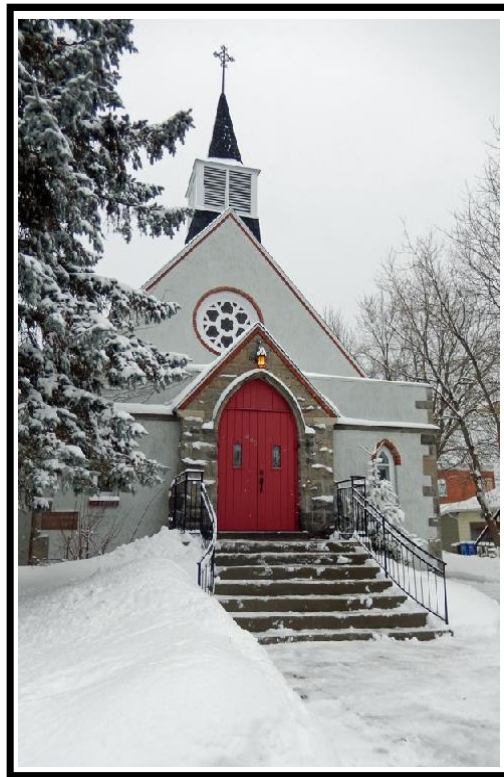


St. Simeon's Anglican Church

Annual Vestry Meeting

February 25, 2024



Agenda

Minutes

Reports

St. Simeon's Anglican Church

Church address:

445 rue Principale
Lachute, Quebec

Mailing address: 610 Bedard, Lachute, Quebec J8H 1K2

Telephone:

Church – 450 -562 -8937



Priest:

The Reverend Nick Brotherhood – Priest-in-Charge 514-246 -5796

Administration:

People's Warden	Andy Mason
Deputy People's Warden	Karen Napp
Rector's Warden	Edna Hall
Treasurer	Herb Sioui
Vestry Clerk	Karen Napp

Groups:

Women's Fellowship	Ann Mason
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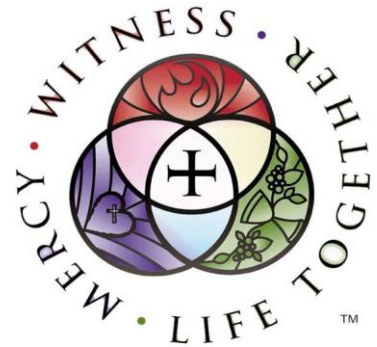
Worship Service:

Organist and Choir Master	Janis Morrill
Lay Assistants	Edna Hall, Andy Mason, Joan Painter, Richard Pink, Jenna Sioui, Susan Sioui
Altar Guild	Edna Hall
Family Service	Gordon McPhee and Susan Sioui
Hosts and Readers	Joan Painter
Coffee Hour	Donna Silverson
Web Site	Susan Sioui

St. Simeon's Annual Vestry Meeting

February 25, 2024

1. **Opening Prayer**
2. **Welcome and Thanks**
3. **Appointment of the Vestry Clerk**
4. **Adoption of the Agenda**
5. **In Memoriam**
6. **Minutes of the Annual Vestry meeting Year 2022**
7. **Business Arising from the minutes**
 - 7.1
8. **Reports**
 - 8.1 Clergy Report
 - 8.2 Rector's Warden
 - 8.3 People's Wardens
 - 8.4 Ukrainian Outreach
9. **Treasurer's Report**
10. **Group Reports:**
 - 10.1 Lay Assistants
 - 10.2 Family Service
 - 10.3 Altar Guild
 - 10.4 Music
 - 10.5 Hosts and Readers
 - 10.6 Women's Fellowship
 - 10.7 Coffee Hour
 - 10.8 Website
 10. **A) Acceptance of Reports**
11. **Appointments**
12. **Nomination Committee Report**
13. **Prayer of Dedication**
14. **Financial Stewardship**
 - 14.1 **2024 Budget**
15. **New Business**
 - 15.1
16. **Ministerial Priorities for 2024**
17. **Adjournment**
18. **Closing Prayer**



St. Simeon's Anglican Church

Annual Vestry Meeting Year 2022
February 12, 2023

In attendance: The Reverend Nick Brotherhood, Edna & Drummond Hall, Susan & Herb Sioui, Ann & Andy Mason, Judy Evans, Garth & Janis Morrill, Karen Napp

This meeting was held in person at St. Simeon's Church.

