



*'Si scires donum Dei'*



"IF YOU KNEW THE GIFT OF GOD" or "Si tu savais le don de Dieu" is the motto of the new Roman Catholic archbishop of Montreal, Most Rev. Christian Lépine, 60, who was installed at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral April 27. The Anglican bishop of Montreal, Right Rev. Barry Clarke, was among ecumenical guests. In the photo, his predecessor as archbishop, Jean-Claude Cardinal Turcotte, presents the new archbishop with his new crozier. Between them is Most Rev. Pedro López Quintana, papal nuncio to Canada.

(Photo courtesy of the Roman Catholic archdiocese)

*Scholar among scholars*



NO STRANGER TO ACADEME, Donald Boisvert added a diploma in ministry with distinction to an already impressive list of academic achievements at the May 7 convocation of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College. Dr. Boisvert, widely published on subjects including the relation between sexuality and spirituality, plans to continue his teaching career in the faculty of religious studies at Concordia University. Bishop Barry Clarke, with him in photo, announced that he would be ordained as a deacon on June 3 and appointed an unpaid assistant curate at Christ Church Cathedral. For more on the convocation see Page 6.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

*Man from Ireland has a few questions*

**What if we took Christ's life everywhere?**

That's the question the Diocese of Montreal youth ministry consultant, Rev. Mark Dunwoody, will be asking at the annual Bishop's Dinner of the Diocese June 13 – and from then on.

Just arrived from Ireland, where he was youth officer for the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross in the Republic of Ireland for six years as the latest stage in a diverse international career, he will be the featured speaker at the annual dinner. For more information, see the announcement on Page 3.

At the request of *The Montreal Anglican*, he sent along a few thoughts by email in advance – in time for our deadlines. He writes:

"As I write this short note in the middle of May my thoughts are turning to my move to Montreal in less than two weeks. I am delighted at the opportunity to have the privilege of speaking at the Annual Bishop's Dinner on Wednesday, June 13. This is an exciting time for the Diocese as we move forward with our ministry to young people. My style on the evening (and in my daily work) will be very much of asking questions rather than providing answers. Such as: Could you imagine what God could do through our people if they were fully released? Rather than saying – you know, the church is really the great place to be, we're doing great things here, wouldn't you like to come and visit us? If instead we took the life of Christ everywhere our people went, what might happen? What could God do if people who occupy leadership positions empowered others as their first calling rather than simply exercising their gift? What if we meet people where they are instead of asking them to come to where we are?"

As we all move forward in addressing these questions, a key part of helping others fulfill God's purpose in their lives will be providing the systems and structures that will provide support to our youth workers, young people, parents and clergy. Hence my over-all vision for my new role among you all is that Montreal Diocese will lead the way in supporting, encouraging, equipping, caring – and, most importantly, listening to those who feel the call of God's purpose in their lives.

"I look forward to meeting you all soon!"

"Mark"

**Bishop invites Anglicans to experience First Nations spirituality**

About 68,000 First Nations people on the Island of Montreal alone are Christians and not affiliated with any parish, Bishop Barry Clarke says.

Yet their own traditions include a profound reverence for the oral transmission of age-old stories, and a deeply reverential hospitality that extends beyond the human family to all Creation. Moreover, in recent years, as they sought healing from suffering they did not bring on themselves, they have experienced a revival of spirituality, he adds.

On Thursday, June 21, 2012, National Aboriginal Day, the Diocese of Montreal will host a day of awareness that the bishop describes as a wonderful occasion for learning and sharing.

See his message on Page 2.

*'Going on 103'*



KATHLEEN DUNKLEY, "102 going on 103" receives a big bouquet and enthusiastic applause at a banquet May 5 marking the 80th anniversary of St. Paul's Côte des Neiges, which originally catered to Anglicans from Ireland but has been a pillar of the Caribbean community for decades. She's with her daughter, Nerine Wilson.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

*'La meilleure maman du monde'*



NUMEROUS CHILDREN AND OTHER RELATIVES of Fillance St-Fort Gibaud, who came to Montreal from Haiti in 1995, gathered at St. Barnabas Church in Pierrefonds May 5 to celebrate her 85th birthday. Bishop Barry Clarke celebrated at a special Eucharist, Rev. Jean-Claude Wagnac of La Nativité Parish in Montreal North preached and Rev. Roslyn Macgregor also participated and the spacious church was filled with family and friends. A special dinner followed. An abridged version of a tribute to her in French by Pierre Clotaire Gabaud, one of her sons, appears on Page 10.

(Photo contributed)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On the Island of Montreal alone there are 68,000 First Nations people who are Christians and not affiliated with any parish. Their own traditions include a profound reverence for the oral transmission of age-old stories, and a deeply reverential hospitality that extends beyond the human family to all Creation.

In recent years, as our Aboriginal brothers and sisters have sought healing from suffering they did not bring on themselves, they have experienced a revival of spirituality, a heart for reconciliation, and a will for renewal in faith that all Christians can recognize as cause for celebration.

**On Thursday, June 21, 2012, National Aboriginal Day, the Diocese of Montreal will host a day of awareness - "Caring for Aboriginal People: A Question of Respect." This is a wonderful occasion for learning and sharing. It has been planned to be stimulating, surprising, and enjoyable.**

I invite you to participate in this unprecedented occasion, together with the member(s) of the staff in your parish(s) who interact directly with the public.

Please post notices on bulletin boards and in parish announcements informing your whole community about this event well in advance. In small parishes it might be necessary to close the office so all can attend. This will be an excellent decision.

I encourage you and your leaders, particularly those involved in hospitality, in welcoming visitors (as stewards, greeters, sidespersons), in healing, in social justice and social outreach, as well as your wardens and vestry officers and individuals who have ties with the people of the First Nations - to attend this special day.

A number of speakers are making plans to come; so are representatives of the Abenaki, Aikamekw, Algonquin, Cree, Huron, Innu, Mig'Maq, Mohawk, and Naskapi nations, and of the Inuit people.



## Bishop's Message

Broken Walls, an internationally renowned fusion Rock/Christian/Aboriginal musical group, is sending three of their members to provide music and animation. They will also offer a concert. All in all, a very lively day is planned, with workshops and exercises as well as informative talks.

Please note that, to bring home the present lack of drinking water and other necessities on reserves in Canada, the animators of this workshop and guest speakers will observe a fast and invite you to join. People who cannot join the fast for health reasons or do not wish to participate may bring their own refreshments or go out for lunch. Water will be provided during the day for everyone.

The objective is for us to learn. How many of us pray daily for suffering in far places of the world, and turn our faces away from those who seek healing on our doorstep? I hope to see you and your people on June 21 in the Cathedral. The cost to attend is \$22 per person. Please reserve your places now: [www.montreal.anglican.ca/en/Serve/Caring](http://www.montreal.anglican.ca/en/Serve/Caring).

I am personally gratified that this year, on National Aboriginal Day, we as a diocese can show real leadership in moving beyond our past - beyond the shameful era of the residential schools, when "education" about the Christian God and faith was a terrifying experience for the children of the people who welcomed our ancestors to this land.

On June 21, we have a first-in-400 years opportunity to meet not only as children of one Creator, but as fellow bearers of the Good News to our wider community.

Let the world watch us and say, "See how they love one another!"  
Yours faithfully, in Christ,

*+ Barry*

## Caring for Aboriginal People Workshop for lay & clergy



Want to have a better understanding of your Aboriginal neighbours? Please join us!

With special guests Broken Walls who will perform music to delight your ear and lift your spirit to God

On National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 2012 at Cathedral Place, 1444 Union Ave, Montreal For more information go to [www.montreal.anglican.ca](http://www.montreal.anglican.ca)

## Bishop Barry's Calendar

JUNE (subject to change without prior notice)

- 3 10 am Eucharist at Trinity Memorial Church, Sherbrooke St. W.  
4 pm Bishop Barry to ordain Robert Camara at Christ Church Cathedral
- 4 QMPI meeting
- 5-6 Consultation on Francophone Ministry meeting in Quebec City
- 7 12:15 pm Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral followed by PWRDF meeting
- 9 Meeting with Corporation of La Nativité
- 10 Eucharist at 11 am at St. Stephen's Lachine
- 14 Meet and Greet for McGill Ecumenical Chaplaincy at Royal Victoria College
- 15-16 Tyndale St-Georges 85th Anniversary celebration.
- 17 10:30am Service at Christ Church, St. Andrew's East - St. André d'Argenteuil
- 19 Aboriginal Diocesan Event Christ Church Cathedral
- 24 Confirmation service at St. James

Enjoy 18 holes of golf with cart, brunch, dinner, gifts from our sponsors and a \$150 tax receipt - all for \$200. Or just join us for a lovely dinner for \$75 with a \$35 tax receipt!

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To support the Missions of the Diocese  
09 July 2012  
Whitlock Golf & Country Club, Hudson

To register or for sponsorship opportunities, call Nicki Hronjak: 514-843-6577

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A DAY OF SHARING  
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Saturday, Sept. 8 2012  
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2 to 4 tickets - \$12 each  
5 tickets and 31:00 per person OR bring a group of 4 or more for \$40.00  
For more information & registration contact: Nicki Hronjak - [nhrnjak@montreal.anglican.ca](mailto:nhrnjak@montreal.anglican.ca)

## Montreal Diocesan Lay Pastoral Visitors Retreat

June 9, 2012  
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

St James Anglican Church,  
642 Main St. Hudson Que.

Speaker - The Reverend Archdeacon Michael Johnson

Theme - "The Church Today - Plus ça change"

Fee - \$30.00 (no refund) Meal included. Please pay by May 15

To register call Bev Jarvis at 514-626-7689 (home) or cell 514-898-0853

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# Shared Episcopal Ministry: a cautious first step

Harvey Shepherd

A casual visitor to either of two church services in the Montreal area April 22 might have had no inkling that they were part of a historic effort to heal wounds resulting from doctrinal differences, especially ones related to homosexuality.

Bishop Leonard Whitten, retired bishop of Western Newfoundland, administered the rite of confirmation to five young people in the Church of St. John the Baptist in Pointe Claire. At a lively prayer and praise service that evening at St. Paul's Church in Knowlton in the Eastern Townships, Bishop Barry Clarke of Montreal presented him with a licence to officiate as an assisting bishop in the Montreal Diocese.

Bishop Whitten also held a retreat with six clergy of the diocese in Sutton in the Eastern Townships Tuesday and Wednesday.

It was the first pastoral visit by Bishop Whitten to the Montreal Diocese under an agreement worked out last fall by the two bishops, six clergy of the diocese and several of the parishes they serve. The clergy and parishes object to recent actions of Bishop Clarke and the diocese to accept same-sex marriages. These included the approval of a protocol for the blessing of civil unions, including same-sex ones, and the ordination or induction into parishes of several clergy with same-sex partners.

Former members left several parishes in the Diocese of Montreal, especially two of them, in 2009 to form two parishes of the traditionalist Anglican Network in Canada.

The "shared episcopal ministry" between Bishops Whitten and Clarke is the first effort in Canada, aside from one or two brief experiments on the West Coast some years ago, to put into practice a suggestion endorsed by the Canadian House of Bishops in 2004. It had been proposed the same year in a document called the Windsor Report from an international Anglican body called the Lambeth Commission on Communion.

Bishop Whitten, who is in his mid-70s and lives with his wife in Pasadena NL, has visited Montreal a number of times, particularly because of his activity in an Anglican

organization called Sharing of Ministries Abroad, or SOMA, which organizes short-term missions abroad and in the Canadian Arctic and often has meetings in Montreal. He voted against same-sex blessings at the international Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops in 2008 and has been quoted as saying he still believes marriage, scripturally, is between a man and woman.

However, there was no discussion of same-sex unions or other specific doctrinal controversies during at least the public portions of his visit to Montreal. The mood was upbeat at both the confirmation service, attended by close to 70 people, and the evening one, attended by more than 40.

Bishop Whitten devoted his morning sermon, directed largely to the young confirmands, to joy and delight in serving Christ and to the importance of prayer.

He said it was perhaps the second confirmation at which he had presided since retiring as a diocesan bishop nine years ago.

"I am pleased that Bishop Barry has asked me to do this and I will be pleased to help out in any capacity in which he wants to have me."

He said he was particularly impressed to hear the five candidates

jointly recite the Lord's Prayer, Apostle's Creed, Ten Commandments and Summary of the Law, something he did not recall from even his own time as a diocesan bishop. (Anglican candidates for confirmation are generally expected to be familiar with the first three of these texts, but not necessarily to memorize them.)

Bishop Whitten's evening sermon was about ministry. By accident or design, he made a point that has been a favourite of Bishop Barry's on other occasions: the importance for Anglicans and parishes of not being content with maintenance but moving into mission.

In a brief conversation after the gathering, both bishops said they were pleased with the day's events. Bishop Whitten said he hopes to be back, but has no specific information about when.

Rev. Tim Wiebe of St. Paul's, one of the six clergy involved in the shared episcopal ministry, as well as pastor of the host church (and drummer in the upbeat quartet that accompanied the hymns) was also pleased.

"It's pretty early days (in the life of the ministry) but we wanted to celebrate this part. Bishop Barry has been very gracious."



BISHOP BARRY CLARKE of Montreal presents Bishop Leonard Whitten, former bishop of Western Newfoundland, with a certificate recognizing him as an assisting bishop of the Montreal Diocese at a ceremony at St. Paul's Knowlton.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

# Focused approach may be paying off for PWRDF



MONTREAL UNIT PWRDF president Angela Andrews, centre, discusses a point with Adele Finney, executive director of the fund. Valerie Bennett of the local unit listens.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

Harvey Shepherd

The relief and development arm of Canada's Anglican Church has become more focused in selecting projects in the last few years and this probably helped it avoid the kind of cutbacks in federal funding that some other church-based agencies have experienced, its national executive director says.

