



# Outreach to itinerants expands in Métro

*Harvey Shepherd*

After a first year, a project based in St. Michael's Mission that has sent a mission crisis worker into Métro stations with aid and comfort to itinerants is being extended for three years with more staff and a somewhat wider geographic reach.

In the first year, outreach worker Caitlin Murphy, now 21, approached about 430 people, some of them asleep, in her twice-weekly visits between 7 and 11 a.m. to Métro stations, especially the Place des Arts station, next door to the mission's quarters in the downtown Church of St. John the Evangelist. She offered small comforts like clean socks, granola bars and juice and where it seemed appropriate asked if they were interested in meals, clothes, medical consultation or other help.

A press conference in mid-December marked about the first anniversary of the launch of the project, which George Greene, executive director of St. Michael's Mission began discussing about three years ago with Damien Silès, director general of the Société de développement social de Ville-Marie, an agency of the downtown borough of the City of Montreal.

To launch the project he hired Ms Murphy right out of Dawson College – and he can't get over what an "incredible crisis worker" she turned out to be.

In mid-December – on one of the coldest days up to then this winter – a panoply of VIPs met reporters and well wishers in the Place des Arts station to announce the extension and expansion of the project. Among the dignitaries were Mayor Denis Coderre, federal and provincial politicians, Mr. Silès and representatives of the medical organization Médecins du Monde and other groups.

Ms. Murphy, who spends two

days a week in Métro stations and the other three as a crisis worker at the mission, is now associated with two street workers, currently Steven Cote and Rachel Gagnon, who have added visits to Métro stations to their patrols of streets and alleys as members of the six-person field staff of the YMCA's Dialogue program.

Mr. Silès, said annual support for the pilot project is to rise to \$140,000 from \$65,000. Like the outreach project at St. Michael's Mission, the Dialogue program receives some modest funding from the borough's Société de développement social de Ville-Marie.

Actually, the expansion of the pilot project to several Métro stations began some time ago. Statistics compiled by the borough social development corporation say that of 430 encounters Ms. Murphy tabulated in the year ended November 29, well under half – 155 – were in the Place des Arts station. Twenty-eight per cent of those encountered – 122 – were women and 29 per cent – 126 – aboriginals.

About 140 people returned to the mission for consultation with doctors, nurses or social workers from Médecins du Monde or with staff from a CLSC or some other agency.

The mission estimates that it served 26,400 breakfasts, 31,200 lunches and 18,000 snacks last year and gave out 1,800 food bags. The shower was used about 3,000 times. The mission also offers workshops in art therapy and sculpture.

Mr. Greene said the mission's recent history has been a success in that it has been able to provide help to a growing number of people but remains severely constrained by a lack of funds. In that context the support of individuals and smaller groups, including a number of Anglican parishes, remains crucial.



MAYOR DENIS CODERRE speaks to other dignitaries, media and supporters of the project. (Photo: Harvey Shepherd)



CAITLIN MURPHY, project director, speaks to reporters. (Photo: Harvey Shepherd)



YMCA street workers Steven Cote and Rachel Gagnon have joined Caitlin Murphy in visits to Métro stations. (Photo: Harvey Shepherd)



ON ANOTHER OCCASION, a client-volunteer pitched in at a bee shortly before Christmas to pack food parcels. For other photos of this event, see Page 5. (Photo: Janet Best)



FIELDING QUESTIONS from media representatives, George Greene, executive director of St. Michael's Mission, is joined by "Charlie," a mission stalwart who was born in an igloo. In the background, project director Caitlin Murphy speaks to another reporter. (Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

In a recent visit to my ophthalmologist, I noticed an award he had received for teaching his craft. The reason for the award was summarized in the Latin motto inscribed on the plaque, *Scientia manu et mente*, that is, “knowledge in hand and mind.” Could this serve as a motto for theological education, I wondered? When an ophthalmologist or a dentist or a surgeon treats us, we count on her or him to combine knowledge of the human body with a skillful hand – knowledge and skill acquired only through years of study and practice. Similarly, with respect to ministry education, the aim is to help the student integrate knowledge of God and of human dynamics with acts of ministry, so that the ministry may be intelligent and faithful. Colleges that prepare women and men for leadership in ministry are committed to *scientia manu et mente*, though the “hand” is a metaphorical way of describing how the minister “handles” the various situations in which he or she is called upon to witness to the grace of God, whether in preaching or pastoral care or mission or public advocacy. In fact, this has been the principal justification for including theology in the modern secular university. Theology, it is argued, is oriented to the practice of ministry, just as law and medicine are oriented to their respective practices.

But theological education is not only concerned with the preparation of professional ministers. It’s concerned with exploring a wide range of questions that arise within the Christian tradition and that have to do with the relationship of this tradition to the wider world. Theology is a field rather than a path and one need not enter the field with only the goal of ordination in mind. Once one enters the field, however, new vistas open up, and a theological education, whether of the sort offered in the Education for



### *Scientia manu et mente:* a message for Theological Education Sunday

Ministry program or at the university level, may also serve to acquaint the student with methods and issues that any well-educated person in our society should be familiar with. Biblical studies, for example, take their bearings from modern literary and historical methods, pastoral studies, from the social and psychological sciences, and systematic theology, from philosophy. A theological education is a good thing to have no matter what one’s rôle may be in the church.

And yet, neither of these benefits (professional training and expanded knowledge) adequately captures the heart of theological education. A person of faith must surely enter this field of study rightly expecting to grow in the knowledge and love of God. I believe this is the point of theological education, and when, as a diocese, we devote a Sunday to asking God’s blessing on our institutions and programs of theological learning, we are doing nothing else than praying to grow in knowledge and love. This involves our whole person and not simply the hand and the mind as in the motto I quoted above. A document on theological education published by the World Council of Churches nicely summarizes the scope and purpose of this field. We seek an education of: “the ear to hear God’s word and the cry of God’s people; the heart to heed and respond to the suffering; the tongue to speak to both the weary and the arrogant; the hands to work with the lowly; the mind to reflect on the good news of the gospel; the will to respond to God’s call; the spirit to wait on God in prayer, to struggle and wrestle with God, to be silent in penitence and humility and to intercede for the Church and the world; the body to be the temple of the Holy Spirit.”

JOHN SIMONS, Principal, Montreal Diocesan Theological College

In this issue of *The Montreal Anglican*, I invite you to consider the leadership of the priest within the life of the church and of the parish for community ministry or chaplaincy.

