



**CATHÉDRALE  
CHRIST CHURCH  
MONTRÉAL**

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

This week's letter will remind you of various events which are approaching fast. Some of the announcements will include an invitation to sign up by clicking on a link to indicate your participation, or to volunteer your help. It's helpful to the organisers when people do that promptly, perhaps as they read the letter!

## **Forum**

There is an important meeting of Forum this Sunday, January 21, at 12:15 in the Undercroft. There will be the usual reports about Cathedral activities, information about plans for Lent and a presentation of the budget for 2024 by our treasurer, Jane Aitkens. If Forum approves this budget, it will be voted on at the Annual General Vestry meeting on February 18. Your understanding of our finances and your input into the budgeting process are very important, so please come to this meeting if you can. Newcomers are especially welcome, as Forum meetings are a good way to learn about the workings of the cathedral and the role of various groups.

Minutes of the last meeting, December 3, are [available online here](#). [Click here for the January 21 agenda](#).

## **Warm socks and mitts**

Bertrand has delivered many bags of food to Mile End Mission, the result of our Christmas drive. The large black trunk is back in front of the pulpit, waiting to be filled with warm socks and mitts which will be given to our guests at the end of the month lunch on January 28. Flo and Adrian are hoping to have 130 pairs of each to hand out. You can either purchase warm socks and mitts yourself, or send a donation to the Cathedral, contributing to a bulk purchase. When you make your donation to [accounting@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:accounting@montrealcathedral.ca) be sure to specify that it's for the lunch winter sock drive.

## **Diocesan Annual Black Heritage Celebration**

Each year, February is celebrated as Black History month when the contributions of black Canadians are recognised across North America. There will be a special diocesan event at the Cathedral on Saturday, February 10, beginning with musical performances and a presentation by M. Franz Voltaire in Fulford Hall at 10 am. M. Voltaire, a member of l'Ordre de Montreal, founded the Centre international de documentation et d'information haïtienne, caribéenne et afro-canadienne and co-founded the Montréal Human Rights Film Festival. The celebration will continue with a celebratory Eucharist in the Cathedral at 11:15. All are invited to join in this joyful event.

## **Lent begins in February**

Look for information about Lent in upcoming newsletters, but meanwhile make a note that **Shrove Tuesday** will be celebrated with pancakes on February 13 and **Ash Wednesday** with the imposition of ashes at two Eucharists at 12:15 and at 7:30 pm on February 14. If you can't get to one of these services, you can receive the ashes either at Morning prayer (9:15) or at the Taizé service at 5:15.

## **Mardi Gras Pancake Supper**

Wear a carnival mask, don your brightest clothes, and join the pancake party, February 13 at 6:30. To register for the evening, please fill in the online form. Suggested donations for adults \$10 or more. Students \$10. Children free. The surplus raised will go towards the Last Sunday of the Month lunch for people in food insecurity. Payable on arrival by cash or card. [Click here to register.](#)

Melanie Dean, a professional caterer and baker and mother of John Henry and Hazel, is helping to coordinate the evening. We need volunteers to help prepare Fulford Hall, serve during the evening, and help clear and clean afterwards. We are also looking for volunteers to help cook pancakes ahead of time (directions and recipes will be provided, and a premeeting will take place in person or on zoom). If you are willing to help, please [indicate on the registration form.](#)

## **Diocesan College online Lent Courses**

Dio is offering two open enrollment Lent courses. The first, **Perspectives on Medical Assistance in Dying: Ethical, Pastoral, Theological, and Cultural**, will be held on Tuesday evenings, January 30th to February 13th, 2024, 7:00pm to 8:30pm, online. Because the Cathedral contributes financially to diocesan college, our treasurer, Jane Aitkens, can sign up a group of cathedral members giving them free access to the course. If you would like to join this group, please contact

Jane ([treasurer@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:treasurer@montrealcathedral.ca)) as soon as possible so that she can make the reservation.

Please note that this class will be loosely paired with an Easter-season Cathedral reading group on Richard Holloway's book, *Waiting for the Last Bus*, which will explore living and dying in light of the Resurrection.

A second course is being held Thursday evenings, February 15th to March 14th, 2024, 7:00pm to 8:30pm, **God's Spokespeople: Introducing the Prophets of the Old Testament**. This course is not being sponsored by the cathedral, so you will be responsible for the fee. However, the group rate has a discount, so give your name to Jane (again as soon as possible) and she will register us as a group.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## **ESJAG's suggestion for the New Year**

The Cathedral's Ecological and Social Justice Action Group is inviting you to attend a webinar, presented by the Anglican Communion Environmental Network on February 8, on the topic of building a movement around environmental justice. The webinar is available in two time slots; in Winter, Montréal is in the Eastern Time Zone at UTC-5 (Universal Time minus 5), so the "AM Seminar" is at 3:00 a.m. (8:00 a.m. UTC), whereas the "PM Seminar" is at 11:00 a.m. (4:00 p.m. UTC). [Click here for more information.](#)

[This link](#) will also give you information about Anglican responses to COP-28, including a message from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

## **Brown Bag Bible Study**

This group meets via zoom under Deborah's leadership from 11 to 12am on Monday mornings. We will spend the next 4 weeks studying the book of Ruth, whose message resonates with us today. The zoom link is in the calendar [on the Cathedral website](#). Do consider joining the group. Our lively discussions are the highlight of my week.

