

THE LYCHGATE

October 2, 2016

Parish Newsletter of
The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields



From the Desk of the Rector

It was a flower

suddenly

there was Before I saw it, the vague
past, and Now. Forever. Nearby
was the sandy sweep of the Roman Road,
and where we sat the grass was thin.

From a bare patch of that poor soil,
solitary,
sprang the flower, face upturned,
looking completely, openly into my eyes.

I was barely old enough to ask



*

“Convulvulus,” said my mother.
Pale shell-pink, a chalice
no wider across than a silver sixpence.

It looked at me, I looked back,
delight filled me as if
I, not the flower,
were a flower and were brimful of rain.

And there was endlessness.
Perhaps through a lifetime what I’ve desired
has always been to return
to that endless giving and receiving,
the wholeness of that attention,
that once-in-a-lifetime
secret communion.

This excerpt from the lovely poem, *First Love*, by the English-born twentieth century American poet, Denise Levertov, captures a moment in time, a secret communion, that she experienced as a young child. When I read it, the words of Jesus in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew come to mind, as he calls us to become like little children in order to enter into the kingdom of heaven. To become as children may in this case be a call to an openness, an attentiveness to the moment, to the presence of God’s love in an upturned flower and in the many particular moments of our own lives, to stop and take time in the midst of very busy lives. To become as children may call us to take a deep delight in that moment of time that leads into the timeless experience of giving and receiving which Levertov writes of that is also at the heart of the Holy Trinity and our ultimate experience of God.

I think of all this as we enter into that period of time in the Church’s year when we give thanks for the bounty of the harvest and for the beauty of God’s creation. Pope Francis in his encyclical, *Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home*, calls Christians to an awe-filled contemplation of God’s creation, following in the footsteps of individuals such as St. Francis of Assisi. Care for the environment, our common home, springs first and foremost not from the perspective of utility, but from that of contemplation, pondering the mystery of God’s love as revealed to us in creation, in that little flower that captured the attention of a young Denise Levertov, or the call of the loon across windswept waters, or the rustle of leaves turned golden by the march of time. Only as we approach God’s creation with humility, with the respect due to a revelation of God’s love, will we truly begin to care for the world around us, to see it not as something to be used and discarded, but as something for which we give thanks and praise to God.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend this year, I invite each of us to take time to savour the moment, to embrace with full attention the wonder of God's creation, and to give thanks for the divine love which created and sustains it all.

Fr. Philip

*Photo of convolutes flower By Fan Wen - Own work http://www.flowersview.com/Convolvulus%20arvensis/02-IMG_6909.jpg.html, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=43506182>

Church Directory



The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields

151 Glenlake Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M6P 1E8

www.stmartininthefields.ca

Church: 416-767-7491
Fax: 416-767-7065

Incumbent:

Rev. Canon Philip
Hobson

Associate:

Rev. Canon Susan Bell

Assistant:

Rev. Andrew
MacDonald

Area Chaplain:

The Rev. Canon David
Luxton

Honorary Assistants:

Rev. James Decker
Rev. Canon Harold Nahabedian
Rev. Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan

Organist & Music Director:

Jack Hattey

Church Wardens:

Michael Attwood
Cindy Paget

Secretary:

Margaret Allen

Property Manager:

Mark Kolberg

Sunday School & Nursery

Grace Karram Stephenson
Emily Bell

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 15th

Diocesan Outreach and Advocacy Conference

Saturday, October 22nd

Caibbean Dinner, St. Andrew, Scarborough

Saturday, October 29th

The Deanery will be hosting another Bus tour of four historic deanery churches.

Sunday, October 30th

St James Cathedral Centre: Celebration of Faithworks

Sunday, November 13

Patronal Festival at St. Martin's. Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones will be the Celebrant & Preacher at the 11 a.m. service.

Saturday, November 19

Annual Nutcracker Fair

Sunday, December 4th

Advent Carol Service, 7:30 p.m., followed by reception

Saturday, December 10th

Advent Quiet Day

Since July 3, 2016

Madeline Ann Hyland was baptised on Sunday, September 25th. A funeral was held for Barry Doughty on October 1. There have been no further weddings or confirmations since the last newsletter on July 3.

