



The Church
of St Andrew
and St Paul

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Inside·Out

Spring 2017

Spring Worship

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Lenten Chapel Service, 12:30 p.m.
The Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Second Sunday in Lent, 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Evening Prayer and Song (Taizé), 6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

Lenten Chapel Service, 12:30 p.m.
The Rev. Dr. J.S.S. Armour

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Third Sunday in Lent, 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

Lenten Chapel Service, 12:30 p.m.
The Rev. Lucille Marr
Light Lunch in Kildonan Hall, 1:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

Fourth Sunday in Lent, 11:00 a.m.
The Reverend Dr. Glenn Chestnutt
Annual General Meeting: 12:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

Lenten Chapel Service, 6:00 p.m.
The Reverend Dr. Dale Woods
Light Lunch in Kildonan Hall, 1:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Fifth Sunday in Lent, 11:00 a.m.
The Reverend Dr. Glenn Chestnutt

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

Lenten Chapel Service, 6:00 p.m.
Mrs. Clara Maranzano
Light Lunch in Kildonan Hall, 1:00 p.m.

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Palm Sunday, 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 13

Maundy Thursday, 6:00 p.m.
Sacrament of Holy Communion; Tenebrae
The Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney

(continued on next page)



The participants in the Youth Group Retreat found lots to do — studying, discussions, and roasting marshmallows too!

What's inside Inside·Out

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Deadline for next edition: May 20, 2017

Greetings from the Minister

As we look ahead...

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Good Friday, 11:00 a.m.
Musical Reflections on the Passion Narrative
Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt
The Reverend Dr. Kay Diviney

Good Friday Choral Service, 7:30 p.m.
W. A. Mozart's Mass in C minor, K. 427, K.626

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16

Easter Sunrise Service, 8:00 a.m.
Chancel; led by our Youth Group

Easter Sunday, 11:00 a.m.
Sacrament of Holy Communion
The Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

Evening Prayer and Song (Taizé), 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Second Sunday of Easter, 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

Third Sunday of Easter, 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Fourth Sunday of Easter, 11:00 a.m.
Black Watch Sunday

SUNDAY, MAY 14

Fifth Sunday of Easter, 11:00 a.m.
Mother's Day
The Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

Evening Prayer and Song (Taizé), 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

Sixth Sunday of Easter, 11:00 a.m.
Healing and Reconciliation Sunday
Confirmation Sunday
The Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt

SUNDAY, MAY 28

Seventh Sunday of Easter, 11:00 a.m.
Sacrament of Holy Communion
The Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

Pentecost, 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Trinity Sunday, 11:00 a.m.
First Sunday After Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney

Dear Friends,



Hidden within the narrative of the Second Book of Kings in the Old Testament is a story about Elisha picking up the Prophet Elijah's mantle to symbolize that he, Elisha, was now God's Prophet. Elijah had been carried up to heaven in a chariot of fire (see 2 Kings 2:1-12).

Among many questions this text leaves us with is one that is very relevant to us at The Church of St Andrew and St Paul: As a community of faith that has a rich heritage in Montreal, what should we carry with us into the future? In other words, how should we wear the mantle that we have been given?

I say this because it seems that the process of moving forwards seems to be part and parcel of God's reign. As Maryann McKibben Dana notes: 'the loss of Elijah does not deter Elisha from what must be done' nor does it exclude him from the ministry that has yet to happen.

This should be a welcome reminder to all of us: God's reign, that which we are all involved in, is not dependent on you or me. It is not our ministry. It is God's ministry and we are simply part of it for a time. Of course, we can certainly plan and prepare for the future but we then have to hand over and let our successors journey on in their own way. Knowing this should bring us tremendous freedom from the burdens of imposed anxiety, ambition, expectation and approval.

As we look ahead, may we be very thankful for what God has done and continues to do in the life of our church. May we rightfully celebrate our past, welcome the present and look forward to the future. May we also take from the rich heritage of our church what we need for the future, knowing that just as Elijah left his mantle for Elisha to carry into the future, so God calls us to continue God's ministry here in Montreal in ways relevant to our times.

