

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



OCTOBER 2013 OCTOBRE

Study Day and Commissioning Service with Bishop Barry Clarke

Saturday, November 16th, 2013

The Church of St. John the Baptist

233 ave. Ste. Claire

Pointe Claire

Spirituality and Discipleship

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A Message from Bishop Barry Clarke



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

I am looking forward to spending the day with you on Saturday, November 16th, 2013. The general theme for the day is from the passage of Scripture of Paul, writing his letter to the Colossians.

"To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ." Colossians 1: 27-29

I intend to emphasize the phrase "...which is Christ in you". The objective of this day will focus upon our spirituality and discipleship... "so that we may present everyone mature in Christ".

Thank you for your ministry within your communities, parish and diocese. Also, thank you for your prayers and support for me while I was on Sabbath leave.

Blessings to each of you in Christ.

+Barry

Please register TODAY by completing the form on Page 9 of this newsletter.

Send your form and a cheque for \$35 to:

Susan Winn

680 Victoria Drive,

Baie D'Urfe, QC H9X 2K2

By pre-registering you enable us to plan for food and materials. You help us to avoid the long wait to register on the day itself.

Parish Corporations are requested to support their Lay Readers with this cost.



A Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

As I write this, summer is dawdling, not yet ready to leave, and fall has been unavoidably delayed.

I like fall. It is a season of changes, of new possibilities and new beginnings, so much more so than January. If the government can change the date that daylight saving time ends, perhaps they ought to consider moving New Year's Day to sometime in September.

This time of year brings to mind Rainer Maria Rilke's poem, Autumn Day (you can check out various translations at <http://www.thebeckoning.com/poetry/rilke/rilke4.html>).

I love the poem (or at least the first two verses) although it reads like badly written intercessions – prayers that sound like the writer or pray-er is telling God how to proceed, although in this case, telling God what to do, poetically:

***Lord: it is time. The summer was magnificent.
Lay your long shadows on the sundials,
And let the winds go free on the meadows.***

***Command the last of fruits to fullness,
Give them two more southern days,
Urge them to completion and so speed
The latest sweetness into heavy wine.***

I, too, am ready for crisp days and cool nights, but summer is dragging its feet and fall is not yet knocking at the door, insisting on getting in (at least, not in Montreal).

It is an in-between time, past all the activities of summer, past the back-to-school rush, Thanksgiving has just passed and it is miles from Advent.

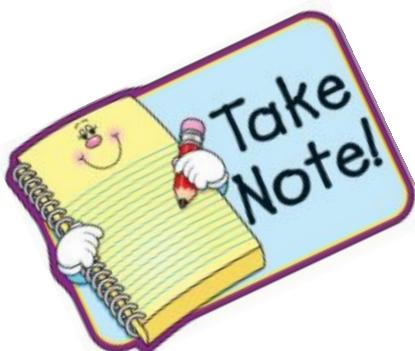
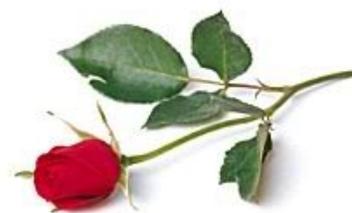
It is a time to take a deep breath, to admire the last of the summer roses, so that we can say, "Lord, it is time. Here I am."

Tania Lesack

President, Lay Readers' Association



Incoming president Tania offers thanks to Sue Winn, outgoing president at the Annual General Meeting on May 22nd, 2013



Dates to Remember

Lay Readers' Retreat	May 4 to 6, 2014
Annual General Meeting	May 21, 2014

A Message from The Rev. Canon Tim Smart



Quiet Please

Our Anglican services are full of words. Whether it is the service of Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer, Anglicans seemed convinced that the more words the better. God must really like to hear us talk.

I don't think I could be a Quaker. That's way too much silence for me. I like our hymn singing. I look forward to hearing the different bible readings each Sunday and the challenges they present to the preacher and the congregation. I love to hear the old, old story of our salvation history described in the various Eucharistic Prayers. But you know what? Sometimes a little silence would be nice too!

