

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 2014

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OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER:

Learning from our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Speaker: Archdeacon Sidney Black

This year, on our Study day, we will welcome the Venerable Sidney Black, archdeacon for the indigenous parishes in the Diocese of Calgary. Sidney Black is also the co-chair of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples. He is a devout Christian, a man of humility and wisdom, and one of the founding leaders at the Sacred Circles.

The theme of the day will focus on our Journey with Indigenous Anglicans, and the recent developments within our church: the consecration of Indigenous bishops, a new diocese in northern Ontario, and the Truth and Reconciliation national



Archdeacon Sidney Black with
The Rev.
Georgina Neshinapaise

events. Sidney has been a vital member of the Council of General Synod for a number of years. He has been instrumental in building understanding between the indigenous

churches and the non-indigenous churches, facilitating worship for all people. We will be blessed by his teaching and his presence with us.

A fee of \$35 will cover all refreshment breaks, a hot lunch and materials for the day.

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

Please see the last page of the newsletter for registration information.



2014 Lay Reader Study day and Commissioning Service

Saturday, November 22nd, 2014

9:00 am until 4:00 pm

Church of St. John the Baptist

233 ave Ste. Claire

Pointe Claire

Please see last page for more information



We are all on journeys towards new learnings, insights and experiences. Wally Lamb wrote, *"The seeker embarks on a journey to find what he wants, and discovers along the way, what he needs."* It is hoped that this newsletter will be helpful to you in your journey as a Lay Reader.

IN AND FOR THE WORLD

The Rev. Tim Smart

I am just returning from our Clergy Conference at the Manoir d'Youville in Chateauguay. "In and For The World" was the theme and Michael Thompson, General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Canada engaged us in a conversation about the Church in the 21st century. How did we get here and where are we journeying now?

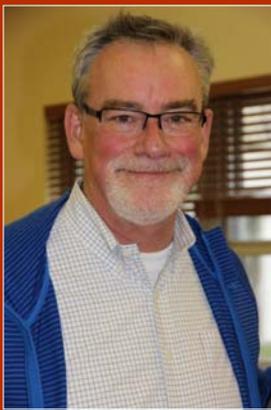
There is reluctance among some folks to leave behind the nostalgia of an earlier age with memories of a full church that was at the center of many people's lives. Some of our current efforts in the church may appear like attempts to turn back the clock to our imagined better days. However, the Church of today cannot pretend that it's living in the 1950's or 60's. We know that a tidal wave of social change has washed over the church since then and left us feeling like we're on the sidelines of our communities.

It takes a while to grieve what has been lost, but Michael told us that many churches across Canada are moving beyond the grieving stage and are now trying out new and creative ways of being church in the world.

The first shift that has occurred is our idea of Mission. We used to think it was our job to bring people into the church – that God wanted full churches. Now we talk about God having a mission in the world, to which we join in. Notice the difference in focus. In the old idea of mission, we imagined God's mission was to fill the church. In the new understanding of mission, God is active out there in the world, calling all people (not just Christians) to justice and reconciliation and we, as Church, are invited to join in that mission.

Churches today that are outwardly focused are healthier, livelier and more interesting places to be. They have a reason for being alive and for giving life to others beyond their walls. Michael reminded us that the five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church are there to send us outwards into the World.

We follow Christ out into the world because that is where the kingdom comes - on earth - and not just inside the church building. We follow his example of caring for the poor, the vulnerable, the unlikeable, and the stranger, because in caring for them, we find mutual healing. We give our lives away in order to find them. And in doing this we are being church, which is different from having a church building.



MICHAEL
THOMPSON

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Mission is a way of life. It's not a new program or a way to become busy. Our mission is given to us in our baptism. To go and participate in the building of the kingdom of God by journeying with all those who have rejected the call of becoming a good consumer and chosen instead to become a child of God. We journey with all those who want to save the planet over against those who would continue to abuse it. And we journey with all people who are trying to cross religious and ethnic boundaries in order to build up the family of God. This is the mission

REFLECTIONS ON MAY 2014 RETREAT

"The Journey Toward an Undivided Life" was the theme of the Lay Readers Annual Retreat in May 2014. The Rev. Dan Hines from Kamloops, B.C., who serves as a ministry developer and priest in the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior, is also an experienced facilitator in leading Circle of Trust experiences under the mentorship of Parker J. Palmer. During the retreat the lay readers were invited into a learning process that involved slowing down, listening and reflecting in a quiet, focused space. They also explored the intersection of stories of human experience with their own personal stories.

