

ANGLICAN MONTREAL ANGLICAN

JANUARY 2013
A section of the
Anglican Journal



Official Publication of
the Diocese of Montreal

New pastor in Pierrefonds



THE NEW PARISH PRIEST of St. Barnabas in Pierrefonds, Rev. Pamela Yarrow, greets some of her new parishioners. For more, see Page 12.

A poignant moment in Lachine



FOR THE LAST TIME, altar server Amanda Seebeck puts out the candles after the closing service at St. Paul's Church November 25. For more on the closing, see Page 7.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

Age doesn't matter to God



AT THE AGE OF 90, Marven Wood is baptized by Rev. Christopher Belle at St. Joseph of Nazareth Church in Brossard in late November. Friends and former neighbours from as far away as Indiana were on hand for the occasion. It was a happy coincidence that the baptism took place at the same service as a talk by Sally Richmond, recalling how a parishioner of St. Joseph's, Benny Benoy, founded the Logifem shelter for women. "Benny was no youngster when he responded to God's call," comments parishioner Patricia Wood. "It all shows that, in God's eyes, age doesn't matter."

(Photo contributed)



WARDENS ANNE SIMPSON AND WAYNE PRICE and Ron Chaston, rector's warden in the late 1960s, join clergy, several of them former clergy of the parish, at the front of the church. At left in clerical street attire is Archdeacon Wallace Sparling, who was later executive archdeacon of the Diocese of Montreal. Others who at one time served the parish as incumbant or otherwise are Rev. Karen Egan Chalk, Rev. Gary Alcook, Bishop Barry Clarke, Rev. Pamela Yarrow (interim priest when the parish closed), Rev. Alan Evans and Rev. Roslyn Macgregor. The bishop is flanked by Archdeacons Michael Johnson and Janet Griffith.

New priest puts down roots in Châteauguay



REV. ROBERT CAMARA, recently inducted as incumbent of St. George's Church in Châteauguay, and his partner, Gabriele Spina, invited parishioners to their new house, now under construction in the community, at a reception after the November 18 induction service. Around then, Father Camara posted this shot on his Facebook page. For more on the induction, see Page 3.



REV. ROBERT CAMARA AND BISHOP BARRY CLARKE greet parishioners of St. George's Church in Châteauguay after Father Camara's induction as the new rector of the parish on November 18. Parishioners of several parishes where he served as a student or curate, including St. James the Apostle in downtown Montreal, helped to fill the church.

(Photos: Harvey Shepherd)

A New Year is upon us. As we begin this new year, may our lives be filled with gratitude.

I am surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. I am grateful for the clergy and lay people who continue to be faithful in times of challenge and new opportunities. Together we share in partnership with God in God's mission.

I am grateful for the wardens, treasurers, parish communicators, altar guild members, Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, children and young people, choirs, organists, musicians, lay delegates to Synod, members who serve on Diocesan committees, vergers, for the offering of their time, talents and treasures to build up the body of Christ in the Diocese.

I am grateful for the Synod office staff, who, on your behalf, work diligently to serve the Diocese.

The season of Epiphany is the season of growing together as disciples of Jesus. It is discovering a renewed



Bishop's Message

faith as we follow the "Star" Jesus, the Christ. The Epiphany season invites us to grow in the faithful practice of our stewardship. Like the wise men of old, the Magi, they offered their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In their offering, they encountered the divine revelation - they met Jesus. They were invited to take another road. A road away from power, that corrupts and destroys (Herod), to a road of justice and transformation in Jesus.

As we travel the journey of this New Year, in the season of Epiphany, may our lives be filled with gratitude and lived out in hope. In the transforming love of Jesus, we offer to God, "ourselves, our souls and bodies" in faithful response to God's call upon our lives.

In Christ,

+ Barry

Strong women should support the weaker, canon says

Harvey Shepherd

While continuing the struggle against violence against women, people should also celebrate the progress women have achieved in recent decades and the great success of many individual women, a leading laywoman in the Diocese of Montreal said from the Christ Church Cathedral pulpit December 6.

Preaching at the annual service of remembrance organized by the Anglican Church Women in Montreal to commemorate the anniversary

of the killing of 14 women students at the École Polytechnique de Montréal in 1989, Canon Constance Middleton-Hope recalled instances of discrimination against women even in her own life in past years and cited women who have risen to eminent positions in business, politics and other fields of endeavour.

But even more important than these women, she said, are those who serve others through volunteer activities.

Dr. Middleton-Hope, one of the few lay Anglicans to hold the honorific title of canon of a cathedral chapter - in her case, that of Christ Church Cathedral - said women of achievement should build on this in women of faith should not hide it in reaction to abuses against women in the name of religion.

"We need to build our faith and action as women who are bright and valued in the sight of God," she said.

"We can and should decry honour killing in Canada. Still we can respect women who prefer to wear some sign of their religious identity, while making sure that this does not restrict their freedoms.

"We also know that we can be women of strength, while we need to support those who are weaker."



CONSTANCE MIDDLETON-HOPE

Pilgrimage includes Blarney Stone, Yeats' grave

The Montreal synod office has released an itinerary for the Celtic pilgrimage to Ireland to be led by Bishop Barry Clarke September 19-October 1. Here are some of the highlights:

Day 2: Friday, Sept. 20: Dublin. Largely a free day in the Irish capital.

Day 3: Saturday, Sept. 21: Dublin/Glendalough/Avoca/Waterford.

The early Christian monastic site at Glendalough founded by St. Kevin in the sixth century. Ireland's oldest hand-weaving mill at Avoca. Waterford, a stronghold founded by the Danish Vikings some 1,100 years ago.

Day 4: Sunday, Sept. 22: Waterford/Blarney/Cork/Killarney.

Guided tour of the House of Waterford Crystal. Blarney, renowned for its castle and Kissing Stone. Woolen mills. St. Finbars Cathedral at Cork. Overnight at the popular resort Killarney.

Day 5: Monday, Sept. 23: Killarney/ Ring of Kerry.

Leisurely tour around the Iveragh Peninsula reputed to be the most scenic drive in Europe. On through



BOOK OF KELLS detail

Moll's Gap and along by Ladies' View that provides vistas of the Lakes of Killarney. Horse-carriage ride through the national park and boat cruise by on Killarney Lake. Ross Castle.

Day 6: Tuesday, Sept. 24: Adare/Bunratty/Kilenora/Galway.

Thatched cottages amid the ruins of medieval churches at Adare Bunratty Castle. Burren Centre at Kilenora: The newly restored ancient cathedral and Celtic crosses in the churchyard were a centre of early Christianity. Port city of Galway.

Day 7: Wednesday, Sept. 25: Galway/Rossaveel/Aran Isles.

At Rossaveel, board a ferry for the 45-minute crossing to Kilronan on Inishmore, largest of the Aran Islands, where Gaelic is the first language. Many Catholics fled to this island during Oliver Cromwell's conquest of Ireland during the 17th century. Clifftop Dun Aengus, one of the most spectacular prehistoric stone forts in Europe.

Day 8: Thursday, Sept. 26: Galway/Kylemore. Kylemore Abbey and Gardens

The massive yet graceful castle acquired by Benedictine nuns.

Day 9: Friday, Sept. 27: Galway/Westport/Knock/Castelbar.

Clew Bay with its 365 islands and Croagh Patrick, St. Patrick's Holy Mountain in Murrisk, 2,510 feet high. The tradition of the holy mountain stretches back over 5,000 years from the Stone Age. Knock, where the Virgin Mary appeared to the townsfolk in 1879.

Day 10: Saturday, September 28: Castlebar/Sligo/Drumcliffe/Belfast. W.B. Yeats' gravesite near Drumcliffe. Belfast and its Victorian architecture.

Day 11: Sunday, Sept. 29: Belfast/Dublin.

Belfast Castle and St. Anne's Belfast Cathedral.

Day 12: Monday, Sept. 30: Dublin.

Explore the city. Oscar Wilde's Trinity College, famous for the 1,200-year-old Book of Kells.

The Tour package price is \$2,929 a person, based on double occupancy, or \$3,409 with taxes and surcharges. For a private room add \$690. For information get in touch with Archdeacon Janet Griffith at 514-843-6577 or jgriffith@montreal.anglican.ca or Rev. Norman Casey at 519-428-2995 or nrcasey@caseyhr.com.

Bishop Barry's Calendar

JANUARY (subject to change without prior notice)

- 8 Feasibility Meeting
- 8 Diocesan Council
- 13 St. George's Granby Eucharist
- 21 Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral
- 23 Preparatory Meeting for Synod/Assembly
- 29 Episcopal Council

ANGLICAN MONTREAL ANGLICAN Official, Editorially Autonomous Newspaper of the Diocese of Montreal
Deadline for February 2013 issue: January 8th

Editor: Harvey Shepherd

Editorial Assistance: Peter Denis - Circulation: Ardyth Robinson
Secretarial Assistance: Helen Wiegand - Production: Studio Melrose

Editorial Office: 1444 Union Avenue, Montreal, PQ H3A 2B8
Phone: 514 843-6577 - Fax: 514 843-6344
E-mail: editor@montreal.anglican.ca

Published monthly except July and August
The Montreal Anglican accepts display advertising. Rates are available on request.

Send subscription changes to: Anglican Journal,
80 Hayden Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

Anglican Journal & Montreal Anglican \$10.00 per year
A section of Anglican Journal

Legal deposit: National Library of Quebec, National Library of Canada
Printed & mailed at Webnews Printing inc., North York, ON

CAN'T WAIT? SAVE THE DATE

FOURTH ANNUAL MISSION WORKS GOLF TOURNAMENT

in support of the missions of the
Anglican Diocese of Montréal

8 JULY 2013

Whitlock Golf & Country Club
Hudson, QC

Info **Nickl Hronjak (514) 843-6577, #244**
programme.office@montreal.anglican.ca

St. George's Châteauguay welcomes a new pastor



AMONG THE TRADITIONAL SYMBOLIC GIFTS to the new incumbent was this vessel of water, presented by Sylvia Williams of the parish.



ON HIS WAY to read from the Gospel of Mark from amid the congregation at his induction November 28 as rector of St. George's Châteauguay, Rev. Robert Camara is preceded by Lay Reader Geoff Greer.



THE NEW PASTOR of St. George's Church in Châteauguay, Rev. Robert Camara, leaves the sanctuary in procession with Ven. Michael Johnson, archdeacon of St. Lawrence on the West Island. The office of archdeacon for the South Shore is currently vacant.



