

THE TRUMPETER

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St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church

MAGAZINE

THE TRUMPETER



St. Michael and All Angels Church is located at 15556 Cabot Street
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“For He Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall arise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so, we shall ever be with the Lord:”

1 Thessalonians 4: 16 – 17

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EDITOR'S LETTER

“LORD TEACH US PRAY?” (*Luke 11 vs. 1*)



I bid you greetings in the name of our soon coming Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! In the last while, we have been inundated with waves of uncomfortable information about disasters in our own country, and around the world. As I write this letter to you, we are still suffering from the effects of the Covid pandemic. At this time, the effect of extreme heat is brutal, as many areas in various parts of the world are engulfed in unmanageable flames. Flash floods and heavy rains are wreaking havoc in Indian, Pakistan, the United States, Korea, France, the United Kingdom, other parts of Europe and in our own country, Canada. At the same time, extreme drought is causing the land to dry up and famine abounds in parts of Africa and

the Middle East.

Added to the above disasters is the present war in Ukraine. The Russian invasion of Ukraine started on February 24, 2022, and that war is still fiercely raging. At the onset of the war, many people prayed individually and collectively in churches and in other groups. As a response to the war, Pope Francis called for prayers for Ukraine during an April 3 Mass on the second day of his visit to Malta. He said, “Let us pray for peace and remember the humanitarian tragedy of martyred Ukrainians.” He also led a special online prayer for an end to the war in Ukraine. In that prayer, the Pontiff pleads with God to forgive all of humanity for the brutality of war, which he said, “Turns our hands—created to care and tend the earth—into instruments of death.” Pope Francis also invited Christians around the world, to “ask God for forgiveness and to grant peace” amid the pain of the war in Ukraine. The following is part of the Pope’s prayer that he wrote:

Forgive us for war, O Lord. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us sinners! Lord Jesus, born in the shadows of bombs falling on Kyiv, have mercy on us! Lord Jesus, who died in a mother’s arms in a bunker in Kharkiv, have mercy on us! Lord Jesus, a 20-year-old sent to the frontlines, have mercy on us! Lord Jesus, who still behold armed hands in the shadow of your Cross, have mercy on us!

The Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada also responded to the war in Ukraine by issuing a letter of invitation from the Canadian Council of Churches, requesting that on April 24, 2022, all worshipping communities should pray for Ukraine, and peace in the world. Local communities

were asked to ring the bells of their respective church at 12 noon, (or offer some other liturgical action appropriate in individual community) as sign and celebration of hope.”

These disasters as mentioned above, are not new to us. For example, on Christmas Day, 1717, a devastating storm raged for days, leading to widespread flooding in Northern Europe. Thousands of people lost their lives in the Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark during that storm. It is customary for people to fret and worry when disasters assail us. But as is evidenced above, many people, (especially God’s people) turn to God and cry out to Him in prayers for help. Crying out to God in prayer for help is not a new idea either; for it is said that during times of stress and worry we turn to God (Evans, Moynes and Martinello, 1973).

Three hundred years ago when one of the greatest storm surge disasters at that time, struck along the North Sea Coastline of Europe, the provincial authorities of the Dutch city of Groningen called for “a day of prayer” in response to the disaster. It was reported that citizens were gathered in churches and “listened to sermons, sang psalms, and prayed for hours,” as they cried out to their God for help. The author of Psalm 121 writes, “My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth” (v. 12).

Also, the prophet Joel describes an overwhelming disaster faced by the people of Judah that led to prayer. A massive swarm of locusts had covered the land and “laid waste vines, and ruined fig trees” (*Joel 1:7*). As he and his people reeled from the devastation, Joel prayed, “Lord, help us!” (*1:19*). When we face difficulties and disasters, we usually turn to God in anguish, or in repentance, because we as Christians are confident in His “Compassionate” and “abounding love” (v. 13).

We cry out to God, because we are comforted by the knowledge that He is always present in our life. Therefore, we are confident that He will hear our prayers and answer them. Evans, Moynes and Martinello (1973), offer a variety of reasons why they think that people worship God. Their reasons are: We believe that God sustains us in time of troubles; He strengthens us in time of fear; He offers us the path towards a meaningful life in this world, and the hope of a better life in the next. But most of all, when we worship God, we are comforted by the knowledge that there is a Power greater than us, who helps us and sustains us in our struggle against hostile environments, and the ultimate reality of death. Our relationship with the God, who is the Supreme Power and our Father, rests on total dependency on Him, honouring, worshipping, and abiding in Him, because He loves us.

Jesus’ life exemplified what it means to be in constant communion with God; for He was always praying to His Father. Not only did He always pray, but He also informed us of the importance of our need to be in constant communion with His Father as He was. He said: “... *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abides in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing*” (*John 15: 4-5*).

