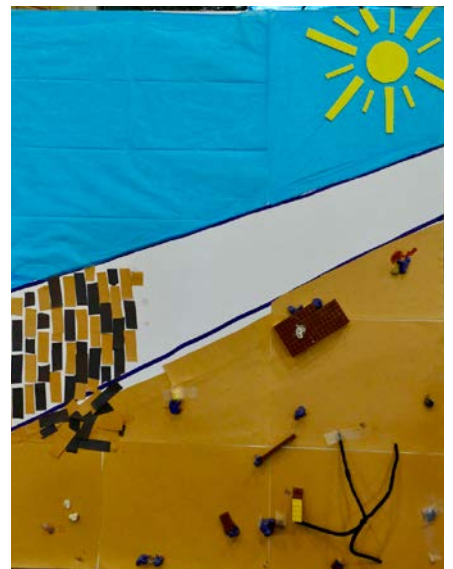
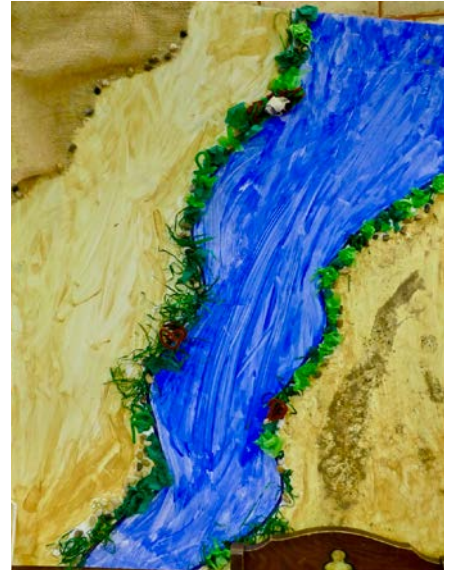




the
GATHERING
newsletter of the Church of the Redeemer

lent 2019



Dear Friends of the Redeemer,

THERE ARE turning points in the life of a Church. The green Pentecost season is summery and light. Advent signals hope and danger. Christmas Eve gives voice to so much awaited excitement and celebration. The annual meeting is a moment when we all get to “catch the ball” that is usually only in the hands of our Board members and Chairs. It’s a “How’s it going?” of looking back and gazing forwards. Ash Wednesday opens the “slow down and pay attention!” season, to remind us that everything we do in Redeemer only makes sense when we are being the Body of Christ here on the corner. And then Easter...the explosion of startled joy coming out from under the Holy Week pile of pain and failure!

Imagine for a moment that those points are poles sticking up out of the ground with a washing line strung between them.

- ◆ On that line, in Pentecost time, as I began here in September, it became clearer, as weeks turned to months, that there was some pretty dirty laundry hanging up. Not what anyone expected.
- ◆ It became very clear in Advent, the season of surprises. David Giffen’s ministry here was a gift and a challenging time of changes, and finally, for his victim, for him, his family, and for many in this church, at the end, a time of deep pain and confusion. We have witnessed strong Diocesan oversight and compassion for those hurt and for David, too.
- ◆ A week after the Archbishop closed that story, we stepped into the dark mystery of the birth of an unlooked-for Messiah. Not the best time or place to be incarnated, I would say. But, that’s God for you! Coming in weakness to heal our pain, with love and tenderness. Lifting us up into something new and not

really fully known. God asks for faith by saying, “Will you follow me, if you don’t yet know the way?”

- ◆ As we enter the place of deep inner searching; the season of Lent, two people will be in transition. I will be preparing to leave this lovely, smart, deep, passionate, active, faithful community, with both sadness and joy. Someone else will be preparing to come here as your Incumbent. You will be called to open your hearts and minds to a new leader.
- ◆ Easter season comes again with the invitation to new life in Christ. After all you’ve been through, can you begin again? Can you trust a new person? Can you let God seep into you in new ways? Can you move your weight from the known back-foot of the past to the about-to-land foot of a new chapter of Redeemer’s book of life?
- ◆ This is quite a washing line, isn’t it?
But now, back to the present, and closest pole...See you at the Annual Meeting and Ash Wednesday!



The Rev'd David Howells

In peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David'.

David Howells

ROSHNI JAYAWARDENA

God-willing, on Sunday, March 3 at 4.30PM, The Rt Rev'd Kevin Robertson, area bishop for York-Scarborough will ordain The Rev'd Roshni Jayawardena to the sacred order of the priesthood.

All are invited to witness and celebrate this joyous occasion at the Church of the Redeemer. A reception will follow.

Your prayers and presence are appreciated.

