



# ST. MATTHEW'S

The Anglican Church in the Glebe

## *Pulse of the Parish*

JUNE 2026

### RECOMMENDED READING

THE REVEREND GEOFFREY CHAPMAN

We are entering into our self-imposed sabbath time as a parish. It is good that we do this. It is good for us to set aside time to be away from our many responsibilities and rest. It is the first thing that God commands us to do upon creating the cosmos, and I do not believe that we observe the sabbath well as a church and as a culture.

In the spirit of this sabbath time, I want to recommend to you, with some reservation, my favourite preacher and teacher of the faith, Richard Rohr. My reservations are due to my frequent use of his work and ideas, and I fear you will find my preaching less enlightening and original when you discover how many of his ideas pervade my own preaching and teaching!

First, a few things about Rohr. He is a Franciscan priest and writer, born in Topeka, Kansas. He founded the Center for Action and Contemplation in 1986, and they continue to publish daily meditations which many of you read and enjoy. You can find those meditations online here: <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/>

Here are three books I have read and found incredibly helpful:

#### ***The Universal Christ***

This is a book about Christology, or the nature of Jesus as the incarnate Word of God. As the title describes, Rohr powerfully emphasizes the cosmic nature of Christ becoming God's incarnate word, speaking the cosmos into being - which he describes as the first incarnation of God. If you have enjoyed and been challenged by my sermons primarily from John's Gospel on Christ as Incarnate Word, much of the underlying theology of these sermons was built upon Rohr's powerful theological imagery and rhetoric. Rohr argues that Christ as universal creator - literally that which spoke the universe into being - is that which transcends all things, and is the source of all things. I think you will find it an enjoyable and challenging summer read.

#### ***Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life***

A wonderful opportunity during a time of rest and reflection to examine your life.

Rohr gives us an opportunity to re-examine our life, exploring our setbacks and failures in a new way, and reflect on what he describes as the two halves of life - as young people we focused outward, forging our identities and building our careers and lives while avoiding mistakes and failures. But our second half of life is

marked by humility, surrender, and radical compassion. We begin to see in ourselves, and those who formed us and inspired us both good and bad, both light and darkness, and this revelation deepens our compassion, our self-understanding, and empathy.

#### ***The Divine Dance***

This is Rohr's book on the Holy Trinity. He derives the title from the word *perichoresis*, an ancient word describing the Trinity, literally translated as a "dance circle." He argues it is essential to believe in a Trinitarian God, a God known as a living community, a family, an eternal and joyful dance, where we are swept up in a divine flow. Refer to my sermon on Trinity Sunday for more on this, as I find his description of the Holy Trinity essential and irresistible.

I wish you every blessing this summer. For those consumed with work, parental responsibilities, or who find Ottawa summer heat and humidity too overwhelming to be at rest, I implore you, in your own way, to observe the Sabbath of the Lord, and find rest from time to time.



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*In a garden at St. Matthew's, first signs of growth in May 2026*

# PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

KEVAN PIPE

Following the service on Sunday June 7, Parish Council held its spring meeting to provide updates on a number of key developments. Following the opening prayer and comments by Reverend Geoff, we turned to the business of the meeting.

Charles Nixon, Chair of the Finance and Stewardship Committee reported that as of April 30, that while revenue from fundraising and rentals increased, General Use donations were down when compared to the same period last year, resulting in a revenue shortfall of approximately \$10,000. Expenses were also lower than forecasted by approximately \$30,000. In order to achieve a positive result by year end, donations from members are needed and capital expenditure kept within plan.

Property Committee Chair Bill Nuttle provided the members with a detailed analysis of the planned long-term expenditure related to the Centennial Capital Campaign and the primary areas of work. While those areas related to dealing with water leakage around the foundation as well as roofing issues are relatively straightforward and will be planned in the months to come, the issues with our heating system are much more complex. Cameron Haines, an engineering consultant from Southface Engineering, was in attendance and addressed questions relating to their report with options to modernizing the heating system. This is an ongoing priority and it will be the focus of continued analysis with a view to finding a permanent solution in the months ahead.

Centennial Campaign Committee Chair Kevan Pipe then updated the meeting regarding the ongoing work of the

Committee, reviewing both the Vestry approved Campaign Objectives as well as the progress achieved to this point. The committee is now in full operation with meetings taking place every 2-3 weeks and work being allocated to various members. The \$2 million campaign goal, with annual targets within this amount over the next 4 years, was reviewed and discussed, including the options available for members to donate. The campaign website with all the related documentation is now operational and available for members to access from the St. Matthew's Church website.

Rector's Warden Janice Messam concluded the meeting by thanking everyone, on all committees, for the invaluable work being conducted for the benefit of St. Matthew's. She reflected on all the wonderful achievements in so many areas of overall operations. Janice advised that the minutes of the meeting, as well as those of the meeting held in January 2026, will be circulated shortly and encouraged everyone with any questions to forward them so they can be answered in the most appropriate manner possible.

Reverend Geoff confirmed that the next meeting of Parish Council will take place in mid-September where all Committee Chairs will present their reports. The specific date will be communicated shortly.

## CLARIFICATION: HARMONY HOUSE CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

JULIA LIPINSKA

In the March 2026 issue of the Pulse of the Parish, the article about Harmony House stated, *"Harmony House has helped upwards of 3,000 families over the years, and throughout that time St Matthew's has contributed to its ability to do so, including with an annual donation."*

To clarify, St. Matthew's ceased its budget funding of Harmony House in the later 2010s. Since that time, St. Matthew's has acted as a collection and distribution (i.e.

