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Yvrose Amilcar, Léone Dube and Sandrine Mutoni sing at the Black Heritage service at Christ Church Cathedral, February 18, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.

Bible Story Walk launched at St Paul's in Greenfield Park



May 5th, 2023: Zoe Potter enjoys one of the nine *Bible Story Walk* panels installed on the front lawn of St Paul's Anglican Church in Greenfield Park as Rebecca and Victoria Amato look on. Photo by Janet Best.

LEE-ANN MATTHEWS

Lee-Ann Matthews is the MTL Youth Project Coordinator and Web & Social Media Coordinator for the Diocese of Montreal.

What is the Bible Story Walk All About?

Stories matter... and as Christians, the most important stories we have are from our books of scripture. Through this medium we find meaning, and have been afforded sacred glimpses not only of our Creator but about who we are and how we came into existence. The story of Creation from the Book of Genesis therefore seemed like an appropriate way to launch the Bible Story Walk pilot project.

How did this idea come to life?

One of the treasures of our Diocese is the unique, sometimes sprawling, sometimes modest, church properties with green spaces, gardens, paths, trees, flowers and trails. They

beautify neighborhoods and fortify the environment, and can be found in both urban and rural settings. These spaces are notorious for attracting children and families for picnics or spontaneous games of frisbee or soccer. In short, they are a blessing to gardeners, dog walkers, cyclists and pedestrians, all of whom are known to enjoy them at their leisure.

In light of all this, we wanted to increase the value of these lawns and outdoor spaces so we designed The Bible Story Walk Project, a rotating outdoor art installation for church properties.

The objective of this project is to encourage passersby to slow down, or stop, reflect, ask questions and wonder. The story provides viewers with an opportunity for engagement as each of the stations has a question to consider and reflect upon.

The Bible Story Walk is an offering to our neighbors, it meets them where they are. It

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Risen up! The Cathedral Spire Shines Again

BERTRAND OLIVIER

The Very Rev'd Bertrand Olivier is Dean of Christ Church Cathedral.

The Rise Up! Project, which set out to restore the Cathedral's iconic spire, has finally finished construction. The spire has, at long last, been unwrapped from all its scaffolding and is standing proudly again in the midst of all the steel and glass downtown. It has been a long, arduous and expensive process, and we are grateful to the individuals, foundations and other philanthropic organisations, and the Provincial and Federal government for their generous contributions towards maintaining our patrimonial building and ensuring its future.

The urgently needed project began in 2016. The steel structure and aluminum tiles, which had replaced the original stone

spire in the 1940s, had corroded to the point of instability. If left unchecked, the spire was a potential danger to the public. Therefore, we had no choice but to undertake major work to ensure its safety and longevity.

The Cathedral's architects, EVOQ, developed a plan of action in two phases. In the first stage, which began in 2017, the expert masons at Rainville strengthened the structure of our stone tower, facilitating the subsequent work of restoration. Although we uncovered significant additional masonry work, the cathedral was able to receive funding from Parcs Canada and to complete the phase on time in 2019.

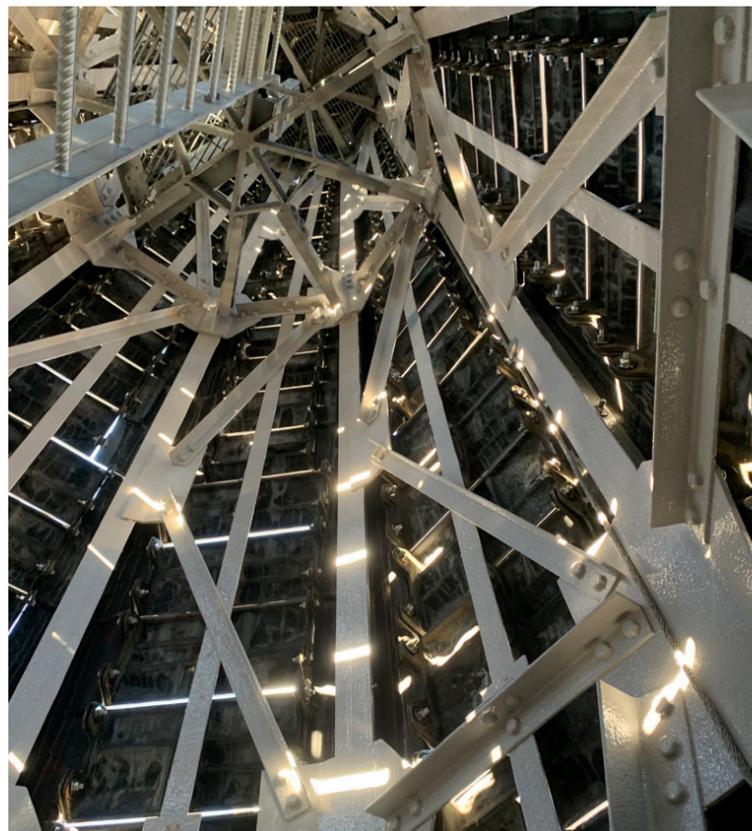
The second phase, the work on the spire structure, started in 2019. The original plan was to remove all aluminum tiles, slice the spire in two and then lift

both halves down to the ground for maintenance. However, this proved to be impossible thanks to the many other construction projects happening around the Cathedral and the load-bearing restrictions of being situated on top of a shopping mall. A new process had to be developed.

The new approach involved enveloping the whole spire into scaffolding in order to remove the tiles. Each was painstakingly numbered so that it would find its place again at the end of the project. As tiles were removed, they were taken to a specialist firm in Ottawa for cleaning and decontamination to remove over eight decades of pollution.

COVID hit just as we were getting into gear, stopping the work temporarily and then slowing down the process because of distancing restrictions on building sites.

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A glimpse of the inside of the spire. Photo by EVOQ.

Bishop's Message, June 2023

I am reflecting on the Book of Acts, chapter 2. Fresh from his own experience of the Holy Spirit filling him on the Day of Pentecost, Peter preaches an inspired sermon to a group of hecklers – and gets a tremendous response! Three thousand people are converted and are baptized! A new community is formed and begins to live out its faith. Acts 2:42 says “*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*” We hear that line whenever we repeat the promises at Baptisms or Confirmations.

What do you suppose that looked like in the lives of those converts? I wonder what that means to you? What does it mean as we help nourish new believers? How do we stay fresh in our own faith?

The new community of faith in the early church did not have any of the trappings that many of us associate with church – no building, no set pattern for prayers, no New Testament. They had the Bible that Jesus used – the Old Testament, and they had Jesus’ teaching about how to pray, “*Our father in heaven...*”. Whenever they broke bread together, they remembered him and shared the story of his death and resurrection.

They also had the witness of the disciples and apostles who had journeyed with Jesus and they practiced the art of being followers of Jesus. They also had the experience of the Holy Spirit, animating this new community. The community grew as it reached out into the wider community with its newfound joy and hope and identity in Christ Jesus.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is animating us as well. I see many signs of life and faith and growth around the Diocese. Easter services were very well attended (where there was electricity and heat!). New believers are coming forward for Baptism and Confirmation. I recently attended a regional service in the Townships with 140 in attendance, including new people!

Many of our churches found ways to thrive in the pandemic, and have learned how to reach out beyond themselves and their comfort zones. We are becoming more diverse linguistically and culturally. We are doing good work caring for our neighbours, who are God’s beloved friends. I am excited about what God is up to! I believe that we are becoming something new.

+ Mary

Photo by Janet Best.

Message de l'évêque, juin 2023



Je réfléchis sur le chapitre 2 du livre des Actes des Apôtres. Fort de sa propre expérience du Saint-Esprit dont il a été rempli le jour de la Pentecôte, Pierre prêche un sermon inspiré à un groupe de chahuteurs - et obtient une réponse formidable ! Trois mille personnes se convertissent et sont baptisées ! Une nouvelle communauté se forme et commence à vivre sa foi. Actes 2 :42 dit : “*Ils étaient assidus à l’enseignement des apôtres et à la communion fraternelle, à la fraction du pain et aux prières*”. Nous entendons cette phrase chaque fois que nous répétons les promesses lors des baptêmes ou des confirmations.

