

# THE LYCHGATE

## June 27, 2021

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



#### From Fr. Philip

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Did you feel different on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>? Not only was the 24th Victoria Day this year, but it was also the first day of Ordinary Time, marking the completion of the Lent and Easter seasons. While the term Ordinary here refers specifically to the use of ordinals or numbers in the title of the Sundays after Pentecost, I also think the more common modern use of the term “ordinary” has something to say to us in terms of liturgical time. There are two great cycles that we celebrate each year, the Advent-Christmas cycle and the Lent-Easter cycle. In between these cycles is Ordinary Time when we focus our attention in the gospels on Jesus’ public ministry, his teaching and healing, and on the day to day ordinary life of the Christian disciple and the Church.

But this year there is really nothing “ordinary” about the times in which we are living. The lockdowns and restrictions that have come as the result of the pandemic have been difficult for all to cope with but have proved especially difficult for many of the marginalized in our society. For those who have spent much of the past year closeted in their rooms there has been a great toll. We also remember all those who have died as the result of COVID and all those who continue to suffer from the long-lasting effects of their bout with this deadly disease. Not only have we been dealing with physical and mental illness, but our society has been rocked by the terrible discoveries at the Kamloops Residential School and by the horrific murder of the Muslim family in London, Ontario. We cannot ignore the presence of racism and prejudice in our country and in ourselves, with its often deadly consequences.

So, this really is no ordinary time. However, it is also not an ordinary time because it is in the midst of these very difficult times that we are aware most deeply of the extraordinary love of God that reaches out to support us, encourage us, and challenge us to turn away from all that mars the image of God within us. To live the life of a disciple of Jesus is no ordinary task, but a call to an adventure in faith and a call to change and transformation which can be both painful and exhilarating. How strange it is that in these challenging times, as the result of our Zoom gatherings on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, many of us have come to know our fellow parishioners in a way that we could not have imagined before the pandemic. We have come to realize both the fragility of our life but also the underlying resilience of our community that rests upon the grace of God. We have responded in an extraordinary way to the needs of those around us and have provided funds and resources to help those suffering the most in our society.

As we look to the coming weeks and, I pray, an opportunity to enjoy once more the fullness of worship and community, I hope that we will not just slide back into treating things as ordinary all over again. But, perhaps, the experience of these past months has taught us to appreciate even more deeply the extraordinary way in which we depend upon God and upon each other and has caused us to value even more strongly the joys of common prayer and worship, and the bonds of a lively fellowship. We are no ordinary people and this is no ordinary parish, but we are those gifted by our extraordinary God with life and amazing potential, the potential of a full and joyous life in Jesus Christ. May we seize that opportunity as we enter into this new season in our parish’s life to bring a renewed sense of urgency and purpose to our worship, to our service, to our fellowship, witnessing to the amazing love of God at work in us and in God’s world.

Yours in 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

### 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  
The Rev'd Alison Hari-  
Singh  
The Rt. Rev'd Victoria  
Matthews

### Organist & Music Director:

Jack Hattey

### Church Wardens:

Tim Stephenson  
Eilonwy Morgan

### Property Manager:

Mark Kolberg

**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](mailto: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](mailto:Lychgate1111@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events

**The church will be re-opening on July 11 at limited capacity.** Please review the article below, look for emails from Fr. Philip, and check the church web site.

**Sunday 11 am Services are Live-Streamed on St. Martin's YouTube Channel** (please use the link on the parish's web site)

**Save the date: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th –**  
FaithWorks Walkathon; Rain Date:  
September 19<sup>th</sup>

**Summer Book Club:** Read starting now (see article below) and join discussion group Wednesday evenings in September.

**Since March 21, 2021,**  
**from the Parish**  
**Registers:**  
**Weddings:**

None

**Baptisms:**

None

**Funerals:**

William Arthur  
Collins on May  
12th `



Photo courtesy David McKnight

## Church Reopening

### Church Reopening

By Tim Stephenson, Chair Reopening Committee

We are watching the provincial guidelines closely and hoping that we will be able to open on July 11 with 25 per cent capacity. We are encouraged to see COVID-19 numbers falling and vaccination rates climbing. We are following the guidelines established by the Diocese and the experience will be similar to when we reopened last September. The emphasis is on the safety of all who attend and to that end we ask that people on church property are masked and distanced.

