

CATHEDRAL CONNECTIONS

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Here we are at the beginning of May and as I write this newsletter, we have had over a dozen days straight with no new COVID-19 cases in New Brunswick! Not only that, we have been given the go ahead to invite one family into our “bubble”. This has been a blessing indeed to many grandparents and grandchildren who have gone six long weeks with no hugs! Many very joyful pictures have appeared on Facebook and elsewhere of little ones and not so little ones getting hugs and snuggles.

We can only imagine the conundrum faced by folks who had to choose between families! Those who have only one child living nearby were spared that decision and perhaps, for the first time, could breathe a sigh of relief that not all of their children are in the same province! Some folks apparently drew straws to make the choice which seems wise for all concerned but disappointing for the wee ones longing for Grandma and Grandpa and those irreplaceable arms! Looking forward to hugs for all!

Based on “Bubble Day, April 25th, we asked a few folks who they chose for their bubble and how the day went. Here’s what we learned!

Kathleen Snow: I chose my Mother because I am her “person”. I dropped by yesterday morning after picking up her prescriptions at the pharmacy on her behalf. I swept off her patio and washed her chair and table and set it up so that she can now sit out (with physical distancing) and enjoy the fresh air on warm days. We then drove to Tim Horton’s and went through the Drive Thru and sat in the car in the sun. We drank our coffee and enjoyed our “Nova Scotia Strong” donuts. We then drove to Costco, where I popped in to pick up groceries (wearing my mask), while Mom sat in the car and people-watched, which she loves to do. It was an enjoyable morning, and only the third time Mom has been out of her apartment in the last six weeks. She loved it! Every blessing!

Sandra Palmer: We have our Rogers family: daughter Katherine, son in law Andy and grandchildren Sophia and Violet. Violet comes running for a hug... so sweet!

Heather and David Perritt: Our bubble was mutual... my cousin and her husband chose us and we chose them. Neither of us has any children living close by. It was such a gift to see them walk into our home. No hugs but great



excitement expressed by Tilly our sweet dog who paid no attention to social distancing. Barby stood in my kitchen and said, "I hardly know what to do"! It did feel weird, as we have been on our own for so long. (over six weeks). It was calming just to be together (albeit six feet apart). Their oldest son, in Toronto, is struggling with a very heroic battle with cancer. Needless to say, they are under extreme stress and worry, so the evening was heaven sent. A blessing! I pray that the people of NB will follow the rules so that Premier Higgs and Dr. Russell will be able to grant more freedoms in the future. Bubbles have always been a source of great delight. This bubble is no exception.

Ann Rutter: Our Bubble Day – Sharon and Tristan and children invited Simon and me over for a BBQ. It was lovely to be with them and catch up with news and share a great meal.

Carolyn Nielsen: Our son recently returned from Japan where he has lived for 18 years and, once finished his mandatory isolation period, moved in with us. We had not seen our daughter who lives and works in Fredericton in the flesh since the lockdown began, so she and her partner are our bubble. It was a no brainer!

Kirsten McKnight: My parents live in Fredericton, so there was no question about who would be in our bubble! We hadn't hugged them since we last saw them in Florida in January, so we had very big, long hugs! Brad's parents live in PEI and are hoping for the day when our borders will re-open.

Wilma Clowater: Our daughter and Granddaughter! So wonderful to see them, share a meal together and to be able to give them hugs. They live in Moncton and our other children live in BC and Alberta.

Carol Ann Melvin: My Mother will be in our bubble when she comes home (from hospital), easy decision! (For those who aren't aware, Carol Ann's Mom had a stroke a few weeks ago and has been recovering in rehab. Carol Ann says she is doing well.)

Monique Gignac: Mike and I will be visiting my parents in Moncton. We've delivered groceries on a few occasions, but it will be nice to be able to stay and visit this time.

A few words from Jim Morrell, chair of Bishop and Chapter:

It has now been 6 weeks since we closed the Cathedral to normal worship and other church activities. It has been a worrisome and topsy-turvy time for us as individuals and as a congregation. Forced out of our normal and comfortable routines by COVID-19, it has been challenging to say the least.

