

# Stated Supply

A new friend for our church



Jack Archibald

It was Thanksgiving time when The Reverend Jack Archibald arrived at The Church of St Andrew and St Paul last October. And that meant very soon it was Fall Fair time. Appointed as Stated Supply to assist Kay Diviney in the running of the church for the next six months, he says he was astonished at the activity and energy around the church building during those days ... “and then we were into Advent and Christmas!”

Retired from active ministry for three years, Jack Archibald and his wife Marian had settled into a very pleasant routine in Ottawa. Their son and his family live and work there; their daughter works in the UK. Jack’s last charge was St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church in Ottawa where, with four full-time staff, he led the work of a large and active congregation.

It had not been his intention to take on any other major role in the church. However, as he describes what he understood immediately to be a congregation in need of encouragement and care, he agreed to come to Montreal and to our church. A furnished apartment was found for him close by. Sometimes his wife comes to join him for a few days. He has brought his good spirit of energy and caring to our congregation and to our leadership. His years of experience and wisdom in ministry are clearly greatly appreciated by everyone that meets him. And he says he finds the congregation full of warmth and love – even more so than he had expected. He and Kay have a great working relationship as they minister to us. “Jack has been so generous in sharing his gifts and his life with us,” says Kay. “His cheerful ways, deep compassion, and heart for ministry have encouraged and uplifted all of us.”

Trained at Knox College, Jack’s first ministry was in Pictou County in Nova Scotia – a three-point charge. Next he was called to St. Columba in Belleville where he remained for six years. Then it was on to St Andrew’s Church in Parry Sound for fourteen years. This town is very close to his and Marian’s hearts as their children grew up there, and they have a cottage where they go each summer. It was from there that they moved to St Paul’s in Ottawa for fourteen years.

When Jack realized that our congregation was having an unusually difficult time in the loss of our minister Jeff Veenstra “who was really in his prime years”, he felt he must come and provide what support and encouragement he could. He is here, with love and warmth and a great sense of humour, until the end of May. He has added so much to our church community in his prayers, his preaching and his humanity. As a congregation, I believe we are blessed with his generous sharing of his retirement time. And perhaps he’s even enjoying Montreal! We certainly hope so!

## Seniors’ Support Program

From the St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Homes Foundation

The Foundation/Corporation was created in the early 1960s to support Presbyterian Seniors in the Montreal and area Presbytery. The Foundation has long ties with The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul as many church members have financially supported the Foundation since its inception. In fact many of the elderly we hope to reach today with our services, are the very ones who have supported the Foundation for many years.

Since January 2013, the Foundation’s care of the elderly now includes the support of Presbyterian seniors living in their own homes by helping them navigate the often complicated healthcare system and community services. The services are provided free of charge and by every indicator, the Seniors’ Support Program (SSP) has been a success

with many elderly Presbyterians being able to continue to lead independent lives due to the efforts of the program. We are already working with several members of this congregation as well as seniors at 15 other churches in the Presbytery. However, we feel that there are still many people who may feel isolated and who could benefit from the program. We hope that this article might help us reach family members, care givers and the elderly of this congregation, especially those who don’t often make it to church.

Here are some examples of the ways the Seniors’ Support Program can help :

- Organizing and accompanying seniors to appointments with doctors, CLSCs and community services.

- Providing support for daily living activities and for medical equipment such as walkers, Medic Alert bracelets and Life-Lines.
- Facilitating access into the healthcare system or to community services needed (one of the services they do best!).
- Helping seniors and loved ones make transitions to other kinds of care and accommodation.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from this assistance, please contact the Church Office or The Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney.

We are committed to being able to offer the highest level of services possible and are pleased to be a part of the A&P’s vital church ministry.

*Ann Maher, Program Director*  
514 623-5127