



ST. MATTHEW'S

The Anglican Church in the Glebe

Pulse of the Parish

JUNE 2021

A TIME OF BUILDING AND GROWTH

THE REVEREND GEOFFREY CHAPMAN

You are receiving this issue of the *Pulse of the Parish* as the third wave of the devastating global pandemic begins to subside. We have all struggled so much. Many of us have struggled in isolation, and I know that we are all looking forward to getting back together for worship, meals, and simple community life. I am looking forward to joining St. Matthew's in worship and song, celebrating the Holy Eucharist, perhaps having a church supper, or even a coffee together!

But as you know, these last fifteen months have not halted our worship and community life at all. Our community continued online, and we created together an online church experience that is far more vibrant, prayerful and real than I would have ever expected to encounter! I want to highlight a few of these amazing online achievements for you in this article. Some may be a product of our pandemic life, beginning and ending with the lockdown, but others might endure for years beyond this time, as a new extension of our ministry together.

Conversations

It has been thrilling to encounter the incredible work of two of our dedicated honorary assistant clergy, Kevin Flynn and Barry Curtis, along with a faithful group of over 30 folks who seem to never miss each Sunday morning at 9:00 am. Thank you to Janice Sonnen, Mary Glen and Brian Effer for their incredible leadership in coordinating this experience reliably and consistently. As anyone who has joined in on Sunday morning can attest, *Conversations* is truly a church community experience.

There is a time to check in with one another, a time for study and reflection, a time to pray, to hear poetry, to engage in thoughtful conversation - it has everything you could want in a church experience - and yet it is entirely online! I can gush about this new ministry because I had virtually nothing to do with its inception and work over the past year. What a vital new ministry this parish has created.

Prayer Chain

There is a group of dedicated folks in our parish who pray unceasingly for you, for our church, and for folks throughout our community and world. Coordinated by Janice Sonnen, this group is a faith-filled extension of our ministry and exists largely over email and phone. The intention, time and dedication that this group offers is Spirit-filled and Christ-led, and is a wonderful extension of the pastoral care of our parish. It is lovely to know that if you are in any need or are in any trouble, a group of parishioners is praying for you.



Zoom Meetings

Zoom was built for meetings. We use it for all kinds of things these days, from social hours to worship services, but I would invite you to think about how empowering Zoom can be for folks who might be limited by mobility or distance.

Those who are shut-in, or who live across town or in Quebec, or have any barrier to their physical space, can now, virtually, attend any gathering we have to offer over Zoom. Moving forward, I would invite you to prayerfully consider how increasing numbers of people can be included in this meeting format. Many of us work and play on this medium, but I want to highlight the long term possibility of Zoom as a way for us to meet together regardless of distance or mobility.

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Millan, Valerie Needham, Pam MacKenzie, Jan Robar,
Aïcha Ducharme-LeBlanc

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YouTube and Facebook Worship

I am so thankful to Leonard Surges, Jim Beall, Kirkland Adsett, and many other contributors who began this ministry when lock-downs began in Lent of 2020. I arrived inheriting a thoughtfully crafted liturgy, YouTube and Facebook pages filled with prayerful online postings, and a skillfully edited worship experience in place.

Over the last fifteen months, I have worked together with our team that added Tom Barnes as a sound editor, Catherine James-McGuinty as administrator—and, I'll say, producer - Robina Bulleid and our Altar Guild, Kirkland Adsett our Director of Music, and many talented readers, cantors, and prayer leaders offering their prayers and talents from home and from our worship space.

A few interesting details about our virtual worship since we started in April 2020: our YouTube and Facebook pages have a combined watch time of 5116 hours or 213 days of non-stop viewing. Our worship services (from Morning Prayer, to Aïcha's wonderful videos on Facebook, to our Sunday morning worship) have been viewed a combined 42,000 times.

Theo and I making pancakes is in there too. The most viewed service from the past year was our Festival of Les-

sons and Carols, broadcast on Dec. 20 (Advent 4), which no doubt attracted people seeking both worship and beautiful music.

These are big numbers! While we feel disconnected from one another in many ways, know that our parish church has offered prayer and worship to viewers who are not members of our church, may not belong to a church at all, and may not live close to Ottawa, or indeed Canada!

Four percent of our views have come from the Philippines, 0.9% have come from the United States. We have begun something really wonderful as a parish, and it is important for us to discern together how we might proceed with online worship when things get "back to normal."

I write this to share with you my pride in our shared ministry, to remind you of the many accomplishments we have achieved together, and to share my belief with all of you that we have been building and growing during this time, not just keeping the proverbial lights on.

I hope you all enjoy a restful summer, and I truly hope we can see each other very soon.

Yours in Christ,

Geoff+

WARDENS' WORDS

VALERIE NEEDHAM

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

On April 20, 2021, Bishop Shane Parker rolled out the Shape of Parish Ministry Consultation (SPMC) on a Zoom call with over 200 participants from across the Diocese of Ottawa. In his opening address, the Bishop stated that parishes are “where we live our faith” and that they “need to be sustainable and well-resourced”. ([Bishop Parker, Shape of Parish Ministry](#)) He explained that we need to come together as the diocesan church as a whole to think about our parish ministry.

