

Crosstalk

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PHOTO: MATT DUBOFF/COURTESY DEAD OF WINTER



Composer, conductor, singer and sound designer Andrew Balfour conducts.

Cree composer Andrew Balfour brings his innovative music to Christ Church Cathedral in June

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

Prominent Cree composer Andrew Balfour will help the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa mark National Indigenous History Month and the National Indigenous Day of Prayer on June 14 and 15 by bringing his music to a workshop for singers, a public event, and a special service at Christ Church Cathedral.

Andrew McAnerney, associate director of music at Christ Church Cathedral, shared his excitement about the Juno-nominated composer's collaborative visit. "He's a great talent," he said. "And he's a really interesting voice, not only about Anglican church music, which he knows well because he was a chorister, but also because of his identity and his background and ... his own journey that he shares as a

discovery of music and culture."

Balfour was taken away from his Cree mother as a part of the Sixties Scoop. He was adopted as an infant by a Winnipeg family with Scottish roots and a love of music. His mother was a violinist and his father was an Anglican priest, who encouraged his interest in choral music.

As a young man, however, he struggled with questions about his identity, and later with poverty, alcohol, and a brief incarceration. Along the way, however, he reconnected with his Indigenous heritage and then found his path as a musician bringing Indigenous and classical choral music together in innovative ways. He is now known as a composer, conductor, singer and sound designer with a

large body of choral, instrumental, electro-acoustic and orchestral works.

Balfour has been commissioned by the Winnipeg, Regina and Toronto Symphony Orchestras, Ensemble Caprice, Groundswell, the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, the Winnipeg Singers, the Kingston Chamber Choir, Roomful of Teeth, Tafelmusik and Toronto Mendelssohn Choir. He is the founder and artistic director of the innovative vocal group Dead of Winter (formerly Camerata Nova), now in its 25th year of offering a concert series in Winnipeg. With Dead of Winter, he writes that he specializes in creating "concept concerts," many with Indigenous subject matter (*Wa Wa Tey Wak* [Northern Lights], *Medieval Inuit*, *Fallen*). These works "explore

a theme through an eclectic array of music, including new works, arrangements and inter-genre and interdisciplinary collaborations."

In March, Balfour was slated to debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City, conducting selections from his work *Tapwe: Songs of Truth* with the Amabile Choirs, but due to an error in the paperwork for his stay in the U.S. and rigorous border security, he was denied entry into the U.S. and had to return to Canada.

"That whole concert at Carnegie was all about truth and love and compassion. So, I guess it's kind of ironic that I get turfed," he said in an interview with the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

He will be warmly welcomed at Christ Church Cathedral.

► **Andrew Balfour, to p. 3**

BISHOP'S MESSAGE

The heart of prayer

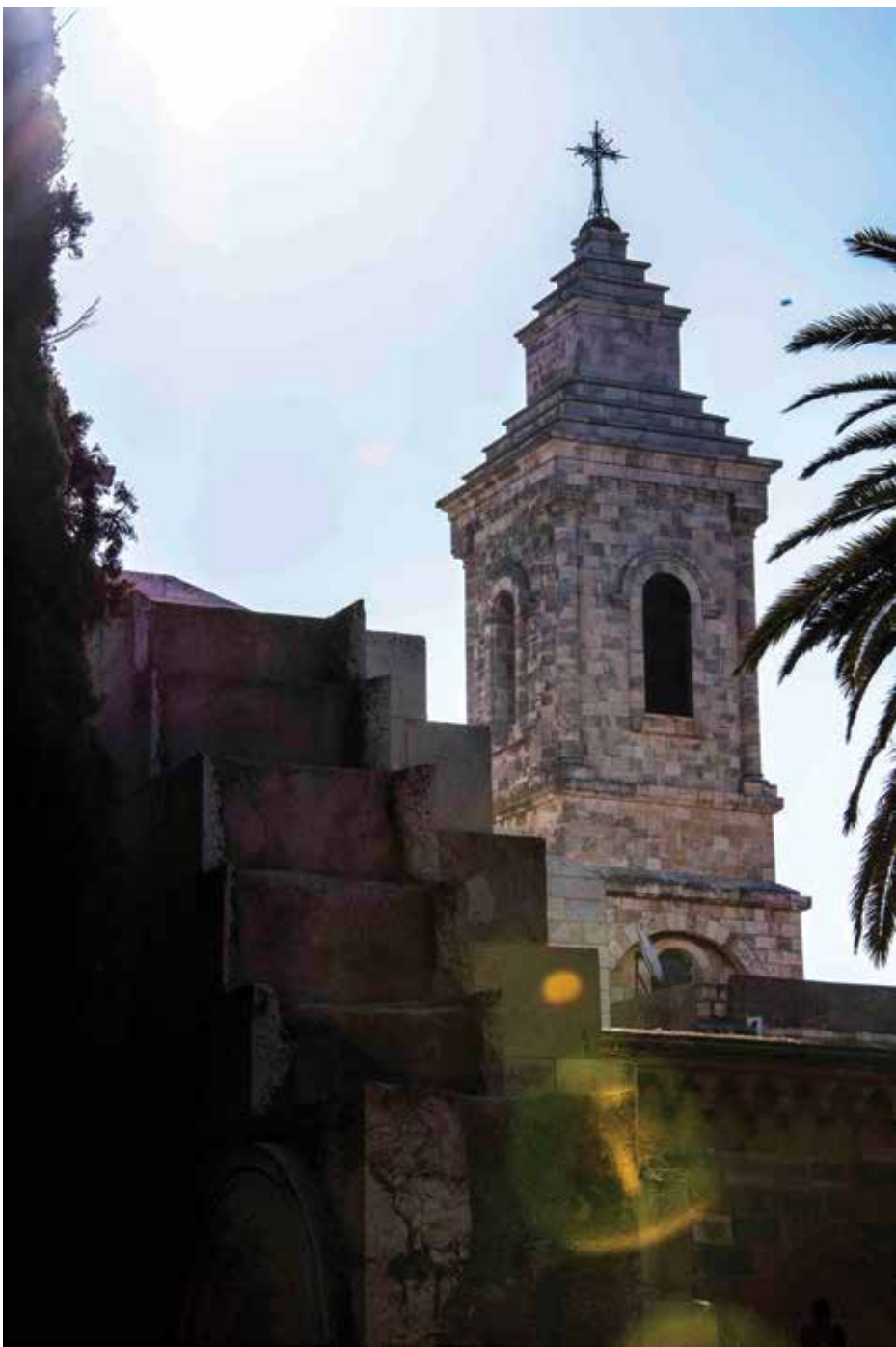


THE RIGHT REVEREND
DR. SHANE A. D. PARKER
BISHOP OF OTTAWA

This year, Ascension Day falls late in May (a couple of days before the fifth anniversary of my consecration as your bishop). I have always loved the joyful and uplifting hymns we sing on this feast day as we celebrate the exaltation of Jesus as the eternal Christ after his death and resurrection. On Ascension Day we remember the end of Jesus' earthly journey and rejoice in his transcendent presence with all creation for all time. It was a joy to rename the house that contains our central office after this great feast!

The Gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus ascended from the top of the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem. At some time during the 4th century, a church was built on the site where people believed the event took place. That church was destroyed early in the 7th century and replaced in 1157 by a small Crusader church—which was attacked and abandoned 30 years later and fell into ruins (the Land of the Holy One continues to see this cycle of destruction: please consider a gift through *Alongside Hope* to rebuild our partner's Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza).

In the 1870s, a Carmelite convent was built on the site, and,



Church of the Pater Noster on the Mount of Olives

eventually, a new building was constructed using the old stones and footprint of the 4th century church. It became known as the Church of the Pater Noster (the

Lord's Prayer). No longer the place where the Ascension is remembered (another church now lays claim to that), it is a place where pilgrims commemorate the teachings of Jesus, especially concerning prayer.

The Lord's Prayer, the way Jesus taught us to pray, speaks to the heart of Christian prayer. It has two basic parts: three petitions glorify God, and three others concern human needs (for sustenance, for forgiveness and for help in times of trial). An integral part of the prayer is an acknowledgment of the primacy of God's will: "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." The Lord's Prayer helps us see our particular concerns in the context of the expansive, vibrant sweep of our Creator's loving purpose for all creation.

Some Christians believe that God provides material wealth, grants favours, and meets very specific requests if you believe the right things, pray for the right things, and act in the right ways. This is

PHOTO: DOUG MORRIS

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



Bishop Shane speaks to pilgrims in the gardens of Pater Noster.

not what Jesus taught! Most of us will find that solid faith doesn't necessarily lead to economic gain, good health and a life of ease. Jesus taught that God is present to each person, regardless of material or physical well-being, and that following God has absolutely nothing to do with self-aggrandizement.

Prayer is about uniting your soul with God. We believe that the Holy Spirit enables us to be drawn into the eternal prayer of Jesus, the exalted Son, to God, the Creator of Creation. Praying is about freely sharing all the hopes, fears, cares, concerns, and contradictions of your life with God who loves you no matter what. Praying is about receiving love and forgiveness and strength to live in this world in a manner that is true to God.

In the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, God has shown us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. We are loved whether we win or lose, pass or fail—loved more than we love ourselves and loved more than anyone else can love us. Uniting yourself to God's strong love as you pray makes you a better person and being a better person means being freer to love and serve other people—as Jesus also taught us to do.



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Cathedral Boys' Choir cancels trip to Boston

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

"It was all going to be fabulous," Andrew McNerney, associate director of music at Christ Church Cathedral, said wistfully of a now cancelled plan to take the Boys' Choir to Boston.

"I was excited about the opportunity it gave for our Boys' Choir to go and meet two other boys' choirs because there are so few boys' choirs here in North America, and the opportunity to go and sing with two and socialize, we'd organised a basketball tournament and a Boston pizza party."

