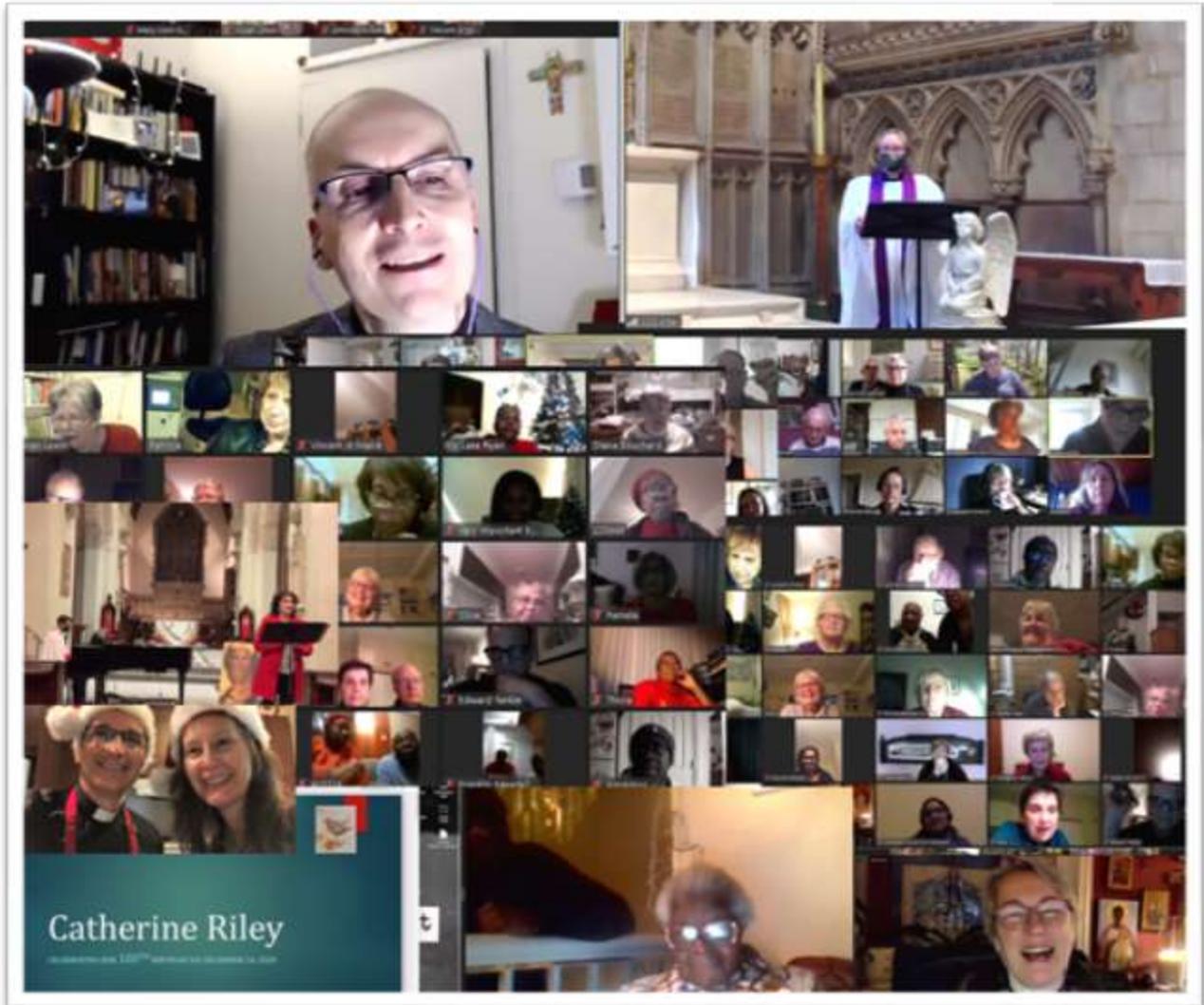




CATHÉDRALE  
CHRIST CHURCH  
CATHEDRAL



## ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ending  
December 31, 2020



We gather today on the unceded territory of the Kanien'keha:ka (Mohawk), at a place called Tio'tia:ke (Montreal), a meeting place for many First Nations. Our acknowledgement stands as a promise to continue the ongoing work of recognition and reconciliation.

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**Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal**  
**Annual General Meeting of the Vestry**  
**Wednesday, March 24th, 7pm.**

**A g e n d a**

1. Opening Prayer
2. Secretary to Vestry
3. Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Vestry meetings
  - 3.1. February 16, 2020
  - 3.2. May 10, 2020
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 2021
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, February 16, 2020**

1. **Opening Prayer:** Dean Bertrand Olivier opened the meeting in Christ Church Cathedral with prayer at 11:50 am.
2. **Secretary to Vestry:** On acclamation by the assembly, Diana Bouchard, Secretary to Vestry, was appointed to take minutes. The Secretary observed that 29 persons were present, as noted in the minute book, which constitutes a quorum.
3. **Motion of Adjournment to Part II:** moved by Ann Elbourne, seconded by Adrian King-Edwards, unanimously approved that the meeting be adjourned to Sunday, March 22 at 12:15 pm in Fulford Hall. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

**Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal  
Annual General Meeting of The Vestry  
Minutes of the meeting -Part 2  
Sunday, May 10, 2020**

1. **Opening Prayer:** The Very Reverend Bertrand Olivier, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, opened the meeting online in Zoom at 11:50 am.
2. **Secretary to Vestry:** On acclamation by the assembly, Diana Bouchard, Secretary to Vestry, was appointed to take minutes. The Secretary observed that 50 participants were present at the beginning of the meeting, which constitutes a quorum. A list will be prepared for inclusion in the minute book.
3. **Minutes of 2019 Annual General Vestry meetings:** the minutes of General Vestry meetings on February 24 and March 17, 2019, as well as a Special General Vestry Meeting on September 22, 2019, were awaiting approval. Moved by Jane Aitkens, seconded by Vivian Lewin, 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 2019 Annual Report. Changes to the membership of various committees included Marie-Claire Fournier joining Corporation as a Deputy Warden and Alex Griffin joining Forum (on nomination by Noah Hermes) for a 2020-2022 term. It was noted that Ben Stuchbery has resigned from the Music Committee. Two new Alternate Lay Delegates to Synod were still needed at the time of the meeting; Vivian Lewin and Michelle Rattray-Huish volunteered from the floor. Ann Elbourne also volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee; at least one more member is needed. With these changes, the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee was unanimously approved.

8. **Approval of Lay Administrators of the Chalice:** the list was unanimously approved with the addition of Nicholas Cieslinski, who was a chalice administrator in his former parish.

9. **Dean's Report**

10. **Wardens' Report**

11. **Reports of Organizations and Committees**

Those present were referred to the 2019 Annual Report for details. The Very Reverend Bertrand Olivier wished to give special thanks to several people for their leadership and dedication over what has proved to be a challenging year: Jane Aitkens for her competent shepherding of our finances as Treasurer and her tireless efforts to improve them, as well as her diligent work in maintaining and growing our online presence; Raymonde Proulx for her multi-faceted support of the 9 AM French worship and the growing community that has gathered around it; Jonathan White for the boundless time and energy he has devoted to enriching our worship with music under all sorts of circumstances; Rod Roberts for his dedication as Assistant Verger to maintaining the Cathedral as a safe and welcoming spiritual oasis during a time of turbulence in the verger staffing situation; and Ann Elbourne, another apparently boundless source of energy and dedication and relentless pursuer of volunteers, who makes many Cathedral activities large and small go round.

12. **Budget for 2020 (Jane Aitkens):**

Having the second part of the Annual General Vestry meeting slightly later in the spring than usual meant that fortunately the financial statements from BDO were ready for approval at this meeting, rather than at a later special meeting. The Treasurer noted with approval that in these statements, 2019 showed improvement on multiple fronts over 2018. Adoption of the BDO financial statements was moved by Jane Aitkens, seconded by Donna Saint-Louis, and unanimously approved. A motion to thank and reappoint BDO as our financial reviewers was made by Jane Aitkens, seconded by John Matheson, and unanimously approved.

The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, with its multiple severe impacts on Cathedral activities, meant that the 2020 budget had to be redone. Our Treasurer capably addressed this challenge and provided a budget that gave us an understandable and credible picture of where our finances were likely to go in the coming months. Last year's request for a summary narrative budget was answered by the creation of a summary financial page on the Cathedral's Web site. An increase in pledges over 2019 (both in numbers and in amounts) was gratefully noted. However, non-identifiable income is projected to go way down (48%) because much of it is dependent upon the Cathedral being open. Fortunately, relief has been provided by the Diocese, who have forgiven six months of Synod assessments for all parishes in 2020, and who are also providing (thanks to government grants) partial support of both clergy and lay salaries at the Cathedral. The budget projects a \$16K deficit, which is not surprising in these times and which would have been a lot worse without Diocesan help. Approval of the budget was moved by Jane Aitkens, seconded by Peggy Simpson, and unanimously approved.

13. **Spire Restoration and Update:** presented by the Very Reverend Bertrand Olivier. Bringing down the spire for repair and restoration has become impossible due to street closures in the neighbourhood that will make it impossible to bring in a crane of sufficient size. However, the spire continues to need urgent strengthening. The plan now is to remove all the aluminum tiles and restore the steel frame on site between now and 2022. Reinstallation is temporarily foreseen for summer 2022, although COVID-19 may delay this.

The funding required for the project has meanwhile gone up from \$8 million total to \$10 million just for the spire. The congregation is thanked for giving 125% of what was requested of them, up to \$438K actual from \$350K asked. The availability from our bank (CIBC) of bridging loans up to \$3 million has been negotiated. Any balance owing on completion of the project would probably be converted to a long-term loan if no other way of covering it was found.

One project that requires attention urgently (and is being addressed) concerns heating and air conditioning in the Cathedral. Our current boiler is on its last legs, is oversized and inefficient, and is located in a room at the top of the former Parish House, now the Osteria MKT restaurant. It has already let us down on a few chilly Sunday mornings. It has also become clear in recent hot summers (more likely with climate change) that the lack of air conditioning is making attending church difficult for many people and possibly a danger to health for worshippers, visitors and staff. The proposal under consideration would install a heat pump system (providing both heating and air conditioning) and two smaller gas boiler for supplementary heat below  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The project will include certain improvements to the electrical system that are necessary to operate the new heating/air conditioning system. The work is planned to take place over the next few months, taking advantage of the current empty state of the Cathedral. Work is being planned to meet physical distancing and other requirements for safety of workers from COVID-19.

Thanks were given to Elizabeth Shama, our Cathedral Administrator, who is capably managing the operation of our parish and who prepared the 2019 Annual Report under challenging circumstances.

14. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned with the Grace at 1:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diana Bouchard  
Secretary of General Vestry

## MINISTRY TEAM

Dean

**The Very Rev'd Bertrand Olivier**

“They have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have put him”

2020 will remain in our minds as the year in which a centenarian member of our congregation embraced technology with gusto in order to continue to worship as part of the community of Christ Church Cathedral. Undeterred by the challenges of COVID-19, Catherine Riley continued to join our 8am and 10:30am services via Zoom, and was able to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, remaining at the heart of our community online as she had been in person.

Catherine is one of many of the Cathedral community who were able to maintain the bonds of fellowship and prayer, as well as community, through a medium most people had never heard of at the beginning of the year. It was heartening that we continued to gather the core of our various congregations since the first lockdown, although it was a matter of sadness that we lost touch with many who had been joining us for worship Sunday after Sunday but for whom we had no contact details. They have been in our prayers and we look forward to the day when we can all be together again.

Immediately at the first lock down, as the Cathedral building had to close, online weekday prayer times were set up, as well as a number of chat rooms, in order to provide points for the community to gather and support one another. This would not have been possible without the willingness and enthusiasm of our staff team as well as a great many volunteers, who quickly learnt to manage Zoom rooms with great skill, and gave of their time very generously in order to support the community in a time of global crisis. We also learnt to provide music online and we are thankful to our director of music and the music department for their creativity and ingenuity, as well as dedicated work.

And we reshaped many of our other activities to fit into a digital context with, amongst others, children's activities to ESJAG conferences, seminars, book groups and Christmas Cake baking moving to Zoom, and a number of writers contributing to daily seasonal blogs, and an outdoor guided tour of the Cathedral being devised on an app, so that we could continue to provide outreach on a scale that we could not have imagined. The Sunday lunchtime slot became a regular space for talks and interaction, with a wide-ranging list of contributors. And creativity continues to bubble up, give much hope for the future, despite the weariness we do occasionally feel.

One ministry that managed to continue in person was the Last Sunday of the Month lunch, which had to change format. Packed lunches, cold in the summer and hot in the winter, continued to be served by a faithful team led by Adrian King-Edwards. We are grateful to them for their dedication to this task.

Our annual pride celebration had to move online and – despite a very unpleasant Zoom bombing incident – was a testimony to our continued work of inclusion, as was the way in which the Cathedral rose to the challenge of the Black Lives Matter movement late summer. Four teams set up to work: the first looked at our history and reported to the congregation. Ongoing work is continuing in congregational education, reviewing our structures of governance to ensure full participation, and celebrating our diversity and unity in Christ.

## Christ Church Cathedral Annual Report 2020

One year after the beginning of the pandemic, communities around the world are counting the cost, and it is clear that even as we have maintained vitality, we are going through a process of grief: grief for the loss of loved ones and the inability to gather to celebrate their lives, grief at all the ceremonies and events which have had to be postponed or cancelled, grief for the loss of certainty and the ability to plan effectively, grief at the loss of a way of life, grief at the change we have faced in our religious practice and in particular at the limitations we have faced with regards to the sharing of the Eucharist, grief at the thought that we are unlikely to ever go back to the same 'normal'.

At this time, we particularly remember Michael Deare, George Wall, Dorothy Oidi, Gloria Hall, Pat and Robert Munro, Gaston Lamontagne and Raymonde Proulx who died in 2020.

