



the  
**GATHERING**  
newsletter of the Church of the Redeemer

pentecost 2019



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# Our Finances: An Update

Lee Shouldice

**A**S THE Chair of the Board of Management, I have spent much of 2019 focused upon the state of our church finances. I indicated at Vestry that, based upon historical income patterns, it appeared inevitable that by the end of 2019 there would be a gap of approximately \$225,000 between the income we receive and the expenses we incur. Although not a satisfactory solution, that gap can be covered this year by a one-time draw upon our investment funds. However, we cannot continue to cover such a large gap in that manner. If we do so, our investment funds will be depleted within the next four or five years.

There is both good news and bad news. On the good news side, our revenues for the first four months of 2019 are roughly what we anticipated they would be at Vestry. In addition, some parishioners have responded to our financial situation and have increased their monthly donations to the Church. To those who have done so, I thank you. However, there is also bad news. Our revenues for the first four months of the year are what they are due to two large donations we received in January that total \$80,000. Those donations will *not* recur during the second, third and fourth quarters of the year. Additionally, most parishioners have not increased their donations to the church. We remain on target to hit the end of the year with a \$225,000 gap between revenues and expenses.

But there is one other significant piece of good news. We have a new incumbent, the Rev. Canon Steven Mackison, who will be joining us on August 1. The announcement that Steven will be returning to Redeemer has brought with it a new level of energy, excitement, and optimism that has provided a breath of fresh air to the congregation. We can all sense it. There is confidence amongst the senior lay leadership of the church that, with Steven's careful guidance, the Church will increase our congregational base in the long run, and the gap between our income and our expenditures will close. That said, in the short run, we will still have to focus upon increasing our current level of givings, decreasing our

current level of expenses, or a combination of both.

In my presentation to Vestry in February, I indicated that if we could not find a way to fully fund our operations in the short run, we would have to significantly reduce our budget and re-evaluate what it is that we can really afford to do. I advised the congregation that there would be parish meetings scheduled for the purpose of discussing our financial situation. We planned on holding those meetings in June. However, after consulting with Steven, we have decided to postpone the parish meetings until late August and early September. Steven would like to attend those meetings in order to hear what members of the parish have to say about our financial situation, and to provide members of the parish with his vision for the future of Redeemer. It makes a lot of sense for us to defer those meetings until Steven arrives, so we will.

But our fiscal gap hasn't stopped. It continues to increase each month. The senior lay leadership would like to be in the position to report to Steven when he arrives in August that our givings have started to grow, and that we are not in as difficult a financial bind as we thought we would be at this time. If our finances are starting to look even a bit healthier when Steven arrives, it would be a huge assistance for him as he begins his work to help us move forward as a community. With that in mind, once again I strongly encourage those of you who can prayerfully consider making an increased monthly donation to the church. Thank you very much for considering that request.

As always, if any one would like to contact me, I can be reached at [managementboard@theredeemer.ca](mailto:managementboard@theredeemer.ca). ✝

*On the good news side, our revenues for the first four months of 2019 are roughly what we anticipated they would be at Vestry. In addition, some parishioners have responded to our financial situation and have increased their monthly donations to the Church.*



# Selection Committee update

On Sunday, May 5, Lee Shouldice, chair of the Board of Management, and Chris Ambidge, chair of the Advisory Board, were pleased to make the following announcement on behalf of the selection committee:

*After consulting with the Selection Committee over the past four months, and based upon our recommendation, Bishop Kevin Robertson has appointed The Rev'd Canon Steven Mackison to be our next Incumbent at the Church of the Redeemer.*

Steven will be fondly remembered by many of you in the congregation. He was Associate Priest at Redeemer from 1999 to 2003 and was Priest-in-Charge during 2000 and 2001. He serves at present as the Rector of St. George, Place du Canada, in Montréal. Before Steven moved to Montréal, he was Incumbent of St. John's Dixie, and before that, of Trinity Port Credit, both in Mississauga in this diocese.

Not surprisingly, given who we are as a community, we had a rich pool of diverse applicants and interviewees. In making the recommendation to Bishop Kevin that Steven be appointed our Incumbent we want you to know that the

## Appointment of Interim Priest-in-Charge



Bishop Kevin Robertson announced at the Easter Vigil that our associate priest, The Rev'd Susan Haig, has been appointed interim priest-in-charge of the parish until our new incumbent arrives. As a community, we are grateful for the leadership that Susan gives to us during this time. We are blessed by her wisdom and guidance.

decision was reached through a time of prayerful, careful, discernment. In listening attentively to both the yearnings of this community of faith, and who we believe God is calling us to be as God's beloved people, we saw in this priest the best person who could walk alongside us, sometimes leading, sometimes following, as together we are the Church at this corner.