*Your minister and friend,
Glenn*

Easter Flowers

All those wishing to contribute **In Memoriam** flowers for **Easter Sunday, April 16**, should be in touch with the Church Office by Sunday, April 2. The In Memoriam names will be included in the Easter Bulletin, and the flowers are distributed to members of the congregation who are not able to come to church.

Cheques should be made out to **"The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul-- Easter Flowers."** Tax receipts will be issued.



The Church
of St. Andrew
and St. Paul

www.standrewstpaul.com

Open Church

Guided Tours available on request.
We Welcome You in His Name.

Église ouverte

Visites guidées disponibles sur demande.
Vous êtes les bienvenus en son nom.



Moment for Mission Opportunities for Outreach

“Hidden Treasures in Plain View” - Open Church tours on Wednesday afternoons and on the first Sunday of the month until June.

Starting on March 1st, Mission and Outreach member Don Kelly will open the church from 2 to 4 pm every Wednesday until June. Don will provide information on the history and architecture of the building and point out the significant works of art that it contains.

Also, beginning on March 5th and on the first Sunday each month until June 4th, Don will give a talk on the same topics directly after the service ends until 1 pm. This is for members of the congregation and visitors. Each Sunday will highlight a different part of the building, ensuring a complete tour around the interior of the church.

Don will also underline the vibrancy of the congregation and the role of the church as a place of worship and refuge in the busy city that surrounds it.

Welcoming Tiago Chiavegatti



We are very pleased to share the news that Mr. Tiago Chiavegatti joined our A&P staff on Monday, January 16th as our new Office Manager. Tiago is a life-long Presbyterian who brings to this role extensive academic and volunteer experience, along with skills in editing, translating, and accounting. He will be shadowing Diana Veenstra for the next few weeks before taking on the role in its entirety. Do take a moment to stop by and introduce yourself to Tiago the next time you are in the office. Thanks to the Search Team (Diana Veenstra, Jay Hewlin, Donna George, and Diane Ellison) for their great work throughout this journey.

From the Church Registrar Memorials & Funerals



December 7, 2016
Gerald Rudolph

December 9, 2016
Dumitru Zaharescu

December 30, 2016
Robert Faith

The Guild: Save the Date

The Annual General Meeting and
Luncheon of the Guild
Wednesday, April 19, 2017
12:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Scott Feltham is Chair of the Worship and Music Committee of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul and plays double bass with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

Please save the date to come and enjoy
“An Interlude with Scott”.

Live Broadcast of Our Sunday Morning Worship Service

We have discovered that certain Internet browsers are causing confusion and problems for members that are try to access the live broadcast of our Sunday morning worship service. Therefore, we would like to suggest the following link be used to access Livestream directly while we transition to a new system. Thank you for your understanding.

<https://livestream.com/standrewstpaul>

Music at A&P

Good Friday Choral Service: April 14 at 7:30 p.m.



The central ritual of our life as a Christian community is the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Instituted by Christ during His last supper with the disciples, since the earliest days of the Church it has been the ultimate symbolic reminder that Jesus lived, died and rose again to redeem us all from sin.

It is therefore not surprising that the text of the Last Supper, expanded and enriched over the centuries, grew into the liturgy of the Mass, the so-called "Ordinary"--meaning the essential elements that are repeated every time the Lord's Supper is celebrated. These include the Kyrie ("Lord, have mercy - Christ, have mercy - Lord, have mercy"), the Gloria ("Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace..."), the Credo ("I believe in God the Father..."), the Sanctus and Benedictus ("Holy, holy, holy..." and "Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord..."), and the Agnus Dei ("Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world...") Together, these five elements offer a comprehensive journey through our relationship to God's redemption: a confession of our sin and need; praise of God through a narrative of God's acts; a statement of belief; praise of God and His messengers; and a prayer for mercy and peace to Christ, at the moment of His ultimate sacrifice.