As is often said 'It's not what's happening to us that will shape our future. It's how we handle what's happening to us!' As best we can we need to see the possibilities and the positives in any difficult situation. In that sense I often think about Moses and the Israelites and the many challenges they faced as they journeyed through the desert to the Promised Land.

Dean Geoffrey, our capable staff, members of Bishop & Chapter and our action-oriented team members... all of our leaders and do-ers are doing our best to see to the spiritual, pastoral, financial and organizational challenges that are before us. I'm pleased to say that we have made adjustments, and so far at least, things have gone about as well as they could have. Many, many people have pitched in to get the important work of the Church done.

For example: Bishop David and Dean Geoffrey, with help from many others, have provided online Morning Prayer services for us. Our Health and Pastoral Care team has made sure the most vulnerable congregation members' needs are being met. Our Mission and Outreach team has handed out vouchers to our Monday Morning guests and sent much-needed scholarship and operational money to our school in Belize. Our Property team has made sure the hall and Cathedral are being monitored. Treasurer Kevin and the Finance/Admin team have managed us through a difficult financial period with significantly reduced income. Their guidance has allowed us to keep staff on the payroll and cover our fixed monthly bills. The Communications team has been writing and calling to be sure everyone knows what's happening; they continue to "keep us together" as church. The Christian Formation team has made sure the youth group and Taizé services continue online. And the Chapter has met (virtually) three times in six weeks to review the current situation, to make decisions and to set plans for the future.



We don't know yet when we will all be back together for Sunday morning worship of our loving and gracious God. In the meantime, we, like the Israelites, need to keep moving forward and trust that God will guide us through this dessert-like situation. We're not used to situations like this, but we know God is in charge and He has a plan that will lead us to a better place. We just need to make sure we listen for His voice and then all pull together to make the right things happen.

With gratitude for everyone's efforts,
Jim Morell, Lay Chair of Bishop & Chapter

COVID Viewing and Listening Suggestions from Paul & Catherine MacDonald

Paul and I have been using a number of online resources during this lockdown and thought others might find them interesting as well.

Starting within our own diocese, we participate with the morning prayer service streamed by the cathedral weekly. And did you know that our Bishop does a daily reflection? They are short, about four to five minutes. I check in with them every day. The videos are on the Diocese of Fredericton YouTube channel.

Paul has been following a site with daily prayers from the Northumbria Community:
<https://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/>

The 10 Minute Bible Hour is a fascinating site that Paul and I both really enjoy. Matt Whitman

covers a wide range of topics, but my favourites are his series of "A Protestant talks with" a Catholic priest, a Baptist minister, a Lutheran priest and several with other denominations as well. There's even one with an Anglican priest, but that one is a bit confusing because it's in the U.S. and isn't a part of the Anglican communion as we know it. It seems to be similar to the "AngloCatholic" splinter here in Canada. Matt is wide open and engaging and the conversations are deep as well as entertaining. Highly recommended.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3vIOVjiXigzVDA2TYqaa0Q>

Another interesting site is Ryan Reeves' "Historical Theology for Everyone". Some sample topics are "Three Myths about King James Bible", "Who Started Giving Christmas Presents", and "The Great Schism (1054)", about the split between Roman Catholicism and Greek Orthodoxy.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrI5U0R293u9uvejefKyAA/>

Paul watches "The Catholic Talk Show" a lot, and recommends it highly. The talk show is a panel of three, including one priest, the founder of an organization called uCatholic, and the founder of an international faith-based marketing firm. We don't agree with everything they say, but their talks lead to learning and spark new ways of looking at things. <https://catholictalkshow.com/>



That's it for Cathedral Connections #3! Hope you enjoyed getting caught up with your Cathedral friends and we wish you all God's blessings!

If you would like to contribute to a future edition of Cathedral Connections, please email legresleygail@gmail.com.

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Stay tuned and stay connected!