It is true that in this period, we have learnt a lot: that we could gather together as a community online and maintain and even deepen our bonds of friendship in ways we could not imagine. Many have commented on the positive impact of breakout rooms after our services enabling connections to be made that had not happened before. Going online also meant participation in Cathedral life became easier for some who found mid-week meetings and events impossible to attend. We have learnt new ways of doing liturgy and music, of preaching and reaching out, and many of those learnings will follow us into the next phase of the life of the Cathedral. We have learnt that we can be resilient – and that just when we thought that the body of Jesus had disappeared, it came back to view. If ever there was a time to rejoice that we are an Easter people, it is at this time, when we have faced the depth of darkness and yet by the Grace of God have been holding on to the light.

Despite all these changes, the business of the Cathedral continued – sometimes with limitations or impediments – and some plans inevitably had to be put on hold.

We were due to replace our heating system and add a permanent air conditioning in the spring, but this was delayed due to the need for permission from the city of Montreal which took a lot longer under COVID-19. The positive aspect of this is that it allowed us to review our plan and add extra HEPA filtration to a system which will now be installed in 2021.

Meanwhile, the spire restoration continued, again with some adaptations for COVID-19 precaution, and experienced only minor delays.

The closing of our building until the autumn meant that our head Verger and his team have been able to continue to work tirelessly at maintenance and building improvement. Our sanctuary floor is gleaming, and the undercroft is amazingly bright and clutter free. And we are preparing for the work of updating our sound system with the addition of a state of the art video facility, as whatever the future looks like, and even when the pandemic is finally over, it will include some streaming of services from the Cathedral.

During the year, we welcomed the Rev'd Ralph Leavitt as Honorary Associate Priest, and Clara, Miranda and Prudence, part-time vergers. We said goodbye to Boran Zaza, our Oasis Musicale coordinator, Ewen Baron, one of our part-time Vergers, and Jim McDermott, Honorary Associate Priest who with Veronica moved to Calgary to be near family. We also said farewell to the Rev'd Jean Daniel O'Donnada, part-time associate priest, whose portfolio included children, youth and young adults. We are planning a continued collaboration with the University chaplaincy through the provision of space in our undercroft so that our connection with Jean Daniel will continue. We are grateful to the team of volunteers who have worked with him in providing ministry to our younger age groups.

## Christ Church Cathedral Annual Report 2020

As we read the following reports, we cannot but be grateful for the dedication of so many who make our Cathedral life and witness what it is, a live reflection of the love of God at work in downtown Montreal and online.

At this time, it is my pleasure and privilege to give thanks on behalf of our community. And so I want to express particular gratitude and thankfulness to our associate priests Deborah Meister and Jean Daniel, and to our honorary clergy Jen Bourque, Jim McDermott, Ralph Leavitt and Peter Huish. Thank you to our teams of licensed Lay Readers, Jean Robert Bellarmin, Michel Gagnon, Sam Keuchguerian and Vivian Lewin, without whose contribution to the worshipping and pastoral life of the community we would be much the poorer. Thanks to our two wardens Sheena Gourlay and Michele Rattray-Huish, to our treasurer and webmaster Jane Aitkens whose online workload exploded during the year, and to our administrator Elizabeth, who maintained a sense of calm and order when things sometimes were impossibly frantic. Thank you to Ann Elbourne for providing our weekly newsletter and gathering information from all corners of Cathedral life. Thank you to all of them for their ongoing work and support this year, and especially for taking on the extra tasks needed for covering for me during my absence following my bicycle accident in the summer.

Thanks to the Music Department, to our director of music Jonathan, Nick our assistant organist, Ethan our Scholar, and to all the members of our Choir – professionals and volunteers - in a year where the music landscaped changed drastically, moved online and new skills had to be learnt.

Thank you to our team of vergers who were charged with the safety of our building when open for in-person worship and for private prayer.

Thank you also to all members of Corporation, Espikope and Forum, to the Francophone leadership group, and to members of ESJAG and the Social Service Society, for their ongoing care and attention to the affairs of the Cathedral, its people and its outreach.

Thanks to leaders of book groups and facilitators and chat rooms, to those who activated the early phone trees to ensure everyone without internet was reached. And also to the many who were involved in continuing the work of discernment for those who are seeking to respond to God's call. Thank you also to Tevfik Karatop, our in-ministry year student, who joined us in the autumn and who has contributed much to our common life.

Thank you to each and everyone of you for your support in volunteering, giving of time, energy, and money, for your prayer and witness, and for continuing on the journey onto which you were called as disciples of Jesus Christ, even if it has looked quite different this past year, and we do not know what it will look like in the future. Sometimes, like Mary, we may have felt that "They have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have put him", but we are an Easter people, and we know that the risen Christ was with us throughout.

In 2020, the world has been challenged by COVID-19, and shaken to the foundations of what we thought was normal. We have risen to this challenge with great faith and with the help of the Holy Spirit. As a Cathedral community, we will make sure we continue to reflect and pray on what we have learnt during this time, that from darkness, light shines even brighter and we may become even better witness and ambassadors of the Gospel in a world whose shape we do not yet know.

**Associate Priest**

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

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

The Rev. Dr. John Claypool, commenting on this passage, wrote, “Here is the definite promise of divine help, but it is important to notice that such help is described in three different forms, and not all of them ought to be expected in any one situation....” (Tracks of a Fellow Struggler) When I looked back over 2020, those words from the Scriptures and that commentary evoked for me the reality that our Cathedral has been living through in this difficult year, in which an institution which is accustomed to soaring was forced to slow its pace, figure things out one day at a time, and live into unimaginable new realities. And yet, with the loss of so much that was familiar, comforting, and beloved, we have not lost the presence, companionship, and guidance of God.

**Liturgy**

The Cathedral’s magnificent liturgy took a rather unexpected direction with the advent of COVID-19 in March. The Director of Music and I had worked together to plan what we hoped would be an inspiring and nourishing set of Holy Week services, only to have to re-vision them completely two weeks before Holy Week, using technology with which we were entirely unfamiliar. I am delighted to report that the team responded to the challenge with a “can-do” attitude, learning new technology, envisioning new ways to gather. We decided at the outset that worship is not a spectator sport; it is something which the clergy and people make together. That fundamental orientation led us to adopt for our Sunday liturgies a fully-interactive Zoom platform rather than streaming video into the homes of the congregation — even though it meant sacrificing much of the aesthetic richness which nurtures our souls in ordinary times. The congregation responded with great grace, adopting an attitude of appreciation for whatever we were able to manage, which encouraged us to continue and to improve. We were rapidly able to develop better ways to lead worship online, better ways to integrate music, to create a welcoming experience for worshipers, and to gather our community in ways that deepened our relationships with one another. At the end of 2019, we had decided that a key focus for 2020 would be to help differentiate the 9:00 and 10:30 congregations, supporting each in living into and deepening its own identity and forms of music and spirituality. I am delighted to say that we have been able to continue that work, even under current circumstances.

At the same time, we were able to transition many of our midweek worship offerings to an online format, using both Zoom and Facebook Live and, while we have “thinned” those out over the course of the year, they allowed us to continue the practice of daily prayer which is at the heart of the work of a Cathedral.

We faced a different set of challenges in November, when we moved back into the Cathedral in a bi-modal format (imagined by the Dean) which linked in-person and online worshipers in a two-way, interactive format. This got off to a bit of a rocky start, thanks to significant technical issues at the start coupled with the loss of an online format which the community had found comforting. However, it enabled us to regain the Eucharist, which we had been without for eight months. In order to support the needs of the homebound, we brought pyxes filled with Reserved Sacrament to those who requested them, so that the in-person and online worshipers could all receive together on Sundays. At the same time, we were able to re-start two of our midweek Communion services, in order to offer a smaller, safer way for people to attend in-person.

I'd like to extend thanks to those who work behind-the-scenes to support our worship: Andrea Videtic and Bob King, who have coordinated our readers and intercessors this year; my colleagues, and our bulletin support team (Elizabeth Shama, Stephen Petrie, and Michel Gagnon). Finally, I would like to acknowledge the patient and generous assistance of Raymonde Proulx, who was faithful in this work until a few weeks before her death, and whose sweet spirit modeled what Christ's grace can do in our souls.

### **Adult Formation and Spirituality**

At the start of this year, we had made many plans, only some of which were able to come to fruition. Before COVID-19 arrived, we were able to hold our first, seven-week session of A Deeper Well, a spiritual formation course we hope, eventually, to bring Cathedral-wide.

We were going to have a retreat led by the Dean; we were going to bring a group to Holy Cross Monastery....instead, we were able to make creative use of the internet to invite speakers into our living rooms. We began with the First Sunday (Online) Literary Festival, including Louise Penny, Kelly Norah Drukker, and Darren Bifford. (Thanks to Adrian King-Edwards for connecting us with the poets.) We hosted our Primate, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, for a sermon and discussion. Br. Josép Martínez-Cubero of Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY, joined us for three Sundays to explore Intimacy with God, Self and One Another. We were able to hold a pastoral/spiritual book group exploring Christian and Buddhist ideas of how to cope When Things Fall Apart, and began an online group for monthly contemplative prayer, facilitated by Dean Bertrand, Vivian Lewin, The Rev. Ralph Leavitt, and The Rev. Dr. Deborah Meister. We were able to continue Pain, Partage, et Prière online, and tried to create an English Bible study, but it remained very small.

We were also able to use this online format to continue our engagement with the world. ESJAG hosted an online Bible study on food; an online conference on Biodiversity, and a teaching on how to have a plastic-free bathroom. (More details on those offerings in the ESJAG report, but I want to express my particular gratitude to everyone involved in ESJAG, and particularly to Brenda Linn and Gabrielle Boyd). Perhaps the most important area of formation was the Cathedral's commitment to engage our own history with anti-black racism, to eliminate barriers to full participation at every level, and to equip our members to address those issues in the context of their own lives. This work, which is ongoing, began with a special Forum in which Lay Reader Jean-Robert Bellarmin shared his own experience as a black Canadian, and has been carried forward by four task forces. Many members of the Cathedral read deeply over the summer and fall, both as individuals and as part of book groups, a process of learning which is ongoing. In December, the task force on the ACC's and Cathedral's history with racism and anti-racism reported to the congregation in both English and French; those presentations, which reflect a depth of careful work, are available on the website of the Cathedral. At a time when we have been deprived of the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist, our eyes have been opened to honor it in our neighbors in deeper ways.

### **Pastoral Care**

Pastoral care has taken many forms this year, while most of the traditional ones have been prohibited by COVID-19 precautions. For most of the year, it has not been possible to make home or hospital visits, to hug someone who is in distress, or even to meet with someone over a cup of tea. This has been painful for the clergy. We have leaned into phone calls and visits over FaceTime and Zoom, but it's not the same. When COVID-19 first arrived, the Cathedral created a phone tree in which volunteers reached out to about ninety homebound parishioners (focusing on the elderly and vulnerable) weekly or biweekly for several months. These calls offered a lifeline at a time of profound dislocation, and I am grateful to all who participated, and particularly to Michele Rattray-Huish and Sheena Gourlay who coordinated the list.

## Christ Church Cathedral Annual Report 2020

We also offered a wide variety of online small groups, ranging from travel chats to social times to book groups. These provided parishioners with a sense of connection during the first few difficult months of the pandemic. In order to foster that sense of connection, we also created the Daily Bread blog, in which parishioners and clergy shared reflections on the daily Scripture readings for about three months at the start of the pandemic, and again during Advent. These reflections not only offered spiritual sustenance; they allowed us to see one another in new and deeper ways.

During the spring and early summer, we offered prayers for a few parishioners in Funeral Homes. Over the late summer, we were able once again to hold small baptisms and funerals in our beautiful sanctuary, observing masking, distancing, and other precautions. Thanks to the Social Service Society, we ended the year with the traditional offering of flowers to the homebound; they were received with gratitude, both for the flowers themselves, and for the fleeting in-person contact with someone from our spiritual home.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of Corporation, staff, and volunteers for the close collaboration we enjoyed during Dean Bertrand's seven-week absence on sick leave this summer. Working together, we were able to continue the work of the Cathedral, and to re-open it for private prayer and to prepare it to open for public worship upon the Dean's return. The Wardens, in particular, provided strong and effective leadership at a time when each of them was wrestling with significant personal challenges. It was a privilege to be part of that work.

I began with a passage from Rev. Dr. Claypool; let me end with its continuation: "When there is no occasion to soar and no place to run, and all you can do is edge along step by step, to hear of a Help that will enable you to walk and not faint is good news indeed...it...speaks to the point of greatest difficulty; namely, of being able to "just hang in there," to endure, to be patient, not to give down one way or the other." (Tracks of a Fellow Struggler) For me, that has been the experience of Christ Church Cathedral this year. For an institution with glorious traditions and a long time horizon, to be thrown into a situation of making it up as we go along, every day, for months, is a significant challenge. We have responded to it with creativity and generosity of spirit, trying new things badly until we could do them well, supporting one another, making do with what was possible, even when it was not what we craved. It was a bit like an immersion in the early days of the Church, when there was no "how we do things," and the disciples just had to think about Jesus and try their best. And, just like the first Christians, we found that God was with us, moving among us, helping and supporting us and leading us on.

As we move into 2021, we will face another challenge: being thoughtful as we move (eventually) out of COVID-19 time and into a new normal. I hope that we are able to preserve the best of our traditions without mindlessly falling back into them. We have a rare opportunity to be intentional about who and what we become, and I look forward to working with you to engage it. I am grateful for the solid good will of this community, and to our God.

