



CUDDLY BISHOP

This little fellow was recently discovered at a rummage sale at the Church of the Epiphany in Verdun by the Rev. Brian Perron, who's the new rector. Can you guess who's got him now? Hint: note the colour of the shirt. See Page 7.

EMCEE'S KNEES

The master of ceremonies at this year's Bishop's Dinner – a recent arrival on the Montreal scene – stepped from behind the lectern at the Bishop's Dinner in November to satisfy the curiosity of some members of the audience. To find out who he was and what he was wearing above his kilt, see Page 3.



GRIMY SPIRIT

This lady received a much-needed facial and general wash after this photo was taken by Myriam Cloutier. See Page 5.



Major grants from private donors, especially in Britain, expected to boost church plant



Holy Trinity Brompton, Alpha to be the model for St. James

HARVEY SHEPHERD

The Synod and Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Montreal have now committed the diocese to contribute \$200,000 to a project to transform the downtown Church of St. James the Apostle into a “church plant” seeking to reach young, urban professional and multicultural individuals and families.

However, the project, based on modern Anglican forms of worship and evangelism strongly influenced by Alpha courses, is expected to cost several times that. A significant part of that would come from future allocations by the diocese but major contributions are projected from private grants, including \$1 million from Britain over three years. Another \$200,000 would come from “Montreal private grants” and another \$200,000 come from “Canadian private grants.”

There was no formal indication who the donors would be at a meeting of the Diocesan Council November 17. However, the Rev. Graham Singh, who will lead the new plant, made no secret of the fact that he has been inspired and trained by institutions linked with Holy Trinity

Church in Brompton, London, England, mother church of what is now the multinational Alpha Course movement, in which people are invited to learn about the faith over dinner through videotapes and discussion.

In a presentation to the Diocesan Council November 17, (see photo) Graham Singh said evangelism on the HTB model has produced dramatic growth in some churches in Britain despite sharp drops in church participation in Britain as a whole. The church plant leader, who grew up as an Anglican near Toronto, said Holy Trinity Brompton “is the place where I found my faith again.” He was in Britain between 2000 and 2013, during which time he was ordained. Since 2013 he has been in Ontario, where he has combined pastoral duties with serving as executive director of an organization called Church Planting Canada.

A first \$100,000 Diocese of Montreal contribution to the church plant was approved October 16 by the Diocesan Synod, almost without discussion. The Diocesan Council adopted the second \$100,000 on November 17 after a debate devoted in part to the financial difficulties.

Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson said the idea of a plant on the Alpha model developed out of conversation between her and her predecessor,

Bishop Barry Clarke, but the current project also responds to the fact that St. James the Apostle had run out of money.

“As I looked into it I really felt that this was God’s idea. It was an idea God put into Barry’s heart and God transferred to my heart.”

While it was clear that approval of the Diocesan Council was being sought for only the second \$100,000, Executive Archdeacon Bill Gray tabled a hypothetical three-year budget for information and these may give some indication of how the ministry is expected to develop.

Private grants could be \$700,000 in “Year One,” \$350,000 in “Year Two” and \$350,000 in Year Three. Offerings might be \$80,000 in Year One, \$150,000 in Year Two and \$200,000 in Year Three. (The existing parish reported \$105,485 in 2014.)

Complex revenue and expenditure entries running to several hundred thousand dollars relate to much-needed work on the physical plant of the church. There is provision for Graham Singh’s salary and benefits and those of an assistant.

Other entries in “Year One” include \$20,000 for “Alpha,” \$15,000 for “media production,” \$20,000 for “guest speakers” and \$20,000 for “special events.”

Former Montreal radio voice elected bishop-to-be of Quebec



(2012 file photo)

Bruce Myers studied at Dio, became top ecumenist

TALI FOLKINS

Archdeacon Bruce Myers, the Anglican Church of Canada’s co-ordinator for ecumenical and interfaith relations and once a well known radio voice in Montreal, is now in line to be the 13th bishop of Quebec after being elected the diocese’s coadjutor bishop Friday, November 27.

The election involved six candidates to eventually succeed Bishop Dennis Drainville in the huge diocese – with relatively few Anglicans – in central and eastern Quebec. It went to six ballots before the only remaining candidate, the Rev. Canon Stuart Pike, formerly of the Quebec Diocese but now of the Niagara Diocese, withdrew his name.

The election followed an announcement in August by Bishop Drainville, that he planned to retire in 2017.

The bishop-to-be spent nearly a decade in broadcast journalism in Ontario and Quebec. He was Ottawa bureau chief for CFRB/CJAD radio between 1995 and 1997, then Quebec City bureau chief until 1999. Between 2000 and 2003 he worked as morning news anchor for Mix 96 radio in Montreal, while completing a bachelor’s degree in theology at McGill University. He studied at the Montreal Diocesan Theological College, and was ordained as a deacon in Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, and as a priest in Holy Trinity Cathedral in Quebec City in 2004.

Myers then served as parish priest in the Magdalen Islands until 2007. Since then, he has been combining church work with theological studies.

Between 2007 and 2009, he completed a master of theology degree at the University of Geneva. He served in leading posts in the Quebec diocese between 2008 and 2013 and

began phasing into his current role at the national office in Toronto in 2012.

“These are challenging times for our church, and in the midst of these difficulties it can be easy to succumb to what Pope Francis calls ‘sterile pessimism’ or the ‘evil spirit of defeatism,’” Myers wrote in a biographical profile. “Yet as Christians we are called to be a people of hope—the sure and certain hope of Christ’s resurrection and the redemption of all things, including the church.”

“The hunger among Quebecers for meaningful and intelligent engagement with life’s big questions and society’s great challenges means we’re in a time and place fertile for the seeds of the gospel.”

For more, see the article in this issue of the *Anglican Journal*. The above article is condensed from one posted Nov. 27 in the online version of the *Journal*, www.anglicanjournal.com.



Bishop's Message



We have just celebrated the incarnation of God in Jesus. The Christmas season concludes on the twelfth day with Epiphany. That word means "manifestation": but sometimes we call an epiphany a "Aha!" moment. The church season of Epiphany is about the Light of Christ shining on those who are not already insiders. It begins with the account of an unusual star in the sky attracting outsiders who are seekers and followers of signs. They come to worship the child Jesus.

There is the disturbing story about Mary and Joseph becoming refugees because of the political situation in their homeland. And yet, God's purposes, vision, grace, mercy and kindness shine.

Throughout the Epiphany season's Sunday readings, the light of Christ stretches us to see God at work in new ways. It also presses us to let the Kingdom of God expand in our own lives – beyond the confines of our experiences.

God's mission to reach God's world doesn't end with our own personal salvation and safety. It begins with our adoration and commitment to Christ.

It continues with our proclamation of the Good News that "God is with us." God's Kingdom is not just a future destination to aspire to: it is a current place, in our hearts, souls, minds and strength that continues to grow.

Our diocese is undertaking to share the light of Christ in new and creative ways. One of them is the new church plant of St. James Montreal on St. Catherine St., which is beginning its preparations and plans to launch at Easter. More information is available on the web site:

www.stjamesmontreal.org. Many congregations are reaching out through Messy Church, finding opportunities to meet and serve busy families during the week. Perhaps your own congregation has other ideas for sharing the light? Please pray for more opportunities in our Diocese and especially in the parish and ministries you are connected with.

Happy Epiphany!

+ Mary

After Charbonneau: urban evangelism group affirms ethics

Christian Direction unveils ethics code

In the wake of the release of the report of the Quebec government's Charbonneau Commission into potential corruption in the management of public construction contracts, a venerable and multifaceted non-denominational organization specializing in urban evangelism has launched its own new code of ethics.

"As Christians and as a Christian organisation, we affirm our commitment to be people of integrity," says a release issued by Christian Direction and its executive director, Glenn Smith, launching the new

code, dubbed "Ethicode."

"We believe it is necessary to subscribe to a sound ethic and this is why we have established Ethicode. We apply it to the management of our organisation, but we want to offer it to those who would like to adopt such practices. It can be a tool for people who would to craft their own code of ethics."

It says the commission led by Justice France Charbonneau, which issued its final report in November,



"has convinced us of the necessity of having efficient business practices."

Christian Direction says an Ethicode is useful:

1. "In framing our business practices to keep abreast of laws.
2. "In showing our commitment to live according to standards that the New Testament describes.
3. "In helping us to

renew constantly our way of thinking and to keep our commitments as a people of integrity."

The Ethicode includes these pledges:

- "In all of life, we will pay our taxes... and we will refuse any transaction that has any appearance of corruption or collusion.
- "We will respect copyright laws, we will not use plagiarised or pirated products (in the field of information technology, audiovisual, documents and publishing) and we will inform ourselves of the origin of the products we acquire or use.
- "We will respect work schedules to which we have been assigned. We want to lead balanced lives. We will be honest in our use of time, the

Internet, material belonging to our employer, expenses linked to work, reimbursements and services linked to work. We will be honest in the management of our days off and sick days that are allotted to us.

