The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul

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Inside•Out

Fall 2024

Worship

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3
ALL SAINTS DAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / COMMUNION, REIGN OF CHRIST THE KING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28
ADVENT CHAPEL SERVICE, 5:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1
PAGEANT, 4:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5
ADVENT CHAPEL SERVICE, 5:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12
ADVENT CHAPEL SERVICE, 5:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18
THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE, 6:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19
ADVENT CHAPEL SERVICE, 5:30 P.M.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 7:30 PM. &
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 4:00 P.M.
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE
FAMILY SERVICE, 4:00 P.M.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, 11:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY



Welcome to Our Church!

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Editors: Yilin Chen & Miranda Huybers

Greetings from the Minister

The Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt



Photo: Tam Photography

I hope that you have been able to rest over the summer as we have a lot to look forward to during this new season of church life. In September we celebrated Welcome Back Sunday replete with the ordination of four people to the Eldership, a reception and a hymn sing! At time of writing, we have just held our first "Blessing of the Pets" in our Quiet Garden! At The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Fall and Winter are full of many varied activities and experiences for people of all ages: from the Pumpkin Ball, the Fall Fair and other charitable events to Remembrance and onto Confirmation of Membership for our young people; from the Advent Chapel Services, the Pageant to Carols by Candlelight and our Christmas Eve services, to the varied bible studies we hold as well as YAM activities and services with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

At all times we are called to give thanks and show gratitude to God for God's blessings to us. This sentiment is wonderfully captured in Luke's Gospel Chapter Seventeen. Here we find Jesus travelling to Jerusalem. Ten men approach him as he enters a village. Keeping their distance, they call out to Jesus to have mercy on them. Why? Because they carry a dreaded skin disease called leprosy which has alienated them from the village. John T Carroll explains the situation: '[t]heir condition marks them as ritually impure, and so marginalizes them: so, they address Jesus from a distance, outside the village. They do this … because they are cut off from the community and its worship life. They belong perpetually to the margins of village life; and Jesus is only passing through."

These men know Jesus by name and call out to him for mercy so that they can be restored to full health and return to community life in the village. Jesus tells them to go and show themselves to the priests. As they go, they are cleansed. But only one returns to thank Jesus. We do not know where the other nine go to. Possibly they are overwhelmed. But we discover that the one who came back is not actually from the community that the other nine belong to. The odd one out is a Samaritan, traditionally despised by Jews. This is the identity of the man who in Carroll's words "comes back to bow down at the feet of Jesus, to worship him and give him thanks."

It is difficult to know what tone Jesus uses as he questions the Samaritan about the whereabouts of the other nine whom we can presume are, like Jesus, Galilean Jews. Is he sad, angry, or flabbergasted? What

From the Church Registrar

In Memoriam

Grace Venkatarangam
December 13, 2023

Maureen Graham
January 6, 2024

Sandra Warren Valdmanis
May 10, 2024

Charles Elliott
June 28, 2024

Timothy Evan Price
December 21, 2023

Jack Cyril Knell
March 15, 2024

Dr. George James Mohan Venkatarangam
August 31, 2024

Weddings

Kersaint Saint-Juste & Nadia Papin
June 14, 2024

Parker Curry & Tamara Belair
July 6, 2024

Alexander Haupt & Marie-Christine Martens
August 22, 2024

David Seaman & Hugh Faulkner
August 31, 2024

Jean-Francois Monette & Matthew Suttor
September 14, 2024

Samuel Bellerose & Kayla Murdoch
September 14, 2024

Baptisms

Michael Taub
September 22, 2024

Greetings from the Minister

The Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt

Jesus makes clear is that this foreigner, this unlikely one, this double outcast, this one who came back – has done the right thing and, consequently, has been embraced by grace: "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well." What could Jesus have meant by this? All ten people with leprosy were cured of their disease. But Maggie Dawn helpfully draws a distinction between them: "[N]ine [went] right back [to] where they came from, safely on the right side of the border, healed of their exterior problems but presumably locked back into their



old prejudices and old ways of life as if nothing had ever happened to them. But only one, an outcast in more ways than one, through faith, became well in the broader sense of that word." In short, the fact that this man was truly grateful and so went back to thank Jesus was what made him truly and deeply well. What can we learn from this individual? Without question, demands of the Christian life are great, and sometimes we do not think that we are well enough equipped to cope. But the response of this person reminds us that living out our faith in gratitude to God gives us what we need to live into this life.

This man's wellness is available to all of us in whatever circumstance we find ourselves, if we understand and practice gratitude which allows us to worship God in ways that are transformative. For instance, when we practice gratitude to God, the stewardship of our time, our talents and our money are transformed into the glad gratitude of activity and statistical analysis to the work of grateful hands and hearts. When we practice gratitude to God our prayers become not only intercessions and supplications, but prayers of true confession and thankfulness to God.

Worship is at the heart of the Christian life, and the story of the odd one out who returned to thank Jesus points us to that truth. Our God promises to be at work in our world, in our church and in our lives, so we cannot but give thanks.



Those words "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well" are not meant to challenge us about whether our faith is good enough or strong enough for God or whether our faith is good enough to cleanse us, heal us or restore us. No, instead these words are a description of a way of life full of blessing for the church. So, may we rejoice and give thanks to God, for in giving thanks in all circumstances – be they good or bad – we find that God is indeed in all things and always present: cleansing us, healing us, and restoring us.

May it be so as we begin a new season at The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul.

The Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt,
Lead Minister

A Few Words from Rev. Susan Brasier

Associate Minister of Community Connections and Care



Photo: Tam Photography

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Anyone who has sat in a committee meeting or a Bible study with me has seen my small blue leather binder that contains my schedule (or as I refer to it – "my brain in a book"). I use this old-fashioned method to plan my day and take notes about various projects. It also serves another function. I start almost every day noting something for which I am grateful. "I am grateful for …"; "I appreciate …"; "Thank you for …" are the start of so many sentences to be found in this blue book. Over the course of our two and half years that I have worked beside you as your Associate Minister of Community Connections and Care, many (if not most) of your names appear someplace in these sentences that start my day.

So, as we head into this Thanksgiving holiday, I wanted to share with you just how delighted I am to be part of all the good people who chose to call The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul their spiritual home. While the outside world may know A&P from its stunning music program, the real treasure of our faith community is far more profound and precious. Your expressions of your love of God humbles me to my core. Small things that are truly big things such as Don Kelly's devotion to the Open Church ministry. If the purpose of the church is to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, this humble soul helps us live out this call day by day. I am grateful for the labours of everyone who maintain our Quiet Garden and the people who go to great lengths to provide refreshments and meals – whether it is The Guild's lovely receptions or Keith Randall shopping for the latest Native Friendship Center meal or the dedicated individuals who set up the coffee so the rest of us can have an excuse to linger after a Sunday morning service.

I am grateful for your questions, your energy, your patience, your concern and compassion for one another, and your desire to live into your calling as a Christian. When I find myself weary (as we all do from time to time), I am grateful to be able to gain strength and perspective from the many ways you give yourselves to create this island of goodness in the sea of Montreal. The faith community gathered within the walls of the building at the corner of Sherbrooke and Redpath is so much more than we might individually realize. And for this, I am most grateful.

**I started this gratitude practice after reading an article several years ago that indicated that people who practice gratitude are more optimistic and felt better about their lives. They also exercised more and had fewer visits to physicians.*

The Rev. Susan Brasier,
Associate Minister of Community Connections and Care



Truth & Reconciliation Service

September 30, 2024

In the Spring of 2022, the Indigenous Connections Committee (formerly known as “Twinning”) invited Nakuset to be a guest speaker at our May Lunch and Learn. After her powerful presentation, members of the church began to consider new ways that we could facilitate reconciliation with our Indigenous siblings and carry out our obligations under the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We looked for a way to share the story of the residential schools, the part the Presbyterian Church in Canada had in this atrocity, and offer our lament as we seek a way towards healing.

Accordingly, on the evening of September 30, for the third time since Canada created the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation in 2021, A&P welcomed the community of Montreal into our sanctuary as we once again held an inter-spiritual worship service. Under the leadership of our guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Kenneth Wallace, we spent the evening in song and dance, in story-telling, scripture reading, and prayer. Rev. Dr. Wallace intertwined a ritual to honour the water as we remembered our baptisms. The evening concluded with a joyful unique communion of bannock bread and strawberries before we joined Rev. Wallace dancing our way out of the sanctuary.





Truth & Reconciliation Service

September 30, 2024







Rev. Dr. Wallace, with his songs and stories, created a profound and educational worship opportunity for our congregation. Jill Foster commented that the service "was the truth of the past and the prospect of our future in Christ." Jim MacKinnon noted that the service was a very moving and inspirational experience." Victoria Mykolaienko described the evening as an "incredibly beautiful service of Truth & Reconciliation and I am very happy that I was present - it was AMAZING!"

For as wonderful and inspired as the leadership of Rev. Dr. Wallace, none of this would have happened without an incredible amount of teamwork from the members of our congregation and friends across the denomination. Everything from Rev. Mary Fontaine's powerful and poignant explanation of smudging that she wrote for our bulletin to Michael Cristofaro's donation of the hand-crafted thank you gift for Kenny; Gwen Hallsmith's carefully created Land Acknowledgment to Terry Dimter's utterly inspired promotion and decorations; the music department's willingness to embrace a different style of music to the fourteen member worship team under Rev. Chestnutt's guidance accommodating last minute of shifts in the service; Diane Ellison's beautiful graphics and Nico Cristofaro's ability to manage the sound for a very complicated service; and the many people who stepped forward to bake bannock bread, usher, and to serve as guides for the worshippers. Behind everything was Margarita Medina-Ibáñez and Keith Randall's joy, laughter, and countless hours of work on this project. We came together as a family of faith donating our time and creativity. This was an example of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul at our best.

**In September, Session approved the change the name of the committee to reflect the diversity of projects now undertaken. When the committee was first formed in 2006, it focused on developing a partnership with the Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry. As this relationship matured, we began to embrace reconciliation work closer to home. Accordingly, the name was changed to express the diversity of initiatives as we continue to learn how to journey with our Indigenous siblings.*

The Rev. Susan Brasier,
Associate Minister of Community Connections and Care

Music Department Updates

The 2024-2025 Season

The 2024-25 season of the music department at The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul is off and running, and we are looking ahead to another exciting season with the A&P Choir.

Big Changes

We started the season with the sad news of Jonas Apeland's departure in mid-October. As Director of Music and Organist, Jonas was a great addition to the Music Department. He made a real impact in the short time he spent with us. Jonas was honoured with a proper send-off following his last service on October 13th. He will be missed greatly by members of the Choir and congregation both, and we wish him all the best as he goes back home to Norway to be closer to his family.