'flow through') point for donations from parishioners (this means donations made by cheque and cash and marked specifically for Harmony House). In 2025, \$1080 was forwarded by St. Matthew's to Harmony House.

# FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

CHARLES NIXON

I would like to share our net income for the first four months of this calendar year and compare it to the results for the same period for 2024 and 2025.

	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Actual 2026</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Total revenue	203,461	193,880	-9,581
Total expenses	239,698	208,875	-30,823
Net income	-36,237	-14,995	-21,242

	<b>2024 YTD</b>	<b>2025 YTD</b>
Total revenue	196,401	220,134
Total expenses	228,641	206,436
Net income	-32,240	13,699

While on the surface we are within our forecasted overall deficit for this time of year, we are seeing a \$41,000 shortfall in general use donations. This has been offset by greater than expected rental income for this time of year and unbudgeted income from marmalade sales. At the

same time, we had lower than expected building maintenance costs and capital expenditures which were planned but have not yet been incurred.

My concern lies in the general use donations numbers and the fact that we will be entering the summer period when donations tend to decline. I ask that everyone consider giving before or during the summer to ensure we are able to cover the cost of salaries and expenses that still need to be paid on a monthly basis.

I hope those who attended the May 31st Chapel Chat on Legacy Giving found it useful.

We have updated our money handling policy for St. Matthew's to include additional safeguards and we will be circulating it to committee chairs for their comments shortly.

Our committee is aware of the trust parishioners place in St. Matthew's to collect and manage personal information. We will be developing a privacy policy based on the diocesan policy, and will ensure that it is transparent to parishioners, St. Matthew's and the diocese. We would welcome help from parishioners with expertise in privacy policy.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer and safe travels. Thank you for everything you do for St. Matthew's to ensure that we continue to thrive.



# APRIL SHOWERS PRECIPITATE BUILDING RENOVATIONS

WILLIAM NUTTLE

This spring, the perennial water leak in the Bride's Room transformed into a deluge that has kickstarted major renovations at St. Matthew's Church. In past years, we have grown used to seeing water leaks during the spring thaw, due to the accumulation of ice on the roof. However, this year the leak did not stop with the warm weather. Investigation revealed that it is time to replace the small flat roof at the northeast corner of the building.

This was not surprising news. Working with our architects, we had already identified a number of areas where persistent problems with water leaks reduce the habitability of the building. At our Vestry meeting in March, we approved an ambitious fund-raising campaign to cover the cost of renovations that will prepare St. Matthew's for the 100-year anniversary in our current building, in 2030. The appearance of this leak means that renovations will start this summer, hopefully, rather than next year. The overall plan is for renovations to be completed in two phases.

## Phase I

The first phase has two goals: 1) preserve the integrity of the structure; and 2) improve the function of the building to meet evolving needs. The main threat we face to the integrity of the building is water leaking in through the foundation and the roof. The main problem we face with functionality is lack of accessibility. Therefore, in addition to replacing the roof over the Bride's Room this summer, we will also be working with our architects on a plan to make the washroom there larger and fully wheel-chair accessible. Similarly, work to make needed repairs to the roof over the Rector's office will include making changes to prevent ice from building up in front of the door that provides access to the elevator from the parking lot.

Here is the timeline for renovations planned for Phase I:

**2026:** Replace the roof over Bride's Room and washroom; formulate plans and obtain cost estimates for expanding the first floor washroom, for waterproofing the foundation in the Choir Room and Electrical Room and replacing the roof over Rector's Office.

**2027:** Waterproof the foundation and restore interior finishes in the Choir Room and Electrical Room; replace roof over Rector's Office (includes de-icing heat trace and improved drainage away from entrance to elevator); for-

mulate plans for excavation and waterproofing the foundation along the east and northwest sides of the church; formulate plans for renovating the entrance to the elevator on the east side of the church; obtain grant funding for expanding the Bride's Room washroom and installing an electric door opener on the Baptistry Entrance.

**2028:** Expand first-floor washroom and install electric door opener on Baptistry Entrance; waterproof the foundation along east and northwest sides of the church; restore interior finishes to utility corridor and north corridor in basement; formulate plans for repair and/or replacement of the lower roofs on the east and west sides of the church.

**2029:** Repair and/or replace the lower roofs on the east and west sides of the building; renovate the entrance to the elevator on the east side of the building.

## Phase II

Phase II of the renovations will focus on upgrading the heating system. St. Matthew's relies on a steam heating system built in 1930. Changes have been made over the years, but the current system is unreliable and inefficient. Emergency repairs cost about \$10,000 annually, above and beyond regular maintenance and fuel costs.

A new report from Southface Engineering outlines three options for modernizing the heating system. In all three cases, the new system would meet the following goals: 1) improve reliability and efficiency, 2) adapt to changing patterns of use in the building, 3) reduce the carbon footprint, and 4) add air conditioning. All three options rely on air-source heat pumps that also provide air conditioning, are adaptable, and replace the use of natural gas with electricity, thus reducing carbon emissions.

This report gives us three feasible paths forward that achieve our goals for a renovated heating system using available technology. It is now up to us to choose which path to follow and map out the steps along the way. This is our goal for the time remaining in 2026.

