

St. Simeon's Anglican Church

Annual Vestry Meeting

February 7, 2021



Agenda

Minutes

Group Reports

St. Simeon's Anglican Church

445 rue Principale
Lachute, Quebec

Mailing address: 715 Meikle Street, Lachute, QC J8H 1V4

Telephone:

Church – 450-562-8937

Rectory – 450-562-2917



Priests:

The Reverend Josée Lemoine – LRM Team Leader

The Reverend Nick Brotherhood – Associate Priest 514 246 - 5796

The Reverend Tania Lesack- Assistant Curate

Administration:

People's Warden - Karen Napp 450-562-1210

Rector's Warden - Edna Hall 450-562-6147

Treasurer - Herb Sioui

Envelope Secretary

Vestry Clerk - Karen Napp

Bulletin Secretary - Judy Evans

Groups:

Women's Fellowship - Ann Mason

Seniors' Lunches - Ann and Andy Mason

Prayer Group - Susan Sioui

Worship Service:

Organist and Choir Master - Janis Morrill

Lay Assistants - Edna Hall, Andy Mason, Joan Painter, Richard Pink, Jenna Sioui,
Susan Sioui

Altar Guild - Margaret MacKenzie

Family Service - Revd Nick Brotherhood & Edna Hall

Hosts and Readers - Jean Parker

Coffee Hour - Donna Silverson

Web Site - Susan Sioui

Representatives:

Cemetery Committee - Herb Sioui and Richard Pink

LRM Council

- Andy Mason

St. Simeon's Annual Vestry Meeting

February 7, 2021

1. **Opening Prayer**
2. **Welcome and Thanks**
3. **Appointment of the Vestry Clerk**
4. **Adoption of the Agenda**
5. **In Memoriam**
6. **Minutes of Annual Vestry of February 23, 2020**
7. **Business Arising from the minutes**
8. **Reports**
 - 8.1 Clergy Report
 - 8.2 Laurentian Regional Ministry
 - 8.3 Rector's Warden
 - 8.4 People's Warden
 - 8.5 Lay Assistants
 - 8.6 Prayer Group
 - 8.7 Family Service
 - 8.8 Altar Guild
 - 8.9 Choir
 - 8.10 Bulletin Secretary
 - 8.11 Hosts and Readers
 - 8.12 Coffee Hour
 - 8.13 Women's Fellowship
 - 8.14 Seniors' Lunches
 - 8.15 Website
 - 8.16 Lachute Protestant Cemetery
 - 8A) Acceptance of Reports
 - 8 B) Financial Report and Acceptance of Financial Report
9. **Appointments**
10. **Nomination Committee Report**
11. **Prayer of Dedication**
12. **Financial Stewardship**
 - 12.1 2021 Budget
 - 12.2 LRM Budget
13. **New Business**
 - 13.1 Laurentian Regional Ministry Covenant
 - 13.2
14. **Ministerial Priorities for 2021 - Nick**
15. **Adjournment**
16. **Closing Prayer**



SIMEON'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Annual Vestry Meeting Year 2019

February 23rd, 2020

In attendance: The Reverend Nick Brotherwood, plus those on the attached signed attendance list, making a total of 18.

1. **Welcome and Appointment of the Vestry Clerk:** Rev. Nick Brotherwood welcomed those in attendance for St. Simeon's Annual General/Vestry meeting. Karen Napp was nominated as Vestry Clerk, seconded by Garth Morrill & Connie Brown. All in favour.
2. **Opening Prayer:** Rev. Nick B. opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Rev. Nick moved that the agenda be approved: seconded by Andy Mason & Edna Hall. All in favour. Motion carried.
4. **In Memoriam:** We remember and pray for loved ones lost this past year: Richard Downing, Rowena Blair, Marion Lummis, and Shirley Dempster.
5. **Minutes of the last Annual General Vestry Meeting:** Approval of minutes from February 3rd, 2019 for Year 2018. Moved by Karen to accept: seconded by Janis Morrill & Susan Sioui. All in favour. Motion carried.
6. **Reports:**

6.1 Clergy Report: Rev. Nick B. spoke to the clergy's report presented in the AVM booklet. Having 3 full time priests is truly an exceptional situation. Copy attached and submitted by Rev. Josee Lemoine, Rev. Nick Brotherwood, and Rev. Tania Lesack, covering numerous topics of the Laurentian Regional Ministry including: educational programs for clergy and public, children youth ministry, LRM Council, refugee sponsorship, and other important events and ministries.

