

In This Issue

- Greetings from the Chair of Council
- Meet Kayla Cseh, Children's Church Leader
- A New Lease on Life
- Farewell to a Dear Friend of Glebe-St. James

In person and livestreamed worship is Sunday at 10:30 am. Recordings of the livestream are available throughout the week on our web site.

Glebe-St. James web site

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Wendy with Abby

Greetings from the Chair of Council

Wendy Bergeron

Welcome back everyone. And a special welcome back from her sabbatical to Rev. Teresa. We look forward to her return to the pulpit on September 14. I hope you all had a chance to enjoy the beautiful (hot!) weather, visit with friends and family and recharge your batteries over the summer months. I'd also like to extend a hearty GSJ welcome to our new Children's Church Leader, Kayla Cseh, who will be joining us on September 14.

I was thinking about what "welcoming" means. In searching various dictionary sources, I found this definition from the Bible Hub Topical Encyclopedia that really spoke to me: "The concept of 'welcome' in the Bible is deeply rooted in the principles of hospitality, love, and acceptance. It reflects the heart of God towards humanity and the expected conduct of believers towards one another and strangers. The act of welcoming is not merely a social courtesy but a spiritual duty that embodies the love and grace of God."

I believe that we at Glebe-St. James are committed to living out these words. I see it in so many ways: how we embrace diversity, care for each other through our pastoral care team, stay connected through our Friendly Callers network, our Women's Intergenerational Group and Men and Friends, how we share our stories at coffee hour, and reach out to others in need through our many outreach programs. You will undoubtedly have many more examples.

On June 1, in our capacities as Past Chair and current Chair of Council, Pam Fitch and I, with support from Liz Elton, Marsha Hay Snyder and Edith Gardell, hosted a luncheon for newcomers to GSJ, a "Get To Know You" event. We asked the eleven newcomers who joined us to talk about what brought them to Glebe-St. James, why they stayed and what we could do better. Here are some highlights from what we learned.

Newcomers said that they felt a genuine openness and sense of generosity from a warm and welcoming community, a place where they felt nurtured and accepted, and a church that would "love me as I am." They offered excellent suggestions for ways to make GSJ an even better place including more ways to live out our commitment to being an affirming community, creating regular social opportunities to welcome newcomers (such as more informal lunches like the one on

June 1), providing basic information about the church that can be handed out to newcomers, and many more. One suggestion that we can ALL embrace is to wear a name tag! And keep it on during coffee hour. Many of these suggestions are already in the "action planning" phase so stay tuned. We are sincerely grateful to all who joined us on June 1 for their openness. We intend to keep checking in with them to see how we're doing.

Meet Kayla Cseh, Children's Church Leader

We are delighted to announce that our new Children's Church Leader is Kayla Cseh. She currently works at the Glebe Montessori School as the Administrative Assistant and runs the Elementary Afterschool Program. When she discovered that GSJ was searching for a new Children's Church Leader, she offered her services, and we are delighted with our good fortune.

Kayla brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of children with special needs. For the last 12 years, she has worked in group homes with neurodivergent children, youth and adults and as an educational assistant in public and private schools.

Growing up in Aurora, she first started working with children as a camp counsellor with the Town of Aurora at the age of 14. She worked every summer as a camp counsellor and then as a camp director for 6 years. After graduating from high school, she became an intern at a youth run newspaper owned by the Toronto Star and, because of that experience, came to Ottawa to pursue journalism at Carleton University in 2007. In 2010, she switched careers, graduating from a child and youth work program at Algonquin College in 2013. She's been a special needs counsellor at City of Ottawa summer camps and an organizer for the Special Needs Autism Program.

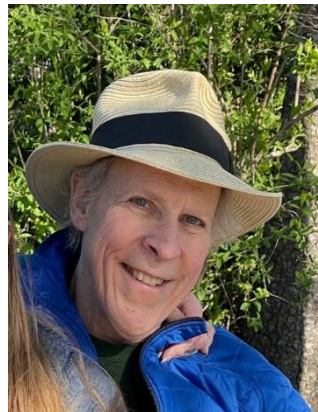
Kayla was raised and baptised in the Aurora United Church. She attended Sunday school and weekly youth groups and sang in the choir. Kayla also attended Haliburton United Church during the summers when she stayed with her grandparents. In 2017, Kayla and her son moved to Kars, Ontario and joined Kars United Church where she was one of a team of volunteers who ran the children's church.

As the Glebe-St. James Children's Church Leader, Kayla is looking forward to joining our community and to assisting children and youth in their spiritual journey.