If you are interested to help with this or to learn more, reach out to the Property Committee by email to [wknuttle@gmail.com](mailto:wknuttle@gmail.com).

# COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

MARG TERRETT

The Community Committee is always with you!

In April, we assisted the Counters group, headed by Michael Goddard, to bring you the final Souper Sunday of the year. More than 100 people joined proving that the popularity of Souper Sunday continues.

Evensong is made even more special by the small reception held after the service where the congregation and choir mingle. Given the volume of the chatter it seems that much is discussed and the fellowship enjoyed.

There was a special evensong with Capella Regalis Choirs from Halifax on May 24. Over two hundred people enjoyed the fantastic music and the reception after

the service.

Many of your Community committee members took lead roles in the Great Glebe Garage Sale. Special thanks to Mollie Stokes and her hospitality team who willingly organized and served snacks and refreshments to the sales team at the GGS.

What can you look forward to in June? Our Parish Picnic will be held on June 14 on the First Avenue lawn. There is a rumour that the Chocolate Fountain will make an appearance. Of course, there will be ice cream, sandwiches and hot dogs. Don't miss it. Don't wear white!



# GARDENS AT ST. MATTHEW’S – AND BEYOND!

MARY GLEN

Spring has finally sprung after the usual lament: “too much rain/too dry/too cold/too suddenly hot/too... imperfect!”. The Ottawa climate from April to June is nothing if not consistently...um...variable. Yet as ever, the beauty and wonder of God’s glorious creation remain constant as we leaf and blossom our way through the wonders of magnolias, narcissi, tulips and Solomon Seal on our way to peonies, irises, lilies, pots of annuals and more.

The Gardens Team has once again been laying the groundwork for an abundant growing season in and around our beautiful church building and, on the last Saturday in April, on the property of the successful bidder in the St Matthew’s Online Auction (November 2025). There, we uncovered and weeded, pruned and cut back, cleaned and restored, raked and bagged, leaving the well-satisfied homeowners with more than 20 garden waste bags filled and ready for curbside pickup. Bravo to the team!

Complementing the clean-up work on the church gardens, the Grounds Team has been setting up hoses and the temporary garden on the First Ave side, and repairing winter damage to the lawns including filling a number of potentially ankle-twisting holes with the accumulated

pails of winter grit and gravel raked and swept from the flower beds on the Glebe Ave side.

A great vote of thanks is due to the St. Matt’s GGS design team for their careful attention to managing potential damage to the gardens and lawns. In particular, the placement of tables over the perennial beds on the Glebe Ave side spared emerging and tall plants from breakage. Bravo and a deep bow.

Enjoy the gardens and as always, please offer your comments, suggestions and participation to any of our team.

Mary Glen  
on behalf of Judy Billingsley, Robina Bulleid, Donata Creasy, Helen Griffin, Joan Lawrence, Silvia Logan, Ian Macmillan, Steve Reid and Ian Glen.



# GREAT GLEBE GARAGE SALE – RECORD SALES!!

TOM MARTIN

Months prior to the Great Glebe Garage Sale (GGGS) the fundraising committee met in the church hall to start planning the big day. Marg Terrett, who was the lead for many years, had passed the baton to me to coordinate this year's sale. It seemed like a simple task – simply bring in some donations and sell them on the day of the sale. Easy Peasy. Hmmm - NOT! What I didn't realize was that a systematic approach together with many hours of volunteer help had been developed over many years. There was a "manual" of things to be done. It was not until then that I realized the magnitude of the work that lay ahead of us. In that meeting we discussed the major tasks involved and some changes I put forward for this year. There was a lot to do leading up to the big day. The committee was receptive to new ideas and into action we went, not looking back.

This year's total sales were just over \$24,000, a record year!! I attribute this year's stellar result to a number of factors:

1. Our awesome volunteers. We are blessed with an amazing volunteer base of people at St Matthew's who step up to the challenge and go the extra mile. We have solid leaders of the sale areas who know their stuff and get it done - Peggy with the premium table team, Carolyn organizing and sorting books with her team and Marg Terrett and team on the Yard Sale. The teams sorted, cleaned, polished and priced. It made a world of difference to our buyers. Thank you to everyone who contributed from donors, sorters and pricers, early set uppers, sales team, clean up crew, the snack providers and finance team /counters. We couldn't have done it without you!

2. Some of the changes we made included:

- setting up tables on the front lawn to invite customers in. We also made sure that all items were displayed from the get go, so potential buyers could see all our wares for sale;

- soliciting donations of higher value sports equipment, furniture and small appliances to sell in the yard sale:

- pricing EVERYTHING on the front lawn. A tedious task but much easier for both the buyer and the seller than requesting offers;

- creating a category of stuff received that we did not price but sold by the bag load in our now famous "Fill-a-Bag" offer; and

- adding furniture and garden items together to be sold in the clergy parking lot.

3. Adding signage: In addition to displaying the items more strategically, we added signage to direct people to our basement for books, and our front and back lawns, and even the Purple Potties.

4. The weather was perfect! Not too hot and no rain so it was comfortable for shoppers and our volunteers.

5. Nourishment - Volunteers were served snacks and refreshments throughout the long day. Thank you Mollie and your crew of food preparers and servers!

