

THE LYCHGATE

June 28, 2020

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



From the Assistant Curate

Some of you may be aware that the curacy portion of my time with you at St. Martin's is winding down. While I haven't been at St. Martin's all that long – I arrived in February 2019 – my perception is that I have been with you much, much longer. My time as a curate began with difficulty, and when I found out I was coming to St. Martin's to finish my curacy I was worried: would this congregation be a good fit for me and my daughter? After almost 15 months, I think it is fair to say, we've been a good fit. For this reason, Fr. Philip is working with Bp. Jenny to have me remain in the St. Martin's family in another capacity.

Upon reflection, however, I realize that I have withheld a part of myself from you: my lived experience as a racialized person. I have done this because speaking from the heart on these matters, in my experience, is often not well-received. So I have learned over many years to remain silent so to lessen the possibility of rejection. But recent events have brought questions pertaining to my own racialized existence to the fore for me and for millions of racialized people in North America and across the globe.

Many of us watched in horror as the breath of life was snuffed out over eight excruciatingly long minutes from George Floyd's body. His death has set off a chain of events around the world proclaiming this truth: Black Lives Matter. In some corners, the response to the brutal injustices faced by Black, Indigenous and other People of Colour (BIPOC) has been the refrain "All Lives Matter." Yes, all lives matter, but consider St. Paul's words from 1 Corinthians 12: 17-26.

If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, *the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this.* But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. (italics mine)

What Paul is saying here is both profound and subversive. The whole is not a monolith. Rather it is made up of many different parts. These parts cannot function properly without another part that is different from itself. More to the point, if one part is hurting, that is the part to which we should actively and consciously attend. Why? Because as Paul says, the parts that are well *do not need this*. All lives matter *in so far* as all lives receive the same opportunities, advantages and care. If we are honest, even a cursory view of how Black and Indigenous peoples are treated in North America indicates that this is not the case.

In light of the current crisis, what will our response be as a parish community? A small group of folks from St. Martin's has come together to read with me sociologist Robin Diangelo's book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*. Soon this group will begin a three-week journey. My hope is that the

good thing that is starting to take root will not come to an end but will grow and flourish for the mutual well-being of every member of the Body of Christ and, by consequence, our society at large.

The Rev'd Alison Hari-Singh

Church Directory



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

151 Glenlake Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M6P 1E8

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Church: 416-767-7491
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Incumbent:

The Rev'd Canon Philip
Hobson OGS

Assistant Curate: The
Rev'd Alison Hari-
Singh

Honorary Assistants:

The Rev'd Canon
David Luxton
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:

Jonathan Gentry
Eilonwy Morgan

Secretary:

Margaret Allen

Property Manager:

Mark Kolberg

Sunday School & Nursery

Grace Karraam Stephenson

Upcoming Events

All church services, Sundays and weekdays, from March 29 through the end of August have been cancelled.

Events scheduled prior to church re-opening in September:

**Saturday, August 29th: FaithWorks
Walkathon at Camp Nokomis
(rain date August 30th)**

Please check for current information on
the church web site closer to the date.

Since March 29,
2020,
from the Parish

Registers:

Weddings:

None

Baptisms:

None

Funerals:

None



Photos courtesy David McKnight

About *The Lychgate* Newsletter: *The Lychgate* is published four times a year. Parishioners and friends are encouraged to submit news and articles to the editor, Ian Greene, at iangreene0766@rogers.com. For digital access to *The Lychgate*, including colour photos and links to web sites, go to <https://stmartininthefields.ca>.

NOTE: You can opt to go paperless and cancel your mailed copy of *The Lychgate*, and in future receive it by email only after the church re-opens, by emailing *The Lychgate* volunteers at Lychgate1111@gmail.com.

From the Rector



These are indeed strange and tumultuous times that we have been living through these past months. Not only have we been trying to deal with all the upset occasioned by the pandemic, but our society has also been forced to confront deep issues around violence and racism which have caused great pain and anguish.

COVID-19 has brought to the fore our need to confront these issues, and other issues of inequality in the health care system and in long term care which we need to address going forward. As many have said, we do not want to return simply to the old ways once the pandemic is over, but to seize this opportunity to move forward in new directions that will more truly reflect the justice and righteousness that Christ proclaims.

