

Dear Friend of the Cathedral

Sunday this week is special. We will be joining in worship, as many as possible, reuniting in the cathedral building, to celebrate back to church Sunday. During the morning choral services our two new organists will be commissioned, and we will officially welcome Dr Nicholas Capozzoli as our Director of Music. An octet of musicians from the cathedral choir will be singing at the 10:30 service and the full choir will sing Evensong at 4pm. Please register for the 10:30 service <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/in-person-services-at-the-cathedral/> You can just turn up for the French Eucharist, 8 am service and Evensong.



As a special inducement, there will be ice cream sandwiches and sundaes served on the forecourt after both the 9 am and 10:30 am services!

We have all been impatient to hear our wonderful choir again. There will be returning members, but also three new singers, recipients of Patrick Wedd Choral Scholarships. Nick explains:

Hopefully by now, you have heard of the inaugural Patrick Wedd Choral Scholarship. For decades, Christ Church has supported organ scholars who gain valuable on-the-job training as church musicians. I'm very happy to extend this to our choir. This is our parish's opportunity to introduce young people to Anglicanism and its music. It is another form of evangelization, education, and nurturing the next generation of church musicians. Choral scholars will sing at various times during the year, with our choir and on their own. This scholarship is funded by the Patrick Wedd Music Fund and is financial aid to students' cost of studies. If you would like to support them and ensure the growth of this new programme, donate safely here: <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/music/patrick-wedd-music-fund/>

Our three choral scholars are all McGill University students:



Eva Hassell is from Ottawa and is pursuing a bachelor's in viola.



Simon Poirier is from Montreal, studied French horn, and he is now studying agricultural



Esther-Ruth Teel is from Victoria and is a graduate organ student.

Sunday afternoon sees the end of our two-day participation in the open houses organised by Le Patrimoine religieux. There will be some displays and handouts and a new tour of the interior of the cathedral building which you will eventually be able to follow on your phone. Jane Aitkens is putting a version on the website which should be available soon. Do take a look and refresh your memory of all the interesting things to see in the cathedral. Diana Bouchard is still looking for volunteers to welcome visitors. So do volunteer, or drop by as a visitor yourself. The displays will be up until mid afternoon Sunday. Go to our website's special page to read all about the event: [https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/event/journees-du-patrimoine-religieux/?event\\_date=2021-09-11](https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/event/journees-du-patrimoine-religieux/?event_date=2021-09-11)

Wednesday evening saw another glorious ordination in the cathedral when two of our former very active parishioners, Fresia Saborio and Ben Stuchbery were ordained deacons and Susan Searle was ordained priest. Fresia will be serving a parish in Granby, Ben in Hudson. The service was simpler, and the congregation perforce smaller, than ordination in normal times. Our choir sang from the organ loft. Their music included settings of the Sanctus and the Agnus Dei composed by Nick Capozzoli. If you get a chance do listen to William Blizzard's inspiring sermon when it's posted on the internet.





Welcoming the newly ordained, Bishop Mary with Fresia, Susan and Ben

After the service ended the congregation spilled onto the forecourt. Laughter, cries of delighted recognition and elbow bumps demonstrated the joy with which people were reuniting. Here are a couple of snapshots taken by Rhonda on her phone. I hope to have more pictures next week, especially of Fresia and her presenters. If you have a picture you'd like included, please email it to me, [ann.elbourne@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:ann.elbourne@montrealcathedral.ca)



Rhonda and Amy, former Cathedral priests, with Ben



Ben with his presenters, Ann and Rhonda

On Wednesday morning four of our parishioners participated in a "Canada is on Fire" rally in Girouard Park in NDG. I hope to have more pictures next week, taken by the man in the mask.



Meanwhile, there are many ways you can celebrate the Season of Creation and learn more about the challenges the created world is facing as climate change continues to advance. Here are some suggestions from members of ESJAG, the cathedral's Ecological and Social Justice Action Group



Michelle Rattray has received an invitation from Esther Figueroa, the Jamaican film maker of *Fly Me to the Moon*, a movie which ESJAG members watched as a group last year. Between September 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> the Global Extraction Film Festival is presenting four film programs with over 150 documentaries and shorts from over 40 countries, including a special focus on the Americas, which highlight the social and environmental impacts of extractive industries across the planet. The programmes are streamed free online worldwide. Follow the link [Global Extraction Film Festival 2021 Caribbean Creativity](#) to discover the programmes. Two of interest might be Focus on the Americas and Animal/ Human Studies



Brenda Linn reminds us that this is Week 2 of Kairos' Climate Action month - 5 weeks, 5 themes, a month of learning and taking action, September 1 – 30. Go to [2021 Climate Action Month - KAIROS Canada](#) for some interesting articles and suggestions for actions we can take as individuals to combat climate change.

Taddy Stringer has sent us an important announcement featured in the UN Climate Change News, 8 September 2021 – For the first time, the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Anglican Communion, Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby, have jointly warned of the urgency of environmental sustainability, its impact on poverty, and the importance of global cooperation.



