

# THE LYCHGATE

## June 17, 2018

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



### From the Rector's Desk

I was reading an interesting article the other day in a publication of our Anglican Benedictine monks at St. Gregory's Abbey, Three Rivers, Michigan. The writer of the article was quoting a fourth century monk, Abbot Paphnutius, who wrote of three different kinds of vocations or calls. The first is the one that comes directly from God and the Abbot gives as an example Abraham's hearing of God's direct order to pull up stakes and set out for Canaan. The second is the call that comes not directly from God, but is conveyed through another human being. Here he cites the people of Israel responding to God's call conveyed through Moses to leave Egypt and embark on the great journey to the Promised Land. Finally, he speaks of the call that comes through necessity or compulsion such as in times of great distress or trial in our lives and here he looks to the account of St. Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus where it was only after he was struck blind that Paul was "dragged unwillingly along the route to salvation."

While Paphnutius was speaking of the call to become a monk, I think we could certainly broaden the category and speak of the way in which God calls each one of us to follow Christ. For some this call may come in some dramatic and direct fashion, as in John Wesley's strange warming of the heart in the middle of the night, but for others it may come as the result of the influence of a particular individual or a particular event in their lives, or perhaps through a slower and more subtle process of being drawn ever deeper into the mystery of God over a number of years. So often it is only when we look back and reflect on the course of our lives that we begin to perceive the hand of God working through people and events calling us into a more profound relationship of love.

If you have not already done so, I would encourage you to take some time this summer when you are enjoying a period of quiet to think back over your journey in faith and see how the Spirit has been at work calling you in so many ways and situations. Then, give thanks. Give thanks for those individuals who have been instrumental in helping you to see something of God's grace in your life. Give thanks for those times and events when you have felt God's presence with you. Give thanks for the heart and mind and spirit that God has given you and me that allows us to perceive God's presence amongst us, and for the grace that God shares with us that allows us to respond in love.

And then, building on that spirit of gratitude, take time to discern how God is calling you now. How you are being called to grow in the life of holiness and grace. How you are being called to become more and more an agent of God's love in the world. Abbot Paphnutius, writing over 1,600 years ago, highlighted the different ways that people are called to the monastic life. But for him the crucial thing was what the individual did after receiving that call, what happened on the journey as the individual became more and more open to growth as a disciple and apostle of Christ. The more relaxed pace of summer can often provide us with the time and the frame of mind that allows us to think about how we might embrace those opportunities God puts before us to allow us to deepen our faith and commitment to Christ and his Church.

I would encourage you this summer to relax and enjoy this very special time but I also invite you to spend some time in the coming months in reflecting, giving thanks and thinking about the amazing journey that God has called us to be part of, a journey that is nothing less than the transformation of our humanity, as we are changed more and more into the likeness of Christ.

Fr. Philip

## Church Directory



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

151 Glenlake Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario M6P 1E8

[www.stmartininthefields.ca](http://www.stmartininthefields.ca)

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

#### Incumbent:

The Rev'd Canon  
Philip Hobson OGS

#### 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:

Philip Savage  
Cindy Paget

#### Secretary:

Margaret Allen

#### Property Manager:

Mark Kolberg

#### Sunday School & Nursery

Grace Karram Stephenson

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, June 23** – Neighborhood Fun Fair

**Sunday, June 24** – FaithWorks Walkathon

**Sunday, July 1** - Sundaes on Sunday

**Sunday, August 12** – Girls' Choir School service and luncheon

**Sunday, September 9** – Parish fall supper in garden, 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 17** – Nutcracker Fair

## Since March 25, 2018. Fr. Philip

Since Eastertide, there have been two baptisms: Derek Hodges, March 31, 2018, and Lochlann Minnery-Carto, April 8, 2018. There have been two funerals: Norman Shelton, March 24, 2018, and Ian Daniel, May 12, 2018.