**Deacon**

**Rev'd Deacon Peter Huish**

Our current reliance on “virtual” church opens up our life of faith in some important ways. I am reminded of a diocesan event I organized some eight or nine years ago around the challenge of “becoming a diaconal church”. Our keynote speaker was Bishop Mark MacDonald, who in a certain sense has oversight of a “virtual” domain of our church where it encounters widely scattered indigenous Anglicans. He spoke of that domain as the “gospel zone,” a place where deacons live, where the diaconal church lives, a place of discipleship, a place of many apparently ad hoc though intentional meetings, contrasted with what he referred to as the “duh zone”. Though virtual, seen from pew-based experience, that domain of the scattered is very much the “real” church, in that domain, and now in our own, from this deacon’s perspective.

We each hold on to instances of the real communion enjoyed when we gather at the Cathedral in-person, whether being joined in the music of praise to whose harmonies we contribute; whether knowing that we are quintessentially alive at the centre of the cross in and with Jesus and each other when we give and receive communion; whether being concretely present to one another in the Holy Spirit in the most intimate listening and speaking of prayer; whether simply resting in sacred space - and we long for the return of these staples of our concrete religious life. But as important and cherished as these instances are, we have been blessed in this pandemic year in our wide-eyed opening to one another in “real” meeting as gospel people. In our move into a new “virtual” domain we are challenged to consider, as diaconal people, what happens at the interface of church and world, of Thou and I - to ask indeed, is there a boundary at all when there is real meeting, when there is simply you, me and the Spirit in whom we are opened to one another?

There have been extraordinary experiences of life in the gospel zone in 2020. The posting of our Black Lives Matter banner over St. Catherine street, exceptional in itself, only hints at the transformational movement in some of us from such slogans as “I’m not racist” and “all lives matter” to becoming much more pointedly anti-racist and to personally ensuring that Black Lives Matter to me.

The interface of church and world in Sunday Lunches has shifted and deepened during lockdown of our premises. It has been inspiring to read Adrian’s accounts of the movement from eating in Fulford Hall, to take-out service, against the many challenges of pandemic lockdown. This essential expression of Cathedral life has taken on renewed luminosity for our intentional gospel hospitality as evident by the appreciation both of those fed and those who prepare and serve. The calendar has been extended, the numbers served have exceeded expectations and the joyful experience of communion with those members of our community has been enhanced by new dimensions of exchange and satisfaction.

Just as I learned as a fledgling prison chaplain years ago that the Holy Spirit was already there in that remote place, ready to be heard, not least by me, we have all had occasion in this pandemic year to experience the opening, even disappearance of boundaries as our presumptive patterns of gathering have yielded and become transparent for the play of the Holy Spirit in our true and now more vital meetings, with one another, and with strangers - our ordinary has become sacred. For example, we realize from time to time at Open Door meetings, so long a weekly in-person event of *Communitas* in Fulford Hall, but for the last year held in on-line virtual space, that no matter the non-religious parlance, love is felt to be at play as currency and medium of the true meeting and community, its *raison d’être*.

An important challenge remains in our opening of the gospel zone - as pandemic conditions allow, to listen more intentionally, to better hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to us at our immediate interface with the world, in particular in the words of the strangers at our front door.

## The Francophone Community

Michel Gagnon and Sandrine Mutoni

Year 2020 can be described as exceptional on more than one level. It began as usual with in-church Sunday Eucharists and the Francophone choir actively preparing itself to sing at Easter celebrations. In short, everything as usual... until March 15 when the viral-driven electronic revolution began. In short, as the then Premier said at the beginning of the Quiet revolution: “Désormais (From now on)”. Because of the global pandemic, we took an electronic turn on March 15. This move had a few drawbacks, but also some benefits as we will discover throughout this report.

### Liturgy

The first ten weeks of the year happened in the traditional way. Back then, our Sunday Eucharist brought together a little over thirty people each week, and several of them were involved in leading the Readings and the Prayers of the People, as well as serving at the Altar.

Then suddenly, traditional Eucharists morphed into online Morning Prayers. Gone were Communion, group singing, choir, coffee in the basement, etc. Despite a few adjustments at first, the community quickly tamed this new way of celebrating together. In fact, the vast majority of parishioners continue to participate in Sunday liturgies and, thanks to the possibilities of Internet, a few people from distant locations have even joined our community! As before, members continue to be involved in the liturgy, especially in leading the Readings and Prayers of the People.

Do online celebrations meet all expectations? Are they as “fulfilling” as in-person celebrations? Certainly not. But when we moved back (partly) to hybrid celebrations in October (and with Communion in November), we found that the vast majority preferred to continue celebrating online. The hybrid format did have its supporters: a few people who are uncomfortable with technology, as well as a few others who enjoy the meditation-inducing atmosphere of the Cathedral. Yet most members preferred to continue to worship online because, had they visited the church, they would not have been able to sing during the service or have coffee and socializing afterwards. And on top of that, travel distance and time are no longer constraints, especially for those who use public transit.

An unsuspecting benefit of online services: the Tuesday Evening Prayer

It is often said that Church is much more than a building, however beautiful and conducive to meditation it is. This year, we have seen the true meaning of the expression “Christian Community”. Through all tribulations, our community has maintained itself just as vigorously. Moreover, freed from geographical constraints that made weeknight gatherings almost impossible, we were able to successfully launch a mid-week Evening Prayer that gathers 15–20 persons every Tuesday evening to pray together. We are confident that, even after the pandemic is over, weeknight online prayer meetings will continue to be popular.

### Music

Our Music committee continues to develop a French hymnbook and to choose songs for the liturgy. The hymnbook, which we started to create in October 2019, now holds almost 150 hymns for all liturgical seasons: most of them are well-known hymns that follow Anglican theology and tradition. During the year, selecting hymns to either worship in church or online has added a few challenges, but we were mostly successful at that.

Obviously, musical support had to be adapted along the way. At the beginning of the year, while we were celebrating in the Cathedral, musician Sarah Sabol accompanied us on piano. When we transitioned to online services, we experimented with a few formulas. Finally, it is Jonathan White who records musical accompaniment for each hymn, as well as musical works to introduce and conclude our liturgies.

In addition, we did set up a Francophone choir in Fall 2019, which sang a few hymns on December 22 and 24, 2019. By mid-January, we had even begun practices for Palm Sunday and Easter services. Unfortunately, choir activities had to be halted due to the pandemic, and they will likely only resume when we can rehearse and sing again in the Cathedral.

### **Pain, partage, prière (PPP – Bread, Sharing, Prayer)**

The French-speaking group “Pain, Partage, Prière” met once every two weeks for a bible study in French, while sharing coffee after Sunday’s 9:00 am Eucharist. Diane Wood took the leading role to animate or coordinate the meetings’ animation for the first half of the year; then Sandrine Mutoni assumed that role for the second half of the year. Jean Robert Bellarmin, Patricia Brown, Ronald Cajuste, Marie-Claire Fournier and Michel Gagnon also took turns in preparing and animating the meetings. The texts to be studied are selected by following the liturgical calendar of the following week. In other words, we study the Gospel of the following Sunday. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, 20 to 25 people regularly came to the meetings that were held in the Undercroft. Since the beginning of the pandemic, our Bible study gathers a little over ten individuals on the Zoom platform. Participants held very fruitful discussions and are coming from diverse backgrounds, including Montréal and its surroundings, other regions of Québec and the United States.

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

It is important to note that our children and youth participate in the regular service with their families and attend the education program afterwards. This has been the practice before, and continues to be since the beginning of this pandemic.

For the first ten weeks of the year, while we were worshipping at the Cathedral, the program was run by Fresia Saborio, under the supervision of Rev. Jean-Daniel Ó Donnáda. The youth group consists of five boys aged six to 11 years old, as well as a 14-year-old girl who joined the children's group at 10:30 am due to her age and interests. Meetings were held every Sunday from 10:00 to 11:30am in the Undercroft.

From this period of on-site education, we concluded that it might be beneficial to integrate children from both services (taking into account the age and language skills of the children, of course), so we might share some activities with the whole group and do activities with their parents. This is a golden opportunity to invest in the spiritual formation of our children and at the same time harmonize both groups in a bilingual and multicultural context.

Then, similar to what was happening in schools, Christian education was put on ice between mid-March and August. Finally, activities tepidly resumed in September, in the form of fifteen-minute mini-meetings on Zoom between the 9:00 am and 10:30 am services, sometimes with an additional teaching period for the older ones at 1:00 pm. The report on Christian Education for the second Semester is part of the general report on youth Christian education.

In addition, we conducted a survey of parents in the spring of 2020. The results show that parents want their children to receive a more solid Christian education. They also consider their participation in service to be important and would like them to serve as acolytes at the Altar.

In order to develop our youth Christian education program, we will also need to obtain pedagogical material in French. In addition, it should be noted that Jean-Robert Bellarmin has sent one of his plays to be staged with children. The script was given to Rev. Jean-Daniel Ó Donncađa for follow-up (which we never heard of).

Finally, as a sign of the children's interest in the life of our Christian community, one of the children had the idea this summer of forming a book club for children (somewhat similar to the adult book club). Fresia Saborio submitted the idea to Dean Bertrand Olivier who enthusiastically approved it (average age of children: ten years old) and Jean-Daniel Ó Donncađa was to start the project. Unfortunately this project did not go through; still we think this project should be taken up again.

### **Community Life**

Social community life was definitely the main victim of this pandemic. No more coffee time after the Sunday Eucharist! And apart from Shrove Tuesday which we celebrated together just before the pandemic, no more community meals like those we had after Easter and Christmas 2019 celebrations! But we should get back on track later on... Nevertheless, we organised an online Christmas party; alas, schedule and communication issues have somewhat affected the activity.

Nevertheless, community spirit remains very strong. This became evident in the greetings sent by everyone for two e-cards that were prepared for Christmas and another occasion during the year. In addition, the virtual coffee hour that follows each Sunday and Tuesday service continues to be full with discussions and prayers for those experiencing hardships.

And speaking of hardships, we would like to conclude this report by commemorating the memory of our beloved Raymonde Proulx who passed away on November 21. A faithful member of the Francophone community for some twenty years, she was a pillar of our group until the end. Raymonde, I know you are watching us from up there; let us tell you that we miss you! Besides that, a few other members have received or are still receiving our prayers to help them overcome their illnesses.

### **Thank You**

Let us conclude this report by saying thanks to our dean Bertrand Olivier and our associate priest Deborah Meister, as well as all the members of the community. Special thanks to the leaders and people involved in various ministries, including:

Lay Readers (liturgy): Jean Robert Bellarmin and Michel Gagnon  
Music: Léonne Dubic, Ogino Myrtil and Michel Gagnon  
Youth Education: Rev. Jean-Daniel Ó Donncađa and Fresia Saborio (1st trimester)  
Pain, partage, prière: Diane Wood (1st semester) and Sandrine Mutoni (2nd semester)  
Social activities: Sandrine Mutoni and Darlene Dimanche  
Text revisions and proofreading: Raymonde Proulx and Marie-Claire Fournier.

And thank you to all readers and others who have been involved behind the scenes and thus contributed to the spiritual development of the Cathedral's francophone community. Thanks also to the Cathedral staff including Jonathan White (music) and Elizabeth Shama (administration).

**Licensed lay readers**

**Vivian Lewin**

The four licensed Lay Readers at the Cathedral—Jean-Robert Bellarmin, Michel Gagnon, Vivian Lewin, and Sam Keuchguerian—were called on to shift gears in 2020. Depending upon their individual gifts, formation, and availability, customary activities might include presiding at 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, animating prayer or meditation groups, and pastoral visiting. The first three Readers named above preached some 17 Sunday sermons this year. Many other activities moved online or were addressed by phone.

Preaching on Zoom? “Even if we’re more comfortable preaching on Zoom,” Jean-Robert observes, “we lack that eye contact with the audience. That little probe that allows you to see who’s paying attention to what you’re saying,” while, for Michel, it’s the opposite: “Personally, I find the eye contact better when preaching with Zoom.”

# FINANCE

## Treasurer's Report

Jane Aitkens

### Treasurer's Report (Jane Aitkens)

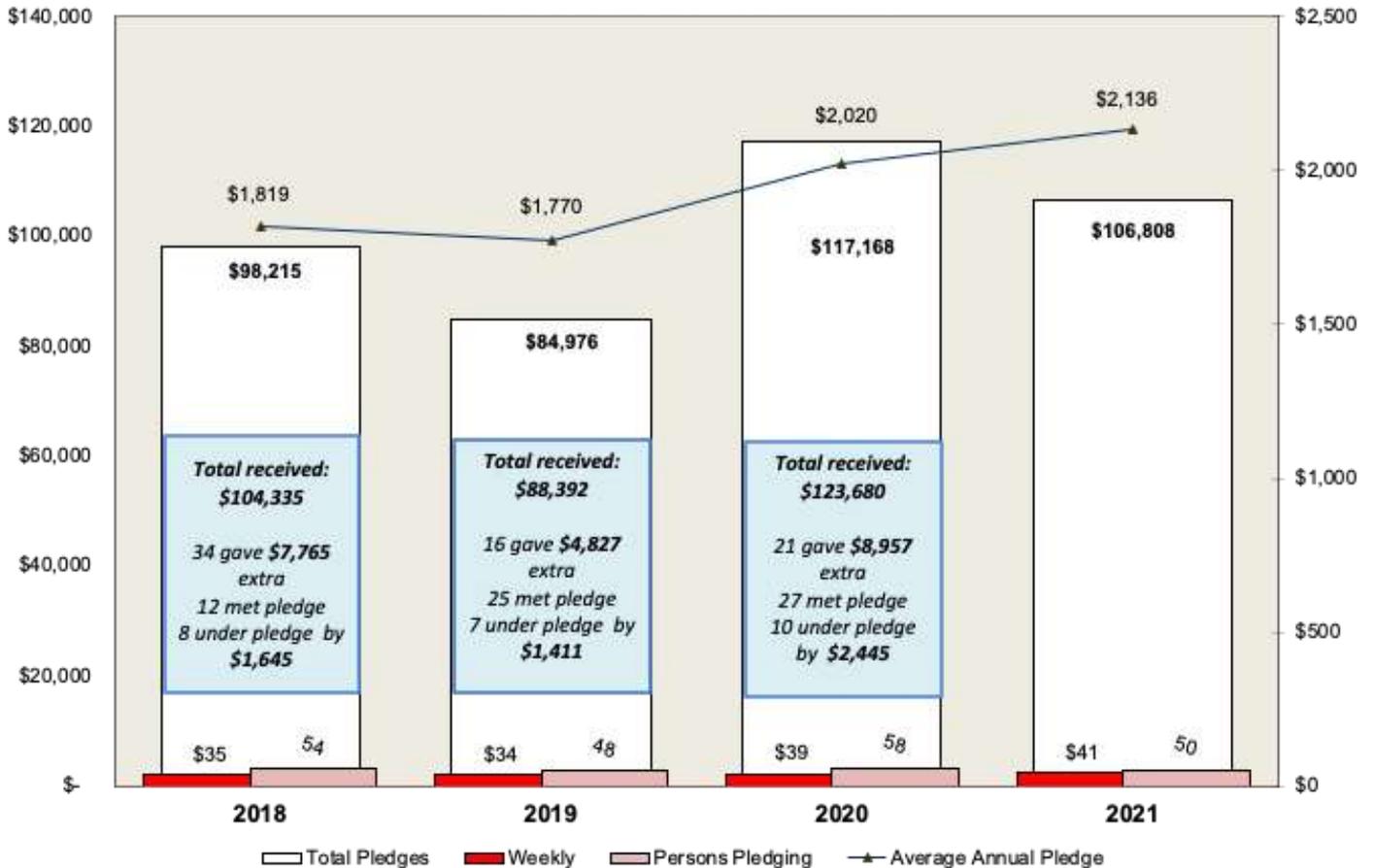
#### Pledges

In 2020, the number of pledges increased to 58, 10 more than the previous year. The pledged amount of \$117,168 was exceeded by \$6,512, reaching \$123,680. 21 people gave above their pledge, 27 met their pledge exactly and 10 fell short.

