

[In this week's letter: mourning for Patrick Wedd and Gwen Spurll – cathedral polishers and garden tidiers – June 2, Jerusalem Sunday, annual picnic, welcome to Jonathan, services to suit all tastes – Lunch 'n Chat – PWRDF dinner – June 9 English Bible study and Fair Trade – September city events at CCC: Open Doors and Journées de la culture – invitation to brainstorming supper – prayer for Jerusalem]

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

The Cathedral community is in mourning this week because two dear friends, Patrick and Gwen, have died. We are holding their husbands and families in our prayers.

Dr. Gwen Spurll died Wednesday, peacefully, following major cardiac surgery. She was a longtime member of the small Sunday 8:00 am congregation. Her career in Hematology at the Royal Vic, her discovery of painting and exhibits of her work, and her support for others with Parkinson's Disease after receiving her own diagnosis over ten years ago set an inspiring example for us all.

The funeral mass for Patrick Wedd will be held on Friday at 2:00 pm in the Cathedral, followed by a reception. Music by three of Patrick's favourite composers was chosen by Patrick himself. Alain Trudel will conduct the Cathedral Singers in Stravinsky's Mass and Nick Capozzoli will be the organist playing Master Tallis' Testament by Howells and La Résurrection du Christ by Messiaen. Yevgeniya Amis has made a slide-show for the Reception--a hundred photos of Patrick as an inspiring musician, mentor, conductor, colleague.

This coming Saturday, June 1st, the Cathedral Polishers led by Edward Yankie are meeting to polish wood and brass from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. It's more fun than it sounds, and we always have a good time. The more the merrier says Edward, and he is always searching for new volunteers. If you can't give three hours, just give what you can. It's always appreciated! The following Saturday the clean-up will move into the grounds of the Cathedral between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. The organisers, ESJAG, are suggesting lunch together afterwards.

Sunday June 2 will be a very busy day – but also a joyful one as we greet our new Music Director Jonathan White and hold our annual picnic in the garden behind the Cathedral after the 10:30 am service. Please remember that the picnic is potluck! Sheena would love to hear what you are bringing. Please email her at rectorswarden.ccc@gmail.com Our spirits will not be dampened by the strong possibility that Jonathan will be greeted by our Canadian version of British weather – wet and cool. The picnic will be transferred to Fulford Hall if the weather forecast is correct. I hope lots of you will stay (or come back) for Jonathan's first Evensong at 4:00 pm. Choral Evensong is a big hit in English Cathedrals because it is such an uplifting and prayerful musical experience. Let's encourage the crowds to come to Christ Church. After Evensong, at 6:00 pm, we have our bi-monthly communion service with contemporary music – Cathédrale à 18h / Cathedral @ 6. Jean Daniel is presiding, Faith Paré preaching and Zach Ingles leading the music. This will be Zach's last service after two years. We are grateful for his generous gift of music leadership. Finally, the book group will meet at 7:00 pm in Ann's house to discuss books in general and *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles in particular.

On Tuesday June 4 at midday, join the Lunch 'n Chat group for a potluck lunch in the Hollis Lounge. Speak to Janet King for more information.

The annual PWRDF dinner and annual general meeting will be held in Fulford Hall on June 6 at 5:30 pm. Cost \$17. You must reserve by Monday June 3, and preferably by Friday May 31. programme.office@montreal.anglican.ca or call Nicki at 514-843-6577.

Next Sunday, June 9, starting around 12:30 pm, there will be an English bible study in the Board Room on the 3rd floor. During coffee hour the Fair Trade Kiosque will be offering the usual tea, coffee, chocolate, spices etc. and goodies to celebrate Father's Day.

It might sound a long way off, but we need to start planning and recruiting now for two big events in September. September 7 and 8 Heritage Montreal is organising a weekend when churches throw open their doors. We are always open of course, but we would like to have some greeters and welcomers in the cathedral during those two days. Please contact Ann ann.elbourne@montrealcathedral.ca At the end of September the Cathedral is participating in the Montreal-wide Journées de la culture. The theme this year is building bridges, making connections – perfect for our community! There will be a brainstorming supper at Ann's house on Wednesday June 19 to generate ideas and look for leaders. We need to have a programme in place by early July to meet the deadline set by the organisers. All activities must be free and there are no grants available – but we're good at shoestring budgeting and generally manage to break even. Please come and join the team on the 19th. The planning party is fun, and the extent of your commitment is entirely up to you. Contact ann.elbourne@montrealcathedral.ca

I listed activities happening this Sunday, June 2, but didn't mention that it is also Jerusalem Sunday. To conclude this letter here is a prayer by Gerald Butt written for St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem

*O Lord soften the stone hearts
of those who preach and practice
intolerance and bigotry;
as the sun's setting glow
softens the stone walls
of your holy city, Jerusalem.*

*Lord, the rocky hills, the valleys,
the deserts and the sea shores
are filled with the echoes of centuries of pain.
Lord, bring peace to house and village.
Comfort the mothers who fret
and those who mourn.
Lord, keep strong the twisted old root
of the olive tree,
and protect the young vine.*

*Lord of water and stone,
of bread and wine,
Lord of the resurrection,
feed hope, and bring peace,
to this wracked but beautiful Holy Land. Amen.*

Amen indeed
Ann Elbourne