## 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: [iangreene0766@rogers.com](mailto:iangreene0766@rogers.com). For digital access to *The Lychgate*, including colour photos and click links to web sites, go to: <https://stmartininthefields.ca/>.



April 29 Farewell tea for Mtr. Susan Bell

Photo courtesy Peter Chauvin

## Susan Bell's Farewell Tea and Consecration



**Church School children singing for Mtr. Susan**  
Photo courtesy Peter Chauvin



**Children sing for Mtr. Susan to the tune of Edelweiss**  
Photo courtesy Peter Chauvin



**Consecration of Bishop Susan Bell, Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton, May 5**

Dear Parish family,

My last Sunday with you was touching and grace-filled. Thank you for the beautiful English tea, for the children's song, for the lovely and generous gifts but most of all thank you for being there.... I also want to thank you for being such a large, joyful and supportive part of the Consecration service in Hamilton.... The wonderful photo of our parish family will have pride of place in my new office.... I pray God's richest blessing on you this day and always.

+Susan

## FaithWorks

by Judith Kidd

Thank you to all those parishioners who are so generous in their support of FaithWorks. This note is particularly directed at those who may not be familiar with this program. I have to admit that I wasn't a strong supporter until I was part of the Diocesan Social Justice Board and learned what these agencies were doing to help those at risk in our communities. What I learned was that the partner agencies supported by FaithWorks do more than 'just good work'!

This information might help you look at FaithWorks differently. Most important for me is that FaithWorks believes that it is possible to transform the lives of people who are vulnerable. Did you know that *last year*, 32,452 people were fed, sheltered, nurtured and befriended? Or that 109,327 clients visited drop-in and outreach programs? Or that 5,206 refugees and new Canadians were provided with settlement support programs? Did you realize that because of FaithWorks donations, 1,187 at-risk women, children and youth were able to access safe and supportive housing and 7,362 young adults living with mental health challenges were supported? And that 303 people impacted by HIV/AIDS received bereavement and spiritual care support and 430 indigenous people were provided with pastoral and mentoring support?

As people of faith, we want to support those in need but, when there is so much need for our givings, how do we choose where our gifts will go? Giving to FaithWorks provides one way for a wide variety of at-risk communities to be given a hand up.... think about contributing to this worthwhile program.

Please consider joining the FaithWorks Walkathon on Toronto Island on June 24th after a pizza lunch following the 11 a.m. service. We will leave for the Toronto Island ferry around 1:30 p.m. (ferry tickets available on-line). From Hanlan's Point we will walk to St. Andrew by-the-Lake on Centre Island where we will stop for a picnic lunch (please bring your own lunch to eat or share). There will be Evensong in the church. We will return home via the Ward's Island ferry. Pledge forms for donations are available at the back of the church; please contact Judith Kidd at [jvkidd@sympatico.ca](mailto:jvkidd@sympatico.ca).

## Letter to St. Martin's Friends

By Marino Miguela

Hi St. Martin's friends – you became my family!

First, I am writing this letter to tell you about my three years in Canada. I arrived on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. It was so hard at the beginning to live in a new country,





**Fr. Philip and Marino, courtesy  
Peter Chauvin**

new culture, without knowing the language. My refugee claim was rejected. My morale suffered, and I also suffered physically and psychologically. But "God is good and always loves his children." I am proud and glad to have found around

me, a family that today is like my own family: Kathy Mansfield and Tim Stephenson where I moved on Nov. 28, 2015. They received me in their house like a second son, and as some of you know, I met them through Romero House (Jenn McIntyre director); she introduced me to this amazing family.

Second, Kathy and Tim introduced me to St. Martin's church, where all people are generous. I felt from the first day blessed by your welcome. I want to thank especially Fr. Philip, Jenn McIntyre, Ian Greene and Eilonwy Morgan, Philip Savage, and all this big community.

At the end of April, I got a positive response from immigration that I can apply to become a permanent resident of Canada. It takes six months to process and then I am going to apply to sponsor my wife and two children. It has been a hard journey but I always have with me my motto "be positive," and one more thing I can say, "the faith is the assurance."