Bishop Parker continued by saying that change has been imposed upon us by the outside forces of secularism and demographic change. In the past 10 to 15 years there has been a 30% drop in membership. We have had to adapt by reacting. “I am not fond of being shaped by change. I would rather consciously guide change.”

Earlier generations built the present structure. It is the task of this generation to “consciously shape parish ministry to examine where we are now and discern what God is calling us to be.”

This process of shaping parish ministry is in four parts.

Part 1: Generating a Parish Profile; April to October, 2021

- Quantitative and qualitative data will be gathered from each parish;
- The diocesan SPMC team for St. Matthew’s (the Rev. Tim Kehoe and the Rev. Adam Brown) will interview parish leadership and compose a Parish Profile;
- Parish leadership will review and respond to the Parish Profile.

Part 2: Analyze and Work with the Parish Profiles; November 2021 – February 2022

- Parish leadership will review the diocesan summary and profiles from all parishes, seeking partnerships, liaisons and/or common projects in which they could work together with another parish;
- The SPMC team will provide tools for this analysis.

Part 3: Gather with Neighbours and Build Proposals; March -August 2022.

- Parishes will meet to share ideas and explore proposals to work together;
- The SPMC team will gather these proposals to discuss at Synod, 2022.

Part 4: Synod Recommendation (Synod, 2022)

- Synod will meet, discern the future direction of parish ministry in light of the first three stages and then formally recommend to Bishop Parker a set of integrated proposals for the shape of parish ministry in the Diocese of Ottawa.

So where is St. Matthew’s in this process? We have been pro-active and have formed our local Shape of Parish Ministry (SPM) Team consisting of the Rev. Geoff Chapman, the Wardens (Tom Barnes and Valerie Needham) and two Members of Synod (Randi Goddard and Rick Trites). We held Zoom gatherings on two Sunday mornings in *Conversations* and on two weekday evenings during Parish Council (to which all parishioners were invited).

- Session 1: We engaged in the reflective exercise ‘Surprised by the Spirit’, provided by the office of the Anglican Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls.
- Session 2: We reflected on the 5 Interview Questions, recorded by the facilitator in each breakout group;
- feedback from all four gatherings was collated by the St. Matthew’s SPM team and will be the basis of our interview.

We will also speak with our Honorary Clergy, staff and others, and are exploring the possibility of an online questionnaire so that as many perspectives are possible can be included in this qualitative data-gathering. We have been touched and encouraged by the depth of material shared and the thoughtfulness of the discussions. Over 40 people so far have participated.

In closing, we would like to express our gratitude to Julie Helleur for her service on Corporation and for bringing her much appreciated expertise and ideas to the discussion.

The Wardens: Valerie Needham and Tom Barnes

THE ALTAR GUILD: SERVICE WITH LOVING AND HUMBLE HEARTS

ELIZABETH MACMILLAN, CO-CHAIR OF THE ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild Prayer

O God, who didst teach Thy people of old to beautify and care for the holy place of Thine Abode; help us to serve Thee in Thy sanctuaries here, that we may be numbered among those who worship before Thy Throne and see Thy Face hereafter; through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.



The High Altar, Easter, 2021

What is the Altar Guild and what do we do?

Our current guild is a group of 19 wise women who prepare the sanctuary, chancel and chapel for weekly services. Men would be welcome, and have served as members in the past but are not active in the guild at the moment. We have a direct line to the rector who guides and supports our work. In the past the "directress" (now known as the chair) was appointed by the rector.

We now choose the chair (or co-chairs) from among the altar guild members and the rector can make changes at his or her discretion.

We are fortunate at St Matthew's that we have such a large group of Altar Guild members. It means that we are able to organize ourselves into four teams. Each team is on duty for two weeks at a time. This makes for a manageable time commitment. Many churches have much smaller Altar Guild groups or even no Altar Guild at all. Without an Altar Guild, the presiding priest is responsible for the Altar Guild duties.

It is said that it is important for the rector to stay on the good side of the Altar Guild. If the entire group were to find themselves in a position that required them to resign, the rector's wife or husband could be required to step in!

According to the Altar Guild Manual, first published in 1934, we are "God's housekeepers" who are "the external manifestation of the spirit of loyalty and devotion" for whom "perfect cleanliness and punctuality are absolutely essential in God's house". The guidelines ask us to

make the preparations as inconspicuously as possible. One member has described us as stealthy and silent. We make sure that the silver and brass is shining, the linens are mended or replaced, wrinkle free, clean and white, and the candles are in place.

Some of the candles burn oil which must be topped up each week. We have members with excellent needle work skills who can mend or replace the ribbons, frontals (the coloured hanging on the altar), and the snow white linen cloths needed for the communion.

