



CATHÉDRALE  
CHRIST CHURCH  
CATHEDRAL



# ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ending

December 31, 2019



We gather today in the non-ceded traditional territory of the  
*Haudenosaunee and Anishinabe*

## Christ Church Cathedral Annual Report 2019

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**Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal**  
**Annual General Meeting of the Vestry**  
**Sunday, 10 May 2020**  
**A g e n d a**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Secretary to Vestry
3. Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Vestry meetings
  - 3.1. February 24, 2019
  - 3.2. March 17, 2019
  - 3.3. Special Vestry, September 22, 2019
4. Election of People's Warden
5. Election of Deputy Wardens
6. Election of Officers
7. Election of General Vestry Nominating Committee
8. Approval of Lay Administrators of the Chalice
9. Dean's Report
10. Warden's Report
11. Reports of Organizations and Committees
12. Budget for 2020
13. Spire update and work progress
14. Motion of Adjournment

**Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal  
Annual General Meeting of the Vestry  
Minutes of the meeting - Part I**

**Sunday, 24 February, 2019**

1. **Opening Prayer:** Dean Bertrand Olivier opened the meeting in Christ Church Cathedral with prayer at 12:10 PM.
2. **Secretary to Vestry:** On acclamation by the assembly, Diana Bouchard, Secretary to Vestry, was appointed to take minutes. The Secretary observed that 32 persons were present, as noted in the minute book, which constitutes a quorum.
3. **Motion of Adjournment to Part II:** moved by Peggy Simpson, seconded by Ann Elbourne, unanimously approved that the meeting be adjourned to Sunday, March 17 at 12:15 PM in Fulford Hall. Meeting adjourned at 12:14 PM.

**Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal  
Annual General Meeting of The Vestry  
Minutes of the meeting -Part 2**

**Sunday, 17 march, 2019**

1. **Opening Prayer**  
The Very Reverend Bertrand Olivier, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, opened the meeting in Fulford Hall with prayer at 12:25 PM.
2. **Secretary to Vestry**  
On acclamation by the assembly, Diana Bouchard, Secretary to Vestry, was appointed to take minutes. The Secretary observed that 44 persons were present, as noted in the minute book, which constitutes a quorum.
3. **Minutes of 2018-2019 Annual General Vestry meetings**  
The minutes of General Vestry meetings on February 10 and March 18, 2018, as well as Part I of this meeting on February 24, 2019, were awaiting approval. Moved by Jane Aitkens, seconded by Jeffrey Mackie, and unanimously voted that all these minutes be approved as presented.
4. **Election of People's Warden**
5. **Election of Deputy Wardens**
6. **Election of Officers (Cathedral Forum, Delegates to Synod, etc.)**

**7. Election of General Vestry Nominating Committee**

These four items were handled as one, with the candidates as listed in the Nominating Committee portion of the 2018 Annual Report. On motion by Donna Jean-Louis, seconded by Carlos Torres, the composition of the Nominating Committee as presented was approved. Changes to the membership of other committees included Cassidy Vander Schee withdrawing from the Music Committee and joining Corporation as a Deputy Warden, and Faelan McEwen joining Forum for a 2019-2021 term. Forum will need a new chair because Jeffrey Mackie is coming to the end of his term and is also pursuing studies towards ordination. He has agreed to continue until the summer, after which Forum will choose a chair for itself, as is customary. On motion by Donna Jean-Louis, seconded by Edward Yankie, the new composition of Forum was unanimously approved. Approval of the new Music Committee with changes was moved by Donna Jean-Louis, seconded by Beth Adams, and unanimously voted. Peggy Simpson expressed willingness to serve as PWRDF Representative; her candidacy was moved by Donna Jean-Louis, seconded by Donna Riley, and unanimously approved. Peggy Simpson also agreed to serve as the Cathedral's Delegate to Diocesan Council, a post that is due to be filled by a lay person for a three-year term. Moved by Jane Aitkens, seconded by Jeffrey Mackie, and unanimously approved.

**8. Approval of Lay Administrators of the Chalice**

There were a number of additions from the floor: Sarah Wicks, Erica Stuchbery, Selina Mullin, Hanna Bailey, Edward Yankie, and Carlos Torres. Approval of the amended list was moved by Ben Stuchbery, seconded by Peggy Simpson, and universally supported.

**9. Dean's Report**

Highlights were presented by The Very Reverend Bertrand Olivier, with parishioners referred to the written report for further details.

French outreach: the move of the French Eucharist to 9 AM seems to have been successful, but has been in effect for only two months. The degree of bilingualism in all services and activities continues to be fine-tuned.

Spire restoration and fundraising: obtaining funding for Phase 2 of the project has proven to be a major challenge. The congregation is thanked for meeting and surpassing the giving target set for it and encouraged to give more if the Spirit moves. We have reasonable hopes of continuing to obtain money from the Quebec Religious Heritage Foundation (QRHF), although maybe not as much as we would like, and with constraints on timetable that may force us to extend the project. We may also need some cutbacks in scope to fit within available funding; discussions are ongoing. With time, costs also tend to rise, in the present case from the originally projected \$8 million for the spire plus other necessary work to \$10–12 million now.

Music Director Search: Jonathan White was recently selected as our new Director of Music. The search committee was profusely thanked for the prodigious work they have put in over the last 8 months.

**10. Wardens' Report**

Presented by Sheena Gourlay, Rector's Warden. Details of this report are in the 2018 Annual Report. Presentations consisted of highlights of important activities.

Construction: the project is essentially paused between Phases 1 and 2 waiting for sufficient funding to be secured. Current expectations are for Phase 2 to start in June 2019. A search for cost reductions is ongoing to permit the work to advance more quickly and avoid stagnation.

Do we need a spire? Given the cost of repairs, this is a reasonable question and has been raised before.

Other than the cost of its removal and modifications to the remaining structure, which would still be considerable, other arguments for restoring the spire include: the Cathedral's status as a heritage building, which makes major external changes problematic; existing commitments to donors who have given to help put the spire back up in good repair; and the need for other major work (e.g., electrical systems) inside the Cathedral.

## **11. Reports of Organizations and Committees**

These were presented as included in the 2018 Annual Report. Under our work with Amnesty International, Tadi Stringer should be recognized as a major motive force behind this work. Ann Elbourne called our attention to an upcoming commemoration at the Cathedral on International Holocaust Remembrance Day (IHRD) on May 5. Many thanks to Nick Cappozzoli and Bob Hamilton for jointly serving as Assistant Music Directors in the interim, and to the choir for carrying on with dedication and enthusiasm. Special note was made of Nick Cappozzoli's initiative to catalogue the entire Cathedral Singers music library during the summer. Now we know what we have in all those cupboards!

## **12. Budget for 2019 (Jane Aitkens)**

Thanks to a combination of good fortune and some of our efforts to grow our finances bearing fruit, we have been able to project a \$33K deficit for end 2018, which is considerably reduced from the budgeted \$87K deficit. In hope and confidence that we can at least maintain this trend, the 2019 budget proposes a \$34K deficit. Strenuous efforts continue, however, to eliminate the operating deficit by 2020.

The trend in pledged giving in recent years has been worrisome. \$10K annual giving has literally "moved out" of the parish (or out of this world) in the last three years. The average weekly pledged gift has remained more or less constant, at about \$36, but the number of persons so giving has dropped from 61 to 45. Reversing this trend will be key to the future of our congregation. New avenues of donation such as "tap and go" credit card gifts are being explored.

Every attempt is being made to reduce expenses, but the nature of a Cathedral makes us a "people-heavy" operation, and so many of our expenses are fixed by salary and benefits agreements. We want to avoid crippling our mission to save money. Fluctuations will occur from year to year in this area as clergy and staff leave and are replaced.

Some concern was expressed about investment in children and young adults who are our future and an important component of our parish membership. The twice-a-month 6 PM contemporary service is now our second-largest Sunday service and perhaps does not receive investment proportionate to its importance. We do have Jean-Daniel Williams as a half-time clergy person focusing on children and youth.

Interest was expressed in having the Treasurer prepare a "narrative budget" in future years. A narrative budget would focus more on how income and expenses relate to the Cathedral's areas of mission than on budget lines, giving us a clearer picture of whether our money is really going where it should. Such a budget is a lot of work (it was done for 1-2 years a few years ago), and the Treasurer would probably require some extra assistance to prepare one.

**13. Spire Campaign**

An overview of the financial state of the capital campaign is provided on page 24 of the Annual Report. The congregation was roundly thanked for collectively “keeping their part of the bargain” and not only meeting, but surpassing their quota for campaign contributions. It was emphasized that even small contributions are welcome, especially since they translate into a broader spectrum of parishioners giving, which looks good when we go to other (possibly bigger) donors for contributions.

**14. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned with the Grace at 2:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diana Bouchard

**Christ Church Cathedral Montreal  
Special Vestry Meeting  
Sunday, September 22, 2019**

1. Dean Bertrand Olivier called the meeting to order at c. 12:00 p.m. followed by a prayer and introductory remarks.
2. Appointment of the Secretary for the meeting: Paul Helmer
3. Approval of the Financial Statements for 2018:  
this document is a final tally of the financial situation of the Cathedral as of Dec. 31, 2018, and includes figures which were not available at the time of the Annual General Vestry Meeting on Sunday, March 17, 2019.  
Moved by Jane Aitkens, seconded by Veronica McDermott, that the "Christ Church Cathedral Financial Statements For the year ended December 31, 2018" prepared by BDO be approved. By a show of hands the motion was passed unanimously.
4. Motion of thanks to BDO:  
moved by Jane Aitkens, seconded by Beth Adams, that we extend of vote of thanks to BDO for the preparation of the financial statements. Approved.
5. Appointment of BDO for 2019 review:  
moved by Jane Aitkens, seconded by Ann Elbourne, that BDO be appointed for the 2019 financial review. Approved.
6. The Dean thanked Jane Aitkens and Elizabeth Shama for their dedication and hard work in managing the Cathedral's financial records. After a prayer, the meeting was adjourned at c. 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Paul Helmer

## MINISTRY TEAM

**Dean**

**The Very Rev'd Bertrand Olivier**

The measure of a church community is not quite so much how well it does in good times, but instead how well it continues to do in times of challenge. As we present this report of Cathedral activities for 2019 in a context that is so utterly different to anything that we could possibly have imagined only a few months ago, I am proud to see the ongoing vitality of prayer and worship life, care for the world and for the poor, and support of one another in many different new ways, as we continue to seek to follow in the way of Jesus Christ in a world that, for most of us, has gone online.

In 2019, we continued to experience a number of transitions.

We grieved together the loss of two significant members of the leadership of the Cathedral who died – Patrick Wedd, our then recently retired Director of Music, and Donald Boisvert, former interim Dean. They were both larger than life, and brought much to the life of Christ Church Cathedral in different ways. Their death resonated within the congregation and far beyond, in the so many lives they touched.

We said goodbye to the Rev'd Amy Hamilton, associate priest, who had covered the interregnum, and to the Rev'd Jean Jacques Goulet, part-time assistant priest who looked after our francophone and LGBTQ+ ministries, and retired. Our Organ Scholar and interim co-Director of Music Rob Hamilton also left us to pursue further studies in the US

After extensive searches, we welcomed Dr Jonathan White as our new Director of Music, and the Rev'd Dr Deborah Meister as our new associate priest. We also welcomed the Rev'd Jim McDermott as Honorary Priest.

In May, our prayers for growth within our francophone community were answered through the arrival of a number of families unable to move with Église de la Nativité, and the leadership team grew to include licensed lay readers Michel Gagnon and Jean Robert Bellarmin.

All the while, the life of the cathedral and our many diverse ministries continued to grow, develop and flourish, and fulsome reports of the work and projects undertaken in 2019 are provided in the following pages.