Nursery care will be available



ANNUAL VESTRY

Our annual Vestry meeting is on **Tuesday, February 26**. We begin with worship at 6PM followed by the meeting at 7PM. We will receive ministry area and the 2018 financial report as well as approve the budget for 2019. There will also be presentations about some of the things that are planned for the year ahead. All are encouraged to attend!

TELLING THE STORY

The next installment of the final season of Telling the Story will be on **Tuesday, March 12** at 7PM. This season we will be Telling Our Stories, as we ask some past presenters and other to share with us the stories from the Bible that have had the greatest impact on their personal faith journeys.

The presenter for this session, titled "**Love-Hate: Life with the Psalms**," will be scholar in residence Nate Wall, the lector will be Karen Turner, and music will be provided by Michelle Rumball.

Please register at the Redeemer website, so we'll know how many to expect.

The Search for an Incumbent: Wardens' Update

Chris Ambidge and Ryan Carlsen

This is an update to the parish regarding the current state of our search for a new incumbent, following the decision made by Archbishop Colin Johnson in December 2018, to terminate the appointment of David Giffen as the incumbent at the Church of the Redeemer.

Much has happened since that date. On January 24, 2019, the two of us, with Ann Cope, Vice-Chair of Advisory Board, Lee Shouldice, Vice-Chair of the Board of Management, and David Howells, our Priest-in-Charge, met with our area bishop, The Rt Rev'd Kevin Robertson. We shared with him how the parish was doing and agreed upon the use of a model for the purpose of choosing our next incumbent. That model will involve the Chairs and the Vice-Chairs of our two boards working with Bishop Kevin to identify potential candidates for the position. An updated version of our parish profile from 2016 was then prepared. That document, and our draft strategic plan, has been made available to priests who are considering whether the Redeemer is a place where they feel called to serve.

On February 5, 2019, a notice indicating that Bishop Kevin was accepting applications for our new incumbent was placed in the "Clergy in Motion" column of the Diocesan website. Bishop Kevin will be accepting applications for the position until the end of February. In the meantime, we invited parishioners to submit questions that they would like us

to ask candidates. We received dozens of insightful questions, for which we are grateful. We are currently reviewing the submissions to identify common themes. The questions that we prepare to ask all candidates for our incumbency will be informed by what you have suggested.

We most recently met with Bishop Kevin and Janet Marshall, the Diocesan Director of Congregational Development, on February 20, 2019. The Bishop advised us that there has been considerable interest expressed in our incumbency. The two of us, along with Ann Cope, Lee Shouldice, and Sheree Drummond (the proposed incoming Vice-Chair of the Board of Management) also discussed with Bishop Kevin and Janet the process that will be used to develop a short list of candidates, the development of questions for candidates, and the time that we should expect each stage of the search process to take.

Our next meeting with Bishop Kevin will be on Thursday, March 7. At that time, we anticipate reviewing with the Bishop the applications that he has received and updating him regarding the questions that we are developing for the candidates.

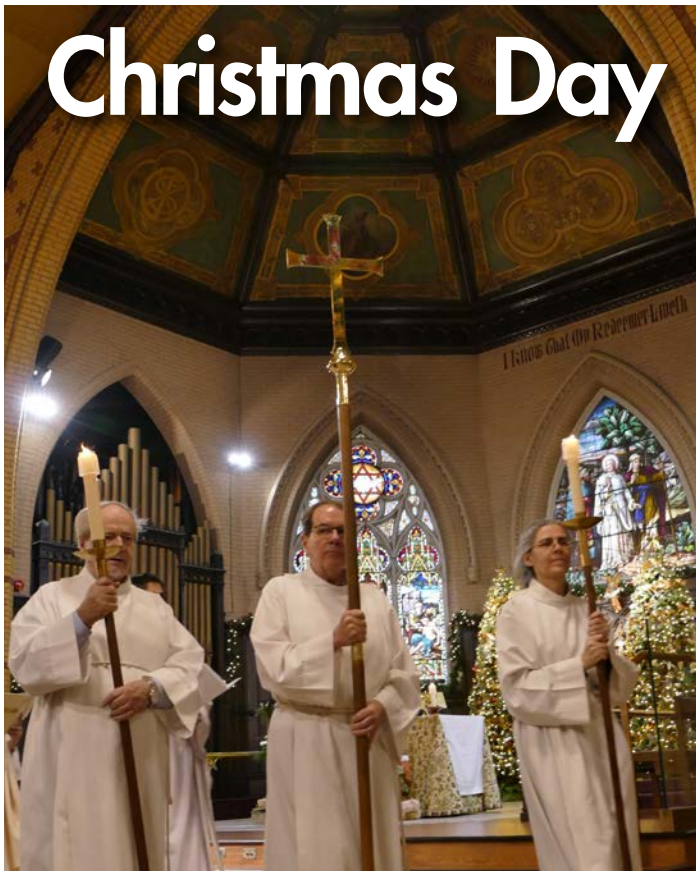
Once we move into the stage when candidates have been identified we will not be providing any further updates until the process concludes and an incumbent has been selected. It is important for the integrity of the process that the identities of candidates for the incumbency remain confidential.