Occasionally we have experienced odd incidents involving candles. It has happened that, for no reason at all, a candle will suddenly snuff itself out or a candle snuffed out will relight itself. During the funeral of a past Altar Guild chair, the Pascal candle, which was checked and was burning well before the service, refused to light despite numerous attempts. With a wink at the presiding priest, two of the servers (who are also altar guild members), calmly worked together to replace the large and weighty candle. No one else noticed. An example of our ability to move secretly about our work!

One of the key tasks which a new recruit would need to learn is the preparation of the communion tray. There was a time when the sacristan was the only person to handle the bread and wine and all the necessary vessels and linens. Now most members are comfortable setting up the communion trays. Each week during normal times we prepare one large tray for the 10 am Sunday service and another smaller tray for the Thursday morning and 8 am chapel services.

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The most visible part of our work, and the one receiving the most feedback, is the purchase and arrangement of the flowers for weekly services (except during Lent and Advent). The Altar Guild manual directs us not to “make too great a display” nor to “obstruct the real ornaments of The Altar”.

We are very grateful for our talented flower arranger, Judy Billingsley, who has an outstanding eye for colour and form. Most Sundays there will be one vase of flowers in the church and one in the chapel. When the church receives donations for flowers in memory of family and friends, we are able to create two, more fulsome vases of flowers.

Thanks to the efforts of our pastoral care team, we often share the flowers by delivering them after the service to shut-ins or those who might need a colourful gift in times of illness or distress. Occasionally they are also shared with our clergy and staff in thanks for all they do each week for our congregation.

Festival times such as Holy Week, Advent and Christmas require an extra time commitment and give us much joy as we gather to create solemn and beautiful spaces for celebration and meditation. This year our flower arranger and co-chair encountered a situation that might be described as being beyond the call of duty. They entered

the elevator in the basement with the palms for Palm Sunday. The door closed and they pressed the button to bring the elevator up to the church level. Suddenly they found themselves trapped in the elevator, which refused to move. But that was not the worst part of the episode. They found themselves trapped in a non-responsive elevator with a bat!!

I have described the form and duties of the Altar Guild for normal times. During the pandemic, a smaller team of two has been going in once a week, carefully distanced from other activities taking place in the church, to clean and prepare for the weekly online recordings. Robina Bulleid, our co-chair, has been keeping the perpetual candles burning during the lockdowns when we are all asked to stay at home.

The following prayer, written with a fountain pen in beautiful flowing script, was tucked into the Altar Guild manual.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who in love for thy people dost give Thyself to them in the Sacrament of the Altar, inspire us thy servants with such thankfulness to Thee that we may rejoice to make Thy earthly sanctuaries fair for Thy Eucharistic Presence, and prepare ourselves to receive Thee with humble and loving hearts; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen



Advent (above), Christmas (below)



Ordinary Times



Lent (above), Pentecost (below)



NOVEMBER AUCTION TO RAISE MONEY FOR FACES

PEGGY NANKIVELL

Last year's online auction, which raised money for the FACES refugee program, Cornerstone Housing for Women and St. Matthew's projects, was so successful that there will be another one this November. The auction will open for bids on Friday, November 12, and close on Saturday, November 20. Donations of auction items have already been received and cataloguing has begun.

This year's outreach partner will be FACES (First Avenue Churches and Community Embracing Sponsorship), which needs to raise \$30,000 over the next two years for the sponsorship of Noor and Omar, a young recently married couple from Iraq. (See facing page.)

"It is hard to find the words to express our gratitude to the fundraising and outreach committees and the entire parish community for the funding and support FACES has received," wrote Tom Martin on behalf of FACES. "St. Matthew's has been incredibly generous enabling us to continue to sponsor newcomers to Ottawa. We look forward to another fun-filled, successful auction."

The event will feature art, books, jewellery and beautiful collectibles, as well as meals and baking. We have received some lovely purses, so have added the category of "fashion" to the catalogue. And we have received some extraordinary art pieces from Latin America and Asia which will give the auction an international flair.

If you are interested in donating items to the auction (many of which will be tax-deductible), please email: auction@stmatthewsottawa.ca. We are particularly interested in valuable books, such as antiques and first editions, art, jewellery, fine scarfs, and offers of baked goods and meals. The list is not exclusive – our offerings are always eclectic!

In the meantime, please visit our online store (with curbside pick-up) which is going strong. Recently we added options such as mystery book bags and fishing lure for summer pastimes. New items are added virtually every day. To visit the store follow the link for the St. Matthew's website or go to:

www.charityauction.bid/stmatthewsboutique.com.



Oleg Cassini Candlesticks



Leather Gloves with Fur Trim



Earthenware South American Llama or Alpaca with Hand-knitted Saddle. Replica of pre-Columbian sculpture



Handsome replica of a primitive Asian black earthenware horse with interior compartment



Amethyst Necklace

PUTTING FACES TO OUR NEXT SPONSORSHIP

TOM MARTIN AND DON GREENFIELD



As parishioners of St. Matthew's are aware, FACES has agreed to sponsor another refugee family, Noor and Omar, a young Iraqi couple who are beginning their married life together as refugees in Turkey. We hope to have the sponsorship processed over the next two years. Below we provide some context regarding their past and how they find themselves as refugees fleeing Iraq.