Ours is a vibrant and inclusive community, and our calling as followers of Jesus Christ is evidenced in the joy we have in fellowship and discovery of our commonalities and differences as siblings in the family of God. One highlight among many was our intercultural lunch in November, to which people brought dishes that were meaningful for them from their culture, and explained why to the assembled group. We, the people of the Cathedral are extraordinary, diverse, unique, and our individual stories reflect the themes of the redemptive love of God in so many ways. It was a truly inspirational event.

Other significant events in the year included the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Christian Commemoration of the Shoah in Montreal, which filled the Cathedral with so many praying that such tragedies never happen again – 40 years after the initial commemoration, which had been organised by my predecessor then. Our Pride Mass in August was also inspirational and vibrant, as was the ordination service in September.

## Christ Church Cathedral Annual Report 2019

As your Dean, I have continued to oversee the work of Corporation, charged with the temporal affairs of the Cathedral, and Episkope, charged with the spiritual, liturgical and pastoral life of our community. We added another leadership group for the Francophone community to the portfolio. I have also been leading on the continuing oversight of the Spire restoration project, and the Capital Campaign. These are not simple tasks, and they can only be done by the grace of God with your prayers and also your support.

And so at this time, it is right for me to thank all of you who have contributed in any way to the life, ministry, outreach and mission of God through this Cathedral in Downtown Montreal in the past year. Thank you to our clergy team, specially Deborah and Jean Daniel, our licensed lay readers and all lay leaders, our office team and all volunteers who help us cope with the administration and communication behind the scenes.

Thank you to members of Corporation, Episkope, Forum and all those who give time and energy to think through the issues and challenges we face as well as plan our ministries.

Thank you to our team of vergers who faithfully maintain our building inside and out, and help provide an environment that is conducive to worship and prayer.

Thank you to our team of servers and all those who help ensure that our liturgies are thresholds when truly the transcendent crosses into our immanent reality, and for all those who read, prepare intercessions, welcome worshippers, and generally embody the radical and inclusive welcome we strive to provide to all in the way of Jesus.

Thank you to all our musicians, our Director of Music Jonathan and our organists Nick and Ethan, and members of the choir who help our souls to soar during our worship. Thank you also to our Oasis Musicale manager, Boran, and Concert Rentals coordinator, Erica, for filling our space with beautiful sounds. And to our Music Committee to providing support and direction.

Thank you to those who worked on the restoration project, attending often complex meetings and facing difficult issues in order to keep the momentum to bring this work to completion.

Thank you also to those who have worked on the Capital Campaign in the year, thinking through new ways of raising money and filling in lengthy application forms.

A special thank you to Elizabeth Shama for maintaining a welcoming smile as she juggles with ever increasing responsibilities in managing our finances and supporting my work. And to Jane Aitkens, our Treasurer and Webmaster, who thought that retirement was going to be a holiday and instead has risen to the many new tasks that have been thrown her way at the Cathedral since.

Thank you to each and everyone of you for your support in volunteering, giving of time and money, for your prayer and witness, and for continuing on the journey onto which you were called as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Cathedral would not be the same without any of you.

As we face new challenges, I am grateful to be journeying with all of you and look forward to continuing to share the Good News of the love of God to all who cross our threshold – whether physical or digital. I know that the bedrock of our common life in Christ is strong, and that the challenges that we are now facing will make us even stronger.

**Associate Priest**

**The Rev'd Dr. Deborah Meister**

*Jesus told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.'*  
(John 6:12)

I want to begin by thanking you for the privilege of ministering among you at Christ Church Cathedral. Many of you have gone out of your way to greet me, to help me understand and appreciate this beautiful congregation, and to make me feel at home; I am grateful for your welcome.

Entering a new congregation is a bit like arriving late to a banquet: the company are gathered; a meal is in progress; people are being fed; and the task of the new priest is not to clear the room, but to gather and hold the good things which are already there while being attentive to who or what might need to be brought in.

In the four months I've been here, my focus has been mostly on learning: learning who you are, learning how this Cathedral works, learning a bit about the Anglican Church of Canada, the Diocese of Montreal, the cultures of Montreal and Quebec...Meditation teachers speak about cultivating "beginner's mind"; well, I'm there!

**Liturgy** A large amount of my time has been given over to planning our liturgies, most specifically working with Bertrand and Jonathan to ensure that our Advent and Lenten liturgies reflect our spiritual priorities, and then with our vergers and lay ministers to bring them to life. In my understanding, a liturgy is not meant to be "just" a beautiful offering, but an offering which opens a space in which God can shape us to be beautiful people.

It is a gift to work with the many talented people here who offer such a rich variety of gifts to God each Sunday and weekday of our year. They are supported ably by our bulletin team (Elizabeth Shama, Michel Gagnon, Raymonde Proulx, and the Rev. Stephen Petrie), Andrea Videtic, who coordinates our readers, and by the dedicated volunteers who care for our linens and flowers (and who would welcome additional hands).

**Adult Education** That transformation also takes place through our life-long Christian formation, which should equip us to notice and respond to the presence of God in our everyday lives. While the Cathedral currently has a rich variety of offerings for young adults (which are reflected in Jean-Daniel's report, our offerings for those over thirty are less robust. Over the next two years, I will be working to strengthen them, aiming at a layered program involving one-time sessions, seasonal offerings, committed small groups like A Deeper Well, and drop-in friendly formats such as a monthly or bi-monthly English-language Bible study on Sundays similar to what Pain, Partage, et Prière offers our Francophone members. Part of that work will be bringing back Public Theology as an offering which may entice both people in the congregation and people in the larger Montreal community to reflect together upon issues which impact all our lives. I would warmly welcome your suggestions as to what you'd find helpful and nourishing.

**ESJAG**, of course, also reflects on issues vital to our lives. They have their own report elsewhere, but I want to thank everyone who walked with us for the Climate March. We are looking for more ways for our community to make a difference as we continue a two-year focus on issues related to climate change.

**Pastoral Care** is another area which requires some re-imagining. In the past, the Cathedral clergy, lay visitors, and Social Service Society have worked together to ensure that homebound parishioners are visited and phoned, and that those undergoing significant medical issues receive the support they need. Those efforts continue, but many of our most dedicated caregivers have aged or moved away. In the next year, we will need to recruit and train additional people, and establish a structure that works with our current patterns of life.

**Spiritual vitality** ought to be woven into everything we do as a community, but I am also enjoying working with Bertrand and Vivian Lewin to create some focused opportunities for prayer. Bertrand will be leading a Lenten Quiet Day on March 21st 2020, on the theme “Dying to Live,” while I will be bringing a group to Holy Cross Monastery in New York state for a retreat the last weekend in May 2020 (which is Pentecost).

Offered in Christ, with hope.

<b>Associate Priest</b>
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<b>Jean-Daniel Ó Donnáda</b>
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### **Children’s Ministry**

In 2019, our children led worship on Good Friday and Christmas Eve.

Sarah Wicks and Jen Ower have been serving as co-coordinators of children’s church at the 10:30 am service, serving as the principal teachers and recruiting and scheduling other volunteers. Fresia Saborio has taken the lead for teaching the children who attend the 9:00 am service while their parents attend Pain, Partage et Prière.

Attendance is extremely variable, from no children on a stormy Sunday to about 25 on Easter! Our teachers prepare diligently with the challenge of never quite knowing how many children or what ages they will encounter each Sunday.

In 2020, we hope to continue the growth of our team of experienced volunteers and integrate more of our older children into roles of reading and serving in our morning services.

### **Youth Group**

Once a month, co-youth ministers Maddy MacGregor and Emily Stuchbery have led creative games, discussions, and prayers with youth (10-18). We have four regularly participating youth in this new and bilingual effort. While small, it is an important ministry to ensure we take care of the spiritual needs of our parishioners at each stage of their lives.

### **Young Adults**

Our young adult group includes regular worshippers at our 9:00 am, 10:30 am, and 6:00 pm services, members of numerous cathedral ministries from choir to corporation, presiding at evening prayer, and leadership of major events like Journées de la Culture and Nuit Blanche.

We have weekly Bible study for undergraduates led by Rev. Jean-Daniel and a few small groups being peer led for older young adults across the city. In 2019 we began Parlons-En, a French Bible study group for young adults.

### **Cathedral@6**

The Cathedral@6 grew from once-a-month to twice-a-month. Regular attendance tends to be around 40 with expected fluctuations with the academic year as many of its regulars are university students. It is a contemporary and bilingual Mass which uses modern praise music, Taizé, camp rounds, and bluegrass within the structure of Book of Alternative Services Eucharist. We are deliberate about inclusive language and raising up as many voices as possible, empowering our attendees to do readings, led the prayers of the people, preach for the first time, and serve Communion. Many young adults who first try these ministries at 6:00 pm have gone on to do them in our other services as well.

Our music leader Zack Ingles left us in the summer as his spouse Selina began her career as a United Church pastor. We are grateful for his years of passion and creativity in our mission outreach through music. Alex Griffin, a newly arrived seminarian at Diocesan College, has taken over primary music leadership in the service since the autumn.

Cassidy VanderSchee and Peggy Simpson coordinated a successful fundraising campaign, “Rock the Cathedral” to allow us to purchase modern sound equipment that will improve the music at 6:00 pm and help the cathedral to host a wider variety of arts and culture events. All of us are grateful for the cathedral members who contributed so kindly and generously to this effort.

While the Cathedral@6 has a strong core attendance of young adults, it is an all-age service with an increasing presence of families. Occasionally more children are present at 6:00 pm than at either of our morning services. We have a quiet play area set up for them in the front where they may colour, use soft blocks, and still have a clear view of the Communion altar and music leaders.

<b>Deacon</b>
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<b>Rev'd Deacon Peter Huish</b>
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A friend and long-time Communitas volunteer reminded me recently of a sermon I offered here on the occasion of Epiphany four years ago. (It is still accessible on the cathedral website: <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/sermons/walls-and-prison-breaks/>). Notwithstanding the title “Walls and Prison Breaks” it goes to the heart of my reporting as your deacon this year in which « community » is the theme, as it was in fact in that sermon - community which is enabled when we take seriously the invitation to « love one another as I have loved you ».

Through my diaconal lenses, when I speak of that kind of community, I perceive it as analogous with the togetherness in the presence of God which we experience regularly here in « communion ». For me, gathering congregationally and moving together to the altar is of a piece, similarly sacramental, to that which occurs in our regular reflections on our lives informed by the Gospel which take place in the prison chapel; similar to that which takes place weekly at Open Door meetings in Fulford Hall; similar to that which takes place in the monthly Sunday Lunches in Fulford Hall; similar to that which comes together when we who are « inside » welcome, engage and trade fairly with the world which is « outside » and distanced from, and perhaps by us; and similar to that which equally blesses us and the world around us through the passion and efforts of members of ESJAG who on our behalf engage issues of social and ecological justice which demand redress.

I see similarly, through these same diaconal lenses, the seedling Cathedral Hospitality Project, germinating slowly over the last couple of years as we grappled with questions of best use of our space and grounds, in tune with our gospel vocation, and now ready to break ground. A 'diaconal' hospitality project will grow this coming year, that would be a focus for our being a place of welcome, for questions, for response, to all who enter the Cathedral and seek contact, having especially the intention of spending time with those having pastoral or practical needs which could be met by volunteers having appropriate training or by referral to other resources in the city. This service could also provide assistance and information to those who come as visitors and whose need is not necessarily pastoral. As your deacon I am willing to assist in planning and coordination of the project.

In this intentional hospitality and invitation to community we will have another opportunity to extend the blessing of communion in which we live and are nourished, be it as a Eucharistic people, as participants in our life of shared prayer or in any of the other sacramental expressions of our common life at Christ Church Cathedral.

