ANGLICAN

MONTREAL

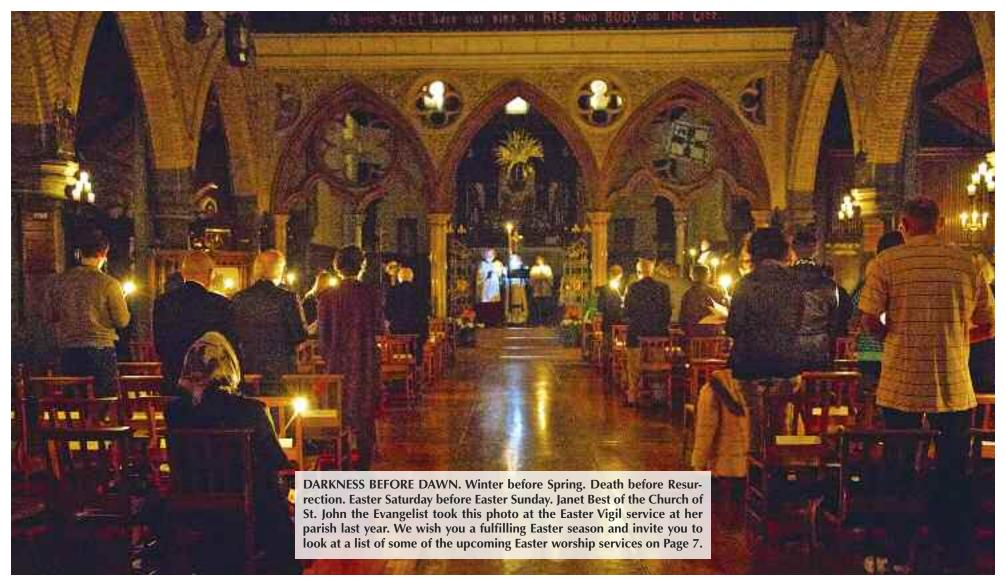
ANGLICAN



Official Publication of the Diocese of Montreal

'Our hope is in Jesus Christ, the one risen from the dead'

See Bishop Barry's message on Page 2



Double entendre



ARE THEY DRESSED UP in honour of the 150th anniversary year of the Church of St. James the Apostle in downtown Montreal, where worship began in 1864, or are they inspired by Johann Strauss's operetta, *Die Fledermaus,* which had its premiere in Vienna in 1874? Both. Parishioner Michel Gagnon photographed Brittany Love, a new staff member responsible for the parish's Emerging Ministries program, aimed at young adults, and Rev. Canon Linda Borden Taylor, rector, at the church's semi-annual Cabaret February 22. This year's edition was inspired by *Die Fledermaus*. Proceeds of the evening, which had a near-capacity attendance around 140, went to the new ministry. For more on the Cabaret and on the anniversary, see Page 6





AMONG THE AUDIENCE, Daphne Morris of the parish walked away with the prize for the best costume. She was also part of the team responsible for room décor. She was out of costume when she received her prize.

In this issue:

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PAGE 5: Opposition leader in Parliament meets refugee in Montreal church.

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PAGE 11: Missioners should be like refugees, aide to Archbishop of Canterbury says in Montreal.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I pray your journey through Lent is enriching and you are growing closer to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Tales of woe often surround us, be it in the world or in our communities, our families or in our church. The bricks may be crumbling, the roof may be leaking, the organ may be out of tune, the Treasurer reminds us that we don't have enough financial resources and on and on the list goes. It draws us to a place of despair, cynicism or bitterness that things aren't the way they should be.

And I recognize that we're facing new challenges in the church and in the diocese; new challenges around demographic shifts, the anxiety around the Charter of Values, the fear of people moving away, the fact that many of our parishes don't have many young people or Sunday schools. This list can go on and we can complain and feel that there's no

I'm grateful for how we meet these challenges by seeing ourselves as the people of God, striving to be faithful to God's mission, sharing in discipleship as we follow Jesus. Sometimes we can also fall away from what we believe about God working in our midst.

St. Paul reminds us that, "According to the grace God has given me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3: 10-11)

Once again, this is a reminder to us that our foundation is Jesus Christ. I believe we are being called to reacquaint ourselves with our foundation, the foundation of Jesus Christ.

If that foundation is not our priority, then we recognize that all that we do will continue to cause us grief and despair. This may be an oversimplification but yet it's an eternal truth, for the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world so that we would follow and grow in our awareness of God's love for us and share this good news with others.

St. Paul reminds us also in his letter to the Ephesians:

The Rev'd Dr. Richard Cawley

Specialist in adult and community education

"But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said:

"When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.



The Bishop's Message



EFM graduates

"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." (Ephesians 4: 7-16)

It is our challenge when we recognize that we are members of the body of Christ and we are called to nurture one another and build one another up in Christ's love and empowering ourselves and others by the Holy Spirit to use the gifts that God has given us.

We are reminded, also, that the foundation 'built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God." (Ephesians 2: 20-22)

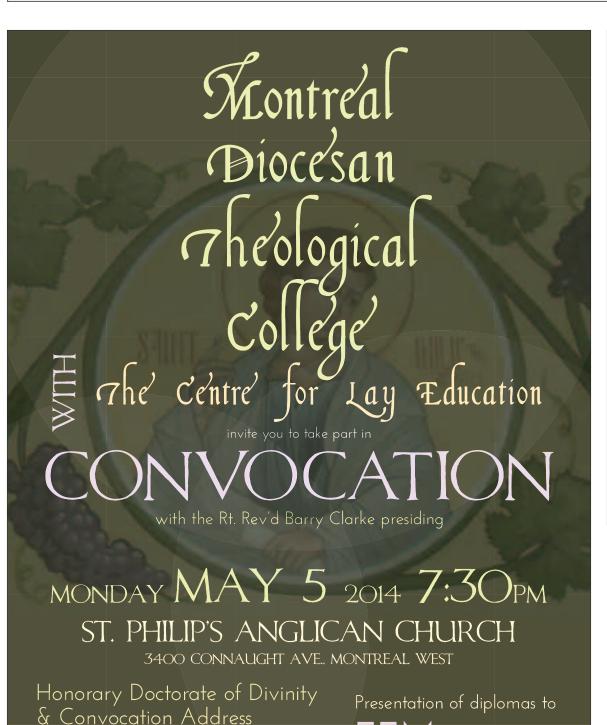
I challenge myself and I challenge you as members of the diocese to faithfully pray in a way that invites us to a renewed faith in Christ and not to a place of despair.

For St. Paul also said we are, most of all, people to be pitied if we have no hope.

In this Lent/Easter Season our hope is in Jesus Christ, the one risen from the dead and I pray that you encounter Him, first and foremost, as the foundation on which your faith is built and that our communities of faith and our diocese collectively will see in Christ, the presence of God calling us together to address the challenges and the opportunities placed before us as we discern God's plan and purpose for us.

Greetings in the peace of Christ,

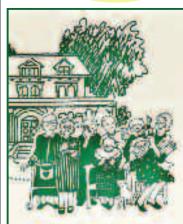




For more information: www.dio-mdtc.ca 🥂 /dio.mdtc

Ca Résidence Fulf ord Residence

A Unique Brand of Caring



Fulford Residence is a private nonprofit continuing care residence for senior ladies. This gracious facility provides a special combination of residential living, activities, support and health care designed to meet the individual needs of each resident.

Located on Guy Street, this old Victorian house was once the home of the Anglican Bishop of Montreal. With a wide verandah and well-kept flower gardens, the residents are able to enjoy an outdoor setting, as well as indoor spaces for groups or for quiet, activities. Dr. Eleanor Hew is always on-call, visiting through the week, and working alongside our Head Nurse. With caring staff available 24 hours a day, home-cooked meals to meet every taste, professionals and volunteers who visit to provide services and activities. the ladies of Fulford enjoy a quality of that encourages strengths and abilities.

Fulford's rates are reasonable and competitive. If you are looking for a caring environment for a lady of senior years, please visit Fulford understand the essence of this very special place.



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The photo of Bishop Barry Clarke that appears with his message on this page was taken by Michel Gagnon of the Church of St. James the Apostle

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Parishes south and east get an archdeacon

Rev. Bill Gray, rector of St-George's Place du Canada in downtown Montreal, is the new territorial archdeacon of Bedford and the Richelieu.

Announcing the appointment at the end of February, Bishop Barry Clarke said the new archdeacon will work alongside him to oversee this area of the diocese, which includes most parishes south of the St. Lawrence River, from Châteauguay to Sorel and the U.S. border.

The position had been vacant for 17 months since the beginning of October 2012, when Archdeacon Michael Robson, who had been priest at St. Margaret of Antioch in St. Hubert and St. Mark's Longueuil, was appointed Incumbent at Christ Church Rawdon in the Lanaudière and made a non-territorial archdeacon, Chaplain to the Bishop and secretary to the Episcopal Council.

Archdeacon Gray has been rector at St. George's since September 2012 and previously served as a parish priest in other dioceses, most recently as the incumbent of All Saints Anglican Church, Peterborough. He has previously been a territorial archdeacon twice and has been a regional dean in three different jurisdic-

He is now one of four territorial archdeacons in the diocese, along



BILL GRAY

with Ven. James Bennett of the archdeaconry of Montreal, including much of Montreal Island, Archdeacon Michael Johnson of St. Lawrence, on the West Island and nearby, and Archdeacon Ralph Leavitt of St. Andrews, in the Laurentians and neighbouring areas.