I again thank you so much and God bless you and your families and St. Martin's church.

## Vestry Renovation Project

By Lynn McKnight, Project Leader

The vestry area of the church will be renovated this summer to make improvements for the ease of preparing the communion vessels such as the ciboria (bread), chalices (wine), and cruets by the Altar Guild and serving team members before services and in cleaning them to be put away after services. The project will also involve movement of closets to consolidate hanging vestment storage to either side of the existing fireplace along the north wall, with the addition of a new wall closet along the west wall to hold altar linens and wafers, Fr. Philip's vestments rack and the priest's microphone headsets, etc. This movement of items will separate vesting space from altar preparation area to smooth traffic flow in the vestry before and after services. A new four-foot counter with lower and upper cupboards and a sink with tall faucet will be installed in the vestibule area near the vault. Care will be taken to have new cabinets

match the existing ones as closely as possible. These new cabinets will hold altar and sanctuary candles nearer where they are used, rather than in the Guild Room closet and the office.

This project will begin on Monday, June 25 and will extend five weeks to July 27. During this time the organ will be sealed up to avoid any damage that may be caused by dust. For the second and third weeks of the project, the vestry floors will be repaired as necessary and then refinished. Floor work will include doing the stairs and landings in the east stairwell down to the chapel. This means that for about a week we will not be able to use the east end entrance to allow the floor refinishers to do their work and the new finish to dry and harden before use. Some restrictions on access to parts of the church may be in place for a short time due to this construction. Please watch the bulletin for further details.

The furnishings from the vestry room will be carefully moved to the Guild Room for the duration of the project and will be placed in the area near the fireplace so the meeting tables may still be used.

Prior to the installation of new cabinets and the return of the furnishings, the vestry ceilings and walls will be painted, as will the area outside the vestry near the vault. Lighting will also be improved near the vault and over the new sink.

All this work has been made possible by a generous donation made by Anita Li's family members from her estate. We are very thankful for this kind gift which allows us to improve the vestry and to freshen and maintain the floors and walls at the same time.

## St. Martin's Garden Update

By Patty McKnight



**Selling geraniums for Pikangikum**

The garden team had to cancel our spring clean-up planned for April 21st as the garden was still covered in snow. Winter just wouldn't give up this year. However, the snowdrops were already up through the snow and the hundreds of daffodils and tulips we had planted last fall soon followed.

The garden seemed to burst into bloom. The early summer perennials are now putting on a show and we will have a succession of colourful blooms all summer



Photo courtesy Patty McKnight

long. We are grateful for the geraniums purchased by parishioners in support of the Pikangikum water project and donated to the church garden.

New this year, we will be creating a milkweed garden on the south side of the church. The removal of an overgrown cedar has created a sunnier patch that will support a variety of milkweed species and other mostly native plants. We'll hope to see some Monarch butterflies in the garden this year.

For those of us who work in the garden on a regular basis, we see how much the garden is used and valued by the surrounding community. It's always a pleasure to put down our trowels and chat with the neighbours.

We can always use more help. The weeds love our garden too. We'd be happy to assign you a small patch to tend or a specific task to take on such as deadheading the geraniums. As Margaret Atwood tells us, "In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."

## Our "New" Vimy Oak Tree

By Eilonwy Morgan

Some years back I heard of the "Vimy Oaks Legacy Project." The battle of Vimy Ridge, in April 1917, became a symbol of Canadian national achievement and sacrifice. The Ridge was considered an important military objective, for its high elevation gave a commanding view over many miles of surrounding terrain. French and British military forces had previously been unsuccessful in capturing the Ridge from its German occupying forces. Between April 9th and 12th, 1917, the four divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, fighting together for the first time, and with superior military innovation, planning, extensive training, and powerful artillery support, captured the Ridge. The battle was grim, and casualties were high on both sides. With thousands of artillery shells raining down on each army, men and



Vimy oak sapling

horses and even the oak trees on the Ridge stood limited chance of survival.

