

Message from the Associate Minister

Getting the Word Out



“The church exists by mission, just as a fire exists by burning.”— Emil Brunner

How we live together as a community of Christ and how we live among our neighbours are signs to others of the identity of the One we follow. As members of the Body of Christ, the Church, we proclaim Christ in what we

say, in what we sing, in what we do, and in how we live. The word “mission” means “sent,” and this is how we are sent into the world as the people of Christ, pointing always to the One who sent us. For we are sent just as Christ himself was sent before us, and to us, and through us also.

During this season of Lent, in which we reflect on the love and sacrifice of Christ on the way to the cross, and through the cross to the Resurrection, our mission is all around us. We reach into the suffering and dislocation of our war-ravaged world in welcoming a family of Syrian refugees. We reach into our urban community in welcoming the public to our Holy Week and Easter services. We reach into the heart of Montréal in supporting Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre and other downtown agencies. And we reach into the corners of the larger church through the Ten Ministers Fund, which surprises busy and active ministers with a meaningful gesture of support they never expected, and helps them to carry out the *missio dei*, the “mission of God,” in their own communities.

The difference this makes came home strongly to members of our Twinning Group, who recently served supper at the Native Friendship Centre in downtown Montreal. For days beforehand, the church was filled with delectable aromas as the team prepared the meal: roast pork and nine vegetables and piles of potatoes. Then on the night of the supper they food was brought to the Centre, plates were heaped high, and heaped high again. And all present, First Nations people and church workers alike, sat down together in friendship, good will, and delight.

Jesus promised abundance to those who forgive and those who give in his name. “A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap,” he said, “for the measure you give will be the measure you get back” (Luke 6: 37–38). The more extravagant we are, the more truthfully we proclaim the overflowing, abundant, extravagant grace of Jesus, who was so open-handed toward all of us. Maybe, just maybe the people whose plates we have heaped high — refugees who find a welcome, ministers who find encouragement, First Nations people who find a table spread before them — will look at the stone front of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul differently from now on, saying this, this is where we have caught a glimpse of people who have been transformed by Christ.

It has been a year and more than a year of challenge and change in our church. We still miss our minister and friend Jeff Veenstra, who so loved to see the Church reaching out in mission. We remain grateful for the unique gift that his ministry among us was. And we continue to remember him as, during this season of Lent, we remember who and whose we are.

*In shared ministry,
Kay Diviney*

Reaching Out

Music for the Refugee Journey

A benefit concert to support our refugee project will be held in Kildonan Hall at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27th. We are delighted that MSO flautist Timothy Hutchins and pianist Janet Creaser Hutchins have donated their time and their talents for this event. Following the concert a reception and silent auction will be held. On offer will be pairs of tickets to a home-town hockey game, special event tickets for the OSM and premium tickets for Rogers' Cup tennis this summer, as well as intriguing gifts from Ogilvy's and Birks, and marvellous works of art by renowned local artists.

Attendance is limited to 150 people. Tickets are \$50, and a limited number of reduced-price tickets are available at \$20. Donors will be issued tax receipts for amounts above \$50 - *thank you for considering making an extra gift!*

Information on the concert and ticketing can be had by contacting outreach@standrewstpaul.com or the church office at 514 842-3431. To secure your reservation please send your cheque, marked 'Sponsorship Concert' to The Church of St Andrew and St Paul, 3415 Redpath Avenue, Montreal H3G 2G2. Your tickets will be available at the door.

PLEASE JOIN THE MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH OF ST ANDREW AND ST PAUL IN

REACHING OUT

MUSIC FOR THE REFUGEE JOURNEY

A BENEFIT CONCERT

TO SUPPORT THE SYRIAN REFUGEE PROJECT

WITH TIMOTHY HUTCHINS, FLUTE AND JANET CREASER HUTCHINS, PIANO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27TH AT 7 P.M. IN KILDONAN HALL FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION AND SILENT AUCTION

TICKETS \$50 / REDUCED \$20
ADDITIONAL DONATIONS RECEIPTED WITH THANKS!
OUTREACH@STANDREWSTPAUL.COM
514 842-3431