

Dear Friend of the Cathedral

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye this Sunday to Jonathan White, our Director of Music.



At choir practice



We have been enriched, not just by his music, but by his writing, preaching and spiritual ministry. One memorable event was the joyful Sing-Along-Messiah in 2018, conducted by Jonathan, pictured here.

If you would like to contribute to a farewell gift to Jonathan, you can send an etransfer to accounting@montrealcathedral.ca Be sure to indicate that the donation is for Jonathan's gift.

A warm welcome to Nick Capozzoli who will take over the job of Director of Music.

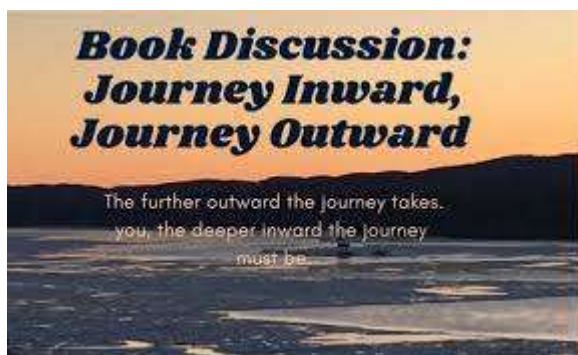
Reminders!

I need reminders to do things – and I expect that's true for many of you. So, if you haven't yet bought your ticket to **Blessings from the Pandemic**, here's a reminder that it's happening tonight at 7:30 pm and here's the link for getting a ticket. <https://app.simplyk.io/ticketing/691fe9b2-2a23-4576-9d09-794f28448883>

The programme starts at 7:30pm with music for cello and piano played by Joseph Hafner and Paul Helmer. Michel Gagnon has put together a great pre-performance slide show about the spire which will take us into our performance of Rich Orloff's creative reflections. Rich will be in the audience and you'll have an opportunity to ask him questions at the end of the evening.

Here's another reminder from last week's letter: You can have **Fair Trade**, biodegradable dental floss delivered to your front door by Joseph or Lisa. Email fairtrade@montrealcathedral.ca to place your order for this and other items listed here https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/0/d/1RMenh5mth8204T6DQmq5IAPzUN38SiatEn4iXwMb69c/htmlview?urp=gmail_link&gxids=7628#gid=0

And a third reminder with an update: Deborah is hosting a **book group** studying *Journey Inward, Journey Outward*, by Elizabeth O'Connor which describes how the Church of the Savior in Washington, D.C. found ways to significantly reduce poverty and relieve suffering among its neighbors. The group will meet online Monday nights at 7:00 pm, starting May 10th, for 3-4 weeks. For the first meeting the focus will be on Chapters 1 – 3.



The Cathedral reading group is postponing its discussion of *Butter, Honey, Pig Bread* by Francesca Ekwuyasi which was to have been held this Sunday. It's a book to read and chew over in a leisurely manner so we are offering readers more time. Do join us on May 30!

This is Volunteer Appreciation Week – which basically means we should appreciate the entire Cathedral community – but the Social Service Society would like to thank one particular volunteer who has been an enormous support to the monthly lunch outreach. Adrian and Donna wrote:

Christ Church Cathedral's Last Sunday of the Month Lunch has been sponsored by Selwyn House School twice a year for almost 25 years. The Cathedral community owes a huge debt of gratitude to Carol Manning, who recently retired from Selwyn House School, for coordinating this generous support during all this time. Even during the pandemic she is still coming in to help us fill the take out bags. In normal times Carol comes every month with 10-15 student and parent teams to help serve the sit down lunch. After participating in the lunch these parents often ask if they too could sponsor a lunch. Our Cathedral community abounds in quiet little miracles. Our relationship with Selwyn House School which has been so generously fostered by Carol certainly qualifies as one.



Ready to receive guests at the Last Sunday Lunch (before the Pandemic)

It was a great delight this week to receive a contribution from some new(ish) parishioners.

A Springtime Note from Julia, Charlie, Saméa (9) and Éloïse (6) Smith-Brake

We started attending Christ Church Cathedral in February 2020, having returned to Canada in January from abroad. Both Saméa and Éloïse were born in Montreal but grew up from infancy overseas, first in Cambodia (2012-2018) and then the Solomon Islands (2018-2019). Of course, the repatriation transition has become intertwined with COVID-19, and we were only able to attend three or four Christ Church Cathedral services before we went online. The kids enjoyed the online Sunday School hosted by Montreal Dio and we've tried to attend the other kids' events hosted by the Diocese or the Cathedral. After a year of waves of virtual engagement, we were so thankful to be able to attend the Cathedral's Easter service in person.



Saméa and Éloïse enjoyed dressing up, meeting Bishop Mary, picking their favourite stained glass window, and asking questions about liturgical colours and words. A most special moment for us was Éloïse took communion for the first time.

We also celebrated spring with some nature exploration, and Saméa (always full of creative ideas!) transformed a found tree mushroom into an Easter diorama! Although the pandemic has made our entry into this new community slow, we are so thankful to be part of the Cathedral family. Happy Easter season!



Thank you so much Julia, Charlie, Saméa and Éloïse for sharing your memories.

I hope that many more readers will be inspired to send a contribution. Your pictures and writing are what makes the newsletter special in a time when we can't meet the way we used to.

It's also good to remember past Cathedral members who have been an important part of our community.

- We send good wishes and prayers to Ben, Erica and Charlie Stuchbery as they make a temporary move to Toronto, where Ben will start a hospital chaplaincy training programme before his anticipated ordination in the fall.
- Donald Hunt, a former Assistant organist at the Cathedral and now Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver, will be featured with the Victoria Symphony on-line on April 29th (also available on YouTube until May 28th). He will play Poulenc's Concerto for organ with the Victoria Symphony Orchestra. Concert Sixteen: Poulenc Organ Concerto - Victoria Symphony Canada

Spring deserted us this week. Elizabeth's pictures show us what happened to her lilac tree which was about to burst into flower. (Could this be a metaphor for Cathedral life?) Hopefully it (and we) will survive!



Let's forget the snow, and enjoy the end of April, feeling thankful for the strength of our community in these difficult times.

Ann Elbourne,
with thanks to Elizabeth, Marie-Claire and all the contributors.
April 23, 2021