6.2 Laurentian Regional Ministry: Report attached. Susan reported that the LRM Council meets once per month and she has enjoyed the collection of people attending these meetings and enjoys the meeting itself. Susan has served as representative on the council for five years now and is retiring this year. She urged us to read the LRM Council report as it contains a lot of information.

6.3 Rector's Warden: Susan feels very blessed to have served as Rector's Warden for the past nine years. She thanked Janick Tremblay-Bouchard for his service as People's Warden. Susan also thanked Edna Hall and Karen Napp for stepping up to be deputy wardens since October 2019. Susan thanked Drummond Hall for all his help in doing odd job maintenance work at the rectory and church. Drummond is always willingly keen to keep our buildings in good shape. Susan also expressed special thanks to Herb for his bookkeeping abilities and his support to Susan herself. Edna thanked Susan for her dedication over the past many years to help us all learn and grow together.

6.4 People's Warden: Karen Napp spoke to her report included in the AVM booklet. Karen thanked Drummond for his always present support and advice on maintenance issues and jobs to be completed at the church and the rectory.

A motion was made to accept these group reports presented in the AVM booklet. Garth Morrill and Joan Painter approved acceptance of the reports. All in favour.

7.0 Treasurer's Report:

In Herb's absence, Susan presented the Treasurer's Report for 2019. Revenues at \$66 071, Expenses at \$61 559, for an Operating surplus of \$4 513. The Balance Sheet on Page 1 shows the value of our investment fund for 2018-19 doing very well at \$97 280. Herb, in absentia, expresses his thanks to Andy Mason for verifying the treasurer's financial statement. Andy expressed thanks to Herb acting as treasurer and envelope secretary and for the time he devotes to the job every day. Susan moved the financial report for 2019 be accepted. Ann Mason seconded, all in favour.

8.0 Group Reports:

8.1 Lay Assistants: Report attached

8.2 Prayer Group: Report attached. Susan thanked the group for their continued support.

8.3 Family Service: Report attached. Edna thanked the Family Service team and the church for sharing and helping in this ministry. Edna also thanked Rev. Nick for his support and encouragement and for being present at Family Services, especially at Christmas time.

8.4 Altar Guild: Report attached. Edna commented that the new altar cloth will be used for the first time at Easter service.

8.5 Choir: Report attached. Joan Painter expressed thanks to Janis Morrill, choir director and organist, for her leadership in this ministry.

8.6 Bulletin Secretary: Report attached. Judy Evans, in absentia, commented that she is pleased to prepare the service bulletin each week, and is anxious to resume her duties, possibly next month.

8.7 Hosts and readers: Report attached. Jean Parker took over host and reader duties from Shirley Dempster and appreciates all whom she calls upon to respond so positively.

8.8 Coffee Hour: Report attached.

8.9 Envelope Secretary: Herb has assumed the duties of envelope secretary as Grace Dubeau had to resign.

8.10 Women's Fellowship: Report attached. Ann encouraged others to join the group.

8.11 Seniors' Luncheon: Report attached. Andy Mason thanked all who help to make the luncheons a success. He also asked for help with the next luncheon in April 2020.

8.12 Website: Report attached.

8.13 Lachute Protestant Cemetery: Report attached.

A motion was made to accept these group reports that have been duly received and commented on. Ann Mason and Joan Painter approved acceptance of the reports. All in favour.

9.0 Appointments: Rev. Nick thanked Susan Sioui for her time as Rector's Warden, 9 years in all. Edna Hall now is Rector's Warden. Chalice administrators appointed are Edna Hall, Susan Sioui, Joan Painter, Richard Pink, Andy Mason, and Jenna Sioui. Herb Sioui was appointed as treasurer by the Corporation. The verifier of St. Simeon's annual financial reports is Andy Mason. All appointed.