At the moment, we continue to struggle with the changes brought about in our church life by the pandemic. I have been impressed by the creativity and resiliency of so many in our parish as we have adapted our worship and corporate life to this new reality. Zoom has become our new meeting place. Our Sunday gatherings continue to attract a large number of parishioners and our Tuesday morning coffee time and Wednesday evening study group have become popular fixtures in the week. The special videos posted on our web site including those for children and for music lovers have also been well used. As a result of the Zoom platform, we have been able to welcome people from far and wide and have been able to share deeply of our personal concerns, faith, and passions in a way that may not have been possible otherwise. Many parishioners have also responded generously to the financial needs of our parish, of our community outreach partners and others. As well, I am deeply conscious of the blessings that we share in this parish including our garden which continues to be a source of inspiration to so many both within the parish and in the wider community. I have received a number of e-mails from neighbours saying how important the garden has been to them in providing an oasis of peace and beauty in this very troubling time.

As you know, Anglican churches have been instructed by our bishops to remain closed for public

worship during July and August. We will use this time to prepare as a parish for our return to the church building in September. Much needs to be done to ensure that we can worship safely together this fall. The diocese will be providing us with guidelines to follow and Parish Council and Management Board will work over the summer months to ensure that we are ready to implement these guidelines in September. We will need many volunteers to help in this effort come September, so I hope you will respond to the call when it comes later this summer to become one of the volunteers needed to make public worship possible again.

I hope that that spirit of creativity and resilience that I mentioned earlier will continue to be with us in the fall as we adjust to a variety of changes in worship that will result from the continuing presence of the coronavirus. Not only will the number of people allowed in the church building be restricted, but some parishioners may feel that they would prefer not to attend a public gathering at this time. As a result, we are working towards livestreaming our services so that even when we gather together in our building there will still be an option to join us on-line for those who feel vulnerable. We hope to experiment with this livestreaming over the summer as we also continue our Sunday Zoom worship.

Thank you to all those who in these past months have reached out to fellow parishioners and to me offering their support and encouragement. It is in times like these that the parish family can make such a difference. Please continue to pray for one another and for the needs of the world around us, and please continue to share your concern and love for each other with a phone call or e-mail that can make such a difference.

God continues to bless us at St. Martin's in ever new ways. I am deeply grateful for the presence of the Spirit with us, leading us through these challenging times, supporting and challenging us to be more and more the Body of Christ in the world.

Please also check the St. Martin's web site (stmartininthefields.ca) where you can find links to videos made recently at the church under "Worship Services," or the parish's YouTube channel for past videos and sermons. The URL for the St. Martin's channel is:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuFiE1n5aFyJuuzxPROYPKQ>.

And if you haven't been getting regular emails from me, please send me your email address so that I can

send you regular updates. My email address is phobson@stmartininthefields.ca.

*Blessings in Christ,
Fr. Philip*

Coping During the Health Crisis

By various parishioners

The Lychgate asked parishioners to share their strategies for surviving the lockdown, their experiences, and any “silver linings” they encountered. These are their contributions:

- From Grace Karram Stephenson: Our family has been on a roller coaster of ups and down during the health crisis. After a difficult first week, we moved to my parents' home in Ajax where my mother is homeschooling Maelle and JJ so we can work. It has been a true gift to spend time with my parents and enjoy family meals together each day. We call lunchtime “lunch at the farm” because we all stop our work and join together to eat. Sadly, my grandmother passed away on April 17th and we felt the pain of not being able to visit her in her final days. Fortunately, our location at my parents' home meant we could look through old albums with the children and talk with relatives around the world as the phone calls of sympathy came in.

Our children are really enjoying the extended adventure at their grandparents. JJ has learned to ride a two-wheeler and Maelle sewed a glow-in-the-dark nightgown. They have also planted a vegetable garden they are protecting from the rabbits! And of course, they love making videos to send to their St. Martin's family.

- From Phil Snider: COVID-19 first appeared to me, like a lot of people, like a whisper, something that was happening somewhere else: disturbing, but not directly impacting me. It first became a worry as I was holding the parents' meeting for my students' trip to Greece over March Break. Our representative from the tour agency warned me that we might get a question about Coronavirus, as we were calling it then. We didn't. That trip was cancelled, a week before departure. Like everything else.

Those first few weeks were very much about loss – of our plans, of contact with my students, of contact with other people. And those weeks were also about anxiety – about getting sick, about shopping, even about going

outside. To some degree, it still is, but we seem to have gotten used to this, as far as we can.