This was truly a community event that was full of fun and laughs with our fellow parishioners and friends. To be honest, it was organized chaos all day. We collected the donations, sorted and cleaned them, priced them and set it all out to sell in one day. And it all sold – Easy Peasy!

This was the 40th anniversary of the GGGS. As has been the tradition since inception, 10% of gross sales will be donated to The Ottawa Food bank. Thank you for making this year a success in so many ways. We should all rejoice in the result and the community and fellowship we share.

**THANK YOU TO ALL FOR MAKING THE GREAT GLEBE GARAGE SALE A SUCCESS!**



# OUTREACH UPDATE

JULIA LIPINSKA

It has been a busy spring of outreach activities at St. Matthew's! Thank you to everyone for donations and prayers for the organizations we are supporting through our parish outreach. Mea culpa: the outreach survey is not yet out ... but DO stay tuned. Your feedback will be needed! In the meantime, if you have outreach questions, thoughts, ideas, don't hesitate to get in touch! Please talk to me at church or contact me at [lipinskaj@rocketmail.com](mailto:lipinskaj@rocketmail.com).

## Lenten food drive



Over the Sundays of Lent, parishioners filled the basket at the back of the church with various food items, and monies were collected for the Centretown Community

Food Centre (CCFC). The CCFC is a program of the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee (CCSAC) of which St. Matthew's is a member. Monetary donations were encouraged as it allows the CCFC to buy what is most needed – and more of it through wholesale purchasing. \$1,620 was raised during Lent by St. Matthew's parishioners. Thank you for your generosity in helping to nourish our neighbours!

We will likely have another food drive during the summer as, sadly, hunger doesn't take a holiday. Stay tuned for details. In the meantime, don't hesitate to donate always-needed items in the basket at the back of the church: peanut butter; canned items such as tuna, salmon, meat, stew, beans and vegetables; dried pasta and pasta sauce. Also, you can continue to make donations to the CCFC through the collection plate. Please note "CCFC" on the memo line of any cheques or on envelopes containing cash. You can also donate directly through CanadaHelps at <https://ccfcottawa.ca/donate/>. [Donate - Centretown Community Food Centre](#) And mark the date! The CCSAC Walk for the Centre 2026 walk-a-thon fundraiser will be held Sunday October 4. Let's aim to have a good St. Matthew's contingent! Contacts:

- ◆ CCFC: Pam Mackenzie
- ◆ Walk-a-thon: Elizabeth Kent

## Humanitarian fundraising for Ukraine

During April, St. Matthew's raised money for a volunteer mission to Ukraine taken by Phil Charko and Susan Burns-Simpson, parishioners at St. Aidan's. Again, the St. Matthew's family was generous, raising \$1 200. Thank you!



Funds were taken to Ukraine, and a portion was used to help students at a school for hearing impaired children in Lviv, through the purchase of furniture for the residence and helping fund summer camp for some students. The other portion of the funds was used to purchase and distribute household supplies and some small treats for families in areas where, due to the conflict, access to basic items is difficult. Supplies were purchased in other areas of the country to support the Ukrainian economy. Look for a follow up article on Phil and Susan's trip in a future Pulse of the Parish!

## Belong Ottawa

On May 3, India Benson and Shauna-Marie Young from Belong Ottawa gave a Chapel Chat about this important community ministry of the Diocese of Ottawa. The presentation clearly demonstrated the critical nature of the programing it provides in its three locations. The compassion and caring with which services are offered, and the astonishingly large volume of 'instances' of services it provides were also highlighted. The presentation included information on how to become a volunteer. At least one person who attended the chat has completed the volunteer application process and had their first volunteer shift! Other parishioners are already volunteers. Might you be interested?



Please read the short note from India in this edition of the

Pulse of the Parish if you are interested in becoming a Belong Ottawa volunteer, or wish to make donations directly to the charity. Donations can also be made through the collection plate. Please note "Belong Ottawa" in the memo line of any cheques or on envelopes containing cash.

Belong Ottawa was also the May focus of our outreach activities, with basic toiletry, hygiene and clothing items collected over the course of the month. These items help support the basic needs of those who are financially- and housing-challenged. Things we may take for granted such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, razors, deodorant, socks and underwear are in constant demand. Efforts have been successful, and the collection box overflowed several times in the first weeks of the drive! With one more Sunday left as at the time of the Pulse of the Parish publication deadline, our St. Matthew's family has been very generous. Thank you! Look for a picture in the next edition of the Pulse of the Parish.

There will be ongoing outreach collection activities (look for collection containers at the back of the church):

**Stamps:** via St. Martin's, the recipient charity of our stamps is now Oxfam Canada.

**Eyeglasses** (no cases): via local opticians, glasses are sent away for sorting and delivered to Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centre. Glasses then make their way to developing countries at no cost to recipients.

Outer milk bags (clean, dry and flat): via St. Martin's, these are delivered to All Saints Greely, where they are woven into mats and given to underhoused people in Ottawa

NOTE we are NOT collecting: clothing or fabric (unless part of a campaign), cosmetics, can tabs, plastic containers, prescription pill bottles.

## A MESSAGE FROM BELONG OTTAWA

It was a privilege to join the Chapel Chat on Sunday, May 3, and we are grateful to everyone who took the time to be part of the conversation and learn more about [Belong Ottawa](#). We also appreciate being selected as the Outreach Committee's focus for the month of May. Every donated item directly supports our participants and strengthens the essential work happening across our programs.