<b>Director of Music</b>
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<b>Dr. Jonathan White</b>
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Music forms the backbone of so much of the liturgy at the Cathedral. With well over one hundred choral services in a typical liturgical year, not including the wealth of other musical activities in the community, we are fortunate to enjoy one of Canada's most active church music programmes. Shortly before my arrival the Cathedral community had said farewell to Rob Hamilton who, along with Nicholas Capozzoli, had led the choir and music programme through a long period of transition. Both they and the choir had done a remarkably good job of keeping things running smoothly during what must have, at least at times, been challenging, and I am immensely grateful to have found things in such good shape on my arrival.

Although I know it has already been said elsewhere in this report, I would also like to acknowledge the immense debt that the choir, the music programme, and I owe to my predecessor, Patrick Wedd, who sadly passed away shortly before I arrived. The choir performed exceptionally well at his funeral, and I was impressed with the professionalism and dignity with which they approached the enormous challenge of singing for someone who defined not only the music at the Cathedral, but also the choral and organ soundscape for the entire city.

Other personnel changes including saying farewell to Sarah Sabol as Organ Scholar, but who we are delighted has continued to remain within the musical family playing for the 9:00 am service and still singing with the choir when she is able. Ethan Hill joined us as Organ Scholar in September, and I'm delighted that Nick continues to provide exemplary accompaniment as Assistant Organist. Choir membership has remained steady, with a couple of additions to the voluntary choir, but certainly one key focus now is on increasing the ranks to ensure that the heavy workload is spread as evenly as possible. All singers, both paid and voluntary, give enormously to the music programme, and it is only through their dedication that we are able to maintain such a high standard of music-making on a weekly basis.

Highlights from the last year have included an enormously successful come and sing Messiah, which attracted several hundred people from the city, as well as the large number of services over the Christmas period. The choir has worked hard consolidating on existing repertoire while continuing to explore new music, and we have also been experimenting with new ways of using the building effectively for worship. I am exceptionally grateful to all those who have worked hard and patiently during this period.

Finally I would like to add my thanks to all those who support the work of the music programme in its wider context. To Elizabeth in the office, as well as the team of volunteers who work tirelessly to produce all the worship materials. I am also grateful for the support of the clergy, wardens, and all the congregation, without whose support we simply couldn't work. We are very much looking forward to the coming year and the hopeful expansion of our work.

### **The Francophone Community**

**Michel Gagnon, Diane Wood, Fresia Saborio**

Three words mark the year 2019 for the Francophone community: change, transition and evolution. The Eucharist is now held at 9:00 a.m. and is entirely in French, the room where we gather for the Pain, Partage, Prière is no longer the same, music has been transformed, and above all, the community has almost tripled in size.

To coordinate our activities, we have set up a coordination group that meets every six to eight weeks under the leadership of our Dean Bertrand Olivier.

#### **Liturgy**

While the move of the service at 9:00 a.m. did not satisfy everyone (we lost one or two members to the 6:00 p.m. community), it undoubtedly played a role in the renewal of the community. Another significant change was the arrival of about twenty new people last April, due in part to the move of the Church of the Nativity to Rosemère. For these individuals, there is no doubt that the present schedule is far preferable. Traffic is much lighter and free parking is available at 9:00 a.m. but not at 12:45 p.m. And finally, for the vast majority of the people, it is more "normal" to worship and praise God on Sunday morning. Numerically, the Eucharist in French now brings together some 30 to 35 people each week, including occasional tourists who also participate in the service. Our challenge now is to spread the good news and attract a greater number of people to our liturgy and community.

We also note that more people are involved in the liturgy. We regularly prepare a rota of volunteers and there always are a few people who can act as substitute when a scheduled volunteer cannot make it. Besides that, George Deare has trained Michel Gagnon, Fresia Saborio and Diane Wood to serve at the altar.

## **Music**

Musically speaking, barely 15 months ago music was provided by a pianist and four choristers. From January to September 2019, the community had access to a pianist and a soloist, and hymns from the book *Liturgies et cantiques luthériens* (Lutheran Liturgies and Hymns) were used. Two problems resulted from this formula: a sometimes depressing theology, and above all, few hymns were known by the congregation. Therefore, even with one single soloist (2019 style) and a larger congregation, it often sounded like singing for the congregation rather than singing by the congregation.

In September 2019, a music committee was created; it immediately undertook a major change by taking charge of the entire musical component. Evolution was gradual but swift. First, we chose ourselves hymns we knew (more or less) from the usual hymnal. Then, starting in November, we integrated more hymns from the *Livre de cantiques de l'Église épiscopale des États-Unis* (the French hymnal from the U.S. Episcopal Church) and other sources, taking into account as much as possible of the repertoire known by many members. In the meanwhile, we began to prepare our own hymnbook specifically for the French-speaking community. In developing this new hymnbook which currently includes some 80 hymns, we wanted to respond to three challenges: develop a collection of hymns from Anglican theology and tradition, increase members to sing joyfully, and, over time, increase our repertoire.

In addition, we have set up our own choir, *la chorale francophone*, with roughly ten members. The choir made its debut at the December 22 and 24 Eucharists and will now be part of major liturgies of the francophone community (such as Easter 2020).

To conclude, let us say that the transition to a more participatory mode has been successful since the community sings with more vigour and is eager to see the Francophone choir as an integral part of the liturgy on major holy days.

## **Pain, Partage, Prière**

2019 has been a year of many changes for our francophone community group and our Pain, Partage, Prière (Bread, sharing, prayer) gatherings for sharing refreshments, praying together and studying the scriptures. The change in time of our French service of Eucharist from 12:45 pm to 9:00 am affected the location of our gatherings. We moved from the space next to Fulford Hall to the downstairs Undercroft. We changed from sharing a mid-day meal to a simpler coffee-hour style snack.

We instituted a regular schedule of holding our Pain, Partage, Prière on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month (with exceptions for severe weather and holy days). We continue to focus our study on the gospel passage for the following Sunday, but we occasionally will vary our program.

We have been blessed by the addition of many new members, with our group of regulars growing from around ten or twelve to as many as twenty-five people on many Sundays. New leadership has emerged, allowing a rotation among several people who lead the Bible study.

Individual members of the group share duties and step up to take responsibility for nametags, setting up, preparing coffee, preparing printouts of our Bible text, emailing members the text in advance each time, and cleaning up, washing cups, etc.

As with the francophone service itself, our PPP group has been enriched by new cultural perspectives and voices. We have shared several special meals together, featuring Haitian *paté* pastries. A wonderful Haitian-style Thanksgiving feast was one highlight of the year-- a moment for our deepened awareness of God's love among us and the gift of community.

### **Christian Education of Children and Youth**

The programme is led by Fresia Saborio under supervision of Rev. Jean-Daniel Ó Donnáda.

Our group is made of six children aged 6 to 13 who regularly attend Sunday school and a few others who may join casually. We therefore have three levels: elementary, primary and junior. Our program is centered in prayer and communal prayer, Bible story telling and mostly sharing our weekly experiences learning to discover the love of Jesus in our lives. Class (or playing time) is from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm when there is Pain, Partage, Prière and from 10:00 am to 11:00 am on other Sundays.

We give all glory to our heavenly Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit who blessed us with the spiritual growth of this Sunday School.

### **Social Life**

Social life is a sign of vitality; therefore, we can affirm that the Francophone community is quite alive. In addition to the weekly coffee snack, we participated in a community meal on November 17. On top of that, we organized potluck dinners on Father's Day and Thanksgiving, as well as a Christmas Eve party, all of which were greatly appreciated by the entire Francophone community.

### **Thanks**

We end by thanking our Dean Bertrand Olivier, as well as all the other members of the community. Special thanks to the clergy Jean-Daniel Ó Donnáda, Gwenda Wells, Deborah Meister et Jen Bourque, as well as (in alphabetical order) Jean-Robert Bellarmin, George Deare, Darlene Dimanche, Léonne Dubic, Marie-Claire Fournier, Michel Gagnon, Ogino Myrtil, Raymonde Proulx, Fresia Saborio, Diane Wood and the vergers for their support all year long.

<b>Licensed lay readers</b>
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<b>Vivian Lewin</b>
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The four licensed Lay Readers at the Cathedral, Jean-Robert Bellarmin, Michael Gagnon, Sam Keuchguerian, and Vivian Lewin, serve in various capacities. Among these are leading services such as the Daily Office and Choral Evensong, serving at the altar, being part of the prayer team, leading the Prayers of the People, reading lections at the Eucharist, preaching, and pastoral visiting.

# FINANCE

## Treasurer's Report

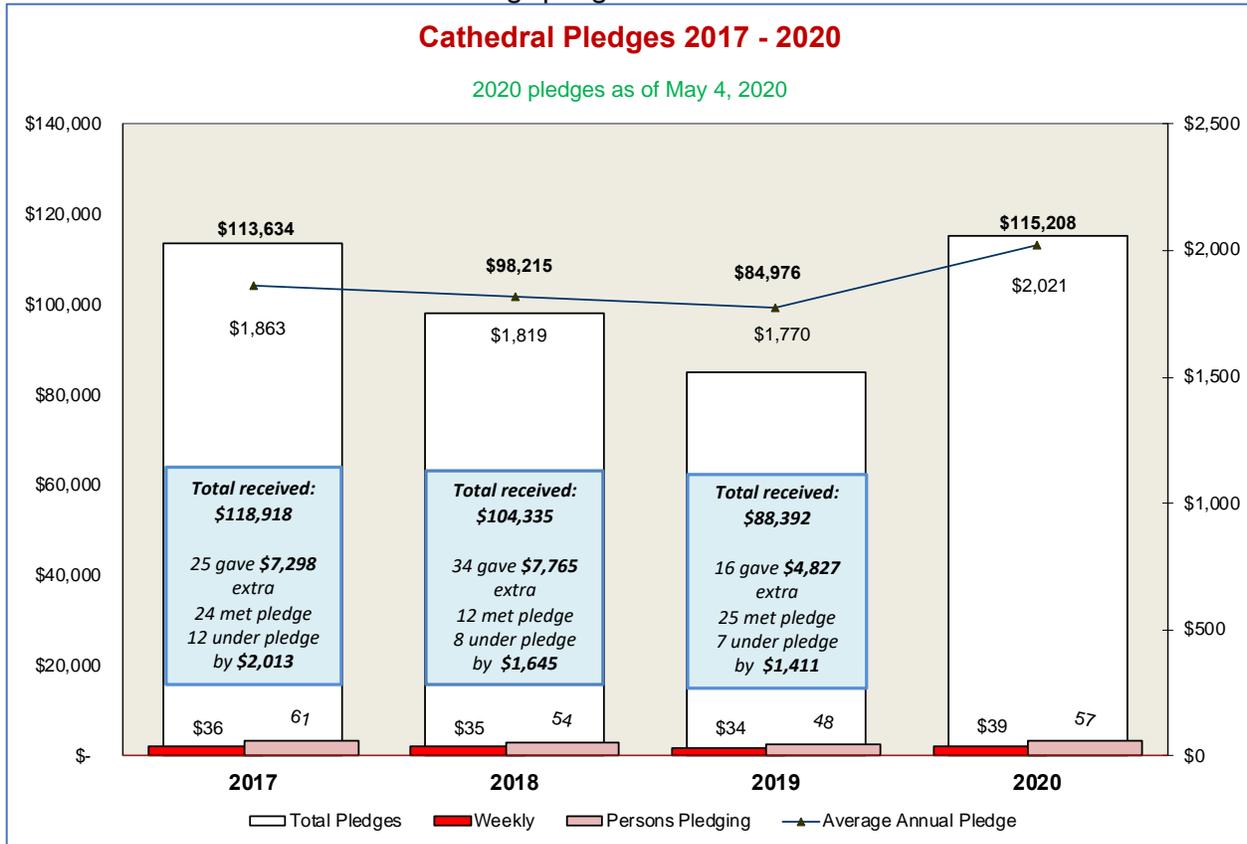
Jane Aitkens

### Pledges

In 2019, the number of pledges dropped to 48. The drop was mostly a result of people no longer attending the Cathedral through retirement, moving away or death. This resulted in a \$14,000 loss in pledges.