- "Our words and actions will be truthful to all: clients, colleagues, friends and family. Our interactions with others will be marked by respect and we will distinguish ourselves by our authentic love for our neighbour.
- "We will do all in our power to be recognized as people of our word – who fulfill our commitments; words that are authentic and not hypocritical."

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Executive director of Action Réfugiés Montréal describes upsurge of response to refugee crisis



First Bishop's Dinner for Mary Irwin-Gibson

HARVEY SHEPHERD

"Grace abounds," Paul Clarke, executive director of Action Réfugiés Montréal, told his audience at the annual fund-raising Bishop's Dinner November 26 – the first presided over by the new Bishop of Montreal, Mary Irwin-Gibson.

He said that since September's upsurge in awareness of the Syrian

refugee crisis, the phone at Action Réfugiés Montréal has been ringing constantly with inquiries about sponsoring refugee families and helping with funds, as volunteers and in other ways.

Citing a few recent cases of people who had recently been granted refugee status as a result of ongoing efforts by Action Réfugiés, which receives core funding from the diocese and Presbyterian sources, he said offers of some kinds of help were

even exceeding the capacity of Action Réfugiés to deal with them. It was currently seeking more volunteers only for a longstanding program that twins women already in Montreal with Canadian volunteers and is referring offers of clothing to other agencies.

Action Réfugiés Montréal seeks justice for asylum-seekers and refugees. In addition to its efforts to help refugees and asylum-seekers come to Canada and settle here, it works with asylum-seekers in detention in Laval and sponsors the twinning program.

Bishop Irwin-Gibson presented Mr. Clarke with a small casting of the bronze sculpture "Homeless Jesus" by Canadian sculptor Timothy P. Schmalz, which depicts Jesus as a modern homeless person.

Among features that brightened the evening were the lively services as master of ceremonies and auctioneer of the Rev. Steven Mackison, who recently arrived from a church in Mississauga to become rector of St. George's Place du Canada, and whose attire bespoke his cherished Scottish heritage.

Among guests was the recently appointed MTL Youth project coordinator Lee-Ann Matthews (see Page 9), photographed here with her partner, Katerin Juretic, and the table-hopping new incumbent of Epiphany Verdun, the Rev. Brian Perron. Proceeds from the dinner went to Action Réfugiés, the Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre, St. Michael's Mission and the Mile End Mission.



Equipping the Saints

NICHOLAS PANG

This is one of a series of articles by alumni and friends of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College.

It's hard to imagine that already (and only) two and a half years have passed since my time in seminary. As of just a couple weeks ago, our whole cohort has found employment outside of our curacies, which means we're the real deal now, right!? Since

July I've been serving up in the Laurentians in a regional team ministry – two full-time clergy, 10 churches (and a whole lot of really talented retired priests, lay readers and other lay leaders).

It's hard to explain to people what that actually looks like on the ground, which, I suppose, is the case for most ministry. A lot of my time is spent responding to events as they arise, so no day or week looks the

The many faces of regional ministry

same as the previous one. One of the greatest challenges and joys that I've found in this ministry so far is the chance to go around to a different place and see different faces each week. It's a challenge because the role of the priest in the 21st century, as I see it, really revolves around their ability to facilitate a strong and healthy community. That's hard when you don't have the depth of relationship with people that you get when you're in the same church with the same people week in and week out. It's also a joy, though, because I think the church of the 21st century is also one that depends on the recognition that we are all part of something much greater than ourselves and our own small communities, as wonderful and important as those small communities are.

I think the greatest blessing regional ministry can offer the church at this time is a model of how we can be part of a movement larger than ourselves, whether that's one parish existing as part of a territorial ministry or one community contributing to the great struggles of our time: refugee resettlement, the fight against communicable diseases, works of reconciliation, etc. I'm

thankful to the Montreal Diocesan Theological College and the Montreal School of Theology for equipping me with a vision of the world that transcends my own local community, whether that was through the Global Christianity course, the ministry trip to Cuba, or simply the ecumenical

structure of the seminary.

As our fledgling regional ministry learns to take flight, I trust that the incarnate Christ who draws all people to God will also strengthen us in the bonds of unity that we share with one another.



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The Rev. Nicholas Pang, right, and Archdeacon Ralph Leavitt at the launch of the Laurentians Regional Ministry last summer.

Letters to the editor

Alpha approach of downtown church plant may have promise if done right

Will Alpha be tempered with non-doctrinal sensibility?

BRENT COWAN

Brent Cowan is Rector's Warden of the Church of St John the Baptist, Pointe Claire

I noted two things of particular interest in the December issue of the *Anglican Montreal* section of the *Anglican Journal*.

First, I see we have decided to divest ourselves of fossil fuel stocks. I suppose the timing could have been better in that I presume these particular stocks must be at a low ebb at the moment. However environmental pressures may well eventually place fossil fuel deposits off limits – I have read that up to 100 trillion dollars' worth may never be extracted from where they lie. In that case divestment now may well be a wise fiscal measure in addition to an expression of environmental responsibility. Of course it is to be presumed that most delegates to Synod arrived on foot, by bicycle, public transit or car-pooling and perhaps the diocese should also consider measures to wean ourselves off oil heating. And expecting Sunday worshippers to travel further to fewer churches in the future seems to run counter to energy conservation.

The second thing that caught my attention was the report on the new church plant to be established at the Church of St James the Apostle. This plant concept is to be patterned after the Holy Trinity Brompton and its Alpha Course example. Twenty years ago the Rev. Bruce Glencross at the Church of St John the Baptist Pointe Claire placed a strong emphasis on an Alpha Course. And I can report that, while his attention was focussed on this effort, it worked well. Just a few years ago I reported to readers of this journal about my intention to start up the same approach once more at the Church of St John the Baptist. This time it didn't work so well. Lessons learned? To populate the course you must go out and bring people in one by one. You have to go out and seek people who have the emptiness the Alpha Course could help fill. These people are all around us so one doesn't have to expend tremendous energy to find them. But establishing the personal connection necessary to draw them into that first convivial Alpha experience will be much more involved than handing out a brochure. Advertisement won't work either.

Now, Rev. Glencross didn't actually himself go out and seek people. But his approach was equally successful. During the years when he promoted the Alpha Course, if you wanted to get married at our church, or have your children baptized, you were directed to the Alpha Course. Because the right people volunteered as animators the course worked well. Discussions were free-ranging and interesting. But, truth be told, following their semi-obligatory yet

positive Alpha Course experience, over the years many have drifted away.

My later effort failed because I couldn't go out and draw people in. I couldn't because I didn't have the time and because I am not a charismatic evangelical. Furthermore, I can only approach the Alpha material from a lay perspective based on my own non-doctrinal, non-dogmatic interpretation of what I have read of scripture and the way that fits in to the experience of my life. My focus is on the universal moral code to be gleaned from scripture rather than its underpinning through the miraculous. That makes me less than ideal to lead an Alpha course. Yet, encouraging a non-doctrinal, non-dogmatic discussion of scripture is exactly the Alpha approach. It is just that the discussion leaders, following Nicky Gumble's HTB model, would be charismatic evangelicals themselves, trained to gently guide discussions on scripture and the human experience towards acceptance of doctrine and the associated comfort of a secure faith.

So my recommendations for a successful church plant at St James the Apostle?

1. Work hard to draw people in. This effort must be very personal, very one-on-one. First establish an honest friendship then, in friendship offer the opportunity to come to the first Alpha meal. Do not expect brochures or advertisements to do this work for you.

2. My own instinct is that in Montreal the charismatic evangelical approach will be less comfortable for prospective course followers than a non-doctrinal, non-dogmatic one. But perhaps it needn't be the one or the other. Perhaps Alpha can be adapted to our societal reality. Nicky Gumble's Alpha material can be instructive but not the sole source. Ideally the Rev. Graham Singh (the church planter leading this initiative) will himself lead Alpha Course sessions and not rely overly on canned video presentations. And he will recruit a team of caring and intelligent animators. But before they will have discussions to lead, these animators must be willing to go out to where the people are, reach out to them, and ever-so-gently lead them to want to come share, in friendship, that first Alpha meal.

3. Make certain of the character of the animators and their preparation for their role. They will be very influential over, possibly, very vulnerable people. There can be no abuse, be it intentional or inadvertent.

BRENT COWAN
RECTOR'S WARDEN
CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST,
POINTE CLAIRE

The Central Interior of British Columbia: What an amazing place!