Belong Ottawa is one of five community ministries of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa. Through our drop-in day programs at Centre 454, The Well, and St. Luke's Table, we answer Christ's call to love our neighbours by providing practical supports to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, precarious housing, poverty, and mental health and substance use challenges.

During the Chapel Chat, several parishioners asked how they could donate directly to Belong Ottawa. Anyone wishing to make a financial contribution may do so at [www.belongottawa.ca](http://www.belongottawa.ca) by selecting "Donate Now." These gifts sustain Belong Ottawa's ministry and the participants we serve.

For questions about our work or to explore ways to get involved, please contact [info@belongottawa.ca](mailto:info@belongottawa.ca) or reach out to **India Bedson, Manager of Communications, Development, and Community Engagement**, at **613-594-8861 ext. 102**.

## PALM SUNDAY AND PARKING TICKETS!

JULIA LIPINSKA



No one likes getting parking tickets. I received my second ever while parked on Glebe Avenue on Palm Sunday. I stayed for the fellowship lunch after the service and returned to the car to find a ticket for parking for longer than two

hours, the maximum time allowed. A bit of asking around found that at least two other parishioners received tickets that day. They paid sooner than later, to get the pain over with.

*Continued on page 19*

# ST. MATTHEW'S— AT EASTER 2026



**Pictures from Evensong on Sunday, May 24 with St. Matthew's Choir, directed by Barbara Hallam-Price, Caelis Choir, directed by Matthew Larkin and Capella Regalis from Halifax, directed by Nicholas Halley, Paul Halley, organist.**



# BIDDING FAREWELL TO BARBARA HALLAM-PRICE

VALERIE NEEDHAM

For the past 16 months, Barbara Hallam-Price has led us in worship through music, and sadly, she leaves St. Matthew's on June 14, 2026. How we have appreciated her glorious playing of the organ, her choice of repertoire and her preparation and conducting of the choir.

Barb was born in Edmonton, growing up there and attending the United Church. She began piano lessons at the age of 6, found she loved it and took lessons until her late teens. However, another interest competed with her piano studies in those years because from the ages of 8 to 20, she was a serious dance student, completing a Diploma in Dance, which included ballet and jazz. Unfortunately she was prone to injury and always seemed to be recovering and so she returned to the study of music.

In her late teens, she was introduced to playing the pipe organ, entering the music program at the University of Alberta and earning a Bachelor of Music Degree in Organ Performance. She enjoyed playing the organ and found that her dance training was an asset in playing the pedals on an organ.

After graduation from UofA, she was awarded a scholarship to study in Cambridge with the great British organist, Peter Hurford who was a Bach specialist. There were 26 colleges at Cambridge, each with a Chapel and a pipe organ, so Barb had the opportunity to hear and play many different organs. One could also hear evensong at Kings College and St. John's College all in the same day. It was a very rich ten months that shaped her musical career.

After travelling with her sister for a time, Barb returned to London, Ontario where she earned a Master of Music in Organ Performance degree. There, she studied under Larry Cortner, who broadened her understanding of French



and American repertoire.

Barb and Tom, a marketing executive in the hotel business, married and they moved to Vancouver for nine years. While there, they had two daughters and Barb taught at the University of British Columbia. She also was the Director of Music at Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church.

The family's next move was to Toronto where

Barb was engaged as the organist at Grace Church on the Hill under their Director of Music, Melva Treffinger Graham. This was a rich and satisfying chapter in Barb's career because she became immersed in the Anglican choral tradition which she found enriching to her soul. She was at Grace for five years, filling in for three months while Graham was on sabbatical, which proved to be a rewarding challenge. Grace Church had a very active music program at that time with Men and Boys Choirs, Women and Girls Choirs, two morning Sunday services and Evensong.

After nine years in Toronto, Barb and Tom moved to Ottawa where they have been for the past twenty plus years. She has been the Interim Director of Music at several churches including this second time at St. Matthew's. Barb finds that her time here has been fulfilling both professionally and personally.

Thank you, Barb, for all that you have done for music at St. Matthew's these past 16 months. We will miss your Buxtehude! We are most grateful for this time that we have had together.

# ROBINA RETIRES!

VALERIE NEEDHAM



For the past 15 years, Robina Bulleid has been the sexton extraordinaire at St. Matthew's. She knew *everything*. Where the keys are. Where the mops and buckets are to mop up the spring floods in the basement. How to keep the stairs shining even through the snowy winters. Under her care, St. Matthew's had the glow of a well-loved home.

Robina was born in Rugby, England, and came to Canada at 2½ years of age. Her father was an engineer who was employed with De Havilland Aircraft of Canada and their first home was in Toronto. The family next moved to Quebec City where her father was with Valcartier National Defence Research Centre and they lived there until Robina was 12.

When Robina was 13, the family moved to Ottawa and her father worked at National Defence Research Development at the Shirley's Bay Campus. The family lived in the Glebe and attended St. Matthew's. Robina's mother was active on the Altar Guild, and her father had been a bell ringer in

the UK so was searching for a church home that had bells. As a teenager, Robina taught Sunday School and belonged to the Youth Group and Altar Guild. She attended Glebe Collegiate Institute where she sang soprano in the school choir.