Here is a chart showing the pledges and actual amounts received in 2018, 2019 and 2020, and looking forward to 2021. The faithfulness of parishioners to their financial commitment to the Cathedral during these trying COVID-19 times is exemplary. If you have not yet made your pledge for 2021, I invite you to do so online: <https://cccm.tl.breezechms.com/form/pledge2021>.

### Cathedral Pledges 2018 - 2021

2021 pledges as of March 16, 2021



### **Cathedral Finances in the Year of COVID-19**

Before COVID-19 hit in March, the proposed budget for 2020 was set with a deficit of \$85,000. When the budget was finally presented at the AGM (on Zoom, in May 2020) the projected deficit was set at \$16,500. The anticipated savings were mostly due to the Diocese not collecting the assessment – at that point, there was to be six months without assessment. As the COVID-19 months unfolded, additional assessment-free months were added as well as government salary subsidies. At year-end, the deficit without any subsidies was just under \$33,000 but the total subsidies received totaled almost \$297,000 (\$125,000 of that was the forgiven assessment and the rest (\$172,000) was salary subsidies, covering almost a third of our total salary budget of \$523,000. The resulting surplus of \$264,000 will be applied to next year's budget, as the impact of COVID-19 continues.

**Special donations** in the amount of \$ 25,714 were received in 2020: Over \$4,000 was received in memory of departed friends and family members. \$3,564 was given in support of the Music program, including a generous donation from an American listener of our Sunday Choral Evensong/Organ Vespers. Donations were also received to support the Sunday School, to fund repairs to the flooring in the nave, and to help fund the computer and camera equipment needed for the streaming of Zoom services.

A \$100,000 bequest was received from the estate of Diana Weatherall, whose husband John, if I remember correctly, was a Warden in the 1970's.

The Patrick Wedd Music Fund received \$2,985 in donations, centering around the Memorial Concert given online by Donald Hunt in May.

### **How to Give**

Even more than ever, as we are unable to regularly attend services in the Cathedral, I recommend the PAR (pre-authorized remittance) system, which allow you to contribute monthly to the Cathedral through automatic withdrawals from your bank account. It is a great 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.

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.

There are additional ways to give electronically, including SimplyK and [PayPal](#). In 2021, we hope to add others, including a "Tap to Donate" option in the Cathedral.

All your donation 'options', including PAR forms, are listed on the Cathedral website:

<https://www.montrealCathedral.ca/donate>. I encourage you to use those options whose fees are the lowest for the Cathedral, so that we can receive the most of your donation!

Finally, in 2020 we began to use our Breeze (church management) system to send out updates regarding your giving – the majority by email, and your 2020 tax receipts will also be issued via Breeze. The "we" in that last sentence includes Elizabeth Shama, our Cathedral Administrator and Bookkeeper. Working from the Cathedral office or from home, Elizabeth in the year of COVID-19 kept the Cathedral ship steady. We are all in her debt. Thank you Elizabeth!

**Investment Committee**

**Stephen Atkinson, Chair**

Investment Committee Members:

Dean Bertrand Olivier

Stephen Atkinson (Chair)

Jane Aitkens (Treasurer)

Robert King

Michele Rattray-Huish (People's Warden)

Sheena Gourlay, (Rector's Warden)

Robert Cowling – (resigned November 2020)

Kathy Fazel and her associate Alana Singer represent 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 over time horizons exceeding three years.
- ✓ The 2020 portfolio return was very solid at 8.6% compared to the Benchmark 9.3%. Canadian CPI was 0.8%. The 5-year return was 8.8% p.a. compared to the Benchmark 7.7% p.a. CPI for this period was 1.6%.
- ✓ \$100,00 borrowed from the Endowment Fund to help with the initial costs of the Spire Campaign was returned to the fund in 2020.
- ✓ The combined funds of the Cathedral finished the year totaling \$4.659 million, compared to \$4.369 million the prior year.
- ✓ Our underlying objective is to keep the portfolio value above the \$4mm range. The asset mix at the end of 2020 was 67% equities and 33% fixed income including cash (small).
- ✓ The Investment Committee has made changes to the investment mandate starting in January 2021, switching to a focus on total return, and increasing global geographic diversification.

## Christ Church Cathedral

Market Values / Asset Mix – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

	<i>Endowment Fund</i>		<i>Bequest &amp; Gift Fund</i>		<i>Combined Funds</i>	
<b>Cash</b>	\$ 7,906	0%	\$ 8,549	1%	\$ 16,455	0%
<b>Fixed Income</b>	\$ 1,336,275	34%	\$ 175,257	24%	\$ 1,511,532	32%
<b>Equities</b>	\$ 2,575,826	66%	\$ 555,658	75%	\$ 3,131,484	67%
Canada	\$ 1,312,355	33%	\$ 231,844	31%	\$ 1,544,199	33%
U.S.	\$ 655,191	17%	\$ 166,359	22%	\$ 821,550	18%
International	\$ 608,280	16%	\$ 157,454	21%	\$ 765,735	16%
<b>Portfolio   \$</b>	\$ 3,920,007	100%	\$ 739,464	100%	\$ 4,659,471	100%
<b>Portfolio   %</b>	84%		16%			

Balance in “Rising Up” Capital Campaign Fund: \$34,039

## Christ Church Cathedral

Endowment Fund & Bequest & Gift Fund  
Rates of Return as at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

	3 months %	1 Year %	3 Years %	4 Years %	5 Years %	10 Years %	Since Mar 1, 2008 %
<b>Portfolio</b>	8.7	8.6	7.5	8.2	8.8	7.9	7.1
<b>Benchmark**</b>	6.1	9.3	7.3	7.2	7.7	6.6	6.0
<b>Canadian CPI***</b>	0.8	0.8	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6

\*\*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 November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Historical Information

### From 2017 to 2020 – Q4 2020

	Endowment Fund				Bequest & Gift Fund				Total			
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020
Market Value - Jan. 1st	\$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
Net Contributions	\$75,000	\$	\$	\$100,000	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$75,000	\$	\$	\$100,000
Disbursed Income	\$95,105	\$97,276	\$105,434	\$102,937	\$19,387	\$19,825	\$21,846	\$19,912	\$114,492	\$117,101	\$127,280	\$122,849
Disbursed Income MIF*	\$24,301	\$24,411	\$21,910	\$23,816					\$24,301	\$24,411	\$21,910	\$23,816
Fees	\$23,444	\$23,606	\$23,232	\$23,470	\$4,322	\$4,462	\$4,336	\$4,338	\$27,767	\$28,068	\$27,569	\$27,808
Market Value - Dec. 31st	\$3,493,684	\$3,254,722	\$3,661,906	\$3,920,007	\$652,398	\$611,996	\$707,203	\$739,464	\$4,146,082	\$3,866,719	\$4,369,109	\$4,659,471
Change in Market Value									\$242,594	-\$251,295	\$529,959	\$218,170

\*Monthly Income Fund

### Spire Campaign

### Bertrand Olivier and Jane Aitkens

The initial plan for Phase 2 involved the removal in sections of the spire and its aluminum panels for restoration. In the autumn of 2019, we were informed by the city of Montreal that the use of a crane to remove the spire would not be possible due to their construction work on Ste. Catherine St in 2020. This forced us to revise our plans in order to keep the momentum.

The aluminum tiles on our spire have now all been removed and taken to Ottawa for complete cleaning and decontamination. The corroded steel structure will now remain in place while it is being restored, and the diaphragms holding the structure together are being replaced with new ones. All being well, the panels will be reinstalled in a reverse process from the summer 2022. We are anticipating that Phase 2 will be completed by late 2022.

The initial budget of \$6M for the Spire Restoration has nearly doubled, in part due to extra work needed in Phase 1, but also because of the ongoing complexities due to our heritage site being situated above a shopping mall, the major works taking place around the Cathedral, and the continuing competition we have experienced in the booming Montreal construction market. There are now also additional costs linked to COVID-19.

Donations received for the Spire in 2020 amounted to \$420,806, which includes \$ 22,236 from Cathedral members and a \$100,000 bequest from a former Cathedral member. The Quebec government's CPRQ grant for 2020 was \$1,000,000. The Phase 2 work began in November of 2019 but was stopped by the arrival of COVID-19 in March. Work recommenced in May. The construction costs and architects' fees during 2020 totaled \$2.7 million, outstripping our donations and grants income in 2020 and years previous. In August, we began to use our CIBC line of credit, established last year for this purpose. Overdraft charges for 2020 totaled \$964.

Christ Church Cathedral Annual Report 2020

<b>Spire Campaign</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Income</b>							
<i>Government Grants</i>							
CPRQ	\$ 95,360	\$ 154,031	\$ 332,997	\$ 1,495,232	\$ 818,528	\$ 1,430,616	\$ 4,326,764
Parks Canada			\$ 380,530	\$ 644,470			\$ 1,025,000
<i>Fundraising Amounts received</i>							
	\$ 82,130	\$ 379,652	\$ 374,867	\$ 334,678	\$ 444,326	\$ 420,806	\$ 2,036,459
<b>Sub-total income</b>	<b>\$ 177,490</b>	<b>\$ 533,683</b>	<b>\$ 1,088,394</b>	<b>\$ 2,474,380</b>	<b>\$ 1,262,854</b>	<b>\$ 1,851,422</b>	<b>\$ 7,388,223</b>
<b>Outgoing - 50% of taxes included</b>							
<i>Campaign Expenses</i>							
	\$ 266,261	\$ 261,359	\$ 115,502	\$ 59,535	\$ 16,589	\$ 2,321	\$ 721,567
<i>Construction Costs</i>							
Architects' Fee	\$ 84,357	\$ 275,005	\$ 732,426	\$ 3,041,499	\$ 339,698	\$ 2,453,257	\$ 6,926,242
Bank Fees	\$ 20,913	\$ 167,724	\$ 2,365	\$ 386,227	\$ 15,722	\$ 260,777	\$ 853,728
			\$ 720	\$ 860	\$ 9,309	\$ 10,889	
<b>Sub-total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 371,531</b>	<b>\$ 704,089</b>	<b>\$ 850,293</b>	<b>\$ 3,487,981</b>	<b>\$ 372,869</b>	<b>\$ 2,725,663</b>	<b>\$ 8,512,425</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (194,041)</b>	<b>\$ (170,406)</b>	<b>\$ 238,101</b>	<b>\$ (1,013,601)</b>	<b>\$ 889,985</b>	<b>\$ (874,241)</b>	<b>\$ (1,124,202)</b>
Cash from Investments	\$ 151,000	\$ 345,423				\$ (100,000)	\$ 396,423
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ (43,041)</b>	<b>\$ 175,017</b>	<b>\$ 238,101</b>	<b>\$ (1,013,601)</b>	<b>\$ 889,985</b>	<b>\$ (974,241)</b>	<b>\$ (727,779)</b>

<b>Future Funding</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>CPRQ funding - 2 more years</b>	???	???			\$ -
<b>Pledge completion - 4 years remaining</b>	\$ 272,885	\$ 92,580	\$ 81,200	\$ 30,000	\$ 476,665

Depending on the amount of the CPRQ grants, we will need another 2+ million dollars to pay for Phase 2.

It is estimated that the Cathedral interior projects (lighting, pews, flooring, etc.) will cost an additional \$2 million.

## Christ Church Cathedral Annual Report 2020

### Annual highlights:

2015 was a year of preparation - we hired Architects (EVOQ) and Fundraising Consultants (BNP). We took money from the Investments to help pay for these up-front costs. CPRQ funds were used to restore some stained glass windows (Phase 2).

2016 - repairs to the roof and the interior arches. CPRQ allowed us to use part of a \$170,000 grant previously awarded for Phase 3 of the restoration of our stained glass windows to start repairing the roof. We got a **Parks Canada grant (\$25K** received in 2017) to survey the building. Another grant from **CPRQ (\$170,000)** helped to pay for the architect's report and **\$1M was awarded in 2016-17** for the Spire.

