



First Reading of Motion to Change Marriage Canon Receives Requisite Majority

At its 41st General Synod convened July 7 to 12 the Anglican Church of Canada passed first reading in favour of changing the marriage canon to include same-sex couples. The motion to that effect obtained the necessary 2/3 majority required in the House of Bishops, the House of Clergy and the House of Laity. This is an historic and ground-breaking decision: one that has been received with joy and thankfulness by those who have sought such long over due, much needed inclusion.

During the next three years the Anglican Church of Canada will be given an opportunity to engage the Gay, Lesbian, Trans-gendered, Questioning, and Two Spirited community in dialogue and discussion in preparation for the required second reading and passing of the motion in the 2019 42nd session of General Synod, which will gather in Vancouver

The immediate result of the vote outcome here in the Diocese of Ottawa is that clergy who are willing can offer solemnization of marriage to same-sex couples who come to them seeking marriage in the church.



St Martin's is undertaking two initiatives as part of its outreach to better know and understand our brothers and sisters in the LGBTQ2 community.

A 7pm Sunday Evening Service and Supper will be held on the third Sunday of each month beginning in September to welcome members of the LGBTQ2 community.

Guest Speakers Series featuring spokespeople from the LGBTQ2 community will be offered at Sunday morning worship to share outlooks and be available at coffee time for further discussion.

Parishioners on both sides of the issue are encouraged to engage in conversation and to continue to walk together, 'fore-bearing one another in love' as St. Paul says and as our Primate Fred Hiltz has also asked of us.

Update on Revisioning Our Church

From Redevelopment co-Chair Glenn Bloodworth

'Our necessity is God's opportunity.' J.B. Phillips



One of the realities of church life today is that we have more buildings than parishioners to fill them. The Diocese of Ottawa has made sound stewardship of its properties a top priority. Each parish is invited to prayerfully and realistically consider its buildings and their uses.

St. Martin's church is doing its due diligence with respect to this diocesan priority. Most parishes in our area have the capacity to continue on as normal for the next decade or so. However, unless certain realities are faced and real opportunities seized, a decade from now, without having done anything, several parishes may be in a precarious situation. Therefore, as good stewards, our parish decided several years ago to establish a committee to look into potential property developments that would accomplish two goals:

- first, support the mission of the parish through a complementary development project and,
- second, generate necessary income through such a development project that would substantially fund all or a large part of the parish budget long term.

Following our committee's earlier work and the five focus groups convened over the winter and spring period, we held a town hall meeting in late June to report on where we were in our work, reflect on the results to-date, and discuss next steps.

Town Hall Recap The town hall agreed "doing nothing" was not a viable option, and that the option of only renovating the current facilities without any redevelopment would not meet the two goals above. (visit www.stmartinsottawa.ca to see the Town Hall slide presentation)

The town hall also noted that while the development inclination of most parishioners was evenly split between two options the vast majority of parishioners

were open to any option that was “*financially viable and works best*” for our needs. The two options were:

Rework Site for Development

Remove the Rectory and Christian Education Centre to provide space for an income generating/ministry development, and modernize/resize the present sanctuary to meet our current space needs.

Make a New Beginning

Remove Rectory and Christian Education Centre, was well as relocate the present sanctuary or build a new one, to provide greater space for an income generating/ministry development and our parish needs.

As well the Town Hall observed that in terms of the type of income generating/ministry development parishioners inclinations were split between a residence for seniors, a ministry facility such as a care facility for the Inuit, or family housing units.

Next Steps: The town hall concluded parishioners were looking forward to receiving an analysis that provided solid information and explicit decision criteria that would guide the decision making. They agreed the redevelopment group should continue its work , and particularly:

- i. update the parish profile to include data on the trends in identifiable givers,
- ii. complete an analysis of the physical plant, including an engineering condition report and information on St. Martin’s physical space needs, as well as projected operating costs of the facilities over the coming decade and
- iii. undertake a demographic analysis of the neighbourhood and a review of “what would draw young people?” to St. Martin’s.

Church School – will resume on September 18.

Families will be contacted by email with further information. Over the summer period, a booklet called *Life in the Eucharist* was presented to the children with the intention that with their parents’ help they would work through the booklet to gain a greater understanding of their right and privilege as baptised members of the church to fully participate in receiving Holy Communion.



A Familiar Face in a Familiar Function

In the wake of a decision by Richard Rousse to step down as Head Server after some 33 years, Father John Organ is pleased to announce that Owen Marsh has agreed to become St Martin’s Senior Server with ongoing opportunities for other young people to take on assisting the senior server.



The congregation at St Martin’s had the joy of witnessing Owen’s wedding to Shaylah one fine day this past May.

Pictured here is Owen with his lovely bride Shaylah and happy parents Ian and Lori Marsh, two other steadfast and familiar faces in St Martin’s church family.

