



REPORT TO THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING (October 20, 2020)

2020 ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP PROGRAM

Submitted by Rachel Corbett

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, St. Peter's on-the-Rock decided to close the Church building and offer alternative worship opportunities for the entire summer season. The decision to close the Church was made by Vestry in late March 2020: an unpopular decision at the time but one eventually supported by directives of the provincial government as well as of the Anglican Church in Canada. The suggestion in April to provide alternative programming was initially made by Betsy McGregor (Vestry member) and Cindy Sibold (congregation member).

Once the decision to close the church building was made, and with the encouragement of Betsy and Cindy, a larger task group was formed to explore the concept of virtual services. It was suggested that a short service be offered on the May Long Weekend as a pilot project. Rachel Corbett, assisted by a former Brock University student (Dave Stark), prepared this short service. It was enthusiastically received and on the strength of this the task group made plans to produce services for the entire summer.

In the end a total of 13 services were offered, beginning with the pilot project on May 17, 2020 and ending with a Thanksgiving service on October 11, 2020. All of the services were streamed from YouTube on Sunday mornings, with the link for streaming shared widely on our web site and on social media platforms. All services are also archived for later viewing on the St. Peter's on-the-Rock web site. Nearly all filming, recording and photography was done on smart phones, and free I-Movie software was used to edit and create videos.

Producing these 13 virtual services was no small feat. As a volunteer, Vestry member/ Secretary Rachel Corbett assumed the lead role as Executive Producer of the project. We engaged two young people to serve as Digital Media Coordinators (Emily Schnurr and Abigail Chambers). Betsy McGregor took the lead in producing four Sunday School segments that were embedded in select services (please see Betsy's separate written

report which provides a comprehensive summary). Helen Batten, our Music Director, assisted by her film-maker brother James Raffan, filmed exceptional music to accompany our services (please see Helen's separate written report which provides a comprehensive summary). The Edison singers, Bob Trennum, Ward and Morgan Strickland, Bruce Cole, Jeanne Lamon and Christina Mahler (formerly of Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra), the Duketow family, Blair Mackenzie and Rachel Corbett offered various musical performances. Children were filmed delivering the Lord's Prayer, and all lessons were read by young people. Our priests Rev. Don Aitchison and Rev. Matt McMillan stepped up hugely to provide blessings, prayers and reflections. Stony Lakers both present and absent read Prayers of the People. Over 120 individuals contributed to, or participated in, these virtual services (see the end of this report for details!).

This effort was financially supported by members of the Stony Lake community. Each virtual service was dedicated to a loved one (or loved ones) who had passed away. Their families, and others, made these financial contributions. The memorial tributes were as follows:

June 28th service – Rick Brooks-Hill Sr. – supported by the Brooks-Hill family, Carol and Bill Corner, and Jill and Bob Trennum

July 5th service – John D'Eyncourt Strickland – supported by Ward Strickland

July 12th service – Donald Hunt – supported by Nancy Hunt and the Hunt family

July 19th service – Peggy and George Green – supported by Susie and Kevin McCarty and Bonnie and Pat Bunting

July 26th service – Christie and Will Bentham – supported by the Bentham family

August 2nd service – Robert (Bob) Chittick – supported by John Chittick, Peter Chittick and Kate Fitzgibbons

August 9th service – Bruce McCubbin – supported by Betty McCubbin and family, Lynda and Michael Thompson and Jill and Bob Trennum

August 16th service – Frank Pindar – supported by Libby Pindar

August 23rd service – Donna Howe-Kingdon – supported by June Cooper and the Cooper family

August 30th – Hugh Jones – supported by Doreen Jones

The final service of the summer, September 6th, was supported by Ann and Ross Dobbin in recognition of the work done by the Alternative Worship team. A sponsor was not sought for the Thanksgiving Service, but when longtime Stony Laker and church-goer Sonny (Townsend) Cook passed away just weeks before the airing of the service, it was decided to recognize Sonny in a moving video.

Here is more information about each service (viewership numbers are at the time of writing this report):

May 17th (pilot project) – 19:31 minutes – 497 viewers

June 28th – 23:23 minutes, 517 viewers

July 5th – 25:14 minutes, 301 viewers

July 12th – 23:40 minutes, 266 viewers

July 19th – 26:21 minutes, 233 viewers

July 26th – 26:02 minutes, 208 viewers

August 2nd – 22:25 minutes, 251 viewers

August 9th – 27:30 minutes, 231 viewers

August 16th – 25:48 viewers, 293 viewers

August 23rd – 26:15 minutes, 281 viewers

August 30th – 26:16 minutes, 233 viewers

September 6th – 33:21 minutes, 170 viewers

October 11th – 174 viewers (this number may increase in the coming days and weeks)

Over the course of this year and in part as a result of the pandemic, St. Peter's on-the-Rock's digital footprint expanded significantly. Before the pandemic, a new web site was created (www.stpeterontherock.org), one that we could manage internally to suit our needs. We created a new email address (hellostpeters@gmail.com), cleaned up our Facebook page (St. Peter's on-the-Rock), and created an Instagram account (@hellostpeters) and a YouTube Channel. Mailchimp software was used to send a handful of short e-mail updates to approximately 250 individuals on our mailing list. Our virtual services were widely shared through Cottage Associations and various Facebook groups on our lake and also throughout the Kawarthas. We have created a secure Google drive to maintain digital records, including all our recorded services. I would like to personally thank Tony Whittingham, Ward Strickland and Martha Hunt for their photographic images which were featured abundantly in our services and on our digital platforms.