REV. ROBERT CAMARA AND HIS PARTNER, Gabriele Spina, cut the traditional cake after the religious ceremony. (Photos: Harvey Shepherd)



AT RIGHT, THE HOMILIST, Rev. Canon Paul Jennings of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College, urges Father Camara and his partner to be "perceive evermore attentively" what God is creating in Châteauguay. There will be tough times but always the hope "that God is always at work among you birthing new beginnings if only you have eyes to see them," he says.

A change of titles



SUPERHEROES, ARCH-VILLAINS AND MONSTERS now occupy the space formerly devoted to Bibles, religious books, icons and other religious wares in the former Diocesan Book Room. The book room closed in the fall of 2008 but the space remains at the disposal of the Diocese of Montreal under its agreements with the developers of the Promenades Cathédrale shopping centre and diocese found a commercial tenant for the vacant space this fall. It hopes for \$23,500 rental income from this source in 2013. The Canadian Bible Society bookstore continues to welcome shoppers to its Promenades Cathédrale mezzanine store. (Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

SOMA Canada winding up

After about 30 years of organizing short-term missions, in recent years between one and three weeks, especially in Africa and the Canadian North, SOMA Canada will close its doors December 31. Rev. Linda Faith Chalk of St. Paul's Church, Greenfield Park, who was vice-chair of the organization, said in the telephone conversation that she voted against the decision "but I understand why they did it." She said Christians in the North benefited greatly from the work of SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad) but have reached a stage where they can organize missions on their own. She said parishes interested in this type of ministry are now likely to organize them on their own and see less need for an umbrella organization. She also noted that SOMA Canada was part of an international network and interested Canadians will probably be able to participate in a mission organized by some other national

SOMA organization. Dudley Baker of Delhi, Ont., chair of SOMA, writes in a letter to supporters that when SOMA Canada began about 30 years ago it was one of the few, if not the only, agency organizing short-term missions, then usually between six months and a year. "Now missions of one to three weeks' duration are being carried out by a large number of parishes/churches in most denominations and the need for a national organization... no longer exists. SOMA Canada can no longer exist running one mission a year... After some prayerful consideration we concluded that it seemed we had accomplished what God had asked us to do and that our time to close was now." Right Rev. Leonard Whitten, retired bishop of Western Newfoundland and involved in a "shared episcopal ministry" in the Montreal diocese to serve traditionalist Anglicans, was a leading member of SOMA.

Youth Notes

by Mark Dunwoody

(In a series of articles for The Montreal Anglican Mark Dunwoody, diocesan youth consultant, is interviewing youth workers from across the Diocese of Montreal who selflessly give up their own time to serve our young people!)

(Here he interviews Lee-Ann Matthews, youth co-ordinator at St. Thomas' N.D.G. and rector's warden at St Philip's Montreal West)

MD: Lee-Ann, Tell us a bit about yourself.

LAM: OK. Sure. Let's see – I'm in love with my two dogs and my cat. I devote lots of time and energy to their care. I live a healthy active lifestyle that includes a daily yoga and meditation practice. I got divorced last year after a 13-year marriage and I came out as a lesbian at the age of 42. I am currently in a happy stable relationship with my partner.

MD: How long have you been involved in working with young people and what made you get involved?

LAM: I've been working with kids since I graduated from Concordia University in 1994. I obtained a degree in child studies with a minor in religion. At that point it was my intention to receive a teaching certificate in "Moral Religious Education" from McGill but the universe had a different plan for me as my application was returned, saying that as of that year, the program was no longer being offered. This was a real blow at the time and I felt entirely derailed but I had student loans to repay so decided to embark on a career as pre school educator. I really enjoyed this work and met some amazing inspirational people who

taught me so much. About five years ago, I discovered a phenomenal yoga teacher! This was a transformative experience for me and I began to uncover so many benefits (physical, emotional and spiritual) from my yoga practice that I couldn't resist bringing yoga into my classroom. I was very interested in teaching kids yoga but it was obvious that kids didn't respond to yoga as adults do. They wanted to move more and to have fun and "play" yoga, not sit in a serene, meditative space on an intense personal journey. So, I decided to get trained to teach children's yoga. In 2009 I received my first certificate in children's yoga from the Radiant Child program at Kripalu Centre for yoga and health in Massachusetts. I have subsequently attended teacher training at the "Yoga Kids" foundation and numerous conferences and am completing another certification right now.

The first time I taught a kids' yoga class following my first training I knew that something magical had happened. I called my teacher and gushed about my newfound passion and the amazing impact of her teachings. I have a voracious appetite for information on this topic and for children's spirituality in general. I teach yoga to kids aged 2-15 in schools, churches, at home, and in my studio.

MD: It sometimes can be thankless job being a youth leader. What keeps you going?

LAM: Actually, of all the work that I have done with kids for the past 18 years, this position has been one of the most gratifying. I love providing a context for kids to access

and express their spirituality.

Since I began the position at St Thomas Church in January of this year I have truly felt blessed. I know when I am aligned with divinity somehow because I sense it in the group dynamics, the energy, the ideas and enthusiasms. Everything just seems to flow freely. I am so charged to be a part of this amazing group.

Honestly, it is the most rewarding work! Children's spirituality is a vital part of who they are and to be able to acknowledge them in this way is so validating.

MD: As a diocese (and across the Church of Canada) we are seeing a concerted effort at prioritizing youth ministry. What advice do you have for the decision makers in our churches?

LAM: We need to stop telling kids how to pray, how to feel, what to wear etc. and to start listening very acutely to what their needs are, what their influences are and get to know who they are fundamentally. We have to stop assuming we know about youth ministry based on former models and humble ourselves before our children. Young people aren't attending church because it isn't relevant to them. We need to create environments that are conducive to self-expression and creativity with open-ended activities that provide opportunities for worship and spiritual nurture. We need to think entirely out of the box. We need to make church relevant. And we have some stiff competition!

MD: What "wow" moments have you had in your work?

LAM: When I teach meditation or a "listening" prayer I am often amazed at the sense of reverence and



LEE-ANN MATTHEWS

devotional energy that arises. There is a peacefulness, a sense of calm and a powerful sense of connection to Spirit. Kids use very positive descriptive language when asked how this type of meditation feels. I get goose bumps and feel so happy and blessed to be making these connections together.

MD: On a lighter note, have you had any really embarrassing moments in your work?

LAM: Yes! Of course, All the time! On an average day working with kids I am doing and saying embarrassing things. Making mistakes and laughing at myself. But I have tried to facilitate meditation with certain kids and have them whisper a prayer or a word and all that would come out of their mouths was hysterical contagious uncontrollable laughter. The atmosphere is not always serene

and reverent and sometimes my grand plans at conjuring peace back fires and all we do is laugh. There actually is a well-recognized practice of yoga called Laughter Yoga. I guess by default we could just call it that!

MD: Last Question: What advice do you have for the synod office in our mission to serve young people?

LAM We need to create a task force, a team of people who are committed to the work of kids and youth and bringing them into the light of our Lord. And we need to include children in all of our thinking and not just compartmentalize youth groups to dingy basements and tuck them away. We need to revitalize the church proper with the amazing energy of children and youth and remember the true value of young people as profoundly spiritual beings.

La parole aux jeunes

par Mark Dunwoody

Le consultant diocésain pour la jeunesse, Mark Dunwoody, commence ici une série d'entrevues pour Montreal Anglican. Il écoute des préposés auprès des jeunes, des personnes qui consacrent une grande partie de leur temps libre pour s'occuper des plus jeunes au sein du diocèse de Montréal.)

Il parle ici avec Lee Ann Matthews, Coordinatrice de la jeunesse de l'église St. Thomas à Notre-Dame-de-Grâce et marguillière du recteur de l'église St. Philip à Montréal-Ouest

MD: Lee Ann, racontez-vous un peu.

LAM: Ok...Voyons voir. J'adore



LEE-ANN MATTHEWS

mes deux chiens et mon chat et leur consacre beaucoup de temps et d'énergie. J'ai un style de vie actif et sain. Je fais du yoga et de la méditation tous les jours. J'ai divorcé l'année dernière après treize ans de mariage et je me suis révélée lesbienne à 42 ans. En ce moment, je suis dans une relation heureuse et stable avec ma partenaire.

MD: Depuis combien de temps vous-occupez-vous des jeunes et pourquoi?

LAM: Je travaille avec les enfants depuis que j'ai fini mes études à l'Université de Concordia en 1994. Mon diplôme principal était dans le domaine de l'enfance avec la religion en matière secondaire. À ce moment-là, je pensais avoir un certificat d'enseignement dans l'éducation morale et religieuse de McGill, mais l'univers avait d'autres projets pour moi, parce que mon postulat m'a été renvoyé avec une note comme quoi ces cours n'étaient dorénavant plus offerts. Ça m'a fait un gros choc et je me sentais entraîné de capoter. Par contre, j'avais un emprunt pour mes études qu'il fallait rembourser. Alors je me suis lancée dans une carrière d'éducatrice préscolaire. J'ai beaucoup aimé ce travail et j'ai rencontré des gens vraiment inspirants et qui m'ont appris plein de choses. Il y a cinq ans, j'ai découvert un professeur de yoga génial. Cette expérience m'a transformée. Je découvrais tout un tas de bienfaits (physiques, émotifs et spirituels) dans mes classes de yoga et je n'ai pu résister à l'envie d'en faire faire à mes élèves. Ça m'intéressait vraiment, mais on se rendait bien compte que les enfants ne réagissent pas à cette discipline comme les adultes. Il fallait qu'ils bougent et

s'amuse à « jouer au yoga » plutôt que de s'asseoir dans un cercle serein et méditatif tout en faisant un voyage intérieur intense. J'ai donc décidé de faire un entraînement pour apprendre le yoga aux enfants. En 2009, j'ai reçu un premier certificat du programme « Radiant Child » au Centre Kripalu pour le yoga et la santé dans le Massachusetts. Depuis j'ai aussi reçu une formation d'enseignante à la Fondation « Yoga Kids » et ai participé à bien des conférences. Je suis entraîné de finir une autre formation en ce moment.

La première fois que j'apprenais le yoga aux enfants à la suite de mon premier diplôme, je me suis rendu compte que quelque chose de magique venait d'arriver. J'ai appelé mon professeur pour m'extasier sur ma nouvelle passion et l'impact formidable de ses cours. J'ai un appétit formidable pour toute information sur ce sujet et sur la spiritualité des enfants en général. J'enseigne le yoga à des jeunes de deux à quinze ans dans les écoles, les paroisses, chez eux ou dans mon studio.

MD: Ça n'est pas toujours gratifiant de travailler avec les jeunes. Qu'est-ce qui vous fait tenir bon?