The pledged amount of \$84,976 was reached and exceeded by \$3,416; \$88,392 was received. 16 people gave above their pledge, 25 met their pledge exactly and 7 fell short.

Here is a chart showing the pledges and actual amounts received, from 2017 on. It is very encouraging to see the substantial increase in the average pledge for 2020.



The \$84,976 given by people who pledged was 50% of the \$170,015 received from 'identified givers' for the general Cathedral budget. That includes visitors who told us who they were – they donated \$1,320. Special donations in the amount of \$18,585 were received to help cover some of the expenses for the new flooring in the Chapter House, Easter Brass, air conditioning, and the Sunday School.

## Christ Church Cathedral Annual Report 2019

We gratefully received \$10,000 from the Estate of the Rev'd Dr. Donald Boisvert. It will be used over the next number of years to provide bursaries for Cathedral education events such as retreats and pilgrimages.

The congregation donated \$1,860 towards the departing gifts for Amy Hamilton and Robert Hamilton and \$4,105 for the Music@6 Fund.

87 donations were made to the Patrick Wedd Fund, for a total of \$9,959.

### **The Year-end for 2019**

We finished the year 2109 with an actual income of \$823,434 – a 4.1% increase (\$32,864) from the budgeted income of \$790,570.

The budgeted amount for expenses was \$824,595; we spent 3.7% more than we budgeted - \$854,708 - a difference of \$30,112. Because the additional income was more than the additional expenses, we ended the year with a deficit of \$31,274 - beating our budgeted deficit of \$34,025 by \$2,751.

### **Spire Campaign**

Donations received for the Spire in 2019 amounted to \$449,560. The Quebec government's CPRQ grant for 2019 was \$800,000. Most of 2019 was spent negotiating the costs for "Lot 2", which covers the work on the actual spire. Thus, expenditures during 2019 totaled only \$372,869 including architects' fees, campaign expenses and the final construction bills for "Lot 1".

Due to the increased costs of the construction, we realized that our \$200,000 line of credit at RBC would not be enough to carry us through the next phase of construction. We asked four banks to 'bid' on providing us with a larger line of credit, up to 3 million dollars. CIBC made the best offer and the line of credit was approved. The Cathedral bank accounts are being moved to CIBC. Our investments remain at RBC.

### **How to Give**

As I do every year, I recommend the PAR (pre-authorized remittance) system, which is currently being used by approximately 29 parishioners. Using PAR is a way to contribute monthly to the Cathedral through automatic withdrawals from your bank account. The United Church of Canada offers this service to all churches at a very reasonable cost. It is the best way to ensure your pledge is met, it helps our cash flow throughout the year, and it is a great time saver for the Cathedral bookkeeper.

There is more information (and the form you need to send in, along with a void cheque) on the website: <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/donate>

Or you can ask me for the PAR form when you see me in church or by email at [treasurer@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:treasurer@montrealcathedral.ca).

Note that it is also possible to use the PAR system to make monthly contributions to the major fundraising campaign, as well as to PWRDF.

A second way to contribute 'electronically' is by e-transfer from your bank account to ours. The email to send your e-transfer to is: [accounting@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:accounting@montrealcathedral.ca). No password is required. Throughout 2019, I also started to investigate a way to provide a "Tap and Go" option – also known as unattended giving, whereby a person is able to just tap their credit card and make a donation. We pay by tapping all the time in stores, but it is not so easy to set up if there isn't a person present to prepare the terminal for a payment. The Europeans are way ahead of us with this technology. The solutions available in Canada are in their infancy and the only possible solution at the moment is very expensive. So we are waiting... In the meantime, we have added other ways to give electronically - via [PayPal](#) and via [Tithe.ly](#). Please see the website page for more information: <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/donate>

Finally, I again would like to thank Elizabeth Shama, our Cathedral Administrator and Bookkeeper. It is such a pleasure to work with her.

### Investment Committee

**Stephen Atkinson, Chair**

- Members: Dean Bertrand (Dean of the Cathedral); Jane Aitkens (Treasurer), Robert King, Robert Cowling, Stephen Atkinson, Chair
- Kathy Fazel and her associate Alana Singer represents the manager, RBC Phillips Hager and North (PH&N) Investment Counsel.
- PH&N have continued to outperform the Benchmark and add real value to the portfolio
- The 2019 portfolio return was an excellent 17.8% compared to the Benchmark 16.5%. Canadian CPI was 2.2%. The 5-year return was 7.5% p.a. compared to the Benchmark 5.9% p.a. CPI for this period was 1.8%.
- The combined funds of the Cathedral finished the year totaling \$4.369 million, compared to \$3.867 million the prior year.
- Our underlying objective is to keep the portfolio value in the \$4mm range. The asset mix at the end of 2019 was 82% equities and 18% fixed income including cash (small).

## Christ Church Cathedral

Market Values / Asset Mix – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

	<i>Endowment Fund</i>		<i>Bequest &amp; Gift Fund</i>		<i>Combined Funds</i>	
<b>Cash</b>	<b>\$ 2,810</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>\$ 443</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>\$ 3,253</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Fixed Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,341,664</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>\$ 127,496</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>\$ 1,469,169</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Equities</b>	<b>\$ 2,317,432</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>\$ 579,265</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>\$ 2,896,697</b>	<b>66%</b>
Canada	\$ 1,277,686	35%	\$ 274,015	39%	\$ 1,551,701	36%
U.S.	\$ 500,838	14%	\$ 144,927	20%	\$ 645,766	15%
International	\$ 538,907	15%	\$ 160,323	23%	\$ 699,230	16%
<b>Portfolio   \$</b>	<b>\$ 3,661,906</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 707,203</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 4,369,109</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Portfolio   %</b>	<b>84%</b>		<b>16%</b>			

Balance in "Rising Up" Capital Campaign Fund: \$31,378

## Christ Church Cathedral

Endowment Fund & Bequest & Gift Fund  
Rates of Return as at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

	3 months %	1 Year %	3 Years %	4 Years %	5 Years %	10 Years %	*Since Inception %
Portfolio	3.5	17.8	8.1	8.9	7.5	8.0	7.0
Benchmark**	2.7	16.5	6.5	7.3	5.9	6.7	5.7
Canadian CPI***	0.7	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7

\*Date of inception: February 26, 2008

\*\*New Benchmark Effective Jan 1, 2019: 35% FTSE TMX Universe Bond Index, 35% S&P TSX Composite Index, 25% MSCI World Index, 5% MSCI Emerging Markets Index

Previous Benchmark: 45% FTSE TMX Universe Bond Index, 40% S&P TSX Composite Index, 15% MSCI World Index.

\*\*\*CPI data seasonally adjusted – as at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

## Historical Information

From 2016 to 2019 – Q4 2019

	Endowment Fund				Bequest & Gift Fund				Total			
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Market Value - Jan. 1st</b>	\$3,208,666	\$3,253,416	\$3,493,684	\$3,254,722	\$821,446	\$602,839	\$652,398	\$611,996	\$4,030,112	\$3,856,255	\$4,146,082	\$3,866,719
<b>Net Contributions</b>	-\$175,000	\$75,000	\$	\$	-\$245,423	\$	\$	\$	-\$420,423	\$75,000	\$	\$
Disbursed Income	\$94,789	\$95,105	\$97,276	\$105,434	\$19,244	\$19,387	\$19,825	\$21,846	\$114,033	\$114,492	\$117,101	\$127,280
Disbursed Income MIF*	\$22,370	\$24,301	\$24,411	\$21,910					\$22,370	\$24,301	\$24,411	\$21,910
<b>Fees</b>	-\$22,581	-\$23,444	-\$23,606	-\$23,232	-\$4,412	-\$4,322	-\$4,462	-\$4,336	-\$26,993	-\$27,767	-\$28,068	-\$27,569
<b>Market Value - Dec. 31st</b>	\$3,253,416	\$3,493,684	\$3,254,722	\$3,661,906	\$602,839	\$652,398	\$611,996	\$707,203	\$3,856,255	\$4,146,082	\$3,866,719	\$4,369,109
<b>Change in Market Value</b>									\$273,559	\$242,594	-\$251,295	\$529,959

\*Monthly Income Fund

## Spire Campaign

**The Very Rev'd Bertrand Olivier**

In 2019, we were blessed with some good news and some not so good news with regards to the Capital Campaign.

Our application to the Conseil du Patrimoine Religieux du Québec (CPRQ) resulted in a grant of \$800,000 towards our restoration project, and we are grateful for the continued support of the Provincial Government towards the preservation of our Heritage building. We are very much hoping that support will continue.

We were also extremely grateful to the cathedral team who approached individual members for contributions towards this once in a lifetime project. Generosity was in evidence, and the target that had originally been set was overtaken, funds raised totalling \$ 455,357. On behalf of the Cathedral community, I would like to thank all donors again for their generosity.

However, it also became clear in early 2019 that the funding climate was starting to change. Discussions surrounding bill 21 resulted in most funders being unwilling to support religious organisations, and it also became evident that those funders who might be willing to talk to us were no longer interested in funding heritage preservation, but instead social outreach or artistic improvement. Meanwhile, submissions received for phase 2 meant that we were faced with increased costs, from an originally planned \$3.5m to now nearly \$6m.

Corporation worked extensively at identifying alternative scenarios and ways of reducing some of the costs, a task not helped by the ever changing constraints placed around us by the works on Ste Catherine Street and on Avenue Union. In discussions with the successful bidders Rainville, some gains were made by removing some non essential works, which were then countermanded by other additional costs including temporary strengthening of the spire, asbestos removal, and scaffolding costs. The original plan of bringing the spire down in two pieces had to be shelved because of the impossibility to bring the necessary sized crane on Ste Catherine St, and work on a new plan involving restoring the steel structure of the spire on site had to be developed.

As the fundraising team found itself in a difficult situation, it became crucial meanwhile for the Cathedral to be able to fund these works, which are essential for the safety of the public around our building and cannot be put on hold. The Finance team therefore approached a number of banking institutions in order to discuss the availability of lines of credits for that purpose. This was eventually secured with CIBC, to whom we are very grateful. This means that we were able to sign the contract for phase 2 towards the end of the year in the knowledge that we can cashflow the works, giving us time for more fundraising activities while the urgent work is carried out.

We would like to thank all those who helped us in this area during the year, including Bruce McNiven, our Chair of Campaign, and Camilla Leigh, our fundraising consultant. There is plenty more work to be done in this area though, and if you have any expertise or interest in this area, please contact the Dean.

