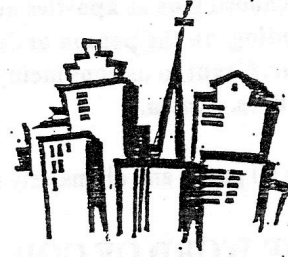


St. James United Church

Montreal, Quebec



**The Church in the heart of the city
with the city at heart.**

The Circuit Rider Volume 42 Number 4 May 2010

Dear Friends,

Our congregation has engaged a number of exciting and special projects in recent years. There have been times when we wondered how all the pieces would come together and fall into place. In the end, things always have a way of working themselves out. Of course, this does not just happen but is a result of planning, hard work and co-operation by many, and faith that God is leading us.

We, at St. James, are entering into another new and exciting project about conflict resolution. As I have mentioned in my sermons lately, conflict in the church is not new. From its earliest days there were differing opinions on how the church was to be ordered, who its leadership should be, and what its ministry was about. The early church, and the church throughout the centuries, has always found creative and constructive ways to deal with these differing views. The problem is not in that we understand church differently but rather what and how we deal with those differences.

The process before us, which is being led by Peter Bishop, is a creative and constructive way for us to explore our differences. It is hoped at the end of this intentional reflecting that we will be better able to hear one another and to re-commit to the vital ministry to which Christ is calling us to participate in at St. James.

I encourage all members and adherents to reflect on your understanding of our ministry, to share your joys and frustrations with Mr. Bishop, and to join with one another on June 5th at the day-long congregational meeting where we will discern what the journey before us all will be like.

It is my belief that, led by the Spirit, we will be faithful to the great and awesome calling to be the body of Christ in this time and place.

Rev. Arlen Bonnar

The St. James community gathers for **worship at 11 a.m. every Sunday**, making a space where visitors and friends are warmly welcome. Enjoy the gathered community at coffee hour as well!

Summer services

Worship services continue to be held at the regular time of **11:00 a.m. throughout the summer**, with Holy Communion the first Sunday of every month.

Again this year anyone who would like to experience the joy of choral singing during worship is warmly invited to come for pre- service rehearsal at 9:45 a.m. any Sunday during the summer, when the pace is more relaxed. New choir members are always welcome on a more permanent basis as well, with regular Thursday evening rehearsals resuming in early September.

Special worship occasions:

May 9th Family Sunday

23rd Pentecost, Baptisms

June 6th Communion, Baptism

13th Celebration of Conflict Resolution process

20th Montreal City Mission 100th anniversary celebration

28th Congregational picnic

July 4th Communion

11th & 18th Rev. Doug Stewart preaching

Meeting dates to keep in mind:

Wednesday, May 12th 6 p.m. Committee of Trustees (Board Room/Chapel)
7 p.m. "Believe" (Douglas Room)

Thursday, May 13th M & P Committee

Wednesday, May 19th 6 p.m. Court of Session (Board Room)

Sunday, May 30th 12:30 p.m. Spirituality Discussion Group (Richmond Room)

Wednesday, June 2nd 6 p.m. Committee of Stewards (Board Room)

Wednesday, June 9th, 7 p.m. "Believe" (Douglas Room)

Friday, June 18th M & P Committee

Sunday, June 27th 12:30 p.m. Spirituality Discussion Group (Richmond Room)

Also to put on your calendar:

Saturday, June 5th 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Congregational Day.

For further detail on the content and purpose of this day of sharing, see the article "Facilitated Exploration and Dialogue Process" on the next page.