Steven brings to Redeemer 22 years of experience of ordained ministry and shares our commitment to inspired worship, social justice, and creating a diverse and inclusive community. He has a passion for liturgical excellence, a demonstrated commitment to collaborating with Indigenous communities and other faith communities, and a genuine 'heart for the poor.' The Selection Committee was deeply struck by how much his experience and values resonate with our 'Redeemer ethos.' We are confident that when you meet him that you will feel the same way.

We would like to express our gratitude to you—the Redeemer community—for holding us in your prayers through this time, and for the many ways that you have continued, and will continue, to support and encourage ministry at Redeemer.

Steven and his family will move to Toronto in July, after the end of the school year. He will begin as Incumbent of Redeemer on August 1, 2019.

This is the beginning of a new era at Redeemer. We are confident that Steven and his family will together bring new life and new enthusiasm to our already vibrant ministry at the corner of Avenue Road and Bloor Street.

Opportunities to meet Steven and his family both formally and informally will be announced in the days to come. ✝



Dear Friends,

I want to share with you how much my family (Holly, Madeline, and James and I) look forward to joining you at Redeemer and take this opportunity to tell you something about my ministry.

I am a person of deep faith. My own inspiration comes from a life rooted in prayer and lived out in service, with joy.

I believe that worship, offered with beauty and reverence, is the most important thing we do. It is the outward expression of our gratitude to God and it sustains us every day of our lives. Outreach is another one of my passions. Having been a homeless-youth myself, I know the sense of emptiness that makes those without a place to call home hunger for food and thirst for God. Throughout my ministry, outreach has always been paramount and deeply personal. With regard to making our faith known, I am captivated by scripture and exuberant in sharing the stories that have shaped our common life and celebrating them in the sacraments that sustain us as we continue God's story in the world.

I believe that leadership is about inspiring others to see that God calls us to endless possibilities. As a result, I always strive to create a rapport with staff, parishioners, and the many relationships that I have developed in the communities in which I have served. Because I have made compassionate communication central to my ministry, I hold pastoral care as sacred—both with respect to being with those in crisis and just keeping in touch. Lastly, I have a great sense of humour. At St. George's, where I currently serve, we laugh as much—and as hard—as we work.

Most importantly, I want to tell you what I believe about the Church of the Redeemer. Some churches feed people's longing for God, but the community has no unity, there is an individual connection to their sense of the holy, but no connection to their neighbour, no service to the world, no sense that they are one body. Other places feed people's need to belong, they have a warmth and fellowship, but it isn't formed by a deep and abiding faith. They are more like people of goodwill who have a shared history, but not a shared sense of belonging in the ongoing story of the Gospel as it unfolds in their lives.

I believe that Redeemer is a place where longing and belonging meet, a place where radical welcome and relentless hospitality have created something beautiful and sacred.

Lastly, I look forward to renewing old friendships and making new ones. I am excited about embracing our ministry, together, in August when I arrive "at the corner."

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Steven+







# Bach Vespers – Cantata 31

## *Der Himmel lacht! Die Erde jubiliert*





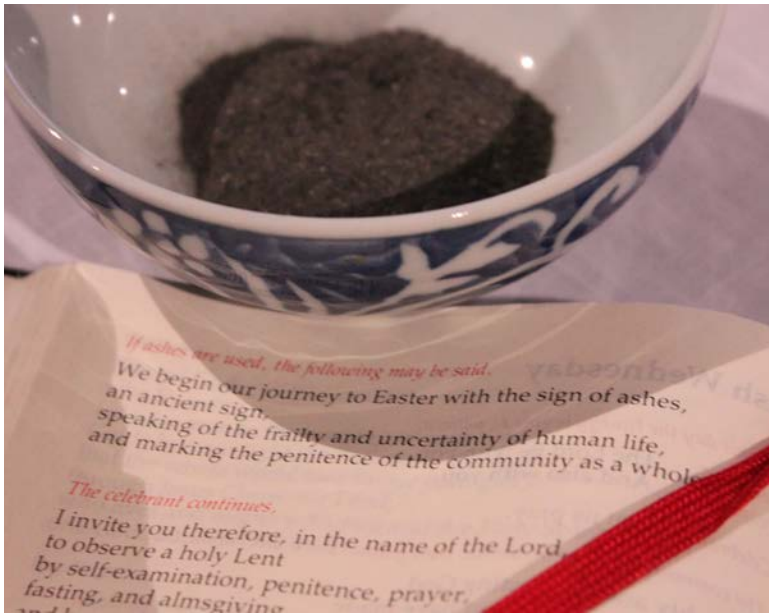
# Quinquagesima

(50 days to Easter—the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, the burning of the palms and...)