## **ADMINISTRATION/GOVERNANCE**

### **Cathedral Staff on December 31, 2019**

The Very Rev'd Bertrand Olivier  
The Rev'd Dr. Deborah Meister  
The Rev'd Jean-Daniel Williams  
The Rev'd Jennifer Bourque  
The Rev'd Jim McDermott  
The Rev'd Deacon Peter Huish  
Dr. Jonathan White  
Nicholas Capozzoli  
Ethan Hill  
Elizabeth Shama  
Ardyth Robinson  
John Cavacece  
Rodney Roberts  
Ewen Baron  
Boran Zaza

Dean of the Cathedral  
Associate Priest  
Associate Priest  
Honorary Assistant  
Honorary Assistant  
Deacon  
Director of Music  
Assistant organist  
Organ Scholar  
Administrator and Bookkeeper  
Office support  
Senior Verger  
Assistant Verger  
Assistant Verger  
Oasis Musicale Manager

### **Resigned in 2019**

The Rev'd Amy Hamilton  
The Rev'd Jean Jacques Goulet  
  
Robert Hamilton  
  
Eric Mortera  
Jennifer Stewart  
Gregory Telfer-James  
Sarah Sabol

Associate Priest  
Part time Assistant Priest  
(retirement)  
Organ Scholar and Interim Co-  
Director of Music  
Assistant Verger  
Assistant Verger  
Assistant Verger  
Organ Scholar

**Wardens**

**Sheena Gourlay and Michel Rattray-Huish**

*“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...”*

*“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.”*

*Donald Boisvert.*

2019 seems to have come and gone in a whirl – marked by much sadness as we bade farewell at the untimely passing of our beloved priest, Donald Boisvert, and recently retired music director, Patrick Wedd. In addition, Associate Priest Rev. Amy Hamilton set off on another journey last April to explore where else God might be calling her after her time at the Cathedral. Yet it has also been a time of renewal with the coming in June of Jonathan White, our new Director of Music, and in September of Rev. Dr. Deborah Meister, our Associate Priest. She replaced Rev. Gwenda Wells, who we were blessed to have on a part-time basis in the interim. On Corporation, we welcomed Marie-Claire Fournier, who brings the important perspective of the Francophone community at the Cathedral.

**Ordinations et al:** The community joyfully celebrated the ordinations of former congregation members Tania Lesack, Joel Amis and Tyson Rosberg as priests or deacons in August and September this year, whilst Jason Crawford from the Church of the Epiphany in Verdun was also ordained in September to the vocational diaconate. Jeffrey Mackie said farewell to the Cathedral and received blessings from the Dean and the congregation as he headed to the Yukon for a month before taking up a placement at St. Thomas Church in NDG.

**Media:** On the social media front, detailed consultations regarding the Cathedral website, how it is used and how we can update and adapt it, was led by Donna Riley. Our presence on social media has increased including through Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, and livestreaming of events and concerts are also being explored.

**Cathedral Fabric:** The Dean moved his office from the office tower into the Chapter House in the Cathedral; and internet has been installed in the cathedral building. To alleviate the sweltering heat, temporary air conditioning was installed this last summer. The physical appearance of the interior of the Cathedral also benefited from the work of a new group – The Cathedral Polishers – led by Edward Yankie, who meet every other month to polish wood and brass and clean the hard-to-get-at areas. This just in time to welcome Messy Cathedral which took place for this first time in November with bowling, water play, treasure hunts and more.

**Cathedral Spire:** Funding for Phase II of the Capital Campaign was finally secured from the CPRQ allowing the Cathedral to sign the documentation for the work to continue. Unfortunately, no sooner had we agreed with the architects and the contractors on the way forward than the City of Montreal intervened to advise that more work will be done on Union Avenue, which will prevent Phase II from proceeding as planned. A new plan has now been agreed to and, instead of the spire being removed before being worked on, we will be doing the work *in situ*, entailing more scaffolding in our future.

**Financial support:** *The Spire campaign:* 67 members of the cathedral congregation have pledged a total of \$440,033, which well surpasses our target of \$350,000. We are very grateful for this strong support of the campaign by the Cathedral family.

*Financial support of our regular activities:* There has been a positive response to the pledge letters that were sent out, with some 50 persons pledging an average donation of \$2,100 compared to \$1,700 last year. This is encouraging given that, despite ongoing efforts, our costs are always rising. In order to not run a budget deficit next year, we appeal to those who can, to review their giving in an effort to increasing their regular pledge.

**Special events:** The Cathedral again participated in *Nuit Blanche* and *Journées de la Culture*, with thousands of people passing through the doors and being welcomed by the dozens of volunteers who organized, prepared food and hot chocolate, and otherwise contributed time and energy. We celebrated *Gay Pride Week* with a Pride Mass at the Cathedral, with members of the congregation and clergy participating in the Pride Parade. *Christ the King* was celebrated this year, not with a roast beef lunch as in the past, but with an international potluck lunch featuring food from different cultures. The Cathedral came out in numbers for the *Montreal Climate March* – many carrying wonderful banners made by Gabrielle Boyd.

Multi-faith events included the memorial with the Muslim community remembering the men killed at the Islamic Community Centre in Quebec City. The Cathedral celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Christian Commemoration of the Shoah with the Christian Jewish Dialogue of Montreal. Invited by the Inter-faith Forum and the Institute for Intercultural Dialogue, the representatives of the Cathedral also attended an Iftar, the evening meal which breaks the fast held daily by Muslims during the month of Ramadan, at the Oecumenical Centre.

We are also very pleased to say that the Syrian family that was sponsored through the Social Service Society are doing well. Thanks to all who assisted them in their new life here.

**Many thanks:** In conclusion, we would like to acknowledge the support of all our parishioners who give so generously of their time, talents and financial resources to the Cathedral. It is through their many gifts that we '*persist in living as a community in non-conformity with the world*'.

**Vergers Report**

**John Cavacece**

2019 was a quieter year than in the past, although being in the center of the city, dealing with the itinerants is always challenging. We continue to strive to maintain positive relations with them as we provide a safe environment to all that visit the Cathedral.

The city construction on Ste. Catherine's street right in front of the Cathedral was very difficult for the verger staff to manage. The added dirt, noise and disruptions made planning our daily duties difficult.

Assistant vergers Jennifer Stewart and Eric Mortera left the cathedral and it has been difficult to find replacements. In November, we welcomed Ewen Baron who is a great addition onto the verger team. We hope to find another part time verger soon.

The verger staff would like input to find a way for us to provide better service to visitors and parishioners.

**Cathedral Register 2019**

**Baptisms**

*Adam Josif Bevan  
Margaret Cicely Evans Johnston  
Kaleb Higgins-Alhassan  
Orphée Jade Chami  
David Oliver Labeyrie  
Erika Peter  
Nathan Fenix Jean*

**Marriages**

*Amanda Van Oort and Stephen McAuley  
Kayathri Ramalingam and Adams Sutharsan*

**Confirmation**

*Fresia Saborio  
Annogini Agnas Sutharsan*

**Funerals**

*Donald Bosivert  
Maggie Shaddick  
Gwen Spurll  
Patrick Wedd*

**Received into the Anglican Church**

*Stephanie Felkai  
Dudley Balan*

We remember those of our parish family and fiends who have died in the past year.

*Donald Boisvert, Lorna Franklin, Maggie Shaddick, Gwen Spurll, Patrick Wedd*

<b>Statistical Report</b>	<b>Ann Elbourne</b>
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**Average number of Sunday communicants 2013 – 2019**

Please note, the number of people attending a service is always higher than the number of communicants. In 2019 the French Eucharist was switched to an earlier time, 9:00 am, and the English choral eucharist moved to 10:30 am. The 6:00 pm service, a bilingual informal communion service with modern music, is held twice a month.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
8 am	10	14	14	13	12	14	12
9 am (Fr)	18	18	22	18	17	17	25
10:30 (En)	104	100	101	108	98	93	94
6 pm					31	42	35
Total AM services only	132	132	137	136	127	124	131
Total with PM service					158	166	166

Averages of course only tell part of the story, especially when they cover the whole year. The **ranges for the number of communicants in 2019** are quite wide, namely –

**8:00 am** Said Communion (Prayer Book): range 8 to 17. Sadly, the 8:00 am service has lost some faithful congregants through ill health and death

**9:00 am** (French mass): range 9 to 39. Note, the size of the congregation at this service doubled in May when L'Église de la Nativité moved location. The average number of communicants from January to April was 14, but from May to August rose to 31. November to December the average number of communicants was 27.

**10:30 am** (Choral Eucharist mainly in English) range 54 (one presumably wintry Sunday in January) to 142. Construction on streets around the cathedral meant fewer visitors this year, so attendance dropped in the summer months to an average of 84. The good news is that, overall, attendance was rising in the last four months of the year

**6:00 pm** Bilingual contemporary service. Range 19 - 55 Numbers vary somewhat with the demands of the academic year. Predictably the attendance was lower in the summer but overall the number of young people attending this service is encouraging.

### Easter and Christmas communicants 2013 – 2019

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Easter	394	434	422	514	452	427	361
Christmas	328	432	370	468	333	348	443
Combined	722	866	792	982	785	775	804

Christmas services in 2019 were at 4:00 pm Christmas Eve (family service), 7:00 pm (messe en français) 11:00 pm (Midnight Mass), and Christmas Day at 8:00 am, 9:00 am and 10:30 am. Total attendance at the Christmas services was 682.

Easter services included the vigil on Saturday and services at 8:00 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am and 6:00 pm on Sunday. -

### Recommendations of the Nominating Committee for the Year 2020

Donna Jean-Louis

### Nominating Committee Report for the year 2020

In this very unique time in the history of Montreal, we find ourselves strangely isolated, without physical places of meeting and the opportunity to greet each other through touch. We pray that all those who share their time and talent find their faith deepened and lives further enriched through this stewardship commitment.

A very warm thank-you to all members of our cathedral community who served on committees for 2019, and our great appreciation is extended to those whose term continues beyond this meeting and into the next term. Without our solid team of volunteers Christ Church Cathedral could not fulfill its community outreach and sharing.

**Secretary to General Vestry:** To be nominated and approved at Annual General Vestry meeting: Diana Bouchard has been ably filling this role.

The Nominating Committee proposes the following candidates for election in 2020, with the understanding that none of us can foresee when we will be able to meet in person as committee members. In the meanwhile

### Cathedral Corporation

Wardens for 2020-21.

All members of the Cathedral Corporation have agreed to stay in their roles for 2020.

**Rector's Warden:** Sheena Gourlay

**People's Warden:** Michele Rattray-Huish

**Deputy Wardens:** Paul Helmer, Diana Bouchard. Cassidy Vanderschee

**Nomination for 2020-21** Marie-Claire Fournier, deputy warden

**Forum** - (previously elected voting members and currently nominated slate):

**Ex-officio members:** All Cathedral Clergy, Director of Music, Wardens and Deputy Wardens, Treasurer (Jane Aitkens), Delegates and Alternate Delegates to Synod, Lay Readers (Sam Keuchguerian, Vivian Lewin, Michel Gagnon, Jean-Robert Bellarmin and Constance Middleton-Hope - Lay Reader Emerita), Representative from ESJAG.

**Members for 2020-21 Co-Chair: Edward Yankee & Amanda van Oort**

George Deare, Noah Hermes, Robert King, John Matheson, Gabrielle Boyd, Edward Yankee, Carlos Torres, Marie-Claire Fournier, Ann Elbourne, Margaret Simpson, Marjorie Sharp, and Amanda van Oort (until her move later this year).

**New Nominations for 2020-2022:** Joanne Simpson, Frank Diké, Greta Helmer, and Rob Wells.

### **Music Committee**

**Chairperson** Elizabeth Adams

**Term ends March 2021:** Benjamin Stuchbery, Mary-Sue Philpott [Gibson] (filling Bob Gibson's seat), Veronica McDermott and Carole Therrien.

**Nominated for a term ending March 2022:** Joseph Hafner, Meg Graham and Natalie Gagnon-Joseph

**Ex-officio:** Director of Music (Jonathan White), the Dean (Bertrand Olivier) and a liaison with Corporation (Paul Helmer).

**PWRDF Representative:** Peggy Simpson, Edward Yankee, and Brenda Linn will work as a team to represent the Cathedral.

**Stewardship committee:** Jane Aitkens, Vera Burt, Marie Claire Fournier, Joseph Hafner, Joanne Simpson, Robert Wells

### **Synod Representatives:**

**Leaving after years of service:** Sam Keuchguerian and Flo Tracy

**Lay Delegates to Synod:** Jane Aitkens and Janet King

**Alternate Lay Delegates:** We are looking for volunteers to be alternate delegates should either Jane or Janet be unable to attend Synod.