Cathedral administrator is no stranger

The new Cathedral Administrator at Christ Church Cathedral is a familiar figure to many Cathedral parishioners as well as to quite a few Anglicans around the Diocese of Montreal.

By the time she started her new job at the beginning of March, Tania Lesack had become one of the more active members of the Cathedral congregation. She and her two children, now in their mid-20s, joined the Anglican Church and the Cathedral in 2004.

Ms. Lesack, who grew up in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Western Canada, said in a conversation that she was attracted to the Anglican tradition by both its similarities to Eastern Orthodoxy and some significant differences, particularly with regard to the role of women in the church.

Since joining the Cathedral, she has qualified as a lay reader and often participates in that role in Cathedral services. Last November she was elected as the new president of the Diocese of Montreal Lay Readers As-



TANIA LESACK at her new desk.

Her previous job was also as an administrator: at Elizabeth House, a private rehabilitation centre in West-End Montreal that offers a continuum of intensive intervention and specialized support services, residential and other, to parents, particularly young mothers and mothersto-be, who are experiencing difficulties adjusting to pregnancy or their role as parents.

She will be working in the office all day Mondays and Fridays, Tuesday afternoons and Thursday afternoons. The reception desk will be staffed at other times, usually by volunteers. One advantage of the new job for her is that a slightly more flexible schedule will allow her to arrange time for some studies.

She is "easing into" theological studies at the Montreal Diocesan Theological College.

News in brief

New logo, new look for diocese

The Diocese of Montreal is expected to get a new look in the coming months. Working with a Montreal graphic designed, Katherine Begg, a communications team in the Ministry Action Plan structure has been putting the finishing touches on a new logo for use on the diocesan website, letterhead, signage, pamphlets, T-shirts and even vehicles if the diocese were to acquire any. These would be accompanied by guidelines for such matters as colour schemes and type faces.

The change is to include a "redesign" of The Montreal Anglican, involving not only the new logo and other elements on Page 1 but typefaces and guidelines for arranging columns and pictures. Brian Morgan, a parishioner at the Church of St. John the Evangelist professionally active in magazine layout, is involved in the redesign.

Members of the communications team and other diocesan committee members and staff have been keeping the elements of the new look, and particularly draft versions of the new logo, under wraps. But a version of the logo has been seen by the largely elected Diocesan Council and by the archdeacons and others on Episcopal Council. One subject of discussion has been whether it is explicitly Christian enough.

Nicki Hronjak, diocesan program administrator, told the Diocesan Council that the new logo is intended to supplant the diocesan arms (with its book, crossed crozier and key, six-pointed star and anchor) for many practical purposes. However, the arms, reportedly created in 1850 by the first bishop of Montreal, Francis Fulford, would retain their official status.

At last report the committee had not addressed in any details the question of how the new look could interrelated in practice with the logo of the Anglican Church of Canada (red cross, four maple leaves), the distinct arms of the Bishop of Montreal and design elements that individual parishes may have adopted.

Synod resolutions due by June 1

The deadline has been set at June 1 for submission of motions to change the diocesan canons and constitution as well as any other motions that are to be put to the Diocese of Montreal Synod October 18. Propositions should be sent to Sophie Bertrand, human resources and program co-ordinator at sophieb@montreal.anglican.ca. She would also like to hear from anyone interested in babysitting on the day of the synod.

Montreal site of June conference for young clergy

A national event for clergy under the age of forty, "Conversation 2014," is planned in Montreal June 17-19. It is being co-ordinated for the Anglican Church of Canada by a team led by Rev. Rhonda Waters of Christ Church Cathedral. In a note to diocesan bishops and staff, Archdeacon Michael Thompson, secretary of the Canadian church, says the event is "important for our younger clergy because it makes a statement of confidence and support to them and offers an opportunity to gather, pray, and learn together." He describes it as "the foundation of a network of young leaders who may well bring a new shared ministry vision to the attention of our church." Registration opened Ash Wednesday and will close April 25, but organizers warn that space is limited. Available spaces are far fewer than eligible clergy. There is an announcement below and a website at http://conversation2014.wordpress.com/.

Please mark your calendars!

Diocesan Synod 2014

The theme of the 155th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal is

CALLED TO GROW

A one-day Synod will take place in Fulford Hall, Cathedral Place, on Saturday, October 18, 2014

> Registration will open at 7:30 a.m., with refreshments available.

Lunch will be provided following a midmorning Eucharist. The day will end with a wine and cheese gathering for all delegates and visitors at 6 p.m.

CHANGE

CHANGE AHEAD is an exciting new strategy of the Anglican Province of Canada meant for youth leaders to come together to learn from national youth leaders and each other

This project arises from the Provincial synod meeting in Montreal, September 2012. The youth caucus agreed that a Provincial type event that would bring youth leaders together focused on personal training development. In abling them to go back too their own diocese and deliver skill based training.

WHO?

The course is for both lay or ordained, who have a passion for seeing young workers realise their potential.

For more details contact mdunwoody@montreal.anglican.ca or reverendcathy@gmail.com

JOHN 15:1-2

"1 am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit, Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit."

WHEN?

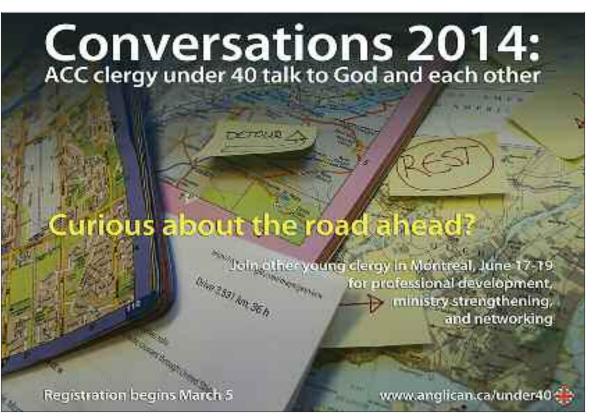
June 20-23rd 2014

WHERE?

In the diocese of Montreal, Quebec,



An initiative of the **Ecclesiastical Provincial Council of** Canada



South Shore pastors give chilly but varied response to Charter

Harvey Shepherd

There was no out-and-out support among South Shore clergy and lay leaders of several denominations at a gathering in February for the Quebec government's proposed Charter of Quebec Values, but several voices said the church should not neglect the challenges and opportunities the Charter debate presents.

"We should reframe this discussion and think of it as a gift," Bishop Barry Clarke of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal told close to 25 clergy and lay people at a breakfast gathering organized by the ecumenical committee of the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Jean-Longueuil in cooperation with St. Mark's Anglican Parish in Longueuil.

The gathering of Anglican, Catholic, United Church and Presbyterian representatives, largely clergy, was led largely by Bishop Lionel Gendron of the St. Jean-Longueuil diocese and Sister Lorraine Caza, a leading Catholic theologian and former superior-general of the Congregation of Notre Dame, still active in the Diocese of St. Jean-Longueuil and elsewhere.

Bishop Clarke said the debate should encourage churches to examine what it is they really value. There seems to be a consensus that, while having personal respect for such politicians as Premier Pauline Marois and Bernard Drainville, min-



ister for democratic institutions, churches should provide a voice for the voiceless, including the minorities that would be most affected by the Charter.

If the church fails to stand with such people, "I am fearful that the church will become a ghetto in societv."

Rev. Eileen Steele of the Anglican Church of St. Stephen with St. James in Chambly, said, "I wonder if this is not an opportunity for churches to become Jesus for others, for us to be what God is calling us to be."

Bishop Gendron said that in a debate that mixes politics and religion churches need to meet one another "as the other" and exemplify the unity in diversity exemplified by the Trinity.

Rev. Barry Mack of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in St. Lambert said in recent discussion of the Charter among Montreal-area Presbyterians "we all sort of came out in the same place politically" but he himself was somewhat concerned about the degree of consensus. He was not sure there was enough attention paid

to the legitimate role of political authority.

Sister Caza noted that not all Quebec Christians are united against the Charter. In particular, she had recently had conversations with some Christians recently arrived from the Middle East, whose views were influenced by their difficulties in their former countries.

Rev. Richard Gauthier of St. Mark's said that, while it is legitimate to come out against the Charter, this opposition – often based on the Canadian and Quebec rights char-

ters – may reflect an emphasis on individual liberty characteristic of English-speaking societies. French-speaking societies may have a greater appreciation of collective rights, he said.

Rev. Marco St Pierre, minister of United Churches in Verdun and Delson, said the Charter is "a symptom of religious illiteracy" and the damage it has done to intercultural relations will remain even if it is never adopted by the legislature.

Rev. Gwenda Wells of St. Barnabas Anglican Church in St. Lambert said the Charter will discriminate against some Muslim women by reducing their employment opportunities.



REV. RICHARD GAUTHIER of St. Mark's Longueuil makes a point.

Cutback of funds for project with offenders threatens public safety, deacon says

A Diocese of Montreal deacon working with volunteers to support about 18 convicted sex offenders in their efforts not to reoffend says a government spending cutback will make this work harder and threaten public safety in Montreal and across Canada.