Yet, as difficult as that time was, what I remember most fondly is the creativity that suddenly broke out in those early days as people tried to figure out how to connect. I remember it in churches finding ways to reach out to their people – videos from St. Martin's, live streamed services from St. James Cathedral, and from our own Bishop Susan Bell in Niagara. I remember our COVID Easter – a mixture of services from various sources and our own DIY Easter Vigil in the Goulden-Snider household, complete with our own version of the Resurrection Party. And Zoom calls. LOTS of Zoom calls – to Elin's family, my family, friends, colleagues, the May study group at St. Martin's, eventually my students organizing a virtual version of our annual conference on Zoom because they missed each other. Somehow, we were making connections, even in isolation, and there is something miraculous and, I think, divine about that.

And then there was more time with the family. Oh, it's been complicated and stressful, especially as Elin and I juggle our jobs with schooling for the boys. Trying to learn new ways to do our jobs and help our kids navigate new ways to do their school work has been very challenging as we fought (and still fight) our technical limitations. I have to admit that I've lost sleep and my patience at times. I'm grateful for the ways that I can reduce that stress and anxiety – journaling, a meditation podcast from Chaplain Jared in California, early morning prayer, the virtues of grounding work like cooking, dishes, walking the dog, and working in the yard. I'm also grateful for the good times we've had – watching movies, our last Vesuvio dinner, Easter (again) and toasting marshmallows at our fire.

My family and I have been fortunate, I think. None of us have been sick. We've been lucky enough to be able to work from home. Yes, sometimes it has been hard. We miss our church and our friends, but we're okay.

- From Tim Stephenson: Kathy, my wife, was part of the COVID-19 planning for St Mike's hospital though her unit did not get COVID-19 patients. They did get patients from the ICU and so it was very busy in April and May. It is calmer now. While parking was free for hospital staff Kathy has been cycling and it has been a splendid June but not so good April and May! Please see Kathy's article on safe use of personal protective equipment below.

I normally work downtown, as does Marino Botuli, a refugee from Congo who lives with us (see Parish Profile of Marino in April 2017 *Lythgate*, posted on St. Martin's web page). We both were suddenly working from home. Our daughter Sophie (and her Rottweiler) joined us for four weeks in March and April, so each person had one floor to work on, and they did not interrupt each other's calls.

Living by the lake and the park with two energetic dogs, we got a lot of exercise. There are six of us in the house, so we made a point of having dinner together each night. It helped that the days grew longer and warmer and all of us were safe and healthy.

• From Mary Conliffe: It feels like our life hasn't changed too much. I guess we were always homebodies! But despite the big holes in our life – church primarily, but also baseball for Philip and Gregory, which used to take up a great deal of our spring and summer months – there have been many blessings to this strange season of COVID-19. I am rather enjoying working from home, being "present" to the family in a new way as we eat all three meals together every day. I can now sit in my backyard with my computer, dog and unlimited snacks, and I am not missing the daily commute on the TTC one little bit. While we miss spending time with other people, we have rediscovered more family activities together: lots of board games and card games, walks and bike rides together, and Zoom calls with extended family on Sunday afternoons. Philip has been taking the lead on homeschooling and seems to enjoy tackling the Grade 7 French curriculum, tirelessly working on Gregory's accent. The baking output from my kitchen has been tremendously good! Little household projects are getting tackled: I have discovered my husband has a handy side. And the dog is spoilt with attention. God is good.

• From Hazel Bentley: The challenging last two years presented me with the death of my husband, a severe car accident, the sale of a house and moving into the Grenadier Retirement Residence. The support of others has been so important. When the pandemic came it was important to feel that others were there and see them, also while learning from their handling of life in the pandemic.

The sharing of connection through the church service online was also instrumental for me.

I am grateful. (*Hazel Bentley, OPC Dipl. Psych., Member Emeritus CAPT, is a retired psychotherapist.*)

• From Jonathan Gentry: I am being well looked after at home by my son George, and daughter-in-law Amy. When it is cool and dry enough, I take short walks about the neighbourhood, but I mainly stay in the house.

I keep in touch with others online using Zoom, FaceTime, FaceBook and email. I am also reading a lot; and am researching my ancestry online.

I think about how St Martin's is changing to meet the ever-changing needs of its community.

Yes – I'm looking forward to visiting the building again when the health crisis abates.