About *The Lychgate* Newsletter

The Lychgate is published four times a year. Parishioners are encouraged to submit news and articles to the newsletter editor:

Ian Greene & Eilonwy Morgan:
iangreene0766@rogers.com

Children's and Youth Ministry

By Susan Bell+, on behalf of the Children and Youth Ministry recruitment team

After much prayer and many hours of discernment and process, the Children and Youth Ministry Recruitment team is extremely pleased to announce that we have hired Grace Karram Stephenson, a member of our parish, as our Children's and Youth Ministry Coordinator.

Finding just the right person for this much needed position has been a challenge. Over the past year and a half, the committee had made two offers to two good candidates. However, in each case the home parish of the person found a way to keep their parishioner employed in their own parish. Then it began to occur to our committee that perhaps God might likewise raise up someone from within our own parish community. So when Grace offered herself for discernment, it seemed an answer to prayer.

Grace Karram Stephenson (who is defending her PhD at the University of Toronto this month) has a good deal of experience working with children and youth, and a passion for helping to make church school and youth activities exciting for our young people to attend. As well, she presented the recruitment committee with a number of creative ideas – for example, creating a “space” for young

children who want to stay upstairs with their parents, and devising church school lessons for our children that are more interactive and attuned to their “digital age” sensibilities. And Grace understands the parish family and the geographic parish as well. She and her husband John, and children Mäelle and John Jr. have been parishioners for some years. She is a talented and creative addition to the ministry team at St. Martin's and we are grateful for her gifts as we look to the future of the parish and this ministry in particular.

Grace has many exciting plans for the church school and youth ministry but they cannot be achieved by her alone. So we prayerfully encourage you to consider joining her team of volunteers who will help plan and lead the education and formation of our children and youth in the next season of St. Martin's parish life.

Loving God, we ask for your guidance, that we may all be teachers and learners together. Believing that you are in our midst, we ask your blessing on Grace as she leads this ministry of care and formation for our children and youth. May our church school teachers and volunteers serve you in nurturing the spiritual growth of all who are entrusted to their care. Bless each one, enabling them to be channels of your grace. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Kids Church *LIVE!*

Learning together in 2016-2017

By Grace Karram Stephenson
Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator

“Why didn't David kill King Saul? He had already killed Goliath.”

Kids ask a lot of questions. The above question was asked by my daughter Mäelle during Kids' Church in the garden this summer. I had just told them the captivating story of King Saul hunting down David in the wilderness. Unsuccessful in his mission, King Saul stops to rest in a wayside cave. But the cave is deep and David has already taken up residence in its depths. It is the perfect time for David to get his revenge, to stop the man who is

determined to kill him. David, however, does not do it. He lets King Saul live.

As I finished telling the children this story I casually wrapped it up by saying that David did not kill Saul because we should never kill people. Wrong ending. Even the youngest child in the group knew that David was a hero because he killed Goliath. And I admit I did not have a ready answer when Maëlle asked why it was okay to kill in one instance and not in another. Fortunately, Nicholas Mangina did have an answer. Actually, he had more like six answers: "Maybe David had a different plan; maybe David thought Saul's men would get revenge; maybe David wanted to forge a strategic military alliance with the Philistines and stage a counterattack on Saul's kingdom..." ... the list went on.

This is what makes Kids' Church meaningful (and entertaining). It comes alive when kids ask crazy questions, or in this case, the obvious question that was on everyone's mind. The great part is that as teachers we do not have to have all the answers. Kids learn a lot more when they discover the answer on their own, with us alongside them.

Our St. Martin's kids are joyful, lively and sweet. Many of you have received a wide smile from Presley, a hug from Ivy or had a great conversation with Quinn. Perhaps you have watched jealousy as Ian and Gregory run around the garden during coffee hour. We have a wonderful group of kids, supported by incredible parents and grandparents. I would like to invite you to consider volunteering with our Kids' Church program or monthly youth group in some capacity. Involvement can vary from joining a regular teaching rotation or popping in twice a year to help with creative events (art projects, scavenger hunts, high holidays).

As we head into Fall 2016 our Kids' Church program is ramping up for a great year with our three Sunday morning children's programs: Nursery (0-3yrs), Primary (4-7) and Junior (8-11) – and our monthly youth group. We currently have

10 committed volunteers and we would love a few more in order to offer a program for our 12-14 year olds in the near future. For children who are more at home in the service a new space and resources for them upstairs is in the planning stage.