Selon vous, à quoi cela ressemblerait-il dans la vie de ces convertis ? Je me demande ce que cela signifie pour vous. Que signifie le fait d’aider à former de nouveaux croyants ? Comment rester actifs dans notre propre foi ?

La nouvelle communauté de foi de l’Église primitive n’avait aucun des attributs que beaucoup d’entre nous associent à l’Église - pas de bâtiment, pas de modèle de prière, pas de Nouveau Testament. Elle disposait de la Bible utilisée

par Jésus - l’Ancien Testament - et de l’enseignement de Jésus sur la manière de prier : “*Notre Père qui es aux cieux...*”. Chaque fois qu’ils rompaient le pain ensemble, ils se souvenaient de lui et partageaient l’histoire de sa mort et de sa résurrection.

Ils avaient aussi le témoignage des disciples et des apôtres qui avaient cheminé avec Jésus et pratiquaient l’art d’être disciples de Jésus. Ils ont également fait l’expérience de l’Esprit Saint, qui animait cette nouvelle communauté. La communauté s’est développée en s’étendant à l’ensemble de la communauté avec sa joie, son espérance et son identité nouvellement trouvées dans le Christ Jésus.

Je crois que l’Esprit Saint nous anime également. Je vois de nombreux signes de vie, de foi et de croissance dans le diocèse. Les célébrations de Pâques ont été très suivies (là où il y avait de l’électricité et de la chaleur !). De nouveaux croyants se présentent au baptême et à la confirmation. J’ai récemment assisté à un service régional dans les Cantons de l’Est avec 140 personnes présentes, y compris de nouvelles personnes !

Beaucoup de nos églises ont trouvé des moyens de prospérer pendant la pandémie et ont appris à aller au-delà d’elles-mêmes et de leurs zones de confort. Nous sommes de plus en plus diversifiés sur le plan linguistique et culturel. Nous faisons du bon travail en nous occupant de nos voisins, qui sont les amis bien-aimés de Dieu. Je suis enthousiaste à l’idée de ce que Dieu est en train de faire ! Je crois que nous sommes en train de devenir quelque chose de nouveau.

+ Mary

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Dio convocation: A Celebration of Unity and Academic Accomplishment

EMILY STUCHBERY

Ms Emily Stuchbery is the Communications Coordinator at Montreal Dio.

On May 8th, Montreal Dio & United Church Studies at Dio had its first convocation as an ecumenical college. It was a joyful celebration of unity and the accomplishments of the college's graduates.

Along with several cash prizes awarded to students for their various academic and pastoral accomplishments over the year, two honours were extended to people outside the college whose ministries have positively impacted the wider church.

The Rev. Patricia Lisson received the honorary Doctorate of Divinity in recognition of her decades-long social-justice informed ministry. Currently the chair-person for the Canadian chapter of the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines, and recently retired Executive Director of St. Columba House in Montreal, Patricia's ministry has consistently gone beyond the church walls and into the communities in which she ministers.

The Craig Chaplin Award, formerly of the United Theo-

logical College, was awarded to Ken DeLisle, a recently retired United Church minister. This award recognizes the life's work of an LGBTQ+ minister and celebrates their courage and commitment to social justice. The college was delighted to celebrate Ken as the first openly gay person to complete diaconal ministry training for the United Church of Canada back in 1994, and an outstanding advocate for LGBTQ+ justice within and beyond the church.

Bishop Ogé Beauvoir, retired Suffragan Bishop of Haiti, gave the convocation address. He stressed the value of ecumenical formation for ministry in an ever-diversifying church and society and ended by encouraging graduates to seek not to be successful, but to be faithful.

The college community thanks all who attended for their enthusiasm and support.

Top right: The Rev Eric Dyck (Acting Principal), Graduate Peter Lekx and Bishop Mary.

Bottom right: All involved in the Ceremony.

Photos by Janet Best.



Where are all the young people?

EMILY STUCHBERY

Ms Emily Stuchbery is the St Martha's Parish Council Member.

As a young person who has been active in the Anglican church my entire life, I am often met with confusion ("young people don't like church!"), fear ("the church is dying!"), and curiosity ("how do we get more young people in the pews?"). These concerns have been a part of church discourse for decades. Rather than inspiring action, I have observed how these well-meaning statements tend to create a sense of helplessness, and a lack of motivation to rise to the challenge. Yet, there is hope.

Since 2017, I have been a member of what is now known as St. Martha's Chapel, one of the largest young adult ministries in Canada that is affiliated with the Anglican Church, and one of the fastest growing ministries in the diocese of Montreal.

St. Martha's is an ecumenical chaplaincy for university students and young professionals that is affiliated with the Anglican and United Churches, and the Disciples of Christ.

Before the pandemic, we regularly had up to 70 people at our evening worship service hosted bi-weekly at Christ Church Cathedral. We now have around 30 as we rebuild, with new people attending each month.

St. Martha's also has a weekly Bible study, annual retreats, and provides free pastoral care to young people



Current and former members of St Martha's Chapel. Photo supplied.

regardless of their faith or participation in our group. St. Martha's as it now exists represents a confluence of previous ministries from decades ago, including St. Martha's of the Basement at Montreal Dio, and the McGill Ecumenical Chaplaincy, as well as century-old student ministries at both Christ Church Cathedral and St. James United.

The current form, under the name St. Martha's Chapel, began in 2020, is deliberately bilingual and open to all young adults regardless of university affiliation. The Rev. Jean-Daniel O'Donnada has been chaplain since 2014, and before him The Rev. Gwenda Wells was chaplain for over twenty years.

While those of us in our 20s and early 30s are coming of age in an era of declining religious affiliation and increasing cyni-

cism toward institutionalized power, we are still drawn to community and the truth of God's forgiveness and eternal love. The heart of the Christian faith is alive and well in many young people, but there is a desire to re-imagine how that faith gets expressed. St. Martha's is a malleable space that allows us to explore how we might bring about the kind of transformation that will keep the Gospel message alive as the institution of the church as we know it continues to decline. There is an openness to the structure of St. Martha's that makes it an easy access point for young people who are curious about the Christian faith.

As a community, we prioritize education, often explaining why we engage in certain rituals during our services and drawing on our

collective knowledge for rich debate and conversation during Bible study. Every week I am met with new perspectives that expose God's presence in unexpected places.

As a ministry that caters largely to university students, many of whom are not from Montreal and will go on to other places once they graduate, one of St. Martha's key strengths is building discipleship for the wider church. The fruits of discipleship begin in Montreal. Many members are actively involved in other parishes, often leading children's ministry, music, volunteering to help at coffee hour or to serve at the altar. Some even go on to seminary, discerning a call to ministry during their time at St. Martha's.

I have also witnessed how this ministry builds disciple-

ship through affirming LGBTQ+ people and celebrating their identities. Young people, spiritually and emotionally damaged by their treatment in previous Christian communities give St. Martha's a chance and find that there is a place for them in God's Church. If this is the experience people are having of Church and of God's presence in their lives while they are in Montreal for a time, no doubt, they will go out into the world prepared to spread that light to others and plant the seeds of God's kingdom.

There will always be people looking for spaces and communities that ask the big questions. When young people are reaching into the unknowable, toward God, and they stumble across St. Martha's, they have found a community that embodies God's purest love. It is a place that gives people the tools to grow, to think outside the box, and to spread God's love deeper and wider than we can ask or imagine.

St. Martha's is currently in a time of transition as we continue to build back our ministry post-pandemic. In addition, The Rev. Jean-Daniel is beginning a new full-time ministry position so, we are preparing to search for a new director.

We ask for your prayers and financial contributions as you are able. You can donate at the following link by selecting "St. Martha's Chapel" in the dropdown: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-anglican-diocese-of-montreal/>

Parish News

St. Joseph's Church, Brossard: Growing a Garden Community

PAUL CARTER

Mr Paul Carter is the Garden Co-ordinator for St Joseph's Church.

Isaiah 58:11 *"The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail."*

We all remember January 25th, 2020, when the first case of Covid reached Canada. We slowly became cautious as infection rates rose and, in response, churches found ways to gather and worship virtually. Health guidelines were implemented, and instead of meeting people in person, we kept our distance from each other or picked up the phone instead. We all reflected on how we could connect with our physical and spiritual communities safely. Coming out of the pandemic, St. Joseph's parish in Brossard decided to grow a garden.