We will reopen for the 8:30 and 11:00 services on Sunday with 35 spaces allocated through Eventbrite. Please go to the St Martin's website to link to the registration process ([www.stmartininthefields.ca](http://www.stmartininthefields.ca)). Registration will open on the Monday immediately before the service – July 5 for the first Sunday – and close the following Saturday at 4:00 p.m. or earlier if capacity is reached. Phone registration can be done by calling Judith Kidd at 416-480-2680. The preference is Eventbrite registration because we capture the information we need before you arrive. For now, we will not open the Tuesday morning service until we have sufficient volunteers and work out logistics with the children's Day Camp, which will be using the church hall weekdays during July and August. We will continue to have the Zoom coffee hour on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. and Tuesday mornings at 10:30. The Livestream for the 11:00 Sunday service will continue as usual.

When you arrive, you will meet the greeter and registrar as you enter the church. The sidesperson will show you to your pew so we can keep appropriate distancing. The service will be similar to what was done in the fall with restrictions on singing and movement. Communion remains only the bread. Jack will finish with his organ postlude and the sidesperson will show people out of the church.

We believe this experience is the safest possible and we hope you will consider joining us in person. We cannot reopen without the help of our many volunteers. Please let me know if you would be interested in taking on a volunteer role as

sidesperson, registrar, greeter, cleaner or assistant with the livestream ([timjstephenson@gmail.com](mailto:timjstephenson@gmail.com)).

## Margaret Allen Retires as Parish Secretary

By David McKnight



After 25 years, Margaret Allen has retired as Parish Secretary at St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

Margaret began in 1996, during the interim of Fr. David Brinton, before Fr. Philip came to us. The position is part-time, usually around two hours a week, but as many as eight at certain times. The main function was the production of the service leaflets week by week — and more at Christmas and Easter. Special leaflets, such as those for ordinations and the Advent Carol Service, were more work since they included all of the service. Entry of the donations, done about once a month, became easier after QuickBooks came into use. Other duties included the annual booklet of reports to Vestry, updates to the parish list, producing mailing labels, stocking office supplies and postage stamps, and using and seeing to maintenance of the copier. (She did not have to repair it herself!)

As well as this part-time post, Margaret's main job has been as Parish Administrator at St. Aidan's parish in the Beach since 1983. She plans to continue with those duties.

Margaret will still be a member of our choir which she joined in 1987, recruited by Jack Hattey after she sang in a couple of his Village Concerts with a madrigal group from the Tallis Choir. She loves singing in the choir; she enjoys the variety of music Jack finds, the wonderful acoustics, and the well-conducted liturgy. She also plans to produce a parish calendar for 2022 if circumstances (i.e., Covid) permit. You may recall that she did very popular calendars for 2019 and 2020, but it was not possible to do one for 2021.

Margaret was born in Leicester, England and moved to Canada at age six when her father, an Anglican priest, took a teaching position in the Theological Faculty of Huron College. She completed public school and high school in London, ON and then went to Carleton to do a BMus degree in musicology. While in Ottawa, she sang in the choir of Christ Church Cathedral and in the Ottawa Choral Society. She moved to Toronto in 1979 and sang in the choir at St. John's Norway until she came to St. Martin's.

We will miss Margaret's many administrative talents but are happy that she will remain with us as a member of the congregation and the choir. It is our good fortune that we have had her skills so long and that we will continue to see and hear her.

## Christmas Market

By The Market Mavens (minus one), Roseann Barry and Kathie Wagg

Who is thinking about Christmas during the hottest weather we have had for quite some time? Actually, a number of people in our parish family are. Maybe thinking about Christmas helps to keep the heat at bay.

First, we need to let you know that one of the Market Mavens, Lee Jeffrey, will be leaving Toronto to take up residence and help her parents in Stratford. This will be a huge loss to St. Martin's — and to our Christmas Market planning group. Lee was critical to our Market success last year. We are hoping to keep her involved in some way — especially if we are virtual this year. In any event, we wish her well as she embarks on this new chapter of her life. She will always be a member of our parish family, just a little more distant from now on.