In closing, it is my hope that we return to in-person worship next summer. If not, then the Alternative Worship program can be repeated but I fear it may lack the novelty, engagement and creativity that it enjoyed this summer. I would be happy to advise on logistical aspects of how to replicate such a program in 2021, if required. I would like to also offer some suggestions for next year's in-Church worship:

- Let's continue to use the modern, 'Message' version of the bible for readings;
- Let's continue to keep youth engaged in doing the readings;
- Let's occasionally have two people deliver Prayers of the People (the tag-team approach that we did twice this summer received positive feedback); and
- Let us maintain the high level of engagement, innovation and goodwill that we have cultivated this summer into our activities in 2021 and beyond.

For a closing snapshot of the year 2020, consider this:

3,645 views on YouTube (and growing)
 302 followers on Facebook (and growing)
 122 individual participants in Alternative Worship videos
 97 recordings of Helen (by her brother James Raffan) made on one day in June
 65 different musical offerings
 43 followers on Instagram (and growing)
 35 subscribers on our YouTube channel (and growing)
 29 individuals involved in the Sunday School productions
 28 readers of Lessons and Prayers of the People
 27 individuals involved in special musical performances, including a
 world premiere on bagpipes
 16 Wardens' Meetings
 15 videos introducing hymns and other special pieces
 13 virtual services, remaining on YouTube forever and archived on our secure drive
 12 renditions of children reciting the Lord's prayer, including one in French
 7 Alternative Worship planning meetings
 4 Sunday School segments
 2 Digital Media Coordinators
 1 brand new web site

It has been a thrilling ride!

ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP 2020 – SUMMER SERVICES
Contributors and Participants
Total = 122 individuals

Don Aitchison
Cindy Bartoli
Helen Batten
Kevin Bothwell
James Bourne
Alex Brooks-Hill
Blythe Brooks-Hill
Freddie Brookshill
Rick Brooks-Hill
Caroline Bruce
Chris Bunting
Pat Bunting
Luke Burri
Sienna Burri
Abi Chambers
Ruth Chen
Bruce Cole
Jack Conner
Jessie Contini
June Cooper
Josephine Clayton
Sean Clayton
Emily Clayton
Sonny Cook
Mark Cooper
Jessie Coupar
Rachel Corbett
Carol Corner
Michael Cumberland
Catherine D'Addario
Taylor Dalton
Christopher Delenardo
Ross Dobbin
Evelyn Douglas
Rachel Duketow
Madelyn Duketow
Monica Duketow
Noel Edison
Diane Faulkner
Lauren Faulkner
Mae Faulkner
Heather Fleming

Lanny Fleming
Sheila Gallagher
Keely Gervais
Riley Gervais
Kyle Guglielmo
Joe Hertz
Maggie Hertz
Russ Higgins
Addy Hubbs
Jackie Hubbs
Spencer Hubbs
Vanessa Hubbs
Martha Hunt
Phil Hunt
Christina Hutton
Cammie Jacquays
Bern Kelly
Keenan Kelly
Arianna Kloosterman
Jeanne Lamon
Eliza Leahy
Mike Lepock
Emily Levere
Kaitlyn Levere
Aspen Mackenzie
Blair Mackenzie
Christina Mahler
Mark Maltby
Danica Maltby
Kaitlyn Maltby
Willow Maltby
Maggie McCullough
Betsy McGregor
Kristy McGregor-Bales
Marg McGregor
Dougal McMillan
Matt McMillan
Molly McMillan
Pam McMillan
Kathy McNeil
Cathy Nelson
Shawn Oakes

Cristina Pisani
Helen Postma
Addison Postumus
Avery Postumus
James Raffan
Sydney Rankin
Jane Ross
Bill Ruddy
John Ruddy
Sarah Ruddy
Emily Schnurr
Nellie Scholtes
Carolyn Seltzer
John Seltzer
Riscylla Shaw
Basil Singh
Graham Singh
Hector Singh
Leonie Singh
John Sloane
Adam Sommerfeldt
Ben Sommerfeldt
Sophie Sommerfeldt
Cindy Sibold
Mark Sibold
Morgan Strickland
Ward Strickland
Molly Thompson
Olivia Thompson
Bodie Tranter
Chad Tranter
Jacobi Tranter
Bob Trennum
Jill Trennum
Katie Walsham
Nancy Watson
Tony Whittingham
Hannah Wotherspoon

... And Jasper the dog,
various loons, many
songbirds, a rooster and
even a horse.

