

# The Montréal Lay Reader

## Le prédicateur montréalais

The newsletter for lay readers of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal

Le bulletin des prédicateurs laïcs du diocèse anglican de Montréal



MARCH 2013 MARS

### A Letter from Co-President, Linden Rogers



#### Giving Myself Space to be Another Person

Dear Lay Readers

I'm here in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia living at a B&B, enjoying the salt air, the clanging of ships' gear in the harbour and the beautiful architecture of this town.

At home in Montreal, I live in the same building as my two daughters and their families, and am one of those lucky people who sees my grandchildren almost daily. I also have a son and his wife, and a grandson, Connor, living just outside Lunenburg, so I am seeing them regularly while living here, and that is great, too.

So it's partly family that brings me here, but I also have been feeling the last few months that in being a grandma (and Mom), on such a regular basis, I was beginning to wonder if I had 'got lost' somewhere. So part of the reason for being here is to give myself some space to explore, and to discover who I might be becoming.

Well, after five weeks here, the answer is surprising – quite simply, I am becoming

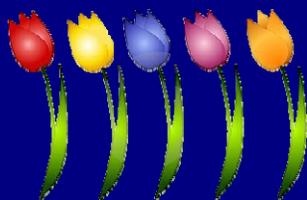
more myself! It reminds me of a wonderful children's story, "The Beeman of Orn". In the town of Orn, there was a man who looked after his bees and supplied the town with honey. He went on an adventure and saved the life of a princess. His reward was a magic wish – and he wished to start his life over again and be a different person. On the next page, he is a baby again, and then on the final page, there he is in his glory – the Beeman of Orn! He chose his life again – that is how I feel now.

But I've also had a chance to do some reading which is, in fact, making a difference. The book *Uncommon Gratitude: Alleluia for All That Is*, by Rowan Williams and Joan Chittister (Liturgical Press, 2010), has given me the opportunity to think more clearly about where I am to be 'growing in Christ'. Rowan Williams describes, in his chapter, "Sinners", how our sinfulness can be something to be grateful for, even to sing 'Alleluia' for. People who recognize themselves as sinners are taking the first steps to honesty; they are becoming 'good' sinners, people whose honesty and humility allows them to be 'real', live in the real world, not in the delusional, which is truly satanic on the personal and cultural levels. Williams cites as an example of cultural delusional thinking the belief that the way of life of Western nations is sustainable. On the personal level I don't need Rowan Williams or anyone to list my foibles.

So I must conclude that being away from home for a while has made a difference: it has given me the opportunity to reflect more deeply on the unrealities that I

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## Giving Myself Space to be Another Person

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choose not to let go. And I am learning to be intentionally grateful for, even sing 'Alleluia' for my human life including all its issues, and for Christ in my life to guide me. But this is not really a departure, nor is it making me a different person. It is bringing me closer to my centre in Christ.

*Linden Rogers*

*Co-President, Lay Readers' Association*



The Rev'd Professor Patricia Kirkpatrick and the Rev'd Canon Tim Smart, Pastor of Lay Readers

## A Message from The Rev. Canon Tim Smart

### An Education that Continues

Lay Readers are examples to their church communities of people who are serious about their journey in faith and their study of the Christian tradition.

When was the last time you helped to organize a study group in your parish?

When did you last attend a Lay Reader workshop or read a theological book or attend a seminar that would challenge you to think and grow? When have you spent time to nurture the faith that is within you and grow in Christian maturity?

There are so many conferences, workshops, retreats, books, study groups available to us these days, there really is no excuse not to be involved in some of those activities which help us in our Christian growth.

Lay Readers are encouraged and expected to be involved in some kind of continuing education. There are even annual bursaries available to help offset the cost of more expensive programs of study, like EFM – Education for Ministry.

Sermon preparation is enhanced when we are actively involved in our own personal study. Our conversations with people inside and outside of church are more interesting because our own learning and curiosity have become enlivened.

Being a Lay Reader is so much more than simply officiating at Morning Prayer and delivering a sermon that neither challenges nor offends. A Lay Reader needs to be fully alive in order to touch the lives of others. We need to love God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength.

We need to be stimulated in order to stimulate the lives of those we minister amongst. So during this check-up season we call Lent, ask yourself, "What am I doing to further my knowledge of the Christian faith and deepen my faith? And where can I go to be fed and grow the faith that within me?"