Next, what will the Market look like this year? Will it be virtual, or in-person, or perhaps a combination of the two? Much will depend on the situation with the pandemic, of course. If improvement continues, we hope to gather in person by the end of November. Like most of you, we miss our parish family! But we need large numbers to make the Market viable. Whether people will be comfortable getting together indoors in large

numbers we won't know until we observe behaviour over time.

While November seems a long while away, there is a lot that you can do even now to help with the Market. As businesses are slowly opening, you could help them by purchasing gift cards and donating them for the silent auction, which Susan Goddard will be managing. You could go through your jewelry and accessories and set aside some good quality pieces that you have not used in some time. Maggie Knight would love to take those from you. You could make some extra jars of jams, jellies and other preserves and put them aside for the Market. Kathie Wagg would really appreciate those donations. Are you a 'crafty' person or know someone who is who could make home décor items or Christmas decorations? Helen Kolberg would love to hear from you. Roseann Barry could also use donations for her Keep a Lid On It booth. This would include any reusable container made of any materials, empty or full — with a lid, of course. Roseann has a number collected already from sweet trinket boxes, pottery, and great Christmas puzzles to a pine toy box! Use your creativity.

And there is something else. Clara's Café is a popular luncheon destination for those attending any in-person event. Right now, we do not have anyone prepared to lead that location. Is that something you could do? You would not be on your own — there are people that would be available to help. Just ask us for names.

If you could help, please speak to Roseann Barry (1-905-570-6527 [roseannbarry336@gmail.com](mailto:roseannbarry336@gmail.com)) or Kathie Wagg (416-439-2171 [waggfamily@bell.net](mailto:waggfamily@bell.net))

Please help us to make St. Martin's Christmas Market 2021 the best ever!



Nutcracker Fair 2019



## Thank You to St. Martin's from FaithWorks

By Judith Kidd

On Friday, May 28th, there was a diocesan event via Zoom celebrating twenty-five years of good works through FaithWorks. At that event there was also a recognition of those parish communities that had exceeded expectations in this past year's campaign and also recognizing those parishes who had consistently exceeded expectations over the past 25 years. Congratulations to the ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS parish community. We were one of very few parishes whose name appeared in both groups.

Being recognized for the parish's participation in this past campaign is particularly notable as the givings to FaithWorks were the highest in over seven years with 85% of parishes in the diocese contributing to the effort. The 2020 Campaign raised \$1,617,000 — well above the campaign goal.

The framed acknowledgements of these achievements will soon be placed where all can see them. In the meantime, a very grateful and fulsome thank you from the current FaithWorks co-ordinator.

## Parish Profile: Cathy Paxton and Bob Thornley

By David McKnight

Paths are not always straight; there can be many twists, turns, and divergences, even when they eventually get to the same place.

Cathy Paxton was born at St. Joseph's hospital. Her father was Roman Catholic and her mother Salvation Army. She was raised Roman Catholic, attending Holy Rosary church near Bathurst and St. Clair, but she went to the public school. At Vincent Massey Collegiate, being a self-described "music geek," she was active in the music program. The music teacher was George Dunkley who was also the organist and choirmaster at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. First, she played viola but switched to violin and in grade 11



was co-first chair in violin with Bob Thornley, then in grade 13.

Bob was born in England, in Boston, Lincolnshire and moved to Canada at age nine. At that time, he was given his grandfather's violin and began to take lessons in both violin and piano. When he got to high school, he joined the orchestra violin section. He also liked to sing and asked to join the school choir. When George Dunkley heard him sing, he recruited Bob to the St. Martin's choir; that was in 1962.

George invited interested music students to visit St. Martin's. Cathy, who was not happy in the Roman Catholic church, attended and fell in love with St. Martin's. She loved the architecture, the liturgy, and, of course, the music. "It was a holy place, and I knew that God was there," she says. She finished Grade 13 in 1969 and joined St. Martin's choir in September of that year. On Palm Sunday 1971, she became an Anglican, received by Bishop George Snell in a service at St. Jude's church on Roncesvalles.