In a joint statement, the Christian leaders have called on people to pray for world leaders ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 in November in Glasgow, which is the most important meeting of its kind since the Paris Agreement was adopted in 2015.

The following link will take you to the statement and lead you to several other articles: <https://unfccc.int/news/religious-leaders-issue-joint-appeal-ahead-of-cop26>





Next week, as part of Climate Action Month, Kairos will explore decolonization and Indigenous rights, both fundamental elements of climate justice. On the topic of Indigenous rights, I recommend the book *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdich which the cathedral's book group will discuss on October 3 at 7pm over zoom.

Image of *The Night Watchman* from the New York Times

## A reminder of two Tuesday events

- ✓ September 14 at 6pm Contemplative Prayer
- ✓ September 21 at 5pm Cathedral Forum

You can find links to all services and events on the web page

<https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/events-calendar/>

Back in June Veronica McDermott, a former Cathedral parishioner who moved to Calgary a year ago with her husband Jim to be nearer family, wrote to tell us about some of her adventures. She says that culturally and linguistically life is very different in Calgary. I wish there was space to include the whole letter, but I'm reprinting some extracts.

*Here are some of the takeaways from a year of trying to adjust to life in Cow Town.*

*At our local Canadian Tire store fish and hunting licenses are obtained at the desk in the fishing and hunting section. Don't recall that section in the Canadian Tire at Alexis Nihon. More importantly (in case the need arises), you cannot return bear spray. Given the number of grizzly bear attacks reported in the papers recently, I suspect bear sprays may not be very effective.*

*Oh, and by the way, in addition to the hares that roam our streets and alleyways on a daily basis, there are coyotes. Several people were bitten recently in the neighborhood where Mairi and Marlon used to live before they moved closer to civilization. Although we can see the Calgary Tower, the Saddledome and downtown Calgary from our houses, that does not stop the wildlife from coming. Just a few days ago while I was reading on our front porch and Mairi and the kids were on theirs playing games, a deer wandered by, helping himself to tasty morsels from neighbors' gardens and getting very close to me, before Mairi alerted me to look over my shoulder. Haven't seen any bobcats recently, but we know they are near!!!*

*In Montreal, every other street (no maybe, EVERY street) was named Saint something or other. Here we have trails: Blackfoot, Crowchild, Deerfoot. Then there are the hiking trails like the Douglas Fir Trail that the city no longer maintains because they were always having to redo the trails due to run off. Trees and trails apparently disappeared on a regular basis, since the trail climbs a huge escarpment along the river. Of course, a group of volunteers decided THEY could do what the city couldn't, so it is now open and managed by this group. However, no one told me that they do not always repair the large roping system hikers use to haul themselves up the many steep inclines. Going down was not substantially easier - with or without the ropes. Nor did I understand that "trail" sometimes means that to get around you have to use tree roots and the tiniest footholds dug out of somewhat unstable hills. Finally, thanks to my guide, I learned that the best way to traverse the streams we came across was NOT to try to balance. Instead, the safest strategy is to barrel through and not worry about getting your feet wet. Who knew? Oh how I long for a stroll along the Lachine Canal, window shopping on St. Catherine Street or meandering through neighborhoods that extend beyond two blocks.*



Douglas Fir Trail, Calgary

*The writer Will Ferguson captured the flavor of Calgary. Like Montreal, construction is never ending. The difference is that preservation is not an issue. Instead, he described Calgary as an "etch-a-sketch" city. Buildings are here today and gone tomorrow.*

*Jim is still awaiting hip surgery, but thanks to his exercise regimen, the loss of 35 pounds, and Calgary's dry climate, he is in much less pain. Recently, he has connected with Calgary's Irish community. Next Sunday, Jim, ever the rebel, will be attending an anti-Stampede event hosted by the NDP. Just saying.*

*I continue to weave and am getting more involved in the local weaving guild. I got roped (or should I say, entwined) into being membership chair. Not certain how that happened, but there it is. I am also embarrassed to say that I have acquired a SECOND floor loom. This time, one made in Sweden. It was used for many years in Banff where they had a very active weaving school until the mid-70's. I bought the loom from a former student, who got it from the center when it closed down.*

*Jim and I wish you well and want to hear about all the wonderful things that are occupying your time.*  
Veronica

We seem to have said more goodbyes than usual this past 18 months, some sadly to senior members of our congregation who have died. There will be a chance to remember a very special member of our congregation on September 24 at 3 pm in the Cathedral. Duncan Shaddick almost literally held up the building and was part of our lives in many ways. Like Veronica he was a churchwarden – and so much more. Look for information about the memorial service next week.

Happy Back to Church Sunday to you all, with thanks to Elizabeth for her magic formatting touch, Marie Claire for French translation and to Veronica, Nick, the ESJAG team and all other contributors.

Ann Elbourne

September 10, 2021