In the meantime, we would ask you to pray for those who are discerning a call to serve the Church, for the staff of the Church who are preparing to welcome a new colleague, and for our community as we continue to move forward in all the ways that God calls us to serve. ✚

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WE LEARN TOGETHER IN LENT

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
(And Their Families)

Ash Wednesday Exploration Day

Children and youth ages 6-14 from our community are warmly invited to join other children and youth from across our diocese for the Ash Wednesday Exploration Day at St. James Cathedral on **March 6**. This year we will be exploring the theme of "Being Alive" throughout our day. We will explore the Cathedral, do some crafts, play, and enjoy worship together. The day will be an opportunity for children and youth to get to know each other and their Cathedral a little better.

Parent and caregiver volunteers are welcome to join us for the day. Before- and after-care is available from 8 to 9AM, and 3.30 to 5PM

The cost for the day is \$5. This goes to help with the costs for lunch and snacks, activities, and supplies for the day.

Details about how to register for this event are on the Redeemer website or from Rev'd Roshni.

Sunday Afternoon Lenten Series

Families with children of all ages are invited to participate in a two-part Lenten series at the Redeemer. Beginning with **Dust and Dinner** on **Sunday, March 10** from 4 to 6PM, we will explore the meaning of Ash Wednesday, the imposition of ashes, and creative ways we can mark the season of Lent.

The second event in our two-part series is *Eat, Pray, Walk* where we will explore prayer and meditation, particularly by building and walking a labyrinth. This session is on **Sunday, April 7** from 4 to 6PM.

Families will have the opportunity to prepare part of the meal and then we will all break bread together. While this is a two-part Lenten series, if your family is only able to attend one of the events please know you are welcome!

Registration is available through the Redeemer website.

FOR ADULTS

Meditations on Mercy:

Against the background of Thomas Merton's poetry, and using meditations by Merton, Jim Forest, and Leonardo Boff, Paul Pynkoski leads us as we reflect together on the meaning of mercy, and the shape mercy might take in our lives, our relationships, and in the community of the church. We gather on three **Tuesday evenings, March 19 and 26 and April 2** at 6PM for a simple supper and the program begins at 6.30PM. ✝

Redeemer Readers

Thursday, March 21

In this session we will discuss three books by **Rowan Williams**, former Archbishop of Canterbury.

Being Christian

(SPCK, 2014).

This book delves into four vital aspects of Christian life: baptism, bible, eucharist, and prayer.

Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life

(Eerdmans, 2016).

We are all at different stages of our life's faith journey. In this book, Williams explores how we follow Jesus in our time as we grow in faith.

God with Us: The Meaning of the Cross and Resurrection – Then and Now

(SPCK, 2017).

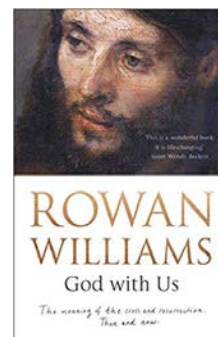
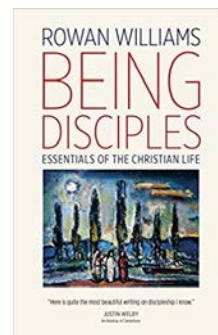
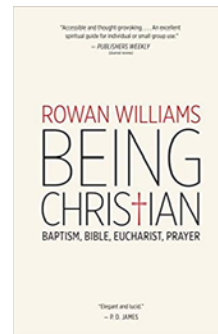
Williams looks at the story at the heart of the Christian gospel—the cross on which Jesus was crucified and his resurrection.

Thursday, May 9

Gilead, **Marilynne Robinson.**

(Harper Collins, 2006).

This work of literary fiction tells the story of generations of a family in a rural Iowa town as seen through the eyes of the Reverend John Ames. He recounts for his young son experiences of his father and grandfather as well as his own theological struggles. ✝



The Work of the Indigenous Solidarity Working Group: An Update

Stephen Allen

Earlier in January, the Indigenous Solidarity Working Group (ISWG) met at the Holy Cross Priory to plan its program for 2019. The ISWG provides opportunities to learn about Indigenous issues from Indigenous people and to support advocacy issues of concern to Indigenous people. Here are some highlights of the coming months.