Cathy entered the Faculty of Music at U of T with a major in piano. To qualify she had to reach Grade 8 in singing and found an excellent teacher in Helen Simmie who was, as you may guess, also Bob's voice teacher. Bob had been referred to Helen by the St. Anne Choral Society that performed Gilbert and Sullivan operas — he had lead roles in *HMS Pinafore* and *The Mikado*.

Now divergence. Cathy graduated in music, 1973; education, 1974; and ARCT in piano, also 1974. She married her university sweetheart in June 1974. She taught music for grades 9 to 13 and grade 9 physical

education. Her husband got a job in Stayner, Ontario and they moved to that area and attended the Church of the Good Shepherd which was at the end of the street. While there, she joined the choir and completed her Cursillo, a short, charismatic spiritual retreat.

Not everything went well. In 1980, Cathy's pregnancy ended in stillbirth and not long after she had a serious stroke, losing the use of her left side (and she was left-handed.) She was encouraged that the neurosurgeon offered to pray in the operating room. After a month in acute care at Wellesley Hospital, she moved to Riverdale Hospital (as it then was) for another month of rehab. She learned to walk and run and write with her right hand, but early on could not play the piano. Eventually she regained piano skills, but not back to the same level. She was bolstered by the knowledge that people were praying for her; her own prayer was also important, and she promised God that if she recovered, she would minister to others.

Sadly, after the stroke her marriage ended. Cathy needed to get back to work and did the Occupational Therapy course at U of T, graduating in 1988 —and got a job at Riverdale! That job continued for ten years. Then she took the Queen's University course in Suzuki piano teaching. She did that for a while then changed to the conventional Royal Conservatory method of teaching which she still does. (Online at the present.)

Meanwhile, after high school, Bob left St. Martin's, did one year at U of T, and then dropped out. His father was not happy in his job at Northern Electric and proposed that they start an electrical business. Neither were businessmen and the company was not a success, but it got Bob started as an electrician. In 1971, he met Isobel and they married in 1972. They attended St. Paul's United in Brampton and Bob sang in the choir. A dispute between the choir director and the minister led to the whole choir being dismissed (!), so they formed the "Happy Wanderers," a choir that sang in various local churches on request.

Work as an inspector with Ontario Hydro took them to Manitoulin Island, where Bob started a junior choir at Gore Bay United, and to Sudbury.

Relocating south, Bob continued to work for Ontario Hydro in Mississauga until retirement in 2002. In retirement, he was bored and when asked in 2004 to teach electrical work at George Brown College, he agreed. He is still a part-time professor there. (Also online at the present.)

And now, a convergence. In 2011, Cathy was looking on the networking site classmates.com. Bob's wife had died earlier that year. He was using the same site, and they were linked on the Vincent Massey page. On Thanksgiving, they met for a hike in the Rosedale ravine. They talked and walked, and talked and walked, and continued talking until Bob finally left Cathy's place at 1.30 AM. They have scarcely been apart since. Bob came back to St. Martin's. They decided to marry and wanted George Dunkley, who became a priest in his retirement, to officiate. They were married at St. Martin's in May 2014 and Bob rejoined the choir.

The parish continues to be important to them, not only the choir, but also in the support they have from Father Philip and friends in the parish. This was especially important during Bob's illness in 2018.

The path was not straight or easy, but it has led to a place where Cathy and Bob are happy to have faith and music and each other.



Cathy and Bob's Wedding at St. Martin's May 2014

## Resources for Social Justice Vestry Motion

by Judith Kidd

You may recall that this past February, at our annual Vestry meeting, the Parish passed a motion related to racism. One of the actions proposed was to provide a resource list in order that each of us could take the opportunity to learn more about the presence of racism in both the church and secular community and to identify ways to address it and take action to eliminate it.

I volunteered to prepare a resource list and soon realized how much information is available if one looks for it. I've dithered about this for some time. The dithering, or procrastinating, doesn't come from not wanting to do it but wanting to do something that will be useful to others. And, I don't want to get this conversation 'wrong'.

I am not a racialized woman. I have not had the experiences that I've learned my racialized colleagues and neighbours have had to deal with — encounters that can vary from merely annoying to life damaging. I do know that the more knowledgeable I become the more effective ally I can become. Twenty years ago, I had the privilege of participating in antiracism sessions but things have changed in the past twenty years. My aim here is to provide current information about resources that I have found helpful and you might also.