LAM: En fait, ce poste a été le plus gratifiant de tout le travail que j'ai réalisé avec des enfants depuis dix-huit ans. J'adore le fait que je puisse donner un contexte pour permettre aux enfants d'accéder à leur spiritualité et de l'exprimer.

Depuis janvier cette année que je travaille à St. Thomas, je me suis vraiment sentie bénie. Je me rends compte que je suis alignée sur la divinité d'une façon ou d'une autre parce que je le ressens dans la dynamique des groupes, ou son énergie,

les idées et l'enthousiasme. Tout semble aller de soi. Je suis tellement remplie d'émotion à l'idée de faire partie de ce groupe.

Franchement, c'est le travail qui me donne le plus de récompense! La spiritualité des enfants est un de leurs éléments essentiels et de pouvoir le reconnaître de cette façon, ça me le confirme.

MD: Notre diocèse et d'ailleurs toute l'Église du Canada se concentre pour donner la priorité aux pastorales pour les jeunes. Quel conseil donnez-vous aux dirigeants de nos églises?

LAM: Il faut arrêter de dire aux enfants comment prier, comment ressentir les choses, comment s'habiller et tout ça. Il faut plutôt être à l'écoute de leurs besoins et de leurs influences. Il faut tâcher de les connaître de façon fondamentale. Nous ne devons plus présumer que nous savons ce qu'est la pastorale des jeunes en se basant sur des modèles dépassés. Il faut s'incliner devant nos enfants. Les jeunes ne vont pas à l'église parce qu'elle ne leur est pas pertinente. Nous devons créer un environnement qui permette l'affirmation de soi et la créativité avec des activités ouvertes. De cette façon, ils auront des occasions de prier et d'être nourris spirituellement. L'église doit être compétente dans ce domaine et il y a une grosse concurrence!

MD: Avez-vous eu des moments renversants dans votre travail?

LAM: Je suis souvent surprise par le respect et l'énergie pleine de dévotion qui apparaissent quand j'enseigne la méditation ou la « prière d'écoute ». On ressent la paix, la sérénité et un lien intense avec l'Es-

prit. Les enfants se servent de mots très positifs et descriptifs quand on leur demande comment ils se sentent dans ce genre de méditation. Ça me donne la chair de poule et je suis tellement contente et privilégiée d'être la cause de ces connexions.

MD: J'ai une question moins sérieuse. Avez-vous eu des situations embarrassantes?

LAM: Oui, bien sûr! Ça arrive tout el temps. Dans une journée ordinaire avec les jeunes, je fais et je dis des bêtises et je ris de mon embarras. J'ai même essayé de faire méditer certains d'entre eux en leur faisant chuchoter une prière ou un mot et ce qui sortait de leur bouche était du fou-rire et c'était contagieux. L'ambiance n'est pas toujours sereine et respectueuse et il arrive que mes grands projets de créations de paix me retombent sur le nez et tout le cours devient hilare. En fait, il y a un exercice de yoga très reconnu qu'on appelle le « yoga du rire ». Je suppose qu'on devrait l'appeler comme ça faute de mieux.

MD: Une dernière question. Avez-vous un conseil pour le bureau du Synode au sujet de notre mission vers les jeunes et leur famille?

LAM: On devrait mettre sur pied un groupe de travail qui se vouerait aux petits et aux jeunes afin qu'ils soient transportés dans la lumière divine. En plus, il faudrait inclure les enfants dans tout ce que nous projetons et non les compartimenter, voire les parquer dans des sous-sols abominables. C'est avec cette énergie fantastique qu'ont les jeunes que nous pourrions revitaliser toute l'église et se souvenir de leur vraie valeur, car ils sont des êtres profondément spirituels.

Youth Notes

by Mark Dunwoody

(In a series of articles for The Montreal Anglican Mark Dunwoody, diocesan youth consultant, is interviewing youth workers from across the Diocese of Montreal who selflessly give up their own time to serve our young people! (Here he interviews Jeff Alexander, youth co-ordinator at All Saints Deux Montagnes.)

MD: Jeff, tell us a bit about yourself.

JA: When it comes to the Anglican Church, I'm a lifer. By that I mean I'm still going to the same church (All Saints Deux Montagnes) where I went to Sunday school. And that was a good number of years ago, since I'm now 46. In addition to a few other tasks I do there, I'm one of a team of three leaders of the Two Mountains Community Youth Group, with my wife Sophie Lanthier and a dear friend, Kathy Forget. I am blessed to have been married to this wonderful, beautiful woman for 21 years, and we have 2 fabulous children, aged 16 and 8.

MD: How long have you been involved in working with young people and what made you get involved?

JA: Sophie and I have been involved with the TMCYG ever since our son, Julien, joined four years ago, when he started high school. That somewhat answers both parts of your question. As well, the "why" part of getting involved was that I was a Youth Group member at All Saints back a decade or three, so I love being able to help be a leader of what was a great part of my teen years.

MD: It sometimes can be thankless

job being a youth leader. what keeps you going?

JA: One of the best things about our current group of teens is that, pretty much no matter what activity we organize, they are right into it. So it's seeing their enthusiasm and craziness that's a lot of fun. Plus seeing the group taking part in events like the 30-Hour Famine (a World Vision program to raise funds and awareness of need in the Third World) is really rewarding.

MD: As a diocese (and across the Church of Canada) we are seeing a concerted effort at prioritizing youth ministry. What advice do you have for the decision-makers in our Churches?

JA: Hmm, that's a toughie. The first thing that comes to mind is that the youth aren't just our future; they're our present. And they're not just a demographic; they are individuals who just want to fit in somewhere, be accepted, and be part of something that touches them. At conferences and other diocesan get-togethers, I hear people asking how they can attract young people and start up a youth group. It's great that we are recognizing the importance of reaching out to adolescents. I'd say that if congregations really feel a strong pull towards youth ministry, just get it ready – I'm trying to avoid the "build it and they will come" cliché – with the right people in place, and be patient. Remember, too, that God works through relationships much more than excellent programs or fantastic resources.

MD: What "wow" moments have you had in your work?

JA: Recently, Sophie and I were at

the banquet for the softball league in which we play, and a mother of one of the Youth Group regulars came up to us. She said, "I don't know what you guys are doing, but please keep doing it." She explained that her daughter – who also started coming to church on her own – was so enthusiastic about being part of the Youth Group, it was apparently having a really positive experience at home, too. Please understand that there's no bit at all of bragging in this; even though the TMCYG is not overtly religious or even spiritual, I know God is working through these teens just being together in His quiet, sneaky way to change them. Like the visiting youth worker from Ireland, Scott Evans, said in his great talk at the last Crossroads youth worship service, we leaders are just the crooked sticks with which God draws His straight lines.

Another "wow" moment of a different sort: One of the teens was in Saskatchewan, mostly on native reserves, as part of the Bible Day Camp traveling team for the first time this past summer. He had just had his hair cut, and Sophie told him after church one morning that the new hairstyle would look really good with his leather jacket, which he always has on. He said, "I don't have it anymore." When she asked what had happened to it, he said matter-of-factly, "I gave it to a boy in Saskatchewan." This teen is from a home where money is pretty tight, and yet he thought nothing of giving it to one of the children on the native reserve where they had held Bible Day Camp. I really feel blessed that I get to spend time at Youth Group



JEFF ALEXANDER

with teens like him with hearts as big as tractor-trailers.

MD: On a lighter note, have you had any really embarrassing moments in your work?

JA: Fortunately, nothing really embarrassing, which actually surprises me greatly and certainly is not for lack of trying. At our last 30-Hour Famine, I was sleeping downstairs in the Sunday school area with the boys, and apparently the girls upstairs could all hear me snoring loudly and clearly through the heating system. I think they thought the furnace was going to explode or something.

MD: Last question: What advice do

you have for the Synod office in our mission to serve young people and their families?

JA: We have some great programs and (even more importantly) some great people in place with a heart for bringing the Gospel to and living the Gospel with our adults-in-training. We always have a good-sized group to bring into Montreal for Crossroads – thanks, Alex, AJ, Joanne, Luke and others! – and teens from our group have immensely enjoyed the experience of programs like Bible Day Camp and the Youth Ambassador Program. Please keep up this good work!

La parole aux jeunes

par Mark Dunwoody

(Le consultant diocésain pour la jeunesse, Mark Dunwoody, commence ici une série d'entrevues pour Montreal Anglican. Il écoute des préposés auprès des jeunes, des personnes qui consacrent une grande partie de leur temps libre pour s'occuper des plus jeunes au sein du diocèse de Montréal.

Il parle ici avec Jeff Alexander, Coordinateur de la jeunesse de l'église All Saints à Deux-Montagnes.)

MD: Jeff, racontez-vous un peu.

JA: Si on parle de l'Église anglicane, j'y ai été toute ma vie. Je veux dire par là que je suis dans la même église (All Saints à Deux-Montagnes) que celle où j'allais à l'école du dimanche. Et ça fait longtemps, vu que j'ai 46 ans maintenant. En plus des quelques autres fonctions que je remplis ici, je fais partie d'une équipe de trois personnes qui dirigent le groupe des jeunes de la communauté de Deux-Montagnes, les deux autres étant ma femme Sophie Lanthier et une amie chère, Kathy Forget. Je suis privilégié d'avoir épousé cette femme merveilleuse et belle il y a 21 ans, et nous avons deux enfants qui font notre fierté et qui ont seize et huit ans.

MD: Depuis combien de temps vous-occupez-vous des jeunes et pourquoi?

JA: Avec Sophie, nous faisons partie du Groupe depuis que notre fils Julien s'est inscrit il y a quatre ans, c'est-à-dire quand il entrait au secondaire. Ce que je viens de dire répond aux deux parties de votre question. Maintenant, pour répondre au « pourquoi », c'était parce que je faisais partie de ceux qui s'occupaient des jeunes à All Saints depuis

au moins une décennie ou trois. J'aime bien aider à diriger ce qui avait tant d'importance quand j'étais adolescent.

MD: Ça n'est pas toujours gratifiant de travailler avec les jeunes. Qu'est-ce qui vous fait tenir bon?

JA: Un des meilleurs aspects du groupe actuel d'adolescents, c'est qu'ils se lancent dans toute activité que nous organisons. C'est drôle de voir leur enthousiasme et leur folie. Et puis, de voir le groupe participer dans des événements comme la Famine de trente heures (un programme mondial pour lever des fonds et sensibiliser le public aux besoins du Tiers monde), c'est une récompense en soi.

MD: Notre diocèse et d'ailleurs toute l'Église du Canada se concentre pour donner la priorité aux pastorales pour les jeunes. Quel conseil donnez-vous aux dirigeants de nos églises?