Noor was 14 in 2006 when civil war forced her family to flee Baghdad for her grandparents' home in Anah, a small city on the Euphrates River in Al Anbar province. The feeling of safety soon disappeared when that town came under the control of Al Qaeda and Noor and her young friends were threatened with violence for attending school.

In 2009, the family moved to Ramadi, a city on the Euphrates River west of Baghdad. Noor attended university there and graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor of Science degree. At this time, the city came under attack by ISIS and the family was forced to move again to escape the violence. They fled to Turkey where Noor joined her older brother Mustafa (see the *Pulse of the Parish*, December 2020, p. 8) who had left Iraq the previous year. FACES sponsored Mustafa in 2019, and he now lives in Ottawa where he is hoping to be reunited with his sister.

Omar's journey has been more than a decade-long struggle to avoid the sectarian violence that has fractured Iraqi society since the American invasion in 2003. Born into a Sunni family from Al Anbar province, his teenage years and early adulthood were scarred by harassment and the threat of detention.

During those years, an uncle was murdered by a car bomb and his younger brother was abducted and held without charge by government-sponsored militia. Omar fled Iraq in 2019 and joined Noor in Turkey.

While in Turkey, Noor attended the University of Gaziantep and obtained a master's degree in biotechnology. She is employed in Gaziantep by the International Organi-

zation for Migration, the UN agency responsible for assisting refugees. Omar, who holds a bachelor's degree in Agriculture, is employed as a media coordinator for a humanitarian NGO.

We look forward to welcoming Noor and Omar some day soon at the Ottawa airport where they will have a new beginning in Canada.

FACES is extremely grateful to the entire parish community for the funding and support that we have received over the past five years. These funds have enabled us to sponsor and support over 75 newcomers. FACES will also be a beneficiary of the upcoming November Auction (again!) and these monies will more than start us on our aggressive target of \$30,000 over the next couple of years in support of the sponsorship of Noor and Omar. We look forward to another fun-filled, successful auction!



BUILDING TOGETHER

BILL NUTTLE

Last week, members of the Property Committee gathered to repair some instances of the ravages of time on the St. Matthew's church building and grounds. We renewed the weather-worn stairs to the gardening shed and replaced a rotted-out section of the retaining wall near the east-side entrance. It was a rare opportunity for us to meet over a coffee while carrying out the tasks at hand and was a welcome connection to normalcy.

For the past fifteen months, the need for extraordinary measures in response to the Covid virus has curtailed our ability to gather together for regular Sunday services and other community activities. However, the virus has neither curtailed the ebb and flow of time nor abated the need for attention to upkeep and maintenance on the venerable structure of our church building.

As with any old building, the church has extraordinary needs that require attention beyond that which can be provided within the annual allocation for maintenance and upkeep. We are reminded of these with the cycle of each season.

For instance, winter awakens the steam boilers, which then demand our attention with groaning complaints and the occasional break in its century-old plumbing. Spring thaws and summer rains bring the occasional flood in the basement, in the main hall and the music library, which must be mopped up.

Staff and volunteers respond to these disruptions as best we can. But it is always with growing appreciation that something more must be done to address the root causes

of the problems and arrest chronic deterioration. The prospect of seeing an end to Covid restrictions and resuming regular meetings of the whole congregation later this year raises other issues. Will life-after-Covid impose new requirements, such as air filtration, that our building is not presently equipped to handle?

The extraordinary needs of the St. Matthew's church building call for our care and attention. Covid or not, there will be opportunities for members to meet over a coffee as we review and decide how to address these needs.

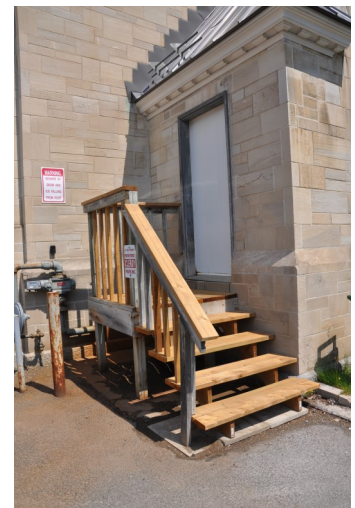
A new committee, the Building Renewal Team, is being formed to determine what actions are required now, in addition to regular annual operations and maintenance. We have on hand several recent technical studies that provide a general understanding of the overall condition of the building. This information points to the heating systems, the foundation, and the windows as elements of the building that require attention.

The Building Renewal Team will discern a way forward while maintaining our century-old building largely in its present function and configuration. It is anticipated that the first step will be to engage with building experts for in-depth investigation of areas requiring attention and present these findings to the parish.

If you are interested in participating in this Team, please contact People's Warden Tom Barnes (soundscribe@gmail.com) or myself Bill Nuttle (wknuttle@gmail.com).