The first place that I start if I'm looking for a book or other source about diversity is the resource list on the Diocese of Toronto website. You will note a number of my suggestions come from that site:

<https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/diocesan-life/diversity-resources/>

For this article, I started with the question "What is racism?" Ijeoma Oluo, author of "So You Want to Talk About Race," defines it as "a prejudice against someone based on race, when those prejudices are reinforced by systems of power."

- I found a brief (and very readable) brief history of racism by George Fredrickson, Professor Emeritus of U.S. History at Stanford University. It can be found at [https://www.pbs.org/race/000\\_About/002\\_04-background-02-01.htm](https://www.pbs.org/race/000_About/002_04-background-02-01.htm)

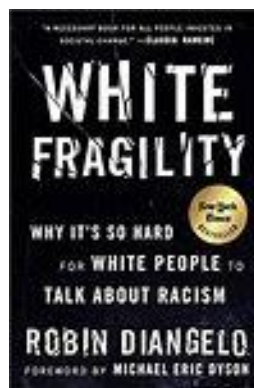
A source for information about racism in the church is a series of podcasts from the National Office of the Anglican Church. Season Three of the podcasts deals with racism and the first two parts of 'season-three' are discussions with Archbishop Linda Nichols, Primate, and National Indigenous Archbishop Mark MacDonald speaking on the roots of racism and the importance of dismantling it. They also address systemic racism. This series can be found at:

<https://www.anglican.ca/im/podcasts/season-three/>

In 1968, after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, an elementary school teacher took an unusual means for teaching her students about racism. A "Class Divided" is a documentary about that teacher named Jane Elliot who teaches her students about racism first hand. She divides the students into two groups, the blue eyes, and the brown eyes. It is available through the Diversity Resource list on the Diocesan web site

[www.toronto.anglican.ca/diocesan-life/diversity-resources/](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/diocesan-life/diversity-resources/)

- "Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts" is a video produced by Anglican Video from the Primate's Commission on Discovery, Reconciliation, and Justice. It is described as "an award-winning documentary [that] provides education and insight into the racist foundations of many of our property and other laws still in existence to this day." It too is available from the Diocesan Diversity resource list.



- "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo. White fragility refers to feelings of discomfort a white person experiences when they witness discussions around racial inequality and injustice and how those feelings can prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue.

In the past year I have read a number of novels and watched movies dealing with racism from different perspectives. I am including the titles of some of these because I agree with those who remind us that through fiction we can often better accept and even



empathize with other perspectives. Here are two novels and one movie - all Canadian:

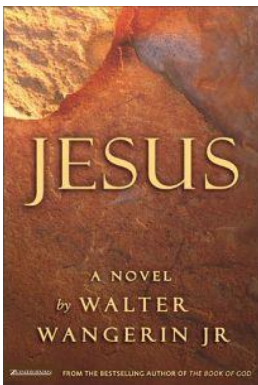
- "Five Little Indians" by Michelle Good. It chronicles the quest of five teens, residential school survivors, to come to terms with their past and find a way forward.
- "Brother", set in Scarborough in the 1990s by David Chariandy who takes us through the universal experience of loss through a coming of age story of two brothers of Trinidadian origin.
- The movie "Beans" directed by Tracy Deer. Based on true events, Tracey Deer's debut feature chronicles the 78-day standoff between two Mohawk communities and government forces in 1990 in Quebec.

And finally, if you want more information about Indigenous people in Canada, there is a free, online Massive Open Online Course study program through the University of Alberta called Indigenous Canada. I found it very informative. It is free through [www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org).

I do hope that you will find something helpful in this article. There are so many resources available. I would be interested in knowing if there is a book or movie or podcast that you have found really helpful in better understanding this really important but difficult topic. If you have suggestions, please contact me at [jdthv39@gmail.com](mailto:jdthv39@gmail.com).

