The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul

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# Inside•Out

Spring 2025

## Worship

**SUNDAY, MAY 18**
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 21**
TAIZÉ CHAPEL SERVICE

**SUNDAY, MAY 25**
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / COMMUNION

**SUNDAY, JUNE 1**
ASCENSION OF THE LORD

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8**
DAY OF PENTECOST

**SUNDAY, JUNE 15**
TRINITY SUNDAY / FATHER'S DAY

**SUNDAY, JUNE 22**
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**SUNDAY, JUNE 29**
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**SUNDAY, JULY 6**
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**SUNDAY, JULY 13**
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**SUNDAY, JULY 20**
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**SUNDAY, JULY 27**
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 3**
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10**
PRIDE SERVICE

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10**
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17**
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24**
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 31**
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WELCOME BACK SUNDAY



## Welcome to Our Church!

### What's inside Inside•Out

1 Greetings from the Minister
2 A Way-Station on the Journey of Faith
3 Music Department Updates
6 Updates from The Guild
7 Songs of Ascents
8 French Conversation Table
9 Share the Warmth
9 Wreath-making Project: A Celebration
10 Coronation Medal
11 Knitters for Neechewagon
11 Book Prize
12 Worship The Lord in the Beauty of Holiness
13 Connection and Prevention are Key!
14 Bread and Beyond
15 Lunar New Year 2025
17 A Tour of the Sanctuary, Cont.: The Chapel
19 A Regimental Pilgrimage
21 The Rev. Dr. Richard Fee Lunch and Learn
23 Church School & Youth Group
32 Supporting Our Future – Legacy Gifts
32 The Fall Fair
33 Pride at Our Church
34 Truth and Reconciliation Service

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Editors: Yilin Chen & Miranda Huybers

# Greetings from the Minister

The Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt



One of the most fascinating scriptural texts of Eastertide is that of the "Walk to Emmaus." Found in Luke's Gospel chapter twenty-four, it tells the story of two disciples who are travelling back to Emmaus after celebrating Passover in Jerusalem. Only a week before they were among the exuberant crowds who arrived in the holy city with Jesus for the most dramatic of all the Jewish festivals. But by the end of the week, the hopes they had invested in Jesus had been dashed.

They must have been scared when he was snatched late at night by soldiers, to be hauled before the Jewish and Roman authorities. They were probably aghast when he appeared again in public carrying a cross beam, on the way to being crucified beside criminals. They were most likely terrified when he was tormented by violence and abuse. They were hopefully relieved by the respite of a rapid death followed by an equally rapid burial.

The shock, the sorrow, the shame of it all: the dreams of so many died with Jesus on that cross. "We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel," the two disciples tell a stranger who suddenly joins them on their journey. But instead, their Jesus had been crucified by their own leaders and chief priests.

Even when this stranger chastises them, opens the scriptures, and begins to interpret them to the two disciples, they do not recognize their roadside companion. We are told that it is only in the intimacy of breaking bread that their eyes are opened, and they recognize this stranger as their resurrected Lord. Only then does the remembrance of his words on their way home refocus their identity. As the text tells us: "They [the disciples] said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"'

This and other experiences of remembering are explained by Craig Dykstra in this way: "Without a narrative that sustains us, the world—and we ourselves—are virtually phantom. But the issue is not just whether one has a narrative or not. The issue is whether we have one that is true and genuine, one that can sustain us in reality, one that, having been given and committed to memory, frees us from desperately having to make one up."

Their memory of Jesus' words on the way home to Emmaus helped free those disciples to believe in the truth that Jesus had risen from the dead. They then headed back to Jerusalem to join the rest of the disciples and tell them of their experience in meeting Jesus.

The fact is we all need narrative; we need history, we need tradition and the experience of remembering collectively so as to make sense of our world and our relationship to God. In other words, we all need a community to belong to. In many respects The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul is that community. In the following pages you will see how together we share a narrative with traditions (old and new) and experiences of being involved in the life of this faith community. These help us remember who we are and who our God is especially at times of difficulty. Like the two disciples in our story, our experiences help us from forgetting, from loneliness and from desolation and turn us instead towards a place of memory, a place of fellowship, a place of hospitality, a place of sincerity and a place of hope. We are then able to say with the disciples in Jerusalem: "The Lord has risen. The Lord has risen indeed, and He has appeared to us!"

*Your minister and friend,*

*Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt, Lead Minister*

## In Memoriam

**Anne Lorraine Gill (Tully)**
November 30, 2024

**James Evans**
December 11, 2024

## Weddings

**Christopher Aranda & Amanda Braun**
December 27, 2024

**Rose Elekanachi & Toluwaleke Olutayo**
May 17, 2025

## Baptisms

**Michael Taub**
September 22, 2024

**Sophie Lussier**
November 24, 2024

**Dunamis Anto Dauda**
November 24, 2024

**Alfred Baumann Favreau**
February 2, 2025

**Elizabeth Cumming**
March 23, 2025

**Natalia Alexandrino Pecht**
April 13, 2025

**Léonie Pecht-Marchand**
April 13, 2025

# A Way-Station on the Journey of Faith

The Rev. Susan Brasier



The unique location of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul has given us a special ministry. Nestled between two world-class English-language universities—McGill and Concordia—A&P, with its grand music and historic architecture, draws many students. But it's not only Anglophone university students who walk through our doors. We welcome tourists, curious neighbors, and people from all walks of life. And among those who come in simply to look around, some choose to stay and become part of our family of faith.

Many of the university students are with us only for a season—five weeks, five months, perhaps five years. The nature of their lives means they probably will not become long-term members, but during their time here, we become their spiritual home and they become part of our family. We offer them a place to belong, a shared meal, a Bible study. Their presence with us offers us so much more. Their energy and efforts are infectious and joyous.

In so many ways, I see our church as a beautiful way-station on people's faith journeys. Think of the great train stations of the past—alive with movement and stories of people headed toward or returning from life's adventures. In much the same way, people pass through our church. Some come just for an evening—Carols by Candlelight, a Good Friday service. They rest here briefly, are refreshed, renewed, and then continue on. Others find something deeper. They return for Sunday worship, join Bible studies, help usher, make sandwiches for Bread and Beyond, serve at the Native Friendship Centre, or lend a hand at congregational events.

The physical location of our church has placed us in a unique position: to welcome the stranger and offer hospitality to our neighbors. We may never know what God is doing in each person's life—that is not for us to know. But it is vital that we honour our calling and serve this ministry well.

When I was 26, I moved to Detroit, Michigan. I visited many churches before discovering Fort Street Presbyterian Church, a beautiful historic building from a by-gone era located in downtown. Most of its members came from the suburbs—like us, a destination church. Though I was there for just over a year, that experience deeply shaped my faith. The music was magnificent, and the preaching excellent, but what truly touched me was how the congregation cared for the local community. Every Friday morning, they served lunch and offered showers. On Tuesdays at noon, they held a brief worship service followed by a lunch for professionals working downtown—a spiritual pause in their demand-laden week. The ministry of Fort Street inspired me and gave me a model for living out my faith with purpose and joy.

I carry these memories with me still. Every time we welcome a tourist, a neighbor, or a university student here at the corner of Sherbrooke and Redpath, it is my hope that we, too, live into the Matthew 25 ministry: to welcome the stranger, to feed the hungry—both physically and spiritually. May our compassion help build God's holy kingdom, not only here in Montreal but also wherever our family members go next. It is my prayer that we send forth ripples of goodness around the world—demonstrating what the love of Christ can create.

