

Welcome

to

The Church of St Simon-the-Apostle

Inside you will find a comprehensive outline of what is available to you as a member of St Simon's.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with one of our clergy, wardens, sidespeople or call the Church Office at 416-923-8714.

St Simon's Mission Statement

St Simon's exists to serve God and His human family in the world and in particular in the community in which it is situated, by a faithful witness to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Anglican Church of Canada

The Church of St Simon-the-Apostle is one of almost 3,000 local parishes which together constitute the Anglican Church of Canada. The Anglican Church of Canada is a Christian denomination whose member congregations share a common faith and a commitment to evidencing God's love for all people on earth. By agreeing to share our gifts and resources under a common form of governance, the diverse but interdependent members of the Anglican Church of Canada reflect the community of Christ.

The Church in Canada is in turn one of 37 national Churches (or groups of national Churches), including the Episcopal Church in the United States, whose affiliation is known as the worldwide Anglican Communion. Members of the Anglican Communion trace the foundations of their faith to the institution of the Church of England in the 16th century.

There is no earthly figure of central authority over the Anglican Communion, each national Church being governed by its own elected primate, bishops and legislative bodies of both clergy and laity. The Archbishop of Canterbury is, however, acknowledged as "first amongst equals." Instead, a commonality of faith, forms of worship and ministries bind together 70 million individuals from around the world. We do not necessarily agree on all issues, but we always pray for each other, and that God's will prevails.

The Anglican Church is a sacramental Church, which means that our worship constitutes a series of outward events and observances, which mark the growth of our inward, spiritual lives. Our principal service of worship is the sacrament of Holy Eucharist. During this service, we come together to commemorate the last supper of Christ with his disciples and to celebrate the gift of salvation we received when Christ died on the cross.

All who have been baptized Christians are welcome to receive the sacrament of the Eucharist. Those who wish to become Anglicans are encouraged to seek instruction, provided at regular intervals, leading to the sacraments of baptism (for those not previously baptized) and confirmation (or reception, for those already confirmed in other Christian denominations).

If you are already an Anglican, welcome to St Simon's. If you are not, welcome to St Simon's, the Anglican Church of Canada and the worldwide Anglican Communion!

A Brief History of St Simon's

The Church of St Simon-the-Apostle had a very humble beginning. In 1883 when the two area Anglican Churches, St Paul's Bloor Street and St Peter's Carlton were overflowing, a small group of parishioners asked for, and was granted, permission by the Rector of St James Cathedral, Canon Du Moulin, to worship in the little Chapel of St James-the-Less located in St James Cemetery. For the first four years services were conducted there under the direction of clergy provided by the Cathedral.

Eighteen parishioners attended St Simon's first Vestry Meeting in October of 1883. By early 1887 the congregation had grown and, feeling sufficiently confident to stand alone, become an independent Parish with its own rector. On May 7th, 1887, Bishop Sweatman set apart the Parish of St Simon-the-Apostle bounded by the Don River, Wellesley Street, Sherbourne Street and "the northern limit of the City of Toronto." Back then Bloor Street East did not exist and the rectory gardens and Church grounds sloped graciously down into the upper levels of the ravine. Rosedale was being developed and eventually a parish division was established at Glen Road between St Simon's to the east and St Paul's to the west.

The first St Simon's Church, attributed to architects Strickland and Symons, was constructed in 1887. According to Tony Adamson, St Simon's may have been the first of several Eden Smith Churches in Toronto. The Church's exterior and interior were much influenced by the ideas and work of William Morris and his circle of friends and admirers. The new Church, on the same site as St Simon's now stands, was consecrated and opened in March of 1888.

By 1892 the congregation had exceeded the Church's seating capacity and the building was extended. In 1906 Eden Smith designed a large Parish Hall connected to the Church and a rectory overlooking the Rosedale Ravine. This original rectory was sold and moved but still stands to the west of the Church.

In 1952 the Chapel of the Holy Spirit was built as a memorial to the many parishioners who served in the First and Second World Wars. In addition to the beautiful stained glass windows in the Church, the Chapel contains some much admired stained glass by Toronto artist Yvonne Williams. The year 2001 saw the beginning of construction which created new washroom and laundry facilities for the Out of the Cold facility (now known as St Simon's Shelter), a beautiful new front (including narthex, courtyard and steeple) which increased St Simon's visibility on Bloor Street, as well as accommodating an elevator and ramp to make access easier for those who use the multi-level Church facilities.

Over more than 100 years St Simon has had only nine rectors. The first, appointed by the Bishop of Toronto in May of 1887, was the former Curate of All Saints at Dundas and Sherbourne Streets, the Reverend T.C. Street Macklem. The Reverend Mr. Macklem served as the Church's first rector until he was appointed Provost of Trinity College in 1900.

St Simon's has grown and the Parish list now includes approximately 300 families and individuals. Many of our senior members were brought to St Simon's by their parents and have worshipped here all their lives. Others first visited as adults and found a Church home at St Simon's.