Robina is an intrepid traveller. She has taken trips to Africa, India, Australia, Hawaii, Mexico and South America. She remembers fondly seeing wildlife, especially elephants, on a trip to Kenya. And seeing blue, blue icebergs at Tierra del Fuego on a voyage around Cape Horn. She has also been to the Passion Play at Oberammergau twice.

Robina has two sisters, one living in Calgary and one living in Fredericton. She also has five nieces and nephews and seven great nieces and nephews.

Although Robina has retired as our sexton, she is still active on the Altar Guild. She can be found in the church doing many good works, including helping mightily with the Great Glebe Garage Sale. She has spoiled us these past many years with her kindness, her smile and her readiness to pitch in to do anything that was needed.

Thank you, Robina, for all that you have done to make St. Matthew's a cheerful and kindly place. We will miss your care and promise not to take advantage of your infinite knowledge of the inner workings of St. Matthew's and your willingness to be of assistance.

## ST. MATTHEW'S REMEMBERS



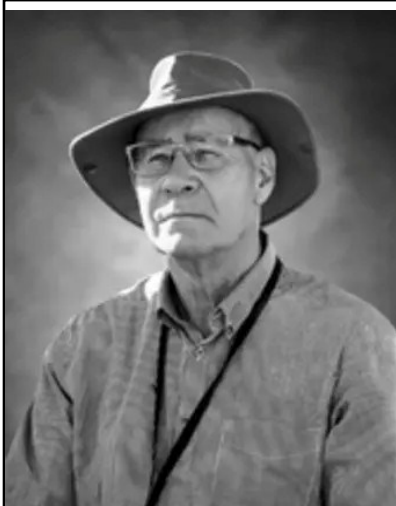
### Gerald Wheeler

1929—2026

Gerald Wheeler passed away on April 21, 2026. He is survived by his wife Jean, eight children, 18 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Gerald emigrated to Canada in 1956 to become Director of Music at St. Matthew's where he served in the role for nine years.

To view Gerald's obituary, please visit [Mr. Gerald Wheeler Obituary | 1929 - 2026 | Ottawa Citizen Remembering](#)



### Neville Nankivell

1934-2026

Neville Nankivell passed away at home on May 3, 2026. He is survived by his wife Margret Brady (Peggy), his sons William (Kelly) and Jeff (Alison), grandchildren Sarah (Matija) and Nessie, Sam (Rachael) and Alex (Nicola), brother Dale (Janet), sisters Devon and Glynnis (Don) and predeceased by his first wife Joan Davidson (1936-1983).

Neville was a long time parishioner at St. Matthew's where he served as head of communications, editor for the annual vestry reports, and a frequent contributor to the Pulse of the Parish newsletter.

A funeral service was held at St. Matthew's on Saturday May 30, 2026. To view his obituary, please click here: [Obituary information for Neville John Nankivell](#)

# BOOK REVIEW

IAN GUTHRIE

## WHAT IS THIS PRAYER STUFF ANYWAY?: AN EXPLORATION OF HOW PRAYER IS MORE THAN WORDS

By LAURA MARIE PIOTROWICZ AND RICK PRYCE

Prayer has been a core activity from the earliest days of Christianity. ( Luke 11 1-4, Acts 1, 13-14 ) To the contemporary faithful on any given day, this book is a revelation for how prayer can be so expansive. It not only follows scripture but can pervade the whole of life, and for those fortunate enough to be there already is confirmation.

There are numerous books over the centuries devoted to prayer. I have read some of them. The authors are so perceptive and devout they would leave me feeling inadequate. However, this book is different, beginning with the title, which includes the word 'stuff'. It invited me to feel that the authors sought an informality, and they do so successfully. ( I have read many books I would describe as spiritual).

This book is enormously rewarding, accessible, but not easy reading in the sense that it is so packed with thoughts and ideas they can best be absorbed only a few pages at a time, or even by single pages. I would recommend reading a few pages and then putting it down to reflect, reading ten more pages and then putting it aside for another day, to give consideration to what has been encountered.

I will not seek to summarise the book since such a summary would be the length of the book! In doing so I would certainly miss something. However, this book contains information and encouragement for beginners and those early in the journey, confirmation for veterans and expansion for everyone.

Why do we pray? The authors give fourteen reasons; I suspect few readers would have considered all fourteen. Prayer is a conversation, not a monologue, not a shopping list, often said but worth repeating.

When the authors write on types of prayer I think there would be few whose mind would not be expanded. Here are a few of their categories: Community, Contemplation Walking, Silence, Reading, Music, Movement and others.

Each is given a brief chapter, and each chapter answers the questions: What is it? How do I do it?

I will now share a few ideas or thoughts that the book presents or which occurred to me during reading of the book.

- \* Learn a verse or two of significant scripture with which you preface and end a time of prayer.
- \* A walk in the country or the hills is often suggested as a source of prayer which recognises the magnificence of creation. Try the same with a walk around a neighborhood in your city.
- \* If you are praying about something you can act on, get out and do so.
- \* Sleeplessness is an opportunity for prayer.
- \* There is an allusion to a question I have: Are all pray-ers equal (a congregant, a priest, a bishop, the Pope)? - No answer is given. I suspect any answer would be dangerous.
- \* Try constructing a prayer wall where topics of prayer are pinned.
- \* A hymn can be a prayer.
- \* A church service is in totality a prayer.
- \* A person who sings prays twice.

