



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

JUBILATE!

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Incumbent:

Rev'd Canon Geoffrey Sangwine

Rector's Warden: David Carrington

People's Warden:

Stephanie Woodside

Deputy Wardens:

Gerry Courage, Vanessa Scott,

Laurie Sanderson

Treasurer: Johan van 't Hof

Envelope Secretary: Paul Mitchell

Music Director: Robin Davis

Editor, Jubilate!: Vanessa Scott

Parish Administrator: Jessy Balendra



SPSS Vestry 2023. Photo: Vanessa Scott

Now the Green Blade Riseth...

The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine

At our annual Vestry Meeting in February, I spoke about my hope for our parish that we could bring an Assistant Curate on board. I am delighted to announce this is happening, made possible by the generous support of the Diocesan Curacy Grant which funds the whole curacy costs for 2023 and a portion of them in 2024.

On May 1st we will welcome **Abraham Thomas** to St. Peter and St. Simon's as our Assistant Curate. Abraham has been a Postulant with the Diocese for the past two years during which time I have been his postulancy advisor. Originally from the Martoma Church in India, Abraham embraced Anglicanism and responded to a call to ordained priestly ministry. He is a graduate of Wycliffe College in Toronto and has served in a number of parishes during his time including, the Church of St. Martha and Mary, St. George-on-Yonge, St. Bartholomew, Regent Park and St. George's-on-the Hill, Islington.

Abraham will be ordained to the transitional diaconate at St. James' Cathedral on Sunday, April 30th. His parents, who are physicians in Qatar, will be in Toronto for the ordination. They are hosting a reception in the SPSS Parish Hall following the ordination service. We look forward to welcoming Abraham to SPSS!

Holy Week & Easter 2023

After what was a mild start to the winter, mother nature certainly has given us a blast over the last few months, but finally, Spring is here. The birds are singing, the green shoots are finally starting to appear, calling to mind the lovely Easter carol:

*Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

The coming of Spring is a sure reminder that Holy Week and Easter are upon us. On Palm Sunday we will welcome the Right Reverend Peter Fenty as our Celebrant and Preacher. **A parish lunch will follow the Palm Sunday service.**

In Holy Week we follow Jesus from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to Good Friday's cross and to the empty tomb of Easter. Following his invitation, we keep his commandments and take up our own cross with him.

Skating Days with the Children of SPSS

Photos & text: Stephanie Woodside

Much fun was had on January 14th when the children of the Sunday School, accompanied by their parents, ventured out to a skating party at the Evergreen Brickworks. The event was organized by Carol Peck, Sunday School assistant, and coincided with her birthday! Since then, there have been a number of repeat outings to the rink.



Our parishioners enjoy fun in the cold

To do this as a Christian is a privilege and responsibility; a way for us to know more deeply his love in the midst of life's trials, and his ultimate triumph over sin and death, his precious gift to us.

Every blessing for Holy Week and a Happy Easter.
Geoffrey+



Our new curate, Abraham Thomas!

The Evergreen Brickworks rink is a great location as it provides free skate rentals. Children who had not had any skating experience have progressed to being confident skaters! *Stephanie*



Wardens' Update

Stephanie Woodside, People's Warden

Recently I was searching for something in one of the storage rooms in the church and came across a number of very small sinks, already mounted in their little cabinets. That was a sure sign that the day care construction process is nearing the finish line. We very much hope that Munchkin Manor can move in by May 1st. A hopeful sign for our parish! Indeed, the wardens' group is looking forward to the upcoming year with renewed optimism that the parish will be on a sounder financial footing which, in turn, will enable us to grow and thrive.

Since the Vestry meeting, we have welcomed Gerald Courage as a deputy warden. Gerry and his wife, Irene, who sings in our choir, joined SPSS during the pandemic, and we are thrilled to have both of them as part of our parish family. Gerry is recently retired from the Miller Thomson law firm, where he was chair of the firm from 2008 to 2013, and was Acting Chief Operating Officer from August 2019 to October 2021. He has also served as a deputy warden at St. James Cathedral. We welcome him – and his expertise! – to the wardens' council! *Stephanie*

From the Organ Bench

Robin Davis, Music Director

Concert Alert!

Handel's *Messiah*, Parts 2 and 3

Sunday April 16, 4 pm | Tickets \$30, children free

It has been four years since our choir presented a major work in concert and it is so exciting to be working toward this performance. Handel composed the oratorio *Messiah* in 1741 over a period of 24 days. While most performances in modern times take place in the Christmas season, it is only Part 1 that is based on the Christmas Theme. Parts 2 and 3 are thematically aligned with Christ's passion, resurrection, and ascension. We are very excited to be partnering with instrumentalists from the Arcady Ensemble, well renowned for authentic period performances. This is also a great opportunity to feature some of our very talented singers as soloists.

