta was a quiet person. Our conversations were always cheerful and relaxed: critical words were not part of her vocabulary. We chatted about her growing up in Barbados, doing her schooling in England, and how much she loved living downtown here in Toronto, where she could walk to all the places she wanted to go.

When our lives got turned upside down last year, Meta and I chatted on the phone and that inner calmness was always there. She reassured me everything was fine. We give thanks for her life and her deep faithfulness. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Bernard Isaac and Andrea DeFrancesco



Andrea DeFrancesco, Fr. Geoff and Bernard Isaac Photo: Sheldon Isaac Images

Bernard Isaac and Andrea DeFrancesco were married at SPSS on Saturday, 15 May, 2021.

John Rucklidge

15 January, 1938 – 7 May, 2021

The church received news that Dr. John Rucklidge, who sang in the choir at St. Simon's for many years, has passed away in the UK.

What St. Paul Said About Stewardship

David Carrington, Stewardship Committee

11 Corinthians 15:58 to 16: 4

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

^{16:1} Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come, no collections will

have to be made. ³ Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

This passage from St. Paul's letter to the people of Corinth speaks to stewardship in several ways. First, explicitly in teaching the followers to adopt a system of regularized givings. It states that "On the first day of every week ...you should set aside a sum of money, saving it up." This amount that is set aside is for the work of the church. By doing this, it becomes part of your commitment to the church.

In Second Corinthians 9:7, we read that each one "should give what they decide in their heart to give." Following the heart represents a precarious way of funding anything. This is because as the heart goes so goes your funding. However, by making it a commitment, or regularizing your givings, this sets up a stable method for funding God's work.

We can gain some further stewardship insight in the phrase "Do what I told the Galatian Church to do." To unpack this, one needs to understand that it was in Galatia where St. Paul started to formulate his approach to ministering to the Gentiles. One should note that after Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus, he started to preach to the Jews. However, we know historically that his mission turned quickly after that to focus on the Gentiles. This focus required a new approach. Therefore, it was in Galatia that he worked this out. That is why the reference in our passage is important.

St. Paul made at least two trips to this region, which is located between the Black and Mediterranean Seas in Asia Minor. In Galatians he asserts that the Law of Moses (first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible) known as the Torah, which included strict laws concerning circumcision was not the only set of laws that were to be followed. He preached that "we are all children of God by faith" (Galatians 3: 26-29).

Further in Galatia, he outlines what are the fruits of the spirit; they are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness (generosity), faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). And focusing on goodness, which is part of being



Photo: Fr. Michael

generous, he implores the followers by saying 'let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.' (Galatians 6: 9).

Part of this good work in St. Paul's time was being used to support the church and the poor in Jerusalem, and regularizing givings, ensured that money was available for this purpose. By each household in Corinth setting aside a portion of income per week, they could be generous when the time came for helping in Jerusalem.

However, Paul's purpose in building the church held at its central goal honouring God, who is the source of all generosity (2 Corinthians 9:10-13). And it is through this generosity that God's purpose is known and advanced.

In closing, Paul's mission to the Gentiles was crystallized in Galatia, there he made it clear that Jews and Gentiles are heirs to the promises of Jesus Christ. In our stewardship mission we can find helpful guidance in this message to the people of Corinth. By each of us setting aside, weekly, a portion of our income, we can be generous in supporting the work our parish undertakes to advance God's purpose.

St. Simon's Shelter – a Parish Outreach Ministry for over 30 Years

Ted Robinson

On May 6, 2021, the last of the residents of St. Simon's Shelter moved from the church basement

to their new location at the Isabella Hotel on Sherbourne St. Because of new spacing requirements as a result of COVID-19, the Shelter can no longer function in the space they have occupied for more than two decades. The history of our support of the homeless in Toronto goes back even further.

In 1989, the Rev. John Saynor, Associate Priest at St. Simon's Church, brought to us a proposal that we open our doors one night a week to support a new initiative for the homeless of the city, called "Out of the Cold". This was to be a temporary measure, while the city expanded housing to accommodate the needs of a growing number of homeless people. The Out of the Cold program was staffed by teams of volunteers from the congregation. David & Marian McPherson were among those who participated in the program, which was initially directed by Fr. John. Members from other parishes also joined us – including those from St. Cuthbert's. The program ran once a week from early November to the end of March in the Parish Hall. To my knowledge, ours was the first church to begin a regular Out of the Cold program in Toronto.