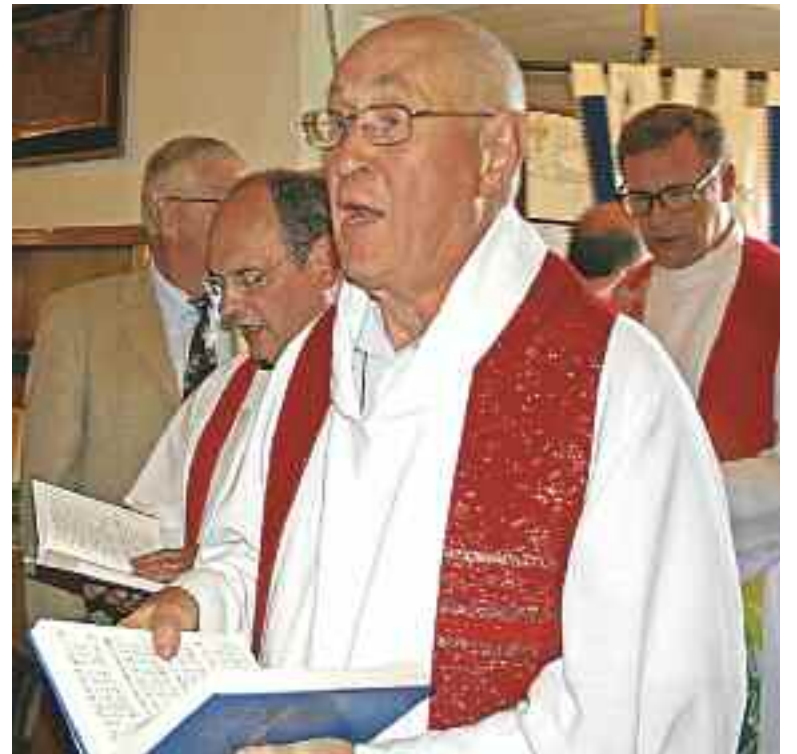
DAVID SINCLAIR

The Rev. Canon David Sinclair, a canon of St. George's Cathedral in Kingston, served in interim ministries in the Diocese of Montreal for about 11 years and in September took on an assignment as interim dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, Kamloops.

Greetings to all from my sojourn at St. Paul's Cathedral, Kamloops. What a truly amazing place is our recently renewed partner, the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior. Though I have only seen a few of the communities in the Kamloops South Rivers Region and met the clergy at a Clericus at the Cathedral, I am beginning to get a vision of the vast territory Bishop Barbara Andrews covers with quite limited resources. Prince George, the other major town, is a six-hour drive from Kamloops, and it is not even close to the being most northerly community.

One of the highlights of my visit thus far (and a significant part of my reason for accepting Bishop Barbara's invitation) was the signing of a declaration for shared ministry in Clearwater, where folks from United Church, Presbyterian, Anglican and Lutheran backgrounds shared worship in St. James' Roman Catholic Church as they became part of the North Thompson Ecumenical Shared Ministry along with the Church of St. Paul in Barriere, under the clerical leadership of the Rev. Brian Kruschel, a Lutheran pastor. Many of the communities are in fact shared ministries, as people of different heritages have recognized that to maintain a Christian presence is more important to their towns and villages than denominational differences.

It was a joy to participate in the ordination of Jo Ann Hinton to the Diaconate in St. George's, Kamloops, where she had served a placement with our Regional Dean, the Rev. Isabel Healy-Morrow. (I have never before had a Regional Dean drop by the office bearing a gift of ice cream!) Jo Ann is serving the Anglican-United Shared Ministry in Lilloet. As I think of the number of recent ordinands in Montreal



I wonder if any might seek adventure – for which there is plenty of opportunity here in APCI.

The experience of being part of the team here at St. Paul's Cathedral has been most rewarding. The Bishop has been away a good deal, with Council of the North and House of Bishops meetings, and the other priest the Rev. Canon Sandra Sugden, (whose husband, Tom, is a vocational deacon) has had hip replacement surgery, so I have led much of the worship. Not that it is a chore: the level of lay involvement is truly amazing, as is the staggering number of other ministries carried on by the parishioners. Whenever the parish office is open, our coordinator Claire Tosoff dispenses frozen containers of soup at the door, and two nights each week we offer "Out of the Cold," providing a hot supper, a bed for the night and breakfast to homeless folks.

Kamloops is defined as a semi-desert, but thanks to irrigation there are many beautiful gardens about (including St. Paul's community garden, the source of much food for

our soup.) The Royal Inland Hospital is a major health facility, and Thompson Rivers University attracts a good many international students. The city has an active theatre and music life, and the Kamloops Blazers of the Western Junior Hockey League provide exciting hockey. The hills rising from the river provide some challenging walks, and though I miss the Laurentian forest, the sage-covered mountains have their own beauty. As an occasional pedestrian in Montreal, I was dumbfounded in Kamloops when, approaching a crosswalk, I observed cars actually stopped to allow me to pass!

It is good to know that the Partnership agreement between Montreal and APCI has been renewed. Hopefully others will find opportunity to visit, and perhaps share ministry in this corner of God's wonderful world.

CANON DAVID SINCLAIR
OCCASIONAL EMISSARY FOR THE
DIOCESE OF MONTREAL
(The photo shows Canon Sinclair in Lachute last August, just before leaving for Kamloops.)

Circles of Support launch national association

A new national association for Circles of Support and Accountability across Canada was formally launched in late October, representing 11 projects in six provinces seeking to help sex offenders avoid reoffending.

The projects organize small groups, each typically made up of a sex offender who has been released from jail and 3-5 volunteers. The volunteers help the "core member" to deal with challenges and get access to community resources relating to housing, employment, medical needs and so on. They also challenge any behaviour that might lead to re-offending or breaching legal conditions.

The first circles began in 1995 in Hamilton, ON., and since then Circles of Support and Accountability, have been recognized internationally for their uniquely effective work with high-risk sexual offenders after their release.

Circles of Support and Accountability, or CoSA, have around 700 volunteers across Canada, supporting the crime-free re-integration of 150-200 sexual offenders each year. However, in recent years the number of sites across Canada has been reduced to 11 from 18 because of cutbacks in federal government financial support, says Wendy, a staff member of Montreal-Southwest Community Ministries. MSCM has its own (CoSA) project and is an affiliate of the new CoSA Canada association.

Wendy (identified only by her given name because of MSCM policy) says CoSA has received unprecedented media attention in the past year following cuts to its federal funding which took place despite studies showing CoSA's effectiveness in reducing recidivism. She hopes the formation of CoSA Canada will give this initiative a stronger and more focused voice by

representing the shared values and concerns of Canada's numerous independent CoSA sites.

She hoped the recent change in federal governments will also help.

The Rev. Canon Peter Huish, president of MSCM's steering committee, has been elected to CoSA Canada's board of directors. The board includes another Montrealer, Françoise Crabalona, from another Montreal-based group.

More information about CoSA Canada can be found on their website at www.cosacanada.com.

In other news, Vanessa Sung, volunteer co-ordinator for many years of the Montreal-Southwest Community Ministries, an outreach serving prison inmates and former inmates, is this year's recipient of the MSCM's Peter Huish Award of Merit. She was recognized for her "understated yet thoughtful presence in the work of the community."

A busy year for historic Mount Royal Cemetery



The Anglican trustees, taken at the September 2015 board meeting. Left to right are John Collyer, Helen Meredith, Mark Gallop, Anne McArel, Derek Drummond, Thea Lindsay and Tom Burpee (Photo: Susan Stevenson)

Near capacity, open to all it finds new site on West Island

MARK W. GALLOP

Mark W. Gallop is parishioner of St. Matthias' Westmount and a trustee of the Mount Royal Cemetery Company.

The Mount Royal Cemetery Company is a not-for-profit organization governed according to its 1847 charter by a volunteer board of trustees representing Montreal's Protestant denominations, including seven Anglican trustees. Joseph Connolly of St. Matthias' Church, Westmount, was the board's longest-serving trustee, since 1977, and retired in early 2015. Joe was hon-

oured by his fellow trustees with a commemorative dinner and has been named the Cemetery's first *Trustee Emeritus*. Following Joe's retirement, Anne McArel was welcomed as the newest Anglican trustee. Anne is well-known to the organization, having served in a professional capacity since 1992 as the board's assistant secretary-treasurer until her recent retirement from her position as a partner with the accounting firm BDO Canada. Anglican trustees continuing in their roles are Tom Burpee and Derek Drummond of St. George's Church Place du Canada, John Collyer of St. James the Apostle, Helen Meredith and Mark Gallop of

St. Matthias', and Thea Lindsay. The year 2015 has been a busy one for the Cemetery. Because it promises perpetual care for all burials and is open to all faiths and races, only a limited number of burial sites remain for sale on Mount Royal, a 96-acre property was acquired on Montreal's West Island. This new cemetery and funeral complex, named Belvedere, formally opened in June. The building and rolling landscape with a mature forest can be seen on the north side of the Trans-Canada Highway in Senneville adjoining Morgan Arboretum.