This is a great opportunity to invite friends & family into our beautiful church to share in the power and divine inspiration of this glorious music. Tickets can be purchased after Sunday services in the narthex, or on-line through Eventbrite. Tickets can also be reserved through the church office and paid for at the door. Tickets are \$30 General Admission, and children

may attend free. Proceeds from the concert are in support of our parish. If you would like to make a donation as a memorial, or thanksgiving, please speak with me so it can be acknowledged in the programme.

Children's Christmas Musical 2022

Miracle on Bethlehem Street

Indeed, this past Christmas was one of miracles! Were it not for the hard work and true commitment of our amazing young people, this production could not have happened. We rehearsed weekly from mid September to prepare the songs and dialogue. While this year's musical was done on a smaller scale, it was wonderful for it to be part of the Sunday morning service as in December 2018. (In 2013 and 2017 it was presented separately on the stage in the hall.) Thank you so much to our amazing young people: Benjamin the Innkeeper (Elijah Hughes); Rachel the Innkeeper (Ashray Ahumuza); Servant (Darlene Kirabo Mawanda); Herald (Ariana Ahwera) and Inn Staff (Jayden Dangpilen, from San Lorenzo's parish). Thank you also to Mary and Joseph (Sophie Knowles & David Cumming), and to our Three Kings (Ian Corlett, Ian Speck, and Johan van 't Hof). Thank you especially to Sileen Phillips, and Audrey Hughes for the production help, and Alison Jane for wrangling the props. *Robin*

The Connections Group

Fran Brown

Connecting with like-minded people is one of our basic needs. This gives us a richness of experience and that ever important sense of belonging that draws us into the love and caring of the ministry of the church. As Paul the Apostle speaks to the Romans, Romans 1 v. 11-12, "We meet that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me."

We connect in many ways at SPSS, from greeting each other, to sharing time in coffee hour, to listening to each other, to offering a helping hand as needed. The Connections Group is planning a friendly morning coffee time for the Shelter members. We hope to make room also for the neighbourhood women to continue their weekly gathering. CREW has been able to use our space for senior women to meet and enjoy a meal. We are expanding the food bank contributions.

We look forward to furthering our church understanding of Indigenous concerns. We have begun a connection with *Bees for Peace* for when our garden can be revamped, connecting us to other city church gardens. We connected with six local churches for World Day of Prayer on March 4th. (*cont'd next page*)

Holy Week & Easter 2023

(cont'd) We ask everyone to build their own connections by offering their skills, experience, and time to connect with our own faith community and by reaching out to help with church and community projects. Together we can reach out and make a difference.

Be Connected! If you are interested in speaking with Connections Group members or joining our wonderful group, please let the church office know. *Fran*

Drum Making with “Coyote”

Photos & text, Diane Marshall, Sunshine Coast Correspondent

Peggy has asked me to share more about Siyiyaya, and St. Hilda’s remarkable Indigenous Elder Terry “Coyote” Aleck. Coyote was the first person in Canada to bring a court case based on the sexual and emotional and physical abuse he, and so many others, experienced at St. George’s Anglican residential school in Lytton, B.C. The case began in 1987, but it took years to find lawyers who would prepare such a case against the federal government and the Queen. Finally, it was filed in 1997, and settled in 2003, when Terry won the court case and received a settlement. He then received an official written apology from Prime Minister Harper, who went on to make a formal public apology to all residential school survivors.



Elder Terry “Coyote” Aleck teaches drum-making

Terry’s case became a precedent for so many others to come forward during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which was established shortly afterwards.

The Anglican Church of Canada took seriously Terry’s court case, and in 1994 made a film, *The Healing Circle*, featuring Terry and others from the Lytton school, along with several from the Anglican-run Mohawk Institute.



Diane’s daughter Liz (& rescue dog Freeda) doing final weaving of leather strips to hold the drumskin

For me, as a Christian and an Anglican, this collective history is one I feel deeply, especially so at this time of Lent. The monthly drumming circle at my church, St. Hilda’s, draws about 30 people from the broader community here on the Sunshine Coast, and it is very moving to feel the deep resonance of the drums while learning some of the songs. This is a real experience of ways to join together, as people “journeying together towards reconciliation”: the meaning of Siyiyaya. *Diane*

SJTCA Update!

