

Spring, 2013

The
Cheerful Epistle



A Message from Canon David Clunie *Of Organs and Organists*

On Epiphany Sunday we bid a very fond farewell to Rosalind Weeks, our organist and choir director these past thirteen years. She has served us with great skill and sensitivity throughout her time with us. We have an interview with Ros inside this newsletter. We wish her every blessing in her next life adventure.

Our 150th Anniversary Campaign has been a great success. So many of you have responded generously. We made the organ the priority and we were able to sign the contract on January 20 with Letourneau Organs Ltd, Saint Hyacinthe, Québec.



Above is an illustration of what the new organ will look like. The picture shows the organ at the top of the steps at the back of the church. We will be removing the three steps up and down so that the entire floor is on one level. This will allow handicap access throughout the church. The organ console will face the choir and the choir pews will be on raised platforms remaining in the same position.

The new organ installation will begin in mid-August and should be ready by mid-September. Well over a third of the original pipes will be used in the new organ, "Opus 126" from Letourneau. The old organ was dismantled in early March. Letourneau has generously lent us a beautiful "Continuo Organ" that will happily serve us until September.

On Sunday, April 14, Barbara Hallam-Price will be playing and conducting for the first time as our new organist and choir director. The choir and I are very excited to welcome her to St Bart's.



Clockwise from top right:

- Our old organ
- The replacement continuo organ
- Packing away the pipes

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion
8:15 am and 10:30 am
Every Thursday
Meditation, 8:00 am
Bible Study, 10:00 am

SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS AT ST. BART'S
(subject to change)

April 1
Office Closed
Date to be Announced
Pub Night
Clock Tower Pub 6:00 p.m.
Friday, May 3
Concert with
The Kingston Chamber Ensemble
Piano & String Quartet
Elgar & Brahms
7:30 p.m.
June 9
Parish BBQ
June 16
Last day of Sunday School classes
June 30
Summer service schedule
One service at 9:30 a.m.
September 8
Regular services times
8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

From the St. Bart's Choir



Ros Weeks' retirement after over a decade with us means that the choir and music programme at St. Bart's will enter a new phase early in 2013. Ros has brought both musical skill and an earnest heart to our parish. We have become richer as a result and greatly blessed by her presence among us. Ros has treated the choir as a family and we have returned her affection.

We will be meeting every Thursday evening for rehearsals of both Sunday's music and future special events. The choir is a parish church choir and not a concert choir. It gathers to help us in our common worship.

Recently we have been delighted that several student interns have been able to join us. This year the students are all from the music programme at the University of Ottawa, where they are training for careers that will involve performance. They bring security to each part in our harmony, an insurance that we need with several members liable to be called away throughout the year.

Nevertheless, Ros' retirement will lead to a time of adjustment, an opportunity for new members to be welcomed, especially in the tenor section where Richard Weeks will be much missed.

We await the arrival of Barbara Hallam-Price with great interest and anticipation.

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We received two very generous musical donations in 2012. A beautiful "Bluthner" grand piano, finished in mahogany, was a gift of Mrs Helen Kalil who lives in the west end of Ottawa.



We also received a fine harpsichord, donated by the Reverend Bruce Mutch of Toronto.

In Tune With St. Bart's

On January 6, parishioners came together to say thank you to Ros Weeks and to celebrate her 13 years of accomplishments as St. Bart's organist. As she was enjoying a well-deserved break in Australia, Ros shared some thoughts by email on her time of service with the church. The exchange is edited slightly for space.



Q. What sort of training is required to become an organist?

A. For a recital organist, many years of training, through instruction, hours of practice, exams and competitions and, in most cases, the obtaining of a degree or diploma. The work of a church organist is more multi-faceted and, while many of the above requirements are needed, there are other skills which take many years of apprenticeship before one can be an effective church musician. These include: some knowledge of vocal technique and choral conducting; as wide a knowledge as possible of hymnody and the choral repertoire; ability to choose music appropriate to the Propers for that day; and last but not least, being able to work collegially with a very varied group of people. The more one learns these skills, the more one realizes how much more one has still to learn! The job is all the more enjoyable if it's done to the glory of God and in teamwork with the choir.