In order for us to abide in God, we communicate with Him through our prayers. Prayers are vital parts of worshipping God. Prayer is talking to God. However, prayers should not be construed as conversations with God, only when we are experiencing difficulties. Pope Benedict XVI indicated that there are four basic parts to praying, which include adoration, contrition, thanksgiving, and

supplication. Therefore, our relationship with God should not be momentarily asking for favours (supplication) or giving thanks (thanksgiving) for favours we received, but it should “be present as the bedrock of our souls.” For the Pope, prayer is really a silent inward communion with God. He suggests that everything that happens in our lives should be related to the permanent presence of God with us and within us. That is the reason, St. Paul in his first Epistle to the Thessalonians encouraged them to: “*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*” (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18).

Not only did Jesus live a life of prayer, but He gave us a template of prayer. Luke in Chapter 11 of his gospel, reports that story. He informed us that once when Jesus was finished praying, one of His disciples asked Him, “Lord, teach us to pray as John also taught his disciples?” (Luke 11:1). As a response to the disciple’s request, Jesus said unto them, “When you pray say:

“Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil” (Luke 11: 2-4).

On July 24, 2022, I celebrated the seventh week of Pentecost at St Michael and All Angels Anglican Church in Pierrefonds. The Gospel reading for that service was taken from St. Luke 11: 1-13, which is the place where Luke reported Jesus’ teaching of how to pray. In that service, our interim priest diligently explored the meaning of the “Lord’s Prayer” or the “Our Father,” as the prayer above is frequently called; and he focused on the message that said, “When we cry, ‘Abba, Father!’ It is the Spirit of God bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8: 15-16). Unfortunately, this service was not broadcast on YouTube or Facebook, therefore only the parishioners who attended the service in person were able to hear the sermon. However, Pope Benedict XVI, recently published a book entitled, *Jesus of Nazareth* (2012). In it, he relates the life of Jesus Christ to our own times, and outlines how he thinks we should understand the presence of Christ in our lives. This work also focuses on The Lord’s Prayer and includes explanations of the prayer. So those of you who missed the July 24th service at St. Michaels and All Angels have an opportunity to read the Pope’s work.

In the Pope’s view, the meaning of The Lord’s Prayer goes much further than being the mere provision of a prayer text. He understands the prayer as a formation of our being, which is used to train us in the attitude of Jesus. He explained that “When we say, ‘Our Father, who art in heaven,’ we profess the core belief of our faith that God is our Father, the One who has created us, is all knowing and all powerful. He also recognizes the community aspect of this prayer, for in it, the plural pronouns: we, us and our, are used.” John Meier suggests that in God’s Kingdom, we do not live as isolated individuals, but “We experience God’s Fatherhood as members of the Church, and

the family of Jesus the Son.” Therefore, this should remind us that each of us has a personal relationship with God, our Father. We should, therefore, be cognizant of the fact that everyone around us is a child of God; and as such, it is our bound and duty to treat every human being with respect. Prayer must, therefore, embody the nature of love, so we should love God first and then our neighbours as ourselves.

I found the Pope’s reflections on the great prayer of our faith to be extremely thoughtful and informative. His thoughts, therefore, may be used to enrich our understanding of this prayer each time we recite the words of “Our Father,” as Jesus taught us to say when we pray. It is my belief that on the whole, prayer energizes us as believers, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our prayers should also be consistent, because it releases the power of God's blessing on our life and circumstances. In this view, St. Paul exhorted the members of the early Church in Philippi saying: *“The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4: 5-7).

King David was a man of prayer. As his life was slowly ebbing away, he made preparations for his son Solomon to take over as the next king of Israel. After assembling the nation together to anoint Solomon, David led the people in prayer, as he had done many times before. As David recounted God’s faithfulness to Israel, he prayed for the people to remain loyal to Him. Then he included a personal prayer specifically for his son, asking God to “give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes and decrees” (1 Chronicles 29: 19).

My friends, it is my view that we too have the remarkable privilege to faithfully pray for everything in our life. Therefore, let us pray for the people God has placed in our lives, and for people the world over. Our example of faithfulness in prayer, can make an indelible impact that will remain even after we are gone. Just as God continued to work out the answers to David’s prayers for Solomon and Israel after he was gone, so too the impact of our prayers can outlive us. As Christians, may we also have fortitude and desire to continue praying for those in distress, whatever the causes of distress are; because the Bible assures us that in challenging circumstances God will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13: 5-6). I am confident that when we pray to God for help in moments where we feel intimidated, weak, or overwhelmed; He will give us, “power, love, and self-discipline” to see us through to the end (2 Timothy 1:7). I am also mindful of the fact that the Holy Spirit indwells us and is always therefore us with through tough times, and in good times. Now I pray that every one of you be abundantly blessed as you devote yourself to prayerfully walk with our Saviour, so that your joys may always be full.

