



THE Transcript

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

Fall 2021

Reconnecting

On August 1st, the Church of the Transfiguration opened for the first time in a long time. We were hoping to worship outside on the Hill, but it rained. In hindsight, that was a blessing from God! Unfortunately, the early 9 am zoom service started about 15 minutes late due to a printing catastrophe, and I had to tell Yang to shoot the video from the waist up because I couldn't find my dress shoes and had to do the service barefoot. The 10.30 service also started late, and if we had worshipped outdoors and had to set up the chairs, the altar, and pull out our new tech equipment, I am pretty sure we would have started at noon!

But as we began the service, I was deeply thankful that we did one of the most normal things a community of believers can possibly do: we went to church. On Sunday evening, David, Steve, and I toasted a successful re-opening.

In the two months that have past, I am not sure if we have gotten much better at starting at 10.30, but I am grateful for all the hands that have helped to gather our community in prayer and in praise, both in-person and online.

For those who come early to carry "church" outside and greet people at the covid-19 screening table. For those who disinfect, clean, and put it all away again so that we are ready for next week. For new ministries that are taking place like our tech team and photography club and for the old ministries that have started up again like servers and the chancel guild. For the intercessors who bring voice to the prayers of this community, for the readers who lead us in discerning God's voice in the Scripture. For Ann and Deb and their gifts of music. For Yang, who makes the sound and video magic happen, beaming Transfig to living rooms around the city and beyond. For Curtis, who cut the grass and kept the grounds. For Amanda, who prepares the beautiful weekly email that invites everyone to "Join us on the Hill this Sunday." Seven short and simple but glorious words that we should never take for granted again.

Above the door to the nave, if you peer up, you see "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise." Words of a psalmist from long ago that reverberate with new purpose today. Words that beckon us in with joy. Words that remind us how good it is to praise and give thanks to God.

I wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving.

