

THE LYCHGATE

December 3, 2017

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



From the Desk of the Rev'd Canon Susan Bell

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are." (1 John 3:1)

Inevitably, as I turn my mind to twenty years of ministry here at St. Martin's I remember the beginning. When I arrived at St. Martin's all those years ago, ever so green and terribly nervous (!), only Emily – then three years old - was with me. And you welcomed us – indeed as you have so many other families and children and adults over the years into this parish family. Since then Nicholas, Andrew and Olivia have arrived into the loving arms of this parish. They have grown strong in the faith because of the nurture and formation that this Christian community has offered so generously.

I've been thinking a lot about family lately. Perhaps it's that ours is growing up so very quickly! Recently, celebrating at two parish weddings, I was struck by the privilege it has been to be part of a parish family for so long. One of the many things that is precious about parish life is that we are bound together by family ties and by our belief in Jesus Christ. Across culture, across geography, even across space and time, we as Christians know ourselves to be children of God.

So, as I reflect on a long season of service in one place, I am overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude for this part of the family of God at St. Martin's. We have done so much together: we have eagerly welcomed in the stranger; we have watched children and grandchildren grow up here; we have joyfully gathered to join people together and to sadly say farewell to others – all in the name of Jesus Christ.

Time gives you the gift of deep relationships and shared history. And for that I am grateful – deeply and profoundly grateful. And I pray that the Lord will bless this community for many years to come with the same open arms in Jesus' name for all who become part of our community.

"And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us." (1 John 3: 23-24)

In gratitude,
Mtr. Susan+



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

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The Rev'd Canon
Philip Hobson OGS

Associate:

The Rev'd Canon
Susan Bell SCP

Area Chaplain:

The Rev'd Canon
David Luxton

Honorary Assistants:

The Rev'd James Decker
The Rev'd Canon Harold Nahabedian
The Rev'd 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

About *The Lychgate* Newsletter

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

Ian Greene and Eilonwy Morgan:
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Advent Carol Service, 2016

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 9, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. –

Advent Quiet Day with the Primate

Sunday, December 10, 7:30 p.m. –

Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 17, 4:30 p.m. –

Carolling in the Churchyard

Sunday, February 25 – Annual Vestry
meeting following the 11 a.m. service

Christmas at St. Martin's

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant with Sung
Eucharist

11:00 p.m. Procession, Blessing of the Crib &
Festal Eucharist

Monday, December 25, Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. Eucharist with Carols, followed by
Christmas Lunch

Tuesday, December 26, St. Stephen

10:00 a.m. Eucharist

**Sunday, December 31, First Sunday after
Christmas**

8:30 a.m. Eucharist

11:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons & Carols with
Sung Eucharist

Tuesday, January 2, The Naming of Jesus

10:00 a.m. Eucharist

Sunday, January 7, Epiphany

8:30 a.m. Eucharist

11:00 a.m. Procession & Sung Eucharist

Since October 1, 2017

Baptisms- October 29 – Matthew Snider;
November 26 – Presley Mann, Lochlan
Mann, Christian Nedecky.

Weddings – October 14 – Jason Kong &
Maryann Adas; October 21 – Murray
Albert & Ann Castro; November 4 –
Jordan Dell'Erede & Stephanie Bowman.

Funerals – October 11 – Robert Zinn;
November 9 – Lorna Talbot; November
21 – Evelyn Pollock.

Anniversary Reflections

By Fr. Philip

Twenty years! It hardly seems possible, but earlier this fall I marked the twentieth anniversary of my arrival at St. Martin's. They have been twenty very eventful years filled with building projects, diocesan financial campaigns, and many other major initiatives. But in the end it is not these great enterprises that have meant the most to me, but rather the people who make up our wonderful parish family. I constantly give thanks for the great people and the great gifts that God has sent our way. I also give thanks to God for the spirit that enlivens our worship, that calls us into lives of deeper stewardship and commitment, and that calls us to reach out in faith to share the blessings that we have received with all those around us.