In light of Jonas's departure, Stephanie Manias agreed to step up from her duties as Choir Manager to serve as Interim Director of Music for the remainder of the 2024-25 season. Stephanie first sang with the A&P Choir twenty years ago as a member of the volunteer core, stepping away after one season to pursue professional singing opportunities elsewhere. She eventually returned in the autumn of 2008, and was assigned the position of Soprano Section Leader under Jordan De Souza's baton. She has been with the choir ever since, progressing in leadership to Head Chorister, then Assistant Manager, and ultimately, Choir Manager. She is very happy to continue to serve the Church and Choir communities in her capacity as Interim Director of Music.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Manias







Music Events

Coming this Fall & Winter to A&P

Looking Back

With such a vibrant choir and organ community as ours, there are already many events to look back on.

Over the summer, we were lucky to host the Organ Intermezzi series again. This is a grand tradition showcasing our marvelous Casavant instrument in wide-ranging repertoire played by an international roster of organists. Some highlights included Jonas Apeland in a recital with violinist Andrew Sords; the A&P Choir's own soprano Kimberley Lynch singing in organist Adrian Foster's foray into electronics and organ; and to close the series, our Organ Scholar, Áron Sipos, back from his summer away in his home country of Hungary.

We started our season with a very busy month of September. First, we resumed our regular Thursday evening rehearsals in full force, welcoming a handful of new members of the choir.

Then, we had our annual Wine and Cheese Recital to prepare for! This was another rousing success – we heard our choristers in repertoire from Mozart to Sondheim to Sara Bareilles, and Kildonan Hall was full to bursting. Deepest thanks go out to the Choir Committee for their help with ticket sales and planning, and to our resident cheese expert, Alex Porras.

In October, we took part in the 25th anniversary Voices of Hope concert, in support of la Maison du Parc, one of Montreal's last AIDS hospices. This year's event featured our own gifted conductor Léa Moisan-Perrier leading the A&P Choir in repertoire by Johannes Brahms, Edward Naylor, and living British composer Judith Weir. They were joined by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra Players' Association, and organist Christian Lane.



Organ Intermezzi: Amund Dahlen & Kristine Klubben



Organ Intermezzi: Áron Sipos



Organ Intermezzi: Mária Budácová



Organ Intermezzi: Rachel Schultz

LOOKING AHEAD

There is much to look forward to in the Music Department at A&P. Here is a brief overview on the three major events we will be presenting through the end of the season:

Music at The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul | 2024-2025
Musique à l'église St. Andrew and St. Paul | 2024-2025

Carols by Candlelight

Friday, December 20, 2024 at 7:30 PM & Saturday, December 21, 2024 at 4 PM
Vendredi 20 décembre 2024 à 19h30 et samedi 21 décembre 2024 à 16h
Choir of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul | brass & percussion ensemble
Chœur de l'église St. Andrew and St. Paul | un ensemble de cuivres et percussion
Mária Budácová, organist / organiste | Léa Moisan-Perrier, conductor / cheffe
Admission: Freewill offering | Entrée : offrande volontaire

February Vigil Service
Vigile à la chandelle

Friday, February 21, 2025 at 7:30 PM | vendredi 21 février 2025 à 19h30
Choir of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul | Chœur de l'église St. Andrew and St. Paul
Léa Moisan-Perrier, conductor / cheffe
Admission: Freewill offering | Entrée : offrande volontaire

Good Friday Choral Service
Vendredi saint

Good Friday, April 18, 2025 at 7:30 PM | Vendredi saint 18 avril 2025 à 19h30
Choir of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul with baroque orchestra
Chœur de l'église St. Andrew and St. Paul | orchestre baroque
Léa Moisan-Perrier, conductor / cheffe
Admission: Freewill offering | Entrée : offrande volontaire

Welcome Back Sunday

Welcome Back, Welcome Home

On Sunday, September 8th, the usually quiet atmosphere of Kildonan Hall was alive with the sounds of laughter, chatter, and vibrant conversation. The occasion was the annual Welcome Back Reception. And what a wonderful occasion it was! A large crowd turned out to meet, mingle, and get caught up while enjoying the sense of community and fellowship.

And this year the word “welcome” took on extra significance because on September 8th four new Elders received their ordination. After warm words of welcome from Betty-Jo Christiani, Michael Cristofaro, and Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt, the new Elders were presented with a cake which was cut by Betty MacKinnon and Dr. Jacqueline McClaran, two of our new Elders.

Of course, like any such event, the reception would not have been such a success without the generosity and hard work of many people. Inspired by Ellian Seto, many congregation members whipped up a wonderful variety of tasty sandwiches and mouth watering treats. All of this was accompanied by tea and coffee graciously served by the choir conductor, Léa Moisan-Perrier, and choir members. Their friendliness and warmth added a lovely personal touch to the afternoon. And the generosity did not stop there. There was another group of stalwart volunteers and Guild members responsible for setting up the food, ensuring everything was presented in an inviting matter and making sure everyone was happy and well fed. And when the reception came to an end, they enthusiastically tackled the cleanup. Finally, after this very lovely afternoon, many members made their way to the Sanctuary for the Hymn Sing.

The Welcome Back Reception was a memorable and enjoyable experience for all who attended. A great sense of community and spirit within The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul was created through the participation of the congregation and the work of the volunteers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Stewart,
The Guild











Fall Fair

Updates for 2024



The air is slowly cooling, and Fall is now here, as is the 90th Annual Fall Fair of The Guild of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, on Saturday, November 2nd, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Admission is free, however, we would appreciate donations of non-perishable food items at the 3419 Redpath Street entrance.

What has become a much beloved and anticipated annual event here at A&P is more than a day filled with joy & fellowship.

The first fundraising event, The Guild of St. Andrew and St. Paul, was born in 1935 and raised $5,000 during the Great Depression.

Our 2024 Fall Fair seeks to raise funds for many organizations supporting diverse needs within the Montreal community. The breadth of social services that are supported is quite extraordinary.





We invite your participation this year. The tasks are endless, your talents are essential, and the reward is inexplicable - you must experience it!

The success of this project rests on the participation of all members of our church family. If you would like to become involved, please contact the Fall Fair Convenors, Eric Bolduc & Audrey Anderson, at the following email: AandPFallFair@gmail.com. To donate to the Fall Fair, please drop off gently-used items at the main church office during operating hours.

Thank you for supporting the Church through the Fall Fair. We are so looking forward to sharing this year's experience with you!

Eric Bolduc and Audrey Anderson,
2024 Fall Fair Convenors

Fall Fair

Updates for 2024









Why do we do the Fall Fair?

- Creates a sense of community for all at A&P
- Raises much-needed funds to help countless groups in the Montreal area
- Encourages us all to give a second life to some items in our homes
- Offers an occasion to work together with joy and laughter
- Continues a tradition that has been in place for over 85 years

How you can help:

- Donate gently loved items
- Volunteer to help prepare the week before the Fall Fair Saturday
- Volunteer to work at the Fall Fair on Saturday, November 2nd, 2024
- Spread the word amongst your friends and family to come and shop

What you can expect:

- Complete the training session for everyone involved (Saturday morning before the Fair)
- Much laughter and camaraderie amongst us working at the Fall Fair
- Meet new colleagues
- Share your talents
- Find some treasures that you may want to purchase for yourself or others
- Support from all the convenors to help guide you in your work that day

The Organizations supported through the Fall Fair

Area	Name of Organization	What they do
Children	Generations Foundation	Provides food for children in poverty
Children	Montreal Children's Library	Empowering kids through learning & creativity
Healthcare	St. Raphael Palliative Care Centre	Palliative care and wellness care to people living with incurable illness
Homelessness	Chambreclerc	Housing for the homeless, people with addiction & mental health issues
Homelessness	The Open Door	Drop-in centre for homeless & low-income people
Immigrants	Maison Flora Tristan	Help and shelter for immigrant women & children
Mental Health	L'Abri en Ville	Housing and support for those with mental health issues
Seniors	Prospect-Belvedere Services	Serves low-income seniors and people with mental and physical disabilities
Seniors	St. Andrew's Homes Foundation	Senior Support Programme & Residential Centre
Women	Auberge Madeleine	Shelter for homeless women
Women	Auberge Transition	Shelter for women & children suffering from abuse
Women	Elizabeth House	Support, housing, and education for young mothers
Women	Alima/Montreal Diet Dispensary	Nutrition and support for pregnant people & babies

Our Cherished Christmas Puddings

A Steamy History!

We're still at it! Instead of making phone calls we have a master list on the Church Office computer. Miranda emails the order forms and Betty-Jo tallies the totals of the different sizes. The ingredients are ordered from the Atwater Market and enthusiastic Cynthia Hutchison and her hard-working teams of volunteers mix the 300 pounds of pudding over four mornings after Thanksgiving. The wrapping team gets together to wrap the puddings for Christmas to sell at the Fall Fair, and brown bags the pre-orders for pick up on November 2nd.

We have encountered a few problems along the way, but we always found a way around them. In 2016, the Queen Elizabeth Hotel was closed for renovations and we had to find another kitchen for steaming. A small soup kitchen in Lachine came to our rescue and steamed the puddings the old-fashioned way in pans of water. During the pandemic, Chef Peupion at the Queen Elizabeth hired special staff to come in to mix and steam the puddings for us. We wrapped them at Forget House, courtesy of Bruce Bolton. A team of drivers delivered the puddings all over Montreal.

This year we were looking for other kitchens to steam the puddings because of the strike action at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. The Mount Stephen Hotel has one steaming oven and has kindly offered to help. George Stephen was a member of old St. Paul's Church! In the end, our puddings were able to be steamed by the generous help of The Mount Stephen Hotel and Bar George (Chef Donnel English), The Mount Royal Club (Chef Anthony Joyce), and The University Club (Chef David Capel). We are very grateful that these organizations proceeded to help us in the absence of our faithful partner.

Betty-Jo Christiani,
Plum Puddings Convenor

Cherished Christmas Puddings Have a Steamy History

42 Volunteers Produce 250 of the Popular Desserts



The puddings call for lots of chopping. From left: Diane Gardner, Judy Wooldridge, Ruthmary Lonsdale, Cynthia Hutchison and Heather Evans

Have you ever wondered who prepares Christmas puddings for the Fall Fair? Who wraps and prices them? Who makes the hard sauce? It may surprise you to know that it involves a small army of volunteers. The job of mixing begins two weeks before the Fall Fair, and is spread over four days, Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon in the kitchen at Kildonan Hall. This year we prepared 350 pounds of mixture and made 250 puddings to fill orders and have extras for sale at the Fair.