Fast-forward to March 2021, when two members of St. Joseph's parish, Mary Shaw and Patricia Wright Wood, made a proposal to the church's corporation to explore the idea of using the land behind the church to start a community garden. The initial intention was to offer the land to Mission Nouvelle Génération, so they could plant, grow, and harvest vegetables for the benefit of local families in need. The Reverend Christopher Belle, the minister at St. Joseph's Church, spoke to Stéphane Plante, the CEO of Mission Nouvelle Génération, about St. Joseph's proposal and plan. A partnership was born.

In May 2021, things quickly evolved. Many members from the mission and St. Joseph's were eager to work together and build a successful garden, and they met challenges along

the way, learning from each setback and making plans for the following year.

In October 2021, I arrived at St. Joseph's as an experienced gardener, and I was eager to join the garden community. By that time, we still had a supportive partnership with Mission Nouvelle Génération, but they were less involved in helping to maintain the garden. The produce was now used to support volunteers who helped in the garden and community members in need. As a team, we discussed our vision and set up short-term and long-term goals for the project. Some of our long-term goals included applying for a municipal grant, increasing the size of the garden, adding picnic tables and creating an inviting place for the local community, and adding flowers and fruit trees.

We were inspired to learn more about the vegetables we were growing, how to improve our technique, and how to reach out to our local community. When the weeds became overwhelming, we added mulch around the garden beds.

In our second year, we

noticed that the quality of the soil made growing vegetables challenging, so we added composted soil to the existing soil. We branched out and decided to offer canning classes, teaching everyone how to use the ingredients in the garden to make homemade tomato sauce and preserved beets. We built a colorful "take a book, leave a book" box in front of the church. These initiatives allowed us to use the land and the soil around our church to increase our potential for growth and connect with our community.

Luke 13:19 *"It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches"*

At the end of 2022, we took a leap of faith and applied for a grant from the city of Brossard for our community garden. Pat, Mary, Gwen Mohamed and I collaborated on the grant application. We were excited when Brossard awarded St. Joseph's a \$2,500.00 grant in early 2023.

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A brightly painted community book box was erected near the garden in 2022. Photo supplied.



Jane Anema (right), Grand Prior of the Order of St Lazarus in Canada, welcomes the Rev Joel Amis into the Order, as Pastor Eric Dyck, Chaplain-General of the OSL in Canada and the Rev Dr David Harkie (left) look on. Photo by Janet Best.

Order of St Lazarus Regional Investiture

JOEL AMIS

The Rev Joel Amis is the Diocesan Ecumenical Officer.

On the weekend of April 15 and 16, 2023 members of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem gathered in Montreal for a regional Investiture weekend, hosted by the Montreal Commandery of the Order.

The weekend centred on the Investiture ceremonies, which consisted of two parts.

The first part, the Investiture Vigil was held on Saturday at St. John's Lutheran Church, while the second part, the Investiture service proper, was held on Sunday morning at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church as a part of the regular Sunday mass, with Pastor Eric Dyck (Chaplain-General of the Order of St. Lazarus in Canada) preaching and Fr. Marc-Philippe Vincent (Associate Priest at St. John the Evangelist and Commander of the Montreal Commandery of the Order

of St. Lazarus) presiding.

These two events are normally held at churches of different denominations to emphasize the Order's ecumenical nature and mission. During the Investiture the Rev. Joel Amis was received into the Order at the rank of Assistant Chaplain, and the Very Rev. Bertrand Olivier and the Rev. Marc-Philippe Vincent were among those members receiving promotions and commendations.

The weekend also included a visit to Maison St-Raphaël, a palliative care home and day centre in Outremont, supported by the Montreal Commandery. Support for palliative care is a core charitable mission of the Order of St. Lazarus in Canada.

The Order of St. Lazarus is an ecumenical Christian charitable and chivalric order of men and women, tracing its lineage back to the times of the crusader knights. The original mission of the Order was care for those suffering from leprosy

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Multi-parish and Ecumenical Easter Vigil Shines Bright in the Dark

JOEL AMIS

The Rev Joel Amis is the Incumbent of Christ Church Beaurepaire, Beaconsfield.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it: Celebrating Easter in the dark

Holy Week is always a stressful time for clergy and church staff, even in the most ideal circumstances. Over these past three years we've had little in the way of "normalcy" around Holy Week and Easter.

2020 saw us celebrate Easter in isolation. 2021 saw us back at church, but with many restrictions hampering our worship traditions. 2022 started looking more normal – but low and

behold, I myself ended up testing positive for COVID... on Maundy Thursday!

2023 looked like it would be the first "normal" Easter in years...

Well, that was not to be, at least for our West Island churches. The worst ice storm since 1998 knocked out power in most of the West Island for days on end – throwing Holy Week plans into disarray... a disarray that perhaps reminds us that the first Holy Week was not a week that went how most people involved in the story were expecting!

What to do? The church has no heat or lights. I have no idea what communications my parishioners are able to receive, who even has access to internet

or phone service. Should we try to forge ahead, or should we cancel services?

Different parishes made different decisions in this regard. At Christ Church Beaurepaire, I really did not want to cancel any Holy Week services, especially since we had advertised our services widely in the greater community, and also because we had created a combined choir consisting of members from St. John the Baptist's choir and Christ Church Beaurepaire's choir, which had worked out a full program for the Paschal Triduum.

As the whole ordeal had descended upon us so suddenly, we made the difficult decision to cancel the Maundy Thursday service. But I was



We celebrated the first Mass of Easter by candlelight like our forebears did in ancient times. Photo by Yevgeniya Amis.

determined not to cancel anything else, even as I wondered whether anyone would even show up - when practically all my parishioners were without power.

Good Friday seemed like an easier call: service at 2pm,

so lighting is not an issue. Our combined congregation of St. John the Baptist and Christ Church Beaurepaire gathered in a cold church, stripped bare, of course, for Good Friday.

Never have I been so grateful

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Parish News



All Saints Rectory in Dunham, QC. Photo supplied.

A Small Congregation Takes a Big Leap

PETER RIORDON

Mr Peter Riordon is the People's Warden of All Saints Church in Dunham.

In late winter of 2022, Russia had launched a vicious attack on the people of Ukraine and the little congregation of All Saints Anglican Church in Dunham, Quebec - like most of us - looked on in shock and

horror as shells and rockets rained down. The congregation asked themselves; "What can we do from half a world away?"

It was quickly obvious that huge numbers of Ukrainians would be displaced and would be seeking refuge away from war. At All Saints, declining numbers and a retiring minister meant the rectory would be empty by August. In March, it

was unanimously agreed that the big old house with its five bedrooms should be offered to needy refugees. The word was put out to our Federal MP and to the community at large.

Nothing happened initially and the path ahead was unclear.

Then, a Ukrainian Canadian couple who had chosen to have their two children baptized at All Saints suggested a connection with a private charity which was sympathetic to the project. Then in mid-summer, the community grapevine brought forth a Ukrainian Canadian, Anton, from a nearby town who asked if he could see the rectory because he had contact with an extended family seeking to escape the war. He sent photos to the family who had hoped to find a quiet, green destination that could accommodate all nine of them, two grandparents, five related adults and two teenagers. It was an instant fit.

This family had sought refuge beneath the Mariupol Steel Works amidst the merciless Russian bombardment. It

was from there that an evacuation team extracted them under cover of darkness on a perilous escape across an active war zone to Poland where Anton had managed to secure a small apartment. Charities stepped forth with airfare, and, with help from our MP, paperwork was eventually completed for their immigration to Canada.

Meanwhile, back in Dunham, the rectory was vacated in mid-August and a small army of volunteers collected and delivered all the donated furnishings needed for the big house. Brooms and paintbrushes were busy.

The first three family members arrived to help organize the house in late August and the remainder made their way to Dunham by mid-September. All of the family members were profoundly relieved and grateful though quietly traumatized by their ordeals. None spoke much English or French but they were eager to learn so they could become self-sufficient as quickly as possible.

Four months later, the father - who is a master electrician

and mechanic - was employed full time in a local sawmill.