Recently, the Anglican Church of Canada, through the Faith, Worship and Ministry of the National Church, issued competencies for ordination to the priesthood.

As we talk about leadership and look towards the challenges of ordained ministry in the church of the 21st century, I would encourage you to look at the competencies suggested below.

I would also invite you to faithfully pray for your priests, pray for the mission of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College and I would encourage you to support the MDTC, through your financial gifts as we continue to prepare men and women for ministry.

#### Competencies for ordination to the priesthood in the Anglican Church of Canada

A priest is one who has a personal faith and spiritual life that is adequate to lead others. He or she:

- 1 Displays a mature understanding of a call to ministry, service and study.
- 2 Demonstrates a commitment to loving service in the church rooted in a sustained and growing love of God in Christ.
- 3 Cultivates a disciplined life of prayer, rooted in the Anglican tradition of common prayer, which responds well to the demands of personal formation and the expectations of public ministry.



#### *The Bishop’s Message*



- 4 Shows evidence of personal and spiritual growth and healthy self-awareness.
- 5 Exercises appropriate care of self, accountability to others, and has an awareness of sources of support available when needed.
- 6 Shows a commitment to live his or her Christian faith within the Anglican Church of Canada.
- 7 Demonstrates a healthy and loyal but not uncritical relationship to her or his bishop, diocese, province and the national church.
- 8 Reflects with insight on her or his personal strengths and weaknesses, gifts and vulnerabilities.
- 9 Discerns God’s presence and activity in her or his own life and in the lives of others.
- 10 Bears witness to his or her own experience of God’s love and grace in acts of evangelism.
- 11 Demonstrates a capacity to deal maturely in personal relationships with family and friends.
- 12 Models stewardship as a spiritual discipline in response to God’s gifts
- 13 Has read and continues to read the whole Bible in a systematic way.

In Christ,

## Christ Church, Beaurepaire – Concert Series

The Third Tuesday of Every Month at 7:30 pm.

These concerts are designed to showcase many great, young professionals on the Island and give them an opportunity to perform and share their wonderful talents with the community.

A post-concert reception will allow everyone to mingle and meet the artists while enjoying a glass of wine and some refreshments together.

Next Concert – February 18:  
AJVM – vocal jazz ensemble

2014 events:

March 18: Matthew Russell – trombone

April 22: Emily Belvedere – harp

May 20: Vega String Quartet

Individual tickets may be purchased for \$20. Concert Series Tickets are still available, contact the office for details. All concerts on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and run until May 20.

Information: Earl Wilson,  
514-486-9338 or earlwilson.ca  
or Christ Church, Beaurepaire  
514-697-2204 or  
christchurchbeaurepaire.com



#### WHAT?

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

#### WHY?

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 to 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](mailto:mdunwoody@montreal.anglican.ca) or [reverendcalry@gmail.com](mailto:reverendcalry@gmail.com)

#### JOHN 15:1-2

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He 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.



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Provincial Council of  
Canada



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150 years young

# St. James the Apostle: 'Yesterday, today & forever'

Now a bustling multi-ethnic church with a focus on outreach in the downtown Montreal, the Church of St. James the Apostle has seen many changes in both its quarters and its ministry since it stood on open land and was nicknamed St. Crickets in the Fields because British soldiers played cricket nearby.

The parish is celebrating 150 years of ministry this year, with the climax coming around the anniversary of the first public worship in the church on May 1, 1864.

But the celebrations are already under way. They began November 29, with a New Year's Eve Celebration in the form of a pot luck dinner and dance. Those present counted in the New Year, sang Auld Lang Syne and prayed for another 150 years of ministry in downtown Montreal.

On Saturday, February 22 the celebrations will continue at this year's edition of the Cabaret, which the parish puts on every two years. This year's cabaret is inspired this year by Johann Strauss's operetta, *Die Fledermaus*, which had its premiere in Vienna in 1874, when the Church of St. James the Apostle had existed for 10 years.

The presentation, directed by Scott Bradford, Musical Director and featuring voices of the church choir opens with the glorious Mas-

querade Ball. The audience is invited to "Come Dressed in your....Party Best!" Refreshments will be provided on site and door prizes awarded for best costumes.

In the mean time, Archdeacon Linda Borden Taylor and her parishioners are urging people to mark their calendars for the anniversary highlights in May – a candlelight service on the actual anniversary May 1, a Thursday, a gala dinner Saturday May 3, and a special sung Holy Eucharist on Sunday, May 4.

The congregation is also urging parishioners, former parishioners and friends from far and wide to look around for any photos or other memorabilia that might enhance the celebration and get in touch with the church about lending them.

The candlelight service marking the anniversary will begin at 7 p.m. on May 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 is to raise funds for the Young Adult Ministry, a new initiative at St. James during its 150th celebration year. 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



SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS began November 29, with a New Year's Eve Celebration in the form of a pot luck dinner and dance. Those present counted in the New Year, sang Auld Lang Syne and prayed for another 150 years of ministry in downtown Montreal. (Why New Year's Eve in November? Because the liturgical year began the following Sunday, Advent I.) The rector, Archdeacon Linda Borden Taylor, is at centre rear, in black.

(Photo: Michel Gagnon)

Barry B. Clark, Bishop of Montréal will officiate 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 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 [www.stjamestheapostle.ca](http://www.stjamestheapostle.ca).



A WISH TREE was unveiled at a celebration in November launching the sesquicentennial year. All are invited to post their anniversary wishes for the parish.

(Photo: Michel Gagnon)

## 150 years of witness in the heart of the city

To mark its 150th anniversary, the downtown Church of St. James the Apostle is using a special "Sesquicentennial Prayer."

The prayer was spoken for the first time at a celebration launching the anniversary year in November and the parish unveiled a wish tree where all can post wishes for St. James the Apostle Church in the anniversary year.

It reads:

*Almighty and Ever Loving God,  
The people of St. James the Apostle  
give you thanks for our one hundred*

*and fifty years of witness and service  
in the heart of our city, and for the  
founders and benefactors of our  
parish who made this ministry possible.*

*By your grace, may we continue the  
good work you began in them, that  
your people may be nourished by  
word and sacrament in body and in  
soul for generations to come.*

*We pray in the name of Jesus  
Christ, who is the same yesterday,  
today and forever, and in the power of  
the Holy Spirit. Amen.*



THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE and its Shatford Hall were the site of the 2102 synod of the Diocese of Montreal. (Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

The Choir of  
St. James the Apostle  
with  
the Fellowship Association  
present

# Cabaret

...anything goes!