The team I was working with this year wondered how this all got started. Discussion ensued. We agreed it would be a good story for InsideOut, so I sent an email to Raymond Brassard, the editor, asking him for his thoughts, never dreaming for a minute he would ask me to write the story!

It is difficult to know when exactly the tradition of making Christmas puddings at the A&P began, but I did learn that Mrs. Susan Leggat was once the convenor, and that her successor, Dawne Hutchison, served as convenor for about 25 years. Dawne recalled that the puddings were mixed and steamed in our kitchen and that the church officer, Bill Church, had the job of overseeing the steaming process at night. One prayed that he would not forget and end up watching a hockey game instead! Over time, the number of orders for puddings increased to the point they could not easily be handled in our kitchen. Lo! a saviour – an elder of the congregation – Albert Schnell, the executive chef at an upscale hotel in Montreal, saw the problem and graciously offered to steam the puddings for us in his kitchen overnight. Our drivers would deliver racks of pudding bowls to him and pick up the cooked puddings next morning. Albert has since moved away to Toronto, but his successors continue the tradition to this day.

Since 1999, our convenor for Christmas Puddings has been Sandra Cameron. This year, Sandra personally recruited 42 volunteers – all were eager to participate – to take phone orders, to form teams for chopping fruit, mixing, weighing, wrapping and pricing puddings, and to help on the day of the Fair. Besides shopping herself for spices and other ingredients for the recipe, Sandra charmed a local florist into graciously donating cellophane wrapping for the puddings!

In the summer, Jean Shettler and her husband, Hugh, ordered the necessary fruits in bulk for the recipe. Jean and Herb and Christine McIlreavy delivered the orders to the church in late October.

Mary Williams and her team of three made calls and took telephone orders for puddings.

Cynthia Hutchison is, and has been for several years, the team leader for all four days of production. She is a hard-working, well-organized, cheerful person who kept things ticking along so that our work finished at noon on the dot. Herb McIlreavy and Iain Lamont did the heavy lifting and delivery of racks of puddings ready for steaming.

And what would Christmas pudding be without hard sauce? Dr. Armour, Don Wilkie and John Cameron, three charmers with a sweet tooth and kitchen know-how, created and donated this high-caloric treat!

As mentioned above, 42 volunteers participated in this time of fellowship and good fun. Newcomers are always welcome.

Elizabeth Cuthill

The Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, September 22, 2024







"Bow wow" and "Meow" was our congregation's greeting on the afternoon of September 22nd in our not-so-Quiet Garden. For the first time, we had invited members and our wider neighborhood to bring their pets to receive a blessing in our garden. The blessing thanks the Creator for the animal in our care, and is a sign of humility by confessing that we rely on God's love to provide the necessary care.

It was a wonderful sunny afternoon and the Green Team was happy to welcome about twenty animals including dogs, cats, a fish and a teddy bear in our beautiful garden. After a short liturgy, our pastors Glenn and Susan blessed each animal and owner individually; accompanied by music provided by Jonas on the piano and a cellist. Some of the dogs could not resist joining their voices to Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals.*

Our expectation was that guests would immediately leave after the blessing, but the sun, cookies, and comfortable chairs convinced most of them to enjoy another few minutes of conversation and relaxation in the beautiful environment.

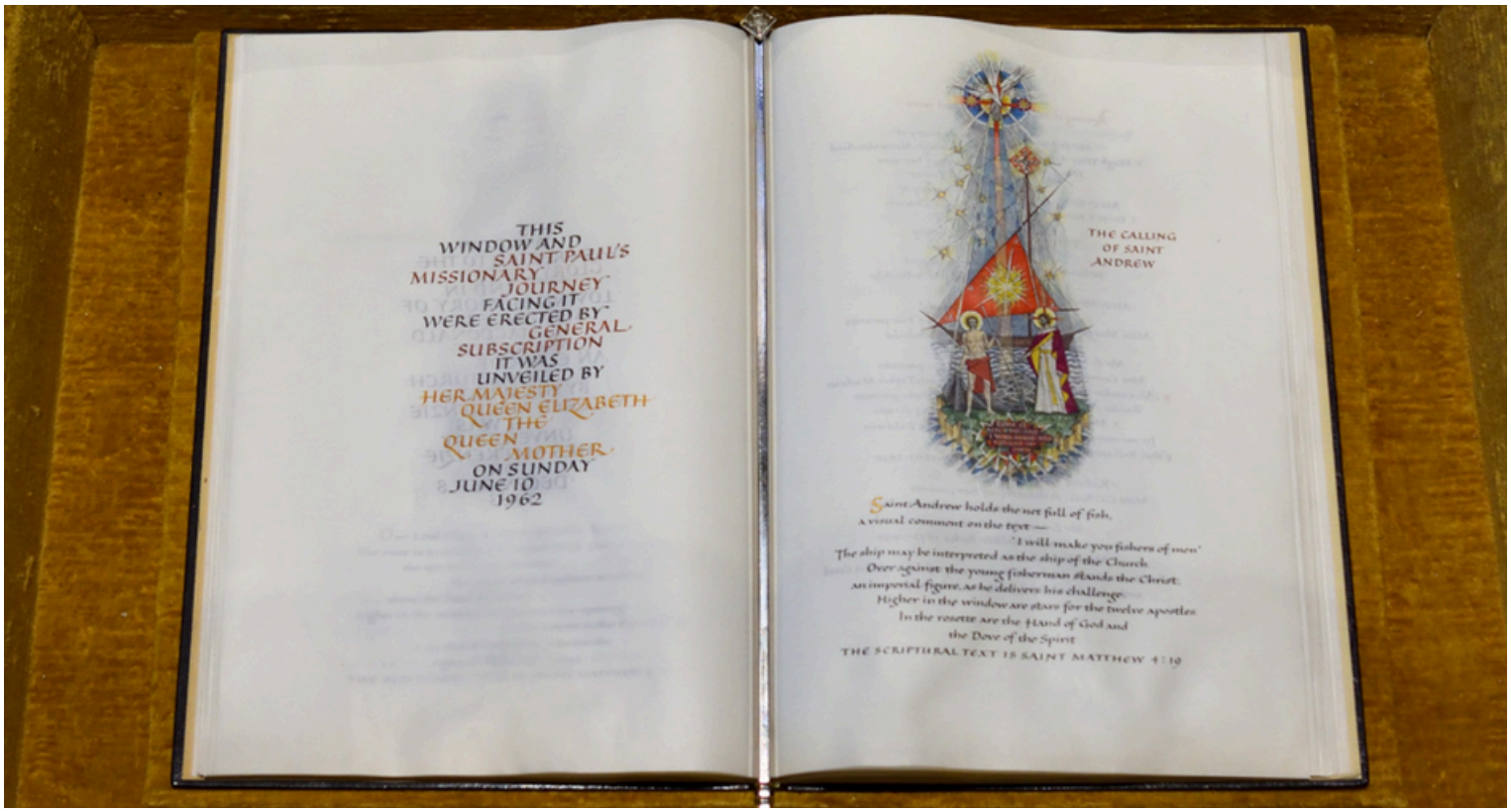
Deeply grateful, we said farewell to happy humans and animals! Their positive feedback encourages us to plan a repetition next year. A big thank to everyone who helped make this occasion a success.

Peter Puorger,
Secretary of The Green Team Committee



Illuminating the Past: A New Publication

The Book of Remembrance



On Sunday, October 13th, the Heritage and Ministry Committees hosted a "Lunch and Learn" book launch for the newest addition to the canon of our Church's history.

The Book of Remembrance: A Guide to Our Illuminated Treasure highlights Sheila Waters' manuscript featuring her dazzling golden illuminations, innovative calligraphy, and Lawrence Lee's paintings of his clerestory windows. The original manuscript was on display, although we were not allowed to touch it, but there were replica copies that we were allowed to peruse.



Donna and Michael George's PowerPoint presentation provided the interesting history of why the original Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul had to move from its Dorchester Street location in 1929. The "new" neo-Gothic church on Sherbrooke and Redpath featured a clerestory – or upper level – which led to the Clerestory Window Project and our unique Book of Remembrance. The book tells the story of how our entire congregation came together in the 1960s to achieve "Mission Impossible" – the financing and installation of all ten clerestory windows.

Illuminating the Past: A New Publication

The Book of Remembrance

We were so fortunate to have the Hon. W. David Angus, K.C. in attendance. He gave us a personal reflection of a train journey from London to Coventry that he took with his father in the 1960s to meet Lawrence Lee in his workshop. His father, Melvyn Angus, was the master fundraiser for the Clerestory Window Project and his son, David Angus, provided the financial support to publish our new history of the project.

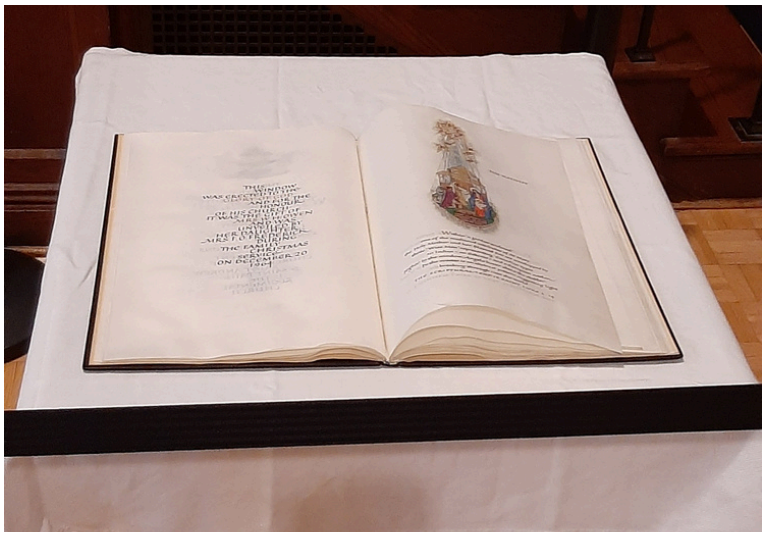
He also recognized Christopher Hyde whose father, the Hon. G. Miller Hyde, was the Chair of the Clerestory Window Project, and Michael McMaster, whose grandparents' generous donation in 1957 kickstarted the window project. As a young man he unveiled OUR LORD AND THE CHILDREN.

Also in attendance were members of La Société des Calligraphes de Montréal who were present at Sheila Waters' 2016 talk in the Memorial Tower.

We were all so grateful to Michael Cristofaro and The Ministry Team for providing such a delicious "Lunch" complement to the "Learn" component.

Copies of the beautifully illustrated book were available for sale. They can be purchased for $30.00 at the Church Office and the Fall Fair.