As the year rolls on, please let me know how the St. Martin's family can support your family. Although the questions may be difficult or the answer unexpected, the journey to knowing Christ's love is worth all the craziness and certainly better together.

KIDS NOTE: For any kids reading this, I have a challenge for you. Find a bible (or an adult with a bible) and head to 1 Samuel 24. What does David do instead of killing King Saul? Draw a picture of this and bring it to church school next Sunday for a prize. (If you can't come next Sunday – no problem – find me another time.)

Parish Profile: Ingrid Whitaker

By Ian Greene

Ingrid was born in Cape Town, South Africa, when apartheid came about during the early 1950s. Her parents saw the "writing on the wall", and so emigrated to England. She grew up in Kent, outside of London, and spent her formative years there. She went to a Church of England school – St. Michael's -- which is how she became an Anglican. She loved singing the hymns. Every morning the children would sing the hymns during a short service before school, and she still loves singing them.

When the family arrived in England, it was during the post-war era, and things were tough. Rationing was in effect. As a result, her parents decided to emigrate, once again, to Canada. She remembers when she was eleven going to go to an interview with her family at Canada House (then Dominion House) in London. It was an exciting day; she got to eat in a restaurant for the first time in her life. She remembers seeing a huge poster of the inside of a grocery store in Canada on the wall in

Dominion House; food was piled up inside. They didn't have things in abundance like that in England, and she was amazed. They knew Canada was modern, but at same time, she and her brother had an image of Canada as being primitive. They thought they should pack rifles because they might have to shoot bears from their log cabin. It was a strange dichotomy of expectations!

The family arrived in Toronto, and lived downtown in rental accommodation. Ingrid's poor father was without work for more than a year, and had a wife and four children to support. He was on the verge of returning to England when he got a job, which meant the family could stay. Ingrid had a strong English accent, but she was at an age where she wanted to fit in with the other children in school, so she worked hard to lose the accent. She now regrets losing the accent, especially as her school in England worked hard to make sure that all students learned the proper English accent.

Eventually, Ingrid's parents bought a house in Bramalea, and Ingrid went to high school there. Ingrid's father told the principal that Ingrid was very bright, and had started with a good education in England, and so she was placed in a higher grade than her age cohort. This meant that she graduated from Grade 13 when she was only 17, having maintained an honours average all the way through. She started her undergraduate degree in fine arts at York University in 1969 or 1970, and like Father Mulholland, was amongst the first cohort of students in the McLaughlin College residence (though they didn't know each other). There were separate girls' and boys' floors in the residence, and it was considered quite radical that both boys and girls would be in the same building! At that time, all the buildings at York were in the middle of a field, and there were no trees. She visited York University recently, and found it nearly unrecognizable: it now had trees.

After York, Ingrid went to teachers college at the University of Toronto, and specialized in visual

arts. That's where she met her husband, Jamie. She and Jamie were "the big romance" in teacher's college. They met in November, and got married the next June – more than 40 years ago.

Just after getting married, Ingrid started teaching at the age of 22. She taught in Oakville her entire career -- English, art, and library sciences -- but her favourite subject was Grade 13 English.

Neither Ingrid nor Jamie had any savings when they started teaching as they came from immigrant families, and so they could not afford to have children until they got their teaching careers established, and could start to save. After seven or eight years, Sara Jane was born, and Julian was born three years later.

Ingrid has always loved art. It started when she was three or four, and was confined to home for a long time with whooping cough. Her father bought her a paint set to give her something to do, and that's where she discovered that she loved painting. In kindergarten in England, she drew someone kneeling down, and she intuitively figured out which way the feet went and which way the knees went. The adults thought this was remarkable for a child her age, and she realized she had a gift. During her career, Ingrid had the chance to study art in both Italy and France, each time for a semester.

Because Ingrid started her teaching career at 22, she was able to retire and start drawing her pension in her mid-50s. She thoroughly enjoys retirement, and is never bored. I interviewed her during one of her art shows, and it was every bit as good as visiting one of Ontario's art galleries. If you haven't been to one of her shows, I highly recommend it. In addition to her art, her home garden (which is amazing) and the church garden keep her busy. She can often be seen at the church in the early morning. Some days, the church garden takes all day. She puts on the sprinkler at 7 a.m. and moves it every hour until 10 pm.