2017 - May 30, the public campaign was officially launched. We dropped BNP and hired Shaun Lynch and Mollie O'Neil in June. 2017 was the year (and into 2018) to spend the \$1M Parks Canada grant, matched by \$1M from CPRQ. The tower masonry was repaired. **CPRQ grant for 2017-2018 = \$500,000.**

2018 - Phase 1 Tower repair almost complete. Shaun Lynch withdrew and we hired Philanthropica as our fundraising consultants. **CPRQ grant for 2018-2019 = \$700,000.**

2019 - Bids for Phase 2 - the work on the actual Spire - were received. The lowest bid was Rainville's - \$ 4,762,852 (before tax). Reduced slightly to \$ 4,612,601. Architect and other fees and 10% contingency are expected to be \$1,033,970 (before tax). Total with 50% tax: \$ **6,069,358**. Philanthropica left in September. **CPRQ grant for 2019-2020: \$800,000**

2020 - Phase 2 construction began in November of 2019. Construction stopped in March due to COVID-19, restarted mid-May. Higher banking charges include the cost of setting up the line of credit at CIBC. **CPRQ grant for 2020-2021: \$1,000,000**

## **ADMINISTRATION/GOVERNANCE**

### **Cathedral Staff on December 31, 2020**

The Very Rev'd Bertrand Olivier	Dean of the Cathedral
The Rev'd Dr. Deborah Meister	Associate Priest
The Rev'd Jennifer Bourque	Honorary Associate
The Rev'd Deacon Peter Huish	Deacon
Dr. Jonathan White	Director of Music
Dr. Nicholas Capozzoli	Assistant organist
Ethan Hill	Organ Scholar
Elizabeth Shama	Administrator and Bookkeeper
Ardyth Robinson	Office support
John Cavacece	Senior Verger
Rodney Roberts	Assistant Verger
Clara Ceniccola	Assistant Verger
Miranda Wang	Assistant Verger
Prudence Sirri Neba	Assistant Verger

### **Resigned in 2020.**

The Rev'd Jean-Daniel Ó Donnada	Associate Priest
The Rev'd Jim McDermott	Honorary Associate
Ewen Baron	Assistant Verger
Boran Zaza	Oasis Musicale Manager

**Wardens**

**Sheena Gourlay and Michel Rattray-Huish**

**Introduction:** 2020 will always be remembered as the year COVID-19 came to change the world. Not only did it change the world, but it also had a profound effect on our Churches in general and on Christ Church Cathedral in particular.

The year began much as usual with the adoption of the 2019-2020 budget by Corporation in January, and by Vestry in February. We said farewell to Boran, who had brought Oasis Musicale Concerts to a new high, at the end of March. We also bid farewell to our Assistant Verger Ewen, and welcomed three new Assistant Vergers, Clara, Miranda and Prudence. At the end of the year Jean-Daniel bid the Cathedral adieu, and received blessings from the Dean and the congregation (albeit via Zoom), having served our children and youth ministries for several years.

**Cathedral Life:** With the advent of COVID-19 and consequent closures of all Churches by the Government of Quebec, the Cathedral initially postponed services in the building, however we initially remained open for people looking for a place to pray and or seek shelter. Prayers were offered three times a day. Sunday services moved to Zoom on-line and Evensong continued on Radio Ville Marie. Corporation also decided to create chat rooms and coffee mornings – all on Zoom, where members of the congregation could meet to discuss various interests, e.g. Travel adventures; Ecological and Social Justice; Bible study; LGBTQ+. Another innovation of Corporation was to form a telephone-tree with volunteers who agreed to make periodic calls to members of the congregation who were particularly isolated and or not able to join us on Zoom.

Zoom church continued at the Cathedral during Phase I of the COVID-19 lock-down, with an average attendance of 100 over the three Sunday services. With the movement into Phase II, the Cathedral re-opened the building to in-person worship for a limited number of people, in keeping with the regulations, and within a very short period moved onto managing Zoom services simultaneously with in-person services. This required many technical innovations and adjustments, but following a few mishaps the Cathedral team of clergy, musicians, and vergers were able to improve the process. Evensong re-opened for in-person worship on a drop-in basis- no pre-registration required, but contact information was recorded for those that attended.

Great work was done to prepare the Cathedral for re-opening for in-person service, with pews blocked-off to ensure no more than one family/person per alternate pew, and signs were created and posted reminding of safety protocols and procedures. Vergers and Stewards were trained, clergy worked to develop new liturgy and setups to offer Zoom and live services simultaneously, and cameras, microphones and screens were also purchased.

Phase 3 of deconfinement – introducing in-person Holy Eucharist - was approved by the Diocese and began in November to the relief of many, although protocol only permitted the sharing of the Host.

A change was made for Christmas celebrations as the Cathedral moved to a Zoom webinar format in response to previous Zoom bombing attacks that took place earlier in the year. At the end of the Midnight Mass webinar service our regular Zoom meeting resumed and the congregation got a chance to catch up and wish each other Merry Christmas face-to-face after midnight.

**Cathedral Fabric:** Major work on the Cathedral included the removal of asbestos from the interior. There was an unfortunate event resulting in the Undercroft being flooded, leading to new walls and flooring needing to be installed. However, on the brighter side, the interior of the Cathedral Chancel was beautifully restored and repaired by our Head Verger, John, with the white marble cleaned, cracks repaired and floors sanded.

**Media:** Corporation adopted a new Social Media and On-line Platform Policy which will guide how our social media is regulated. A copy can be found on the Cathedral website.

The Cathedral website has been essential during this period of isolation for so many. It provided a link to all and enabled the forming of virtual community which would not otherwise have been possible. Many thanks are due to our wonderful Webmaster Jane.

**Territorial Acknowledgement:** After much discussion and consultation at Forum, the Cathedral adopted a new Territorial Acknowledgement as follows:

“We gather today on the unceded territory of the Kanien’keha:ka (Mohawk), at a place call Tio’tia:ke (Montreal), a meeting place for many First Nations. Our acknowledgement stands as a promise to continue the ongoing work of recognition and reconciliation.”

**Black Lives Matter:** Forum held a special meeting to discuss Black Lives Matter with a good representation from our various communities. It was decided that four sub-committees would be formed to examine how Christ Church Cathedral could best examine and address any issues of anti-black racism in the Cathedral. The Cathedral also installed a prominent Black Lives Matter banner at the front of the Cathedral.

The following Sub-Committees were formed and their work continues: 1. Historical Research; 2. Systemic racism; 3. Education; 4. Celebrating our Diversity in unity in Christ

The first sub-committee to report gave a well-received presentation on the History of Racism in Quebec on 29 November in English, with the French presentation taking place on 6 December.

**Mission:** Even with the lock-down, the Cathedral continued its important social action with the Social Services Society (End of Month Lunches for the homeless and food-insecure) becoming more inventive in finding ways to safely distribute boxed lunches in lieu of meeting together in Fulford Hall.

The Ecological and Social Justice Action Group were also active, putting on in May a full day Mini-Conference on Biological Diversity via Zoom which was well appreciated.

**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.

## Vergers Report

John Cavacece

2020 is behind us now, hallelujah! It has been a very trying year for all of us. For me it has been hard to see the church closed for most of the year. We have been using the time to find projects. I had a chance to restore the marble floor and to fix the tripping hazard at the front of the church. We are now working to refurbish the undercroft. We have had some staff changes. Ewen is no longer with us; he is in the movie industry, doing well. We have three new additions to the staff: Clara and Miranda joined us first and Prudence joined us late fall. Now I hope we can all get the vaccine very soon and get back to some sort of normality. Stay safe, I hope to see you all soon.

**Cathedral Register 2020**

**Baptisms**

*Saoirse Kathleen James  
Mitchel Ricardo Nardella  
Charles Douglas Stuchbery  
Etienne Donne Komschlies-Wilson*

**Marriages**

*Weddings have been postponed  
due to COVID-19*

**Funerals**

*Michael Deare  
Gaston Lamontagne  
Dorothy Oidi  
Raymonde Proulx  
George Wall*

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

*Gloria Hall, Gaston Lamontagne, Robert and Pat Munro, Dorothy Oidi and Raymonde Proulx.*

**Statistical Report**

**Elizabeth Shama**

**A change to reporting statistics.**

We are now recording the attendance at our services, rather than number of communicants, to keep in line with the Diocese statistics.

**Average number of Sunday attendance 2020**

These calculations are based on 51 weeks as there were no services held on March 15<sup>th</sup> as mandated by the government shut down due to the pandemic. The attendance recorded for the 10:30 am services include the eight 10:00 am in-person services. Attendance includes in-person and online services.

	Communicants 2017	Communicants 2018	Communicants 2019	Attendance 2020
8:00 am BCP	12	14	12	7
9:00 am French	17	17	25	26
10:30 am English	98	93	94	67
Total morning services	127	124	131	100
6/7 pm Contemporary	31	42	35	11
<b>Total</b>	158	166	166	111

**Easter and Christmas attendance 2020.**

Includes in-person and online attendance.

	Attendance 2020
Easter Vigil Saturday	77
Easter Sunday services	206
Christmas Eve services	156
Christmas Day services	83

	Communicants 2017	Communicants 2018	Communicants 2019
Easter Vigil and Sunday services	452	427	361
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	333	348	443
Combined	785	775	804

**Recommendations of the Nominating Committee for the Year 2021**

**Diana Bouchard**

Because the Nominating Committee elected in March 2020 proved unable to fulfill its mandate this year, Paul Helmer and Diana Bouchard, Deputy Wardens, acting on behalf of Corporation, undertook to provide a slate for 2021–2022.

We begin by thanking the Nominating Committees of the past few years for providing us with ongoing leadership in our Corporation, on our various committees, and in other responsibilities. Furthermore, we thank those who have been willing and able to volunteer their time, efforts, and talents to maintain the vitality of the Cathedral community.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge us in our efforts to maintain our community life. Without in-person contact and unstructured sharing opportunities, we simply do not know each other as well. Many of us also carry heavier responsibilities than before and face more uncertain futures, making recruiting difficult. You will notice several vacancies in the lists presented below. Each of you is warmly invited to step forward and fill one of them. We will welcome you and provide whatever support you can in your new role.

**Secretary to General Vestry:** To be nominated and approved at the Annual General Vestry meeting. Diana Bouchard remains willing to fill this role.

The Nominating Committee proposes the following candidates for election in 2021.

**Cathedral Corporation**

Wardens for 2021-22    Rector's Warden: Sheena Gourlay  
                                  People's Warden: Michele Rattray-Huish  
                                  Deputy Wardens: Diana Bouchard, Marie-Claire Fournier

**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). ESJAG representative.

Term ending 2021:    George Deare, Noah Hermes, Robert King, John Matheson, Gabrielle Boyd, Edward Yankie, Marjorie Sharp. Thanks to all for dedicated service.

Members 2021-22:    Chairperson(s) TBD  
                                  Alex Griffin, Joanne Simpson, Peggy Simpson, Carlos Moreno Torres, Rob Wells, Frank Diké, Greta Helmer.

Nominated 2021-23:    Donna Jean-Louis, 6 vacancies.

**Music Committee:**

Chair: Beth Adams

Term ending 2021: Mary-Sue Philpott, Veronica McDermott, Carole Therrien.  
Thanks for their dedicated service to our music programme.

Members 2021-2022: Joseph Hafner, Meg Graham, Cassidy VanderSchee.

Nominated 2021-2023: Mary-Sue Philpott, Angèle Trudeau.

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

**PWRDF**

Representatives: Peggy Simpson, Edward Yankie, and Brenda Linn will work as a team  
to represent the Cathedral.

**Stewardship Committee**

Members: Jane Aitkens, Vera Burt, Marie-Claire Fournier, Joseph Hafner,  
Vivian Lewin, Rob Wells.

**Synod**

Lay Delegates to Synod: Jane Aitkens and Janet King.

Alternate Lay Delegates: Michel Gagnon, *1 vacancy*

Youth Delegate to Synod (16-24): *2 vacancies*

**Nominating Committee:**

Thanks for the service of Donna Jean-Louis and Rosemary Cass-Beggs on this committee in 2020.

Members for 2021: Diana Bouchard, Paul Helmer.

***If anyone is interested in serving on Corporation or becoming a voting member of Forum, or serving in the many committees and positions that need people, please contact the Nominating Committee.***

## **Administrators of the Chalice 2021**

to be authorized by the Bishop for Christ Church Cathedral

Jane Aitkens  
Hannah Bailey  
Jean Robert Bellarmin  
Diana Bouchard  
Emma Brion  
Nicholas Cieslinski  
George Deare  
Darlène Pharadiane  
Dimanche  
Léonne Dubic  
Ann Elbourne  
Stephanie Felkai  
Marie-Claire Fournier

Michel Gagnon  
Sheena Gourlay  
Noah Hermes  
Erica Jacobs-Perkins  
Donna Jean-Louis  
Janet King  
Robert King  
Adrian King-Edwards  
Sam Keuchguerian  
Mélodie Lemay-Gaulin  
Vivian Lewin  
Carlos Moreno-Torres  
Selina Mullin

Michèle Rattray-Huish  
Donna Riley  
Jonathan Sa'adah  
Fresia Saborio  
Elizabeth Shama  
Marjorie Sharp  
Flo Tracy  
Cassidy VanderSchee  
Diane Wood  
Sarah Wicks  
Helen Wiegand  
Edward Yankie

## **CATHEDRAL LIFE**

### **Amnesty Writing Circle**

**Stephanie Stringer**

The pandemic has posed a challenge for Amnesty at the Cathedral. Writing doesn't seem to be an activity that is easily adapted to Zoom. Nonetheless, parishioners have continued to write letters, emails, or sign petitions defending human rights. A list of indigenous land and water defenders in need of support was included as part of the biodiversity mini-conference, and posted on the Cathedral website. For Write for Rights/ Écrire, ça libere, members of both the 9:00 and 10:30am congregations signed petitions or wrote emails on behalf of people whose basic human rights were being violated. Parishioners were also encouraged to send handwritten letters or cards on their own time. It is encouraging to realise that in spite of the pandemic and the isolation it has brought us, we are still able to be part of an international community championing, human, social and environmental rights around the world.