# Ashes Before Work





# Voices for Peace 2019

Paul Pynkoski

Voices for Peace 2019, sponsored by the Church of the Redeemer, the Basilian Centre for Peace and Justice, and The Henri Nouwen Society, took place on Saturday, April 27. This year's conference speakers, framed by contemporary music and the poetry of Thomas Merton, focused on stories from regions of conflict. Our musicians, Deb Whalen and David Krause, and our poetry reader, Jean Bubba, enriched the conference themes through the use of their artistic gifts.

Storytelling is a form of truth telling. Stories assist our efforts to get behind headlines and statistics, to grasp the reality of how violence and war destroy lives and landscapes. The starting point for hearing stories is humble listening. They open up an opportunity to grasp our shared humanity.

Kathy Kelly, our first speaker, is coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence. She has made over twenty-five trips to Iraq and multiple trips to Afghanistan and Gaza. Sixty-seven years old and a wiry five-foot one inch, she seems an unlikely person to be smuggling medical supplies to Iraq or climbing icy mountains in Afghanistan. Kathy demonstrates a level of courage that transcends her size. She spoke powerfully, using surveillance as a metaphor. She contrasted the military blimps that constantly hover over Kabul with the surveillance of her student associates, on the ground. The students compassionately ask local people about their daily needs, and then assist them to meet those needs.

Fr. Bob Holmes, at 83 years old, still travels regularly to Israel and Palestine with Christian Peacemaker Teams. He spends time with struggling First Nations people in Canada. Bob has witnessed groups of Palestinian and Israeli people,



their lives devastated by violence and death, coming together to discover a story of shared pain. This disarms their hearts, allowing them to grasp the humanity of their “enemies” and take steps together towards reconciliation and peace.

Dee Dee spent 20 years in a war zone, simply because she felt God had called her to be there. She built a garden of over 3,000 roses, where women could find quiet rest and children could play. She taught mothers and widows who visited how to harvest rose petals to make rose oil, providing them with much needed income. The quiet garden stood in stark contrast to the violence at her doorstep.

All three brought stories of death and hope, pain and reconciliation. We learned of the awful human and environmental toll of war and saw the deep hope shown in the steps taken towards reconciliation and peace. Their stories demonstrate the insanity of a culture where peacemaking is prosecuted and violence brings reward, where a Kathy Kelly can be arrested for planting corn near a missile site, but those who build weapons of war can reap huge profits by selling to both sides in a conflict.

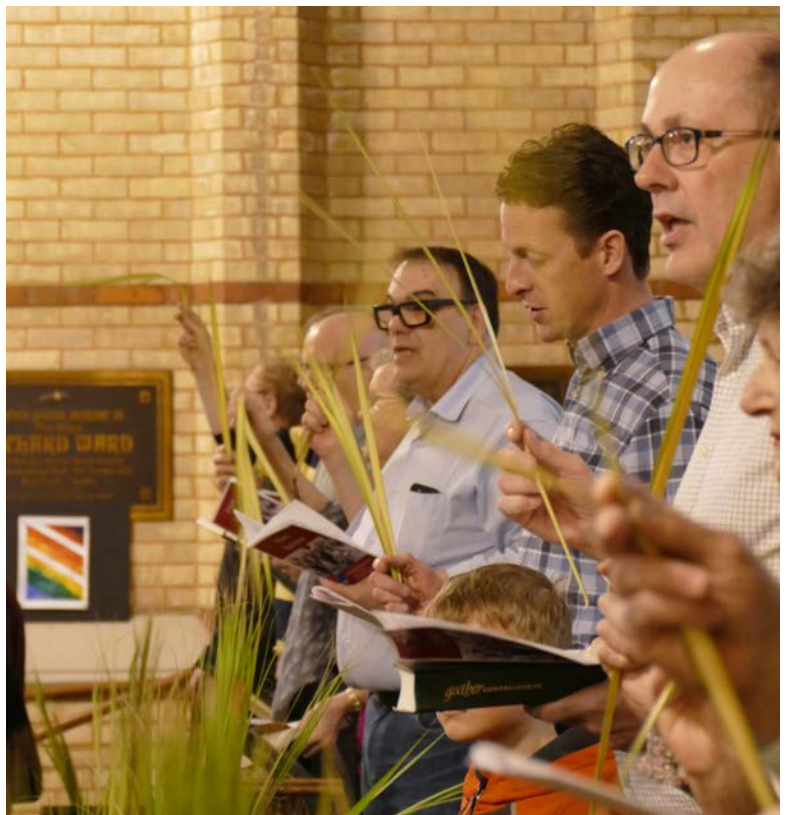
I was privileged to have the opportunity to weave together the work of Thomas Merton, Bruce Cockburn, Shad, and Jon Brooks to offer reflections on how art can be a resource to open our imaginations, assist us to resist the violence of our culture, and build Christ's kingdom of peace and justice.