The reason why the trip was cancelled hardly needs explanation anymore. President Donald Trump.

"When we planned the trip to Boston, everybody was very excited," McNerney recalls.

But after news of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy being bullied at the White House, mass deportations, Canadians being detained or deported at the border, the trade war, and Trump's threats against Canada's sovereignty, the U.S. looked like a very different neighbour.

"I was worrying about taking the choir across the border to the States," McNerney said. "And then all the economic threats that have been made against the country. It was very distasteful, the idea that we'd be spending \$36,000 of our hard-earned and fundraised money in the United States."

When they when back to the families to ask if they wanted to go ahead with the trip, McNerney said 90 percent of them said, "No, we don't want to go ahead with the trip. We don't want to spend our money in the States. We don't want to take the risk crossing the border."

It was a difficult and sad decision, he said, because "it's taking an opportunity away from our boys. It's taking away an opportunity for cultural exchange and all the good things that come with it." He added that there was a financial cost as well because they lost their deposits on the hotel in Boston. "It's never good to lose money like that," he acknowledged, but he and the organizers now have peace of mind and are relieved of worries about

complications crossing the border.

McNerney said both of the host churches they would have visited in Boston were very gracious. "They understood why we had made that decision. They understood that the choristers and their parents were concerned about making the trip." The door is open for a trip in the future.

For now, the silver lining is that the Boys' Choir was able to arrange an alternate trip to Québec City. "Holy Trinity Cathedral in Québec City have been very welcoming, and we're going to go and sing there instead with their choir, so I'm delighted for that," he said.

► Andrew Balfour, from p. 1

McNerney outlined the plans for three events on Saturday, June 14 and Sunday, June 15.

On the morning of Saturday, June 14, there will be a music workshop for singers. McNerney explained that participants don't have to be choir members, and there is no fee. Anyone who wants to participate just needs to register on the Cathedral website <https://www.ottawacathedral.ca/>

The morning workshop will also include a moderated conversation with Balfour about his music, about his art, and about being a Cree composer brought up in the Anglican choral tradition, McNerney said. "Andrew was a boy chorister himself. That's not a comfortable story. It's a story that's going to talk about that intersection of Indigenous identity and the Anglican Church because he lived that. He was adopted from

his family by an Anglican priest, so we're going to have a conversation with him about that."

Turning back to the music itself, McNerney explained: "We're going to be singing four pieces, which Andrew has created. Two of those are his own composition. One is called *Ambe*, and that's based on a text about welcome for all things walking on two legs. There's *Qilak*, which is in Inuktitut, and it's a piece that's inspired by travels on Baffin Island. It's a piece about the views, about the skies, about the snow."

The other two pieces are fusions with choral music from the 16th and 17th centuries. *Ispiciwin* [Journey] sets Cree words to music by English composer Orlando Gibbons. *Four Directions* is an Ojibway text set to music by English composer Thomas Tallis. "There are bird songs. There are ideas of the natural world combined with this ancient English piece of polyphony," he said.

McNerney noted that he will

offer a rehearsal for participants on June 10 at the Cathedral between 7 and 8.30. "If people want to come and learn the music before the workshop, they can do that with me. And that will be lots of fun. We'll also have resources on the event page for the text and for learning in advance," he said. "We recommend if people want to participate, that they do that work in advance because they'll get more from the workshop and more from Andrew if they've taken some time to be familiar with the music and pieces."

On Saturday afternoon at 1 pm, 'Calling Out the Calls: An Act of Reconciliation' will be held at the Cathedral, marking the 10th anniversary of the conclusion of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Bishop Shane Parker will be part of this reflective event in which the Calls to Action will be lifted up alongside Andrew Balfour's music.

"Andrew will direct the music at that service, and the choir will be made up of people who attended the workshop [if they choose to participate] and members of our own choir."

The final part of the weekend will be the worship service at the Cathedral on Sunday, June 15, National Indigenous Day of Prayer, and Balfour will lead the music, including William Byrd's *Mass for Five Voices* as well as Balfour's *Ispiciwin* and another version of *Ambe*, with the Cathedral choirs.

McNerney added that Balfour is well-acquainted with Ottawa, having brought one of his choirs to the city last year to perform from his Juno nominated album, *Nagamo*. "I've been a big fan of his work and his art," McNerney added, mentioning that a professional choir he directs in Montréal is commissioning a new work from Balfour that he hopes the choir will be able to perform at the Cathedral next year."

PARISH NEWS

Trinity Bank St. launches Student Internship Program

BY REBECCA COWAL

Like many communities following the COVID-19 lockdowns, rebuilding social networks among new university students and young adults has proven to be a challenge. Located just less than a kilometre from Carleton University, Trinity Anglican decided to engage university students and young people in Old Ottawa South with more intention. Initiatives included YA discussion groups, renovating and re-launching Trinity House as an intentional faith community, adding a new worshipping community (4pm Connect service), and hiring a student & YA coordinator who has overseen the development of weekly faith studies at Trinity and on-campus, monthly YA meals, YA social events, and more.

These initiatives have been successful, with more than 100 students and young people participating with Trinity parish in various capacities. However, with 31,000 students at Carleton University, it can be estimated there are at minimum 1% of students to which Trinity would be a life-giving faith community. On that account,

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



Mural on Bank Street, Trinity Anglican Church, Ottawa

there still rests (at minimum) 210 students with whom to connect.

Trinity’s next step to intentionally engage students and YAs is the launch of a Student Internship Program for the 2025-26 academic year. Trinity will be hiring up to four post-secondary students and recent graduates wanting to engage and

develop their faith and leadership skills. Interns will obtain valuable hands-on experience in student ministry leadership, event planning, communications, spirituality, and professional interpersonal skills. The program consists of faith formation and leadership development sessions led by Archdeacon Mark Whittall

and members of Trinity parish and community, as well as four hours per week of practical placement at Trinity Anglican.

Interns will work with Trinity Pastor and Carleton Chaplain the Ven. Mark Whittall, Trinity YA coordinator Rebecca Cowal, and TYA ministry team. There will be an honorarium of \$1000 per semester for acceptance into and successful participation in the program. Interns are expected to worship regularly at Trinity and be a visible part of our community and campus ministry.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to Trinity’s Student Internship Program, please visit trinityottawa.ca/pages/student-internship-program to download and complete the application. Applications submitted to office@trinityottawa.ca by April 21, 2025 will be given priority.

In addition, Trinity is accepting applications for Trinity House, their intentional faith community, for the 2025-26 academic year. Trinity House application information can be found at trinityottawa.ca/pages/trinity-house.

All Saints’ Westboro hosted election issue discussion

BY DAVID HUMPHREYS

Parishioners from All Saints’ Westboro and First United Church came together with Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ) on a rainy Saturday in April to consider issues in the federal election campaign through a faith-based lens and to discuss what faith communities could do to bring more attention to matters of social justice.

The Rev. Chung Yan Lam, associate incumbent at All Saints, suggested that looking at where tax dollars are spent is useful when examining

priorities. For example, while the right to clean drinking water is universally accepted, even today not all Canadians have access to it.

Scott Cooper, CPJ director of communications, presenting the organisation’s election plan, suggested the best approach when speaking to candidates in each riding is to “ask good questions that get to the bigger picture and evaluating responses with evidence and the lived realities of those most impacted.”

In a series of questions focused on social justice, the plan recommended

asking candidates to provide their party’s position on “increasing the percentage of affordable, non-profit rental housing units and investing in related necessary infrastructure.”

On climate change, they suggested asking how each party will ensure that a transition to a low-carbon economy genuinely leaves no one behind.

On migrants and refugees, there is a question about what measures will be taken to combat discrimination and racism.

► Election discussion, to p. 5



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The Rt. Rev. Shane Parker
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Leigh Anne Williams
Editor

Jane Waterston
Production

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Leigh Anne Williams,
Crosstalk
71 Bronson Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 6G6
613 232-7124

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Crosstalk acknowledges that we publish on traditional Anishinàbeg Algonquin territory. We recognize the Algonquins as the customary keepers and defenders of the Ottawa River Watershed and its tributaries.

St. John the Evangelist Ottawa to host an exhibition of posters telling the story of the 1945 atomic bombings

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

In August, people around the world will solemnly remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan 80 years ago on August 6 and 9, 1945.

Leading up to the anniversary of those events, St. John the Evangelist, Ottawa, will host an exhibition of 35 posters that tell the story of the bombings and depict the death and devastation suffered by the citizens of those cities.

The exhibit, which will be held at the church from May 23 to May 30, is being organized by Ban the Bomb Ottawa (BtBO) and the United Nations in Canada's National Capital Region Branch [UNA-Canada (NCR Branch)]. BtBO is a group of individuals from faith-based, nongovernmental and local community organizations and groups working for peace and nuclear disarmament.

Debbie Grisdale, a parishioner at Church of the Ascension in Ottawa, is a member and is working on organizing the exhibit. “

“I have been involved for decades in peace and nuclear disarmament efforts – both as staff and as an activist. BtBO, of which I am a member, annually hosts the commemoration of the anniversaries in August. That ceremony, held along the Rideau Canal, includes the Japanese tradition of setting paper lanterns afloat, symbolizing the guiding of souls of those who have left the physical world and now exist spiritually,” she explained..

“Our hope with this exhibition is that, in addition to commemorating this important anniversary, visiting school groups and the public will learn about the devastating humanitarian and environmental impacts of nuclear weapons and will become aware of civil society's efforts for a nuclear weapon-free world. It seems like this is more urgent than ever. We are grateful to St John's for their willingness to host the exhibition,” she added.