Party Scene from 'Die Fledermaus' (J. Strauss)  
Choir, Solos, Ensembles  
Laughter, Deserts, Drinks

Come dressed in your party best for prizes!

Saturday, February 22, 2014  
7:30 p.m.  
1439 St. Catherine Street West  
Metro: Guy-Concordia  
Information: 514.768.2947



MUSICAL DIRECTOR SCOTT BRADFORD and some of his associates keep things moving at an earlier edition of the Cabaret. This year's sesquicentennial cabaret will at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22. Come one, come all, to Shatford Hall, 1439 St. Catherine St. W. Tickets, available at the church office, are \$25 each and \$10 for students. For tickets or additional information, contact Scott Bradford (514) 768-2947 or the church office at (514) 849-7577.

(Photo contributed)

# Refugee system fails vulnerable, council says

Staff

About a year after a major overhaul in December, 2012, of Canada's system for ruling on claims by people seeking to be recognized as refugees, the Canadian Council for Refugees finds that Canada's refugee-determination system is failing some of the most vulnerable refugees.

Shortly before Christmas, the council, of which the Anglican Diocese of Montreal is an indirect supporter through its involvement in Action Réfugiés Montréal, made public its assessment of the first year under the new system, as experienced by member organizations.

In a statement accompanying the report, Loly Rico, president of the council, said, "The new refugee system is failing some claimants, including the most vulnerable people who have been traumatized by the persecution they have suffered. As Canadians we are proud of our history of welcoming and protecting refugees: unfortunately Canada is now a less welcoming country, and some refugees who need our protection are not getting it."

She said short timelines before hearings are causing serious problems; they create high levels of stress

and many claimants are unable to prepare themselves adequately for their hearing. The short timelines and complex rules are particularly damaging for vulnerable claimants, such as survivors of torture and people with health problems or disabilities.

In her view, Canada now has a two-tier system that discriminates against some claimants, who have less access to protection, on arbitrary grounds, especially their country of origin.

Over all, she said, the new system suffers from uncertainty. Poorly-thought-out measures may be the result of going from one extreme (too-slow hearings) to the other (too-quick hearings). The council has consistently advocated that the solution lies in the middle; it thinks six-month timelines would work for most claimants.

## Report cites a range of issues

The report also adds that the problems with the new rules are compounded by a lack of adequate – or any – access to health care, as a result of recent cuts to the interim federal health program for people not eligible for provincial plans.

Moreover, the system depends heavily on community organiza-

tions' providing extensive support for claimants. However, community organizations are not funded by government to provide these services.

The report acknowledges that the system "is working for some refugees, especially those who have good legal representation and community support."

"One such refugee, who was recently accepted along with her husband and child, said of her experience, 'We were welcomed, and offered the security and protection that our country was not able to provide.'"

However, the system is failing many other claimants, including some of the most vulnerable, who do not get a fair opportunity to present their case, creating "a real danger that refugees will be wrongly refused and deported to face persecution," the report says.

"Canadians are proud of our history of welcoming refugees. Under the new system, Canada is now a less welcoming country. Significant changes are needed if Canada is to recover its former role as a world leader on refugee protection."

## Timelines 'very tight'

Under the new system, claimants

arriving at a border have just 15 days to complete a form in which they must explain why they fear return. The refugee hearing takes place within 60 days of arrival.

"While it is important to ensure a timely hearing, it is even more important that refugees have sufficient time to prepare themselves and gather relevant evidence. The decision in a refugee claim is among the most important in any Canadian judicial process: the consequence may be life or death."

This, the report says, has led to "immense stress," sometimes "severe panic." Some claimants have had to seek medical attention. Some claims are poorly presented. Important information from the home country sometimes fails to arrive by the date of the hearing. These difficulties are particularly acute for refugees in detention.

Requests for help in filling out forms and providing psychological reports and counselling are placing a heavy burden on cash-strapped non-governmental organizations not funded by government to provide such services.

The report says the tight timelines are particularly stressful for refugees who have experienced trauma from war, torture or sexual assault. The Immigration and Refugee Board has guidelines for survivors of torture and other vulnerable claimants but there is no time to get medical or psychological reports and take other steps to identify these claimants.

The short timelines are also particularly difficult for some women and people making claims on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

While claimants have struggled to meet the deadlines imposed on them, the system itself has not always been able to respect the legislated timelines. Some claimants find their hearings postponed indefinitely; others wait months for a decision.

The report notes that government has given priority to processing quickly claims made after December 15, 2012, but says this means that claimants who arrived before that date find themselves largely forgotten, even though they may have been waiting years for a decision. There are also "intolerably long delays" for family reunification for refugees who are accepted.

"The average processing time for immediate family members abroad is 17 months. The timelines at some visa offices are even worse: at Nairobi it is 26 months, at Colombo it is 21 months."

## 'Designated Countries of Origin'

The law now provides for "designated countries of origin," identified at the discretion of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Nationals of these countries face even shorter timelines and these nationals generally have no access to health care during the claim process. But the report argues that in many countries that seem peaceful and "safe," some people face serious problems of persecution, discrimination and violence, often with the participation of state officials. These include women experiencing gender-based violence, lesbians, gay men and trans individuals and certain minority groups, such as Roma.

A large number of countries have been designated, including countries from which significant numbers of refugees have been coming to Canada, including Hungary and Mexico.

The report acknowledges that implementation of a new refugee process "is an important development in Canada's refugee system" but raises a number of concerns, including the exclusion of some categories of claimant from this process.

The report also expresses concern about new restrictions on the ability of claimants to present new evidence or appeal for consideration on humanitarian grounds after they have been refused refugee status but before they have actually been removed from Canada.

One Iranian woman faced deportation from Canada despite new evidence that she faced adultery charges, punishable in Iran by stoning. Following the media report, the deportation was deferred.

In another case, a Burundian woman who feared persecution as a member of a minority group was refused refugee status. After she was refused, she received more documentation that confirmed her fears of persecution, but there was no forum in which she could present it. She was forced to appeal to the United Nations, which asked Canada not to deport her while the matter was examined.

The report also suggests that the government has become unduly stringent in revoking refugee status on the grounds that someone is no longer a refugee.

"For example, a woman from Iran who had been found to be a refugee based on her religion faces a cessation application and thus the threat of loss of permanent residence. She had travelled temporarily back to her home country to take care of her sick father, who she thought would die without her help."

## Concerns about 'discourse'

In addition to its concerns about rules and procedures, the council says it is deeply concerned at the negative way in which members of the government continue to discuss people claiming refugee status.