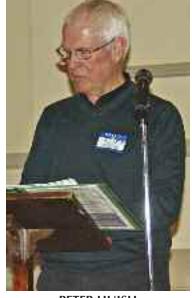
Rev. Canon Peter Huish said Montreal-Southwest Community Ministries – was one of 18 groups with such projects across Canada told by Correctional Service of Canada in February that their contracts would be terminated at the end of March. MSCM receives some support from the diocese and as a major part of its work organizes "Circles of Support and Accountability."

Canon Huish said the savings to the government in cutting support for the circles – \$650,000 a year starting April 1 and \$2.2 million a year from the end of September once some money from a National Crime Prevention ends – is almost negligible compared with social and financial costs if the former offenders were to reoffend, since the circles are run mainly by volunteers.

The MSCM has a budget of about \$80,000 for this project, largely for office rental and an administrator. A larger Quebec group working in French spends around \$180,000. If the funds are cut the volunteers will struggle on as best they can, he said.

Offenders participating in Circles of Support and Accountability do so voluntarily, one offender to a circle. They have served their sentences. Each circle is made up of an ex-prisoner and about four volunteers who meet him regularly to help him resist pressures to reoffend.

The circles have had federal government support since 1994. Today 700 CoSA volunteers nationwide support 155 sexual offenders. He said research has shown that the circles



PETER HUISH

reduce the risk of recidivism by about 80 per cent.

In a joint letter to members of Parliament and media from people involved with CoSA projects across Canada, Canon Huish writes, "To date, four studies demonstrating the effectiveness of the CoSA model have been published in peer-reviewed journals, all of them showing the same outcome: dramatically reduced rates of sexual and other reoffending among CoSA participants. These findings have encouraged the U.S. federal government to support CoSA project development in many communities; the United Kingdom and other international jurisdictions are following suit."

The National Crime Prevention Centre, an arm of Public Safety Canada, is nearing completion of a \$7.5 million evaluation of CoSA nationally. It concludes next September but the Correctional Service of Canada, also an arm of Public Safety Canada, decided not to wait.

Presbyterians dissent on Charter

The governing body for Presbyterian churches in an area roughly similar to the Diocese of Montreal has added its voice of nuanced dissent to the Quebec government's proposed Charter of Quebec Values

In a response adopted January 31, the Presbytery of Montreal says:

"We acknowledge and celebrate the unique identity of Quebec as a Francophone nation and province within Canada, and acknowledge the particular religious and cultural history that has shaped its values, laws, and social fabric. We also acknowledge and celebrate the presence of other linguistic and cultural communities within Quebec – including a large Anglophone minority – and celebrate the contributions such communities have made to the history, identity, and success of Quebec as a liberal democratic polity. We believe that Quebec has been enriched by this diversity."

However, it adds that "We do not accept that religious diversity means simply a diversity of privately held beliefs. Such a view fails to take seriously religious faith as it is understood by any of its practitioners – namely, religious faith as a way of seeing and living in the world. The government's failure to understand the nature of religious faith and identity – a failure deeply embedded within Bill 60 – has led to its willingness to undermine the rights and freedoms of people of faith."



Almost six months after taking refuge in a Montreal Anglican church to escape deportation, an ailing Pakistani woman met federal opposition leader Thomas Mulcair there February 14 and appealed for justice and immediate freedom.

Speaking directly in public for the first time and experiencing some difficulty in speaking because of shortness of breath due to a heart condition, Khurshid Begum Awan said through an interpreter that she is under extreme stress. Mrs. Awan also appealed for her husband, Muhammad Khalil Awan, deported to Pakistan earlier, to be allowed to return to Canada.

Mulcair, member of Parliament for the Montreal riding where Mrs. Awan lived, pledged to do everything he can to help the family.

"It's a question of humanity," he

The Anglican bishop of Montreal, Right Rev. Barry Clarke, said Mr. Mulcair is the only person in the Canadian government who has replied to his appeals on Mrs. Awan's behalf.

"The Anglican Church welcomes the presence of Mr. Mulcair and invites all political parties, institutions and community members to act in support of Mrs. Awan. We appeal to Immigration Minister Chris Alexander to recognize the urgency of Mrs. Awan's situation and that of her family and to expedite Mrs Awan's stay in Canada by any means available to

Fearing to be detained and deported if she stepped out of the church where she has been living since August (and which media were asked not to identify), Mrs. Awan, has previously depended on supporters and a daughter to speak on her behalf. "I am constantly worried.



IN A SHOW OF SUPPORT, supporters of Mrs. Awan demonstrated in front of the downtown offices of the Canadian Border Services Agency February 27. The date was picked to coincide with demonstrations in Toronto, Vancouver, and Hamilton to mobilize against various local issues around detentions and deporta-

I need to be able to go to the hospital, but I can't," Mrs. Awan said.

Her daughter, Tahira Malik, and the daughter's son, Ali Own, 29 and

with Mrs. Awan although the younger woman, who came to Montreal in 2000 to escape an abusive husband, was granted refugee status. She goes to her home from time to time to cook for the family and he has been attending school.

15, have been living in the church

Breaking down in tears several times, the young woman said she is distraught at her inability to do anything to provide a good life for her parents and son.

She said she wishes she could meet Immigration Minister Alexander, "if only for one hour," to make her case.

Supporters of Mrs. Awan, in her late 50s, say she sought sanctuary in the church after staff of the Canadian Border Services Agency in Montreal ordered her to leave for Pakistan August 21, despite doctors' warning about the risk of travelling with her heart condition. She has had several heart attacks.

Mrs. Awan and her husband came to Canada via the United States in 2011 with a tourist visa and asked for refugee status, saying their lives were at risk from Muslim extremists, notably an anti-Shia group called

Sipah-e-Sahaba. Mr. Awan had been a leading member of the minority Shia community in Lahore.

Their claim for refugee status was rejected in April. Mr. Awan was deported soon afterward.

Supporters say he has been attacked since his return to Pakistan and is currently in hiding. Mrs. Awan said she has rarely been able to

"The Canadian Immigration system is fraught with injustice, pushing individuals and families to the brink of death, all too often directly resulting in death itself," said Farha Najah Hussain, member of the Awan Family Support Committee. "For close to six months, Immigration Minister Chris Alexander has actively ignored widespread appeals to address Mrs. Awan's urgent situation. We call on all politicians and political parties to be accountable for the injustices that the immigration system is inciting on the Awan family and to demand that Mrs. Awan's status be regularized immediately."

The support group website is at soutienfamilleawan.org.



MEETING KHURSHID BEGUM AWAN at the Montreal Anglican Church where she has been in refuge for six months, Opposition Leader Thomas Mulcair and Bishop Barry Clarke join Mrs. Awan, supporter, Farha Najah Hussain and Mrs. Awan's daughter Tahira Malik.

Eileen Steele soldiers on for veterans

Harvey Shepherd

Rev. Eileen Steele has not been in the Canadian armed forces since 1994 but the armed forces are still a big part of Eileen Steele.

Today, a lot of her time away from her duties as incumbent of the Church of St. Stephen with St. James in Chambly and regional dean of the South Shore is taken up with efforts on behalf of some of her fellow veterans, of whom some left the forces long before she did and others served recently in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Some of these veterans are "in dire straits," she said in a recent conversation. They suffer from a wide variety of physical disabilities or the effects of psychic ones like post-traumaticstress disorder, or PTSD. Often responding to appeals that reach her through an informal network of veterans' advocates, she has helped some younger veterans struggle with suicidal urges, depression and other problems.

Her efforts are mostly one-on-one, helping individual veterans. But she sees their problems, especially some severe financial ones, as part of a bigger picture and resulting in large part from pension provisions of Canada's New Veterans' Charter, enacted in

One set of problems stems from a policy of docking military pensions by the amount of disability benefits received. That issue was resolved in part a couple of years ago when the

government dropped the practice for many pensioners, but there are still issues regarding retroactivity, some other benefit programs and the interrelation of the military pensions with the Canada and Quebec pension plans.

The government has also begun requiring or pressuring disabled veterans to take lump-sum payments rather than lifetime pensions.

One veterans' advocate, Dale Dirks of Kelowna, B.C., said in an email that "a great deal of veterans, especially the older types like myself, want to have government rethink their present policy of providing a buyout rather than providing a lifelong pension for our disabled veterans. The government has its own agenda and will tell you only what the Prime Minister's Office wants the public to hear. This information is fact as they see it but can be refuted by many of the veterans we have working on our side."

Previously, he wrote, any veteran who received a disability pension received it for his natural life. There was a further lifetime allowance for a spouse. The new charter - supported by all parties when enacted - provides for a lump sum payment "saving governments millions of dollars."

"As per usual not one veteran or member of the armed forces was asked about this decision for the buyout. The government enacted it on our behalf."

Mr. Dirks estimates that the lump



LIBERAL VETERANS' AFFAIRS CRITIC Jim Karygiannis pauses for a photo with Rev. Eileen Steele in front of the Ste. Anne's Veterans Hos-

(Photo: Kathy Gooch of Mr. Karygiannis' office.)

sum would often be around the level of one year's soldier's pay.

Eileen Steele is often content to leave public statements to others and referred this reporter to Mr. Dirks, now 73, - once, as chance would have it - the Master Warrant Officer to whom then-Corporal Steele reported for much of the time between 1980 and 1994 when she was a PERI - physical education and recreation instructor - at CFB Gagetown in New Brunswick.