But the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund remains committed to solidarity with the oppressed and the vision of a healthy, just and peaceful world, Adele Finney said at the annual meeting of the PWRDF Montreal unit. Mutuality is an essential part of the vision.

"Our work is not just about changing the lives of others, it is about changing our own," she said. "Getting involved is an opportunity for transformation."

She said there's no doubt that the policies of the Canadian International Development Agency have changed in subsidizing the efforts of non-governmental organizations and the PWRDF has sought to "step up to the plate" and take a more strategic approach, in part by seeking to concentrate on fewer areas, including preventive health care.

But that does not mean uncritical

acceptance of everything CIDA might do or recommend by way, for instance, of co-operation between NGOs and Canadian mining companies, she said.

She said the contacts between a PWRDF delegation, in which she participated, and an organization of Tamil refugees in India seeking repatriation to Sri Lanka, strengthened her conviction of the need to work with local partners, who have lived in the kind of unstable "edge habitat" that is becoming more common in the world.

"Our partners have lived in that kind of space. There's a lot we can learn from them."



ADELE FINNEY

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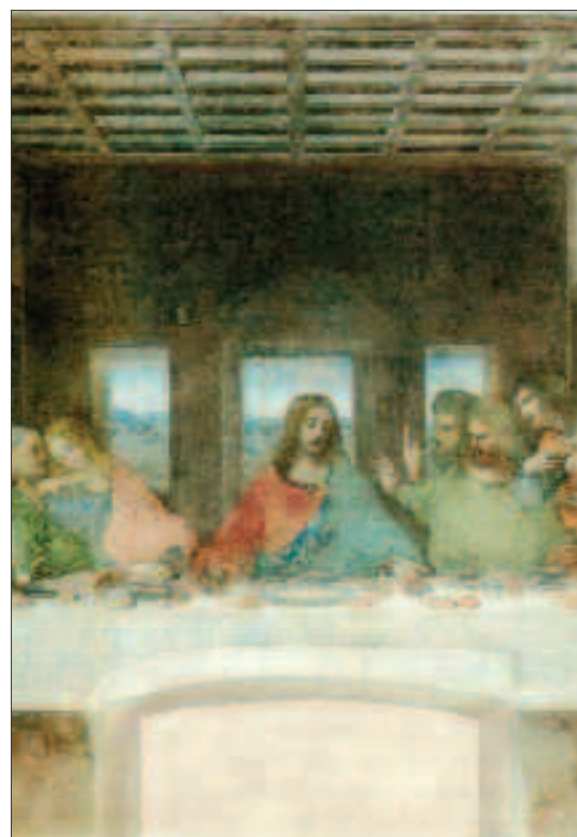
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# Community ministry nothing new to new archdeacon

Harvey Shepherd

It came as a complete surprise to Rev. Canon Linda Borden Taylor when Bishop Barry Clarke asked her to become an archdeacon with special responsibilities for missions and chaplaincies, as well as for vocational deacons in community ministries.

When she became a "non-territorial" archdeacon at the beginning of June, she assumed responsibilities of spiritual and other oversight similar to those that the four territorial archdeacons in the diocese exercise over parishes and their clergy in their respective geographical areas.

Her responsibilities, however, extend throughout the diocese, overseeing missions and chaplains serving the homeless, refugees, seafarers and many others. She will also have responsibilities for "vocational deacons" - ordained deacons who do not intend to go on to the priesthood and who serve especially in the broader community.

As an archdeacon, she will also join Bishop Barry Clarke, Executive Archdeacon Janet Griffith Johnson, the four territorial archdeacons and Dean Paul Kennington of Christ Church Cathedral and congregational development consultant Janet Marshall on the Episcopal Council, which meets in private about monthly to review the life and mission of the diocese.

Her post is a new one in its present form, although the former dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Very Rev. Michael Pitts, carried some of these responsibilities along with his post at the Cathedral. And, while the appointment came

as a complete surprise to her, there is a certain continuity with what she was doing up until now, especially but not only for the past nine years as rector of the Church of St. James the Apostle in downtown Montreal. She retains that post along with her new responsibilities.

One of the hallmarks of her career has been the parish policy of "sharing our space." Under her leadership and that of other parishioners, Shatford Hall, a substantial building adjoining the church, relatively little used when she arrived, has become the home of several organizations serving the community and particularly the disadvantaged and marginal. Among others, these include Action Réfugiés Montreal, which seeks justice for refugees, Montreal Southwest Community Ministries, which helps ex-inmates reintegrate into the community, Women Aware, which assists and empowers women who have experienced conjugal violence and Zenith Cleaners, a cleaning firm that sees cleaning as a mission.

There has just been a big addition to that list. The St. James Drop-In Centre, which has been serving homeless people, many of them struggling with mental illness or addictions, in the downtown core since 1985, moved into the lower, basement, hall of Shatford Hall at the end of May.

This move was not without pain for the parish. In order to accommodate the drop-in centre, the parish wound up the distinguished career, spanning three decades, of what had been the main occupant of the basement although occupying only part of it. "The Shoppe," as it was known, collected and sold lightly used books, adult clothing and household items at low prices.

As it turned out, St. James Drop-



LINDA BORDEN TAYLOR

in Centre moved from one St. James Church on St. Catherine Street to another.

The move was precipitated by a fire March 12 that destroyed the previous quarters of the drop-in centre on the third floor of the rear building of St. James United Church, several blocks farther east St. However, the board of the drop-in centre had been reviewing its future even before that.

It is important to Canon Borden Taylor that the outreach of parish through "sharing our space" not be separate from its life as a worshipping community.

"We wanted it to be about relationships and developing relationships," she said.

For example, several parishioners are members of "circles of support" that, through Montreal Southwest Community Ministries, meet regularly with individual ex-inmates, often former sex offenders.

It is not just the outreach that benefits from such involvement, she said.

"If you inject community ministry into a worshipping community it does something to the worshipping community."

Canon Borden Taylor's involvement with community ministries goes back before her time at St. James the Apostle. Married (to Martin Taylor, now a financial planner and advisor with Investors Group) and the mother of two growing sons, she earned a certificate in social counselling from Collège Marie Victorin in 1987 and worked briefly with families in difficulty and young offenders.

She went on to studies at Concordia and McGill Universities and the Montreal Diocesan Theological College and was ordained as a deacon in 1996 and priest in 1997.

But the then bishop, Right Rev. Andrew Hutchison (later archbishop and still later primate of Canada) said he didn't have a parish for her and asked her to work at the synod office as diocesan program officer and co-ordinator of youth ministry. Her post as program officer included a lot of contact with social outreach and social concerns.

She finally became a parish priest, at St. Stephen's Lachine, in 2000, although she retained her diocesan responsibility for about a year. She moved from St. Stephen's to St. James the Apostle in 2004.

(She will be formally "collated" as archdeacon at the opening Eucharist of the diocesan synod Oct. 18. Rev. Canon Ralph Leavitt, now priest at Holy Trinity in Ste. Agathe, will be collated at the same time as territorial archdeacon of St. Andrews, responsible for parishes north of Montreal Island.)

## Commitment to Little Burgundy celebrates 85 years

Late in the year 1926, industrialist Charles Johnson, acted on his concern with the material, social, moral and spiritual welfare of his employees, many of whom were living in the area now known as Little Burgundy. He approached the Montreal Presbyterian community with his plan for a "settlement house" to keep the children off the street.

He came away with a grant of \$100 to cover the first year's operation. Tyndale House came into being in early 1927. In the 1970's the Anglican Diocese of Montreal joined the Presbyterian Church in Canada in support of Tyndale, which then became known as Tyndale St-Georges.

Still vigorous - and still needing support - Tyndale St-Georges is celebrating its 85th anniversary with a homecoming weekend June 15-17, with jazz pianist and Little Burgundy icon Oliver Jones as honorary chairperson. It hopes many people involved with Tyndale St-Georges in past years will join the festivities.

Homecoming events will include a cocktail reception with a photo exhibit between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. on the Friday, June 15, a community barbecue with bus tours of Little Burgundy from 5 p.m. on the Saturday and a non-denominational worship service at 2 p.m. on the Sunday.

All activities are at (or leave from) the centre, still in the heart of Little Burgundy at 870 Richmond Square, not far from the Georges Vanier Métro station. Participants will be

able to get a glimpse of services the community centre offers today to a Little Burgundy population of over 10,000, 37 per cent of them recent immigrants, with two-thirds of the children and youth living below the poverty line and four households in 10 headed by a single parent. Little Burgundy is said to have the highest concentration of low-income housing in Quebec.

The community centre today offers programs in early childhood development, services to children, youth and families and adult programs to help people enter the workforce. Some adults are offered help in starting their own businesses through a co-operative effort with the John Molson School of Business at Concordia University.

Upcoming fund-raising opportunities also include a golf tournament Thursday, July 12 at the Club de Golf les Quatre Domaines in Mirabel.

(This could make it quite a week for golf enthusiasts, since the Anglican Diocese of Montreal will be having its own Third Annual Mission Works Golf Tournament three days earlier on Monday, July 9, at the Whitlock Golf and Country Club in Hudson. The summer is only so long and it can be a challenge to find suitable dates.)

More information on the homecoming weekend is available by phone at 514-931-6265 or on the Web at [www.tyndalestgeorges.com](http://www.tyndalestgeorges.com).



TYNDALE KIDS from bygone days

## News in brief

### Bishop Barry new co-chair of Anglican-RC dialogue

Bishop Barry Clarke of Montreal is the new Anglican co-chair of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Bishop's Dialogue in Canada, a gathering of five bishops from each of the two communions that has been meeting for 41 years - in Montreal last year. He succeeds Bishop Michael Ingham of the Diocese of New Westminster, in and around Vancouver. The Roman Catholic co-chair is Bishop Gary Gordon of Whitehorse. The dialogue has been working for 41 years to deepen our bonds with the Roman Catholic Church and thus is one of the longest running in the world. The bishops' dialogue is one of two Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogues in Canada. Bishop Dennis Drainville of Quebec is the Anglican co-chair of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue of Canada, which includes a range of clergy and lay participants.

### Montreal, Granby pastors are candidates for moderator

Rev. Arlen John Bonnar, pastor of St. James United Church in downtown Montreal, and Rev. David Fines of Granby were among 15 nominees at last count for the position of Moderator of the United Church of Canada. The next moderator of the denomination will be chosen the national church's General Council in Ottawa in August. The two were nominated by their respective presbyteries (roughly equivalent to dioceses): the Montreal Presbytery and the Quebec-Sherbrooke Presbytery.

### Health care changes for refugees draw protests

Changes in health care arrangements for people in Canada seeking admission as refugees have been sharply criticized by the Canadian Council for Refugees. The changes, announced April 25 by unjustly discriminate against people in need and, worse, leave some people to suffer debilitating illnesses or to die without treatment, in the view of the council. "These changes are mean-spirited, denying essential care to individuals and families because of their country of origin or technical mistakes made during the refugee claim process," said Wanda Yamamoto, president of the council. "Some people in need of urgent medical attention will be forced to live with chronic, untreated conditions." She said that, while the minister of citizenship and immigration claims that the announced changes will only deny services that are not included in basic care for Canadians, in fact they cut much deeper. The Anglican Diocese of Montreal is represented on the council through Action Réfugiés Montréal.

### Bishop celebrates with PWRDF

Bishop Barry Clarke will join other supporters of the Montreal unit of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund in celebrating its work at a Eucharist at noon Thursday, June 7, in Christ Church Cathedral. The service will be followed by lunch in Fulford Hall and sharing of experience in the parishes.

## Fewer Anglican dioceses in Eastern Canada?

Delegates to this fall's Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, made up of seven Anglican dioceses in Quebec and Atlantic Canada, will be asked to explore the possibility of reducing that number of dioceses.

This is proposed in one of several motions being proposed to the meeting in Montreal September 20-22 in Montreal by a "Provincial Governance Task Force," with the aim of helping the Anglican Church in Eastern Canada become more focussed on mission.

The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada is one of four regional groupings of dioceses in the Anglican Church of Canada. It is composed of the dioceses of Montreal, Quebec, Fredericton, Western Newfoundland and Central Newfoundland, the Diocese of Nova Scotia and

Prince Edward Island and the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador.

The proposal to reduce the number of dioceses "recognizes the changing demographic of the Anglican Church within the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada in terms of both decreasing numbers and the increased cost of providing ecclesiastical services within our seven existing dioceses," according to a background note.

The background note goes on to envision what such a new map of the ecclesiastical province might look like. It suggests merging the dioceses of Montreal and Quebec. The Diocese of Fredericton and the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island could also be united. Newfoundland and Labrador, which was

divided into three dioceses in 1976, would be reintegrated back into one single diocese.

"We should start from a presumption that greater co-operation among the dioceses is desirable," said Archbishop Claude Miller, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada. "Then we need to determine which structures may best achieve this outcome."

"We are also trying to determine whether a revised diocesan arrangement may create a stronger Anglican community in terms of mutual support and encouragement in eastern Canada," added Charles Ferris, the ecclesiastical province's chancellor, and head of the governance task force.

If the motion passes this fall, the province will undertake to "explore

possible realignment of dioceses," and then report back to the next Provincial Synod, in 2015.

Another motion from the task force will ask the synod to consider centralizing in the provincial structure several administrative functions currently handled at the diocesan level, such as human resources, payroll, and information technology. The task force suggests such an approach might be less expensive and more efficient.

There is also a proposal to reduce the size of the provincial synod itself by almost half. At the moment, each of the seven dioceses is entitled to send up to 11 members to synod, which meets every three years. A motion from the task force would see reduce that to six delegates per diocese. A related motion would

reduce the Provincial Council, which is the ecclesiastical province's decision-making body between synods, to 22 members from 31 to 22.

The motions are in part in response to the call by the 2010 General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada for all levels of the church to discuss "whether and how the diocesan, provincial and national structures need to be modified to support and enhance mission."