Gentlemen on the Job
From L to R: Ian Glen, Bill Cornfield, Bill Nuttle

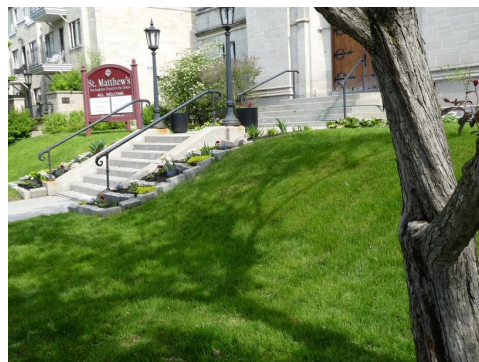


GARDENS AND GROUNDS TEAMS

SPRING INTO ACTION

MARY GLEN

The Lord will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring. (Isaiah 58:11, NLT)



GARDENS

The St. Matthew's Gardens Team has been hard at work, waking up perennial borders on First and Glebe Avenues, restoring the parking lot garden (hard-used by an enthusiastic snowplough), thinning aggressive lilies to free the hardy roses on the Ramp, filling planters at both entrances and adding splashes of colour and form with annuals: impatiens, begonias, geraniums, alyssum and lobelia.

Our team of nine volunteer gardeners is now deployed in self-organizing pairs across five garden areas. From now through to autumn clean-up, we will tend the gardens, weeding, hoeing, watering, dead-heading and pinching to ensure the plants are healthy and that our beautiful property -- aided by our parish Grounds Team -- is lively, cheerful and welcoming despite the restrictions of these pandemic times.

Please come by for a look, and if you see a masked gardener here or there, please say hello from a safe distance!

May everyone -- and all gardens -- enjoy the blessing of a soft and restorative summer.

Your Gardens Team:

Judy Billingsley, Robina Bulleid, Mary Glen, Clarice Kramer, Joan Lawrence, Judy Maxwell, Lucianne Poole, Steve Reid and Catherine Seaborn.

GROUNDS

The St. Matthew's Grounds Team has been weeding, selectively top-dressing and seeding, watering and now mowing and trimming the First and Glebe Avenue lawns, setting off the church buildings and gardens with a lush green foreground.

They have assisted the gardeners in innumerable ways, setting up hoses, sprinklers and watering cans; acquiring and strategically positioning supplies of soil and mulch; organizing and replenishing the tool shed; and building two hexagon-shaped raised beds for a vegetable growing project led by Aïcha Ducharme-LeBlanc and children of the Sunday School.

They ensure garden waste is collected and bagged for curbside pick-up from the green bins positioned on the Glebe Ave side and adjacent to the parking lot garden; and they see to the constant sweeping, repairing, restoring and tidying work our bustling corner of the Glebe requires.

Wave and offer a word of encouragement whenever you pass by!

Your Grounds Team:

Robina Bulleid, Ian Glen, Ava Hammond and Robert Slater, ably supported by Bob Richards and his trusty electric lawn mower and trimmer.



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION GROUP

END-OF-YEAR UPDATE

AÏCHA DUCHARME-LEBLANC

Sunday School and Children and Youth Ministries' 2020-2021 is nearing its end. However, the past month has been quite eventful for the children and youth of St. Matthew's, and I have two particular successes I'd like to share with our larger community.

Firstly, on the 29th of May, we held our gardening event and had a good turnout of participants. Each participating family came one at a time and we began the activity with a short lesson on the Parable of the Sower. My pedagogical approach in this gardening project was to encourage the children to see the gardening as a representation of their faith. For their faith to grow, their hearts have to open to God, and they must be willing to nurture and develop their relationship with Him.

A person who listens to the word of God, tries to understand what it says and puts it into practice in their daily life is like good soil. In good soil, the seed takes root, grows and produces an abundant harvest and this is the kind of soil Jesus wants us to be. Following the lesson, the children chose their crop or flower to plant in the garden box and then watered it.

We finished the activity off with a prayer asking God to help us listen to His word and incorporate it into our daily life. All in all, this was a lot of fun for the kids, and I think they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It was nice to (safely) see each other and have some fun gardening and learning about Jesus.

Secondly, in very happy news, our confirmation group participants will soon each complete their individual journeys. Our participants this year were Vivian Messam, Tyler Laffin, Sophie Watkinson, Andrew Watkinson, Isabelle Martel, Sophie Campbell, Georgia Kuzhrani, and Julia Adjogble, and all have worked very hard all year long to expand their Christian faith.

As I outlined in an earlier article this year, the beauty of this journey was that participants were able to be more independent and responsible and could complete it according to their own schedule and priorities in life. We had several Zoom meetings throughout the year (every month or two months) to discuss participants' progress



and doubts. Additionally, I had one-on-one meetings with members of the confirmation class as well. If I had to evaluate the outcome of this pilot project, I would say (even though I'm biased), that it was successful.

From an engaging discussion about what Heaven might be like, to the writing of prayers, to the baking of Christian treats such as Communion bread and hot cross buns, to participating in Conversations with Rev. Barry Curtis, to interviewing seasoned members of the Church about their faith, the possibilities this journey offered were endless and the youth seized these opportunities with boundless enthusiasm.