Three of the women are working at a local ski resort. The granddaughter, who was studying medicine in Ukraine, has found part time work in a retirement home and the two teenagers are enrolled in high school. Adult Education has set up language courses in the church hall. The grandfather spends his time searching for things to fix at the rectory and he is very skilled. Plans are afoot for a vegetable garden in the spring. Two cars have been donated so the family can travel to work and back.

The aging congregation of All Saints can no longer muster the energy to continue its long and popular tradition of homemade community dinners, but the local folk turned out to put on a 'full house' welcome dinner at the church for our new Ukrainian friends.

Even in their darkest hour, with the loss of their minister and a dwindling flock, this congregation was able to turn a new page and live a real Christian experience.

The Church of St Mark & St Peter Tries Something New

CHRIS BARRIGAR

The Rev Chris Barrigar is the Incumbent of the Church of St Mark & St Peter.

The Church of St Mark & St Peter has been quite active in the first half of this year.

We have had a couple book groups meeting by Zoom; one group reading *Our Home and Treaty Land*, by Matt Anderson and Ray Aldred, the other reading *Am I Just My Brain?*, by Christian neuroscientist Sharon Dirckx. Dr Dirckx joined us from her home in Oxford, England, for the final session.

Liturgically, we have recently made some changes to reflect the multilingual nature of our congregation and of our location in St Laurent. Our opening greeting on Sunday mornings is now in French, English, and Arabic.

The other change we have implemented is that, every Sunday, the Psalm is now led in one of the mother-tongues of our congregation members (on a rotating basis, ranging from Mandarin to Malagasy).

The way this works is the text of the Psalm appears in English (on the front video screens, since we project our liturgy using PowerPoint), but the Psalm leader reads the initial, then alternate, verses of the Psalm in their mother-tongue. Everyone understands what is being said because they read the English on the screen; then, when the reader stops, everyone responds together with the next verse; and so on, alternating between mother-tongue



In February, CMP had a ski-and-sliding day at St Agathe. Pictured here are the sliders. Photo supplied.

and English, for the duration of the Psalm. It sounds awkward, but it actually works well and people find it quite a moving representation of God's inclusiveness of all nations (ethne in Greek) in worship.

Following the ice storm, CMP had electricity for Easter Sunday, but not for Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, so these services were cancelled and replaced with a Good Friday service by Zoom. Easter Sunday was a wonderful joy-filled service.

After Easter, for the second year in a row, we are offering a series of evening Zoom meetings called "Monday Discussions." These are on a variety of topics - most - though not all, led by members of CMP.

Topics include *Understanding Homelessness*, *My work with Afghan Refugees in Albania*, *Mennonite Peacemaking Theology*, *What it Means to be Cree*, and *Meeting with Residential School Survivors*, among others.

The last two topics are part of a process in which CMP and St Barnabas Anglican Church of Waswanapi Cree Nation, QC, are exploring the possibility of a relationship together. (Waswanapi is about a nine-hour drive north of Montreal). Diocesan College has also had connections with this community in the past.

Other recent events included a group of CMP members building vegetable-garden boxes on our property and a bowling fundraiser for the CMP youth group. Remarkably, over 50 parishioners came out for the bowling--we had no idea the event would generate so much support from the congregation!

The last Sunday of April, CMP joined with other churches in St Laurent for a spaghetti lunch at St Sixte Roman Catholic Church—it was a fun opportunity for local church communities to get know each other, in both English and French.



From left to right: Father Andy O'Donnell, Julia Mainguy, Michael Bastone, Philip Mainguy, Massimo Bastone, Ely Paolina Papeo, The Rt Revd. Mary Irwin-Gibson, Sadie Slote, Adam Boismenu, Arabella Slote, and Amy Boismenu. Photo by Lynn Osborne.

Confirmation at St Stephen's with St James

ANDY O'DONNELL

The Rev Andy O'Donnell is the Incumbent of St Stephen's with St James, Chambly.

On April 23, 2023, The Rt Rev-Mary Irwin-Gibson celebrated at St. Stephen's with St. James' Confirmation service. Bishop Mary was aided by Sunday's worship team; lay reader Lynn Osborne, Bishop's Chaplain Clara Constance Slote, reader Eileen Agley and prayers-of-the-people Betty Cunningham (who is also a greeter), organist Colin Langille, and greeter Dorothy Cunningham-Wo. Barbara Moquin hosted our coffee hour.

Bishop Mary confirmed Massimo Bastone, Michael Bastone, Adam Boismenu, Amy Boismenu, Julia Mainguy,

Philip Mainguy, Ely Paolina Papeo, Arabella Slote, and Sadie Slote.

St. Stephen's also recognized long-time members Eileen Agley, Bill Bird, Neil Ellwood, Gordon Young, Robert McConnell, and Terry Goodfellow for their "... years of faithful service and many contributions to the worship and praise of God." This service and all our services can be viewed online at <https://www.facebook.com/AnglicanChurchChambly>.

I would like to thank Bishop Mary, the worship team, the candidates for confirmation, their parents, and the many helpful hands that made this service possible. I am proud of how well you all did.

Yours in Christ,
Andy O'Donnell +

Around the Diocese



Ms Pat Dillion Moore delivered a sermon at the Black Heritage service at Christ Church Cathedral February 18, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



Server Shaina Cajuste at the Black Heritage service at Christ Church Cathedral on February 18, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



The Rev Randy Gates, the Rev Judith Ball, the Rev Tyson Rosberg and Bishop Mary at Bishop Stewart Memorial Church of the Holy Trinity in Frelighsburg where over 100 people gathered for a celebration of Eucharist and baptism, April 30, 2023. Bishop Mary preached and presided. Photo by Tim Smart.



Sandra Fortier embraces Dawn Sparling at Bishop Stewart Memorial Church of the Holy Trinity April 30, 2023. Photo by Tim Smart.



Baby Leonard Lalli-Stoddart was baptised at Bishop Stewart Memorial Church of the Holy Trinity in Frelighsburg, Sunday, April 30, 2023. Photo by Tim Smart.

Around the Diocese



The Hall at Christ Church Rawdon was filled to capacity in mid-February for the First BBQ in three years. Ann Allen and her crew set-up and decorated, and prepped steaks and trimmings. The theme was Woodstock! and participants were encouraged to dress for 1969. Dudley Parkinson was MC. Much fun was shared, and more than \$1500 in profit was realized. Many in attendance placed reservations for BBQ'24 - who's theme is top-secret - before they left the hall at the end of the evening. Photos supplied.



From L to R: Nancy Jones, Barbara Sargent, Charlotte Rye, Melissa Davis, Joan Liang and Ed Ruediger at St Paul's in Greenfield Park, May 5, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



L to R: Mtr Wendy Telfer, Fr Marc-Philippe Vincent and Acolyte Thomas Bate at the Palm Sunday service at St John the Evangelist, April 2, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



Valerie Bennett at St Paul's in Greenfield Park, May 5, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



L to R: Choir members Claude Veilleux, Dwain Richardson, and People's Warden Sara Pistolesi at St John the Evangelist, April 2, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



The Ocean

EDWARD YANKIE

Mr Edward Yankie is a member of Chirst Church Cathedral and co-chair of the Diocesan Anti-Racism Task Force.

In 2020, people spoke about it. It wasn't just on the news and in the media, it was in the coffee shop and in the office and part of everyday conversation. Now, for too many, it's just the new normal. And it's no longer a topic of conversation that White people are chomping at the bit to have.

In my country of birth, police killings of unarmed people are at a seven-year high. A seven-year high - three years after the eruption of the Black Lives Matter movement!

And the spiritual momentum we as a society gained after the murder of George Floyd appears to be waning. Or turning into some sort of fatigue. But still: Black people are almost three times more likely than white people to be killed by police. And Black people are twelve times more likely to be on the receiving end of police misconduct. Twelve times!

In Canada and Quebec, the statistics are also grim and getting worse. Google the phrase "systemic racism in Canada" and you will find no lack of reading material. The examples go on and on.

In Quebec we are not wanting in headlines. "Report finds Black health-care and other workers underrepresented in Quebec." "Judge in Quebec racial profiling case orders end to random traffic stops." "Visible minorities underrepresented among Quebec public agency leaders." "Anti-racism group says Montreal police withheld findings of racial profiling report."

In NDG, all I have to do is look out my window onto Sherbrooke to notice how differently police in my neighbourhood - with some rare exceptions - treat Black people. But Premiere Legault continues to insist that he knows - and Black and Indigenous Quebecers don't know - what constitutes systemic racism.