There will be a visit to the Crawford Lake Conservation Area (near Milton) in May to learn about the reconstructed Wendat-Huron longhouse. This visit will benefit from the wisdom of an Indigenous Elder. In September, there will be a visit to Curve Lake (near Peterborough) to learn about harvesting wild rice. Carolyn Bett coordinates these visits.

The following cultural event is not part of the Working group's program but nonetheless may be of interest to the community at Redeemer. The Pax Christi Chorale has commissioned an oratorio by Barbara Croall, an Odawa First Nations composer, called *Miziwe (Everywhere)*. The world premier will occur on Sunday, March 31, 3PM at Koerner Hall. It will be performed in Ojibwe Odawa with surtitles.

In May or June, the ISWG will collaborate with other downtown churches and businesses in REDress. As a way of acknowledging murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, red dresses will be hung in a number of locations including Redeemer in the downtown area. Once the dates are set, members of Redeemer will be informed.

This year, Redeemer will mark National Indigenous Day on Sunday, June 16. Our guest preacher will be Sandra Campbell currently doing her MDiv at Wycliffe College. Sandra is also the Pastoral Care worker with the Toronto Native Urban Ministry.

On Saturday, September 21, there will be an opportunity to hear from Survivors of residential schools. The following Saturday, September 28, Andrew and Esther Wesley will

facilitate the Blanket Exercise. Both events will take place in the parish hall.

Commissioners for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission have said that the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* is the framework for reconciliation in Canada. Bill C-262 is now before the Senate and is intended to ensure that Canada's laws are in harmony with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Over 350 postcards have been distributed by the ISWG and sent by members of Redeemer to Senators.

Further information is available on KAIROS' web site: bit.ly/kairos262.

An ecumenical letter signed by senior leaders in a number of denominations is being sent to all Senators urging their support for this bill. Additional postcards are available from Stephen Allen at the 9.30AM service and Pamela Thomson at the 11.15AM service.

Interested in keeping up with events and articles about Indigenous issues?

Subscribe to the Weekly Indigenous News Digest prepared by Pamela Thomson.

Melanie Delva is the Reconciliation Animator for the Anglican Church of Canada. On the second Tuesday of each month Melanie circulates *Anglican Reconciliation Connections* which focuses on new resources, campaigns and efforts by Anglicans across in support of Indigenous people. Visit anglican.ca/reconciliationtoolkit and register on the site if you wish to receive the newsletter.

Then Primate Archbishop Michael Peers in his Apology to Indigenous people on August 6, 1993, said:

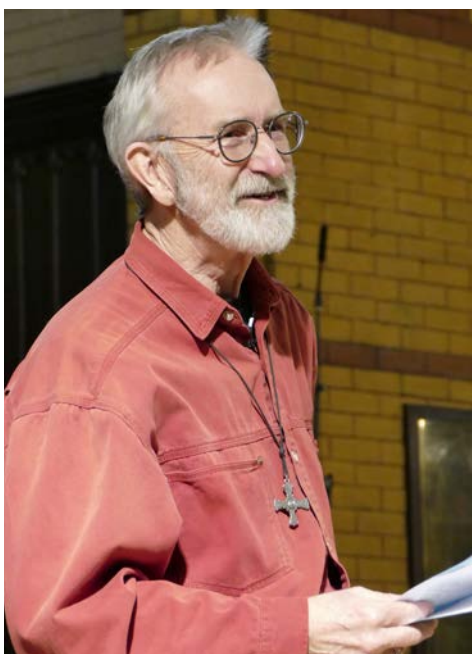
'I know how often you have heard words which have been empty because they have not been accompanied by actions. I pledge to you my best efforts, and the efforts of our church at the national level, to walk with you along the path of God's healing.'

Interested in being part of this journey? Become part of the Indigenous Solidarity Working Group. Contact Stephen Allen and Pamela Thomson.

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Rock Eucharist – The Music of Neil Young



Rock Eucharist – The Music of Taylor Swift



Sing and Joyful Be!
– a Shape-Note Eucharist featuring the music of *The Sacred Harp*



Propaganda, Poetry, and Peace

Paul Pynkoski

In a series of reflections in *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander* (pp.235-243) Thomas Merton looks at propaganda and the Nazi death camps. He quotes letters from German business-
es that promise the Commander of Auschwitz higher levels of efficiency with “perfected cremation ovens,” offering, “We guarantee their effectiveness, as well as their durability.” He quotes from a speech of Himmler to his generals, “This is a page of glory in our history which has never been written and is never to be written.” Merton comments, “Pardon, Herr General, I cannot refrain from writing it.”

