

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,



Celebrating our diversity with wonderful food at the Intercultural Lunch.

Sharing food and fellowship

As you can see from the pictures, **the community lunch last Sunday** was a great success. The variety of delicious dishes was amazing. A huge thank you to Michèle Rattray and her team of helpers. Michèle wrote "Jeanine Belanger was an excellent helper on the day – organizing and making sure everything was in place (she has restaurant experience). Special thanks also to Sandrine, Toni, Marie-Claire and Peter and to the serving team (Vera, Sheena, Edward, Peggy, Irene) and those cleaning up in the kitchen – in particular George and Eric." Editor's comment: I think the people helping with clean-up deserve especial praise and a place in heaven. They were dealing with a mountain of dirty dishes.

Bertrand adds his thanks:

On behalf of the whole Cathedral, I would like to give a big thank you to all those who contributed to making our multi-congregational lunch last Sunday a success. Over 85 people attended, and it was good to be able to catch up with people that we had not seen for a while and make new friends across our diverse community. Thanks to the volunteers who set up Fulford hall and cleared it afterwards, the team that dished out the many wonderful dishes to share, and those who washed up. It was good to see the community coming together again.

This Sunday, Adrian King-Edwards, Donna Jean-Louis and their helpers will be **servicing lunch to a hundred or so people in need of a hot meal**. They would love to have some more volunteers to help serve this sit-down meal after the 10:30 service. Just make your way to Fulford Hall on the second floor of the office building behind the church or contact Adrian (wordbook@securenet.net) Donations towards the cost of these monthly meals are also welcomed.

On Tuesday, November 29, "**Wise Saints and Sinners**", AKA seniors, are invited to lunch at noon in Fulford Hall. If you haven't already done so, please email deborah.meister@montrealcathedral.ca by tomorrow at the latest to let her know you are coming.

Advent

This Sunday is the **first Sunday in Advent**, when the first purple Advent candle will be lit at the morning services in the cathedral and the inspiring **procession with Advent carols** will be offered at 4 pm. Nick Capozzoli writes:

The choir is preparing beautiful music from all around the world: Canada, United States, England, Spain, and Latvia. The procession part refers to a pre-pandemic tradition in which the clergy and choir move to various stations in the church over the course of the service. This musical journey mirrors our own spiritual journey as we await the coming of the Messiah.

Nick also shares:

One way of signaling a new liturgical season is singing different music. During the four weeks of Advent, our choir and organists will lead us through texts you normally don't get to say and hear. We will sing the Kyrie eleison (Greek for "Lord have mercy") in place of the jubilant Glory to God. We will hear one of the ancient "O Antiphons" every week. To mark the beginning of this season, the 10:30 Eucharist begins with a solemn chant traditionally known as the "Advent Prose." It is a translation of the Gregorian hymn "Rorate coeli" ("Drop down, ye heavens"). The text comes from various passages in Isaiah, and it sets up themes we hear throughout Advent: penitence, expectation, and hope.

A reminder to the people who have signed up, there will be an opportunity Saturday morning, at 11am in Fulford Hall, to make an **Advent wreath** for your home.

Another reminder: The clergy will be offering a **Confirmation class weekly during Advent** to learn about Anglican ritual, theology, and understandings of Scripture. This class will prepare participants to be confirmed by Bishop Mary on the Feast of Epiphany, which we will observe on Sunday, January 8th, but participants need not make that commitment. Contact deborah.meister@montrealcathedral.ca ASAP to sign up or to learn more. See more details in last week's newsletter.

Christmas ... is coming!

Unfortunately, no Messiah in the cathedral this year. Instead, people are invited to come to **Oasis concerts, Christmas Lessons and Carols**, and a special **Christmas-themed recital** played by Nick on Wednesday December 21 at 7 PM.

Lisa Middlemiss is planning a special **Fair Trade boutique** to help us with our Christmas shopping. She says,

The time has come, snowflakes have greeted us and we are thinking ahead towards a white Christmas. On the first Sunday of December (December 4th, following the 10:30 AM service) there will be a pop-up Christmas fair trade kiosk. Come one and all to seek out ethical (and often edible) gifts for your family, friends and colleagues. Fair trade chocolates of many varieties are on their way, together with Christmas cards, ornaments and much more.



Photo by Lisa Middlemiss

Among the archival files in the cathedral office there is an article by Canon Malcolm Hughes written at least 40 years ago. He is giving a **prescription for decorating a Christian Christmas Tree**. Here are his 9 suggestions.

- The tree should be evergreen, symbolizing that life is eternal,
- with a star on top reminding us of the star that guided the wise men and shepherds.

The decorations should include

- a boat, since early days a symbol of the church which helps us sail through the sea of life
- a bird, a symbol of the Holy Spirit
- a fish, another very early Christian symbol.
- Angels whose song announced the birth of Christ
- Balls, large and small. The large balls remind us of the many nations on earth, the small represent the many people who inhabit the earth. If the balls are of many different colours they remind us of the many different races and cultures who live near us.
- A chain with links reminds us that we are bound together by the love of God
- Lights symbolize not only the light that has come into the world but also that the Light of God is reflected by people

We all have rituals which help us to celebrate Christmas as a holy festival and I imagine most of us decorate a Christmas tree. Please send me a description of your family traditions with their symbolic meanings and I'll share them in a December letter.

