



## EDITORIAL

By TONY WHITEHEAD

It was a great disappointment to me, that so few Parishioners seem to have wanted to express their Happiness at Easter by sending me articles.

Still, you will find Mtr. Wendy expressing the happiness seen in Dancers, Father Keith on His Easter and Lent Reflections, and Kieran Wilson exploring the wonderful History of the Tabernacle on St. Anne's Altar.

Then an Abstract of the talk on one of our Assistant Clergy, Rev. Dr. William Wright (1827-1908) who was also a Doctor in the McGill Medical Department, given by Frank Mackey, and sponsored by The Edmund Wood Foundation, who are to be commended for the Initiative.

Lastly, Beth Reed has written a nice introduction to our Recent New Members of St. John's, and with Afra Tucker, an interesting Article on the Diocesan College's Convocation.

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One of the most Elegant Streets in Montreal, despite recent building of New rather large Modern Structures, has been reduced to a street looking like a Fair

Ground, with the ugliest aluminum supports held by large hideous concrete bases to support silly wires from which to hang flags. Why not put the Flags on Wooden Flag Poles which would look more authentic and be recycled easily?

Then the art, so called, is some of the worst insults to a person's intelligence ever collected in one location; The Wolf should devour the hideous Fat Lady and run amok through the rest of the rubbish!

Anyway, 375 years is not a Celebratory Year! St. John's is Lucky to be surrounded by more interesting and human activities.

*Tony*



## PREACHING JOY

BY MTR. WENDY TELFER

Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary use words. Although it is uncertain whether this well-known phrase was actually uttered by St Francis of Assisi, it captures the spirit of what the great fifty days of Easter have been for me this year. Everyone and everything around me is preaching a tub-thumper of a sermon about joy, in a delightful variety of ways.

Here at St John's, Paschal joy bursts forth as the Gloria is intoned at the first Mass of Easter. Suddenly, the dark church is illuminated, the organ returns in triumphant fanfare, and two thurifers do round-the-worlds *en alternance*. In this moment, I experience the Resurrection in every fibre of my being. This was my first Easter as a Priest at the altar of an Anglo-Catholic church, and I was completely overwhelmed.

The celebration continued on Easter Day. Our large congregation included a number of new faces (as Fr. Alain likes to say), some of whom have returned and brought their friends. The jubilant mood carried into the Parish Hall, where we feasted and chatted happily well into the afternoon. I arrived home glowing yet exhausted, ready to curl up with my cats

and catch my breath for a lesser marathon during Easter Week. Beginning on Monday, I said Mass on three consecutive days in two languages using two different rites. I had never celebrated so often in such a short space of time. My concern that the mysterious would become rote – despite the diversity of Liturgies – was totally unfounded. Low Masses are intimate and prayerful, and no two are ever alike.

People outside the Church were also preaching joy. Jenni, my Zumba instructor, organized a Dance-a-Thon to raise funds for *Auberge Shalom*, a shelter for abused women and their children. Imagine spending two hours dancing with 165 happy people, and making a significant contribution to help victims of domestic violence.

When my trainer Kenny saw me proudly sporting my *Zumbathon en Violet* camisole, he told me how the Spirit had moved him to assist vulnerable people. At the end of the term at McGill, he noticed that his fellow students were throwing out clothing in good repair. He organized a collection for the *Old Brewery Mission*, and was grateful to receive quite a few men's garments, which are scarce and in high demand.

At home, one of my neighbours has taken the initiative to assist a colony of stray cats who live behind our building. Since last fall, I have been feeding them, naming them, and gaining their trust with the intention of getting them to the vet. My neighbour has connected with the SPCA and is making an honest Cat Lady of me! We have captured Leila and Prudence, had them sterilized and vaccinated, and brought them back home. Now it is Minuit and Daphne's turn. After this, our relationship will be regularized and I can provide them with food, water, and shelter as long as we five shall live.

Joy, like spring, is bursting out all over. It is contagious. I hope that we can all catch it and share it in our own distinctive fashion.