Safe Practice and Use of PPE

By Kathy Mansfield



Kathy Mansfield in her mask

I was part of the COVID-19 planning for St Mike's hospital. I would like to share what I have learned about the safe use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

As we start moving into phase 2 of opening up services it is more important than ever

to be "Safe, Kind, and careful" (Bonnie Henry, Chief Medical Officer, B.C.).

The use of PPE is a very new practice for many of us and not one we would likely choose given the option. What is most important is that we be kind to others in offering guidance in safe practice and use of PPE. I would happy to help or answer questions on safe use of PPE. Here is the short version of how we should be practicing safe use of PPE:

- Wash your hands with soap and water/ hand sanitizer frequently rubbing together for 15seconds
- Wear a mask indoors in places where you are in close contact such as stores
- When taking your mask off hand sanitizer before and after you remove your mask
- wash your mask and then it is ready for use next time
- If wearing a disposable mask they really should not be re-used unless stored in the following way:
 - Place outside down in a plastic container.
 - Do not store in a plastic bag as the germs from the outside of mask could migrate to the side which is next to your face.
- The mask prevents you from touching your face, impedes droplets from contacting your mouth and

nose, and reduces spread of droplets from people who may have the virus without knowing it.

- If you touch the outside of your mask you should wash your hands with soap and water and or hand sanitizer
- Gloves are not recommended for use unless you have a skin condition or immune compromised. The challenge of wearing gloves is that we inadvertently touch many surfaces without washing our hands and then potentially transmit germs to ourselves or others. If you need to wear gloves be sure someone has shown you how to don and remove gloves and again wash your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer.

This is a lot to incorporate into our daily practice but, if we do this well, we can prevent the spread of COVID and contain it, which means we can all be back together again at safe distance sooner. Most importantly it is important that we are in the words of Dr. Bonnie Henry "Safe, Kind, and Careful". We need to be kind stewards of safe practice.

Romero House Update

By Jenn McIntyre, Director, Romero House

Greetings from your neighbours at Romero House! Thank you to St. Martin's for all of the support you have provided with furniture, art supplies, books, computers, and other donations.

We are doing relatively well at Romero House. The strength of our community has always been in in-person relationships and a whole lot of parties. So, we have had to rethink how we build community at this time. We have essentially isolated each one of our four houses, so the workers, staff and refugee families who live in each house function like a little pod. We have kept ourselves busy with online schooling (ESL and grade school), gardening, house parties, potlucks, and all sorts of art activities. There are some changes coming, as a number of families have moved out or will be moving shortly. There are challenges associated with admitting new families to a congregate living situation in COVID, particularly as some will be coming in from bigger shelters. But we are doing all that we can to mitigate the risks.

In addition to our houses, Romero House provides immigration and settlement support to refugees all over the GTA through our walk-in program. We have been doing so virtually since March. Although the number of new refugee arrivals has been way down

due to travel restrictions, there is still great need from people who are already here and are trying to navigate immigration and settlement services in this environment. Our workers have been creative, flexible, and hard working as they remain committed to ensuring that refugees in our city have access to the support they need. We are looking ahead to opening up our Bloor Street Centre to walk-ins in quite a reduced way, so that people with language and technology barriers can be received and supported.

Thank you again for your prayers and support. We know we are always in the minds and hearts of folk at St. Martin's.

FaithWorks Fun(ding) Day at Camp Nokomis

Save the Date: Saturday, August 29th

– rain date August 30th

By Jay Haddad and Judith Kidd

With COVID-19 we have had to make many changes in how we do things – unfortunately, there are some things that don't change. One of those unchangeable situations is the need for funding for FaithWorks partners....



Partners like The Dam, a program for youth located in Mississauga. They have moved the drop-ins to an online platform. A youth helped set up The Dam on Discord, a chat room with voice and video



options.... Or, local partners such as Romero House who are supporting refugee families with additional needs for children being schooled at home. These agencies are having to do things differently at a cost.



This year, our annual FaithWorks Fundraiser, the Walkathon on Toronto Islands, is not possible. BUT.... through the generosity of Jay and Vicki Haddad, St. Martin's families have the opportunity to do fund raising for FaithWorks by walking or cycling or swimming or canoeing at Camp Nokomis or on the trails close by. The camp is near Fergus and transportation can be arranged. Some things will stay the same – getting pledges before the day and an outdoor compline service with Father Philip in the late afternoon.