We have forged strong links with our outreach partners in our local community; we have welcomed refugees to our shores; and we have begun, through such events as our parish fun fair, carolling in the garden and our lively children's program, to make our parish more open and welcoming to the surrounding community.

There is so much more to be accomplished but, based on the blessings of these last twenty years, I can only look forward with expectation and hope to the great things that God will continue to work in and through us in the coming years. I pray that all of us may be joined together in an openness to the leading of God's spirit as God continues to call us to share in this great adventure of faith at St. Martin's.



The Nutcracker Fair, Nov. 18, raised more than \$10,000!

Order of St. Martin, 2017

By Bob Thornley and Cathy Paxton

This year's recipient of the Order of St. Martin is Phil Snider. He has demonstrated the very best characteristics we look for.

Phil exemplifies so many Christ-like qualities; he is a faithful devout Christian, waking up early every morning to devote himself to private prayer, Bible study, and spiritual reading, before starting his regular day.

He grounds the rest of his work and family life in rich devotional disciplines. His relationship to God is the wellspring from which all his other relationships are fed and nurtured.

A devoted husband and father, his family is of utmost importance. He commits huge amounts of energy to maintain a strong and stable home life, being especially supportive of his spouse's career advancements in the Church. He is an engaged and demonstrative dad to his two sons, providing a positive role model to his children.

This reflects Phil's engagement with people generally, and probably most notably with students with whom he interacts. A well-regarded and popular high school teacher, "Mr. Snider" has influenced an entire generation of young people – some of whom are fellow parishioners! He is the teacher-mentor to the Christian Club at his school, often sought out for personal and pastoral care by teenagers, providing sound and faithful advice while maintaining appropriate boundaries. Is it any wonder that he is often invited to attend their weddings, often years later?

His engagement with young people extends to St. Martin's, where he was instrumental in establishing our Youth Group, "Martin's Basement," several years ago, helping with some of their earliest initiatives.

Also, he was co-leader of the "Life with God" study group following the departure of Monica and Matthew Green who started it. As a member, Phil always brought compassion and personal vulnerability to the discussions, enabling his fellow parishioners to grow in their relationship with Christ.

Phil's acts of service in the parish extended to his work in the foundation of the library, where he helped to collate and categorize the collection. He assists in the nursery and drives with the Lychgate Limos. Probably most important to him, he relishes his role at the altar as a dedicated server and MC, and recently has been invited to function as sub-deacon. Finally, his MVP-worthy skill (and good humour) on the baseball diamond is a secret no longer!

Phil is not only a worthy recipient of this award because of what he does around St. Martin's, but how he illustrates who he "is" in his whole life. He is a true Saint of the Church, whose light shines through and who models all seven Heavenly Virtues of temperance, charity, diligence, chastity, patience, kindness and humility.



Robert Thornley, Cindy Paget, Phil Snider, Nov. 12

Remembering Anita Li

Sadly, Anita Li passed away in August of this year.



Anita is fondly remembered by many at St. Martin's, and by her family. The Lychgate has received several tributes to her.

-from Dianne Doughty:

A very special evening spent with a very special lady is one of my treasured memories. Anita was a gentle person, her humble smile and twinkling eyes

that immediately captured your attention was her essence. Whether stopping on Glenlake to offer me a ride to church or reaching out to shake hands during the Peace, her smile was ever-present.

The special night was the 2017 Chinese New Year's Eve celebration organized by Anita. This year it happened to coincide with the Saturday service at St. Martin's. I still envision her scurrying around the room in her flowing red satin pants and jacket, wearing her smile. She was surprised and truly delighted that so many of us showed up wearing the traditional red. She played the piano with enthusiasm as she led us in singing the hymns she had chosen. James and Jay had outdone themselves again in the kitchen with preparing the traditional Chinese feast Anita had planned. This only added to the joy and happiness that filled the evening. Anita smiled at the traditional lucky blood oranges and card given to her as a token of our appreciation. She had a wonderful time.

Then there was the time Anita offered me a ride home after church. With her car in reverse, she was headed directly for Lindsey's car as we all watched in horror. She smiled calmly and said, "Sorry, I didn't see it." Our horror turned to laughter.