Wendy +



## REFLECTIONS

BY FR. KEITH SCHMIDT

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the World ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. John 16:33*

I have reflected on these words of Jesus following our Lenten and Easter celebrations. And, indeed, we had an excellent Lenten program organized by Fr. Alain Brosseau on Wednesdays, which was very well attended, and also good Easter celebrations.



There were a few challenges, however. Our front stairs, after suffering through a lot of freezing and unfreezing this past winter, finally fell apart and we had to block them off for almost 2 months. Now that temperatures have risen, repairs are currently being made, but this was an unplanned-for expense. Yet despite this situation, I almost think our Sunday

attendance has increased, because people seem to be up for the challenge of finding the side green doors to come into! It is good to see a number of new and younger faces in the congregation too.

Our fire alarm system, after many stops and starts, has finally been installed and after several lucky Sundays, it went off on Maundy Thursday. Well, it does get your attention as anyone who has heard it and seen the flashing lights knows!

Our front porch is even in more need of repair than we first thought and scaffolding should be going up any day now. Yet this is all to be expected when we have a building almost over a century and a half old. At the recent launch of the Cathedral spire fund raising, I was speaking to an architect describing the beauties of Christ Church and then she said "... but of course, St. John's is a real jewel."

Together, these problems are all rather minor irritations; if very time consuming to your Rector. On the other hand, and by comparison, we have, in recent weeks, also had the serious flooding on the Island of Montreal, which will disrupt people's lives for many months to come, and the attack in Manchester, UK. We, even as people of Faith will not be

without our challenges and difficulties, and yet the message of Easter and Pentecost is that we need not walk alone, even through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, for Jesus will be there beside us, even if we always don't recognize Him.

So let us with a sense of hope and confidence in the promises of Christ that we are not left comfortless, and endeavor to work through the challenges we have been presented with.

In Christ,

*Keith +*



## THE TABERNACLE

By KIERAN WILSON

I have been going through the centennial book put out by St. John's in 1961, and it is brimming with interesting anecdotes about the parish.

I was especially interested by a notice from around the end of the First World War outlining the specifics of the Tabernacle erected in St Anne's Chapel during the 'flu epidemic of 1918:

*The Tabernacle is made of quartered oak after a design that harmonizes with the grating on the altar in the Lady Chapel. The outer walls are inlaid with crosses made of*

*(1) Teak from the battered hull of H.M.S. Agamemnon, and*

*(2) Thirteenth-century Oak from the shell-shattered stalls of Ypres Cathedral.*

*The first recalls the Victories won by Nelson at Copenhagen and Trafalgar; the second commemorates the magnificent valour of Canada's sons at Ypres when they 'saved the day' for Great Britain and her Allies. One of the inner walls bears an Agnus Dei carved by the hands of a skilled Craftsman. Inlaid in the Floor of the Tabernacle is a throne for the Blessed*

*Sacrament older than all other thrones in the Churches of Christendom. It is made from cedar grown in the forests of Lebanon, Syria. From Lebanon the cedar was transported to Hawara, Egypt (the ancient labyrinth near Fayoum) during the reign of Thothmes III (1503-1449 B.C.), a reign that witnessed the building of the great Karnak Temple (1 1/2 Miles in Circumference) and the erection of the Obelisk that now stands on the Thames Embankment, London, England. From Hawara the cedar was brought to Montreal in the Diamond Jubilee Year of Queen Victoria. It is older than the Christian Church, older than the Temples of Herod and Solomon, older than the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, older than the Bible. Deposited beneath the cedar is a box of sterling silver gilt containing:*

*(1) a bit of stone from the city (now happily and forever delivered from Turkish domination and oppression) in which the Holy Communion was instituted, the Christian priesthood established, and the Holy Catholic Church founded;*

*(2) Gold, frankincense, and myrrh (commemorative of the gifts brought to Christ by the Gentile Magi); and*

*(3) A small portion of the incense burned*



in St John's Church on November 17, 1918, at the Solemn Eucharist for Victory and Peace.

Who knew the seemingly humble Tabernacle is composed of such august materials? I apologize if this is all old hat to some of you; I certainly found it quite remarkable!