However, she and Jim Karygiannis, member of Parliament for Scarborough-Agincourt and the federal Liberals' critic for veterans' affairs, took the opportunity provided by the MP's recent visit to the Ste. Anne's Veterans' hospital on the West Island to have a chat about their common interest in the well-being of veterans.

During his visit, Mr. Karygiannis also said in an interview with Jim Duff of the local Gazette Vaudreuil-Soulanges that Ste Anne's Veterans Hospital should be sharing its expertise in geriatry and in treating post-traumatic stress disorders with centres across Canada.

"This hospital is state-of-the-art when it comes to treating stress, anxiety. This is the last hospital that we have in the country, that hasn't been given over to a provincial department yet, that looks after vets."

He said the staff reassured him that the work they are doing will not be lost when the hospital is transferred to the province.

An evening of merriment preceding a historic occasion

The mood was festive and not everything was what it seemed when the choir and Fellowship Association of the downtown Montreal Church of St. James the Apostle paid tribute to the spirit of earlier times and particularly Johann Strauss's 19th-century operetta, *Die Fledermaus*, especially the masquerade scene, at a cabaret evening February 22.

The 2014 edition of this biennial event was also part of the celebra-

The mood was festive and not rerything was what it seemed when the choir and Fellowship Association of the downtown Montreal Church of the downtown Montreal Church of St. James the Apostle paid tribute tions of the 150th anniversary of the church. Around 140 attended and proceeds of the evening went to the church's new Emerging Ministries program for young adults.

The sesquicentennial celebrations of the church are building to a peak around May 1, the anniversary of the first public worship in the church on May 1, 1864.

A candlelight service marking the anniversary will begin at 7 p.m. on

May 1, a Thursday this year, and will be followed by a wine and cheese reception. The Gala Dinner will be held at Club Atwater on Saturday May 3 Tickets at \$150 are available through the church office. The dinner will raise funds for the Young Adult Ministry. For additional information on the Gala, call Brenda Gervais at 438-889-7854 or Lorna Titterton at 514-485-7951 or email celebration@stjamestheapostle.ca.

Sunday May 4, Right Reverend Barry B. Clark, bishop of Montreal, will officiate at a special 150th Sung Holy Eucharist at 11 a.m. in the church. The anniversary service will be enhanced with brass quintet and tympani and feature a commissioned motet by the distinguished Canadian composer, Rupert Lang of Vancouver's, Christ Church Cathedral. The chosen text is, "Behold, The Tabernacle of God." Light refreshments

All photos are by Michel Gagnon of the parish.

will be served after the service.

The anniversary will also be marked at a church picnic is Saturday July 26, and the 10th Annual Scotch tasting on September 18th.

For more information, visit the church website at www.stjamesthea-postle.ca.





STEPPING OUT OF HIS CUSTOMARY ROLE, director and organist-choirmaster Scott Bradford steps through a tango with special guest dancer Nancy Lepore.



"I'VE BEEN TO A MARVELLOUS PARTY," Catharine Murray intones in Noel Coward's words. The audience seemed to agree.



THE DIRECTOR of the Cabaret, Scott Bradford, is celebrating 50 years as a professional organist and choirmaster. He arrived at St. James the Apostle 27 years ago and is prominent on the broader musical scene.



THESE MERRY-MAKERS were only part of the masquerade scene.



THE SHOW brought members of the audience to their feet more than once.

Lent and Easter services

Christ Church Cathedral 636 St. Catherine St. W.

LENTEN STUDY SERIES

Wednesdays April 2 and 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m. followed by night prayer (compline) at 8:30. The last two sessions in the series "It's not all good." First Nations people will be the topic April 2, women April 9. Talks in English, small-group discussions in French or English from 7:30.

PALM SUNDAY/DIMANCHE DES RAMEAUX - Sunday April 13, 10 a.m. Blessing of palms, procession and Passion play SUNG COMPLINE AND MEDITATION – Monday April 14, 7:30 p.m. (Plainsong)

SUNG COMPLINE AND MEDITATION - Tuesday April 15, 7:30 p.m. (Russian Orthodox)

CHORAL TENEBRAE - Wednesday April 16, 7:30 p.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY/JEUDI SAINT – Thursday. April 17. 12:15 p.m.: Diocesan Chrism Eucharist. 7:30 p.m.: Eucharist of the Last Supper and all-night prayer vigil

GOOD FRIDAY/VENDREDI SAINT – Fri. April 18. 12 noon: Children's Good Friday service. 1 p.m.: Music for Good Friday (Allegri, Victoria, Palestrina). 2 p.m.: Liturgy of Good Friday HOLY SATURDAY/SAMEDI SAINT – Sat. April 19. 7:30 p.m. Great Easter Eucharist. Vigil, confirmation, First Mass of Easter

EASTER DAY/DIMANCHE DE PÂQUES – 10 a.m. Festival Choral Eucharist. (Louis Vierne: Messe solonelle, with brass). 12:45 p.m. Eucharistie Solonelle (Chantée). 4 p.m. Festival Choral Evensong (Britten: Rejoice in the Lamb)

Church of St. John the Evangelist 137 President Kennedy Ave. WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT

Stations of the Cross continue at 6 p.m. April 2, 9, and 16. followed by soup supper and Lenten Study on the Marks of Mission (except April 16)

PASSION SUNDAY - April 6: Solemn High Mass at 10:30 a.m., Solemn Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 5 p.m.

PALM SUNDAY - April 13: Solemn High Mass with procession at 10:30 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 17: Solemn High Mass at 5:45 p.m. Ceremonial re-enactment of Christ washing the feet of the disciples, procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose, stripping of the High Altar and Sanctuary. There will be a prayer vigil through the night at the Altar of Repose. Please come and pray with us at any time between the Maundy Thursday Service, and the first service on Good Friday morning. The entrance is by the green door on the

GOOD FRIDAY - April 18: Matins at 12 noon, Stations of the Cross at 1 p.m. Veneration of the Cross and Liturgy of the Presanctified at 1:45 p.m. Choral Tenebrae at 7 p.m. EASTER EVE - Sat., April 19: The Great Vigil of Easter at 8 p.m: The Lighting of the New Fire, Exsultet and Prophecies,

Alleluia!



CHORISTERS CELEBRATE EASTER at the Church of St. John the Evangelist last year.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows, Litany of the Saints and the First High Mass of Easter.

EASTER DAY - Sun., April 20: Solemn High Mass with Procession at 10:30 a.m.

Information: 514-288-4428 or www.redroof.ca

Christ Church Beaurepaire 455 Church St., Beaconsfield LENTEN LUNCHES

Wednesday April 2 and 9, 11.30 a.m.-1 p.m. The last two lunches in the parish hall will again include a hearty homemade soup, along with bread, cheese, squares and tea/coffee, all for just \$7 a person. Everyone welcome! PALM SUNDAY - April 13, 8:45 and 10:15 a.m.: Procession of the palms with the Passion.

HOLY EUCHARIST - Wed. April 16, 10 a.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 17, 7 p.m.: Holy Eucharist GOOD FRIDAY - April 18, 10 a.m.: Meditations on the Cross HOLY SATURDAY – April 19, 7 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter Eve EASTER DAY – Sun., April 20. 5:45 a.m. (Sunrise 6 a.m.) Sunrise service at Centennial Park, 288 Beaconsfield Blvd. Optional breakfast at McDonald's follows. 8:45 and 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

All are welcome at these services. Information 514-697-2204 or christchurch@ac.aibn.com

St. Matthias', Westmount 10 Church Hill

SPECIAL CONCERT FUNDRAISER

Sat., April 12, 7:30 p.m. Bill Porter at the Karl Wilhelm organ; \$10 contribution for the St. Matthias Music Fund. PALM SUNDAY - April 13, 10:30 a.m. Choral Service and Procession. Music by Bruckner and Grieg.

HOLY THURSDAY TENEBRAE - April 17, 7:30 p.m. Trois Leçons de ténèbres by Couperin.

GOOD FRIDAY PASSION SERVICE - April 18, 12 noon. Music by Victoria, Lassus, and Monteverdi. GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE – April 18, 7:30 p.m. Music by Allegri, Victoria, and Near.

EASTER EUCHARIST – Sun., April 20, 10:30 a.m. Brass ensemble, organ, and choir and music of Andrea Gabrieli and Monteverdi and traditional hymns.

Church of the Epiphany Verdun

4322 Wellington St.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT – April 6, 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY - April 13, 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist SERVICE OF TENEBRAE – Tue., April 15, 7 p.m. STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Wed., April 16, 7 p.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 17, 1 p.m. GOOD FRIDAY, CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION - April 18, 1 p.m. SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION, EASTER DAY -April 20, 10 a.m.

St. James Rosemere

328 Pine St.

PALM SUNDAY EUCHARIST - April 13, 9:30 a.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE - April 17, 7:30 p.m. EASTER SUNDAY - April 20, 9:30 a.m. Information: 450-621-6466

All Saints Deux Montagnes

248-18th Ave.

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE - April 13, 11 a.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 17. 5 p.m. Supper and service GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS – April 18, 2:30 p.m. EASTER MORNING CELEBRATION SERVICE - April 20,

AFTERNOON TEA - Sat., April 26, 2 p.m. In the church hall.