St Simon's has maintained a tradition of dignity in worship, supported by excellent music through a dedicated Choir, a strong commitment to preaching and teaching of the Gospel, concern and support for the families and individuals who worship within its walls, and a vigorous outreach ministry which provides for the poor and homeless in Toronto. It is a beehive of activity with space for:

- Brownies ○ Scouts and Cubs ○ AA groups
- a LINC program with nursery ○ an anger management program,
- the first seven-nights-a-week Out of the Cold program (since taken over by the Church and known as St Simon's Shelter), which provides shelter, support services and nourishing meals for homeless men.

Members of St Simon's come from diverse racial and national backgrounds, and from all walks of life. Some walk to Church while others arrive by car from outside the city. The congregation is male and female, young and old, urbanite and suburbanite, black, white and every colour in between, married, single, celibate, straight and gay, homemakers, social workers, firefighters, doctors and lawyers. Members are involved in Church activities ranging from making soup or breakfast for Shelter guests, to leading or participating in one of the committees which directs a particular area of parish life.

The members of St Simon's celebrate their individual diversity within the context of their shared faith and ministry. They work together as a community to accomplish many things. They welcome all who are interested in a warm environment in which to worship and make a contribution and they invite you to join their Parish family.

Experiencing God in worship, community, and service.

Clergy & Staff

All of the tireless efforts and enthusiasm of our members are channelled, guided and supported by the clergy and staff of St Simon's. This congregation is blessed by the presence of talented and dedicated individuals serving in the office, the corridors, the Sunday school, the choir and the pulpit.

Our Rector and Lay Pastor plan and preside over worship, provide spiritual direction and counselling, visit the elderly and infirm, participate in numerous meetings and events, represent the congregation to the community and the Diocese, and serve as a voice of inspiration and conscience for the rest of us.

Our Music Director and Choir enrich our Sunday services beyond measure. Our building manager keeps our premises functional, safe and tidy. Our office is staffed Tuesday through Friday by staff who provide the administrative services a busy parish requires.

Corporate Worship & Spiritual Development

Members of St Simon's join in corporate worship weekly, making a joyful sound unto the Lord as befits our individual abilities. Services of worship are conducted in accordance with the Anglican Book of Common Prayer and the Book of Alternative Services. The Holy Eucharist: Traditional Rite is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday morning and at 10:30 a.m. on the first, third and fifth Sunday morning of each month. The Eucharist on the fourth Sunday is a more contemporary version of the service. The Choir is present on Sundays at the 10:30 a.m. services. At 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings the Eucharist: Modern Rite concludes with the sacrament of healing for those who wish to participate.

At 10:30 a.m. on the second Sunday of the month, the traditional service of Mattins is sung. Additional services are scheduled for major holy days, such as Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Programming is provided for children aged three to 12 years (Church school), during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service, from September through June. Supervised nursery care is also available during these months. Bible studies, Lenten programs, the Book Club and other adult education groups offer adult members of the congregation opportunities to explore and strengthen their faith under the guidance of clergy or lay leadership.

Directory

Rector: The Rev'd Canon Dr David Barker (davidbarker@stsimons.ca)

Honorary Assistant: The Rev'd Barry Brown **Lay Pastor:** Andrea Budgey (andreabudgey@stsimons.ca)

Interim Director of Music: Maurice White

Churchwardens: Kae Fogden, *Rector's Warden* Colin G. Bird, *People's Warden*

Paul Faulkner, *Deputy Warden* Fen Nanton, *Deputy Warden*

Treasurer: David McPherson

Parish Administrator: Victoria Drysdale (office@stsimons.ca)

Financial Stewardship

The worship and ministries of the parish, the Diocese of Toronto, and the Anglican Church of Canada are funded by the financial contributions of past and present members. As Anglicans, we express our gratitude for our many blessings, and our interdependence as members of the community of Christ, by committing a portion of our individual resources to the work of our Church.

The annual budget of St Simon's provides for the salaries of clergy and staff, maintenance of our premises, supplies and materials – all of which are necessary to our worship and ministries. It also pays our assessment to the Diocese of Toronto, which in turn supports the work of this and other congregations and of the Anglican Church of Canada. Members of St Simon's are asked to make an annual pledge, evidencing their intentions to support this parish with financial contributions commensurate with their means. Payments may be made by automatic deductions from a chequing account, or members may request envelopes which are collected during the Sunday offertory.

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

Opportunities for Individual Ministry

St Simon's Church provides members with a variety of opportunities to express their faith in terms of individual ministries, and to exercise good stewardship of their time and talents.

Lay members of the congregation play an active and important role during worship. Many of the members of our Choir are drawn from among our own parishioners (while others and their families choose to join the parish after first being recruited to the Choir).

The worship experience is also enhanced by the contributions of the Altar Guild, Sidespeople, Servers, Lay Readers, Lectors and Chalice Bearers. Other members assure the availability of coffee other refreshment following our services. Whether standing behind the lectern, or working quietly behind the scenes, each person contributes to our corporate worship and fellowship.

Members who have children, enjoy children or want to re-experience the wonder of childhood are eagerly sought to join the ranks of volunteer Church School teachers.