*Respectfully submitted,*

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





# Music Department Updates

## Stephanie Manias, Interim Director of Music and Choir Manager

The A&P Music Department's 2024-25 season is coming to a close, and we have a lot to look back on, along with exciting things ahead.

Organ playing this season has been exemplary, with the addition of two new organists to our team, Henry Webb and Isabelle Demers, joining our organ scholar Áron Sipos, who played more in service this season than in the past. It has been a joy for choristers and congregation members alike to witness the ingenious registration choices of these individuals, their clever reharmonizations of hymn tunes, and adventurous doxology improvisations. Congregants had the chance to get to know these three wonderful humans in a special mid-season Hymn Sing in February; we sang favourite hymns chosen by the organists themselves, and learned more about each of them, all while getting the opportunity to sing in a relaxed, supportive environment.



*Tam Photography: Good Friday Concert, 2025.*



*Tam Photography: Good Friday Concert, 2025.*



*Tam Photography: Good Friday Concert, 2025.*

Great organ playing will continue this summer with the Organ Intermezzi Recital Series, taking place on Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. in July and August. Áron, Henry, and Isabelle will each play a recital, alongside a handful of local organists who may be familiar to our audience, and a few others who will visit from Ontario and the United States. Stay tuned to the website and our social media for the full series announcement!

A highlight of every A&P Choir season is of course our special services. This year, our Carols by Candlelight and Good Friday evening services had more people in attendance than we've seen since 2019; and though the congregation was comparatively smaller for our February Vigil due to an ill-timed snow storm, it was also a remarkable achievement for our Choir, in collaboration with the Green Church Committee, and our two charitable partners, Les Amis de la Montagne, and Centre Québecois du droit de l'environnement. The choir was challenged to



*Tam Photography: Maison du Parc Benefit Concert, 2024*

# Music Department Updates

## Stephanie Manias, Interim Director of Music and Choir Manager

sing particularly difficult repertoire, including two pieces by composers who were with us that night; Rebecca Gray, a soprano in the choir, whose piece Sunset on the Great Pacific Garbage Patch utilized actual pieces of garbage (e.g. rice cake wrapper, plastic bag) to percussive effect; and Robert Ingari, who was so moved by our rendition of his piece, Saint-Laurent, that he has offered to write a new piece for brass, organ, and choir for us to present at next year's Carols by Candlelight!

Some exciting news related to the A&P Music Department was announced earlier this week, at time of writing: our conductor, Léa Moisan-Perrier, has been named the new assistant conductor at Orchestre Métropolitain! This is a very prestigious position in one of Canada's best orchestras, and with one of the biggest stars of the classical stage, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, which Léa will take on in addition to her duties at A&P. We are all thrilled for Léa and offer her our sincere congratulations!

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to write more personally about what these last seven months have meant to me as Interim Director of Music. When I was appointed back in October 2024, I couldn't have known just how fulfilling it would be to hold this position. There is a steep learning curve to the job that is easily underestimated; even having been a member of the choir for as long as I have, and in management for a handful of years, there were numerous aspects to the DOM position that completely eluded me when I first started! I have never worked harder in my life on anything, and I was only able to rise to the challenge because of the support of so many people here at the church, on staff, in the choir, and in the congregation. Thank you all for making this year what it has been for me, the most rewarding experience of my life.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Stephanie Manias, Interim Director of Music and Choir Manager*



*Tam Photography: Good Friday Concert, 2025.*



*Tam Photography: Good Friday Concert, 2025.*



*Tam Photography: Maison du Parc Benefit Concert, 2024.*

# The Music Department

Stephanie Manias, Interim Director of Music

Back by popular demand, all are invited to attend the fabulous A&P Choir's Spring Wine & Cheese Recital on June 5th!

Come to hear the wonderful singers of our choir in a different setting. You will hear solo arias, duets, songs from musical theatre, pieces for the whole choir, and more in beautiful Kildonan Hall at The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul.

During the concert, you are invited for a glass of wine and an array of lovely cheeses from the renowned Fromagerie Hamel, selected by the A&P Choir's own professional cheese expert Alex Porras. You are more than welcome to enjoy the wine and cheese seated, whilst enjoying the recital.

Tickets are available for sale in the Narthex after upcoming Sunday services, and at the door on June 5; $45 general admission, or $20 for students. Extra donations are welcome by cash or card. The funds raised at this event will go to the Music Department of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, to help ensure the continuation of all A&P Choir activities including special services like our Carols by Candlelight, February Vigil and Good Friday services.

We invite everyone to join for a splendid evening of exquisite treats and music, and to get to know everyone in the Music Department and the choir in a convivial and warm setting. Invite anyone you know who would be interested in an evening of tasty wine and cheese and top-notch music!






## Music Lovers' Newsletter

Stay connected! Restez connectés!

The A&P Music Department recently launched a newsletter for all music lovers! We invite you to scan the QR code or email apmusicloversnews@gmail.com to get exclusive news and information on your favorite musicians.



# Updates from The Guild

## We invite you to our AGM & Spring Luncheon!

The Congregational Dinner of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, hosted by The Guild, was a very lively and well-attended gathering. Greek cuisine was on offer and Kildonan Hall was filled with the rich aromas of traditional dishes – spanakopita, tzatziki, Dolmades, Greek lemon chicken, and walnut cake! Laughter and conversation flowed easily among the guests who shared tables adorned with flowers, floating candles, and even Greek flags.

The delicious meal was topped off by a truly wonderful musical performance. Soprano Jacqueline Woodley, accompanied by pianist Michael McMahon, performed a selection of classical and inspirational pieces which drew smiles from their audience. Part one included songs by Edvard Grieg and Reynaldo Hahn. Part two featured folksongs “Aye Fond Kiss” (Scotland) and “Danny Boy” (Ireland), and Broadway favourites such as “I Could Have Danced All Night,” “Edelweiss” with audience sing-along, “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” and “You’ll Never Walk Alone” with operatic encore “O Mio Babbino Caro”.

Special thanks are due to Michael Cristofaro and his able assistant Eva Luz Munguia, the dedicated team of chefs who spent many hours planning and preparing the meal. Their efforts made the evening a memorable culinary experience and they deserve heartfelt thanks for their hard work. Behind every successful event there are many helpers to acknowledge. The Guild ladies contributed long hours to the set up of the hall and helped to serve, along with seven energetic and hard-working volunteers from the Young Adult Ministry and the Youth Group.

This evening reminds us how food, music and community can come together to create something truly memorable. How fortunate we are to experience an event like this as members of A&P.



*Photography by Louis Groulx, 2025.*



*“The evening was elegantly staged with outstanding music and refined cuisine. But the lasting importance of these events is the common cause and purpose that reaffirms the community the evening celebrated.” – Christine Prevost-Russell, The Suburban*



*Photography by Louis Groulx, 2025.*

You are warmly invited to The Guild’s Annual General Meeting and Spring Luncheon, which will take place on Wednesday, May 21st at 12:00 p.m. in Kildonan Hall. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. if you would like to come early to chat with friends.

This year The Guild is delighted to welcome The Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt as our speaker. Rev. Dr. Chestnutt will share his story of growing up in Northern Ireland during the Troubles of the 1970s. As well as offering his observations on the Good Friday Accord and what has ensued, Rev. Dr. Chestnutt will provide a heartfelt and thought provoking reflection on faith, resilience, and community. Not to be missed!

A delicious lunch will be served. Tickets are $20.00, payable at the door. Everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing you!