The St. James Town Community Arts group (formerly Reaching Out Through Music) has sent an update for anyone interested in what this wonderful music education group is up to. It is too comprehensive to be included in our newsletter, but can be found online in glorious detail on our website at <https://stpeterstsimon.ca/our-community/howweserve/reaching-out-through-music/>

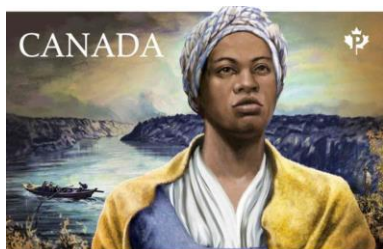
Black History Month 2023

Moveta Nanton

Organizations across the GTA, public and private, recognized people and/or events that have contributed to Black lives and communities in Canada. It is a wonderful feeling.

The Black History Society of Ontario, Toronto Heritage and Ontario Heritage foundations, the CBC, local Caribbean newspapers “Share News” and “The Caribbean Camera” have focused on the contributions the Black communities are making. Other organizations such as the Canada Post Corporation continue to make significant contributions with stamp designs and creations to honour Black Canadians and communities.

The Canada Post Corporation stamp of Chloe Cooley shows a Black woman enslaved in Canada whose act of resistance in 1743 gave impetus to the abolition of slavery in Upper Canada. (Image courtesy of the Canada Post Corporation)



The remarkable No. 2 Construction Battalion, a group of Black men who fought for their right to serve in WWI but were denied, were honoured with the release of a limited edition of a pure silver \$20 coin designed by Toronto’s Kwame Delfish, the first Black artist to create official artwork for the Canadian Mint. In 2022 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Defence Minister Anita Anand gave an apology with regards to the discrimination of the No. 2 Construction Battalion.

Heritage Toronto highlighted many stories related to the Black community. Joshua Glover was a black man who lived in Etobicoke in the mid-19th century. He escaped slavery in St. Louis, Missouri in 1852, and made his way to a small house in Lambton Mills, owned by the proprietor of Montgomery’s Inn, where he found long-time employment. He is buried in Toronto’s St. James Cemetery in the University of Toronto Memorial Plot. The Statue is located at Joshua Glover Park, 4108 Dundas Street, Etobicoke, Toronto.

Another story is that of American boxer Rubin “Hurricane” Carter (1937-2014), jailed 18 years for murders he did not commit, whose battle for justice and eventual

exoneration inspired both Bob Dylan’s popular protest ballad, and a movie starring Denzel Washington. Following his release, Carter moved to Toronto where he became an advocate for the wrongly convicted and criminal justice reform, with the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted and the Innocence Project.

I was one of the many people who met Mr. Carter as he spoke to students at Bramalea Secondary School. Over one thousand students listened to his speech while sitting on the floor of the gymnasium at Bramalea Secondary School. It was a very moving experience.

One of the most important accomplishments of the Heritage organizations is working to get funding to create plaques honouring past events and people. Recently, plaques were created for the first Black doctors in Toronto, Dr. Alexander Thomas Augusta and Dr. Anderson Ruffin Abbott. These plaques will be located at College and Queen’s Park Crescent and at 15 Brunswick Ave.

A more current story is that of Justice Michael Tulloch who was recently named Chief Justice of Ontario. This story speaks to Mr. Tulloch’s ability and skills as well as his contributions to our society. His story also reminds us that Canada is made up of people from many cultural roots as Mr. Tulloch was born in Jamaica.



Photo submitted by Moveta Nanton

Lastly, it is important for our church community to know that the work that Dr. Winston Isaac did was noticed. He was commended, posthumously, for his contributions to the Brampton community with a “Bench Award”. Although this commendation referred to Brampton, Dr. Isaac’s influence was further afield especially within the Caribbean community.

The award plaque is located on a bench on a sunny pathway at Loafers Lake in Brampton. Dr. Isaac was a member of the Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle. *Moveta*

More info & pictures in the PowerPoint display [on the church website!](#)

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feast!

Alan Rands

Shrove Tuesday brought a Pancake Dinner to SPSS for the first time in several years. The food, donated and prepared by parishioners, accompanied by music, was shared to the delight of the 50 diners. Thanks to all.

Alan



Our gallant cooks and servers! Photo: Vanessa Scott



No loaves and fishes miracle needed – there was plenty of delicious food for everyone! Photo: Vanessa Scott



Nancy Nourse and Ted Robinson serving up the goods – with lots of syrup! Photo: Stephanie Woodside



Larry Krotz flips with joy! Photo: Stephanie Woodside

Coffee Hour

Fran Brown

Wow! Coffee hour has grown into a full Hall and now two coffee urns and several pots of tea! This seems to be a great time to meet and greet old and new friends. Also, people catch up on church news and connect with programs they are interested in. Many thanks to our regular weekly volunteers.

How wonderful that more of our parishioners have discovered the kitchen and can help set up for coffee hour too! We are also grateful to those choir members who have agreed to occasional clean up duty. There is room on the coffee hour list for anyone to help out once a month.