Donna George,
Heritage Committee



Sheila Waters' manuscript featuring her dazzling golden illuminations, innovative calligraphy and Lawrence Lee's paintings of his clerestory windows



Michael Cristofaro, Donna George, and Bruce Bolton



The Hon. W. David Angus, K. C. giving a personal reflection

Culinary Crossroads

"Come, Let Me Feed You"

One of Associate Minister Rev. Susan Brasier's favourite expressions captures the spirit of our frequent Culinary Crossroads dinners. Initiated last year as occasions to welcome Young Adults from around the world, most attracted by Rev. Brasier's outreach to nearby universities, the monthly occasions attract increasing numbers of our congregation's not-so-young adults to sample exotic and delicious recipes, and, for many, to join in the laughter of food prep in the kitchen.

The Crossroads dinners offer newcomers to Canada an occasion to proudly share their traditional cuisine – recent menus have highlighted recipes from Ireland, Nigeria, Italy, Lebanon, China, the New Orleans Mardi Gras and, closer to home, Indigenous cuisine from the Native Friendship Centre.

"The purpose of the Young Adult Ministry is to provide a welcoming home, often to those far from home and family for the first time, a place of sharing, comfort and love," Susan says. "And all those things happen best around a table blessed by growing friendships and by the fruits of God's good earth."

The growing number of YAMsters, as they have chosen to call themselves, also meet every few weeks for Supper at Susan's apartment and share enthusiastically in assisting such church events as the Christmas Pageant and Holy Communion.

"Some YAMsters come from a Christian background and many don't," observes Susan. "Maybe they come for a meal the first time, but it amazes me how many have become part of our ongoing church life. It says much about the welcome that have received from our congregation."

Respectfully Submitted,
Keith Randall











Can We Celebrate Pride?

Submitted by Aaron Law

"We have heard that 'pride goeth before a fall'," Rev. Dr. Robert Faris proclaimed from the pulpit on the bright Sunday morning of August 11th. "Scripture articulates warnings about pride. Pride is one of the defilements that come from the human heart, it is at the top of the list of the seven deadly sins." But then, Bob challenged us with this question, "Can we celebrate a day called 'Pride'?"

If you found yourself around our church that weekend, you would have seen the colourful rainbow flags that decorated the facade of our sanctuary. The six-banded flags that waved with the breeze beckoned visitors to mount the steps and take a peek inside. They would have stepped into a sanctum that sheltered gay Christians in decades past, witnessing the Word of God preached through the voice of a gay minister. Our congregation takes great pride in this piece of our history.



Terry Dimter in his natural element in the kitchen, with Margarita Medina-Ibáñez and Srikanta Prasad



The musicians at the Garden Service, Robert Koffend on the ivories and Elizabeth Tragash on the saxophone

We filled the seats of Kildonan Hall with an eager audience that Friday. They had come to listen to a jazz performance, given by the talented Elizabeth Tragash and her band, the Open House Jazz Collective. In accompaniment was the exquisite supper planned and prepared by our dear Terry Dimter and his husband Alain Mallette. It was a delightful evening, all three of them got to take well-deserved pride in the fruits of their creative labour.

And on Sunday morning, we gathered in The Quiet Garden in worship of God. The air rang with joyful adoration. It was a jubilant celebration of wheat and wine, of God's gift of grace, of true genuine pride in who God has made us to be.

"Each of us is needed to proclaim and to live into God's reign, bursting in upon us in the world that God has called good, and we can take pride in that," concluded Rev. Dr. Faris. We carried that pride with our heads held high, marching in the Pride Parade. God sees me, and God walks beside me. His banner over me is love.



YAM @ the Pride Parade: Aaron Law, Christine Nyaguthie, Emma Carlson, Anna Berlyn, and Angela Dass



Rev. Dr. Robert Faris administering Holy Communion with Rev. Susan Brasier

Our Church Garden

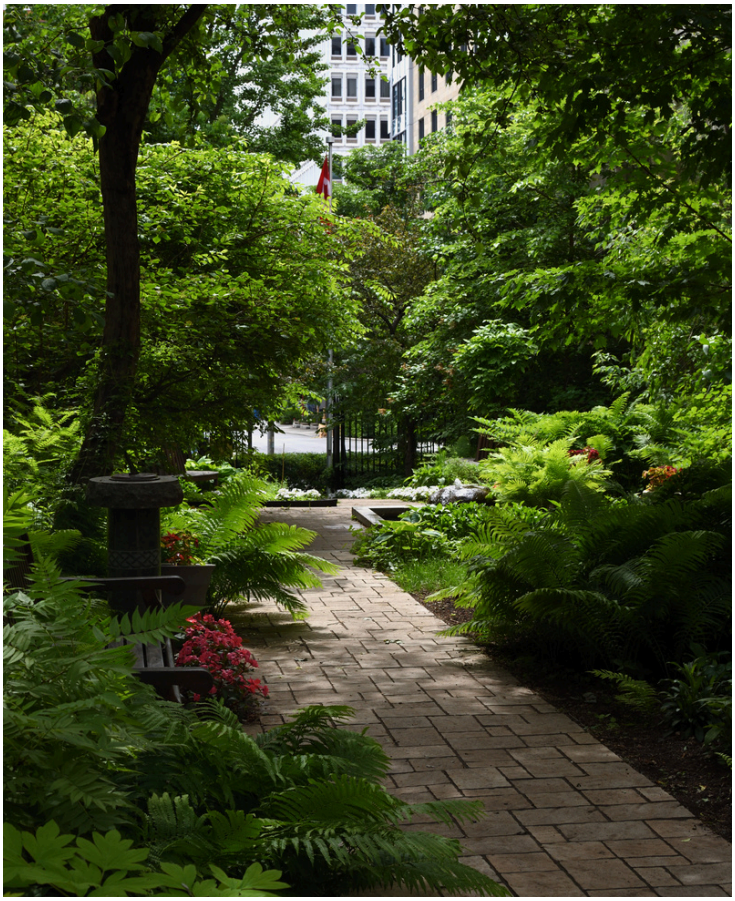
Living Art

For the past two years, a young woman who works at the Musée next door has visited the garden every week in the summer. “It is a perfect quiet place to enjoy a break and have my lunch,” she explained to me. Camille Lamoureux is a museum technician who works in textiles, silver, and art restoration. Also, she is in the last steps of obtaining her Certificate in Art History from the University of Montreal. The Quiet Garden is the topic of her final paper for the Certificate. With the agreement of her professor, she has chosen to write about living art – our garden.

I was asked to talk with Camille as it was when I was Chair of the Bicentennial Committee that the decisions were taken to build a lovely garden on the land between the church and the Museum. It was such a pleasure to remember the beginning of the garden. Knowing that it would take time to establish it so that when it was the Bicentennial Year 2003 the garden would be flourishing, we began in 2000. So many in the congregation supported the plans – their names are listed outside on a wall near the top of the garden – and there were many others as well. Stuart Webster’s firm did the design and helped to bring it to fruition. A very generous donor gave us the gates and the fencing to keep our garden secure. The Museum management was delighted to have this garden next to their building and agreed to provide 24/7 surveillance. And we are part of The Quiet Garden Movement – special spaces all over the world that provide tranquility and pleasure in some of the busiest cities.



The Quiet Garden photographed by Charles Lavergne.



The Quiet Garden photographed by Charles Lavergne.

And thus, the mechanics of the garden were established.

Over the years different people have worked there and taken care of the various plantings and features, making it the really beautiful garden that we enjoy and share. Who remembers the goldfish called Andrew and Paul who enjoyed the little pond in summer months? There is a sundial in memory of Bruce Hutchison, and benches were added, donated by families who chose that as their contribution. I think it is a great story and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to talk with this charming young woman and remember it all.

It is a beautiful space which is well-used and appreciated by all who visit it. And our thanks go to all those who have worked there over the years and maintained this beautiful garden.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Stevenson

Hunting Weeds on Mount Royal

From The Green Team

On July 16th Green Team volunteers joined Les Amis de la Montagne to help remove an invasive weed strangling local vegetation. Russian tame-venon is especially aggressive, spraying a poisonous secretion through its root system to prevent the flourishing of Indigenous plants. After a briefing by Pascale Bélanger-Lavallée, of the Environmental Stewardship Program and Patroller Benjamin Pilon, we set to work. After two hours crawling on our knees under bushes and trees, we emerged, tired with aching backs, to proudly present our harvest of almost a thousand eradicated weeds, and enjoy a delicious potluck picnic in the spectacular surroundings of the park.

We look forward to continuing to build a valuable relationship with Les Amis de la Montagne and more opportunities for you to join us to help preserve our precious Mount Royal. Several ideas are in the works – stay tuned.

Peter Puorger,
Secretary of The Green Team Committee



Briefing



Tired but happy

Communitas

For where two or three are gathered together unto My name, there am I in their midst. Matthew 18:22

The second session of Communitas, a small group ministry initiated by The Ministry Committee, was held in the Session Room on Sunday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on September 29th. The session was led by Jim and Betty MacKinnon, co-convenors of the committee. The session focused on ways we managed the Covid Pandemic and strategies we used to re-enter following Covid.

The following questions were posed: “What did you do specifically during the lockdown that helped you navigate the new world we found ourselves in?” and “What have you done in the last while to help you re-enter successfully?” Another focus was on the benefits, if any, of the quiet time the pandemic pause afforded us.