After Ingrid and Jamie retired in 2008, Jamie was offered a teaching position Switzerland at Neuchâtel Junior College, and so Ingrid and Jamie moved to Switzerland for four years. Neuchâtel is a private school that gives high school students – mostly from Ontario – a chance to experience Europe. By then, Sara-Jane and Julian were living on their own, but they came back and looked after the family home, just south of St. Martin's. Part of curriculum at Neuchâtel is to take the students on trips all over Europe. As a teacher, Jamie got to go on a lot of these trips, and Ingrid got to go on some as a supervisor. For example, the students spent Remembrance Day in Ypres, Belgium. The students visited many of the Canadian cemeteries where our soldiers from the First and Second World Wars are buried. They visited places such as Normandy, Juneau Beach, Rome, and Barcelona.

When Ingrid and Jamie weren't with the school children, they travelled by themselves, when they could, mostly by train. Berne was only 18 minutes away by train, and France, 20 minutes. Switzerland has four official languages, which is too many to teach, so they teach two official languages in the schools (depending on the region) plus English. Thus, there were few language issues for Jamie and when travelling Ingrid in Switzerland. They learned that living in a different country makes one appreciate Canada.

In the late 1970s, Ingrid and Jamie had saved up enough money to buy an affordable house. They were able to purchase their home on Indian Grove south of St. Martin's because it was a "handyman's special," and there was a steep set of stairs leading to the entrance – which they didn't mind. Naturally, Ingrid tested the waters at St. Martin's, the closest Anglican church, and she liked what she found. (She had grown up in a non-religious family, but she learned to enjoy church at her school in England, and so continued attending church on her own. Her family thought her love of church was strange, but they didn't object.) When she first came to St. Martin's, Father Jackson was

the priest, and Father Pritchard came soon after that.

Being an artist, she loves the music, the incense, the sense of peace at St. Martin's, and "the whole ritual. It appeals to my artistic sense. I feel the need for the contemplation." Ingrid is definitely not a fundamentalist, and so she enjoys the tolerance and open-mindedness of the community at St. Martin's.

She says that St. Martin's is a "fabulous community; Father Philip guides through gentleness." She missed St. Martin's during the four years that she and Jamie were in Switzerland. She tried to find another church that she would feel comfortable with when there, but without success.

Ingrid has been involved in quite a few activities at St. Martin's, in addition to the garden. When her children were young, she headed the nursery, and then the Sunday School and Christmas Pageant for a decade. She has served on Parish Council, and was on the outreach committee for 15 years. When Samson came (an Eritrean refugee sponsored by St. Martin's), he stayed with Ingrid for awhile. Unfortunately for him, he arrived during Toronto's most recent ice storm. He spoke no English, but Ingrid managed to show him how to chop ice off the steep steps to the house. That was his introduction to Canada! She also involves herself in other volunteer activities. For example, was involved with a building project for Habitat for Humanity in El Salvador several years ago.

Jaimie has also been active in St. Martin's. He used to do the nursery, helps with Garden (he laid the flagstones in garden), and currently helps with the St. Martin's web site by posting the bulletins. You will see him at the Nutcracker Fair -- behind the counter selling things.

Ingrid is now focusing her volunteer work at St. Martin's on the garden, and she also enjoys pickleball in the church basement on Thursdays at noon. She says the garden is a lot of work from April to November. She is often there early in the

morning for at least an hour, and frequently meets neighbours living near St. Martin's who tell her they love visiting the garden. She says that Pattie McKnight has been a faithful helper in the garden, but more help is always needed. Her new puppy thinks the garden belongs to him, but he's not much good at weeding!

Please contact Ingrid if you'd like to volunteer – a little or a lot – with the garden. Not only will you learn about gardening, but you will enjoy the conversation with her! Her email address is: tikkitorches@hotmail.com.

St. Martin's Lammas Food Drive

By Glen Storey

Every year for the month of August your Outreach Committee organizes the "Summer Lammas Food Drive." Last year we added an option to all our Parishioners to donate cash instead of food for their convenience. We would then buy food at some of the local wholesalers and factories which are not open to the public; there by stretching those dollars to buy more food. We were very pleased by the amount that was collected plus all the food that was dropped into the bins at the back of the church.

This year St. Martin's was able to surpass all other years in our annual food donation to St. Bartholomew's Food Bank in Regent Park. "St. Bart's" primarily caters to single men that live in the area and typically open up the first week of September. They really look forward to our donation because it usually enough to stock some of the bare shelves after being closed for the summer.