# Songs of Ascents

## Young Adult Ministry



*From left to right: Tolu, Rose, Sri, Sam, Ross, Aaron, Tristan, Anna, Yiming, Emma, and Susan*

*I lift up my eyes to the hills –*
*from where will my help come?*
*My help comes from the LORD,*
*who made heaven and earth.*

The pilgrims of old sang these words on their journey up to Jerusalem. Three times a year the ancient Jews went up to the Temple to worship, and the songs they sang along the way were recorded in the Bible, Psalms 120 through 134, collectively known as the Songs of Ascents. The pilgrims' ascent to the holy city was not only literal, it was also spiritual. Eugene H. Peterson calls it an act of "life lived upward toward God."

Our young adults embarked on our own pilgrimage up Mount Royal the morning of April 19th. We each read a song and reflected on the ways it spoke to our lives:

*The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.*
God is watching over us, through the conflict and confusion in the world around us.

*For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.*
I am not quite sure where I am in life, but I will keep living by gentleness and generosity in this house of God.

*If it had not been the LORD who was on our side,*
God is at the centre of our prayers, of our community; God is the bond that holds us together.

*Happy is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways. You shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.*
I am in mourning, but my hope is in the promise of God that Joy is still to come.

*Often have they attacked me from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me.*
I will lead a righteous life even when I'm treated with contempt. Christ has taught me so.

*Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your faithful shout for joy.*
I hope to have treated others well with kindness, bearing witness to Christ's love.

*How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!*
God has brought us together, there is no better worship of God than to love one another.

We are all pilgrims who spend our lives going someplace, going to God, God who has shown us the way, the truth and the life through Jesus Christ our Lord. On that mountain we prayed, we sang, we listened, and we looked to the Lord our God who has covered us with God's mercy.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Aaron Law*



# French Conversation Table

## An Ongoing Initiative

Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul hosts the French Table at 6:00 p.m. We gather over a simple meal to practice our French conversation skills. But beneath the surface, there is something incredible happening.

When I first moved to Montreal, nearly two years ago, I was studying at an anglophone university and worshiping at an anglophone church. Despite living downtown in one of the largest cities in la francophonie, I felt totally disconnected from the French language. The idea for the French Conversation Table arose out of a desire to step into the culture and language that surrounds us daily.

When I reflect on the French Table, I find myself in awe of God's divine providence. We started with no budget and few expectations. If we had five people attending, we would've considered it a success. Our first night, we had eight people. At our second meeting, twelve. We regularly welcome more than fifteen people and have never had fewer than five, even in a snowstorm. Most of our participants are immigrants. Many are new to Montreal. For them, learning French is often a social and economic necessity, and an essential part of the journey to becoming Canadian. In offering an opportunity to practice French, we are also able to offer space for community, connection, and intercultural exchange. As we ladle out soup and pass around freshly made bread, I've come to appreciate that we're not just feeding people physically – we're nourishing the soul. The French Table has become the embodiment of the call to welcome in the foreigner and the stranger.







The story of the French Table is one that is playing out in the larger church. We are an anglophone church nestled in the heart of the francophone city. Our congregation is increasingly multilingual, in part, because of people from around the world who come to Montreal with English as a second language. A&P serves as an anglophone beacon, giving people a space where they worship in a language they understand. The French Table helps bridge the gap between our anglophone congregation and the francophone community that it exists in. And in doing so, it allows us to offer people outside of the church a glimpse of what Christian community is. Many of our regulars are people who were not a part of our congregation. We've had a number of people where the French Table was their first interaction with our faith community. And for more than one participant, it was the first time they had ever stepped inside a church. Some of these people have since joined our larger church community, both for Sunday worship and service projects.

However, we now find ourselves at a crossroad. The flourishing of the French Table is like a plant that is quickly outgrowing its pot. It is a wonderful thing, a joyous abundance. But without care and attention, it may soon begin to wither. Many of us who help with the French Table are students. Several of us, myself included, will be moving on in the next year, as we finish our programs. But we want to be good stewards of God's gifts. And so, we need help. We need people to come alongside us, so that this goodness will continue long after we've departed.

If you'd like to get involved in the French Conversation Table and help us with this mission, or you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us! You can reach us by messaging Rev. Susan Brasier at sbrasier@standrewstpaul.com anytime.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Emma Carlson*

# Share the Warmth

## Help us feed families today



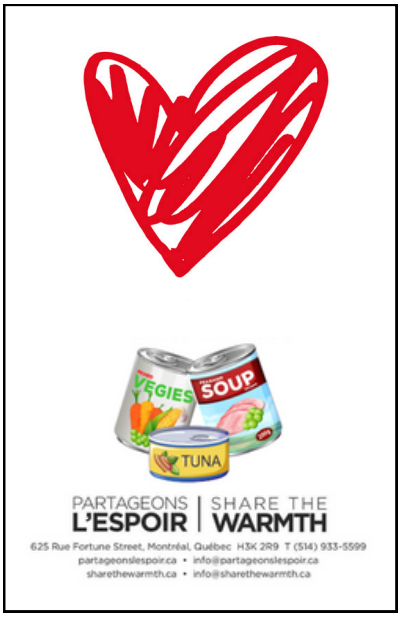
This is a ‘thank you’ to everyone who has been placing a box of cereal or a tin of food in the bin in the front of the church. Week by week, four bags of groceries are taken to the organization Share the Warmth as you have been very generous. Keep it up, please! This way we can assist those who organize a food pantry and meals for families who need the help.

If we each get in the habit of bringing something every week and dropping it off in that basket, then we know we have helped someone feed their family that week.

Thank you indeed for the support for this effort.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Susan Stevenson*







# Wreath-making Project: A Celebration

## Betty and Jim MacKinnon

The Pastoral Care Committee and The Ministry Committee teamed up this spring to recognize and celebrate members of our congregation who find it difficult to attend worship services in person. Members of both committees, under the capable guidance of Bobbie Cristofaro, created fifteen truly beautiful Easter wreaths. It was a labor of love. What made the project extra special was that the recipients’ Elders delivered the wreaths. It was a team effort. Thank you to everyone who made this project a success.







# Coronation Medal

## And then there were seven…

In very early January, certain members of the congregation were advised to keep a certain date free as there was a special event about to happen. The date was January 15th, in the early evening. What was to happen? That was the date of the King Charles III Coronation Medal Presentation ceremony – to be held at the Atwater Library. Those invited were advised to be there half an hour early for the event at 7.00 p.m. – and each recipient could bring one guest. Arriving in good time, the guests were invited to go upstairs to the Adair Auditorium, and recipients were gathered downstairs for instructions.

In due course all assembled in the auditorium, and after appropriate speeches, one by one, recipients were invited up to accept their medal. It was really pleasing to meet other recipients and also recognize friends who had been honoured. From The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul that evening, five people received the medal – David Angus, Bruce Bolton, Michael Cristofaro, Judy Mowat, and Susan Stevenson.

In separate ceremonies over the next few weeks, the medal was awarded posthumously to Brian Merrett, and it was accepted by Lucinda Lyman and her son Lyman, and Brian's son Toby. It was the mayor of North Hatley who proposed Brian for all his community involvement in that town. And once again, in a different ceremony, Keith Martin was also awarded the King Charles 111 Coronation Medal.

With each award, words were spoken about the work each person had done, without expecting any recognition. This made the Medal for each person, very special.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Susan Stevenson*






*Some of the proud recipients of the medal. L to R: Susan Stevenson, Colonel Bruce Bolton, Judy Mowat, and Michael Cristofaro.*

# Knitters for Neechewagon

## Knitting for a good cause

Each year, for almost twenty years, Knitters for Neechewagon* shipped one hundred sets of warm hats, scarves, and mitts along with our former Twinning sub-committee's clothing drive to Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry in time for Christmas. As there was no shipment to SNCM in 2024, our raison d'ètre took an unexpected turn; we were, happily, able to donate and deliver our knitted goods to three shelters for the needy in Montreal: The Open Door, The Native Women's Shelter, and the A&P Youth Group's St. James Drop-in Centre project. 'Thank You' notes received were greatly appreciated by our knitters.