We were, for a short while that Sunday morning, a community within a community with participants helping each other by sharing their experiences. It became the sharing of wealth, a mining of gold. Participants gave of their time, their talents and their treasures.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim and Betty MacKinnon

Being a Young Adult in 2024

Submitted by Aaron Law

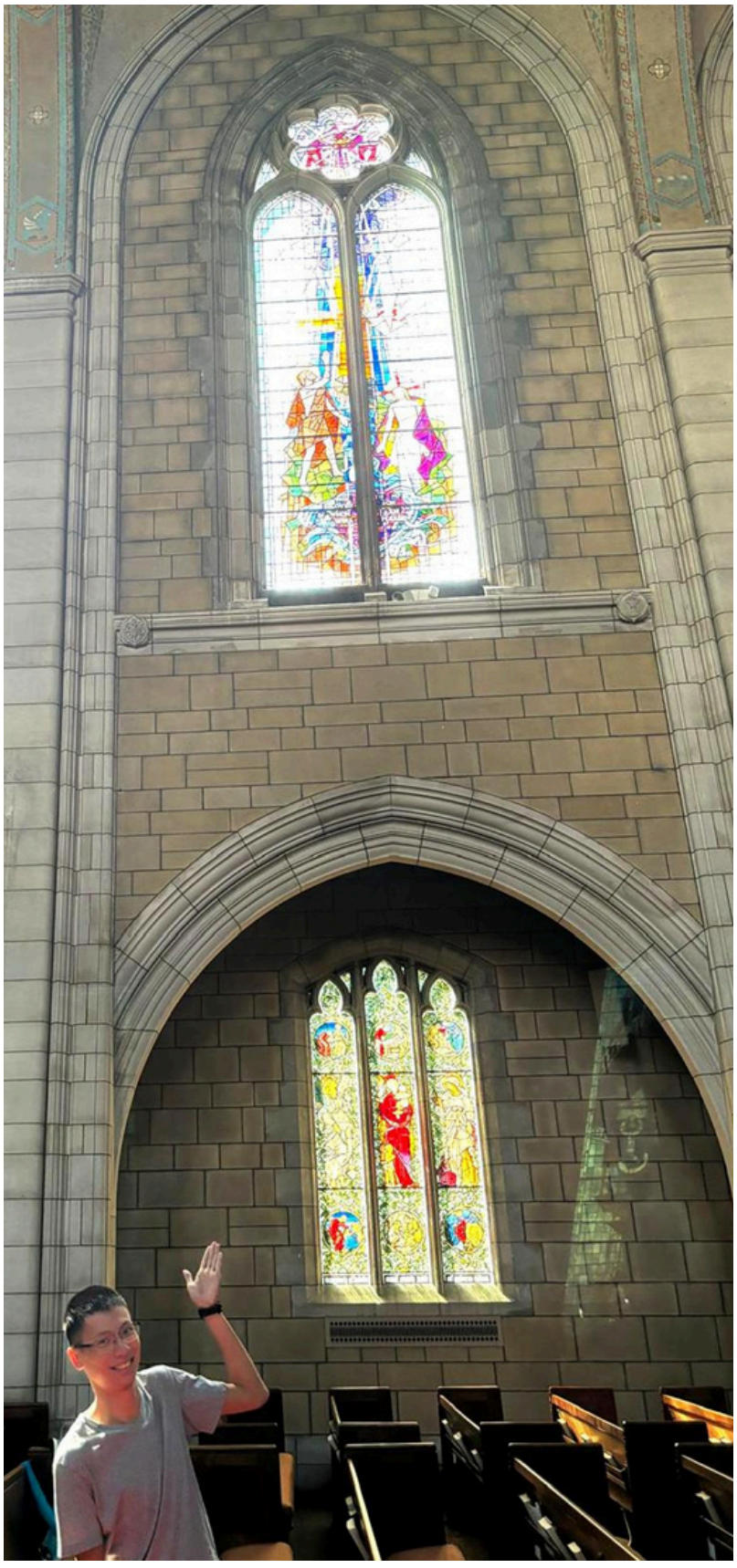
As I will age out of my late mid-twenties when I turn 28 in a few months, it seems opportune to think back and make account of this first decade in my adulthood.

I came to Montreal in 2015 as a starry-eyed student at McGill. It took me a couple years, but I managed to find my bearings, both in my studies and around this beautiful city. Montreal really is a jewel among cities. It radiates such an unrelenting joie de vivre through its complex urban fabric and cosmopolitan edge, I could not help but choose to call it home. I moved to a neighbourhood I love, found work teaching English in public school, picked up French along the way, and now I say with confidence I have found my place here.

To find one's place, that seems to be what sets apart an adult as "young". We embark on adventures, leaving behind the dependencies of adolescence. We take on new responsibilities that bring with them new challenges and new possibilities in life, alongside new experiences that refine the ways we see the world. The American Psychological Association names this stage of our lives "emerging adulthood", an apt description for a period in which one's life takes on a more definite shape.

It is also a period of change, of instability, of life-defining decisions. Just like every generation before, we face these choices with the societal uncertainties of our time. We joke about indulging on avocado toast while secretly dreaming about affording them. We look into mortgage pre-approvals and then put away our calculators in despair. We fall in love and out of love. We take huge risks, uprooting our lives, crossing oceans and continents in pursuit of our dreams.

To choose to live somewhere new asks of one to investigate why things are the way they are, and sometimes that takes intently feeling this new soil at every single step. I think this is not so different from finding faith. The ground breaks apart beneath you and you find yourself navigating life in a completely different way. Who am I in this place? What does my status permit me? Where do I find people who can explain things to me in a language that I understand? What do I do when I no longer know what my options are? The life of faith pushes us to not take reality as we know it for granted.



Aaron under his favourite stained glass window, Baptism of Jesus

Being a Young Adult in 2024

Submitted by Aaron Law



Our church's young adventurers.

Back row from left to right: Aaron Law, Augustin Nguon, Thomas Goud, Parker Curry, Adrian Kwan, Joshua Iyalagha, Sydney McRae, Keith Randall, Srikanta Prasad, Elias Guardado.

Front row from left to right: Tamara Belair, Ana Davila, Belén Jiménez-Alfaro, Emma Carlson, Christine Nyaguthie, Susan Brasier, Monica Merlo.

The first pews of this church were planted by ocean-crossing adventurers holding the faith that life offers more than what they have known. The power of the Gospel that led them here drove each not in their own direction, but together in wonder and worship of our God, the shepherd of all sojourners. And it is in His name that we are commissioned to serve the world, in hospitals, in shelters, in the trenches at the Somme, in St. Andrew's Homes. Christ calls upon His faithful who prayed under the shades of our windows and sends us out unto the ends of the earth.

So also is the context of YAM, a young adult ministry for adventurers in search of life's most extraordinary possibilities. In the same seats once occupied by these pioneers, we worship in one voice with that great cloud of witnesses. We prayerfully question the demands of the world that dress themselves up as wisdom. We cast doubt on common sense that tells us hope is reserved for fantasy. We are idealistic and faithful and unflinchingly courageous. Our paths have brought us to this community for a time, maybe we will find our place here, or maybe not; but that's beside the point. The days we spend here will see us living into our aspirations in this changing world.

It has been an exciting decade with A&P. I ache in anticipation for the next one to unfold.

Respectfully submitted,
Aaron Law

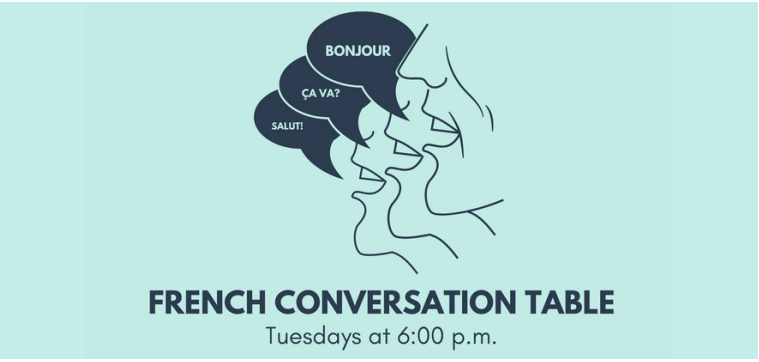
Join our French Conversation Table!

Saivez-vous?

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul is an Anglophone church in a Francophone community. Our increasing multi-cultural congregation is, in part, a result of people from around the world coming to Montreal with English as their second language. They desire to worship in a place where they can understand the prayers and the message from the pulpit. However, there is also a desire to be able to converse with our neighbors. (How can we love our neighbors if we cannot understand them?)

So, every other Tuesday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., A&P hosts a very casual (and very fun) French Conversation Table. We enjoy a simple meal such as soup, bread, and cookies while we practice the language of Moliere.

We are always in need of (1) Francophone to anchor this group, and (2) people to help with the set up and clean up. If you think you might like to participate, please join



us (you can participate in the Scottish Country Dancing immediately afterwards). If you have questions about the group, please contact Rev. Susan Brasier at sbrasier@standrewstpaul.com

We are scheduled to meet October 29, November 12 & 26, and December 10.

We encourage you to sign up on the Church Center App.

Table Talk

From The Archives

Sunday school children, members of the Kirk Session, Board of Trustees, collection counters, members of The Guild or auditors, have you ever sat around that magnificent table in the Kirk Session room, read the plaque and wondered who James Riddell was?

The plaque says the table was his office table and that he was an Elder at St. Paul's Church, but how did it get to Redpath Street?

James Riddell was born in Aberdeen on October 17th, 1816. According to the 1861 Scottish census, he was an accountant, and, with his wife Fanny, had four children. He came to Montreal as an Inspector for the Bank of British North America, went to Kingston as the Branch Manager in 1864, resigned in 1869, and came to Montreal. On the 1871 Canadian census, he was living with his second wife, Margaret, in St. Laurent. According to the Riddell Stead View of March 1973, he returned "to set up his office for the practice of chartered accountancy at 11 Hospital Street."

James was active at St. Paul's church, was ordained as an Elder in 1871, and served faithfully until the time of his death August 22, 1875. He is buried in Cataraqui Cemetery in Kingston, Ontario.

His son, Alexander Fowler Riddell (1853-1932), was also active at St. Paul's Church and donated the table to St. Andrew and St. Paul's after the merger of the two churches.



Andrew Fleming, Clerk of Session, Lionel P. Kent and George Arnott, chairman of the Board of Trustees (March 1973, The Riddell Stead View)



A close-up image of the James Riddell plaque



Our summer tour guide, Sarai, greets visitors to the church at one of the Dixon memorial tables

Moving on to the Narthex and the two oak tables that stand on either side of the doors into the church. They were gifted "IN PROUD MEMORY OF WELLINGTON DIXON, TEACHER"

Wellington Dixon (1867-1931) was born in Prince Edward Island, attended Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown and then graduated from McGill University in Montreal in 1883. Following five years of teaching on PEI, he joined the staff at the High School of Montreal. He remained there until his retirement, as headmaster, in 1922. In 1921, he was given an honourary degree of Doctor of Laws by McGill University. The Dixon family were members of the Presbyterian Church, and Wellington was a senior Elder (elected 1901) in The Church of St Andrew and St Paul. Wellington Dixon passed away at his home in Westmount and is buried in Mount Royal Cemetery.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Suttie,
Archives Committee

Greetings from Nairobi, Kenya!

The Tumaini Home

Many years ago, in April 2011, I had the opportunity to visit St. Andrews Presbyterian Church of East Africa in Nairobi. The trip was initiated by Rose Mureithi who many of you will remember was also a member of A&P while she was working in Montreal. Rose returned to her homeland in 2012.

The June-August 2011 issue of InsideOut ran a short story with a photo taken with the children of the Tumaini* Orphanage during that memorable visit.

Through the wonders of modern technology, Rose and I have kept in touch all these years. She recently sent me lots of photographs along with a progress report on the Women's Guild Tumaini Project which I would like to share with you here. It is humbling to see how much they have accomplished with so little.

God Bless all at St. Andrews PCEA and the children of Tumaini.

**Swahili for Hope.*

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Cuthill









Current Status of the Tumaini Home

The home currently supports 51 children.