An iconic image of Mount Royal Cemetery is its gothic entrance gate, built in 1862, designed by the architect John William Hopkins (1825-1905). Hopkins was also responsible for the design of a number of Anglican churches including the former St. Jude's Church on Coursol Street in Little Burgundy and predecessor buildings to St. Paul's, Knowlton, and St. Paul's, Lachine. Unfortunately this gate had become substantially degraded, principally because of damage from a climbing hydrangea which was planted from a European cutting in the early 1900s. This required the complete dismantling of the structure, repointing and replacing stones where necessary, and rebuilding on a new, more substantial, foundation. The rebuilt gate and new historical information plaque were dedicated in an October ceremony. The Mount Royal Cemetery Company received a substantial grant from the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec for the gate project. Additional donations were raised from individuals and foundations by the Friends of Mount Royal Cemetery.

The Friends of Mount Royal Cemetery is a charitable entity dedicated to preserving and promoting the natural and historical treasure that the cemetery has become. While the gate restoration is the biggest project the *Friends* has participated in to date, monument restorations are funded annually, such as the recent refurbishment of statues that ornament a number of historical monuments. Walking tours occur each spring and fall focusing on history or nature, and the cemetery is host to Shakespeare-in-the-Park and painting and photography exhibitions. Interpretative plaques inform visitors to the cemetery and a new free mobile app welcomes digital-age visitors. All of these projects and activities are funded by donations, which are gratefully acknowledged and tax receipts provided.

A special day at St. Mark's Valleyfield



The morning of Sunday, November 8th was one of joy for the Oakman family.

Prior to the 11 a.m. service, Jim Eastwood installed an oak handrail in Valleyfield's St. Mark's Anglican Church.

Eastwood, who is married to Gail Oakman, not only constructed the handrail he had designed and made in oak, but also had the beautiful rail inscribed to honour the late Pauline Oakman (his mother-in-law).

While honouring the Oakman family was one of the motivations behind the installation of the piece

within the church, the Oakmans wanted to support some of the aging congregation. The handrail is currently installed on the chancel steps.

Pauline's husband, Jim Oakman, is still an active member at the church. At 97 years of age, he was thrilled to see his family honoured in such a way. Members of his family travelled from New Brunswick and London, ON., to be present for this occasion.

Fellowship, and a light lunch was served by the Oakman family afterwards, concluding a very pleasant and wonderful day.



This stylized figure of mourning, spruced up as part of the recent renovations, graces the grave of Hannah Lyman, who opened a girls school in Montreal in 1831, went on to become the first woman principal of Vassar College in 1865 and died of tuberculosis in 1871. According to Brian J. Young in *Respectable Burial: Montreal's Mount Royal Cemetery* (McGill-Queen's 2003), "A devout Congregationalist, she held Bible classes in her home for soldiers from the British garrison... Her monument, unusual in a Protestant cemetery for its female sensuality and its use of the cross, testifies to her influence on women." (Photo: Myriam Cloutier)



The gate restoration project in progress, September 2014 (Photo: Mark Gallop)

Two views of mission as new incumbents

Darkness and light mark induction of new incumbent at St. George's Place du Canada



HARVEY SHEPHERD

The mid-November terrorist shootings in Paris cast a pall over the otherwise upbeat induction of a young and by all accounts dynamic new incumbent from a growing church in the bustling city of Mississauga, next to Toronto, as the new rector of St. George's Place du Canada.

The Rev. Steven Mackison, who has been serving St. George's since August, invited those at the service, as they filed back from the Eucharist, to light votive candles in memory of the estimated 129 people killed in the November 13 shootings two days earlier.

Otherwise, the service was graced by some unusual touches. Father Mackison's priest's crest, on a banner, was carried by James



Mackison, the elder of his two young children. The banner, which reflects the rector's Scottish heritage, remained at the front of the church during the service.

The new rector's wife Holly left the front pew she shared with James and his sister, Madeline, to read one of the lessons.

The Rev Daniel Brereton, associate priest at Father Mackison's previous parish of St. John the Baptist Dixie in Mississauga, delivered the homily. A photo by Tony Hadley shows Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson leaning toward him during the induction.

Father Mackison, previously at St. John the Baptist (Dixie) Church succeeds the Ven. Bill Gray, now executive archdeacon of the Diocese of Montreal, as rector of St. George's.



'I know you're all crackpots. That's how God chooses to work' – DANIEL BRERETON

Here are extracts from the text of a sermon by the Rev. Daniel Brereton, associate priest and the Rev. Steven Mackison's former colleague at the Church of St. John the Baptist Dixie in Mississauga, Ont.

Lori, the Parish Administrator for St. John's Dixie, asked me last week "What are you going to say in your sermon at Steven's induction?" So I told her quite bluntly: "I'm going to tell his new congregation, and new bishop and new colleagues that Steven Mackison is a crackpot."

Lori looked at me, horrified. "It's a sermon," she said, "not a roast!"

"It's biblical!" I argued. "Look at the Order of Service. The Epistle: Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 4, Verse 7: "But we

have this treasure in clay jars..."

"Jars!" she cried, "not pots!"

"It's the same thing, I argued."

"It says that they're clay, not cracked!" she insisted.

"Ah! Yes!" I said. "But the pots – or jars – contain a treasure! And what is that treasure? The light of God! And *how* does that light get out, if the pot isn't cracked?"

She stared at me in silence, clearly in awe of such theological profundity. And then, tilting her head thoughtfully to one side, she asked, "Couldn't you just open the jar to let out the light?"

"Yes, I admitted. But then how would I get the chance to call Steven a crackpot?"

"And *that*, she said pointing her finger at me, is why the two of you needed to be separated!"

Now, whether your parish is blessed with an incumbent, one or more associate priests, a full-time office administrator, a janitor, a music director, a youth minister, a children's ministries co-ordinator, a parish nurse devoted to pastoral care and a deacon devoted to outreach and social justice *or* like most parishes you're blessed with simply one priest and a few devoted, well-meaning volunteers, the fact is, ministry is always a team effort.

This ministry. One ministry. Christ's ministry, which cannot be fulfilled in this community by Steven alone, nor by Steven and Josée (Lemoine, the curate at St. George's), nor by that one group of volunteers that every parish has, to whom everyone looks to do everything.

If you're a Christian in this parish

then you also have been called to ministry in this community. As your priest and pastor Steven will not only need your prayers and your best wishes – he'll need you; your time, and all the talents and at least some of the treasure that God has blessed you with, which in truth, are only blessings if they are shared. I know Steven. I've worked with Steven. I miss Steven.

But for all his gifts and his willingness to use them, remember – he is still a crackpot; We all are. I mean, I don't know all of you personally, but I know you're all crackpots, and the reason I know that is because you're part of the church; and that's not a negative judgement of the church but a biblically based observation on how God chooses to work.

God likes the crackpots; the flawed, the scarred, the often brittle, the sometimes broken. The seemingly unremarkable, the cast-aside. It should not surprise us when our fellow Christians, be they clergy or lay, prove to have feet of clay, indeed be entirely clay. Again and again God chooses what is weak, that, in the words of St. Paul, it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

Our greatest danger in ministry is to forget this, for it leads to the politics and power-struggles that so often divides faith communities, with egos battling egos, instead of fellow servants, serving together.

When I spoke with Steven about this service and the readings he had chosen, he talked about the image of journey – travelling the road togeth-

er. No doubt that's why he chose that first beautiful reading from Ruth, in which Ruth makes her famous, heart-felt commitment to Naomi: "Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die – there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

In ministry we travel together, we lodge and rest together; we face death and await resurrection together, and we do so in the service of God and neighbour. Such a statement of love and commitment has made these verses from Ruth a favourite reading for couples being married which I always find amusing since it's a vow made by a woman, not to her spouse but to her mother-in-law!

Ruth and Naomi, poor, widowed, homeless, starving, and one of them a foreigner from Moab. Two clay jars – two cracked pots. And yet, they contained a treasure, a treasure that would sustain them through the grief of past loss, through the economic hardship of the present, through complete uncertainty of the future – you know, those things that plague us as Church. And what sustains these two clay jars, the "treasure" contained within them is what in Hebrew is called *hesed* – a word that we translate as loving-kindness or covenant-love.

Hesed is a love characterized by service and giving. It is not just an emotional reactive love, but a proactive love that seeks the best for the other, even at a cost to self. Christians, drawing on Greek language

would call this love *agape*.

Naomi's willingness to let both her daughters-in-law go, putting their good before hers is an act of *hesed*. It calls forth more *hesed* from Ruth, who commits herself in solidarity to Naomi. Later in the story it becomes clear that one of the things that draws Boaz to the widowed Ruth, besides her skill at uncovering feet, is seeing how committed she is to her mother-in-law. It is the salt and light of God's *hesed*, carried in and shared between clay jars, a family is saved, and the hope of a Messiah is born into the world.

As the horrors of yesterday's attacks in Paris unfolded, shining in the midst of that darkness were lights, acts of *hesed*, the ministry of God's loving kindness – strangers publicizing on social media that their homes and shops were open, for any who needed help, for those who needed refuge; people began to line up to give blood, people – Christian and Muslim, religious and secular, stood together, wept together, prayed together.