One of the conference discussion groups drafted and sent a letter to the Prime Minister, asking that funds for a 70 percent increase in Canada's military budget be directed instead to peace initiatives and humanitarian aid.

My hope is that the stories we heard at Voices for Peace will assist in crafting a richer theology of peace and developing a spiritual praxis that resists the many forms violence takes in our world.



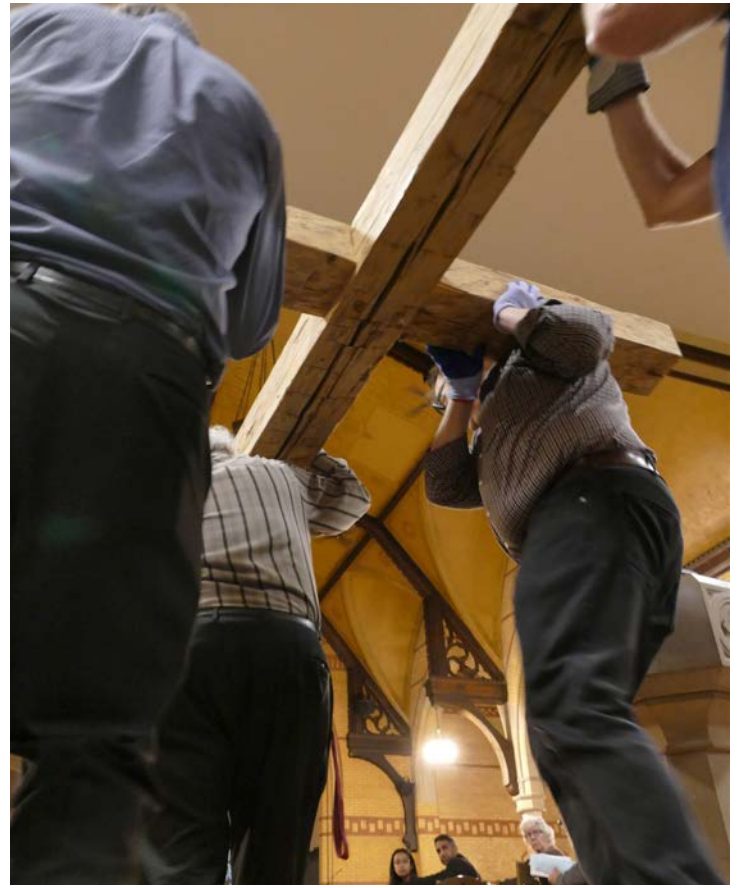
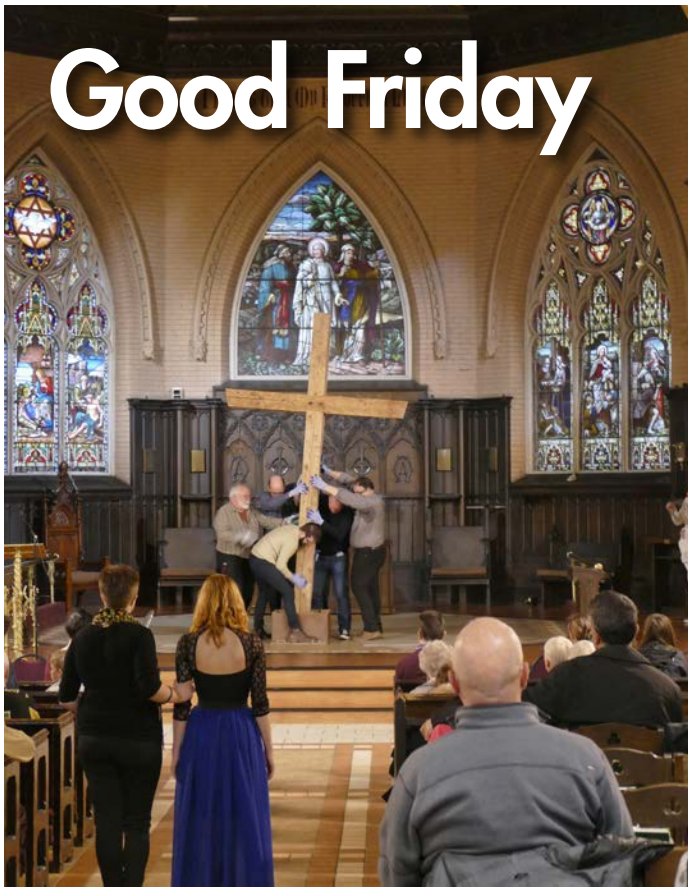