A New Lease on Life

Bruce Taylor

As a research scientist, and a member of Glebe-St. James, I have been challenged to understand and find perspective on a startling event in my life: a diagnosis of stage IV pancreatic cancer. It's known for its low survival rate (third deadliest in the U.S.), potentially quick spread, and typical late discovery. Investigation of a growing bump on my sternum I assumed came from an injury in the garden revealed a metastatic tumor with the definitive answer coming from a CT scan in April 2024. The diagnosis hit hard. I sent the results to my daughter, a paediatric oncology nurse. She was crushed as she knew, instantly, the consequences and what lay ahead. It took some time before I could fully accept and face my likely journey.



When you suspect you have but weeks, perhaps a few months, to live, your outlook, goals, attitude in life change drastically, instantly. Automatically, I began reviewing my life. Was I happy with the life I had lived? Was I grateful? Did I have regrets? How do I share this with my family and friends? And, where I may have wronged others, would I have the time, and how could I best make amends?

I met Rev. Dr. Teresa to plan my memorial service. I wanted it to be a gift to those who might attend or view the service online. It would incorporate aspects of my life: viola-centric music, performances by my viola teacher and quartet, comments from family and friends, and a reception to include some of my sourdough bread. I wanted to "be there" in some way.

Overwhelmed by the many supportive letters, emails, and visits from friends and family around the world, we constructed a database with contact information to make it easier for my wife, Betty, to inform those on the list of my eventual passing.

I even got the paperwork to apply for MAID since I understood that the end stage of pancreatic cancer can be rough.

As Betty was recovering from major surgery, my daughter flew to Ottawa to go with me to my first appointment with my oncologist where we discussed options. For me, the choice was straight forward: chemotherapy.

Fortunately, I have responded very well to the infusions every two weeks. From the beginning, the 9-19 blood antigen marker for cancer steadily decreased, as have the sizes of tumors. Side effects have been minor and tolerable (relative to the alternative!), except for "chemo brain" (brain fog) which has caused me to feel like I'm losing my grip on part of who I am. But I cannot adequately describe the shock I felt when I learned from my recent CT scan that my pancreatic tumor has disappeared! An event my oncologist has described as "unusual".

I am not cancer free so I will have to continue chemotherapy. Yet, I have been given a new lease on life. For how long? Who knows. But I will make the most of it! Improvements to chemotherapy have been fast and welcomed. They provide a solid explanation for this "miracle". Still, as a scientist, I can honestly say, it feels miraculous.

Farewell to a Dear Friend of Glebe-St. James

Pam Fitch

This past summer, Dr. Gordon Lorne "Laurie" Liberty died, aged 96. He shared his faith, love of life and community in a deep commitment to Glebe-St. James that spanned many decades. A Glebe-ite all his life, Laurie attended Muchmore School and Glebe Collegiate with another longtime Glebe-St. James member, Ada Scott, and they sang together in the Glebe Collegiate Lyres Club. Both Laurie and Ada have generously supported Glebe-St. James and its music initiatives for many years.

Laurie was born on a farm near Winchester Springs near Kemptville and obtained his medical training at Queen's University. As a physician, surgeon and family man, Laurie recognized more than most the preciousness of life. Laurie and his wife, Carol (Low), had 3 children and the family grew to include 6 grandchildren and one great

grandchild. After Carol died, Laurie married Mary Margaret La Compte. Sadly, when Laurie was in hospital for a hip replacement, Mary Margaret died.



He shared a playful and mischievous sense of humour and his niece used to call him "f-uncle". Last November, in honour of Laurie's 96th birthday, Bob Irvine shared some treasured stories at Men and Friends. He reminded members that Laurie didn't waste time in decision-making. Within 2 months of Mary Margaret's death, he sold their cottage at Otty Lake, their home on Brown's Inlet and moved into Lord Lansdowne.

Laurie understood the importance of community and ensured that every place he encountered would thrive. When he arrived at Lord Lansdowne, he found that there was no fun way for the residents to socialize, so he instituted a daily "bring-your-own-booze five-o'clock happy hour" in the penthouse. He also formed a bridge club, running 2 tables that continue to meet and play to this day. When COVID confined residents to their units, Laurie arranged with a widower across the hall that they would prop their doors open and then sit and talk across the hall, while watching a hockey game. Laurie would call out to nurses passing by, "Look! You can check and see my toes are inside my unit!" Lord Lansdowne residents wanted to give gratuities to each of the staff at Christmas time, a practice forbidden by the owners, Chartwell. Laurie managed a central pot for donations by residents and distributed Christmas gifts to each staff member based on their hours of work. Laurie became the goodwill ambassador and one-man welcome wagon for new residents moving into Lord Lansdowne. Last November, the residents and staff honoured him by naming the penthouse common area the "Liberty Lounge".

Bob concluded his tribute by stating that Laurie Liberty taught every person he encountered, whether at home, at work, or in his many communities that "even as we age, we can build and find immense reserves of tenacity, resolve, positivity, and kindness toward others."

To Laurie! May his kindness, spirit and generosity live on.