Being silent does something to us, that a continuous stream of words cannot do. Silence can open us up and make us receptive to the mystery that is all around us and within us. Too many words can be too much of a good thing drowning out the still small voice. So when do we as leaders of worship allow people to catch their breath and sit in silence?

The BAS invites us to be quiet after one or more of the bible readings. Try that out. We can also introduce periods of silence into the Prayers of the People (after all, we have always said that prayer isn't just about us talking to God). We may also want to allow a time of silence just before our general confession. Give everyone a little time to think over what it is they would like to confess even if it makes us feel a little uncomfortable.

Next time you lead a service, deliberately plan for times of silence. After that, at your next service, make the silence a little longer. It takes time for people to get used to the idea that worship doesn't need to be an uninterrupted stream of religious words. And once they discover the beauty of silence and the way it draws us closer to God and to each other, they'll be glad for the gift.

We need to learn how to be silent in worship, so that we can be silent and attentive to God within us, and within those who we meet throughout our week.

"We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass- grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls." (Mother Teresa)

Tim Smart

Make time for silence



The Christian Practice of Hospitality



“CHRISTIAN PRACTICES are not activities we do to make something spiritual happen in our lives. Nor are they duties we undertake to be obedient to God. Rather, they are patterns of communal action that create openings in our lives where the grace, mercy and presence of God may be made known to us. They are the places where the power of God is experienced.”

A quote from CRAIG DYKSTRA a Presbyterian Minister and Research Professor of Practical Theology and Senior Fellow at Leadership Education at Duke University.

Having moved three times in the past eight years, I am very aware of the stresses and strains that moving creates. Adjusting to the loss of familiar friends and community takes its toll, but connecting with a Church community has been the saving grace and stability I sought to establish while in transition.

Choosing a Church to attend requires time, patience, and soul searching. THERE IS NO PERFECT CHURCH! In each location, I looked at several attributes Size of church, both in its physical and numerical sense, its Website, Statement of Faith, Style of Worship, and of Music, Programs offered, Sermon delivery, commitment of its Pastor to leading in Worship through Prayer and Praise and its practice of HOSPITALITY, to name a few.

As you can imagine, I visited churches where no one in the congregation spoke with me, and other churches where everyone knew my name before the service started. The Churches I chose to attend (or who chose me as a part of their family) also were the congregations who not only affirmed me as a human being but recognized the “gifts” I brought from being a Lay Reader and my desire to be a full participant in their journey.

Hospitality is an important Christian practice in this time of change and in the midst of a culture infatuated with what is new. We live in a culture that is very confused about what people need. Unfortunately, the political climate in the Province at this time does not seem to be leaning towards reasonable accommodation of religious practices and modes of attire in public workplaces.

As I write this, September 15th to 22nd is National Welcoming Week in the United States. It is a pity that it only lasts for a week as Christian practices are things we Christians do together over time to address fundamental human needs in the light of and in response to God’s grace to all creation.

I am “Big” on Hospitality and feel that an organization which relies on attendance to survive, must engage in activities that facilitate the integration of newcomers. We must continue our collective effort to create a place where individuals feel valued and needed. Our Churches and groups must provide the capacity to meet their needs, promote inclusion and the machinery in place to support these capacities.

The Churches I attended in the Eastern Townships and the Diocese of Ottawa truly are welcoming communities. They are culturally diverse and actively seek to engage their members in building a vision of the future.

I was privileged to worship with them and to participate in ministering to the various community groups they serve. After all, Christian Practices are forms of doing, of embodying a specific kind of wisdom about what it means to be human under God, even if one could not readily articulate this wisdom in words. It makes us think about our beliefs and who we truly are as created children of God.

Reflection on the Christian practice of Hospitality provides a way of exploring the relationship between spirituality and social justice. We live out our deepest convictions about who we are from those with whom we share our lives and in response to God’s grace.

The Christian Practice of Hospitality

I shall end with a quote from ANA MARIA PINEDA who says, "To welcome the stranger is to acknowledge him/her as a human being made in God's image; it is to treat him/her as one of equal worth with ourselves - indeed, as one who may teach us something out of the richness of experiences different from our own."