The Rev. Canon Gary van der Meer, St. John the Evangelist's



Paper lanterns set afloat on the Rideau Canal at the annual at the annual commemoration in Ottawa of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

PHOTOS: KOOZMA J. TARASOFF



incumbent, said, 'When we learned about the Hiroshima exhibit, we felt it aligned with St John's ministry and deep roots in Jesus' words "Blessed are the peacemakers." The exhibit will be mounted in the Warriors Chapel, recently enclosed as a separate space from the chancel and nave as part of this past year's renovations. In the chapel, the Hiroshima posters will be juxtaposed with the chapel's prominent monuments and names of the fallen from the two World Wars for a shared story about the cost of war and continued work for peace. We look forward to welcoming visitors for an immersive experience in remembering and peacemaking." The posters were donated by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, thanks to the intervention of Setsuko Thurlow, who survived the bombing of Hiroshima as a 13-year old schoolgirl and later immigrated to Canada where she has worked tirelessly for the abolition of nuclear weapons with several organizations including Voices of Women, the Canadian Council of Churches and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

In cooperation with Carleton University's Centre for Public History Several additional posters have been developed to depict Canada's relationship with nuclear weapons past and present, the current status of nuclear arsenals world-wide, local activism for nuclear disarmament and the history of workers involved and exposed to radioactive material during the production of nuclear weapons.

Organizers are also discussing opportunities for the exhibit to be displayed at Ottawa City Hall in August, as well as St. Basil's Roman Catholic Church in September, and Carleton University this fall.

For information about the exhibition, please email: 80thcommemoration@gmail.com

► Election discussion, from p. 4

Full details including tips for evaluating answers are available at cpj.ca

A sort of unofficial keynote was struck by Judith King Matheson of *Outaouais Wellness Learning* who made an impassioned plea to get out the vote. Ordinary grassroots folk can make a difference, she said, by raising awareness. “A lot of us are not even aware of what's happening in our own backyards.”

The gathering broke into six small groups, first to reflect on the foundation for the faith of each of the participants and then to answer the question, “What is this election about for your community?”

Answers ranged widely from Canada's sovereignty and the need for protection against the U.S. to health care shortcomings, interprovincial trade barriers, to the future of Canada Post.

For some it was about the roots

of homelessness, the cost of living, income inequality, inadequate resources for retraining and education.

The CPJ's election plan noted that Canada has been playing catch-up on affordability and the right to an adequate standard of living. “We are now losing affordable units faster than we can build new ones.”

Based in Ottawa, Citizens for Public Justice is a national organisation that seeks to use research, analysis

and public debate to influence government policies. Similar Faithful Election Conversations to the one at All Saints are being held across the country.

Attendees were invited to support the campaign of CPJ and other Christian organisations of Jubilee 2025: Turn Debt into Hope! -- a global movement to end the mounting debt crisis.

Quilters celebrate two decades of heartfelt giving

BY CAROL GODDARD

The Russell Friends of Victoria's Quilts Canada (RFVQC) celebrated their 20th anniversary with a celebratory luncheon on Feb. 22 in the hall of St. Mary's Anglican Church in Russell. Victoria's Quilts Canada provides quilts to people affected by cancer.

The RFVQC was started by Anne Mains who joined a craft club soon after moving to Russell. After learning about Victoria's Quilts Canada, Mains and five other women decided to transform the craft club into a quilting club. Over the years the group have created approximately 3,500 quilts, which have been provided to people affected by cancer both locally and across the country.

The RFVQC are an outreach ministry of St. Mary's Anglican Church, with the women gathering each Friday to create the quilts, which are blessed at a service at St. Mary's before they are sent.

The quilters were joined by Russell Township Councillor Lisa Deacon and Lucie Doré, vice-president of the National Board of Victoria's Quilt and Chair of the Ottawa Branch of Victoria's Quilts Canada, who both praised the work done by the group.

A PowerPoint presentation of the highlights over the groups 20 years was followed by the sharing of a specially decorated cake and the opportunity for more socializing.



Four of the six founding members of the Russell Friends of Victoria's Quilts were present on Feb.22. Left to right: Mona Saunders, Anne Mains, Christine Lang and Lorraine Comeau.



Anne Mains, founder and president of the Russell Friends of Victoria Quilts, provides an overview of the past 20 years of the organization during the celebratory luncheon.

PHOTOS: CAROL GODDARD

Centre 105 receives donations from Ramadan food drive



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Representatives from the Islamic Foundation of Cornwall, the Cornwall Police Service and Freshco during the Ramadan Community Food Drive.

BY CAROL GODDARD

Centre 105, a Community Ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, gratefully received more than 100 non-perishable food items from the Ramadan Community Food Drive, organized by the Islamic Foundation of Cornwall in collaboration with the Cornwall Police Service and Freshco grocery store and held on March 16.

Centre 105 executive director Taylor Seguin thanked all who organized the drive and those who donated. Centre 105 had worked previously with the Cornwall Police Service, but this was the first initiative with the Cornwall Islamic Society, he told *Crosstalk* in an email after the event. "At Centre 105, our management board and entire team are huge supporters of interfaith work. We have worked closely with various faith groups, especially on joint fundraisers. We are stronger when we all work together. This includes the Presbyterian, Pentecostal, United, Catholic, and of course non-faith-based groups," he wrote.

"As always, the Cornwall community came out in high numbers, to support Centre 105. The public are always extremely supportive of local food agencies, like Centre 105, the Agape Centre, the Salvation Army Food Bank, and the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank," Seguin said.

More information on Centre 105 is available at www.centre105.ca

Julian of Norwich celebrates parish’s 10th anniversary

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

Julian of Norwich Anglican Church is celebrating its 10th anniversary this month inviting one and all to a festival from May 4 to 10.

In 2015, the congregations of St. Michael and All Angels and St. Richard’s joined together to found Julian of Norwich Anglican Church in Ottawa. In the decade since, they have “embraced a new shared parish identity with openness and love, developing a deep sense of community, a rich blending of traditions, and a very fruitful engagement with the parish’s neighbours,” says the Rev. Karen McBride, incumbent.

The anniversary festival focuses on the parish’s namesake. Julian of Norwich was a Christian mystic and spiritual teacher in the Middle Ages. Her hopeful message of “All shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well” isn’t misguided optimism, says McBride. “Rather, it’s a profound affirmation because of her divine revelations of God’s unconditional and abiding love, and of God’s active presence in our lives and in the world. That’s one of the reasons we want to offer some public events which explore Julian’s spirituality,” she added.

Here is a schedule of the planned public events (for further information consult the website at julianofnorwichottawa.ca):

Sunday, May 4

Divine Love: A Musical Meditation
1 pm - 2 pm

A time of spiritual exploration based on Julian of Norwich’s reassuring words about divine love. Through a group experience called Audio Devina, Rebecca Worden—registered psychotherapist and



certified music therapist—will perform prescribed piano music to lead participants into and out of meditation. Following the music listening and meditation, participants will have a chance to express their experiences by creating images of their spiritual reflections.

Thursday, May 8
Commemorating Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Teacher

Choral Evensong
5 pm – 6 pm
Wine and Cheese Reception
6 pm – 7 pm
Hope in Tumultuous Times: Insights for Our Era from the World of Julian of Norwich
7 pm - 8:15 pm

Dr. Sarah Keeshan, theology student at Saint Paul University, and a postulate for ordination in the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa,

will offer a talk on the connections between Julian of Norwich’s life experience and our own. “In her life, medieval mystic Julian of Norwich experienced periods of significant personal suffering against the backdrop of the cataclysmic disasters of the 14th century. She gently and steadfastly spoke of trust and hope in a world experiencing profound structural and ideological disruption. Almost 700 years later, she and the world that shaped her bear enduring witness to the power of hope in an era of change and uncertainty.” The event will be live-streamed.

Saturday, May 10

In Julian’s Footsteps: Watch Party of BBC Documentary “The Search for the Lost Manuscript of Julian of Norwich” and Guided Labyrinth Wellness Walk
1 pm – 4:30 pm

Participate in one or both parts of this event. Enjoy an entertaining and informative film about what is known of Julian of Norwich’s life, and the inspiring saga of her groundbreaking manuscript “Revelations of Divine Love,” a book almost lost to history (1 pm – 2:30pm). Then take the opportunity to experience the spiritual enrichment and sense of wellness that the ancient practice of labyrinth walking affords. By the Middle Ages when Julian of Norwich lived, labyrinths were already well-established “paths of pilgrimage” for seekers of guidance, wholeness, and grace.

Come journey on the parish’s temporary 9-circuit indoor labyrinth (2:30pm – 4:30pm).



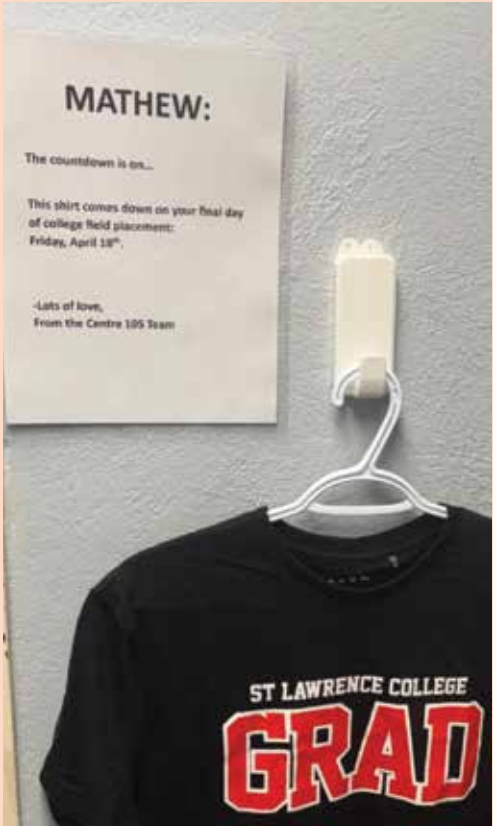
Meet Mathew, a Centre 105 friend from afar

Mathew Alummoottil Mathew is an international student from Kannur, in Kerala, South India enrolled in the Social Service Worker Program at St. Lawrence College in Cornwall. He has been volunteering at Centre 105 for a work experience placement.

