

RECTOR'S NOTES

Maria and I read an article in the fall that reminded us that we don't volunteer in our church, we minister. I thought of how our parish is rich with ministers, both those who serve within our building and those whose ministry is beyond what our congregation would ever see. Woven together, all our skills, passions and gifts create a beautiful community where we delight in God and care for this world.

The article was written by ERIN WATHEN. You can find it on the internet but let me share a large excerpt:

"If you ask a grandparent, or an elder of your church, I'm pretty sure they will tell you that the church they grew up in never asked them to volunteer. Historically, the church has asked people to serve—as deacons, as greeters, as Sunday school teachers, or on the property committee. Whatever the job, it was considered a service. A ministry.

The language of volunteerism is a pretty recent addition to the church lexicon. It has emerged with the mega-church of the last few decades—and the culture in which small to moderate size churches replicate the language and practices of larger churches. "Volunteering" is something you're asked to do, right off the bat in these places. It gets folks engaged, which is great. Maybe you give them a flashy name badge that says "VOLUNTEER" in big red letters, or a brightly colored t-shirt that declares "VOLUNTEER" on the back. This identifies you as someone who's there to help; one who can answer questions, give directions, or generally point you toward the donuts. That's a good thing.

But I balk at the secular nature of what it means to volunteer. To volunteer means that you are an outside resource, stepping in to help an organization in need. Volunteering is what we do when we pick up trash at the park, or build a house with Habitat, or help sort food at the local food pantry. Volunteering is what I do at my kids' school on Fridays. In other words, it's what you do at a place that is important to you—but not at a place that belongs to you.

And I guess that is the important distinction for me... You cannot volunteer at your own church; in the same way you cannot babysit your own kid. Because the church belongs to you in the same way your family does. It's your own place, your own people. So, of course, you help take care of it. Of course, you do yard work and make coffee and teach the kids and sing in the choir and whatever all else it is you do for the home and the people that you love.

A volunteer, in most cases, is just visiting. A fly-by. Maybe it's a helpful fly-by, but it's not the same as belonging to something. It's not the same as contributing to something bigger than you, something that's part of who you are.

Maybe some practices of inordinately large churches are good ones, systems from which we can learn a great deal about connection and engagement. But ultimately, the language of volunteerism is secular, and more to the point, it is corporate. The notion is rooted in consumer culture, in which we can swoop in and give or take a measure that we deem fit, and then dart out again feeling we have done our part. We do a disservice to our faith, and to the gospel itself, when we reduce the work of the church to something you can mark on a time card.

All that said, we live in the world we live in, and we cannot realistically extract this word from the life of the church. It is both a noun and a verb, and it's the one that just rolls off the tongue when we are asking people to come and do work. Which, in the church, we are forever asking people to do. Still, as I plan for a summer sermon series on discipleship and what it means to let the church be the church, I feel a strong nudge to challenge how we talk about—and think about—the time and energy we spend in ministry. It's important to recognize those gifts for what they are—ministry—and I'm not sure the word "volunteer" does justice to the depths contained in the work people actually do in their churches. Call it serving. Call it discipleship. Call it the priesthood of believers, or mission, or the ministry that we all share together. Admittedly, "Priesthood of Believers" does not look great on a t-shirt. And it maybe doesn't invite visitors to ask you where the bathrooms are... But whatever we do, we should remember that we don't just belong to the church—it belongs to us. And we do not babysit that which is ours."

This past fall we spent a lot of time focusing on Stewardship in the parish. Thank you to all who responded, got involved, filled out intention forms and prayed for us. Your responses were amazing and we are still processing all of the data. Your messages, offerings of ministry and financial commitment tell me that you know that God has called you here, that this is your home and that you are part of the family. I am a happy priest.

Jennifer

ASSOCIATE'S NOTES

It was a busy Advent and Christmas season, but to me it felt blessed rather than rushed. I was grateful for all those who organized and took part in the many activities and worship services over this time. The Travelling Magi made their way from home to home. There were lovely Advent communion celebrations at the long-term care and retirement homes I visit, and a beautiful Christmas Seniors' Tea the week before Christmas, organized by Priscilla Larcher and Lenna McLaughlin and their team of bakers, sandwich makers, drivers, servers, craft makers, and musicians. Each Christmas Eve service had a distinct feel to it. Our Christmas Pageant narrators, Shawn and Sheena, read expressively and cued all the many characters in their lines. Our theological student, Louise, who was working "behind the scenes" at the 4pm service to get kids into costumes, described the pageant as "chaotic – but delightfully so." I must admit that after the excitement of Advent and Christmas, I felt a sense of "now what?" and a definite sense of sadness when Priscilla died on January 5th. She will be deeply missed.