Merton’s anti-poem, “Chant to Be Used in Processions Around a Site With Furnaces” dares to write that “page of glory in our history” in language that is as absurd as it is chilling. Merton takes phrases from the trial testimony of the Auschwitz commander along with excerpts from the letters he quotes in *Conjectures* and situates them in language the reader knows full well is meant to obscure. The title suggests liturgy, and the poem is constructed much like psalmody or chant, most sections being only two or three short lines. Terms like purification, bathing, play, love, fragrance, and happiness are placed alongside phrases that obscurely point to death, cremation, and the turning of human remains into soap. Efficiency and obedience are celebrated. As I read and reread Chant I experienced anger and horror—at the Nazis, and at the way language was used to speak of genocide and create a liturgy celebrating death. (bit.ly/furnacechant)

Merton constructs this piece to focus our attention on the Nazi atrocities. But he doesn’t stop there. The power of this liturgy is that at the very end the reader becomes trapped in the poem. As the speaker makes his final commendation (“All the while I obeyed perfectly”) he offers,

*You smile at my career but you would do as I did if
You knew yourself and dared
In my day we worked hard we saw what we did...*

We respond “No, not me!” But we are all caught at the last chant:

*Do not think yourself better because you burn up
Friends and enemies with long
range missiles without
Ever seeing what you have done.*

The Commander’s willingness to celebrate his obedience and efficiency, is contrasted with our refusal to see anything at all, our ability to anaesthetize ourselves from the death and destruction that is part of our society’s war economy. We are all condemned as guilty bystanders.

Canadian hip hop artist, Shad, uses a similar technique in his remarkable album, *A Short Story About War*. In the song “Revolution/The Establishment,” he takes aim at the double speak of war and the duping of the public through propaganda. The purveyors of weapons, selling to both sides of a violent conflict, calmly deflect criticism back on those who protest war:

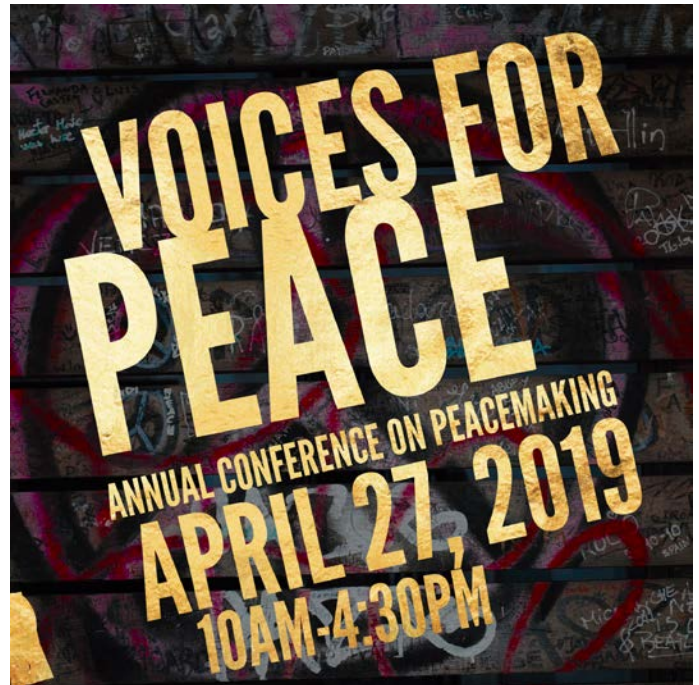
We don’t make war
We make sure that there’s order
We just follow orders
We just fill orders...
My job is complying with city bylaws
And minimizing innocent lives lost...
Our stance is: we make instruments
We don’t create incidents...
We’re not mystics
You should pray more
We’re religious
We’re not malicious or vicious
We’re not sadistic
Listen
Don’t get it twisted
Of course
We don’t make war

(YouTube: bit.ly/shortstorywar)

Phrases like “we don’t make war” are constantly repeated, perhaps enough times to make it believable.

Propaganda’s half-truths and double talk too often convince us, but perhaps they should horrify us. The work of these two poets alerts us to look beneath the surface of what is being said in support of the status quo of violence, pushing us to reflect more deeply on Christ’s call to us to be peacemakers.