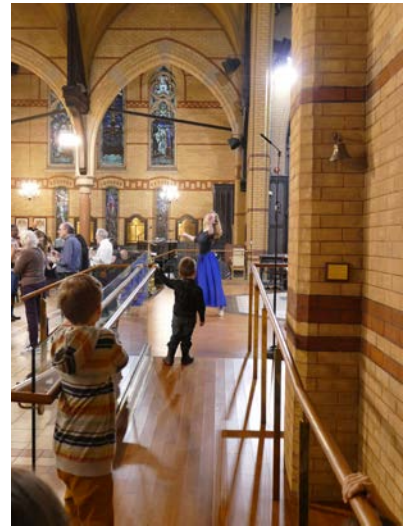








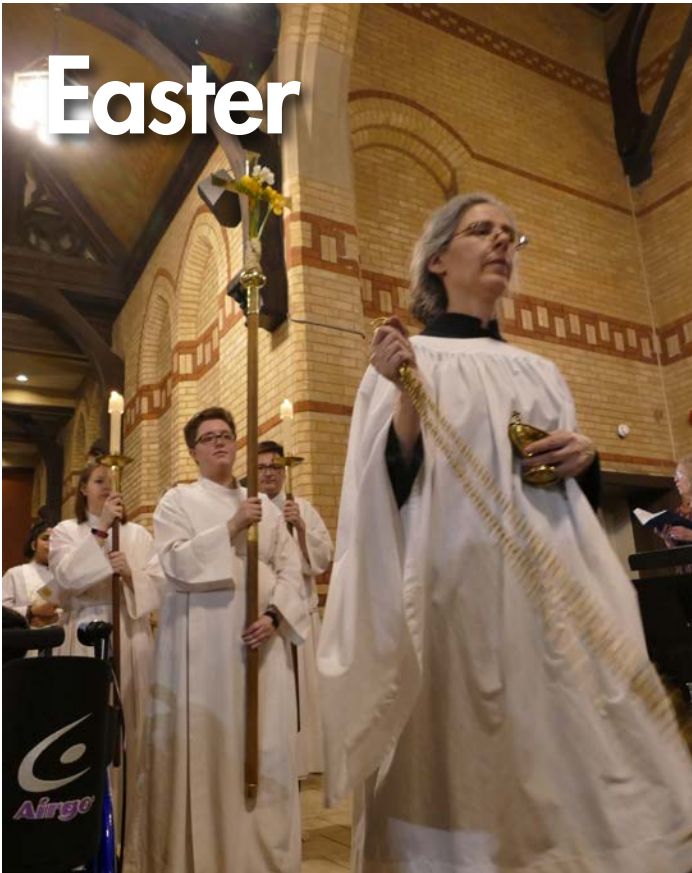


















# The Wealth of a Blue Plastic Token Holder

Susan Graham Walker

When I was invited to add stewardship ministry to the roles I had while on staff in the Diocese of Toronto, I realized I didn't really know what that meant. Was it about parish fundraising to meet the budget? Was it about living as a faithful disciple? At that point, I thought it was more about the former. On the wise advice of a leader in the field, I set an intention to adopt a personal practice that could teach me about stewardship and giving. It began as a small step. I

resolved to give away all the change in my purse each day to the first person who asked for it.

Soon after I began this daily practice, I had a specific experience that has rounded, shaped, and driven my thinking and actions about giving, generosity, and gratitude ever since.

One warm spring day, a colleague and I were eating lunch in a park near work. As we were talking, we were approached by a very tall man with a dilapidated bundle buggy filled with his possessions. He asked, "Do you have any spare change?" I said yes and dumped the change into my hand. "This is yours, I just need the TTC [Toronto Transit Commission] tokens." I put the coins into his outstretched hand, and he said, "Bless you."