10.0 Nomination Committee Report: Nominations of officers were presented by the Nominating Committee consisting of Andy Mason and Jenna Sioui. Andy moved to accept persons as nominated, seconded by Jean Parker. All in favour. The committee nominates the following people to the various offices:

People's Warden	Karen Napp
Deputy People's Warden	
Envelope Secretary	
Host Family & Readers Co-ordinator	Jean Parker
Coffee Hour Co-ordinator	Donna Silverson
Synod Delegate	Herb Sioui
Cemetery Representatives	Herb Sioui & Richard Pink
LRM Council(Management Comm. Representative)	Andy Mason

Andy noted that a Deputy People's Warden and a Deputy Rector's Warden are needed. Also an Envelope Secretary is needed.

Also, Herb stated he would like to be replaced as Synod Delegate, but will have his name stand until a replacement is found.

Rev. Nick thanked all who have volunteered to accept their positions.

11. Prayer of Dedication: Rev. Nick said a prayer for all nominations and added that it is nice that our AVM meeting is interspersed with prayer.

12. Financial Stewardship:

12.1 Budget for 2020: Report attached. Susan, in Herb's absence, presented the new 2020 budget, Schedule 3 of financial report. The Diocesan Assessment is up considerably for the 2020 year because of the greater picture - there are fewer churches to pay assessments. Insurances will also see a rise in premiums. We are left with an operating (deficit) of \$15 203 which is a serious issue. No areas in the projected budget for 2020 could be cut any further. Note: if necessary, monies to maintain a better financial position could be taken from our Investment Fund. The Memorial Fund at \$10 000 approx. could be used for expenses in maintenance of our buildings. Herb asked for acceptance of the 2020 budget, seconded by Drummond. All in favour.

12.2 LRM Budget: Susan presented a report on the budget of the LRM and explained the Fair Share Agreement within the LRM. Some shared costs include clergy salaries, clergy mileage, supply clergy and mileage, rectory expenses, clergy cell phones, etc. Presently St. Simeon's share is 17.6% (\$35 987) of all costs of the LRM. Rev. Nick thanked Herb and Susan for the explanation of this agreement.

13. New Business:

13.1 Events in 2020: Scheduled to take place is the annual Pancake Supper, Lenten series, and Easter services.

14. LRM and Ministerial Priorities for 2020: Rev. Nick expressed that we will continue to work together as disciples of Jesus. We will likely be losing Rev. Tania as she will be placed elsewhere and there are no plans to replace her. Thanks were given to lay readers for stepping up as clergy decreases. We do depend on lay assistants and readers to accept these responsibilities.

15. Adjournment: The Annual General Vestry meeting of 2020 for the Year 2019 was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. by Margaret Gunn, seconded by Joan Painter. All in favour.

The Grace: Rev. Nick B. thanked all for coming and closed with a prayer and The Grace was said by all in attendance.

Karen Napp, Vestry Clerk

Laurentian Regional Ministry (LRM) Clergy Vestry Report 2020

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

2020 has been an amazing year in many ways. We will always remember it as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic; the year we had to close our church buildings. We shall also remember it as the year that, out of chaos, God created something new...

On March 15, 2020, we had our last in-person services and then Bishop Mary, following government regulations, asked us to close all church buildings. Only after preparing strict reopening plans and having them approved, did some church buildings reopen starting on September 13.

Of the ten churches in the LRM, only five (Trinity Church in Ste-Agathe, Grace Church in Arundel, St. Simeon's Church in Lachute, Trinity Church in Morin Heights, and Holy Trinity Church in Lakefield) submitted plans to reopen their church buildings; St. Francis Church in St-Sauveur submitted a reopening plan for their hall only.

From the moment all buildings closed, both clergy and members of congregations went through two steep learning curves. The first to find new ways of gathering online, and the second to learn to use online tools to continue to be part of the church community.

Rapidly, evening services were offered Monday to Saturday as an opportunity for individuals to come out of isolation and pray together. We were all experiencing a difficult situation, which most people did not think would last. Online Sunday services were also offered. At first, clergy experimented with Facebook Live and pre-recording the service. Then, it became clear that the best way to gather in this region, where not everyone has internet access, was to meet via the Zoom platform which allows people to join using electronic devices or regular telephone lines.

From this new and difficult situation arose new communities: a new Sunday online community of worshipers who join from all over the region but also from other provinces and countries, and a new online evening prayer community, both of which became quite stable over time.