At this time, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the following contributors to this edition of the magazine: The Right Reverend Mary Irwin-Gibson, Bishop of Montreal, Ms. Lynda Barrett, and Ms. Jane Szollosy, Mrs. Anne Chan, Mr. Berty Ho-Wo-Cheong, Ms. Helen Morris, Ms. Anne Dubé, Mr. Roger Spack, and the parishioner who authored the Prayer for Aging who wishes to remain anonymous. I would also like to extend my thanks to Ms. Beatrice Fernandes for her help in getting the printing done, and to my husband Mr. Rudi Gordon for his work in formatting the magazine. Your work and effort are highly appreciated.

May we continue to hold steadfastly in prayer, as our Search Committee members continue their task of finding the priest our God of all love and mercy has prepared for us.

Yours in Christ and every blessing,

Joan M. Gordon Ph.D.

A JOURNEY OF FAITH



This May 16th, I will celebrate 40 years of ordination to the priesthood. I was a teenager when I first heard about the idea of women being ordained to the priesthood, I imagined my mother in the pulpit and did not think that it sounded very appealing! As my faith and love for the Lord grew however, I began to try to align my ideas of my career choices with what God might have in mind for me. What did God want me to do with my life? One day, while leading worship in a prayer group in my church, I found myself wondering what I could do with my life that would feel that good, that right. I had thought that I wanted to become a social worker. Instead, I found myself saying “to help

The Right Reverend Mary Irwin-Gibson, Bishop of Montreal Anglican Diocese of Montreal
Photo credit: Janet Best.

others worship God.” All followers of Jesus are called to serve God. It begins with our growing more in love with the Lord, absorbing God’s love, and desiring God’s plan and purpose for our lives. In our prayer times and in our dreams, we lean into listening for God’s direction and look for signs that we are on the right path. I would not have gotten very far in my discernment without a community of love and faith and support around me. My parish priest explained that discerning God’s call is something that the people who know us help with. My mother, a woman of deep faith and full of good works, tried to dissuade me, warning me about the challenges clergy face. Still, the idea never went away so I continued to pray and think and listen – and wonder how God could ever bring such change in our Anglican Church! It was early days for the Diocese of Montreal as we discerned whether it was God’s idea for us to ordain women or whether it was just women insisting on equality with men.

I still have a button that was produced at the time that says, “Ordain women or stop baptizing them!” The point is that each baptized member of the Church is called to serve the Lord in their life. There are many different gifts and abilities and all of them are meant to work together for the glory of God and the health of the Body of Christ. The Lord needs Christians in all walks of life, adding the seasoning and light of his love and grace, serving him throughout our society. Every one of us needs to offer ourselves in the service of Christ.

There are no spectators in the Body of Christ.

VOLUNTEER WEST ISLAND HAS BEEN HELPING OTHERS FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS



Volunteer West Island (VWI) is a non-profit organization. It is the only volunteer recruitment organization in the West Island, that has been helping the community since 1967. Volunteer West Island promotes volunteerism by recruiting, training, and referring corporate, youth, and adult volunteers for non-profit community organizations in the West Island. In addition, Volunteer West Island offers both outreach and on-site programs and services, aimed at breaking the isolation seniors often face and helping

them remain in their own homes, enjoying as high a quality of life, and autonomy as much as possible, and for as long as possible.

Volunteer West Island's signature program "Meals on Wheels" was established in Lachine in 1969. Today, Volunteer West Island operates 13 community kitchens throughout the West Island. This essential service supports over 450 people with over 800 volunteers, mostly seniors, to deliver these meals twice per week, 52 weeks per year. This vital service is supplemented with home delivery of thousands of frozen meals each year. The organization's Puree food service also aids seniors who have difficulty chewing or swallowing.

Volunteer West Island's Food Services are just part of its "Breaking Isolation Program." This includes a host of volunteer-operated services, aimed at encouraging seniors to venture out of their homes. These cultural, social, and physical programs, including Contact Calls, Caring Paws Animal Therapy, Income Tax Assistance, Handyperson service, and the Young at Heart 55+ Club are designed to contribute to the well-being of West Island seniors.

In addition to reaching out to seniors, Volunteer West Island is mandated to promote volunteerism within the community at large, including among students and corporations. VWI partners with West Island companies in helping them to promote volunteerism in-house to their employees as well as to help them in identifying volunteer opportunities that exist in the community. Volunteer West Island works with both high school and college students, encouraging them to get involved in assisting others in need. VWI also recruits and refers volunteers to various not-for-profit community organizations.

Volunteer West Island is proud to have served the West Island community for 55 years and is excited to continue encouraging the members of its community to take action and give back. For information about programs, services, and volunteering, explore the Volunteer West Island website:

www.cabvwi.org or call (514) 457-5445.

