

CATHEDRAL CONNECTIONS

Issue #1 ▪ March 31, 2020



A message from your Christ Church Cathedral Communications Team:

Last week, the Communications Team met by phone and discussed ways to keep congregation members in touch with each other, with social distancing in place. These are very different times and so, in order to maintain our sense of community, we decided upon two actions that the Communications Team could undertake that we hope will help to keep our sense of community strong. This newsletter (Cathedral Connections) is the first of those actions. The second is a Facebook group called 'Caremongering Cathedral'. Both of these are places where we can share our thoughts, our prayers, our concerns, our suggestions for getting through each day of isolation, or just say hello to one another and wish each other well!

This group is not a place to share COVID-19 medical information. We want to leave that in the hands of the professionals. As you will see, it is simply an online place to check in with each other. We hope you will join and share with your congregation friends how you are handling being at home and filling your days, or even just pop by to say that you are OK. There are currently about 33 congregation members that have signed up! [Join the group here.](#)

While we know that not everyone is a member of Facebook, this is one way we can facilitate connections within our church family. As we attempt to keep all Cathedral members 'in the loop' with our congregation (even those who are not Facebook members), highlights from the group will be occasionally shared in this newsletter. We hope to send a newsletter every week or two, depending on how much Cathedral news we have to share.

We hope you will find both of these small projects useful tools that keep you virtually connected to your Cathedral family. Of course, we are continuing to update the [Cathedral website](#) and [public Facebook page](#).

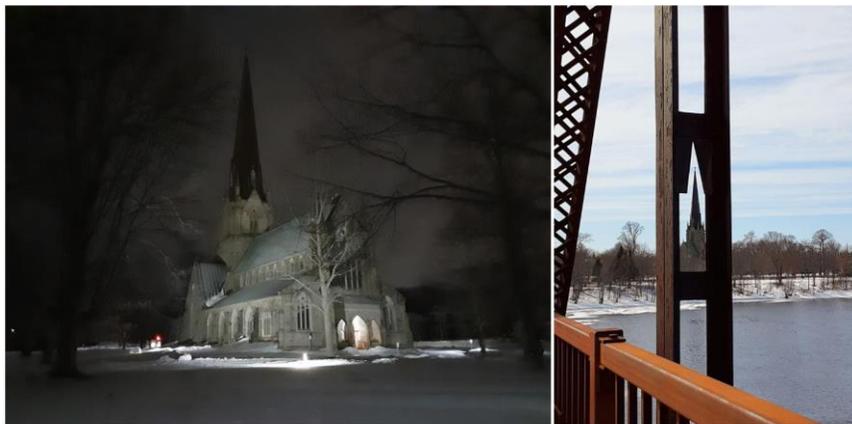
If you have something that you would like to share on our Caremongering Cathedral Facebook group, please do! If you would like to share something via the newsletter, please send an email to legresleygail at gmail.com.

The Team:

Gail McGillivray, Marilyn Lewell, Kirsten McKnight, Carol Ann Melvin, Dean Geoffrey Hall

Updates from the Caremongering Cathedral group

- Gary and Joanne Barfitt are doing well and shared how glad they were to have visited with their sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren to celebrate Gary's 70th birthday before social distancing came into play.
- Monique Gignac shared that she and Mike are both working from home and not missing the 30 minute drive to work each day. Thanks to the staff at the hospital, Mike has been able to talk to his Mom and stay in touch virtually.
- Andrea Power is enjoying her time at home with Jack and they are listening to (and sharing) some awesome contemporary Christian music. Andrea reports that her Mom and Dad (David and Donna Crowe) are doing well!
- The McKnight family (Kirsten, Brad, Charlotte and Claire) were a part of the group of 118 who watched the first Sunday Service live streamed from the Cathedral on March 22.
- Heather and David Perritt are home and self-isolating but say that they are ready for conversation if anyone wants to call!
- Our organist, Thomas Gonder, has shared some awesome photos of Christ Church Cathedral and of the city. Check these out:



Photos by Thomas Gonder

Message from a Health Team Member

One of the concerns raised when the Communications Team met, was for congregation members who are not connected via some form of social media. Marilyn Lewell, who is a Health ministry team member shared that parishioners on the 'Emergency Call List' as well as those without email have been called fairly regularly since the onset of social distancing measures. All seem to have appreciated being contacted and no major problems have come up.

Marilyn said, *"One side effect of all the phone calls appears to be that people are really communicating*

in a caring way, not simply 'hello' and 'how are you?' I have found that the folks I have spoken with are reasonably happy and safe and enjoy the many contacts via phone and internet. Frustration levels are under control!"

Many congregation members who have been worried about our "non-connected" folks can rest assured they are being well looked after!

On the Website

The [Cathedral website](#) is being updated frequently! Read new articles about outreach initiatives, online connections and updates from our friends in Belize, Uganda and Honduras. Stay tuned for a new edition of 'Cathedral Faces', as well as recaps from some recent events.

Stay tuned and stay connected!