"Making a refugee claim is a legitimate way, in both Canadian and international law, for a person fleeing persecution to seek protection. It is also wrong to characterize refused claims as false or abusive. The refugee definition is restrictive and technical. Many people making claims have legitimate fears even if they do not meet the narrow refugee definition. Their search for protection is genuine. Constant negative references to refugee claimants undermine the independence of Canada's refugee system and the support of Canadians for those who come to Canada hoping for safety and freedom, and to be treated with dignity."

Noting that it expected Canada to receive only about 10,000 claims in 2013 unless there was a surge in the final quarter, the council said this would record low. The average annual number of claims since the creation of the Immigration and Refugee Board in 1989 is 27,660.

"The government has 'succeeded' in its apparent objective of discouraging refugees from seeking Canada's protection, thus joining other Western countries in slamming the door on refugees."

"There is a concern that Canada will see a growth in the undocumented population, as people conclude that it is not useful to make a claim because the refugee system is not fair."

## Demonstrators mark 100 days of refuge

Despite winter weather, about a dozen supporters of an ailing Pakistani woman who took refuge in a Montreal Anglican Church in August returned to a site near the Citizenship and Immigration Canada offices at St. Antoine and Peel Streets December 18 to urge continue their effort to keep her from being deported.

This event was announced as a "yarn-bombing." The demonstrators wrapped about three feet of a utility pole staged with knitted or crocheted panels in honour of Khurshid Begum Awan, who has spent much of her time knitting since she took refuge in the church, which has not been publicly identified, rather than comply with a deportation order.

Noting that December 16 was International Migrants Day, the demonstrators called for freedom for all immigrants.

One demonstrator said their action was designed to highlight the struggle of the Awan family for refugee status, justice and dignity.

"Since August 2013, Khurshid Begum Awan has courageously defied a deportation order that would have put her life in danger, her health at risk, and an ocean between

her and her loved ones. Having taken refuge in a Montreal church, Mrs. Awan has been forced to miss numerous medical appointments and has been subjected to intimidation by the Canadian Border Services Agency, and has endured tremendous stress on a daily basis. In her time behind church walls, knitting has become an important part of Mrs. Awan's daily life. Not only does it enable her to pass the time, but it has also been a way for her to take care of those she loves."

Supporters of Mrs. Awan, 57, 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, Muhammad Khalil Awan, 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.

Their daughter, Tahira Malik, and her son, Ali Own, now 29 and 15, came to Montreal in 2000 to escape an abusive husband and were granted refugee status.

The support group website is at [soutienfamilleawan.org](http://soutienfamilleawan.org).



IT WAS A COLD DAY but the panels on this utility pole were not to keep it warm. They were to honour Khurshid Begum Awan, who has spent much of her time knitting while in refuge in an Anglican church.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)



SUPPORTERS OF KHURSHID BEGUM AWAN rally near the offices of Citizenship and Immigration Canada on December 18. (Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

## Pitching in at St. Michael's Mission



Janet Best, photographer and a parishioner of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, was on hand shortly before Christmas when volunteers of St. Michael's Mission, in the basement of the downtown church, got together to prepare Christmas food parcels for the some of the clients of the mission – generally ones who have some sort of room where they can take them. Here are photos of one of the volunteers and Caitlin Murphy, project director.



## THE STILLNESS WITHIN

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



### How about a mindful valentine?

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. Love is our true destiny.

1 Corinthians 13.13

We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone – we find it with another.

– Thomas Merton

What are you doing for your Valentine this February 14th? As the Day approaches, I am reminded of two conversations I had on the subject of love. The first one was with a friend. She was considering leaving a long-term relationship because of her boyfriend's lack of communication. She said when they "talked" no real mutual exchange took place. It was like her partner was talking to some imaginary person in his head and not to her.

This problem is not unique to my friend. In contemporary culture, there is a lot of talking going on, but very little listening. While the conversation is going on, we may be

rehearsing what we want to say, not really listening to the other. Or, we are forming all sorts of value judgments about ourselves and the other person. Or, we are lost in thought planning for the future or regretting the past. This continual mental chatter leads to more and more isolation – isolation from ourselves and from others. Like my friend, we find ourselves feeling devalued and disconnected.

The second conversation on love was at a wedding reception. A young man approached me, and, after a few brief remarks about the weather, began to share his frustration with me. Responding to St. Paul's "Ode to Love" (1 Corinthians 13) – read during the service – he said, "I know love is patient and kind, and all those other things. Nobody needs to tell me that. What I don't know is how you do that. I find it so hard." He was expressing the need for a

practice that would help him to develop the open-hearted love St. Paul is encouraging.

From these two conversations, we can gather some helpful hints for making this Valentine's Day a true celebration of heart. The young woman in my first conversation exemplifies how devalued we become when we are not being heard in the moment in all our humanity. The young man in my second conversation saw the need for a tool to help him live the life of love, communication, and connection. Both were recognizing, as Thomas Merton says, "We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone – we find it with another."

One of the most powerful methods I have found to open my heart is the practice of mindfulness. Jon Kabat-Zinn, the noted mindfulness meditation teacher, defines mindfulness as "a particular way of paying

attention. It simply means non-judgmental, moment-to-moment awareness. Paying attention is about learning to observe what is happening in the moment. It is about consciously noticing and releasing our ideas of how things should be."

For example, when we are talking with someone, mindfulness is being present to the other. It is taking in the sounds of the person's voice, the look in their eyes, and sensing what the person's heart is trying to communicate. It is not being lost in our own "mental chatter." In this way we honor the other, and recognize their humanity.

I highly recommend the practice of mindfulness. It allows us to watch our thoughts, see how our endless internal dialogue keeps us from living in the moment, diminishing our relationships with others. Mindfulness can help us relate to others – including that significant other in

our life – in deeper and more loving ways. It can also help us to recognize that the essence of our human nature is to love and be loved in return.

#### Practice:

Here's an exercise you can practice during the month of February.

When you are in conversation with someone, be as alert and "there" as possible. Recognize when you are falling out of the present moment. Then inwardly acknowledge it, and return to listening to the person. Also, do not think of formulating a response while the other is talking. Be there for that person in the moment, paying attention to their body language, and the feeling tone behind the words. As you do this, you may find yourself responding from a place that is more compassionate and appreciative of the other.