“My experience at Centre 105 has been amazing. I have learned a lot about working in the community, supporting people facing challenges and connecting them with resources. The team at Centre 105 is very supportive, and I have enjoyed being part of their work.”

Executive director Taylor Seguin says the rest of the team at Centre 105 has learned a lot about India from Mathew, who said: “I have really enjoyed my experience in Canada. There are many differences between Canada and India, especially in food, weather, and daily life, but I find it interesting to learn about a new culture. At the same time, I love sharing things about India, like our festivals, traditions, and food.”

According to Centre 105 tradition, the St. Lawrence College Grad shirt hung outside the office until Mathew removed his gift on the final day of his placement in April.



Climate justice pilgrimage coming to Ottawa

BY WILLIAM NUTTLE

In May, a group of pilgrims will arrive in Ottawa on a mission to save the planet, and you are invited to join them. The Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church is organizing a pilgrimage by bicycle from Montreal to Ottawa to encourage support for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. For millennia, people have sought spiritual transcendence through the act of traveling long distances by foot. This pilgrimage is being undertaken to encourage a timely and just transition away from fossil fuels, which are a principal cause of climate change.

Etienne Eason is the driving force behind the pilgrimage. Growing up, Etienne watched with despair as governments failed to live up to their commitment to limit global warming, made at the Paris climate conference in 2015. Despair is justified. Global emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, a main cause of global warming, are higher today than they were in 2015. Yet, one of the first actions taken by Mark Carney, as our new Prime Minister, was to eliminate the carbon tax, considered the most effective tool in reducing our emissions. The record wildfires in 2013, which covered Ottawa and Montreal in choking smoke, were a personal call to Etienne to become a climate activist. Through action there is hope.

The global campaign for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty was launched about eight years ago



Etienne Eason, the driving force behind the pilgrimage.

as a response to shortcomings in the Paris climate agreement. In that agreement, governments committed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, which is considered to be tolerable from the standpoint of survival of the human species. Last year, global temperatures broke through the 1.5-degree guardrail. However, the Paris climate agreement failed to identify the need to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

The fossil fuel treaty calls for an immediate halt to the expansion of fossil fuel use – no new pipelines

or powerplants – and an equitable phasing out of existing uses. The treaty had been endorsed by 16 countries, 3953 organizations, and over one million individuals. Signatories include the Anglican Church of Canada and the City of Ottawa, but not yet the Canadian government.

The Pilgrimage for the Planet consists of a two-day bike trek from Montreal to Ottawa followed by a series of events in Ottawa. Pilgrims will leave Montreal on Saturday, May 10, stay overnight at a church in Vankleek Hill. A reception is planned at St. Paul's University to welcome their arrival in Ottawa Sunday afternoon, May 11. Participants will present the case for signing onto the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to the federal government in the morning on Monday, May 12.

Anyone can participate. Best of all, you do not have to make the full Montreal-Ottawa pilgrimage to take part. Organizers are working on a variety of local walking pilgrimages, and even an online pilgrimage that will follow progress along the Montreal-Ottawa route. Visit the event website (below) for more information and to sign up as a participant.

Websites for more information:

Pilgrimage for the Planet - <https://easternsynod.org/pilgrimage-for-the-planet/>

Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty – <https://fossilfueltreaty.org/>

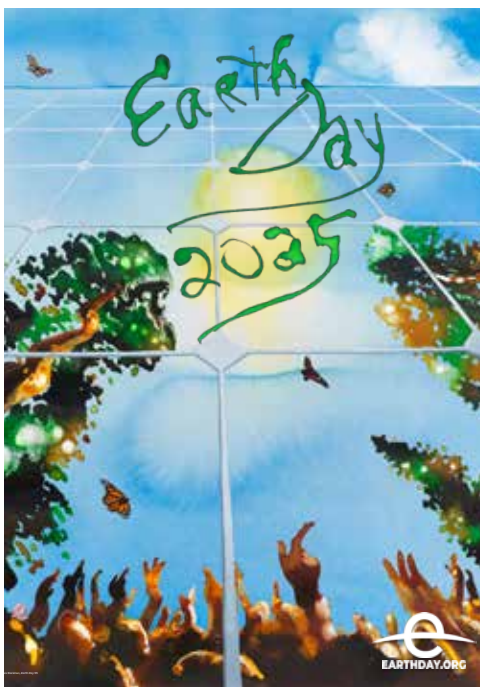
Creation matters at St. Matthew's parish in Ottawa's Glebe

BY MARGARET TERRETT

In the spring, St. Matthew's in the Glebe hosts three events to help raise awareness of our responsibility to care for God's Earth.

Our Earth Day celebration this year will be held on Sunday, April 27. The 10 am family service will have an environmental focus, including our third annual Blessing of the Bicycles and alternate modes of carbon free transportation. We will give thanks for the wonderful earth and its gifts and encourage each person to make lifestyle changes that will have a positive impact on the environment. We will pray for God's help in all our efforts.

Following the service, we will gather for a Souper Sunday event with a Carbon Footprint Game, which continues the theme of environment, led by Bill Nuttle. Our individual carbon footprint is the best indicator of our climate impact. Knowing our footprint can help us



make personal changes in our daily lives to lessen our negative impact on the climate. The game, and group discussion afterwards, will help participants examine ways to accomplish the changes.

Concurrently, a special craft time for the younger environmentalists will be offered focusing on pollinators.

The third annual Salad Garden event will take place on Saturday, May 17. Soil, seeds and planters will be available, so that participants can come to the church and create a salad garden that they can grow and care for and then enjoy its produce during the summer. It's a great way to enrich your patio or balcony. It's also a wonderful way to help young people see where food originates and how much care is needed to produce it. Growing food is a perfect way to reduce carbon emissions; you don't have to drive to the store to purchase it and no transportation is needed to get the product to the store. Plus, it's wonderful to see plants spring from the earth. The event runs from 10:30 until noon.

Our second annual Cycle Clinic will be on Saturday, May 31. At

this event, people drop by the First Avenue parking lot with their bikes, and a team of St. Matthew's parishioners will guide participants through a quick five-step checklist to assess the health of the bicycle. The team will help the cyclists understand what repairs are needed to make the bike safe and more efficient. It just takes a few minutes to get one of our enthusiasts to work with the rider and the bike to find ways to make riding more enjoyable and regular maintenance as easy as 1,2,3. The clinic will be from 10 am until noon.

The Creation Matters Working Group at St. Matthew's would love to see people from all parishes join us in our initiatives to be stewards of God's Creation. Every effort we make to highlight the environment and to minimize our carbon footprint is an effort to be the best caretakers that we can of God's gift to us.

Gardening in step with nature

BY NANDY HEULE

In a recent worship service at Trinity Anglican in Ottawa, Bishop Shane Parker in his homily highlighted the promises Anglicans make within the Baptismal Covenant. After making commitments to serve God and our neighbours, Anglicans are also asked “to safeguard the integrity of God’s creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the earth.” Climate justice matters. And, luckily, gardening with plants that are indigenous to our region may be one way to respond to this baptismal promise.

I can’t think of a better way to be reassured of God’s generative goodness but to walk through a northern forest filled with spring flowers just as the leaves pop out. Across the Ottawa Valley, native plants demonstrate God’s goodness as our forest floors show off yellow trout lilies, mixed with tender violet hepaticas, and, a bit later, hundreds of trilliums. How many seasons does it take for a colony of white bunchberries to slowly spread along a nature trail? As the Creator declared long ago, “It is good.”

Although I’ve searched for Canadian wildflowers in their

habitats for years, more recently, I’ve also started growing these plants in my own garden. Many Canadian gardeners are becoming more serious about cultivating plants that are indigenous to the region where they live. Local Anglican parishes such as Church of the Ascension in Ottawa are already actively planting these native gardens. (A local environmental organization maintains an interactive map of native plant gardens, and it includes churches across the region <https://wildpollinators-pollinisateurssauvages.ca/pollinator-gardens/>). Biologist generally use the terms “native” and “non-native” where non-native species have been introduced to Canada after European contact with Indigenous peoples.

Why does it make sense to grow native species in a Canadian garden? First and foremost, these plants belong here. Now, don’t get me wrong. I love planting annuals like orange marigolds. Probably, I will sneak some into my garden every year until my last breath. However, if our Creator had wanted marigolds to survive -20 C winter weather, I’m pretty sure They could have made that happen! As it is, marigolds die

PHOTO: NANDY HEULE



Butterfly weed

in autumn in Ottawa. Instead, we have been given butterfly weed. It’s a family member of the more familiar common milkweed and has survived harsh Canadian winters since time immemorial. Its complex flowers grow in bright orange clusters, which begs the question: “If we can splash bright orange throughout our gardens by planting butterfly weed, why not walk in step with what the Creator intends to grow right here in the first place?”

Karen McClure is a parishioner at St. Bartholomew Anglican, a master gardener in training, and a member of the congregation’s newly minted environmental committee. She says that native plants support local eco-systems, attract wildlife and enhance biodiversity.

“It’s a way that we as Christians can care for the earth,” she says. “It is a way to make a difference in

one’s own backyard.” St. Bart’s has already planted serviceberry bushes in the church gardens and hopes to add more native plants this coming season.

Plants and its pollinators “grow up together” in an evolutionary sense over very long periods of time.

