

Dear Friend of the Cathedral

Please have your calendar to hand so you can make note of a long list of February dates. But first, let's take a look back at the **end of the month lunch** last Sunday. Adrian reports

Our numbers this time round were a bit down as people had already received their cheques and then of course it was also bitterly cold Sunday morning. Donna and I finally figured out the logistics of serving hot coffee while continuing to maintain social distancing. We found the coffee was quite popular with our regulars who weren't expecting it. Vivian's delicious quiches were once again a much sought-after vegetarian alternative. Peggy launched her new banana cookies which turned out to be tough competition for her rocky roads and brownies. Carol Manning, Donna and I made sure everyone got 5-6 cookies each in their zip lock bags. I have seen some of our friends start in on Peggy's cookies first.



Being the end of January Janet King kindly organized our annual sock drive and turned up just before we started with a mountain of socks which, given the weather, were very gratefully received. We will give out the balance next month. The lunch was generously sponsored by Selwyn House School. John McLean, Carol Manning, Donna and I all felt that our small effort to provide a hot lunch and coffee was, because of the cold, even more gratefully received than usual. How we look forward to the day when we can once again invite our friends into sit down with us in Fulford Hall. How I miss standing by the kitchen watching Flo greeting every one as they stream into the warmth!

Still thinking about feeding the hungry, next week, February 7 – 13, is **International Development Week**, focused on implementing sustainable development goals world-wide. PWRDF has organised a panel discussion about food security in the time of COVID-19, to be held on Monday, February 8, from 11am to 12:30pm. More information and the form to register for this free event can be found here:

Food Security in the time of COVID-19 – an IDW Panel Tickets, Mon, 8 Feb 2021 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite



And still thinking about food justice, here's a reminder about an ESJAG initiative suggested by Brenda. Buy your **Valentine's Day chocolate** from the **Cathedral's Fair Trade Boutique**. Lisa and Joseph will deliver this and other Fair trade products to your door. See the web site <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/social-justice-outreach/ecological-social-justice-action-group-esjag/fair-trade/>

Brenda also encourages you to watch the National Film Board movie *Chocolate Farmer* and join a cosy, cocoa sipping discussion group, February 7 at 7 pm to talk about the movie which can be viewed on their website: www.nfb.ca/film/chocolate_farmer/



Our much loved Honorary Assistant Priest, Donald Boisvert, died on June 19, 2019. Recently a remembrance and appreciation by Kittredge Cherry has appeared in the newsletter Q Spirit. I think many of you would enjoy the article which brings back good memories which can be found at this website: qspirit.net/donald-boisvert-gay-theologian/



Looking Forward to Lent

Thank you to Deborah for sending this important letter about observing Lent this year at the Cathedral. First, her invitation to enjoy Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras.

All are invited to celebrate **Shrove Tuesday** with an online pancake supper at 7:00 p.m., **Tuesday, February 16th**. Make yourself some pancakes and enjoy them together. Participants will be invited to share stories of the Carnival tradition they grew up with, or of one they particularly loved. If you've got a picture to share, that would be a bonus! (See Cathedral website for Zoom link <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/events-calendar/> We'll share recipes for pancakes in next week's newsletter (and maybe even for gumbo, the French creole tradition).



Pancake racing, a tradition in Northern England.



Ash Wednesday falls this year on **February 17th**. Worship will be offered online at **12:15 and 7:00 p.m.** The latter service will be bilingual.

Dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return.

A photograph of the Dean during an Ash Wednesday service in 2018

Special offerings for Lent

Have you been wanting to deepen your prayer life or your sense of connection to yourself, but wondering where to start? On the **five Sundays in Lent**, we are going to have a series of online presentations on spiritual practices at 11:45am. There is no one practice which appeals to everyone (or even to the same person at different stages of his/her/their life), so we will be presenting a wide range, in hope that each of you will find something which intrigues you enough to try it out.

February 21	Daily Prayer: The Examen and Gratitude. (Vivian Lewin)
February 28	Silent Prayer and Walking in Nature (Sally Harrington)
March 7	Anglican Prayer Beads (The Rev. Mary Bea Sullivan)
March 14	Doing Justice: The Way of Active Compassion (The Very Rev. Bertrand Olivier)
March 21	Spiritual Journaling and Praying with Icons (The Rev. Dr. Deborah Meister)

Also: St. George's College in Jerusalem is offering A River Through the Desert: A Lenten Pilgrimage, a (free!) online series based on the geography of the Holy Land. More information and sign-up links can be found on their website: stmatthews-redhill.org.uk/assets/SGCJ-Lent-Course-2020-poster-1.pdf.

Every session includes: ✚ a five minute on site film expanding the theme ✚ thought-provoking material on the theme ✚ questions for reflection or discussion ✚ two on-line discussions with the Dean live from Jerusalem ✚ striking photos from the Holy Land



Reminders of dates for your calendars

- February 6, 10 am** *Living Legacy*, a seminar about preparing your will and using your will to help your church, led by Martin Taylor. Contact nmancor@montreal.anglican.ca
- February 7, 7pm** Film night discussion of *The Chocolate Farmer*. Sip a cup of Fair Trade cocoa as you talk, watch the movie ahead of time at: www.nfb.ca/film/chocolate_farmer/

- February 9, 6pm** The Contemplative Prayer group will meet online. The theme will be “The Garden of the Soul.”