Many thanks for the generous weekly donations which support our coffee hour. *Fran*

The Homework Club Shines

Nancy Nourse

It's just after 3pm and several children are huddled around a table where a noisy game of Snakes and Ladders is in progress. At another table is a small group of girls engaged in drawing, and across the room there is a group of boys involved in an energetic pick-up game of soccer. This is the early, informal time at Homework Club, a daily after-school program which meets Monday to Friday at SPSS. On days when the weather cooperates, much of the early afternoon activity occurs outdoors. After the kids have burnt off some energy in play, the children wash their hands prior to the upcoming snack. While milk is provided every day, there is a wide variety of nutritious food served through the week. It is a relaxing and nourishing time before their more serious tasks of settling into homework completion, supplementary assignments, or quiet reading.

The Homework Club has existed since 2008 as part of an ecumenical collaboration to support the needs of the St. James Town community. The Homework Club was formed in response to listening to the concerns of local parents who didn't always feel equipped to help with their children's homework. Additionally, many of these families had both parents still at work when their children finished their school day, leaving the children much to their own devices.

In 2012 the program was restructured, coming under the direct control of a formal committee. Along with some financial support from the Anglican Foundation, each of three churches (SPSS, Rosedale Presbyterian, and St. Andrew's Bloor Street) annually supports the program with both volunteers and funding.

Marjorie Ross continues to serve as coordinator of volunteers and as liaison between the program and the governing committee. Whereas most of the volunteers attend only one day a week, a supervisor, hired from the St. James Town community, provides the day-to-day continuity and is a vital link to the community. As a secondary objective of the program, this employment opportunity has strong potential for skills development and career advancement. Sushnita Sharma is our current supervisor, with Snehal Ingole in charge of the daily snacks.

At present, there are 25 children enrolled in the program coming from the two local St. James Town



The Homework Club's handmade decorated Christmas tree, 2022! Photo submitted by Nancy Nourse

schools, Rose Avenue and Our Lady of Lourdes. The pupils ranging from grade one to grade five, are picked up before 5:45 by a parent or older sibling. Often the children are in no hurry to leave, as they clearly enjoy the activities, the friendships, and the mentoring. Parents as well, seem very appreciative of the quality time and tutoring that the volunteers provide.

How might you be able to assist in this worthwhile program? If you have currently any unused board games, puzzles, children's reading materials, or LEGO, they would certainly be put to good use. The greatest gift, however, is the offering of your time to affirm these children and mentor their talents. Interested? Please contact SPSS's long-time volunteer for the Homework Club, Daphne Harris (daphneharris@sympatico.ca). *Nancy*

2022 Christmas Market Fundraiser!

Photos submitted by, and event organization by, Mary Anderson and Stephanie Woodside



Our SPSS community came together this winter and mounted both a children's Christmas Pageant (details in Robin's *From the Organ Bench*, page 3), as well as a fundraising Christmas Market chock full of delicious and beautiful food, exciting vendors, carols from our choir, live instrumental music, and a treasures room!

All proceeds raised – just over \$3000! – went to the General Church Fund. If you are interested in being a vendor in the future or would like to be part of an upcoming Parish Festival, please contact Stephanie Woodside or Mary Anderson. woodside27@gmail.com , maryandersonsings@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Special Events!

Holy Week 2023

Tuesday, April 4: **7pm**, Way of the Cross and Holy Eucharist
Wednesday, April 5: **11am**, Sung Eucharist. **7pm**, Way of the Cross
Maundy Thursday, April 6: **7pm**, Sung Eucharist, Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar
Good Friday, April 7: **8am**, Ecumenical Good Friday Walk (**begins at Our Lady of Lourdes** on Sherbourne Street and concludes at SPSS); **11am**, Passion Liturgy
Holy Saturday, April 8: **8pm**, Great Vigil of Easter (at **St. Bartholomew's Regent Park**)
Easter Day, April 9: **9:15am** Holy Eucharist, **10:30am** Festal Eucharist

Sunday, April 16 Easter II: **9:15am** Holy Eucharist, **10:30am** Choral Eucharist
4pm, *Messiah* Concert Performance, \$30. **Concert details on page 3.**

Sunday, April 30 Ordination of **Abraham Thomas**, SPSS Curate 2023-2024, to the transitional diaconate at St. James' Cathedral

Sunday, May 7 **4pm, Evensong** in thanksgiving for the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

Saturday, May 27
& Sunday, May 28 Doors Open Toronto at SPSS

Other upcoming spring and summer events will be communicated in the Fridge Notes and on our website.

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

The next edition of the Jubilate! is scheduled for Fall 2023