When I turn around during the Peace, I still see her smiling and reaching out. Anita has a permanent spot in many of our hearts and she will always be remembered.

-from Allison Turner:

My most memorable encounter with Anita was when I returned from a holiday to find Anita agitated. She was very concerned. I had called St. Martin's to have my relative in Vancouver, whose name was also Anita, put on the ill prayer list. I had planned to put my relative's initial after her name to avoid confusion, but somehow in our conversation the initial was omitted, and our Anita was receiving all kinds of calls about her health, etc., which I had never intended to happen. Of course, we had a good chuckle.

-from Joy Fulford:

For a few years we were privileged with the attendance of a special lady, Anita Li. However, we were unaware, at that time, what a privilege it was to have Anita among us. I met Anita at a dinner for newcomers held at the home of Kathy Mansfield and Tim Stephenson. As I moved around talking to the guests I discovered a lady sitting quietly by herself, so I joined her, and learned her name --

Anita Li. As we talked, I found her to be a most interesting person, well-versed in a number of subjects. Anita was a quiet unassuming person, but there was a presence about her.

Carol Stokreef met Anita first at the planning for Saturday Supper Meetings. She recalls Anita was a most dedicated, organized woman who could immediately remember themes, readings, and hymns of earlier dinners to make things easier. Carol says she was most grateful for her kindness for rides home and her origami cranes.

Personally, I have lamented the lost opportunity to have engaged with Anita in a discussion of Early Childhood, which was one of her interests. Anita left us with this saying, "Faith, like pure light, is invisible until reflected in our works." R.I.P.

-from Ian Greene and Eilonwy Morgan

Anita sat in the pew in front of us, and so she was the first person with whom we usually exchanged the peace. Before and after the services, we had pleasant conversations about many subjects, including Alberta, where all three of us at one time hailed from. When Marian Rhodes died last year, Anita put together a series of remembrances about Marian for *The Lychgate* as a tribute to her. Through Anita, we got to know her daughter Alison, Alison's husband Prof. Ernie Hamm, and their delightful children, Clara and David (who attended our Church School whenever the family was visiting with Anita). We shared stories about our University of Cambridge connections. Anita was an inspiration and example to us.

-from Alison Li, her daughter:

Although my mother had lived, studied, and worked in China, Hong Kong, the U.S., England, and Australia, it was in Calgary that she and my father would make their home in 1971. She and my father raised their children there, made rich and satisfying careers, and became active members of several communities. After my father's death in 2005, my mother moved to Toronto to be closer to her children, grandchildren, and sisters. Among the most difficult leave-takings she had to make were with her community at Holy Cross Anglican Church, her parish home of over 35 years, and with the small but devoted Calgary Chinese Anglican

Fellowship that she and my father had helped to build.

Once she had settled in Toronto, I watched in admiration as she, at the age of 77, bravely set out to find a new church home, systematically researching and visiting a number of Anglican churches in the vicinity, sketching out a plan to visit each church at least twice over several months before she made her choice. When she arrived at St. Martin's, however, she knew she had found what she was looking for, in the beauty of the music, the depth of the teaching, the richness of the liturgy, the vitality in the fellowship, and the warmth of the welcome extended to her. Whenever my family and I had the opportunity of worshipping with her at St. Martin's, we too felt very welcome and were always struck by how fully my mother had truly become a member of the parish.

St. Martin's Facebook Page

By Andrea Zinn

Andrea Zinn has taken on the role of administrator for our Facebook page. She can be emailed at azinn0821@gmail.com.

Growing Healthy Stewards

By Peter Chauvin

By the time you read this edition of the *Lychgate*, St. Martin's annual Stewardship Campaign will be wrapping up. St Martin's has had a strong commitment to stewardship for many years. These days, we conduct an annual campaign typically culminating at Patronal. The purpose of the campaign is to remind us all of our responsibilities as stewards of the gifts we have here at St. Martin's.