Bishop Barry Clarke of Montreal said the Quebec-Montreal Partnership Initiative, launched in 2010, is already exploring how to increase partnership between those two dioceses. Discussions in the province are still at a "conversational" level, he said.

Texts of the motions can be found at [province-canada.anglican.org](http://province-canada.anglican.org).

## Equipping, encouraging and commissioning our Youth Ambassadors

Robert Camara

It's three months before the Youth Ambassadors leave on their first journey since they first got involved with the Youth Ambassadors Program ten months ago. That first journey is to visit our partners in the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (APCI) in Kamloops, British Columbia. They've been busy since last Fall preparing themselves for this first journey working with Ms. Kisha Joseph to help understand their roles as ambassadors for the diocese, attaining and sharpening their leadership skills, learning effective communication techniques, addressing conflict resolution and learning to work together as a team. Part of the leadership training has been to help them to express their own faith journey and to learn how they might be able to share their faith stories with the people they will encounter.

In May, Melissa Green, the youth co-ordinator for APCI, visited the Diocese of Montreal and met with the Youth Ambassadors to get to know the young people who will be travelling to visit APCI in August. Melissa shared with our Youth Ambassadors the story of the Diocese of Cariboo and the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior. She shared her experiences as a young Anglican and listened to some of the stories of some of our youth.

Our Youth Ambassadors are getting to know about our diverse and beautiful church. They are sharing their faith, our history, and their hopes with our brothers and sisters across the country and they will bring back to us stories and share experiences of our brothers and sisters in Christ in APCI.

Their second journey will take them to Saskatoon in August for the Canadian Anglican Lutheran Youth Conference. There they will experience 1,000 other young Anglicans and Lutherans who will celebrate their faith and sing praises to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. They will make friends, grow and mature in their own faith and, hopefully, be energized and encouraged to come back to the Diocese of Montreal and engage in ministry.

Our Youth Ambassadors are a talented, energetic and great group of leaders who with our encouragement and our support can use this time as ambassadors to begin discerning God's call in their life. The Youth Ambassadors Program is possible with your generous support and prayers. If you are able to help

support one of our Youth Ambassadors in their journey, please contact Penny Noël at 514-697-7636 ([penny-noel@sympatico.ca](mailto:penny-noel@sympatico.ca)) or Sue Winn at 514-457-0736 ([swinn2006@sympatico.ca](mailto:swinn2006@sympatico.ca)) or Stephen Tam in the Accounting Department at Synod Office 514-843-6577.

We also invite you to join our Youth Ambassadors on Sunday, August 5, at 11a.m. at the Church of

St. James the Apostle, 1439 St. Catherine St. W., as Bishop Barry Clarke commissions our Youth Ambassadors for their journey and work this summer. Come and pray for and celebrate with the Youth Ambassadors, encourage their ministry and meet them as they prepare to leave to visit our partners in APCI.

### Brome steps up to the plate



THE PARISH OF BROME in the Eastern Townships is sponsoring one of the Youth Ambassadors who will represent the Diocese of Montreal in British Columbia and Saskatchewan this summer. The parish held an Outreach and Mission Fundraiser March 25th in Brome. In photo, Douglas Hall, rector's warden from Holy Trinity Church, Iron Hill, presents a cheque to Rev. Robert Camara, who will chaperone the youth delegates when they visit the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior and attend a CLAY (Canadian Lutheran and Anglican Youth) conference in Saskatoon.

### 61st Annual Blessing of Pets

Beaver Lake, Mount Royal Park

Sunday September 23, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

co-sponsored by the Anglican Diocese of Montreal  
Christ Church, Beauport  
"Paws&Pray"

514-697-2204 / [christchurch@qc.aibn.com](mailto:christchurch@qc.aibn.com)  
and the Companion Animal Adoption Centres of Quebec  
(caacQ)  
[info@caacq.ca](mailto:info@caacq.ca)

in conjunction with the  
Montreal S.P.C.A. "Walk On All Fours"  
[www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com)

(registration for "Walk on All Fours" begins at 1:00 p.m.)t



MELISSA GREEN, youth co-ordinator for the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (of British Columbia) was in Montreal May 2-7th to meet with the Youth Ambassadors team from the Diocese of Montreal. She also led an evening of activities in All Saints Church, Deux Montagnes, with a youth group co-ordinated by Jeff Alexander, a lay reader in that parish.



### Summer Day Camp at St. James the Apostle

1439 St. Catherine Street, West, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1K1  
Monday, July 16-20, 2012  
Friday, July 20, 2012

"One of Us" - exploring the Christmas Story and the birth of Jesus in July without the commercialism

Children will explore the story of Christmas through story telling, arts and crafts, games and other fun activities with a trained group of professional, friendly, young people in a safe and supervised environment

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Registration for "Walk on All Fours" begins at 1:00 p.m.



# Church unity is now up to parishes, ecumenist says

Harvey Shepherd

The key actors now in the "lengthy and thankless" struggle toward unity among churches are not bishops, scholars and ecumenical representatives of denominations but the clergy and lay leaders of local parishes, says the Canadian Anglican who holds the top ecumenical staff post in Geneva with the World Council of Churches.

Rev. Canon John Gibaut, director of the faith and order commission of the World Council of Churches, said at the annual convocation of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College May 7 that the journey toward church unity will be much slower than imagined by pioneers of the ecumenical movement in the heady days of historic world conferences in the 1920 and 1960s.

Today, he said, the work of theological ecumenism is often unseen and noticed but countless people are still engaged in it.

Canon Gibaut, was the director of the Anglican Studies program at St. Paul University, a Roman Catholic institution in Ottawa, before taking up his post in Geneva at the start of 2008. He is still associated with both that university and Trinity College at the University of Toronto, and remains a priest of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa with the title of Canon Theologian. He received an honorary doctorate from the Montreal diocesan college.

He said earlier decades produced some impressive achievements include the growth of some "United"



JOHN GIBAUT

churches in Canada and elsewhere and agreements on "full communion" between specific pairs of churches (like Anglicans and Lutherans in Canada and elsewhere).

He said the Fourth World Conference on Faith and Order, organized by the World Council of Churches at McGill University, Montreal, in 1963, was a particularly significant one. The degree of participation by members of the Roman Catholic hierarchy was unprecedented and it was the first such conference with significant participation by Orthodox representatives and by delegates from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

He said an international docu-

ment produced in the early 1980s on "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry" remains "the most significant ecumenical text ever published."

For example, recognition of one another's baptism is now widespread among churches (so that, for instance, someone who moves from one to another does not need to be rebaptized). It is now generally conceded that "Apostolic Succession" - the transmission of the Church's authority from earliest times - is through churches as a whole and not just lineages of bishops.

He said the BEM document has had a major impact on liturgical texts published by individual churches since then. These have "a family resemblance" and many Christians who have never heard of the BEM document "are praying it."

In recent decades, however, disputes over such issues as end-of-life care, stem-cell research, the ordination of women and same-sex marriage have contributed to the current chill in ecumenical relations.

In an afternoon gathering at the diocesan college, Canon Gibaut suggested that one way local parishes of long-established denominations could contribute to ecumenism would be closer relations with "migrant churches," often Pentecostal or evangelical, made up largely of immigrants, that rent the church buildings of the older churches.

"They are supporting our churches by keeping our buildings open and we should get to know them."

Archdeacon Bruce Myers, coordinator for ecumenical relations of the Anglican Church of Canada, who presented Canon Gibaut at the convocation, touched some of the same bases both then and speaking in his own right at the afternoon gathering.

He said theological discussion of inter-church issues seems to have reached a limit for the time being and the current focus should be on implementing what has already been agreed.

The diocesan college also granted an honorary doctorate to Rev. John Vissers, who has been principal of Presbyterian College at McGill - a counterpart and partner of the diocesan college - for 13 years. He is stepping down to become director of academic programs and professor of historical theology at Knox College,

Toronto, effective next January.

Dr. Vissers will also be installed as moderator of the 138th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada when it meets in Oshawa June 3. This means that for the following year he will to some degree be the Presbyterian counterpart of the Anglican primate of Canada, Archbishop Fred Hiltz.

The college also awarded two diplomas in ministry with distinction to candidates for the priesthood. Donald Boisvert is to be ordained as a transitional deacon on June 3 and take up an unpaid post as

an assistant curate of Christ Church Cathedral.

He is also expected to continue his teaching career at Concordia University. He has been teaching in the department of religion since 2003 and before that held various senior administrative positions at Concordia, including dean of students. He is also known for his scholarship and activism around issues of Christianity and same-sex relations.

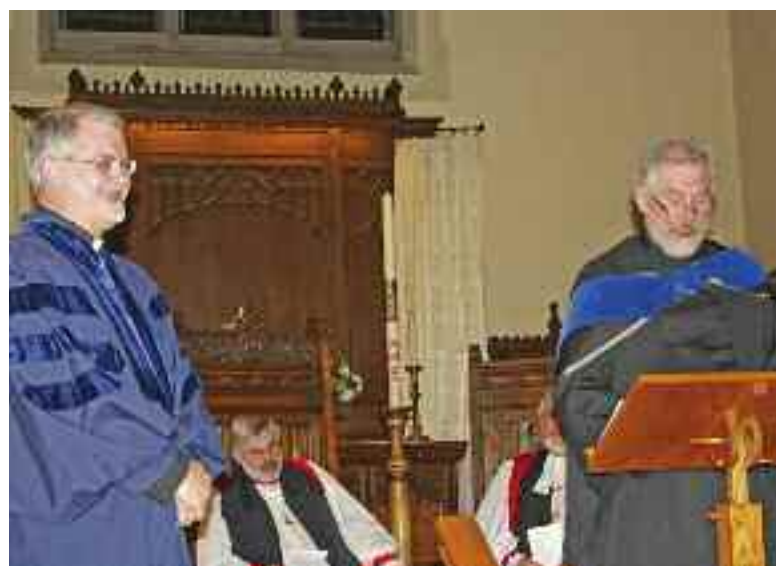
Sarah Priebe is to be ordained as a transitional deacon and take up an assignment in the Diocese of Quebec, probably in Quebec City.



HEADED FOR ORDINATION, ministry diplomates Sarah Priebe and Donald Boisvert start to make their way out of St. Matthias' Church in Westmount, where the convocation took place. (Photo: Harvey Shepherd)



EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY DIPLOMAS, marking completion of a four-year part-time college-level theology course for lay people, were received by, from left, Susan Winn, Charles Goddard, Kathleen Dandurand and Geert-Jan Boudewijnse. (Photo: Harvey Shepherd)



ENJOYING A LIGHT-HEARTED INTRODUCTION from his colleague Rev. Canon John Simons, principal of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College, Rev. John Vissers, principal of Presbyterian College at McGill University, waits to receive his honorary doctorate. He is stepping down as principal to become director of academic programs and professor of historical theology at Knox College, Toronto, effective next January and is also becoming moderator of the 138th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. (Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

## Mile End Community Mission is seeking an Executive Director

Mile End Community Mission is seeking an Executive Director to work with its Board of Directors to raise the profile and maintain the core values of the organization. Someone who is approachable with strong communication and active listening skills and has the ability to promote and foster a harmonious and friendly environment that is dedicated to an inclusive approach based on respect and understanding.

The Mile End Community Mission is a place of empowerment, a small organization in its 21st year in the Mile End neighbourhood of Montreal. Our mission is to create a safe and welcoming community that meets the practical, emotional and spiritual need of people of low income. We offer a number of services and programs to meet these needs and those accessing them are invited to join the family of volunteers and two part-time staff providing services and support under the direction of the Executive Director.

We are looking for someone who values support over efficiency, empowerment, collective decision making, justice, compassion, patience and commitment and has demonstrated these qualities in their career. Someone who has a vision for the future of the Mission that acknowledges the backgrounds of the people involved and involves learning from their experiences. In the past the director has been an Anglican priest and we would be excited to welcome another priest, or professional from another denomination, however this is not a requirement.

Responsibilities include managing daily operations, supervising staff, volunteers, programs and finances, liaison and communication with community, government and donors.

Qualifications include fluency in French and English with strong writing skills in one or both languages, experience working with a Board of Directors and government agencies, experience writing reports and grant applications in the context of a not for profit community organization, minimum 2 years front-line management supervision, experience working with people dealing with the effects of urban poverty including mental health and addiction as well as the related issues, experience in therapeutic support/pastoral care for members through home/hospital visits, active listening and advocacy, experience in managing an organizational budget and compiling and preparing organization-related statistics and reports.

This is a permanent full-time position that will begin in October 2012 with a salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Only candidates considered for an interview will be contacted. Please send a CV, cover letter and references, by June 15, 2012 to [hiringcommittee@mileendmission.org](mailto:hiringcommittee@mileendmission.org).

## 3rd Annual Vintage Motorcycle Show and Parts Swap Meet

Saturday September 1,  
10 a.m to 4 p.m.

Entry: \$5.00  
Vendors Welcome

In the Parking Lot  
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[christchurchbeaurepaire.com](http://christchurchbeaurepaire.com)

## Obituaries

### Thomas Ramsey: Good and faithful servant

The historic St. Stephen's Church in Chambly was filled to capacity, including its balcony on Friday, April 27, for the funeral of Rev. Thomas Ramsey, who died peacefully at age 90 on Sunday, April 22, while being read morning prayer.

That was especially fitting, Rev. Eileen Steele, priest of St. Stephen's with St. James' Parish, who was with him in a nursing home and reading the gospel of the day at the time of his death, said later. Until he was taken to a hospital last fall, he regularly conducted a monthly 8 a.m. service for a small group of faithful worshippers at St. Stephen's, where he had been an honorary assistant for five years.