In communion,

Michael



Church of the
Transfiguration

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Campfire Compline

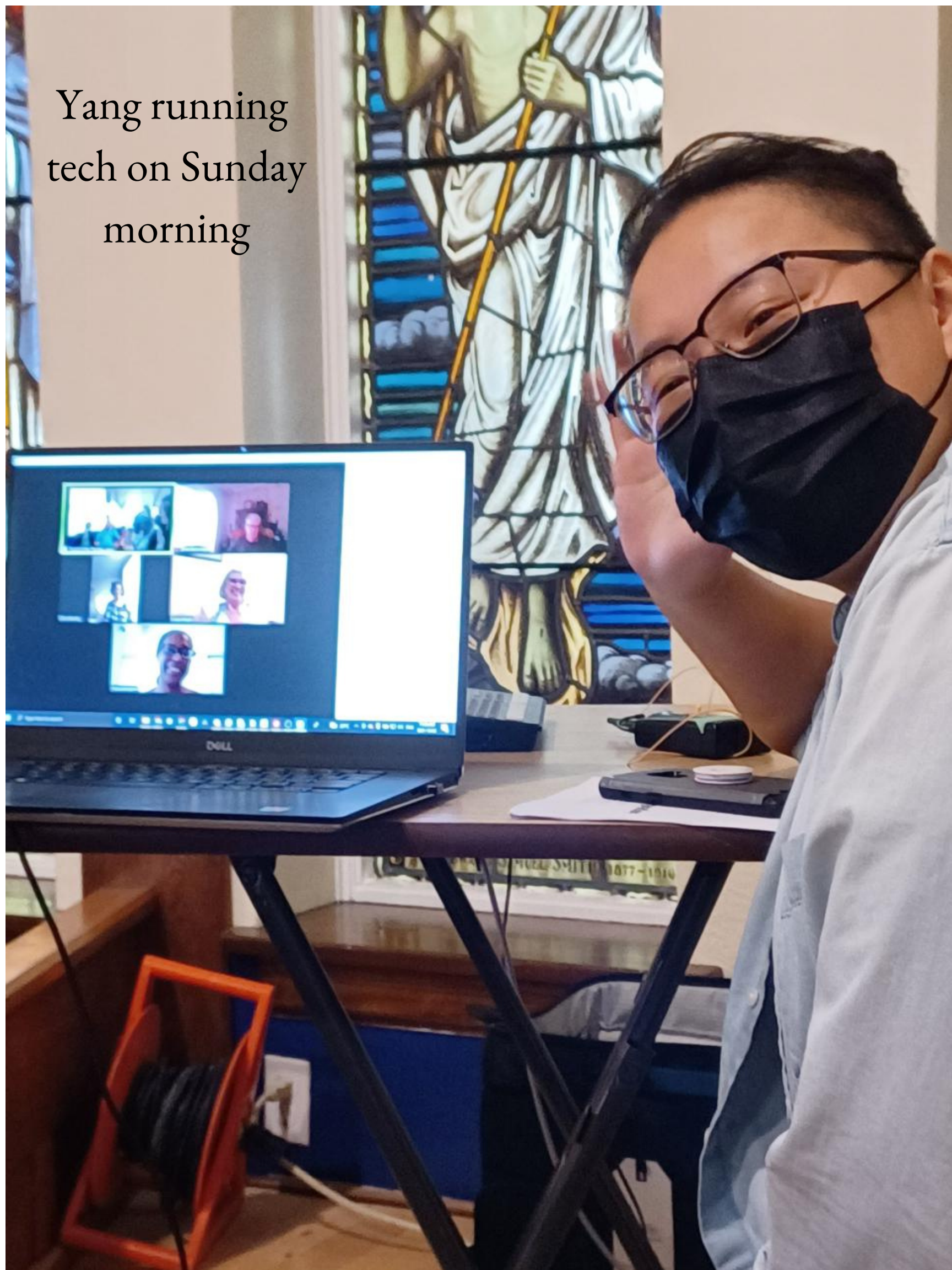


Presiding Outdoors

Photo club member
Audrey taking a selfie
with mom Patti,
Michael, and Yvonne.



Yang running
tech on Sunday
morning



Music Nights On the Hill

One of my main jobs here at the church is to facilitate On the Hill, our summer series of concerts. Heading into the summer of 2021, we didn't know what we'd be able to do, until the last minute. We were so excited when restrictions were lifted in time for us to be able to do 3 of our 4 scheduled concerts in person, but we had a lot of adapting to do very quickly. I'm not a detail-oriented person at the best of times; I'm a people person. An "anything-goes" and a "the-more-the-merrier" kind of person. So it was daunting to have to regulate the number of people we admitted, take down contact tracing information, conduct flow and expectations... I was nervous. I had to remind myself that this was new territory, and to treat it like an experiment. If it went horribly—if people weren't willing to comply to regulations, if we couldn't manage to make people feel safe enough—we didn't have to do it again. But it didn't go horribly. It was the opposite, in fact. This season of On the Hill concerts was the most rewarding one yet. We were packed to capacity each time, and everyone complied supportively to all the nit-picky rules we had to enforce. I got to meet more and more of our neighbours. I would say that at each show, more than 50% of attendees were not from our parish. And everyone expressed such a deep appreciation for the opportunity to enjoy brilliant live music, in person, on a beautiful summer evening, in a place where they felt safe. It was eye-opening how much it meant to be able to do something that felt "normal". I can't say I'm thankful for this pandemic, but it is teaching me a lot. I am learning to be grateful for smaller and simpler things, like the co-operation and support of the community. Like musicians being able to play together. Like gathering an audience around them safely. Like banter with a stranger, who ends up feeling like a friend. Like being able to recognize a new friend in public, despite both of you wearing masks. And I am finding that gratitude is granting me a deeper satisfaction than before. And among the many things I'm giving thanks for this season, I am grateful to be able to look around after a time of scarcity and be able to identify so much bounty and goodness where, once upon a time, I may not have noticed.