The whole LRM community (both clergy and lay) entered a Communion Fast until the reopening of church buildings and celebrating in-person again.

WORSHIP

Online Sunday worship services were celebrated at 10am every Sunday, using the two versions of the Service of the Word available on the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) website. Monday to Friday, an Evening Prayer took place at 5pm online, and on Saturday a Night Prayer service was offered, also online at 5pm. When in-person services resumed in September, the Sunday online service was moved to 4pm to free clergy to celebrate in-person services. On Sundays, music ministry was offered by a trio of singers and the pianist/organist from St-Sauveur and Morin Heights. Starting in June, we also offered an online version of the "fellowship time" by dividing worshipers in Zoom break-out rooms which made it possible for people from different regions to get to know each other better.

The clergy team is most grateful to Worship Leaders, Lay Readers and retired clergy who have helped us by taking on services either in-person or online, reading lessons or leading prayer in online worship. The clergy team is also very grateful to all those who were involved in printing and delivering the text for services to those who do not have internet access. This permitted many parishioners to join online services by phone and fully participate in them, a real blessing!

An initiative that was undertaken by the clergy team was to record online Sunday services and post them on both the LRM Facebook page and website. It gave the flexibility to some parishioners to watch online services while they would normally have missed services because they had other obligations.

Online ecumenical services were celebrated with the United Church (Laurentian Area Ministry) on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and on the eve of Easter. During Advent, an online ecumenical Blue Christmas service was offered.

The churches that reopened in the fall alternated between being opened and closed depending on the evolution of the pandemic and government decrees which restricted public gatherings in places of worship.

EDUCATION

During the season of Lent, St-Simeon's, the PLL and Trinity Ste-Agathe studied the Gospel of Matthew following the format of study developed by the Montreal Diocesan Theological College, called "Making Disciples of Jesus: A Bible Study Resource on the Gospel of Matthew."

After Easter, two online studies were also offered:

- "I Am Sayings of Jesus", a Lectio Divina type of study developed by the Bible Society of Scotland; and
- "What Does God Want for Us? Ted Talks Meet the Bible" prepared and adapted by the Diocese of New Westminster.

At the end of May and throughout the month of June, the Rev. Prof. Patricia G. Kirkpatrick offered a second experience of "Theology in the Laurentians." We studied "Materiality as Resistance: Five Elements for Moral Action in the Real World" from Walter Brueggemann.

Throughout the year, Astrid Norquay at Grace Church continued to lead Bible Studies based on the weekly Sunday readings, at first in-person and then online.

During Advent, as we were entering the second wave of the pandemic, feeling that people needed to be strengthened with hope, the study "Living Well Through Advent 2020" adapted from the program prepared by Living Compass was offered.

The EFM - Education for Ministry group completed their first year in June, under the mentorship of Nancy Greene-Gregoire and the Rev'd Tania Lesack, having transitioned to meeting online like every other group. They continued with the second year of the program in September, meeting online until in-person meetings are again permitted and the hall at St. Simeon's Church is re-opened. The clergy team thanks Nancy and the Rev'd Paul Tidman who are mentoring the group in its second year.

MINISTRY

We were blessed that Bishop Mary allowed the Rev. Tania Lesack to stay with us in the LRM as Assistant Curate after the 2-year period that a curacy normally lasts.

Early after the closing of the church buildings, Pastoral Care training was organized and led by the Rev. Nick Brotherhood and Linda Cass-Jones. Phone calling chains were activated or were set up to keep in touch with those most isolated and those in need. A whole new ministry of lay-led Pastoral Care was developed to better cope with the many effects of the pandemic and confinement.

Many events and ministries were cancelled throughout the year. It is the case of the Ceilidh that was supposed to take place in the spring, the annual deanery meeting of the Anglican Church Women (ACW) which was scheduled for September, and the many social and fundraising activities that normally take place.

Because of the pandemic, many people in the wider community lost their jobs, which was a concern for many of us. Several congregations decided to financially help organizations that distribute food in communities. One particular effort was made under the leadership of St. Paul's Church in Dunany, with the collaboration of the Association des Résidents de Dunany, Mr. Hugh Mitchell and his friends from Gore, and Ms. C. Hanna from Lac Louisa. The sum of \$15,000 was raised and given to the Centre d'Entraide d'Argenteuil to help the food banks in that region.