**Black Lives Matter Committee**

**Sheena Gourlay, Bob King, Deborah Meister, Michele Rattray Huish**

On May 25th, 2020, George Floyd, an American man, suffocated to death while a police officer knelt on his neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds. Coming on the heels of many other police murders of Black people, Floyd's death galvanized a worldwide movement to honor the lives of Black people, eliminate a culture of police brutality without accountability, and work to eradicate anti-Black racism from our communities and legal structures. Recognizing that Canada is not immune from these issues, the Cathedral's membership and leaders began to consider how we could become involved. Many members immediately began reading, thinking, and discussing these issues, both on their own and in many book groups.

On June 16th, the Cathedral convened a session of Forum dedicated to this discussion. Lay Reader Jean-Robert Bellarmin testified about this experience as a Canadian who had immigrated to Montreal from Haiti. Then the Forum broke into small groups to reflect upon what we had heard and to consider next steps.

We agreed that we would hang a Black Lives Matter/La Vie des Noir(e)s Compte banner from the Cathedral and on our website, not because we were already a beacon of inclusion, but as a sign of solidarity and as a public commitment to do our own work to identify and address racist structures at the Cathedral, and to equip our members to identify and resist racism in the contexts of their daily lives. The text accompanying the (virtual) banner read: "Christ Church Cathedral is a multi-ethnic congregation in downtown Montreal, and we are passionate about inclusion. We have entered a process of reviewing our own corporate life, to identify our own history of racism as well as the ways in which our structures systemically exclude people because of their colour. Flying this flag is a symbol of these tasks for justice which we undertake in sorrow and solidarity."

In order to carry forth the work, we created four subcommittees: 1) to identify and eradicate barriers to full inclusion in the life of the Cathedral; 2) to research our own history with slavery and racism; 3) to educate our members about structural racism so that they could become change agents; 4) to celebrate both the diversity of our community and our unity in Christ. The Cathedral leadership is aware that any deep work on racism is a marathon, not a sprint. This work will need to be an ongoing focus for the Cathedral. Reports for the first year's work from each of the subcommittees can be found below:

**I. Working Group on Systemic Issues at the Cathedral - Convenor: Sheena Gourlay**

The group looking at systematic issues at the Cathedral met three times. Discussions centered around several different themes. The first was the recognition that there are many differences, which are not reducible to language or race, and that there are many "communities" within our larger community. The identity of each community should be preserved even as we work together. Secondly, there are many personal reasons that a person does not or cannot participate at a given time. To want to participate does not mean that one can.

Having said this, it was asked how we can become more welcoming as a community and encouraging of those who have much to offer. The confidence to speak up and to participate has to be built up over time, and is not automatic. Inclusivity also means being open to different points of view and different ways of doing things. The most important question asked is whether it will make a difference if members of the 9:00 am service are on a committee or on Corporation? Are we ready to do things differently?

A short description of the responsibilities of Corporation has been developed to give to members of the 9:00 am service for discussion. The working group's members would like to talk to different groups within the community to ask if people have experienced barriers to participation, in this community or in other, and if so, what they are.

## **2. History of the Cathedral** -Convenor: Bob King

One of the sub-committees formed to discuss how the Cathedral will deal with issues raised by the Black Lives Matter movement was to look at the history and context of these issues as they refer to the Cathedral. The members are Ann Elbourne, Peggy Simpson and Robert King. Ann has done extensive research and prepared a scholarly paper on the history of slavery and racism in Quebec. Peggy has reviewed the Cathedral registers, going back to the founding of Christ Church, looking for entries that refer to slaves and people who were not white-skinned. Bob had discussions with people who attend the Cathedral at present to hear about their experiences. Their findings were presented at a Zoom meeting held after the 10:30 am service on November 29, and a translation of this by Michel Gagnon was presented at a Zoom meeting following the 9:00 am service on December 6. These reports and the video of the presentations are available on the Cathedral web site.

## **3. Educational Initiatives** - Convenor: Deborah Meister

The Subcommittee on Educational Initiatives held two initial meetings at the start of the summer, in which we focused on gathering resources in both French and English which members of the congregation could use to educate themselves over the summer. These resources included books, articles, short videos, and films, which are currently listed on the Black Lives Matter page of the website. We also decided to challenge the congregation as a whole to read two books: Ibram Kendi's *How to Be an Antiracist*, and Desmond Cole's *The Skin We're In*. Unfortunately, the Cole book, generally considered to be the best resource on the current state of anti-Black racism in Canada, is not available in French, so, as an alternative, we offered the Francophone members, Ta-Nehasi Coates' book, *Un Colère Noir*, acknowledging that it comes out of an American context, but could spark comparative discussions about life here in Canada. Due to a sense that people were overwhelmed by the pandemic, those book groups were not convened until Spring of 2021.

The Subcommittee agreed that we would work to develop interactive ways to engage the congregation once those discussions had been held, and will work on that in 2021. We are strongly in need of additional members, and invite those interested in this work to reach out to us so we can include you.

## **4. Celebrating our Diversity in Unity** - Convenor: Michele Rattray-Huish

The Sub-Committee on Black Lives Matter – Celebrating our Diversity in Unity In Christ – is composed of seven members with members drawn from both the 9:00 am and the 10:30 am congregations. The Sub-Committee has held several meetings between July and December 2020. It has come up with the following ideas for celebrating our diversity:

Specific ideas to celebrate Diversity:

- Gospel music from different places after the service as the postlude.
- The Lord's Prayer during the service in different languages.
- Sharing our Stories.
- Zoom French and English practice meetings.
- Sharing Christmas traditions
- what traditions do you have at Christmas in your country of origin?
- Post COVID-19 - International lunch.

The Sub-Committee agreed that whatever we did, we needed to ensure a safe environment – where people could express themselves. The point was made that it may not always be about “celebrating” our diversity, but that we need to also allow people to express when there are problems. As long as we are celebrating our diversity it will be inevitable that there is some expression of loss and grieving – we need to accommodate that expression. It was suggested that it might be a good idea if before Forum we open with prayers where people can listen – then we can start celebrating after we have shared pain.

It was remarked that our activity of Celebrating our Diversity did not necessarily lend itself to a one-off final report as we envisaged it as a continuing activity going forward - over months if not years. The Sub-Committee suggested that we could still present a report to the larger community – soliciting their ideas and help on how we go forward and then submitting a project plan/proposition based on the larger discussions.

**Children's ministry**

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

The pandemic posed particular difficulties for our work with children, who are difficult to engage by Zoom or Facebook Live. For the first two and a half months of the year, the children met weekly for children's chapel, led by the Rev. Jean-Daniel O'Donnada and a team of lay volunteers. Following the COVID-19 shutdown, the ministry focused on providing resources that parents could use at home to support their children's spiritual life. In the Fall, an online children's class was offered most Sundays, combining the francophone and anglophone children into one, larger group. As we enter 2021, the children's ministry will need to re-vision itself, following the departure of Rev. Jean-Daniel at the end of 2020.

**Education**

**Included in Associate Priests report**

**Ecological and Social Justice Action Group**

**Brenda Linn**

During this challenging year, the Ecological and Social Justice Action Group, ESJAG, focused on the social justice implications of Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and their roots in racism, locally and worldwide. This work builds directly on our ten-year history of engagement with homelessness, indigenous issues, and truth and reconciliation.

The 2020 Nuit Blanche theme, *Vers le vert*, together with some reflections on the meaning of baptism, inspired ESJAG to transform the baptistry into an oasis, a little Eden, with lush vegetation (compliments of Westmount Florist), sweet organic and local apples (compliments of Lufa Farms), and a reminder that our garden is on fire. Visitors hung garlands on the Boyd's beautiful pledge tree, in token of their personal climate commitments.

In February, Prof Anna Kim gave a presentation on recent challenges to the Fair-Trade Movement, explaining the close connection between Fair Trade, social justice, and ecological sustainability. On March 8th, over a deliciously sustainable lunch, Michele Rattray-Huish shared her Hope for Climate, presenting UN data, and leading us through an inspiring Finnish plan to avert the most catastrophic effects of global warming (including frequent pandemics!).

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, close to fifty participants joined a Zoom mini-conference, on Christians, COVID-19, and Biodiversity Loss, and on the need to protect indigenous land and water defenders, who have preserved 80% of the world's biodiversity. Special thanks to presenters Michele Rattery-Huish, Meg Graham, and Stephanie (Taddy) Stringer.

In the Cathedral's Black Lives Matter initiative, ESJAG has played only a supporting role. However, the racism-climate connection was adopted as the ecological and social justice theme for the 2020-2021 year, which began in September with The Season of Creation. During this relatively new liturgical season, which extends from Sept 1<sup>st</sup> to the Feast of St Francis (and in Canada, Thanksgiving), Christians of all denominations celebrated the beauty and bounty of creation, and committed to engage in the struggle to protect the Earth and all its creatures. Events at the Cathedral included a Virtual Harvest Festival, a Plastic Free Bathroom workshop, and a Bible study on Food. In all of these, Gabrielle Boyd was the leading force, and deserves a huge vote of appreciation. The racism-climate connection was taken up by presenters on Fair Trade, PWRDF and the Amnesty Write for Rights. We also agreed to sponsor an online A Healing of Memories workshop with Fr Michael Lapsley, to be held in the spring of this year, in collaboration with Montreal's Centre of Restorative Justice (Centre des services de justice réparatrice.)

Just before Christmas, Cathedral parishioners supported a COVID-19 Relief Fundraiser organized by the Montreal youth wing of our sister organization, Development and Peace (Développement et Paix). Members contributed nearly \$1,000 by purchasing gift boxes of artisan cheeses from the Abbey of Saint-Benoit-du-Lac.

In December, Gabrielle Boyd's Christmas Ethical Gift Catalogue, and her Stir-Up Christmas Cake baking session collaboration with Dean Bertrand helped us to end the year on a joyful note. A thousand thanks to everyone involved.

## Fair Trade

**Lisa Middlemiss**

With 2020 and the onset of the pandemic, the Cathedral fair trade kiosk transformed into a delivery format. We did not want to abandon the ministry of fair trade, part of the Ecological Social Justice Action Group (ESJAG), at this critical time when COVID-19 is threatening the livelihoods of small-scale producers and artisans around the world. Coffee, cocoa and flower producers have been among those whose livelihoods have been imperilled by the coronavirus and falling commodity prices. Fairtrade staples are available for order at [fairtrade@montrealCathedral.ca](mailto:fairtrade@montrealCathedral.ca), where people are able to access the inventory. Joseph and Lisa have been making deliveries to your door, by car, foot or bicycle.

Another challenge faced in 2020 was the closure of the Dix Milles Villages Pointe Claire location (our supplier) due to the widespread closures of most Ten Thousand Villages locations across Canada. We have since been able to order direct from certain suppliers such as Level Ground Trading (Coffees and black tea), Friendship Teas, Cha's Organics (Spices) and Zatoun (Palestinian olive oil; and Medjoul dates from Palestine, for the first time). Recently, we have been able to establish a new relationship with Ten Thousand Villages in Cobourg, Ontario, an independent board store which remains open and features a wide variety of fair trade items.

Thank you for supporting the Cathedral fair trade kiosk with your purchases throughout the pandemic. As you continue to support through your orders, we are able to expand the types and flavours of fair trade goods to fill your pantries, many of which are also organic. Instead of "Good Food" you can order "Fair Food" direct to your doorstep, with contactless delivery.

## Forum

**Edward Yankie**

Forum is the sounding board for the entire community of Christ Church Cathedral. The word "forum" originally referred to the public square of an ancient city that was a meeting place for open discussion and voicing ideas. It was also an assembly place for judicial activity and public business. And so it is with our Forum. Whether you are new to the Cathedral or have been coming for years, Forum is the best place to learn about and keep abreast of what's going on within the various groups and in the life of the church: our worship, our budget, decision-making, music, monthly lunches, Queerspace, ecological and social justice, all of it!

This year, of course, we had to meet mostly on Zoom, a challenge that was met with courage and good humour. And we bade an affectionate farewell to our co-chair Amanda Van Oort as she and her husband Steve headed west.

Everyone is welcome to Forum, but you must be a member to vote on an issue. It's easy to become a member, but then you are expected to attend. If interested, speak to the chair Edward Yankie, or to the secretaries Michel Gagnon and Noah Hermes, whose diligence and kind attention to detail keep Forum functioning.

**Hospitality**

**Vivian Lewin**

While 2019 found the Cathedral schedule chock-full of in-person food and drink, and the Cathedral Place kitchen buzzing with volunteers, 2020 saw that traditional “churchy” form of outreach and collegiality just about vanish. We hosted one quiet, much-appreciated, funeral reception in the Baptistry in late February.

In March, faced with the isolation of COVID-19, we scrambled to introduce a full array of online chat groups. Many volunteers, some new to the Zoom platform, came forward to host ten weekly check-ins or exchanges on books, social justice, travel, poetry, handicrafts, music, and more. Some of the groups thrived; some had a shorter life cycle. All offered valuable (even vital!) ways to connect personally during a challenging time. The intrepid hosts included Beth Adams, Jane Aitkens, Charley Brake, Vivian Lewin, Brenda Linn, Deborah Meister, Bertrand Olivier, James Selfe, Julia Smith-Brake, and Jonathan White. Following a decision to suspend these groups in mid-summer, the travel group re-formed as an ongoing show-and-tell. Two other groups of parishioners have continued to meet, a Monday afternoon tea & chat, and a Canadian-American discussion group.

