

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

Here we are at the beginning of a long, hot, relaxed summer, delighting in the permission to reconnect with friends and family. However, most church activities are on holiday while we refresh our energies, so the newsletter too will be on hiatus until the end of August, with a possible letter in late July to remind us of Pride events. This week's letter is a bumper issue which you can read at your leisure over the next few weeks. Please be sure to read the profile of a special member of our community in the last part of the newsletter.

### First, three notes from the Dean:

- **Livestreaming option**

From this Sunday, we will start to Livestream our three Sunday morning services on YouTube as well as continuing to use Zoom for now. You will be able to reach our YouTube channel at [www.montrealcathedral.ca/live/](http://www.montrealcathedral.ca/live/)

It would be helpful if you could subscribe to the channel and 'like' it. This would not only mean that you would be informed when new livestreams are starting or videos are being added if you wish, but it will also give the cathedral additional options for running the channel. Archival videos of previous services, evensongs, music and other educational material will be kept there, as will sermons.

- **Survey**

Thank you to all who completed the survey. This is now closed. We are working on analysing the data collected and will be in touch with those who have agreed to take part in small group discussions over the coming weeks.

- **Spam**

There seems to be an increase in spam messages using fake accounts pretending to be the Bishop, the Dean or the Head Verger (and possibly others). When a request looks odd, please always check the email address of the sender before replying. No member of staff of the Cathedral will contact you asking for quick discreet financial favors. If you are in any doubt, please contact the cathedral office.

### ... And two invitations from Deborah

- The Contemplative Group meets once a month online at 6:00 pm. The summer meetings are on July 13th and August 10th. Deborah suggests that summer may be the perfect time to try this time of quiet prayer and meditation. If you have no experience with contemplative prayer this is a perfect way to begin. All are welcome to attend. You'll find the zoom links in the website calendar. <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/events-calendar/>
- Looking well ahead the Diocesan anti-racism taskforce is inviting us to attend **Confronting the past, looking to the future: The church's role in creating systemic racism and what can be done about it**, a workshop by Dr. Myrna Lashley of McGill, to be offered the evening of October 1st and morning of October 2nd. Dr. Lashley, who has been awarded the 2006 Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Award for Holocaust studies; the 2004 Martin Luther King legacy award; and the 1995 Merit Award for the Kahnawake Native survival school, has helped organizations as diverse as the police and education system work towards a culture which truly includes all.

### Next, news from Adrian about last Sunday's lunch for people in need

Dear Supporters of the Lunch,

We are delighted to announce that a member of the congregation has just generously given us a deluxe food processor which will make us faster and more efficient in the kitchen particularly when we eventually resume our sit-down large lunches in Fulford Hall. John McLean is very pleased.

John served ham, carrots, potatoes and gravy along of course with Peggy's famous cookies and a brownie. We had quite a rush of people at 10 when we started serving. The most frequent question I get at the door when I am giving out the lunches, which always leads to disappointment, is whether I am a priest. There is definitely a longing for more than I can provide. Fortunately, Bertrand and Deborah have recently decided to help us alternate months. This Sunday was Bertrand's turn. I immediately suggested that he give out the lunches. Many of our clients expressed great pleasure at seeing him. Several of them crossed themselves, many chatted with him and one knelt down and received a blessing. His concern for them was obvious and very appreciated. For this small gift we are indeed grateful.

Thanks for your support.

This month's team: Bertrand, Peggy, Carol, Carlos, Donna and Adrian  
Our sponsor was a Cathedral member who wishes to remain anonymous.