CHILDREN/YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Simeon's in Lachute continued to offer family services on an occasional basis, but now are pre-recording services and posting them on YouTube. This initiative was a great success. The Christmas family service received over 112 hits within a month!

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS

Baptisms were prohibited during the pandemic and all marriages were cancelled because relatives could not travel, no large gatherings were permitted, social distancing and wearing of masks were required. Funeral services inside church buildings were greatly limited, but some services took place outside, in the open air, under certain conditions, and in funeral homes also under strict conditions. Many such services and celebration of sacraments were postponed until after the pandemic.

Nick officiated at three burials. Tania officiated at two funeral services and five burials. Josée officiated at two funeral services and eight burial services.

LAURENTIAN REGIONAL MINISTRY COUNCIL ("LRM COUNCIL")

In 2020, Robert Percy from the PLL, Bevin Boyd from Grace Church in Arundel and David Ward from St. John the Baptist Church in Kilkenny were reelected by their respective communities to be members of the LRM Council, and Andy Mason was elected for the first time from St. Simeon's in Lachute. During the year, Audrey McDonough, representing St. Francis from St. Sauveur moved away and was replaced by Quitterie Roques de Borda.

The members of the LRM Council worked most of the year writing an LRM Covenant that would officially bind the 10 churches (7 parishes) of the LRM and preparing a first budget for the LRM. These documents were completed during the year and submitted to Bishop Mary for permission to present them to each parish in 2021 for adoption at their respective Annual Vestry Meetings.

GOVERNANCE

It was discovered in late 2019 that the agreement signed by the 4 churches of the Parish of the Lower Laurentians (PLL) and Bishop Barry's decree regarding the creation of the PLL had not been fully implemented. Therefore, a special effort was made in 2020 to coordinate the coming together of these churches and implementing the administrative structure it required. This long-term task that will be continued in 2021. One good point that was discovered is that parishioners of the 4 churches have built stronger ties since signing this agreement in 2013 and have grown closer; something wished for in all Christian communities.

As a benefit of becoming one parish, St. Aidan's has decided to come under the PLL Charitable registration which means they no longer have to file a separate report to the CRA. This is the kind of endeavour that is particularly helpful as the number of volunteers is shrinking.

It was discovered in the fall of 2019 that Holy Trinity Church in Lakefield was a victim of embezzlement. We were happy to resolve this situation in a Christian manner. Most of the money taken from Holy Trinity was reimbursed and it is expected that the file will be closed by mid-2021.

A governance issue that has been postponed and may still be for another year due to the pandemic is to conform to the Diocesan requirement that all people holding a position of authority in a church must submit to a police check. This project may be undertaken in 2021 or only in 2022.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCES

It should be mentioned that during this time of pandemic, churches were able to survive financially because the Diocese did not collect the Assessments starting in March, and because the Federal Government subsidized part of clergy's salary. It helped churches make it through at a time when donations decreased due to the closing of the buildings, and it allowed some churches to make much needed major renovations on their buildings. It was the case of St. Francis that replaced the

roof on their hall, and Grace Church that replaced their heating system in their church. The clergy team and all the churches are very grateful for the support received from the Diocese during this time of crisis.

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

The Adra-Dali family, the Syrian refugee family that the churches of the LRM are sponsoring, was expected to arrive in Canada in 2020. However, the family had to stay in Lebanon as all immigration was halted due to the pandemic. We continued to send them financial support.

As part of an ecumenical ministry, we joined with the Roman Catholic and the United Churches, under the leadership of Fr. André Daoust to sponsor two other Syrian families, one that sought temporary refuge in Lebanon and one that found temporary refuge in Turkey. We joined our efforts to raise money hoping to deposit the applications with the government as soon as permitted in 2021.

IN CLOSING

2020 was definitively a very different year that presented many challenges, but the most marvelous consequence of this is that we all found strength in our faith to overcome the road blocks we encountered, and we grew spiritually, our faith in God was strengthened, and we grew closer to one another as a regional ministry. We are recognizant to God for the grace, strength and blessings poured on us.

