



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

JUBILATE!

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Incumbent: The Rev'd Canon

Geoffrey Sangwine

Honorary Assistant: The Rev'd

Jennifer Matthews

Rector's Warden: David Carrington

People's Warden: Stephanie
Woodside

Treasurer: Johan van t'Hof

Envelope Secretary: Paul Mitchell

Music Director: Robin Davis

Jubilate! Editor: Peggy Needham

Jubilate! Production: Rosemary
Hendra



Serving Communion at the new 9:15am Sunday service.

Photo: Vanessa Scott

From the Rector

The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine

On Saturday, April 2nd we had two funerals in the parish, each with a reception in the Parish Hall, observing, of course, the safety protocols. Both families have long connections in our parish, one going back to Canon Bedford-Jones' time as Rector, the other more recently during the Incumbency of Fr. Robert Clubbe and the establishment of the St. Simon's Shelter.

This may sound odd, but it was a strangely satisfying day. I say that because after two years of the pandemic when we have been restricted from offering such services, it really felt like the Church at work, the Church fulfilling our mission to proclaim the Gospel and to be there for those in need. This is why we are here, and it felt very right. While both receptions in our Parish Hall were catered, we had an amazing team of volunteers who hosted both receptions. We stayed at the end, sitting down together to share some pizza as it was a tiring day. Thank you very much to the volunteers who gave so generously of their time to enable this ministry. Speaking of volunteers, we need more people to help us in various ways to keep our ministry running effectively. Hospitality is a key part of our Christian witness, but we need others to help with the Technical Ministry, Intercessors, Servers, etc., and as we look ahead to providing a new Food Ministry such as a community lunch. We need your help.



The Fifth Sunday of Lent service attended by people both in-person and on-line. Photo: SPSS collection

I remind us of the uncomfortable but very poignant words of the late Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple. "The Church is the only organisation that exists for those who do not belong to it". We have a marvellous parish with so many opportunities to be a sign of God's loving presence in the heart of Toronto. We have good news to share – the good news of Jesus Christ and the grace and mercy he brings. Good news is proclaimed in word, worship and in loving service. Where is God calling us as a community? How is God calling you?

The funeral liturgy reminds us that "in the midst of life we are in death". It is appropriate in the Christian context to invert that phrase to also say "in the midst of death we are in life". To be sure, we have been in the midst of much darkness and death over these past years, and most recently as we see the dreadful war in Ukraine. We continue to pray for all those affected by the pandemic and now especially for the people of Ukraine and all those both within and beyond her borders who are so horribly affected by this war. May the violence end and give way for peace and justice to prevail.

As we look to Easter and the empty tomb, we are reminded that God walks with us through all the changing scenes of life. God's promise is that sin and death do not have the last say. We are reminded of St Paul's words: "*O death where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory. Thanks be to*

God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore beloved, be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord". 1 Corinthians 15.

The resurrection is God's promise to transform the worst we can do to each other, indeed it is God's promise to redeem creation and to make all things new. In the midst of death, we are in life because the tomb was empty. "Now is Christ risen from the dead" (1 Cor. 15)...now we say "Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!"

May you all have a blessed Easter.
Geoffrey+



Notes from the Garden

Carol Peck

Photos: Carol Peck

The garden is beginning to wake from its Winter hibernation, and the Garden Guild is looking forward to resuming its labour of love tending to it. Weather permitting, we hope to have a Garden Day shortly after Easter to clear away Winter debris and take stock of general conditions. The garden is large and we could use all the help we can get! If you would like to join us, please speak to Carol Peck or leave a message with contact information at the Office.



Wardens' Update

Stephanie Woodside, People's Warden

It is my great pleasure to provide my first Wardens' Update for the church newsletter, **Jubilate!** David Carrington and I are excited (and perhaps feeling a bit daunted as well!) to be taking on the roles of Rector's Warden and People's Warden, respectively.

David has been a member of this parish since childhood and has served in a number of capacities: He has been a dedicated server, including a period as Head Server, as well as volunteering in the Sunday School. Most recently, David has dedicated his time to leading the tech team that insures all our services are live streamed to those watching from home. I have been a member of this parish since first joining with my husband, Larry, in 2016. It has been my absolute pleasure to join the choir, and I have also been involved with the Stewardship Committee for several years.

As we move into a time of anticipated lessened pandemic restrictions, there is hope for renewal for our parish. Both David and I are looking forward with a sense of optimism that, once we are able to gather in more "normal" ways, there will be a time of reacquaintance with one another after two very difficult years.