Until next time, Cesdric

## Mile End Notebook

### Love and caring in a cold month

Linda (Lou) Hachey

February is a short, cold, dark month – but it is also a time when love and caring is in the air! During the past 10 years, the Mile End Community Mission has brought together talented singers from our community of volunteers and mission members who, for a donation of \$25, sing a song of love and caring from our special songbook on Saint Valentine's day to one of your friends, loved ones, or if you like, to some of our more isolated mission members who really need to be thought of during this often lonely time of the year.

Over the years, our Singing Valentines have touched the hearts of many sweethearts, family members including children, grand-children,

grandparents, special aunts and uncles as well as best friends and countless mission members who were either in the hospital, very lonely and isolated. From my experience, I can tell you that our Valentine's songs truly touch the hearts of those who receive one.

Please make this Saint Valentine's Day a very special day by sending a Singing Valentine's. Your act of love and caring will also help the Mission provide much needed support to those living through the effects of poverty in the Mile End area.

To order a Singing Valentine, send an e-mail to: [general@mileendmission.org](mailto:general@mileendmission.org) or call 514-274-3401 and we will be happy help make it happen!

Lou Hachey is the executive director of the Mile End Mission.







**SEND A SINGING VALENTINE ON  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**A gift from the heart that truly keeps on giving!**

For a donation of just \$25, you can send a **Singing Valentine** to your special sweetheart, family member, friend, or to one of our mission members to help brighten their day. To order: e-mail: [general@mileendmission.org](mailto:general@mileendmission.org) or call: 514 274-3401.

## Books

## David and Goliath: Guess who was the underdog

Malcolm Gladwell: *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits and the Art of Battling Global Giants*. Little, Brown and Company, 2013, 305 pages

Reviewed by Colin McGregor

The heart of Ancient Palestine, 3,200 years ago: a series of ridges and valleys of breathtaking beauty connect the Judean Mountains to the east with the wide Mediterranean plane to the west. Standing atop two of these ridges, facing each other testily, sit two armies: to the north, that of the invading Philistines, a seafaring people from Crete; and to the south, the Israelites. Neither army dare send their troops down into the Elah Valley that separates them. In the accepted practice of the day, each side sends one man to lock horns in single combat. The loser's side will surrender all.

The Cretans send Goliath: 6 feet 9 inches tall, heavily armoured and armed – an imposing man whose eyesight is so poor (from a pituitary gland tumor, it is speculated) that he needs another soldier to lead him around. The Israelites are cowered.

Only one volunteers to meet the foe: a young shepherd named David. “Are you nuts?” asks King Saul. “Let me at ‘em,” replies David (not an exact transcript). Shepherds, not yet associated with bishops and the like, are dimly regarded. But Saul has no option. David descends into the Elah Valley, his only visible weapon a shepherd's staff.

Goliath roars: “Am I a dog that you should come at me with sticks?” (an exact transcript, from *1 Samuel 17:43*). David puts a stone into the pouch of a sling. Every army at the time had its corps of slingers – feared warriors trained to be deadly accurate at a distance. University of Toronto-trained psychologist Malcolm Gladwell believes, as do many of the countless historians and military strategists who have dissected this combat over the last 3,200 years, that poor half-blind Goliath missed something. He did not recognize that, at this point, he was in fact the underdog.

One shot, and Goliath is down, struck in the forehead. David beheads the comatose foe; the Philistines flee. David has since become



MALCOLM GLADWELL

the symbol of less is more; of using disadvantage to your advantage; of making a disability, or a loss early in

life, or any setback, work in your favour. Beware of jumping to conclusions based on size, Gladwell warns. Or, as it is put in the Old Testament: “The Lord said unto Samuel: Do not look on his appearance, or on the height of his stature; because I have rejected him: for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” (*1 Samuel 16:7*)

Writing in his highly readable, relatable style, Gladwell uses examples from several walks of life to prove the same point David did long ago: “So much of what is beautiful and valuable in the world comes from the shepherd, who has more strength and purpose than we ever imagine.” We meet a nerdy under-sized girl's basketball team from Silicon Valley who make it to the U.S. championships through clever tactics and hard work. We learn that smaller school classes, or indefinite prison terms, or throwing money at a problem, are often counter-productive. *David and Goliath* shows us how time and again “the marginal and the damaged” risk their lives to help others when everyone else

turns away.

No one in the last decade has done more to popularize psychology, to apply statistics and science to everyday events and occurrences, than has Malcolm Gladwell. Taking a different point of view to burst the bubble of perceived wisdom is his stock in trade. He himself grew up an outlier in Ontario society, the son of an educated Jamaican mother and a white father. He talks eloquently in interviews, and in his *New Yorker* articles, of how his background on the edge of things in great gray Ontario helped shape his worldview.

*David and Goliath* has not been kindly received by some book reviewers who think this work too derivative of Gladwell's previous bestsellers (*The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, *Outliers*). This book does not deserve the criticism it has received and this reviewer believes it is a gem.

This is a wonderful book, inspired by Holy Scripture and a lifetime of experience and study. It is required reading if you are weak, or disabled, or in a corner in any way in your life. Malcolm Gladwell could have entitled this work: *Revenge of the Nerds*.

## Some parishes entertain vergers unawares, Vergers Guild says

Hollis Hiscock

Many Anglican parishes have vergers but don't know it.

At least Terry Hughes – one of four vergers at St. Luke's Anglican Church, Burlington, Ont. – thinks so, and the Vergers' Guild of The Episcopal Church shares his view. About 100 Guild members from many parts of the United States and Canada will gather at that church this fall.

Vergers are laypersons who serve the church in a ministry of welcome the Guild says. It welcomes vergers who are full-time or part-time, paid or volunteer. Their duties can be purely ceremonial or include other responsibilities such as parish administration or leading the worship committee. In his or her parish guild members may be known as sexton, sacristan, acolyte master, usher, grave digger, master of ceremonies or anything else that the

parish requires, according to the guild.

Often the visitor will see the verger in a suit, simple cassock or a Canterbury-style robe moving about the church preparing for worship.

The verger will often respond to inquiries concerning the upcoming service or the church plant and programs. Vergers welcome visiting clergy or other visitors, prepare for special services and check whether seating is adequate.

Vergers have been around since the early days of the church. Traditionally, they led processions into the church or cathedral, often having to push through crowds of people and animals with the aid of a staff or “verge” – which some vergers still carry for ceremonial reasons. In addition, they kept order during worship, were responsible for the upkeep of buildings and prepared the liturgy.

They still do many of these things but their roles have expanded tremendously and are often shared by several lay people, not just one or two.