There is a beautiful poem by Howard Thurman called *The Work of Christmas* which addresses the "now what?" sense we feel after all the festivities are over and we've put away all the decorations. And Thurman, drawing on the prophet Isaiah and the gospels, points out that the real work of Christmas is: "To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among others, To make music in the heart." That is where we find ourselves at the beginning of a new calendar year. Or as Jennifer put it so beautifully in her Epiphany homily: we are called to let God's light shine through us in our words and actions. 2020 is a Leap Year, so we even have one bonus day to do this! Wishing you many blessings in the New Year!

BONUS DAY Event for Youth and Older Adults Saturday, February 29, 11:00 am-2:00 pm, in the Parish Hall

Looking for a way to spend that extra day in February? We are planning a time of fellowship for Youth and Older Adults (60+), in which to share our faith stories, discover the ways God is at work in our lives, and, being inspired by one another, to respond creatively! Lunch will be provided. Please let us know if you have any special dietary needs. And as an added 'bonus', there is no cost. You can contact Lydia Cordie (stpetersyouth14@gmail.com) or Maria Nightingale (associate@stpeterserindale.org) for more information and to sign up. Or look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the beginning of February.

Maria

SENIOR'S COMMUNION & TEA

The Senior's Communion Tea continues to be a successful event at St Peter's and 2019 was no exception with an average of 50-70 guests at each event.

We celebrate this event three times yearly - Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The tea gives the seniors in the community the opportunity to get together for an afternoon of worship, fellowship and fun – not to mention communion, food and the sing-songs!

A special thanks to Jennifer and Maria for the services and to Clem for providing the music. Also, to the ladies who provide the delicious sandwiches and goodies, and to the drivers and David and all the other helpers.

As mentioned in Maria's letter, our main organizer, Priscilla Larcher, was lost to us early in January. We will honour her by continuing this wonderful tradition of service to the community.





Our next Tea is Thursday April 16, 2020. Please note, we are in need of additional drivers to transport seniors from our parish who don't drive so that they can attend as well. If you are interested in helping as a driver, please contact me through the church office.

We look forward to seeing you there. Many Blessings to all.

Lenna McLaughlin

ACW (ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN) THANK YOU

We would like to thank James Ethelston for the delicious luncheon that he catered for the ACW on Tuesday, December 17, 2019. Thank you also to Sharmini Arulanandam for the sing-a-long, especially "The Twelve Days of Christmas". It was great fun! Thank you to everyone for helping to set up and take down the tables, etc. We hope everyone had a wonderful, blessed Christmas and have a healthy, happy and peaceful 2020.

2019 CHRISTMAS CARE SUMMARY

2019 marked the 32nd year for the Christmas Care program at St. Peter's - previously known as Caring and Sharing. Following the guidance of the program founders, Bob and Gert Penwill, our family has had the privilege of assisting with the coordination of this program for the past 17 years; and, with your kindness and generosity, hope to continue for many more years.

On Saturday, December 21, 30 families received gifts, books, clothing, Christmas stockings, food and gift cards. Your passion for giving made Christmas brighter for 103 people in those 30 families - 52 adults (including 5 Seniors) and 51 children! Trillium Health Centre and Credit Valley Hospital Oncology departments connected us to 11 families; Interim Place 6 families; St. Peter's 13 families.

As we perhaps forget during preparations for the coming of Christ, it is the Christmas season when those in need feel the most pressure to provide for their loved ones. But, through your unwavering support, that pressure was eased and a ray of light was shone on 103 people. Our family thanks you!

The Hobbs Family

ORDER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO

Congratulations to Sharron Lamour for being given the Order of the Diocese of Toronto. Sharron received this award (to be presented by Bishop Asbil here on February 2) for her outstanding service in her volunteer ministry in the Diocese and for the Bishop of Toronto.

Sharron joins fellow ODTs of this parish – the late Jack Lowe, Stu Hutcheson, the late Eric Pollard, Joan Higginbottom, Bill Matthews and Cathy Matthews. We are delighted to have Sharron recognized for her ministry.

ST. PETER'S AT THE BRIDAL SHOW!