### **Nominating Committee:**

**Thanking:** Vera Burt, Natasha Henderson, and Sam Keuchguerian who are leaving the committee this year for all their work.

Members for 2020: Donna Jean-Louis  
Rosemary Cass-Beggs

***If anyone is interested in serving on Corporation or becoming a voting member of Forum, or contributing to The Music Committee for next year, please contact the nominating committee.***

**Administrators of the Chalice 2020**

to be authorized by the Bishop For Christ Church Cathedral

Jane Aitkens	Sam Keuchguerian	Michèle Rattray
Hannah Bailey	Janet King	Donna Riley
Jean Robert Bellarmin	Robert King	Jonathan Sa'adah
Diana Bouchard	Adrian King-Edwards	Fresia Saborio
Emma Brion	Erica Jacobs-Perkins	Elizabeth Shama
George Deare	Donna Jean-Louis	Flo Tracy
Darlène Pharadiane-Dimanche	Michel Gagnon	Cassidy VanderSchee
Léonne Dubic	Sheena Gourlay	Amanda Van Oort
Ann Elbourne	Noah Hermes	Diane Wood
Stephanie Felkai	Mérodie Lemay-Gaulin	Sarah Wicks
Marie Claire Fournier	Vivian Lewin	Helen Wiegand
	Carlos Moreno-Torres	Edward Yankie

## CATHEDRAL LIFE

### Amnesty Writing Circle

**Gabrielle Boyd**

During 2019 the Cathedral had a monthly focus for Amnesty International. Through both letters and petitions we sent support to Eco Warriors in South America and to the LGBTQ+ communities in Russia. We wrote to the Canadian government to encourage action at Grassy Narrows and for the Canadian government to review their selling of military vehicles to Saudi Arabia, which were used against the people of Yemen. We petitioned governments for the freedom of women imprisoned for campaigning for women's rights. Letters of protest were sent to the Canadian government concerning the forced sterilization of indigenous women and to the US government concerning separation and incarceration of children at the US borders. We finished the year with the Write for the Rights campaign with over 80 hand written letters sent from both the Anglophone and Francophone congregations. As a congregation that stands for inclusive love, freedom and equal rights for all we sent our voices out electronically and in hard copy to take a stand and hold high our Cathedral's values.

### Children's Church

**Included in Associate Priest report, and Francophone ministry report.**

### Concert Rental

**Erica Jacobs-Perkins, concert rentals manager**

Concert rentals remained nearly stable from 2018 to 2019, up to 23 rentals from 22 in the previous year. Six clients, representing ten rentals, were repeat bookings from previous years. As of January 1st, 2019, we discontinued student pricing for concert rentals, which led to fewer return bookings and more touring groups from out of town but not, as feared, a decrease in rentals. 2019 was the last year of operations for concert rentals in this format and the position of Concert Rental Manager ceased to exist on December 31st, 2019 pending review.

**Education**

**Included in Associate Priests report**

**Ecological and Social Justice Action Group**

**Brenda Linn**

During 2019, the cathedral's Ecological and Social Justice Action Group (ESJAG) focused on climate change and its impact on the most vulnerable, particularly indigenous peoples, both in Canada and throughout the world. This focus was a direct extension of previous years' themes of indigenous homelessness, Truth and Reconciliation, and the TRC Calls to Action.

Early in 2019, a tragedy in the village of Kangirsuk, Nunavik, inspired a short after-church presentation on the stresses faced by the Inuit of Quebec. In response, members of the cathedral sent a donation of \$1,000 to our sister parish of Holy Trinity, Kangirsuk. Later in the year, ESJAG members participated in the Climate Strike, carrying beautiful banners created by Gabrielle Boyd. This event was followed up by a series of supper and film evenings on climate change and environmental degradation, beginning with a St Francis Day celebration of biodiversity, and a presentation on the threat of species loss. These evenings drew together a very diverse group of people from widely differing professional and cultural backgrounds, and resulted in a plan for presentations to the larger cathedral community and beyond, to take place between February and May of 2020. The impact of climate change and environmental degradation on those who struggle to protect their land, water, and forest also continue to dominate the work of the Amnesty writing circle and the Fair Trade group (see below).

During 2019, members of ESJAG also continued to ensure a cathedral presence at a number of ecological and social justice events held by organisations with whom we are affiliated, including the Canadian Council of Churches, Kairos, Coalition Inclusion Québec, the Quebec Fair Trade Association (AQCE), and the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism forum on "Théories et pratiques écologiques à partir de nos convictions spirituelles."

Over the past several years, ESJAG has been asked to recommend to Forum potential beneficiaries of the cathedral outreach budget. This year Forum voted in favour of funding a ground-breaking Healing of Memories workshop to be offered in partnership with le Centre des services de justice réparatrice. The workshop will focus in particular on the Inuit prisoners at FTC-Laval, whose communities are on the front lines of climate change. The other half of the outreach budget will be allocated to the Primate's Relief and Development Fund, whose project this year also focuses on Nunavik (see PVRDF report in this document.)

During the fall of 2019, the Rev. Jan Jorgensen left the cathedral due to ill health to focus on other avenues of ministry. Jan's vision and compassion, and her breadth of knowledge and understanding in the field of ecological and social justice has been a guiding force within ESJAG almost since its inception. Her leadership inspired us to be, as she herself put it, gentle with each other and yet fierce in our struggle for justice. May these two principles continue to direct us as we continue to grapple with the truly appalling human rights challenges posed by environmental degradation and climate change.

## **Fair Trade**

**Lisa Middlemiss**

The Fair Trade Group at the Cathedral, part of the Ecological and Social Justice Action Group (ESJAG), is committed to promoting fair trade and sustainable development in our local community.

You may find that the fair trade chocolate, tea, coffee or dried fruit you purchase at the monthly fair trade kiosk of the Cathedral tastes better, knowing that you are supporting quality of life for farmers who produced it. Perhaps you support fair trade as a means of countering child labour, helping to raise the living standards so that children can attend school. Or perhaps you support the basic principle that a fair wage is a social justice minimum, supporting basic human dignity for hard-working producers and artisans irrespective of their country of origin or culture.

The monthly fair trade kiosks are primarily made possible due to the relationship of the cathedral with Dix Milles Villages Pointe Claire, a fair trade board store of Ten Thousand Villages Canada from which the majority of the fair trade products are purchased. The kiosks would of course not be possible without the support of the cathedral community.

In 2019, the monthly fair trade kiosk expanded to include seasonal ecological items such as local organic herbs and vegetables, reusable beeswax food wrap, natural soap and reusable produce bags. While expanding beyond "fair trade" as such, these ecological and organic items have been added in support of the ecological mandate of ESJAG. They have been available only as quantities last as they have to be ordered from sources outside of Ten Thousand Villages.

On November 23, 2019, Dix Milles Villages Pointe Claire came to the cathedral to help run the annual fair trade Christmas boutique. This year, the Raging Grannies made a surprise appearance on the steps of the cathedral outside and their songs about responsible giving drew in passerby from Saint Catherine Street. Dix Milles Villages Pointe Claire generously allowed the cathedral to donate 15% of proceeds to St. Michael's mission, which amounted to just over \$300.

The cathedral is a proud member of the Association québécoise du commerce équitable.

**Forum**

**Amanda McAuley and Edward Yankie**

The role of Forum is to act as a sounding board for the community of Christ Church Cathedral and is where events and issues affecting the life of the community are brought up, discussed and voted on. Members of Forum meet on the third Tuesday of the month in the St. Anselm Chapel in Fulford Hall. Forum membership is formally made up of a Chair, Secretary, Clergy and elected lay members. All parish groups are responsible to report regularly on their activities to Forum.

Forum is open to everyone, not just members. All are welcome and encouraged to participate as it is a great way to learn about what is happening in the life of the cathedral.

This autumn saw turnover in both the roles of Chair and Secretary. The outgoing Chair, Jeffrey Mackie, was replaced by Edward Yankie and Amanda McAuley who will share the duties. Similarly, the role of Secretary which was formerly occupied by Natasha Henderson is now being shared by Noah Hermes and Michel Gagnon.

Some notable topics presented and discussed this past year included:

- Ways in which the Cathedral Website might be improved (Presented by Donna Riley).
- The need for A/V equipment to help the contemporary evening service as well as other music events at the cathedral, which lead to an ultimately successful fundraising campaign spearheaded by Peggy.
- The meaning and importance of restorative justice (by members of Communitas).
- The role of the Cathedral during the September Climate March.
- The diverse and manifold concerns and ministries which fall under our ESJAG group including the relevance and beauty of fair trade.
- Intercultural activities in the Church presented by Spes Manirakiza and Carlos Torres, from whom the successful intercultural church potluck event came.

This small example shows both the diverse range of issues that come up monthly as well as highlights some of the successes or fruits of our coming together.

Snacks and Drinks are provided on a voluntary basis and are compensated primarily through member donations. While historically drinks have included wine, we are currently experimenting with alcohol-free meetings as we consider how to best make Forum an open and inclusive space to all community members.

## Hospitality

Vivian Lewin

Hospitality is offered in many places, at many times, in many ways. Natasha Henderson, who capably spearheaded many of these activities for the last few years, took off her apron this year. The good work continues. Faithful volunteers--and more volunteers are welcome, always!--prepare coffee and serve other drinks and snacks before or after different services. Homemade cakes and cupcakes galore appear as if by magic--but made by human hands. Pancakes are flipped by the servers and served with sausages and maple syrup on Shrove Tuesday. All these events are a way to welcome new and old friends alike, building community. The Sunday Lunch program (described elsewhere in this Report) was expanded to every month in the year.

New or special in 2019: a half dozen receptions after Choral Evensong--the first three welcomed candidates for the Music Director position and the others served to spotlight this Sunday afternoon event. After the Pride Mass in August, everyone enjoyed homemade ice cream sandwiches! A multicultural Potluck Lunch organized by Carlos Moreno Torres and Spes Manirakiya re-tuned the traditional roast beef dinner in November and introduced foods from many countries and cuisines beloved of Cathedral members. Two enormous funeral receptions, and smaller ones, and a huge diocesan ordination reception revealed the depth of goodwill and energy at the heart of this parish. We shared in putting on a reception for a lecture on "Lessons of the Shoah" and offered refreshments at an event marking the conclusion of Phase One of the Spire project.

George Deare and Peggy Simpson work behind the scenes at more of these occasions than you would think possible, but there are a score of other men and women who are inspired to bake, struggle with coffee makers, chop vegetables, set up tables, arrange food on platters, serve beverages, clear things away, and wash up. Profound thanks to all who kept the heartbeat of our hospitality strong in 2019.

## The Journées de la Culture

Lisa Middlemiss

The theme of the JDC this year was "tisser des liens, bâtir des ponts" (making links and building bridges). Many thanks to the organizers and numerous participants in the activities.

The Cathedral hosted over 1,600 visitors on Friday, September 27th and Saturday, September 28th during the Journées de la Culture.

Jason McKechnie and Natasha Henderson curated an innovative art exhibit entitled "Vision" featuring leading Montreal artists including several Cathedral members.

The Oasis concerts included a bravura piano recital on Friday by pianist Milena Trifonova and the trio Ensemble Tessala playing both ancient and modern Middle Eastern Music on Saturday.

There was an organ demonstration, collage making, pottery making in action and an illustrated talk about tapestry making - all of which helped the cathedral make links with members of the Montreal public.

### **Last Sunday of the Month Lunch**

**Adrian King-Edwards and Donna Jean-Louis**

2019 was a year of prayerful growth for all involved in offering a hearty family style meal, one Sunday a month, to our neighbours in need.