Rev. Geoff and I are very proud of them and can't wait to see the ways in which they will continue to develop their faith. They will ultimately decide when their confirmation journey will end since this is an individual journey after all, but we believe that after eight months of dedication, they are ready to be confirmed. What remains to accomplish is a last meeting, participation in a church outreach project and the awarding of completion certificates which we hope to send to the youth in the next month or so.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the visit from Bishop Shane Parker will be delayed. We are hopeful that he will be able to officially confirm all participants in the fall. However, in the meantime, a big congratulations to each and every one of the confirmation group is in order!

REPORT FROM THE FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEES

WALT DRAPER AND CHARLES NIXON

Summer is approaching with optimism rising about vaccinations and “planking” the third wave! Walt and I have received our first shots and we look forward to the second sooner than foreseen. We hope this is the case for everyone. Just when we will be able to return to our church to worship remains to be determined.

Thank you to all those who have faithfully continued their givings through PAR, Canada Helps and the church office during these difficult and unprecedented times. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated parishioners.

The financial position of the Operating Fund at the end of April shows a deficit of under \$2,000, with all of our financial obligations met up until the end of April. This positive position is directly attributable to the Diocese

forgiving the assessment for the month of March. With a year's experience of living with COVID, we know that financial prognostications are framed with another layer of uncertainty. However, borrowing from the analytical technique used by economists, we can say "on the other hand" that there is the *certainty* of the commitment of St. Matthew's parishioners.

It is clear that our expenses will outstrip our givings during this part of the year as usual. If you are able, we would deeply appreciate receiving contributions to St. Matthew's in June as givings often drop off over the summer. This will help the church to continue to defray our monthly expenses.

Bless you all for all that you do for St. Matthew's.



On May 29, Sunday School students carefully planted and watered flowers in the newly-acquired planters beside the parking lot.

Aïcha Ducharme-LeBlanc, Ian Glen and Bob Slater assembled the planters .. Thank you!

YOUR PERSONAL PROFILE: GETTING READY TO REGISTER WITH REALM, OUR CHURCH SOFTWARE

JULIA LIPINSKA

Three years ago, St. Matthew's migrated from Church Helpmate software to new church-focussed, cloud-based software called Realm. We made this move as the old software was no longer being supported. At that time, existing parishioner information was transferred from Church Helpmate to the new system and St. Matthew's did some data clean up after the completed transfer. New parishioners have been added to Realm as they have indicated they wish to become members of the parish.

The Church is currently using Realm for basic functions including recording donations and managing limited group email lists. With your participation, we can use Realm in additional ways which will benefit the church administration as well as our church community. Some benefits will include:

- Being able to view and update your own contact information
- Viewing your givings and registering for events
- Making credit card donations online and setting up monthly giving via credit card
- Establishing and being part of user and interest email groups
- Allowing us to facilitate convenient ways for our growing community of virtual visitors and non-parishioners to make donations online and by text.

In order for St. Matthew's to make better use of Realm and to implement new uses, parishioners will need to register

with their already existing personal profile. We are not ready for mass registration at this time. St. Matthew's is currently learning more about the software and exploring how to plan the registration invitation roll-out. We do know there will be pilots to test instructional materials and process. We hope that if contacted you will decide to be an enthusiastic early participant!

When we get to the point of registering, it will simply involve creating a password allowing you to access your profile. When you register you will have the opportunity to choose the privacy settings you wish regarding the visibility of your profile within Realm.

Any benefits the church can gain from using Realm is dependent on you registering with your personal profile. We hope you will consider registering when you have the opportunity.

If you have any questions about registering with Realm or wish to be part of a pilot, please do not hesitate to contact Julia Lipinska at lipinskaj@rocketmail.com or 613.565.6017

Postscript: Would you like to post content on the St. Matthew's website or modify content currently on the website? Please get in touch with Julia at the email above. And if the information is related to an event, contact Julia at least *three weeks* before the event so content can be prepared and posted with enough lead time to spread the news!



St. Matthew's is saddened to learn of the death of Commander Harvie Cocks (Ret'd) on April 14, 2021.

In keeping with many of his life choices, Harvie ended his life at 94 on his own terms through MAiD, while still independent and engaged. Harvie was the loving husband for 64 years of the late Catherine Ann Evans (Kitty Cocks) and the father of Andrea, Stephen, Hilary and Jane. During his service in the Navy, the Cocks family lived in Kingston, Halifax, Montreal, Hawaii, and London (ON) before settling in Ottawa in 1967.

At St. Matthew's, Harvie and Kitty were greeters, participated in Lenten studies and attended many church events. As a reader of the Scripture, Harvie memorized the lessons and recited them very expressively. Please see Harvie's obituary in the Ottawa Citizen: [Harvie Cocks](#)

SPRING INTO GREEN

MARGARET TERRETT

I have been thinking about Greta Thunberg and her world wide efforts to bring attention to climate change. I have been thinking about the new initiatives of the Ontario Government in trying to get more than 30% of what we put into our blue boxes into a recycle program. I have been thinking about how I can have an impact to make changes in my daily habits to Reduce and Reuse.