As we reach the end of this year's Stewardship Campaign on November 26th, the Stewardship Committee will be embarking on a new stewardship initiative – Growing Healthy Stewards or "GHS" for short. This initiative has its roots in a Diocese-developed program that has been introduced to 30 participating local parishes.

GHS relies on understanding the fundamental definition of stewardship, increasing awareness of

the impact of broad involvement of the parish and establishing a year-round approach to stewardship including practices tested by the Diocese to be effective in raising both awareness and involvement.

Hopefully you have all read the stewardship brochure that you recently picked up at the back of the church or was mailed to you. In the brochure we have provided a pretty good definition of stewardship – I hope you will read it (or read it for a second or third time). Simply put, stewardship is a complete lifestyle based on gratitude for and eager sharing of the gifts we have been given.

We hope to fully launch GHS in 2018. You should expect to see GHS in action including an ongoing awareness of stewardship, more frequent sermons on stewardship, ongoing acknowledgement of the work of individual parishioners, groups and committees, and hearing from parishioners on their reflections on stewardship and their involvement with St. Martin's. We are making stewardship year-round. We want to raise awareness of stewardship as a complete lifestyle, both within St. Martin's and beyond.

The Stewardship Committee consists of Cyriline Taylor, Frank Bodkin, Maria Hayes, Michael Attwood, Maggie Knight and Peter Chauvin, with the ongoing involvement of Fr. Philip. The Committee will be working closely with Peter Misiaszek of the Diocese as we launch and build GHS. There will be lots of work to be done and the Committee will need your help. Any one of the committee members would be happy to hear from you, now or in the future, about stewardship, the GHS program, and getting involved.

The Spirit Sings...Again?

By Eilonwy Morgan

This is the last in a series reflecting on events and features in parish life at St. Martin's over the years, based on interesting articles in the extensive collection of church bulletins and newsletters kept by our late parishioner Bruce Fisher.

From the Late Pentecost 1990 edition of the Lychgate:



The Spirit Sings

By Jack Hattey

Just the thought of having to write an article when the music programme is cranking up would give most music directors a heart attack. Then there's the matter of what to write about. So, I

gaze around the church, looking for inspiration, when suddenly the penny drops. I've hit the nail on the head. Our Centennial sculpture.

There are a few stories here. When I went to university, many moons ago, there was another piece by the same artist in University College at U. of T. I used to drive everyone crazy by dropping coins down the sculpture to hear the wonderful sounds they made. A few years later I discovered that people in many parts of the world lucky to have one of David Partridge's creations also did the same thing. In fact, the renowned percussion group NEXUS commissioned a sound sculpture – which is specially amplified. Trinity College at the U. of T. helped to pay for their sculpture by placing a collection box underneath it to catch the coins.

In June, I was in London, England and visited the Westminster Cathedral to see one of David Partridge's most famous works, the memorial to the R.C.A.F. A nun there told me that while the sculpture was not originally what the congregation had expected, now people from all over the world come to look at it. In fact, it is even mentioned in the Michelin Guide to London.

Some of you may know that the artist, who lives in Toronto, came to St. Martin's. Our sculpture reflects the feelings our service inspired in him. Which led to this

article. Which isn't nearly as good as the sculpture. Which is why I'm going back to my music.

Thank-you, Jack. You raise an interesting point about the use of the sculpture at Trinity College for charitable purposes.

Since we are no longer gathering "Pennies for Pikangikum" and using fundraising breakfasts and such instead for this water project... how about setting up the occasional "Toonies and Loonies for Pikangikum" and invite parishioners and visitors to experience the musical delights of our own sculpture, for this worthy cause?

Developments Regarding PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)

By Michael Attwood

For the past two years St. Martin's has been participating in a trial Pre-Authorized Remittance programme operated by the Diocesan Stewardship Office. PAR has shown very positive results, with 25 parishioners now utilizing this service for their donations in support of St. Martin's ministry.

Unfortunately, the Diocese has concluded that, while it does have the technology and appropriate process to provide the PAR program, it does not have the capacity to do so on a cost-effective basis. Although it is a firm proponent of PAR, the Diocese has reluctantly decided to end its PAR administration service at the end of this year.