Church of the Redeemer, along with The Henri Nouwen Society and The Basilian Centre for Peace and Justice, will be supporting our call to reflect on peacemaking at the second annual Voices For Peace Conference. The conference (bit.ly/voices4peace) will take place on April 27, 2019 at The Henri Nouwen Society, 95 Saint Joseph Street, Toronto, ON M5S 1J4



The annual parish celebration of pancakes and fun that is our **Mardi Gras party** is on



Tuesday, March 5 from 5.30 to 8PM. **Pancakes** and **ice cream sundaes**, fun activities



including a **balloon artist** and **face-painter** and **music**.



The cost is \$5/person or \$10/family.



Reconciliation through Travel for Learning

Carolynn Bett

Have you ever wondered what you can do towards reconciliation with Indigenous people in Canada? The Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report seem aimed at governments, churches and other institutions and feel overwhelming to many individuals. So, we retreat and wish they would “just get over it and move on.” But let’s pause for a moment and consider what moving on looks like. Getting over it is what Indigenous people are doing in healing circles and ceremonies all across the country. They know it will take time, possibly generations. But moving on involves us because we are currently sharing the space in which they move. The first thing we need to do is be aware that we are sharing and acknowledge Indigenous presence.

It is an act of reconciliation for us to be aware of and support Indigenous events.

Let us consider some ways in which we share. Since most of us are not aware of having personal friends of Indigenous heritage, we must look to the public spaces. And there we find that Indigenous theatre and music groups, artists, professors and Elders have announced their own presence and simply want us to notice them and attend their presentations. We can do this in private by listening

to Rosanna Deerchild on CBC, our shared airwaves, or we can have more fun by joining some friends and going out. After such a long period of having to hide who they are, it is an act of reconciliation for us to be aware of and support Indigenous events.

This winter Travel for Learning, an adjunct to the Indigenous Solidarity Working Group, decided to support one Indigenous event per month in Toronto, in addition to

planning our out-of-town trips. We are a loosely constructed group open to all levels of participation by you and your friends. You may simply want to be aware of our activities; you may want to join in from time to time or as often as possible; you may want to suggest events we could attend, or you may want to participate in planning the out-of-town events. While Redeemer supports us technically, our reach is well beyond the Bloor Faith Corridor. You and your friends are most welcome, and any level of participation is an act of reconciliation.

Recent and upcoming events:

Cottagers and Indians by Drew Hayden Taylor at the Tarragon Theatre. February 9 to 24. This funny but pointed play deals with today’s cultural conflict over the growing of wild rice in cottage country/on traditional Indigenous land. It prepared us for our fall trip to Curve Lake to learn about harvesting and preparing wild rice.

In addition, members of the community attended

- ◆ **Richard Wagamese** memorial and book launch, at Hot Docs.
- ◆ Short documentaries on the importance of **Friendship Centres**, at First Nations Junior and Senior School of Toronto.
- ◆ **Senator Murray Smith** and the law, at Hart House.
- ◆ **Leanne Simpson** lecture and folk music concert, at Isabel Bader and George Ignatieff theatres respectively
- ◆ **First Story bus tour**
- ◆ **Kiviut Returns: an Inuit Epic**, at the Tarragon

Some of these were last minute suggestions by participants. Each enriched us beyond all expectations.

In March there are a couple of opportunities for us to continue our learning.

The **Toronto Storytelling Festival** from March 19 to 24 will feature North American and Scottish Indigenous storytellers, the latter of whom also experienced residential schools. Further information is available through their website: torontostorytellingfestival.ca/2019/

We look forward to attending **Miziwe** (Everywhere), an oratorio by Odawa composer, Barbara Croall, performed by Pax Christi Chorale at Koerner Hall on Sunday, March 31 at 3PM. Tickets can be ordered online from the Pax Christi website. Those who wish to attend are responsible for purchasing their own ticket and providing transportation for themselves.

See you there!



A Primer on our Stewardship Ministry

Heather Bennett and Sara Lawson

What is the mission of the Stewardship Ministry?

It is the mission of the Stewardship Ministry to nurture, celebrate and acknowledge all the ministries, programs and outreach offered by this parish community. We seek to inspire in each of us the generous use of the God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure that sustain them.

Why is there reference to giving time, talent and financial support?

The gifts of all members are needed and invited. Some give generously through our very being—showing up for worship services, attending programs and praying regularly for our clergy, staff, and parishioners.

Some give generously by **doing**—participating as musicians, greeters, lectors, communion ministers for worship services, offering hospitality, serving on committees to plan and carry out inspiring learning programs, or to provide parish governance and oversight, teaching church school, working with youth, and preparing meals for, or interacting with participants in The Common Table.

Still others give financially instead of, or, in addition to, active involvement. Whether financial offerings have been given in joy, sorrow, anxiety, trust, or thanksgiving, all are received humbly and with deep gratitude on behalf of the community.

How is the annual budget prepared?