We are looking forward to Spring when the parish will be able to reach out to our surrounding



One of the basement classrooms to be renovated for new tenant. Photo: SPSS website

community with two events: our Doors Open weekend as well as our first ever Parish Festival in late June (Read all about these events elsewhere in this newsletter.) Combined with the efforts by the Gardening Guild to beautify our grounds, these will be wonderful ways to reintroduce our parish to the community.

In the meantime, an enormous amount of work is being done by our treasurer and deputy warden, Johan van't Hof, and parish member, Spencer Higgins, to shepherd the construction project which will completely renovate the two downstairs classrooms and create a wonderful space for our prospective tenant: a nursery school. The wardens group continues to look for other tenants to use our spaces. These efforts are vital to our financial sustainability.

In closing, we are thankful for all the support that is being provided to the leadership team and for the continued efforts and commitment of all the committees at St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle that assure the vitality of our parish.



*Stephanie Woodside, People's Warden and
David Carrington, Rector's Warden
Photos: SPSS Collections*

Postulant to Ordinand and An Update on our Alpha Community

Jillian Ruch



Ordinand Jillian Ruch preaching on the Fifth Sunday of Lent Photo: SPSS YouTube channel

Hello, community of St. Peter's and St. Simon-the-Apostle! In my last entry in **Jubilate!**, I explained what a postulant is and since that time, I have been made an ordinand. This means that I have been given the go ahead to be ordained by the Diocese. This includes the College of Bishops and the Postulancy committee. The Ordination is being held at the Cathedral of St. James on May 1, 2022. I am still in amazement of where God has directed me and I'm grateful that He is with me, directing me as He has done this far in my life. I just wanted to say thank you to this community for supporting me in the last six months (can't believe it's already been six months!), and I will miss you all very much. My last Sunday will be Easter Sunday, and I'm so thankful for all that you have taught me as a community. I will take this experience with me and be grateful for all the work you all do here in God's name. I will continue to pray for your construction work and the future of your parish! You have so much happening in the community and I have been so very impressed with the energy and high level of commitment of you all to each other. Thank you for allowing me into your space!

I wanted to highlight the Alpha Community that we have formed since the last week in January. We

have been using the Alpha course as the basis for our time together on Tuesday evenings on Zoom. We have had a hearty group of about six, but some weeks have been nine of us, including 2 people from St. Jude's Wexford as well. Some of the feedback that we have received relates to the conversations we have had after the videos and the little challenges we have set for each throughout the week. The Alpha course is set up as an outreach tool, but we have found in our group, those with mature faiths, that this space has allowed discussion that we do not have in coffee hour, at the Wednesday services or really in a meaningful way outside of a planned discussion. We have had topics such as: "Who is Jesus?"; "How to resist Evil?"; and "How do we tell others about our faith?". We only have three weeks left in our course, and we have learned much about each other but also about the questions we have about our faith. We have learned new ways to pray and we have prayed as a group. We have discovered that questions that we thought were just our questions, that people around the world and in our little group have as well. These last 10 weeks have been a time of growth and a chance of community. There was a discussion last week about our next steps with Alpha. Do we do this again? Do we use it as a tool for outreach? What do we as a community need moving forward? These will be questions that Fr. Geoff and the Education Committee will address in the coming months. If you have questions about our process or the course itself, please do not hesitate to ask me or a member of the group. I'm happy to talk about the experience – it was a great one!

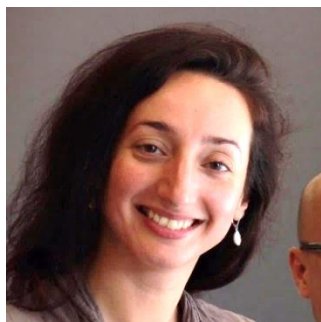
Blessings to you all as you move into the re-opening phases of the parish again – it will be great for everyone to see each other again, as they feel able to be safe.

From the Organ Bench

Robin Davis

In this article I would like to introduce you to a wonderful group of young people who have joined our choir as leads since the onset of Covid. While change within any organization can be challenging, I am so grateful to have been able to find not only the right voices, but the right people to build our choir. All are not only very gifted singers, but excellent musicians and warm and

down-to-earth people who fit the chemistry of our choir and are encouraging and fully collegial with our volunteer singers. Please join me in welcoming these new members of our SPSS team in person when the opportunity arises.



Mekhriban Mamedova joined us at SPSS in August, 2020 as an Alto Lead having previously sung as a lead at St. James Cathedral. Born in Moscow, Russia, she has been singing in

choirs and playing the piano since she was 6 years old.