Deb Whalen-Blaize, *Parish Missioner*





"At 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 5th, 1921, the first service of our parish was held. The Reverend Charles Hedley was the celebrant at a service of Holy Communion. ... Thus in the humble setting of an old army tent pitched on top of the hill, a small band of worshippers began the corporate life of our parish church. This beginning was the result of a decade of planning and work. In December 1911, the Toronto Synod through the Toronto Rectory Endowment Committee, sold Glebe land in the Davisville area east of Yonge Street to Mr. A. G. C. Dinnick with the stipulation that two acres be reserved for two church sites. ... This passage describes the services on the first day: 'To the veterans present many features were reminiscent of France – the army tent and backless army benches, the simple service of familiar hymns. The flag flying over the hilltop was a Union Jack which served for the covering for a stone altar in Zivy Cave, 50 feet underground in the Vimy trenches within a quarter mile of the enemy in 1916-1917. The St. George flag on the altar served a similar purpose in Ypres cellars in the autumn of 1917. The altar cross was made by the pioneers of the 58th Battalion in France in 1916 – afterwards covered with brass, and the Altar vases were "Archie" shell cases.'"

Excerpt from "The Transfiguration Story (1918-1980)" by Alan Peters

**Celebrating God's
faithfulness to
our church for
100 years**





Life Milestones in our Parish

MAKENA GENEVIEVE ROSE SWIDERSKY

Born August 10th, 2021

9lb0oz

to parents Tanja Futter & Isaiah Swidersky
and proud big brothers Jakob, Lukas, and Markus



BALDWIN “WALLY” BENSLEY

April 9th, 1918 – August 22nd, 2021

A much-loved husband to Olive, father to the late Glen and to Donald, grandfather, uncle and friend of many. Wally was born and educated in Coimbatore, India. He excelled in academics and sports. He married his first wife, Sylvia, in India. A few years after Glen was born, they immigrated to England where Donald was born. They later settled in Canada. After Sylvia died, Wally remarried. Wally and Olive were married at the Church of the Transfiguration in 1997. His sense of humour, love of music, reading, generosity and caring nature will be remembered by many who knew him. He was also deeply religious and had very close ties with the Church of the Transfiguration and its community. He will be greatly missed.

Kamalini and Donald
paint the rooftop door



Patrick in his boiler
room workshop



After my first Sunday, a parishioner asked me, “Michael, why didn’t you put the reredos lights on?” For those who don’t know, the reredos is the wood carving on the back wall behind the high altar. At Transfig, we have a stunning carving of da Vinci’s Last Supper to draw our hearts and minds to that intimate moment when Jesus presided at a Passover meal with his disciples in Jerusalem. My answer was, “I didn’t know the lights were not on,” but when we flipped the switch, there was no light. I let Patrick Dugan know that the bulb was burnt out. If only it was so simple! Home repair is a little bit like a real-life jigsaw puzzle: where does this wiring go? why did this get placed here? how does this all fit together? One very long and frustrating week later, new LED lights shine on the reredos, the presence of light permanently illuminating the figure of Jesus, with the full floods on a little switch at the left side of the carving. Thanks, Pat, and don’t let me forget the lights!

Our church is a place of constant care, and in the past two months, volunteers have