SERVING WITH A JOYFUL HEART WHEREVER YOU ARE: ANNE CHAN



The very first opportunity Chi and I had to join the outreach group of the international church called, Abundant Grace International Fellowship (AGIF) in Shanghai, was in the fall of 2011. Our coordinator connected our team with a local family church in Shanghai. This church knew exactly where the less fortunate people were, who could benefit from our material and monetary resources. On a hot afternoon in October, a group of eleven of us travelled for two

hours on a train from Shanghai to a town in Anhui province. As we journeyed, our hearts were overjoyed with eagerness as we looked forward to serving the Lord. On arrival at Anhui, we were picked up and taken straight to the hotel where we rested for the night. The next morning, we drove in a minibus for an hour and then we arrived at a small village. Our first stop in the village, was at a local school. There, we saw women and children with smiling faces, waiting to greet, and welcome us. After our introduction, we were taken through an uneven, muddy path, and walked for fifteen minutes to a farm village. We started our home visits in this village.



The first house we entered, we noticed that it was very dimly lit. Upon entering the house, we were led straight into a bedroom where an elderly bed ridden woman, in her 90's was laying. Our leader introduced himself, chatted a bit with her, and blessed her with prayers. She received the blessings with gratefulness, and a beautiful smile. Another home we visited was just as dimly lit as the first one, and the furniture was sparse. An elderly couple in their late 80's also occupied the house. Our members were asked to take turns to bless the family with prayers. Abundant Grace International Fellowship provides livestock such as goats and chickens for needy families. These gifts are given with

the aim of helping the citizens to be self-reliant.

One villager was so eager to show us their kid produced from a pair of goats given by our church from the previous year.



During our visit to the village, I noted that there was an absence of young people in most households. People in their early 20-30's were missing from these homes, because they left the village to live in bigger cities with the aim of making a better living for themselves and to help their family.

In the afternoon, we were invited to join in worship with the villagers in a big church located in a big open field. We were incredibly surprised to see the church was packed to full capacity, with people standing on the side and in the back. The congregation, though poor, had learned to trust God's faithfulness, and they became rich in God's blessings through the years. Hallelujah! As visitors from Shanghai, our group was led to sit in the very front VIP row, not knowing later that we would be asked to go on the stage and introduce ourselves individually. During the service, Bible students performed a dance with chants for the congregation, which was an eye-opening experience for me. At the end of the worship, we were humbled as we were requested to pray for individuals who needed prayers. This we did gladly, with the help of interpreters. Thank God for the Holy Spirit who always goes before us.

My dream came true in October 2010, when I finally got permission to visit Shanghai Healing Home (SHH). This is a newly founded orphanage in Shanghai, which receives orphans from other local orphanages waiting for corrective surgeries. At the time of my visit, there were only a few young children present. Out of those few, I was instantly attracted to the youngest baby who was four months old and was staying on the third floor. He was Baby Chen. To my surprise, other than his cleft palate, he was a healthy-looking baby. When I saw him, he was lying quietly in his crib. Unfortunately for me, due to his schedule, I was not allowed to pick Baby Chen up until my third visit. When I could hold him finally, I was excited and exceedingly thrilled, so I held him and rocked him gently. He was calm, ever so gentle, and sweet and very cuddly; so much so, that I could hold him forever.

I was quite eager to volunteer at SHH on a weekly basis, despite the hour-long bus ride, and fifteen minutes' walk. We used public transit a lot in Shanghai, which is inexpensive, efficient, and very convenient. Apps now can tell you when the next bus, or subway train, will arrive in each station. It was a pleasure to spend time with Baby Chen and other toddlers as well. Some were really attached to their care giver, who were “mamas” to them. I wanted so much to tell them how much Jesus loves them that He will care for them and heal them, for they are precious in His sight.

I flew back to Montreal for a few months, but it was not easy for me to leave the children behind. During the time I was away, I could only pray for them, when I was at home and missed them. When we returned to Shanghai, I met Baby Chen again. He had grown to be an interactive child, responding readily to my talking, and singing, with laughter and giggles. Obviously, I thought that he remembered me. He was given a corrective surgery when he was about a year-old and was sent back to his local orphanage. I missed him sadly. He would have been twelve years old, and ready to go middle school by now.



The following year, there were ten or more orphans sent to SHH. The orphanage had relocated to a bigger home because it had reached its full capacity. The children in the SHH orphanage suffered from various medical conditions and/or disabilities such as: heart conditions, hydrocephalus, cerebral palsy, in addition to single or double cleft palates. No matter what, I pray that I could share the love of Christ to each one of these precious children of God: be it simply sitting beside a baby’s rocker, patting the children’s back, messaging their little tummies or feet, singing the children’s praise songs, or playing some action songs with them.

I am forever grateful that God has graciously granted me so many different treasured experiences and opportunities in serving Him in China. I consider myself to be truly blessed and I feel very blessed to have gotten to be with each of His precious children at SHH. May all praise, honour, and glory be to Him, our awesome God! “Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (*Colossians 3:17*).

IN CELEBRATION OF MY SISTER'S 70TH BIRTHDAY

I am sharing the following speech which I presented to my sister, Georgette, on her 70th birthday with the readers of this magazine. My hope is that, by sharing this speech, my fellow parishioners may reflect on their own family's story and are reminded of a special family member. I encourage my fellow parishioners to reach out to a loved one to share their appreciation.