Don't forget that there will be a **Diocesan Family Christmas party** organised by Lee-Ann Matthews, the Diocesan Youth Project Coordinator, on Friday December 9th from 5pm to 6:30pm, at St Philips Anglican Church, 7505 Sherbrooke West. It will be a fun, community family Christmas party that includes pizza, craft, bowling, singing and stories.

Registration (by emailing mtlyouth@montreal.anglican.ca) is required. The deadline to RSVP is December 2nd.

Supporting the Cathedral...

...through Stewardship

Cathedral Treasurer, Jane Aitkens, reports that the annual stewardship letter went out to Cathedral members 2 weeks ago and pledges for 2023 have started to arrive. The pledges received so far total \$92,660. The total last year was \$124,000, so we have reached almost 75% of last year's total. It would be wonderful to surpass last year's total, as we anticipate the effect inflation will have on the Cathedral budget. Could we reach \$124,00 plus 6.9%, which is \$132,556?

She has made a thermometer ! See the thermometer [in English by clicking here](#) or [in French by clicking here](#).

Please let Jane know (treasurer@montrealcathedral.ca) if you didn't get the stewardship letter but would like one. You can also fill in the pledge form using the links above.

...Through participating in discussion and decisions

The next **Forum** meeting will be held in person on Sunday, December 4, at 12:15 pm in the Undercroft. A vote will be taken on which organisation(s) will receive this year's outreach donation.

There are **bible studies** every week, held via zoom, in both French and English. The French group meets on Tuesdays at 19h00, the English group at midday on Mondays. Feel free to eat your lunch if you are at work. The English group will not meet this Monday but resumes on December 5. Do join one of these groups. The discussions are interesting, inspiring and addictive.

COP-15: Three Cathedral members, Michèle Rattray, Peter Huish and Taddy Stringer are registered to attend COP-15 under the banner of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal. Michèle and Paul Bode from St Jax are representing the Diocesan Stewardship of the Environment Committee.

COP15 is the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It is an international meeting, held this year in Montreal from December 7 –

19, bringing together governments from around the world. Participants will set out new goals and develop an action plan for nature over the next decade.

The three Cathedral representatives will be giving us reports about this vitally important topic.

A number of people have now bought a copy of ***Eaarth* by Bill McKibben**. Deborah will be organising **two discussion groups**, one in December and one in January, dates to be announced in the next newsletter. In his book and in his visit to the Cathedral on January 15 McKibben is pushing effective climate action in a changed world.

Meanwhile, the English book group is reading a climate fiction novel, *The Ministry for the Future* by Kim Stanley Robinson. Discussion will be on February 5.

Oasis Concerts

There are two concerts on the next two Saturdays at 2 pm:

November 26, The Katarina String Quartet in Concert, playing a program of Bartok and Haydn. The members of the group study in Montreal at the Schulich school of Music. The quartet takes its name from Katarina Guarneri, the forgotten female violin maker. Married to the legendary Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesu in 1722, she is rumoured to be responsible for many of 'del Gesu's successful violins, played by many of the greats today. Inspired by Katarina, the KSQ pays tribute to the many forgotten women whose uncredited contribution to the industry paved the way for music to be shared for years to come.

December 3, at 2pm: Our very own Ellen Torrie presents Winter Magnolia:

This unseasonably warm autumn and winter has inspired Winter Magnolia, a program of folk music and storytelling from singer-songwriters and soul friends Ellen Torrie, and Savannah Shea. The hauntingly resonant acoustic of the Cathedral will be a magical space to pay homage to the troubadours, the original travelling singer-songwriters, make a stop in the salons of baroque England, explore music of the 1960's folk revival, and then finally share original folk compositions from Savannah and Ellen which reflect themes of nature, climate change, the life/death/life cycle, and the ancestral healing at the focal point of both our artistic lives.

Important Notice from the Dean

In light of the changing situation with regards to respiratory diseases, **the Cathedral encourages all who attend worship services to wear masks**, especially when moving around. The Cathedral has masks available for those who need them. Please be mindful of current respiratory etiquette, keep distance as needed, and **do not attend the Cathedral if you are feeling unwell**, are coughing or have been in contact with anyone who tested positive in the past week. Thank you.

The Spire Ascendant

Jane Aitkens is not just a numbers and IT whizz, but also a talented photographer. Here are two of her photographs of the spire, by night and day. As you can see, the scaffolding is being slowly stripped away. We still need to raise additional money to finish this project. You'll be getting letters about this soon, but in the meantime, [you can donate here](#).



Ann Elbourne with thanks to contributors Bertrand, Deborah, Jane, Nick, Michèle, Esther-Ruth and Lisa. A tip of the hat to Alex who finalises the format and Michel Gagnon who casts his eagle eye over the French version.

November 25, 2022