The Parish Hostess is an extremely dedicated individual who devotes countless hours planning, preparing, and serving the many lunches, dinners and receptions which are part of the life of an active congregation. She always needs help. Those with organizational skills, who have active imaginations, enjoy cooking, or simply like to be part of a good time should seek her out.

Outreach ministries are the means by which members of St Simon's evidence their faith to the greater community. The government funded St Simon's Shelter program located at the Church provides year-round, seven-days-a-week overnight lodging, hot meals, recreation, social services and the basic amenities of life to individuals who are not able to provide for themselves. St Simon's volunteers are on the Shelter Board, provide dinners on Wednesdays through the year, and breakfast on Thursday mornings from October to April, and contribute clothing, towels, bedding, toiletries and other personal items.

The mission, ministries and temporal affairs of the congregation are under the direction of the clergy and wardens, with guidance from the Advisory Board and numerous other individuals, working independently or in groups, who contribute their time and energy to the work of the Church. Those who don't find an outlet for their interests and talents among existing bodies are encouraged to join with other like-minded members in implementing new programs.

Service Times

Wednesdays

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Modern Rite, with a Service of Healing

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday of Each Month

8:30 a.m. Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)

10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist: Traditional Rite

2nd Sunday of Each Month

8:30 a.m. Eucharist (BCP)

10:30 a.m. Choral Mattins (BCP)

4th Sunday of Each Month

8:30 a.m. Eucharist (BCP)

10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist: Modern Rite

During the months of July & August the 10:30 a.m. Sunday services are Sung Eucharist

The clergy & congregation of St Simon's invite you to join us

Children's Programming and Nursery are available September through mid June

St Simon's Choir

Since St Simon's was founded in 1883 the music has been predominantly sung in the cathedral tradition by a Gentlemen and Boys' Choir. Music has always played, and continues to play, an important role at St Simon's. Many parishioners come from all over the city in support of this fine musical tradition.

In its many years as a parish St Simon's has had only eight choirmasters. By the 1920s the Choir had earned a city-wide reputation for excellence, and old photographs of the time show huge choirs of 30 boys and 25 men.

The Choir's reputation was further enhanced and expanded during the leadership of Eric Lewis, a former pupil of Healey Willan. He became Choirmaster in 1932, and over the next 34 years built a choir of great ability and renown. The St Simon's Choir sang at important choral events all over the City, Evensong was broadcast from the Church, choral recordings were made, and many of the boy trebles took high honours at Kiwanis competitions and at Toronto Conservatory of Music examinations. For 30 years a well-remembered Christmas concert was given in period costumes at the Eaton Auditorium.

The Choir's first trip overseas was in 1971 under the direction of Ned Hanson when they sang, in addition to other locations, one service at Westminster Abbey. Later in the 1970s they returned to sing for two weeks at St George's Chapel, Windsor, famous as the Chapel for the Order of the Garter.

In 1981 the Choir was taken over by the eminent composer, organist and musician Dr. Derek Holman, who maintained the high standards of singing at St Simon's.

In 1988 the Choir visited England and sang the services for a full week as Choir in Residence at both Norwich Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. In 1991 this was repeated at York Minster and Westminster Abbey.

In 1998 John H. Stephenson took over the musical helm, to be succeeded by Thomas Bell from 2000 to 2006.

In addition to leading the musical portion of the Sunday morning service of worship from September to June, the Choir also sings an annual Choir Concert which gives an opportunity to tackle larger works than the normal routine allows. Another highlight of the year is the singing of wonderful seasonal church music at Christmas and Easter.

Members of St Simon's parish not only enjoy and support its Choir, but enthusiastically join in singing the psalms, hymns and canticles.

St Simon's Organ

Our organ was installed in its current configuration in 1962 by the famous Casavant firm of organ builders from Quebec. It consists of three essential parts:

- about 2,000 pipes
- an air source consisting of a blower, air reservoirs and “wind chests”
- the organ console

The organ pipes are divided into four sets (or divisions) called **Great, Swell, Choir** and **Pedal**. The pipes of each set are controlled by a specific portion of the console or the pedals. The volume is controlled by either

- i) increasing or reducing the number of organ pipes in play through the use of controls known as “stops” or
- ii) by enclosing some, or all, of the pipes in a box with louvers similar to Venetian blinds which can then be adjusted to regulate the air volume through the pipes. Our organ has about one quarter of its pipes enclosed in a box, which is known as the swell box.

The **Great** organ is the most important of the four separate divisions. It has authority and leads the hymns and is quite capable of operating as a complete organ on its own.

The **Swell** organ – as you might expect – has the swell box feature described. But this is only because it was the first portion of the organ to be given this. The swell organ is a very exciting and colourful division, capable of a great deal of drama and a wide range of sounds.

The **Choir** organ is intended to operate as a kind of counter-balance to the main organ. In a location with more space, it would be placed behind the organist. The choir organ has its own swell box.

The **Pedal** organ is the portion of the organ with the deepest tones. These provide the musical “foundation” and a very exciting sound. As you might expect, it is the only one of the four divisions controlled by the feet. It includes the longest pipes which are approximately 32 feet in length.