Where you go, I will go there too. Where you find yourself stuck, I will stay there with you until we figure out how to get through it together. Your concerns are my concerns. Your hope is my hope. Whatever I have to give – is yours. That is how we are afflicted but not crushed; persecuted but not forsaken, struck down, but not destroyed. Let your light, God's light, God's *hesed*, shine before others; look for it, shining within others.

That's how we do ministry. It's the only way to do ministry.



Incumbents inducted into their parishes

Brian Perron gets a first incumbency and a potato masher as Verdun induction has a special flavour

Induction at Epiphany Verdun has a special flavour

STAFF

A special tradition of hospitality at the Church of the Epiphany in Verdun, a Scots tradition and maybe a tradition of breezy informality were features of the induction of the Rev. Brian Perron as rector of the parish November 22.

It's his first incumbency but, as he noted in a few informal remarks to the congregation, he and his wife got to know the parish during placements in his training for the priesthood.

Among events that brightened the service were the bagpipes of Piper Major (Retired) Brian Mackenzie, who presumably had little trouble finding the church. He played at a Remembrance Day service there two weeks earlier.

There was also the customary presentation of symbolic gifts to the new rector, by a succession of parishioners including young Mackenzie and Tristan Rouchdy.

But there were also some



wrinkles, one of which reflects the importance of the church's recently renovated kitchen in parish life and community outreach. An apron-clad Shirley Harbour, a stalwart kitchen volunteer, made that presentation and Brian Perron insisted later that the change in the customary presentation liturgy was theologically sound.

It went like this:

Shirley Harbour: *Pastor Brian, we the stewards of the Lord's Kitchen here at Epiphany recognize the importance of feeding the people with the word of God, and in nourishing this community in faith... As you open the doors of this place to everyone, may we welcome and sustain them with good ol' fashion home-style cooking and hospitality. This industrial potato masher is a symbol of your strength and leadership in feeding the people of our community in the parish of Verdun and Ville Emard.*

Brian Perron: *I invite and welcome you all to join with me in serving this community which our Lord has entrusted to us to feed, nurture and cherish in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen, Let's eat!*

In a less liturgical impromptu presentation just after the service, the new incumbent gave Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson a small stuffed bishop he had rescued from a parish rummage sale.

The sermon was by the Rev. Chris Barrigar of St. Peter's TMR, where Brian Perron served as an assistant.



'If not a new Jerusalem, at least a new Verdun'

'Parts of the Church have lost confidence in the Gospel'

Here are extracts from a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Chris Barrigar of St. Peter's TMR, where Brian Perron was posted for some time before moving on to Epiphany Verdun.

Some years ago, my wife, Fiona, and I were involved in an Alpha course in a town south of Montreal.

For those who aren't familiar with it, the Alpha Course is an internationally-popular course in Christian basics, often used for evangelism.

In this particular Alpha course were three clergy from three different denominational churches in the town, helping to lead the course each week.

Well, one week, at one point in our discussion group, one of the

participants asked the cleric, the clergy-person, in our small group: "Would you please pray for me." The cleric was clearly uncomfortable with praying for the person on the spot, and replied, "Uh, well, uh, if you call my office you can make an appointment to pray with me."

This was not a request that needed any privacy; it needed an immediate pastoral prayer response, and the group context was perfectly fine.

Why do I tell you this story?

Because parts of the Church have lost confidence in the Gospel – have lost their belief that God truly has Good News for us, for humanity, in Jesus Christ, and that we, the Church, have a crucial role in bringing that Good News.

This evening we have gathered for a joyful purpose: to celebrate the new ministry of Brian Perron and the Epiphany community together.

I could tell you lots of stories about Brian. I can tell you lots of qualities about him too. And here's the very first quality I want you to know about Brian: He has confidence in the Good News of Jesus Christ for Montrealers today.

He has confidence in talking about Jesus, and confidence in the work of the Holy Spirit in peoples' lives.

All this means that Epiphany can be an Antioch church!

I know, you're thinking 'What's an Antioch church?'

Some people say "I wish we could have a New Testament church".

Well, be careful what you ask for – because NT churches were often pretty messed up places!

Careful then, you may just get

what you asked for!

But Antioch is one church in the NT about which only good is spoken.

It is of course known as the first Gentile church, the first community of Gentile followers of Jesus.

The spread of the Jesus Way began with missionaries who went from the Jerusalem church to around the eastern Mediterranean world – to other Jewish communities. They felt the Good News was just for Jews. But as we heard in our reading from Acts, some unnamed heroes of Christian history, from Cyprus and Cyrene, figured out that this news should be taken to Gentiles too, and so they did this first by going to Antioch.

Antioch was also the place where followers of The Way, were first called Christians.

These unnamed persons from Cyprus and Cyrene understood the implications of the Gospel, they understood it meant mission, they understood it meant change.

But because of this, the Antioch church became the centre of much controversy back in Jerusalem: The Jewish Christians in Jerusalem were grumbling, and grumpily saying, "Hold on now, Gentiles must first become Jews to become followers of the Messiah! And they aren't doing this up there in Antioch!"

As it turned out, the Jerusalem church, even though they were the original sending church, had to change their understanding of their mission: the message of Jesus was no longer just for their own people, inside their own house, so to speak; it was also for those outside the Jewish

continued on the next page



Lifelong fascination with Mary leads to collaborative volume

Poets of different faiths and none offer impressions of the Annunciation

Annunciation: Sixteen Contemporary Poets Consider Mary. Illustrated and Edited by Elizabeth Adams. Montreal, Phoenicia Publishing, November, 2015, 72 pages, softcover, ISBN 978-1-927496-08-4. Poetry by Ivy Alvarez, Rachel Barenblat, Jeanne Marie Beaumont, Kristin Berkey-Abbott, Chana Bloch, Leila Chatti, Luisa A. Igloria, Mohja Kahf, Vivian Lewin, Natalie d'Arbeloff (translating a poem by Vinicius de Moraes), Roderick Robinson, Nic Sebastian, Claudia Serea, Purvi Shah, Rosemary Starace, and Marly Youmans.

This article is based largely on a

publicity release from the publisher. You can order the book directly from the publisher at \$19.95. For details visit www.phoeniciapublishing.com.

An angel appears to a young girl, and makes a startling proposal. Given a choice, she says yes – and her life, and history, change forever.

A year ago, Elizabeth (Beth) Adams, a member of Christ Church Cathedral and choir singer, artist and publisher of a small press, Phoenicia Publishing, invited a diverse group of poets – Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, and secular; mostly but not all female – to consider the story of Mary and the angel Gabriel for an illustrated collection. Among the poets is Vivian Lewin, also a parish-

ioner of the Cathedral, active in spiritual direction.

In her proposal to the poets, Beth Adams wrote, “*The Annunciation story is a complicated foundational story in western culture. Patriarchies have used Mary as a model for ideal female acceptance, faith, and submission to authority, while at the same time millions of people have identified with her courage, suffering, and patience, and accorded her their personal devotion and deep respect.*

“I suspect that if we look closely, most of us may have been touched by her story in some way. I want to encourage you to look at the Annunciation from a modern point of view, as contemporary poets of different cultural backgrounds. Your work can be religious or secular, traditional or decidedly not, written in a feminist light, a current-events light, a personal light. I’m not looking for any particular type of thrust or interpretation, but rather a broad range of responses to this story and this person we know as Mary. I want to encourage you to think deeply and fearlessly, and to write from your hearts.”

The volume is filled with creative, surprising, moving, modern and personal poetic responses to the Annunciation story. Illustrations are from original linocut relief prints made for this book by Beth Adams. The book is produced with a gener-



ous page size, and careful attention to materials and typography. Ten per cent of the proceeds from sales will go to refugee relief.

Elizabeth Adams writes, “As a lifelong choir singer, I’ve sung about Mary and heard her story in various forms all my life, and it has both fascinated and disturbed me. How was I, as a child of the 1960s, supposed to relate to Mary? And yet, I found myself sympathetic and curious. Since moving from the largely-Protestant United States to French-speaking Quebec, where Catholicism once exerted tremendous control over people’s lives, I’ve become a minority churchgoer in a society that has all but rejected the institution – but in a city where ‘Notre Dame’ and ‘Ville Marie’ are still everyday terms. In Mexico, where I’ve travelled in recent years, Spanish Catholicism, folkloric indigenous religion, and a long history of violence have given rise to a quite different view of Mary that I’m just beginning to grasp: it’s an extremely personal relationship where women identify closely with her suffering and her sacrifice, and both men and women turn to her daily as their

protector and benefactor. In both cultures, her image and name are everywhere.

“I’m not a mother, and don’t accept the virgin birth literally, but I keep returning to representations of the Annunciation, especially those by Flemish and Italian Renaissance painters, and they always touch me. A year ago I finally did an Annunciation print of my own, trying to delve deeper into this story. I considered doing a series, but then thought how much more fun and rewarding it would be to do a collaborative project.”