The Protestant tradition, taken over from ancient church practice, is to read or sing the Passion story--the account of Christ's Crucifixion--on Good Friday. Here at St. Andrew and St. Paul we have often sung the two famous Passion settings by J.S. Bach (St. Matthew and St. John) on that day. However, this year we are taking a different course and presenting two settings of the Mass: one is a conventional Ordinary, and the other is a Requiem, or Mass for the Dead. Both are late works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: the *Requiem*, KV 626, and the *Great Mass in C minor*, KV 427, and were left incomplete at Mozart's death in 1791, though the *Mass in C minor* was written much earlier, in 1782. KV 427 is missing the latter parts of the Credo, and the Agnus Dei altogether. Why Mozart left such a mighty work incomplete is a mystery, though there is well-founded speculation that he may have spliced in movements from his earlier Mass settings for the first performances.

The *Requiem* is quite a different story. Since its composition and the composer's untimely death, rumours have surrounded the work. Certain facts however seem clear:

1. The work was commissioned anonymously, through intermediaries, by Count Franz von Walsegg early in 1791 to commemorate his wife's death. Von Walsegg was in the habit of commissioning works from famous composers, and then passing them off as his own!;

2. The *Requiem* was completed after Mozart's death (on December 5, 1791) by Franz Ignaz Süssmayr, following both fragmentary indications from Mozart and Süssmayr's own musical imagination;
3. Mozart's widow Constanza had to hide Süssmayr's involvement in order to collect the final commission payment from von Walsegg, and also to protect the work's value for later publication; and
4. Süssmayr was no Mozart; his completion has some obvious shortcomings that musicologists and composers have been trying to ameliorate ever since!

This year, we will perform a completion of the Requiem made by the American musicologist Robert Levin, who has dedicated much of his life's work to studying uncompleted works of the Classical and Baroque eras. Levin's completion differs from Süssmayr's most significantly at two important moments: he adds a fugue (based on sketch by Mozart) at the end of the Sequence, after the Lacrymosa; and he modifies the Benedictus so that its concluding "Hosanna" reappears in the correct key, rather than the unusually transposed key of Süssmayr's version.

Our Choir will be joined by Ensemble Caprice, one of Montreal's outstanding period-instrument orchestras. We will perform at a pitch slightly lower than the modern standard (a=430 Hz rather than a=440), a convention when playing historical Classical instruments. Soloists are all current members of the choir, with the exception of tenor soloist Antonio Figueroa, who is an alumnus of the choir; Jean-Sébastien Vallée conducts.

As at all of our choral services, there is no charge for admission but a freewill donation is requested. Your offerings help support our church's musical ministry, which enriches our own worship life but also enriches the broader spiritual and cultural life of Montreal, Quebec and Canada.

Another CD is on its way!

On February 9, 10 and 11, the choir, Conductor, Director of Music/Organist, and producer Robert Rowat spent nine intense hours together, recording the choir's next CD! Entitled "Lux", it is a collection of carols, anthems and organ music for Christmas. We are a church that celebrates a lot of Christmas, with the Church School Pageant, CBC Sing-In, Carols by Candlelight as well as the Christmas Eve services, thus it seemed appropriate to commit that practice to disc. A pre-release version will be available D.V. in late June, with the official launch planned for the autumn. Plan your Christmas shopping accordingly, and share the A&P Choir's Christmas joy with your friends and family!