Two lay readers, Ann Cumyn and Ian Sinclair have contributed reflections on the teaching in this weekend retreat.

AN INVITATION FROM THE LAY READERS OF THE DIOCESE OF QUÉBEC

"The Church Visitor" is the theme of a Conference Day to be hosted at St. George's Anglican Church, 84 Queen Street, in Lennoxville, Quebec, on Saturday, October 25th, 2014.

The leaders for the day will be the Venerable Garth Bulmer, and the Reverend Edwin Stretch. With years of experience these two priests will help the Lay Readers to hone their skills and develop new approaches to reaching visitors to our churches.

The day will begin with Holy Communion at 9:30 am.

10:30 to Noon - First Session

Noon to 1:00 pm - Lunch will be provided by the ACW.

1:15 to 2:45 pm - Second Session

3:00 pm - Evening Prayer

We are asked to notify Sherry Knox, synodoffice@quebec.anglican.ca if we plan to attend.

ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER CANADA

Valerie Bennett and Stacey Neale



As Diocesan Representatives of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer – Canada, it is our responsibility to raise awareness about important prayer resources. We are very grateful for the publicity afforded us in the May 2014 issue of the Montreal Anglican and the opportunity to offer monthly prayers for Diocesan wide activities through this newspaper. Now we must widen our efforts to reach out to individuals across the Diocese who are interested in learning more about what AFP-C has to offer.

The main purpose of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer is to promote and enable the practice of Christian prayer by all. This organization takes an inclusive approach to the ministry of prayer and aims to make it a central part of Christian life. AFP-C has many resources to help individuals and congregations grow in all forms of expressions from private prayer to starting prayer chains and offering healing services.

One of our goals is to reach out to Lay Readers to see where they might play a role in broadening prayer in the corporate life of the church. Workshops and videos are available to assist Lay Readers in this role.

Another goal is to introduce the **Alongsidiers** program throughout the Diocese. This initiative is designed to encourage and engage shut-ins and those who feel cut off from their church in the prayer life of their parishes and the church as a whole. **Alongsidiers** are people who pray for the Pastor, for the congregation, for the Sunday School Teachers, and for spiritual growth in the church as a whole. AFP-C has created **Alongsider Kits** full of helpful information on prayer as a support for others. We hope that the Lay Readers will take an interest in the **Alongsidiers Program** and offer kits to interested people they meet, especially while working in seniors' residences. The kits are \$4.00 each and can be purchased through Valerie and Stacey.

In time we would like to see some parish representatives join us in spreading the message about AFP-C and the wonders of prayer.

THE LAY READERS' ASSOCIATION OFFERS BURSARIES

Every active Lay Reader who participates in courses of ongoing religious studies is entitled to \$100 per year to assist with the cost of their study. Students who register for EFM (Education for Ministry) programs may receive \$150 per year. Please send a request to our treasurer, Ann Cumyn, acumyn@sympatico.ca

THOUGHTS ON DAN HINE'S WORKSHOP FOR LAY READERS 2-4 MAY 2014

Ian Sinclair

If the retreat had a motif for me, it was "art" – the art of poetry, music and photography, of lateral thinking and inward searching. It was a time of reflecting in silence – on a wood carver finding a sculpture hidden in a tree, of a thread tying together the disparate parts of our lives. It was discovering the art of leaving others free to explore within themselves, finding connections to God, to others and to themselves. We could ask each other "open questions" about their feelings, leading them into deeper introspection, but no "closed questions" with defined answers – "Did you think he was lying"?

For me, the weekend was as much about music as poetry and introspection. Playing the guitar with Dan was a real pleasure – it was my first experience playing a blues number, the "Lay Reader Blues"! Even better was having a song of praise to sing, to direct my heart to God in free-flowing chords – simple songs, expressive songs, poetry set to music.