I am hoping to see many of you at our upcoming Lay Reader workshops and at the Retreat from May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Tim Smart**



Beverly Sanborn, Parish of Brome and Valerie Bennett, Parish of Greenfield Park

**Annual General Meeting and Dinner  
Wednesday, May 22, 2013**

6:00 pm

Trinity Memorial Church  
5220 Sherbrooke St. West  
Montreal

Mark your calendars now for this time of fellowship, dinner and our annual business meeting.

6:00 pm Gathering and Registration

6:30 pm Dinner (\$10 for a delicious dinner cooked by the team of Trinity Memorial Church)

7:30 pm. Business Meeting (Annual Reports and Elections)

8:30 pm. Closing Prayer and Dismissal

Please bring your thoughts and ideas for our year ahead!

**We look forward to seeing you all at this important meeting!**



**2013 Lay Reader Study Day and Commissioning Service  
Saturday, November 16, 2013**

9:00 am until 4:00 pm

Church of St. John the Baptist  
233 ave Ste.-Claire  
Pointe Claire



Our Teacher and Facilitator this year will be our own Bishop Barry Clarke!

Bishop Barry will have much to share with us following this summer's Joint Assembly, a gathering of close to 1000 Lutherans and Anglicans together in Ottawa, July 3-7, 2013.

We are entering a new stage in the life of the church, a time of extraordinary hope in God's Call to us. A time of new understandings of God's call to mission.

A fee of \$30 will cover all refreshment breaks, lunch and materials. The catering team of the Church of St. John the Baptist will again provide their delicious food and generous hospitality.

Commissioning Service and Evening Prayer with Bishop Barry Clarke will take place at 4:00 pm, followed by a reception for all family and friends.

## A Lesson in Understanding

When I was a kid, my Mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my Mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed!

All my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my Mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that ugly burned biscuit. He ate every bite of that thing...never made a face nor uttered a word about it!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my Mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said, "Honey, I love burned biscuits every now and then."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Mom put in a hard day at work today and she's really tired. And besides--a little burned biscuit never hurt anyone!"

As I've grown older, I've thought about that many times. Life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. But what I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults and choosing to celebrate each other's differences is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.

If we could all take the good, the bad, and the ugly parts of our lives and lay them at the feet of God, He will teach us that He is the only One who will be able to give us relationships in which a burnt biscuit isn't a deal-breaker! Understanding is the basis of every relationship in our lives.

Be kinder than necessary because everyone we meet is fighting some kind of battle.

**Connie Middleton-Hope**

## Let's Go on a Blue Scarf Hunt!



We have new Lay Readers in Training. They will each need a blue scarf.

At this time we are very short of scarves, so we are asking for your help.

Recently I discovered a Lay Reader scarf on a hanger in a cupboard in our church vestry. I realized it had belonged to a retired Lay Reader. I returned it to the Bishop's Office.

Do you know someone who no longer serves as a Lay Reader, but who may be holding on to their scarf?

Might there be a blue scarf in your church cupboard, left by a Lay Reader who has moved away or has died?

If you do uncover an unused scarf, please email Tim Smart, our pastor of Lay Readers, [tsmart@montreal.anglican.ca](mailto:tsmart@montreal.anglican.ca). We will be glad to pay a visit to pick up this very precious item, now in such short supply.

Thank you all so much for your help.



## Anne Claude Geoffrion: Facing the Unknown

Last November, at the Study Day, Anne Claude spoke about her plans to visit Afghanistan to do humanitarian work with some friends there. Her Afghan friends arrived in Canada and the family lived in Anne Claude's basement until it was safe for them to return home. Their home in Kabul and in Jalalabad was without electricity for several months.

Safi, his wife Safia, a son, and Anne Claude are waiting to hear that conditions are safe, but plan to leave Canada in time to be in Afghanistan for the Afghan New Year on March 21st. This is a very important celebration in that country.

Anne Claude plans to work alongside her friends, helping refugees, through the Spring and Summer months. This is usually a very pleasant time of year. Her bags are all packed. Safia has made her a shalwar kameez, a loose tunic top and baggy pants, a very comfortable costume, worn with a light head scarf. Anne Claude promises to send us photos and to stay in touch as she journeys into an entirely new stage of her life.

## REFLECTIONS

### A Season or a Reason

One of the things that I have always enjoyed about living in this part of Canada is the changing of the seasons. Although winter can be harsh, and, I must admit that the older I get the less attractive that period of ice and snow becomes, it has its purpose; it allows nature to rest up for its spring debut. Anxiously, I look forward to that time when the days grow longer and the first buds start to burst forth on the Maple trees. Summer, with its long, lazy days and short nights, is cherished for its brevity. Fall, bringing a kaleidoscope of colors, is a season that most people relish because its Mother Nature's last hurrah before winter's return and the cycle once again repeats itself.