On January 10-12, 2020 our parish had a booth at Canada's Bridal Show at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Approximately 15,000 came through and we met a lot of those folks. We handed out almost 900 prayer cards, inviting people to consider their faith at their wedding and to let them know that clergy are there to support them throughout their married life. Our Pride flag was visible and attracted much support and many smiles. Our team represented this parish beautifully; sharing their own stories with visitors to the booth. It's hard to know what impact our presence might have had but more than once we overheard people describing how wonderful it was that we were there.

Thank you to the team who ran the booth with me: Lisa Spence, Judy Hutcheson, Annie Aldworth and Louise Simos. Thank you to Anne Fabierkiewicz for helping with the planning.

Jennifer



HANDBELL CHOIR NOTES & SPRING CONCERT

On November 23, 2019, the handbell choir was proud to be a part of a concert featuring five ringing groups from our surrounding area. The concert, entitled United We Ring, featured handbell choirs from Christ First United, Lorne Park Baptist, Maple Grove United, St Peter's and our hosts from Eden United. All five choirs participated in the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers (OGEHR) festival held in June 2019 and our November concert featured the massed music that all choirs learned for the festival. In addition, each choir performed a

piece of their own. The massed music was conducted by Mark Matterson and Beverly Killen, who conducts the Eden choir.

The concert was dedicated to the memory of Terry Head, who died on November 17, 2019. Terry was very active in the Ontario handbell community, directing a number of choirs in the London area and he was the Vice President of OGEHR. All of the ringers who performed at the concert had a connection to Terry and his sudden passing was a shock to all. Aside from rehearsing and performing together, the choirs ate dinner together, sharing a meal prepared by the Eden UCW. The one rule for dinner was that each table needed to consist of ringers from more than one choir. It is always fantastic to see communities being strengthened and that happened over dinner.

The next big event for the St Peter's Handbell Choir will be the annual Spring Concert on Sunday, April 26 at 4:00 pm. It will be at St. Peter's and will once again feature special guests, Ontario Male Chorus and Boys in B. All of the groups are working hard to prepare for what promises to be another fantastic afternoon of music. A freewill offering will be collected at the door, with a suggested amount of \$10-\$20. Please join us if you can.

Mark Matterson

INTERFAITH DINNER

Members of the congregation of St. Peter's, Solel Synagogue, and Masumeen Islamic Centre gathered on January 19 for a potluck Interfaith Dinner. In addition to enjoying delicious food, highlights of the evening included a getting-to-know-you bingo game, a presentation on last summer's Interfaith Peace Camp, and the chocolate chip cookie contest between the faith leaders of all three congregations. Sheikh Jaffer was the contest winner this time, though as Jennifer said, everyone who attended were winners since we all got to spend time together (and eat the extra cookies)!



CONFIRMATION CLASS

For our next Confirmation Class, we are reaching out to those aged eleven and a half and up (adults are most welcome, too) who would like to learn more about their faith and prepare to be confirmed.

Please let Canon Reid know by February 29 if you are interested. Classes will be held at a time that suits the majority of the group.

JUST WHAT IS A POSTULANT ANYWAY?

When I meet new people at St. Peter's and mention that I am a Postulant, I usually get a puzzled stare. If you recognize the word at all, chances are your mind jumps to the nuns in the Sound of Music -- in fact the most common definition of the term postulant is "a candidate for admission to a religious order." But no, I am not preparing to join a convent!

The word postulant comes from the Latin verb *postulare*, to demand, and is the term the Anglican Church uses for those who are asking for ordination to the diaconate or priesthood. In the Diocese of Toronto this is a multi-stage process: I began as an applicant, and after an in-depth interview and reference process, I became a postulant in June of 2019. As a postulant I will spend two years of supervised formation that includes learning, prayer, psychological testing and placements like this one at St. Peter's. God and the Bishop willing, I will become an ordinand for a brief period before ordination as a transitional deacon, and eventually a priest.

Along the way, a postulant must complete a Masters of Divinity degree, and the postulants you may have met were probably also divinity students. However, I completed my Masters of Divinity at Trinity College last year. During my two-year postulancy I am working full time as a manager in the Ontario Public Service. As a "second-career" postulant, my journey has been longer than most, but through it all I have held fast to Jesus' encouragement to persevere:

Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. (Luke 11:9)

I am incredibly grateful to be serving at St. Peter's and learning from all of you. I hope to get to know you better in the coming months.

Louise Simos, Postulant

CHANCEL GUILD – BE PART OF AN IMPORTANT MINISTRY

Be a part of an important Ministry! The Chancel Guild is responsible for reverent preparation of services for Sundays, funerals and weddings and for the care of the brass, silver, crystal and linen involved in the services and for the church sanctuary itself. We are also responsible for decorating the church for the various festival seasons.