A sense of helplessness, stagnation, and inevitability is

consuming our culture. Tears? Yes. For those of us who are not completely numb. If you have them, shed them. It's healthy. Anger? Of course. But what to do?

What little that has been done is clearly turning out to be superficial and not getting at the root of the systemic problem. But what is the root of the problem? Is the system not working? Or is it in fact working exactly as it was designed to do, with the rich and powerful on top and the traditionally disposable class on the bottom?

But White supremacy is not the shark. And we will never catch it. White supremacy is the ocean.

"We tend to think of White supremacy as a shark that we need to catch and kill," said the writer and poet Shanice Nicole at a recent conference. "We are in a boat, chasing it, and if we catch it we can do away with it. But White supremacy is not the shark. And we will never catch it. White supremacy is the ocean. It is all the fish who swim in the ocean. And it's the boat. And it's all of us on the boat. How do you kill, or get rid of, or change, the ocean?"

It's the thing we're all living in. Like the environment, it's the thing itself. We are all a part of it.

I've been turning this metaphor of the ocean over in my mind as I observe the world we live in and think along with my Black friends about how to improve it. Or at least make a dent in it. Please understand: Black people are tired of White people asking them how to fix racism. If they knew how to make it magically go away, they would have waved that wand by now. It's not up to Black people. White people created it. If we look honestly at the culture we live in, the question is not: how do we get rid of it? The question is: do we want to?

This question also applies to the church. How ready are we, how primed are we, really, for change?

Pat Dillion Moore--who gave an honest, loving, challenging sermon at the Black Heritage service in February--told me that she is encouraging more

Black Anglicans to speak out about their experiences and feelings. Many in the diocese, including Bishop Mary and those in the Anti-Racism Task Force, have been doing likewise.

But we all know it's hard to open up and confide deep things to people who are more mouth than ear. In order to encourage more racialized people to share stories, so that we may all more deeply connect, White people need to be eager to listen. With a passion. If you're White, that means you, Christian soldier, and that means me. It means all of us. We are, after all, a family.

As my friend and co-chair Dion Lewis said in a recent conversation, "There is no they. It's all just us. They ARE us." This is equally true for clergy and laity. Together we are the body of Christ. And we are all a part of each other. So do not send to know for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for us. And right now that ringing bell need not be the dong of doom. It can be a call to action to make a more just and equitable world.

We have to keep looking inward. That's part of the action; to do the necessary, soul-searching work and the proper form of navel gazing. But we need to look outward as well. And try to have an impact in the world. The mystic and the prophet must shake hands. Yet, finding that balance is never easy.

Speaking of not easy, White people need to confront and challenge other White people when they are speaking rubbish.

If I may offer an autobiographical snippet, I was recently removed from an online group that discusses film history - a subject near and dear to my heart - for calling out racism. (Yes, I know this is a White boy problem and no one has their knee on my neck.)

I enjoy old movies as works of art, but also as cultural artifacts and windows into history. The topic of race, or Black film history, or the treatment of non-White actors or anything to do with Black history in this group was - in appearance - subtly discouraged, but - in fact - strictly verboten. I kept challenging the taboo topic and asking why there was so much bullying and bad behaviour

from White people over the issue of race and history - why were we told not to talk about it? But instead of dignifying my question, the admins quietly cut me out and excluded me.

It wasn't the first time something like this has happened. And it won't be the last.

I spoke to a friend who is an expert on film history, including Black film history, and he told me that racism is a real problem in the vintage film community. We agreed that there is a percentage of our culture for whom White fragility is too tepid a phrase. White terror, or narcissism, or even psychosis is more apt. What else is it when you are literally not allowed to talk about reality?

Along similar lines, I hear too many white people complain that comedy is dead because we can't joke in the reckless way our fathers used to. They say people nowadays are too sensitive and need to lighten up. Well, after Cult 45, anti-Black voter suppression, a failed White nationalist coup attempt, and the war on historical truth, and on books, and on gun control, and the vilification of the word "woke" as the ultimate evil--what does anyone expect?

Please understand: Black people are tired of White people asking them how to fix racism. If they knew how to make it magically go away, they would have waved that wand by now.

It's not as if we can snap our fingers and go back to the vibe of the 70's, a wistful thing to do for many White males of a certain age, when there was a general sense that our planet would live another million years and life and human rights had at least the potential to move in the right direction.

What good would an Archie Bunker character do now when such a sickening percentage of misguided folk have embraced actual fascism and while White nationalists threaten serious political violence at every turn? And how funny would it really be to have him sardonically opine on our society while

children get slaughtered in schools?

Speaking as an erstwhile comedy professional, our moment in history isn't a joking matter anymore. Maybe it never was. Maybe we were just naive. We still have to find reasons and ways to laugh. And I still enjoy *All in the Family*. But times have changed. To state the obvious.

This is just a small part of the ocean we face. But I am reminded of what Mother Theresa said about acts of kindness and compassion being like drops of water in the ocean. They are only drops. The ocean is made of every drop. And without that drop, it would be less.

What are the main things we need to remember and focus on going forward? What ought we to be working to do and praying for? It's really all one question. Here's what some folks said from the Task Force.

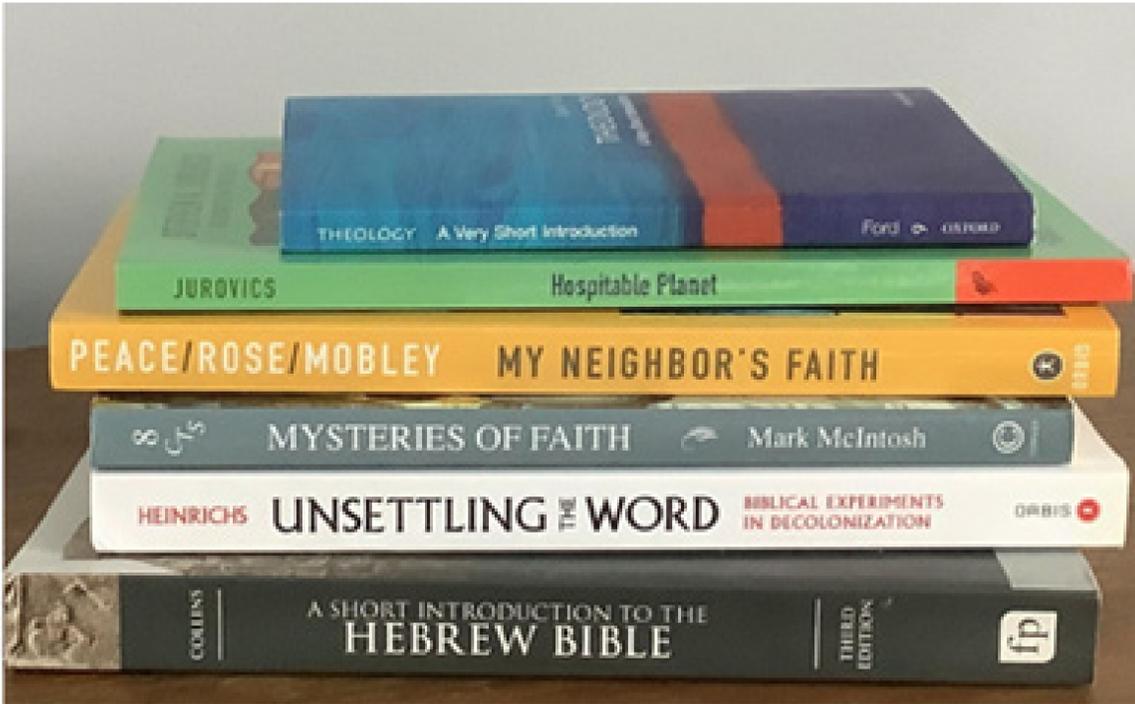
Rev. Christopher Belle: "What comes to mind is our need to acknowledge the pain caused in the past, as well as be aware of the lingering effects to this very day. Proof of systemic racism continues to be unearthed, even if people are starting to feel uncomfortable. People who, historically, have always unquestionably had a voice continue to shape society in a specific mold with biases unchecked or ignored."