All the children are enrolled in various schools and are at different levels as follows:

1. Primary – 35 children.
2. Secondary – 12 children.
3. College – 4 adults.

Operations

The Board has been mandated to run the affairs of the Tumaini Home. The Board is completely aligned with The Guild Management through the Chair and The Guild Executive Committee. The Board closely works with the Guild Executive Committee on behalf of the entire St. Andrew's Woman's Guild.

The Board aspires to achieve The Guild's aspirations. With the cooperation and partnership with The Guild Executive Committee, we shall continue to achieve these aspirations for the benefit of the Home and for the Glory of God.

With the current number of the children and the staff who are based at the Home, the expenses have increased. These include payment of school fees and other related expenses such as school uniforms, food, medical and health related payments. Other expenses include water, electricity, security, insurance premiums for the Home and the Home vehicle.

Other expenses are personal emoluments for staff including the Home Manager, the mothers, the care taker and the security services. In addition to paying the maintenance of the Home vehicle.

III: The Constitution of Board

The Home operates under a Board comprising of eleven (11) Directors which includes The Guild Chairlady, Guild Treasurer, and the Guild Secretary. Under the constitution, these three positions respectively act as deputies to the three similar officials of the Tumaini Board. The Tumaini Board has a Company Secretary.

The Moderator of the Kirk Session serves as an Ex-officio member. The Kirk Session is presented by two Elders.

A point to highlight is that ALL Guild members of P.C.E.A St. Andrew's Parish are the owners/major stake holders and financiers of the Tumaini Children Home.



Development

The Guild has a prime plot in Ruiru Township which was graciously donated by a well-wisher who personally indicated her wish that the St. Andrew's Woman Guild build a Children Home on that plot.

The St. Andrew's Women's Guild is preparing to build a Children Home in Ruiru that consist of a Clinic, Dining Hall, Gathering Hall, Nursery Block, Administration Block, Self-Contained dormitories, a Boundary Wall, Gate and Gate House and other related facilities.

The Home will be built in Phases, the first one being the perimeter wall, the gate, and the gate house. The total cost for the entire project is approximately at a cost of Kenya Shilling One Hundred million (Kes. 100,000,000/-)

Once the proposed project is completed, we will then move the children from Ngong, Kajiado County to Ruiru, Kiambu County. The Premises they now occupy will be rented out to generate much needed income which will be used in running the Home in Ruiru.

V: Funding

The Tumaini Home is a project of The Women's Guild, different church groups, donors, and well-wishers. The monthly expenditure for running the home is about three hundred seventy-nine thousand, one hundred and fifty Kenya Shillings (Ksh. 379,150/-) per month.

The Home has been in operation for the last 21 years.

Report Submitted by Rose Mureithi

Ride for Refuge

"Ride for Refuge" is a bike & walk fundraiser for charity organizations all over Canada. In the nearby neighbourhood of Verdun, the charity partner is Action Réfugiés Montréal, an organisation that provides support programs for asylum-seekers and refugeed people through sponsorships, holding centre visits, and social bonding activities. Our church participated last year through an invitation by former director Ian Van Haren, and this year was our second time around.

On Saturday, October 5th, our team rode out from the Church of the Epiphany. The view along the path was magnificent. The sun shone through the foliage, the crisp scent of autumn hung in the air, and the waves chimed as they dashed upon the rocks at the Lachine rapids; it was a feast for the senses. Along the St. Lawrence river we journeyed, and at the bluffs overlooking the Mercier Bridge we turned around to make our trip back to the church. There we enjoyed a meal and caught up with old friends from Team "Powerfully Pedalling Prophets" (previously "The Crazy Chickens") from St. Matthias Church. We reminisced on highlights from last year and eagerly await next year's ride.

Thanks to the generosity of our church family, we raised $930.00 for this cause. Action Réfugiés receives much of their funding from The Presbyterian Church in Canada. If you would like to learn more about their programmes, they can be found on their website at www.actionr.org

Respectfully Submitted,
Aaron Law

[Our team of walkers and riders, from left to right: Peter Yang, Sophia Wang, Michael Neil, Eva Munguia, Aaron Law]



Humanitarian Report from the Middle East

Submitted by Bruce Bolton and Claude Larocque

We are pleased to include an article by Claude Larocque, a former member of The Black Watch Regiment, a proud member of its Association, and a retired Montreal Police Service constable who is currently serving in the middle east. Claude's deployments include Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO), Seconded to the RCMP in Bosnia 2000; East Timor 2003; Haiti 2007-2008; Recce to Haiti after the earthquake 2010 and Cote D'Ivoire 2011-2012. More recently he has served with the Organization for Security and Cooperation Europe. (OSCE) 2015-2018, Ukraine Donetsk Eastern Ukraine, Patrol leader 2021-2022, Ukraine Luhansk/ Kyiv Eastern Ukraine, Patrol monitor and Coordination officer.

Claude holds a Master of Letters (MLitt) University of St-Andrews, Fife, Scotland in Terrorism and Political Violence, 2013-2017; Certificate of Terrorism Studies, 2010, and was the recipient of the Order of Merit for the Police Forces of Canada (M.O.M.) in 2007. This is the equivalent of the Order of Canada for the police.

As you can see, Claude is currently in the middle of the terrible war in the Middle East and here gives us a glance of what life is like on a day-to-day basis as he writes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce Bolton and Claude Larocque







Hello everyone.

I am currently deployed with the United Nations Operations in Amman, Jordan, working for the UN2720 Mechanism. Some of you are now trying to figure out what on earth this “UN2720 Mechanism”?

UN2720 or “Resolution” came about in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2720 (2023). The Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza (SHRC) is responsible for facilitating, coordinating, monitoring, and verifying the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Gaza. The Office is also tasked with establishing a UN mechanism dedicated to accelerating the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza. The objective is to make the aid delivery process faster, more efficient, and directly beneficial to civilians in need.

This being said, my task as a monitor is to help facilitate this aid from donor countries and humanitarian agencies around the globe. I was recruited in mid-February of this year and was deployed at the end of April.

I was interested because this new deployment would have me working in a region of the world that I had never been to before. Previously I had been deployed on five other missions, first working with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) as a Law Enforcement Officer and seconded by the RCMP in such varied places as Bosnia, Haiti, East Timor, Cote d’Ivoire, and then with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Ukraine for five and half years until the invasion by the Russian Federation in February 2022. This new experience would expose me to the desert environment and heat.

I arrived in Amman on a pleasant spring day. After completing the Visa formalities at the airport, I made my way into the capital by local taxi. I couldn't believe that the song on the radio was “ A Horse with No Name” from America, circa 1971. Likely many of you remember the lyrics: I've been through the desert on a horse with no name etc... all things being equal, I found that quite comical, so I adopted it as my mission song.

I met my other colleagues at UNOPs Headquarters the following day, They are from most parts of Europe and Asia Pacific. We are a small group tasked here to handle humanitarian aid and traffic from the Jordon corridor route which goes from Amman into the West Bank and Israel, and then to Gaza. It is to note that there are two other corridors via sea route: one of our bases of operations is situated in Cyprus for sea traffic and the other is at the port of Ashdod in Israel. The other land route is from Egypt via the Philadelphi Corridor.

My tenure here so far has been an exercise in patience and in learning to adapt to the flow of the day-to-day changes in events in Gaza and Israel which at times shut the flow of aid into Gaza. Bi-weekly changes in Israeli policy regarding aid coming into Gaza make things very difficult for the aid stakeholder organizations to adapt to. This in turn disrupts the much-needed aid flowing into the Gaza Strip. Therefore, we are now focused on what we call (WASH) or Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene and, of course, critical food items and shelter.

I have to confess that it is very frustrating trying to get necessary items through, as jumping through hoops makes it all very complicated and difficult. This, compounded with attacks from both belligerents, doesn't help us or the people most in need of help. However, it's not all doom and gloom. We do have our little victories, as when a large convoy of goods makes it across and into the hands of humanitarian agencies for distribution.

I have to say that getting all this done has been trying. When I compare this to other missions I have been on, this one does seem the most difficult. All the other deployments appeared to have had a clearer line of objectives and, for the most part, there was political will to resolve the issue at hand. This one is very different and clearly we are not going to find a magic formula to resolve this situation. Remember, the land has changed hands many times throughout history. Therefore, no easy answer here. However, is important to remember that the work that my teammates and others do in bringing relief to those suffering in this war is incredibly rewarding.

Cheers from Amman,
Claude

Fun fact about Amman: Inhabited since 7250 B.C. and one of the world's oldest cities, it was renamed Philadelphia by Ptolemy ll Philadelphus. The name remained through Byzantine and Roman times.

Stones That Speak

Part III: The Chancel

When The Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul was built in 1931-1932, its decoration benefited from the theological guidance of The Reverend George H. Donald, V.D., M.A., D.D., minister of the Church from 1925-1945. He left us a wonderful booklet entitled “Stones that Speak” where-in he explains many of the icons, sculptures and artifacts found in the sanctuary. In previous articles for InsideOut we have explained the icons in the aisles and the narthex. We are pleased to continue here with the Chancel and have included some updates.

We start with the front of the pulpit – the Antependium, or Pulpit Fall. Originally, there was no pulpit fall. But in 1933 (Armour, p. 214), a small, ornate one was offered for the pulpit. Alas, a visitor to the church took a fancy to it and cut it away, never to be seen again. Some years later, the Smart sisters presented two much larger falls, one red for every Sunday, and the other white, to be used on Sacrament Sundays. During Dr. Richard Topping's ministry, it was decided that the falls should match the Christian year and a series of falls were acquired- purple for Advent and Lent; red for Pentecost; green for post-Pentecost Sundays; and white for Sacrament Sundays and the Easter season.



Pulpit and Chancel



The stone Pulpit is of simple Gothic design, surmounted by an oak canopy which is characterized by intricate and beautifully carved tracery work. The gates leading to the Chancel contain interesting and personal emblems. They were gifted in memory of shipping magnate Hugh Allan and his wife Margaret Rae by their daughter, Brenda Allan, who immigrated to Montreal in 1826, descended from a Scottish family, whose shipping business had links with Canada in the early nineteenth century. The metal work images are the Sacramental Cup, and the sheaf of wheat emblematic of the Holy Communion. On either side of these is a representation of the brig "Jean", which was the first of the Allan Line Company's ships to cross the Atlantic. On the top rail are roses, grapes and wheat, and pomegranates with bursting seeds.





At the Chancel steps are two heads of a youth carved in stone. They each face towards the altar and are slightly tilted as in an attitude of rapt devotion and adoration. These beautifully carved sculptures were copied from a familiar picture (by British artist George F. Watts) of the young Samuel praying in the Temple.