On December 23, the eve of Catherine Riley’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Janet King and Mark Peacock organized a Zoom celebration for her with greetings from dignitaries, friends, fellow parishioners, and family members far and near. After receiving an episcopal blessing, a slide show, balloons, cake, flowers, Catherine was toasted and everyone sang Happy Birthday!

**Journées de la culture and Religious Heritage days**

**Ann Elbourne**

It was our intention to participate in the annual Journées de la culture, taking place this year for a whole month September 25 – October 25, by creating a series of online events. We had two meetings in July and August which generated excellent ideas, but finally we decided that we didn’t have enough expertise to solve the technical challenges and were in a time crunch for meeting the deadlines. Consequently, we cancelled our registration, emphasising our support of the city-wide programme and our intention to participate again when the church is fully open.

Other open house events held in 2019 also had to be cancelled, but we did put together an app for a self-guided tour of the Cathedral’s exterior which you can view on the website. This was a joint effort by Ann Elbourne, Jane Aitkens and Bertrand Olivier. There are plans for the same team to create a tour of the interior.

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

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

In the year 2020 the pandemic threw the team providing hot lunches to the needy in our downtown community into completely uncharted waters.

In January and February the team functioned as they had for over thirty years, serving hot lunches, in a sit down family style, to approximately one hundred people. To accomplish this, we relied on a large team of volunteers who set up tables, shopped and cooked nourishing substantial three course hot meals, served the food and washed the dishes afterwards. Students and their parents from Selwyn House School and Lower Canada College, along with Cathedral parishioners and others all contributed to the effort of providing “the best hot meal in the city”. The experience, for the students and their families, of meeting these people in need became an invaluable tool for true life education. Shaking hands, engaging in conversation, often overturned stereotypes. In gratitude for this experience, many of our volunteer helpers became sponsors for future lunches.

In March we went, almost overnight, from providing this needy community with a sit down lunch in a warm and sheltering Fulford Hall, ideally suitable for this kind of event, to serving this same group with bagged take out lunches in the courtyard - presented to them in a shopping cart. Of course, we now did this without our support team, as we would never endanger our helpers.

Despite some initial misgiving, we managed to carry on, with help from our faithful supporters, throughout the lockdown. We soon discovered that thick sliced slabs of home cooked ham made substantial sandwiches. In the summer months Mark Peacock and Dru Spencer and Mary Sue Gibson kindly made egg salad sandwiches as a vegetarian option.

Always we have in mind to preserve the dignity of those in need. As we were no longer able to warmly shake hands as a gesture of welcome, parish members wrote notes expressing care and good wishes. Another highlight of the lunches were the homemade cookies and squares made by Peggy Simpson and Irene Broitman, and as we returned to hot lunches, vegetarian quiches were provided by Vivian Lewin. We send out a huge thank you to those wonderfully masked helpers in the socially distanced kitchen: Deborah Meister, Carol Manning, John Mathesen and Robert King.

Special thanks also to Marjorie Sharp (who began the project over 30 years ago) who quietly guides us from a distance.

A small team managed from March to August to supply more than ample meals to anyone who made the trip to the Cathedral courtyard for a bagged cold lunch. As the cold weather loomed, we were delighted when our cook, John McLean, returned to help prepare hot take-out lunches, served in environmentally sustainable packaging. Word of John’s return brought many favourable comments from lunch participants.

## Music Committee Report

**Beth Adams**

In late February of last year, as we held final discussions for our Music Program Plan for 2020, and submitted it to Corporation, we never could have anticipated the enormous challenges and changes that were about to happen. The pandemic derailed nearly all of our carefully-considered plans for music events, fundraising, outreach, and an expansion of our educational and training program to include choral scholars as well as the organ positions that currently exist. The most important issue was far more immediate: how could we keep providing music for services that had become virtual, when the choir could not gather in-person, and we had no access to the building except for occasional use of the organ?

I am sure that Jonathan White will speak to this subject in more detail in his own report, but on behalf of the Music Committee, I want to express our enormous thanks to him for his leadership, professionalism, and willingness to step up to the task of learning entirely new technologies that have made it possible for our music program to continue at an extremely high level. Jonathan also expanded the music part of the Cathedral website, with duplicate postings on social media, making it a resource for communities and individuals far beyond our Cathedral and Montreal.

Thank you to our Assistant Organist Nick Capozzoli, who likewise has stepped gracefully and willingly into a changed role, giving us the gifts of both his world-class organ playing and his scholarship, expanding our knowledge of hymnody and the organ repertoire.

When we look back on our Cathedral's life during this extraordinarily difficult time, I am sure that the contributions of both of these young men will stand out in our memories.

Last but not at all least, thank you to the professional and volunteer members of the choir, and to our organ scholar Ethan Hill, who have willingly and enthusiastically learned how to create virtual music together so that the congregation could continue to see our faces and hear us sing in the best way that is possible under these circumstances. The production of each piece is very time consuming for each singer, and the works must be learned and performed solo, at home, without benefit of rehearsals. Only a group that is both highly skilled and maniacally dedicated could manage the quantity and quality of music that our choir has done, and I hope everyone will join with me in gratitude for what they have given, and continue to give us all.

This year has also brought a number of changes to the makeup of our committee. We were very sorry to say farewell to Veronica McDermott and Carole Therrien, both of whom have been valued members. We have been pleased to be joined by Nathalie Gagnon-Joseph, who has been a choir member at the Cathedral ever since she was a child, and we will be welcoming Angèle Trudeau, one of our professional soprano soloists, to the committee this year.

Although it is impossible to anticipate when our music program will be able to resume in anything like its former form, we know it will happen. In the meantime, we will continue to make music under these challenging conditions, and we appreciate the emotional and financial support of the parish more than we say.

**Nuit blanche**

**Cassidy VanderSchee and Ann Elbourne**

On the last Saturday in February, just before lockdown, we welcomed 3242 visitors to the Cathedral for Nuit blanche and our programme *Vers le vert / Going Green*. Most of these visitors spent quite some time in the building visiting the displays, drinking hot chocolate and listening to beautiful music. Among our visitors were members of the Montreal Bicycle Club who wrote about the evening in their blog. There are some nice photos of the Cathedral and other places they visited and this beautiful comment "All the sites of La Nuit Blanche were quite welcoming but Christ Church outdid them all serving a wonderful hot chocolate and handing everyone a lit candle"

A huge thank you to Cassidy Vanderschee who unflappably coordinated the events with skill and humour, to Carlos who organized the makers and servers of hot chocolate, to Jason McKechnie who invited some amazing artists to contribute paintings to the exhibition which he hung in the chapel, to Rob Wells who set up a striking display of vestments at the high altar, to Brenda Linn and her husband Ron who turned the Baptistry into a green garden of Eden, complete with snake, apples and a fountain in the font, to Gabrielle and Mike Boyd who made a wooden pledge tree on which people could hang a small garland of leaves as a token of their pledge to live a greener life, to Jonathan Sa'adah who produced a beautiful slide show, to Noah Hermes and Sarah Wicks who set up a cozy children's corner and to Mel and Alex for an enticing selfie station. Then huge thanks also go to the musicians who entertained the crowds all evening - Quatuor Cobalt, Choeur Ciné Jazz, the Choeur gai and, after midnight, the Nicole Arraz Jazz Trio. I hope we will get another chance to hear Evan Chamber's entrancing piece for voice and violins, "What the Trees Know" performed by a group led by violinist Erica Stuchbery. I'm sure the Choeur gai will be back again – they love performing in the Cathedral and we love their performances. A moving highlight was the monastic service of compline, led by Bertrand, sung by our robed choir under Jonathan's direction. The congregation sat enraptured, holding candles. This, one felt, is what we are all about, a place of spiritual refreshment and peace. Meanwhile people were making hot chocolate downstairs, others were acting as servers, greeters, security and MCs. And let's not forget the clean-up crew who faced a sea of mud and grit at the end of the evening. All in all Nuit blanche was a magnificent community effort. Thank you all.

**Oasis Musicale**

**Boran Zaza**

2020 was certainly a strange year and a dramatic one for the music scene. The Oasis Musicale Concert Series got to present ten concerts in 2020 between January 4th and March 7th, just before the lockdown in Montreal started. Looking at the numbers from those concerts, Oasis Musicale was not only doing great - but also progressing and attracting more audiences, more national and international artists and becoming one of the most respectable and sought-after concert series in Montreal.

Promotional videos continued to offer great visibility on social media and attract new audiences. A total of eight promotional videos were made, and they received over 7500 views. Three of the ten concerts were also live-streamed and received over 2500 views. Moreover, one concert was featured on the Global News tv channel during their morning segment.

## Christ Church Cathedral Annual Report 2020

The new business model, which was introduced in 2019, continued in 2020 and assured that Oasis Musicale was self-sufficient. To achieve that, no more ushers were hired, and for each concert, Christ Church Cathedral got a fixed payment of \$175, and the rest went to the artists. There was no concert in which the Cathedral did not get the entirety of the payment, which insured the financial health of Oasis Musicale.

2020 was also the year in which I decided to retire from my role as the series' manager after a beautiful couple of years of working at Christ Church Cathedral. It was a difficult decision, but I had to do it to make room for other challenges and adventures in my career. The pandemic hit just as the Cathedral was in the process of setting up interviews with the applicants for the newly vacant job, and the position has remained vacant ever since, as concerts had to be suspended in compliance with general health guidelines.

### **2020 (From January 4th to March 7th) in numbers:**

- Total number of concerts: 10
- Total number of attendance: 1060
- Average of attendance per concert: 106 (Growth of 13.4% compared to 2019)
- Total of audience donations: \$5901.26
- Average of audience donations per concert: \$590.126 (Growth of 18.3% compared to 2019)
- Average donation per attendant per concert: \$5.57
- Total of profit of artists: \$4151.71
- Average of profit of artists per concert: \$415.171 (Growth of 29.4% compared to 2019)
- Total cut for Christ Church Cathedral: \$1750
- Average cut for CCC per concert: A fixed amount of \$175

### **Parting reflections:**

Oasis Musicale is a unique concert series and an integral component of the cultural scene in Montreal. It fulfills a need in the sector: a place for up-and-coming musicians to perform midway between their class recitals and Maison Symphonique! For the audience, it is true bliss to have access to high-quality performances in the heart of downtown Montreal for free (or PWYC). It's truly unique how accessible this concert series is, and yet what a high quality of artists it presents.

Post-pandemic, I think that no effort should be spared to keep the concert series alive. It means a lot to many people. I remember a faithful audience member who was there every week with his wife and always donated generously. I chatted with him one time, and it turned out that he was a truck driver of modest means. He told me that he's been having a very rough time in the past year as a recovering alcoholic and that coming to Oasis Musicale on Saturdays has changed his life, and it helped him very much with his drinking problem. He even started to learn how to play the piano because of how inspired he was. I get tears in my eyes every time I think about how powerful music can be in the right context.

I hope that the next person who takes on Oasis Musicale's leadership will keep in mind that this is not just a concert series. This is a place where people connect, grow, learn, reflect, and become better humans. And for the musicians, it's a stepping stone into the world of becoming professional performers and gives them the opportunity of a real concert performed to avid music lovers, all while being supported and advised along the way.

**Pastoral Care**

**Included in Associate Priests report**

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

**Peggy Simpson**

At the end of March 2020, the AMCC (All Mothers and Children Count) program of PWRDF was scheduled to end. To take advantage of the \$6 to \$1 contribution of the Canadian government to this program, Jane and I quickly moved to send the PWRDF money on hand at the Cathedral to this cause. An explanation of the program and a breakdown of how it was allocated are available on the Cathedral website. We sent \$2300, and the government contribution augmented this to \$16100. Jane added a separate heading for PWRDF under the Social Justice and Outreach menu on the Cathedral site. Many thanks to Jane for this!

The government extended the AMCC program in a limited way in the spring of 2020. Money sent to the fight against COVID-19 would be matched \$6 to \$1. A call for donations to parishioners to donate directly to PWRDF was made in the newsletter and on the website.

The fall project for the Diocese of Montreal Chapter of PWRDF was to encourage donations to PWRDF through their World of Gifts catalogue, which offers many "green" options for giving. Thanks to Gabrielle Boyd and ESJAG for including many PWRDF World of Gift items in her Ethical, Sustainable, Environmentally Supportive and Locally Made Christmas Gift catalogue.

Will Postma, Executive Director of PWRDF, was the guest at our coffee hour after the 10:30 am service on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>. He spoke about the work of PWRDF.

Discussions of the PWRDF project for our diocesan chapter are under way. We will be supporting the Aboriginal Midwifery project of PWRDF. This is a continuation of work begun last year. The description of this program on the PWRDF website (<https://pwrdf.org/our-work/ontario-2/>) is below:

The Aboriginal Initiatives from Ryerson University is co-implementing the Indigenous Maternal Health and Midwifery Program in partnership with Kinal Antzetik in Mexico and CHIRAPAQ in Peru. During the first year of project implementation, they carried out a research about the midwifery role in the welfare of Indigenous communities in Canada. They have also developed implementing strategies for Indigenous maternal health in the three countries.

They have also developed training methodologies to train new indigenous midwives and promote recognition of knowledge and practices of indigenous and traditional midwives for the benefits of Indigenous communities. They are presently developing strategies on how to promote indigenous midwifery as a viable, available, efficient, and legitimate response to the needs on intercultural maternal health. They received and reviewing three examples of Indigenous midwifery curriculum developed by and for Indigenous learners including: Inuit midwives in Nunavik, original curriculum from Manitoba's Aboriginal Midwifery program, and two key informant interviews regarding curriculum at Six Nations midwifery centre in Ontario.

These documents and interviews are essential to begin the work of establishing an indigenous midwifery core curriculum. They have also established connections with the NACM (National Aboriginal Council of Midwives), Toronto Birth Centre, AOM (Association of Ontario Midwives) to contribute to the curriculum development.