Blessings to you all. I am happy to be back and look forward to seeing you all at the Study Day and Commissioning in November.

Yvonne Wakeland

REFLECTIONS

Isn't it amazing how our thought processes work? I was looking out our dining room window recently when my gaze lingered on the maple tree on our front lawn. What a pretty picture it made! Its leaves had begun to turn to gold, but had not yet started to fall from the tree. Majestically it glowed in its autumn splendour. My eyes focused on the golden leaves that I knew would soon begin their descent to earth. One thought led to another. I imagined that first leaf swirling to the ground, and then...another and another until the tree would be bare and the ground covered by Nature's discarded bounty. I imagined gathering those leaves, then the first snowfall, the first day of winter, the shovelling, and finally my musings brought me to Christmas. It always fascinates me how far my imagination will go when my mind is relaxed.

My perceptions of this wonderful holiday of Christmas have certainly changed over the years! As a child, I was taught that we were celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. Of course, in school the spiritual aspect and its importance to Christians was taught with the help of picture books and nativity scenes. I remember that sense of awe and wonder that always followed these lessons---that our wonderful God had done something so special, for me. Like most people, I also got caught up in the commercialism of the holidays, Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, Santa Claus, tree decorating and most of all, presents. For many years these aspects took precedence over the real meaning of Christmas.

As I grew older Christmas was about having fun with my family and friends. I continued to attend midnight Mass, because that too was part of my tradition. My faith was strong. Becoming an adult, getting married and starting a family again changed Christmas celebrations for I took on the many roles of a caring mother as I prepared food, decorations and gifts for my growing family. One thing was very important to me, that my children would know whose birthday we were celebrating. They had to know the reason for the season! So, after decorating the Christmas tree we would put together the manger and I would tell my children all about that very special baby who was born such a long time ago in a stable, with only His and Mom and Dad and a few animals to keep Him warm. We would go to the Children's Mass on Christmas Eve to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Looking back, I realize that during my journey, although I still had faith, I had lost the "awe that I had experienced as a child.

I was once told that if you lose something, the best way to find it is to retrace your steps, and in a way, that is what I did. My husband and I have been blessed with three wonderful children, and six beautiful grandchildren. With them, I have, once again been able to live the wonders of Christmas through the eyes of a child. Last Christmas I sat with them, and assembled the manger pieces spread out before us, I picked up each piece and explained its role in this wonderful story. Looking at the faces of my grandchildren and my own grown children, I felt my heart swelling. That feeling that I had experienced so long ago, sitting on the floor in a classroom as the teacher told me the Christmas story returned and I recognized it: Peace, Family, Love. I had found my "awe! "

Geraldine Frances Kavanagh

What the Future Holds

"I don't know what the future holds, but I know the One who holds my future."

These words came to me in a recent message from a friend who learned she has a very aggressive form of cancer. She is a woman of strong faith who is loved by so many she has helped over her lifetime. She has a devoted family, and grandchildren she loves to watch growing into adulthood. She has so much life in her and will pursue treatment in the hope of prolonging her years to enjoy her family and friends. She holds strongly to this statement that she knows the One who holds her future.

Eric and I visited Norway this last May and we sent photos to our friend each day, even as she awaited results of tests and doctors' visits. One day our ship traveled through the narrow channels of the Trollfjord, a narrow passage between the Vesteralen and Lofoten Islands. The captain navigated the ship (25 meters wide) through the narrow channel of the fjord, (60 meters wide). We were surrounded by steep-sided mountains, 600 to 1100 meters high, as we headed along a channel that curved and wound through unexpected turns. I sat in the bow of the ship as we headed towards a wall of rock and I could not guess whether we would be turning to starboard or to port. I trusted that the captain knew what lay ahead.

It seemed to me that this side trip was a metaphor of our journey through life. Just as I needed to trust the ship's captain, we need to trust that God knows His plans for us.

Our friend traveled through Norway vicariously with us. She enjoyed the waterfalls, the small grass-roofed dwellings, the wildflowers and the journeys through the fjords. She blessed us with her faith and joy in all we were experiencing, thanks to the wonders of technology. She was teaching us to hold on to each moment.