ST. CHL Rosemont

St. Cuthbert, St. Hilda and St. Luke, 6341 de Lorimier Ave. PALM SUNDAY - April 13, 10 a.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 17, 2 p.m. GOOD FRIDAY – April 18, 2 p.m. EASTER DAY - April 20, 10 a.m.

Mile End Community Mission/ Mission Communautaire Mile End 99 Bernard St. W.

VIGILE DE PÂQUES/EASTER VIGIL

Sat., April 19, 7 p.m. Messe bilingue pour les enfants et les jeunes de coeur/Bilingual service for children and the young at heart.

St CHL - 6341 de Lorimier, Rosemont



west side of the church.

Palm Sunday **April 13, 10am**



Maundy Thursday April 17, 2pm



Good Friday April 18, 2pm



EASTER DAY April 20, 10am



Messe bilingue pour les enfants et les jeunes de coeur Bilingual service for children and the young at heart

MISSION COMMUNAUTAIRE MILE-END MILE END COMMUNITY MISSION SAMEDI, LE 19 AVRIL / SATURDAY, APRIL 19 19H00 / 7:00PM

Christian commemoration of the Shoah to be at Trinity Memorial

The Christian Jewish Dialogue of Montreal will hold its 35th annual Christian Commemoration of the Shoah on Sunday, April 27, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. at Trinity Memorial Church, 5220 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal (QC). This commemoration brings together Jews and Christians, on Holocaust Remembrance Day (known as Yom Hashoah in Hebrew), to commemorate the approximately six million Jews and one million others who died in the Holocaust during World War II.

The ceremony will be part of the regular Sunday Eucharist and will include music and prayers, as well as teachings and a candle lighting ceremony led by Rabbi Lisa Grushcow and Cantor Rachelle Schubert of Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom. Light kosher refreshments will be served following the commemoration

The Christian Jewish Dialogue of Montreal (CJDM) is a monthly gathering of clergy and lay leaders dedicated to strengthening relations between Christians and Jews in Montreal. The CJDM was established in 1971 by a group of Christians and Jews who saw a need for dialogue between their communities. The group organized its first Christian commemoration of the Shoah in 1980 with a goal to build bridges between Jews and Christians and to foster a

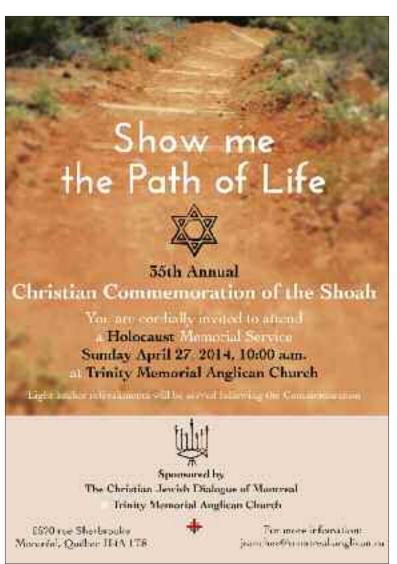
deeper understanding of the Holocaust among Montreal's Christian communities.

Since 1980, the Christian Jewish Dialogue of Montreal has made a commitment to invite a different Christian church each year to engage with members of Montreal's Jewish communities in a shared act of remembrance on the Sunday closest to Yom Hashoah (Day of the Shoah) known in English as Holocaust Remembrance Day. Shoah means "devastating storm" in Hebrew, the word Jews use to describe the Holocaust. On December 15, 1999, the National Assembly passed a law instituting "Holocaust-Yom Hashoah Day" in Quebec, to be observed each year according to the Jewish lunar calendar.

Over the past 34 years, participants in the Christian Commemoration of the Shoah have included numerous French and English-speaking churches, including Roman Catholic, United Church, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Ukrainian Catholic, Anglican, Unitarian churches, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints, among many others.

All are welcome. Metro Vendome; On street parking available.

For more information contact The Rev'd. Canon Joyce Sanchez at Trinity Memorial Church (514-484-3102; jsanchez@montreal.anglican.ca)



MONTREAL DIOCESAN LAY PASTORAL VISITORS RETREAT

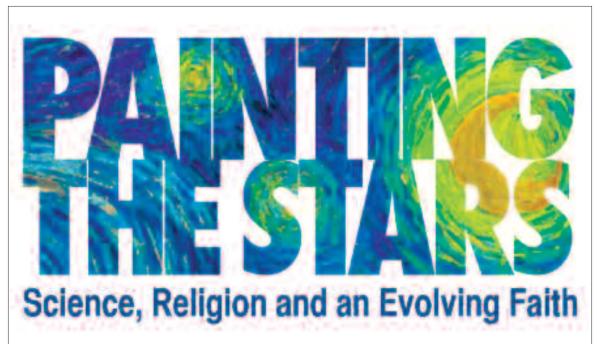
Ermitage Sainte-Croix,
21,269 Gouin Blvd. W., Pierrefonds
Saturday, June 14 – 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Speaker: Rev. Pamela Yarrow
Theme: "Who Visits? Who Cares?"
Fee \$30 (no refund). Meal included. Pay by May 15.
To register call Bev Jarvis
514 626-7689 (home) or 514 898-0853 (cell)

A Lenten Array



TWO ALTAR SERVERS at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Roland Hui and Kieran Wilson, researched, designed and, with the help of Lisa Sumner, produced a "Lenten array" – a piece of unbleached cloth decorated with symbols of the Passion and used to cover the Altar and Reredos during Lent. Here the servers show the array in the church's Chapel of Ste. Anne, where daily masses are celebrated on weekdays.



Montreal Diocesan College - Tuesday Evening Course

Six Tuesday Evenings - April 22nd to May 27th, 2014 7:15 pm to 9:00 pm DVD and Discussion Group. Registration: \$40 for the series or \$10 per evening.

Celebrating the communion of science and faith, *Painting the Stars* explores the promise of evolutionary Christian spirituality. Featuring over a dozen leading theologians and progressive Christian thinkers, these six evenings invite us to reflect together on the insights of those who see the Christian faith evolving along with all of Creation.

April 22nd: Toward Healing the Rift
April 29th: A Renaissance of Wonder
May 6th: Getting Genesis Wrong
May 13: An Evolving Faith
May 20th: Evolutionary Christianity
May 27th: Imagining a Future

For information: www.livingthequestions.com

To register contact Tim Smart at 514-849-4437 revtimsmart@gmail.com
MDTC 3475 University, Montreal, Quebec. H3A-2A8

Mile End Notebook

A day in the life of the Mile End Mission

Linda Lou Hachey

Approaching the mission, I wonder what today will bring. "It's so cold! Is this winter ever going to end?" Turning the corner, I see one of our members already out on the street asking for money from people in passing cars. Knowing that this will not bring the change he needs, I feel the piercing wind blow through his torn up jacket, the stinging pain of snow touching his raw hands – split from dryness, the incredible pain of a broken heart and a broken life that he so often cries about.

Unlocking the door to the mission, another day begins before I can even get my coat off. "I didn't get my cheque today!" cries one of our members rushing in behind me. With tears and panic in his eyes, he shows me a letter saying that his monthly cheque is being withheld until he meets his welfare agent about employability programs! He fears returning to the streets.

A rush of thoughts floods my mind. Oh no! The deadline for this

meeting is today!. I think he's having a panic attack. Someone definitely has to accompany him. "It's going to be OK", Lori our Office Administrator/Front Line assistant says while trying to calm him down. "Take deep breaths, we're going to help you. We promise." This time, Lori, who always jumps in with her big heart, can accompany him. As for the next time, the next person - and there will be many more. probably today we'll have to see. Our staff of 21/2 is just not big enough to deal with all the situations and crises that arise in the lives of the growing number of members we serve.

Members of the Mile End Community Mission are a truly wonderful, unique and interesting group of people with varied experiences and backgrounds. What the majority of our members have in common, however, is their daily struggle with chronic poverty and social exclusion. Most often these are linked to other life-challenging conditions and situations such as depression



LINDA LOU HACHEY

and/or other mental/emotional health issues, physical health problems, situations with or involving violence and/or abuse, challenges with literacy, education and life skills, trouble with the law, addiction, homelessness – or a combination of the above.

Most of our members have shelter in rooming houses or very small, sub-standard apartments. Their struggle to survive well below the poverty line often involves having to deal with various government structures, systems and requirements. For a number of our members, the challenges of having to replace lost or stolen identification cards and birth certificates, deal with landlords, housing authority representatives, welfare agents, open a bank account, piece together years of unfiled income tax returns or obtain needed health and social services often feel like insurmountable "road blocks," leaving many in constant fear of losing what little they have, becoming homeless for the first time, or in some cases, returning to the streets. ... A perpetual cycle of "living on the

There are so many stories to tell of this life on the edge! Stories we encounter each day at the mission from the lived experience of countless people whose daily struggle to carry on are way beyond what most of us can ever relate to.

Can you imagine being an individual having to survive on a \$600 a month welfare cheque? With today's incredibly high apartment rental costs, you'd be lucky to have \$150 left for food and anything else that you may need for the rest of the month. That means no phone, no cable TV, no money for personal items or clothing, no bus fare, no coffee at the local coffee shop or other such luxuries. Nothing! ...And then there are the families.