Looking ahead. Our knitters wish to continue supporting local charities at no cost to the congregation. We mostly work from home, but 'socializing' over tea is also very important to us. We plan to meet as before (11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) in church house on the first Wednesday of each month beginning in March or April (weather permitting).

Due to personal life changes and an aging population, the number of knitters has dropped from fifteen to seven. Nevertheless, production remains high! Interested newcomers would be most welcome to join in.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Elizabeth Cuthill & Margaret Wallace*
*Co-Convenors, Knitters for Neechewagon**

**Cree word meaning brothers, sisters, friends*

*ADDENDUM: At our last gathering on May 7th, and after careful consideration, "Knitters for Neechewagon" decided the time had come to disband. Besides having fewer knitters, we recently learned that several local shelters have enough knitted items for this year with little storage space for more. We shall continue to knit and meet as good friends from time to time, but not in church house. Items completed to date are in safe-keeping until next winter, when they will be donated to a local shelter of our choice. To all who so generously gave of their time, talent, and wool over the years, THANK YOU!*

# Book Prize

## "The Book of Remembrance"

*The Book of Remembrance: A Guide to Our Illuminated Treasure,* written by Donna George, has been awarded the 2025 Congregational History prize by the Committee on History of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The award will be presented to our Lead Minister, The Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt, in June 2025 at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. The book tells the story of the financing and installation of all ten clerestory windows and was launched on Sunday, October 13, 2024, at a Lunch and Learn.

Its author, Donna George, has been a member of our congregation for many years; most of us recognize her as a member of our choir but were not aware of her talent as an author. Not only did she write *The Book of Remembrance: A Guide to Our Illuminated Treasure*, but in 2021 her book *By Land, Sea and Air* was awarded an Honourable Mention by the Committee on History. Our warmest congratulations to Donna on these two important achievements; we are indeed blessed to have her among us.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Judy Mowat*



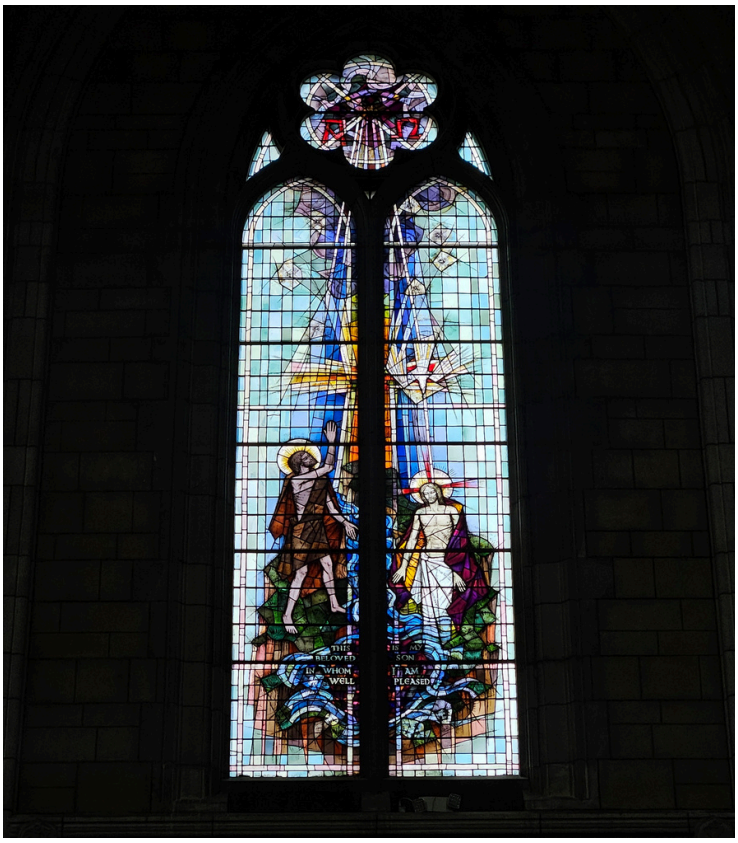
# Worship The Lord in the Beauty of Holiness

## Preserving our beautiful church

As you enter our sanctuary to worship, you are struck by its majestic beauty. It draws our eyes heavenward. When the music begins, it lifts our spirits, and every sermon and prayer gives us hope for the weeks, months, and years to come.

The Bible tells us to “Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." The artists who designed and built the structure, decorated its interior, and illuminated the enormous space with stained-glass windows know the laws of aesthetics well, but they realize even more that what they have created has a higher purpose when they work in this space.

Thanks to the collective efforts of our congregation, we've been able to preserve our sanctuary for generations. The experts we have consulted have provided an inventory of the work to preserve the church infrastructure for the future. Fifteen years ago, we replaced the copper roof. Now, they suggest we must protect the ten clerestory windows down each side, and the two large ones at each end. The Hope window over the balcony memorializes St. Paul, and the Black Watch window hovers over the altar. Each of the twelve windows has a second “glazing window” backing it on the outside to protect it from the elements and exterior damage. These latter need to be replaced by units that have ventilation to moderate the main window’s heat, which might distort their lead framing. Your past contributions have been invaluable, and we look forward to your continued support.







Lawrence Lee, a famous artist, created the clerestory windows that allow the light coming from the sun God made in his sky, to enter the sanctuary, reflect off the walls, and wrap us in an inspirational spiritual glow.

As we move forward, we'll be reminding you of these precious gifts and how we can all play a part in ensuring that our sanctuary remains a beacon of beauty and inspiration. Whether your contribution is big or small, it's equally important. Together, we can dedicate ourselves to preserving our sanctuary for the glory of God. Will you join us in this noble cause?

*Respectfully submitted,*

*David Christiani*
*Convenor, Stewardship Committee*

# Connection and Prevention are Key!

## St. Andrew's Presbyterian Homes Foundation

What is the secret to aging well? This is a question which undoubtedly elicits many different responses. Modern-day media is full of advertisements for "anti-aging" products and focuses on images of vitality and the desirability of youth. There has, in recent years, been some progress with better representation of mature individuals in media, but there is a long way to go with addressing ageism and the negative stigma still often associated with aging.

Time for a fresh perspective! What if we viewed aging as a blessing, understanding that it means we are living longer lives, rich with wisdom and the experiences of a lifetime to draw from and share? While aging might be accompanied by some aches and pains, or struggling with







La Fondation des Foyers Presbytériens de St. Andrew
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Homes Foundation
*Bienveillance en Action* *Caring in Action*

some tasks which we used to find easier, perhaps the key to aging well is a shift in our mindset and view of getting older. How do we want to age and what can we do to better plan for aging?

The key to aging well involves a holistic approach encompassing physical, mental, and social well-being. Focusing on prevention with regular physical activity, a balanced diet, stress management, and sufficient sleep is crucial. Additionally, engaging in activities that stimulate the mind, fostering social connections, and cultivating emotional well-being contribute to a positive and resilient aging experience.

Unfortunately, things don't always go the way we plan, and despite our best efforts, we are sometimes faced with challenges. This is where connection remains key, because there is so much strength in community and knowing that you are supported even during challenging times. This is also where past efforts to focus on prevention can provide you with the strength to face these new obstacles, to recover better and to regain a good quality of life.