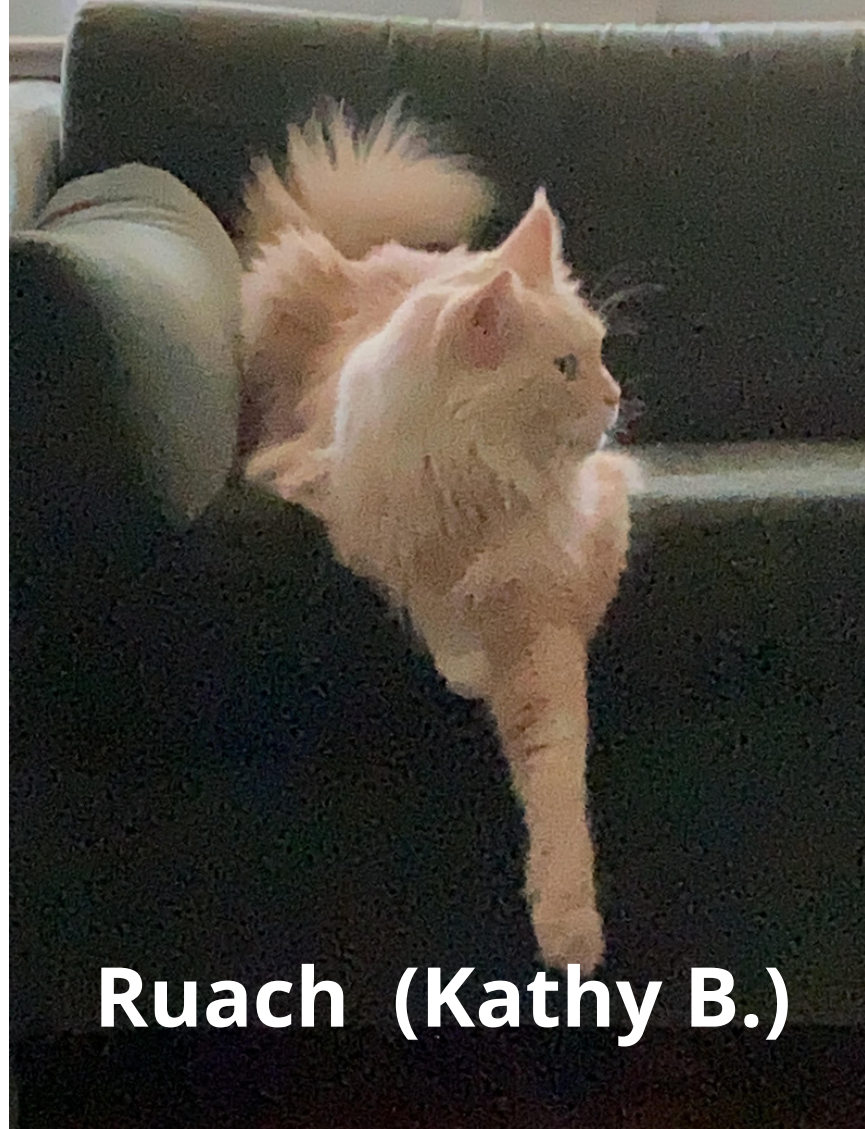
- painted the railing by the front steps
- repaired an eaves spout
- enclosed the soundboard
- transformed the Vestry into secure storage for our tech equipment
- repaired drywall damage in the gym
- painted the outside doors
- and more!

In our midst, there are skillful hands at work and generous hearts that give of themselves in invaluable ways. Thank you.

Michael



Finn (Kileen)



Ruach (Kathy B.)



Willow
(Emmy & Sen)



Esperanza
(Sally Ann)



Love all God's creation, the whole and every grain of sand in it. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light.
Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day. And you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love. Love the animals: God has given them the rudiments of thought and joy untroubled. Do not trouble it, don't harass them, don't deprive them of their happiness, don't work against God's intent.

From Fyodor Dostoevsky's
The Brothers Karamazov



Ripley (Cat H.)