After the April battle, one Canadian soldier, Lt. Leslie Miller, mailed home a handful of acorns to his family, who had a farm outside of Toronto. He asked his family to plant the acorns for him. Meanwhile, the war continued, and by the end of November 1918 there was only one oak tree left standing at Vimy Ridge. Leslie Miller survived the war, came home to his family, and named the new growth of oak trees on his family farm the "Vimy Oaks." They survive there to this day, although the land on which they stand is now owned

by the Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church.

A few years ago, a project called the "Vimy Oaks Legacy" was devised to repatriate one hundred descendants of those Vimy Oak trees to Vimy Ridge in time for the 100th anniversary of the battle, in April 2017. After that, extra Vimy Oak saplings were offered for sale for planting across Canada at cenotaphs, public parks, and schools.

Ian and I attended the plant show "Canada Blooms" earlier this spring. A display in the feature "Highway of Heroes" discussed the Vimy Oaks project, and noted that Vimy Oak saplings were now available for sale to members of the public, if they could demonstrate a suitable connection. I quickly put together an inquiry, noting that Ian's Dad, Charles, had fought at Vimy, alongside his brother Harry. Charles survived the battle; Harry died of the wounds he received there. I also mentioned the visit Ian had made to Vimy as a teenager, alongside his Dad and Mum, and the subsequent visit our family made to Vimy in the year 2000, when Christina was 8 and Philip 6. I noted that we were currently renovating our garden, and would like to plant a Vimy Oak in honor of Ian's Dad and Uncle Harry.

We were approved! A few days later we drove out to Dundas, past Hamilton, to collect the little tree from the one nursery which has grown these trees for the project. We brought it home quite proudly, and our landscaper planted it a few days later. It has pride of place in our new garden.

The First World War continues to be present in memory at St. Martin's, in particular because of the large Memorial Window at our west end. We also have

a reminder of the battle of Vimy Ridge itself through the memorial window in the chancel to George Moffatt, who we read died at Vimy on April 9, 1917: the first day of the Canadian battle.

## **It's Not Easy Being Green...Or is it?**

By Mary Conliffe

From the First Sunday of Advent through to the Feast of Pentecost, then Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi, the Church – especially our church! – has been a riot of seasonal colour: from blue to purple, white and gold to red. But having feasted and festived over many months, we now move into what some traditions call Ordinary Time, when green becomes the colour on display for up to 33 weeks, and everything goes back to “normal.”

What can we learn during these long Sundays after Pentecost? And, perhaps more to the point, where do we find God in the “regular” and “ordinary” seasons of our lives? These are the questions that the Christian Education Committee invites you to explore with our summer book study: *Everyday God: The Spirit of the Ordinary* by Paula Gooder. This little 135-page book examines the questions of a spirituality of the everyday, and the search for meaning in the routines of life.

Says the author in her introduction:

If we insist in keeping God in splendour we lose so many opportunities to encounter him in our everyday lives. If we wait for silence, for fine surroundings, for spectacular music or art, then we devastate our chances of encountering the everyday God who stands by patiently illuminating the fields of our lives, while we pass by without noticing.

Divided into short passages of scripture and reflections, the book can be read daily over a few weeks or can be read easily in a single sitting.

The Christian Education Committee encourages you to join us in reading this book at your own pace over the summer months, and then joining us for three Wednesday evenings in September (12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>) for discussion and mutual learning.

You can order your own copy of the book online from your favourite bookseller, or speak to Mary Conliffe who will order one for you for \$15. (We will also be ordering some copies for the parish library if you'd prefer to borrow a copy.)

We hope that you will join us for this extraordinary, ordinary time of learning and spiritual growth! Happy summer reading! Happy green season!