## St. Martin's Reads

By Mary Conliffe

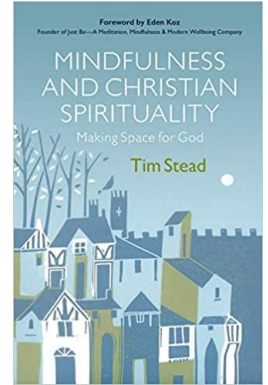


One of the great joys of summer is taking some time to read a good book – perhaps in the backyard or on a patio, at a cottage or on a beach – and once again, the Christian Education Committee invites you to join us in reading one of our Summer Book Club picks. This year, we are reading two different works:

- Jesus: A Novel, by Walter Wangerin, Jr., Zondervan Press, 2005 (ISBN 978-0-310-26673-0). This book was recommended by Ben Tshin, and in keeping with this year's Christian Education theme of "narrative,"

this novelization of the life of Christ expands upon the Biblical texts we know so well. *"Wangerin writes beautiful, descriptive prose, evoking the sights, sounds, smells, sensibilities and politics of the world in which Jesus lived."* – *Publisher's Weekly*.

- Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality; Making Space for God by Tim Stead, Westminster John Knox Press, 2017 (ISBN-13 978-0-664-26316-4). Recommended by Phil Snider, this practical book helps Christians make space for God in their everyday lives: *"Tim Stead explores how practicing mindfulness can help Christians better live out their faith. Stead explains what mindfulness is, what is beneficial about it, and how it enables our Christian faith to work."* – *Christianbook.com*.



Both of these books are available for purchase online at [www.chapters.indigo.ca](http://www.chapters.indigo.ca) or at [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca) (including in e-book and audiobook formats). You can borrow "Jesus: A Novel" in audiobook format from the Toronto Public Library system for free. We have ordered a couple of copies of each book for our St Martin's library, which can be borrowed over the summer if you don't wish to purchase.

Feel free to read either work – or both! – at your own pace over the coming months, then join us for Zoom Book Club conversations on Wednesdays in September, when we will discuss our reflections and reactions to both. The Zoom coordinates will be sent out at the end of the summer.

Happy Summer! Happy Reading!

## My Church Family Life: A Memoir

By Gayne Brawn

My first memory of church was as a tiny girl, sitting next to my father, playing with my doll. We were in the office at St. James Anglican, Port Colborne. He sat across from "Duke," the Reverend Graham Standish, who was sitting at his desk. They were sharing a tip of whisky; he and my Dad were very close.





Dad studied music at Western and was organist and choir director at St. James; he was proud of that choir and all his kids sang in it when young. We were a large family; my mom was happy to send one of us with our dad while he practised the organ. I loved to wander, explore, (and snoop!) in and around the church itself which had a garden with a

few flower beds and a cherry tree. The Guild Hall was across the street, where we had Sunday School and church events. My favourite Sunday School song is All Things Bright and Beautiful.

I was born Gayne Marie, in Port Colborne, the fourth of six children: first three boys, then three girls. My name is based on the Gayne Suite, ballet pieces by Armenian composer Khachaturian. My parents were married in St. Mark's Anglican Church, London in 1952. Howard Brawn was the son of farmer Russell Brawn and Mabel Ott of Wainfleet, Ontario (more on this in a bit); Jenny Dzubiak, was the daughter of Mary Kociuk, from Poland and Stanley Dzubiak, a widower from the Ukraine. Stanley was a locomotive tender on the railroad. They were married in Winnipeg and settled in Waterford, Ontario, became farmers; mostly potatoes, and raised a family. My granny made moonshine! (vodka) and had a still in the barn.

Seeing St. Martin-in-the-Fields for the first time, I was intrigued by the architecture and the garden – there was magic there. It reminded me of St. James in Port Colborne. At the time, I was living in a basement bachelor on Glenlake Avenue (before inheriting my condominium apartment in 1999) and working full time in reservations at Hilton Toronto on Richmond Street. A few days a week I would cycle past the church on my way to and from work.

Palm Sunday, one of my favourite Sundays, was when I finally entered the church. I was amazed! Church structures themselves have a special place in my heart, especially when they're almost empty. To me they are a live presentation of art and are linked

strongly to my spirituality. They're full of magical secret places. The organ and choir music at St. Martin's is the real draw for me. Exceptionally well done! I especially love it when the piano is played as it reminds me of my Dad.