The funeral, where Ms. Steele was joined by Bishop Barry Clarke and territorial Archdeacon Michael Robson, who preached, also included almost the whole of the small congregation of St. Martin's Church in Otterburn Park, where Father Ramsey also presided at worship monthly until his final hospitalization. He had also served as parish priest at St. Martin's for a number of years, when the parish was larger than it is now.

Others at the funeral service, which included some of his favorite hymns, came from places from the Laurentians to the Eastern Townships and beyond, reflecting the many parishes and people he had touched in his lengthy ministry.

"A phrase that kept running through my mind was, 'Well done, good and faithful servant,'" Archdeacon Robson said later. "I remember him as a very special friend and a mentor."

"Everyone loved Tom," Ms. Steele

agreed. "I don't know of a priest as loved by people as he was by the people of St. Stephen's. She remembered her colleague as a gentle man of great humility and immense faith but also capable of great intellectual excitement. "He had a brilliant mind and a gentle heart."

He audited courses at the Montreal Diocesan Theological College in his retirement years and confirmation classes were one of his favorite tasks. "He used to say, 'The young ones really get me going.'"

Father Ramsey was born in 1922. Following studies at the University of Toronto where he earned a B.A., he worked as a civil engineer, building bridges, until he was called to the ministry. After his studies at the Diocesan Theological College, he

was ordained priest by Bishop John Dixon in 1955. He served as a curate at Trinity Memorial Church in West-End Montreal and then as parish priest at St. Martin's in Otterburn Park, St. Stephen's Chambly, and St. Margaret of Scotland in east-end Montreal. After his retirement in 1991, he filled in at parishes on the South Shore and at Cap à l'Aigle in the Charlevoix region. He continued to do pastoral care, a key focus of his ministry, until his hospitalization.

He is remembered as an avid gardener, watercolourist and history buff who loved camping, ocean swimming, skating, being a Scout leader and most of all, talking with people. He is survived by Margaret, his brother James, children David and Alison, and five grandchildren.



RECEIVING WAVES OF BLESSING from the congregation, Rev. Thomas Ramsey was honoured by the congregation of St. Stephen's Chambly on the occasion of his 88th birthday TWO years ago.

### Stuart Martin served in Montreal, Townships

Archdeacon Stuart Morison Martin, a retired priest of the Diocese of Montreal, who developed a deep bond with St. George's Parish in Georgeville in the Eastern Townships after his retirement, died May 5 after a long illness. He was 86.

The funeral service at St. George's May 18, was conducted by Montreal Bishop Barry Clarke, who described him in a conversation as a friend and mentor. He is also remembered with deep affection by other clergy in the diocese.

Born in 1926, Archdeacon Martin began his career as a curate at Christ Church Cathedral and went on to serve three parishes that no longer exist in the same form as then: St. Augustine's in Pointe Claire, St. Cuthbert's in the Park Extension district of Montreal and, for more than 18 years, St. Matthew's in Hampstead.

He was at St. James the Apostle in downtown Montreal for four years until his retirement in 1991 and not long after that began leading worship in Mansonville and the Boltons in the Townships.

His service in Georgeville, which is in the Diocese of Quebec, began in the late 1990s and he remained active in service there and at St. Paul's Mansonville for the Diocese of Montreal.

He also served summer congregations at Cap-à-l'Aigle in the Charlevoix region for at least four decades.

In May 2005 a special service of Holy Communion was held at St. George's, with a capacity congregation of 145, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his ordination.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Martin, a daughter Janet, a son Michael, four grandchildren and other relatives.

### Marie Lloyd-Smith 1921 – 2012

The longest worshipping parishioner at St. Matthias', Westmount, Marie Lloyd-Smith died on April 17. A Celebration of her Life was held at the church on Friday, April 27. The large congregation listened to eulogies from Rev. David Oliver, her nephew, Joyce Schaap, Pastoral Asst at Mountainside United, and Rev. Don Gilles, a friend. Marie was the widow of the late Walter Lloyd-Smith, who she married in 1944. They had seven children.

Marie was the daughter of Rev. Canon Gilbert Oliver, Rector of St. Matthias' from 1928 until 1955. Marie had a life-long love of learning and held a BA (Hons) in History and a STM. She shared her worship at St. Matthias' with Mountainside United, where her father-in-law had served as a distinguished minister.

Marie requested donations to the PWRDF in her memory. She will be missed by her many friends at St. Matthias' and elsewhere in the diocese.



MARIE LLOYD-SMITH

#### Souper bénéfique annuel de l'Action de grâce

#### Annual Thanksgiving Benefit Dinner

Jeu. 25 octobre 2012 à 18h / Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 6pm

Porte parole / Keynote speaker

**Roslyn Macgregor**

Au début des années 1970, Roslyn Macgregor a passé deux ans tout aussi stimulants qu'éprouvants au Couvent Sainte-Marguerite, en Haïti. En 1983, elle est rentrée à Montréal où elle a fait des études en éducation, études de l'enfant et théologie. Ordonnée prêtre en 1992, Ros est devenue directrice de la Mission Communautaire Mile-End le 1er mai 1995, et prêtre dans la Paroisse Saint-Cuthbert, Sainte-Hilda et Saint-Luke. Pendant 17 ans, Ros a défié les structures de la société et s'est battue pour aider ceux et celles qui dépendent de la Mission. Elle a relevé de nombreux défis, apprenant des leçons magnifiques et parfois difficiles, bien au-delà de ce qui peut être enseigné au séminaire.

In the early 1970's, Roslyn Macgregor spent two challenging and life changing years in Haiti as a sister of St. Margaret. In 1983, she returned to Montreal and furthered her knowledge in child studies, education and theology, and was ordained an Anglican priest in 1992. May 1st, 1995 Ros was appointed Director of Mile End Community Mission and Priest at St. Cuthbert, St. Hilda and St. Luke Anglican Church. She challenged the structures in society and fought fiercely for funding and recognition of the needs of those who depend so much on the Mission. For seventeen years, Ros has met the challenges of real people in real life situations and learned wonderful, and sometimes hard lessons far beyond what can be taught in seminary.

Pour plus d'information ou pour acheter des billets, n'hésitez pas à nous contacter.  
For more information or to purchase tickets, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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## Anglicans have more fun

Spring sprung with at least the accustomed mirth for a number of Anglicans around the Diocese of Montreal, including members of St. James Church in Rosemere, who organized several events, and members of St. Paul's Church Côte des Neiges, who celebrated their 85th anniversary with a banquet.



IT WAS A BUSY SPRING for fund-raising and other social events at St. James Church Rosemere. The baptism of Jake DeLa Perralle on Saturday April 7 was followed by an Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday.



THE ST. GEORGE'S DAY TEA April 23 at St. James Church Rosemere went beyond expectations. Despite inclement weather extra tables had to be set up. Among attractions were a number of guests in their "fascinator finery." Among them were Carole Trudel and Bev Kensett. Below parishioners Christel and Winston join in the fun.



TYNE, 2011 Montreal Calypso Monarch, closed the show at the 85th anniversary banquet of St Paul's, Côte des Neiges. Below, he kibbitzes with emcee Pat Dillon Moore.



PARISHIONERS AT ST. PAUL'S CÔTE DES NEIGES did quite a bit of table-hopping.

(Photo: René Sanchez)

## 'Apeti pou Aprann'



MEMBERS OF THE HAITIAN COMMUNITY sing the Haitian national anthem at one of a series of "Apeti pou Aprann" dinners spearheaded by Rev. Roslyn Macgregor of the Mile End Mission to raise funds for a school lunch program in Haiti. The campaign is interdenominational; this dinner, on May 4, was at the Unitarian Church of Montreal and about 85 attended. Two events in April at St. Mary's Church in Kirkland raised about \$900 to support the school lunch program in Haiti. A benefit concert brought in about \$600 and a spaghetti supper organized by the youth group about \$300.

(Photo: Ayeko Tossou)



THE POWERFUL VOICE OF KHAI WELSH LEWIS, product of St. Paul's, Côte des Neiges, produced some goose pimples in the congregation at its 85th anniversary banquet.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)



WHEN SHE WASN'T KEEPING THINGS MOVING at the front of the hall, the emcee, Pat Dillon Moore, moved among the tables some of the time. She's a product of both St. Paul's and Trinity Memorial Church, which has a bigger hall and was the venue for the banquet. You can see Archdeacon James Bennett behind her.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)



THE TEAM OF Dexter Kathryn, Raymond, Lillian and Lisa took the first prize in a pub quiz at St. James Church, Rosemere. The April 14 event proved a smashing success; another one is scheduled for autumn.



REV. ROSLYN MACGREGOR does some table-hopping. She was speaker at this year's Women's Day of Celebration, organized by the Anglican Church Women Montreal chapter, in Christ Church Cathedral in Fulford Hall. Various activities are planned in the near future both at the Mile End Mission, where she is stepping down as executive director, and the east-central Parish of St. Cuthbert, St. Hilda and St. Luke, where details are still under discussion.

(Photos: Ardyth Robinson)



# Youth Group is back at St. Barnabas St. Lambert



FOOSBALL is among the attractions for the youth group.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

Harvey Shepherd

Paul Carter doesn't know how long it's been since St. Barnabas Anglican Church in St-Lambert has had a youth group, but when he joined the parish about five years ago there had not been one for several years.

Then he and a few young fellow-parishioners started one up a couple of months ago.

It's nothing spectacular: a dozen or so young people, including elementary and high school students and the four leaders, who are a little older, some of them not much, usually turn up. They drop in for a couple of hours on Friday evenings to hang out, do craft projects, play amusing games, perhaps do a little community service like picking up litter and join in a little prayer.

There's a smaller balcony room fitted out as a lounge where those who prefer can chill out instead of participating in the activities. That didn't happen last Friday night, although the whole group did move there for a little while at the end of the evening.

So far, the group seems to be holding its own against the competition of video, TV and whatever else its participants might be doing on a Friday night. The theoretical age range is from about Grade 6 to the end of elementary school, although there are not many at the high end of that range aside from a couple of

leaders.

They have been largely kids from St. Barnabas' so far, but others are welcome, a few from outside the parish have come and those in the group hope that there will be more and that the group will grow.

"I prefer the youth group to hanging out with my friends," one of the youngsters told a visitor last Friday. "But don't tell my friends that."

Rev. Gwenda Wells, rector of St. Barnabas, thinks there's a real place for a low-key group like this, even though St-Lambert is already a good place to live and even though several of the youngsters are already doing well in various other activities in their schools and community.

"It gives them a place to do whatever they want to do in a safe, comfortable environment," she said in a brief interview. "It's a real, as opposed to virtual, environment."

There's no doubt that the group owes its existence largely to what she calls the incredible dedication of Carter and the other leaders. It is patterned in large part on a similar group that has existed for years at All Saints' Anglican Church in Deux Montagnes, which he used to attend.

Its origin – and, for that matter, Carter's presence in St-Lambert – also owes something to his past participation in another church activity for kids. While at All Saints, he also participated Crosstalk Ministries, which sends out travelling teams to

organize week-long summer day camps at churches in several provinces. For a few years St. Barnabas' has been one such church.

He was a member of a team that organized a camp at St. Barnabas, where Lisa Harrison was a parishioner. One thing led to another and now she and Carter are married, she's another of the volunteer leaders and their daughter Michaela, a little over a year old, is something of a mascot for the youth group. (Young parishioners Stephanie Tombs and Shea Harland are the other two leaders.)

Carter will occasionally use terms like "fellowship" and "mission" when talking about the group, but doesn't push religion. Neither he nor Wells makes any claims about whether the group might be a contribution to reversing a trend that has seen many young people drift away from the church.

The most religious – spiritual might be a better word – part of the evening comes toward the end. Everyone sits in a circle and a small religious pendant is passed around to indicate whose turn it is to pray. Each person in turn says a little prayer – or, more often, prays silently – and then says "Amen" and passes the token to the next person. When the circle is complete there is a little snack and everyone heads off to the lounge.



PAUL CARTER in the centre with a blue baseball hat, and his wife Lisa Harrison, holding little Michaela, are surrounded by youth and volunteers. The latter are Shea Harland in black and Stephanie Tombs, the redhead; kneeling at right.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

## A great annual event for a parish



A DOZEN YOUTH AND ADULTS from St. Peter's in the Town of Mount Royal and St. Stephen's Westmount joined at St. Peter's for the annual World Vision 30-hour Famine. Participants went without food for 30 hours (okay, some had some rice), raised funds for World Vision, watched and discussed World Vision video resources, slept at the church together, and spent a rainy Saturday morning serving the community by cleaning up a local garbage-strewn street.

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## Francophones et anglicans: Une conversation entre Jocelyn Gravel et Holly Ratcliffe de Christ Church Sorel

(Selon Holly Ratcliffe: Jocelyn Gravel est marguillier des fidèles de la Mission communautaire Christ Church Sorel. En tant que pasteur, j'ai voulu mieux faire connaître la pensée des francophones qui s'impliquent fortement à ce projet en mission du Diocèse de Montréal. L'opportunité de cette entrevue avec Jocelyn nous a été donnée par Stéphane Gaudet, rédacteur de Aujourd'hui Crêdo, revue francophone de l'Église unie de Canada, où il a consacré le numéro courant au sujet "des francophones et anglicans" (mai 2012). Cette entrevue y est publiée.

(Rev. Holly Ratcliffe writes: Jocelyn Gravel is currently people's warden of Christ Church Sorel community mission. For some time as pastor, I have wanted to engage the larger Anglican community in a growing awareness of the perspective of those largely unilingual francophones who are committed to this mission project of the Diocese of Montreal. The occasion for this conversation with Jocelyn was given by Stéphane Gaudet, editor of the francophone journal of the United Church of Canada called Aujourd'hui Crêdo, who asked for an article on the subject of francophones and anglicans, for the issue (May 2012) devoted to this subject.)