Each day, our mission plays a **preventative role** in helping our members improve their quality of life, and in doing so, **step further away from the edge**. For so many of our members, these steps are giant steps. These steps are fragile steps.

Just try to imagine, a day in this life

Linda Lou Hachey is director of the Mile End Mission.

Equipping the Saints

Diocesan College outreach exemplifies living life as parable

Gwenda Wells

This is the second of a series of columns by students, alumni and friends of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College Alumni Association. In this issue Rev. Gwenda Wells of St. Barnabas Church in St. Lambert explores how the college plays a vital role in mission for even clergy who graduated elsewhere.

I am a friend rather than an alumna of the College. However, thanks to years of connection with its students and alumni, I felt drawn to join a conversation of the Association of Alumni and Friends of the college about how it could serve as a creative, thoughtful link between the Theological Diocese and the broader community. Partly, I suppose, I came because it just feels good to be around those halls of learning, with their atmosphere of community, worship and challenging studies. Partly, I chose to join in because I feel a theological college is such a vital "nerve centre" in the life of a diocese. It provides us with thoughtful and pastorally intelligent clergy. It nourishes us splendidly and joyfully by sending out the "rookies" to our parishes and missions. How can I ever forget my mornings at St. Michael's Mission with "In-Ministry" student Ralph Moore, just hanging out with pots of paint in the presence of some of society's fragile--and often very gifted - outsiders? Or one Sunday with Rhonda Waters, when she told us about the gift and challenge of parenthood: "Gradually, we realized we now had a young scientist in our midst, studying our every move for information about

Finally, the theological college in our midst keeps before us the importance of reflecting prayerfully and intelligently on our experiences. The importance of what Ralph was doing at the Mission was not just that he met with those men and women heart to heart, but that he had the

opportunity to reflect on that experience afterwards. Theological colleges give people the tools to look at all kinds of life experiences, their own and those of others, through a "God lens." Where was God in that situation? Did I feel the Holy Spirit at work? Does that moment remind me of any gospel story, of how Jesus might have responded, or of any other biblical message? The art of theological reflection is one of the building blocks for every good sermon and every pastoral occasion. Consider these words from the St Paul to Timothy, about the great responsibility of being a preacher: "Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us." Theological colleges - our own dear Dio among them - teach students how to be guardians of the truth entrusted to each by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. They learn to do this not just through books and writing essays, but also by learning to read life and ministry as parables.

The great German theologian Karl Barth talked about the word of God being expressed to the believer in different degrees. Most centrally, he says, we know the Word through the pages of Scripture and the Church. From that centre, we move out to other concentric spheres, first to the Word of God as we experience it in the whole mix of people, cultures and events influenced in some measure by the Gospel, then out to the purely secular sphere beyond. Barth calls these "secular parables" which point us to the Word of God as truly as does the Bible. (Church Dogmatics *IV,3,1)* We might think about the student at St. Michael's Mission studying the Word not only in the classroom, but also in the gritty atmosphere of the Mission, and beyond, in his analysis of the conditions that are causing homelessness in our society. Everywhere, we are called to "read



REV. GWENDA WELLS and Archdeacon John Lee at a 2007 exhibition at Christ Church Cathedral of artwork from St. Michael's Mission.

the Word" expressed in this wonderful, crazy, burdened world. That becomes the template for all our ministry.

Like many clergy and lay leaders, I am in the thick of preparing a group of teenagers for confirmation. Recently I asked them what they liked about our classes; they concluded that they liked having the opportunity to talk about things and analyse them in a way you don't get to in other classroom settings. One student, who goes to a Christian high school, talked about the importance of the "examined life." (He really did, and he also likes to play a wild game of lacrosse!) Our hearts and minds hunger for meaning, for the chance to discover meaning together, and to pass it on. Theological reflection helps us interpret the everyday as parables that point to the Word. We are so fortunate to have a theological college like Dio to help us in that sa-

Look for more from the alumni and friends of the MDTC next issue.

Swahili speakers on committee wish list

The Diocese of Montreal partnership committee is looking for help in carrying out its mandate to explore and foster relationships with companion dioceses of the Diocese of Montreal. Currently the diocese is in a partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania, in Africa and the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior, or APCI, in British Columbia. These relationships on the diocesan level have been mutually fruitful and rewarding, says Rev. Andy O'Donnell of the committee.

The committee hopes these partnerships will develop deeper roots on a parish level. For that it needs help. It is looking for parishes that would be interested in twinning with parishes in APCI. This can be done through correspondence, email, social media, skype and/or a visit.

It is hoped that after the election of a new bishop in Masasi, where there is currently an interregnum, Montreal could explore such options with the Diocese of Masasi. To aid in this process, the partnership committee is looking for someone who can read and speak Swahili.

Anyone are able to help with either parish twinning or communicating with the Diocese of Masasi, is urged to contact Nicki Hronjak, diocesan program administrator, at 514-843-6577 or nhronjak@montreal.anglican.ca.

Books

Big gods have their uses

Big Gods: How Religion Transformed Cooperation and Conflict, Ara Norenzayan, Princeton University Press, 2013, 248 pages

Reviewed by Colin McGregor

Ara Norenzayan grew up in Beirut. In 1975, the Lebanese civil war erupted. For the next decade and a half, young Ara experienced the bloody implosion of his homeland first-hand. He asked his relatives to explain what was happening: "I would hear proclamations about the depravity of the 'other side,' or I would get puzzled looks," he recounts. "I became a social psychologist largely because I realized that what we cannot explain in ourselves might be our downfall."

Over the course of that war hundreds of thousands died in the land of Kahlil Gibran, poet of peace. Pity the nation that is full of beliefs and empty of religion, Gibran once lamented. Norenzayan grew up to become a psychology professor at

the University of British Columbia. His provocative book on the origins and function of religion, Big Gods, is stirring heated debate.

There exist about 10,000 religions in the world today, but the vast majority of folks alive adhere to one of a handful of major faiths. Why are these "winning religions" successful? Why not others? Big Gods argues that the answers to all your questions about religion lie not in heaven above, but within the human brain. Because we as children think our brains and bodies exist apart, we come to believe that the soul is immortal. And because the mind likes to impose order and structure on the world, many people conclude that hidden gods operate the physical

Human communities have organized themselves around these braingenerated gods since hunter-gatherer days. The religions that spread fastest are "prosocial" promoters of "Big Gods," defined as "supernatural watchers" that act as "potent social



ARA NORENZAYAN

arbiters." These faiths foster societies that co-operate internally while competing efficiently with outsiders.

Larger societies built around nice, wimpy, non-interventionist divinities fail. People don't co-operate; they cheat and steal; things dissolve into chaos. Why? Because, as Norenzayan puts it, "Watched people are nice people." Studies show that people are more honest in a brightly lit room than in a dim, shadowy recess. A successful religion needs to be an agent for "supernatural policing." Big societies need a Santa Claus: He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake... The bigger the society, the tougher and more allseeing their god has to be. Several other principles are offered as consequences of this main idea.

Big Gods is written in the style of a postgraduate thesis. It is full of fascinating facts and insights. However, the jargon is thick. Notes and references go on for 48 pages at the end. The author finds a cold, Darwinian rationale behind every variety of religious experience, from tolerance to prayer to self-sacrifice. We're taken on a tour of world religious history to prove many points. We visit temple ruins, examine sectarian conflicts, and drop in on festivals. All are analyzed through a psychologist's clinical eye, backed by study after

Given how sectarian strife turned his native Beirut into hell, one can understand Ara Norenzayan's unsentimental manner of seeing the role of faith in society. Yet bad times, we are told, foster religious belief. In February of 2011, a devastating earthquake brought down the majestic steeple of Christchurch, New Zealand's Anglican Cathedral. Devotion in that very secular nation increased: "Where the church spires had fallen, faith soared." The author cites American humorist and senator Al Franken: "Religion is like a fire extinguisher. You never know when you're going to need it... I can tell you that religion is a crutch which you can lean on in times of adversi-

At least Ara Norenzayan believes that God is not dead, in the sense that religion is here to stay. The religious outbreed atheists everywhere on Earth: a factual insight typical of this very informative, though not exactly heart-stirring, research tome.

Mission: going where God calls us to go

Camille Morell

When we think of mission, several images come to mind - disaster relief and construction projects overseas and, closer to home, soup kitchens and shelters for the homeless and abused. But it is my parents' encounter with a member of a religious sect, professing to be doing God's mission that has led me to reflect on the true meaning of the Church's mission.

A few years ago, my parents had just returned home from church on Easter Sunday. They were met at their gate by two people who were going door to door, and in their words, "making disciples, teaching others to observe all that Jesus commanded in the great commission." My father pointed out that his was a Christian home and that our family has always been involved in acts of Christian witness and service. He suggested that the visiting couple should consider reaching out to the helpless and hopeless, people who needed to hear the Good News, particularly those in an economically depressed, crime-ridden area a few kilometers away. In response, one of the visitors said that "those people"

are not interested in the Bible and she went on to quote Matthew 7:6: "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to

The common interpretation of this verse is that Christians shouldn't waste time preaching to people who don't want to hear the Good News. The assumption is that some people are beyond God's redemption. Apart from being a subjective and judgemental interpretation, my reflection leads me to believe that this interpretation is also an easy excuse to avoid doing the essential work of mission.