As many of you may know, I am the youngest of four children: one sister and three brothers. We were all born in Mauritius, a tiny island next to Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. We were extremely fortunate and blessed to have an incredibly loving mother who was absolutely devoted to all her children. We all eventually moved to Canada, including my Mum and Dad, for a better life, with my sister being the first to take the leap in 1976. Montreal, Canada is now our home.

Hello family and friends,

I would like to say a few words about Georgette on this her incredibly special day. Today, we celebrate this wonderful milestone with Georgette. Happy 70th Birthday, Georgette! We feel incredibly blessed to be part of this joyful occasion. You are one of the most important people in our lives.

Georgette, you are a caring and loving daughter, wife, sister, mother, grandmother, sister-in-law, mother-in-law, aunt and friend. You have a heart of gold and you always put other people first. As a daughter, if our mother were here, she would have expressed her gratitude for always being there for her. Your personal care for her in her last few years at the long-term care facility showed your deep love for her.

As a sister, our brother Laval and I are extremely proud and grateful to have you in our life. We always feel your love and caring just by being with you. Laval and I were extremely fortunate to have travelled together with you to China and Australia. I will always treasure and fondly remember the travel experiences we shared with you for the rest of my life.

As a mother, grand-mother and mother-in-law, your unconditional love and dedication to Youn li, Sonia, Terry, Chris, Emily, Sara, Olivia, Alyssa, and Amaya are amazing. I am sure they appreciate all the wonderful cooking, caring and generous time you spend with them.

As a sister-in-law and aunt, you are the best! Your ability to make everyone feel welcome in your home is parallel to none. You ensure that everyone enjoys your cooking, and you keep our culture and tradition alive. You truly show us the importance of family.

As a friend and, a generous heart is always felt. We are most fortunate, blessed, and proud to have you in our life. You inspire us by your generous spirit. Let us raise our glass and wish Georgette an incredibly Happy Birthday! We look forward to spending many more healthy, happy, and wonderful years together.

Your brother,
Berty
Mr. Berty Ho-Wo-Cheong

OFFERING MYSELF TO GOD: VIRTUAL WORSHIP IN A PANDEMIC WORLD



When Covid-19 was declared a pandemic, the world around us seemed to have stopped. Schools, gyms, places of worship and non-essential businesses were all closed. Concerts, meetings, and wedding receptions were cancelled. Non-essential travel was forbidden. We were advised to “stay home,” but not to panic because “Ca va bien aller.” At first, it was wonderful because it seemed like an unexpected vacation where we spent a quiet summer at home with the family. The board games we have were dusted off, Netflix was watched, and we made bread from scratch.

Ms. Helen Morris

Eventually, the novelty wore off, and people longed for human contact again. Thankfully, modern technology allowed us to meet virtually, and our children were able to get back to learning and businesses adapted to a new way of connecting the employees. Churches also began to use this technology, so Sunday morning worship services resumed in the form of zoom meetings.

While it was not an ideal situation, it was a way for us to connect, see each other, pray, read scripture together and listen to a sermon. Eventually, when a core group of individuals were allowed to enter the church building, the services were live-streamed. Another parishioner first took on the role of setting up the Facebook Live stream on the tripod and following the service with the iPhone. We are most thankful to that parishioner for her help in that area. A vacancy existed for someone to set up the Facebook Live-Streaming, so after several months, I took over this role. We are now able to hold in-person services. However, this live-streaming option is ideal for those who are most vulnerable to the virus, those who are travelling, or who live out of town, yet wish to stay connected to St. Mike’s.

Over the years I have volunteered in various capacities, such as: organizing fundraising events, helping with outreach projects, and sitting on parish council. This role demands little of my time and energy, yet it allows me to offer my service to others in a new and wonderful way. On Sunday mornings, as I sit in my pew and focus on the service, I try to imagine the viewers as we join together in worship, while they are in their homes. Moving the camera to the speaker or reader and focusing on the cross during a praise song is a way to help the viewer feel that he or she is with us in the church building.

I find serving the Lord in this way, very fulfilling, for it is a new and exciting way in which I can offer myself to do something for God. I have taken a break over the summer weeks to spend time volunteering at our small community pool where I run the tiny canteen and everyday make meals for the children who attend camp. It is fun and I enjoy being outside while balancing my job and

household chores, but I am looking forward to returning soon to my spot in church on Sunday mornings, watching the worship service through the lens of the camera. See you all in September!

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms” (*1Peter 4: 10*).

ROSIE ANIMAL ADOPTION

Rosie Animal Adoption is dedicated to the coordination of orphaned animals and adoptive homes into a supportive network to ensure the survival of unwanted pets. Rosie Animal Adoption will provide ongoing information and support to interested parties and pet lovers to ensure the humane and effective recovery of any pet in need. This is a non-profit charitable organization; funded by donations and arduous work; dedicated to the welfare, protection, and safe adoption of house pets.