My practice done for that day, I continued my lunch and conversation with my friend. A few minutes later, my friend noticed that the man with the bundle buggy was heading in our direction again. "I guess he thinks you have more to give," she said. "We'll see." He approached and this time he asked, "Would you please put out your hand?" I did. Into it he carefully placed a small, blue plastic TTC token holder. "You need this more than I do." I looked at this gift in my hand, a bit surprised. I hope I said "Thank you." He went on his way.

And that is the real beginning of my giving journey. This man's generosity has been the single most important experience that shaped my giving practice to this day. I give thanks to God for him every time I give. (A true regret is that I didn't speak more to him, especially to discover his name.)

I experienced generosity that day—thoughtful generosity and joyful giving. Important lessons in my faith journey. From that day, I have been working to match his generosity, to give away from my wealth and possessions the same proportion that he gave me from his: one blue plastic token in the middle of his bundle buggy. I give more freely and easily now, but I am only slightly closer to matching his generosity. My bundle buggy is very large, and it contains many things: comfortable housing, a summer cottage, furniture, clothes, savings for retirement...

I have a long way to go. Nevertheless, I try to give with the same ease with which he shared one of his few possessions with me. I remain grateful to my nameless mentor for his lesson in spontaneous generosity. His example is a gift from God that endures and a reminder that I always have more to give. ✚

*I put the  
coins  
into his  
outstretched  
hand, and  
he said,  
"Bless you."*





# Rock Eucharist: with the Music of Queen





# Spare Change to Make Change

Paul Pynkoski

I cannot remember the first time I met “R.” It may have been at the Common Table, or perhaps it was on Bloor Street, near Redeemer. First Nations, slender, his height probably close to mine but always undermined by a persistent slouch and his glance lowered to the sidewalk. We would talk briefly. I remembered his name, but I don’t think mine ever stuck with him. He was too often inebriated or high.

“R” was a friend of Ramsey Whitefish, one of our beloved Common Table participants who was murdered a couple years ago. He was at Ramsey’s memorial. Mid-day, drunk, and sneaking a sip from his “traveller” whenever he could. When the time came for friends to share stories about Ramsey, “R” stumbled to the microphone, drooling and rocking. He could barely manage to slur, “Ramsey was my friend. We panhandled on Yonge Street.” He stood a bit longer, then stumbled back to his seat.

One evening I bumped into him on Bloor Street. He said he was selling papers. I gave him five dollars, but when I reached for the paper, he pulled it away and said it was his last one. I laughed, wondering how many times he could sell it. I resolved to pray more frequently for him.

There were times he bore the marks of a beating. Once he was in a cast. Sometimes he would be away for weeks.

I worried—was he in jail, ill, dead? But he would resurface eventually. I often gave him money, just so we could talk for a bit and I could find out what had been going on. For some reason I found his humour and his persistence inspiring.

Last year he disappeared again. I didn’t see him for several months. Then, suddenly, he was out on Bloor Street again. Tania and I stopped to talk with him. “R” said he’d gone to a Native centre in Brantford to detox. He worked with the elders, hadn’t had a drink in over 30 days; he wanted to look for a job. His complexion was clear, his eyes were clear, the drooling had stopped, and for the first time I could actually understand every word he said. My heart jumped for joy!

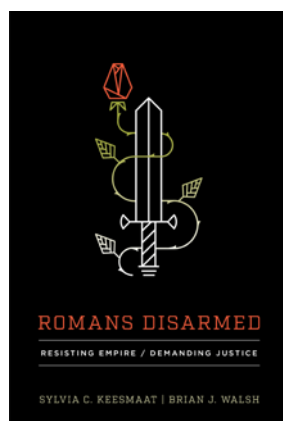
And then...another disappearance and months without seeing him.

On our way to the Easter Vigil, Tania and I spotted “R” on Bloor Street, selling papers. His clothes were clean, his complexion good, and he was coherent. The slouch was still there, but his head was up and he made eye contact. I gave him five dollars. This time he actually gave me a paper, and we laughed. “R” excitedly pulled out a green coin from inside his coat. It said “11 Months.” Eleven months without drinking, and on the verge of hitting twelve. He’s living in a supportive housing complex in the east end. He said he wants to find work in health care. He just may. We hugged each other and laughed.

