

Hello!



I am writing sitting in our cabin in Morin Heights, where winter seems to have arrived and to be here to stay. I must admit that I am a fan of our four seasons and am grateful for the extended fall we have enjoyed this year. So here we are on the brink of Advent and after that the Christmas season, I do hope all our plans and preparations are coming together.

After forty-one years of ordained ministry both in Quebec and in England, I will be retiring at the end of the year. I have very much enjoyed the various churches I have served, urban, suburban, and rural, I have learnt much in each one. I first came to St. Simeon's in 1981 as a student with my wife Sue and our then three children, to help lead a summer day camp. Little did I think that almost forty years later I would be back at St. Simeon's this time as a priest. I have been impressed with the commitment to this community that has been shown by many at the church especially during the pandemic when we had to find new ways of worshipping and reaching out to one another. The online evening prayer services which started in 2020, still continue today. The experiment started last year of holding our Advent and Lent Bible Studies in the Rotary Apartments instead of the church has continued this year, breathing new life into our gatherings. The willingness to try new approaches has been wonderful to see. The Family Service, so ably led by Gordon McPhee, and the Morning Prayer services led by Susan Sioui and Edna Hall, are examples of the variety of worship styles that St. Simeon's has to offer. All of this is motivated by a love for God and a desire to share what we have experienced with others.

As Advent reminds us of the return of Jesus, and Christmas celebrates His birth in a brutal and uncertain world, may we look for ways to reach out to those in need with the love of Jesus. As I prepare to retire, I do so having made many friends and carrying many good memories. I thank God for the privilege of serving Him at St. Simeon's, and look forward continuing to do so in the next chapter of my life.

May God bless you and your family, both now and throughout the coming year.

Nick Brotherwood





From the corporation:

Recently Nick informed us that he will be retiring from active ministry at the end of this month. Although not completely unexpected, the announcement resulted in many of us reflecting on how much Nick has meant to us over the years.

St. Simeon's connection with Nick extends back for more than 40 years when he and his wife Sue led a very popular summer Bible Vacation School program. In later years Nick was a part of the Laurentian Regional Ministry and since 2021 he has been our much loved and respected Rector.

We have always looked forward to Nick's Sunday morning messages which have been delivered with clarity, conviction and occasionally a touch of humour.

We will certainly miss Nick and wish him and his wife a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement.

On behalf of the St. Simeon's congregation,

Susan Sioui, Karen Napp, Andy Mason



December 2024



Greetings from the Corporation:

Each month our treasurer presents the financial statement to the Parish Council and we are faced with the reality that our expenses repeatedly exceed our income. The costs of running our church are increasing year by year as the congregation is dwindling - as are the financial contributions.

Significant work on the church roof was recently completed and was paid for through the St. Simeon's Memorial Fund. This fund was established and maintained through generous donations from members of the St. Simeon's community.

This is a challenging time for our Parish. As we begin a new year this Advent, we are looking at new ways of ministering to our congregation and we invite you to consider what you can do to help make that happen.

For those wishing to make a Christmas donation to St. Simeon's, you may do so by E transfer to herbert.sioui@gmail.com or by placing your donation in the collection plate on any Sunday morning. Unfortunately the mail strike may stretch on for a while, but envelopes may be dropped off to our Treasurer, Herb Sioui, 4 Mady Street, Lachute, QC J8H 3B9. All donations are appreciated and much needed.

With wishes for a blessed Christmas,

*Andy Mason, Susan Sioui and Karen Napp, Wardens
Herb Sioui, Treasurer*





Advent Bible Study 2024

Senior Saints - Growing Older in God's Family

Please join us as we approach the season of Christmas. This program will focus on four important topics that Seniors are facing in the world today.

Week 1 **November 27**

Continuing Significance. What gives life its real significance?

Scripture: **Psalm 92**

Week 2 **December 4**

Being in the Right Place at the Right Time. Simeon and Anna

Scripture: **Luke 2: 21-38**

Week 3 **December 11**

Climbing and Growing - The story of Caleb

Scripture: **Numbers 13: 1- 14: 9, 20-38 Joshua 14: 5-15**

Week 4 **December 18**

Telling the Next Generation - Sharing our stories.

Scripture: **Psalm 71**

Meeting Place: Rotary Apartments,
400 Thomas Street, Lachute, QC

Day: Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am



Presented by St. Simeon's Anglican Church

All are welcome to attend.



St. Simeon's Christmas Services Calendar 2024

Dec. 1 Advent 1 Morning Prayer at 10 am Gordon McPhee

Dec. 8 Advent 2 Holy Communion at 10 am Rev'd Nick Brotherhood

Dec. 15 Advent 3 Lessons and Carols at 10 am Gordon McPhee

Dec. 22 Advent 4 Holy Communion at 10 am Rev'd Nick Brotherhood

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Family Christmas at 4 pm. Edna Hall

Dec. 29 No Service