The precise duties of the verger will vary from parish to parish. He or she – over a third of the members of the Vergers' Guild are women – works under the direction of the incumbent priest to assist in the organization and operation of religious services. In some parishes the verger will be part of all liturgical processions, in others they process only on festival days or not at all.

At St. Luke's Burlington, the verger wears many hats. Mr. Hughes describes some of them:

- “We open and close the church for Sunday services, weddings, funerals and other special services.
- “We make sure the bulletins and orders of service are ready for the sidespeople to hand out.

• “We also set up the hymn boards and make sure the readings are set at the lectern.

• “Church lighting, the sound system, and the heating and cooling of the church are also part of our ministry duties.

• “We are also called upon from time to time to serve at the altar and assist at communion as chalice-bearers.

• “We check the credence table prior to each service making sure the required elements are in place and check the candle inserts.

“Even at St. Luke's alone, it is most important to remember that the tradition of verging in this parish dates back to the 1800s and the duties of the verger have evolved over time.”

For only the second time in its 25-year history, the Guild will meet in Canada in 2014. Approximately 100 members will converge on Burlington to hold their yearly conference at St. Luke's for four days, beginning September 25. Along with excursions and social happenings, there will be in-service training and other educational sessions.

For more information about being a Verger or the conference, contact Terry Hughes at [hugest@cogeco.ca](mailto:hugest@cogeco.ca) or 905-632-9535 or the Vergers Guild at [www.vergers.org](http://www.vergers.org)

*Rev. Hollis Hiscock is editor of The Niagara Anglican, a diocesan newspaper, in which a version of this article originally appeared.*

## Canada briefs

## Churches unite to hire youth worker

Five Oshawa churches – four Anglican and one Lutheran – are banding together to hire a youth worker for two years who will set up a joint program for their young people.

Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD, the interim priest-in-charge of Christ Memorial, says the idea developed last summer, after the leaders of her church's youth group said they could no longer run it.

When she spoke to clergy from the other churches, funding was a problem for all of them, and they also wanted to do more outreach into the community. “We thought that by combining our forces we would have the funding,” she says.

The four other churches are St. George Memorial, St. Matthew, St. Peter and Grace Lutheran. All five churches will share responsibility for the ministry. The plan is to have the youth program's location rotate among the churches and the youth minister spend some time in each parish on a regular basis and provide some teen pastoral counselling. *The Anglican*

## New Brunswick church recovers from oil spill

St. Paul's Church in Zeeland, N.B., now rests on a new foundation and has refurbished footings. Updated wiring, a new furnace, new concrete front and vestry steps and a wheelchair ramp are slated to be added soon.

Renovations to the 147-year-old church were required after 700 litres of furnace oil leaked into the basement soil beneath the church. Clean-up costs were about \$150,000, and the final tally is expected to be about \$200,000.

The parish applied for and received a loan guarantee from the diocese of Fredericton and has avoided external debt, although it must reimburse its rectory fund for the \$75,000 advanced for the cleanup last spring. More than \$60,000 in donations has been received. *The New Brunswick Anglican*



WITH A MORE TRADITIONAL ROLE as a verger than some members of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church, Robert Wells, head verger at Christ Church Cathedral, takes part in a procession at an ordination service in 2011.

(Photo: Harvey Shepherd)

## Presenter of spiritual moments honoured at Open Door

A man known to regular participants in the weekly Open Door program for sharing “spiritual moments” with the prison inmates, released inmates and friends who attend is the 2013 recipient of its Peter Huish Award of Merit.

The recipient has been presented annually by Rev. Deacon Peter Huish, chaplain, from nominations by members of the Montreal-Southwest Community Ministries and the award is generally presented at the annual Open Door Christmas Party in Christ Church Cathedral’s Fulford Hall.

A citation says that the spiritual moment presentations by the 2013 recipient, Tony, a long-time volunteer, include a mixture of personal experience, philosophical thinking, and biblical teaching.

“He has also distinguished himself as a talented reader of poetry and literature (we look forward to his annual reading of Charles Dickens) and for sharing with us his love of the English classics. Most important, with humility and humour Tony shares himself, an encouragement to everyone that within MSCM we can re-examine our personal facades and honestly be ourselves.”

Presenting the award, Canon Huish said Tony (identified only by his given name in accord with Open Door custom) “has demonstrated the spirit of MSCM in all he does, ...inspires us and serves as an example for all of us.

“He makes himself available to guys at various prisons and at Open Door, and he devotes many hours without pay to being a comfort to

guys who have little of that... We are privileged to have Tony among us, to have him as a member of our community, as a friend, colleague, example, and leader.”



TONY holds his award at MSCM party. (From the MSCM website)

## Cuba and Niagara sign covenant

The bishops of Niagara and Cuba signed a covenant formalizing their relationship as companion dioceses within the Companion Diocese Program for the Anglican Communion at the most recent synod in Niagara.

Cuban Bishop Griselda Delgado del Carpio later told delegates how important it is for the two dioceses to walk together in friendship and to sustain “ourselves in spirituality.” She emphasized the vision of churches working jointly with projects and noted especially how the two dioceses are sponsoring projects of social development in Cuba.

The covenant is effective for five years and is renewable. *Niagara Anglican*

## Christ Church, Beaufort

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

Lenten Soup Lunches

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Immolation of Palms

On March 4, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, come and enjoy a traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper with sausages and ham. Followed by the Solemn Immolation of the Palms outside in the parking lot (near the side entrance).

Ash Wednesday Services

On Ash Wednesday, March 5 there will be services of the Holy Eucharist at 10 am and 7 pm. Both services include the Imposition of Ashes.

Lenten Lunches

Every Wednesday from March 5 – April 9. Lunch will be served from 11.30 am to 1 pm. Enjoy a hearty homemade soup, along with bread, cheese, squares and tea/coffee. All for \$7/person.

In the parish hall.

Everyone is welcome at all these events!

Christ Church, Beaufort  
455 Church Street,  
Beaufort

Information 514-697-2204 or email christchurch@ac.aibn.com.

# A LENTEN SERIES

“Jesus, teach us to Pray”  
and He answered  
“Our Father, who art  
in Heaven...”

## REFLECTIONS ON THE LORD’S PRAYER

Church of Saint John the Baptist  
233 Avenue Ste-Claire  
Pointe Claire, Qc H9S 4T7  
[stjtheb@videotron.ca](mailto:stjtheb@videotron.ca)  
[www.stjtheb.ca](http://www.stjtheb.ca)

## SPIRITUAL CALENDAR

### CHILDREN’S PROGRAMMING

Christ Church Beaufort

455 Church St. at Fieldfare Ave., Beaufort

Sunday children’s programming has been re-launched at Christ Church, Beaufort!