### Combating racism – seeking reconciliation

We have been raising prayers for members of First Nations devastated by the reopening of old wounds created by the residential schools. When Cowessess First Nation Chief Cadmus Delorme was asked by CBC interviewer Ian Hanomansingh about the suggestion to cancel Canada Day he replied,



Chief Delorme

"I would never tell somebody what to and what not to celebrate. ... Nobody today created residential schools. Nobody today created the Indian Act. Nobody today created the Sixties Scoop. But we all inherited this. And if we want to say we're proud Canadians, then we will accept the beautiful country we have today, and we will accept what we all inherited. And what I would challenge is: Everybody on Canada Day in this country, if you say you're a proud Canadian, read the Truth and Reconciliation 'Calls to Action.' Over 100,000 residential school survivors told their story - including my parents - and they created the Truth and Reconciliation 'Calls to Action.' Bring that into your personal life, your social life, your business life. And read the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls 'Calls to Action.' There's 231 Calls to Action. If we can all own those a little bit in this country, in one generation we would overcome so many challenges today, that our next generation won't inherit this." Read the calls to action in this document

[http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/Executive\\_Summary\\_English\\_Web.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/Executive_Summary_English_Web.pdf)

You can also visit our website <https://montrealcathedral.ca/truth-and-reconciliation>

**Amnesty International**, an organisation which the Cathedral supports, mainly through the letter-writing campaign, is offering a way to send a message to the federal government demanding justice and accountability for Indigenous Peoples. ESJAG urges you to take a look, saying that the letter is worth reading for the information it contains, as well as being worth signing for the difference it can make to indigenous lives  
<https://takeaction.amnesty.ca/page/83894/action/>



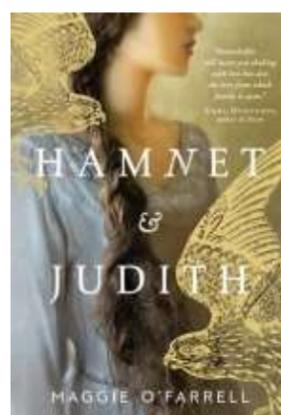
On June 18 I printed part of a Responsive Litany created by the Primate's Commission on the Doctrine of Discovery, Justice and Reconciliation which was affirmed at Walpole Island First Nation, April 2018. You can find the whole litany here to use in your private prayers.  
<https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/LITANY-We-are-still-here.pdf>

**The Montreal Anglican Anti-Racism Taskforce**

Racism raises its ugly head in many ways. I urge you to visit the website below to see how the special task force, chaired by Edward Yankie and Dion Lewis, is tackling this painful issue in a Montreal context. The task force has created a Facebook group, Montreal Anglicans for Racial Justice and Equity "to share information, resources and events and to support one-another in rooting out racism in ourselves, our churches and our world." You can join it by going to the website.  
<https://www.montreal.anglican.ca/antiracism-task-force>

**A good book for summer reading**

The Cathedral's book group is reading *Hamnet and Judith* by Maggie O'Farrell, during July, to be discussed over zoom on Sunday, July 25 at 7 pm. The CBC called it "A luminous portrait of a marriage, a shattering evocation of a family ravaged by grief and loss, and a hypnotic recreation of the story that inspired one of the greatest literary masterpieces of all time, *Hamnet & Judith* is mesmerizing and seductive, an impossible-to-put-down novel from one of our most gifted writers." Hamnet and Judith's father is, of course, William Shakespeare.



From time to time I write about a member of the cathedral community, sadly too often after they are no longer with us. This week we are profiling a pillar of the Cathedral who is very much still with us –

**George Deare**



George Deare, head server and Dean's verger, seen here carrying the verge in procession, leading Dean Bertrand and Bishop Mary down the aisle after Bertrand's induction.

One of the joys of the Cathedral's reopening for Sunday services is seeing George Deare back at the altar, serving the clergy, as he has been doing since his confirmation by Bishop Dixon in 1962. He served for five years before he was awarded his red ribbon and appointed head server by Dean Shepherd.

One of the first things George did was to reduce the probation period to one year. Apart from a three-year break from 2016 to 2019, when he had to step down for health reasons, George has been recruiting, training and organising the altar servers since 1967. Every server is given a nickname, and George reckons he must have created two thousand nicknames!

Adele Miles was the first girl to become a server. She was later ordained and became a canon ministering in Ontario. My two daughters were also servers, and like all the other young people in his charge they adored and respected George. This was the time when there were many young families in the Cathedral congregation. The boys sang in the choir and the girls became servers. Nowadays the servers are mostly adults. George remembers that he, Adele and Keith Wills organised a youth group and took the kids camping.