Biodiversity is threatened by habitat loss, climate change and other factors. This in turn threatens the survival of pollinators such as butterflies and bees. These creatures are absolutely essential to the future of plants, and by extension, our own future as human beings.

Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Home Nature: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*, defines a plant to be indigenous to a region when it “has evolved in a particular place long enough to be able to establish the specialized relationships that are nature.” He adds, “Most of the relationships between plants and animals are highly specialized, and they take a long time to develop.” When plants are moved around the world, like marigolds planted in Canada during summer, these special relationships are broken down.

“Local insects typically can’t eat these [non-native] plants and all the things that depend on those insects disappear as well, because there’s nothing generating those insects,” explains Tallamy. Thus, biodiversity is at risk.

Native plants can meet almost all of a gardener’s wishes. There are low plants (prairie smoke) and tall plants (Joe Pye weed). Gardeners with shady lots can try a shade-loving plant such as zig zag golden rod. And, pearly everlasting will bloom almost the entire season. New England asters, flat-topped asters and certain varieties of golden rods provide colour well into fall without spreading too aggressively.

► **Native Plants, to p. 10**

Great Glebe Garage Sale: Repurposing on a Neighbourhood Scale

St Matthew’s parish has participated in the Great Glebe Garage Sale for over two decades. The event is important on several levels, which is why the parish continues to be involved despite the huge effort it takes.

First and foremost, this event brings the parishioners together. Everyone is encouraged to invite their neighbours to contribute to the sale too. Prior to the sale all the donations are gathered and sorted. The more valuable ones go to the premium table and are washed, polished, priced and displayed on the First Avenue side of the church. The remainder of the goodies are destined for the White Elephant Table where shoppers are encouraged to “make an offer.”

The third area of the event is book sale. Volunteers work for hours sorting and organizing the books into several different categories. It is a thing of beauty to see all the books out on tables having been a crazy collection of boxes just a week before the sale.

Because the Great Glebe Garage Sale requires volunteers at many levels it works as a real team builder. It also highlights our parish in the neighbourhood. Many people who come to the sale use St. Matt’s as their starting point.

The second aspect is the environmental impact. With the whole neighbourhood involved, it is a perfect opportunity to repurpose items no longer useful to the vendors or donors. There is no restriction on the things that can be sold. At St. Matthew’s we get kitchen goodies, vintage radios, CDs, records, lighting fixtures, linens, garden tools, and the list goes on. The environment benefits because all these things are given a second life. The amount that does not go to the landfill is enormous.

The third level for St. Matthew’s is the fundraising aspect. In the last five years, the sale has brought in more than \$10,000 annually. Last year, the sum was close to \$15,000. That is significant help to our outreach programs. The GGGS organizers ask participants to donate 10% of the amount earned to the Ottawa Food Bank. So again, the rewards are multifold. The parish adds to its fundraising total, and the Ottawa Food Bank benefits too. — Margaret Terrett

The Great Glebe Garage Sale is always the Saturday after the Victoria Day weekend. This year the date is May 24. Come and enjoy the fun!



Celebrating two more diocesan medalists

Denise Gomes, Christ Church Cathedral



PHOTO: SANDRA PAGLIARELLO

A King Charles III Coronation Medal was awarded to Denise Gomes, a leader in the Christ Church Cathedral parish, where she has been head server for 25 years and a member of the Servers' Guild since 1982.

As head server, she has assisted in the planning of and participated in Cathedral services for the consecrations of bishops and state funerals for governor-generals and royalty, including the September 2022 National Commemorative Ceremony for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

She co-led youth confirmation classes for several years with a member of the clergy team. And for the last 25 years, she has undertaken a personal fundraising activity which has raised more than \$17,000 for the Cathedral's Restoration Fund.

— Judith O'Rourke

Taylor Seguin, Centre 105



PHOTO: CAROL GODDARD

Centre 105 Executive Director Taylor Seguin was among the 30 individuals presented with the King Charles III Coronation Medals in a ceremony held in the historic Roman Catholic Church of St. Andrew's in the small South Stormont community of St. Andrews West on March 23.

Seguin was honoured for his work at Centre 105, a community ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa.

"My family and I are so grateful for this incredible honour. To be included with such an amazing group of local leaders was a special achievement," said Seguin. "I am one of the lucky ones, to be surrounded with such a strong and passionate team. Together, we make a difference."

— Carol Goddard

► Native Plants, from p. 9

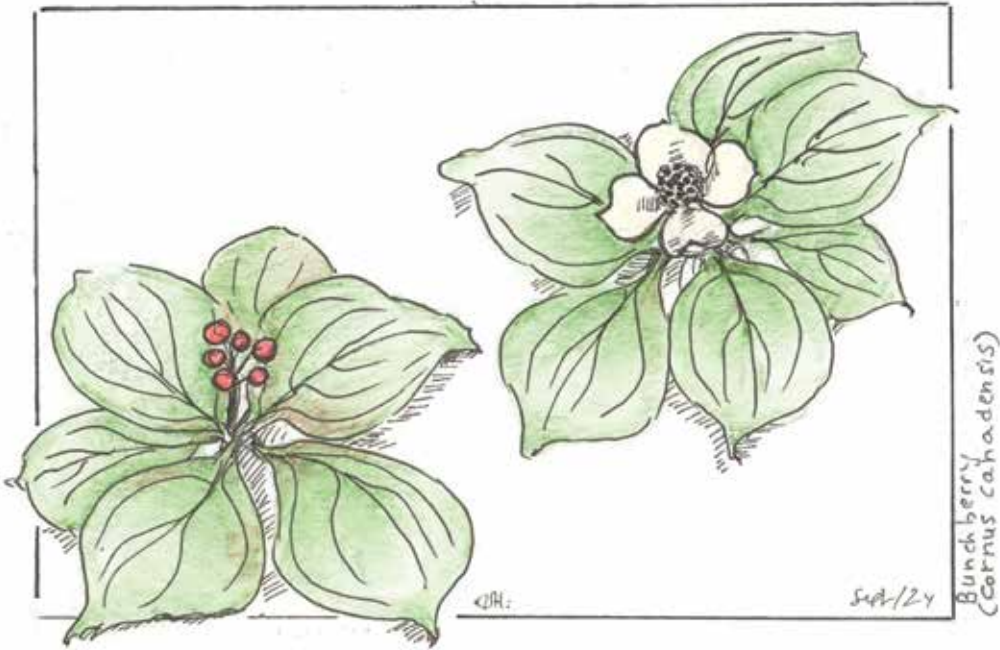
So, for me, here's the good news. First, anybody with a little garden, or even a flower box on a balcony, can support biodiversity and our planet by planting some native species.

It's probably one of the easiest steps a gardener can take to truthfully answer to the baptismal vow, "I will, with God's help." Why not help fight climate change by doing what you already love to do? Plant some species that belong where you live. Churches can plant these native plants in flower borders and tell their neighbours that biodiversity matters!

Second, native plants can help us better understand God's absolute delight in creating all of our world. His love for creation extends to even the coldest, darkest parts of our planet. He gave us butterfly weed and zig zag goldenrod! Nothing seems to speak louder than spring flowers in our northern climate: Joy will find a way. The Light will overcome darkness.

A note about Latin names

In her little book *The Serviceberry, Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*, author Robin Wall Kimmerer mentions that the serviceberry, known by the Latin name *Amelanchier alnifolium*, has many other common names, including saskatoon, juneberry, shadbush, shadblow, sugarplum and



Bunchberries (*Cornus canadensis*)

ILLUSTRATION: NANDY HEULE

sarvis. She adds, "Ethnobotanists know that the more names a plant has, the greater its cultural importance." However, scientists use agreed-upon Latin names to ensure everybody studying plants is, in fact, referring to the same species. If shopping for native species be aware of plants that include pretty sounding names in brackets. For example, a species sold as *Amelanchier Canadensis* 'Rainbow Pillar' is a so-called nativar. It is derived from the native Serviceberry, but has been bred for a specific trait, such as height or other considerations. True native species never have a name that includes marketing idiom.

The Latin names of native species noted in this article in order of appearance:

Trout Lilies (*Erythronium americanum*), Hepatica (*Anemone Americana*), Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), Bunchberries (*Cornus canadensis*), Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*), Purple Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*), Zig Zag Golden Rod (*Solidago flexicaulis*), Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*), Flat-topped Aster (*Doellingeria umbellata*).

Resources

Johnson, Lorraine, and Colla, Sheila. *A Garden for the Rusty-Patched Bumblebee: Creating Habitat for Native Pollinators: Ontario and Great Lakes Edition*. Douglas & McIntyre, 2022

Need some inspiration?

Plan a visit to Ascension Anglican Church on 253 Echo Drive in Ottawa. Their grounds demonstrate how native plants can create vibrant gardens. Many of the plants are identified with signs noting their common and scientific names.

Where to obtain native plants around Ottawa?

Many local gardening centres will carry some native species. The non-profit Fletcher Wildlife Garden <https://ofnc.ca/programs/fletcher-wildlife-garden> near The Central Experimental Farm organizes an annual native plant sale in spring. Plants can also be bought at some local farmers' markets and ordered online from A Cultivated Art <https://www.acultivatedart.com/native-plant-store>

Nandy Heule is a visual artist who enjoys gardening with native plants. She lives in Ottawa where she was recently received into the fellowship of the Anglican Communion at a moving ceremony presided over by Bishop Shane Parker.

Interest in labyrinths grows this spring

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

“They say that labyrinth rises in our awareness in troubling times of transition,” Barbara Brown of the Cathedral Labyrinth Guild shared with *Crosstalk* recently. “The Middle Ages was one of those times as well when many labyrinths were installed in churches across France, she added.

With that in mind, it is not surprising that this has been a busy spring for labyrinth activity in the diocese.

