

Dear Parishioners of St Margaret's

I am sure many of us are taking advantage of the change of pace associated with the opening up of the Covid restrictions and the arrival of summer (in spite of the caterpillar infestation). It is going to be good to gather for worship again at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday the 4th of July. While we are presently capped at 15% of capacity, we will hopefully be able to increase that in the near future. **NEWS JUST IN: We can now have 25% of capacity!** Just a reminder that we will also gather for worship at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays and we will record a service of Morning Prayer for each Wednesday and live-stream and record the Sunday services going forward. In addition, we will continue with our daily devotions that are sent out or posted on our website by Norm Savill.

It is with great joy that we can announce that Diocesan Council has approved us receiving 80% of the income received from the sale of St Giles. This, I believe, means that we will receive \$2.3 million for the construction of Phase Two / the St Giles Ministry Centre. The money is being held in the Diocesan trust fund and we will draw on it as needed as we progress with the project. Normally we would qualify for 50% of the sale with the remainder being distributed through the Diocese through the Ministry Allocation Fund, but the College of Bishops and Diocesan Council recognized our need to move forward with this important project as they look to St Margaret's becoming a hub ministry for a greater regional presence. I am very thankful for the incredible amount of work the Wardens have put into this process and the resounding support of the College of Bishops and the Diocesan staff. We will need to go through a process of redrafting our architectural design to meet the budget, but I am looking forward to us moving forward with this key project and realizing this much anticipated dream.

In compliance with Diocesan policy, we will have a special Vestry Meeting to approve the audited statements after the service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday the 18th of July. An agenda and a copy of the audited statements will be sent to you in the mail in the next week. Please contact the church office if you intend to be there so we can comply with the requirements set by the Province for Covid protocols. We will also host it on Zoom if you would prefer to attend in that manner.

We postponed our service where we distribute the ashes from the memorial doves we hung on the Christmas tree last year, but I am rescheduling it for Sunday the 11th of July following the 10:00 a.m. service. We will gather in the garden at 11:00 for a short service of remembrance and we will add to the ashes, the doves we put up in the windows to remember those who died from Covid 19 in Simcoe-Muskoka through this pandemic.

As we come to the end of National Indigenous History Month we sit sadly with the discovery of over 750 unmarked graves of indigenous children at the Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan in addition to the 215 graves at the residential school in Kamloops. My sense is that as profoundly tragic as this news is, we are only just beginning to uncover the horrific loss of indigenous children's lives in the residential school system. Going forward I hope that we will be able to create more opportunities for us to engage in the conversation of what this means for us and how we can participate in a meaningful way through dialogue and reconciliation.

Please know that you continue to be in my thoughts and prayers.
Simon+

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