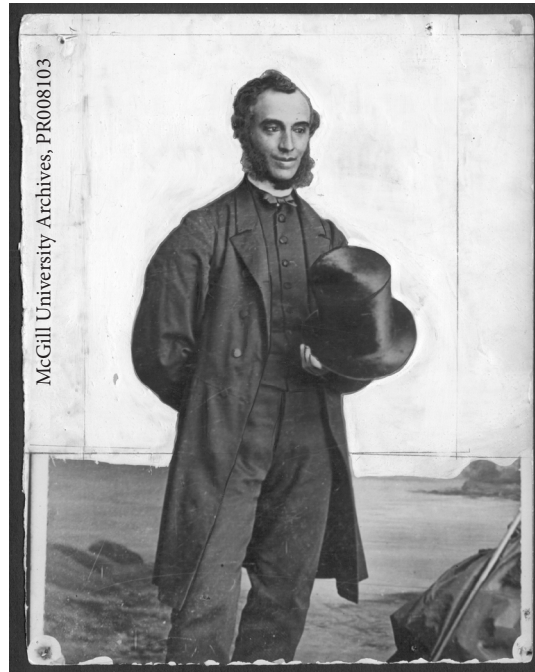


The Tabernacle shrouded and open on St. Anne's Altar (top), and the Tabernacle closed and showing the wooden construction on the altar (bottom).

## REV. DR. WILLIAM WRIGHT, 'MAN OF GOD, MAN OF MYSTERY'

### EDMUND WOOD LECTURE

Abstract of a talk sponsored by **The Edmund Wood Foundation**, and delivered at the Church of St. John the Evangelist on June 4, 2017 by Frank Mackey.



In Mount Royal Cemetery there is what appears to be an Irishman's grave, a Celtic cross, among whose tangle of Celtic knots there is carved into the granite *Rev'd William Wright, M.D./Professor McGill University*.

William Wright was born at Quebec City, July 2, 1827, graduated from McGill's Medical School, May 5, 1848, and was ordained on Pentecost Sunday, 1871. He taught Medicine at McGill for 33 years, was an attending physician at The Montreal General Hospital, and served for 33 years, until his death in 1908, as an unpaid Curate at St. John the Evangelist.

Appearance to the contrary, however, Wright was not Irish, but of English and Black African stock! Wright was the grandson of Joseph Wright, a member of the celebrated corps of Black drummers of the 29th (Worcestershire) Regiment of Foot; he was also the second of eleven children of William Wright, a Nova Scotia-born clerk, and his British-born wife Mary Blake. On May 2, 1843, age 15, William Jr. began medical studies as a five-year student-apprentice to Dr. James Crawford of McGill, graduating - with the right to practice - two months shy of 21. In 1850, he began his teaching career at McGill as a demonstrator of Anatomy, but Pharmacology soon became his area of specialization. With Dr. Duncan McCallum, in 1853, he launched and co-edited the *Medical Chronicle or Montreal Monthly Journal of Medicine & Surgery*, through its six years of publication, while also contributing numerous articles. In his early years, he

was considered to be an excellent teacher and clinician who raised the Medical Faculty's standards. Sir William Osler admired him. Even so, in 1883, he was forced out of McGill after first and second-year students threatened to boycott his classes, claiming they were not up-to-date.

1864 was an important year for Wright - he was ordained Deacon by Bishop Francis Fulford on Trinity Sunday (May 22), married Margaret Mason Harbeson, a Quebecer of Irish descent, at Sillery on September 3, and became the first Curate of the recently opened Church of St. James the Apostle, Montreal. He remained at St. James until Pentecost Sunday (May 28) 1871, when he was ordained a priest by Bishop Ashton Oxenden at St. Stephen's Church in Lachine where he served for one year as Rector. Both of the couple's two sons followed in their father's footsteps, becoming Anglican clergy.

Questions linger about Wright's education - pre- and post-McGill. Nothing is known about his primary and secondary education in Montreal and Quebec City, or how he obtained his general culture and knowledge of literature. Concerning Theology, he did not attend Bishop's, founded in 1845, and could not have attended The Diocesan

Theological College, which opened in 1873. The suspicion is that, in part, he may have been self-taught, and tutored in theology by the Rector of St. John's, Fr. Wood.