By the mid-1990's, the need for such programs in Toronto had grown to the point where the city began looking for shelters that would stay open throughout the year. We were asked to consider opening 7 days a week, 12 months of the year. I remember a hastily called Advisory Board meeting in mid-summer to consider this request. Again, the Parish responded to the need. Fr. Robert Clubbe took on the role of Director initially, and for the first year or more he essentially had two full time jobs until more long-term management arrangements could be made for the Shelter.

By the end of the 1990's it was clear that there was a need for renovations in the basement space to accommodate the needs of the Shelter, including proper washroom facilities for the residents. As well, the kitchen was upgraded to allow for meal preparation on site. These renovations were completed by 2001, along with the new access to the church off Bloor St. By the early 2000's the governance structure of the Shelter was established with its own Board. Initially, St. Simon's held a majority of seats on the Board with the Rector as Chair, but eventually that

was changed to accord with city requirements. However, two members of our church (Paul Faulkner and David Carrington) have continued as Board members up until the present.



Shelter Director Bob Duff, holding his son Silas, and Larry McGill, a long-time benefactor of the Shelter at a 2019 Shelter Event. Photo: St. Simon's Shelter website, reprinted with permission

For many years, the Shelter has served the needs of the homeless in our community by housing 50 or more residents (up to a maximum of 66 by early 2020). With a permanent address, many were able to transition to community living, while others remained in the Shelter for years, making it their home. In more recent times, the Shelter became the first stop in Canada for refugee claimants, including some who have joined our parish. And with the onset of COVID-19, the Shelter expanded into the Parish Hall for several months, as the need for social distancing limited the numbers allowed in the basement space. Since October 2020, the Shelter has only been allowed 16 residents, and has had to find new space that can accommodate 40 or more residents. Despite the move, we look forward to an ongoing relationship with St. Simon's Shelter as part of our outreach ministry in the local community.

We now look for new ways to utilize the resources of our buildings, perhaps finding new and different ministries in the community of which we are a part. While we navigate uncharted waters, it is worth remembering that back in 1989 we had no idea where the opening of the Out of the Cold program would lead. And so we look ahead with faith that the Lord will guide us in the search for the right new tenant.

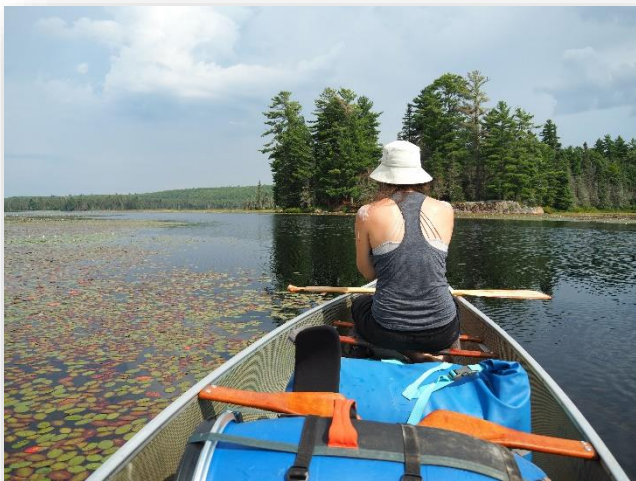
Big Canoe, Small Backyard

Fr. Michael Perry

Last summer Yvonne and I took a week to explore Algonquin Park. And although we are experienced campers, this was our first major foray into backwoods canoe-camping as a couple. We had a great experience, and I have to admit I think a good reason why was our fantastic canoe.

This was our first big trip with our 17-foot Quetico canoe, made of Kevlar, and purchased used from an outfit in Killarney. It is lightweight, comfy, has lots of capacity so that you can carry gear for really long trips. We had rented this canoe and loved it so much that we immediately inquired about purchasing old stock at the end of the season. Yvonne made the arrangements and did the 9-hour return trip to go and pick it up. But once we got our 17-foot canoe home, we had another problem: where to put it? You see, Yvonne and I don't have 17 spare feet. Neither the width nor depth of the backyard measures 17 feet. Same story for a diagonal or an angle. And we can't stick it up in the air either. No matter what we do, it doesn't fit. So what do you do with a big canoe and a small backyard?