Barack Obama's campaign for president was funded by some large corporations but more than 50% of the funds came from private citizens who sent small amounts of money to a cause they believed would bring about change. The "Yes We Can" mantra made people commit to the campaign and helped make the campaign successful.

That is how I see our St. Matthew's **Spring Into Green** project. "Yes We Can" can make a difference *now*. When each one of us focuses on our own small world intent on making a change, we *will* accomplish change. When each one of us focusses on Reduce and Reuse, we *will* make a difference. With our plastic bag reduction effort, we as a parish could reduce the number of bags we use by 78,000 a year using our own reusable bags. In other words, many small steps make a collective impact.

By keeping the environment foremost in our daily activities we become aware of multiple ways we can help. It

also keeps us in touch with the glory of God's gifts to us and makes us mindful of how we can cherish and protect them.

There are small daily things we can do: conserve water; turn off the lights; avoid using the car; shop wisely. Through a Canadian company, Tru-Earth, I have found a laundry detergent packaged for a year's supply in one box. Each box therefore, reduces the number of detergent bottles by twelve! You must have other suggestions of how you have reduced the number of plastic containers in your life.

On a different front we can support financial institutions that avoid investing in fossil fuels. We can make informed decisions about purchases we make for our households. We can write to elected officials and point out that we expect they will put the environment first and foremost in their platforms. We can hold them accountable for their legislation.

But although we cannot or will not be like Greta Thunberg addressing the United Nations and other international forums, we can all care as much as Greta and we can all make changes that will have an impact on the world we love.

Continue to send your suggestions to: greeneststmatts@gmail.com

Donate through CanadaHelps during June

During the month of June, donations made to charities through CanadaHelps will be entered in a draw to win \$20,000.

Charities will receive one entry for each dollar donated through CanadaHelps, including monthly donations.

According to CanadaHelps, "Right now, many charities are receiving fewer donations and experiencing an increase in demand to support communities severely affected by Covid-19.

Now more than ever, your favourite charity needs your help."

If you wish to support St. Matthew's through CanadaHelps, you can do so through the

Support Us button in the top right corner of the

[St. Matthew's home page](#) or go directly to our [profile page on CanadaHelps](#).

THE WAY WE WERE: MORE ON SCOUTS AND GIRL GUIDES

NEVILLE NANKIVELL

Some new insights, another old photo and a couple of corrections from sharp-eyed parishioners have come as follow-ups to our article in the last issue on the history of scouts and girl guides at St. Matthew's.

Jan Robar e-mailed that she had a great time as a member of our 52nd Brownies pack in the early 1960s and is still involved in Girl Guides Canada. She sent a copy of a photo of the St. Matthew's 26th scout troop taken around 1940. She found the original when clearing out her late mother's home and in 2019 gave it to the Ottawa-based Scouts Canada National Museum.

"I was always told my Uncle Dick [Richard Rettie] was in the photo and I found him fourth in from the right back row – no hat –dark hair," she said (see photo).

Jan also came up with a photo of the St. Matthew's cubs that was published in the February 1965 issue of the *Parish Messenger* (see photo).

Another parishioner, Andy Billingsley, let us know that he was an active member of the neighbouring 36th scout troop at Glebe United on the corner of Lyon and First Avenue. But, he said, "we envied the St. Matthew's 26th for having a property opposite Mooney's Bay which we were allowed to use for various events."

He also noted that during his scouting years they managed to attract the St. Matthew's scoutmaster George Ashe to be its leader on a short-term basis. The 36th had lost its scout master and Mr. Ashe's 'temporary' fill-in lasted four years. "My luck to be there for those years,"

said Mr. Billingsley. "He was the quintessential leader. On his death I visited the funeral parlour to ensure the family knew how we all admired him so many years before."

After the end of the Second World War, Mr. Ashe initiated the 1947 merger of the 30th Ottawa Sea Scouts with the St. Matthew's 26th scout troop. The sea scouts had been meeting at Hopewell Public School but this base had become unavailable. The St. Matthew's 26th sea scouts became a very strong group and built their own cabin at a sea scout camp on the Rideau River across from Mooney's Bay (not on the Ottawa River as reported in our earlier article).

The long-time "Skipper" of the sea scouts' group was Wayne Hannan (not Warne as we had it in our last issue). "He was another dedicated leader," recalls Mr. Billingsley. On Mr. Hannan's retirement after 28 years of scouting service, he was honored with the Sea Scouting Medallion for his promotion of sea scout activities in Ontario.

St. Matthew's no longer has a direct connection with Canada's scouting movement but across the country some 65,000 young people and 20,000 support volunteers are involved in scouting programs and the Scouts Canada National Museum is on Baseline Road in Ottawa. It has displays of photos, uniforms and memorabilia that go back 110 years. Because of Covid restrictions, the museum has been closed but hopes to resume operations once safe to do so.