The good news is that PAR will continue! St. Martin's will be joining with over 250 Anglican churches across Canada in utilizing the PAR program offered through the United Church of Canada. The United Church program does involve a few procedural changes (such as direct debits being made on the 20th instead of the 1st of each month). However, the administration costs involved should prove to be more cost-effective for us.

Our current Envelope Secretary, Susan Legault, happens to have experience with the United Church PAR program and will do everything she can to expedite the PAR transition for current users.

FaithWorks 2017

By Jacqueline Hayden

As the days shorten and grow colder, the peoples of the northern countries respond with their great Festivals of Light – times of togetherness and kindness, compassion and giving. As we draw towards Christmas, our grateful celebration of the awesome gift of the Light of Christ, we treasure the presence of our loved ones and reflect fondly on the memories of those no longer with us. As my dear Mum said, watching my daughters trim the Christmas tree the year my Dad died, "The love goes on."

It's a time to count our blessings, and to share them. A time to extend our love beyond ourselves and our families and to embrace the truth that, even as the world seems ever more divisive, all of the Earth's children are one great family.

In our giving this Christmas, let us remember, with our prayers and with practical help, those in our own city who live outside the sheltering circle of light, those struggling with homelessness, with addiction, with despair.

The family of St Martin's can be justly proud of our tradition of supporting our less fortunate brothers and sisters through FaithWorks. If you plan to mark your Christmas with a donation to the program, please remember that your gift needs to be received by December 31 in order to qualify for a 2017 tax receipt.

May the Light of Christ brighten our lives this Christmas and throughout the year, and may we experience the great joy and privilege of sharing it with others.



St. Martin's Excursion to Fisher Rare Book Library exhibit on the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, Nov. 11

Newcomers' Lunch

By Eilonwy Morgan

On October 22nd, Lynn McKnight and Michael Attwood hosted a Martin's Table potluck brunch. Newcomers attending included Carlton Abraham, Lisa and David Fleming, Yuko Higuchi, Derek Hodges, and Marino Miguela. Long-term parishioners welcoming them included Mother Susan, Sandy Brown, Dianne Doughty, Eilonwy Morgan and Ian Greene, and of course Lynn and Michael.

It was a great opportunity to get to know our newcomers. Who would have guessed, for example, that Yuko, here in Toronto to attend a web design program at Humber College, has a secret past as a pastry chef? (This led to an interesting conversation about Japanese baking recipes, which are typically much less sweet than the cakes and pastries popular in North America.) Derek spoke about the types of music he enjoys hearing at the Cathedral; Carlton spoke about life growing up in British Guyana; David and Ian traded stories comparing New Year's Day parties in Calgary and Toronto; and Marino spoke of his busy schedule combining work and his studies. And we also heard that Mother Susan plans to learn to play the lute, her husband Tom having given her a lute exquisitely made in the style popular in the time of George Herbert, the subject of her Ph.D. dissertation.



L to R: Back row: Lynn McKnight, Eilonwy Morgan, Lisa Fleming, Derek Hodges, David Fleming, Michael Attwood. Middle row: Yuko Higuchi, Mother Susan, Dianne Doughty, Sandy Brown, Carlton Abraham. Seated: Marino Miguela.

Yuletide Poem – The Shortest Day

By Susan Cooper

And so the Shortest Day came and the year died
And everywhere down the centuries of the snow-
white world
Came people singing, dancing,
To drive the dark away.
They lighted candles in the winter trees;
They hung their homes with evergreen;
They burned beseeching fires all night long
To keep the year alive.
And when the new year's sunshine blazed awake
They shouted, revelling.
Through all the frosty ages you can hear them
Echoing behind us – listen!
All the long echoes, sing the same delight,
This Shortest Day,
As promise awakens in the sleeping land:
They carol, feast, give thanks,
And dearly love their friends,
And hope for peace.
And now so do we, here, now,
This year and every year.
Welcome Yule!



October 21: Mother Susan, with Ann Castro and Murray Albert at their Wedding, October 21