J: Le titre de cet article « francophones et anglicans » c'est un genre de question: Est-ce que c'est possible? À cette question je répondrais « oui, c'est possible! » Ici à Christ Church Sorel la communauté est pratiquement unilingue francophone. Nous ne sommes pas un projet bilingue. Si on est bilingue à

l'église anglicane, je pense qu'on est encore encadré par la culture anglaise.

H: Oui, sociologiquement, dans les projets d'église bilingue si la gérance de la paroisse est en anglais, le pouvoir décisionnel reste toujours entre les mains des anglophones.

J: La francophonie anglicane n'est pas unique au Québec! Ça existe en Afrique, à Madagascar, en Haïti, etc.

H: Oui, et en ces pays, la francophonie anglicane a réussi à s'accommoder à l'esprit du peuple.

J: Pour revenir au Québec, la mentalité francophone est différente: les québécois sont généreux, plutôt impatients, et du monde d'action.

H: On est conscient de ces différences de la mentalité anglaise (plutôt méthodique, « by the book ») ici à Sorel parce que depuis 2005 on a eu un gros projet – le rachat du vieux presbytère et sa restauration comme centre communautaire. Si on était encore dans l'église, l'église encadrerait notre mentalité plus étroitement, peut-être.

J: Je crois que l'évêque s'intéresse à notre projet, non pas juste parce qu'on est francophone, mais parce qu'on sort de l'église pour « être l'église » en action. On concrétise en quelque sorte dans notre milieu les marques de mission de la communion anglicane.

Fait plutôt inusité, la majorité des



**JOCELYN GRAVEL**  
au synode diocésain de 2010.

paroissiens à Christ Church Sorel sont des catholiques romains. L'église anglicane est très ouverte à l'œcuménisme. En plus, avec notre café, nous avons une clientèle assez spéciale. C'est totalement différent qu'à l'église catholique romaine que j'ai connue.

H: Comment ça?

J: On reçoit du monde au café et à la messe ici qui serait snobbés à l'église catholique romaine. Ici on ne juge personne, on essaie de l'écouter au café et lors du partage (suite à l'homélie).

H: Qu'est-ce qui t'a amené à l'église anglicane, Jocelyn?

J: C'est le mariage. Nous voulions se marier à l'église, mais c'est mon deuxième mariage.

H: Ça c'est un phénomène socio-

logique qu'on rencontre souvent ici au Québec.

J: De plus en plus les prêtres anglicans au Québec devraient connaître le français.

H: Et pourtant, des fois l'évêché engage encore des prêtres et d'autres membres du personnel qui ne comprennent pas le français assez pour travailler dans cette langue.

J: Des fois le désir d'agir proactivement et l'action elle-même sont deux choses différentes!

Je me sens vulnérable des fois d'être à l'église anglicane de ne pas parler d'anglais. (Je lis mot par mot avec l'aide

du dictionnaire!) C'est comme si c'est quelque chose nécessaire – être en mesure de parler et lire l'anglais pour être anglican au Québec. Mais, par contre, pratiquement toutes mes rencontres avec la direction de l'église se font en français.

Tu as ta vision d'une communauté anglicane francophone. Tu insistes que le monde parle français.

H: Je pourrais remplir tout cet article avec ma réponse à cette remarque!

J: Toi, tu es la renverse de la question au début. Moi, Jocelyn, je suis francophone et anglican. Toi, Holly tu es anglicane et francophone. Et de ta perspective, en tant que anglicane anglophone qui a appris le français, tu réponds aussi « Oui, c'est possible! » à la question de la possibilité d'être les deux en même temps.

Tu avais les mêmes peurs par rapport à la communication en français

que j'ai en anglais, mais cela n'a jamais créé une barrière pour atteindre notre mission.

H: C'est spéciale... cet article est écrit pour les francophones de l'église unie au Canada. L'église unie a toujours été plus vite à répondre aux questions de la justice sociale que l'église anglicane. Par exemple, le seul cours en missiologie au Québec en français offert parmi les trois séminaires de la Montreal School of Theology a été créé par Angélika Piché du séminaire uni à Montréal.

Historiquement l'église anglicane est l'église de la conquête. Pour moi, il a fallu que je reconnaisse avec un esprit de repentance que la mentalité du « gagnant » est encore très vivante en moi, en nous. Pour les anglicans, faire le deuil de cette mentalité est essentiel pour être en mesure s'en distancier dans nos gestes et nos attentes quotidiens. Il y a eu des tentatives historiques de développer la francophonie anglicane au Québec (à Sabrevois, et à Montréal avant la fondation de la cathédrale). Mais c'est comme s'il y a aussi une forte résistance de la part des anglicans anglophones. Pourtant, pour celles et ceux qui s'y engagent, la crise que l'église vit au Québec actuellement nous mène à nous convertir à un nouveau regard sur la mission de Dieu, comme étant déjà à l'oeuvre chez notre voisin comme porteur du Christ.

Je suis convaincu que l'avenir de la mission – la vitalité – de l'église anglicane au Québec dépend de la maîtrise par les anglicans de la langue du peuple québécois. En étant en mesure de bien écouter l'autre, les anglicans peuvent apprendre de nos erreurs et de notre manque de compassion.

### Christ Church, Beaurepaire Music Director

Christ Church, Beaurepaire in Beaconsfield, QC is seeking a **Music Director** commencing as of November 2012 (or sooner) to provide musical leadership

in an active Montreal West Island parish of approximately 120 families with a vibrant, active role in the community and a deep passion for music.

We are seeking a person who is also vibrant and energetic, with the capability to lead the congregation spiritually through the ministry of music. The **Music Director** is responsible for leading the choir and congregation musically on Sunday mornings at the 10:15 a.m. service of worship, and at other worship services from time-to-time on other days and evenings.

The **Music Director** will be proficient as an organist and equally comfortable playing piano. (Two-manual Allen Digital Organ and Steinway baby grand piano.) The **Music Director** will provide leadership to an approximately 10-voice SATB choir (including rehearsals Thursday nights), and to an emerging contemporary music team including both vocalists and instrumentalists. A strong knowledge of Anglican music and liturgy, as well as the ability to select repertoire for both Choir and contemporary music team are important.

This is a part-time position based on approximately 6-8 hours per week. Remuneration will be commensurate with position hours and applicant education and experience. Deadline for applications is June 30, 2012.

For more information and/or to apply, please contact: The Ven. Michael Johnson, Incumbent of Christ Church, 455 Church Street, Beaconsfield, QC H9W 3S6, [mjohnson@montreal.anglican.ca](mailto:mjohnson@montreal.anglican.ca); [christchurchbeaurepaire.com](http://christchurchbeaurepaire.com).

## Une femme qui a su affronter la vie

(This is an abridged version of a text written by Pierre Clotaire Gabaud about his mother, Fillance St-Fort, who moved to Montreal from Haiti in 1983 with several of her children, and whose 85th birthday was celebrated by members of her family, Bishop Barry Clarke and others on May 5.)

**Pierre Clotaire Gabaud**

Née le 02 mai 1927 à Jacmel, Haïti, Fillance St-Fort est une femme qui a su affronter les bons et les mauvais moments de la vie. Vers l'âge de dix-huit ans elle a rencontré le premier homme de sa vie et qui deviendra par la suite son mari jusqu'à sa mort, M. Anténor Gabaud.

Cet homme n'était pas l'amour de son cœur car elle l'avait rencontré par le biais de son père et sa mère qui lui avaient imposé ce fiancé. Peu de temps après leur rencontre, elle lui donnait deux enfants dont l'aîné qui était la joie de son père et fut baptisé Jean Joseph Wildas Mille Anténor Gabaud Fils et le deuxième Jean Rodrigue Gabaud. Anténor (Père), par sa compréhension usait de patience pour conquérir le cœur et la confiance de Fillance afin que l'amour profond et inséparable fût établi. La joie fut installée dans leurs cœurs et se fut le mariage pour la vie. Après leur union légitime devant Dieu dans le nom de Jésus à l'Église Épiscopale (Anglican) de Mathieu, Léogâne en Haïti, elle enfanta six garçons et deux filles.

Cette femme était vaillante, respectueuse et souriante, de son

entourage, c'était l'amie de tous et sans hypocrisie. Son métier de couturière lui permettait de conjuguer avec le peu que gagnait son mari. Malgré vents et marées, elle gardait toujours espoir dans le Seigneur Jésus que le lendemain sera un jour meilleur. Femme de courage au cœur doux et très sensible pour les moins nantis. Faire l'aumône et tendre la main au pauvre étaient de son quotidien. Elle était femme missionnaire de la parole de Dieu à l'Église Épiscopale d'Épiphanie de Port-au-Prince.

Au mois de janvier 1981, la vie de Fillance St-Fort commençait à basculer. L'homme de sa vie souffrait d'une concussion cérébrale après une chute sur un cheval et quelques mois plus tard il se faisait happer à la tête par une voiture au centre-ville de Port-au-Prince. Après plusieurs mois de souffrance, le 24 juillet de cette même année, il rendit l'âme.

Malgré cette grosse perte, Fillance n'a pas baissé les bras. Elle a continué à prendre soins de ses enfants. Le 11 juin 1983, elle a fait son entrée à Montréal, Québec, Canada avec ses quatre derniers enfants. Deux autres s'étaient déjà installés au pays. Puis en 1995 Marie Francescar est arrivée à Montréal. Deux fils se retrouvaient en Floride tandis que l'aîné Anténor Gabaud Fils réside encore en Haïti.

Pour souligner ses honorables actions comme la meilleure maman du monde, les enfants de Fillance décident de faire une grande action de grâce à chaque cinq ans dont la première a eu lieu le 02 mai 2007

pour célébrer son quatre vingtième anniversaire. De ce fait, l'anniversaire de Fillance est devenu une tradition familiale d'où les enfants, les petits enfants et les arrière petits enfants se rencontrent.

Aujourd'hui, Fillance souffre d'une démence de la maladie d'Alzheimer. Elle ne peut pas rentrer en contact avec ses proches, mais la chimie d'une symbiose s'impose au milieu de ses enfants pour fêter les jours que lui a donnés le créateur. Le 05 mai 2012 était la journée de rencontre de fête chez les Gabaud. L'action de grâce a été célébré par l'évêque épiscopal (anglican) de Montréal Monseigneur Barry C. Clarke accompagné du révérend Jean Claudel Wagnac et de la révérende Roslyn Macgregor.

Si c'est la volonté du Dieu Tout-Puissant L'Éternel des Armées, d'ici cinq ans, nous attendons toute la famille, les amis et les connaissances à ce grand rendez-vous qui est devenu une tradition chez nous.

### Still Presence Spirituality Centre Blessing Circle

Meditation and Healing Circle,  
followed by Tea

Last Circle of the season

June 4, 7-8.15 pm

Christ Church, Beaurepaire,  
455 Church St., Beaconsfield

More Information:

514-697-2204 or

[www.StillPresence.com](http://www.StillPresence.com)

## Mission and pluralism: lessons from Cuba



**VISITING CUBA IN JANUARY**, students from the three denominational theological colleges at McGill University in the In-Ministry Year, last of three years of the master's program in theology, pose in front of a bus in which they toured several centres in Cuba. The bus belongs to Pastors for Peace, an ecumenical organization that carries out humanitarian projects in Cuba and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

(Photo contributed)

*Sarah Priebe*

(Sarah Priebe is a student at the Montreal Diocesan Theological College in her In-Ministry Year. This article first appeared in the college newsletter, Pro Christo et Ecclesia.)

Sometime in the late 1940s my grandfather, an Anglican from Westmount, announced his engagement to a Catholic woman. His family reacted in horror, his mother locking herself in her room until Grandpa agreed to call off the wedding.

How things have changed! Diversity has become the norm, and is a great strength in our society. This diversity means that the church has had to rethink its take on mission. A hundred years ago it was easy to talk about converting Jews, atheists and Muslims, when we were talking about people we didn't know living in Poland, Russia or the Middle East. Today, when our close friends and often members of our families are of different faiths or belief systems, we have come to realize the value of other spiritualities and different ways of seeing the world. So if mission is not about bringing people to a saving faith in Jesus Christ, how do we define it?

A recent trip to Cuba this January

with my fellow In-Ministry Year students afforded me the opportunity to reflect on this. We traveled around Havana, Matanzas, Varadero and Cuatro Esquinas in a "Pastors for Peace" school bus. We learned about the history of the island nation of eleven million Cubans: a hardworking, ingenious and generous people who are struggling to define their collective identity as a nation in their own right, with social and economic policies that work for them. We learned about their struggles under the Spanish, American and Soviet regimes, as well as the gains and challenges of the Revolution.

Most impressive, however, is the spirit of care and solidarity at work in the church (and in society) all over Cuba. Churches run countless community-oriented programs, concentrating on meeting the needs of the immediate community. There are programs for breakfasts for seniors, sewing clothes to be sold at very low prices in the community, gardens where vegetables are grown and sold at half-price to help people stretch their grocery budgets as far as possible, dance classes for the elderly, pastoral counseling for situations such as domestic violence or interfaith marriages, arts and crafts

workshops for children, etc.

In Cuatro Esquinas we met Victoria and Sergio, a couple with a teenage daughter who had given their living and dining room entirely to the use of their congregation to serve as a sanctuary and meeting place through the week. Not only that, but Sergio heads up the church baseball team! Father Carlos, the Episcopal priest of that community, told us that Cuatro Esquinas is currently a three-point parish but that 15 other communities have approached them and asked for a mission to be set up in their neighbourhood. Unfortunately, there are simply not enough clergy or money to provide such services.

The Cuban churches have a strong theology of mission, believing that the only true way to worship Jesus Christ is through love of and service to neighbour. Pastor Orestes Roca likened it to the story of Lazarus. "The Holy Spirit is the only evangelizer," he insisted. "We do not proselytize. We do not give in order to take. It was Jesus who gave life to Lazarus, and it is the Holy Spirit who breathes life into people's souls. Our job is simply to roll away the stones so that the Spirit can do her work."