The Chancel steps, three and four, making the sacred number seven, lead up to the Holy Table (gifted in memory of Alexander Cameron, a devoted Elder of the Church). At either end are symbols A and 0, Alpha and Omega, the first and the last. On the front are carvings of the Lamb Passant, the centre cross mounted on a rose with thorns as on the brow of Christ, and grapes and wheat stalks. The Lamb was among the earliest ecclesiastical symbols in Art and became a favourite reference to the Saviour, who was scarcely ever portrayed in any form other than that of a Lamb — the Lamb of God.

Stones That Speak

Part III: The Chancel

The Holy Table

Originally, the Holy Communion Table had been provided with two silver flower vases with the inscription: “Presented as a thank offering to The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul by Frederick H. Blair, organist since 1900 of St. Andrew's Church and of St. Paul’s.” Regarded in the highest esteem by all who knew him, Mr. Blair lost his life when the Athenia was torpedoed by the Germans in September 1939. The flower vases have been retired and are used on occasion.

In 2005, a magnificent Celtic cross was donated by our long-time Organist and Director of Music Wayne Riddell. It was crafted by Christopher Toogood (b. 1938), an Irish silversmith working in Ontario since 1971. The matching candlesticks were donated by Don and Penny Wilkie in 2011.

Other elements that are sometimes used in services include a silver Alms Dish for the offering with the inscription: "Dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Alice Ann Oswald by her family, June 1926." It is embossed with medallions of the Burning Bush, the Pascal Lamb, St. Andrew, Scotland's Patron Saint, and St. Paul, the great apostle of the Christian faith and doctrine. Encircling the Dish are the words "Forget not to do good and distribute," and engraved in the centre are the letters "I. H. S." (Iesus Hominum Salvator: Jesus the Saviour of Men).

In 1945, a silver bowl was presented by the Women's Division of The Black Watch, in memory of the men of the Regiment who fell in the war, 1939-1945, bearing the inscription: “To The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul from The Black Watch (R.H.R.) of Canada, Women's Division. Nov. 11th, 1945.”





The Ministers' and Elders' Stalls, which flank the Communion Table on three sides, are of oak in a rich design of carved and pierced work. On each of the carved bosses is a head representative of youth, one with the eyes open and watchful, the other with the eyes closed as in an attitude of prayer, symbolic of "watch and pray." It will be noticed that each face has a slightly different expression. These were sculpted by artisans of the G. H. Randall Co., a Montreal firm which specialized in wood cabinetry and were responsible for the wood carving of the stalls.

Future installments of this feature will include the Chapel, The Black Watch presence in the church and the organ itself – all deserving of closer attention. We extend special thanks to Rosalind Pepall and Rev J.S.S. Armour for their invaluable contributions to this article.

Bruce Bolton,
The Heritage Committee

Note: Armour, J.S.S.; Saints, Sinners and Scots: A History of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal 1803-2023; Montreal, 2003.

Coffee & Fellowship

Held on Sundays after Worship Service

Coffee and Fellowship has been playing a vital role in our church's activity. It's been almost eight years since I took over as coordinator to invite people to be hosts.

It is always so nice to experience each other's company and greet one another over treats and warm tea. Newcomers are especially interested in engaging and chatting with congregation members.

The activity usually lasts between 30 to 40 minutes. It is indeed a meaningful and pleasant experience for all.

People come to church for different reasons: some seek spiritual inspiration, others, a place to feel belonging, some to feed off an excellent sermon. It is also an excellent place to make friends, or to listen to our superb choir singing. We are a multicultural church, and C&F provides us with a weekly opportunity to interact with one another, to learn about different cultures, and expand our horizons toward the world.

C&F is usually held in the Memorial Tower and over the warmer months, it finds itself in The Quiet Garden, making this gathering even more special. These gatherings foster a stronger community, welcome newcomers, and strengthen our bonds in fellowship.

Being a host is as simple as giving some time to serve; homemade treats are optional as cookies and coffee are provided and prepared.

Detailed instructions are sent to the hosts before their serving day.

I calculated that there will be 35 Sundays when C&F is on. We need two hosts each Sunday, which means we need 70 volunteers.

We are blessed with an active church that is well run with many committees. Thank you to the many committees who have participated as hosts. Hosting C&F is a great way for people to learn about the different committees and their mandates. I invite more committees to become involved more regularly as hosts.

I welcome you to join us and to try it out, either as guests or as C&F hosts. You won't regret it.

You can call me at 514-796-2569 or email me at huangsiska@gmail.com. I will be happy to answer your questions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Siska Chen



Governance

An outline of how the Presbyterian Church is governed

Our Church recently welcomed forty new members coming from seventeen different countries and with a variety of faith backgrounds. For their information and to provide an update to all our members, here is a brief outline of how The Presbyterian Church is governed.

The word "Presbyterian" comes from a Greek word "presbuteros" meaning "elder" so the church is governed by Elders. There are two types of Elders – the ministers are teaching Elders and members of the congregation, who have been elected by the congregation, are ruling Elders.



The ministers and Elders form the Kirk Session, which is a court of this church, and they administer the religious life of the congregation. In our church, the money matters are dealt with by the Board of Trustees, of which three Trustees must be Elders. The Kirk Session meets monthly except for July and August and also meets before Communion and before certain other Sunday services. There are several standing committees of Session, such as Worship and Music, Ministry, and Mission and Outreach, members of which may include both Elders and members of the congregation.

As noted, the Kirk Session is a court of this church. The Presbyterian Church in Canada has four levels of courts starting with the Kirk Sessions of the individual congregations, then Presbyteries, Synods, and General Assembly. The Minister is the Moderator or Chairman of the Kirk Session and one of the Elders is the Clerk of Session. At the present time, Michael Cristofaro is the Clerk of Session and is responsible for taking the minutes of all the meetings. The Kirk Session is a "closed court" which means that only members of Session may attend its meetings.

The next higher court is Presbytery which is composed of all ministers and representative Ruling Elders from each pastoral charge within a given geographical area as outlined in a book by Dr. Stephen Hayes – The Eldership in Today's Church. The Presbytery of Montreal includes about 35 churches. The ministers and the Session are under the authority of Presbytery; in particular, Presbytery approves a Call to a minister and inducts them. Presbytery must also be consulted if a congregation wishes to sell or mortgage any of its property.

Groups of Presbyterians form a Synod – Synod has a much lesser role to play and usually only meets once a year.

The final court is the General Assembly which is held once each year in a different location. The delegates to General Assembly are one-sixth of the pastoral charges of the Presbyterian Church and include a minister and a representative Elder from each charge. General Assembly elects a Moderator who remains in office for one year.

General Assembly is the final court of appeal in matters of policy, doctrine, and discipline.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Mowat

Church School & Youth Group

A Few Words from Sharon Dworzak

Our Christian Education Department continues to thrive, blessed with a dedicated staff of teachers, as well as our wonderfully supportive church community.

Since the last issue of InsideOut, members of both the Church School and Youth Group have been very busy serving our Church community, as well as reaching out to the wider community beyond our church doors, with various activities as well as service initiatives.

Within the A&P community, they always willingly and enthusiastically lend a helping hand serving wherever needed, including helping at various receptions, as well as hosting receptions for the Congregation, including Coffee and Fellowship. They also enjoy participating in Sunday services, often ushering and reading the scriptures. Our Youth Choir, led by Penni Clarke, has delighted the congregation with some wonderful songs of praise during special services.







In April, the Annual Cabane a Sucre at “Sucrerie de la Montagne”, was once again a resounding success! We provided two buses to transport some of the 80+ people who attended, including a lovely group of young people from Sacred Heart School, while some families chose to meet us at the site. We were blessed with a glorious day and based on very positive feedback; a great time was had by all!

In honour of mothers and all the special women who have impacted our lives, Church School once again hosted a wonderful Mother’s Day Breakfast, prepared by Iain Lamont and served by our Youth Group. A number of children performed for our guests, and the mothers, grandmothers and one very special great-grandmother, Jean Shettler, who attended the breakfast were presented with little notebooks.



Church School & Youth Group

Mother's Day

After the breakfast, members from both the Church School and Youth Group participated in the Mother's Day Service. Kate Hortop, Mandy Moreno, and Yilin Chen ushered with their families and Church School Teacher, Sandra Prior, along with Senior Church School Student, Naomi Lisanu, read the lessons. While under the direction of Penni Clarke, our Youth Choir sang a wonderful song to the delight of the congregation! After a lovely message from our Lead Minister, Rev. Glenn Chestnutt, the children delivered carnations to their Moms and Grandmothers sitting in the sanctuary, a wonderful tradition that has been carried on for decades.















Church School & Youth Group

Relay for Life



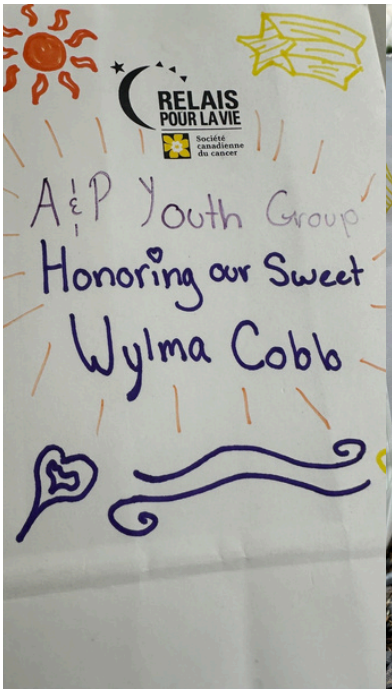
On June 8th, our Youth Group participated once again in the Canadian Cancer Relay for Life. It was an emotional Relay this year, as our young people walked in honour of their much loved leader Art Dworzak, and for Wylma Cobb, an adored member of our congregation. Art and Wylma, both an inspiration to us all, bravely walked in the Opening Ceremony. The Relay has always been an important event for the Youth Group, this being their 12th Relay, and once again they far surpassed their goal of $2,000, raising over $4,000, thanks in large part to the incredible generosity of our Congregation. Thank you and God Bless you all!

Our Church School concluded its 2023-24 program on Father's Day, June 16th, with their Annual Church School Celebration and Honouring Fathers Sunday.

Members of the Youth Group and the Dworzak, Oegema, Walonoski, and Chen families helped with ushering and scripture readings, and then hosted a wonderful lunch in The Quiet Garden for the Congregation, and to honour and welcome the new members introduced during the service.

It was a glorious day, including a special tribute to Glenn on his Canadian citizenship, with a special cake provided by Betty-Jo Christiani. A delicious and plentiful lunch catered by Pastamore was enjoyed by all!