George with Brock, preparing for a service.



George as Dean's verger, leading a flock of clergy down the aisle after Paul Kennington's farewell service.

And making a speech about Paul at the party afterwards.



George was born in Montreal and has always lived here. His first job was as a dishwasher in the basement of Eaton's, then a large department store opposite the Cathedral. After a while he began working in the bakery upstairs, loading the shelves, until there was an opening for a full time baker. He had no training, simply learned on the job working with the European cooks who staffed the kitchen. He remembers often taking a coffee break at 3 am and gazing down at the deep pit being excavated under the Cathedral – a memorable sight. He worked as a baker at Eaton's for 25 years until the store was closed down. Some of us will remember the enormous cakes he produced for Cathedral celebrations. After the bakery he spent 20 years acting as security for McGill student residences. George just loves working with young people!



George was also involved in scouting for many years. He became a scout aged 11, joining the troop at Tyndale St George's. When he was 18 he became Assistant Leader at Trinity Memorial, and then five years later moved to be the leader of the First Westmount troop based at Roslyn School. This was the time when Maggie Shaddick became the first woman District Commissioner.

George is proud of the fact that he has served under six Deans – Barry Valentine, Ron Shepherd, Andrew Hutchison, Michael Pitts, Paul Kennington and Bertrand Olivier and six bishops – John Dixon, Kenneth Maguire, Reginald Hollis, Andrew Hutchison, Barry Clark and Mary Irwin-Gibson. I suspect each one of them knew who was the real boss at the Cathedral! George has good memories of all these people. He remembers how Bishop Hollis caught a fainting server up at the high altar during an Easter service. His favourite memory is the visit of The Queen and Prince Philip to a Sunday service during the Montreal Olympic Games in 1976. Indeed, who could forget that service with secret service men masquerading as choirmen up in the Chancel. The fact they weren't singing was a bit of a giveaway!

And we are all proud of George. He has been recognized three times for his service to the Cathedral and to the community at large.

In 1992 he was awarded one of the medals commemorating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation. The medal honoured Canadians who had made a significant contribution to their fellow citizens, to their community or to Canada.

In 1987 George was honoured with the Dean's Award and in 2014 he received the Bishop's award for his service to the cathedral and the Diocese.



In these two pictures you can see him in 2014, surrounded by some of his servers, past and present. The box he is holding contains letters of appreciation from some past servers who couldn't be there for the celebration. Both pictures were taken by Janet Best.



Pancake party 2013

Scout leader – head server – that's not all. George often steps up to help out the verger staff, particularly at open houses like Nuit blanche. He regularly attends Forum, making suggestions and asking questions. He goes shopping for the people organising hospitality, he provides enormous cakes for special events, and he and his servers cook mountains of pancakes and sausages for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

When George was interviewed for the Montreal Anglican newspaper in 2014, he said:

***“The Guy Upstairs had plans for me so I would stay out of trouble. If it weren't for the Lord's doing, where would I be?”***

And if it weren't for George's faithful service, where would we be?

***Thank you, George, on behalf of the whole Cathedral community.***

(And by the way, George is looking for new servers – adults or children - to replace the young people who have recently moved out of Montreal)

Have a very happy summer everyone. Like many of you, I'm looking forward to being back in the Cathedral building, finally able to join our worship in person.

Thank you to all the contributors to the newsletter this week and a big thank you to George for sharing his story with us. Elizabeth will be taking a well-deserved holiday in August. Meanwhile thank you to Elizabeth and Marie-Claire for putting the finishing touches to this edition.

Ann Elbourne  
July 2, 2021

PS Don't forget to keep up your financial contribution to the Cathedral during the summer holiday. Expenses don't go away and the spire is still covered in scaffolding, even if the sun is shining! Our treasurer, Jane Aitkens, is very grateful to the community for its generous support. You can reach her at: [treasurer@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:treasurer@montrealcathedral.ca)

- ✓ To make a donation to the Cathedral click here: [Cathedral](#)
- ✓ To make a donation to the Spire restoration project click here: [Spire](#)