There is much that could be included, but there are limits. One author includes a Prayer to Dust Bunnies - that is fun, and I suspect he is a fun person. Both authors are ministers, one an Anglican the other a Lutheran, and I would enjoy meeting either or both.

I always appreciate a book which introduces me to a word I had not known, and thus I became acquainted with 'enchiridion.'

This is a remarkable and most useful book: enlightening, mind and faith expanding, invigorating, enticing and many other good words, good stuff! My thanks to both authors!

## BOOK REVIEW:

SANCHO ANGULO

### ON THE SPECTRUM: AUTISM, FAITH, AND THE GIFTS OF NEURODIVERSITY BY DANIEL BOWMAN JR.

One failure of church life is that we can mistake familiarity for welcome. We know the words, gestures, order of service, and habits of parish conversation. Yet for many autistic people, the question is not whether the church means to be kind, but whether it has learned to notice those whose ways of praying, speaking, processing, and belonging may not look familiar.

Daniel Bowman Jr.'s *On the Spectrum: Autism, Faith, and the Gifts of Neurodiversity* speaks into that gap with unusual care. It is a relatively novel contribution to disability theology because Bowman writes with candour from the lived experience of an autistic Christian, rather than framing autism as a pastoral issue to be managed. The book is reflective, literary, and honest, moving through diagnosis, family, friendship, art, church, service, and the stories told about autistic people. It does not make autism into tragedy, nor turn neurodiversity into a cheerful slogan. Bowman lets autistic life remain embodied, complex, difficult, and capable of grace.

What makes the book persuasive is its refusal to flatten experience. Bowman is attentive to the daily texture of autistic life: the effort of conversation, the comfort of routine, the ache of being misread, and the relief of finding language for what once felt like personal failure. His observation that "attention is the form of love" gives the book its moral centre. A community can mean to welcome people while still relying on habits that quietly exclude them.

That complexity felt familiar. I was born in the Philippines and baptized Catholic, largely because it mattered for attending private school in Manila. That affiliation became moot when my family moved to Canada when I was 3. Instead, I was raised in the charismatic evangelical tradition, moving through several non-denominational churches in and around Toronto. My parents loved and cared for me deeply, especially after I was diagnosed with Asper-

ger's syndrome at thirteen. Around that time, I was also beginning to realize I was gay.

At fourteen, I attended a church youth night where a guest speaker came to discuss faith and sexuality. He was a gay man who had married his lesbian friend in an effort

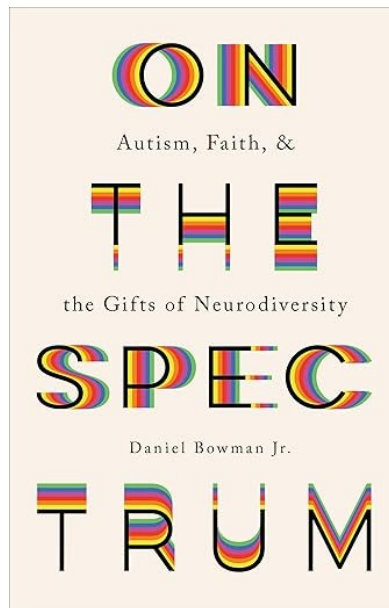
to remain within his evangelical world. I do not look back on him with condemnation. I cannot know the pressure, tenderness, fear, loyalty, or hope inside that choice. But as a young gay teenager, I remember feeling something inside me close. The lesson I absorbed was painful: belonging might require disappearance.

For years, I drifted from Christianity. I returned through an unexpected doorway: falling into a special interest in Early Modern English history during my third year studying public policy at Carleton. Anglicanism gave me a tradition where Scripture, sacrament, reason, beauty, ambiguity, and order could co-

exist. When Bowman writes, "There's nothing I love more than a ritual, except maybe a routine," I understood immediately. For an autistic Christian, liturgy can be mercy. Faith need not be improvised every Sunday.

Bowman is clear that church can still be difficult. The liturgy may be clear while coffee hour remains bewildering; the creed may be easier than casual conversation. Yet his book resists cynicism. It asks the church to love with more disciplined attention. "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Mk. 12:31, NRSVue) must include the neighbour who is difficult to read, or who reads the room differently.

*On the Spectrum* is worth reading because it asks Christians to tell truer stories about autism, faith, vocation, and belonging. "There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:4, NRSVue). The work before us is to notice, with care, who has already been sitting beside us.



*Cont'd from page 11.... Palm Sunday and Parking Tickets*

I asked the City for a review. Filling out the online review request form didn't give me much hope. Options given in the form did not meet my circumstances. I selected the best possible options and in the 'additional details' section, explained my situation. I didn't deny I had been parked for more than two hours. I stated I had been at church and requested some compassion and understanding given this. My review was denied. I paid my \$70!

I know I am not the first St. Matthew's parishioner to have received a ticket related to church attendance. Frustrated, I decided to bring the issue of parking tickets issued while attending church to the attention of Shawn Menard, the city councillor for this neighbourhood. I received two re-

plies from different assistants. Both said versions of the same thing:

*We are undertaking a parking review of the Glebe. This is born of a desire we've heard from residents for more consistency block-by-block or street-by-street in parking limit hours. We're starting this project by cataloguing all the parking limits in the neighbourhood, finding out which streets have been changed in recent years through the resident petition process, and determining the best way to do public consultation.*

With this in mind, let's keep our eyes and ears open for the opportunity to participate in the public consultation process when it happens.