1. **Opening Prayer:** Rev. Nick Brotherhood opened the meeting with prayer.
2. **Welcome & Thanks:** Rev. Nick welcomed and thanked those in attendance (10) for St. Simeon's Annual General Vestry Meeting for the year 2022.
3. **Appointment of the Vestry Clerk:** Herb Sioui nominated Karen Napp. Karen accepted. Seconded by Judy Evans. All in favour.
4. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Janis Morrill moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Herb Sioui. All in favour.
5. **In Memoriam:** We remember and pray for loved ones lost this past year: Shelley Leckey, Margaret Gunn, Shawn MacDonald.
6. **Minutes of the last Annual General Vestry Meeting:** Approval of minutes from February 27th, for Year 2021. Susan moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by Edna Hall. Thanks were expressed to Karen for these minutes. All in favour.
7. **Business arising from the minutes:** No business arising.

8. **Reports:**

8.1 Clergy Report: Rev. Nick B. spoke to the clergy's report presented in the AVM booklet. Nick expressed thanks to all for their support and is grateful for people and their abilities. Susan commented that we at St. Simeon's are blessed and thankful to have Nick and his caring and compassionate ways.

8.2 Rector's Warden: Report attached. Edna gave thanks to people who contributed to services in the past year. Also, to all people who involve themselves in one way or another within the church to help and support events and projects and most importantly, each other.

8.3 People's Warden: Report attached. Karen spoke on her report commenting on the projects and upkeep completed and considered at the church. Karen expressed sincere thanks to Drummond for his support and expertise with the healthy upkeep of our church building.

9. Treasurer's Report: Herb presented the Treasurer's Report for the year 2022. Total Revenue for 2022: 44 867\$, Expenses for 2022: 67 960\$, leaving an Operating Deficit of 23 093\$. Congregation Equity is: 1 436 116\$

Herb thanked Andy Mason for verifying the treasurer's financial report. Andy thanked Herb for his

tremendous amount of work all year long on financial reports, etc. Herb moved for acceptance of the Financial Report for 2022, seconded by Ann. All in favour.

10. Group Reports:

10.1 Lay Assistants: Report attached. Edna spoke to Joan's report, expressing thanks to lay assistants who have contributed so well and so positively. Edna thanked Joan for her contribution to this ministry.

10.2 Family Service: Report attached. Susan and Gordon collaborated on the attached report. Gordon provides Susan with the order of service and does this usually three weeks in advance. Susan expressed how grateful and blessed we are to have Gordon for his hard work and support of St. Simeon's.

10.3 Altar Guild: Report attached. Judy and guild members Ann and Edna expressed their thanks to all the helpers on special occasions where decorations were added to the church. Now new individual cups are used to serve communion wine and the serving of communion has returned to the communion rail. Nick thanked all who prepare for communion.

10.4 Choir: Report attached. Janis misses the choir but also appreciates the support of choir members now in the congregation. Some parishioners feel loss that we don't sing parts of the service as we did prior pandemic, but we will re-visit and discuss. Janis thanks all of us for singing.

10.5 Hosts & Readers: Report attached. Judy presented the report for Joan. Nick extended thanks to Joan and Judy for encouraging people to read at services.

10.6 Women's Fellowship: Report attached. Ann commented that the Fellowship stays connected with members thru our luncheon meetings every couple months. Members are happy to get together.

10.7 Coffee Hour: Edna reported for Donna that all is going well. Edna expressed thanks to Donna for organizing hosts for coffee hours.