- February 9, 7pm** Discussion of *The Skin We're In* by Desmond Cole, Chapters July – December

- February 10, 8:30pm** Discussion *Une colère noire* par Ta Nehisi Coates

- February 11, 11am** Funeral service for Yvonne Barrow in the Cathedral. Restrictions apply so registration is required.

- February 11, 2:30pm** Travel Talk, zoom link on website <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/events-calendar/>
A visit to Spain.

- February 12, 9pm** Montreal time. Second of five illustrated Zoom lectures hosted by the Cathedral of St Augustine, Calgary, about Medieval illuminated manuscripts. This week, the Book of Kells, a rare Irish manuscript. www.staug.org/illuminating-middle-ages



- February 15, 5pm** Brainstorming meeting about Fundraising. Bring your ideas and be willing to offer practical help. Cathedral finances need a boost!



- February 16, 5pm** Forum

- February 16, 7pm** Pancake party zoom link: <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/events-calendar/>

- February 17** Ash Wednesday. Services at **12:15** (mainly English) and **7pm** (bilingual)

- Advance notice** The Wednesday Evening Prayer service will be discontinued after Ash Wednesday.

I'm writing this letter on February 4 which is the anniversary of the birth of Rosa Parks in 1913.

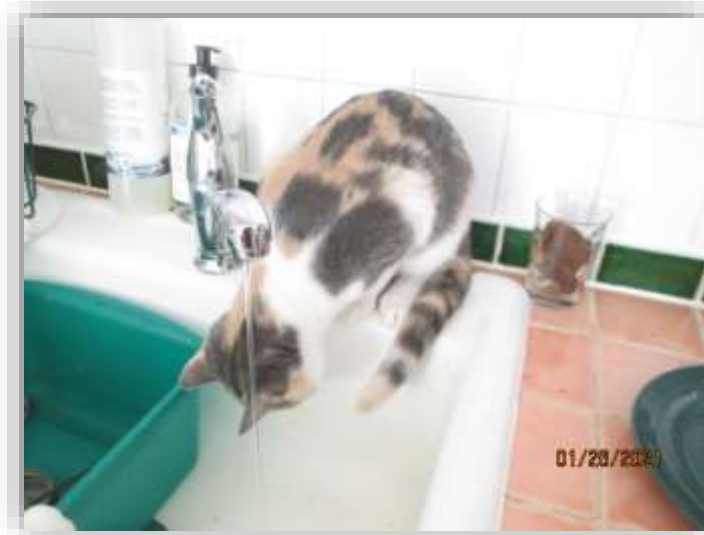
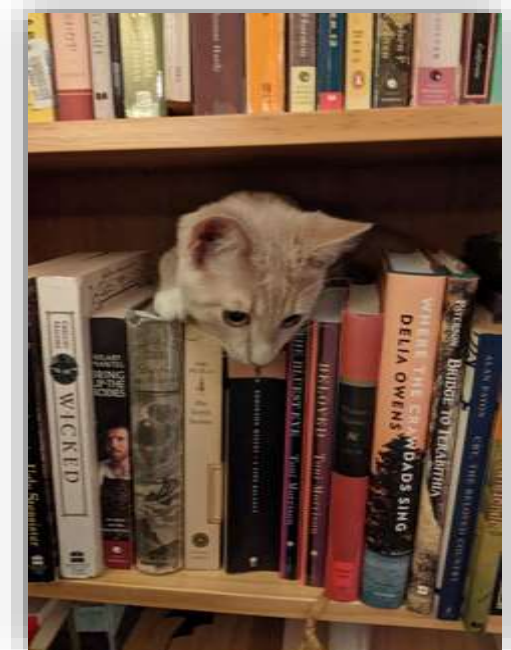


She was the brave woman who refused to give up her seat to a white woman on a bus in Montgomery Alabama and was arrested. She was a prominent member of the NAACP. In an ironic reminder that there was also prejudice about the role of women at that time she became the secretary of the Association in 1943 because, as she wrote in her autobiography, "I was the only woman there, and they needed a secretary, and I was too timid to say no."

A group of us met last Tuesday to discuss *The Skin We're In*, the very disturbing description of what it's like to be black in Canada today set out in riveting detail by Desmond Cole. In spite of the huge changes that have come about since Rosa Park's act of defiance, black mothers still worry when their children leave the house. I urge you to read the book and join the discussion next Tuesday, and to watch out for activities being planned by the BLM steering groups.

Rosa Parks with Martin Luther King Jr

Do you need cheering up? This picture of Erica and Ben's book-loving cat should do the trick!



My cat is less educated. She prefers the kitchen sink

Please send me your pictures – dogs, cats, kids, fun in the snow and especially for next week photos, recipes, memories related to Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday.

Ann Elbourne,
with thanks to Elizabeth and Marie Claire, and to everyone who contributed or made suggestions.
February 5, 2021