## "God of Hope" this year's theme for Anglican women's retreat

*Camille Morell*

Every year since 1989, the Anglican Women Alive, Renewed and Enriched (AWARE) organization has held spiritual retreats to help encourage and deepen spiritual growth. This year, AWARE will hold its weekend retreat September 21-23, 2012 at the CAMMAC Lake MacDonald Music Centre, in Harrington, Québec.

Christian women will come together to participate in Bible teaching sessions, discussion groups and workshops. This year's theme is "Our God of Hope" (Romans 15:13). The guest speaker is Sue Winn, teacher and former school administrator, now actively involved in the work of the Anglican Church. Sue has served on the Eco-justice and Partners in Mission Committees at the national level of the church, and

on Mission Outreach Committees in the Diocese of Montreal. The retreat chaplain will be Rev. Eileen Steele, incumbent the historic stone church of St. Stephen's in the historic community of Chambly. Lynda-Jean Coffin, will lead worship and music.

AWARE retreats have become a "must have" for many Christian women, who always come away feeling refreshed and renewed from the inspirational teaching, vibrant discussion groups and moving testimonies shared by others about God's goodness in their lives. A prayer team is always on hand to pray with those requesting personal prayer. The opportunity to develop and celebrate talents will be offered in several workshops during the week-end retreat.

The AWARE Committee encourages all women interested in deep-

ening their relationship with God to take a break, spend a Spirit-filled week-end of rest, renewal and enrichment surrounded by the splendor of God's creation and in fellowship with others.

Registration is \$190, payable by 31 August, 2011. A \$25 discount is offered to participants under the age of 30 years, as we encourage young women to attend. Spaces are limited, so interested persons are encouraged to register early. Registration forms are available at church offices throughout the Diocese and from:

Camille Morell 514-633-5930 or [cisaacsmorell@videotron.ca](mailto:cisaacsmorell@videotron.ca).

Maureen Firth 514-694-4304 or [chilfir@videotron.ca](mailto:chilfir@videotron.ca)

Bursaries are available. Call Susan Childs 514-620-3496 or e-mail [sentfant@videotron.ca](mailto:sentfant@videotron.ca) for information.

### Church of the Epiphany

4322 Wellington St., Verdun – Parish Office: 514-769-5373  
[www.epiphanyverdun.com](http://www.epiphanyverdun.com)

*Our doors are open to everyone to join us in worship*

**Sunday, June 3** – Trinity Sunday

Holy Communion 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, June 6** – Holy Communion noon

**Saturday, June 9** – 6:00 pm – Salads Supper

Tickets \$10.00 In advance

Order through Parish office

**Sunday, June 10** – Second Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, June 13** – Holy Communion noon

**Sunday, June 17** – Third Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday, June 24**

The Birth of Saint John the Baptist

Holy Communion 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday, July 1** – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Canada Day

Holy Communion 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, July 28** – 6:00 p.m. – Movie Night

Tickets \$10.00 In advance. Order through Parish Office

### Church of the Epiphany, Verdun

Here is a list of upcoming events at the Church of the Epiphany, 4322 Wellington Street, Verdun.

For further information:

[www.epiphanyverdun.com](http://www.epiphanyverdun.com) or call 514-769-5373.

**Saturday, June 9, 6 p.m.**

Salad supper – Tickets \$10 in advance

Contact Sandra Sorel through the parish office

**Sunday, June 17, 11:30 a.m.**

Brunch – Tickets \$5 in advance

Contact Julia DeBenetti through the parish office

**Saturday, July 28, 6 p.m.**

Movie Night – Tickets \$10 in advance

Contact Shirley Harbour through the parish office

**Saturday, Sept. 8, noon**

Barbecue – Tickets \$6 in advance through the parish office

### Glory to God

A service of praise, prayer & song for all, and especially families with young children.

**Friday June 15, 2012 – 7:30 pm**

A new worship opportunity at

**Christ Church, Beaurepaire**

455 Church Street, Beaconsfield

514-697-2204 – [christchurch@qc.aibn.com](mailto:christchurch@qc.aibn.com)

[christchurchbeaurepaire.com](http://christchurchbeaurepaire.com)

### AWARE

Anglican Women Alive Renewed & Enriched

**23rd Annual Montreal AWARE Retreat**

September 21-23, 2012

CAMMAC, Lake MacDonald, Québec

Theme: "Our God of Hope" Romans 15: 13

Speaker: Sue Winn

Chaplain: Rev. Eileen Steele

Worship Leader: Lynda-Jean Coffin

*Take a break!*

Spend a Spirit-filled week-end of rest, renewal and enrichment surrounded by the splendor of God's creation and in fellowship with others.

Registration: \$190.00, discount and bursaries are available

Register before 31 August, 2012 – Space is limited.

Registration forms available at the office or call:

Maureen Firth 514.694.4304 [chilfir@videotron.ca](mailto:chilfir@videotron.ca)

Camille Morell 514.633.5930 [cisaacsmorell@videotron.ca](mailto:cisaacsmorell@videotron.ca)

Visit the AWARE website [www.mtlaware.wordpress.com](http://www.mtlaware.wordpress.com)

# A rural archdeacon meets a Sufi and finds a kindred spirit

*(Archdeacon Edward Simonton, recently based in Rawdon and now in transit to a new post in Lennoxville in the Diocese of Quebec, is spending four months in India under the sponsorship of the Scholarship of St. Basil the Great. Established by the late Bishop Henry Hill of the Diocese of Ontario – like Father Simonton a member of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd – the scholarship seeks to establish closer relations between the Anglican Church of Canada, on the one hand, and, on the other, the Oriental Orthodox churches and the Assyrian Church of the East. During his visit to the “St. Thomas Christians,” the archdeacon is reporting extensively on his blog, archidiaconalwhitterings.blogspot.com – on which one can still find, among other things, past contributions to his former column Whitterings in this newspaper. What follows is extracted from a recent post. Photos are also from the blog.)*

“Expect the unexpected” is the general catchphrase for India. Just when you think you have it figured out it goes and surprises you.

I have had two such experiences in the last couple of weeks. The first was the extraordinary experience of visiting the five great temple cities of Tamil Nadu in the south: Thanumalayam Temple in Suchindram; Meenakshi Amman Temple in Madurai; Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in the Srirangam part of Tiruchirappalli; Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur; and Thillai Nataraja Temple in Chidambaram (where the god Shiva received the title of Lord of the Dance); as well as the giant Shivite fire phallus at the mountain Shrine of Tiruvannamalai.

These vast complexes are actually cities in their own right with several gateways leading further and further into the inner sanctums. The throng of the markets in the outer circles, the constant prayers and processions of the Brahmin priests, and the mysterious vast columned labyrinthine hallways leading to obscure lonely shrines bathed only in the light of burning ghee all blend together to cast a powerful spell.

However what I found the most powerful was the realization that I was looking straight into the past. Or at least our past as westerners. I have mentioned before that the Brahmetical Hinduism of Tamil Nadu is the last living classical religion on the planet.

What one sees in these temple cities is what life in ancient Greece, ancient Rome, and even the worship in the Temple in Jerusalem looked like. Yet here it is still going on. The businessman who stops to offer garlands of flowers or ghee and a donation to the temple priests for a good outcome for his afternoon meeting is no different than an ancient Roman merchant offering sacrifices to the household gods before a particularly important transaction. Experiencing the life of these temples has brought the ancient world to life for me in a way that HBO’s Rome can never do, no matter how much gratuitous sex they throw in.

The second unexpected thing to have happened occurred at the Dargah Sharif of the tomb of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti (1143-1235), the great Sufi Saint who brought the Chishti Order from Persia to India. This Muslim shrine, the most important in India, is still run by the order, whose members emphasize love, tolerance, openness, and hospitality as their guiding spiritual disciplines. To get to the Shrine you must walk a kilometre or so through a crowded bazaar filled with beggars who actually lie in your path so you have to step over them. The crowds and noise do not cease at the shrine but, if anything, only increase. In the chaos of the shrine a quiet-spoken man kept saying “Excuse me, Sir” over and over again. I have had this happen so often in India that I ignored him as is the normal best practice. He was so persistent that I did the second best thing which was to wave him away with some guttural Hindi (never mind that I was deep in Rajasthan in Urdu territory). When this didn’t work I just confronted him directly and asked what he wanted and when he said he wanted to share with me the spirit of the Saint and Order I scoffed (priests, unfortunately make a good bit of their money tricking tourists into “tours” or thrusting something into their hands like flowers and then demanding payment). I was wise to this trick so I bluntly asked him how much he wanted. He smiled at me sweetly and said something along the lines of “I know what you think I am but I’m not. Trust me for just a minute and you’ll see.” Instead of walking away, which I came very close to doing, I hesitated and did trust him (for a minute).

I am glad I did. It turned out he was one of the Sufi brothers and actually a member of the governing

council of the shrine. He really did want to talk with me about the nature of God. Not religion, not Islam, not Sufism, but just God. When he discovered I was a member of a religious community myself he spent a long time asking me many questions and we compared and contrasted the elements that make up our respective ‘orders’ before moving onto the dangers of religion in the modern world and our respective fundamentalisms and what we, as faithful men, could do about it.

This man actually believed in openness, hospitality and generosity and put it into practice by welcoming people to the shrine. As he had a university education and spoke a couple of foreign languages he made a point of greeting foreigners. During my entire time in India, he is the only person who has spoken to me about God instead of religion, doctrine, or sectarian or caste division. I guess I should not be surprised considering he was a Sufi. Still, I was. He was a great blessing to me and I am grateful for his insistence. We ended the afternoon, after having tea in the shade of a banyan tree, praying at the tomb of the Saint that all human hearts would unclench and unfold into the ever present sun of the love of God. The overpowering scent of thousand upon thousand of rose petals piled high over the tomb so that it was lost to view has probably changed the smell of roses for me forever. When I smell roses I think I will remember the Sufi Shrine at Ajmer.

“Expect the unexpected.” I should also point out, to be fair since I griped so much before, that much of Tamil Nadu was sparsely populated and remarkably beautiful. The only crowds were in the cities. I have also found almost no trash in Rajasthan. It turns out this is partially because the poverty is so great here there is not so much to throw away as in other places but also because an army of street sweepers work around the clock. Still – to give it its due – there is very little rubbish about, few stray dogs (pigs, goats, boar, water buffalo, chickens, monkeys etc.) although there are, as ever, many wandering sacred cows. The almost deserted deserts and arid southern mountains of Rajasthan are some of the most beautiful landscapes I have ever seen. There have been places where all you can hear are the numerous song-birds, the wind and the cry of peafowl. Just when you think you have it all figured out....



KHWAJA TOMB at Ajmer



INTERIOR of a Sufi shrine



SHIVA NATARAJA at Nataraj Temple



SUFI SHRINE at Ajmer



MARKET inside temple compound at Chidambaram

## An interview with John Lee

# 'None of my doing but of God's'

(This is the second of two articles in which Rev. Holly Ratcliffe of Christ Church, Sorel, explores the long term perspective for French-language ministry in Quebec with Ven. John Lee, a retired priest now serving as honorary assistant at Christ Church. The first part described how his early career, before and after being priested in 1957, brought him into more contact with francophones and social activism than many Anglican clergy in Quebec.)

Holly: So by the 1970s you had sought ways to immerse yourself in French?

John: It helped that I often found myself in French organizations. In the late seventies, early eighties I was a member of le Réseau des Politisés Chrétiens, a grouping of the Christian left in Quebec.

Holly: Can you tell us more about that réseau?

John: Sister Margot Powers, Karl Léveque, Yves Vaillancourt, Pierre Goldberger – former principal of United Theological College – and your Sorel friend and colleague (community organizer) René Lachapelle, were members. Le Réseau des Politisés Chrétiens began in 1972 (it dissolved in 1982) and was a kind of Quebec section of the international Chrétiens pour le Socialisme. It was made up of Christians engaged in groups for the defense of workers and defavored people (example, *l'Association du personnel domestique*), whether they were religious like the Mouvement des Travailleurs Chrétiens, or secular like unions and community groups. At its best it was not just a network of Christian progressives and socialists, but a venture in contextual and collective theological reflection.

Holly: A fascinating, and largely unknown movement among Anglicans in Québec, I suspect. What else were you involved in at that time?

John: There was a period in the eighties in which I was a community commissioner of la Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles (Parole Board of Québec). As for French in the workplace, in 1981 I was hired by le Centre Préfontaine, then a new public detox for homeless people (funded by the Québec government), to organize its

services and programs. I thought it would be for a couple of years, but I stayed ten. It was definitely an immersion in French, as for several of those years I was the only anglophone on staff. We opened the men's services on Rachel opposite Angus Shops in 1982, and women's services in 1986 on Papineau. We also had street workers who cooperated with non-profit housing projects – as it was nonsense to try to help homeless people with addiction problems without at the same time trying to provide them safe, adequate, affordable housing.

Holly: I understand you wrote and published articles on what you were learning about homelessness through that experience at Préfontaine. Can you tell us about what you wrote? What was your analysis?

John: In the International Year of the Homeless *La Revue québécoise de psychologie* published an article of mine on "La réadaptation à l'heure des sans-abris." It had to do with the need to have a global strategy of intervention, not just helping people dry out and sending them back into the street. That's where cooperation with housing non-profits came in, because as a re-adaptation centre the government would not allow us at Préfontaine to work on housing. I also spoke on this subject at an Ottawa "Year of the Homeless" event.

Holly: Does Préfontaine still exist?

John: Le Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux had long wanted to merge Préfontaine with other public detox centres. Early on we had successfully opposed that, with the help of RAPSIM, community organizations, municipal court judges and the Montreal police. However, in the early nineties it took place. Préfontaine, Domrémy, and Alternatives became one organization, eventually to be named "le Centre Dollard-Cormier." It is a great source of satisfaction to me that many members of Préfontaine staff still work there and that elements of Préfontaine's mission, program and culture are represented in that new entity.

