

JULY 2021 ISSUE

ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

COVID-19 updates newsletter



Hello!

When I started thinking about articles for this newsletter last week I was worried there wouldn't be much to share. Boy, was I ever wrong! I hope this month's newsletter indicates just how busy things actually are, both at the Cathedral and within the various working groups. I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming services!

As ever, if you have content suggestions, prayer requests, or any other news to share, please forward me the information at megan.bruce@gmail.com, or call me at (613)328-0487.

Megan Bruce
Deputy Warden

CONTENTS

Dean's Corner

02, 03

Parish Council working groups

04, 05

Sponsorship Committee

06

PSAC update

07

Altar Guild, Lunch by George

08

Calendar of Events

09

Prayer Requests & Congrats

10

DEAN'S CORNER

by the Ven. David Selzer

Summer in COVID 19 – Year Two

As of the beginning of August, I will have been your Interim Dean for a year! As I have stated, St George's is an active, dynamic congregation in Kingston with many diverse and individual people and opinions, and a congregation with a future and growth in the Church. I have not regretted my time here at all, other than missing my spouse and our Guide Dog for the Blind-in-training in Ottawa. I have valued getting to know you, being with you, hearing your concerns and issues, and you having an Interim who has years of experience (i.e., old!), lots of stories, having a 'cleric' who appears allergic to formal clergy wear and attitudes, and regularly disappears to be with his household in another Pandemic Zone! Thank you for your welcome, your honesty, and your multitude of gifts.

As you well know, we are now in summer mode with in-person worship, ever-changing colours and phases, still masked and only one person singing at a time, hand sanitizers everywhere, registering, and keeping our time together at a minimum. That might change in early August, or not. Only the Province and Diocese know! We have two services at 8:00 am and 10:00 am, an active Parish Selection Advisory Committee with Archbishop Colin Johnson as the Bishop's representative, weekday services, and an active office and staff. Brad Barbeau has been off some Sundays, and is being encouraged to have more time with his household and children.

I am taking holidays for the month of August. I will probably not be in residence much, but the Cathedral Administrator Kelly or the Wardens can reach me if needed. The Ven. Michael Thompson, one-time General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Canada, will be the priest in charge during August, leading the 10:00 am worship, and seeing that life keeps active and moving. The Ven. John Robertson will be covering the 8:00 am Eucharists and the Thursday Eucharists, and a couple of the Wednesday Eucharists as well. The other honouraries – Bishop George Bruce and The Rev. Canon Barbara Stewart – along with The Ven. John Robertson and The Ven. Michael Thompson will be available, as will be our Wardens – Harold Redekopp, Dr. Laurie Dempsey, and Megan Bruce. I will return on 1 September.

DEAN'S CORNER CT'D

On Sunday 12 September, we will return to three services – the 8:00 am BCP; the 9:15 am BAS, p. 185, and the 11:00 am BAS, p. 230. Three services each with their own admirers and diversity, as is fitting for the Cathedral. We are exploring ‘Godly Play’ a Montessori-inspired children’s program for the 9:15 am worship, and, given COVID 19 conditions more options for adult education, possibly choirs and singing again. Time, the Province, the Diocese, all will tell.

In the future to think about – we hope to have a St Francis Day Celebration with the blessing of pets; we hope to have a Memorial Service for all who have died of our parish – a joint service also leaving possibilities for services that have not yet happened – around All Saints / All Souls Day. We are planning some baptisms on Sunday mornings in the fall, and starting again of parish life. And ... there is the Search Committee, which will completing the parish profile, and beginning the search process for a new Rector and Dean of the Cathedral.

Summer blessings!



Recently, the Flower Guild was able to have some work done on the Memorial Garden on King St. They are very grateful to the congregation for their generosity through the Easter season, which covered the expense of this work. I think you'll agree that Western Landscaping did a great job!

Parish Council have undertaken four working groups to further some of the current issues of the Cathedral. Brief updates from each of the groups follow.

LISTENING SESSIONS UPDATE

by Eric Friesen & Holly Gwynne-Timothy

Thus far we've had two SGC Parish Council Listening Sessions, the first one on June 28th and the second on July 5th. Both were conducted on Zoom. I had posed the questions re the future of SGC: what should we give up, what should we keep, and what should we add, but I encouraged anyone desiring to express whatever concerns or thoughts they might have outside of these questions. There was a rich variety of response, including a few emails sent in lieu of appearing on Zoom. To summarize very briefly, there were a lot of suggestions regarding our worship practices, our governance practices, suggestions for better and more consistent communication, thoughts about developing our physical spaces, and an urging to provide more social services as befits an urban congregation. There is clearly still significant hurting among some parishioners over the departure of Michael Capon, and a necessity to find ways to heal that hurt. Overall, while there are considerable differences among our people, most of the responses indicated a great love for SGC and a desire to see it not only survive but thrive into a new chapter. Most everyone recognizes that change is necessary, but change is also difficult for some.