## **April Retreat**

The Cathedral is offering a retreat at the Ignatian spirituality center, Villa Saint-Martin which is situated in a beautiful location on the Lake of Two Mountains. Details about the theme of the retreat, "Seizing the Promises of Christ" were in last week's newsletter. The format will include opportunities for interaction and for rest. Led by Deborah, the weekend will begin with supper on **Friday, April 19** and end with lunch on **Sunday, April 21**. Cost is \$250/person, including all meals. Rooms are single occupancy with shared bath. Vegetarian, GF, and lactose-free meals are available. Scholarship

funds are available to cover all or part of the fee; if you need one, please reach out confidentially to Deborah. To sign up or learn more, contact [deborah.meister@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:deborah.meister@montrealcathedral.ca); reservations will require a non-refundable deposit of \$100.

You can see pictures of the retreat house and glean more information [by clicking here](#).

## **Wednesday Taizé Services**

Support for these weekly services of song, silence and scripture, 5:15 to 5:55 on Wednesdays is growing. Bertrand is looking for additional volunteer musicians. He writes that currently, we have a team of two pianists (Paul Helmer and Mouse Elisedd), and a cellist (Joseph Haffner), but we would love to have more instruments such as flute and oboe, and also some confident singers to help us build up the harmonies.

## **Cathedral book Group (English)**

We are starting to read the very popular debut novel, *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus, a book full of charm and humour but with enough flaws to lead us into an interesting discussion. Do read the book and join us via zoom on February 25 at 7 pm.

## **Muslim Awareness Week**

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, the week of January 25 to January 31 is Muslim Awareness Week (MAW), described on their website as a week to get to know each other. Events will take place in a hybrid format, combining in-person gatherings with virtual experiences. If you [look at their website](#), you will see that the cathedral is listed as a partner of MAW.

## **A poem from a Jewish friend of the Cathedral**

Rich Orloff, a Jewish poet and playwright living in New York City, has sent us this poem which has echoes of the story of the infant Samuel which we heard in church on Sunday, and the kind of procrastination we all indulge in when faced with requests from the cathedral. Here it is, for your enjoyment – and perhaps as a nudge to click on those links!

### ***The Call***

*by Rich Orloff*

*Sometimes when I'm called on a mission*

*I pretend I'm not in*

*And let my voicemail take a message*

*I listen to the voicemail over and over  
Trying my best to come up with excuses  
That can be disguised as valid reasons  
Not to answer the call*

*I look at my schedule and convince myself  
I don't have time for a mission  
Besides, I can't believe the Divine has really called me  
This must be a crank call*

*The call comes again  
And again I don't pick up the phone  
Caller ID claims the call is coming from  
I Am Who I Am  
What a clever disguise, I think*

*Behind all of my defenses  
Is fear  
Behind the fear  
Is disbelief  
That I could ever accomplish the mission well*

*Once again the phone rings  
Once again after that  
I finally pick up the phone and ask  
Are you sure you have the right number?  
And I hear  
You'll find out*

## **Thank you**

Thank you to contributors, Bertrand, Deborah, Jane, Brenda and Rich.

Thank you to Alex for formatting the MailChimp version of the letter and publishing it. Thank you to Michel for refining the French translation.

Ann Elbourne

January 19, 2024

## **Happening This Week at the Cathedral**

Click the plus button next any event title to view the detailed event page on our website. There, you'll find the Zoom links, the event livestream, location details, and more.

## Saturday

- 9:00 a.m. **Visit to Sorel-Tracy** +  
2:00 p.m. **Oasis Concert** +

## Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. **Holy Communion** +  
9:00 a.m. **Sung Eucharist in French** +  
10:30 a.m. **Choral Eucharist** +  
12:15 p.m. **Cathedrl Forum** +  
4:00 p.m. **Choral Evensong** +  
6:00 p.m. **St. Martha's Ecumenical Eucharist** +

## Monday

- 9:15 a.m. **Morning Prayer** +  
11:00 a.m. **Brown Bag Bible Study** +  
12:15 p.m. **Eucharist** +

## Tuesday

- 9:15 a.m. **Morning Prayer** +  
12:15 p.m. **Midday Eucharist** +  
7:00 p.m. **Evening Prayer and Bible Discussion in French** on  
*Zoom* +

## Wednesday

- 9:15 a.m. **Morning Prayer** +  
12:15 p.m. **Midday Eucharist** +  
5:15 p.m. **Wednesday Night Taizé** +  
6:00 p.m. **Bible Study with St. Martha's Chaplaincy** +

## Thursday

- 9:15 a.m. **Morning Prayer** +  
12:15 p.m. **Midday Eucharist** +

## Friday

- 9:15 a.m. **Morning Prayer** +  
12:15 p.m. **Midday Eucharist** +

## Saturday

- 2:00 p.m. **Oasis Concert** +

We hope you'll join us for worship  
either in-person or online.

Click here to join the livestream



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