Mekhriban is a graduate with Honors of the Gnessins Music College in classical piano (Moscow, Russia) and the faculty of Law at Moscow State University with Honours. She also holds degrees from the University of Toronto (Faculty of Law, J.D., LL.M. and Rotman School of Management, MBA). She works as a Senior Corporate Associate at McCarter Grespan lawyers in Kitchener/Waterloo.

In addition to the piano, Mekha plays the pipe organ and percussion instruments. She has also sung with Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, Trinity College Evensong Choir (U of T) and St. Basil Catholic Church choirs.

Maria Milenic joined us in October of 2021 at the recommendation of former alto lead Danielle Dudycha who had worked with Maria in a vocal pedagogy masterclass. Originally from Kitchener, Maria's singing career began at the age of 5 belting Canadian pop icon, Avril Lavigne's hits in her bedroom. She has now progressed to the Koerner Hall stage with the Royal Conservatory of Music Glenn Gould School, Opera Program. Maria was recently accepted to take part in the Berlin (Germany) Opera Academy program this summer after which she will return to the GGS to complete her 2nd year of the graduate music programme. In addition to



singing, Maria describes her piano skills as "functional" and having played the clarinet as being "the biggest band nerd in high school".

Before coming to Toronto to study at the GGS, Maria sang in Trinity United Church choir in Newmarket (her family home). In addition to teaching music privately, Maria tutors in French, English and math (though claiming, not very well - she uses a calculator).

James Coole-Stevenson

joined the SPSS team in December, 2021 as a Bass section lead. Jamie grew up steeped in the Anglican choral tradition singing as a treble in both Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa and St. Matthews in the Glebe, Ottawa. In high school, Jamie played trumpet in numerous ensembles, specializing particularly in jazz. He holds double major degrees in Computer Science and Voice from the University of Ottawa. He is currently studying in the MMus (Opera) program at U of T. Prior to coming to Toronto Jamie worked in IT and software design. James has sung with the Ontario Youth Choir, the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir, The Cantata Singers of Ottawa, the NAC Ensemble, and the choir of Rideau Park United Church.



Kieran Kane joined us in September, 2021 as a Bass lead. Kieran was recommended to us by former bass lead Alan MacDonald. Kieran was born in Kingston, ON and first began playing piano at age 7. He studied voice at the University of Guelph, and has sung with a number of ensembles across Canada including The Elora Singers, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, and The Canadian Chamber Choir and the choir of Islington United Church. When not singing, Kieran teaches piano and voice lessons and has served as music director on productions such as *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *The Gondoliers*.



Doors Open

Larry Krotz

On the last weekend of May, the 28th and 29th, SPSS is going to have a special opportunity to welcome neighbours from far and wide into our building when we participate in Toronto Doors Open. It has been a long time - if ever - since an invitation at this level has been extended to fellow Torontonians to enter our world. We have a lot to show and a lot to share – from the delights of our architecture and stained glass, to the historical story of our amalgamated parish; from the traditional beauties of our liturgy, to our engagement with the needs of our fast changing neighbourhood. It is a real opportunity to embrace new friends – several parishioners recount that they discovered St. Peter's Carlton in days gone by through Doors Open. We invite parishioners to keep the dates in mind. Come as "guests", to see us as others see us. Or sign up as volunteers to be hosts and guides for our guests.

Black History and Randell Adjei

Moveta Nanton

During the month of February we had a PowerPoint display on the church website about Black History Month that celebrated the excellence, leadership and service of members of the Black Community.

Many Black community members have done amazing things that have made a difference beyond their immediate communities. One of these outstanding leaders is Randell Adjei.

This young man is a native of Scarborough, Ontario. He formed R.I.S.E (Reaching Intelligent Souls Everywhere) to provide youth with inclusive and safe platforms to express themselves through the performance arts. R.I.S.E.'s popularity and Randell's creativity led to significant accolades and creativity that can be seen across many mediums. One of these is a TV advertisement regarding Scarborough. I am sure many of you has seen this advertisement.

Randell is Ontario's first Poet Laureate. He is a spoken word artist, speaker and cultural curator. His love and gift for poetry developed over the years as a means for self-expression and reflects the challenges he has faced.

To highlight, Randell Adjei has had many accolades, including CBC's Metro Morning Torontonian of the year in 2015, featured in **Now Magazine's** as a local hero in May 2017, Best Spoken Word Award in 2014 and the Mayor's Youth Award by Toronto Arts Foundation in 2018. He opened up for President Barack Obama at the Economics Club of Canada in 2020.



*Ontario's first Poet Laureate Randell Adjei,
Photo courtesy of Lady Mensah Studios.*

One of Randell's poem, **The power of the tongue** that relates to the generational impact of colonialism is included. As you read it you will feel the impact.