‘The enigmatic and universal figure of Mary helps us find common ground’

BETH ADAMS

Here is a note to Anglican Montreal from Elizabeth Adams.

The headline for *Annunciation* on the Phoenicia web site reads: “A beautiful book that’s more human and personal than religious, in which the enigmatic and universal figure of Mary helps us find common ground.”

My personal goal in conceiving the project was to try to do just that: to use Mary to help find common ground among people who come from different religious backgrounds, or none at all. I think I was also interested in reconciling my own conflicted feelings about Mary. For me, she’s always been a complicated figure: used by the patriarchy both inside and outside the Church to exemplify a certain ideal of female submissiveness and acceptable female role (silent, devoted, unquestioning) and yet somehow Mary retains a power and attraction that stands entirely apart from all of that, with which I can identify.

Even though we are Anglicans and don’t have the same Marian devotions as Catholics, when I try to imagine Christianity without her, I simply can’t – and I’m so grateful she’s been there, no matter how “inventive” many of our ideas, art, and writings throughout history about her may have been!

I didn’t think of Mary outside of Christianity for a long time, but

while doing interfaith work in the late 1990s I became close friends with a Muslim woman and her community, and learned how revered Mary/Miriam/Maryam is within Islam, and how strongly she figures in the Qu’ran. Our conversations about her became a meeting-ground for us, and opened my eyes to larger possibilities. For this book, I invited two Muslim poets, a Jewish rabbi/poet, and a Hindu feminist to contribute, along with several secular poets and the rest who have Christian backgrounds or are active members of Christian churches. Everyone took the project to heart, and the results moved and surprised me: each poet found a way to identify with Mary and to bring us closer to understanding why her story still resonates with us today.

It also seemed important to me to honour the spirit of the book by earmarking 10 per cent of the proceeds for refugee relief efforts. My own mother-in-law was a refugee from the Armenian genocide, and my father-in-law (a Unitarian Universalist minister and Arabic scholar) brought his young family to the United States from Syria right after World War II; my husband was born in the U.S. in 1950. So we have a personal interest in wanting to help others who are trying to start a new life, and to help build bridges of understanding instead of perpetuating fear and racism. I think Mary would approve of that!



Elizabeth Adams



Vivian Lewin

(Photo: Jonathan Sa’adah)

Barrigar urges flexibility

continued from the previous page community too.

It was time for the church in Jerusalem to enlarge its understanding of its ministry and mission.

It is the danger of every Christian community to get comfortable, slowly lose creativity, slowly lose vision, and increasingly look inward rather than outward, staying comfortable within its walls, unconcerned to venture in mission beyond its safety zone. I repeat, this is the danger of every Christian community.

Epiphany is wonderfully situated at a time in its history to get uncomfortable, to look outward, to re-examine its understanding of its mission, as the Jerusalem church had to, in order to dream big with God, with each other, and with your new priest and pastor.

You are located in an amazing area for creative ministry and mission.

All that is happening in Verdun

- with community groups to connect with;
- with the street celebrations that happen out there outside your door on Wellington Street means the opportunity for creativity in outreach, going out those doors, is so exciting.

At the same time as having to enlarge its sense of ministry and mission, the Jerusalem church went through some internal changes too.

Are there internal changes that are needed in Epiphany, through Brian’s leadership and ministry?

Let me remind all of us that the church is only ever just one generation away from extinction.

We Anglicans aren’t terribly good at responsive flexibility; it’s not part of our denominational culture.

May I encourage you to follow Brian down the road of modelling for the rest of us in the diocese the sort of “responsive flexibility” that the worship, ministry, and mission of the church needs today.

Several years ago, three congregations came together to form Epiphany. In that process you were learning about flexibility! In so doing, Epiphany has been an inspiring model to the diocese.

But that process of learning flexibility with each other was not merely for learning how to live together, important as that was – it was God’s training ground to learn flexibility for mission.

With every new rector comes a new season, and so with Brian as your priest and pastor, there is opportunity to become another sort

of model for the rest of us.

Let me conclude with these words from the book of Revelation, and as I read this remember what I said earlier, to dream big with God:

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”

What powerful imagery of God’s transforming renewal and healing and shalom.

But we are not yet in the eschaton, we are not yet in the new creation, with the New Jerusalem. Yet at least let me place this image before you – if not yet a new Jerusalem, then at least a new Verdun – a renewed, transformed Verdun through the creative and visionary ministry and mission of the Holy Spirit through you, and through those who will become part of you. You who are the Church of the Epiphany in Verdun. Amen.

Making a joyful noise



Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson brought her guitar to the Lay Readers Study Day November 21 at the Church of St. John the Baptist in Pointe Claire.

(Photo: Michel Gagnon)

Youth notes

Leaders in children's ministry to share their passion and wisdom

Symposium 'to imagine the possibilities and to share our wildest dreams'

Leaders in children's ministry in the Diocese of Montreal have been invited to a symposium this month to share their passion and potential, share wisdom and create dialogue.

The recently appointed MTL Youth Project Co-ordinator, Lee-Ann Matthews, says, "Children's Ministry in the Diocese of Montreal is teeming with potential. As MTL Youth

Project Co-ordinator, I have the privilege of meeting many passionate and gifted leaders who are committed to implementing inspiring and diverse children's ministry initiatives.

"The MTL Youth team has created an opportunity for leaders to share their wisdom and create a meaningful interactive dialogue on the topic of Children's Ministry."

The children's ministry symposium on Saturday, January 23, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at Fulford Hall, 1444 Union Avenue on the

second floor, will be called "Let the Little Children come to Me."

"We are encouraging both seasoned and novice leaders to take part in this conversation and to imagine the possibilities and to share our wildest dreams on how we can each Let the Little Children come to Jesus in our contexts.

She promises a "dynamic series of presentations and workshops.

"Participants will gain valuable insights from other leaders, through hands-on experiences and personal

reflection. Be prepared for expansion, growth and empowerment!"

Participants are asked to register at the Synod office or at mtlyouth@montreal.anglican.ca by January 16. Lunch will be provided and a \$10 charitable donation is suggested.

Youth ministry begins in Beaconsfield

This past fall has seen youth ministry start up at Christ Church Beaufort-

Beaufort under the guidance of parishioner Angelina Leggo, who brings a wealth of experience from her church involvements in the Gaspé, and who has had training and guidance through MTL Youth and the "Change Ahead" program. The "CCB Squad" meets every other Friday evening at Christ Church, 455 Church St., Beaconsfield. All interested youth 13-18 are welcome. For further info contact Angelina Leggo at 514-697-2204 or by email at angelina.leggo@gmail.com.

Got the blahs in N.D.G.? Try a bootcamp

Thanks to a diocesan G.U.M grant, and under the direction of Lee-Ann Matthews, St. Thomas Church in N.D.G. has been implementing some experimental new programming for children, youth and families in addition to the existing Sunday morning F.A.S.t Group.

This has been a very successful initiative offered in six-week increments, from a Friday movie night for teens, to a Saturday morning bible study and crafts for school-aged children. These programs have allowed for the unchurched to explore their spirituality for the first time, and as a result, some have joined the St. Thomas Sunday School (F.A.S.t). The programs were conceived and are being implemented from a place of creativity, responsiveness and versatility, in order to most

effectively minister to the needs of the surrounding community.

Currently, there is an invigorating after-school Friday fitness series called Kids Spirit Bootcamp, 4:30-6:30 p.m. until February 12. These classes are back by popular demand after having run successfully through the 2014-15 school year. This is now a family-friendly offering, where kids and their grownups of all ages are welcome to participate in a series of fun, healthy, heart-pumping, spiritually oriented games, drills, exercises, prayer and yoga followed by a light meal, conversation and community building.

Non-perishable food donations for the St. Thomas pantry are gratefully accepted.

If you are in need of a little boost in energy and want a remedy for the winter "blahs" then join in the

F.A.S.t Kids Spirit bootcamp and yoga for a dose of health and vitality

for your body, mind and spirit!
Contact Lee-Ann Matthews for

information: lmattews@montreal.anglican.ca or 514 953-4060



Busy youth group raises \$450 for 'Veg Out' campaign of PWRDF



The F.A.S.t youth group at St. Thomas Church in the N.D.G. district of Montreal held a soup lunch fundraiser and were able to send \$405 to support the "Veg Out" initiative of the food-security program of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund.

Youth carry crosses at Rosemont All Saints service



At another parish with a lively youth group, young parishioners carried crosses during the recessional hymn at the end of an All Saints Day Jazz mass at "St. CHL" in the Rosemont district. The photo shows two of the three processional crosses which come from three of the predecessor parishes: St. Cuthbert's, St. Hilda's, and St. Luke's.

Women invited to spend year in ‘God’s rhythm’

By STUART MANN

The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine is inviting young women to spend a year living in “God’s rhythm.”