In silence now, we looked at 200 images spread about the floor – runners, children at play, views of the setting sun and mountain peaks. What would appeal to me? Where does my life lie? Someone chose an ice-encrusted ship, another, a balanced rock, and still another an older and a younger man in conversation. I chose two images – one to represent my solitary self, the other to show my place in a group. My solitary self was contemplating a mechanical contraption, books piled up on the table and tools arranged in a rack on the wall. The more social self was in a group of people in an early photograph, pensively staring at the camera, with an equation on a blackboard to one side. Was it an equation of life and a mechanism of the spirit? Like poetry and music, it can only point to some aspect of God or myself that I have yet to discover. This journey could take a lifetime! It was good to spend a weekend thinking about it.



Ian Sinclair and Dan Hines

REPORT FROM LAY READERS' RETREAT 2014

Ann Cumyn

It is amazing what a couple of days can do! We began as a group of about 40 people knowing each another with varying degrees of familiarity. (There were some whose names I could only recall with the aid of name tags!) We ended sharing innermost thoughts and the influence of God in our lives, demonstrating without exception complete trust in one another.

Dan Hines led us through a series of exercises designed to help us know ourselves. In the process we learned skills that enabled us to interact with our neighbour. We sat in a circle and were able to look at the Bible at the centre or, looking up, experience the reactions of others. We rejoiced together as we learned new songs of praise and revisited old ones. When we read there was no leader; but people spoke the words, taking turns as moved by the spirit. There were few pauses as the flow of speech led us through each author's thoughts. With the aid of poems and stories we shared our thoughts within our circle. We were taken through the landmarks that had moulded our lives and the thread has linked our experiences as we have travelled through time. With encouragement, we shared our lives in more detail with one or two others.

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REPORT FROM LAY READERS' RETREAT 2014

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Our farewell to each other was another sharing. Photos were placed around the room and we were asked to select one that spoke to us. Then we each shared our thoughts that were kindled though reflecting on the picture we had selected.

This final sharing allowed me to learn the inner strengths of my fellow lay readers. I was humbled by seeing the Spirit working through each one and felt privileged to belong such a group.



BLUE SCARVES A SYMBOL OF THE LAY READER'S OFFICE

These blue scarves are given to Lay Readers who are awarded a three-year license by the Bishop. The scarves remain the property of the Bishop's Office, and must be returned when a Lay Reader ceases to serve in the Diocese of Montreal.

Lay Readers are requested to let our pastor, Tim Smart, know when a scarf is no longer needed or in use. As new lay readers are licensed, these precious blue scarves are in short supply. If anyone knows of a family of a lay reader who is no longer able to serve, perhaps a gentle request, or reminder, would facilitate the return of this important item.

REFLECTIONS ON A JOURNEY: THEN AND NOW

Geraldine Frances Kavanagh

My father, Karl William, and I shared a special father-daughter bond. Dad worked for many years for the CNR. As a youth during the great depression he rode the rails in freight cars in search of work; the results of his travels included employment as a lumberjack, short order cook and stevedore, to name a few. As a child, I spent many happy hours listening to Dad re-live his adventures, and a dream was born; I knew that someday I would take a train trip across Canada. On December 8, 2010, I was involved in a car accident resulting in my using a wheelchair for distances. My dream never died; it just changed a little.

Tuesday, May 27, 2014 Today two dreams were realized: mine-to go out West by train and my husband, Alfred's, to come back by car (we had already sent our car out to Vancouver by train). We travelled from Montreal to Toronto by Via Rail, and then transferred to the Canadian One for our five day trip to Vancouver. Although we had private accommodations, neither the room nor the train was adapted for someone in a wheelchair, so I had to depend on Alfred and my cane to get around. In spite of the difficulties, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The meals were excellent, the staff very courteous and helpful, and our fellow travellers friendly.

Thanks to the Scenic Car, we were able to truly appreciate our beautiful, diverse country; from the majestic forests of Northern Ontario, the seemingly endless-sky flat lands of Saskatchewan to the breath-taking snow topped Rockies. Although I had seen pictures of the Rocky Mountains, nothing had prepared me for that initial encounter.

After spending four days in Vancouver sightseeing and visiting Stanley Park and the aquarium, we boarded the ferry heading over to Vancouver Island and spent the rest of the day seeing Victoria, Nanaimo and the other small villages there. The Island impressed me with its quaint small town feel and very English atmosphere. After a return ferry trip, we made our way home; a journey that was to take nine days and cover 5,900 kilometres.

