



Dear Friend of the Cathedral

The Cathedral is gradually reopening and waiting for people to venture safely inside. It is now able to welcome up to 100 people to a service. There are pews for 46 bubbles, each directed into a safe pew like the one in the picture. You still need to register for the 10:30 am service, but not for 8:00 am or 9:00 am.

### Monday, June 21, is the National Indigenous Day of Prayer.

There will be a short candle ceremony and prayer of contrition at the beginning of all three services on Sunday morning.

We have been thinking particularly about the mistaken policy which caused the tragedy of the Residential Schools. Possible responses by the Cathedral were discussed at Forum on Tuesday. Brenda Linn, on behalf of ESJAG is suggesting two actions we can all take while we continue to pray for those affected, and to hold them in our hearts.

1. We can be learners by watching and meeting to reflect on the Anglican Church of Canada's award-winning film, *The Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts*.

Brenda will share the film on Zoom, beginning at 5:30 pm, and will open the discussion at 7:00 pm. If you would prefer, you can join the group for a time of reflection, after watching the film on your own.

<https://www.anglican.ca/primate/tfc/drj/doctrineofdiscovery/>

I urge you all to watch this excellent and balanced film. You might like to look at the study guide which accompanies the film, especially if you can't be part of the discussion. Copy and paste: Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen lands, Strong Hearts - The Anglican Church of Canada

The Doctrine of Discovery – that North America was empty land, there for the taking - has been condemned by the Anglican Church and other churches, but has never been renounced by the Federal Government. It remains the basis for Canadian law and as such continues to impact Indigenous Peoples. The movie is a good opportunity to inform ourselves about this issue and its consequences.



**Meeting June 21, 5:30pm zoom link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84091154699?pwd=OHVSWWhMN2NGZisrSHITZHRCU0lhZz09>

2. We can take action to show support and solidarity, particularly in the effort to stop the ongoing violence against indigenous children and their families, by being a witness at the court proceedings that are currently underway, as the government of Canada challenges the indigenous Child and Family Caring Society in court. Members of the public can register to view the webcast of the hearings free of charge. You can attend all the hearings, or simply listen for a few minutes. Either way, by registering, you are standing in solidarity with indigenous children.

<https://www.fctcf.gc.ca/en/court-files-and-decisions/hearings-calendar>

Here's an additional suggestion. You can use a litany developed by the Primate's Commission on the Doctrine of Discovery, Justice and Reconciliation for use in community settings.

I am quoting here the opening lines and a few extracts, finishing with the final prayer. Please do find the complete litany and add it to your meditations. Indigenous and non-indigenous people are talking to each other. <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/LITANY-We-are-still-here.pdf>

#### We Are Still Here

**Indigenous:** We are still here, on Turtle Island, placed by the Creator.

**Non-Indigenous:** Some of us came seeking home, displaced or persecuted.

**Indigenous:** And we were here, diverse nations, many peoples—at home.

**Indigenous:** We believed we could live side by side, two boats in the same river.

**Non-Indigenous:** We could only imagine you becoming like us.

**Indigenous:** You spoke benefit but brought harm

**Non-Indigenous:** Trying to dissolve you into our image.

**Indigenous:** You brought unspeakable pain

**Non-Indigenous:** Abuses of power, holding tight to a sense of superiority.

**Indigenous:** You took our children from us

**Non-Indigenous:** Breaking sacred bonds of kinship.

**Indigenous:** Your gospel of love distorted by hate.

**Non-Indigenous:** How could we have been so wrong?

**Indigenous:** Your ways tried to break us.

**Non-Indigenous:** But still you rise.

**Indigenous:** Your vision tried to disappear us.

**Non-Indigenous:** But still you stand.

**Indigenous:** We are resilience and strength.

**Non-Indigenous:** We are beginning to understand.

**Indigenous:** We are coming home to our traditions.

**Non-Indigenous:** We still seek home, but now alongside and with you.

**Indigenous:** You are facing this truth.

**Non-Indigenous:** We are listening, unlearning, and learning anew.

**Indigenous:** Stand beside us in acts of justice.

**Non-Indigenous:** Receive our contrition, embodied in solidarity.

**Indigenous:** May the Creator's plan

**Non-Indigenous:** For right relation in this place

**All:** Finally come to be. Amen

#### More learning opportunities.

Peggy Simpson, our PWRDF representative recommends two webinars from PWRDF

1. A Light for Every Birth on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, 1:00 pm, which describes an effort to bring electric light in a suitcase to clinics and birthing centres in rural Mozambique.
2. The Canadian Foodgrains Bank Partnership, Tuesday, July 13, 2021, 1:00 pm, concerning a coalition of 15 churches and church agencies whose goal is to end global hunger. You will find more information here <https://pwrdf.org/webinars/>



Luke Brown

You might have seen this video of 35 Truro choristers singing ‘Gee Seven’, which was specially written by Sir Tim Rice and Peter Hobbs to celebrate the recent G7 meetings in Cornwall. The song begins by exploring the theme of the number seven throughout history before shifting in tone to urge global dialogue and care of the ‘not so fortunate’ – ending with a single young chorister pointedly telling G7 leaders to do as they ask: “Or we’ll run you out of town.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2fUdLvSa3k> - or for commentary as well as the recording

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/stories-and-features/childrens-choir-steals-hearts-and-packs-punch-bid-focus-g7>

## News about People.

**Georgie Clark**, a student at St George’s School, and daughter of Victoria Kortés Papp and Rodney Clark, has won second prize for Grade 6 in the McEntyre Writing Competition for students who go to school in Westmount, belong to the library or live there. This year the students were asked to write a creative story, poem or essay about how a small act can make a big difference in a community. 1195 students from 10 schools entered, so Georgie’s win is a huge achievement.