JA: Euh... C'est compliqué. Ce que je vois d'abord, c'est que les jeunes ne sont pas seulement notre avenir, ils sont aussi notre présent. Ce n'est pas de la démographie, mais plutôt des individus qui ne souhaitent que de s'intégrer quelque part, être acceptés et faire partie de ce qui les touche. J'entends des gens demander, aux conférences ou autres réunions diocésaines, comment ils peuvent attirer des jeunes et en faire un groupe. C'est très bien que nous nous rendions compte de l'importance du rayonnement vers les adolescents. Mais je dirais que si les congrégations veulent réellement faire quelque chose dans ce sens, il faut le préparer (j'éssais d'éviter le vieux cliché « Contentez-vous de construire et les gens viendront tout

seuls »), le planifier, donc, avec des personnes capables et être patient. Souvenez-vous aussi que Dieu œuvre à travers les relations humaines beaucoup plus qu'à travers d'excellents programmes ou des ressources formidables.

MD: Avez-vous eu des moments renversants dans votre travail?

JA: Sophie et moi étions récemment invités à un banquet donné à la ligne de balle molle dans laquelle nous jouons. La mère d'un des jeunes participants est venue nous voir et a dit: « Je ne sais pas ce que vous faites, mais continuez! ». Elle nous a ensuite expliqué que sa fille – qui vient aussi d'elle-même à l'église – était tellement heureuse de faire partie du groupe des jeunes que ça entraînait une expérience vraiment positive chez elle aussi. Comprenez que je ne suis pas du tout entraîné de me vanter, mais bien que le Groupe communautaire des Deux-Montagnes ne soit ni religieux ni même spirituel, je sais que Dieu est à l'œuvre pour les transformer, tranquillement et surnoisement, quand ces adolescents sont ensemble. Il y a un responsable de jeunes irlandais, Scott Evans, qui nous faisait visite récemment, et il a fait un très beau discours au dernier office de « Crossroads » (pour les jeunes) en disant: « Nous les responsables, nous ne sommes que les bâtons tordus avec lesquels Dieu fait des lignes droites. »

Un exemple différent: Un de ces ados était dans le Saskatchewan et surtout dans les réserves autochtones, et il faisait partie d'un camps de jour biblique qui voyageait pour la première fois cette année. Il venait de se faire couper les cheveux et

Sophie lui avait dit après la Messe que cette nouvelle coupe irait très bien avec la veste de cuir qu'il portait tout le temps. Il a répondu qu'il ne l'avait plus. Quand elle lui a demandé pourquoi, il a dit: « Je l'ai donné à un gamin dans le Saskatchewan. » Cet ado vient d'une famille où il n'y a pas beaucoup d'argent et pourtant, il n'a pas hésité à faire ce cadeau à un des enfants de la réserve où se passait leur camp d'été. Je me sens vraiment privilégié de pouvoir passer du temps dans le groupe s'il y a des jeunes comme lui avec des cœurs grands comme des camions-remorques.

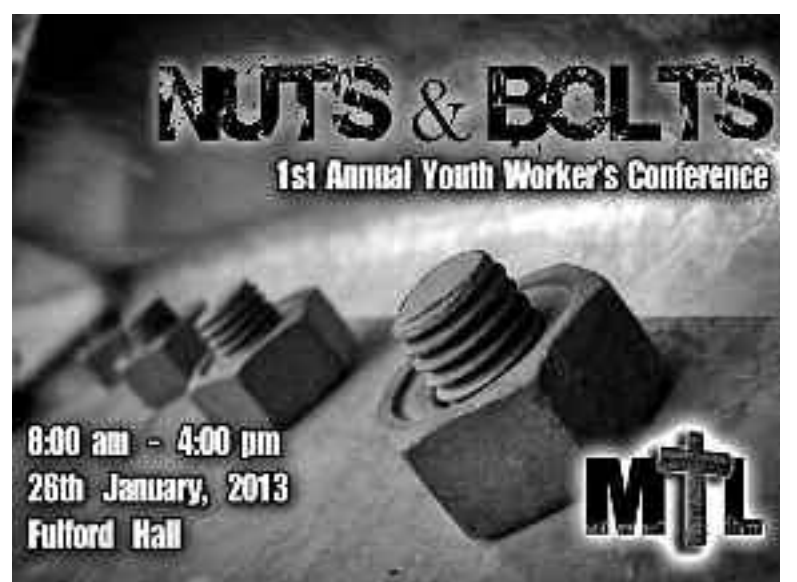
MD: J'ai une question moins sérieuse. Avez-vous eu des situations embarrassantes?

JA: Heureusement, rien de vraiment embarrassant, ce qui m'étonne pas mal et qui devrait m'arriver. Pendant la Famine de trente heures, je dormais en bas dans la salle de

l'école du dimanche avec les garçons et, apparemment, les filles qui étaient en haut pouvaient m'entendre ronfler très fort et très distinctement à travers le système de chauffage. Je crois qu'elles pensaient que la fournaise allait exploser ou pire.

MD: Une dernière question. Avez-vous un conseil pour le bureau du Synode au sujet de notre mission vers les jeunes et leur famille?

Nous avons de bons programmes et (ce qui est encore plus important), des responsables formidables capables d'enseigner et de vivre l'Évangile avec nos jeunes adultes-en-formation. Nous avons toujours pas mal de monde à convoyer à Montréal pour Crossroads (merci à Alex, AJ, Joanne, Luke et les autres!) et nos jeunes ont beaucoup aimé les programmes tels que le Camp d'été biblique et les Ambassadeurs de la jeunesse. Bonne continuation!



Becoming a diaconal church: a visioning conference

God already among shamans, indigenous bishop says



Harvey Shepherd

Recovering a diaconal ministry that will reach out to people on the fringes of society is one of the top items on the agenda of the church today, the Anglican Church of Canada bishop for aboriginals said in Montreal in November.

And part of that means recognizing that mission is not a matter of bringing the Gospel to somewhere where it has been absent. The church needs to recognize that God is already at work through, for example, first nations spirituality, shamanism in various traditions and Confucianism, Bishop Mark MacDonald, national indigenous bishop, said.

"When a Christian person goes to a new place they find God already there."

And for Montreal Anglicans aboriginal residents of Montreal might be a good place to start.

He said many Anglicans in Montreal are not aware of the presence of many aboriginals among them and aboriginal issues have not faced the church in Montreal the way they have in some places. But there is a large although inconspicuous abo-



BISHOP MARK MacDONALD

original population.

"Montreal is a big indigenous town. And I imagine a lot of them are Anglicans."

He said Christianity has actually been successful among indigenous people, most of whom identify themselves as Christian even if few are churchgoers. The people to bridge the gap are vocational deacons, lay readers and other "diaconal ministers" who are already making an impact on people's lives.

He said tapping those people - and getting them to read the Gospel in church on Sunday - is more to the point than creating more indigenous ordained ministers, "although that doesn't hurt."

The move in the Anglican Church of Canada to encourage more indigenous priests was a good thing in large part but had a downside, he said, as emphasis on indigenous deacons and lay readers was reduced.

"As we reduced the number of diaconal ministers we stopped growing. It was right that we increased the number if indigenous priests but what was wrong was that we began to end diaconal ministry."



PETER HUISH

Vision for deacons still has far to go, chaplain says

About 16 years after the Diocese of Montreal decided to revive the ministry of vocational deacons - ordained ministers linked to parishes but working especially in the broader community - there is still a long way to go in the quest for ministry and service to the broader community, says one of the eight vocational deacons in the diocese.

Rev. Peter Huish, who works mainly as a prison chaplain and with former prisoners, told about 60 people at a conference on "becoming a diaconal church" that there is considerable variety in the experience of deacons in Canadian churches.

"But the vision of a church alive and growing in places where people can live and work has not yet been realized."

He indicated that the idea is not just to recruit more vocational deacons (so called to distinguish them from "transitional deacons," who are preparing for priest hood). Using a word from New Testament Greek that referred to ministers and servants in the early church, he said, "The goal was to be a church that is conscious of Christ's *diakonia*."

Still, "our becoming diaconal will be encouraged by there being enough deacons to model this."

Barack Obama, meet Barry Clarke

As U.S. President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress sought ways to avoid the threat of a "fiscal cliff" in their country in the wake of the U.S. election, Bishop Barry Clarke of Montreal mused that a "cliff" might be salutary, at least for Canadian Anglicans.

He made the comment at a diocesan "visioning conference" on "becoming a diaconal church." The conference was organized largely by the relatively small group of vocational deacons in the diocese - ordained ministers seeking to serve the wider community.

In the current U.S. debate, the term "fiscal cliff" refers specifically to a combination of expiring tax cuts and across-the-board government spending cuts that was scheduled to become effective December 31. The idea (as explained on a Royal Bank of Canada website) was that if the federal government allowed these two events to proceed as planned,

they would have a detrimental effect on an already shaky economy, perhaps sending it back into an official recession as it cut household incomes, increased unemployment rates and undermined consumer and investor confidence. At the same time, it was predicted that going over the fiscal cliff would significantly reduce the federal budget deficit.

Bishop Clarke used the cliff metaphor a little more broadly.

"I think the church needs to fall off a cliff to get a sense of what people who are already falling off a cliff are living through," he said. "More and more, as the church becomes introverted, she's losing her soul."

He said the church needs to keep looking for ways to support greater awareness in the church of the life of the broader community.

"We've become stuck, and if we don't push ourselves to the edge, we're not going to fall off and find something new."



ARCHDEACON JOHN LEE, a strong supported of deacons and French-language ministry and one of the workshop leaders, cut a cake in honour of his 80th birthday.



CANON MAYLANNE MAYBEE, a vocational deacon on the staff of the Anglican Church of Canada focusing on social justice, was one of the workshop leaders.