R.I.P. Rosie. Rosie, our mascot, was rescued from an uncertain future at the age of two months, due to being homeless and having a pierced eye. Rosie went to Rainbow Bridge at the age of 12 years old.

Rosie Animal Adoption Profile

Our philosophy is to protect and ensure the survival of adoptable dogs. We are dedicated to finding responsible and loving homes for misplaced, neglected, and unwanted dogs. Our goal is to educate the public and pet lovers on responsible pet guardianship, which includes spaying and neutering of pets, behavioral guidelines to ensure problem behaviors are dealt with before the pet is abandoned and to inform prospective pet guardians of the special qualities, characteristics, and requirements of a pet before they acquire it. We hope to eventually eliminate the need for all adoption programs as the public becomes more educated. It is imperative as members of this group and pet lovers in general that we make every effort to care for pets.

Rosie Animal Adoption was founded in 2001 when two friends, both volunteers at animal shelters, decided to combine forces and venture out on their own.

Rosie Animal Adoption is NOT a shelter and is not affiliated with any animal welfare or humane organization which makes our task even more difficult. We do not receive any financial assistance from these groups. We are a non-profit/charitable organization, and we rely totally on the generosity and support of the public.

Rosie Animal Adoption finds homes for dogs through our Foster Care and Adoption Care programs. Medical care, spaying and neutering and necessities such as food, shelter, kindness, and compassion are provided by dedicated professionals and volunteers.

Rosie Animal Adoption is in Montreal, Quebec.

THE WORK OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE



Anglicans like everything to be done decently and in order! Well, most things! So, when an Anglican parish needs a new pastor, the members of the congregation of that parish have an official meeting to elect a parish Search Committee. This meeting must be called and convened by a Diocesan person, usually the local Archdeacon. The diocesan rules for such a committee are that it should consist of five to seven members elected by a Special Vestry meeting called with proper notice to the parish. These elected members are joined by the Rector's and People's Wardens to form a committee of seven to nine members who now must work together to recommend to the Diocesan Bishop the

name of a priest to lead that parish. The first job of this Committee is to elect a chairperson and give the bishop the name of the Chairperson and the names of the other members of the Committee.

I have had the privilege of being on three Parish Search Committees. The first one was 40 years ago in our neighbouring parish and the other two at St. Michael and All Angel's Church, including the present Search Committee. The first committee was set up as soon as the Rector had committed himself to his new parish. The Archdeacon called a parish Special Vestry (meeting of parishioners) at which the Search Committee process was explained, nominations called for, and a committee of six members were elected plus the two wardens. The new committee was immediately sent out of the Parish meeting and told to elect a chairperson and report right back to the Parish Meeting. I was elected Chair of an excellent committee in the fastest election in which I have ever participated.

We soon met with Bishop who further outlined our work and told us to look outside the Diocese for a new priest. We had our "marching orders"! He said that there was no available priest in the Diocese who would be able to continue that successful parish ministry. This solves the problem of trying to "steal" someone's nearby minister.

It is a big church world outside the Diocese! There should be a lot of potential rectors outside the Diocese of Montreal, including those from in the Episcopalian Churches in the USA, I thought. However, I was convinced that The Holy Spirit would show us where to look. We began holding weekly meetings, on how to find a new priest to continue the excellent work at St. Michael and All Angels Church. Some of the meetings were extremely long, sometime lasting until 2 O'clock in the morning. As members of the Search Committee, we were cognizant of the fact that the onus was on us, with lots of help from the Holy Spirit to find a new priest. Also, we did not have an agreed, written outline of what our parish was all about!

The parish had some connection with the charismatic movement, with emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church. The leader of the Anglican Charismatic Movement in North America was the Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Darien, Connecticut (commuting distance to New York City). That parish was written up in TIME magazine, as the fastest growing church in the US in the late 1970's and was becoming the real center of the Charismatic Movement in the Episcopal Church. The book, *Miracle in Darien*, outlined this story. The committee decided that this was the kind of new leader we needed and checked this out with the bishop. We renewed contact with the leading lay person at St. Paul's and he prayerfully, with help from the Rector, provided three names of potential priests, including one on the staff of St. Paul's. The Committee prayerfully accepted these names. Then we contacted each of these persons to see if they would come to Montreal if called, and they all said, "Yes!"

All these men lived within driving distance from Montreal, so we personally interviewed each of them and the bishop spoke to each of them while they were in Montreal. All seemed to be a possible rector. Now the hard part of the process was to decide which one of the three should be chosen. And the real question was, which one was the Holy Spirit's choice? We decided then, that we would like to hear each of them preach. One member of the Committee had a senior position with Air Canada, so he flew to one priest's church and heard him preach. On his return, he presented a good report on the sermon he heard from the prospective priest. We also looked at a few other priests we knew, but they were comfortable in their parish and were not desirous of leaving. I have to say that Zoom is more effective for this type of work! After a lot of prayer and discussion we unanimously selected one priest and a second one came to Montreal in another parish later. It took just over three months to complete the Committee's work with encouragement from our Bishop and, obviously, the Holy Spirit's direction. We had to trust that we made God's decision for the parish.