Dion Lewis: "The work of racial justice is a continual process. This needs to be embraced and incorporated consistently into every action that we undertake. We need to bring into balance all of our work so that we are encouraging the underrepresented, knowing that our current state is not comfortable for those who feel they are on the outside. Radical change will involve pain, but once we are more open, the power of the Divine will be easier for all to see, and will encourage many more to want to join."

Rev. Deborah Meister: "Our antiracism work is about setting ourselves free, as individuals and as a church, from what limits our ability to love our neighbours and ourselves. While the work is sometimes uncomfortable, discomfort is part of growth, and growth in truth always leads us to Christ and his love. We need to remember that these issues are real. They are not consigned to the past. All around the world people continue to suffer from racist attitudes and violence, and some are being killed. We should work and pray so that we will not be part of the problem, and, as we can, we should pray for the courage, love, and tenacity to ensure that our neighbours have the kind of life we would want for ourselves."

Rev. James Pratt: "No one has to solve the whole problem. But each person can do a little bit in their own context to bring awareness and to make small changes."

What Rev. James said echoes Mother Theresa's words about drops in the ocean. One drop at a time, people. Black lives matter. Every drop of change matters. Enough clear, sparkling drops can make a chemical change in the whole thing. The ocean, big and deep as it is, can be cleaned up and changed for the better.



EfM; Integrating faith and life and asking questions

NANCY GREENE-GREGOIRE

Ms Nancy Greene-Gregoire is the EfM Coordinator for the Diocese of Montreal since 2017.

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a place where all questions about our faith are welcome. It is a place where we can experience Jesus' words in the Gospels, study the letters Paul wrote to early Christian communities, realize the importance of the Hebrew Bible, read about the First Council of Nicaea, Augustine of Hippo, Thomas Cranmer, Luther, and the Orthodox churches of the East and see how our Christian history relates to our lives today. At EfM we practise integrating faith and life and communicating our faith to others.

Who participates?: EfM is designed for lay people of all ages. At baptism we are all called to ministry. Although it is a four year program, don't let the four years be overwhelming, as we only ask for a one year commitment at a time.

This year, Yvonne Bayne, Catherine Brown, Wendy Crooks, Hugh Mitchell, Susan Sioui and Mary-Ann Wood are

graduating from the Dio/La-chute group which met online this year. Tom Edmonds and Linda Spear are graduating from the Sutton group at Grace Church. Congratulations!

Hugh Mitchell, a recent graduate, shared this about his experience; *"I have benefited greatly from the four years of EfM. Firstly, there is the pure knowledge. I know a lot more than I did four years ago about the Old Testament, the New Testament, the history of Christianity and of current religious and theological thinking.*

Secondly, my own theological and religious thinking has evolved, particularly in the last year. In previous years, my understanding of the Bible and Christianity evolved, but not so much my faith. In this last year, my thinking about my own faith was significantly impacted.

Thirdly, my ability to preach as a Lay Reader was improved by my increased knowledge and by the better understanding of faith in general and my own faith in particular.

Lastly the social interaction with the other members of the EfM group was both enjoyable and supportive. The group bonded (as one

would expect over four years) and evolved positively as new members came in at the beginning of the fourth year. Well worth the effort."

EfM DETAILS

Costs: Annual fee of \$350 plus \$100-\$150 on textbooks with opportunities to purchase them second-hand.

Registration and Open Houses: Registration in late spring and summer to begin in September. We will offer a hybrid EfM group, meeting in person at Montreal Dio on the McGill campus and online. Open Houses are listed below. If a group at your parish wishes to have an individual presentation please be in touch.

Zoom Open Houses (contact Nancy for the link):
Wed May 24, 8-9pm
Monday June 12, 8-9pm
Tuesday August 29, 8-9pm

For more information: Nancy Greene-Gregoire 514-862-5367 or ngreene@acm.org.

Bible Story Walk *continued from page 1*

encourages the innate spiritual curiosity of children and a deeper longing to learn and grow in faith at any age or stage of life.

There are nine podiums that will be installed in strategic locations along walkways or paths that will neither impose nor demand but instead invite people to pause, to breathe, maybe even to pray, without any expectations.

The Story Walk panels are fastened into the ground and are equipped with a QR code which will allow spectators to learn more about not only the project and the Diocese of Montreal, but will also be linked to the website of the host church.

About the artist/the process

As an educator and author/illustrator of a children's book I am invested in finding innovative ways to encourage kids to read and explore stories.

One ordinary day I was passing my local library with my dog when I came across an interesting display on a fence. Pages of a popular children's book had been enlarged and plastified allowing children and families to read the story as they passed.

This struck me as such a generous offering to the community. Allowing kids on bikes or skateboards to get glimpses of children's literature if they are in a hurry or to slow down and read more carefully if they

have time. I was touched and moved to discover this and I was inspired to consider how we, as the Anglican Diocese of Montreal, could be a part of something like this.

And then it came to me. We could! And we should!

So I got to work researching and considering how to bring this project to life. I wrote up a proposal that was met with encouragement and enthusiasm.

We opted to tell the creation story using the carefully considered language of Jerome Berryman in the style of Godly Play. I illustrated the story using watercolor and collage, while making reference to the minimalist approach of the official Godly Play Creation set.

It was an intense creative undertaking that I poured myself into with sheer delight. I consulted with some talented artistic advisors in my circle who provided me with some helpful tips and guidance. I was pleased with how the project unfolded and am delighted now that it has been born and has found its first home at St Paul's Greenfield Park (321 EmpireGreenfield Park)

This Spring and summer, the installation will be traveling to parishes across the Diocese. We are enthusiastic and hopeful about the reach and impact it will have.

Interested in hosting The Bible Story Walk or learning more? lmattthews@montreal.anglican.ca



Lee-Ann Matthews at the launch of the Bible Story Walk at St Paul's in Greenfield Park on May 5, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.

Rev Linda Faith Chalk Wins Award for Outstanding Community Service

ANDY O'DONNELL

The Rev Andy O'Donnell is the Incumbent of St Stephen's with St James, Chambly.

RHSSPT stands for Regional health and social service table. The Rev. Linda Faith, former incumbent of St Paul's, GFP, received a RHSSPT STAR Program Award for outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of the Monteregie English-speaking community.

Linda Faith was nominated by Rev. Andy O'Donnell who had many wonderful things to say: *'Linda Faith's work has had a lasting effect on the wider community across several age and socio-economic groups. Although she had much help, her leadership was instrumental.'*

Here is a small sample of improvements for the community:

- Youth were cared for by a community children's breakfast program at 3 preschools in the area.
- Linda organized activity days and movie nights for youth.
- During the Christmas season, the angel tree program purchased gifts for children whose households struggled financially.
- Families are also helped through involvement in the Christmas basket program for the wider community.
- Seniors in the community received their Christmas meals and baskets, along with a wide range of community events.
- The food baskets program and other supplies went to both men's and women's homeless shelters
- St. Paul's, under Linda

Faith's leadership, organized a collection drop-off and distribution centres for the 46 families made homeless after the October 2020 fire at an apartment building on Victoria Ave.

- Linda Faith fostered working relationships with local schools, the Black Watch, the legion, local homeless shelters, and a food security program during the pandemic through ARC.

These examples are only a small fraction of the work she has done to improve the health and well-being of monteregie's English-speaking community.

Thank you Rev. Faith for your leadership, commitment and for never backing down from a challenge. Your light shines bright in the community and we can't thank you enough!



The Rev. Linda Faith Chalk with her RHSSPT STAR Program Award.

Fr Linus Buriani Completes his First Year at Dio

ANDY O'DONNELL

The Rev Andy O'Donnell is the Incumbent of St Stephen's with St James, Chambly and Chair of the Partnership Committee.

Father Linus Buriani has been successful in his first year at Montreal Diocesan Theological College (DIO) and McGill. He is expecting 3 A's this term; all the more impressive as he is studying in his third language. He has been tutored by The Rev. Susan Searle and helped and supported by the faculty of Montreal Diocesan Theological College and the faculty of Religious Studies, at McGill University.

Linus returned to his family

on April 30th, 2023. He will be back at Dio in August to complete his Bachelor of Theology and is on track to graduate in May 2024.