Q. Did you make any changes when you arrived?

A. Not initially. I wanted to listen and learn and to respect the traditions and corporate culture of the parish. My predecessor had left the choir in good shape and I felt very blessed to inherit such a fine group of people! When I was able, later on, to re-institute the Junior Choir, the kids sang once a month in church and we gave concerts at The Edinburgh as well as mounting a couple of wildly successful musicals. Both Junior and Senior choirs participated several times in the Diocesan Massed Choir Evensongs at Christ Church Cathedral. I began to give more emphasis to "music-rich" services such as Advent Carols, Christmas Lessons and Carols, Good Friday and Easter Day, and when necessary, bring in extra singers and instrumentalists to enrich the work of the choir.

Q. Any interesting stories you would like to share?

A. I remember the worst moment: at a state funeral for a diplomat, I had turned off the organ for a few minutes before the service, so that the cellist and flutist could play a duet without the engine noise. When they finished, I pressed the organ "on" switch again, for the final organ Prelude. Nothing happened. No sound, no power. All the family and dignitaries were assembled in the packed the church. I waited for about a minute, trying not to panic. I think I prayed. To my relief, the engine cranked up again. That was the moment when I knew we needed a new instrument.

Q. What is next for you?

A. The flippant answer is: your guess is as good as mine! The more thoughtful answer is: I'll continue my daily practice of Bible reading and listening in quiet for God's direction and names of people to care for. The key for me is obedience to any guidance that comes in the stillness. My life so far has been an amazing adventure and I'm sure this will continue. Meanwhile, being a grandmother suits me just fine!

Q. What will you miss most about St. Bart's?

A. I will miss the work, to be sure, and the wonderful liturgical music that takes us through the changing seasons and scenes of our lives. Most of all, I will miss the weekly contact with the parishioners, whom I have had the joy and the honour of calling my friends. And I'll miss the beauty of the sanctuary - that sacred "thin space" that has so touched my soul.

Q. Are you excited about the new organ?

A. Very much so. A new instrument is long overdue.

Q: Any other comments?

A: I found that this job of church music director is a lot easier if one has a sense of humour and doesn't take oneself too seriously!



On January 6, Rosalind Weeks said thank you to parishioners at St. Bart's as Father David Clunie looked on.



Congratulations to the Olomoi family! Julia, Jim, Henry, Angelica and Clement were sworn in as Canadian citizens on February 5 by Citizenship Judge John Dennison.



Meet Our New Organist!

Barbara Hallam-Price holds a Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance from the University of Alberta and a Master of Music degree in performance from the University of Western Ontario. Barb has a great love of the Anglican choral tradition, and has recently been working in Ottawa as interim Music Director at St. Mark's Anglican Church.

Stewardship at St Bart's *Yearly Church Operations*

ONE TWO FOUR PLUS!

How much should I give?

We know from the generous response to our 150th Anniversary Campaign that St Bart's means a great deal to you. Last fall we had to make special pleas when our regular donations were falling behind our budget. It is hard to know how much to give. This simple formula might help.

One, Two, Four Plus

Our budget including capital projects (excluding our 150th Anniversary Campaign) is approximately \$400,000 for 2013. We have just over 200 envelope and pre-authorized givers.

\$2000 per year would be the average of our budget for each member or family.

Therefore if your finances allow please consider an annual donation of \$2000 per year (\$166 per month).

If you have many demands on your finances or they are restricted please consider \$1000 per year.

If you are financially blest and you don't have many other calls on your income please consider \$4000 plus per year.

40% of our members are already signed up for pre-authorized monthly donations. Please think about becoming one of our PAR givers. If you already are on PAR please consider what you already give in light of our "One, Two, Four Plus" formula.

Forms are in the church or can be provided by our Envelope Secretary Ron Burrows at cjrburrows@sympatico.ca or through our office at 613 745 7834. Remember that you receive up to 45% of your donation back as a reduction of your income tax.

We appreciate very much the growing support you have given us over the past few years.