We will be having at least three more sessions, all of them (Hallelujah!) in person at the Cathedral. One for SGC clergy, another for parishioners who couldn't make the first two and would prefer to meet in person rather than on Zoom, and a third for young people. Dates to be announced.

We are grateful to all who have participated thus far in frank and full discussion. Complete notes of these sessions will go to Parish Council and to the Parish Selection Advisory Committee (PSAC) and will be shared with the parish when the Sessions are completed.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

by Megan Bruce

We have decided to maintain the COVID-19 monthly newsletters for the summer, and expand upon the weekly newsletters as appropriate, until we have more direction from the Diocese about further reopening abilities in the fall.

Our Verger, People's Warden and Office Administrator are working together to ensure that parishioners without access to the internet are included in communications going out from the office. If you know of anyone we're missing, please call the office!

CHURCH REDEVELOPMENT EXPLORATION UPDATE

by Harold Redekopp

Emerging from the Covid pandemic, St. George's will want to re-imagine its mission and ministry, and ensure it has secure adequate long-term funding. Fortunately, St. George's has access to several trust funds to augment existing congregational giving. However, if we keep tapping these trusts at the current rate, we may exhaust the trusts within the next 15 years. And that's assuming the current rate of congregational support does not decline further.

One response to this dilemma is to consider re-purposing and/or redeveloping surplus property that will serve St. George's needs while at the same time providing services such as affordable housing to the community – and guaranteeing St. George's an income stream for the foreseeable future.

Both Christ Church Cathedral, in Montreal and Ottawa have already successfully partnered with developers in which the Cathedrals maintain ownership of their lands and issue long-term leases to developers. In turn, the developers build new, mutually agreed upon spaces that meet the Cathedral's projected needs as well as offering decent, affordable rental housing for the community. At the end of the lease – typically 100 years or more -- the land and the buildings revert to the Cathedral.

Over the next few months, the Anglican Diocese of Toronto is offering a series of on-line meetings to educate parishes and to encourage them to explore potential redevelopment options. At St. George's we have struck a small working party to begin exploring our redevelopment options. The working party currently includes Dean David, who has considerable knowledge about the successful Cathedral Hill Redevelopment in Ottawa, a board member of the Ottawa Cathedral Hill Foundation, a trustee of the St. George's Trusts, a member of Parish Council and the Dean's Warden.

As we learn more, we will plan to share our learning with Parish Council and the wider congregation.

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

by Megan Bruce

Two members of Parish Council have offered to review and revise the current job descriptions on file for personnel at the Cathedral. Both have extensive experience in managing personnel, and so we are grateful for their assistance in this matter.

SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Jann Van Vugt

The Sponsorship Committee is busy gathering household items and furnishings for this family of four which includes children Rita, 12 and Bassil, 10. We have received such generous support from the people of St George's and are very grateful that we now have the financial means and many donated items to establish an apartment and provide for this family during their first year in Canada.

Just a few items remain to be collected, and they are listed here. If you have any of these gathering dust in a basement, or perhaps find yourself with excess furnishings, please consider donating them. We ask that items are in good, clean condition, and we can pick them up from your location if you wish, or they may be dropped at the church office if they are not large. To donate, please call Heather Buchan at 613-549-3076 or Ruth Oliver at 613-542-8649, or email oliver@kos.net.

Heartfelt thanks from the Sponsorship Committee!

Television

2 living room end tables

Living room coffee table

Kitchen table and 4-6 matching chairs

2 or 3 Electric fans

Area rug for living room (approx 5x7)

1 easy chair

Laptop computer

Tea kettle

Small desk chair

Book case

2 bedside tables

Small, low dresser

Shopping cart

French Language books for pre-teen readers

French Language games

2 strong, cable bicycle locks

PSAC IS ENTERING THE NEXT PHASE

By Susan Everett

The Parish Selection Advisory Committee (PSAC) has met several times to work towards the development of the Survey for the Parish Profile. Two surveys have been developed- one for surveying the members of the parish and another for surveying other groups and individuals who have a relationship with St. George's Cathedral. The surveys are similar in the goals to collect data and information about experiences people have with the Cathedral and to envision how they would like that relationship to develop in the future. Both surveys also ask people to describe what gifts they would like the new Dean to bring to the Cathedral and the community.