A significant portion of the programs funded by the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Homes Foundation focus on preventative actions and the promotion of connection. Whether it be at the Saint-Andrew Residential Centre or via our Senior Support Program for seniors in their own homes, we understand the importance of staying connected and not just waiting for things to go wrong to offer help. Why not start earlier and encourage healthy and happy aging supported by a strong community of allies?

So, while we invite you to continue reaching out to us when things are difficult and when someone you know could use a helping hand, we would like to also invite you to connect with us now, when life is good! In addition to homecare support and medical accompaniments, we also offer functional fitness sessions, the facilitation of social gatherings, and companionship. Let's discuss what aging means to you and how you can plan ahead to make the most of your golden years. Everyone has different goals and different needs, but together we can change the discussion surrounding aging and plan for some of the best years of your life.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Tracy Petzke,*
*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Homes Foundation*

# Bread and Beyond

## Sandwich making for thousands!

Two years ago, James Hughes, President and CEO of the Old Brewery Mission, spoke at a Lunch and Learn about the hungry and homeless in Montreal. In conversation afterward, he suggested we consider an organization called Bread and Beyond. We did.

Bread and Beyond started in Kirstie Jagoe's kitchen during the Covid-19 lockdown, when Resilience Montreal begged for food items that could be served outside. In March, her initiative, including a weekly volunteer-staffed assembly line in NDG's Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, plus several other church and home-kitchen teams, produced 42,000 sandwiches.

On April 2nd, The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul joined the team. Under the leadership of Terry Dimter and Keith Randall, over twenty happy volunteers succeeded in producing 325 ham-cheese-and-mayo/mustard sandwiches in less than an hour, an outcome that delighted and surprised Bread and Beyond's Outside Events Coordinator, Kathryn MacDuff. The Mission & Outreach committee, whose grant to Bread and Beyond covers most of the groceries to support this mission, is equally delighted.






Plans to make sandwiches on alternating Wednesday mornings are confirmed throughout June. If you would like to join the fun – and fun it is, judging by the laughter and smiles – please contact Terry at dimter4614@gmail.com.

The most recent study counted 4,690 homeless and hungry who seek shelter and food every day in Montreal. 42,000 sandwiches delivered each month to shelters, including the Old Brewery Mission, Open Door, and Resilience, are sufficient to provide each person with less than a third of a sandwich per day.

*"For when I was hungry, you gave me food, when I was thirsty you gave me drink, when I was homeless, you gave me welcome!"* Matthew 25-35.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Keith Randall*

# Lunar New Year 2025

## Sharing in culture together



*Emma and her takeout blessing*

“Which of the following belongs to the 4 elements from Nickelodeon's Avatar: The Last Airbender but not the Five Phases 五行 in Chinese cosmology?”

A: Metal B: Wood C: Earth D: Air

You would have encountered this question on our culture trivia quiz if you took part in the Lunar New Year party on February 1st. The evening began with the Lord's Prayer in our languages of worship. The cadences of Mandarin, French, Korean, Spanish, and English filled the hall, ending in unison with Amen 阿們. We launched into the festivities with our dumpling-making workshop, followed by a potluck dinner. Our church family brought an array of delicacies from various cuisines, featuring Yangzhou-style fried rice, braised chicken, tteokbokki, chapati, Olivye salad, deviled eggs and bolo bao, just to name a few.

The celebrations continued with various Chinese cultural activities. If you had celebrated with us over the years, you would have puzzled over lantern riddles, learned the moves to baduanjin 八段錦, read about the life of Matteo Ricci 利瑪竇, tried your hand at mahjong, maybe even brought home a blessing in Chinese calligraphy and paper cutting. We finally ended our lingering conversations late into the night, hurrying home to prepare for Sunday worship the morning after.



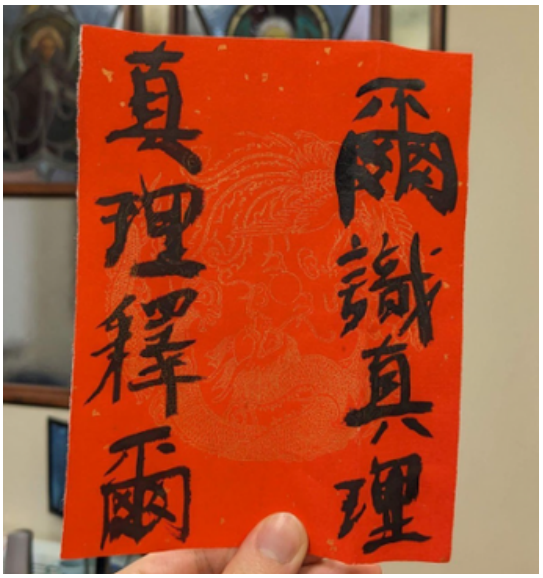
*The hustle and bustle in Kildonan Hall*



*Yiming hosting the calligraphy workshop*

# Lunar New Year 2025

## Sharing in culture together




爾識真理，真理釋爾。*Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. Pardon my chicken scratch.*



*"It's just like playing Legos!" – Ethan, aged 7*



*Baduanjin Exercise 八段錦 led by Sophia*



*Dumplings for lunch the day after.*

The following day, we brought out the leftover dumplings after Sunday morning service. We quickly finished them before rushing to our congregational hymn sing that early afternoon. "Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." God has led into our churches a diversity of people, and God is calling us to live as a community beyond the ways that we know, to participate in this work of liberty that the Holy Spirit is doing. God has shaped this church into an open vessel; we faithfully anticipate God's overflowing blessings for us.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Aaron Law*



*Eva and Edwin taking the trivia quiz. The answer is D, Air is not one of the Five Phases.*

# A Tour of the Sanctuary, Continued: The Chapel

## The Heritage Committee

When The Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul was built in the 1930s, its decoration benefitted 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” wherein 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, the Narthex, and the Chancel. We are pleased to continue here with a tour of the chapel with an article written by Rosalind Pepall, a member of the Heritage Committee.






*Photography by Charles Lavergne, 2025*



**The Chapel of Youth**

Opening off the eastern aisle of the church is the small chapel dedicated to the youth of the congregation. A high, wrought-iron screen separates the intimate space of the chapel from the main sanctuary. The delicate wrought-iron scrolls, leaves, and rosettes of the screen were expertly crafted by Paul Beau and his workshop after a design by Harold Stout—a draughtsman from the firm of the church’s architects, Fetherstonhaugh & Durnford. Paul Beau had gained a reputation for his studio’s hand-wrought ironwork throughout the Ottawa Parliament Buildings reconstructed in the early 1920s. Erected in loving memory of the financier Sir Vincent Meredith (1850-1929), the screen bears the family’s Coat of Arms on a small coloured plaque and another plaque depicts a crest of St. Andrew and St. Paul.

Within the apse of the chapel, a couple of steps lead up to the communion table built of marble, the front panels carved with a central cross and interlaced motifs of Celtic design. Decorative grapevine motifs are sculpted around the table edge and on the sides, encircling the symbols of the Boy Scouts (fleur-de-lis with two stars) and the Girl Guides (a large trefoil) at either end. The baptismal font used to stand in the chapel beside the altar.

# A Tour of the Sanctuary, Continued – The Chapel

The Heritage Committee




A unique feature of the chapel is a small rock embedded in the western wall under which is engraved the dedication: “This stone was brought from Iona / the centre of St. Columba’s Mission to Scotland / 563-597 AD / Presented by / The Rev. George Duncan DD,” minister from 1914-1918.

During the time of Rev. George H. Donald (1925-1945), he wrote in a text *Stones That Speak*, “In this Chapel dedicated to Youth, the children of the Sunday School assemble for the first part of the Divine service. It belongs to them.”