Holly: I remember meeting you at archdeacons and regional deans meetings in the mid nineties, when you were serving as rector of Stan-



REV. JOHN LEE leaves St. Matthias' Church in Westmount at the end of the recent convocation of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College, where he was in the audience. (Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

bridge East. I remember one meeting held in that parish, and being struck by the abstract expressionist paintings on the walls of the rectory. These were your paintings you were doing with a francophone group. Can you tell us more about that adventure in French immersion too?

John: Toward the end of my time at Préfontaine I was forced to take a long sick leave for burn-out. It was during that time that a friend invited me to paint with l'Atelier du Libre défi, an artists' co-operative in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. I remained a member until 1999 when it went out of existence and it is to Libre défi that I owe my beginning as a painter.

Holly: Frère Jérôme was a great inspiration for the artists in l'Atelier du libre défi. Can you tell us a bit about how you as artists worked together such that it had such a profound effect on you?

John: We painted together once a week (as well as at home, of course). Frère Jérôme (frère de Sainte-Croix and friend of Paul-Émile Borduas and other automatistes) was our muse, partly because the founder of Libre défi, Roger Alexandre, had been his student, and partly because Frère Jérôme was about freeing

artists up to play with gesture and with shapes and colours and line – very therapeutic – and that is what we did basically, with a collective show once a year. It was always a most supportive and caring group of people.

Holly: Were there other ways you got involved in local francophone community initiatives in your municipality?

John: In that same period I became the co-ordinator and spokesperson for a citizen's organization called Le Regroupement pour un environnement sans plomb (with a lot of support from two friends, Michel Boyer and Pierre Brodeur). The Balmet Company had been recycling lead from automotive batteries in an old foundry in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, just west of the area I lived in, and over the years lead dust had been settling on the neighbourhood, the small lawns and backyards. Several pre-school children were found to have elevated blood lead levels and this organization worked on the issue for about three years, succeeding at least in getting the province to excavate and dispose of polluted soil after Balmet had closed, even if the attempt at a class action suit by parents was never authorized.

Holly: In the church we would now regard your work at Préfontaine, and your local community involvements as "diaconal" ministry, that is, a ministry of community organization as well as an embracing solidarity with the creative culture of the Québécois.

Perhaps there is a link here – that doing francophone ministry needs to be weighted on the diaconal side, where the ministry responds to obvious social needs, and celebrates enthusiastically the creative gifts of that culture. From there such ministry can incarnate the gospel in a culture that is resistant to hearing it directly.

What other francophone ministry have you been involved in?

John: Yes, I would agree that up to that point my ministry in Montreal had been mainly diaconal. Yet, before my placement in Stanbridge East, I found myself, for three years, a chaplain in the federal Correctional Service (at Cowansville, Donna-

cona and Drummond). After the many years since being a parish priest, I was again in direct pastoral ministry, this time with the inmates, and I found my faith and vocation challenged in a new way. Most inmates were clearly looking for authentic representatives of the Gospel among the chaplains and volunteers, and so began a period of self-examination and spiritual pilgrimage, which has continued to the present.

Also, over the years I had, on rare occasions been asked to preach in French, but had little "religious" vocabulary for doing so, and the Bible as I knew it was in English! But I had to do that sometimes in the pen. It did not happen all at once, but with time I began to find myself more comfortable presiding and preaching in that language.

Holly: What is your involvement in Francophone ministry now, as you approach your 80th birthday?

John: In 1999 I was asked to officiate at a marriage in Christ Church, Sorel, which had just officially become a francophone congregation, with the placement of newly ordained deacon Patrick Wheeler there as fulltime incumbent. And though there have been gaps, I have maintained a connection with, and membership in, that community of faith. As honorary assistant I am fairly often called upon to preside at the eucharist and preach/animate the sermon/partage.

Holly: And it is very deeply appreciated by that community. Your diaconal, activist spirituality – always going out beyond the usual comfort zone, whether in social, linguistic or creative ways – has enriched us all in the time you have been there. But you have also become very contemplative. How do you see your presence there in Sorel, now?

John: One day as I was looking out the front door of the church over the Carré-royal park in Vieux-Sorel, it struck me that my life, which to me has seemed basically unplanned and often chaotic, has been a journey on a road that began in Labrieville in 1956 and that has led to this place, a journey, I believe one could say, that was none of my doing, but of God's.

## Simon Hartropp rides again! His MS bike tour is June 23-24

### Simon Hartropp

(Simon Hartropp is a lay reader at the Church of the Resurrection in Pointe Claire and, among other things, an avid cyclist. In this note, he outlines his plans for his ride for the campaign against multiple sclerosis this summer and fundraising leading up to it.)

May is MS Awareness Month and I am launching my fundraising campaign for the 2012 edition of the MSVélotour. I have taken part in the MSVélotour since 2000. Thanks to the combined generosity of donors, sponsorship last year was my highest ever, reaching \$3,501 and making me the second-runner-up in the New Brunswick tour. Our Psycows team won the Top Team trophy for dollars raised per team member. With your continuing support, I am hoping to raise over \$3,500 again this year. Meeting this target would take my accumulated total to over \$25,000.

For my 13th ride, I will be riding

from Sussex to St John in New Brunswick with the Psycows team. Bruce Mitham, our team captain, was born and raised in Pointe-Claire, then moved to the Maritimes to take up dairy farming. I ride in honour of his wife Sarah, who suffers from MS. This year I am also remembering and praying for Winfield, a life-long friend of my fellow lay reader, Les Blackman.

MS has been in the news a lot this year, with much written about new treatments. The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada is playing a significant role, providing research funding for many institutions. Over \$2 million has been awarded to universities in Quebec (including McGill, the Université de Montréal and Laval) in the form of three-year grants. The research projects investigate both traditional (clinical and medical) approaches to tackling the condition and alternative ones like CCSVI, developed by Italian researcher Paolo Zamboni. Further

information can be found on the MS Canada website [mssociety.ca/en/](http://mssociety.ca/en/)

Exploring this website will also yield information about the MS Véloutours. The New Brunswick tour is expected to provide a route length of 140 kilometres. To that I will add journeys around Montreal in MS Véloutour cycling colours to make a total of 250 kilometres.

I am covering my costs of participation. I am asking your readers to sponsor me at 10 cents per km (\$25), all of which will go to MSS Canada. If a sponsorship is \$15 or more an official tax receipt will wing its way in time for tax returns.

The easiest way to sponsor me is via the MSS Canada website.

Click on "MS Bike Tour"; enter "Hartropp" in the 'Find a cyclist or team' box; click on the cyclist next to the box; Click on my name on the list at the bottom of the page.

OR Use this link directly: [mssoc.convio.net/site/TR/BikeTour/AtlanticDivision?px=1205452&pg=](http://mssoc.convio.net/site/TR/BikeTour/AtlanticDivision?px=1205452&pg=)

personal&fr\_id=1209

You'll be able to see there how sponsorship is progressing relative to my target this year of \$3500.

Alternatively: Send me a cheque payable to "MSS Canada"; or telephone the Atlantic office at 902-468-8230 and mention "Simon Hartropp Véloutour Bike Tour".



SIMON HARTROPP in 2010 Véloutour

One hundred per cent of what I raise will go to assist the many who suffer from MS. Society income is spent as follows: National and Local Research 46 per cent; Clinics and Services for patients 31 per cent; Information and Social Action 7 per cent; Volunteers per cent, Administration 11 per cent.

## Comment

# NGOs, mining companies and CIDA: What about human rights?

Derek MacCuish

(Derek MacCuish is the editor of The Upstream Journal, quarterly of the Social Justice Committee of Montreal. These comments on agreements among non-governmental organizations, mining companies and the federal government's Canadian International Development Agency for three foreign aid pilot projects in Africa and South America are slightly edited from his editor's note in a recent issue. The beginning and end of his note refer to another article in the issue, about the impact of diamond mining and tourism on Bushmen in Botswana. For an online version of The Upstream Journal, visit [www.upstreamjournal.org](http://www.upstreamjournal.org).)

Our cover story this time is about indigenous people of the Kalahari, and their fight for recognition and protection of their rights. They want to live in their traditional territory, and the government wants them out so it can pursue tourism and mining opportunities. As is often the case, mining interests are competing with

the rights of indigenous people.

So what are we to make of the government funding partnerships between development groups and mining companies, in which human rights considerations are not included? Indeed, none of the development groups has shown any interest in the rights of indigenous people.

CIDA has committed \$5.7 million to partners IAMGOLD and Plan Canada for "one of the largest public-private partnerships with an extractive company in CIDA's history," as IAMGOLD's press statement says. CIDA is also giving about half a million dollars each to two other projects that have World University Service of Canada (WUSC) partnered with Rio Tinto Alcan and World Vision Canada with Barrick Gold.

Other NGOs are concerned that Canadian foreign aid policy will continue to emphasize private sector engagement in extractive industries, and that resource-rich countries can expect more attention – and money from CIDA – in the years to come, at the expense of aid programs elsewhere.

According to the most recent financial statements provided to Revenue Canada, these three groups were already getting serious funding from the federal government – Plan International Canada got \$6.4 million, World Vision Canada \$13 million and WUSC \$12 million. Other NGOs aren't doing as well.

In a joint response to media reports that questioned the ethics of this funding, the three NGOs claimed to have an expertise that will ensure "maximum benefits" from their engagement with mining companies. "As long-term partners of local communities and governments in such countries, WUSC, World Vision, and Plan are sharing well-developed best practices with mining companies and local developing country governments. Moreover, by engaging mining companies at the highest levels, we are working to help raise the bar on corporate social responsibility standards for future mining operations."

What "best practice" did they mean? The bar has already been raised on corporate social responsi-

bility, with the growing acceptance of the need for "free, prior and informed consent" of local indigenous people before mining operations can begin, for example. Recently adopted as policy by the private sector division of the World Bank, this concept is being expanded by the UN as part of its program to safeguard forests. The requirement of consent – not just consultation – reflects the progress of rights-based development thinking that puts local people first, and is the result of years of campaigning by human rights organizations.

Yet searches of the three NGO websites show no references to the need for this consent whatsoever. Indeed, their web sites have nothing to say about the rights of indigenous people at all, despite numerous examples of tension, conflict and rights violations when mining takes place in their communities.

As the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous people described in his 2011 report, "The growing awareness of the impact of extractive industries on the rights of

indigenous peoples is further raised by the concerns expressed... that these projects and industries are becoming the greatest challenges to the exercise of the rights of indigenous peoples. This situation is further evidenced by the lack of understanding of basic minimum standards on the effects of extractive industries affecting indigenous peoples and about the role and responsibility of the State to ensure protection of their rights."

Will the millions of dollars CIDA is giving these NGOs really be a help to communities facing the "greatest challenges" to their rights? The experience of the Bushmen is an example of what happens when those rights are ignored.

## Canada briefs

### Cathedral in Victoria dedicates multi-faith chapel

On April 3, more than 60 people attended the dedication of the new Multi-faith Chapel of Compassion at Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria.

"As a part of our role as the city's cathedral, we are a place for all faiths," said Dean Logan McMenamie. The chapel, located in the narthex in the south tower of the cathedral, will be open to everyone for prayer and meditation.

Members of the Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Christian and other faith communities gathered for the dedication. "At a time when our world is being intimidated by violence," McMenamie said, "we are called to take back our humanity and work together." *The Diocesan Post*

### New Cathedral Centre opens in Toronto

The newly constructed St. James Cathedral Centre in downtown Toronto is now open. It was dedicated on April 15 by Archbishop Colin Johnson. Half of the new 44,000-square-foot structure is nestled into the frame of the historic early 20th-century parish house. The rest is almost entirely glass and is

intended to be open and inviting to passersby.

A ground-floor reception area, which can hold 400 people and is equipped for audio visual presentations, will be used for meetings and receptions. It will also be rented out. The basement, a large multi-purpose level, will house the cathedral's outreach ministry. It includes an office for the parish nurse as well as a choir room and archive space.

The cathedral offices are on the second floor. The third floor has residences for the dean and up to four visiting clergy. *The Anglican*

### Windsor youth preparing for mission to South Africa

Ten young members of Church of the Ascension in Windsor, Ont., will visit members of their sister church, also named Church of the Ascension, in the Hilton Valley of South Africa this spring.

The travellers are aged 19 to 25, but much younger members got involved in fundraising for the trip, with a youth talent night that raised more than \$750 toward the mission costs.

The youth have been working on handcrafted rainbows, a symbol of hope, intended for children whose parents have died of AIDS. They will also bring school supplies for the children. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact youth coordinator Amanda Gellman, 519-256-6764. *Huron Church News*

## 2012 Country Homes Tour

Thursday, June 7, 2012  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Highlighting Hudson & area homes

Presented by St. James' Church Women, Hudson

TOUR TICKETS \$25 – ON SALE MAY 1st AT

Source Aliments Santé,  
448 Main Rd., Hudson (450) 458-7547

Décor & Tissus Serenity,  
67 Cameron, Hudson (450) 853-0635

Re-vive Décor Maison,  
15E Cartier Ave. Pte Claire (514) 695-9512

St. James' Church Hall:  
lunch \$15, two sittings: 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

For St. James' Lunch please purchase tickets  
at the same time as Tour tickets.

St. Mary's Church Hall:  
9-11 a.m. coffee & muffins \$3;  
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. lunch \$12.

For St. Mary's Church Hall please call ahead and book  
for large groups. Call (450) 458-7913 or (450) 458-7160

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## BAZAARS

**St. Paul's Lachine**  
377 44th Ave. (Lionel Groulx  
Métro, #496 to Victoria and 44th)  
**17th ANNUAL GARAGE  
AND BAKE SALE**

Sat., June 2,  
from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Organized by the Men of St. Paul's. Books, furniture, dishes, toys, appliances and many other treasures. Hot dog stand and a sweets corner with sucre à la crème, peppermint and several other types of fudge. Donations of items in good clean condition for the sale can be dropped off at the Church Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.  
For information: 514-634-1965.

