

Dear Friend of the Cathedral

Our theme this week is pride, with and without the capital P.

Many members of our community are looking forward to joining the week-long celebrations of Montreal Pride Week, August 8 – 18. This is significant for us, both because we have a significant number of members who define themselves as LGBTQ+, but also because we believe that the Gospel commands us to witness to God's love for all of God's creation. Supporting Pride at Christ Church Cathedral and allowing all our members to experience God's unconditional love is a long-standing tradition which has been symbolized by the presence of a pride flag at the back of the Cathedral. There is a thought-provoking quotation from the 16th century Bishop, Richard Hooker, under it :

“Pray that none will be offended if I make the Christian religion an inn where we are all received joyously, rather than a cottage where some few friends of the family are to be received.”

So do come to the Pride Mass in the cathedral at 4:00 pm on August 11 and think about joining the group who will walk in the parade on the afternoon of August 18.

On the last Sunday in July QueerSpace@CCC will meet at 12 pm in the Undercroft and no doubt discuss plans for Pride Week.

We are also proud with a lower-case p – of several parishioners –

- ✓ Jeffrey Mackie said goodbye to the Cathedral last Sunday and was sent on his way with a blessing from the Dean and the congregation. He is headed to a church in the Yukon for a month before taking up a placement at St Thomas' Church in NDG with Karla Holmes, the next step on his path to ordination.
- ✓ Nick Capozzoli, our Assistant Organist is performing this Friday July 12, at 12:30 pm, at St. James United Church. This 45-minute recital is part of the church's annual summer organ festival. If you are downtown and have a free lunch hour, stop by and hear some French organ and vocal music!
- ✓ Natasha and Jason are both exhibiting paintings in a group exhibition called A 'Stitch' in Time / Une 'Suture' dans le Temps at the Galerie Erga. The vernissage is this Saturday, starting at 2:00 pm
- ✓ Nathan Elliott, a member of our congregation, is writing a play about the problems faced by women in Academia which will be workshopped by Dramatis Personae in the Westmount Library on Saturday, July 27 at 1:30pm. A dramatic reading will be followed by a discussion about the play – its structure, content, characters. Suggestions and criticisms will help Nathan create his next draft. You are invited to participate in this exciting act of creation by being in the audience. Space is limited in the Westmount Room of the Library, so please reserve on Dramatis Personae's website www.theatrewestmount.com
- ✓ Thank you to the people who volunteered to be greeters during Historic Places Day last Saturday. We received 600 visitors between 10:00 am and 3:30 pm. There will be two more city-wide open houses in September when we will need greeters.
- ✓ More prosaically we need some more people to be greeters/stewards on Sunday mornings. We are very grateful to Sam for the many many hours he has spent at the back of the church, but he is retiring from this job at the end of July. Stewards (Greeters) are asked to arrive 20 - 30 minutes before the service to hand out hymn books and bulletins, greet people as they arrive, then, during the service, take the collection, monitor the people going up to communion. There will be a meeting for stewards after coffee hour on Sunday August 4. Please join us if interested. Speak to Ann

The next few days are important ones in the life of the Canadian Church and we have been asked for prayers that all participants in General Synod will be granted grace to listen well, to speak with respect, to deliberate with wisdom, and to honour this gathering of God's beloved Church. On Saturday General Synod will elect a new Primate, possibly for the first time a woman

Synod will also be voting on a motion to amend the Marriage Canon to include all persons qualified by civil law to enter into marriage. In other words, the church might be allowed to perform same-sex marriages throughout Canada.

Meanwhile, back in Montreal, consider reading one of the books proposed by Episkope and listed in the Newsletters of June 20 and 27 as well as in this week's bulletin which is posted on the Cathedral website. Five groups are forming to read and then meet and discuss five books. Vivian is collecting books, and information about where to obtain the books. We have a few lending copies. If you have signed up to read one of the summer books and have obtained/read a physical copy, are you willing to lend it to another member of the group? Do you need a book or books? If you haven't yet signed up to read one of the summer books, it's not too late but please do sign up this week.

Vivian also reminds us that today, July 11, is Saint Benedict's day. Here's a poem written by Malcolm Guite celebrating Benedict's gentle Rule of Life. One of the lines from that poem, "To clear and keep for love a sacred space" was the theme of our pre-lenten Quiet Day. You may read one talk given on that occasion by Paul Geraghty on our website. This is Malcolm Guite's poem.

*You sought to start a simple school of prayer,
A modest, gentle, moderate attempt,
With nothing made too harsh or hard to bear,
No treating or retreating with contempt,
A little rule, a small obedience
That sets aside, and tills the chosen ground,
Fruitful humility, chosen innocence,
A binding by which freedom might be found*

*You call us all to live, and see good days,
Centre in Christ and enter in his peace,
To seek his Way amidst our many ways,
Find blessedness in blessing, peace in praise,
To clear and keep for Love a sacred space
That we might be beginners in God's grace.*

To end on a somewhat frivolous note; although we have pigeons, but hopefully not bats, in our belfry, nevertheless you might enjoy this light-hearted article from the London Telegraph, written by Gabriela Swerling.

BATS are poised to become a “tool for mission” for the Church of England. Among the questions bishops have been asked ahead of the General Synod in York is one about the nocturnal mammals' effects on belfries. At least 60 per cent of pre-16th century churches have bats. After a dramatic decline in numbers, they are protected by law and that is a quandary for churches with holes in their walls and doors.

Sir Tony Baldry, chair of the Church Buildings Council, responded that there was an upside. “Bats might even prove to be a tool for mission, if we can get them to behave,” he said. “We have to encourage them out of the belfry to roost in bat boxes in churchyards.”

Children could then come to church to study the creatures and perhaps be converted, he explained.

Last year, the Rt Revd Graham James, former Bishop of Norwich, told the House of Lords that bats had moved into churches because so many barns were being converted into homes.

He liked the traditional deterrent of incense, “because I'm High Church and bats appear very Protestant”.

Ann Elbourne

PS There is a sidewalk sale on Ste. Catherine's Friday – Sunday. The road will be closed from Guy to Bleury – more challenges to get to church, but fun to explore after the service.