



CATHÉDRALE
CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL

[In this week's letter: Sad news of Donald's death – donations in his memory - his farewell sermon as priest-in-charge of the cathedral – National Historic Places Day – planning started for Les Journées de la culture – Yevgeniya's mother arriving in Canada – Summer reading choices – Bertrand preaching at Temple Emmanuel Friday]

Dear Friend of the Cathedral

Once again this weekly letter opens with sad news about the death of a dear friend, this time Donald Boisvert, Honorary Assistant at the cathedral. Donald was formerly Chair of the Department of Religions and Cultures at Concordia University, Principal of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College and Priest-in-Charge at the Cathedral during the interregnum 2016 – 2017. Donald's funeral will be at 3 pm in the cathedral on Wednesday, June 26. His coffin will be received in the Cathedral at 1 pm.

Gaston has written the following note for people who might want to make a donation in Donald's memory:

Instead of giving flowers, I would like people to make a donation to The Donald L. Boisvert Scholarship for Gay and Lesbian Studies, either on Concordia University's website (engage.concordia.ca/donate), or by calling 514-848-2424, ext. 3884 or sending a cheque payable to Concordia University at 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., FB-520, Montreal, QC H3G 1M8 and specifying that it is intended for The Donald L. Boisvert Scholarship for Gay and Lesbian Studies.

When Donald preached his last sermon as interim priest-in-charge on Aug 27, 2017, his text was Chapter 12 of Paul's epistle to the Romans. It's a typical Donald sermon, both erudite and plain-spoken, challenging and loving and you can read the whole text on the website <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/sermons/celebrating-the-body-communal/>

St Paul talks about the grace given us by living in a Christian community. Donald highlights two of Paul's ideas: "We are summoned to prophecy and to...contrariness. Yes, contrariness: a holy and sacred defiance, a kind of edgy engagement with our world from the eager perspective of an outsider." Then Donald adds "One may not generally think of cathedrals as great places of contrariness—they tend to be rather staid—but I encourage you to think of this particular cathedral as such a place ... For years, we've been hearing God's call to the discernment of the divine will and the renewing of our minds ... I therefore echo St. Paul's wish for you that you persist in living as a community in non-conformity with the world, always walking defiantly in front of it, pushing it to meet God's highest standards, and not its own limited and problematic ones... God has given each one of you a special grace, a unique gift, in support of the ongoing life of this Christian community..."

Donald finishes his sermon with these words of farewell which I think he would have repeated to us as he left this life: "It is ... my departing wish for you. May God bless you ever more abundantly in your non-conformity to the ways of this world. And may all continue to find here a place of comfort and hope, a balm for bruised souls, a stop on the way to some new home, and ultimately a gathering of God's good people."

Thank you Donald for your wisdom and your leadership. Our deepest condolences go to his husband Gaston

If you live in Montreal and have an hour or two spare on a Saturday we need your help! Patrimoine Canada is promoting Saturday July 6th as "National Historic Places Day". The cathedral is prominently displayed on the list of places worth a visit in Montreal so we are looking for people to welcome visitors, answer questions and perhaps even give a guided tour. There will be material about the church to offer visitors and a small historical exhibit in the baptistry. If you'd like to help please add your name to the sign-up sheet on Sunday or contact ann.elbourne@montrealcathedral.ca

We had a good preliminary meeting on Wednesday evening, beginning the process of planning Les journées de la culture. Carlos will be organizing volunteers to man (and woman) the cathedral on September 27 and 28 (Friday and Saturday). We will need at least two people on duty all the time, looking after visitors and keeping an eye on the art exhibition. Please make a note of the dates in your diary and clamour to be a helper when Carlos starts to make a rota.

Yevgeniya has just received some exciting news. She will be bringing her Ukrainian mother to Canada on July 1st (totally coincidental, but still very symbolic, maybe even in time for the fireworks!). Yevgeiya writes that she is very very grateful to all those who wrote letters and supported and prayed for her and her Mom! She says "There were over 100 letters and over 150 pages of document that we submitted (thanks to our wonderful folks from the cathedral that told me not to give up and helped me all the way through!)" If you remember, her mother was originally refused a visa to live in Canada on the grounds of her health issues.

Yevgeniya will sing Evensong this Sunday before she leaves to meet her mother. Our choir will be singing music by Stanford, Byrd and Gibbons and the organ prelude and postlude will be by William Byrd. For those of you who are not regulars, evensong is a time of spiritual reflection, where the choir translates into music those prayers and scriptures that have been a central part of Christian worship for centuries. The beauty and simplicity of Evensong should be enough to bring in the crowds, but sadly it doesn't, so Jonathan is going to add an extra inducement on the last Sunday this month (June 30) – cakes. Yes, the choir and music committee are delighted to invite you all to evensong and cakes on Sunday 30 June. I believe there are plans to do something similar each month. So please enjoy cakes and chants on June 30. (Could this be the start of a naming competition? Might we look forward to buns with Bach, muffins with Mozart, galettes with Gibbons?)

What are your summer reading plans? The Cathedral book group is reading *Educated* by Tara Westover. In addition, members of Episkopé have created a list of five recommendations. If you plan to read one (or more) of the books please sign up under the title so that Episkopé can invite you to join a discussion group about that particular book at the end of the summer. There will be sign-up sheets in the baptistry, or you can contact the office. If you want to know more about a book you can talk to the person whom chose it. I suggest you google each book, decide which ones you want to read and come prepared to sign up on Sunday. Here are the books:

Vivian Lewin : *Being Disciples* by Rowan Williams.

Gwenda Wells : *Backpacking Through the Anglican Communion*, by Dr Jesse Zink

Peter Huish : *The Break*, by Katherine Vermette.

Jean-Daniel Williams : *The Power* by Naomi Alderman

Bertrand Olivier : *Falling Upwards* by Richard Rohr, A spirituality for the two halves of life.

Bertrand will be preaching the guest sermon at the Shabbat service at Temple Emmanuel Friday evening. The service is preceded by a vegetarian potluck at 6:30 pm. The service starts at 7:45 pm (to approx 9:15 pm) and is followed by coffee hour.

Everyone is welcome and I'm sure Bertrand would enjoy some support. Temple Emmanuel's address is 4100 Sherbrooke St West. Temple Emmanuel, a strong centre for reform Judaism, is, like us, in the middle of a capital campaign to renovate its buildings which opened in 1882, fifteen years after Christ Church Cathedral was consecrated.

Wishing you all a happy St Jean-Baptiste day.

Ann Elbourne
June 20, 2019