Isn't is easier to be hands-off write a cheque or donate food and used clothing - rather than be committed to the going into the places to meet the marginalized, gravely ill and those relegated to the scrapheap of society? Isn't it easier to preach to the converted within the comfort zone of our circle of influence, than to bring the Good News to the hopeless and helpless among us? I suspect that the comment made by the visitor to my parents' home is rooted in the fear of stepping out of our comfort zones. This fear is very often shrouded in judgemental comments and personal preferences that are then justified by subjective interpretations of Bible verses such as the one quoted by the visitors.

Conventional wisdom teaches us to offer our help to people who ask for help and to contribute towards the obvious material needs of others. The church's mission transcends conventional wisdom and goes beyond our preferences and perceptions of how, where and who to serve. The church's mission is rooted in Jesus' command in the great commission defined in Matthew 28 v 19 -20 to teach others about who God is and what it means to follow Him.

True it is that there are many people who won't be reached initially through Biblical teachings. Like Jesus, we also have to commit ourselves to activities that cater to both the physical and spiritual well-being of others. This is what sets the Church apart from other social service organizations.

Christians must commit to intentionally and actively understanding the needs in our communities and beyond and make a collective effort to address these needs by spreading the Good News in word and action. Acting on this understanding of mission in the local context will require the abandonment of assumptions and judgements about people and their circumstances. Mission will require us to go into places where all hope seems to be dimmed by the darkness of sin, suffering and despair. In the face of resistance, we must still press on with sharing the Good News.

Prisons are dangerous, difficult places where inmates have many reasons to have very little or no hope. With lives rooted in poverty, abuse, abandonment, addiction and crime, some are repeat offenders, never having been given any guiding principles, labelled as incorrigible, despised and forgotten by their families.

The Prison Chaplaincy Programme at the Cowansville Correctional Centre offers the opportunity for

mission. Under the leadership of Rev. Canon Tim Smart, volunteers visit the prison to participate in Bible studies and fellowship meetings lasting more than an hour each week. These meetings provide the opportunity for inmates to hear the Good News and commit themselves to personal transformation and eventual reintegration in the society.

During a visit nearly two years ago, one inmate, serving a life sentence, expressed his helpless, hopeless frustration at being locked away from society and his desire to die, rather than continue living in prison. The inmate, who I will call "Louis," is a repeat offender with a heavy criminal record, once considered among the most dangerous criminals in Quebec. In his frustrated state of mind, he vehemently declared that the teachings of the Bible on hope and salvation could have no meaning to him.

On the face of it, we could empathize and take a hands-off approach, offer to say a prayer and not persist with bringing the message of hope and the Good News to this frustrated man. However, in the months that followed, it was the commitment of the Prison Chaplaincy Programme volunteers to fulfill the Church's mission that has led Louis to share the following prayers that he wrote earlier this year and has taped to the wall of his cell:

Prayer of an inmate

Lord, from the depth of my cell, here I am humbly before you, calm and at peace by your great mercy O God my Saviour.

I thank you for this day - one more has passed. Even if the other inmates say that I'm serving a long, hard sentence, in this way I'm getting to know you better O Jesus.

It is not easy to be on the inside, in prison and to call on Your Name. When the other inmates hear Your Name, they say that they are here because of You. This is why I need Your strength. Increase my faith so that I may live each day in the joy of Your forgiveness and in the hope of Your

Watch over my family who are on the outside. Fill them with your love and peace and may we one day,

By Your grace, be reunited. Amen

I've changed

Lord, I no longer recognize myself. I, who was violent and impulsive, have become calm and patient.

I, who wanted to win always and everywhere, have learned to become a good person.

I, who was lazy and a thief, now work to earn my living.

I, who would always be ashamed to pray to you alone, here I am, praying to you along with other people.

Frankly Lord, I have come a long way. Never would I have believed that I am capable of changing this much. You know how happy I am. I am comfortable in my own skin. I am at peace and I feel free.

But what I want to say to you, above all, is that I am aware that this change does not only depend on me. Much of it comes from You. For this reason, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Amen

These beautiful prayers of a former criminal are testimony to the work of the Holy Spirit working through people who are committed to mission.

Sharing the Good News and helping to transform lives, everywhere, at all times and in all places as God leads is the best and right use of the teachings of the Bible. That is what mission is all about.

The following observation made in the Mission-Shaped Church report published in 2004 by The Archbishop of Canterbury's Council on Mission and Public Affairs, sums up the call to mission in today's world:

The missionary situation faced by the church has changed... The change is to an outward focus: from a 'come to us' approach to a 'we will go to you' attitude, embodying the gospel where people are, rather than embodying it where we are and in ways we prefer.

Camille Morell is a member of St. Andrew and St. Mark's Anglican Parish, Dorval. She regularly posts articles to her blog www.glorymatters.wordpress.com



L'ÉPIPHANIE

Flea Market Marché aux puces



Saturday, April 5th samedi, le 5 avril 9:30am to 2:00pm 9h30 à 14h





'Fresh Expressions' doesn't just mean trendy, U.K. visitor says

Harvey Shepherd

In today's world, Christians concerned with mission need to see themselves less like ambassadors for Christ and more like refugees, says a key figure in a mission outreach heavily promoted by the Church of England.

Visiting Montreal during a visit to several Canadian cities, Rev. Canon Phil Potter gave participants in a couple of weekend gatherings a somewhat better view of what the term "Fresh Expressions" means to its enthusiasts. Participants also got a look at someone taking on a key outreach post under the new Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York.

Canon Potter said that in a world where (based on British research) about 30 per cent of people have pretty much drifted away from the church – and another 40 per cent have never had any contact with it "we need a whole new understanding of what it means to be a missional church."

The Archbishop of Canterbury,

Justin Welby, and the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, announced in October that Canon Potter will be the next Archbishops' Missioner and leader of the Fresh Expressions team. He begins his new tasks this month. Canon Potter, who was previously "director of pioneer ministry for the Diocese of Liverpool," will succeed Bishop Graham Cray, who held the posts since 2009.

Canon Potter has been involved for years in national and international strategies for promoting "new ways of doing church" and has had consulting and speaking engagements in several countries including Canada.

For 20 years, he was vicar of St. Marks Haydock, leading the church through many transitions, from being a traditional urban congregation to what is described as "a large and vibrant mixed economy Cell Church." His presentations in Montreal were based partly on this experience.

Before ordination, he worked in retail management and vocational

Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Paws & Pray features a service of the Holy

Eucharist where canine companions and their

offered in collaboration with the Companion

Animal Adoption Centers of Quebec, a non-

For information call 514-697-2204 or email

profit organization dedicated to animal welfare.

christchurch@ac.aibn.com. The next Paws and

Pray service will be Sunday, May 4, both the first

guardians are always welcome. These services are

Hosts Winston & Becky Fraser welcome you.

DROP IN CENTRE

Information: 450-621-6466

Christ Church Beaurepaire

455 Church St. at Fieldfare

PAWS & PRAY

Ave., Beaconsfield

Sun. April 6, 1 p.m.

St. James Rosemere

328 Pine St.

guidance before becoming a professional singer-songwriter. His wife, Joy, works as a deputy head teacher in Liverpool, and he described some of her low-key efforts to promote the faith in this job. They have two children, both working in music and arts.

Canon Potter said Fresh Expressions "is not about being cool and trendy and for the young." Some of its best achievements have been among mature people, through gatherings like card parties. It's about "engaging the culture we happen to be in."

But Fresh Expressions groups are not just left to their own devices. They generally include some people sent by a traditional parish and the need for links between Fresh Expressions groups and traditional parishes are emphasized.

"There is low control but high accountability," he said.

According to a website introduction by his predecessor, Bishop Cray, Fresh Expressions of church is a term coined in a Church of England re-

port and used in that church and the British Methodist Church for the last five years.

"It is a way of describing the planting of new congregations or churches which are different in ethos and style from the church which planted them; because they are designed to reach a different group of people than those already attending the original church. There is no single model to copy but a wide variety of approaches for a wide variety of contexts and constituencies."

For instance, there's a surfer church, a Goth church, a youth congregation based in a skate park, and cell church in a police force in northwest England, as well as churches in a café, a pub, a school and a gym.

British enthusiasts for Fresh Expressions prefer that the term not be used for efforts to spruce up worship in previously existing parishes and insist that Fresh Expressions groups are not designed to lead people back to regular parishes.

Canon Potter presented statistics from a recent study indicating that

the number of attenders at 477 Fresh Expressions of Church in 10 British dioceses is equivalent to the people in a medium-sized diocese.



PHIL POTTER

Christ Church, Beaurepaire

Holy Week Worship Services

Palm Sunday, April 13 8:45 a.m. and 10:15 am. Procession of the Palms with the Passion

Wednesday, April 16 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, April 17 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Good Friday, April 18 10:00 a.m. Meditations on the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 19 7:00 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter Eve

Easter Day, Sunday, April 20 Sunrise Service – 5:45 a.m. start (sunrise at 6:00 a.m.)

At Centennial Park, 288 Beaconsfield Blvd., Beaconsfield

(Optional Breakfast to follow at McDonald's)

Holy Eucharist at 8:45 a.m. and 10.15 a.m.