Church School & Youth Group

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

One of the biggest highlights of our Church School year would be our two-week Vacation Bible School! VBS 2024 was a huge success with over fifty children attending, from various parts of the city and city suburbs. The program “Camp Firelight” was held from July 15th to 26th, with students enjoying an interactive, energizing Bible-based good time on their summer adventure with God and discovering how to put their trust in God in every situation.

On a typical VBS day, the children began with a high energy Opening Assembly, then made their way to classes for Bible stories emphasizing God’s faithfulness.

In addition to the Bible teachings, the program included wonderful activities to keep things interesting and fun. They enjoyed singing, arts and crafts, as well as science and games. It was a busy, very active and joyful two weeks for all involved, concluding with a wonderful show on the final Friday attended by parents and friends. It was a special time of fellowship, with Glenn welcoming the families and sharing with them what the A&P had to offer – a great Outreach opportunity!







Church School & Youth Group

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

The counsellors were all from our Youth Group, many of whom have been a part of VBS for several years, beginning as young campers, continuing on as CITs, and then finally, counsellors.

This year, three of our Youth Group members took on more responsibilities and acted as Assistant Directors, and I am so proud of their leadership abilities and dedication. Nico Cristofaro, Kayla Green, and Malik Makileni are all wonderful Christian role models for our younger Youth Group members, as well as for the children they led.

We were also delighted this year to have Wylma Cobb join us and share her musical talents. The children absolutely loved her!













Church School & Youth Group

A Few Words from Sharon Dworzak

Due to the sudden hospitalization of my husband Art, our daughter Tara, who has helped with VBS over the past three summers, including VBS via Zoom over Covid, took up the reins in my absence, and acted as Director on my behalf for a good part of VBS. I am so thankful for her devotion to our VBS program, her expertise, energy, patience, and selflessness, as this was during her vacation from her real job!



Special thanks also to Peter Sabourin for his patience and constant support of VBS, to our wonderful office staff always ready to pitch in and help, to Charles Lavergne who helped out once again by making the rounds to Costco for the children's daily snacks, and to our Lead Ministers, Glenn, for his constant and enthusiastic support of the VBS Program.

We welcomed back our teachers and children on Welcome Back Sunday, September 8th, and are delighted that Penni Clarke has agreed to return as our Youth Choir Conductor. We are all looking forward to a wonderful year ahead!

Confirmation Classes, led by our Lead Minister, Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt and myself, began on Sunday, September 22nd with Confirmation scheduled for Sunday, November 24th.

Once again, I would like to reiterate that the success of our programs is not only made possible through the hard work of our Church School staff and Youth Group members, but also through the support and encouragement of Session, our ministers, office staff, Peter Sabourin, Stratsi Dimitrov, Ministry Committee faithfully led by Betty and Jim MacKinnon, the Music Department, and the congregation. I am truly grateful for your encouragement and particularly for your prayers. God bless you all.

Please note some important upcoming events, including the Pumpkin Ball on Friday, October 25th, and the Annual Christmas Pageant followed by a wonderful Family Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 1st.

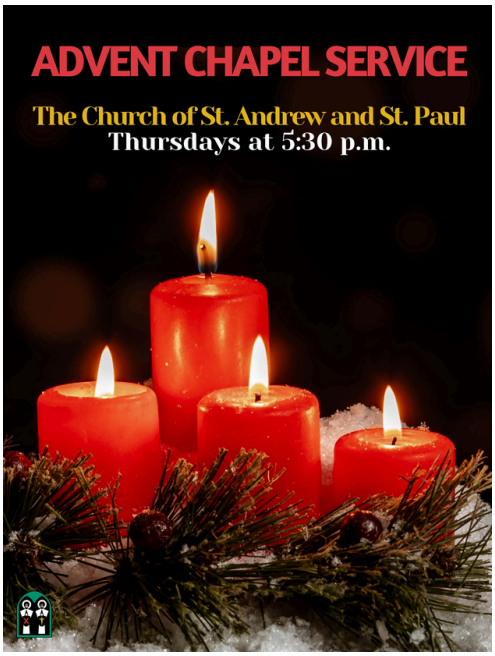
Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Dworzak
Director of Church School and Youth Group Programs

Our Upcoming Christmas Season

Celebrate with Us!







Taizé Chapel Services
Wednesday, November 20th, at 6:00 p.m.

Advent Chapel Services
Thursday, November 28th, at 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 5th, at 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 12th, at 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 19th, at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Pageant
Sunday. December 1st, at 4:30 p.m.

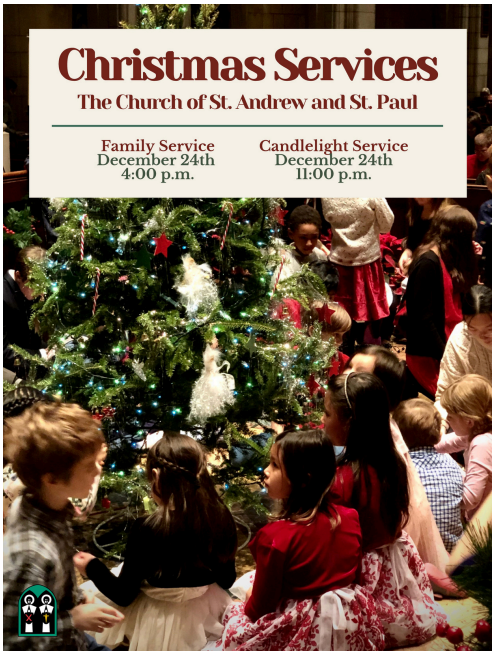
The Longest Night Service
Wednesday, December 18th, at 6:00 p.m.

Carols by Candlelight
Friday, December 20th at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 21st, at 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Services
Tuesday, December 24th, 4:00 p.m. (Family Service)
Tuesday, December 24th, 11:00 p.m. (Candlelight Service)







Pageant at The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul

Sunday, December 1st at 4:30 p.m.

The Pageant is a much loved and much anticipated presentation of the Christmas Story, which has run consecutively for over five decades. It is a beautiful event presented by the children and youth from our Church School and Youth Group, as well as Church School teachers, ranging in ages three to "the young at heart." Combining magnificent costumes and scenery, as well as magnificent music presented by professional choristers as well as our youth choir, it culminates into a spectacular production, not to be missed!



L'Abri Times

L'Abri En Ville Spring 2024 Newsletter

The following article was published in L'Abri En Ville's Spring 2024 Newsletter. L'Abri En Ville is an organization that provides stable homes and authentic community for adults diagnosed with a major mental illness. The full newsletter can be viewed on their website, at labrienville.org/2024-spring

Jerome ~ A welcome Sunday visitor



SAM BEITEL

JEROME, *ABOVE AT RIGHT*, CHATS WITH VISITORS AT THE CHARITABLE PARTNERS EVENT IN JANUARY 2024, AT THE CHURCH OF ST ANDREW AND ST PAUL.

EVER SINCE L'Abri began back in 1991, volunteers and residents have visited faith communities around the city to talk about our project. But no other L'Abri resident has kept at it for as many years as **Jerome Kierans**, now in his sixties and a 25-year-plus veteran of these visits.

Usually driven by a volunteer, but occasionally on his own in a cab, Jerome travels with a photo display and pamphlets, and sometimes a bag of hasty notes designed by residents. With help or solo, he sets up in the church basement before attending the service. Congregants are invited to meet him at coffee hour.

A valued L'Abri ambassador

Chatting over coffee and cookies, Jerome makes friends with a variety of people. "I tell them how wonderful L'Abri is, and how it's been so good for me. Sometimes they tell me they have a relative with mental illness. They imagine how good L' Abri would be for them."

In the early days, these visits were much more frequent. Volunteer-resident pairs would drive to churches in Westmount, NDG, Verdun, Lachine and Montreal West to describe how L'Abri is a safe and welcoming home for adults living with mental illness.

Over the last three decades, church attendance has dwindled. "We used to go to St George's, St Ignatius of Loyola, St Ansgar and other churches", Jerome notes. "Now it's just Montreal West United, the Unitarian Church and St Andrew and St Paul." But faith communities are still an important means of spreading the word, and Jerome remains a valued L'Abri ambassador. He enjoys these visits as much as his listeners do, and we're grateful for his important work. | **SP**

The *Presbyterian Connection*

The *Presbyterian Connection* newspaper is distributed four times per year in print and electronically. Use the sign-up form on the website to subscribe to either format. An email notification will go out when each digital version is available.

The latest issue of the *Presbyterian Connection* newspaper, Issue 31, Fall 2024, was sent out to all congregations and subscribers. This is another edition packed with amazing articles and photos from Presbyterian congregations, individuals and groups across the country. Visit the website to view more and sign up, at
https://presbyterian.ca/presbyterian-connection/

The online version of this edition can be viewed for free on the Presbyterian Connections website. Contact our office at info@standrewstpaul.com if you'd like us to send you a link!


PRESBYTERIAN
Connection
ISSUE 31, FALL 2024

Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage in Ottawa

Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage and Calls to Action

Death & Taxes or A Living Legacy?

There is a famous statement – the only sure things in life are death and taxes. What if I could show you that this idea is demonstrably false?

Let's start with taxes. There is a financial strategy called planned giving, used by all the most knowledgeable charitable organizations, which show people how to lower their taxes, and it is very simple.

Firstly, you can give shares (like Nvidia), on which you have made a lot of money, to a charitable institution, and you don't have to pay the huge capital gains tax you would otherwise have to do because you would receive an income tax receipt for this gift.

Secondly, leave a bequest in your will to a charitable institution. This would reduce the income taxes payable on your death.

And/or, thirdly, buy an insurance policy. The premiums paid are designated charitable giving, and the capital goes to the institution.

As you can see, these three ways simply and easily reduce the taxes you have to pay to the government and benefit the charitable institution.

This is not a new idea – look at the church's financial statements. The line under revenues, "donation of shares" and the line "bequests." They appear in just about every year's income statement. Other church members are already benefiting from this legal tax reduction strategy - why not you?

Now, what about death and a living legacy?

You are not just your physical body. Your spiritual and social beliefs, your children and grandchildren, your community – they are all expressions of who you are. While you may not be able to keep your physical body alive, you can keep your spiritual and social legacy alive by supporting those institutions that made your life better. So, donating to your church through a bequest, as so many of your fellow church members have done for over 200 years, will keep YOUR LEGACY alive.

Judy Mowat and Don Walcot would be happy to talk to you about this important, and money-wise, topic.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Walcot

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul

A member of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

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info@standrewstpaul.com

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul was built in 1931-32. Two congregations, St. Andrew's founded in 1803, and St. Paul's founded in 1832, joined together in 1919. This is the Regimental Church of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, whose colours hang in the sanctuary. The church organ is a four-manual 1932 Casavant (completely rebuilt in 2000) with 112 ranks and 7000 pipes spread over eight divisions, located in the chancel and the gallery.