Friday, June 25th People's Gospel Choir present a benefit concert for the St. James Drop-in Centre

Opportunities to volunteer

The life of any congregation expresses its vibrancy in many ways, including the warmth and breadth of participation in community life. Your contribution to the life and work of St. James can be made in a variety of ways, as time-consuming as committee work or as brief but enriching as a smile to the person next to you in the pew on Sunday morning. The following are some places where your volunteered time can make a real difference:

The Open Door, especially on Sunday mornings, when visitors are greeted and welcomed to share in worship all through the service (see Rob Bull for further information)

The Depot, now open in the basement from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on both Thursdays and Fridays. Funds from the sale of items in the thrift shop go to providing twice-monthly food bags to downtown Montrealers on welfare and having difficulty making ends meet. A friendly listening ear is often the most valuable part of what is provided! (see Magnus Mackay for further information)

The St. James Drop-in Centre for the homeless, a place with a profound sense of community, offering a variety of programs to overcome the challenges associated with homelessness and its contributing causes. If you have a few hours a week to reach out and accompany the members at the Drop-in, contact Alain Spitzer. Further information can be found on the Drop-in's web site, www.stjamescentre.ca

The library table where books from a small but interesting collection are made available for borrowing each Sunday at coffee hour. If you have experience in any aspect of cataloguing books, a few hours of your time could also be put to good use in preparing for circulation additional books that people have generously donated. (see Maureen Adams or Carolyn Cronk for further information)

Setting up for and/or cleaning up after coffee hour, happening each Sunday after the service. Lino Knights does such a wonderful job week by week in providing us with delicious food. What better way to thank her than to help with the cleaning up afterwards! Speak to Lino (who is easily found in the kitchen) if you can stay afterwards and help for even one Sunday. The UYA group are already setting a good example (see their article in this issue of the Circuit Rider).

Facilitated Exploration and Dialogue Process

As announced at the Annual Congregational meeting on April 11, on the St. James web site and in the Bulletin on April 18th and 25th, you are invited to participate in a confidential listening session. If you have not already participated, you will be able to do so on **June 4th** (all day until 4 PM). A 30 minute time slot can be arranged with Peter Bishop by calling him at least 4 days in advance at (613-836-1303) or by email (pbishop@bellnet.ca). Please also reserve **June 5th** for a full day congregational meeting which will be facilitated by Peter Bishop and held in Dawson Hall. The purpose and goals of this two part process are as follows:

- Provide an open forum in which all members, adherents and leaders of SJUC may express their concerns, needs, dissatisfaction and hopes for SJUC in a way that they will experience as safe, respectful and responsive.
- Provide an opportunity for issues, opinions, concerns, and problems, especially those that may represent a minority perspective, to be presented and discussed in a way that may be heard and understood by the current leadership of SJUC and by the congregation generally.
- Identify, discuss and seek to resolve barriers to respectful dialogue among all leaders, members and adherents of SJUC.
- Develop and articulate in a way that is meaningful for everyone in the diverse community of SJUC what it means to live, work and be in covenant relationship in that community.

The **Ministry and Personnel Committee** encourages all members and adherents to participate in this process so that we can become a stronger, healthier community whose spiritual and working life together will be enriched by these discussions.

Music program survey

The Music Working Committee would like to hear from you regarding the music program at St. James. During coffee hour on the following Sundays, April 25, May 2, 9 and 16, a survey will be available to members and adherents to be completed. If you are unable to attend the church service on one of these Sundays, please call the office and a survey will be mailed to you and you can return it to St. James. All surveys will be completed on an anonymous basis.

Jean Legueux, committee chair

In our church family:

Sincerest sympathies go out to our minister, Arlen Bonnar, and all of his family in the loss on March 13 of his beloved grandmother, Louise Chipman.

A warm welcome to the following people received into full membership on Easter Sunday: Guy-Lin Beaudoin, Magnolia Camat, Wade Eide, Stephen Forde, Michael Geoffrey, Rory Hill, Kevin Lindstrom, Luke Linstrom, Emma Lisson and Patricia Lisson. We are grateful for all they bring into the community that is St. James.

Three babies were welcomed into the household of faith through baptism at St. James in recent months:

Charlie Ann Boutet, daughter of Katry Ann Beaudoin and Andre Boutet

Madison Elizabeth McGrath, daughter of Teresa Santini and Michael McGrath

Madison Hannah Oliver, daughter of Priscilla LaRoche and Michael Oliver

We rejoice in the gift of love that these children are and extend our love and support to them and their families, along with wishes for great blessings.