10.8 Website: Report attached. Susan has had a challenging and trying time with the website after Brian Turnbull's resignation and mentorship. Susan is now dealing with a new company for website management which has made changes challenging but it's slowly coming along. It was suggested that with St. Simeon's being 155 years old in 2023 that we think of a way to celebrate thru our website. Thanks were given to Susan for all her work on the website. Gordon's videos of the Beatitudes will eventually be posted on the site for all to enjoy. The PLL site is now down and closed and this has also created problems for Susan, but it is being sorted out. Regarding our AV equipment, Susan noted that the PowerPoint program needs to be installed on our new computer. The Corporation will authorize the payment of 60\$ for the program fees. If St. Simeon's is to continue online services, we have to get Wi-Fi service. Is it sensible, with declining attendance, etc., to justify paying for this service? It will be considered for the future. It is possible we could apply to the Diocese for funds from the sale of the rectory to buy Wi-Fi membership fees. Nick expressed thanks and gratefulness to Susan for bringing us up to date on needed technology and feels very encouraged by these efforts.

10.9 Lachute Protestant Cemetery: Report attached. Herb reported that it had been a busy year with burials. It was a good year financially for the committee. Trees have been planted to replace trees cut down and to continue to beautify the property.

10 A: Acceptance of Reports: Edna thanked each group for representation on the team that we are and for taking on the responsibilities associated with each group. Ann moved for acceptance of these reports and seconded by Karen. All in favour.

11. Appointments: Rev. Nick appoints Edna Hall as 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 of St. Simeon’s. The verifier of St. Simeon’s annual financial reports is Andy Mason. All appointed.

12. Nomination Committee Report: The nominations committee, Andy Mason and Jenna Sioui, presented their nominations for 2023. Herb moved to accept people as nominated, seconded by Edna. All in favour. The committee nominates the following people to the various offices:

People’s Warden	Andy Mason
Deputy People’s Warden	Karen Napp
Envelope Secretary	Corie Forget
Host Family & Readers Co-coordinator	Joan Painter
Coffee Hour Co-coordinator	Donna Silverson
Cemetery Representatives	Herb Sioui & Richard Pink
*Synod Delegate	* Herb Sioui will allow his name to stand until a replacement is found

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

14. Financial Stewardship:

14.1 Budget for 2023: Report attached. Herb presented the budget for 2023. Revenues at \$49 430, Expenses at \$62 778 for an Operating Deficit of \$13 348.

The reality of the budget is an operating deficit. Herb commented that money in the bank will keep us for a couple of years before having to draw on our investment account. Herb moved for acceptance of the 2023 budget, seconded by Judy. All in favour.

15. New Business: No new business.

16. Ministerial Priorities for 2023: Rev. Nick commented that the pandemic has and is keeping people away. Presently, we are the “youth group.” It is all very concerning. We would like to have in-person bible study re-introduced; it would be nice. Nick asked: Lord, how do you want us to be as a congregation and church going forward? It would be nice if we could revive our connections with the other local churches, Presbyterian, Catholic, and United. It’s a challenge to come out of the past 2 – 3 years of pandemic restrictions. Church will not be as it has been, and Nick would like to be a part of the re-construction, which will be a challenge, but God will be there for us.

17. Adjournment: The Annual General Vestry meeting of 2023 for the Year 2022 was adjourned at 12:16 p.m. by Rev. Nick, seconded by Judy Evans. All in favour.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Napp, Vestry Clerk

Clergy Report

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to Lorraine Tilsley and to Garth Morrill during the year, their funerals were held at the church with standing-room-only attendance in both cases. We dearly miss both these wonderful people and continue to pray for their families. I continued to lead Wednesday morning hymn sings at the Lachute Residence usually on the first Wednesday of the month, often joined by members of St. Simeon's, Edna Hall, Janis Morrill, Ann and Andy Mason. Alongside other members of St. Simeon's, I was involved in the leadership of the in-person Lent and Advent studies, the first being held in the basement of the church, and the second at the Rotary Apartments. The latter were so successful that we are holding this year's Lent studies again at the Rotary Apartments. The collection to support two Ukrainian Families seeking refuge in Canada, spearheaded by Ann & Andy Mason, succeeded in raising twice our target, and demonstrated the congregation's commitment to helping those in need.