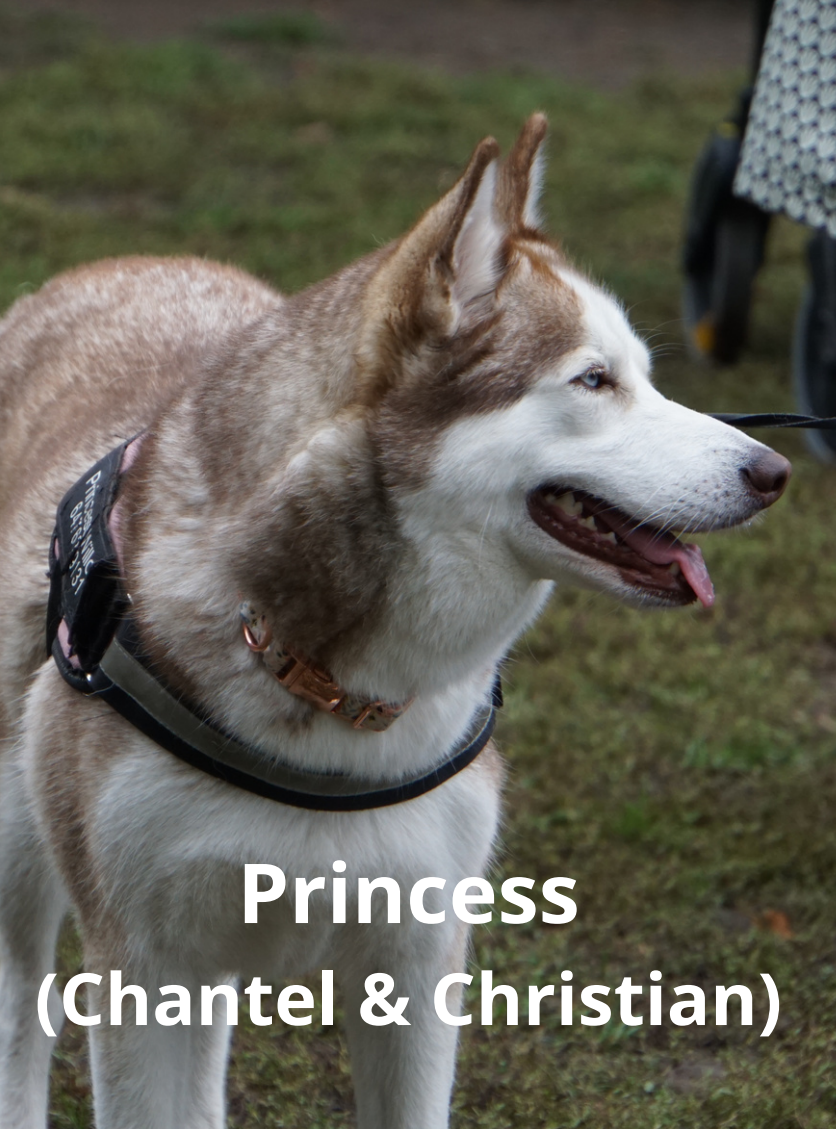
Whisper
(Emmy & Sen)