Within, I was greeted with warm smiles and immediately felt welcomed. In the congregation, a few rows ahead of me, I noticed a woman whose face was quite familiar, but I could not place her.

After Hilton Toronto, in the summer 1998, I was a "Step On" tour guide for Toronto Tours. During the next year or so I began attending services at St. Martin's more frequently, got to know a few people and was eventually invited to a newcomers dinner at the home of John and Carol Anne Foty. It was there, while chatting with Don Hattey, that it dawned on me who the woman in the congregation with the familiar face was. I had told him my father was from Wainfleet, Ontario. He said that David and Lynn McKnight, were part of the parish. It was Lynn – small world! Dad was boyhood best friends with Lynn and David's father, Bruce McKnight. When we were kids, the McKnights and the Brawns got together once in a while. I knew then that St. Martin's was the place for me.

At age 15, Dad was the piano player in a nine-piece big band, The Johnny Brennan Band. As teenagers they spent time in dance halls with their girls. My parents met on New Year's Eve at the Green Grotto, in Woodstock, Ontario, where the band was playing. Mom was living in Simcoe at the time, working as a hairdresser. Her girlfriend, whose husband was a sax player in the band, invited her out.

The year of my birth, 1959, Dad was organist and choir master at St. James Anglican Church and was teaching at Eastdale High in Welland. When we moved in 1968 to Sarnia, our new home on Newell Street was huge and right across the street from the golf course. Dad was Music Support Teacher for the Lambton County Board of Education and organist and choir director at St. Paul's United Church. I remember exploring (and snooping) around that church while my dad practised. It was very different from Anglican churches. Mom and rest the of us went to St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church for services with the Reverend Errol Shilliday.

(Sometimes we split up and few of us would go with Dad) Then to St. Bart's came Percy O'Driscoll.

In my green cap and skirt, I was a J.A. (Junior Auxiliary) as well as a Girl Guide for a while, and in the junior choir. At sixteen, I taught Sunday School with a class of six-year-olds. Sean O'Driscoll, the minister's son, was the most misbehaved! In later years, my Dad was organist and choir director at Canon Davis Memorial Anglican Church.

I moved to Toronto in 1981, after one year of Radio, TV and Journalism Arts at Lambton College, have been employed in hospitality/tourism, market research, studied Travel and Tourism at Seneca College (1988-90), and received diplomas from George Brown College (Intervenor for Deafblind Persons) and Seneca College (Library and Information Technician.) In 2014/2015 I had a dream job at OCADU Library as a part time Circulation Intern for two semesters. My most recent position was at CNIB as part time Assistant Library Client Support Technician and also where I have been a volunteer narrator/technician, since 1996, in the studio where audio books are recorded. CNIB Library of the Blind is now the Centre for Equitable Library Access. (CELA, Celalibrary.ca)

Being enriched by the soul of St. Martins has been wonderful and I think of the parish as my Toronto Church family. Jonathan Gentry is my church buddy. I love being a reader, coffee cohort, having a table at the Nutcracker Fair, being a member of Parish Council, and, most recently, a holder of babies! The variety of events for the parish and surrounding community allows me to participate and belong, to learn from and socialize with a sensational mix of people. I especially LOVE the Nutcracker Fair and Games Night.

And, of course I love the place itself; I miss the garden and the church. I pray that we will all be there soon to join together and experience the high Anglican liturgies, exceptional choir and music, and the joy of being part of the warm, welcoming community at St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

Peace and Blessed Be!

## Save the Date: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12th

**FaithWorks Walkathon;** Rain Date: September 19<sup>th</sup>

By Judith Kidd



**Faithworks Walkathon 2020 Camp Nokomis**

Because of the uncertainty of Covid-19 guidelines three months from now, we are again going to travel to the wonderful Camp Nokomis for our annual FaithWorks fund raising event. Thanks to Jay and Vicki Haddad for opening the Camp for this event. Like last

year, we will have lots of options on how to participate. If you're not interested in walking, you might be interested in cycling (on your own bicycle), canoeing, or swimming. These activities will all take place in a safe environment.