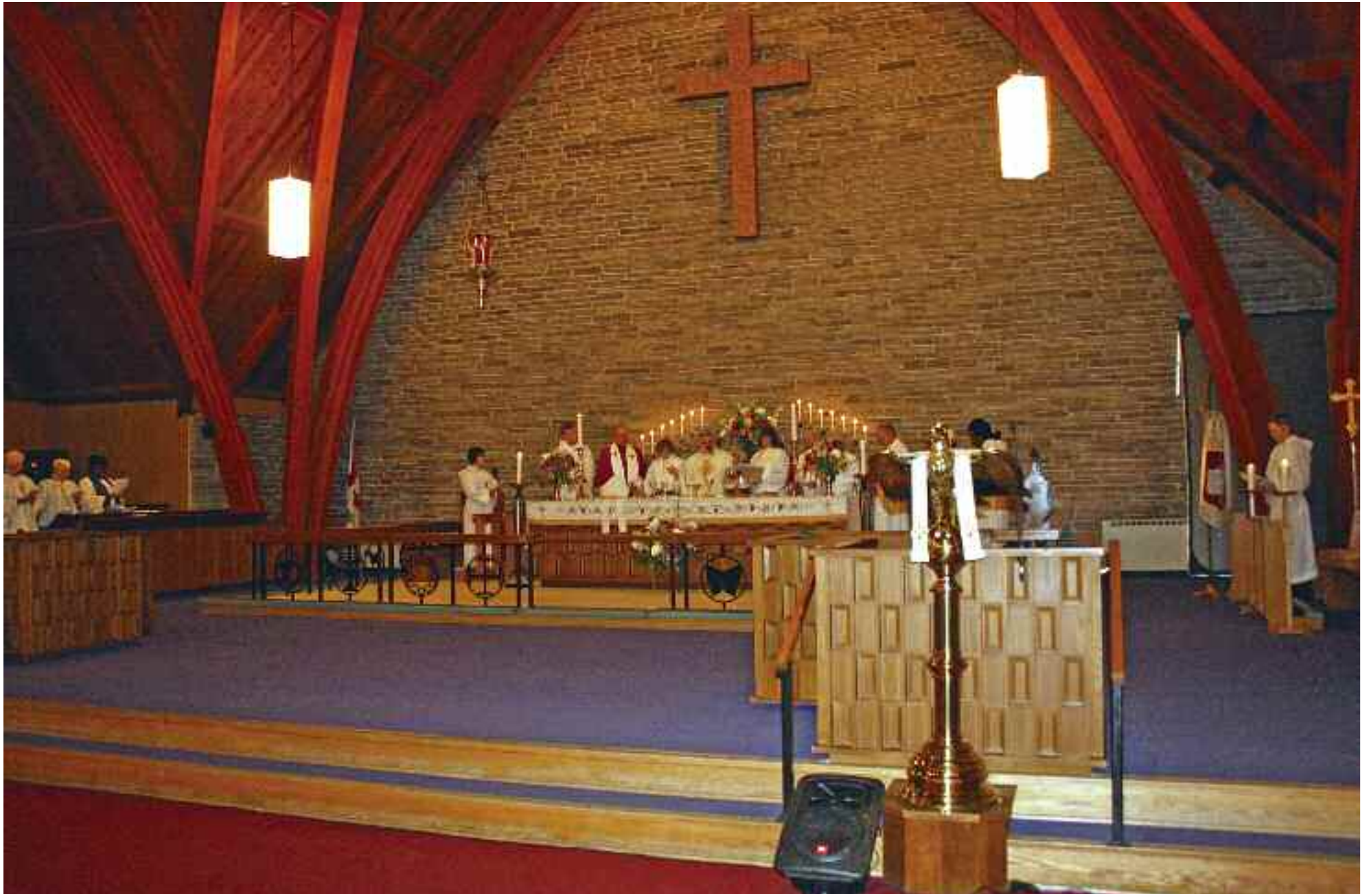


REV. DEACON SANDY COTTON of Kingston, who brings insights honed as a professor of business at Queen's University to organizations working with those on the margins of society, was among workshop leaders.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

St. Paul's Lachine

'God is calling us into something new'



LINED UP FOR A LAST TIME in the cathedral-like church, designed by architect Kenneth I. Robb and built in 1963-64, Bishop Barry Clarke and clergy, in-

cluding several former clergy of the parish, celebrate a last Eucharist. The arched vault and ceiling of the church are made entirely of wood. It has a Casavant

organ and stained-glass panels by Gerald Mesterom and Matthew Martirano.



ST. PAUL'S BANNER is carried through the church at its closing service.

Harvey Shepherd

Past and present clergy, wardens, altar servers, choristers. Organizers over the years of Sunday school, bazaars and rummage sales and men's activities. Altar guild members. Partners in other churches.

Bishop Barry Clarke of Montreal – from 1993 to 2004 parish priest of St. Paul's Church in Lachine – asked members of these and other groups in a near-capacity congregation of over 300 parishioners and well-wishers to stand and be recognized as he presided over a closing service marking the end of the 139-year history of the parish.

He also urged them not to waste energy trying to assign blame for the

'It's the people first and foremost'

closing of the church or to focus too much on its dramatically impressive buildings, dating from 1963-64. (Their maintenance in recent years played a major part in exhausting the financial resources of the church and finally in the decision by the parish vestry last June to close.)

"For us to move forward in God's mission we have to do things differently," he said. "I give thanks for your diligence, perseverance, courage and risk. God is calling us into

something fresh and new."

What to do with the beautiful St. Paul's building is not the issue, he said. "The church building has had its time and place for this generation of Anglicans.

"It's the people, first and foremost. "As a pilgrim people, we may be entering into a new beginning."

The parish and diocese decided to simply close the parish, leaving individual parishioners to choose which parishes to attend from now on –

presumably West Island Anglican churches in many instances. The parish reported 154 people on parish rolls last year, with average attendance at 53.

The physical plant is now in the hands of the diocese. Several community groups now renting then use of the church or hall, including a Seventh-Day Adventist congregation (which worships on Saturdays) have not been given notice and no date has been set for deconsecration.



MUSIC DIRECTOR EDWIN BROWNELL and members of his musical group provided some upbeat moments at the service.



PAST AND PRESENT PARISHIONERS are joined by other well-wishers for the solemn service.

Quebec diocese to offer blessings to same-sex couples

Bruce Myers

The Diocese of Quebec will join about a dozen other dioceses of the Anglican Church of Canada in offering blessings to same-gender couples.

Bishop Dennis Drainville signalled his intention to move forward with the blessing of committed gay and lesbian partners in his charge to the diocesan synod, held Nov. 2-4 outside Quebec City. The diocese of Quebec covers the central and eastern parts of the civil province of Quebec.

"I would like to proceed in the Diocese of Quebec, as several other Canadian dioceses have done, to provide both a rite of blessing and pastoral support for persons living in committed, same-gender relationships," the bishop told members

of Synod.

"This act of blessing is not the performing of a marriage but rather the blessing of civil union that has already taken place," he added in his monthly pastoral letter in the diocesan newspaper.

In a discussion characterized by both candour and charity, Synod members debated the bishop's initiative. While most were supportive, a few expressed concern that the blessing of homosexual couples contradicts biblical teaching. Another asked what the "relational consequences" for the diocese might be, given that neither the Anglican Church of Canada nor the worldwide Anglican Communion have yet come to a common mind on the question of same-sex unions.

A motion was eventually passed resolving that "this Synod support the bishop's wish in his charge to Synod to permit the blessing of same-gender unions in the Diocese of Quebec and requests that he establish a working group to advise him on the implementation guidelines by the beginning of June 2013."

The motion passed with fewer than 10 of the about 70 synod members voting against it.

The working group is to have between four and six members.

Bishop Drainville was quick to reassure those who are ambivalent or outright opposed to the blessing of same-gender unions.

"Whatever guidelines emerge," the bishop told Synod members, "no cleric or congregation will be obli-

gated to perform same-gender blessings. It will simply become an option for those open and desirous of this ministry."

One parish in the diocese that has already indicated its openness and desire to offer same-gender blessings is St. Michael in the Quebec City suburb of Sillery. In 2009 the congregation sent a memorial to the diocesan Synod "to inform the bishop and the Synod that we support this initiative and are ready to have the blessing of same-sex partners occur as soon as the requisite processes are ended and permissions are granted."

Given the timeline indicated by the bishop in his charge, the earliest same-gender blessings could be authorized in the diocese is late next

summer.

Nearly half of the Anglican Church of Canada's 29 dioceses have in some form decided to proceed with offering same-sex blessings since the General Synod, the national church's highest governing body, declined to make a decision on the issue in 2010.

Bishop Barry Clarke approved a rite in 2010 for blessing civil unions, including same-sex unions, following votes at two diocesan synods urging such actions. Few such blessings have actually been performed, although the diocese has showed openness to same-sex unions in other ways.

(Archdeacon Bruce Myers is, among other things, editor of the diocesan newspaper *The Gazette*.)

Diocese of Quebec joins protests against new refugee law

By Bruce Myers

The Diocese of Quebec is openly challenging the federal government's changes to Canada's refugee policy, adopting a motion calling on Ottawa to repeal sections of Bill C-31 "which put at risk the security of those seeking refuge in our country."

Members of Synod unanimously passed the resolution condemning the refugee law adopted by Parliament earlier this year. Among other things, the legislation gives the federal immigration minister unilateral power to declare countries as "safe,"

resulting in automatic deportation for refugee claimants from such countries, regardless of their particular circumstances.

A background note to the motion says Bill C-31 includes several such "discriminatory provisions placing vulnerable people in danger for their lives."

The Rev. Jeffrey Metcalfe introduced the motion, and told Synod members there is a biblical and theological imperative for the church taking a stand on the side of refugees.

"As Christians the scriptures call us to particularly care for exiles and strangers, recalling that Jesus and his family were themselves refugees fleeing persecution and seeking sanctuary in a foreign land," Metcalfe told Synod.

He also noted that in the Baptismal Covenant, Anglicans vow to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being," while the Marks of Mission call Anglicans "to respond to human need by loving service."

In addition to denouncing Bill C-31, the motion also affirmed "the church's ancient practice of providing sanctuary for refugees unjustly facing a clear and present threat to their safety and security." It also encourages the congregations of the diocese "to study and otherwise explore the possibility of providing sanctuary to refugee claimants facing deportation under the provisions of Bill C-31."

While the Anglican Church of Canada has no official policy on providing sanctuary for refugee claimants facing deportation, it does provide resources "to assist parishes and dioceses in giving prayerful consideration to the moral, ethical and legal challenges raised by requests for sanctuary."

Members of Synod also voted unanimously to condemn the federal government's recent decision to cancel the contracts of all 49 part-time federal prison chaplains.

"We urge the government to continue to fund these positions which help inmates with their rehabilitation and reintegration into society," the motion reads.

Quebec's motion echoes a similar motion passed by the Synod of the Diocese of Montreal. Together the dioceses have funded the Rev. Holly Ratcliffe to serve as a part-time Anglican chaplain at the Drummond Institution, a medium-security federal penitentiary in Drummondville. Her chaplaincy job is among those that will disappear as a result of the federal government's decision.

Bishop Dennis Drainville of Quebec and Bishop Barry Clarke of Montreal have sent a joint letter to the federal public safety minister asking that the part-time chaplains

be re-hired.

"Our priest is convinced that the volunteers she trained at Drummond – and the programs – will disappear due to lack of available time and supervision from the only chaplain who will remain," the bishops wrote. "One of the programs she leads involves restorative justice, in which prisoners are prepared for possible victims/perpetrators encounters. This program may disappear like many others across the country – a tremendous loss for both the safety of society and for the rehabilitation of inmates who participate."