## ON GUILT AND VIRTUE - VISITING

IAN GUTHRIE

Previously I have given thought to how some actions give rise to positive thoughts or virtue, while others give rise to guilt. This time I turn my mind to, 'Is it possible that the same action can cause feelings of guilt and virtue, simultaneously or in succession?'

Some four years ago a colleague suffered a devastating affliction, caring for him was beyond his partner-in-life and he had to move into a long term care home where continuous medical care is available and devoted staff provide wonderful support.

It is part of being human to visit such a friend in his new surroundings, and for Christians, well the Gospel tells us that visiting a less fortunate friend, 'So much as you do it for him (your friend) you do it for Me.' And so it is that a group of friends including myself take turns to visit so that never a week goes by that he does not have visitors. I go once a month to visit, and there is the problem.

The thought of fulfilling the gospel by visiting intrudes, I try not to feel smug or that I might be earning heavenly points (!) but I do feel virtuous before and after visits, but then, this is succeeded by the realistic assessment that once a month is not at all frequent, "you should do more", and guilt.

The guilt voice continues. A visit involves minor sacrifice, negligible really, should not I be there twice a month, guilt,

that would not be a devastating sacrifice. But then, if I start going twice how will others feel, am I attempting to induce guilt in them? Forbid that I should cause tension among friends.

I have been visiting my friend monthly over the years and that will continue into the foreseeable future, so long as I do not need LTC myself! And I do feel good, virtuous, but I also feel I am not making much of a sacrifice from my generally fortunate life (guilt). Surely there are others to visit mentioned in the gospel, but I like to think I am usefully occupied in my retirement, trying to lead a balanced life, so could I feel I do not have the time? There goes another slice of guilt.

In addition to the thoughts above, I like to think I am a committed ecologist who cares for our planet. My friend is in a home which is a thirty-kilometre drive each way for a visit, consuming probably five litres of gasoline. Think of the exhaust gases, try not to think of the cost, immaterial in friendship. Some guilt, but surely the virtue of making a visit outweighs the environmental damage? Is there heavenly accounting, balancing? Is there a reader who is acquainted with a monk who has given thought to such an ethical problem, who has knowledge of heavenly reckoning?

At times I suspect advancing years are encroaching, but am I thankful I can still exercise myself balancing guilt and virtue?

# ST. MATTHEW'S

## The Anglican Church in the Glebe

[Worship Services](#)

*St. Matthew's is a vibrant Christian community that welcomes everyone, embraces inspiring worship and learning, and is committed to hospitality and loving service.*

**Sunday 10:30 a.m.**  
In-person Choral Eucharist  
Streamed on YouTube  
Streamed on Facebook

**Sunday 8 a.m. and Thursday 10 a.m.**  
In-person Said Eucharist

**Last Sunday of the Month 10.30 a.m.**  
Family Service

**First Sunday of the Month**  
Evensong

### Clergy

Incumbent .....The Reverend Geoffrey Chapman  
Honorary Assistants .....The Most Reverend Barry Curtis  
The Reverend Katherine (Katie) Tait

### Leadership and Administration

Rector's Warden .....Janice Messam  
People's Warden .....Kevan Pipe  
Deputy Wardens .....Wendy Pullan  
Frances Berkman  
Parish Administrator .....Catherine James-McGuinty  
Nominating Chair .....Helen Griffin  
Property Co-Chairs .....Bill Nuttle  
Bill Cornfield  
Stewardship Officer .....Janice Sonnen  
Members of Synod .....John McBride  
Matt Gregg  
Simon Creasy  
Janice Messam

### Finance and Accounting

Finance/Stewardship Chair .....Charles Nixon  
Treasurer .....Andrew Bolick  
Fundraising Chair .....Peggy Nankivell  
Counters .....Michael Goddard  
Contributions Coordinator .....Ian Marsh

### Worship and Music

Interim Director of Music .....Barbara Hallam-Price  
Altar Guild .....Elizabeth MacMillan  
Robina Bulleid  
Servers' Guild .....Cathy Simons  
Sidespersons .....Peter Frayne  
Worship Committee .....The Reverend Geoffrey Chapman

### Nurturing and Fellowship

Children and Youth Ministry.....Debora Fleming  
Denis Martel  
Hailey Sowten  
Sarah Keeshan  
Vivian Messam  
Christian Education ..... Helen Griffin  
Community Chair ..... Margaret Terrett  
Coffee Hour .....Jane and Peter Rider  
Prayer Support Team .....Janice Sonnen  
Prayer Chain .....Janice Sonnen  
Pastoral Care .....The Reverend Katherine (Katie) Tait

### Outreach

Outreach Chair .....Julia Lipinska  
CCSAC Centretown Community Food Centre.....Pam Mackenzie  
FACES Refugee Committee .....Tom Martin

*Pulse of the Parish*, the community newsletter of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, is published four times a year. The dates for publication in 2026 are as follows: September 18 (submissions by September 10) and December 4 (submissions by November 26).

For the September 2026 issue, please forward contributions of up to 600 words and photographs by September 10 to Dawn Gregory at [collinsgregory1@hotmail.com](mailto:collinsgregory1@hotmail.com).

Together, we celebrate all that we do at St. Matthew's to the glory of God and in loving service to our neighbours.



The Anglican Church of Canada

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