We work in teams of five or six so you never have to work alone. Each team is 'on' for two weekends in a row every two months. You'll need to be available for Saturday morning set-up and on Sunday morning you would cover the service at the time you usually attend. If you travel, not a problem. Working on a team means there's always someone to fill in for you or you can conscript a member from another team.

Please visit us at work in the Sacristy (the little room to the left of the altar) between services and get to know some of the members. If you have questions, speak to Lisa Spence (9:15 attendee) or email lisalspence@rogers.com.

Lisa Spence

INTERFAITH PEACE CAMP – COMING JULY 2020

Registration for the 4th Annual Peel Interfaith Peace Camp, to be held July 13 – July 17, is now open.

Children entering grades 2-6 in the fall of 2020 may register as campers. We also have a few spots available for children entering grades 7 & 8 in the fall of 2020 to register for camp as "counselors in training". In this role, senior campers will develop leadership skills they can use for volunteer opportunities in high school or to volunteer with us in high school as junior counselors. For more information about counselors-in-training please speak to your faith leader or a camp representative.

To register for the 2020 camp as a camper or counselor-in-training please complete the online form at <http://pipcamp.ca/camper>

We also have community service opportunities for high school students. If you have a high school-aged child interested in volunteering as a camp counselor, please visit <http://pipcamp.ca/counselor> to apply.

PEEL
Interfaith Peace Camp

**INTERFAITH
PEACE CAMP**

JUL 13-17, 2020
Day Camp from 9am-4pm
With a closing presentation and family potluck on Thursday, July 16th

Open to children entering grades 2-6
(In the Fall 2020, junior counselor/volunteer positions for high school students are also available. Apply at <http://pipcamp.ca/counselor>)

FEES: variable \$75-\$150 per child
Visit <http://pipcamp.ca/camper> to register

LOCATION:
Drop-off & Pick-up Central Mississauga; exact location will be announced in the Spring (counselors will be based to and from each day's location)

MORE INFORMATION
For more information or to register a camper or junior counselor please direct all inquiries to Canon Jennifer Reid at reidj@stpetersinrdale.org

COME TOGETHER for 5 days of fun, friendship and peace. Join kids from different religions and cultures and make new friends.

- Meet youth from other religious communities in Peel
- Learn about different religions
- Take part in social change
- Visit a church, synagogue, and mosque
- Learn and practice leadership skills
- Have fun with art, sports and more
- Fun field trip on the final day

During the week campers will have the opportunity to spend the day at each of the 3 faith centres where they will have the opportunity to explore each centre and learn a little about each faith. Each day will be filled with fun activities, engaging learning opportunities, and plenty of time to play and make friends. As in the past, camp hours will be 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

More details will be made available as camp planning get underway. In the meantime, you can visit <http://pipcamp.ca/camper> to register your child and reserve your spot for this year's camp. Registration will remain open until June 1st or until all the spots are taken.

Thank you!

Rebecca Zaidi
Camp Director

rites of passage

Baptisms

November 24, 2019
Charlotte Pierson-August
Jayla Tiffany Amanda Persad

January 12, 2020
Cyprus Arthur Jackson
James Patrick Alexander Musgrave
Sara Elizabeth Anne Rumble

Deaths

November 12, 2019 – Roderick William Jones
November 17, 2019 – Marie Lillian Allworth
December 21, 2019 – Gregory Roger Phair
December 22, 2019 – John (Jack) Henry Davies
December 28, 2019 – Althea Mott
December 29, 2019 – Clinton Alexander Bryan
January 5, 2020 – Priscilla Lydia Larcher
January 20, 2020 – William (Bill) Alfred Higgins

Weddings

December 6, 2019 – Sherry Lynne Perreault & Daniel Joseph Francis Lehane
December 28, 2019 – Ayesha Hazel Dayal & Vishal Mukerjee
December 31, 2019 – Rachel Elizabeth Schoutsen & Daniel Michael Price-Owen

Clergy

Incumbent: The Rev. Canon Jennifer E. Reid
Chaplain to Seniors: The Rev. Maria Nightingale
Honorary Assistants: The Rev. Canon William Kibblewhite, The Rev. James Ferry,
The Rev. Canon David Long
Deacon & Music Director: The Rev. Clement Carelse

Wardens

Rector's Warden: Lucy Hart
Deputy Rector's Warden: James Beckwith
People's Warden: Rod Lewis
Deputy People's Warden: Carol Bailey

Email: stpeters@stpeterserindale.org

Contact Us

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