Four priests for Quebec



FOUR NEW PRIESTS were ordained at the closing service of the synod of the Diocese of Quebec, in central and eastern Quebec. At left is Rev. Sarah Priebe, a graduate of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College, who will assume responsibilities as incumbent of St. Michael Sillery, after serving as the parish's assistant curate since July. Beside her are Rev. Edwin Stretch, who continues to serve as chaplain of Trinity Sainte-Foy, Bishop Dennis Drainville, Rev. Jeffrey Metcalfe, serving as assistant curate of a Toronto church while completing his seminary studies and awaiting an appointment in the Diocese of Quebec, and Rev. Wendy Telfer, recently appointed incumbent of the Greater Parish of Gaspé.

(Photo: Bruce Myers)

A pastoral kiss



VEN. MICHAEL PITTS, archdeacon of the North Shore in the Diocese of Quebec kisses one of two babies baptized during a November visit to St. John Kawawachikamach, a vast parish, the northernmost in the diocese, near Schefferville, serving the Naskapi first nation. The archdeacon and Bishop Dennis Drainville confirmed 19 young people and Rev. Silas Nabinicaboo, at right in the photo, was ordained as a deacon. Archdeacon Pitts, former dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal and still a priest in the Diocese of Montreal, makes frequent visits to the Lower North Shore.

(Photo contributed)

Struggling Moosonee Diocese to become mission area

By Bruce Myers

The man who will be the last Anglican bishop of Moosonee offered members of Quebec's diocesan Synod a reality check – and also some signs of hope.

When Bishop Tom Corston retires, the 140-year-old Diocese of Moosonee of which he is chief pastor will officially dissolve and instead become a "mission area" of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario under the episcopal oversight of the metropolitan archbishop.

Bishop Corston told members of Quebec's Synod the need to dismantle the diocese became clear shortly after his consecration in 2010, when he discovered "we didn't have any money." Financial projections showed the diocese would be bank-

rupt within two years.

The crisis launched the Anglicans of Moosonee, the majority of whom are Cree, into a reflection about how ministry and mission might continue without a traditional diocesan structure.

One proposal considered would have seen the diocese carved into two or three parts, with the section of Moosonee located in the civil province of Quebec – on the east side of James Bay – becoming a part of the Diocese of Quebec.

However, members of Moosonee's Synod opted instead for the "mission area" model, which will see the full-time bishop replaced by a part-time administrator and an "episcopal visitor," likely a retired bishop who will visit the region to provide episcopal

ministry on an itinerant basis.

Doing so will eliminate most of the diocese's administration costs. A part-time secretary will assist the new mission area's part-time administrator. Payroll services for the mission area's clergy are already being handled by the dioceses of Quebec and Toronto.

Bishop Corston admits presiding over his diocese's dismantling wasn't the kind of episcopal ministry he was expecting when he was elected bishop. "It's not a pleasant thing for us to see," he said. "But in order for us to maintain ministry and mission at the local level, this is the way we had to go."

Despite all the change happening – and still to come – at the diocesan level, Bishop Corston says life in the

parishes remains very much as it was before. "The Diocese of Moosonee is very much alive, but it's changing so as to afford ministry and mission into the future."

Ministry and mission in the 560,000 square kilometers of northeastern Ontario and northwestern Quebec covered by the Diocese of Moosonee is a challenge. The clergy serving its 24 congregations are among the lowest paid in the Anglican Church of Canada, while the cost of living is among the highest in the country. These days a litre of gas costs \$1.82.

Suicide in the aboriginal communities served by the diocese is reaching "epidemic proportions," according to Bishop Corston. One of his priests has buried 18 teenagers from

one community who have taken their own lives, the youngest only 11 years old.

Still, there are also signs of hope. Bishop Corston is preparing to ordain five new candidates for ministry in the diocese, four of whom have been raised up by local communities and have received training by distance education. He is optimistic that if his region's economy turns around, Moosonee might one day be re-established as a diocese in the traditional sense.

In the meantime, whether it goes by the name of diocese or mission area, ministry in the faith communities scattered across Moosonee goes on. "Anglican ministry is not ending," said Bishop Corston. "It's just taking a new administrative form."

THE STILLNESS WITHIN

A column by Cedric Cobb – where you might find a meditation, a poem, an awareness exercise or an inspiration.



Living the questions

"Sometimes questions are more important than answers."

– Nancy Willard

"I said to my soul, be still, and wait..."

– T.S. Eliot

As we move into 2013, the media are providing us with lists forecasting "the shape of things to come." The scenarios run anywhere from "doom and gloom" to "boom and zoom." Before we get too far ahead of ourselves, however, let us take a closer look at the whole process, because the questions we ask about the future determine our answers and actions.

Questions are powerful. It has been said the questions we formulate are even more important than the answers we seek. For example, what we think dictates what we will do, and where we will focus our energy. Addressing this issue, Rainer Maria Rilke wrote:

Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart. And try to love the questions themselves. Do not seek answers that cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.

Here Rilke is inviting us to patiently remain in the present as we honour or "love the questions them-

selves." Personally, I have found that living in the present with a question that cannot be immediately answered leads to my experiencing life at a deeper level. For example, my fourteen-year-old self struggled with the question of my mother's sudden death. Although I still do not know the answer to that question, I do know that that experience opened me up to a deep empathy and compassion for the suffering of others, especially for those experiencing the loss of a loved one. This has had profound effects in the ways I have reached out to others.

Rilke says, "Live the questions now." For me this suggests what Eastern sages call living with the attitude of "unknowing." It is through accepting that we don't have all the answers, our unknowing, that we are able to receive answers that are much deeper than the questions we thought we asked. Put another way, only when we are empty, can we be filled. This is especially true in matters of faith. Too often we hope for answers to our questions that are set in stone or yearn for simple formulas guaranteed to explain away every possible eventuality. However, the sages and mystics tell us that it is in only through releasing and surrendering that we truly connect with Life, and the Divine Mystery.

It is through letting go, through

releasing the need to know and control things, that one is able to lead a happier and more creative life. There is much joy to be experienced in the process of just allowing life to unfold in its own time and in its own way. In this respect, Eastern wisdom says "don't push the river, it flows by itself." T.S. Eliot points to this same reality in "The Four Quartets." He writes:

I said to my soul, be still, and wait... without hope

For hope would be hope for the wrong thing; wait without love

For love would be love of the wrong thing; there is yet faith

But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting.

Wait without thought, for you are not ready for thought:

So the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing.

I did not understand these words until I began to meditate seriously. Then they began to speak to me of the whole meditative process of going within. Eliot expresses a profound truth. The stillness needs to come first. First we need to stop, breathe, and listen. First we need to be still and wait. Then we hope. This is the hard job of letting go of the old tapes – the old conditioning. The intention in meditation practice is to cultivate a life that is more manageable, less distracted, and scattered

thorough simplicity and openness. And then comes *faith*: opening to the truth, wisdom, and peace (opening to the Divine Presence) that can move us to a place where we can live an authentic life, facing whatever is happening in the moment with merciful awareness.

Having said all of this, what is the secret to asking questions this or any time of year?

Perhaps it lies in simply surrendering it all, and waiting in the darkness of unknowing. Faith, hope and love come in the waiting. Without this, we find ourselves living a life based on fear, anxiety, and worry.

We also need to mention the joy involved in the process. After all that waiting, after whatever long night we might be experiencing, day breaks. After the hurt, healing happens.

It did for me. And along with the sorrow and pain, I discovered that life also contained much beauty and joy. Our hearts break. But in that breaking, the sacred is revealed. If we are willing, if we wait, if we do not turn away, then follows the morning light. To know the peace that passes understanding, the joy at the center of the universe, we need only hold the center. We need only be still in our heart center and wait, and "so the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing."

Questions for the journey (adapted from Gunilla Norris)

1. What do I keep doing at the expense of my true nature?
2. No matter what will take place this day, how much good will I let myself perceive and receive? Can I be nourished this day?
3. What's enough? (*This is a way to be more aware of our choices.*)
4. What best serves life here? (*When faced with an important choice.*)
5. Can I know that whatever light I have is only mine to give away?
6. What am I refusing to hold even though it is mine to deal with?
7. What can I be aware of and receive today that will bring me closer to my heart's true home?
8. Why not allow the sorrow to just breathe?
9. Then how can you tend it with acknowledgment and some simple care?
10. Today, could I ask if the direction I am walking in my life is my choice – or merely a habit?
11. What if I let myself enjoy this moment?
12. How can I appreciate myself and other people in action today?
13. What is good around me, and how can I contribute to it?

Spiritual notbook

Live the rule, Facebook group suggests

A new Facebook group seeks to help its members to encourage one another to "live the Rule of Life" as proposed by Bishop Barry Clarke at the 2011 synod of the Diocese.



Janet Marshall, congregational development officer at the diocesan office, started the group up with over 100 members.

She writes: "Let's support each other in keeping some of the basic disciplines of the Christian life. This is what a Rule of Life is all about. Surprisingly, for some of us, the Anglican Book of Common Prayer includes a simple guide for living. It says "every Christian woman and man should from time to time frame for themselves a Rule of Life in accordance with the teaching of the Gospel, and the faith and order of the Church." And we think this is a good idea."

The Rule: 1. Attend worship regularly, especially the Eucharist. 2. Pray and read the bible daily. 3. Live simply. 4. Bring the teaching and example of Christ into your daily life. 5. Be brave enough to speak about your faith in Christ. 6. Take your part in God's mission: serve your church and your neighbours locally and globally. 7. Give financially, according to your means, to support the work of the church for God's mission-in-the-world."

Ecumenical service at Oratory

An 8th annual evening of Christian Reunion to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held on Jan. 20, 7 p.m. at St Joseph's Oratory. This year's theme is "What does the Lord require of us?" from

Micah 6:8. This year's biblical and liturgical resources come from India, with a particular concern for the Dalit, a community that has a deep past and present of being excluded and outcast within their own country and often within their own faith.

Life Worth Living group starts up

A course called "A Life Worth Living" is starting up at St. Joseph of Nazareth Church in Brossard. It's a follow-up to the Alpha course in Christian basics but it is not necessary that a participant have previously attended. There is a one-time cost of \$5 or less, depending on the number that join. For details, call the church office at 450-671-6481.