-Jonathan Oldengarm, Director of Music

A&P Spring Music List



March 12

Prelude: Tempo moderato & Intermezzo, from *Sonata IV* (Rheinberger)
Introit: As Moses Lifted Up the

Serpent (Bairstow)

Anthem: He, Watching Over Israel, from Elijah (Mendelssohn)

Postlude: Fugacromatica, from *Sonata IV* (Rheinberger)

March 19

Prelude: Psalm Prelude, Set 1 no. 1 (Howells)

Introit: Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks (Howells)

Anthem: Sitivit Anima Mea (Burchard)

Postlude: Rhapsody no. 2 (Howells)

March 19, after service: Choristers' Concert (until 1300): Kildonan Hall

March 26

Prelude: Allegretto & Andantoespressivo, from Organ Sonata, op. 28 (Elgar)

Introit: Brother James' Air (arr. Jacob)

Anthem: Light of the World (Elgar)

Postlude: Allegro maestoso, from *Organ Sonata*, op. 28 (Elgar)

April 2

Prelude: Prière (Franck)

Introit: A Litany - Drop, drop, slow tears (Walton)

Anthem: There is a balm in Gilead (Dawson)

Postlude: Toccata en fa majeur (Grison)



April 9

Church School Children sing in service

Prelude: Aria & Adagio, from *Symphonie VI* (Vierne)

Introit: Hosanna to the Son of David (Tomkins)

Anthem: Ride on (Ives)

Postlude: Finale, from *Symphonie VI* (Vierne)

Tenabrae: April 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Responsaries: The Reproaches (Sanders); Tristisest anima mea (Poulenc)

Good Friday: April 14

Music, readings, meditation on the Passion -with a quartet from the Choir

Good Friday Choral Service: April 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Requiem, KV 626 & Mass in C minor, KV 427 (Mozart)

-the Choir, with Ensemble Caprice, directed by Jean-Sébastien Vallée

Easter Sunday with brass, choir and organ: April 16, 2017

Prelude: Christ lag in Todesbanden (Scheidemann)

Setting: Missa Resurrectionis (Hancock)

Anthem: Surrexit a Mortuis (Widor / Oldengarm)

Motets: Haec Dies (Byrd); This Joyful Eastertide (arr. Ledger)

Postlude: Toccata, from *Symphonie V* (Widor)

April 23

Motets for solo voice with continuo; Kristi Bryson, soprano

Prelude: Andante tranquillo, from *Sonata III* (Mendelssohn)

Postlude: Con moto maestoso, from *Sonata III* (Mendelssohn)

April 30

Prelude: Tiento, Méditation & Improvisation, from *Suite Medievale* (Langlais)

Introit: Now the green blade riseth, arr Lindley ASH

Anthem: Bleibbeiuns, dennes will Abend werden, BWV 6/1 (Bach)

Postlude: Acclamation, from *Suite Medievale* (Langlais) Nick

Hymn Festival: April 30 at 5:00 p.m.

Our Choir is joined by a brass ensemble and guest choirs from the Montreal area; with organist Jonathan Oldengarm and Conductor Jean-Sébastien Vallée

Black Watch Sunday: May 7

Prelude: Requiem aeternam (Harwood)

Introit: My soul, there is a country (Parry)

Anthem: I Was Glad (Parry)

Postlude: Paeon (Harwood)

Mothers' Day Sunday: May 14

Church School Children sing in service

Prelude: Gospel Prelude on "Amazing Grace" (Bolcom)

Introit: For the beauty of the earth (Rutter)

Anthem: Draw us in the Spirit's tether (Friedell) LIB 240

Postlude: Everyone Dance!, from *Five Dances for Organ* (Hampton)

May 21

Prelude: Aria (Andriessen)

Introit: Set me as a seal upon thine heart (Walton)

Anthem: Let the people praise thee, o God (Mathias)

Postlude: Prelude and Fugue in F minor, op. 45 (Laurin)

May 28

Prelude: Alléluiassereins, from *L'Ascension* (Messiaen)

Setting: Communion Service *Collegium Regale* (Howells)

Anthem: Quam dilecta (Widor)

Motets: Tantum ergo (Durufilé); O Sacrum Convivium (Messiaen)

Postlude: Transports de joie, from *L'Ascension* (Messiaen)

Church School

An enriching program for everyone

Our Church School children are enjoying their time in the Sanctuary at the beginning of every Sunday service, particularly on the Sundays when they are treated to “Children’s Chat” with Rev. Chestnutt or Rev. Diviney! They will soon be participating in a number of services, as Will Duffy prepares songs with them.