Every season has a reason. Reflecting on this, I thought of the many seasons of my life; birth, infant, toddler, child, teenager, young adult and adult. Realizing that during a lifetime we take on different roles at different times; daughter (son), sibling, friend, classmate, cousin, student, sweetheart, spouse, parent and grandparent. There are a lot of things that I cannot remember. I do not recall my birth or my toddlerhood, but I can remember certain episodes of my childhood especially with the help of family photos. Teenage years... now that is easier! Who can forget the adventures of high school and all the things that went with it; some were fun, some times were frightening but it was all part of the process. As a young adult everything seemed possible and the sky was the limit. As far as being a wife, mother and grandparent, I am still enjoying and growing in those roles on a daily basis. And the seasons continue.

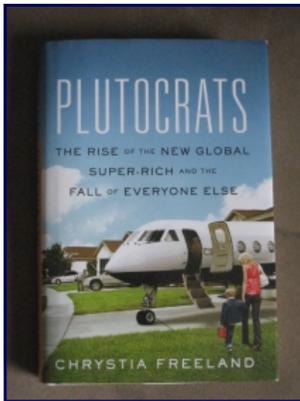
Looking back on some of those seasons, and remembering some of the events that changed my life, good and bad, happy and sad, I realize that all those life experiences have made me the person that I am today. Things happen for a reason and sometimes the reason is that we have something to learn from them. Growth and change are not always easy. I believe that God will never give me more than I can handle, but when it seems that the load is too heavy I know that He is carrying me. With His promised help, I look forward to the seasons my life will experience in the years ahead.

**Geraldine Frances Kavanagh**

## Challenging Reads from Ian Sinclair

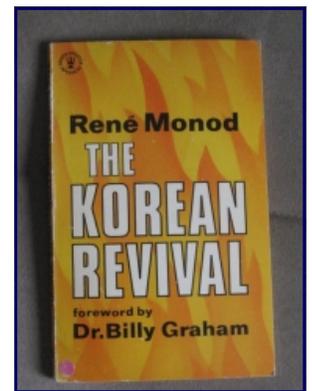
**Plutocrats: The rise of the new global super-rich and the fall of everyone else.** Chrystia Freeland. Doubleday Canada. Toronto: 2012.

**The Korean Revival.** René Monod. Hodder and Stoughton. London: 1969.



I recently read two books on groups with single-minded purpose. The first was on Plutocrats – “ultra-high net worth” individuals, according to one Swiss bank. These aren’t the 1%, but the 0.001% or less – the very wealthiest of us, the ones who are rapidly pulling ahead of the rest of humanity in their accumulation of riches. Most members of this select group built their empires from next to nothing. It is thus a true meritocracy, peopled by audacious individuals who cross continents and oceans at the drop of a hat to attend 90-minute meetings to seal the next deal. In many ways, the economics of the world depend on them, and on their constant drive to build new industries that compete in a global marketplace. In other ways, it is pitting Western workers against their counterparts in the developing world, an upheaval with consequences for people the world over.

The second book was on the state of the church in Korea in 1966. I had heard of the church in Seoul with half a million members, spread among 20,000 cell groups. As I will be going to Korea myself to attend a conference, I thought, “What a marvellous Christian community to witness”. This short book describes how it began with a tense situation in 1906, when the Americans had sanctioned Japanese occupation of Korea. This was difficult for the Presbyterian church; they called prayer meetings that were regularly held for over a year. At one such meeting in Pyongyang, a tide began to sweep through the thousand people present. They began to pray at once, confessing their sins to God and to one another. The movement spread over the next few weeks until it brought a reawakening of faith to all of Korea. Former enemies made peace with one another; stolen money and goods were returned. This went on throughout the Japanese occupation, which ended in 1945, whereupon Korea was split into North and South. Many fled the oppressive regime of the north to find freedom in the south.



The author, René Monod, arrived in Korea shortly after the Korean War. He was invited to speak at one of the prayer meetings, at 5 am on a cold and rainy morning. He expected a few attendees in a room, but found 3,000 people who met for an hour of free prayer and singing, then heard a word from the preacher. “Keep it short”, Monod was advised. “Not more than an hour. These people have to go to work at 7 am”. He was flabbergasted. It was midweek. “Why don’t they meet on Sunday instead?” he asked. “We meet every morning like this”, was the answer.