"Saving Jesus" at Christ Church Bearepaire

"Saving Jesus" is a DVD-based curriculum to stimulate thinking and promote spiritual growth. The next series of six sessions will take place 1:30-3 p.m. Thursdays Jan. 10-Feb. 21 (no session Jan. 31) at Christ Church Bearepaire, 455 Church St., Bearepaire. Registration \$25 but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. All welcome – from any church or no church. Info: 514-697-2204.

Green Church seeks funds

The Green Church program, which offers various resources to parishes and individuals through its website and otherwise and organizes conferences, workshops and training sessions, has launched its first fund-raising drive. The program, an arm of the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism, urges people and groups to donate through its website or advertise on it. Visit www.eglisevertgreenchurch.ca.

Lay readers explore their mission to youth

Susan Winn

Mark Dunwoody, youth co-ordinator for the Diocese of Montreal, was the speaker at this year's Study Day on Saturday, Nov. 17. Mark brings his expertise from years of work with youth in Ireland, in Holland and in Uganda. Mark's focus is the uncovering of individual gifts and abilities in those seeking to serve young people and their families. The day was devoted to hearing stories of experiences in every corner of the diocese, and to sharing ideas for meaningful interaction with youth leaders and young people wanting to experience real and relevant connections within the church community.

The day was hosted by a team of church members led by Carol Glen-cross at the Church of St. John the Baptist in Pointe Claire. The Lay Readers have said that they have never been better cared for through delicious snacks and a gourmet lunch, followed by a sumptuous Bishop's reception that followed the commissioning service in the afternoon. All the participants have spoken of the cheerful and gracious

service and hospitality of the ladies on Carol's team. With wonderful food, and lively talks, the day was an

important time for the Lay Readers to reconnect and refresh their common ministry.

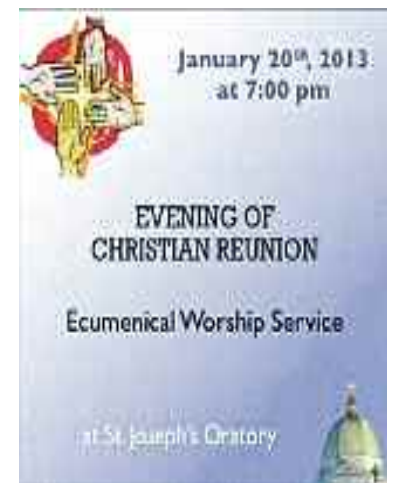


TWO LAY READERS, Valerie Cook, left, and Beverly Sanborn, both new three-year licencees, from the Parish of Brome share a moment with Bishop Barry Clarke.

(Photos: Susan Winn)



TEAM FROM HOST CHURCH, St. John the Baptist in Pointe Claire, prepare gourmet fare.



Books

Good news and a wake-up call

A review of Reginald Bibby:
A New Day: The Resilience & Restructuring of Religion in Canada. Available online.

Reviewed by Janet Marshall

Reginald Bibby, the leading Canadian sociologist and religion trend-tracker Reginald Bibby has made his most recent book, *A New Day: The Resilience & Restructuring of Religion in Canada*, available as a free download on the Web. Bibby, who has been monitoring developments in Canadian religions since the early 1980s, delivers both good news and a wake-up call for our churches.

For years, experts watching the religious scene in Canada have predicted that the rise of secularization

and the decline in people's participation in church means that organized religion is dying out. Experience from the pew seemed to substantiate this. But Bibby's research shows us a very different picture.

While there has undeniably been a significant overall decline in participation over the past 50 years, especially for mainline Protestant churches, the proportion of Canadians who attend once a month or more has not changed very much at all. Similarly, the proportion of people who never attend hasn't changed much either.

What we have is a polarized situation. There is a solid core of people who still value and participate in religion and another solid core of

people who don't. The rest – those in the middle – are much like the politically undecided. They've dropped away, but are willing to become involved in religion *if the experience is of value to their lives*. Furthermore, Bibby's research reveals that the need for what religion offers is still very much alive in our society and large numbers of people in this middle group are open to stronger connections and greater involvement with faith. But – and this is critical – they are not in the market for churches. They actually want much more than most of our churches are offering. They want ministry and mission.

Here is the hope and the challenge and for those of us working on



REGINALD BIBBY

church growth and development, it's not new. Having the statistics and demographics to support and reinforce the hunches, observations and experiences is very helpful and illustrative.

A New Day is a quick read. It resembles a lecture presentation with lots of small sections and colourful visuals. It will provide the fodder for lots of interesting discussions. It's also good to see that he occasionally separates statistics from Quebec which is helpful and gives it more credibility

for our context.

The strength of this book is in the first three chapters which look at the demographics, the ongoing market for religion and what's happening with specific denominations. Bibby is weaker when it comes to proposing solutions and next steps. He is after all a sociologist rather than a congregational development specialist, but it is well worth downloading and sharing.

You can find *A New Day: The Resilience & Restructuring of Religion in Canada* at www.reginaldbibby.com/images/A_NEW_DAY_Sept_12_2012.pdf

(Janet Marshall is congregational development officer for the Diocese of Montreal.)

A breath of fresh air in a cynical genre

A review of Neil Turok:
The Universe Within: From Quantum to Cosmos, (House of Anansi Press, 2012, The 2012 CBC Massey Lectures, 292 pages.)

Reviewed by Colin McGregor

As his parents languish in jail for opposing apartheid, a 3-year-old South African boy is sent to live with his Christian Scientist grandmother. Here, Neil Turok reminisces, he first encounters the Bible: "I loved the idea of a book that held the answer to everything," he writes. "What I most wanted, even at that early age, was to capture and hold the truth, with the certainty and love that it brings."

The Universe Within is the book form of Turok's CBC Massey Lectures. First broadcast on CBC Radio's *Ideas* program in November, his narrative is part science, part autobiography – and all childlike wonder. Through the five lectures, published as five chapters, we discover that Turok never loses his thirst to unveil all there is to know about the universe. As director of the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo, Ont., he has



NEIL TUROK

a front-row seat to witness astounding discoveries on the frontiers of knowledge.

As a young refugee in England, he discovers his love of numbers. "Mathematics can reveal powerful truths," he realizes; it is "our third eye, allowing us to see and understand how things work in realms so remote from our experience that they cannot be visualized."

He observes, computes, stares at the stars, gains a Ph.D. He teaches at famous schools. With Cambridge colleague Stephen Hawking, he develops the Hawking-Turok instant solutions describing the birth of the universe – solutions that leave room for God. He continues the family's taste for activism, setting up math schools on his native continent to educate promising young Africans in the ways of numbers.

Turok brings us along on a history of human learning. We are shown a 37,000-year-old baboon's notched leg bone found in a Swaziland cave,

the first evidence of math calculations. And we meet Turok's heroes: illustrious names like Newton, Einstein and Hume, as well as lesser known, but equally important, pioneers of light and learning. He explains why multi-billion dollar particle accelerators and orbiting observatories aren't just expensive toys. It's all expressed as simply as possible, given the subject matter's innate complexity.

The Universe Within is a breath of fresh air in a genre laced with cynicism and cattiness. Most "physics-for-laypeople" books these days devote a few pages, at least, to poo-pooing faith as primitive nonsense. But Turok remains the boy with the Bible: "Mathematics is the language with which God wrote the universe," he attests; "Quantum physics teaches us that in a very real sense we all live in an imaginary reality." To him, physics is "magic that works."

He agrees with Stephen Hawking that the algebraic constants that make our existence possible – the wavelengths of light, the charge of an electron – may well have been "selected" at the moment of creation. He describes one currently trendy

Big Bang theory that leaves no room for God as "based upon a technical gaffe." Neil Turok argues for a rapprochement between the "two cultures" of the arts and of science. Science is by its very nature democratic, open and rational. Scientific discourse is society's best and only insurance against narrow, absolutist ideas – like apartheid.

Since 1961, the Massey Lectures have brought just this sort of enlightenment into Canadian homes via the CBC. As is also true in free society, a prison can become an incubator of harsh, extreme ideas divorced from humanity and from fact. Twice a week, a calm, moderate man in his 50s visits this prison. He is our part-time Anglican chaplain. He listens to complaints; prays with villains; sets up literacy courses; and deals out wisdom laced with tolerance, framed in a soft-spoken manner. He chats about rational science and irrational human despair with equal facility. He moderates a weekly Bible study: perhaps Leonard Cohen was right when he suggested, in *Suzanne*, that only drowning men can see Jesus.

It would be a tragedy to lose this

chaplain to budget cutbacks. Not just for inmates, but for everyone who dreams of safer streets.

(Colin McGregor is an inmate in the Cowansville Institution.)

A labour of love



AFTER A DECADE OF RESEARCH AND WRITING, Rev. Deacon Allan Marjerison, 98, signs copies of (or reads from) his book *Faith in Action: The Story of Tyndale-St. George's* at its launch at the community centre November 28. The book traces the 85-year story of service by Tyndale-St. George's as a mission of the Presbyterian Church of Canada since 1927 and of Presbyterians and Anglicans since 1971 to the Little Burgundy working-class area of southwest Montreal. His association with Tyndale-St. George's began in 1980 when, while working for Touche Ross & Co. he was recruited to review Tyndale's financial statements and he served as volunteer treasurer or in other financial posts between then and 2009. He was ordained as an Anglican vocational deacon in 1998 and was appointed chaplain of Tyndale-St. George's. The book is available through the centre at www.tydalestgeorges.com.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

'Possessed by a goddess' South India lecture topic

Marian spirit possession in South India will be the topic of Professor Kristin Bloomer, an assistant professor of religion at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., and visiting assistant professor of women's studies and South Asian religions at Harvard Divinity School in a lecture Friday, Jan. 11. The lecture, "Possessed by a goddess: The Virgin Mary in South India," begins at 5 p.m. in the Birks Heritage Chapel of McGill University, 3520 University St.

Marriage prep to be in Dorval

Marriage preparation workshops organized by the Centre for Lay Education of the Diocese of Montreal will take place in 2013 at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Mark, Dorval. The dates – all Friday evening and Saturday – will be Jan. 25-26, Feb. 22-23, April 5-6, May 24-25, June 28-29 and Oct. 18-19. For info at <http://layeducation.org/marriage.htm>.

For the dead and the living



FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE with HIV and people around the world who have died with AIDS, worshippers light candles at the annual diocesan World AIDS Day mass November 30 at Christ Church Cathedral. Dean Paul Kennington of the cathedral is accompanied by Rev. Canon William (Terry) Blizzard and, to the right, Rev. Deacon Donald Boisvert.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

Putting away the Christmas decorations at the Mile End Mission

Linda Hachey

Another Christmas, has come and gone at the Mile End Community Mission – and what a Christmas it was!