At the completion of his degree, he will return to his position as the Principal of St. Cyprian's Theological College in Masasi. Fr. Linus' education will strengthen the academic standards of teaching at St. Cyprian's Theological College, which is on the same grounds as Rondo Junior Seminary, in Mtama-Lindi, Tanzania.

Bishop Mary and Mark hosted a supper to recognize Linus' hard work and safe travels on April 28th.

Bringing Father Linus to Montreal is a major com-

mitment of the Partnership Committee. The generosity of funds raised through last year's Bishop's Action Appeal, bursaries from Montreal Diocesan Theological College and the UK's St. Augustine's Foundation have made this project possible.

If you would like to help fund Father Linus' education, visit the Diocesan website at www.montreal.anglican.ca and click on the "Donate Now" button. In the drop-down menu under "Fund" select "The Rev. Linus Buriani education". If you would like Father Linus to visit your parish in the fall or next year, email The Ven. Michael Robson at mjrmtl@gmail.com to set a date.



April 28, 2023. Bishop Mary and Mark hosted a farewell supper for Rev. Linus. L to R: the Ven Dr. Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu, Mr. Mark Gibson, Musa Dauda Anto, The Rev. Linus Buriani, Right Rev. Mary Irwin-Gibson and Mrs. Brigitte Ngoudie. Photo supplied.

Warm Hearts Making a Difference - Every Little Bit Helps

When Roslyn Macgregor came to St. James at the beginning of Lent to tell us about the Lenten Project we immediately went into action. Most of our congregation was in attendance and a few ideas were tossed about. We finally decided to increase our coffee donation by double or triple the regular amount we usually put into the "cof-

fee pot". We were pleasantly surprised to learn that we had collected \$170.50 up to and including Easter. A cheque for this amount was forwarded to PWRDF in Toronto.

The same day, Roslyn Macgregor preached at Eglise de la Nativité. Members of Eglise de la Nativité began a Lenten collection for the Diocesan Lenten

PWRDF Project. We remembered "Apeti pou aprann" - the project begun by Solid'Haïti in the Diocese of Montreal together with PWRDF after the 2010 earthquake. PWRDF at work then; PWRDF at work now with Indigenous communities in Canada.



Ladies of the Round Table: the dedicated and hard-working parishioners of St James, Rosemere. Standing from L to R: Carole, Bev and Patricia. Seated, from L to R: Marlene, Christel, Lillian and Christina.



Adrian; A Happy Camper! Photo supplied.

A Nature Mission Camping Project - Summer 2023

LOU HACHEY

Ms. Linda (Lou) Hachey is the Director of Mile End Mission.

For a second year, the Mile End Mission is making plans to send a group of children to the Quebec Lodge Outdoor Centre on Lake Massawippi for another wonderful week of summer camp. Our partnership project with the Quebec Lodge, which we call 'A Nature Mission', aims to provide the Mission's city kids with a fun, hands-on learning experience about nature, the environment and healthy living skills. Recruiting most of its teachers from their partners at Bishop University's education program, the Quebec Lodge team promises a truly enriching summer experience!

The camp will take place from July 9th until August 11th, with small groups of children taking part in a one-week stay

during this four-week time frame. With a cost of \$500 per week for each child, we are hoping to raise enough funds to send 10-15 kids to camp again this year.

The Anglican Foundation of Canada has graciously continued to support us in realizing this initiative by having us join their Say Yes! to Kids 2023 online fundraising platform. We are very happy to know that the funds we raise on this platform will be further enhanced by the Anglican Foundation of Canada.

Our kids really need a break from the city and from all the cares and worries they face in our increasingly challenging world. Please help make their nature experience happen by donating to the Mile End Community Mission's team on the Say Yes! To Kids 2023 campaign portal which is posted on our Facebook page.

Easter Vigil *continued from page 4*

for my wool cassock!

Holy Saturday morning rolled around, and still no power at the church. What should we do about the Easter Vigil? This would be the first Easter Vigil Christ Church Beaurepaire had held in many years, and I had planned for it to be a multi-parish event, bringing together participants from St. John the Baptist (Pointe-Claire), St. George's (Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue) and Christ Church Beaurepaire (Beaconsfield). Should we cancel? Or should we try to proceed without electricity? If so, how do we manage the lighting?

Finally, we decided to proceed with our Easter Vigil... even with some fear and trembling on my part, as I wondered whether this was this right thing to do.

We pulled out every candle we could find and added a few battery-operated LED reading lights picked up hastily from Canadian Tire. But, would it be enough? Would we be stumbling around in the dark?

Ultimately my fears were baseless. As we listened to the traditional Easter Vigil readings, each holding our own

little candles, night gradually surrounded us. Yet the soft glow of candlelight overcame the darkness – a powerful, though unplanned, symbol of Christ's Light shining forth amidst the darkness of the world.

What initially seemed like an Easter Vigil marred by unforeseen circumstances turned out to be a deeply moving experience for all, as we celebrated the first Mass of Easter by candlelight like our forebears did in ancient times. And even in such difficult conditions, 35 worshipers gathered for this tri-parish Easter Vigil – including clergy representation from our ecumenical partners, as Lutheran Pastor Eric Dyck and United Church Pastor Lisa Byer-de Wever (Merging Waters United Church) took active roles in this special service.

A huge thank you to all who pulled together to make these services happen despite such difficult conditions. But if ever there were a blatant symbol of the truth of Easter, this was it! No darkness can overcome the Light, Life and Love of Christ!



Neil Mancor shares a story at St Paul's in Greenfield Park, May 5, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.

The Diocese: A Community Working Together

NEIL MANCOR

The Rev Canon Dr Neil Mancor is the Congregational Development Officer for the Diocese.

In my work as part of the Diocesan staff, I often get asked questions about the Diocese. People want to know what the Diocese is planning or what might be done about a given situation. There will be wondering about what The Diocese does for us. But when you think about it, what is the Diocese of Montreal?

It could be Bishop Mary, the Vicar General and Archdeacons who help lead all of us. As Anglicans, we are an episcopal Church, and that leadership is important. Perhaps the Diocese is the bishop working with the Diocesan Council and our annual Synod. We are, as the saying goes, episcopally led and synodically governed, and those meetings when we all gather are necessary and significant expressions of our diocesan life.

Or maybe the Diocese is the Bishop and the staff who work at 1444 Union. Ours is a diverse and energetic staff all of whom care deeply about our diocesan family and can offer helpful, practical services to everyone. On the creative side we have gifts to share to help bring new energy and ideas and make them happen.

All of this is good, but I think there is something missing when thinking about the Diocese. Because the question suggests an "us" and a "them", an institution that is remote from the reality on the ground. But maybe, the Diocese is the Bishop, the Synod, the staff, the leadership and all the parishes together. Maybe the Diocese of Montreal is all of us, the People of God, working together.

Some of the greatest encouragements I have seen around the Diocese this year all come from places where we have worked together and shared our time, energy and resources. A couple of examples.

This year at our annual clergy retreat, members of our Diocesan Spiritual Directors group led us in prayer and meditation. We have a wonderful group of spiritual directors who meet regularly and are willing and very able to work with you, individually in your own spiritual journey, or at your church. They can put on retreats and lead quiet days. At our retreat they brought many gifts which blessed us in new ways as a clergy group. They can do the same for you – so ask!

Last year I worked with the stewardship team at St George's Place du Canada on a campaign that focussed on increasing participation in automated giving. We also used the Environics maps the Diocese commissioned to focus more upon who lives all around the Church and how the congregation might connect with them. The good news is that they significantly increased the number of people on automated giving which is making a difference. They also are finding new interest from the younger adults who live in condos all around them. With the arrival of the very energetic Rev Helen Liddell as their new priest and St Michael's mission moving into the annex, St George's is well positioned to move towards flourishing. So, we are planning a new stew-

ardship campaign with many good news stories to tell. We share our time and resources and, together, are making a difference.

This year you will be hearing a great deal about the Bible Story Walk (see p.1), pioneered by Lee Ann Matthews. The basic concept is to create an installation for outside Church buildings that might appeal to people walking by and invite them into the ongoing story of faith. Using the creation story as told by Godly Play, Lee Ann has created a series of beautiful panels that combine art and wondering questions. We are interested in moving this installation around different locations in the Diocese – let us know if you are interested. We launched in May at St Paul's Greenfield Park. There the priest Trevor Potter, together with the congregation, have embraced this project enthusiastically and we are very interested to see what will happen there.