Tania and I arrived at the Vigil rejoicing. Liberation and success can look different on the street. Alleluia, Christ is Risen! ✝

## Summer Reading Groups

This year’s selection for the summer reading groups is the newly published book, *Romans Disarmed: Resisting Empire, Demanding Justice* by Sylvia Keesmaat and Brian Walsh. To get ready for the summer of reading together, the Redeemer community is invited to join Sylvia and Brian on **Friday, June 7** at 7:30 PM at Sanctuary (25 Charles Street East just south of Yonge and Bloor) for their book launch. Copies of the book will be available at this event. Stay tuned for details about the kickoff event for the summer reading groups. ✝



## BELONGING IN THE BODY: *Transgender Journeys of Faith*

On **Tuesday, June 4** from 7 to 9PM, the Redeemer community is pleased to host a film screening and panel discussion with Generous Space Ministries, an organization that invites people to work together to dismantle fear, division and hostility at the intersection of faith, gender and sexuality. We will watch the film “Belonging in the Body: Transgender Journeys of Faith” and then we will hear from Generous Space’s panelists/film cast and have an opportunity to ask questions. We hope you can join in. **Please RSVP by Friday, May 31**, to assistant curate Roshni Jayawardena or pastoral associate for youth and young adults Hilary Keachie. ✝





# Redeemer's Listening Circle

Susan Haig

As I've listened over the past year, I've become aware of the hunger for a safe place for people to come together, to speak and to be heard and understood. Mental health experts report that the disease of loneliness is reaching epidemic proportions in our society. As the pace of life accelerates and people become more mobile and more technologically connected, the desire for direct personal connection and meaningful companionship has also increased.

At Redeemer we strive to be a welcoming, nurturing community—and usually we do it very well—but because we are very large and diverse, it can be

challenging to feel connected and supported both in the good times and in times of trouble or crisis. This is one of the reasons small group ministry is so vital in parishes such as ours.

With all this in mind, in April a tiny nucleus of a new small group gathered together to provide sanctuary for one another. By our second meeting in May the group had grown, and we believe it will continue to do so. As well as providing a safe place in which to speak, the group is committed to intentional, empathic listening, which means unlearning some of the things we may be accustomed to doing when listening, in order to listen with the ears of our hearts and minds more attuned and less hampered by our own agendas or judgments.

We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 7PM. Our next meeting is Tuesday, June 11. All are welcome!



## Children's Ministry Meeting

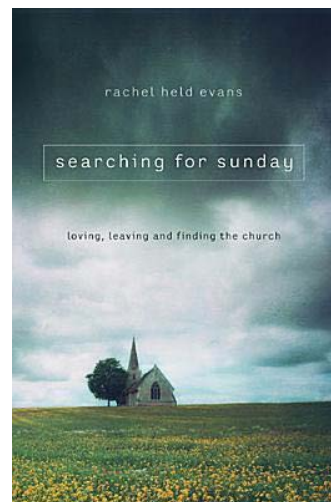
Parents, grandparents, church school teachers and volunteers are invited to come together on **Wednesday, June 5** from 6 to 7.30PM for a conversation about children's ministry at Redeemer. In planning this event, the church school leaders want to offer to the community information about where our children's ministry is now and their hopes and plans for the future, and to hear feedback. If you plan to come, please RSVP to Roshni by Wednesday, May 29. Dinner will be provided, and a children's program in the nursery will be available.



Redeemer  
Kids

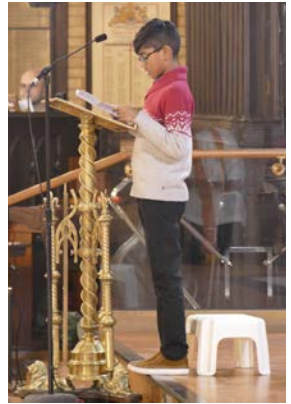
# 20/30s BOOK CLUB

The 20/30s group, after a successful first book group discussion, has decided to read Rachel Held Evans' *Searching for Sunday* as the next selection. All young adults in the community (and friends) are invited to join in. The plan is to finish reading it by the end of June with a group gathering to discuss the book around then. If you have any questions or need a copy of the book, contact pastoral associate for youth and young adults, Hilary Keachie.