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 \$ 1360 in 2020, with the Cathedral outreach donation of \$2000, the Cathedral sent a total of \$ 3060 to PWRDF in 2020.

## **QueerSpace**

**Noah Hermes**

Queerspace has continued to meet once a month to discuss faith, LGBTQ+ identities, and these intersections together. With the COVID-19 restrictions, our monthly meetings moved online, and though our attendance declined some, we maintained a strong core group of attendees. We discussed a wide variety of topics over the course of the year, including pride, finding God in dark places, connection, and waiting. The space has continued to be a vital space where LGBTQ+ Christians from diverse denominations, generations, and linguistic backgrounds, can come together and discern where God is reaching out to us in each of our lives. This space proved to be vital for many throughout the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to get new members who find the Cathedral through social media and Google and are an important part of the Cathedral's ministry and outreach to the LGBTQ+ community.

I have felt so blessed and honoured to be involved in this ministry, and am so grateful to get to grow with this community and witness such faithful action and vulnerability. I eagerly await the day when it is safe to gather again in-person, but am grateful that we have had the Cathedral's support and this online space together throughout what was an immensely difficult year for many.

## **Readers and Intercessors**

**Andrea Videtic**

As was true for all members of the Cathedral, 2020 was a year of change for readers and intercessors. At the outset, I want to highlight the flexibility, resilience, and willingness to adapt that was shown by the readers and intercessors this year. Despite the abrupt changes that took place, they continued to be present with commitment and enthusiasm.

Change of coordination:

In this, my third year as coordinator, I decided to step back in August 2020 due to personal reasons. At that time, Robert King graciously offered to take on coordination of readers and intercessors for a 6-month period, due to end March 2021. The transition was well managed in that Robert and I communicated about the responsibilities and the processes involved in managing the readers and intercessors. We continue to communicate when needs arise.

Change of services:

Despite the change in delivery of services from in-person to online, Robert and I maintained the same responsibilities as in previous years. We both sent weekly email messages to readers and intercessors, monitored the signing up process, recruited new readers, communicated with Elizabeth Shama and Deborah Meister for special requests, and made sure that reading and intercession needs were filled prior to all services. Of note is that we organized the sign up process such that readers were block scheduled for four to six week periods, and intercessors were block scheduled for three month periods. We believe this made planning easier for everyone. Indeed, given the change from in-person services to online ones, this approach made the transition smoother.

Change in platform:

During the time that I coordinated, we used the signup.com online platform to manage the reader/intercessor rosters. During Robert's tenure, there was a change to Breeze, which is the congregation management system now being used by the Cathedral.

Continued Mission:

Despite these changes, the mission remains one of invitation and inclusion. Along with fulfilling the weekly needs to fill spots for church services, the broader goal of welcoming new and diverse voices to the readers and intercessors continues to be the priority.

**English Book Club**

**Diana Bouchard**

The Cathedral Reading Group met nine times in 2020 plus three times in 2021 up to the end of February. With the advent of COVID-19 in mid-March 2020, the meetings continued online. All meetings were book discussions except for the January 2021 meeting, at which members read selections from some of their favorite writings. The books discussed included the following:

- Richard Wagamese, *Indian Horse*: the story of a young Ojibwa boy taken from his grandmother to residential school, where he endures horrific experiences and manifests a strong talent for hockey. He rises in the amateur and professional ranks while battling brutal racism every step of the way, before collapsing into alcoholism and having to claw his way back to a bearable life. Written by an aboriginal Canadian author, this book was the source of the movie that we watched in December 2019.
- Barbara Kingsolver, *Prodigal Summer*: set in Kingsolver's native Kentucky and oozing greenness and fertility from every pore. The book follows three stories about a mountain valley and its people. The characters come magnificently alive, as well as the nature that surrounds them. A strong ecological thrust, as with much of Kingsolver's work.
- Ian Williams, *Reproduction*: fascinating characters and peeks into lives unfamiliar to us, but the author's arcane tricks with language threw most of us off.
- Matthew Dicks, *Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend*: a masterpiece that takes the familiar childhood practice of creating an imaginary friend and uses it to take a compassionate look at the difficult life of a boy on the autistic spectrum and some of his companions that also have imaginary friends. As efforts at exploitation and manipulation press in on the boy, our own hearts were awakened, and we found the ending a happy relief.
- JK Rowling, *The Casual Vacancy*: something of a disappointment after the Harry Potter series. The characters are well drawn, but the most likeable of them dies in the first few pages. Emotionally fraught portrayal of the battle for an empty council seat in a divided community.

- Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me* and James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*: with the upsurge of Black Lives Matter, we chose to educate ourselves on the historically convoluted relationship between Black and White communities in North America. The James Baldwin book provided a no-holds-barred account of the outsider status of the U.S. Black community in the 1960s; the Coates book brought this into more recent times with the author's account of growing into a Black writer and embracing his roots in the Black community. Many things were constant between the two books, such as Black parents' fears for the safety of their children.
- Bernardine Evaristo, *Girl Woman Other*: an interweaving of touching and entertaining stories about several women exploring their gender identities and pushing the boundaries of their lives.
- Eric Dupont, *Songs for the Cold of Heart*: a long, complex novel by a Quebec author following several stories in tandem, all with roots in the remote, Church-dominated Rivière-du-Loup of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It was fun to discover how the various stories intersected over time.

The COVID-19 pandemic made it impossible to arrange a group movie night in December, but the tradition remains in our hearts and will certainly be resurrected once in-person gathering is possible again.

With the easy accessibility of Zoom, our typical attendance has risen to eight to ten people. We have a core of regulars supplemented by those with less certain availability or less catholic reading interests. We concentrate on fiction (usually recent), but venture into other areas if interest is sufficient. Suggestions for good reads are always welcome. With a goodly number of people in the room (physical or virtual), 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!

### **French Book Club**

**The Rev'd Gwenda Wells**

The first spark of this group goes back to the autumn of 2019 when a few members of the francophone community of the Cathedral dreamt of a French book club centred around books which might prompt conversation rooted in our Christian faith experience. The dream became a possibility in the spring of 2020 when the members of the community had become familiar with Zoom technology. Without this medium, our meetings would have been difficult, because of other obligations and the distance that separated us. Our dean Bertrand encouraged us, with the support of Gwenda Wells, a retired priest who had been with us at the time of the initial discussion.

In June, everybody who had signed up met for a first time to get to know one another better and to discuss our expectations and availability – in short, all the logistical aspects of the project. In July we held our first discussion, on the novel *Le sourire de la petite juive* by the Montreal author Abla Farhoud. Starting with this first meeting, several traditions emerged: with each book, we would aim to find some biblical theme that seemed to resonate with our book, and each meeting would include a moment of prayer. In this first book, our theme was 'Who is my neighbour?' The formula worked well, and everyone present was keen to continue.

## Christ Church Cathedral Annual Report 2020

In August, we followed up with *Tout ce qu'on ne te dira pas*, *Mongo* by Dany Laferrière, a somewhat philosophical tale about the mysteries of adapting to the customs of a new country – along with the differing perceptions of each generation. During this gathering we learned that one of our members hosts a radio programme in Creole right after our meetings, in which he shares something of our conversations with his listeners. So, in these difficult times, we have found a new way to become better known. As well, we were soon to discover that our group has the capacity to attract participants from Rimouski to Alabama!

Hope would become an important theme for us as our group sought to support one member, and eventually others as well, as they faced life's great challenges. Whether through comedy, as life throws a curve in a small French town (Grégoire Delancourt, *La Liste de mes envies*), or the unexpectedly profound graphic novel *Paul à Québec* (Michel Rabagliati), or the sorrows of dementia in Michel Tremblay's play *L'oratorio de Noël*, we uncovered meaning together as we pondered hope, compassion, forgiveness and redemption.

In the course of our last few sessions of 2020, the time came to say “à Dieu” to our beloved doyenne Raymonde Proulx. A doctor of French literature, an open and welcoming soul and a teacher to her final day, Raymonde was able to shape us into a group undaunted by the unknown and open to freedom of expression, always led by the light of faith. And so we raised a glass in her honour as we brought the club's first year to a close.

Already our new year has begun, with selections highly recommended by several of our members – a sign that reading leads to engaged democracy! What will 2021 hold for us? Will we continue in virtual mode or to rediscover ourselves through 'live' meetings... or perhaps some mix of the two? Along with the whole Christ Church community, we will have to wait for the prompting of the Spirit as the future unfolds.

### **Servers Report**

**George Deare**

Due to the COVID-19, the church was closed by the Government of Quebec at the beginning of March, but we still were able to celebrate our regular big services like Easter and Christmas.

We have lost two servers this year: Natasha Henderson left for the Yukon in Canada's great white North, and we also lost Amanda Van Oort who moved with her husband to California, USA, re a new job. But joining us were two new servers, Gabrielle Boyd and Stephanie Felkai, Ruby's mother - Now the first mother and daughter team in the Servers Guild's History. So now we have 11 servers still faithful to the Church, when we can get back in. They are Ruby and Stephanie Felkai, Irene Broitman, Noah Hermes, Eric Mortera, Marilyn Williams, Brock Forsberg, Faelan McEwen, Gabrielle Boyd, Elizabeth Rampersad and me, George.

In the French service, we still have as servers Diane Wood and Michel Gagnon. Moving on in the field of Ministry is Fresia Saborio now relocated in Verdun at the Church of the Epiphany. Thank you all very much for your time and faithful service to me, George, and to the Cathedral.

I would like to thank The Dean The Very Rev'd Bertrand Olivier and The Rev'd Dr Deborah Meister and The Rev'd Jean-Daniel O' Donncada for their big help with the servers guild and support for me this year.

**Social Service Society**

**Janet King**

Even COVID-19 has not stopped the work of the Society, but we have had to adapt the ways in which we work.

Income for the Last Sunday of the Month Lunches (LSML – see separate report), previously donated through Selwyn House, Lower Canada College, Centennial College, Mazon and several generous individuals, changed drastically in March 2020. Following an appeal to the parish, generous current and former parishioners stepped in to fund the sandwiches and eventually the contactless hot takeout meal which replaced the in-person set three-course meal in Fulford Hall. The Society still covers the non-food expenses every month. Other income for our projects comes from interest on the Poor Fund, interest on our investments with the Anglican Balanced Fund, and certain helpful people.

Expenses: we have maintained our financial assistance to St. Michael's Mission, and also collaborate with the Montreal City Mission of St. James United Church in their programme for underprivileged children. Food vouchers, \$25 or \$10, were provided before Christmas to L'Abri en Ville, Batshaw Family Services for teenagers ageing out of foster care, Action Refugiés, Mile End Mission, Tyndale-St. George's, the Montreal City Mission and St. Michael's Mission. These organisations distributed the vouchers to individuals known to them: this is greatly appreciated. At Christmas the Cathedral Social Service Society also gave little flowering plants with cards, usually made by the 36<sup>th</sup> Montreal Brownies, to several housebound parishioners. At Easter, when that was not possible, cards were designed and mailed. Many hours have been spent on the phone to parishioners isolated at home without internet, to maintain personal and church contacts. We also coordinated the collection of new warm socks for the homeless at the LSML in January.

We were very sad to lose Dorothy Oidi and Gloria Hall this year. Both were no longer able to attend church services in-person nor by Zoom, but members of the Society had kept contact with them and their families for a long time.

We are fortunate to have a new Treasurer, Luis Carlos Moreno Torres. Janet King has assumed the Presidency from Marjorie Sharp, who is now the Honorary President. Vera Burt is Vice-President, Helen Wiegand Secretary, and Flo Tracy, Adrian and Donna King-Edwards, and Bob King are Members at Large. We welcome anyone to assist with the Mission of the Society. New ideas are always welcome.

**Spiritual Accompaniment**

**Vivian Lewin**

Our Diocese provides ongoing opportunities for Spiritual Direction in both French and English, and four accredited and licensed Spiritual Directors are associated with the Cathedral parish: Ralph Leavitt, Vivian Lewin, Deborah Meister, and Diane Wood. Any of them can refer you to a qualified and trustworthy companion for your spiritual journey—or answer specific questions about how such conversations can help along the way.

**Website**

**Jane Aitkens**

Cathedral Website: <https://www.montrealCathedral.ca/>

2020 was quite a busy year for the website! Several [new pages](#) were created to help parishioners stay connected during the initial lockdown in March. Zoom events for services and chat rooms were added to the [calendar](#) and constantly refreshed and revised as situations changed. The [Daily Bread](#) blog was created and then a [Music](#) one. The weekly intercession sheet, normally only seen by the service officiants, is now available to all on the website as [Prayers for the Week](#). When we were allowed to conduct Sunday in-person services at the end of September, a system of online registration was developed. [Sermons](#) from Zoom services allowed us to offer video sermons on Facebook, which were then linked to from the website.

Our BLM banner was added to the front page of the website in June and our Territorial Acknowledgement in November.

Here are the viewing statistics for the past two years. Our busiest month was April, right after COVID-19 struck (usually it is December).



The most popular day, as always, was Sunday. The most popular time in 2020 was 10 am (the previous year, it was 3 pm).

The Cathedral is also on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchMTL>

The Cathedral on Twitter and Instagram: @ChristChurchMTL

**Welcome Committee**

**Michele Rattray-Huish**

There were no meetings convened of the Welcome Committee in 2020 as a direct result of the advent of COVID-19 at the beginning of 2020, and the consequent physical closure of the Cathedral, and movement to Zoom services and activities.

With the movement to Zoom, new members have been able to meet others more directly, face-to-face, which has facilitated them being welcomed directly by the Cathedral community.

All parishioners have now been entered into the Cathedral's administrative system 'Breeze', which enables the Cathedral to contact persons and keep any records in an easily accessible manner.

We hope that in a post-COVID-19 world we will be able to welcome newcomers in person in a specially planned event.