Ryan Fea, well known to the St. James community for his contributions to worship and as one of the dynamic trio coordinating the United Young Adults, was one of two people formally covenanted as a candidate for the ordained ministry at the April 13 meeting of Montreal Presbytery. Our love and heartiest congratulations go out to Ryan upon this major step in what he characterizes as “a journey of call answering, learning and service which I [Ryan] feel that I will always be on.” In the following text, he stresses the tremendous role a supportive community has played for him along the way:

Having completed a year and a half long discernment process and a three day intensive Conference Interview Board [process], I have been officially made a candidate for ministry within the United Church of Canada. Though requiring a great amount of effort, investment and reflection on my part, this was an accomplishment done via community. The St. James community and the community within the larger United Church and even Montreal; the members of my discernment committee, Jean, Jen, Phyllis, Lynda and Sandy; my accompanying person to Conference Interview Board, Nancy; the ministry, board and committees, and staff at St James, Presbytery, and Conference. The United Theological College was extremely supportive and helpful in my preparation for this step along the path to ministry. My partner Ben who is very supportive and a constant reminder of the gifts of love that God has granted to my life. My co-workers at Rogers/Fido, who have all been very supportive and curious about my discernment and call. The United Young Adults who have been not only a place for me to express some of my call to ministry but also a supportive and loving reminder of the community and the accomplishments we can achieve when we work together through the message of Christ to bring a little bit of the kingdom of God into our lives.

Thank you all, and any of you I didn't mention, as the entire community has been constantly supportive, challenging, and inspiring.

God bless us all, and grant us the wisdom and courage to continue in our community of faith through love, family, and caring.

St. James has sponsored a number of candidates for the ordained ministry over the years, including the Rev. Dr. Phyllis Smyth, one of our volunteer associate ministers, and more recently, Jeffrey Rock and the Rev. Jeff Barlow.

News from the Stewards

The Stewards have come up with a new format for the budget to present to the congregation with more details. This will be presented at a meeting after church shortly. Les Violons du Roi have decided to make St. James their Montreal home. They will start performing in the fall and have several concerts planned. The Stewards have started to look for a stage that will be used for their concerts but also for other concerts at the church. The stage will be able to be taken down and stored. Since St. James is fast becoming a concert venue, having our own stage will make us more attractive to all groups. We will be purchasing a portable sound system that can be used in the plaza outside and in other rooms in the church: the plaza in the front is often used for events and having the portable sound system will enhance its use. In the fall the Stewards will be looking at the church telephone system, to assess the needs of the system and to see other options for the system. Finally, just a reminder about our PAR system which automatically withdraws your envelope donations from your bank account. This is an efficient system so you can give to the church and not have to worry about it every Sunday.

Sandy Skelly, Chair, Committee of Stewards.

Editor's note:

For more information about the upcoming season of Les Violons du Roy, consult the March 12 posting on the St. James web site under the News link.

Budget Update March 31st, 2010

Revenue		Expenses	
Actual to date	115,353.00	Actual to date	131,869.00
Last year to date	111,884.00	Last year to date	121,402.00
Revenue Budget to date	138,250.00	Expense Budget to date	137,139.00

The Open Door

People have been meeting each other at St. James for more than two centuries. Open Door volunteers a few weeks ago, for example, met a man named Dawson whose great-grandfather was A.O. Dawson of Dawson Hall. Not only that, but his great-grandmother was the daughter of Lloyd C. Douglas for whom the Douglas room next to Dawson Hall is named. The couple met, it seems, at St. James where sometimes propinquity breeds rather more than one would expect.

The application this year by the Open Door program for a federal grant to hire students to work through the summer has been refused. The church has greatly benefited in the past from the skills and energy of these dynamic young people and now must rely on its own resources. Volunteers from the congregation are more needed than ever for this unique program. See Rob Bull for more information.

Rob Bull, Coordinator, Open Door program

Editor's note:

For a fascinating look at multiple aspects of the rich history of St. James, see the History link on the St. James web page. The longer text entitled "The living heritage of St. James United Church", for which there is a link at the bottom of the History page, traces the St. James worshipping community from its beginnings in the early 19th century.