In time, he confirmed that they did indeed meet every morning. How much these people of faith could teach him! They not only sang and rejoiced, and confessed their sins daily, they also prayed for the sick and witnessed miracles of healing. Strength returned to withered limbs, health was restored – all without fanfare, but with quiet acceptance and thanksgiving.

The two books were on two movements – one an economic revolution that is turning the world on its head, the other a movement of the Spirit to stabilize and bless people in troubling circumstances. Where the economic changes will end up, we don’t know – we are in the midst of them, with economic winners and losers on every continent. Where that movement of the Spirit is in Korea, I also don’t know – but I’m looking forward to finding out!

**Spring Retreat at Manoir d'Youville, Chateauguy  
Friday, May 3 to Sunday, May 5, 2013**

Speaker: The Right Reverend Mark MacDonald  
National Anglican Indigenous Bishop



Bishop Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop  
Credit: Michael Hudson for General Synod Communications

The Right Reverend Mark MacDonald assumed the office of the Anglican Church of Canada's first National Indigenous Bishop in 1997. He moved to Canada with his wife, Virginia, and his three children: daughters Rose May Li ( now 21 years old), Brenna Li ( now 19 years old) and one son, Adrian Blake ( now 12 years old). Bishop Mark had been serving in the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska.

Bishop Mark has had a long and varied ministry, working with many churches and various First Nations. He is an author who has written a number of books on Native American Youth Ministries, and has contributed to a wide number of publications focusing on Mission Today, and Growing a New Future for the Church in Canada.

Mark is a musician who loves to play his guitar and sing. He is a marvelous teacher with a contagious sense of humour, and a deep understanding of the gospel story.

We will be so blessed to have Mark with us at this year's retreat, May 3-5, 2013.



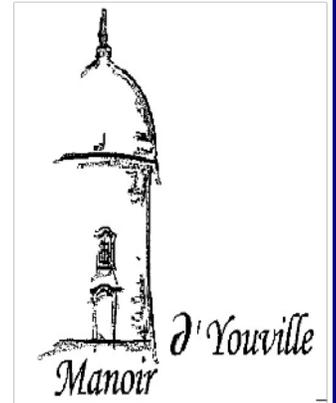
**RETREAT SCHEDULE**

<b>Friday, May 4, 2013</b>	<b>Saturday, May 5, 2013</b>	<b>Sunday, May 6, 2013</b>
<p><b>5:00 pm Supper</b></p> <p><b>7:00 pm Introductions &amp; opening thoughts (speaker)</b></p> <p><b>8:30 pm Night Prayers</b></p>	<p><b>7:30 am Breakfast</b></p> <p><b>9:00 am Morning Prayer</b></p> <p><b>9:30 am First Address</b></p> <p><b>10:15 am Group Discussion</b></p> <p><b>11:55 am Mid-day Prayer</b></p> <p><b>12:00 pm Lunch</b></p> <p><b>Free time until 3:30 pm</b></p> <p><b>3:30 pm Second Address</b></p> <p><b>4:15 pm Group Discussion</b></p> <p><b>5:00 pm Supper</b></p> <p><b>7:00 pm Third Address &amp; Night Prayers</b></p> <p><b>8:00 pm Social Time</b></p>	<p><b>7:30 am Breakfast</b></p> <p><b>9:00 am Community Gathers</b></p> <p><b>10:00 am Holy Eucharist</b></p> <p><b>12:00 pm Lunch, followed by departure</b></p>

# Spring Retreat at Manoir d'Youville, Chateauguay

Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Speaker:**  
**The Right Reverend**  
**Mark MacDonald**  
National Anglican Indigenous Bishop  
**Topic: Gospel-based Discipleship**



**Rooms still available at the time of this publication:**

**We have 2 single rooms remaining, with bathroom (\$265)**

**There are 10 available single rooms, with bathroom close by (\$200)**

Members with mobility difficulties and medical concerns will be given priority for single rooms with bathrooms and close proximity to elevator.

Registration will remain open until the first week of April if rooms are still available.

**Registrar: Susan Winn:**

**For questions and information:**

[swinn2006@sympatico.ca](mailto:swinn2006@sympatico.ca)

**514-457-0736**

**Please mail registration forms, and cheques to:**  
**Lay Readers' Association**  
c/o Sue Winn  
680 Victoria Drive,  
Baie D'Urfe, QC H9X 2K2

**Lay Readers are encouraged to approach their church leadership for financial assistance. Some assistance from our Bursary Fund may also be possible.**

**Please do not hesitate to call to discuss payment options.**