## **And New Books in the Library: Get a Biographical Boost This Summer**

By Samantha Thompson

In the summer many of us will take time to relax, whether on holidays or outside in the brighter evenings. Downtime can lead to reflection on our personal journeys, on our past, and our future. What better time to be inspired by the lives of other people? Through biographies we not only get to know people we might never otherwise meet, but we can experience the goodness of God refracted through the lives of individual human beings. The library at St. Martin's has a strong biography section. Here are four new (well, new-ish) additions to get you started.

Augustine's *Confessions* is often considered the world's first autobiography, and our library has acquired one of the more recent translations of this fourth-century African bishop's testimony of his conversion. Augustine explores his interior life in searching detail as he relates God's relentless pursuit of his wandering soul. While Augustine's world on the fringes of the dying Roman Empire may strike us as exotic and far away, this modern translation (the first by a woman) brings home the intent of his clever and passionate Latin in fresh and often startling modern English.

Speaking of translation, our Anglican Church (and indeed English literature) would not be what it is today without the sacrifices of William Tyndale, the first translator of the Bible into English from the original Greek and Hebrew sources. In *William Tyndale: The Man Who Gave God an English Voice*, David Teems takes us into exile with Tyndale, on the run from the authorities while completing his illegal translations – a commitment which led to his execution in 1536. This biographical journey reveals Tyndale's world and his prose, and shows how many scriptural phrases which are part of our shared cultural and spiritual vocabulary originate with this multilingual Reformation saint.

If bite-sized biographies fit into your schedule, the library has two new volumes which might suit you. In *The 40 Most Influential Christians Who Shaped What We Believe Today*, Daryl Aaron gives synopses of the lives and influence of well and lesser known Christians who have shaped the way we think and talk about God. This collection of theological biographies reveals a great cloud of witnesses from the second to the twentieth century as well as highlights from their writing and thought. Likewise, *Finding God: A Treasury of Conversion Stories* by John M. Mulder offers mini-biographies focused on the diverse ways people have

come to faith. From dramatic epiphanies to quiet evolutions, you can follow the journeys of fellow travelers from Toyohiko Kagawato to Dorothy Day and from Black Elk to Bono.

Interestingly, for many Christians (including Augustine) written biographies have themselves been occasions of changed minds and hearts. They are just one way God writes us into the stories of one another's lives. Who knows how biographies might figure in your own life? Check out our biography section soon.

May you be blessed by whatever you read this summer. And as Tyndale himself said, "Wherever the Spirit is, it is always summer."

## **Growing Healthy Stewards**

By Peter Chauvin

Stewardship is going full time at St. Martin's under the banner of Growing Healthy Stewards, or GHS for short. As disclosed at our annual Vestry meeting in February, GHS is a Diocese-developed program to build and reinforce Stewardship as a year-round ministry in the same way that Outreach, Christian Education and Mission are integral to what we do every day at St. Martin's.

Parishioners will hear more on stewardship throughout the year, including an increased emphasis on stewardship in all communications, more frequent preaching on stewardship and what is so really important, the spirit of thankfulness – that we are always mindful of the gifts we have at St. Martin's, that we be inspired by and share those gifts, and that we take the time to thank individuals and groups that do and contribute so much at St. Martin's.

An important initiative of the committee will be to broaden our capability to accept donations, including via the web. One option will be through Canada Helps which is used by a great many charities, including other Anglican parishes in the Toronto area. More to come on this.

As part of our beefed-up stewardship efforts, we plan to have one or more workshops on estate planning, funeral planning and wills. You may have seen leaflet notices of one estate planning workshop to be held on June 17th at the Church of the Redeemer. The next workshop will be hosted at St. Martin's later in 2018.

Estate planning by our parishioners which includes legacy gifts to St. Martin's has been beneficial to our parish – a number of parishioners have left St. Martin's with bequests from their estates over the years. We should especially remember and thank the family of Anita Li for their recent and very generous donation from her estate. It is this donation that inspired and is

funding the renovations to our vestry. We each should consider legacy giving as part of our own stewardship ministry.