Current hours for the Open Door are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Tuesday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Some 15,000 visitors a month come through our doors each month in the summer, when we would like to have our doors open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day of the week. A welcome from a member of the congregation makes their visit truly meaningful and can lead to some wonderfully memorable exchanges for the volunteer as well.

People getting together:

The **Spirituality Discussion Group** meeting held once a month at St. James is a time of sharing, a time of reflection, a time of testimonies. These past months we have discussed themes such as harmonious relationships in an intercultural society, learning from people living close to the earth, and where is God in the midst of disaster.

Every attendee has a chance to lead the group and to choose the theme for discussion.

The next meeting is on Sunday, May 30 at 12:30 p.m. with the theme "prayer."

Everyone welcome! *Lee Santiago*

The **LGBT and Friends spiritual discussion group** BELIEVE, BE YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF & LIVE IN THE LIGHT, had its first social evening at Peter's home on April 14th.

It was a well attended evening with great food and conversation with several newcomers. Our next gathering will be on May 12th, 7 p.m. at S-James.

The topic for discussion & the theme for the evening will be: Personal & Community Ministry.

For more infos & questions, please email us at: believe@mail.com

You can also follow our group on Facebook: BELIEVE, BE YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF & LIVE IN THE LIGHT *Luc Therrien & Koa Boyd*

Spring for UYA! Throughout this year's Lent and Easter season, the **United Young Adults of St. James** (UYA) has upheld our celebration of friends, faith and fellowship. In March we shared in an enlightening discussion about portrayals of Jesus after viewing the 2007 film 'The Man From Earth'. This conversation followed us to a nearby cafe, where we enjoyed coffee, dessert, and each other's wonderful company. UYA also took to our heels in April and went skating at the Atrium le 1000. Ryan Fea, our resident figure skater, attempted to teach us (with varying degrees of success) to be graceful on the ice. Fortunately, a camera was present to document this entertaining and enjoyable event. The pictures maybe viewed on our Facebook page or on the photo albums of the St. James website. Also in April, we shared in a meal at Byblos Café, which was followed by a juggling lesson from one of our very talented members.

In March and April, three UYA members took part in Faith Acts Montreal Interfaith Dialogue initiative. On April 11th, we met at the Ecumenical centre with members of Montréal's Muslim and Jewish communities to discuss issues of social justice from an interfaith point of view. The experience was very enlightening, and we look forward to taking part in other interfaith initiatives of this kind in the future.

During this April's Annual Congregational Meeting, UYA volunteered to wash dishes after the coffee hour each Sunday, in an effort to help make St. James greener. Our goal in helping with the washing up is to contribute to eliminating the need for the Styrofoam coffee cups that are currently used. UYA hopes that others within the church may follow our example and also help in our efforts to eliminate the need for non-biodegradable products during coffee hour.

This May 2nd, our group looks forward to kicking off the summer with an Improvisation session, lead by our talented Mikah Meyer. We have an exciting summer ahead of us, with many wonderful events in the cards! We are looking forward to the times of fun, faith and friendship. *Emily Bamforth*

The United Young Adults of St. James (UYA) is a diverse and dynamic group of individuals between the ages of 18 and 30-something. We are interested in exploring our faith through stimulating discussions, exciting events, various outreach projects and through joining in the community of faith. If you would like to join us or would like more information, please contact stjamesuya@gmail.com or speak to Ryan Fea, Jenny Trites or Emily Bamforth during coffee hour after any service

News from the St. James Drop-in Centre

Alain Spitzer's plans to raise funds for the St. James Drop-in Centre for the homeless by running the Ottawa marathon have been sidetracked by a need for minor surgery this month. He expects, however, to be in top form for the Toronto marathon in October, so there is still time to make a contribution for this great cause. The Canada Helps link on the Centre's web site (www.stjamescentre.ca) makes it very easy and convenient.