Brown shared news of three recent events. At the Cathedral, the guild hosted “Dancing into Spring,” a movement and dance focused approach to the labyrinth experience to build community and connection among participants. “It was so much fun to see people connecting and moving together,” she said.

Julian of Norwich held a contemplative labyrinth walk on the spring equinox on a canvas labyrinth facilitated by Susan Kehoe.

And Brown added that she had just installed a temporary tape labyrinth in the sanctuary at the Church of the Ascension at the request of the Rev. Victoria Scott.

And there is more planned for May.

The guild’s winter online book club has been working with Parker Palmer’s book *The Hidden Wholeness*. On May 23-24, the guild is offering a two-part retreat, with inspiration and insight from Palmer. Participants can choose to do one or both events. Friday evening will be hosted by Ginger McCoy at her pottery studio, Earthen Vessels, and Saturday afternoon will be at Christ Church Cathedral.

Retreat invitation

The labyrinth is more than a path; it is a conversation. As we step onto its winding way, we are invited to listen not only to the movement beneath our feet but to the quiet



Diane Perazzo, a member of the Cathedral Labyrinth Guild created this image of the Dancing into Spring event at Christ Church Cathedral.

voice within. Each turn, each pause, each breath is an opportunity to receive wisdom and welcome.

Working with clay calls us into this same deep listening. The earth responds to our hands, reflecting back our presence, our touch, our intention. It teaches us about patience, about surrender, about the beauty of both shaping and being shaped. When we engage with clay, we are in dialogue with something ancient and alive.

Within both practices, we experience the presence of an inner light. Parker Palmer speaks of this light as something that never truly leaves us, even when it feels hidden beneath layers of fear, expectation, or doubt. The labyrinth, in its quiet unfolding, helps us return to this light, step by step. Clay, in its yielding and forming, reminds us that this light is shaped by our hands yet never fully contained by them.

....Alone and together, in solitude and community, we welcome one another, work our clay, walk the labyrinth, and open ourselves to the unique guidance of our own inner teacher. —Cathedral Labyrinth Guild

Part 1: Clay

When: Friday, May 23, 6 pm - 9 pm

Where: earthen vessels, 36 Rosemount Ave., Ottawa (in Hintonburg)

Ginger McCoy is a professional potter and member of the Center for Courage and Renewal. With a passion for inner work, she created earthen vessels, a clay studio to host workshops as a path towards personal journey work, weaving together creativity, reflection, and community. Informed by the Courage & Renewal® approach, she creates spaces where others can slow down, listen inward, and discover through clay, conversation, and the wisdom of the journey. Register at earthenvessels.ca

Part 2: Labyrinth Retreat

When: Saturday, May 24, 1 pm - 4 pm (feel free to arrive any time after 12:30).

Where: Christ Church Cathedral, 414 Sparks Street

What to bring: a notebook or journal, and if you wish, an image, an object or a quote that speaks to your soul, and your open heart.

Registration fee: \$55. To register for the Saturday afternoon, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/listening-to-our-inner-wisdom-labyrinth-event-tickets-1320130970269?aff=oddtcreator>

Elsbeth MacEwan is a member of the Cathedral Labyrinth Guild, a hospice volunteer, Expressive Arts facilitator, and semi-retired psychiatrist. She has a passion for creative healing and spiritual growth. In her idle times, she enjoys walking in a forest or by water, paddling, music, movement and poetry.

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ICI ON PARLE FRANÇAIS — RÉFLEXION

Pardon

LE RÉV. CHANOINE KEVIN FLYNN

L'algorithme qui détermine les vidéos qui s'affichent dans mon flux YouTube me réserve parfois de très bonnes surprises. Je viens de voir cette vidéo d'une nouvelle chanson de la chanteuse française de jazz/pop Zaz. Elle s'intitule "Je pardonne". Bien qu'elle ne soit en aucun cas explicitement religieuse, elle évoque bien la liberté que procure le pardon. La chanson comprend plusieurs lignes en espagnol qui sont répétées plusieurs fois : "Te perdonno. Me perdonno. Pero me recuerdo todo." "Je te pardonne. Je me pardonne à moi-même. Mais je me souviens de tout." Je ne sais pas pourquoi ces mots sont en espagnol, mais ils soulignent des dimensions importantes du pardon. Écoutez-les : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y39-ddBVR4>

Comme nous sommes pardonnés, nous devons pardonner aux autres. Si nous nourrissons des sentiments de colère, de ressentiment ou de haine à l'égard de ceux qui nous ont fait du mal, si nous ne pouvons pas ou ne voulons pas leur pardonner, cela signifie que le mal qui nous a été fait a remporté la victoire au seul "endroit" qui compte : dans notre cœur. C'est pourquoi nous devons nous repentir de nos émotions négatives, demander à en être guéris et essayer encore et encore de pardonner à nos ennemis

C'est très difficile pour nous. Nous avons tendance à chérir notre "juste" colère et notre haine. Nous pensons parfois que les abandonner n'est pas seulement contre nature, mais que c'est peut-être même une erreur. En



Le révérend chanoine Kevin Flynn est le pasteur de la paroisse St-Bernard-de-Clairvaux

fait, pendant la plus grande partie de l'histoire de l'humanité, y compris aujourd'hui, la colère et le désir de vengeance ont été considérés non seulement comme normaux, mais aussi comme un devoir social et même religieux. Ne pas résister à l'agresseur, ne pas chercher à se venger d'un tort causé à soi-même, à sa famille, à son pays ou à ses amis est encore aujourd'hui souvent considéré comme un manque de sang-froid et une offense à la loyauté et à l'honneur.

Et pourtant, c'est à cet "échec" que l'Évangile nous appelle. L'Évangile nous dit que nous ne pouvons pas combattre le mal par plus de mal, mais seulement par le pardon et l'amour, et que si nous voulons être les disciples du Christ, nous ne pouvons pas, comme les "païens", n'aimer que nos amis.

Cela ne signifie pas que nous devons nier nos émotions négatives à l'égard de ceux qui nous ont fait du mal ou que nous devons nous sentir coupables de les éprouver ou, pire encore, nous reprocher le mal commis contre nous par d'autres,

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



Cross of Nails at Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa.

comme le font parfois les personnes qui ont été victimes d'abus. Le véritable pardon ne peut même pas commencer si nous ne sommes pas capables de reconnaître qu'il y a quelque chose à pardonner ; que nous avons été lésés, que nous sommes en colère et blessés. Si nous nions cela, nous nions qu'un acte mauvais a été commis, nous en nions l'importance et ainsi, comme l'a fait remarquer le regretté théologien orthodoxe Thomas Hopkins, nous vidons le pardon de son sens spirituel. Nous vidons également de son sens le repentir, car s'il n'y a pas d'acte répréhensible ni de péché, le repentir et la miséricorde n'ont pas lieu d'être.

D'un autre côté, il est également important que nous comprenions que lorsque nous pardonnons aux autres pour le mal qu'ils ont fait, nous ne les "absolvons" pas de la responsabilité de leur péché. Nous ne pouvons absoudre personne - y compris nous-mêmes - car seul Dieu peut le faire. Nous pouvons seulement prier pour nos ennemis et demander à Dieu de leur donner

la grâce de se repentir, afin que leurs cœurs soient changés, qu'ils se convertissent et reviennent à Dieu. C'est, je pense, ce que le Christ a voulu dire lorsqu'il a déclaré que nous devons "aimer nos ennemis". Demander la miséricorde de Dieu pour ceux qui nous ont fait du tort est un moyen, et peut-être le seul moyen, pour la plupart d'entre nous de les aimer.

Il peut également être très difficile de pardonner et d'aimer ceux qui nous ont fait du mal sans en avoir l'intention. Ils peuvent nous avoir fait du mal, à nous ou à ceux que nous aimons, par accident ou par une terrible erreur, par faiblesse de corps ou d'esprit, par une erreur de jugement ou par un trou de mémoire - en d'autres termes, en raison de leur faillibilité humaine. Même si nous comprenons qu'ils n'avaient pas l'intention de nous faire du mal et qu'ils sont peut-être eux-mêmes proches du désespoir, nous ne pouvons pas nous empêcher de leur en vouloir et de leur reprocher la souffrance qu'ils nous ont infligée.

Pourtant, l'Évangile et l'expérience humaine montrent clairement que si nous ne faisons pas précisément cela - si nous ne pardonnons pas aux autres tout le mal qu'ils nous ont fait, sciemment ou par inadvertance, nous ne serons jamais en mesure de déposer le fardeau de notre perte. Et nos "ennemis", ceux qui nous ont fait du mal, ne pourront jamais se pardonner à eux-mêmes et trouver la paix. Nous ne devons donc pas refuser d'être miséricordieux envers eux, comme nous espérons que ceux que nous avons blessés ne refuseront pas d'être miséricordieux envers nous, et comme Dieu ne refusera jamais de l'être envers nous tous.

Forgiveness

The algorithm that determines what videos show up in my YouTube feed sometimes bring very pleasant surprises. I just saw this video of a new release by the French jazz/pop singer Zaz. It's called "Je pardonne." Although it is in no way explicitly religious, it does capture well the liberty that forgiveness provides. The song includes several lines in Spanish that are repeated a few times: "Te perdonno. Me perdonno. Pero me recuerdo todo." "I forgive you. I forgive myself. But I remember everything." I don't know why the words are in Spanish, but they do point to important dimensions of forgiveness. Have a listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y39-ddBVR4>

As we are forgiven, so we must forgive others. If we harbour feelings of anger, resentment or hatred against those who have harmed us, if we are unable or unwilling to forgive them, it means that the evil done to us has won its victory in the only "place" that matters – in our hearts. This is why we have to repent of our negative emotions, ask to be healed from them and try again and again to forgive our enemies.