This is an event for all – from 8 to 80+. For more information or to register please contact: Judith Kidd at jdthv39@gmail.com or at 416-480-2680.

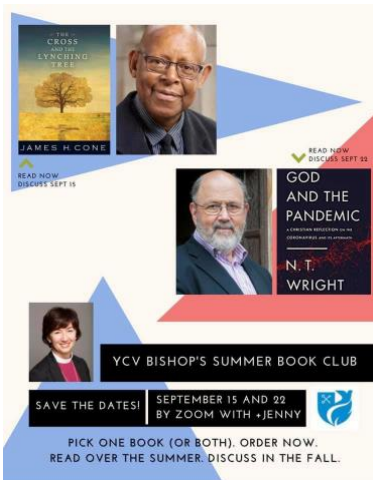
More detailed information will be available for those who register in early August.

Please join us! Your presence will make it extra special!!

Have fun and help FaithWorks!

St. Martin's Summer Book Club

By Mary Conliffe



After too many months of sitting in front of a computer, isn't it time to relax with a good book? The St Martin's Summer Book Club is back, with three terrific book suggestions to choose from this summer. Read one or more, and then join with others in September when we can share our

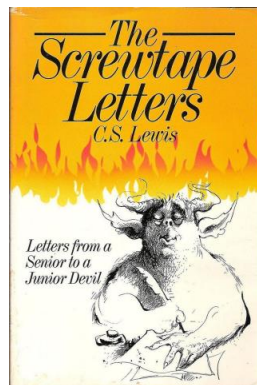
feedback, questions and insights.

Our Area Bishop, Bishop Jenny Andison, is hosting discussions for all of York-Credit Valley on two different yet equally topical books:

- *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, by James Cone (to be discussed via Zoom on September 15). This is an historical and theological examination of the Black experience through the lynching era, using the two symbols of death that have defined the Black Community.
- *God and the Pandemic*, by N.T. Wright (to be discussed via Zoom on September 22). This is a book written by the former Bishop of Durham in order to "help understand how we are to talk about God, how we are to live in the present pandemic, how we recover from it, and what is the church's calling in the midst of it all."

And our Parish Book Club will be looking at the classic:

- *The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis (to be discussed via Zoom on September 16). This winsome



little collection of letters 'from a senior devil to a junior devil' reads easily but will convince you mightily with its insights into human nature, sin, redemption and the Grace of God.

All three of these books should be available from your public library or favourite book seller. Enjoy the read! And save the dates for September. We'll send out Zoom links later in the summer.

St. Martin's Plans to Livestream Services

By Ian Greene

The Parish Council meeting on May 11 discussed the possibility of putting services from St. Martin's online, as the COVID-19 health crisis is likely to result in restrictions on church services at St. Martin's for some time. A working group was established to look at the audio, video, and other resources needed as we move forward. The committee is composed of Fr. Philip, Mtr. Alison, John Cash, Jonathan Gentry, Ian Greene, David McKnight, Patty McKnight, Robert Snow, Ben Tshin, and Andrea Zinn.

The group decided to focus on long-term rather than short-term solutions, and the preference for long-term was to livestream services onto the St. Martin's YouTube channel. We are fortunate that Robert Snow, Ben Tshin, and John Cash have a good deal of technical expertise and were able to recommend the equipment needed at the best price. At the end of May, the planning group assembled a proposal to go to the York-Credit Valley Area Council for a grant to help with the purchase of necessary equipment, and on June 15 we learned that a grant to St. Martin's was approved for \$3,500. At the joint Parish Council/Management Board meeting of June 15, an additional expenditure of up to \$5,000 was approved.

On June 16, we started to order the equipment needed, and discovered that there is so much demand for livestreaming equipment that some of the equipment may not be delivered for several weeks. Meantime, we can set up the equipment that comes in and begin to experiment. Our hope is to be prepared to produce quality livestreams of services from St. Martin's by September.

Possible Seniors Program at St. Martin's

By Tim Stephenson and Janet Reid Nahabedian

St. Martin's is blessed with a great garden and a great location close to the subway, and the Missional

Committee has looked for ways we can help the community around us. We are also lucky to have Nico Cassidy as a member of St. Martin's choir who approached Parish Council with an idea that could serve older adults (60+) around us. Nico works with a local community support agency which supports seniors. Among their many services they have an Older Adult Centre and twelve other community locations where they offer programming aimed at reducing social isolation and improving seniors' health. St Martin's would be well suited as another centre with our large parish hall and availability of the garden in good weather to host such programs. We were excited at the prospect and then COVID-19 hit. However, we wanted to have a framework in place when restrictions are lifted because this is an important undertaking and will only be possible with ongoing volunteer support.