The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

(Psalm 28:7)

Respectfully submitted by:

the Rev'd. Josée Lemoine, the Rev'd. Nick Brotherhood and the Rev'd. Tania Lesack

Laurentian Regional Ministry Council

The Management Committee of the LRM met monthly during 2020 and focused primarily on a document outlining the procedures by which the 10 churches of the LRM would be able to work together in a positive and sustainable way.

This document is referred to as the Covenant and has been a work in progress in recent years. During 2020 a number of important major and several minor adjustments were made. The discussions recognized that it was important for individual churches to maintain a certain degree of independence and individuality, but also to be aware of the need for sharing resources and compromise.

The document was presented to Bishop Mary in November and at our December meeting, the Bishop's input was discussed. By the end of the year, the committee felt that the Covenant was ready to be presented to congregations for approval at Annual Vestry meetings in 2021.

In addition to the Covenant, discussion also took place concerning a general budget for the LRM. This budget would not replace our own individual parish budgets but would cover costs shared by all churches, including priests' salaries, travel costs and housing. The budget was based on previous costs in those shared areas. Each church would contribute to this budget.

This has been a very busy year for the management committee. Hopefully the committee's work will result in establishing the basis for a successful relationship among 10 congregations in the large Laurentian area. Copies of both the Covenant and the proposed LRM budget are available online. Both can be forwarded if requested.

During 2021, the committee plans to discuss the issue of our declining church attendance and diminishing congregations.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Mason

Rector's Warden Report

So much has changed since our last Annual Vestry Meeting. We began 2020 as a usual year with the usual services, meetings and events. The Pancake Supper held on February 25th was the last public event at St. Simeon's before the Covid 19 restrictions came into effect. Except for a brief period from November to December 24 when we chose to have in-church services, we have moved from functioning in a familiar pattern into unknown territory. During the period we could no longer meet in-person, Zoom became a familiar word. It is thanks to the clergy team of Rev. Josée Lemoine, Rev. Nick Brotherhood and Rev. Tania Lesack that Sunday Services continue online for all the churches of the LRM. One positive result of this endeavor is that many of us are becoming acquainted with members of our wider community. In addition to the regular Sunday Services, an online Evening Prayer Service is offered daily. Special occasions are marked in a similar fashion: the most recent being an Ecumenical Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We are grateful to the clergy team for organizing these services.

With the Covid restrictions, we feel it is very important to maintain contact with church members. Because some parishioners are not able to be online, a phone chain was organized. It is through this format that we become aware of the concerns, cares and important events affecting our Church Family. Thanks are extended to the committed people who make these regular calls. We also thank Rev. Nick for his pastoral care during this difficult time. His phone calls and outside safe distance visits have ensured parishioners of his presence.

Bible studies, EFM and other courses are continuing online. Although we realize this format does not totally replace the regular courses, it does provide an opportunity to meet and learn with other members of the LFRM. Some groups such as Women's Fellowship and Prayer Group will resume in-person when the restrictions are lifted.

The Family service has been an important part of St. Simeon's for over twenty years. To continue this outreach has also required a new perspective. Once again, Zoom came to the rescue and services have been online on a regular basis. Many thanks to the Family Service Team for their dedication and innovative approach which has allowed this ministry to continue.

Our Vestry continues to meet regularly to attend to Church business. The usual obligations of maintaining a church and rectory continue even though St Simeon's is not currently holding services. The Diocese has been helpful in suspending assessment payments. This decision, combined with the ongoing stewardship, has enabled us to meet the Parish financial obligations. We appreciate the thoughtfulness and caring of the faithful parishioners. It is thanks to our Treasurer, Herb Sioui and our People's Warden, Karen Napp that any ongoing or new issues involving the church or the rectory have been addressed. Our participation in the LRM has been capably represented by Andy Mason.

It has been a most interesting year! As we persevere in the present, we are all looking forward to the future when we can again come together in-person as a congregation. We miss hearing voices in person as well as being able to sing together under the guidance of our Choir Master, Janis and the Choir. It takes many people to maintain the functioning of a parish as one can note from the positions on the Nominating Committee Report. The contribution of each person is valuable as it is through the efforts of many that we are able to function as a whole. In the words of St. Paul,

'We have different gifts according to the grace given us...' (Romans 12:6).

As we use and share these gifts, we are confident St. Simeon's will not just survive this pandemic but will emerge as a stronger, vibrant community of worshipers.