This is very difficult for us to do. We tend to cherish our "righteous" anger and hate. We sometimes believe that to let go of them is not only unnatural, it might even be wrong. In fact, during most of human history, including the present, anger and a desire for retribution have been considered not only normal but also a social and even a religious duty. Not to

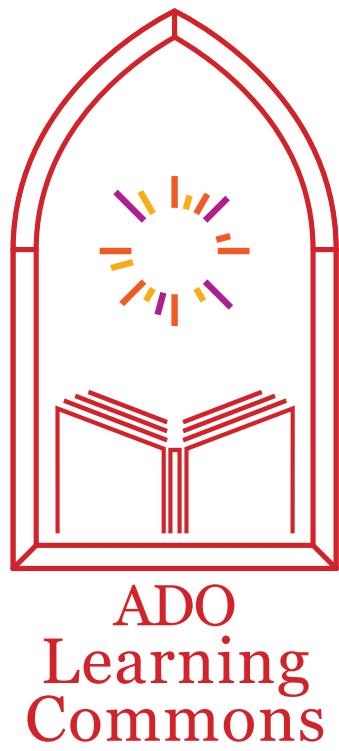
resist the aggressor, not to seek vengeance for a wrong done against oneself, one's family, country or friends is, even now, often viewed as a failure of nerve and an offence against loyalty and honour.

And yet, it is this "failure" to which the Gospel calls us. The Gospel tells us that we cannot fight evil with more evil but only with forgiveness and love, and that if we want to be the disciples of Christ we cannot, like the "pagans," love only our friends (Matthew 5:43-46).

This does not mean that we should deny our negative emotions towards those who have done us harm or that we should feel guilty for having them, or, worse, blame ourselves for the evil committed against us by others, as people who have been abused sometimes do. True forgiveness cannot even begin unless we are able to acknowledge

that there is something to forgive; that we have been wronged, we are angry and hurt. If we deny that, we are denying that an evil act has been committed, we negate its importance and thus, as the late Orthodox theologian Fr. Thomas Hopkins once remarked, we make forgiveness spiritually meaningless. We also make repentance meaningless because if there is no wrongdoing and no sin, there is no need for repentance and mercy.

On the other hand, it is also important for us to realize that when we forgive others for the wrong they have done, we are not "absolving" them from the responsibility for their sin. We cannot absolve anybody – including ourselves – for only God can do that.



PHOTOS: JAMIE TOMLINSON

Executive Archdeacon Linda Hill welcomed parish leaders to a Saturday morning information session for parish leaders. Right —Joel Prentice spoke about managing church properties and assets.

The Learning Commons offered a Property and Finance Workshop on April 5 at Emmanuel, Arnprior for clergy, churchwardens and treasurers.

A presentation on parish finances by Sanjay Grover, director of financial ministry, offered information and advice on

- internal controls
- disbursement and signing authority,
- audits
- budgets
- Parish Proportional Share
- ECOPS (equalized cost of priestly services)

- Insurance
- the Consolidated Trust Fund
- Property and Finance Committee submissions.

Joel Prentice, director of property and asset management, shared information on:

- Capital projects
- Diocesan project approvals process
- Preventative and reactive maintenance
- Property insurance
- Short and long-term rentals

Jamie Tomlinson, interim director of communications and development, offered a brief

introduction to cyber security, and he warned parishes that churches are increasingly vulnerable to cyber threats.

He looked ahead to Cyber Security Month in October and recommended these sites for information:

- Canadian Centre for Cyber Security <https://www.cyber.gc.ca/en>
- Cyber Risk Management <https://ecclesiastical.ca/resource-centre/risk-guidance/cyber-risk-management-security-protection-in-an-online-world/>

- Safe Use of Social Media <https://ecclesiastical.ca/resource-centre/risk-guidance/safe-use-of-social-media-2/>

The workshop was part of the ADO Learning Commons, which offers resources and educational opportunities.

A workshop on Governance and Human Resources will be held on May 3 at Holy Trinity Anglican Church (68 Renfrew Street Pembroke, Ont.) from 9 am to 12:30 pm. For more info and to register: ottawa.anglican.ca/resources/for-parishes/ado-learning-commons/

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PHOTO: COURTESY OF MHI

BY THE REV. ROSEMARY PARKER

What is Multifaith Housing Initiative?

In November 2024, our Diocese formally approved Multifaith Housing Initiative as one of seven official Diocesan Partners. Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) is well-known to many parishes within the boundaries of the City of Ottawa; it is a strong advocate for affordable housing and helps to create new affordable housing options across the city. Bishop Shane Parker is a proud Patron of MHI.

Our Diocese recently donated \$75,000 (from the sale of Christ Church Maniwaki property) to MHI to support Indigenous housing in the Dream LeBreton project in Ottawa's LeBreton Flats.

At a time when our world is increasingly divided, MHI also brings together Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and other communities of faith to focus on our shared goal of affordable housing for all. There is an urgent need for safe, clean, comfortable living spaces, not only in Ottawa but throughout our diocese; MHI is an effective model that might inspire new multifaith collaborations in other communities!

How to support MHI as a Partner

Parishes are encouraged to renew their annual membership for \$100. Each parish also identifies a parish representative to serve as a contact, and as a voting member at Multifaith Housing Initiative's AGM (April 27th). On May 25th



On May 25, MHI will host its annual Tulipathon, a three-kilometre walkathon at Commissioners Park, in support of affordable housing.

this year, please join MHI for the Tulipathon—a walk through the gardens near Dow's Lake, in support of affordable housing!

In 2022, 20 parishes in our Diocese of Ottawa were members of Multifaith Housing Initiative.

Can we reach 25 parish memberships in 2025?

For more information about MHI, see their website (www.multifaithhousing.ca), or contact our Partner Liaison: Marilyn Collins (mjfaircollins@gmail.com).

The Rev. Rosemary Parker is Chair of our Diocesan Partnerships Committee

► Forgiveness, from p. 12

We can only pray for our enemies and ask God to give them the grace of repentance, so that their hearts may be changed, that they may be converted and return to God. This is, I think, what Christ meant when he said that we should “love our enemies.” Asking God’s mercy for those who have wronged us is one way, and perhaps the only way, open

to most of us for loving them.

It can also be very difficult to forgive and love those who have harmed us without intending to do so. They may have hurt us or those we love by accident or a dreadful mistake, through weakness of body or mind, an error of judgement or a lapse of memory – in other words, as a result of their human fallibility. Even if we understand that they did not mean to harm us and are

perhaps themselves close to despair, we may not be able to stop being angry and blaming them for the suffering they have brought on us.

And yet, both the Gospel and human experience show clearly that unless we do precisely that – unless we forgive others for all the harm that they have done to us whether knowingly or inadvertently, we shall never be able to lay down the burden of our loss. And our

“enemies,” those who have hurt us, will never be able to forgive themselves and find peace. We must therefore not refuse to be merciful to them as we hope those we have hurt will not refuse to be merciful to us, and as God will never refuse to be to us all.

Editor’s note: An English translation of our feature “Ici, on parle français” is always available in our online edition Perspective. <https://ottawa.anglicannews.ca/>

DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

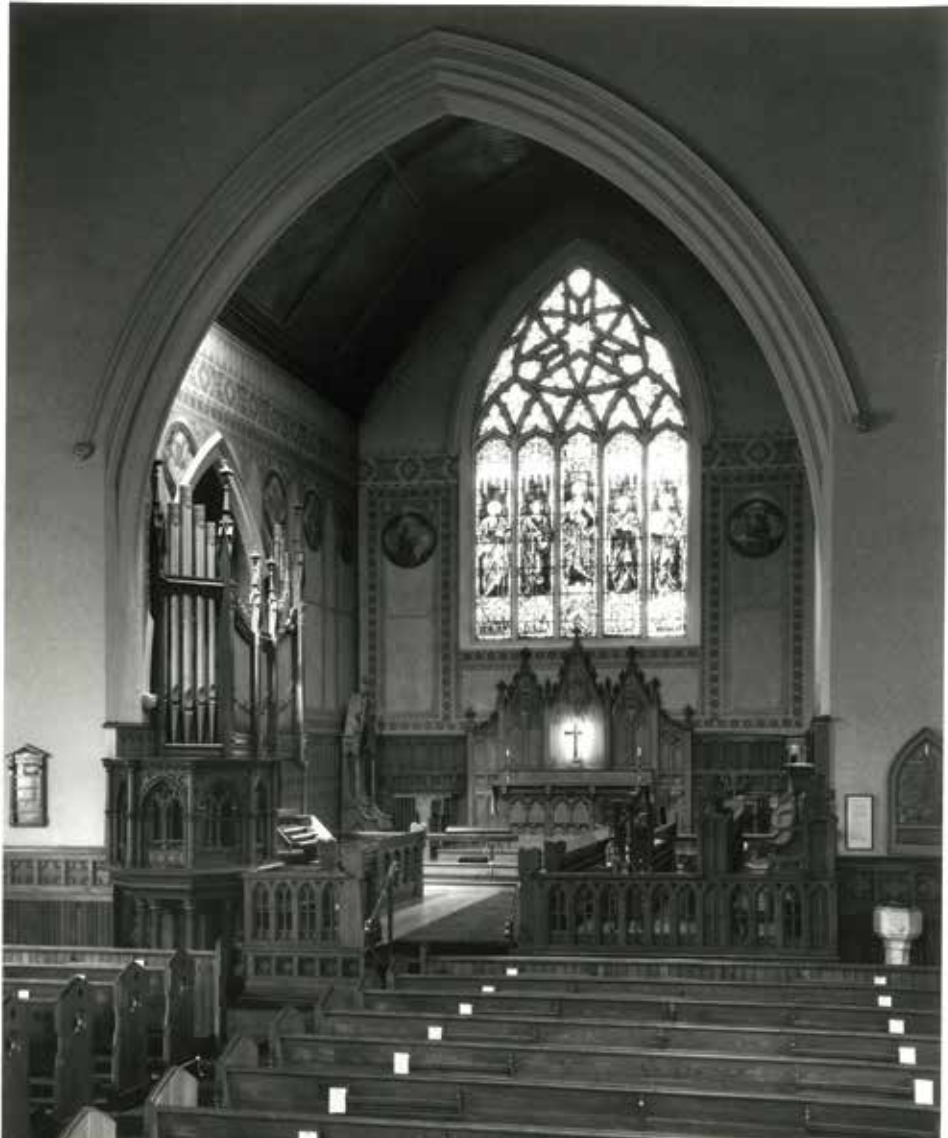
Almost Straight

BY GLENN J LOCKWOOD

Saint George’s Church in downtown Ottawa seemed almost fated to be a centre of controversy. To begin with, this house of worship was built as a Methodist Episcopal church in the late 1870s, only to be purchased in 1885 by a handful of Anglicans who wanted to attend church close by their homes. Thus, it was that Saint George’s emerged as a church named after England’s patron saint.