The typical format is twice-weekly gatherings which last about two hours and incorporate an exercise class of about 45-60 minutes, social time/refreshments, and usually another activity. Nico's organization provides the instructor to lead the exercise and volunteers would facilitate the rest of the program (which could include discussion, cards, games, presentations etc.) and perhaps evolve according to interests of the group). The typical group size is 12 to 15 people but could be larger. The program would be open to seniors in the community as well as St. Martin's parishioners, and Nico's organization would also pass on referrals from health professionals.

Volunteers are an essential element to establishing a seniors' program at St Martin's. They will be needed to set up for each session, welcome participants (e.g., by assisting with the elevator), serve refreshments, assist with program facilitation, and cleanup. We estimate that a half hour before and after the session would be required. Currently the best times in terms of the parish schedule in the building are Wednesday and Friday afternoons. (Volunteers would be welcome to participate in the exercise class!)

Once we have a possible date for launching, we will be looking for anyone who is interested in participating. Meantime, we need to gather volunteers who could plan and assist on one or both days of a potential program. Please let us know if you are interested in this special ministry or have any questions. You can contact Tim Stephenson (timjstephenson@gmail.com) or 647-774-1719, or Janet

Reid Nahabedian (reid.nahabedian@gmail.com) or 416-694-7301.

Parish Profile: Philip Savage

By Ian Greene



Philip Savage grew up as the middle child in a family of seven in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Philip's dad was a medical doctor who trained in the United Kingdom and Ireland and practiced in his native Wales during a turbulent

time in the U.K. medical system in the early 1960s. Dr. Savage had joined an unsuccessful strike by some doctors. Discouraged by these events, Dr. Savage immigrated to Canada in 1966 when Philip was three and joined a medical centre in Dartmouth, across the harbour from Halifax.

In 1969, Dr. Savage bought a cottage on a peninsula on Lake Micmac in Dartmouth and transformed it into the family home. The children had two acres to explore and play on. "It was just glorious," said Philip. "All of us had to learn to swim for safety. We built tree forts and walked around the lake." The family had lots of visitors – having 20 people on the patio by the lake was not unusual.

The family attended St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church in Dartmouth. Regular church attendance was important, and a big part of family life – especially during Lent.

As the middle child, Philip took on a "mediator" role, an experience which he continues to draw upon. The older children had a duty to look out for the younger ones. Dr. Savage made porridge every morning for the family and expected the kids to look after each other the rest of the day. They were encouraged to form their own "kids' union" to organize chores and distribute allowances. The kids walked to school in Dartmouth, which took 30 to 40 minutes. Family conversations revolved around diverse subject-matters, including poetry. As Easter presents, each child was given a book. "My parents were Renaissance people," recalled Philip. There wasn't much "shop talk" about medicine.

Philip's parents were always involved in community activities such as outreach and fundraising for the church. Perhaps because the children were encouraged to have a broad range of interests and knowledge, none followed their dad into a career in medicine.

Dr. Savage worked with other doctors to set up a medical clinic in North Preston, north and east of Dartmouth. North Preston was first settled by Black Americans after the American Revolution, and later by Black Americans fleeing from persecution during the War of 1812. North Preston was poorly served by medical services and public transport, which is why Dr. Savage and other doctors decided to bring medical services there. Each doctor did volunteer work in North Preston a half day a week. Dr. Savage did fund raising to support the North Preston clinic.

In high school, Philip played tenor saxophone in the Dartmouth Kiwanis marching band. They performed at special events in the Dartmouth-Halifax area, and around the province, including performing during visits by the Queen. Philip was accepted into an innovative mass communications program at Carleton University in Ottawa, and during his second year met Vivian Yap, who eventually became his wife. After finishing his degree, Philip did a summer internship program with the Quebec government in Montreal. Premier René Levesque would often visit the interns in Montreal on Friday afternoons, and valued Philip's non-partisan views about the "rest of Canada" and its perspective on Quebec. Around this time, Philip's dad was elected as the mayor of Dartmouth.