The first thing we did was ask my sister. She also has a smallish backyard, but it could fit. No matter that the only way to access the backyard of her row house is to carry the canoe through the front door. But when she started to renovate her house,



*Yvonne at the front of the big canoe
in Algonquin Park Photo: Fr. Michael*



*Yvonne in the small backyard with the big canoe!
Photo: Fr. Michael*

she explained that the 17-foot canoe needs re-housing, as it would not pass through the remodeled entry.

So the second thing we did was ask my parents. Now this is a big ask, because it just so happens my parents already have a canoe: our first canoe! That cement block that was purchased from Kijiji on a bit of a lark so Yvonne and I could paddle Lake Simcoe when I was the St. George's Sibbald Point chaplain. A decent enough vessel to explore lakes and rivers, but not suitable to multi-day canoeing trips due to the fact it weighs about as much as a small chapel.

You sort of know in advance the negotiations might be delicate, so you prepare your lines: "Don't worry, we will sell that first one now that we have this better one. Then there will only be one canoe, which is no different than the current situation. So really, no changes here."

Once in a while, it is good to take stock of your transportation modes: two canoes, four bikes, two Bike Share memberships, two Presto cards, four feet, zero cars. The zero cars situation comes into focus when you remember the two canoes are up at your parents' house, which brings you back to the idea: Do you think it will fit in the backyard? No, it really doesn't.

This summer, Yvonne and I are scheduled to return to Algonquin in July. Eight days of canoeing in the northwest corner of the Park. A moment to step into a uniquely Ontario garden and marvel at

the gift of creation. We will also make use of the local canoeing scene in Toronto and explore the Humber, the Rouge, and the Island. This pandemic has taught us that just as God is near to us, so too are God gifts, if we would but open our eyes and see them. They are at our fingertips waiting to be discovered. And even if the 17-foot canoe isn't at our fingertips, with help from those who love us, we know that we can get there, if we try.

From the organ bench

Continued from page 2

The records that have been digitized so far are:

- Hymns for the Seasons of the Church Part 1 ~1957
- Hymns for the Seasons of the Church Part 2 ~1958
- Christmas Music in Court and Cathedral ~ 1960
- St. Simon's Sings-A Tribute to Canada's Centennial - 1967
- The Gracious Time (Christmas Music at St. Simon's) ~ 1973
- Pergolesi Stabat Mater - 1976
- Magnificat - English Church Music from 5 Centuries - 1985
- Lead Their Praises, A Festival of Hymns (recorded at St. Simon's with hundreds of singers from churches across Toronto) - 1975

Some of the dates are guesses. If you can help with confirming any of these, please let me know. So far two of the LP's are fully edited into individual tracks which can be downloaded from our website from the Music page. They are the Hymns for the Seasons of the Church Parts 1 and 2 from the 1950's. The original recordings were mono and the sound quality is not to today's standards. They were originally published by Canterbury Records Company in Toronto. In trying to obtain original masters for these, I was hopeful to find that The Canterbury Music Company (also in Toronto) exists and is in business today. Sadly, not the same company I was told.



*Some of the current choir combined with the 1950's choir
Photo: Screenshot from SPSS youtube channel*

Now to the fun part I started to explain.... For our Easter and Ascension Live Streamed services I was able to combine the St. Simon's choir from the 1950's with some of our singers from today's choir. Through the magic of technology, our singers each sang and recorded their own part while listening to the 1958 recording. I then was able to compile the new voice parts on top of the original hymn recordings. If you follow the [link 4 Hymn 215 Come ye faithful 2m21s.mp4](#) you will see our singers singing along with a photo of the choir taken around the time of the original recording of the Easter Hymn 'Come ye Faithful, Raise the Strain'. On one of the verses you will hear the choir from 1958 singing alone. To me the opportunity to connect in worship with our past in a tangible living way is pretty cool.

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