This lovely side chapel is regularly used for small services of prayer and commemoration.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Rosalind Peppall, Heritage Committee*

Installed on the wall behind the table is a richly coloured tapestry, which fittingly depicts the scene of mothers bringing their young children to be blessed by Jesus. Woven along the top of the tapestry are the familiar words of Jesus from the bible (Matthew 19:14), “Suffer little children to come unto me.” This silk and wool tapestry was made by Morris & Co. at their Merton Abbey Tapestry Works in Surrey, England (sewn in along the edge are the bishop’s mitre symbol of the Merton workshop and the weavers’ initials.). The Arts and Crafts artist, designer, architect, and poet, William Morris, inspired a whole British movement towards hand-crafted decorative arts at the end of the nineteenth century. The firm was best known for its stained glass windows (two of which are installed in the western aisle of our church). The tapestry with its typical Morris motifs of trees, flowers, and fruits was modelled after a design for stained glass by the English artist Edward Burne-Jones and later adapted for this wall hanging, woven in 1934-1935. It was commissioned for the church by Lady Isobel Meredith, who in 1951 also donated the twenty pews in memory of her brother James B. Allan.

Providing light to the chapel are three stained-glass windows. On the south wall is a window created by the Scottish Ballantine & Son firm in about 1882, in memory of William W. Redpath, a member of the choir, who had died at age 23. It depicts Christ, the good shepherd, and David holding a harp. Close to it is a Tiffany-inspired window from 1892, dedicated to the church’s organist and choir director for many years, Samuel Greenshields, and represents the figures of David on the left and Jonathan with bow and arrows on the right. The third window, with no dedication, is a compilation of panels taken from the original 1925 Barclay window, which had to be reduced in size to fit into the west wall of the church.



# A Regiment's Pilgrimage

## The Black Watch Church Parade

Few experiences are more uplifting for a soldier than marching with their regiment through the heart of a bustling city, clad in ceremonial uniform and led by the rhythmic cadence of drums and the haunting sound of bagpipes, bearing the colours to the regimental church. This ancient and solemn tradition takes on even deeper meaning when one is also a member of the congregation, as is my case, making participating in church life an exercise of remembrance as well.

For well over a century, the Black Watch has paraded its colours to The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, now on the first Sunday of May, renewing the bond with the congregation. During the Church Parade, the King's and Regimental colours are carried by Subaltern Officers and guarded by armed Non-Commissioned Officers from the Bleury Street Armoury to the sanctuary. There, unguarded and safe within sacred space, they are handed to the Commanding Officer and placed on the Communion table by the regimental Padre. The service, enriched by national, royal, and religious anthems, a piper's lament, The Last Post, a minute of silence, the Reveille, and a sermon, blends pageantry and reverence. Upon its conclusion, the regiment reclaims the colours and marches proudly back to the armoury.







# A Regiment's Pilgrimage

## The Black Watch Church Parade





The Gazette

MONTREAL, MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1940.

OCTOBER

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BLACK WATCH TURNS OUT FOR CHURCH PARADE

The church is indeed a living witness to this connection: plaques bearing the names of the fallen, retired colours from as early as 1862 hang on the walls slowly disintegrating, a First World War Black Watch soldier and the Regimental Crest are represented in the stained glass, and a rose garden dedicated to the Queen Mother, our Colonel-in-Chief for over half a century (and who participated twice in this service), adorns the exterior of the church. Within its walls, generations of Black Watch members have marked weddings, baptisms, and farewells, weaving the regiment's story into the very fabric of the sanctuary. Furthermore, many are the congregation members with a direct or indirect link to the Regiment. Any Black Watch soldier feels at home and with family when at the church.

More than a ceremonial display, the church parade reaffirms the Black Watch's enduring bond with its history, community, and mission. It offers civilians a rare glimpse into living tradition, fostering understanding and appreciation for military service. In an age where tradition often yields to modernity, these rituals anchor us, honouring past sacrifices while renewing our commitment to serve King and country.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Lieutenant Felipe Posada*

# The Rev. Dr. Richard W. Fee Addresses the Congregation at an April Lunch and Learn

## Hosted by The Ministry Committee

Over one hundred A&P folks congregated in Kildonan Hall for a Lunch and Learn following the worship service on Sunday, April 6th. Lunch was graciously provided by our Clerk of Session, Mr. Michael Cristofaro. The Ministry Committee is incredibly grateful to Michael for supporting the work we undertake. The committee, at the suggestion of our Minister Emeritus, The Reverend Doctor J.S.S. Armour, invited one of the best-known and most accomplished Presbyterians in Canada, The Reverend Doctor Richard W. Fee, to address the congregation that afternoon.

Dr. Fee is originally from Alberta. His formal education took him to the University of Alberta, St. Patrick's College, Carlton University, University of Toronto, and Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. His degrees are in Sociology, Comparative World Religions, and Theology. Through a secondment to the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria, Dr. Fee served as a devoted and much-loved parish minister in Nigeria for sixteen years. He then served as Deputy Clerk of the General Assembly of the PCN and, in 1992, as Director of Presbyterian World Service and Development, the arm of the PCC that handles international relief, development, and refugee sponsorship. In 2004, he served as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. In 2025, he was appointed General Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency of the PCC.

Dr. Fee committed his entire life to doing God's work and continues to do so. His brother Doug once said of him, "Rick exemplified Jesus' words, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"



*Rev. Dr. Richard W. Fee*




Dr. Fee spoke eloquently and passionately that afternoon about a time in Canadian history for which present-day Canadians can be very proud. During the brutal civil war in Nigeria (1969-1971), Canadian Presbyterians stepped up to the plate to deliver desperately needed aid to starving Biafrans, most of them women and children. One of the key players among Presbyterians was Edward Hewlitt Johnson, uncle of A&P member Robert Johnson. The initiative called CANAIRELIEF was a highly successful aid initiative. It was staffed with relief groups from many countries and together they were a precursor to the aid groups who have served those less fortunate in the world since the Nigerian Civil War.

# The Rev. Dr. Richard W. Fee Addresses the Congregation at an April Lunch and Learn

## Hosted by The Ministry Committee





Michael Cristofaro provided sustenance for our bodies and Dr. Fee provided food for our souls. We were grateful for both.

We extend thanks to our many friends at A&P who helped in so many ways to make this Lunch and Learn a worthwhile, inspiring way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

"*Heroism has different degrees of nobility but, surely, at the top of the scale must be that of those who venture into great danger... to serve those too weak to help themselves...*" —The Globe and Mail, August 5, 1969, two days following the crash of CANAIRELIEF CF-NAJ.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jim and Betty MacKinnon*
*On behalf of the Ministry Committee*

In 2023, Dr. Fee completed work as lead researcher and executive co-producer of a documentary film entitled "Operations Lights Out: The Story of CANAIRELIEF".

According to Dr. Fee, "The story of CANAIRELIEF is a purely Canadian story. It is also an amazing Nigerian story. It is a Presbyterian story. It is a Montreal Story. It is a story that exemplifies the best values of Canadian people. It stands there beside Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope, and Gander Newfoundland's hospitality during terror. It stands proud today—although hardly known by the majority of Canadians. It was not government-driven; in truth, it was actively discouraged by the government of the day. It was a civilian initiative. And it was church driven, largely by the Presbyterian Church in Canada. And yet Presbyterians being Presbyterian—they drew all of their friends into the action and assembled the resources through many people and agencies. We Presbyterians have always been a small, tidy group of people and know instinctively that we are stronger when we unite and act as one—we are thoroughly ecumenical and inter-faith in our approach to life and work. Biafra was perhaps our finest hour in displaying to Canada what people could do—as Presbyterians, but also as Canadians." There was a hush in Kildonan Hall, from adults and children alike, as the horror of this time unfolded before our eyes. We learned of the heroism of those who delivered food and medical supplies to those in dire need, despite the lack of landing lights and amid the fire from Nigerian planes.