**St. James, Rosemere**  
328 Pine St.

**GREEN THUMB  
and BAKE SALE**

Sat., June 2, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Come early as things disappear quickly. For information: 450-621-6466 or visit the Facebook page.

**St. Columba, N.D.G., Montreal**  
4020 Hingston Ave., (Vendôme  
Métro, #105 to Sherbrooke &  
Hingston; Villa Maria Métro, #103  
or #162 to Monkland & Hingston)

**ANNUAL  
YARD/RUMMAGE SALE**

Sat., June 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Bake table, nearly-new boutique, toys, records/tapes, plants. Tea/coffee.

**Grace Church, Arundel**  
7 Church Road

**ACW RUMMAGE SALE**

Sat., June 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Great bargains! Light refreshment.

**St. George's Châteauguay**  
162 St. Francis Blvd.

**STRAWBERRY SOCIAL**

Sat. June 16, 1 p.m.

Strawberry delight.

**St. Stephen's with St. James,  
Chambly**

Randell Hall, 2000 rue de  
Bourgogne

**ANNUAL ACW  
STRAWBERRY SOCIAL**

Mon., June 25, 6-8 p.m.

Contact: Eileen Agley 450-658-1027.

# St. Matthias' celebrates centenary of stone church



THE CHAD LINLEY DUO adds to the ambience



CHOIR MEMBER HASANI JOHNSON and server Alison Moskalewski were among the younger parishioners present.

Peter Denis

On April 28, 1912 St. Matthias' celebrated the first Eucharist in its imposing new stone building on Côte St. Antoine Road in Westmount. Previously the church worshipped in a small wooden church on the site of the present Parish Hall.

The cornerstone for the new building had been laid 22 months earlier and the silver trowel used at that event was among many artifacts and photos on display the parish celebrated the 100th anniversary of the new church on Saturday, April 28.

The Bishop of Montreal, Barry Clarke, preached and recalled his days at St. Matthias' as an assistant curate in the late 1970s. He was assisted at the Eucharist by Most Rev. Bruce Stavert, retired archbishop of Quebec, Rev. Canon William Blizzard, a former priest of the parish, and the current Rector, Ken Near. Music Director John Wiens led the choir, Bridget Chatterley played the organ.

Following the service, a party was held in the Lower Hall, which was beautifully decorated for the event. Food was provided by the parish-

ioners and there was ample wine for all our guests. Among the guests were Marc Garneau, MP for Westmount, former priest Jim McDermott, accompanied by his wife Veronica, and two recent student assistants at the parish, Rev. Robert Camara and Donald Boisvert, and Rev. Karla Holmes.

The convenors for this wonderful evening were Jane Needles Bradley, Shelia Powell Porteous and Brian Davies, helped by the rector and many parishioners.

A great time was enjoyed by all!



REV. KEN AND KAREN NEAR are joined by Rev. Jim McDermott, who recently served the church as interim priest, and his wife Veronica.

(Photos: Peter Denis)

## Postal letter drops

# An experiment in mission: reaching the neighbourhood

Bruce Glencross

(Rev. Canon Bruce Glencross is the rector of St. John the Baptist Church in Pointe Claire. There will be a large Gorilla used in this article! Keep reading to find out where.)

The Parish of Pointe Claire, better known as The Church of Saint John the Baptist, has begun to experiment with postal letter drops to the community to advertise our wares. This is our story of how it is going about doing this.

One year, in order to stir up interest in our Crosstalk Ministries week-long Anglican Summer Day Camp, I asked the team members to go around the neighbourhood putting an Info Sheet into mailboxes. I wondered what it would cost to have the Post Office do this for us. The thought stayed parked in my mind until I shared it with a parent of one of the children participating. He said his company regularly used them and told me the price. My eyes popped open at how low the price was in comparison to the regular letter rate. He said he would help us do this for another effort that we were thinking of: Back-to-Church Sunday. After the fact his company picked up the bill, but we got results that first year with some families choosing to come (and more importantly, stay!) as a result of our advertising using the letterdrop method.

Wanting to see if there would be an increase in people coming to worship if we consistently advertised what we were up to, I turned to the Mission Committee of the Diocese and asked them to underwrite four letter-drops. In our application we linked two of those letter-drops to our parish's "doing good deeds." The



THIS IS NOT a postal letter drop.

(Photo Pierre Fidenci, distributed under the licence Creative Commons Attribution ShareAlike 2.5)

Mission Committee decided to go for what I requested and is kindly underwriting this years cost.

It seems to be working!

Our first endeavor to engage our neighbours was to hold a "Love Your Neighbour" breakfast fund-raiser in support of a Pointe Claire foodbank. Our letter-drop advertisement contained a dozen lines about the breakfast and two about perhaps joining us for worship on a Sunday. The second letter-drop, a short time later, was simply about our Easter worship and an invitation to join us. In the first four months of this year we have averaged five more people in the pews each Sunday, so we can say, "So far, so good!"

Oh, by the way, \$550 and two boxes of food were given to that food bank as well. An informal poll of some of the 80 folk that came suggested that all methods we tried in advertising worked: the quantity letter-drop, the local weeklies, and a

face-to-face secondary drop by myself in the immediate two blocks around the church. I bumped into several of the neighbours while I did this.

We are learning as we go about this.

Way back when we had a first blush of results after our Back-to-Church effort, we thought of a Christmas letter-drop. We got into the controversy of quality verses quantity when it comes to advertising and the relative costs and coverage of each. The first effort was definitely quantity and it was successful, as stated above. The quality folks won out at Christmastime. Trouble was, while there were some new faces in Church at Christmas, they weren't there come January.

This is where the gorilla comes in – really. (I digress just for a moment. Humour me and read on.)

I was answering an online poll which asked the question, "If you

saw a giant gorilla balloon outside a car dealership would it make you want to stop in?" Of course I answered with an emphatic click of the mouse "NO". About two weeks later I was driving up Sources Boulevard in the West Island above Highway 40, and lo and behold I come across a car dealership (the one with the largest volume of car sales in Quebec), where a couple of giant stick-men balloons were dancing in the wind. Out of my mouth popped the observation, "Ah, isn't that cute, if I had my grandkids with me I'd drop in to let the kids have a closer look." Immediately after that I thought of the online poll and how I had answered incorrectly!

This is not to say I'm now only a "quantity man" when it comes to advertising. Not at all. While the Love-Your-Neighbour-Breakfast letter-drop was definitely a quantity Advert, the Easter advertising we did generated a lot of positive buzz in the congregation. It was a "quality" effort and much liked. Several people said they wanted some extra copies to give to their neighbours. A new and positive step for some. So, come this fall, we hope to do a quality effort but as well as having the Post Office do a slightly downsized letterdrop, we will have extra copies for the members of the congregation to give to friends and their neighbours as well.

The drop will be Downsized because quality costs more and you end up with fewer copies to get out the word. But having people directing the advert to people they know is exciting. The content of the advert would centre on what we have to offer spiritually as a believing community.

We then will advertise our Christmas Basket efforts (on behalf of that same food bank) AND our Christmas worship services, including our Pageant, of course, by letter-drop at Christmas time.

One of the helpful side effects of what we have been doing is the increased presence of information about the church in our other undertakings.

For example, members of our Women's Guild place a half page in the bags of things sold at our Rummage and other sales. The half page advert on colourful paper tells of upcoming events (sales, etc.) on one side and what we have to offer on a Sunday morning on the other.

Another side effect occurred at the local Easter Sunrise where I shared with my unilingual French Catholic colleague what we were doing and asked if he might want to join in our September Back-to-Church efforts. He could have a French effort for his Parish and we could have an English one for ours. If it were to work out, that could mean our efforts could be half the cost or twice the coverage!

How to measure success at the end of the year? If I had to put it into one sentence, I guess that would be something like "More folks in the pews, less red at the end of the year and a sense of excitement for Mission in our people." I'll let you know how the remainder of the year works out.

If you want to know how the gritty details of cost, volunteers hours needed and the like, email me at bglencross@montreal.anglican.ca. The Post Office will make a letter-drop as small as one postal route for you if you desire!

# ✂ Diocesan Clippings (and Snapshots) 📷

## Vandendorpe moves west

The two-year contract of Rev. Maïda Vandendorpe for ministry in the Parish of Mascouche, northeast of Montreal, ended May 31. Bishop Barry Clarke said that Executive Archdeacon Janet Griffith, as acting territorial archdeacon for the area north of Montreal, "is working with the congregation to consider the way forward in the ministry of the parish." He has appointed Ms. Vandendorpe as assistant curate, in the Parish of Vaudreuil for a one-year contract, under what he describes as a joint endeavour on the part of the Parish of Vaudreuil and the Diocese of Montreal."

## St Bruno co-operation attracts local attention

The agreement under which Trinity Anglican Church in St. Bruno has shared the quarters of St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church in that community is the subject of an article in the May 5 issue of the local weekly *Le Journal de Saint-Bruno/Saint-Basile*. « Historiquement, les catholiques et les Anglicans n'ont pas toujours fait bon ménage, » writes reporter Pierre-Alexandre Maltais. « En 2012, la situation a évolué tant et si bien que les deux confessions, toutes deux anglophones, partagent aujourd'hui la même église à Saint-Bruno. » The article notes that, responding to developments including a sharp decline in the local English-speaking population, Trinity sold its own building to a Baptist church in 2008 and then accepted the offer of the priest at St. Augustine, Rev. Marc Mignault, to share that building at a price Rev. Bruce Graham of Trinity describes as ridiculously low. It notes that there are also joint worship services on some special occasions.

## St. Stephen's Lachine turns 190

Bishop Barry Clarke will celebrate the Eucharist at a service marking the 190th-anniversary of St. Stephen's Lachine June 10. Other dignitaries and former parishioners from far and wide are expected to join the celebration.

## Blessing of gardens, degustation of strawberries

Blessing of gardens in and near the Church of St. Cuthbert, St. Hilda and St. Luke, 6341 de Lorimier St. in east-central Montreal, will begin at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 2. There will be no Sunday service the next day. A strawberry lunch-eon is planned 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 16.

## 60 years a priest



REV. CANON OSWALD SLATTERY celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination at worship and a reception April 15 at the downtown Montreal Church of St. John the Evangelist, where he was once rector. In the photo, he's getting congratulations from a longstanding parishioner, Raymond (Mac) Pendleton. (Photo: Janet Best)

## Who says nobody reads any more?



LOOKING FOR GRIPPING TITLES, browsers help to make an April book fair at St. James Rosemere a lively and fantastic day.

## New incumbent in Ste. Agathe



THE FIRST INDUCTION of a new rector, Rev. Canon Ralph Leavitt, filled Holy Trinity Church in Ste. Agathe on a sunny April 15 afternoon. A good turnout from the parish itself was buoyed by about 35 people from his previous congregation, St. George's Place du Canada in Montreal, (a bus got a bit lost and only just arrived on time) and a good turnout of clergy. It was a busy day for the new incumbent, who baptized his second grandchild, Shaun-Elliott, that morning. In photo, the Eucharist is concelebrated by Executive Archdeacon Janet Griffith, acting archdeacon of the Laurentians pending Canon Leavitt's taking on that task, Rev. Canon David Sinclair, regional dean, and Canon Leavitt.

## Organ gets a software boost



WITH ACCESS TO "STOPS" from four distinguished organs in North America, England and France, organist Pierre Cabana of St. Paul's Church in Knowlton contemplates his options in what worshippers at the church facetiously call his "cockpit." An \$18,000 upgrade permits "digital interfaces" between the electro-pneumatic organ in St. Paul's and recordings of tones from the four organs. Others could be added in the future. "The stop-list of the organ was small but this augments the possibilities," he says. The upgrade was presented at a rededication and concert in mid-April. (Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

## Bright, bold and welcoming



AFTER MANY MONTHS of talking and planning, a new sign is in place at St Stephen's Lachine, which really took to heart a suggestion made by the 2010 report to the Diocese by consultant Myrlene Boken report that the church be more visible in the community. "Last year we painted our new restored window frames bright yellow, then this year we had the border on our new sign match them. In fact, following a recent overheard comment, we are thinking about calling ourselves the 'Sunshine Church,'" says parishioner Mary Pickup.

## Easter at Redroof Church



THE RECTOR, Rev. Keith Schmidt, is accompanied by Peter Harper, left, and Rev. Canon John Simons, principal of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College at Easter worship at the downtown Montreal Church of St. John the Evangelist. (Photo: Janet Best)

## Easter at St. George's Granby



FOLLOWING UP ON AN INITIATIVE last year, Rev. Canon William (Terry) Blizzard again conducted a walk around the church on Good Friday, using the stained-glass windows to tell the story of Jesus' life, from birth to death and Resurrection. Participants heard bilingual explanations and meditations at each of 12 windows. Easter Sunday, service of Holy Eucharist at 11 a.m. was followed by an Easter brunch in the church hall (below), planned and catered by the men of the parish.



## Canada briefs

### Quebec government offers some railroad funding

The Quebec government has responded to calls to repair the rural passenger rail link between Matapédia and Gaspé, something the area's Anglican and Roman Catholic leaders have been demanding for months.

In its March budget, the Liberal administration promised \$17 million over two years to repair the rail line. While provincial funding is welcome, it represents only a fraction of the estimated \$93.5 million in repairs required over the next five years. *Gazette*

### Mining stock dumped

Church Society, which manages pooled funds for congregations in the diocese of Quebec, has dropped a lucrative mining stock because of ethical concerns.

The 3,500 shares in Barrick Gold were divested after reports surfaced that five intruders were shot dead by security patrols at one of the company's gold mines in rural Tanzania.

The Toronto-based mining firm has been facing mounting criticism for its handling of human rights and environmental issues in developing countries. *Gazette*