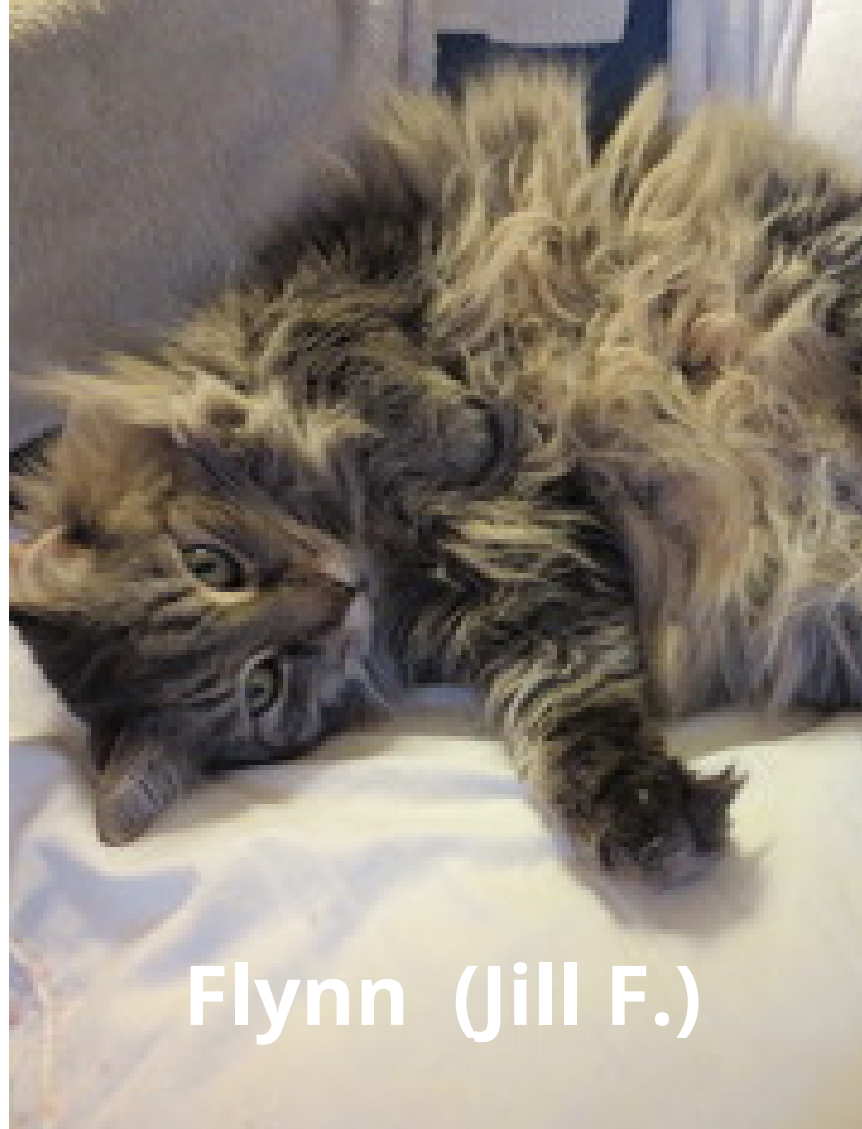
Pippen (Janice)



Sophie (Janice)



Princess
(Chantel & Christian)



Flynn (Jill F.)



Max (Janice)



Boom
(Emmy & Sen)
In Memoriam



Dallas & Dakota
(Hanson Family)



Pavot
(Emmy & Sen)



Charlie (Kathy B.)