*Photography by Charles Lavergne, 2025*

# Church School & Youth Group

Sharon Dworzak, Director of Church School & Youth Group Programs



Within the A&P community, they continue to 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. The Youth Group has just recently been assigned the task of entertaining younger children, who may be attending adult centered events with their parents.

One of their favourite events to help out with is the Annual Fall Fair, when a week before the Fair they help empty the stage of all the stored treasures for the Fall Fair. They then help with some of the tables during the Fair and the big cleanup at the end – they are then treated to dinner out, which they always enjoy!

Our Christian Education Department continues to dedicate its time to offering a solid Christian curriculum, as well as providing valuable opportunities and numerous activities to our children and youth, enabling them to grow and thrive in a supportive church community.

The theme that runs through our Church School and Youth Group is “Service” and our responsibility as Christians to serve God through the care of others. Since the last issue of *InsideOut*, members of both the Church School and Youth Group have dedicated much of their time in service to our church, as well as service initiatives to the wider community.





# Church School & Youth Group

## Sharon Dworzak, Director of Church School & Youth Group Programs

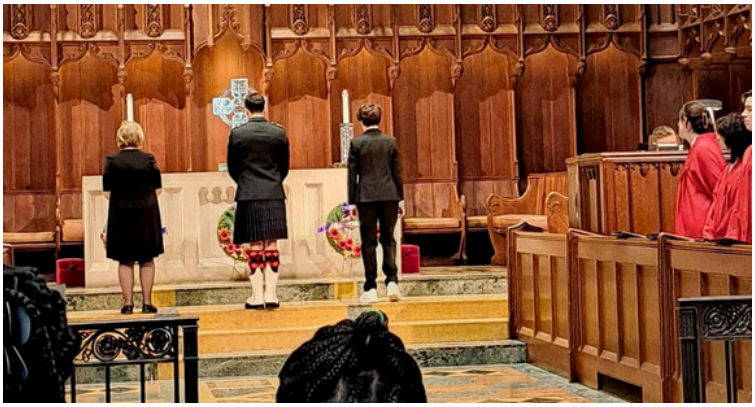
They also enjoy participating in Sunday services, often ushering, reading the scriptures, and singing. We are delighted that our Youth Choir Director, Penni Clarke, has expanded the choir's repertoire, and our young people will be singing more frequently at Sunday Services, as well as special services at Christmas and Easter.

During the Remembrance Day Service last year, Alex Oegema was chosen to lay a wreath on behalf of our Church School, alongside myself, as I lay a wreath on behalf of the Congregation.

Confirmation Classes were held by Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt and myself over an 8-week period, which culminated in the Baptism of two and Confirmation of eleven of our wonderful young people on November 24th. It was a beautiful service and quite meaningful to both Glenn and myself, having spent so much time getting to know these young people even better and appreciating the depth of their faith.

On the Saturday prior to Confirmation, the Confirmants had the opportunity to meet their assigned Elders at a lunch in Kildonan Hall. During the Confirmation Service, each Elder stood with the new members of their flock, as they were confirmed. This was a particularly poignant moment in the service.










# Church School & Youth Group

Sharon Dworzak, Director of Church School & Youth Group Programs



A number of our traditional events were enjoyed by our children and youth – one being Apple Picking at Vergers Petch, a new venue we decided to try in the Eastern Townships. It was quite lovely and a beautiful day to enjoy a picnic!

Another favorite annual event, held on October 25th, was the Pumpkin Ball, once again prepared by our Youth Group. They did a great job decorating, setting out and serving the meal which was catered by Pastamore, entertaining the children, and supervising them during the Mad Science presentation. They then stayed on until everything was cleaned up! This group is not afraid of hard work and actually look like they enjoy the cleanup as much as the event!

The Pumpkin Ball is not only a fun event, but also an opportunity to help out our charity partner, the St. James Drop-in Centre – admission to the Pumpkin Ball is non-perishable food items, which were graciously delivered to the centre by Susan Stevenson.

Our Youth Group also held a clothing drive for the St. James Centre and once again our Congregation responded very generously, with bags and bags of clothing, collected and delivered to the Centre.







# Church School & Youth Group

## Sharon Dworzak, Director of Church School & Youth Group Programs

Of course the Advent and Christmas Season is a particularly special time for our church, and our Church School and Youth Group always play a significant role in the Advent Services leading up to Christmas, with four Church School families participating in the lighting of the Advent Candle each Advent Sunday, the presentation of our magnificent Christmas Pageant which never disappoints, and the Family Christmas Eve Service.

The excitement leading up to the Pageant is palpable and I must take this time to thank Sandra Prior, Yilin Walonoski, and Margarita Medina-Ibáñez for the hard work they put into preparations leading up to the big weekend, as well as Penni Clarke for her patience and hard work in preparing the children's singing, which was magnificent. There are many others to thank, but of course I would be remiss not to thank Michael Cristofaro for his years of amazing dedication to the Pageant. It is truly a labour of love!





After the Pageant, over 200 people enjoyed an evening of fellowship at our wonderful Family Christmas Dinner, catered by Pastamore, and topped off by a visit from our wonderful bagpipe playing Santa!

On Christmas Eve, our young people did a magnificent job in preparing and participating in what has become a favorite Christmas Service – the Family Christmas Eve Service. It is truly wonderful, and a delight to see the numbers of attendees grow each year as it becomes more well known. I believe the appeal being that it is an interactive service led by children for children, presenting the message of the Christmas story in a very special way – the significance of each Christmas ornament being placed on the tree by the children attending, in fact tells the story of the wondrous birth of our Lord and Savior. Then, literally the “icing on the cake”, is when Glenn invites the children to sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus, after which they are led by our piper Luca Cristofaro to the Narthex, to enjoy birthday cake or cupcakes for Jesus! Who doesn’t like a birthday party!



# Church School & Youth Group

Sharon Dworzak, Director of Church School & Youth Group Programs





In February, our Youth Group once again did an amazing job raising funds for The Coldest Night of the Year walk in aid of the St. James Drop-in Centre. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, they met their goal and raised $4,000.00 for St. James. St. James exceeded their goal and raised over $50,000.00 which will be used to serve some of the homeless community in Montreal. We had the honour of hosting the event in Kildonan Hall for the third year in a row, which the Centre is most appreciative of.



On April 12th, two busloads headed off from the church to return once again to the “Sucrerie de la Montagne”, for our Annual Cabane a Sucre. It was a fabulous day and deemed a great success by all who attended. Good food, a beautiful venue and fun entertainment – a wonderful time of fellowship for all!






*Photography by Louis Groulx, 2025*

# Church School & Youth Group

Sharon Dworzak, Director of Church School & Youth Group Programs







Finally, our Church School and Youth Group played important roles at our Easter Services. On Palm Sunday our children and youth followed the procession enthusiastically waving palm branches and the Youth Choir sang a wonderful song.

A beautiful Easter Morning "Son" Rise Service was prepared and led by our Youth Group, with music directed by Penni Clarke. It was a wonderful service complete with readings, singing and the dramatization of the Easter story. Some of our young people, as well as Rev. Susan Brasier and Clerk of Session, Michael Cristofaro, shared some of their favorite Easter traditions as well as what Easter meant to them personally. The Service was followed with a delicious pancake breakfast prepared by Iain Lamont – thank you so much Iain and Peter Sabourin for making this happen, while I was not able to put in the work this year. God bless you both!