I was also Chair of my second Search Committee that selected our retired priest. This Search Committee operated under the current rules that effectively say that the parish advertises itself about its work and ministry through a Parish Profile, and then this profile is made available through diocesan and national church websites. So, any priest in the Anglican Communion has access to it and can offer his or her services to lead the parish. Lutheran priests in Canada can also apply because we are in full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada. There are a number of Lutheran priests now leading Anglican parishes and vice-versa. Therefore, the description of the parish needs to be done as faithfully as possible to be part of matching the parish with an applicant and hopefully challenging that person to pray about leading our parish.

Ah the Parish Profile!! What a job to do it as effectively as it is supposed to be done! It is a sales document about the parish, but it needs to be realistic about what our parish is all about and what it is doing. It includes information about church attendance, the parish buildings and the most recent parish budget and annual financial statement. Our present Search Committee is extremely blessed to have Mrs. Marilyn Wray as the Chair. She has taken on this task and has worked with the rest of the members to produce a superb Profile. If you go to the St. Mike's website, the current St. Mike's Parish Profile is there where you will see the amount of information required about our parish. In 2010, there was no previous profile for St. Mike's, but the Diocese provided several

recent profiles for other parishes as a model of what is required. We completed our Profile and submitted a draft to the bishop. He replied, I think correctly, that we needed more information from parishioners and that took an extra two to three months.

Something different also confronted this Committee. The bishop said that our interim priest could become our incumbent. This is unusual and probably because the bishop wanted our interim priest to become our priest. She had already been our interim priest for over a year before the Search Committee was elected. But it was not supposed to change how the Search Committee operated and she did not apply for the position. The Profile was made available on the National Church website, but our Diocese received very few applicants. All applications are addressed to the bishop who can reject any applicant without informing the Search Committee.

I should add a comment about the term “Rector” and the term we use today, “Incumbent.” Many years ago, I was at a Diocesan Council meeting with the archbishop who was the Chair. When asked, he made a point that he did not appoint Rectors because they had rights through the diocesan canons or rules. He told us about another diocese where the bishop wanted to (literally) get rid of a certain rector of a parish. The rector told the bishop that he was staying in his parish because of his rights under diocesan rules as a rector. Bishops do not like to hear things like this! That bishop ceased to appoint rectors and so did our Archbishop. A priest appointed as an Incumbent can be dismissed by his bishop at any time and for any reason.

This was 2010 and one of my clergy friends introduced me to what I thought was one exceptionally good applicant. I encouraged him to apply. He was a recent graduate of Wycliffe College in Toronto, and his CV outlined a lot of experience in leading parishes that were not Anglican in the United States. I really liked him and his initiative and experience. However, our bishop turned down his application. Our committee could not see this application. The bishop can turn down any applicant that he or she does not want a Search Committee to deal with for any reason and the Search Committee would usually never know about it.

The Profile was made available again on the National website and there were two more applicants whom the bishop approved, and the applications were passed on to us. We did not spend much time on them as these applicants would clash with the way we saw St. Mike’s going. We sent letters of regret to these priests. The Search Committee must first decide on whether an applicant was acceptable. We have the Holy Spirit to guide us! We finally interviewed a priest and found her acceptable, and the bishop commissioned her as our next priest. Please remember that the Committee had to take into consideration the cost of interviewing a priest, which includes moving a family from anywhere in the world, to Montreal. However, this priest had her home here, and therefore, this factor was not a problem. The parish must pay a priest a housing allowance as part of his or her stipend.

The current Search Committee is chaired by Mrs. Marilyn Wray, with Mrs. Lydia Latulipe as secretary, Mrs. Julie Hum, Mrs. Veronica Johnson, Mrs. Elizabeth Ho-Wo-Cheong, the two wardens - Mr. Rudi Gordon and Mr. Timothy Branch and Myself. Currently, there is a growing shortage of priests in the diocese and in the wider church community. As a result of this situation, there are very few applicants thus far. We have not found the Spirit-filled person God has for St.

Mike's yet. Our Parish Profile is on our website for all to see. It is also posted on the Diocesan and National Church Websites. I believe that the Holy Spirit will bring us the right priest! We need your prayers to move

Mr. Roger Spack

CONGRATULATIONS



The Right Reverend Mary Irwin-Gibson, Bishop of Montreal Anglican Diocese of Montreal - Photo credit: Janet Best.

Dear Bishop Mary,

On behalf of the congregation of St. Michael and All Angels Church,

I am offering our heartiest and most sincere congratulations to you, on your fortieth-year anniversary in the church as a priest, and your seventh-year service as the Bishop of Montreal.