This year, inspired by Dean Bertrand, we expanded our historic nine-month programme to include the summer months of June and July, and December. We could not have done this without the generous help of Peter Huish and the Communitas Group. The lunch now runs a full year.

Hosting a sit down hot meal for over a hundred people involves countless hours of volunteer time, both from cathedral members and the outside community. On the last Sunday of the month Cathedral volunteers from the 8 o'clock service quietly slip upstairs to Fulford Hall to lay place-settings for 18 tables. Preceding them, our cook John McLean and his family have been hard at work peeling, mashing, slicing and operating recalcitrant can-openers, all tasks involved in the making of a hot meal for multitudes on a limited budget. At 11:45 dozens of volunteers arrive to serve and wash up. Consider also the hours of planning and shopping and unloading of food for 120 adults.

From outside the Cathedral, Selwyn House, Lower Canada College, and Mazon Canada offer substantial financial and volunteer support. To supplement these donations private individuals or groups often step forward with sponsorships. Those involved in the deeply moving experience of meeting and sharing and serving an often marginalized community give thanks.

### **Music Committee Report**

**Beth Adams, chair**

2019 was a year of transitions, goodbyes, and welcomes. The Music Committee was represented on the Music Director Search Committee by Beth Adams and Carole Therrien, as they helped interview and choose a slate of three final candidates for the position. Music Committee members were present at the Evensong auditions which took place during three consecutive weeks last January, and we hosted receptions in the passerelle after each of them. Joseph Hafner, who also served on the Search Committee, agreed to join the Music Committee this past year, and we were pleased to welcome two other new members, Veronica McDermott and Margaret Graham, while Mary Sue Philpott continued in place of her late husband, Bob Gibson.

At the end of May, we said a sad farewell to the cathedral's former director, Patrick Wedd. The Music Committee assisted with organizing the funeral music for Patrick. Particular thanks should be extended to Carole Therrien for her hard work in finding a conductor and hiring orchestral musicians for the Stravinsky Mass that Patrick had requested, all within one week of his death.

The Committee then happily welcomed our new music director, Dr. Jonathan White, who began work in June, and helped make arrangements for his move, his housing, and transition to living on this side of the Atlantic. We would like to thank Vivian Lewin, in particular, for hosting Jonathan during his first month in Montreal.

At the end of June, the Committee hosted a public reception following the final “full choir” Evensong of the season, and in the early fall another similar event was held; we hope to do this several times each year as part of the revitalization of Evensong which seems to be drawing larger congregations already. Not-insignificant collections are also being taken at the door each week following Evensong, for the first time in recent memory. In addition, the sound quality of the broadcasts has improved greatly with Jonathan’s attention to the microphones and choir placement.

In addition to the donations which were received in Patrick Wedd’s memory last spring, for the Patrick Wedd Fund, we decided to change the Sing-Along Messiah to a fundraising event. It featured a talk by Jonathan White, a selection of music by The Cathedral Singers, a lively rehearsal for the several hundred participants, followed by the performance of the “Christmas” section of the Messiah with soloists from our choir, accompanied by Nick Capozzoli on the organ. This proved to be a very successful event which we hope to repeat. We would like to thank all the people who helped our committee -- especially Bob and Janet King, Greta Helmer and her team of volunteers, and Boran Zaza.

Finally, a huge thank you to Natasha Henderson and Yevgenia Amis who will be retiring from the committee after completing their terms -- thank you both for your dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm in serving with this group. We will miss you.

We look forward to an exciting year in 2020, as we work with Jonathan to implement new ideas within the parish and the diocese, as well as reaching out to the Montreal public to share the excellence of the music that is made at our cathedral.

## **Nuit blanche**

**Cassidy VanderSchee**

“Le moment est arrivé”, the Cathedral’s offering to the public for Nuit blanche took place on March 2, 2019. The evening got off to a brilliant start with a very well-attended Oasis concert at 4:30 featuring Spanish music played by Nadia Monczak, violin and Gaspard Tanguay-Labrosse, piano. There was then a pause while people were invited to view the art video and exhibition created by Jason McKechnie, look at the vestments display created by Amy, and peruse the exhibition about the cathedral’s history and current activities, arranged by Peggy and Ann. Meanwhile candles were lit in all the windows and the stalwart hot chocolate makers filled thermoses and prepared to serve a horde of visitors, nearly 4 000 this year. Carlos did an amazing job of organizing the hot chocolate volunteers. The drink was free, but during the evening generous visitors donated \$1 173 in strategically placed baskets – enough to cover most of the expenses for the evening. The programme of concerts started at 7 pm with a performance from the Montreal Civic Band whose rousing toe-tapping music brought smiles to people’s faces. The ever-popular Gay Men’s Chorus followed with a rendition of songs about love. These two groups played three sets each during the evening. We reminded visitors that we are a place of worship by singing the monastic service of Compline at 9:15. Our Dean, Bertrand, was the officiant and choir soloist Anna Lewton-Brain was the cantor. The small choir who accompanied them, sang beautifully. People listening with reverent attention held lighted tapers. In the final hour of the evening the Nicole Arrange trio filled the soaring spaces of the cathedral with mellow jazz. It was hard to get people to leave when the evening ended. A huge thanks to the many, many volunteers who made this possible.

## Oasis Musicale

**Boran Zaza**

The past year witnessed the continuation, as well as integration of new concepts at the Oasis Musicale Concert Series.

The Applications process to select performers has continued and proved to be a successful way to attract musicians not just from Montreal, but also from the rest of Canada as well as internationally. In 2019, Oasis Musicale had performers coming all the way from the USA, Italy, the UK and other places. In average, for every season of Oasis Musicale (12 concerts), there were over 35 applicants.

2019 also witnessed starting a partnership with a prominent educational institute in Montreal: Faculté de la musique de l'université de Montréal. The students of their Accompaniment Workshop performed their end of semester concerts as part of Oasis Musicale and donated all the proceeds to the Sing-Along Messiah and to the Concert Series.

The other important partnership was with the Canadian Vocal Arts Institute (ICAV-CVAI), which presented one of the concerts of their summer academy at Oasis Musicale, bringing a new audience to the space from their followers.

Promotional videos were continued and made for as many concerts as possible, depending on my availability to film and edit (36 videos in total). In addition, some concerts were live-streamed on the facebook page of Oasis Musicale (10 concerts). The videos got over 43,000 views.

The most important change in Oasis Musicale has been in the business model starting September 2019, as well as changing the concert times from 4:30 pm to 4:00 pm. As for the business model, it has been made in such a way so that Oasis Musicale is self-sufficient. To achieve that, no more ushers were hired; and for each concert, Christ Church Cathedral gets a fixed cut of \$175, and the rest goes to the artists. This business model is still being tested, however it seems quite promising so far.

Here is 2019 in numbers:

(excluding the Messiah - I have not received a report about it from the music committee yet)

- Total number of concerts: 50 (Increase of 16.3% compared to 2018)
- Total number of attendance: 4085 (Growth of 15.6% compared to 2018)
- Average of attendance per concert: 81.7
- Total of audience donations: \$24104 (Growth of 35.1% compared to 2018)
- Average of audience donations per concert: \$482.08 (Growth of 16.2% compared to 2018)
- Average donation per attendant per concert: \$5.9 (Growth of 26.9% compared to 2018)
- Total of profit of artists: \$14648 (Growth of 126.6% compared to 2018)
- Average of profit of artists per concert: \$292.96 (Growth of 63.2% compared to 2018)

## Pastoral Care

**Included in Associate Priests report**

**Primate's World Relief and Development Fund**

**Peggy Simpson**

The 2019 Advent Project of the Montreal PWRDF Chapter was to raise awareness of the tragically high suicide rate in Canada's northern communities, especially among the young, and to solicit donations to the Suicide Prevention Program run through Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) Indigenous Ministries office. We thank all who donated to this cause.

At the October meeting of PWRDF (Mtl), Bishop James Amasi of the Diocese of Masasi in Tanzania was our guest. He presented a powerful description of the many improvements that contributions to the PWRDF All Mothers and Children Count program (AMCC) have made in the lives of people in his diocese. This program is managed in cooperation with Global Affairs Canada, which matches our donations six dollars to one.

Wells have been dug to provide fresh, safe water to villages. Livestock, seeds and equipment have been given to farmers to help them establish food security for their families and to generate income. More information and a video are available at [pwrdf.org/our-work/tanzania/](http://pwrdf.org/our-work/tanzania/). Sadly, the four-year AMCC program comes to an end in March 2020.

In keeping with our focus on mothers and children, the first project planned for 2020 is an indigenous midwifery project. This project provides money to train indigenous midwives to allow mothers to give birth in their own communities. Before this program all pregnant women in northern Quebec were sent south to Montreal in their 37<sup>th</sup> week to give birth far from family and friends in an alien setting. More information about this program can be found at [pwrdf.org/protecting-the-right-to-a-cultural-birth/](http://pwrdf.org/protecting-the-right-to-a-cultural-birth/). We are also publicizing the PWRDF appeal for funds for victims of the Australian bushfires.

We are grateful to all who have donated to PWRDF causes over the year, particularly to those who donate regularly through blue envelopes or on-line giving. This regular giving generated \$ 2727 in 2019, an increase of \$1310 over 2018. With the cathedral outreach donation of \$2100, the cathedral sent a total of \$ 4827 to PWRDF in 2019.

**QueerSpace**

**Noah Hermes**

With Jean Jacques's retirement, I agreed to take over the leadership of the LGBTQ+ group at the Cathedral. Myself and various members of the LGBTQ+ community at the Cathedral met and discussed what direction we wanted to see these ministries take. The group decided to shift from just social activities, to a discussion group more focused around faith and being LGBTQ+, that would be bilingual, ecumenical, and intergenerational. Our first meeting was March 24, 2019, and the group has continued to meet monthly since then with much success, averaging between 5-12 participants each month. Each meeting, we begin with a check in where folks share their name, pronouns (if they'd like to), and a brief update on how they are (usually something that's challenging them and something they're excited about) followed by discussion. I usually pick a main theme that touches on faith and sexuality/gender, a reading or Bible passage along that topic, and facilitate a discussion for an hour and a half. I send out a monthly reminder via email and post in a closed QueerSpace Facebook group.

In the time I've had the privilege of getting to lead this group, it's been a blessing to see a consistent group of individuals attend, as well as frequent newcomers. To witness LGBTQ+ people from different denominations, generations, experiences with church, and walks of life come together and share so freely and intimately together is such a gift. I hope to see this group grow and continue to reach other LGBTQ+ people who need this space.

## Readers and Intercessors

**Andrea Videtic**

This is my second year as coordinator of the Readers and Intercessors at Christ Church Cathedral. During this time I am happy to convey that the number of readers and intercessors, and the diversity of voices has grown.

I continue to communicate weekly with group members through emails to let them know the weekly needs. I troubleshoot when there are last minute changes and requests. In addition, I monitor the sign-ups on the online platform in order to make sure weekly requirements are met.

There has been a notable improvement with regard to filling spots in a more timely fashion. I encourage volunteers to sign up with the aim of filling in one full month at a time, rather than the previous two week requirement. This has reduced the number of emails that I have had to send, thus lowering the potential for frustration among members. I am pleased to state that the process is now more streamlined.

The most significant change for me involved the appointment of Deborah Meister as my new contact person after Amy Hamilton's departure. Shortly after Deborah's arrival, we communicated about the procedures I employ. She conveyed an interest in reader recruitment. As such, we have met and are planning to conduct another workshop to help existing and new readers to become more familiar with the task of reading and leading intercessions. The workshop will take place during the winter of 2020.

Throughout the year, my aim is to continue to make sure that the rotas are filled one month ahead to facilitate Elizabeth Shama's ability to produce bulletins in a timely manner. I hope to continue in this position with a desire to recruit more people of various backgrounds to read and to lead in prayers.