26th Scout Troop, 1940



St. Matthew's Cubs, 1965

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

THE REVEREND CANON JIM BEALL

In 1961 (April 12th, to be precise), the Russian Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person to travel to outer space. Upon his return to Earth, Mr. Gagarin announced with considerable satisfaction, and on behalf of his country, that God did not exist. He knew this because as he was orbiting he looked around, and Jesus was nowhere to be seen. The American Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart responded by declaring that "when Jesus saw that commie atheist coming, he hid behind the moon!"

The idea that, at his Ascension, Jesus literally "took off" into the sky, and disappeared above the clouds is problematic for many people today. How could he breathe? What would he eat? How far did he have to go? Skeptical nonbelievers see the Ascension as an example of the type of "fiction" that renders Christianity unacceptable to them.

I believe that as People of Faith we can understand the Ascension as representing the completion, the fulfilment of Jesus' earthly ministry. For a period of thirty-three years, God the Son became incarnate in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. The story of the Incarnation begins with the Annunciation, and moves through Jesus' Birth and Baptism, his proclamation of the Gospel, his Crucifixion and Resurrection. Now, our Lord is restored to his rightful place in God's Kingdom, from which he came, and which he has opened to us.

We do not know (exactly) how the Ascension was accomplished. There is a natural human tendency to imagine "good" as up, and "bad" as down: we lift up our hearts, we are in high spirits, things are looking up; we are downhearted, our spirits are low, the economy has hit bottom. Heaven is good; therefore, heaven is up, so when Jesus returns to heaven he is depicted, in art and poetry, as ascending.

Our Lord's Ascension, whether literal or symbolic, is in one sense a departure. Jesus is no longer physically present on earth, as he was in Galilee and Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. In a deeper sense, the Ascension is a liberation: our Lord is free to be present to each and every one of us, "at all times and in all places." Jesus of Nazareth, as embodied in the Gospels, teaches and inspires us. The Risen, ascended, glorified Lord Jesus, present to us in Word and Sacrament, nourishes and sustains us.

At the conclusion of the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus meets with the eleven Disciples near the top of a mountain. His final word to them is both an *exhortation*, "Go, therefore, and teach all nations" and a *promise*, "I am with you always" - not "I have been" or even "I will be", but "**I AM**", eternally present. Through his Ascension, Jesus our Lord is always with us. Thanks be to God!

*The Ascension
Centre Panel of the Stained Glass Window
over the High Altar
St. Matthew's Anglican Church
Ottawa*



St. Matthew's

The Anglican Church in the Glebe

Sunday 10 am

Virtual Worship on the
St. Matthew's website

[Sunday Worship](#)

Morning Prayer

[Morning Prayer](#)

*St. Matthew's is a vibrant Christian community that
welcomes everyone, embraces inspiring worship and
learning, and is committed to hospitality and loving service.*

Clergy

RectorThe Reverend Geoffrey Chapman
Honorary AssistantsThe Reverend Canon Kevin Flynn
The Reverend Canon Allen Box
The Most Reverend Barry Curtis
The Reverend Canon Jim Beall

Leadership and Administration

Rector's WardenValerie Needham
People's WardenTom Barnes
Parish AdministratorCatherine James-McGuinty
Communications Chair.....Jan O'Meara
Nominating ChairHelen Griffin
Property Co-ChairsBill Nuttle
Bill Cornfield
Stewardship OfficerCharles Nixon
Members of Synod.....Randi Goddard
John McBride
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Charles Nixon

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Director of Music and OrganistKirkland Adsett
Altar GuildElizabeth MacMillan
Robina Bulleid
Servers GuildCathy Simons
SidespersonsPeter Frayne
Worship CommitteeThe Reverend Geoffrey Chapman

Nurturing and Fellowship

Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministry
Aicha Ducharme-LeBlanc
Christian Education and Formation.....Helen Griffin
Community ChairMarg Terrett
Coffee HourJane and Peter Rider
Prayer Support TeamCatherine Thurlow
Prayer ChainJanice Sonnen
Open DoorsJane Oulton
Pastoral CareMollie Stokes

Outreach

Outreach Co-ChairsAshley Thorvaldson
Christine Vidt
CCSAC Emergency Food Centre.....Elizabeth Kent
Cornerstone Meal-A-Month ProgramAshley Thorvaldson
Harmony HouseCatherine James-McGuinty
Marmalade Team.....Peter Rider
Out of the Cold SupperAnita Biguzs
FACES Refugee CommitteeTom Martin

Pulse of the Parish, the community newsletter of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, is published four times a year. The dates for publication in 2021 are as follows: March 26 (submissions by March 19), June 11 (submissions by June 4), September 17 (submissions by September 10) and November 28 (submissions by November 21).

Please forward contributions of up to 600 words and photographs by these due dates to Val Needham, Editor:
needhav@algonquincollege.com.

Together, we celebrate all that we do at St. Matthew's to the glory of God and in loving service of our neighbours.



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