All children of all ages are welcome. Facilitators are prepared and on hand each Sunday at the 10:15 a.m. service to offer a children’s special program in a multi-age setting. Children start out in the worship service with their family members, proceed to their own program after the “Children’s Time” in worship, and then rejoin their family members at Communion time.

### PAWS & PRAY

Christ Church Beaufort

455 Church St. at Fieldfare Ave., Beaufort

Sun. Feb. 2, 1 p.m.

Paws & Pray features a service of the Holy Eucharist where canine companions and their guardians are always welcome. These services are offered in collaboration with the Companion Animal Adoption Centers of Quebec, a non-profit organization dedicated to animal welfare. For information call 514-697-2204 or email christchurch@ac.aibn.com. The next Paws and Pray services are at 1 p.m. March 2, April 6, and May 4, all the first Sunday of the month.



## SALES and EVENTS

Church of the Epiphany

4322 Wellington St., Verdun

FLEA MARKET

Sat., Feb. 1, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Information 514-769-5373 or epiphany.verdun@gmail.com.

Christ Church Beaufort

455 Church St, Beaufort

TOBOGGANING PARTY

Sun, Feb. 9 after the 10:15 worship service.

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

St. Barnabas Pierrefonds

12301 Colin St.

INTERNATIONAL DINNER/SOUPER INTERNATIONAL

Sat. Feb. 15, 5:30 p.m.

Entertainment/spectacles, door prizes/cadeaux. Tickets \$25, children 6-12 \$10, 5 and under free. Proceeds to the St. Barnabas building fund. Information: church 514-684-4460, Mabel 514-685-1130

Christ Church Beaufort

455 Church St, Beaufort

CONCERT SERIES

The third Tuesday of the month through May 20 at 7:30 p.m.

The next concert, February 18, will

feature the seven-voice a cappella jazz vocal ensemble AJVM.

Upcoming: Matthew Russell on the trombone, Emily Belvedere on the harp, the Vega String Quartet.

Meet the artist at a reception after each concert. Admission \$20.

Information 697-2204

(christchurch@qc.aibn.com) or

Earl Wilson 586-9338

(www.earlwilson.ca).

Church of the Epiphany

4322 Wellington St., Verdun

HAWAIIAN HAM SUPPER AND PENNY FAIR

Sat., Feb. 22, 6 p.m.

Bring your own wine.

Tickets \$12; to order, call 514-363-0825. Information 514-769-5373 or

epiphany.verdun@gmail.com.

Church of the Epiphany

4322 Wellington St., Verdun

PANCAKE SUPPER

Tues., March 4, 6 p.m.

In support of the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund.

Freewill offering for tickets; call 514-363-0825.

Information 514-769-5373 or

epiphany.verdun@gmail.com.

## Profile for COUNTRY MANAGER for THE HEALTHY VINE TRUST (Uganda)



The Healthy Vine Trust (Uganda) is a small Christian NGO operating in a rural area in Central Uganda. The organisation has established a multi-faceted health orientated social investment programme, pledged to develop rural communities from grass root level. Presently we operate in one Parish consisting of 10 villages. It is hoped to extend the programme to other parishes in the future. Our focus is on long termed sustainable support.

We are looking for an energetic mature couple or two individuals who are seeking a life changing experience to manage the programme and take over from the present managers who are due to return to Europe within the next year. (either for a short or medium term commitment)

The persons will have a reasonable level of managerial skills, some experience working with various cultures and have a love for community life and want to help people living in rural Africa develop their potential and improve their quality of life.

We presently have a good working relationship with the District of Luweero and are supported very strongly both spiritually and personally by the Luweero Diocese Church of Uganda.

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also... James 2:26

This is a charity which I have been a director of for the past few years. The unique quality about our ethos is that every single cent goes to the program costs on the ground. Hence this position is voluntary. If you are at a stage in your life that you are able to spend some time working alongside the most wonderful joyous people that are Ugandans. Then please contact me for a no obligation chat.

Mark Dunwoody (Diocesan Youth Consultant).  
mdunwoody@montreal.anglican.ca

**CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY**  
Diocese of Montreal  
Anglican Church of Canada  
4322 rue Wellington St.,  
Verdun, QC H4G 1W4

**ÉGLISE DE L'ÉPIPHANIE**  
Diocèse de Montréal  
Église Épiscopale du Canada  
514-769-5373

### Hawaiian Ham Supper & Penny Fair

Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
at 6:00pm

Tickets - \$12<sup>00</sup>

To order tickets please call: 514-363-0825

Bring your own wine

www.epiphanyverdun.com

epiphany.verdun@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/EpiphanyVerdun

@epiphanyverdun

**CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY**  
Diocese of Montreal  
Anglican Church of Canada  
4322 rue Wellington St.,  
Verdun, QC H4G 1W4

**ÉGLISE DE L'ÉPIPHANIE**  
Diocèse de Montréal  
Église Épiscopale du Canada  
514-769-5373

### Pancake Supper

In support of

Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:00pm

Tickets - Freewill offering

To order tickets please call: 514-363-0825

www.epiphanyverdun.com

epiphany.verdun@gmail.com

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@epiphanyverdun

# ✂ Diocesan Clippings (and Snapshots) 📷

## 'Energetic individual who is willing to lead...' sought in Dorval

The next priest at the Parish of St. Andrew and St. Mark in Dorval will be "an energetic individual who is willing to lead an inclusive and forward-looking congregation," if the committee looking for a successor to Rev. Karen Egan has its way.

Dr. Egan left the post last summer after 8½ years to become interim director of pastoral studies at the Montreal Diocesan Theological College.

A posting for her former post in Dorval that was recently made public on the diocesan website and elsewhere notes that worship services at the parish are on Sunday morning, with Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer 1962 at 8 a.m. and according to the Book of Alternative Services, 1985 at 10 a.m.

"Parishioners meet during the week for Bible study led by the incumbent. There are three honorary assistants in the parish, two lay readers and a strong, committed lay leadership. The parish has a number of outreach ministries and projects and is involved in the life of the City of Dorval. We are actively involved in fund-raising and have embarked on a mission of stewardship of the environment. As an example, the building has geothermal heating and we promote recycling."

The posting notes that Dorval has a population of approximately 18,000 and it on the shore of Lake St. Louis in the St. Lawrence River, adjacent to the Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport.

"The predominant language in Quebec is French; our services are conducted in English, however, French would be an asset."