After the internship, Philip and Vivian went to Malaysia (her birth country) in September 1985. Philip and Vivian were married in Kuala Lumpur at the City Hall. Given the fashion of the time, Philip wore a light pale blue suit. The wedding was followed by a massive Chinese Malaysian banquet. They returned to Canada in December, and to pay his debts, Philip worked for two months in a grocery store on the overnight shift. Philip was accepted into a graduate program at Simon Fraser University, so he and Vivian moved to Vancouver. Vivian got a job with a cable tech company, and they lived in Vancouver from 1986 to 1989. During that time, Philip was a sessional lecturer, and did field work on the first co-op radio station in North America, which was broadcasting from Vancouver.

Philip was invited to a conference on broadcasting at the National Library in Ottawa and met two people

from the CBC Research department. They were interested in his MA work on new developments in news reporting, and Philip was told about a three-month contract position in Ottawa – which he applied for and obtained. After the contract ended, they asked him to stay on. In 1994, he moved to a position in Toronto to head up audience research for the CBC English radio services. He worked with many interesting personalities, including Peter Gzowski, Michael Enright, and Andy Barry.

Eventually, Philip worked on the transition of CBC Radio One from AM to FM. He was invited to the last broadcast of CBC radio in Toronto in the AM format at a transmitter in Hornby, northwest of Mississauga, from which CBC had been broadcasting for eighty years. A bunker had been built there in case of a disaster so that broadcasts could continue. Veteran broadcasting engineers from all over North America were there. Philip wrote and delivered the farewell message for CBC-AM 740.

In 1992, during Philip's time at the CBC, his dad became leader of the Nova Scotia Liberal Party, and in 1993 became the Premier of Nova Scotia. Dr. Savage was a social justice reformer, and amongst other things ended patronage appointments in the Nova Scotia public service and created one of the most modern emergency health services in North America. He resigned as Premier in 1997, and he and his wife then did medical missionary work in Africa. Another family member also became a prominent politician. Philip's older brother Mike was a Member of Parliament for a Halifax constituency from 2004 to 2011, and in 2012 became the Mayor of Halifax, a position he still holds.

In 1999, Philip enrolled in the PhD program in communications studies offered jointly by York University and Ryerson University, and in 2003 ended his work with CBC. He obtained a sessional lecturer position at McMaster University in Communication Studies, which turned into a full-time tenured position after he defended his PhD dissertation in 2006. Philip invited several St. Martin's friends to the defence of his PhD dissertation, which was on audience research and broadcasting policy. Friends from St. Martin's included Bonnie and David Kettel, and Ian Greene.

Vivian currently works for the Ontario College of Teachers in technical communications for on-line systems. Vivian has done a lot of volunteer work in the various cities they have lived in, including as a long-

time volunteer counsellor with Planned Parenthood in the area of women's reproductive rights.

Soon after Philip and Vivian moved to Toronto in 1994, their daughter Brigid was born at St. Joseph's hospital, and Gemma was born in 1997. Both Brigid and Gemma attended the St. Martin's church school. Brigid is now finishing up a graduate degree in communications and culture at Ryerson and York Universities. Gemma graduated from McGill University in general arts in 2019. She worked in Paris for a time and has now been accepted into a graduate degree program in architecture at the University of Toronto.

When Philip and Vivian moved to Toronto in 1994, they bought a house on MacDonnell Ave., and attended the nearby St. Vincent de Paul church on Roncesvalles. Vivian was part of a new mothers' group. Another person in the mothers' group was Anne Longmore, who sings in St. Martin's choir. Philip and Vivian learned about St. Martin's from her, and Philip decided to visit St. Martin's. The liturgy reminded him of his church in Dartmouth, and he has been with St. Martin's



St. Martin's Former Assistant Curate at Fr. Andrew MacDonald and his wife Martha, had a baby girl, Beatrice, born May 20.

Kids' Church Update

By Grace Karraam Stephenson

The Kids' Church has stayed in touch with our young people through five videos posted on the St. Martin's YouTube channel, and two Messy Church Zoom meetings. Kids are welcome to see these videos at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuFiE1n5aFyJuuzxPROYPKQ>.