Thanks, that is, to the very generous donation of money, food, toys, personal items, clothing and volunteer time that was made by countless

caring parishes and parishioners, elementary, high school, CEGEP and university students and teachers, residents of the Mile End community and beyond, local businesses, politicians and community groups including the Y du Parc who once again hosted the Mile End Mission's Annual Christmas Dinner.

Through your wonderful acts of kindness, the Mission was able to:

- Distribute 130 Christmas food baskets and food vouchers to members of the Mission;
 - Serve a fabulous Christmas dinner to 250 Mission members and extended families;
 - Help Santa provide Christmas gifts for over 100 Mile End area children as well as special Christmas stockings filled with much needed personal items for individuals in great need of basic supplies and clothing.
- With warm feelings and fond

memories of this past Christmas still stirring in our minds and in our hearts, however, I can't help but think of those individuals within our Mission's community and beyond who:

Received a much needed pair of new winter gloves from Santa, but have since lost them somewhere under the bridge that they call home.

Enjoyed a wonderful Christmas meal and joyous songs of hope during our Annual Christmas Dinner, but now have very little nutritious food or hope for a better life.

Momentarily felt part of a larger

caring community, but most days now tend to feel isolated, lonely, depressed and uninspired.

With our most sincere thanks and appreciation for all that you have done to help make this past Christmas a memorable one for so many, we ask that you continue to share your blessings throughout the year with those less fortunate who walk among us each day. On behalf of everyone at the Mile End Community Mission, we wish you a most joyous New Year.

(Linda (Lou) Hachey is director of the Mile End Mission.)

Church hall becomes community centre

An agreement between Holy Trinity Church in the Village of Lakefield, part of the Parish of the Lower Laurentians, has transformed a church hall that was becoming a burden to the parish into a community centre serving the community as a whole.

Hugh Mitchell, lay reader in the parish, recalls in a note to *The Montreal Anglican* that, after extensive

the main floor. It was a little like what happened to Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal in the 1980s, but on a slightly smaller scale! The interior was almost gutted and was then insulated; new walls and windows, an interior staircase, a revamped kitchen, wheelchair-accessible bathrooms and air conditioning were all installed.

"It was renamed the Trinity Community Centre and has now become a place where all members of the Municipality can play! As a flourishing community centre, it is used almost daily for yoga, Tai Chi, seniors' exercise class and lunch, receptions after weddings and funerals, community breakfasts, dinners and dances and St. Patrick's Day, Halloween and Christmas parties, not to mention as a wonderful place for council meetings and for the congregation to have lunch together after the Sunday services. The bottom floor houses a weekly art class but is otherwise irregularly used, so there is a possibility of it supplementing community health services, although this is a long shot at the moment.

"We are now half way through the lease and, as a result of discussions between the municipality and the corporation, the municipality has built a beautiful post-and-beam fence around the cemetery with a wooden arch for an entry, and has buried the Hydro wires to the church underground. In return, the church has extended the lease for five years.

"All this has been achieved because of a spirit of co-operation between the municipality and the church, which, although it is Anglican, is a meeting place for local Christians of all denominations."



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

fundraising by the community, the current church hall was built by members of the congregation in the 1950s.

"By the year 2000 it was looking its age, was in need of major repair (which the church could not afford) and was little used. All in all, a sorry state. So, in 2007, the Corporation of Holy Trinity Church leased the Church Hall to the Municipality of Gore (in which the village of Lakefield is situated) for 10 years for \$1 a year. The municipality, led by a private donor who gave \$25,000 from his own pocket, then invested over \$250,000 in the building; the monies came from a grant from the d'Argenteuil Regional County Municipality, municipal surpluses over a couple of years and a small sum from the church itself.

"The hall had just one floor; it now has two! The building was jacked up on stilts and a full-sized basement was built in underneath

ABOUNDING IN HOPE

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit within you." -Romans 15, vs 13

Jesus invited his disciples to come to Him in times of weariness, and when we feel heavy laden. He also specifically invited his followers, in the midst of their business, to come apart and rest awhile. You are warmly invited to join us for a Quiet Weekend in the middle of winter to take up this invitation.

When: 18th - 20th, January 2013

Where: Ermitage Ste Croix

This will be a weekend in which we will offer the gift of silence to each other. A rich climate in which to really listen, as Mary did, to the words and teachings of our Lord. This has proven in the past to be a rich and rewarding practice, and we are very thrilled that Father William Brown, OMV, Director of St. Joseph's Retreat House, Milton, Mass. has agreed to lead this retreat, with the overriding theme of hope.

Fr. Bill has been engaged in the ministry of spiritual direction for more than 18 years, since his ordination. To complement his masters of Divinity, he has obtained a masters degree in Pastoral counseling. In between teaching conferences, he will help us to spend time in prayer, using ancient methods of praying with scripture that have proved rich and fruitful in spiritual growth over the centuries.

For further information please contact the following:

(Registration form attached)

Kathryn Stafford staffordkathryn@gmail.com

Melanie Bailey 514 939 0967

Paul Empsall paul.empsall@sympatico.ca

Sally Harrington Philippo Sallyharrington@sympatico.ca 450 263 7111

Thea Calder thea.calder@sympatico.ca 514 935 0638

Still Presence Spirituality Centre

At Christ Church, Beaurepaire, 455 Church St., Beaconsfield
514-697-2204 or www.StillPresence.com
or cedric.c.cobb@gmail.com

Calendar of Events January 2012

Monday, January 14 Open House, 7- 8:30 PM

Theme: Introduction to Meditative Practice

With Rev. Cedric Cobb, and Arch. Michael Johnson

*Have an experience of being still,
and see what can arise from that stillness.*

All are welcome.

Mondays, January 21 and 28 Meditation Circle, 7- 8:15 PM

Theme: The Foundations of Spiritual Practice

Alternately with Arch. Michael Johnson, and Rev. Cedric Cobb

*What are the foundational spiritual practices that
transform and awaken our hearts to love?*

Join us for this vital series.

ABOUNDING IN HOPE – 18th–20th January 2013 – Registration Form

Cost: \$200 including full board and all materials

(We do have a small bursary fund available on request, on an as needed basis)

Name: _____

Church Affiliation _____

How you learned about this retreat: _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Full amount OR \$75.00 deposit (non refundable) _____

Cheque made out to Vita Nova Sanctuary _____

Please mail registrations and payment to:

Sally Harrington Philippo, RiverCross Farm, 1110 Halle Road, Brigham, Quebec J2K 4G8

New incumbent at St. Barnabas

It's no longer about numbers, deacon says

Harvey Shepherd

Today's church should concentrate less on counting its members and more on serving the people around it, a deacon in the Montreal Diocese said in early December as

she helped an old friend become the parish priest of a church in Pierrefonds.

Rev. Jean Willcocks, a vocational deacon attached to the Church of the Epiphany in Verdun, was homilist

at the December 2 induction of Rev. Pamela Yarrow as the priest of St. Barnabas Church in Pierrefonds. The new incumbent, who has served a number of parishes in the diocese, some of them in periods of transi-

tion, succeeds Rev. Canon Alan Perry, now executive archdeacon of the Diocese of Edmonton.

Deacon Willcocks, ordained to a ministry that emphasizes service in the world, said, "We can no longer

measure the effectiveness of ministry by the number of people in the pews. We need to measure it by the quality of life we have together....

"We need people who can see the image of God in every human need."



SOME OF THE LEADING PARISHIONERS who found Rev. Pamela Yarrow as their new priest pose with her and Regional Archdeacon Michael Johnson.



GREETING A PARISHIONER after her induction as the new parish priest of St. Barnabas Anglican Church in Pierrefonds, Rev. Pamela Yarrow unwinds with Rev. Karen Egan Chalk regional dean of Pointe Claire, left, and Rev. Deacon Jean Willcocks, who was homilist.



A FESTIVE TABLE greeted the congregation at the induction of Rev. Pamela Yarrow, who did the honours with the cake.



THE CAMERA ANGLES WERE NOT IDEAL but the sentiments were plain when Rev. Gabriel Alexe, pastor of the Protection of the Mother of God Romanian Orthodox Mission presented a bouquet and an icon to Rev. Pamela Yarrow after her induction as the new parish priest of St. Barnabas Anglican Church in Pierrefonds. The mission shares the space of the Anglican parish. (Photos: Harvey Shepherd)

✂ Diocesan Clippings (and Snapshots) 📷

Present meets past



FOLK FROM THE PAST were welcomed to the Thanksgiving Sunday service at Christ Church Rawdon by Archdeacon Michael Robson on his first Sunday as rector.

(Photo: Marion Loeffelmann)

Fair trade for Christmas shoppers behind Christ Church Cathedral



A FAIR TRADE BOUTIQUE run by volunteers from Christ Church Cathedral in co-operation with Dix Mille Villages November 26-December 2 in the Atrium behind the cathedral gave Christmas shoppers an opportunity to buy gifts sold by overseas artisans at fair trade prices. This was a second Christmas season for the venture. A selection of fair trade goods was also available after Sunday services.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

Remembering Benny Benoy



SALLY RICHMOND, executive director of the Logifem shelter for women in Montreal, remembered the work of Benny Benoy, sidewalk preacher, former merchant seaman and parishioner of St. Joseph of Nazareth Church in Brossard, when she spoke at the church in late November. Mr. Benoy's widow, Mary, is still a parishioner. "Sally Richmond's talk was excellent and reminded everyone how Benny Benoy stepped out in faith," reports parishioner Patricia Wood.

Epiphany starts 2013 in style

January will be busy at the Church of the Epiphany in Verdun. The parish anniversary roast beef dinner will start at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5. Tickets are \$15; contact Gail Reason or Donna Stirling through the church office.

Three weeks later, there will be a garage sale between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26. Proceeds will support the parish soup kitchen.

The church is at 4322 Wellington St. in Verdun. Phone 514-769-5373, send an email to epiphany.verdun@gmail.com or visit www.epiphany.verdun on the Web.

Rosemere drop-in centre resumes

The drop-in centre at St. James Anglican Church, 328 Pine St., Rosemere, will re-open Wednesday, Jan. 9 at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome. Winston and Becky Fraser are hosts. Refreshments served. Meet old friend and make new ones. The church is open for quiet prayer and reflection. Also, St. James' semi-annual Military Whist will be Friday, Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments served, prizes to be won! Tickets available at the door or call Carol Trudel at 450-621-4543. Admission \$8. For information call 450-621-6466, or visit the St. James Website or Facebook page.

All Saints confronts mould

The Diocesan Council authorized a \$15,000 loan to All Saints Deux Montagnes in November to cover about three-quarters of the cost of an emergency project to get rid of mould in its hall and elsewhere. The church had been contending with the problem for several years but it was getting worse.