



[In this week's letter: General Vestry Sunday – Forum Tuesday – Young adults – LGBTQ group QueerSpace@CCC – An Open Lenten Letter to my Bishop from Beth Adams – evensong – Maggie Shaddick – Cathedral Reading Group]

Dear Friend of the Cathedral

You are invited to two important meetings of the community during the coming week, the Annual Vestry meeting on Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm in Fulford Hall, and Forum on Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm in St Anselm Chapel.

At Sunday's General Vestry people attending will be asked to elect members of Corporation (wardens and deputy wardens) and members of Forum. They will approve the list of lay administrators of the chalice to be submitted to the bishop for her approval, receive the annual report with its many reports of organizations and activities during 2018, and – most important of all – approve the budget for 2019. There will also be an update on the capital campaign. Please come if you possibly can. The support of the community is essential if we are to continue to be a strong and democratic church. Reports will be available in French and English.

Tuesday's Forum is the first with newly elected members. All parishioners are invited to attend and participate. The young adult group has been invited to make a presentation about their activities. They are now too large a group to hold the Hungry Minds supper and bible-reading meeting every week and so have various smaller groups led by different people focusing on a variety of topics. Come to Forum to learn more!

Members of the young adult group will also be participating in the 6:00 pm service this Sunday. La cathédrale le soir, is an informal bi-lingual communion service held on the first and third Sunday of each month. Erica Stuchbery will be preaching at the service this Sunday.

We are lucky to have such a fine bunch of young adults in our midst, many of them taking the lead in all kinds of activities. Nina Hermes, for example is one of the people leading the LGBTQ+ community in a new venture being called QueerSpace@CCC They will be meeting on Sunday, March 24 at 12:00 pm in the Undercroft and thereafter regularly on the fourth Sunday, to pray, to discuss Scripture, identity, orientation, and how these elements intersect. For questions email [queerspace@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:queerspace@montrealcathedral.ca)

The cathedral has long been supportive of the LGBTQ+ community. Recently Beth Adams was prompted to send « An Open Lenten Letter to my Bishop », asking how our diocese should respond to the Anglican Communion's refusal to invite same-sex spouses to the Lambeth Conference.

Beth writes:

*“ After we moved from the U.S. to Montreal, I was proud of our cathedral, and later the diocese, for taking a strong leadership role in moving us forward toward openness, inclusion and acceptance, to the point where this is barely an issue anymore among us. So it was with dismay that I heard that that same-sex spouses will not be invited to the dicennial Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops in England in 2020. You will be attending as our representative. What should our response be? Can we send a message with you that conveys all the growth and love that has been shown over this past decade and more here at home – that explains that we have given up the things that get in the way of loving? ... This letter is not a request for you or other Canadian bishops to boycott the conference, it is an appeal to you and to our Diocese to use this Lenten period as a time of reflection on how we feel, and prayerfully consider what our response should be. For my own part, I cannot call myself a follower of the Gospel, and then exclude anyone.”*

Please take the time to read Beth's letter which has been shared to the Cathedral's Facebook page.

Worship is of course an essential part of our community life and evensong is a particularly beautiful meditative liturgy filled with music. If you can't come to church for the live service at 4:00 pm do listen to it broadcast live on the internet or on RVM 91.3 FM. This week you can hear music by Bach, Farrant, Blow and Mudd.

We have some sad news to share. Maggie Shaddick died on Wednesday, March 13. Maggie, a long-time cathedral member and wife of Duncan Shaddick, will be remembered for her passionate involvement in the Scouting movement as well as for her generous hospitality and her love of family. She gave some memorable parties in the years before she became ill and increasingly frail. We send our condolences to Duncan, Andrew, Tricia, Elizabeth, Bobby and other members of the family. There will be a memorial service in the cathedral on Saturday, March 23, at 1:30 pm.

The Cathedral Reading Group is reading Across the China Sea by Gaute Heivoll, for discussion on March 24. All are welcome to join the group. Speak to Ann, Jane or Diana.

Ann Elbourne  
March 14, 2019