I am very appreciative of the efforts made on the part of many people to make sure we are able to continue to have regular Sunday services each week. Especially those who lead the Morning Prayer service, as well as Gordon McPhee and the team who lead the Alternative Services. The commitment of all the members of the parish council and others has been excellent. I want to especially thank Edna Hall as she steps down as Rector's Warden for the past several years. It has been a joy to work alongside her, and I will miss benefitting from her thoroughness and attention to detail. Thank-yous are also due to Andy serving as People's Warden, and to Herb continuing to serve as our Treasurer.

"There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears." (Philippians 1v6. The Message)

Respectfully submitted, Priest in Charge,
Nick Brotherwood



Rector's Warden Report

2023 has been an encouraging year for St. Simeon's. We have moved past the Covid pandemic and are developing a new normal. I believe we have emerged stronger and more resilient as a result.

St. Simeon's continues to hold services every Sunday. The first Sunday of the month being a Lay led service of Morning Prayer, the third Sunday, a Family service led by Gordon McPhee and on the second and fourth Sunday we participate in Holy Communion under Rev. Nick's leadership.

This summer we shared services with Lachute United Church. In July when our church was closed we were invited to attend services at the United Church. In August, the services alternated between the two churches. It was very gratifying and encouraging to worship together as one. The comradery that was shared was evident in the lively coffee hours following the services. It is our hope to have more services that are common in the future.

Easter and Christmas were marked by special services. Services were held on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and the glorious celebration on Easter Sunday. Advent was highlighted with the Lessons and Carols Service. Christmas was celebrated with Holy Communion at the regular time. At the 4 PM Family Service, it was gratifying to see so many of our younger members. We were treated to music by the Smith/Mason ensemble under the leadership of Andy Mason. We feel very fortunate that we are able to offer these services.

Many people participate in the services each week; the Lay Assistants, Sue, Joan, Andy and Edna; the musicians Janis, Andy, Nick and Gordon; Sue who creates the beautiful slides; Gordon who leads the Family Service and Rev. Nick whose guidance and unwavering support makes it possible for St. Simeon's to offer services. As you will read in the Group Reports, there are many who give of their time and energy to provide meaningful worship each week and for that we are thankful.

Two Bible Studies were offered this year. The Lenten Study entitled 'The Final Week' by John Birch was held each Wednesday morning during Lent in the Church Hall. For the Advent Bible Study entitled 'Journeying the Way of Love' produced by the Episcopal Church of New York City, we changed location and held the study in the Common Room of the Rotary Apartments. Both studies were well received. It was most rewarding to have these ecumenical studies. Our thanks to Sue Sioui and Rev. Nick for initiating and organizing these programs.

Andy and Ann Mason initiated a major Outreach Project to support two local Ukrainian families. The report is attached. The results were truly gratifying and we thank all involved in this endeavor.

This year we had three graduates from the four-year Education for Ministry course, Cathy Brown, Sue Sioui and myself. Congratulations to all.

The regular church business continues at the monthly Parish Council meetings. The diligence of Herb Sioui, our Treasurer, who keeps our financial affairs in excellent order, is appreciated. Andy Mason and Karen Napp, Wardens, consistently attend to all matters that ensure St. Simeon's is a well-maintained and welcoming church. The input of each member of the Council is greatly appreciated as we look for new ways to enrich the life of St. Simeon's.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Rector's Warden during the past few years. The leadership and support of Rev. Nick has been unwavering as has been the support of the Wardens, Karen and Andy, and the congregation. St. Simeon's is a very resilient and forward-looking community and we look to the future with confidence.

Respectfully, Rector's Warden,
Edna Hall

People's Wardens Report

As part of St. Simeon's Parish Council, most of People's Warden's responsibilities rest with the general maintenance of the building.

During the year basic maintenance work was carried out including window repair, dealing with water infiltration, sink repair and general cleaning. This year pew cushions were professionally cleaned and refitted by Karen. Near the end of the year, a new vacuum cleaner was purchased. For this winter season, Corey Haldimand has been hired for snow clearing.