All ministry leads—staff and lay leaders—submit a budget reflecting plans for the calendar year. Input from the diocese related to cost of living increases and our apportionment is added. The year-to-date and year-end forecast of expenses and revenues are reviewed and a calculation made of the revenues that will be needed to achieve the draft budget. Once the final year-end numbers have been audited, the Board of Management approves the budget that will be presented to the parish for approval at Vestry.

Why do we always have a year-end campaign?

We have many patterns of giving within the parish. Some make an annual lump-sum donation at the beginning or at the end of the calendar year. Some give different amounts weekly. Some give a fixed amount monthly via envelopes, Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) or CanadaHelps. Some give when they are able to do so. Some donate the proceeds of investments after fourth quarter dividends have been

paid. Some give some or all their year-end bonuses paid by employers. Some give thank offerings for notable anniversaries, birthdays or life events. Some give when we have parish fundraisers such as those for The Common Table.

We invite all who attend Bach Vespers, Rock Eucharists, Taizé and other special services such as Easter Vigil and Christmas Eve to make financial donations. We recently began using “Square” technology to facilitate making such donations by smartphone, debit or credit card.

Each autumn, we invite members to make special For what are you grateful? donations. We reach out to friends of the parish highlighting our ministries and invite them to donate to support these. We look at our expenses in all areas and trim these as much as possible.


A number of foundations support our Common Table drop-in program. Sometimes we know the funding will be given. Sometimes we hope we will receive funding, depending on decisions made by the foundations’ boards late in the year.

Apart from those who give regularly through PAR, CanadaHelps, or envelopes, we really don’t know what our income will be! We trust that by making the need known, what is needed will be received. Indeed, we often receive generous gifts from unexpected sources within and beyond the parish. The Spirit at work.

How can we help to reduce the need for a year-end campaign?

- ◆ Give regularly, using envelopes, through PAR or CanadaHelps.
- ◆ If you give to the United Way, designate your donation for Church of the Redeemer.
- ◆ Use an app called “Mylo” to round up your purchases using a debit or credit card and give the “change” to the church.
- ◆ Donate shares or mutual funds.
- ◆ Instead of getting “stuff” for a significant life event, suggest donations to Redeemer ministries e.g. The Common Table or the music program.

To learn more about any of these, contact stewardship@theredeemer.ca

The Stewardship Ministry seeks to inspire and invite all members prayerfully to consider intentionally sharing God-given gifts of capabilities, expertise, time and financial resources for the ministries that enable us to ... open our doors to welcome the sojourner, the weary, the yearning, and the seeking; to come together to worship God and to learn about Jesus, and how all of this might just transform our lives. (from the Our Vision website page). 

Ashes Etched As Reminders

Ann Cope

I find Lent weighing on me a little differently this year.

Perhaps 'weighing' isn't the right word.

That suggests

a burden,

something difficult,

something unbearable.

It isn't that.

Maybe it is what I'm sensing around me. Have you noticed words like

Self-care

Soul-care

Wellness

Gratitude

Restoration

Organization

appearing more often in displays in the stores and in articles in the media. It feels as though 2019 has been declared the year of care for self, soul and home.

I see and hear and read all of that in the world around me and then I think about Lent and I wonder. Is there something there in the way we live Lent that might be important for me? For you? For us, together?

Lent.

A time that begins with
ashes.

And a cross.

A reminder

etched on our foreheads that

from our beginning we are God's beloved - always

A reminder

etched on our foreheads

that in our baptism we were marked

as Christ's own - forever

A reminder

etched on our foreheads

that we are mortal - dust.

But that is not all.

For this is also a reminder. A recalling.

We have these days that follow to return.

To take all of those pieces of us that may feel

fragile

broken

unreconciled

To walk alongside Jesus through these days of Lent

to feel the Spirit weaving in and through our lives

to turn our faces once again to God and

To say

In my fragility - help me feel strength

In my brokenness - help me find healing

In the unreconciled - help me find a way home.

No. Weighing isn't the right word at all.

What I think I may be sensing - here

For me

For you

For us, together

Is Jesus calling us to remember

that the ashes that are etched on our foreheads

began as palm branches.

Palm branches that are part of a journey

that we are all invited to share

that brings us to a cross

and a tomb with a stone rolled away

And new life.



PARISH NOTES



Parishioner Paul Rodger from our 11.15AM community is currently in Thailand teaching English as a second language. We hold him in our prayers while he is away from us and look forward to welcoming him back in a few months



Each year, on the Thursday before Christmas, our 11.15AM choir brings their beautiful song to the front steps of the church. They sing carols for about 30 minutes and we see the joy and wonder of their gift of music reflected on the faces of those who pass by, pause to listen and then continue on their way.