These are a few of the ways all of us, working together, can make a difference in the lives of our parishes, and so in the life of the Diocese of Montreal. Because the Diocese is all of us and when we work synergistically we can have an impact. But it takes all of us: we all have gifts to share and, together, we can make a difference.



The Bible Story Walk launched at St Paul's, May 5, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



Crosstalk Ministries Day Camps

Is your community looking for an outreach ministry that goes beyond the average boxed VBS? Crosstalk Ministries Day Camps is ready to meet your needs! Our Programs are great for communities looking for low-cost, pre-planned and all-inclusive packages that provide churches with an affordable outreach opportunity for families from all income levels. Day Camps are also a great way to generate more community involvement and are adaptable to a wide variety of contexts.

For 2023 we offer "Something to Celebrate!" exploring Parables from the Gospel of Luke. Our programs unpack these parables through songs and games, small groups, crafts and liturgical dance all geared to campers of 4-12 years. CTM offers two different models to meet your needs:

The Backyard Package-250\$ designed for purchase by a church to then be shared via a secure link with families who register. Includes five 2 ½ hour-sessions and can be presented at times and days suited to each family from the security of their own homes and backyards. It is also adaptable for small churches who wish to run a half day program.

The Classic Day Camp-550\$ (with a 100\$ discount should you not require a mentor) comprises five units, each of which includes 5 hours of activities. Provides you with a detailed Community Planner that details the process of recruiting volunteers, collecting supplies and encouraging the whole church family to be involved. Plus it provides access to a "mentor" who is matched with you and will join your meet-

ings via an online platform as well as offer support via text message throughout your Day Camp week.

The Extended Day Package-50\$ for communities wishing to offer additional activities, stretching the Classic Day Camp program to a full 8-hour day in order to better accommodate some families.

Day Camp packages include digital copies of all necessary promotional and program materials with the Classic Day Camp package also including a comprehensive training video for volunteers. Whatever your community's situation, one of these programs can help ensure that the children of your church family and wider community have "Something to Celebrate!" for summer 2023.

Visit the CTM website www.crosstalkministries.ca to access the fillable Day Camp Application form or contact us office@crosstalkministries.ca to receive a pdf version.

For ongoing all ages ministry we recommend-

The Come Together E-Book-40\$ containing all the resource materials necessary for churches and communities who would like to offer all-age worship gatherings throughout the Church Year. Included for each Gathering is an introduction, running order and a large resource section filled with video and audio links, activities, recipes and more. The e-book has close to 100 pages filled with ideas for vibrant worship experiences in which the whole church family can participate.

St. Joseph's Garden

continued from page 4

Brossard awarded St. Joseph's a \$2,500.00 grant in early 2023. The grant will enable us to add pollinator plants and fruit trees around the garden, upgrade our gardening equipment, and add picnic tables, chairs, and raised garden beds. To help with our expansion, we formed a committee to plan future projects for the garden, such as inviting guest speakers and holding community events.

Each person who has worked in the community garden has brought a special talent or skill, and we continu-

ously learn from one another. New volunteers have joined our garden project this year through word of mouth and advertising on our Facebook page (St. Joseph's Community Garden Brossard).

Having a garden behind the church and the share box for books in front has brought a lot of positive attention and curiosity from the neighboring community. We hope that the garden project will continue to nurture and feed our community, through sustenance and spiritual growth.

A Prayer from the Diocesan Representatives The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer - Canada

Gracious God, we take this time of prayer to lift up the sacred relationship between the Indigenous Peoples of Canada and the Crown. As the new Carolean Era begins, we pray that you will open all hearts to renew these ties with sincerity and purpose. We offer our thanks and praise that His Majesty King Charles III met with Indigenous leaders prior to the coronation to hear their concerns and to begin the conversation anew. We pray that this on-going dialogue will be open, informed, and lead to meaningful reconciliation.

God of truth and sorrow, we confess that we are not always as engaged as we could be with Indigenous issues. We pray that saying the land acknowledgement each Sunday will move us beyond words to action. Help us to affirm Indigenous people as equal brothers and sisters in Christ with inherent rights who are due respect, freedom and peace. Help us to listen to their stories of marginalization and inter-generational abuse with compassion and love, and move us to join with them in creating safe spaces for the



healing Spirit to walk in. Help us to make every effort to investigate the mystery of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and to become advocates in this search for justice. Help us to take seriously the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to understand how it is being applied to Canadian law.

God of hope and possibilities, we thank you for instilling in His Majesty King Charles III a genuine interest in Indigenous practices and a sincere willingness to listen and learn. May his long-term commitment to the Indigenous People of Canada be an inspiration to others. We pray that this relationship continues to grow and to yield impactful change. From monarch to commoners, we are all called to serve one another and it is through this sacred act that the Kingdom of God will be lived out here on earth.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.
Valerie Bennett and Stacey Neale

For more information on AFP-C, contact Valerie Bennett and Stacey Neale at valstacey@bell-net

Risen up! *continued from page 1*

Restoration work was also hindered by the pandemic's worldwide supply chain issues. Some of the materials needed for the work, including the additional scaffolding and many other highly technical items, had to be sourced elsewhere than originally planned with longer lead times and higher costs.

In May 2022, the Dean faced his own fear of heights and climbed the scaffolding to the top of the spire in to bless the cross as it was set back in place, a powerful symbol of the presence of Christ in the heart of the city of Montreal. Since

then, our teams of architects and contractors continued to work steadfastly – tackling each challenge as it arose – and finally taking down the scaffolding from our spire.

This has been an extraordinary journey, one that will ensure that the Cathedral will continue to be a place of gathering for Anglicans and Montrealers for many years to come.

We have celebrated completion of the project and are now faced with counting the financial shortfall, likely to be in the region of \$500 to 750,000. We are extremely grateful to

the Conseil du Patrimoine Religieux du Québec for their significant support, and to the many individuals and foundations who have contributed so far. Please consider sending a financial donation to minimize the impact of this necessary work on our ongoing mission.

You can donate by e-transfer to accounting@montrealcathedral.ca with "spire" in the message, a cheque labeled "Spire" to Christ Church Cathedral, 1444 Av. Union, Montreal, H3A 2B8 or online at montrealcathedral.ca/finishing-the-spire.

We're Back!!!
Nous sommes de retour!!!

St. Lawrence Anglican Church
520 - 75e Avenue
LaSalle, Québec H8R 2P5
Tél.: (514) 366-4652

SUMMERFEST

Saturday, August 5, 2023, starting at 12:00 pm
Samedi 5 août 2023, à partir de 12h00

A festival featuring fine Caribbean delicacies, including a fish fry!
Un festival de fines spécialités caribéennes, comprise une friture de poisson!

For more information, please contact the church:
Pour plus d'information, s'il-vous plaît contacter l'église:
(514) 366-4652; stlawrence520@gmail.com

St Lazarus *cont from p 4*

(a highly stigmatized disease in the ancient world), but in modern times the mission of the Order has been expanded to include care for the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the dying, promotion of Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation, and the preservation and promotion of the ideals of Christian chivalry.

As a Christian Order of Chivalry, membership in the Order of St. Lazarus is open to men and women who: identify as Christian and strive to follow Christ's teachings, are of good character and standing in their community, and wish to help others. www.saintlazarus.ca

Notable

June 10, 2023

Plant and Craft Sale at St Paul's GFP, 321 Empire, Greenfield Park. Bake table, books, plants etc. For information contact Gloria Kidd at 450-678-2460 or gkidd71@yahoo.com

Notable

June 24, 2023

Family Fun Fair at St Barnabas, Pierrefonds, 12301 rue Colin. For information call 514-684-4460 or contact by email st-barnabaschurchpierrefonds@hotmail.com

A Few More Great Shots from Around the Diocese



George Deare headed up the kitchen for the pancake supper at Christ Church Cathedral on Shrove Tuesday.



The Rt Rev Ogé and Serette Beauvoir at the Black Heritage service, Christ Church Cathedral. Photo by Janet Best.



Herman Gravenhorst and Liliana Charry Palacios (with Rev Fresia Saborio) were two of the people received into the Anglican Communion on Easter Day. Photo supplied.