# Church School & Youth Group

## Sharon Dworzak, Director of Church School & Youth Group Programs

One of the biggest highlights of our Church School year is our Vacation Bible School Program, offered for two weeks during the month of July. The VBS program has grown in popularity over the years, offering a Christian based program for children ages 5-12, and at the same time offering wonderful experience, as well as employment to our own youth, some who began as campers, then grew into the roles of CIT's, then Counselors, taking on more and more responsibility in leadership roles. This year's VBS Program, "Road Trip – On the Go with God", is a thrilling road trip adventure where kids embark on a journey with God through the Bible. Through engaging Bible stories, interactive games, and fun challenges, they'll discover that God is always with them. "Road Trip VBS" is more than just fun – it's a journey of faith, friendship, and unforgettable memories!

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.

The counselors are all members of our Youth Group, many of whom have been a part of VBS for many years. Following is a sampling of what VBS has meant to them.



*"To me, VBS is a precious time of year. The summer air, spending time with the rest of the Youth Group, setting up everything for the kids, and don't forget the year long excitement leading up to it either! Being with the kids is the best part of it all – standing beside them and guiding them through their faith in Christ, with entertainment and music, is a lovely way to connect and get to know the children while enjoying their avid creativity."* Cassie, Counsellor (Art)






*"VBS has meant a lot to me as it was the first summer camp I have ever done. I was 4 years old when I started the camp and I was 11-12 when I first became a CIT. The camp really got me closer to God and helped me make new friendships. The camp has not only taught me about God, but as a Counsellor it helped me tell other young children about God and all of His values. I really like the camp and would recommend it to young children and even others that don't necessarily have a belief in God, so we can teach them to trust God and put their faith in Him."* Lukas, Counsellor (Games & Activities)



*Photography by Charles Lavergne, 2024*

# Church School & Youth Group

Sharon Dworzak, Director of Church School & Youth Group Programs




*"VBS has meant so much to me over the years I have attended. When I first started attending, I instantly loved it! The counselors at the time made such fun activities in Art and Science, and they would also have us doing class lessons to learn about the Bible, in a fun and interactive way. Many years later, I'm still at VBS. However, it's for a very different reason now. I currently help direct VBS. I do quite a bit of behind the scenes work, the majority of it being paperwork, ensuring that the camp runs smoothly, and the campers know what to expect for the next day. I also help ensure their safety so they can have a super fun time at camp. VBS has given me so much in terms of values, friendships, leadership skills, as well as critical thinking. VBS is a great place to be for two weeks in summer!"* Nico, Camp Co-Director



*"As a camper at VBS, I finally felt truly seen. The counselors there didn't just do their jobs — they loved their jobs. I could tell, and it made me think, 'Man, I want to do that someday. I want to bring as much joy to others as they're bringing to me.' That feeling of connection, of being surrounded by people who genuinely cared, was so powerful. It wasn't just about the activities or the games — it was about the way they made each camper feel special.*

*When Sharon, the camp director, gave me the chance to be a Counselor-in-Training, I was absolutely overjoyed. It felt like a dream come true. I finally got to experience what it was like on the other side, to be the one creating that environment of joy and support for others. And it was fantastic. I got to talk to the kids, make arts and crafts with them, explore new things, and see them grow and learn each summer. We all discovered new things about ourselves that we didn't know before — whether it was through creativity, teamwork, or simply getting to know each other's little quirks.*

*Being a counselor means having the opportunity to share that magic with the next generation of campers. It's about building those connections, creating a safe space for everyone, and making sure each child knows they're seen and valued. And honestly, Sharon's leadership has been such an inspiration to me — it's because of her example that I've learned how to lead with love, enthusiasm, and care."* Kayla, Counselor, Co-Director



# Church School & Youth Group

## Sharon Dworzak, Director of Church School & Youth Group Programs

Please note some important upcoming events:

June 8th: Church School Celebration and Honouring Fathers Luncheon

June 14th: Canadian Cancer Relay for Life
Youth Group will be raising funds for cancer research and walking in honor and support of Art Dworzak and Wylma Cobb

July 14th-19th and 21st-25th: Vacation Bible School 2025, “Road Trip – On the Go with God”

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 Lead Minister, 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.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Sharon Dworzak*
*Director of Church School and Youth Group Programs*













# Supporting Our Future – Legacy Gifts

## The Planned Giving Committee

We all know we can't predict the future – who would have thought six months ago that the very existence of Canada would be under threat!

Recently a very experienced investment professional used these three words: "Don't Predict – Plan", to express his own successful investment philosophy.

By establishing your own investment goals and, possibly, working with an experienced financial advisor, your investment plan should provide you with income sufficient to support yourself as well as others.

But planning applies not just to your head – your investments – but also to your heart – your charitable donations.

Over the last year, on the last page of the church's weekly Order of Service, various aspects of the church, which mean so much to so many, have been highlighted – uplifting messages from the pulpit, a warm sanctuary home, historic clerestory windows, a feeling of the presence of God. This is where the "heart" of the church is located.

But they did not happen by chance or guesswork. They happened because our forebears planned carefully and wisely.

You, too, can be part of this historic tradition of maintaining the presence of God in this city. And it can be done by using both your weekly donations to our church and other financial assets such as gifts of stock with large capital gains; designating the church as the beneficiary of insurance policies perhaps no longer needed due to changes in family needs; or remembering the church in your will. Many of these gifts also provide some income tax savings.

Don Walcot and Judy Mowat of the Planned Giving Committee would be happy to discuss this important topic with you, and help you to make your dreams for the church come true!

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Don Walcot and Judy Mowat*
*Planned Giving Committee*

# The Fall Fair

## Join us on Saturday, November 1st, 2025







The 91st Annual Fall Fair preparations are underway, and we need your support. As the summer months rapidly approach, please think of the Fair should you be moving, downsizing a home, or making any changes to your home décor or household items. We need your goods! The Fair's success depends upon it.

To donate to the Fall Fair, please drop off gently-used items at the main church office during operating hours. Should you need assistance, please contact the Church to arrange a pick-up.

If you would like to volunteer and get involved with the Fall Fair, please contact the Fall Fair Convenors: Audrey Anderson, Eric Bolduc, and Fern Whitehouse or at the following email: AandPFallFair@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting the Church through the Fall Fair. We look forward to another successful Fair!

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Eric Bolduc and Audrey Anderson, Fall Fair Convenors*

# Pride at Our Church

## Join us on August 10th, 2025

Here at The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, we are proud to welcome and support people of all backgrounds. Every year we are thrilled to host a morning service in our Quiet Garden to celebrate Pride with you all at our church. Last year we welcomed The Rev. Dr. Bob Faris, who gave an excellent sermon about both what has been achieved and what is still to be achieved in our community, and exploring the Creation story and what it means to love others “as we love ourselves.”

This year, on Sunday, August 10th, we welcome you once again to celebrate God’s inclusiveness in the open air of the beautiful Quiet Garden of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul. Stay tuned this summer for more detailed updates to come!














*Photography by Charles Lavergne, 2024*

# Truth and Reconciliation Service

## Join us on September 30th, 2025

Our Truth & Reconciliation Service takes place on September 30th every year. Pursuant to The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, we, as a faith community, are obligated to tell the story of the residential schools and to offer our lament/apology. This worship service is one of the ways A&P seeks to do exactly that. But we need your help! Please plan on attending and please let your friends know about this service. This year, the service should prove to be interesting, up-lifting, and educational.











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The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul
A member of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

Photography:
Charles Lavergne
Louis Groulx (@louisgphoto)
Tam Lan Truong (tamphotography.ca)

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.