We laud you and thank you for your service over the years to the church. At this time, we heartily commend you to the continued love of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and pray that your walk with Him will always be full of joy, peace, and fortitude. May you go from strength to strength in His service, and may the blessing of God the Father Almighty, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you throughout the length of your days here and always!

CONGRATULATION VOLUNTEER WEST ISLAND

Heartiest congratulations to the all the members and staff of Volunteer West Island on the celebration of their fifty-fifth anniversary this year. In 1967, the organization opened its doors to provide voluntary service for this community. I am taking this opportunity to thank you for your dedicated service in the past, and for the continued excitement that you shared in the article about offering your talent, time, and treasure to those who are in need on the West Island.

I commend Ms. Lynda Barrett- Executive Director and Ms. Jane Szollosy-Community directions Coordinator for their leadership, guidance, and service to the organization. I pray that they will always be richly blessed as they continue their work in serving others.

THANK YOU THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

On November 14th. 2021, Archdeacon Michelle, then incumbent of this parish informed the congregation that there was a need for a Search Committee to be formed by the following week. The responsibility of the Committee members was to select a new priest for this parish because Archdeacon Michelle was retiring. By the following week, the Rector's Warden presented the Archdeacon with some names, and the names were accepted by her. The members who accepted the invitation were voted in on November 21 at a Vestry meeting immediately after the Church service that day.

The members of the Search Committee are Mrs. Marilyn Wray- Chair person, Mrs. Lydia Latulipe -Secretary, Mrs. Veronica Johnson, Mrs. Julie Hum, Mrs. Elizabeth Wo-Ho-Cheong, Mr. Roger Spack, and the two Wardens - Mr. Timothy Branch- the People's Warden and Mr. Rudi Gordon - the Rector's. Warden. Very soon after the election, the eight members of the committee began their work individually and collectively in a most effective and consistent manner. They met weekly and worked feverishly, hammering out important details for the Church Profile. This part of the process had to be completed before the job for a priest could be published.

On May 3, 2022, Madam Chair Marilyn, gave the congregation an update of where the Committee had reached in their preparation for getting a new priest. She informed us that the work on the Church Profile was finished and that it was posted on the website of the Church. She then invited us to look at the work. I accepted her invitation, read the Church Profile, and found what seemed to have been a monumental task, that was exceedingly well done. I congratulate them most heartily for such an excellent production and thank them for all the hard work that they put into such an achievement.

The job has been posted for some time now, but unfortunately, the priest whom God has selected to lead us spiritually has not been revealed to them as yet, so they continue their search. We are now in the Fall Season of 2022, and they are still working extremely hard and as conscientiously as when they first began. So, at this time, I offer my sincere thanks for all the arduous work that they have done and continue to do, untiringly, faithfully, dutifully and with a true sense of purpose, on the behalf of our congregation.

Thank you again, members of the Select Committee, individually and collectively, and may the blessing of God be always with you as you continue your search!

Joan M. Gordon

A PRAYER FOR AGING

Gracious God, thank You for the gift of life. Help us to choose to age with grace. We will need your help to do this.

Each season of life has its unique challenges and opportunities. You are a faithful and loving God, ever present in the here and now to help us to become the best version of ourselves.

As we age, help us not to focus on that which is diminishing, but choose instead to embrace what we can give within the changes aging brings. It will not be the same as it was. It was never meant to be, different. To give and receive love is probably the greatest gift of all.

Lord, help us to overcome the temptation to become despairing or discouraged. Instead, help us to immediately seek Your guidance and receive the courage to accept and respect the complexities of aging by Your grace and in your strength.

Dear God, thank you that each one of us is a unique creation endowed with a special plan and purpose by Your design. Help us, as You continue to work in, and through us to offer ourselves by Your grace, to contribute in ways big or small to You and your glorious plan for this world.

Let us always remember that we are children of the Highest God no matter what our age, and that You care deeply about us and for us. Therefore, we pray that You may, "Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days" (*Psalms 90:14, NIV*). So, for all our blessings, we give You thanks.

Amen

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

PRINCIPAL HOLY DAYS:

1. Pentecost 20	Oct. 23
2. Pentecost 21	Oct. 30
3. Pentecost 22 All Saints Day	Nov. 06
4. Pentecost 23 All Souls Day	Nov. 13
5. Pentecost 24	Nov. 20
6. Advent 1	Nov. 27
7. Advent 2	Dec. 04
8. Advent 3	Dec. 11
9. Advent 4 Nine Lessons	Dec. 18
10. Carol Singing	Dec. 24
11. Christmas Day	Dec. 25
12. Naming of our Lord	Jan. 01
13. Epiphany 1 Baptism of our Lord	Jan. 08
14. Epiphany 2	Jan. 15
15. Epiphany 3	Jan. 22
16. Epiphany 4	Jan. 29

LOCAL INFORMATION:

1. Alpha Course - Every Thursday at 6 pm St. Barnabas Anglican Church
2. Lunchtime Bible Study continues Wednesdays via Zoom
3. The Search Committee continues to look for a priest