I will always carry her words in my heart as we continue to walk with her towards all that God has in store for her in the year ahead.

We pray for her healing. There is so much comfort knowing that she trusts in the One who knows her future.

Susan Winn

The Lay Readers of the Diocese of Quebec have invited us to join them for their annual Lay Reader Day
Ste. Georges Church in Lennoxville, QC.
Saturday, November 9, 2013

The Plan for the Day

9:30 - 10:15 am	Holy Communion - St. George's Church, Lennoxville The Ven. Bruce Myers, Chaplain of Lay Readers <i>Light refreshments in the Church Hall</i>
10:30 - 12:00 pm	The 1st Session: Bishop Dennis Drainville
12:00 - 1:00 pm	<i>Lunch served on site</i>
1:15 - 2:45 pm	The 2nd Session: Bishop Dennis Drainville
3:00 pm	Evening Prayer: St. George's Church

Safe journey home!

For further information, or possible transportation to this event, please contact Glen Marcotte
glen.marcotte@videotron.ca
 Cell: 438-390-2180

Spring Retreat at Manoir d'Youville, Chateauguay May 2 - 4, 2014

Speaker: The Rev. Dan Hines

Topic: Worship: Building Circles of Trust



The Rev. Dan Hines

Many Lay Readers will remember Dan from our 2011 Study Day. He replaced Bishop Barbara Andrews at the last minute when the bishop was ill. Dan demonstrated his skills in team building and in leadership training. He received the gift of a crozier from the Diocese of Montreal, handcrafted by a Quebec artisan for the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior, and he carried it home to Bishop Barbara.

Last July, our delegates to General Synod spent time with Dan in Ottawa. It occurred to some of us that if Dan were able to lead our Spring Retreat, he could incorporate music into his talks and this is something Lay Readers have been asking for.

Dan Hines is a Ministry Developer and priest in the Anglican Churches of the Central Interior of British Columbia. He enjoys innovation, collaboration, and the ongoing experimentation with new and ancient forms of Liturgy, Music and Technology. He is frequently called upon as a speaker and teacher, and led a week of study at the Sorrento Center last summer. Plan to be with us, and if you own a guitar, please bring it with you!

Pre-Registration for the 2014 Spring Retreat

Forms will be available on Study Day for those who plan to make a down payment.

All payments must be made before the end of March (unless special arrangements are made with the registrar, Sue Winn)

Costs for 2014 (2 nights, 6 meals and taxes included):

- Single room without bathroom, \$200 (25 available)
- Shared room with two single beds, with bathroom, \$175 (five rooms available)
- Single room with bathroom, \$265, (14 rooms available)

Members with mobility difficulties and medical concerns will be given priority for rooms with bathrooms.

For questions and information:

Sue Winn

swinn2006@sympatico.ca or 514-457-0736

Lay Readers' Retreat - May 3 - 5, 2013



Study Day & Commissioning Service

Saturday, November 16, 2013

**Church of St. John the Baptist
233 Ste. Claire Road, Pointe Claire**

Bus route on Cartier Avenue

#201, #211 (stops just before corner of Ste. Claire)

Drivers take Hwy 20 to Cartier Ave; on Cartier, turn left at Ste. Claire for two blocks

Parking behind the church.

Order of the day:

8:30 am Registration

9:00 am Opening Worship

9:15 am Welcome and Introductions

9:30 am First Session and Small Groups

10:30 am *Refreshment Break*

11:00 am Second Session and Small Groups

12:00 pm *Lunch*

1:00 pm Third Session and Group Work

3:00 pm Refreshments and Robing for Evening Prayer

4:00 pm Evening Prayer and Commissioning

5:00 pm Bishop's Reception for All, including family and friends

Registration for Study Day with Bishop Barry Clarke

Please complete and return with a cheque for \$35 (includes refreshments and lunch and workshop materials)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Receipt requested: YES NOT NECESSARY

Please mail registration form and cheque payable to LAY READERS' ASSOCIATION to:

**Susan Winn
680 Victoria Drive,
Baie D'Urfe, QC H9X 2K2**

We're on the Web!
www.layreaders.org