St. Martin's teamed up with St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church at Wychwood and St. Clair to participate in two Messy Church sessions with children from St. Martin's and St. Michael's. St. Michael's has turned its church hall into a kind of Santa's workshop, putting together craft bags for the Messy Churches and other St. Michael's activities. Ian picked up the craft bags from St. Michael's and delivered them to six St. Martin's households. At 4 p.m. on Sunday May 17 and Sunday June 14, the kids joined a Zoom meeting hosted by Jenni King at St. Michael's, and the kids opened their craft boxes. In May, the lesson was about Christ the King, and the children made crowns with flashing lights. In June, the lesson was about the inspiration received by Moses, Elijah, and Jesus on mountains, and the kids constructed truly creative mountains that they shared on Zoom. Ian was able to share some of his mountain climbing photos and experiences. We hope to do another Messy Church in the future.



Philip teaching kids to bake bread, 2005

ever since.

When Brigid and Gemma were young, Philip was recruited to teach Sunday School. The kids loved him, especially when he taught them how to bake bread in the kitchen. Philip has been Chair of Parish Council at St. Martin's twice, in 2005-07, and 2019-20. He has been a member of the Outreach Committee for many years and has been an altar server and a reader. All this has given him a large range of experience of parish life.

Philip is currently on sabbatical and working on editing a book on universalism and public service media, covering a dozen different countries.

Once we find out what the rules for the Diocese are for children in the church in the fall, the teachers will get together and make plans. Things are going to look different from what they were in the past, but we are going to come up with plans that will keep our kids' community together, having fun, and thriving!

Please email Grace at grace.karram@utoronto.ca if you would like to participate in any Kids' Church programs, or get on the Kids' Church email list.

Visitors to the Garden

by Ingrid Whitaker



Japanese cherry trees in bloom, May. All garden photos courtesy David McKnight

In this time of COVID-19, the St. Martin's garden has been increasingly popular and has provided a haven for young and old, both human and animal. Whenever one visits, there are always people utilizing the space. I go to the garden to work in it or to water the plants at different times during the day and evening and there are almost always other people there. Many find it is a calm place to social distance with friends and family and it is a welcome place for those in small apartments who do not have any outdoor space.



Many local families visit with young children as the sunken location of our space is enclosed and mothers feel it is especially safe for toddlers and babies. Elderly visitors also come to sit peacefully and to look at the flowers. Many come from the various retirement homes



in the community and some even make St. Martin's garden the destination for daily walks.

Of course, dogs of all sizes and their owners visit. While most dog owners are responsible and are very respectful of our garden, a few manage to leave behind their dog's droppings and these visitors are not so welcome. Small dog owners, however, feel, as the young mothers feel, that the enclosed space is protective and safe for their pets.

Nearby apartment dwellers, families, couples and singles, come to have picnics on the lawn. They bring picnic blankets or folding chairs and are often to be found lounging on the grass and relaxing.

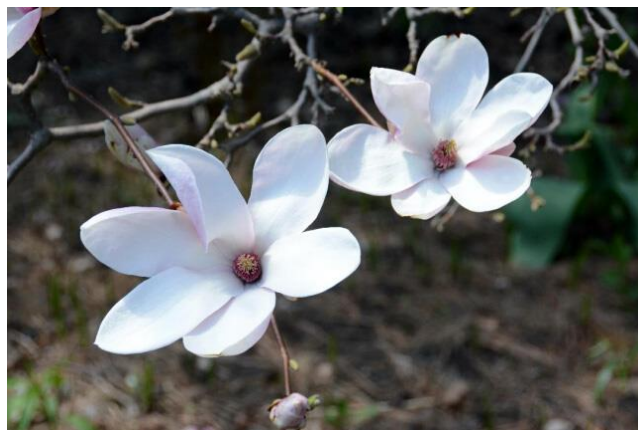


Not all visitors are human or canine, however. Lately a family of rabbits have taken up abode in the upper, sloped, wooded garden much to the delight of the

children who sometimes spy them. A family of cardinals (the birds) have also nested in our branches and, of course, both bees and butterflies are encouraged. The bee hotel provides a complete nesting home for pollinating bees and the growing milkweed provides food for emerging monarch butterflies.

Perhaps the oddest visitors (at least to me) were the cameraman and his client who I found, much to my surprise, one day in early spring, filming a live-stream yoga program. I could only ask that perhaps they should have informed the church of their intent to film "on location."

As is evident, the St. Martin's garden has been undeniably popular this spring. It provides a valuable safe place for people in this difficult time and we garden volunteers are always content to see our lovely space utilized and making people happy.



Saucer Magnolia in bloom.