The children once again did a wonderful job with the 51st Annual Christmas Pageant. More and more of our youth are involved behind the scenes as they prepare to “take over the reins” in the near future, many of whom were little shepherds and angels themselves not that long ago.

After the Pageant, over 200 attended the Family Christmas dinner for a wonderful time of fellowship. Many thanks go to Diane Aikens, Wilma Cobb and Iain Lamont for doing such a great job ensuring that all were served a delicious meal. Others who helped make this special evening a great success were David Christiani who once again led us in song, leading up to the grand entrance of our very own piping Santa! The sheer delight on the faces of the children as well as their parents is always priceless!!

In addition to the Christmas Pageant and Family Dinner, our families enjoyed and participated in many other Christmas events. Four of our families helped with the Advent Candle Lighting and our Church School prepared and led the Family Christmas Eve Service. Each year this Service grows in popularity and I believe it is due to the involvement of the Church School children and the invitation extended to all the children attending the service to join us in decorating the Christmas tree. All scriptures and readings are done by the Church School from Grades 3 through Senior High, with each reading revealing the significance of the decorations being placed on the tree by the children gathered around the tree. This is one of my favorite Christmas services and the Church School children do a wonderful job with their readings and



Above: The Family Christmas Eve Service provides a very special moment in all the ‘busyness’ of the Season.

Right: Rich ladies all dressed and made up for the pageant! Excited too!





Above: Sheep and shepherds all gather round Joseph and Mary in the stable. The pageant once again drew parents and friends to Bethlehem.



Above and right: The Creche has been refurbished and welcomes parents and little ones each Sunday. The service is Livestreamed so everyone can be part of Worship.



their welcome of all the visitors and their families. The Service ends with a special tradition of singing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus, and this year an added element delighted us all as the children were piped down the center aisle by our own Senior Church School bagpiper Luca Cristofaro!

One of our goals this year has been to have the Church School more involved in Sunday worship and in this regard, as mentioned earlier, the entire Church School attends the first part of the service every Sunday. We are also inviting the children to usher as well as read the scriptures and of course sing on a number of upcoming Services – Palm Sunday and Mothers Day to name a few, which I know you will enjoy. The Youth Group will once again lead the Easter Morning Sunrise Service.

There are a number of activities planned in the next few months to jot in your calendar:

Confirmation classes will begin in March – we invite any young people interested in joining the classes, or would like more information to contact me at 514-755-0313. Confirmation will take place in May. Also, Annual Cabane a Sucre, April 9 and Mother’s Day Breakfast!

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our amazing Church School team!

From those looking after the babies in the Creche, through to those teaching our High School students, these wonderful volunteers devote their time ensuring that all are made to feel welcome and that each student’s Church School experience is an enjoyable time of sharing, learning as we celebrate our lives as Christians. They are truly inspiring and wonderful role models. We are truly blessed!

If you would like to join the Church School Team in any capacity, there is a place for you. Please call me at 514-755-0313 if you would like to help out with Church School or any of our upcoming activities or if you would like more information.

Sharon Dworzak, Church School Coordinator

Youth Group

A generous and faith-filled team

The Youth Group was a huge help over the Christmas season. They did a wonderful job taking on responsibilities in the planning and execution of the **Annual Christmas Pageant** as well as serving over 200 at the Christmas Family Dinner! They are called upon on occasion to help with Congregational events including hosting the Christmas Family Reception and more recently helping with the setup of the Taste of the Nations.

They are great role models for our younger children and were very involved in guiding the younger members of the Church School in the Christmas Family Eve Service. They are involved on a regular basis in the Worship Service and often asked to usher as well as read the lesson.