Sunday, April 27 – 10 a.m. (One service only today) "Sabbatical Launch Sunday"

The Parish family sends Fr. Michael off on Sabbatical Leave *Lunch to follow.*

Please note there is no Monday's Meditation Circle on April 21

All are welcome at these worship services!

Christ Church, Beaurepaire 455 Church Street, Beaconsfield

For more information 514-697-2204 or email christchurch@ac.aibn.com

SPIRITUAL CALENDAR

CLERGY RETREAT Manoir d'Youville Châteauguay

Sun.-Tue, April 6-8.

A man who started a ministry-development consulting firm after 25 years of parish ministry in the Diocese of Toronto and a leading Vancouver cleric and writer on topics including meditation and feminist theology will speak at this year's Lenten Clergy Retreat for the Diocese of Montreal. The consultant, Rev. Canon Tim Elliott, is also known as a jazz musician. Archchdeacon Ellen Clark-King, vicar of Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver, is the author of works including Path to Your Door: Approaches to Christian Spirituality.

SABBATICAL LAUNCH SUNDAY

Christ Church Beaurepaire 455 Church St. at Fieldfare Ave., Beaconsfield

Sun., April 27 (Only one service this Sunday.)
The parish family will send Archdeacon Michael
Johnson off on Sabbatical Leave.

MONTREAL DIOCESAN LAY PASTORAL VISITORS RETREAT

Ermitage Sainte-Croix

21,269 Gouin Blvd. W, Pierrefonds *Sat., June 14, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.*

Speaker: Rev. Pamela Yarrow. Theme: "Who Visits? Who Cares?"

Fee \$30.00 (no refund). Meal included. Pay no later than May 15.

To register please call Bev Jarvis at 514-626-7689 at home or cell phone 514-898-0853.

SALES and EVENTS

Christ Church Cathedral 636 St. Catherine St. W. OASIS MUSICALE

Saturdays at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday of the month.

These free concerts are open to everyone and seek to preserve and develop Christ Church Cathedral as an important spiritual and cultural venue, to attract new audiences to the concerts and new visitors to the cathedral and to support and promote a wide range of local musicians, many of whom are starting out. A donation of \$5, \$10 or more is suggested. For information, www.oasismusicale. blogspot.ca, "L'Oasis Musicale at Christ Church Cathedral" on Facebook, loasismusicale@gmail. com by email or 514-843-6577 x274.

Church of the Epiphany 4322 Wellington St., Verdun FLEA MARKET

Sat., April 5, 930 a.m.-2 p.m. Information epiphany.verdun@gmail.com

St. Paul's Greenfield Park 321 Empire St. AUTHENTIC ENGLISH

"ROSE GARDEN" TEA Sat. April 5, 2-4 p.m.

Door prizes, raffles, a sing-along, a game and much more. Information, 450-671-6000 or 450-678-2460.

St. Stephen's with St. James Chambly Randell Hall, 2000 Bourgogne St. SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Sat., April 12, 6 p.m

Enjoy a wonderful Italian dinner and some delicious desserts. Information: Eileen Agley at 450-658-1027 or 450-658-5882.

Christ Church Beaurepaire 455 Church St. Beaconsfield CONCERT SERIES

Tuesdays April 22 and May 20, 7:30 p.m.

Harpist Emily Belvedere will be featured April 22 and the Vega String Quartet May 20 in the last event of the season. Tickets \$20. Information: Earl Wilson at 514 486-9338 or earlwilson.ca or Christ Church, Beaurepaire at 514-697-2204 or christchurch beaurepaire.com

Christ Church Beaurepaire 455 Church St., Beaconsfield RUMMAGE / GARAGE SALE

Fri., April 25, 7-9:00 p.m., Sat., April 26, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Clothes, garage sale items, books and much more! Information: 514-697-2204.

St. Stephen's with St. James Chambly Randell Hall, 2000 Bourgogne St. BOOK SALE

Sat. May 3, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Enjoy browsing through books and magazines. Enjoy a Soup, Sandwich, and a Desert with some old and new friends. For information or if you have books, magazines, CDs or DVDs to donate, contact Dorothy at 514-748-7748 ext. 1198 or Betty at 450-658-4939.

St. James Rosemere 328 Pine St. SEMI-ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

Sat., May 10, 10 a.m.

Lots of books, games, CDs and gift baskets. Hot dog lunch available. Information: 450-621-6466.

St. James Rosemere 328 Pine St. GREEN THUMB AND BAKE SALE

Sat., May 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Information: 450-621-6466

St. Paul's Greenfield Park 321 Empire St. GARDEN PARTY

Sat., May 31, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Browse for some special plant that you can purchase for your garden. There will also be garden supplies, other garden items, raffles and door prizes. One serving for lunch at 12 noon sharp, with fancy sandwiches, cheeses, vegetables, fruits and a surprise dessert. It will be an authentic garden luncheon. Cost \$10/adult. Information, please call 450-671-6000 or 450-678-2460.

St. Stephen's with St. James Chambly Randell Hall, 2000 Bourgogne St. PLANT AND BAKE SALE

Sat. May 31, 10 a.m.-noon Information: Eileen Agley at 450-658-1027 or 450-658-5882.

>< Diocesan Clippings (and Snapshots)

Ascension homecoming approaching

The Church of the Ascension, with a history dating back to 1896, was deconsecrated in 1991 and its building sold to the City of Montreal for use as a public library. But in other ways its traditions live on in the Mile End Mission, started with an endowment from the parish, and in the Rosemont parish of St. Cuthbert, St. Hilda and St. Luke, of which the Church of the Ascension is considered one of many predecessor parishes. Bishop Barry Clarke will preach at homecoming for "Ascension-ites" at St. CHL, 6341 De Lorimier Ave., on Saturday,

Rev. Roslyn Macgregor of St. CHL invited any former Ascension parishioners to send names, phone numbers and email and snail mail addresses to the church at 6341 De Lorimier Ave., Montreal, H2G 2P5 or to semb@videotron.ca. She would also like information about hows to reach other

McDermott settles in in St. Laurent

After five years of ministry at St. Mark's in Ville St. Laurent, Rev. James McDermott has been appointed as the incumbent. "Jim has been faithfully ministering at St. Mark's, for the last five years, sharing in their life," Bishop Barry Clarke said. "We felt it was time to support and regularize this ministry and Jim

Five ordained, one in Toronto

Rev. Adrienne Clements, who was active in the diocese a few years ago and was ordained as a deacon in Christ Church Cathedral last year and appointed assistant curate, St Timothy, Agincourt in the Diocese of Toronto, will be ordained as a priest by Archbishop Colin Robert Johnson, bishop of Toronto, on Sunday April 6. Her ordination will be less than a week after those of four other people who were ordained as deacons in Christ Church Cathedral when she was and as priests in the same cathedral March 30: Rev. Alain Brosseau, Rev. Lorne Eason, Rev. Nicholas Pang and Rev. Brian Perron.

Three rectors meet



Although an occasion of mourning, the death of Geoffrey Cane in Greenfield Park in February was an occasion that brought the three most recent rectors of St. George's Place du Canada together for the first time. Rev. Brett Cane, rector of St. George's between 1985 and 2002, came to the funeral February 22, from England, where he is a visiting tutor at Trinity College Bristol after a lengthy career in Winnipeg, Also on hand were his successor, Archdeacon Ralph Leavitt who served St. George's for eight years before moving to Holy Trinity Ste. Agathe, and the current rector, Rev. Bill Gray. Geoffrey Cane, who died peacefully in his 99th year after a short illness, leaves Kaye, his beloved wife of 67 years; two children, Brett and Melanie, two grandchildren and four great-granddaughters, one of born two days before his death on the same floor of Charles Lemoyne Hospital in Greenfield Park. The photo by Tony Hadley of St. George's shows, from left, Ralph Leavitt, **Bill Gray and Brett Cane.**

A Lively Black History Sunday



ST. CHL PARISH IN ROSEMONT celebrated Black History at a jazz mass February 16 with a church full to overflowing, wonderful music, bilingual liturgy, and much enthusiasm, reports Rev. Roslyn Macgregor. Adults and children attended from the Mile End Mission, Trinity United in Rosemont, Église de la Nativité in Montreal North and lots of other churches. In his sermon, Rev. Robert Callender of St. Lawrence LaSalle urged his congregation to enjoy their diversity. Members of La Nativité sang a joyous Creole hymn during the sharing of the Peace, the musicians picked up the tune immediately and ran with it, and everyone joined in. A feast of mostly Caribbean food followed.

Baden-Powell service in Huntingdon



A CONGREGATION OF ALMOST 100 including local youth from both Scouting and Guiding Movements and a group from Châteauguay attended the annual Baden-Powell Service at St. John's Anglican Church in Huntingdon February 23. The young people participated in such ways as handing out bulletins, carrying flags in the processional, reading passages from scripture, leading the Prayers of the People and taking up the offering. Carol Johnson, Diocesan Lay Reader, preached a homily that linked the way in which Jesus teaches us to treat others with similar valued exemplified by the founders of the Scout and Guide movements, Lord and Lady **Baden Powell.**



AFTER THE BADEN-POWELL SERVICE at St. John's Anglican Church in Huntingdon, the Men's Breakfast Group organized and served a lunch of hot dogs and fries, followed by doughnuts, courtesy Huntingdon's own Grant's Bakery and Patate Leblanc.