The committee asks that résumés reach the bishop's office (at [bishops.office@montreal.anglican.ca](mailto:bishops.office@montreal.anglican.ca)) no later than February 3.

## Patronal feast in Verdun



THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY in Verdun celebrated their fourth anniversary on Sunday, January 5, on the Feast of the Epiphany. In the photo are Emma Wheeler, Deacon Seymour Smith, Rev. Patrick Wheeler (uncle of Emma) cutting the celebratory cake, parishioners Rose Picco and Mary Sage and Deacon Jean Willcocks. In background is parishioner Jean Sagan, who took care of the cutting and distribution of the cake. (Photo: Jim Shepherd)

## Anglican/Lutheran parish in mall dedicated

On Nov. 25, the Anglican/Lutheran Parish of Good Shepherd Barrhaven celebrated the dedication of their new worship space in Barrhaven Crossing Mall with John Chapman, bishop of the diocese of Ottawa, and Rev. Martin Malina, representing the Lutheran synod.

"To our many friends, we proudly showed off what could be done with a retail space in a mall - a church as close to the people as one can get," wrote Lisbeth Mousseau, the parish's media liaison. *Crosstalk*

## Fulford staff lose family to typhoon



Two staff of the Fulford Residence on Guy Street in downtown Montreal, a residence for senior women that has historic links with the Anglican Church, lost family on November 8, when Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most powerful storms on record, devastated the eastern seaboard of the Philippines. Fe Young and Retchel Aguero are an aunt and a niece whose homes in Tacloban, in Leyte Province, Haiyan, were totally destroyed. Fe lost her brother, who was also Retchel's father, and a young nephew. When this news was shared with the Fulford Community, the staff contributed generously to the rebuilding of family homes. Members of the board of directors, community volunteers and seniors who live in the home followed suit. Retchel and Fe, as well as other staff from the Philippines, responded by hosting a tea for donors. Stories were shared with touching generosity and gratitude. The Fulford community will continue to support Fe and Retchel through the months ahead.

# A First Nations Epiphany in Rosemont

Sheri Cameron and Kathy Fournier

The cozy church could have been anywhere on the planet, but here we were on Sunday, January 5, at the First-Nations-Christmas-Rotonini-Taiakotiehrnonni: se Epiphany service at St. CHL - the Church of St. Cuthbert, St. Hilda and St. Luke in the Rosemont district.

The friendly parish made you feel accepted and welcomed in their church. Rev. Ros Macgregor has an uncanny ability to make you immediately feel like you are sitting at home in your favourite chair and not at church. Honoured guests were Bishop Barry Clarke and Chief Top Leaf. We were invited to imagine the Christ Child being born among the First Nations people.

Roslyn Macgregor often tells her congregation, "We don't do perfect at St. CHL," but I (Kathy) beg to differ.

As the congregation sang in English, French, and Mohawk, children walked up the aisle and presented

gifts which would have been typical to give a newborn First Nations child: rabbit skins, sage, sweet grass, and moccasins.

Our guest speaker, Chief Top Leaf, invited the children to gather around him. His warm, inviting nature combined with his art of storytelling brought the stories to life for all of us.

A setting of wild animals surrounding the deerskin-clad Baby Jesus was an apt accompaniment to Chief Top Leaf's homily. He explained how Mary and Joseph would have been invited into the longhouse and how they would have been taken care of by the clan mothers. He also explained how Mary and Joseph would have used the gifts they received.

Ros led a joyful and engaging service: she danced with the children in the aisle and handed out bells and invited children and adults alike to join in the celebration. I admire the way Ros included people

from other churches: she asked them to read an Epiphany dialogue and welcomed all to God's table during Communion, making everyone feel at home at St. CHL.

This amazingly joyful celebration would not have been complete without the talents of Tom Mennier - the church's organist, along with guitarist, Kurt Chaboyer. Tom's enthusiasm for singing is contagious! He belts out each song and plays the organ with such passion that you can't help but be moved to singing and dancing.

The service at St. CHL definitely captured the joy of Epiphany.

The service was followed by Epiphany cupcakes in the church hall with coffee and tea. Everyone had a smile on their face and expressed delight in the service.

*Sheri Cameron worships at Trinity United Church in Rosemont. Kathy Fournier, daughter of the treasurer of St. CHL, is now living in Toronto.*



CHILDREN GATHER AROUND Chief Top Leaf with gifts for a Mohawk Baby Jesus. From left, Ridgy holds a drum (the heart-beat of Mother Earth), Max holds rabbit skins to wrap the baby in; and in the second row Abigail, Hannah, Sarah, and Tristan hold baskets of healing herbs - tobacco, sage, sweet grass, cedar. The basket contains the Three Sisters: squash, corn, and beans. Baby Jesus also received tiny deerskin moccasins, a dream-catcher, two little modern baby outfits, and two bibs with the logo of the Montreal Canadiens ("because of course, if he'd been born at Kahnawake, he'd have been a Habs fan," Rev. Ros Macgregor comments).

Black History

Let's Celebrate **JAZZ** Mass

10:00

St. CHL - Sunday, February 16

6341, de Lorimier (bw Bellechasse & Beaubien)

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY / ÉGLISE DE L'ÉPIPHANIE

Diocese of Montreal / Diocèse de Montréal

4322 rue Wellington St., Verdun, QC H4G 1W4

514-769-5373

**Flea Market / Marché aux puces**

Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> / Samedi, le 1<sup>er</sup> février

9:30 am to 2:00 pm / 9h30 à 14h

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

[www.facebook.com/EpiphanyVerdun](https://www.facebook.com/EpiphanyVerdun)

[epiphany.verdun@gmail.com](mailto:epiphany.verdun@gmail.com)

[@epiphanyverdun](https://twitter.com/epiphanyverdun)

L'Eglise St. Barnabas - St Barnabas Church

12301 Collin, Pleurefonds

Souper International - International Dinner

samedi, le 15 février, 2014

Saturday, February 15, 2014

5:30 pm

Billets - Tickets

Adults - Adultes	\$25
Children 6-12	\$10
Enfants de 6-12 ans	\$10
Children 5 and under	FREE
Enfants 5 ans et moins	GRATUIT

Entertainment - Spectacles: Dons - Prizes - Cadres

Proceeds benefit the St. Barnabas Building Fund

Les Profits servent à l'Église St. Barnabas

Info: info@stbarnabas.org

Church Office, Hours of Office: 514 484 4410

tel: 514 484 4410

Welcome to ALL! - Bienvenue à TOUS