Our Youth Group enjoyed a wonderful weekend in January at the **Annual Youth Retreat**. The theme this year was "Staying Grounded with God as Your Coach". Our guest speaker, Joe Smith, from Hockey Ministries did a great job and many of our young people felt they could relate to some of Joe's life experiences living as a Christian in a sports environment. He talked about the challenges in staying true to your faith in an often faithless world, and in his particular experience – the world of professional hockey.

Our Youth counsellors did a great job in leading discussions, singing, planning games and activities and making certain all the young people in attendance felt welcome and enjoyed themselves to the fullest. Due to poor snow conditions, we were unable to cross country ski, but did manage to walk along the snowshoe path to the Bois de Liesse Park Welcome Center to toast marshmallows over a fire pit and try their hand at ice carving. It was a beautiful sunny day and we were delighted that Glenn, Hannah and Rowan Chestnutt joined us and stayed for the day.

The Youth Group did an outstanding job fund raising for the "**Coldest Night Of The Year**" which took place on Saturday, February 25. It was rainy, windy and cold, but that did not dampen their spirits as they walked the 5 km in support of the St. James Center that tends to many of Montreal's homeless. Thanks to the generosity of our very caring and supportive Congregation, to date they have raised over \$3,800!!

Events coming up are the **Coffee House** which will take place in April as we team up with Mission and Outreach for a combined special evening.

The Youth Group will also once again be preparing and leading the **Easter Morning Sunrise** Service.

Congratulations to **Julia Rochford** and **Sophia Bucket** - debutantes at the St. Andrews Ball and Luca Cristofaro was a very dashing escort!!

We welcome all young people in Grades 6 through 11, who might like to join this energetic, friendly and fun group - please contact us at 450-689-4379 or email grammy.shani@sympatico.ca.

*Art and Sharon Dworzak,
Youth Group Leaders*



The Youth Group Retreat gave lots of opportunity for discussions.



The St. Andrew's Ball had two beautiful debutantes from our Youth Group!

Ten Ministers' Fund

Special Lenten Gifts

Lent is the time of year when we are asked to support the Ten Ministers Fund of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul.

The Ten Ministers Fund was begun 68 years ago as a way to provide a financial gift to ministers across Canada working in isolated or other difficult conditions, and on the minimum stipend (salary). It is a gift of encouragement, to let these ministers know that their work is known and appreciated, even by a large urban church very far away. Here is a letter of thanks from a recipient:

The timing of this generous gift could hardly be better. I was devastated when the cancer we thought we could still beat took [my wife] from me. I now care for our two daughters on my own. All three of us miss [her] every day ... The changes, challenges and expenses have been difficult, but God does provide peace, encouragement, hope, and resources. Thank you so very much for being encouraging, as well as providing resources! As so many things are still in the process of payment, you may consider that you have helped me visit my parents, pay for a new roof, and submit a college application for one daughter so far. I pray that your ministry will continue to provide God's Word and many other good things to the people of Montreal.

We hope you will be generous in your support of the Ten Ministers Fund. All gifts of \$20 or more will receive a receipt for income-tax purposes. Cheques should be made out to 'The Church of St Andrew and St Paul', with 'Ten Ministers Fund' in the memo line.

The Stewardship Committee



Helping to serve at the Christmas Congregational Reception - good fun!



These are the greatest Youth Group fundraisers - they walked to raise money for the homeless, and touched us with their dedication. BRAVO!

Notes from the Board

The amount, combining Sunday regular Givings and shares donated, for 2016 is: \$531,867 - another year that shows the tremendous generosity of the Congregation. As well, we have begun 2017 meeting the Covenant of Giving to the end of January.

The endowment fund of our Church grew by 6% in 2016, ending at just under \$17.4 million dollars. The audited financial statement will be available at the Annual General Meeting, Sunday March 26 th, following the Worship Service.

A special word of thanks goes out to all the volunteers who have given of their time to assist with the upkeep and maintenance of the Church and Quiet Garden. Every helping hand makes a difference in caring for our Church Home, ensuring the Mission of our Congregation continues.