Discussion continues to take place between St. Simeon's and the owners of Pub Sir John. The Pub has use of the back portion of our lot and has assumed general care of that area. We will continue to work with them to ensure that our agreement remains suitable for both parties.

Several projects initially scheduled for 2023 were not able to be completed partially due to financial reasons but more frequently because of difficulty in finding contractors able to do the work.

However it is expected that work on the church roof, ceiling tiles in both the church and in the basement will be done. Work also needs to be done on the back west side entrance of the church. Some inside painting is also being considered.

Other major projects may eventually need to take place including work to prevent water infiltration on the east side of the church. At this point further discussion is required.

For many years, Jean Guy Demers has so faithfully maintained the church and rectory properties, mowing in the summer and snow clearing in the winter. We were all very sad to hear that Jean Guy died recently. We offer our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

It has again been a pleasure to work with so many dedicated people to help St. Simeon's continue to be an important and positive part of our Laurentian community.

Respectively submitted, People's Wardens
Andy Mason
Karen Napp

Ukrainian Outreach

During the year, an outreach project to support two locally based Ukrainian refugee families was launched.

Vika and Alex arrived with their two children in July of 2022. The family initially settled in Grenville and intends to stay permanently in Canada. Both parents have been able to acquire jobs and their children are attending school.

Yuriy and his wife Marina began the process of moving to Canada seven months after the outbreak of war in Ukraine. Marina, 8 months pregnant, arrived in Canada in December 2022. Their healthy baby was born in March 2023 and Yuriy arrived shortly after that exciting event. He is presently working for a Canadian Company.

Although our initial goal was to raise \$2000 in total, parishioners, along with family members and friends, enabled St. Simeon's to present cheques of \$3045 to each of the two refugee families.

We would like to thank Heather Usher and Joel Hay who were our contact people with the two families. They have also been instrumental in helping each Ukrainian family settle into Canadian life.

Of course, we extend a very special thank you to all of you who donated so generously to this Ukrainian Outreach Project.

Sincerely,
Ann & Andy Mason

Lay Assistants

2023 proved to be another challenging but successful year for St. Simeon's Church in general and for the lay assistants in particular. Changes in organizing the Holy Communion and Morning Prayer services continued and our lay assistants worked very hard to make sure our services were relevant and interesting for the congregation.

Sincere thanks to Susan Sioui, Edna Hall, Andy Mason, and Jenna Sioui, for being determined and helpful lay assistants. Special thanks to Gordon and Rolanda McPhee for organizing special services with sermons that were always thought provoking and interesting. Thank you Gordon for all your hard work and inspiring presentations. The duties of a lay assistant are varied and challenging but with continued guidance and leadership we look forward to a steady willingness to serve and assist which

will help our future Sunday services flow with creativity and strong Christian worship.

There is always a need for more volunteers to agree to serve as a lay assistant and the church welcomes anyone who feels called to this special ministry. The variety of prayers and individuality of a lay assistant continues to bring warmth and concern for others into our regular services.

We thank all who have given their services and welcome volunteers to consider sharing their faith in prayer and serve as a lay assistant in 2023.

Respectfully,
Joan Painter

Family Service

"What is Alternative Worship?" you may be asking. If I Google that question, all kinds of interesting answers come up on my screen. "Alternative forms of worship encompass a diverse range of creative expressions that go beyond traditional church services. These innovative approaches invite worshippers to engage with their faith in fresh and meaningful ways."

For many years, (since 1999) St. Simeon's has offered an alternative service in the form of a Family service which focused on teaching children and adults about God's great love for them. This time of worship has evolved over the years, adjusting to a variety of parish dynamics.

At the present time, we are enjoying an alternative form of worship under the gifted and dedicated leadership of Gordon McPhee. Our worship is a lay-led, informal, and welcoming service of the Word incorporating some of the "traditional" with

some of the "modern". Gordon brings his guitar and leads the congregation with his music and he enriches our faith with his reflective homilies.

I hasten to add that we also have a dedicated ministry team who take on a variety of leadership roles in support of this worship service: Ann Mason, Edna Hall, Jenna Sioui, Rolanda McPhee and Susan Sioui. We are thankful to each of them for their generous offering of themselves.