Mark your calendar for Friday evening, November 26th and plan to share in a gala dinner and silent auction to celebrate the Centre's 25th anniversary. Watch for further details in the next issue of the Circuit Rider.

The Drop-in Centre is particularly pleased to have obtained a grant from the city of Montreal to fund the hiring of a full time housing coordinator. The task is not just to help members find suitable housing, but also to assist them in settling in. A program of workshops is planned to make sure that people who may be getting a home of their own after many years on the street develop such skills as food shopping and doing laundry.

Library now lending

Several people have been generous in donating a variety of books and CDs related to spiritual life and other helpful topics for the small library located in a cupboard off Dawson Hall. A representative selection of books for borrowing is now available at a table in Dawson Hall during Coffee Hour each Sunday. Volunteers are needed to ensure that this opportunity remains available to the congregation on a regular basis. If you are willing to help, please speak to either Maureen Adams or Carolyn Cronk or call the church office to indicate your availability.

Musically speaking

On Sunday evening, May 2 the St. James Choir presented a Choral Concert which included Mendelssohn's Hear my Prayer and music by Samuel Sebastian Wesley whose 200th anniversary falls this year.

Isabelle Huchette, soprano in the choir since October 2008, presents her graduation recital in the Faculty of Music at Université de Montréal on May 13. Our very best wishes accompany her on this occasion, which also serves as her audition for the purpose of continuing her studies in vocal performance at the master's level.

La Mandragore, a medieval music ensemble directed by one of our choir members, *Ingrid Boussaroque*, is currently working on a 4th album. You can help them carry out this ambitious project by buying a copy pre release for just 20\$ and you'll get a special invitation to the CD release in the fall. For more info, you can talk directly to Ingrid, or visit the group's website www.mandragore.ca. You may have had the privilege of enjoying some of the music for this album at their open rehearsal at St. James on Sunday afternoon, April 18. If not, you can listen to excerpts on their web site.

Our organist, *Philip Crozier*, will be performing eight recitals in Germany, Holland and Denmark this summer (including the Svendborg International Organ Festival and Maribo Cathedral, Denmark). Locally he will play in Zion United Church, Dundee, Quebec on Friday, May 21 at 7:30:pm and Notre-Dame Basilica, Montreal on Sunday July 18 at 7pm.

The highly talented young music students from McGill who have been presenting concerts each Tuesday noon hour at St. James under the banner Chamber Music Without Borders ended their season on April 19 with an outstanding performance of Vivaldi's Four Seasons in Dawson Hall and are planning to return in the fall for a 3rd season.

Be sure to come and enjoy the recital series offered at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays throughout the summer months. These wonderful musical experiences will be provided by some of our own excellent musicians as well as artists from farther afield. See the last page of this issue of the Circuit Rider for a full listing.

Our Web site

Thanks to the regular efforts of a skilled and dedicated team, our attractive and dynamic web site at www.stjamesunitedchurchmontreal.com is a rich and varied source of information and of reflections of our church and our congregational life, including podcasts of a number of services. Be sure to visit it often, since it is constantly updated. You can even find archived on it previous editions of the Circuit Rider!

Anyone with news or information to share through the Circuit Rider is invited to communicate with either the editor, Carolyn Cronk, or the church office. The next issue is planned for early September.

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Summer Recital Series

St. James United Church, Montreal

Tuesdays at 12:30pm

JUNE

- 8 Giancarlo Scalia (Piano)
- 15 Jens Korndörfer (Germany)
- 22 Erik Reinart
- 29 Philip Crozier

JULY

- 6 Rona Nadler (Harpsichord and Chamber Organ)
- 13 Esteban La Rotta (Lute)
- 20 Kurt-Ludwig Forg (Germany)
- 27 Margaret de Castro

AUGUST

- 3 Rafael de Castro
- 10 Ingrid Boussarogue (Soprano) Alejandra Cifuentes (Piano)
- 17 Haruyo Yoshino-Platt (Piano)
- 24 Francine Nguyen-Savaria
- 31 Travis Baker (UK)

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