Christopher Powell
Board Chair

Celebration Sunday

Highlighting community services



The Montreal Children's Library



The Mission and Outreach Committee and the Guild Executive Committee recently worked together to host a very successful and informative Celebration Sunday on January 15th. Eighteen charities who receive financial support from Mission and Outreach and the Guild were represented:

Action Réfugiés Montreal, Auberge Madeleine, Camp d'action biblique, Chez Doris, Elizabeth House, Fondation CRDM, Generations Foundation, Isaiah 40 Foundation, L'Abri en ville, Maison Flora Tristan, Montreal Children's Library, Montreal Diet Dispensary, The Open Door, Presbyterian College, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Homes Foundation, St. Andrew's Residential Centre, St. James Drop-in Centre and Tyndale-St. Georges Community Centre.

The church service was beautifully co-ordinated with the event by the ministers who integrated the theme in their welcome, their prayers and the sermon. After the service, members of the congregation gathered in Kildonan Hall where they and the charity members were greeted by Brian Merrett (Mission and Outreach),

Kirwan Martin (Guild), and Dr. Chestnutt. Light refreshments were served while people visited the tables of the various charities, asking questions and some volunteering their time and talents!

As well as the knowledge gained by our church members, another positive outcome was the chance for our charitable partners to interact with one another about common goals and current needs. In addition, six video interviews with charity representatives were recorded by our Communications Committee and posted on the church website to share with everyone. This event helped to confirm the real needs that exist in our urban community, the great work that is being done by these organizations, and the fact that many are depending on our support.

Please check the weekly bulletin to discover ways that you can get involved and offer your help!

Betty-Jo Christiani,
Guild Executive

Heritage Sunday

We come together!



Above: The Lebanese flag was carried by Salem Tohme.

Right: There were 25 countries represented by proud members of our congregation, celebrating our diversity and our community.



The always popular Heritage Sunday parade of flags, and the Taste of the Nations Buffet, took place on February 12. Twenty-five different nationalities were represented by members of our congregation. It was really most moving to see them carrying the flags of the countries that represented their ancestry. More and more each year it seems.

This year there were flags for Austria, Australia, Barbados, Chile, China, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, India, Italy, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines, the Republic of Korea, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Switzerland, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, The United Kingdom, the United States, and the Dominion of Canada. Following the Service, a wonderful banquet of foods from these countries was served in Kildonan Hall, and there was a goodly crowd – and just enough for everyone to have a real Taste of the Nations!

To the organizers, a big ‘Thank You’!



A farewell message from Diana Veenstra

Dear Members of the Congregation:

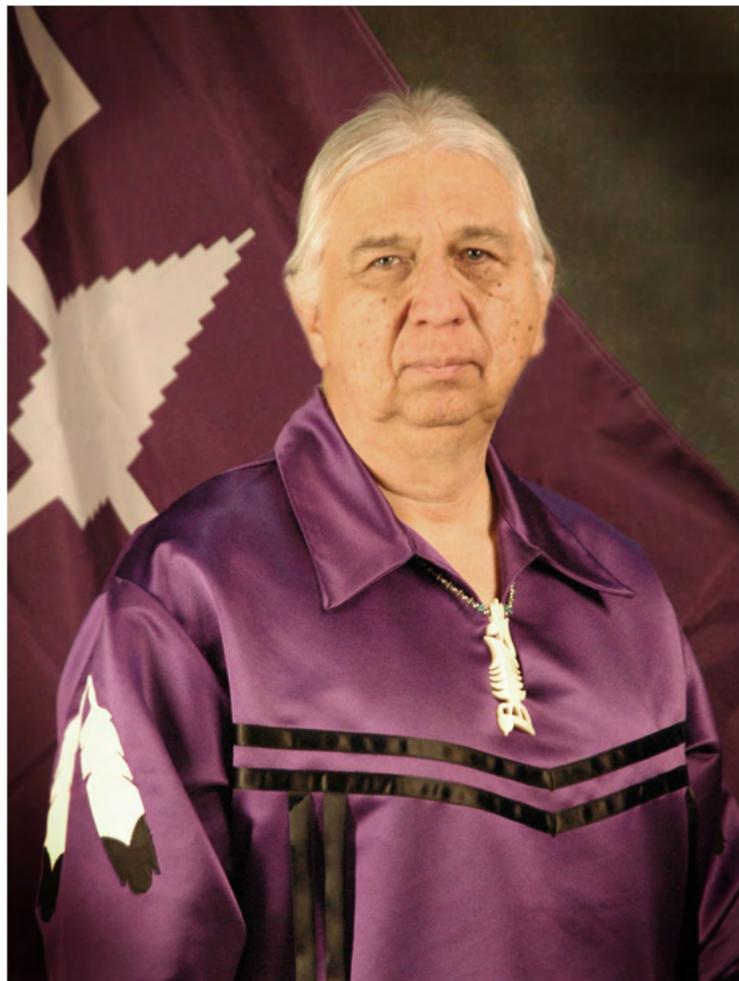
I would like to take this time to thank you, the members of this congregation, for all the support you have given me these past two years – through friendship, cards, and best of all through the PWS&D Jeff Veenstra Memorial Fund in Malawi. This is a four-year program and I hope you will continue to support this very worthwhile project. It is my hope to visit Malawi in the next couple of years.

Please keep me in your thoughts as I embark on this new life venture.

*With affection,
Diana*

Editor’s note: Diana has moved to Toronto to work in the head offices of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Blessings, Diana, as you begin this new path, and thank you for your contributions to this congregation.

A Major Conference in May



Elder Kenneth Deer

Plans are well underway for an ecumenical conference on Saturday, May 20. Centre piece of discussion will be the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Since the 1994 Confession, The Presbyterian Church in Canada has sought “to walk with Aboriginal peoples to find healing and wholeness together as God’s people,” has acknowledged “with gratitude the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission,” and welcomed “the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation;” An organizing committee representing Presbyterian, United, Anglican and Catholic denominations has drafted an agenda shaped around proposing “practical, achievable goals and objectives for all participants” in furtherance of reconciliation.

The day will lead off with a blessing and welcome to traditional Haudenosaunee territory accompanied by the hand drums of the Native Friendship Centre. Called the Iroquois Confederacy by the French, and the League of Five Nations by the English, the confederacy is properly called the Haudenosaunee Confederacy meaning People of the long house.

A Salish descendant, Concordia Theology Professor Christine Jamieson will discuss “Indigenous thought and practice – identities and realities.” Then Elder Kenneth Deer, instrumental in the 35-year struggle to write the Declaration and, in 2007 have it approved by the UN General Assembly, will outline its history and message.

Over lunch provided by a Kahnawake caterer, participants with Indigenous and non-Indigenous discussion leaders, including Rev. Stewart Folster, will consider preamble clauses to the Declaration. Later, after comments and questions, attention will turn to the complexity of reconciliation’s challenges. Federal Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, herself Indigenous, told the Assembly of First Nations in 2016 that measures adopting it into “Canadian law are...a political distraction to undertaking the hard work actually required to implement it back home in communities.”

That hard work in our community will be the focus of deliberations for the balance of the afternoon, specifically on articles of the UN Indigenous Declaration that stress rights to freedom from discrimination, and rights to education, employment and vocational training, health and other social programs, and development of mineral, water and other resources. It is hoped that practical proposals will result that can be turned into actionable, measurable projects of reconciliation by churches in the Montreal area working hand-in-hand with Indigenous peoples.

More information will be forthcoming about participating in this celebration of the potential of healing and reconciliation. In the meantime, members of the Twinning sub-committee of Mission & Outreach will be happy to answer any questions.

Keith Randall
Twinning sub-committee