The Power of the Tongue *Randell Adjei*

Since the day I learned my 1st word
self expression has always been 2nd nature
a child prodigy of 3rd world parents
so, I have to tell my forefathers stories on paper.

Silenced for too long the strength of my tongue
sentenced me to a life of writing wrongs
my penmanship bridges gaps
of intergenerational dialogue
marginalized between the lines of lands my
parents traveled
sacrificing the familiarity of home
to make ease for me, life's inevitable battles
so who am I not to be what I was destined?
Despite school systems labeling me
and sanctioning me to detention
despite the target on my back
and private funding to put melanin in prison,
correction!

I will not be your stereotype
I am made from the essence of stardust above
aerial heights
it is not my fault, you cannot see the light in me
you cannot enlighten me on your capitalist
commodities
I am the rose the adapted to blossom from
concrete
capitalizing on conquered conquests
my predecessors paved
placing poetic politic on histories page
these pages cut from my family trees
that once hung our forefathers as slaves!

It is these pages I tell their stories
it is these lines they once hung from I celebrate
their glory
Just to stay connected to my roots
These pages are sacred
It's how hip hop's essence began as pure truth
yet these days, I can't relate to what most rappers
are saying in the booth

This spoken word, is a gift
We can emanate life or death by the mere
intentions
coming out of our lips
We can speak dreams into existence
creating a world – united or divided

You can choose to be the change,
or remain silenced
by size, the tongue is the strongest muscle in our
bodies for a reason
a tool to connect us to the divine
more than just speaking it keeps us believing
a portal between time and space mixed
the inspiration of ancient heiroglyhs
Our words can build dynasties and mend broken
bonds
our words can create vitality
and give us the freedom of redemptions songs
they can heal us from wounds of the past
and live beyond us
like, MLK's dreams to see us free to at last
they can also carry us into other dimensions

So be mindful of the words and intentions
that depart from the sacredness of your tongue
we are powerful vessels
the creator etched presence into our lungs
so you have a gift within you
write your story
leave a legacy that will continue
etch your name in the dendrachronology
of histories pages
do not allow the 'from' and 'to' on your tombstone
to just be dated
let the dash in between
reveal the story you told
and of the magic that you created!



Black History 2022 Slide Show

In case you missed it, the Black History 2022 Slide Show is still available for viewing on our website. Thanks to Moveta Nanton for preparing this informative presentation. Visit www.stsimon.ca/whats-on/Black-History-Month-2022

Dispatch from the Sunshine Coast

Diane Marshall

Greetings to friends and fellow seekers at SPSS. As I write this, the magnolia tree outside my window is in bloom, and the Japanese Cherry blossoms are magnificent in front of my condo. Spring is truly here, lifting all our spirits after the severe “weather events” of last summer and fall.

As life is opening up again here on the Coast, following two years of zoom only services, we at **St. Hilda's** have been once again able to open our church to environmental films and discussions, and to the Indigenous drumming circles and study groups. We have also been given a grant from the Diocese to hire **Terry Aleck** as a Teaching Elder - a further dimension of our commitment towards reconciliation. Terry is a resident of the Shishalh people, and originally a Pipe Carrier from Lytton First Nation. He is a survivor of St. George's Indian Residential School (Anglican) in Lytton, BC. and was a prominent part of the “Healing Circle video” made by the national Anglican church in the 1990's. Together with his wife Christine, Terry leads drumming circles at the church, open to the whole Sunshine Coast community. Participants drum and sing while learning native culture through Terry's storytelling.



Terry leading drumming & singing by the ocean on Orange Shirt Day Photo: Diane Marshall

In addition, our church is instrumental in a Healing and Reconciliation Dialogue Circle: an ecumenical gathering started by Anglican, Lutheran (ELCIC) and United churches on the Sunshine Coast. The Circle is committed to inviting the settler community to learn and live out the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Actions. Past and future events include dialogue circle/workshops on Cultural Competency, the Doctrine of Discovery, UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, KAIROS' Blanket Exercise, TRC's Calls to Action.

Finally, several members of the church in recognizing we are settlers on this unceded territory, are part of **Siyaya** (“Family and friends working together towards reconciliation”) with the Shishalh Nation.

The attached photos may be of interest. I wish you all a joyous Easter.

Diane

St. Hilda's First Nations Acknowledgement *(An act towards reconciliation)*

For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked in this land, on their own (unceded) traditional territory. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives. We acknowledge the Coast Salish People of the shíshálh First Nation, past, present, and emerging leaders and their stewardship of this land (**swiya**) throughout the ages.