Edna Hall, Rector's Warden



People's Warden Report

Maintenance Projects at St. Simeon's Church and Rectory 2020

Projects **completed** at the Rectory in 2020:

- Extermination of property for ants, mice, etc.
- Clean-up of overgrowth of shrubbery and brush in the back yard
- Installation of new kitchen faucet and two shut-off valves
- Cleaning of fireplace and furnace chimneys(2)

Projects **completed** at the Church for 2020:

- Installation of new vinyl flooring in the ante room and choir room
- Cleaning of carpeting in the church hall
- Renewal of rental agreement with Pub Sir John for use of church's back yard for parking by Pub staff
- Agreement with Pub Sir John to place large container on church back property during Pub's construction project

Projects **considered** for the Rectory in 2021:

- Chimney repairs to be performed on the furnace chimney
- Replace soffit under the front porch of the Rectory
- Replace 1 more basement window
- Small item repairs and maintenance

Projects **considered** for the Church in 2021:

- Replace light bulbs(6 to 9) in stained glass windows at the back of the church
- Replace ceiling fans in church (or clean)
- New outside sign board structure being completed
- Replace damaged tiles in kitchen floor
- Clean gas portion of furnace and complete preventive maintenance on hot water tank
- Repair or replace west exit outside staircase; present cement structure is crumbling

I would like to thank Drummond Hall for his support, expertise, and willingness to upkeep the good health of our buildings.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Napp, People's Warden

Lay Assistants

The year of 2020 was memorable for the many adjustments and concerns we all had regarding our church services and ministry during the Covid 19 pandemic. Regular Sunday church services ceased in March but we did have a few services in spring and fall before we had to cease in-person services completely due to health concerns for us all as a result of the pandemic.

With the help of our Clergy and Vestry, church life continued by recreating our Sunday services via the Internet with Zoom. Attendance via Zoom continued for the balance of 2020 thanks to the determination and love of our church congregation. Adjustments were necessary for nearly every Zoom service but efforts by our Clergy, Wardens, and Vestry to ensure a sense of inspiration and love continued into 2021. Looking back on 2020 we can appreciate the willingness of the lay assistants to make the necessary adjustments. The year was one we hope never to be repeated but we survived and are going forward to

love and serve our Lord the best way we can by following the advice of our government health authorities and rules concerning church services.

Thanks go to the Wardens, Vestry, our Clergy and lay assistants who made each service special and inclusive. The fact that the lay assistants will ensure that future changes to services are all inclusive and even challenging is an indication of how much we love our Sunday services. We are very pleased to welcome Andy Mason and Jenna Sioui as Chalice Administrators. Their willingness to serve is encouraging as we prepare for more challenges in 2021. Our faith will remain strong as we are determined to serve our community with a caring spirit of service.

Respectfully,

Joan Painter

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group did meet a few times in 2020 and like everything else, we had to shut down our meetings due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Prayer, however is never shut down. Prayer is an on-going communication with God about all matters and concerns. Prayer is necessary for the life of the church and its people. So, we continue to pray.

May our hearts be open to Spirit.
May we feel God's presence in our lives.
May we have forgiveness in our hearts.
May our fears yield our deepest tranquilities.
May all that is un-lived in us blossom into a future
Graced with love.
May we be at peace in our heart.
Celtic Metta Prayer

If you have any prayer concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Susan Sioui,

Coordinator

Family Service

This past year the Family Service has continued with some major changes. After regular services in February and March, the pandemic regulations necessitated a change from an in-person format to an online format. The content of the service remains intact and still includes a Bible reading, a lesson based on the reading, songs, prayer and a related activity. Usually some very adorable puppets are part of the service. There have been online services in May, June, September and December.

Although this new endeavour has presented some challenges, we are very blessed to have such talented people on our Family Service Team. All share their gifts and we are truly thankful for Rev. Nick Brotherwood, our clergy leader, and the Lay Team of Gordon McPhee Rolanda Murphy, Jenna Sioui, Susan Sioui, and Ann Mason who participate in the regular services; the talented

musicians, Gordon McPhee and Janis Morrill and on occasion the willing participants who add to the team, particularly Rev. Tania Lesack, Herb Sioui and Andy Mason.