The first era of controversy at Saint George’s was immediate, in that the newly acquired building was judged to be highly unsuitable for Anglican worship. The Methodists had built their house of worship according to the Akron plan, that is to say, what amounted to a semicircular or amphitheatre arrangement of pews on a grade with the highest seats on the perimeter and converging at the pulpit in the centre. Moreover, the newly acquired building had no chancel. These deficiencies were readily solved, with the lofty chancel we see here built at one end and new pews installed so an almost straight centre aisle led to the altar. As we see it here, the main centre aisle appears almost straight until, sooner or later, someone points out that it deviates slightly, due in part

Saint George, Ottawa
Deanery of Central Ottawa

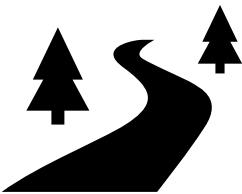


the brick tower. Lightning may be exciting, even dangerous, but it is not necessarily controversial. A major controversy at Saint George’s came in the early 1890s when the Rev. J.M. Snowden made himself and Saint George’s a household name across the Diocese of Ontario for his attacks on ritualism and the high church practices he perceived to be encouraged at the highest levels. Such attacks on ritualism met with enthusiastic support in rural parishes, thereby roiling the entire diocese in controversy that extended on into the early years of the Diocese of Ottawa. Such controversy seems ironic given the ornate decoration of Saint George’s itself. Saint George’s provided a bastion within which Roberta Tilton organized the Woman’s Auxiliary into a major force across Canada, and it was within its walls the Good Companions provided a ministry to seniors in the 1950s. The larger demographic flight to the suburbs in the mid-20th century raised the spectre of Saint George’s being closed as its congregation dwindled.

At the beginning of the 21st century, yet another era of controversy arose, over the issue of gay inclusion. This resulted in a schismatic action on the part of the clergy and lay leaders, who were firmly opposed to affirming and accepting the rights of 2SLGBTQI+ persons. After considerable conflict, the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa wisely chose to end the dispute by selling the property, which was facing costly repairs, to the breakaway group for a considerable sum. The Diocesan Archives collects parish registers, vestry reports, service registers, minutes of groups and committees, financial documents, property records (including cemeteries and architectural plans), insurance policies, letters, pew bulletins, photographs and paintings, scrapbooks, parish newsletters, and unusual documents

DIOCESAN ARCHIVES 51 015 3

HEALING AND RECONCILIATION: OUR SHARED JOURNEY



A time for Sharing
An opportunity to hear good stories from groups in the Diocese of Ottawa who are working towards truth, reconciliation and healing

Open to all who wish to begin or make progress on their work towards healing and reconciliation.

Ideas for Indigenous Peoples Month and Indigenous Day of Prayer.

Refreshments including Bannock and Strawberries provided.

May 10, 2025 9:30am-12:30pm
St. Thomas the Apostle Church,
2345 Alta Vista Dr. Ottawa, K1H 7M6



PLEASE LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING
Kathryn F. lou_daybreak@hotmail.com
<https://ottawa.anglican.ca/what-we-do/partnerships/indigenous-justice/>

to the original design of the church. There were two exceptional features on the exterior of the church. The first consisted of elaborate terra cotta panels in an archway on the south wall leading down to the basement Sunday School. The second was the soaring landmark spire boasted by this church at the intersection of Metcalfe and Gloucester streets. Too soaring by far, as it turned out, for it was struck by lightning twice on the same day, resulting in it being cut down to the top of

SPRING SEASON 2025
a weekly gathering for seniors in the community
coffee, goodies and featured activities
SENIORS - COME & JOIN US
Every Thursday April 3 - June 19
10:00am to 12 noon

St Mark's Anglican Church
1606 Fisher Avenue, Ottawa
For more information contact: St Mark's at 613 224-7431

UP-COMING ACTIVITIES

- May 1**
May 8
May 15

Bridge, Games - and/or - Koffee Klatsch
May Flowers and Asian Heritage Month
Guest: **Mary Jane Maffini** – well known former mystery bookstore owner and award winning local author of twenty mystery books, featuring fictional Ottawa area women in three different series that are beloved by crime readers. Books will be available for sale.
May 22
May 29 Creative Writing - and/or - Koffee Klatsch
Ode to Spring and Songs of Romance – musical entertainment by
Guests: **Yin Le**, vocalist & **Felicia Cui**, pianist
- June 5**
June 12
June 19

Bridge, Games - and/or - Koffee Klatsch
Koffee Klatsch - and/or - Creative Writing Readers
End of Season **Luncheon** to celebrate CCC and the Summer Solstice

May 1 – 11

St. John the Evangelist (154
Somerset St. West, Ottawa)
12 pm to 6 pm
St. John's presents the 46th
exhibition & sale of 100 original
artworks by 40 local artists. An
array of paintings, collages, icons,
sculptures and photographic work.
The medley of diverse styles, media
and techniques are presented in a
contemplative setting. Admission is
free.
Email: office@stjohnsottawa.ca
(613) 232-4500

Governance and Human Resources Workshop – Learning Commons

Holy Trinity Anglican Church (68 Renfrew Street, Pembroke, Ont.)
9 am to 12:30 pm
The workshop will cover the responsibilities of churchwardens, as well as the role of Parish and Congregational Councils, Central Parish Committees, Annual Vestry Meetings and Special Vestry Meetings. Contracts for organists and custodians as well as tips for supporting the ministry of volunteers will be covered. Executive Archdeacon Linda Hill and Paul Lex, director of human resources, will be presenters, and Chancellor Canon Henry Schultz will also be there. For more info and to register: [ottawa.anglican.ca/
resources/for-parishes/ado-learningcommons/](http://ottawa.anglican.ca/resources/for-parishes/ado-learningcommons/)

All Saints, Petawawa (173 Victoria Street, Petawawa, Ont.)
9 am to 12 pm
Come and shop good and nearly new clothes, a white elephant table, and an amazing selection of books. Sale located in the Church Hall.
More Info: <https://www.valleyanglicans.ca/events/all-saints-spring-rummage-sale--425/2025-05-03>

Julian of Norwich – 10th anniversary festival
(Julian of Norwich, 7 Rossland Ave., Ottawa) See article, p.7

Pilgrimage for the Planet
See Climate justice pilgrimage, p. 8

Salad Garden Event
St. Matthew's Church in the Glebe
(217 First Avenue, Ottawa)
Plant your own salad garden.
See Creation matters, p. 8)



PHOTO: NANDY HEULE

May 23 – 24

Christ Church Cathedral (414 Sparks St., Ottawa)
See story, p. 11

St. John the Evangelist (154
Somerset St. West, Ottawa)154
Somerset Street West
See story, p. 5

Great Glebe Garage Sale
See story, p. 8

Cycle Clinic
St. Matthew's Church in the Glebe
(217 First Avenue, Ottawa)
A team of St. Matthew's
parishioners will help you get your
bicycle ready to ride.
See Creation matters, p 8

Interchurch Youth Camp
Camp Lutherlyn, Golden Lake
Anglican, United, Lutheran,
Presbyterian & friends
Youth and their leaders will stay
overnight in cabins, sharing meals

together, getting to know each other through games, spiritual practices, campfires, swimming and paddling. It's a time to rest and recharge. Especially in a context where we are being challenged to live with compassion, empathy, and service, we hope to encourage, reinforce, and commission the goodness within all of us to be a light into the world. (More details on poster below.)

More Info: youthcamp.ca

Tailgate Sale

St. Mary Magdalene Church,
Chelsea, QC, 537 Route 105
30+ vendors selling treasures from
the trunks of their vehicles, plus
yummy home baking, plant sale and
much much more. Admission is free!

L'Église St. Mary Magdalene,
Chelsea, QC, 537 Route 105
30+ vendeurs vendant des trésors
dans les coffres de leurs véhicules,
de délicieuses pâtisseries maison,
une vente de plantes et bien plus
encore. L'entrée est gratuite!

**InterChurch
2025 Youth Camp**

Register at youthcamp.ca

Registration OPEN

Anglican, United,
Presbyterian &
Friends

YOUTH CAMP
MAY 30-JUNE 1

AGES 11-18+

**CAMP LUTHERLYN
GOLDEN LAKE ONTARIO**

**FRIDAY MAY 30 5:30PM -
SUNDAY JUNE 1 12:30PM**

Adult Drivers &
Youth Leaders needed

Janet Currie-Kelk (Children & Youth Ministry)
janet@allsaintswestboro.com



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