Two of Georgie’s favourite activities



Anor, the heroine of Georgie’s story, is an avid reader.

*Tous les jours elle visitait la bibliothèque après ses tâches à la maison. Cette bibliothèque était la seule dans leur village, car les livres étaient rares. Anor aimait beaucoup quand elle avait la salle de lecture juste pour elle. Elle lisait pendant des heures, sans être dérangée. On pouvait la voir jour après jour, son petit corps penché au-dessus d’un roman, ses cheveux noirs dans ses yeux.*

After meeting an author called Ezra she dreams of becoming a writer, but her family can’t afford paper and pencils so she goes down to the beach.

*Elle commença à écrire dans le sable. Anor savait bien que le papier coûtait cher, alors elle commença comme ça. Malheureusement, son premier essai n’avait aucun sens: L’elfe qui marchait, le dragon dans les montagnes, le livre, et la magie? Anor ne savait pas contrôler ses grandes idées. Mais pour la petite fille qui avait de gros rêves, c’était un début. Avec un geste de sa main, elle effaça son travail. Avec une grosse respiration, elle recommença.*

I wish I had space to include the whole of Georgie’s story, with its inspiring ending, but you can read her entry to find out how Anor achieves her dream, on the Westmount Library website.

[https://westlib.org/iguana/uploads/file/2021\\_McEntyreGagnants2.pdf](https://westlib.org/iguana/uploads/file/2021_McEntyreGagnants2.pdf)

The newsletter apologises to **Marjorie**. The little bird who told me about Marjorie’s birthday June 18, lit upon the wrong chronological branch. Marjorie is MUCH younger than we suggested. Happy birthday, Marjorie. You seem eternally young to the rest of us.

**Joel Amis**, former Cathedral parishioner and currently the Incumbent at Christ Church Beaurepaire, has a moment of fame coming in 2022 – or at least, his hands will have. They are pictured on the cover of the 2022 Anglican Church Calendar being anointed by the bishop during ordination in 2019. Robert Camara is holding the chrism. The photo was taken by Janet Best.



**Jeffrey Mackie**, also a former parishioner and currently a newly ordained parish priest in Dawson City, has shared with us a photograph of a beautiful stole, a gift from his parish, which was made for him by one of his parishioners, Shirley Penell. It is made of velvet and pictures nature in the Yukon.

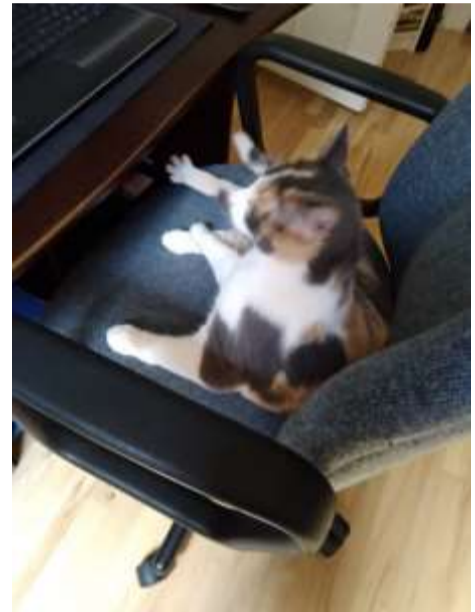
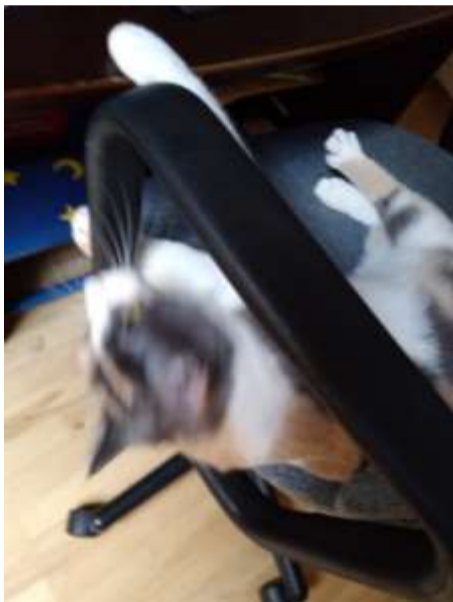






Brenda Linn is donating flowers this week to the glory of God and in loving memory of her father, **John Russell Linn**, who died on June 20th, 1975. This beautiful Iris commemorates him.

As you know, many people help assemble this weekly letter. Here is my assistant sub-editor pondering the next paragraph.



Then taking a well-earned stretch-break

Finally, here's another piece of good news: On Wednesday afternoon the Senate passed Bill C 15, a landmark piece of federal legislation aimed at harmonizing Canada's laws with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Many members of the cathedral community signed petitions wrote letters and made phone calls urging the Senate to pass this bill.



Ann Elbourne,

with thanks to all collaborators, particularly this week to Brenda Linn and Georgie Clark, and as always to Elizabeth Shama and Marie-Claire Fournier.

June 18, 2021