We invite all of you to join us on the third Sunday of each month at 10 am in St. Simeon's for this opportunity "to engage with your faith in fresh and meaningful ways."

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the
Alternative Worship Team,

Susan Sioui

Altar Guild

Altar Guild duties were the responsibility of Edna Hall, Ann Mason and Judy Evans

Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations were appreciated by the congregation. We thank our parishioners who helped on these special occasions.

We look forward to 2024 and hopefully continued predictable delivery of services. We consider the Altar Guild work an honour and a privilege.

Respectfully,
Judy Evans

Music

On most Sundays of the month we sing three hymns chosen from the recommended list in McCausland's Order of Divine Service'. There is no official 'choir' at the present, but I am pleased to hear the congregation singing out very well. Several former members of the choir are in the congregation and they give a good lead. Having the words of the hymns displayed on the big screen at the front is a tremendous help. This is an excellent development. Thanks !

The music is also greatly enhanced by Andy's clarinet and Nick's drum. It helps me very much to hear them accompanying the organ. Thanks to these gentlemen ! They both have good voices as well.

On the third Sunday of every month, Gordon McPhee leads an 'Alternative Service' singing and playing his guitar. His choice of songs is good-more up-beat and unconventional at times. It is a change from the regular routine.

Respectfully,
Janis Morrill, Organist

Hosts and Readers

Sincere thanks to Judy Evans who once again took over the organization of readers and hosts for nearly six months. Thanks also to those who volunteered to accept responsibility for reading and/or hosting our weekly services. A few changes in presentation were made and all volunteers were successful in ensuring each service was well presented by our readers

throughout the year and that our hosts were helpful to newcomers. Continued assistance from those who volunteer is greatly appreciated and encouraged.

Respectfully,
Joan Painter

Women's Fellowship

In 2023, the members of the Women's Fellowship met together four times for amicable lunches and short relevant meetings.

It is a pleasant way to learn about meaningful decisions being made at Parish Council and the spiritual comfort that is offered at our weekly church services. We always, of course, look forward to sharing our news with one another.

We donated money to two worthwhile charities, Tyndale St. George's and Doctors Without Borders. For Valentine's Day we baked cookies and

wrapped them in gift bags to give to the Residents of the Rotary Apartments. This small gesture from the Fellowship members, we were told, added some friendliness and warmth on a cold winter's day.

We always feel fortunate to welcome new members. Please contact me if you would like more information.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Mason, President

Coffee Hour

Coffee hour is going well thanks to everyone for their support in taking turns serving coffee, tea and snacks. It is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank the Women's fellowship for providing the tea and coffee.

Hope everyone is keeping healthy and safe.
Thank You

Donna Silverson
Convener

St. Simeon's Website

2023 was a year of new beginnings for our website. We now have a new server – "Opsia" and they have been very helpful in setting us up on the Web. It took quite a lot of work to bring our page to its current state and I apologize for any inconvenience to anyone who had been searching unsuccessfully for specific information.

The website now offers links to newsletters, calendar events, reports, and special events offered by St. Simeon's including Bible studies. This year we have been offered a video series called "Reflections from the Library" scripted and recorded by Gordon and Rolanda McPhee. This series about the Beatitudes is presented in an entertaining and thoughtful way. The links to these videos are listed on our Home page.

We have several sermons posted and we are thankful to Gordon McPhee for these contributions. You will also find some historical documents and, in a short time I hope to post an article about a past parishioner memorialized by her daughter.

I invite you to visit our website at <http://www.stsimeonsanglican.ca/> to find out what is happening in our Parish. As I wrote last year, "Having a website offers the world a window into the kind of church we are – or would like to be. I would love to share who we are - people who walk together in a right relationship with God – people who love each other and care about the world we live in." So please, let me hear your comments, criticisms, and suggestions so that the page that visitors are finding on the web truly represents who we are.

Susan Sioui
Webmaster.

In Memoriam

Garth Morrill, Lorraine Tilsley

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