IN MEMORIAM

We were saddened over Christmas, to learn of the sudden death of Cherith Muir who was a long-time member of our community. Cherith had been, over her years at Redeemer, a member of the Advisory Board, co-leader for the 11.15 sidespeople, a member of the Monday evening Bible study group, and member—and for a time, chair—of the Learning at Redeemer committee. Cherith was instrumental in bringing our annual series *Telling the Story* to fruition each year. A funeral service was held at Church of the Redeemer on Friday, December 28.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with all your saints, where there is neither pain nor sorrow nor sighing, but life everlasting.

SERVICES OF NOTE

WE PREPARE FOR LENT

The Last Sunday after Epiphany and the Burning of the Palms, March 3: The palms from last year's celebration of Palm Sunday are burned after the **9.30AM** and **11.15AM** services in preparation for Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday, March 6

The tracing of a cross with ashes on our foreheads and the words *You are dust and to dust you shall return* reminds us that we have the season of Lent to turn to God, to bring all of the pieces of our selves that need healing and restoration as we prepare for the joyous celebration of Easter.



Ashes Before Work – 8 to 9AM

Our priests will be on the front steps and the side of the church by Starbucks offering a prayer, imposition of ashes and a blessing for all who pass by our doors and want to observe the day.

The church will be open for prayer and reflection during the day.

Sung Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes – 12.15PM and 6PM

A traditional Sung Eucharist with prayers, hymns, readings, sermon, communion & imposition of ashes.

LENT

We pray. We repent. We give alms.

Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent: Some of us live near the church or work nearby. Why not consider coming to one of the mid-week services as a way of marking the Lenten journey. We gather in the space at the front of the church at **12.15PM**

Sundays in Lent: The penitential rite we use through the days of this season calls us to confess and accept responsibility.

SUNDAY EVENINGS IN LENT:

Evensong – Sunday, March 10 – 7PM: A traditional evening service with a reflection offered by the officiant.

Evensong – Sunday, March 17 – 7PM: A traditional evening service with a reflection offered by the officiant.

Taizé – Sunday, March 24 – 7PM: Candlelight, song, prayer, silence. Come. Be still.

Rock Eucharist – Sunday, March 31 – 7PM: The music of the Imagine Dragons is part of our service

this night. We gather to hear the good news opened up and to receive bread and wine, blessed and shared.

Evensong – Sunday, April 7 – 7PM: A traditional evening service with a reflection offered by the officiant.

HOLY WEEK

We immerse ourselves in the story that brings us from palm branches to upper room; from bread and wine to foot washing. From prayer in the garden to a cross and to an empty tomb.

Palm Sunday – April 14: We enter the city of Jerusalem with Jesus. We cross the threshold of Holy Week. The exhortation on Palm Sunday reminds us of our obligation to enter Holy Week with the fullness of our being. We are not dismissed at the end of the service because the liturgy continues throughout the week.

In the morning there will be processions. At the **9.30AM** service from a nearby park to the church and at the **11.15AM** service within the worship space. In the evening, at **7PM**, we complete the day with Holy Week Vespers. We feature Bach's Cantata BWV 131 *Aus der Tiefen rufe ich, Herr, zu dir*

Monday in Holy Week, Tuesday in Holy Week and Wednesday in Holy Week:

Two celebrations of the Eucharist will be held each day at **12.15PM** and **6PM**.

Maundy Thursday – April 18 – 7.30PM: We wash the disciples' feet, we remember the Last Supper, we strip the altar, and we watch and pray in the garden.

Good Friday – April 19: Two Good Friday celebrations will call us to be still, to descend and to let go. A service for all ages will take place at **9.30AM** and a reflective celebration at **12 noon**.

The Great Vigil – April 20 – 9 PM: The new fire is lit and carried into the church. We hear the story of redemption through song and readings. The catechumen gathers before Bishop Kevin Robertson and we renew our baptismal vows with them. Gathered around the table, we are fed, ready to be sent out into the world to bring the good news of Jesus. And we party with our famous Resurrection Celebration at the end of the service.

Easter Day – April 21: Join us at **6.30AM** for the sunrise service. The community continues our celebration of the resurrection at services at **8, 9.30 and 11.15AM** (the latter service will be Solemn Eucharist with incense).

ON THE COVER – Over the past few months, the children have been learning about the story of Moses as part of their church school lessons. They have created large-scale storyboards, each one interpreting a part of the story. Recently, the boards were on display in the welcome area so that the whole community could see the amazing work that has gone into their time together.