The Sisters are inviting up to 10 women, age 22 to 40, to live with them at St. John’s Convent in Toronto, where they will experience the Benedictine life of prayer, study, recreation and service to others.

“It’s an opportunity to take a year off to deepen their spiritual lives, their walk with God,” says the Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, one of the organizers.

The initiative, called “Spend a Year Living in God’s Rhythm: Companions on the Way,” will begin next September. The women will live in the convent’s guest house and take part in the Sisters’ daily life, which includes four worship services a day.

In addition to daily devotions, the women will spend part of each day in study, either at the convent or at Wycliffe College, where they will attend classes on a wide variety of subjects, including contemplative prayer, the monastic tradition and the missional church.

Sister Constance Joanna is hoping that the initiative will raise up a new group of leaders in the church, women who are grounded in monas-

tic values and practices and equipped to bring the Gospel to a rapidly changing society.

“We feel this program answers a need that is expressed by young people in our church – how to be more grounded in their spiritual life and also to develop skills that will be useful in pioneering ministries that they may be involved in.”

Part of each week will be devoted to serving others in the wider community, possibly at a FaithWorks ministry or St. John’s Rehab Hospital. The women will also help out at the convent, assisting the Sisters with their ministry of hospitality and with basic housekeeping duties.

Each woman will meet with a spiritual mentor once a month and also with the Sisters on a regular basis, to discuss how things are going. They will have four weeks off for vacation and another week for a retreat. Their room, board and daily expenses will be paid for by the sisterhood. Mondays will be a day off.

Sister Constance Joanna says one of the most important aspects of the year is to help the women discern where God is calling them. “We want to help them find where their joy, gifts and passion meet a need in the world, as Frederick Buechner would say,” she says.

Molly Finlay, an associate member of the sisterhood and one of the organizers of the program, said the year is ideal for young women who are searching for “authentic spirituality” and have a passion for renewing the church.

“I think it’s an opportunity for women who have been searching and wondering about their vocation – wondering about why their spiritual lives feel a bit hollow,” she says. “It’s taking a time out of your usual schedule to grow in Christ and be transformed, and in turn transform the church. The church is at a crossroads. It’s not going to look the way it did. And we have an opportunity here to find some women who are hungry to follow Christ and to form them in an orthodox spirituality, and then allow them to go out and be change-agents for our church and to be missionaries to our culture.”

Ms. Finlay has been an associate of the sisterhood for several years, an experience that has changed her life. A former communications professional, she is now a divinity student at Wycliffe College. “The convent has been transformational for my life, and it has made me a much more brave and dynamic leader within my own church. It has given me an opportunity to do a real about-face



The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, Molly Finlay an associate member of the sisterhood and one of the organizers of the program, and Karen Isaacs of the Diocese of Toronto.

(Photo: Michael Hudson)

and follow Christ in a way that I could not have imagined. Life has become so much richer than it ever would have been if I hadn’t had this time of formation with the Sisters.”

Sister Constance Joanna says the initiative has generated a lot of interest in the church. She has been asked to speak about it at gatherings across Canada. “It’s very exciting,” she says.

A small committee is steering the

program. The group is made up of Sister Constance Joanna, Ms. Finlay and Karen Isaacs of the Diocese of Toronto, Barbara Jenkins, who is the registrar of Wycliffe College, and Sister Elizabeth Rolfe Thomas, the Reverend Mother of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine.

For more information about “Spend a Year Living in God’s Rhythm: Companions on the Way,” visit www.ssjdcompanions.org.

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer – Canada A Prayer from the Diocesan Representatives



As the New Year begins with hope and expectation of the many blessings to come in 2016, we call out to you Lord to be with those who are hurting and grieving the loss of their church communities. Gracious and compassionate God, we pray that you bring comfort to those who mourn and nudge them towards welcoming parishes. We confess to you Lord that we have become overly attached to beautiful buildings of worship and the steadfastness of our liturgy and music. Within the walls of these structures is the human heart where fellowship and compassion are kindled and lasting friendships are formed. It is this loss that hurts the most. Loving God, we pray that you

will be with your scattered flock as they search for new homes of worship and hospitality. We pray also for those parishes who will welcome the broken hearted. We pray for kindness, inclusiveness, and understanding in this time of transition.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**For more information on AFP-C, contact
Valerie Bennett and Stacey Neale
at valstacey@bell.net**

Spiritual Direction

Individual spiritual direction is available in this diocese. For more information or a confidential interview with one of the matchers, write to sdgroupmontreal@yahoo.ca or telephone 514-768-7807.

Notable

The Still Presence Spirituality Center

Monday Meditation Circles
for January 2016

Gatherings include sitting and walking meditation, a “heart talk,” and a guided meditation

“CULTIVATING MINDFUL ATTITUDES”

January 11, 7-8:30 pm –
Open House

An introduction to mindfulness meditation, followed by tea, snacks, and informal conversation.

January 18, 7-8:15 pm –
Mindful Curiosity

How an attitude of curiosity can help us overcome stressful thoughts and feelings.

January 25, 7-8:15 pm –
Mindful Acceptance

Acceptance does not mean resignation. It is the first step toward change.

Meditation Circles take place in the chapel of Christ Church Beaurepaire 455 Church St. (at Fieldfare), Beaconsfield, QC H9W 3S6

For more details:
514-697-2204
www.StillPresence.com

Notable

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer – Open House

Saturday, January 16
at 2:00 PM

St Mark’s Church
865 Lakeshore Drive, Dorval

Please join Valerie and Stacey for an afternoon of sharing and fellowship devoted to prayer. Come and learn about the AFP, its resources and the Alongsiders Program. The afternoon will include a prayer activity and close with evening prayer.

For more information, please email us at valstacey@bell.net or call Stacey at 514-631-9796



Thank you to all our donors
and
Happy New Year.

ANGLICAN
FOUNDATION OF CANADA

EPIPHANY
for children and the young at heart
Star of wonder...
January 3 janvier
10:00
ST-CHL
6341 de Lorimier

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
ÉGLISE DE L'ÉPIPHANIE

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
Dîner de crêpes de mardi gras

Tuesday, February 9th ~ mardi 9 fevrier
6pm

Free will offering to support PWRDF

514-769-5373
epiphany.verdun@gmail.com
www.epiphanyverdun.com
www.facebook.com/EpiphanyVerdun

4322 Wellington St.,
Verdun, QC
H4G 1W4

Notable

St. Barnabas Anglican Church
12301 Colin St., Pierrefonds
514-684-4460

'BEAT THE WINTER BLUES'

DJ Rich Jones

Dance music from the 50s to present

Tickets \$20 – (Door Prizes)

Saturday, January 23rd, 2016
7:30-Midnight – BYOB

Ticket Contacts:

514-684-8402 / 514-684-4460

Try to get your tickets early and be ready to dance in the New Year!

Spiritual Calendar

STILL PRESENCE SPIRITUALITY CENTER – MONDAY MEDITATION CIRCLES

Christ Church Beaurepaire

455 Church St. (corner Fieldfare Ave.), Beaconsfield

Mondays Jan. 11 at 8:30 p.m. (open house), Jan. 18 at 8:15 p.m. and Jan. 25 at 8:15 p.m.

For details, see the announcement on page 10 or 514-697-2204 or email christchurch@qc.aibn.com

LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME – A CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SYMPOSIUM

Diocese of Montreal

1444 Union Ave.

Sat., Jan. 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Presentations, workshops, lunch included. Sponsored by the Diocese of Montreal and Mtl Youth. To register: mtlyouth@montreal.anglican.ca. Fee: \$10 charitable donation.

PAWS & PRAY

Christ Church Beaurepaire

455 Church St., Beaconsfield

Sun., Feb. 7, 1 p.m.

Paws & Pray features a worship service of the Holy Eucharist where canine companions and their guardians are welcome. Offered in collaboration with the Companion Animal Adoption Centers of Quebec a non-profit organization dedicated to animal welfare. No January service; the next ones will be Feb. 7, March 6, April 3 and May 1, all at 1 p.m. Info 514-697-2204 or email christchurch@qc.aibn.com.

MIDWEEK EUCHARIST

Christ Church Beaurepaire

455 Church St. (corner Fieldfare Ave.), Beaconsfield

Wednesday, Feb. 10, 10 a.m.

Wednesday Worship resumes on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10 and will continue on Wednesdays during Lent. All are welcome. Info 514-697-2204 or email christchurch@qc.aibn.com.

NEW YOUTH MINISTRY INITIATIVE AT CHRIST CHURCH BEAUREPAIRE

Christ Church Beaurepaire

455 Church St., Beaconsfield

Friday evenings

Youth Ministry at Christ Church Beaurepaire under the guidance of parishioner Angelina Leggo, who has had training and guidance through MTL Youth and the "Change Ahead" program. All youth 13-18 are welcome. Info Angelina 514-697-2204 or email Angelina.leggo@gmail.com.



CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
ÉGLISE DE L'ÉPIPHANIE



Breakfast & Chatter

Good fellowship and a delicious breakfast at a reasonable price



Brasseries des Rapides
Champlain Blvd & Gagne, LaSalle

Friday, January 8th ~ vendredi 8 janvier
8:30am

514-769-5373

epiphany.verdun@gmail.com

www.epiphanyverdun.com

www.facebook.com/EpiphanyVerdun

4322 Wellington St.,
Verdun, QC
H4G 1W4

Notable

Oasis Musicale concerts at Christ Church Cathedral

Saturday afternoons at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 2

Un Collage de musique française

Jonathan Bailey, flute, Donald Pistolesi, cello and Geneviève Beaudet, piano

Works by Claude Debussy, Charles-Marie Widor, Nadia Boulanger, Louise Farrenc.

Saturday, Jan. 9

Con anima

Alissa Cheung, violin, Ruby Jin, piano

Works by Beethoven and Brahms.

Saturday, Jan. 16

Un concert au temps de Louis XIV

L'Ensemble Louis XIV: Catherine St-Arnaud, soprano and Christophe Gauthier, clavecin

French Baroque works by L-N Clérambault, M. Lambert, J-F Rebel and others.

Saturday, Jan. 23

Violin Masterpieces / Chefs-d'œuvre de Violon

Ruben Kosemyan, violin, Natalya Mnatsakanyan, piano

Works by Saint-Saens, Bazzini, Brahms, Debussy, Ravel and Gershwin.

Saturday, Jan. 30

Music for string orchestra / Musique pour orchestre à cordes

Archive Ensemble, Karl Hirzer, conductor

Works by Dvořák, Mahler and Mozart.



Single Malt Scotch 201

The chemistry of malts, illustrated with 10 samples from Speyside to Islay.

Saturday, January 16 at 7:30pm

St. Philip's Church

3400 Connaught

Tickets: \$100

(Tax Receipt for \$65)

Info: 514-481-4871 or

office@StPhilipsChurchMontreal.ca

* Limited space. No tickets at the door.



A Fundraiser for St. Philip's Church

Notable

CHRIST CHURCH BEAUREPAIRE

455 Church St. (corner Fieldfare Ave.) Beaconsfield

CONCERT SERIES 2016

"Les Concerts du Quartier"

Third Tuesday of Each Month from January to May

The outstanding "Duo Ventapane" comprised of violinist Mana Sharaishi and pianist Martin Karlicek are the featured artists for the January concert in the Les Concerts du Quartier series at Christ Church Beaurepaire.

Tuesday, January 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy some truly great music-making by these enormously talented musicians. Not to be missed.

Tickets (\$20), including the wonderful Après Concert, available by calling the church office 514 697-2204, Earl Wilson 514 486-9338 or at the door. Mini-Season Passes for any three concerts of the series also available for \$50. The Series offers you an opportunity to hear a wide range of music from top Quebec, Canadian, and International artists and ensembles.

"Vivre la Musique!"

Upcoming Concerts

February 16 – Les plus belles chansons de film – I. Metwalli & E. de Rosa

March 15 – Dave Gossage

April 19 – Roland Arnalasson / Elias-Axel Pettersson (violin / piano)

May 17 – Erin Berggrer, Zhou Fang, Earl Wilson

www.christchurchbeaurepaire.com or www.facebook.com/CCBconcerts for more information, photos and videos from previous concerts.

ANGLICAN
FOUNDATION OF CANADA

What will the next theme be?

We will be drawing back the curtain in March to reveal the theme for the Request for Proposals process.

The Anglican Foundation of Canada is once again giving five \$10,000 grants in 2016 for projects to be launched in 2017.

2014 • Youth Leadership Development

2015 • Inter-faith collaboration

Keep watching!



www.anglicanfoundation.org



Around the parishes

Verdun parish remembers the fallen



The Church of the Epiphany in Verdun, through two of the parishes to which it traces its origins, has a strong history of parishioners serving our country in combat.

At the start of World War II in 1939, there were two Anglican parishes in Verdun: St. Clement's, by far the largest Anglican parish in Quebec, with a congregation of 1,432 families totalling 4,564 persons, and St. John the Divine with a parish register of about 3,350 people. Both parishes had among the highest percentages of parishioners serving in the military in Canada and perhaps the Commonwealth at least throughout Canada with St. Clement's yielding 640 enlistees and St. John the Divine 418 – adding up to just under 13 per cent of the two parishes' populations.

On Sunday, Nov. 8, a Service of Remembrance started with children laying the wreaths and then presenting poppies to some of the congregants. After prayers by the Rev. Brian Perron and the children, trumpeter Sylvain Lapointe played *The Last Post* followed by a moment of silence. Piper Brian MacKenzie played a lament and Lapointe concluded with *Reveille*. The congregation recited the poem and the service concluded with the singing of *O Canada*.

Christmas stockings all wrapped up



For more than 17 years, hard-working, caring folk at Christ Church Beau-repaire have been cutting out and sewing Christmas stockings and then getting together to stuff the stockings with toothbrushes and toothpaste, cosmetics, scented soap, socks and coffee mugs, jewellery and scarves. These are destined for pregnant women and mothers-to-be helped by the wonderful work of the Montreal Diet Dispensary. The dispensary provides nutrition and moral support to 2,000 women in need, annually, during their pregnancy and the first months after their baby is born. In the photo, Sandy and Ian Temple stuff the trunk of their car with some of the 56 stockings given this year.

Mug shot of "Odd Mugs"



A group of eight east-end Montreal clergy from several denominations met over a meal of home-made soup in the late fall to exchange personal stories and began to look at how they can share and support one another in their ministries. The new group calls itself Odd Mugs – after a sign on a cupboard door at Trinity United, one of the churches. They hoped to meet again in January and in the meantime to co-operate in worship and a Christmas project at a Catholic church. Read Sherman, pastor of Trinity United, made the soup and took the picture. The others, from left, are Yves Joseph (La Nativité, Anglican), Ihor Kutash (St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox), Ros Macgregor (St. CHL, Anglican), Paul Pomkoski and René Gagnon (St. Brendan's Roman Catholic), Richard Bonetto (Eglise Presbytérienne St-Luc), and Joe Reed (Maisonneuve Presbyterian).

Noël concert draws 100 in 18th year in Beau-repaire

A fabulous "Noël" Concert was offered at Christ Church Beau-repaire Saturday, Nov. 28, by the Kirkland Concert Band and the West Island Sing-Along choir. It was the 18th year for this event. A crowd of over 100 enjoyed music ranging from traditional Christmas fare to Christmas Rock & Roll, "Scarborough Fair" and Gustav Holst. A share of the proceeds went to the Christ Church Christmas Baskets Program.

London cathedral needs \$500,000 in 'urgent' repairs

The priceless stained-glass windows of London, Ontario's historic St. Paul's Cathedral are at risk until money can be raised for \$500,000 of repairs, cathedral officials say.

"A couple of months ago we received word that immediate repairs to the North wall of the Cathedral must be done to ensure the structural integrity and safety of the building," Paul Grambo, the cathedral's communications director, announced in an online post October 1. "Our best guesstimates at this time indicate that we may be looking at a price tag approaching \$500,000 before all is said and done" to repair the damage, he said.

While looking into water leaks inside the cathedral, officials discovered long-term water damage to masonry under the building's eaves and "substantial" damage to at least one roof truss. If the damage is not repaired, the cathedral's walls will be under more pressure. This, in turn, will put at risk four stained-glass windows, the work of 19th-century American artist Louis Tiffany, two of which were signed by the artist himself. The water leaks have already damaged inside gold-leaf scrolling and plaster work.

The cathedral already has \$100,000 available to start the repairs, and is applying to the diocese and other sources for additional funding, but it is also urgently appealing for private donations, Grambo said.

The cathedral was built in 1845 in the Gothic style, and features, among other historically significant elements, gargoyles carved from stone from the same quarry used for the building of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, England.

Huron Church News

In Powell River, B.C., rotting stump transformed into powerful memorial

A wood-carving project funded by the Anglican Church in British Columbia has turned into what some are calling a powerful memorial to victims of the Indian residential school system.

On October 20, a work by Ivan Rosypsky, a wood carver from the Heiltsuk First Nation, was unveiled before a gathering of some 150 people at Sycamore Commons Permaculture Garden, on the grounds of St. David and St. Paul Anglican Church in Powell River, B.C. The work was a carving made into the remains of a 12-metre-high cypress tree. The garden project has been funded by the diocese of New Westminster for the last two years.

Potluck supports "Fred says"



St. James Church in Rosemere held its annual Pre Christmas Potluck Supper on Saturday, Nov. 28 with a little twist. In keeping with the spirit of giving, in place of a gift exchange everyone was asked \$5 donation to Veg Out program. Enough was collected to buy bags of seed for people in Tanzania. Lillian Bonneville sent along a collage of the event.