## Ordination of Priesthood: The Rev'd Roshni Jayawardena





# PARISH NOTES

## BAPTISM

Alexander Rehak  
Gabriel James Keachie Rae  
Cody Austin Douglas Pentzos  
Zhenzi Joanna Shi

## REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Erika Meredith Bauder  
Faris Nimry  
Richard van Delft  
Karen Visser  
Lynda Kathleen Young

*May the power of the Holy Spirit work within them, that being born of water, and the Spirit they may be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ.*

## MARRIAGE

Sara Miriam Lawson and  
Sean Edward Melville

*May their lives together be a sacrament of your love in this broken world.*

## IN MEMORIAM

Kevin James Fowler

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

## ORDINATIONS

Congratulations to Sherri Goliski, Benjamin Gillard, and Alexandra Pohlod who were ordained deacons on Sunday, May 5 at the Cathedral Church of St James. Sherri was a postulant from Church of the Redeemer and is now assistant curate at St. Cuthbert's, Leaside. Benjamin was a student here in 2018 with the church school one of his areas of focus. He is assistant curate at St. John the Baptist Norway. Many in the community will remember Alexandra when she was a member of our community. She serves as assistant curate at St Olave, Swansea.

*Almighty Father, give these your servants grace and power to fulfil their ministries.*



Our director of outreach services and pastoral associate for outreach and community engagement, Angie Hocking, has been helping us as a community learn the importance of advocating for those who live on the margins of society. The Common Table program has flourished under her leadership. In a recent article on the diocesan website, they shared the good news of a training program for a bank in our neighbourhood that Angie will be offering. She'll be teaching staff how to be more compassionate and helpful to the homeless or those who struggle with mental health issues. Thank you, Angie, for being in partnership with our neighbours so that together we can continue to support those in need.



On Saturday, May 11, The Rev'd Paul Walker celebrated 50 years of ordained ministry. We celebrated with him on Sunday, May 12 when he was the preacher and presider at the 9.30AM service. Congratulations Paul!





# SERVICES OF NOTE

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## **Sunday, June 2 – The Ascension of the Lord:**

For forty days we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. We have listened to the stories of his appearances to his followers. Today, we gather to recall, through word and song, bread and wine, his ascension where he is seated to reign over all creation with loving care.

## **Sunday, June 2, 7PM – Easter Vespers:**

Through the beauty of **Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*** we continue the celebration of the Easter season.

**Sunday, June 9 – Pentecost:** *And suddenly from the heavens there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. We celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples.*

The youth of the community share in the leadership of our Pentecost celebration.

## **Sunday, June 16 – Trinity and Indigenous**

**Sunday:** Today, we mark the importance of how we meet God in sign, symbol and language as we celebrate the Holy Trinity. Through smudging, drumming, and the words of our preacher, **Sandra Campbell**, we are called to remember the journey to reconciliation we are on with the Indigenous people of Turtle Island.

## **Sunday, June 16, 7PM – Rock Eucharist:**

The music of **The Grateful Dead** is woven through our service as we gather in prayer, word, and sacrament.

## **Sunday, June 23 – Corpus Christi and**

**Pride Sunday:** We commemorate the gift of the sacrament that feeds our souls. We are also reminded that while strides have been made, there is still not equality for the LGBTQQI2S community as we participate in Pride events through the weekend and at the morning services.

## **Sunday, August 4 – We welcome**

**our Incumbent:** Our new incumbent, The Rev'd Canon **Steven Mackison**, will preach and preside at the morning services. There will be opportunities to welcome him and his family throughout the morning and in the weeks to come.

# DID YOU KNOW?

Members of our community serve the church beyond the walls of Redeemer. Susan Graham Walker is an assessor for the Advisory Committee for Postulants for Ordination (ACPO). This is part of the discernment process for individuals who are seeking ordination as a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada. Susan is part of the team of 15 assessors who met with 15 candidates from dioceses in Ontario. This good and important team advise the bishops on recommendations for ordination.

Are there places beyond our parish where you serve God and you live out your faith that you'd like to share with the community? It could be as a community organization volunteer, a mentor, a board member of a cause important to you. We'd love to celebrate all the ways Redeemerites do their part to make the world a better place so please send your story to the *Gathering* team: [aecope@interlog.com](mailto:aecope@interlog.com)

## *In the Spirit of Reconciliation...*

The Indigenous Solidarity Working Group has some events planned for September and invite you to mark your calendars now so that you can plan to attend.

**Saturday, September 21,  
9.15AM to 12.30PM**

**Survivors' Circle** – an opportunity to hear the stories of Indian Residential Schools survivors, coordinated by Andrew Wesley

**Saturday, September 28,  
9.15AM to 12.30PM**

**The Blanket Exercise** – led by Esther and Andrew Wesley. This is an opportunity to take part in an interactive learning exercise focused on Canada's history and the interactions between settler and indigenous peoples.