**Cathedral Reading Group**

**Diana Bouchard**

The Cathedral Reading Group met nine times in 2019, including eight book discussions plus our traditional pre-Christmas movie night. We read the following books:

- Claire Rothman, *Lear's Shadow*: discussion last February after a first-ever (we think) snow cancellation in January. A father/daughter/sister story set in Montreal, complete with 'Shakespeare in the Park' drama. Life mirrors art as the tragic plot of *King Lear* unfolds.
- Gaute Heivoll, *Across the China Sea*: Set in Norway, a story about family and 'respecting the dignity of every human being', as our baptismal phrase entreats us. The setting is a remote house, the place that five foster children and three men labelled "mentally disabled" call home for many years.
- James Daniel Brown, *The Boys in the Boat*: An amazing true story about the University of Washington's rowing program during the Depression years and the team that made it all the way to the 1936 Olympics. You know how it ends, but the author is such a good writer that the story is full of suspense. The book transported us into the demanding and competitive world of competitive rowing, as well as into the toughness of the 1930's Pacific Northwest.
- Amor Towles, *A Gentleman in Moscow*: What a charming novel! Count Alexander Rostov, an aristocrat in Tsarist Russia, is sentenced by the Communists to remain forever in the Metropol Hotel. His reaction: "if a man does not master his circumstances, then he is bound to be mastered by them." Masterful storytelling, great characters.
- Tara Westover, *Educated*: Another book about a person triumphing over circumstances. This story is a true one. What was amazing to all of us was the fact that, out of such a dysfunctional family, emerged three children who ended up with PhDs. The book is a memoir of one of those three. Excellent read.
- Mark Abley, *The Organist*: What a treat – Mark came to our meeting and talked about how he came to write this memoir of his father. We discussed music, memories and time, and changing relationships between parents and children. Mark also read us a few of his poems. It was a lovely evening.
- Esi Edugyan, *Washington Black*: A story of a young slave on a Barbadian sugar plantation (early 19th Century) 'rescued' by his owner's brother – a naturalist, explorer, inventor and abolitionist. The adventures are many and far-flung. We were not happy with the way it ended!
- Katherena Vermette, *The Break*: An intense read. Multi-generational story of Métis women and their families, coping with violence and life struggles. An important read for Canadians.

We wrapped up the year in our usual fashion with a movie night with egg nog at Jane's place. Our movie was *Indian Horse*, made from the book of the same name by recently deceased Indigenous author Richard Wagamese. The story concerned a young Ojibway boy who survived residential school through hockey, but then had to survive systematic racism in Canadian society. Sadly, due to competition from Christmas activities, this event attracted only three people. We agreed to read the book in February.

The reading group this year has maintained a core of 5-6 regulars but always has room for more. We have attracted a couple of new members, while others have dropped off to focus on other activities. We concentrate on fiction (usually recent), but have been known to stray. Suggestions for good reads are always welcome. With a goodly number of people in the room, the lively discussions can last well into the evening. Come join us if you like a good book and a chance to talk about it!

**Servers Report**

**George Deare**

I have returned to the Servers Guild as the Head Server and have retained my role as honorary Dean's Verger.

The 10:00 am service has now been changed to 10:30 am on Sunday mornings.

Two former servers, Joel Amis and Tania Lesack, were ordained this year.

The list of servers is: Natasha Henderson, Irene Broitman, Noah Hermes, Eric Mortera, Marilyn Williams, Brock Fosberg, Faelan McEwen, and Amanda Van Oort. We also have a mother and daughter team with Ruby and Stephanie Felkai. This is a first for the Cathedral.

The French service now meets each Sunday at 9:00 am. They have three servers: Diane Wood, Fresia Saborio, and Michel Gagnon.

The servers are a very big help to the clergy in setting up the altar, administering the chalice, doing readings, etc. Thank you.

This year one of our servers got married! Congratulations to Amanda Van Oort and Stephen McAuley. There have been a lot of changes in the Sunday service, like setting up the Altar, procession in and out, moving chairs and tables, etc.

The server's team at the cathedral is in an exciting time of transition as we recognize that our ministry is a rich ground for nurturing leadership, shaping an appreciation of liturgy, word, and sacrament and the desire to grow in discipleship and understanding that we are all partners in this ministry.

I would like to thank all my servers for their time and commitment they have given to me on Sundays and for the support from the Dean The Very Rev'd. Bertrand Olivier and The Rev'd. Dr. Deborah Meister have given to me.

**Social Service Society**

**Janet King, Adrian King-Edwards, Donna Jean-Louis**

The Society is not a social agency, with trained professional staff and regular funding. It is a group of people, members of Christ Church Cathedral with power to add, with monies at arms' length from the Cathedral, but with the mission : "we remember before you, Almighty and most merciful God, the homeless, the destitute, the sick, the aged, young and old, who have none to care for them and who need a friend" Our prayer continues " bless our work with them, and bless those who minister through us, and all who give their time and talents to the work of the ..Society." So the work is done by many, not publicly, starting with the vergers who are on the front-line of those coming into the Cathedral. They welcome, respect, tolerate, and ensure security as well as cleaning, maintenance and assisting with liturgy. The stewards do the same, and those in the regular congregation ( average turnover in some years 25% ) pass the peace to each other and greet newcomers warmly, and usually tell someone if another who usually sits nearby is absent ,sick or might need more help.

The well-known members of the Society (Marjorie, Helen, Janet K., Flo, Vera, Adrian and Donna) do most service under the radar : cards and flowers to those who cannot come to worship regularly, visits in the nursing-homes and coordination with those families' in need of support, referral to appropriate social agencies, finding the right resources for those who request it or are referred for help. Coordination with the clergy and Episkope is essential, teamwork brings different talents and time available to any challenge.

Our emphasis for our limited resources in 2019 moved slightly to a focus on the Last Sunday of the Month Lunches ( see report below) for 12 months of the year, and less from small donations to other local church-based agencies, except for support for St Michael's Mission and through food vouchers at Christmas to several local groups who give them to individuals known to them who need a little extra food..this list includes "L'Abri en Ville, Batshaw for children ageing out of fostercare, the Mile End Mission, and Action Refugiés.

The CCC SSS has been in recorded action since at least 1930, and used to have the services of social worker Elsie Reynolds for years, and Stanley Wilson through St. Edwards' Society who assisted those released from prison and others, we operated a Drop- In Centre in the Undercroft, used to give individual gifts and clothes to some at Christmas, had a Book Sale annually to raise funds; fundraising now is not possible because of the Capital Campaign but we subsist on an estate donation from Hester Kerr and interest from that invested in the Anglican Balanced Fund. Members have initiated several agencies which are now self-sufficient, Marjorie was instrumental in starting Auberge Madeleine, Jeunes sans Toit, L'Abri en Ville, ElderAide and has served for many years for the Society; however, she has decided that older age is absorbing too much energy and she has reluctantly made the decision to step back. The Society has benefitted greatly from Marjorie's presence, services, wisdom and perseverance. Through the Society, the Cathedral sponsored a refugee family from Syria, who finally arrived, with the help of Action Refugiés, in June 2019. Thanks to substantial donations from members of the parish and friends, they have had a great start in Montreal (Dollard des Ormeaux).

Volunteers coordinated furnishing completely an apartment, helped with the move, helped contact with appropriate resources such as dentist and opticians, tutored, and assisted with the management of \$38,000 raised through the parish and friends: the family is now independent as of June 2019, the parents are still taking language classes and finding work and enjoying a new start in Canada , the three children are now safe, happy, and have a future.

Dorie Cuming, a past President of the Society, left funds the Society for social purposes ; the annual Tea Party in her name, for the last 26 years, is the social event of September. Membership is open to all who are interested in the mission of the Society : annual fee currently \$2. Many opportunities for volunteers, please contact us.

**Spiritual Direction, Quiet Days, Retreats**

**Vivian Lewin**

Fr Paul Geraghty brought his love of Benedictine spirituality and poetry when he led some parish members in a lenten quiet day on a sparkling cold snowy Saturday at Rivercross in Brigham, Qc. In October, our Diocese hosted Carolyn Pratt, a long-time meditator and member of Contemplative Outreach, to give an introduction to Centering Prayer during its Quiet Day.

Since the Rev'd Dr Deborah Meister joined us this fall it has been a joy to see more formation opportunities being offered including classes for inquirers and those seeking to go deeper, plus a local Quiet Day to be led by Dean Bertrand Olivier in March 2020 and, at long last, a weekend residential preached parish Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery in May 2020. As trained and licensed spiritual directors, Deborah and I both stand ready to point people to resources including opportunities for individual spiritual accompaniment.

**Website**

**Jane Aitkens**

**Cathedral Website:** <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/>

2019 was to have been the year for another overhaul of the website. The February Forum brainstormed on the website, and a report followed with suggestions and ideas. A few straightforward adjustments were made, but the major redesign awaits further guidance, focus and talented manpower.

Here are the viewing statistics for the past two years:



The most popular day, as always, is Sunday. The most popular time is 3 pm.

The Cathedral has other related websites and social media offerings:

- The Spire Campaign website: <https://campaign.montrealcathedral.ca>
- The Cathedral on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchMTL>
- The Cathedral Instagram and Twitter accounts: @ChristChurchMTL

Also:

Oasis Musicale website: <https://www.oasismusicale.ca>

The Oasis Musicale on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OasisMusicale>

**Welcome Committee**

**Michele Rattray-Huish**

In response to a request from Corporation to look at our current practice at the Cathedral in welcoming new prospective parishioners and to put in place a more welcoming system, a new Welcome Committee was formed in 2019. The six members comprising the Welcome Committee are Jane Aitkens; Diana Bouchard; Michele Rattray-Huish; Ann Elbourne; Vivian Lewin and Marie-Elaine LaRochelle.

The Welcome Committee met a total of three times - on 8<sup>th</sup> July; 12 August and 27 August 2019.

After analysis of the old welcome form it was agreed that although the form captured a lot of useful information, it asks too much of people who are just deciding whether to enter a relationship with Christ Church Cathedral, or who are maybe just visiting but want to know more about us.

The Committee decided to simplify the form, removing the list of boxes to be ticked and instead just have a space for:

First name:

Last name:

Email:

Telephone:

Language preference: English French

The Cathedral's new data system "Breeze", simplifies significantly the handling of communication.

Once a person has filled in the new form, their information is added to Breeze by our Cathedral administrator. A welcome letter attached to a questionnaire is then sent by the Breeze system to the person inviting them to indicate more fully their more specific interest in participating in the Cathedral, e.g. Meet someone from the pastoral team; Exploring faith; Baptism and/or Confirmation, Music/Singing etc.

When a completed questionnaire is received, a Welcome Committee member uses Breeze to send follow-up messages to alert Clergy and others of any follow-up needed – whether it be sending a letter or arranging a meeting with the person.

The Committee created a Welcome e-mail, revised the Welcome letter and Questionnaire and identified the individual persons to whom the various subjects should be addressed through Breeze. It also translated the new documents into French and re-designed the Form, using more user-friendly fonts.

The Welcome Committee agreed that specific Episkopé and Corporation members need to be trained to use the new Breeze system in order for them to carry out their follow-up functions related to welcoming and connecting with new potential congregants, when the new welcome system is implemented.

The first training session took place on 3 September in Fulford Hall, with the Welcome Committee members being trained by Jane Aitkens. A second training session will be held for Clergy in 2020.

The new Welcome Forms were launched in September 2019 and the new system is currently working well.

An event to welcome newcomers is being planned for early in 2020.

<b>Young Adults and Students</b>
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<b>Included in Associate Priest report</b>
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*For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.*

*Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.*

*As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. Thank God for this gift] too wonderful for words!*

2 Corinthians 9:10-15