We anticipate that the surveys will be available before the end of July and distributed by email or in print to be mailed or picked up at the Cathedral. Details about scheduling of the release and return of the surveys will be finalized shortly.

We have a strong committee who are generous with their time and talents. Archbishop Colin Johnson is a treasure. He has been an excellent guide and coach.

Archdeacon David Selzer and Archbishop Colin Johnson commissioned the members of PSAC on Sunday during the 10:00 am Service. We are working hard but we will need you.



PSAC members Abby McIlquham, Paul Robertson, Eric Friesen and Laurel Dempsey with Archbishop Colin Johnson on July 18th. Not pictured are Harold Redekopp, Sarah Earl, Susan Everett and Megan Bruce

How can you help?

First, please fill out the survey and encourage others to do theirs.

Second, please consider providing us with photos of events and experiences at the Cathedral such as a special occasion, choirs singing, decorating the Cathedral, outreach programs, etc. We will provide more information soon about sending photos.

Third, please continue to support us in your prayers.

ALTAR GUILD TRANSITIONS

By the Ven David Selzer

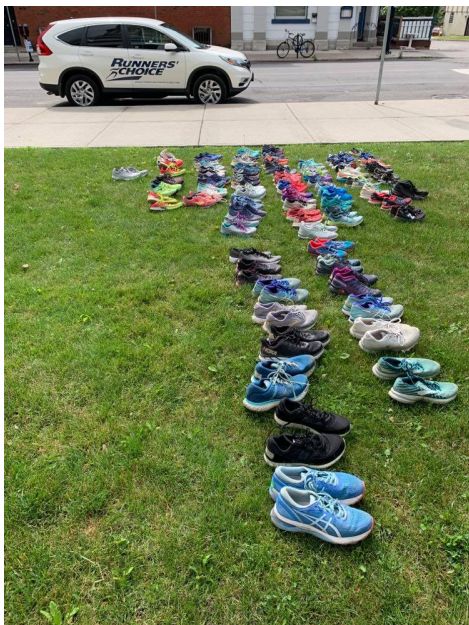
Aveleigh Kyle has been the Chair of the Altar Guild since Dean Mary's time. She has graciously offered to pass the leadership torch to Tania (TJ) Fifield. Tania will become the next Altar Guild Chair in September. Thank you to both, one, for your wonderful ministry and service, and two, for your leadership.

We are seeking persons to join the Altar Guild and offer this ministry to the congregation. Members are women and men, young and old, old and new to the Cathedral. In person training is provided. Please contact either Tania or the Interim Dean.

LUNCH BY GEORGE GIVEAWAY

Lunch by George and Runner's Choice partnered again this year to provide gently used clothes and running shoes to some of Kingston's vulnerable population. Although the weather was a bit wet, we were able to set up both inside the sanctuary and on the King St lawn to accommodate everyone who was in need.

Thanks go to all the volunteers, and especially to Runner's Choice for helping us in this important work!



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

July 31st- 12pm - **Saxobells concert** - King St lawn
August 7th - 12pm - **Okara concert** - King St lawn
August 12th - 7pm - **SGC Youth listening session** - library
August 14th - 12pm - **Turpin's Trail concert** - King St lawn
August 19th - 7pm - **SGC clergy listening session** - library
August 21st - 12pm - **Triola concert** - King St lawn
August 29th - 12pm - **Alex Mundy concert** - King St lawn
September 9th - 7pm - **Open listening session** - library
September 12th - **return to three Sunday morning services**

Sunday services at 8am and 10am, Wednesday Healing Services at 12:15pm, Thursday Little Flock at 10:30am and Friday Coventry Litany of Reconciliation at 11:50am have all resumed!

Evensong services have been suspended for the summer to give the musicians (and technician!) some much-needed rest.

Please register using Eventbrite via the Cathedral website, or call Kelly in the main office!

Direct link to our YouTube channel: <http://bit.ly/SGCKingston>



PRAYER REQUESTS

Your ongoing prayers are requested for the following parishioners and their households. If you have a prayer request that you'd like added please let us know!

The Very Rev Sharon Murdoch, The Rev Don Goodwin, John Bate, Dee Padfield, Sandy, Jason, Allie and Dev Kauenhofen, Paul Robertson, Danielle Clarke, Sean Lovett, Ralph Brose, Diana Davis Duerkop, Gill Cleghorn, Elspeth Stevenson, Rosalind Walton, Jean Robinson, Todd Cole, Michael Caswell, Lleann, Ella, Avalea, Bonnie Tett.

CONGRATULATIONS

Happy birthday to Fran Harkness, Kim Maracle, Phil Rogers, and Debbie Docherty who have celebrated birthdays this month!