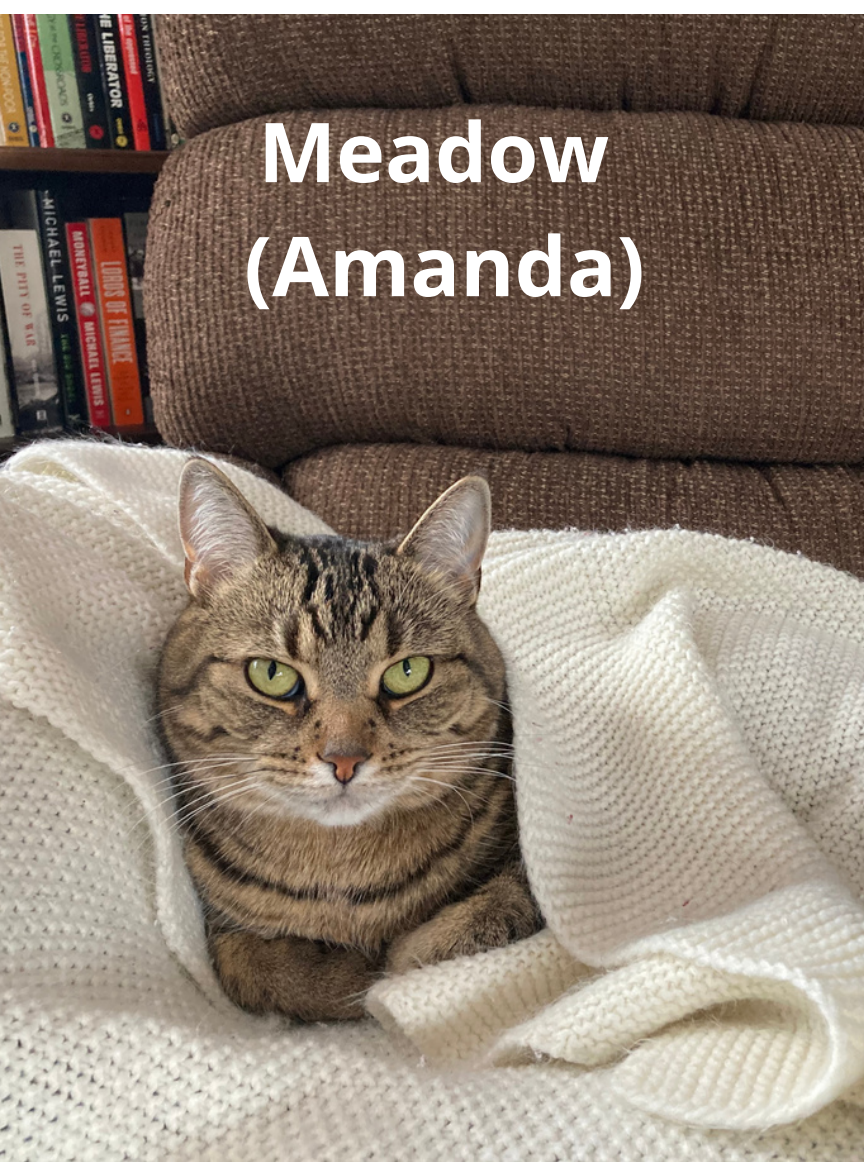


Hazel (Janice)





Sawyer (Kileen)
In Memoriam



Meadow
(Amanda)



Church Gardens

The early arrival of warm weather with a longer spring was a major factor in the gardens being so spectacular this year. The new plants were able to establish their roots before the scorching hot summer temperatures. The flowers and shrubs blossomed and were lush with the warm temperatures and the rain throughout the summer and into the fall this year.

Because of COVID-19 we were unable to organize our annual spring cleanup. Instead the “Green Thumb Gardening Buddies” a.k.a. Donald and Kamalini were happy to start gardening early after a long winter and the lockdown. Many hours were spent weeding, pruning, planting, transplanting and watering. Our grateful thanks to Lynda Gibson and Katharine Klose for their help when they could and for Patrick Dugan watering all the beds around the property during the hot dry spells. Father Michael even helped water the beds down the driveway!

Our focus this year was to plant perennials that were colourful but hardy as we lost a number of plants because of the harsh winter. We were blessed with many generous donations by Katharine Klose, Lynda Gibson, Susan Lloyd, Donald Bensley and Kamalini Dugan.

It was amazing to see how many people use our green space particularly during the lockdown. Many of them remarked how fortunate they were to have access to our green space and were impressed on how beautifully the gardens and ground were maintained.

Gardening, this year in particular, has been a real blessing as we have been able to work and enjoy the outdoors safely. It has been a joy meeting old and new friends, two and four legged alike!

Donald Bensley & Kamalini Dugan



Upcoming

We're so excited to gather in person again on Sundays, to offer Faith Formation Thursdays, and to plan for special events like Harvest on the Hill. God calls us to be community, to each other and to our neighbours, so we encourage you to mark your calendars for the following events and join us as we reconnect to one another and to the God who loves us.

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP**



**FAITH
FORMATION
THURSDAYS**

October

10 - Harvest Thanksgiving (10:30am)

14 - Reconciliation Walk (7pm)

21 - Compline (7pm)

24 - Kids' Pumpkin Fest (11:30am)

30 - Harvest on the Hill (2-4pm)

28 - Taize (7pm)

November

7 - Remembrance Sunday & All Souls (10:30am)

7 - Bible Book Club (11:30am)

11 - Taize (7pm)

18 - Compline (7pm)

21 - Kids' Advent Wreath Making (11:30am)

25 - Compline (7pm)

Complete details are in the weekly email. Not yet on the mailing list?

Email Amanda at office@churchofthetransfiguration.ca