Although there is uncertainty about the Covid guidelines, there is no uncertainty of how the funds raised through the Walkathon provide needed services and care for those served by the FaithWorks partners. One of those partners is Flemingdon Park Ministry. Here is how they describe their ministry:

[For the past 40 years] ... the staff of FPM has walked alongside women suffering violence and abuse, stood with other community members against drug dealers, advocated for housing, sought to secure access to healthy food for all community members, stood up to racism through walks of peace, worked and advocated for new Canadians and refugees, and has sat with the broken hearted and listened to the stories of struggle and pain. Flemingdon Park has developed into one of the most diverse communities in Canada, and FPM has always offered, and will continue to offer, a safe space for each and every community member to gather. Take a minute and go to this link to see the breadth and depth of their programs.

<https://www.flemingdonparkministry.com/programs-activities/>

Flemingdon Park Ministry is concerned about community and with the parish portion of the FaithWorks donations, St. Martin-in-the-Fields is able to assist in our local community. As you may recall two of our local partners are Romero House and PARC. Romero House provides shelter and community to newly arrived refugees and those seeking refugee status and PARC is a safe community with open doors in Parkdale. An example of how PARC fosters a safe community is that they served 155,000 take-out meals over the past year.

One of the things that I appreciate most about the Walkathon is how it helps to enhance the very special sense of community that we find in our parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. You might say that our community effort is helping our FaithWorks and local partners also enhance their communities.

This Walkathon will have all the features that are so well-loved by past attendees. A time for outdoor worship overlooking the lake and, of course, a picnic. Similar to last year each family will bring their own picnic. At this point in the planning there won't be sharing of anything but good wishes and good conversation — but no food.

What will make this very special is if you are part of the event, either through participation or by sponsoring someone who is participating. More details will come in early August.

## Marino's Family Arrives in Toronto!

By Marino Miguela Botuli

Over five years ago, I joined St Martin's; I had been in Canada less than a year as a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Within a week of getting my work permit I had my first job in Canada in a pizzeria and I have had as many as four jobs at the same time to support my family in Congo and sponsor them to come to Canada. During that time people at St. Martin's have been asking and praying for my family: my fiancée Dalicia Kabedi and my two children, Alex and Yvonne.

Originally my family was supposed to leave June 18 for Canada, but I had a bad feeling about COVID-19 in Africa and so we moved the date forward by one week. We had to rebook the hotel at the airport and rebook the flights. I was able to rebook everything, and my family got to the airport at 7:00 a.m. on June 11, even though the flight was supposed to leave at 1:40 p.m. The Canadian embassy in Kinshasa stopped taking COVID-19 tests later that day and so my family was on the last flight to leave for Canada. They had to stop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and I was so happy when I learned that they changed planes with no problem. During the night they flew to Dublin and then Toronto, arriving at 7:00 a.m. on June 12.

It took almost 5 hours to go through Immigration and then the COVID processing. This photo was taken on Saturday morning at the hotel. I had to take food to my family members because Alex (my son who is 18) and Yvonne (my daughter who is 9) have allergies. The COVID tests came back negative, and we are now in quarantine with my Canadian family, Kathy Mansfield and Tim Stephenson, in the apartment they prepared for us in their home on Indian Road. On June 27, we finish quarantine and can't wait to start exploring Toronto. One of the first stops will be the Sunnyside pool to go swimming and to walk around High Park with my family.

Alex is going to help on the live stream at St. Martin's and I am excited to introduce everyone at St. Martin's to my family when the church partially reopens on July 11 and in the weeks following.



Marino meeting family at airport



## THE BLESSING BOX

By Glen Storey and Kathie Wagg for the Missional Team

Plans are underway to return our Blessing Box to the Lychgate! As long as Provincial regulations allow, we are planning this for the end of June or beginning of July. The box will have two library shelves, one for adults and one for children. The balance of the shelves will be for non-perishable food items as well as household and personal hygiene items for people in need. Please remember those in need in our community when you shop.

We regret that the risk of infection dictated that we remove the box for such a long time. The needs of those less fortunate in our community did not go away with the pandemic. If anything, those needs increased. We thank God that we are now able to help a little with our Blessing Box.



**The Lychgate: Entrance to the Church Yard**



**Photos in St. Martin's Garden**  
courtesy David McKnight