COME CELEBRATE SERIES PROMISES
Fellowship and Stimulating Topics

Thanksgiving 2016 (October 11th) - Thankful in a time of Change: Discussing the Anglican Church of Canada's Change to the Marriage Canon

Christmas 2016 (December 6th) - Emmanuel: God is With Us: Discussing God's Descent and Human Ascent

Easter 2017 - (April 4th) New Birth - Discussing Faith in the context Canada's New Law about Physician Assisted Dying

Summer Solstice 2017 (June 6th) - Life in Fullness - Discussing Spiritual Vibrancy

SEEKING VOLUNTEER CONVENORS



Kudos and grateful thanks go out to Rebecca Veale for her dedication and leadership of

Messy Church since its inception six years ago. It is now time to pass the baton onto the next lively soul ready to lead this dynamic, fun-filled outreach program. Persons in the parish who would like to take this on please indicate your interest to the wardens and rector.



If You Can Breath...

While members of the choir take a well-deserved summer break and our Organist/Choir Director Dave Dawson is enjoying the birdsong of summer and a holiday in the UK, music remains a mainstay of St

Martin's worship despite their absence. Just as baseball knows relief pitchers and pinch hitters, St Martin's is blessed with talented relief organists. First up for two weeks in July was Julie Deck with Samuel Lee taking over for the remaining 7 weeks.

Julie is a University of Toronto graduate who has played for and conducted choirs at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, Queen Street United Church, Cephas Christian Reformed Church, and the chapel of the Sisters of St. John the Divine. Julies currently is Conductor of the Junior Choir of the Peterborough Children's Chorus.



For his part, Samuel, as a piano and organ student at the University of Ottawa, has adapted superbly to St. Martin's musically active and intense liturgy.

Pictured here is Samuel (top right) with his Dad, Andy, Mom Janet and his sister Rebecca..

Come the fall, rehearsals for the choir will resume Thursday, September 1 with an opening dinner scheduled for Thursday, September 15th. As Dave Dawson reminds one and all: *If you can breath you can sing*. The welcome mat is always in place for newcomers to the choir especially young folks to blend in harmony with the young-at-heart choir members.

Given St Martin's open and affirming congregation, it comes as no surprise to know there is a full-hearted willingness and appetite to have contemporary songs of worship featured in some of the weekly play lists.

Upcoming Items Well Worth Attending !

...NOT YOUR AVERAGE BIBLE STUDY

Notum benum: Commencing Tuesday evening September 26 from 7 to 8:30 and continuing for 12 weeks to December 12 in the Fellowship Hall, St Martin's is offering an **Adult Study Session**. It will feature a weekly video lecture by Yale Professor Christine Hayes, an expert in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible followed by discussion led by St Martin's Rector, John Organ.

HONOURING OUR PARISH SAINT



Here's a birthday celebration you won't want to miss. On

Saturday, October 29th
St Martin's Parish Hall

will be the setting for a Parish Dinner in honour of the 1700th

anniversary of our Parish Saint's birth. Consider this an open invitation to all friends and families of the Parish.

A PATHWAY TO MINDFULNESS



St Martin's Assistant Priest, Joseph Varkey is an accredited Yoga Teacher who will be available to lead Guided Meditation sessions at various points in the upcoming Christian church calendar. The previous season drew upwards of 20 people to sessions he led during lent and at summer solstice. Be sure to let Joseph know of your interest in participating so he can prepare appropriately.

Improving First Impressions: Its Little and Not So Little Things that Count

Folks returning to St Martin's from summer holidays will notice some sprucing up that's been undertaken over the summer months to welcome them back. A first order of business last May was refurbishing the floors in the chapel, sanctuary and alter area. A logistical blitzkrieg completed in five days in time for Pentecost Sunday



Furthr evidence of the tidy up includes installation of an understated closed storage area off the north side of the buidling, that leaves a more welcoming entrance for folks entering by the side door off Prince Charles Road.



Hats off to Hubert Reiter our Property Management Co-ordinator for spearheading this much needed activity.



This important fundraiser is back by popular demand under the tireless leadership of Judith Hull and Margaret Bloodworth. Be sure to spread the word to friends and families that this will be THE place to stock up on Yuletide baking and unique gifts at pocket book friendly prices!

Meantime: the Co-convenors ask that you get knitting items for the Craft & Knits table AND set aside the following for collection in the fall:

- 'Silent Auction' items and 'Jewelry' (the better pieces will be appraised and sold in the auction)
- special items for the 'Treasures Table' (items to be priced at \$5 or higher – so no mugs or wine glasses please)
- Christmas Collectibles' including items for our outdoor 'Christmas Pots'
- 'Accessories' (scarves, purses, belts, etc).



St Martin's Anglican Church

2120 Prince Charles Road

Ottawa ON K2A 3L3

(613) 722-6077

Email: stmartins@rogers.com

Web site:

www.stmartinsottawa.ca