My electric wheel chair and my husband made this trip possible. A major disappointment was the hotels; not one of the hotels or motels that we stayed in was adequately adapted for a person with limited mobility. Some offered shower benches, but not all. At one point we had to purchase a small cooler that I could sit on to shower, and even this I couldn't do alone. But nothing could take away from the wonderful feeling of having a dream realized.

Would I do it again? One of things that has come out of this trip is a thirst to see more of our country and we are hoping to return to Manitoba next year; and, after that, who knows---it's a big land out there, with many things to see and even more people to meet! By train? Unless present conditions are improved, I don't think so! But, I did it Dad, I did it!

September 1, 2014



**Jay Jay at Lake Louise
June 6, 2014**

Reflections on Alaska and the Far Northwest

*This summer's holiday took
the Alaska Highway and on
we were privileged to see God's
human-kind. Ann Cumyn*



*us from Vancouver along
to Kenai and Nome. We
creation unsullied by*



*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*



Each little flower
that opens



Each little bird
that sings



He made the tufted puffin
The eagles on their wings.



Denali's snow clad mountain



A river running by



The black bear and the grizzly



The little humble fly.

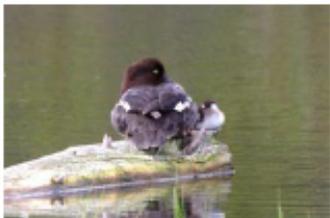


The lakes that lie in valleys



The moose and caribou

The ducks and grebes with babies



He made the squirrel too.



The black spruce on the hillside
The dogwood on the ground



The harebell on the tundra
The many scenes around



He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.



**SPRING RETREAT AT MANOIR D'YOUVILLE
ILE ST. BERNARD, CHATEAUGUAY
FRIDAY, MAY 1 (5 PM) TO SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2015
AFTER LUNCH**

Speaker and Retreat Leader:

The Reverend Professor Patricia G. Kirkpatrick

Topic: The Beginnings of Judaism and the Emergence of Christianity:
Some implications for Inter Faith Studies/Dialogue in the 21st Century

Montreal Lay Readers have been privileged to attend a number of Saturday workshops over several years conducted by Dr. Kirkpatrick. She has been appreciated for her excellent teaching and her delightful sense of humour. Now we are invited to spend a weekend with Patricia, learning from her and identifying questions we have about Christianity's relationship to Judaism. In her talks Patricia will offer an historical overview, with illustrations in selected biblical passages.



**The Reverend Professor
Patricia G. Kirkpatrick**

Pre-Registration for the 2015 Spring Retreat

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

Total payments must be made before the end of March 2015 (unless special arrangements are made with the registrar, Sue Winn).

Costs for 2015:

The Good News is that the room charges will remain the same as last year!

Single room without bathroom, \$200 (25 available)

Shared room with two single beds, with bathroom, \$175 (five rooms available)

Single room with bathroom, \$265, (16 rooms available)

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

For questions and information: swinn2006@sympatico.ca or 514-457-0736

Patricia G. Kirkpatrick

Chair, Biblical Studies Area at McGill University

Graduate Program Director, Faculty of Religious Studies

Professor Kirkpatrick has spent the past 25 years teaching both in the academy and the Anglican Church here in Montreal and abroad. She has contributed to the educational formation of those pursuing academic careers in Old Testament / Hebrew Bible and those entering the ordained ministry of the Christian Church. She has pursued her research and teaching interests with an eye on both the academy and the ecclesial communities as she was asked to serve on a number of national and international theological commissions.

**STUDY DAY AND COMMISSIONING SERVICE 2014
NOVEMBER 22, 2014**

**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 Highway 20 to Cartier Avenue

On Cartier, turn left at Ste. Claire for two blocks; parking behind the church

Order of the Day

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Opening Worship
- 9:15 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:30 First session and small groups
- 10:30 REFRESHMENT BREAK
- 11:00 Second session and small groups
- 12:00 LUNCH
- 1:00 Third session and group work
- 3:00 Refreshments and robing for Evening Prayer
- 4:00 Evening Prayer and Commissioning**
- 5:00 Bishop's Reception for All, including family and friends**

Registration for Study Day with Archdeacon Sidney Black

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

Make cheque payable to **LAY READERS' ASSOCIATION**

Mail to: Susan Winn, 680 Victoria Drive, Baie D'Urfé, QC H9X 2K2

Name _____ (PLEASE PRINT)

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cheque enclosed: Yes

Receipt requested: Yes Not necessary