From 1875 to 1908, Wright served as an Honorary Assistant at St. John's. It was later said of him,

*"... few knew of his many acts of liberality in supporting by augmentation or unostentatious donation, the work of the Parish with which he was associated and also the work of much serving in the Foreign and Home Mission Fields of the Church."*

Wright neither trumpeted his 'colored' identity, nor attempted to hide or deny it. From his photographs, it would be impossible to identify him conclusively as White or coloured. Although his medical career ended on an unhappy note, his life accomplishments must be considered significant – particularly for someone of African/European descent in Victorian Canada.

Sir William Osler and Fr. Edmund Wood commissioned the Memorial window on the north wall of St. John's commemorating Rev. Dr. William Wright.



*Frank Mackey is a Montreal writer-researcher who has written extensively on Black History. An article he has written on Rev. Dr. Wright is to be published in the fall 2017 issue of the Quebec Family History Society magazine, 'Connections'.*

The Edmund Wood Foundation is dedicated to supporting the parish and the Anglo-Catholic tradition, and is a registered charity. For further information, please contact:

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## WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S! By BETH REED

St. John's has been blessed with a number of newcomers in recent months, and we'd like to take this opportunity to introduce a few folks you may have seen at coffee hour lately.

**Alex Saucan**, originally from Timisoara, Romania, moved to Montreal last year to pursue postdoctoral studies at McGill in electrical engineering. He'd not been to an Anglican church before, but St. John's captured his attention last fall - he stopped in one Sunday and has been here ever since!



**Zoë Stonyk**, a freelance artist, who moved to Montreal last year from Ottawa, hasn't hesitated to get her feet wet at St. John's. She's become involved in planning for the Jazz Mass – her design work can be seen in the promotional materials prepared for the event – and even better, Zoë has been preparing to be baptized in our parish this summer!

You may have seen this trio of youngsters - upping the collective fashion sense of our parish by about 500% - since around Easter. **Brendan Jones** (who shares a love for all things Jazz Age with Zoë) was a student of philosophy and history at the University of King's College in Halifax. He hails originally from Corpus Christi, Texas.



**Daniel McIsaac** and **Liam Bridson** are two creative souls - a musician from New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, and a film student from Vancouver, respectively.

Welcome one and all!



Photos by Beth Reed

## FAMILIAR FACES AT DIO CONVOCATION

BY BETH REED AND AFRA TUCKER

Some familiar St. John's faces graced the convocation of Montreal Diocesan Theological College, held this year at St. Andrew and St. Mark's Anglican Church in Dorval. We were particularly pleased to have the Rev. Dr. John Simons, former principal and longtime honorary assistant here, return to present an honorary doctorate to Michael Patry, longtime Secretary of the college.



**The Rev. Dr. John Simons**  
(Photo by Peter Ford)

He offered a moving account of Patry's committed support to the college over the years:

*"The temporal well-being of the Church would suffer greatly were it not for the competence and commitment of individuals like Michael Patry. But the Church is not just a secular institution. It is a sign and sacrament of God's gracious purpose. This is why we need people like Michael Patry who is exemplary in embodying secular competence, the practice of piety, and a lively, inquiring faith."*

Students Jonathan Widell, Tyson Rösberg, and Scott Potter all received awards. In addition to the Rt. Rev. Mary Irwin-Gibson, present as usual to present honors and degrees as President of the College, the Rt. Rev. Bruce Myers was on hand to honor graduates of the Education for Ministry programme from the Diocese of Quebec.

The ceremonial portion of convocation concluded with a moderated dialogue on the theme of truth and reconciliation between St. Mark's incumbent, the Rev. Elizabeth Welch, and Rev. Annie Ittoshat, who leads an Aboriginal community ministry there.

**THE REDROOF CHURCH**  
L'ÉGLISE AU TOIT ROUGE

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Homelist/Homéliste  
**Dawn Tyler Watson**

Collaboration  
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[www.cdedec.com](http://www.cdedec.com)

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Artwork by Zoë Stonyk

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