The Stewardship Committee consists of Cyriline Taylor, Michael Attwood, Maria Hayes, Frank Bodkin, Maggie Knight and Peter Chauvin. Fr. Philip is part of the committee and both Philip Savage and Cindy Paget, our wardens, are key contributors. Your involvement is welcome – please reach out to anyone of us at any time.

## **My Musings on "Mission" at St. Martin's**

By Kathie Wagg

I am a member of the parish Missional Team – and have come to realize that many of you are either not aware of the team and what it does or of what Mission and being Missional means within the Church today. I will give you my interpretation and understanding by answering some questions.

First – What is our responsibility as a parish to Mission and being Missional? As a child within the Church, whenever Mission was talked about, it was about far-away places and the people who dedicated their lives to preaching the word of God to different cultures – the Missionaries – and their need for money for this work. While there is still a need to fund ministries in other countries and other areas of our own country, that does not fully define Mission today. It is much closer to home – our Missional area is the community around our own parish. It is in serving the "un-churched" and "de-churched" individuals within that community – those individuals who may never have been exposed to the word of God in their lives (the un-churched) or those who may have drifted from or rejected organized religion (the de-churched). Our Mission, then, is to reach out to these people and introduce them to our faith. As so eloquently stated by Fr. Andrew MacDonald, our role is "to serve as Christ's hands and feet, and heart and mind" in our community. Wow! That is a pretty intimidating – and leads to other obvious questions.

How are we expected to accomplish this rather daunting responsibility? We need to start slowly – to welcome our neighbours into our space – to encourage them to use our space with their families – and ultimately to be comfortable entering the church and joining with us in our services – but that's a long way off. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful garden space to make people welcome and comfortable – that first step.

The next step is to engage in conversations with our visitors, listening to their needs and introducing the gospel of our Saviour – helping them to incorporate



this gospel into their lives by our positive modeling of this behavior. That begs another question – How do we do this without driving people away? Not only that, I know that this is way outside my comfort zone – and I don't think that I am alone there. So we are going to get some help. The Diocese is providing the Missional Team with a Resource to teach us how to properly enter into this type of discussion and not drive people away. This would have been something that Mtr. Susan could have assisted us with in her former role, but we missed the boat there, unfortunately. We just weren't ready.

So to the remaining questions – what is it that the Missional Team does – and who is on the team? Currently, we have planned activities for the next two years that are designed to draw neighbours into our space – the Blessing of the Bicycles, the Neighbourhood Fun Fair, the Blessing of Pets, and Caroling in the Garden. In addition, the team will be arranging construction and installation of a Blessing Box & Little Free Library for use by those in our community as need arises. The Blessing Box will contain non-perishable food items, personal hygiene items, common household items, etc. People are encouraged to “Take what you need – bring what you can. But above all – Be Blessed.” This installation will reinforce our desire to be a contributing member of our local community.

The above activities are planned – but to be successful, the team needs everyone in the parish to help in their execution. This is where those participating will see you being Christ's hands and feet in the neighbourhood.

There will be more “next steps” going forward as we listen to our neighbours and their needs. We intend to have more of a presence on social media as that is where many of our “target market” can be found.

So to the team. Right now we are small – Emily Bell, David Fleming, Glen Storey and myself. We will be losing Emily this summer as she will be continuing her education next year in Edinburgh, Scotland. (Bon voyage, Emily.) It may be time to expand a bit – so if you have an interest or would like more information, please do speak to one of us.

So to a couple of final questions. Have you concluded that “being Missional” is everyone's responsibility? I hope that is your take from what I have said. And do you also understand that part of the Missional Team's role is to help us all accomplish this responsibility? Together we can be successful. Here's to the future! God bless us everyone!



**Kathie Wagg slugging in a run. Nevertheless, St. Mary Magdalene defeated St. Martin's 13-7 this year.**



**Fr. Andrew blessing Fr. Philip's Bicycle, April 28**



The Choir from the Diocesan Girls Choir School will sing at the 11 a.m. Eucharist at St. Martin's on Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Come and share in this very special celebration.