The available statistics tell us that many have viewed these presentations online so we know that our effort in spreading God's message is getting out to the wider world including the wonderful families who place an importance on the Christian faith. Thank you to all who help and support this ministry. Please continue to uphold it in your prayers.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Family Service Team

Edna Hall

Altar Guild

Edna Hall assumed responsibility of the Altar Guild duties from January until mid-March when services were halted due to restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. At Christmas, the church was decorated in a limited

manner, respecting the pandemic instructions for religious services. Ann Mason, Karen Napp, Judy Evans and Edna Hall assisted in this endeavour. We thank all who make specific contributions to the Altar Guild.

Respectfully submitted

Judy Evans

Choir

It has been almost a year since choir members have been able to sing together. I have maintained telephone communication with all of them, some more frequently than others. I find that mostly they are cheerful and hopeful, but despair and depression are evident at times. I hope that a phone call helps to reassure to some extent.

There is one sentiment that is frequently expressed – how much they miss in-person church services and singing the beautiful hymns together. I know that the online services have been a great help, thanks to the hard work of several members of our congregation. In-person services in the fall and especially at Christmas were a great comfort to those who attended. Thank you!

God grant that we may celebrate together again before too many weeks have passed.

Janis Morrill,
Organist and choir director

Bulletin Secretary

Bulletins were provided weekly until an imposed closure of churches necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic in mid-March. Edna Hall and Judy Evans prepared these Bulletins. When St. Simeon's resumed services on November 12. Susan Sioui provided an excellent power Point order of service for the congregation which was viewed on a screen at the front of the church. She created these well produced programs until the church reclosed after the December 24, 2020 service

Judy Evans
Bulletin Secretary

Hosts and Readers

Although it was a very short time when we could worship in person, many thanks are extended to all who served as hosts or readers at each Sunday service, their willingness made it an easy task for me.

Jean Parker
Coordinator

Coffee Hour

Coffee hour was going well thanks to everyone taking their turns. I would like to thank everyone for their support and help.

Also I would like to thank the Womens Fellowship for providing the tea and coffee.
Hope everyone is keeping healthy and safe .

Donna Silverson,
Coffee Convenor

Women's Fellowship

From April to December, 2020, members of The Women's Fellowship have missed the usual warm get-togethers with up-lifting discussions.

On February 8, the group hosted a Valentine's Tea at The Rotary Apartments. 32 residents expressed their appreciation of this annual event.

In December, 2020, a donation was made to Tyndale-St. George's.

Every few weeks during this pandemic, Fellowship members have been contacted, usually by phone.

Friendship and support of each other continue to be uppermost in the hearts of us all.

Respectively submitted,
Ann Mason
President, Women's Fellowship

Seniors' Lunches

Unfortunately the Seniors' Lunches were unable to take place in April and December in 2020. However with the approval of the Seniors' Group Committee members, a donation was made to L.E.S. for needy families. A contribution was also given to The Montreal Children's Hospital through The Rachel Moore Memorial Fund.

We hope all of our dedicated workers and participants keep safe and well in the coming year.

Ann and Andy Mason,
Convenors

Web Site

Our website is being updated as we navigate our way through this COVID world. In all of the uncertainty of what it means to live our lives together as a community of believers, we do still have fellowship with each other.

Although there are no in-church services held in St. Simeon's, church services are being held online on Sunday afternoons and during the week from Monday to Saturday. The Family Service team has put together a Christmas video and we invite you to watch it. What's new? A Lenten Bible Study will be offered online beginning February 17.

The Website can only improve with your input and involvement. Please let me know what kind of things you would like to see on our website.

Respectfully,
Susan Sioui, Webmaster

Lachute Protestant Cemetery

The latest figures available are for the year 2019:

Burials -	2 caskets	
	17 urns	
Total Income		15,572 \$
Total expenses		17,716 \$
Total Net profit/loss		(2,144 \$)

The majority of expenses went to the maintenance of the grounds and masonry repair of the stone wall and the vault.

Future plans include the repair of the upper section of the road, tree planting, and designating a parking area.

Your representatives on the cemetery committee are Richard Pink and Herb Sioui.

Respectively submitted,
Herb Sioui

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all
evermore.
Amen*