Thank you to all that contributed cash and non-perishable food this year from St. Bart's and your Outreach Committee.

Stewardship 2016 at St. Martin's

By Cyriline Taylor

St. Martin's annual Stewardship Campaign begins in October. The Campaign reminds parishioners of our personal responsibilities to the parish. It is a time to reflect on and renew our individual commitments to the church and our fellow parishioners.

The Campaign brochure will provide information on the financial requirements of St. Martin's and will remind us of the support we need to give to the various groups and committees that are functioning at St. Martin's.

You will be asked to complete a pledge sheet that comes with the brochure and return it by Commitment Sunday, November 20, the final Sunday in the Christian year. You are urged to generously share your time, talents and treasures.

This year's committee consists of Frank Bodkin, Maria Hayes, Cyriline Taylor, Peter Chauvin (Chair), Michael Attwood and Father Philip.

Pikangikum Update Fall 2016

By Glen Storey

It's easy to forget the small northern community of Pikangikum sitting on the boarder of Ontario and Manitoba that St. Martins supported three years ago. However the good Anglicans that form the "Pimatiswin Nipi clean water committee" have not and through PWRDF continue to move forward to install water in the second 10 homes that have been identified by the Band Council that have the greatest immediate need. Because our previous building partner had to pull out after the first phase, PWRDF had to seek a new partner and found that Habitat for Humanity Manitoba was interested and has made a proposal to build the next phase. Hopefully they will dot their "I's" and cross their "T's" and the project will begin to move

forward from there. The watchword here is to be patient and have faith.



July 24: Farewell to Jean Charles Denis, a Trinity divinity student doing his field work with us during the fall of 2015 and spring of 2016.

Summer Church Visits

By Ian Greene

A perusal of the 41 church bulletins that our parishioners brought home and posted in the narthex gives several indicators of who we are. We like to travel in the summer, and we don't take a summer vacation from church.

The favourite destination was **Newfoundland** with **nine**: The Church of the Holy Cross, Eastport, Parish of Salvage (three different Sundays); St. Thomas Anglican church, St John's; St. Mary the Virgin, St. Anthony; St. Peter's Twillingate; and St. Mark's Church, St. John's.

There were **seven** bulletins from churches in **Ontario**: St. Barnabas, Deep River; All Saints, Whitby; Grace Church, Milton; St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff, Scarborough; St. James, Stratford; St. John the Evangelist, Elora; and The Cathedral Church of St. James, Toronto (jazz mass).

In the **United Kingdom**, with **six** bulletins, we see St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London; Westminster Abbey, London (two); The Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lincoln; St. Machar's Cathedral, Old Aberdeen, Scotland; and the Abbey Church of Saint Alban. (By the way, St. Alban's was still accepting registrations for the annual pilgrimage to Walsingham, Nov 1-3, for those interested.)

Tied with the U.K. were **six** bulletins from the **United States**. You can see St. Patrick's Church, Yorktown Heights, NY; Epiphany Evangelical

Lutherian Church, Richmond, VA; Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY; Church of the Advent, Boston, Mass.; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Clarence, NY; and Trinity Church, Fall Island, Potsdam, NY.

There were **eight** bulletins from **five** additional Canadian provinces: Quebec (3), Alberta (2), and one each from Manitoba, Nova Scotia and British Columbia. From Quebec, we had St.-Leon de Westmount in Montreal; the Anglican Parish of Vaudreuil; and St. James Church in Hudson. In Alberta, we had the Anglican Parish of Holy Cross, Calgary, and the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Calgary. In **Manitoba** we see the Steinbach Mennonite Church. In **Nova Scotia**, we encounter St. Barra Parish, St. Columba, Iona, which is host to five other parishes: St. Mary's Frenchvale; St. Michael's; Queen of the World; Holy Trinity; and St. Andrew's. There was one bulletin from **B.C.**: St. Andrew's, Langley.

There were two bulletins from Queensland, **Australia**, for which we need to thank our "mate," **Fr. Philip**: St. Andrew, Indooroopilly (near Brisbane), and Boonah-Harrisville in Brisbane.

There was **one** bulletin from the **Caribbean**: The Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago. **Hong Kong** also had one: St. John's Cathedral. Finally, **France** had **one**: Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris.



Fred and Meryl Wedding Anniversary, celebrated after church, July 31