*Our drumming circle at a gathering at the Nation
Photo: Diane Marshall*

Easter 2022

The Good News!

Fran Brown



*Ministry Fair 2019 Coffee Hour Table
SPSS Collection*

As we slowly move out of the pandemic, we edge closer to the fellowship of COFFEE HOUR! Board of Health rules state that drinks can be served if partakers are sitting down. In clear weather we may be able to meet on the lawn also. And so, it is time to renew our coffee hour teams. If you are able to join a team of six, either as an old hand or a first try at this volunteer service, please contact the Church office or Fran 416 504 5885. We rejoice as we prepare to reconnect!!



The Basement Kitchen was just one of the rooms the team cleared out. Photo: SPSS website



*Ian Corlett and Vaughan McQuade,
movers extraordinaire! Photo: Larry Krotz*

*Thank you to Fran Brown and her
assembled team of helpers who worked
hard to empty out the basement rooms in
preparation for the upcoming construction.*



*Ted Robinson, Fran Brown and Christopher Ashby take a
well-earned break. Photo: Larry Krotz*

Kids Corner

*Sileen Phillips, Coordinator,
Child, Youth and Family Ministry*



International Sunday School attendees

Sydney, Lianna and Johnathan

Photo: courtesy of Sydney, Lianna and Johnathan

Meet Sydney (14), Lianna (16) and Johnathan (13)! They were some of the international attendees of our Sunday School pilot project for teens. During the two year period of lock-down, the opportunity to use virtual platforms to explore avenues for online outreach and delivery of godly teaching for youths became very apparent, and I seized it. There were a total of 16 teens who attended our "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" series - Sunday School for teens, weekly via Zoom. These three teens tuned in from Kingston, Jamaica and participated in our online *Summer Mentorship Program*. In the next issue, Sydney shares her experience as a mentor for two of the children from our under 12 group.



In-person Sunday School resumes - same time, different space! Photo: Vanessa Scott

SPSS Child Youth & Family Ministry
KIDS presents

@525BloorEast

**outdoor
Easter
craft
workshop**

*weather permitting

A fun afternoon of art & craft activities for children

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

**Sat., April 16
11am to 2pm
2022**

40 HOWARD STREET, TORONTO
Email kidscoordinator@yahoo.com for inquiries



*People young and old are happy
to be back in Sunday School!*

Photos: Vanessa Scott



SPSS Helps The Star's Christmas Fund

If you wandered into the old Shelter area in early December, you would have seen about 200 Star Christmas Fund boxes waiting for pick-up by members of a Boy Scout Troop. The Church provided the space to the Star Christmas Fund to help with distribution of the boxes in our neighbourhood.



*Star Christmas Boxes awaiting pick-up
Photo: Rosemary Hendra*

An Exciting Event: A Parish Festival!

Mary Anderson and Stephanie Woodside

Our church community has been in a long hibernation from regular worship and social activities that, prior to the pandemic, were an important part of who we are. The parish is in need of an infusion of fun and a chance to get together and raise funds for the parish. On June 18th we will have the opportunity to bring our church community together, to reach out to our new neighbours, and longstanding ones, and to celebrate at our first Parish Festival. We will have delicious food, exciting vendors, uplifting music, and creative activities for children on the South Lawn, adjacent to Howard Street. If the weather is inclement, we will be situated in the parish hall.



*The Parish Festival will have delicious food similar to SPSS
2019 Barbecue's spread Photo: SPSS collection*

Come and be a part of this special event and the opportunity to celebrate who we are as a parish. We are looking for volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks. To volunteer, please contact Daphne Harris, daphneharris@sympatico.ca.

There will of course be a bake table. Fran Brown is coordinating this effort. If you would like to contribute cookies and other baked goods, please contact Fran, f.brown-026@outlook.com. If you are interested in being a vendor and renting a table for the day or require more information about how you can be part of the Parish Festival, please contact Stephanie Woodside or Mary Anderson. swoodside27@gmail.com, maryandersonsings@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars!

Holy Week:

Wednesday 13 April: 11am in-person only

Maundy Thursday 14: April, 7pm, in-person and on-line

Good Friday: 15 April, 11am, in-person and on-line, preacher The Very Rev' Douglas Stoute, Former Dean of Toronto

Saturday 11am – 2pm: Outdoor Easter craft workshop

Easter Day: 17 April 9:15am in-person only, 10:30am, in-person and on-line

Saturday May 28 & Sunday May 29 – Doors Open

Saturday June 18 – Parish Festival

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

Next **Jubilate!** When will the next **Jubilate!** be published? Watch for the announcement in the church bulletin....