



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 2015

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Spring Cleaning	2
2015 Annual General Meeting	3
My Vocation	3
Joys & Challenges of Rural Ministry	4
Life Changing Decisions	7
Winter Reflections	9
2015 Study Day & Commissioning Service	10
2015 Spring Retreat Agenda	11
2015 Spring Retreat Registration Form	12

SPRING RETREAT AT MANOIR D'YOUVILLE

Ile St. Bernard, Chateaugay

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

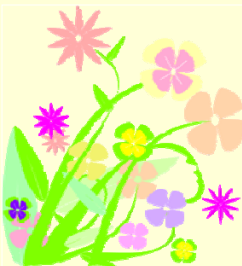
Montreal Lay Readers have been privileged to attend a number of Saturday workshops over several years conducted by Dr. Kirkpatrick. She has been appreciated for her excellent teaching and her delightful sense of humour. Now we are invited to spend a weekend with Patricia, learning from her and identifying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

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.



Please see last page for registration form.

**The Rev. Tim Smart and
The Reverend Professor Patricia G. Kirkpatrick**



SPRING CLEANING

The Rev. Tim Smart

Every once in a while we go through a room in our house and do a good spring cleaning, even if it's not spring. We box up books to give away, send usable stuff to garage sales, dump recyclables into the recycling bin. We feel better and lighter for accomplishing this downsizing and reorganizing of our lives.

Lent is a time for spring cleaning. Prayer and fasting, reading and meditating on the word of God and even listening to the helpful (though often unsought) advice from your spouse and kids goes a long way to self-cleansing – admitting to the parts of our lives which are superfluous or harmful, and chucking them out the door.

Some cleansing we take on voluntarily, as in house cleaning, or the self-cleansing of Lent. But sometimes the need to change arrives forcibly on our doorstep and we have no choice but to face some difficult times ahead.

It happens when our addictions get the better of us, or when our bad habits harm us or others; or when someone we love dies or a relationship ends. Our world is turned upside down and we have to deal with the upheaval and begin to construct a new world.

Jesus cleansing of the Temple was an in-your-face confrontation with the way things were done. By overturning the tables and throwing out the money changers Jesus announced the arrival of a new kingdom.

But the arrival of that kingdom meant that some things would be torn down in order that something new could be raised up.

We've become so attached to our way of doing things – at home, at church, at work - that we tend to resist any suggestion that there's a better way, a different way. We resent the messenger. Sometimes we crucify him.

The Church in Canada has been rudely awakened to the reality of vacant pews, falling finances, and general disinterest in organized religion. We all feel sad and nostalgic for the "olden days" and all the things that have gone by.

But another way to spin this is to see this not as failure and decline, but as a healthy cleansing that is needed in our churches in order to rid our communities of practices and behaviors that are no longer life-giving.

What if the Lord is doing this for the good of the Church?

What is the Spirit saying to the Church, through this time of cleansing? And what is being called forth from the dust and the ashes? A new body? "Let your church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying."

LAY READERS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2015

5:30 PM

Church of St. James the Apostle

1439 Ste. Catherine St. West

Montreal

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

- 5:30 pm Gathering and Registration
- 6:15 pm Dinner (\$10 for a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Juliet Komboni)
- 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!

MY VOCATION

Jane Bell

God's calling to us in various ways throughout our lifetime is little short of miraculous. I am very aware that my walk in God's direction has been steady and slow. As a cradle Anglican, I have always found myself engaged in Church activities in one way or another.

A major shift and commitment in my life came when God called me to be a Lay Reader. Never had I pictured myself leading a congregation in a service, or preparing a sermon to present to a congregation. Although I felt ill-prepared, as if I was jumping in, in January 2007 I preached to my congregation as my priest sat by and listened. To my utter amazement, I really loved being in this leadership role. The next week I prepared another sermon and led Morning Prayer in a different church, as one of my parish's official Lay Readers. At this time, I was called to study EFM (education for ministry). Every week, I made the trip from my home in the Laurentians to Dorval, where I really enjoyed this four year program. The program began with a study of the Old Testament, went on to the New Testament, Church History, and modern trends in the Church.

At the end of this course, I realized that God was opening my heart to go on to further study. EFM had only whetted my appetite, and God was telling me that this was just the beginning. I then decided to head toward the Montreal Diocesan Theological College. At this time, I was a caregiver to my partner who needed a great deal of attention. The Bishop and I decided that the Reading and Tutorial course would be the most appropriate way for me to study at home. With various responsibilities in my life, I read the first course material but did not progress to the writing of any papers. My husband passed away in 2011. After several months of praying, I felt that God was calling me to attend the Diocesan College and McGill University.

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Jane Bell

MY VOCATION

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Miraculously, I was accepted at my age of sixty three years old to study part time as a student at McGill, with my affiliation being the Anglican Diocesan College. Being a student has been a major shift in my life style, but I thank God, in all humility, every day, for giving me such a great blessing. I am probably as old or older than most of my Professors, and of the parents of most of my fellow students. But, I feel very accepted and I am continuously amazed at the incredible ideas with which the Professors and my fellow students present and challenge me.

Our journeys with God need to be shared. My vocation is a miracle and I thank God continuously for it.

THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF RURAL MINISTRY

Carol Johnson, with input from Judith Hooker

Where is Huntingdon? Where is Ormstown?

These are the questions we are so often asked.

The Eastern Townships? The Laurentians? Near Lachute? No, none of the above! The area of Huntingdon and Ormstown is southwest of Montreal, part of the Montérégie Sud Ouest, in the Chateauguay Valley, and south of the St. Lawrence River, across the bridge from Valleyfield.

Rural ministry becomes a lifestyle that matches no other. We love life in a small community, and we don't miss the traffic, noise and busyness of the city despite the fact that both of us were "city girls".

Judy grew up in Montreal West but has spent the past 46 years of married life with Milton in Ormstown. They have a beautiful old farmhouse outside of Ormstown, with a very long driveway leading from the road up to the house. The birds that we can see from her windows are amazing! It's truly a bird lover's delight.

I have lived fulltime in the area since 1999 when I retired from work as a school principal on the West Island. Before retiring, this is where Bill and I spent summers, Christmas holidays, and any school holidays. Our home is on Lake St. Francis and we actually live in St-Anicet, a small town about half an hour outside Huntingdon. We have a "resident heron" who regularly presides over our dock.

THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF RURAL MINISTRY

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Our parish is Huntingdon - Ormstown and is made up of two small churches:

St. John's, Huntingdon and St. James, Ormstown. There had been two other churches within our parish: Christ Church, Franklin, which was deconsecrated about ten years ago, and St. Paul's Church, Herdman, which still opens for 2 services each year and is now attached to St. John's. St. Paul's services are held in the summer and early fall since the church has no electricity nor plumbing!

Our rural ministry may have some drawbacks, such as the distance from Montreal where most events and activities are held, but it has some wonderful benefits. We smell the apple blossoms in the spring and observe the pastoral settings in the fields when we are held up behind a tractor on the country roads. We feel God's presence in our community, and in the beauty around us.

For reasons of financial constraint and diminishing congregations, Judy's home church, St. James in Ormstown, has recently decided to open for only for 1 service each month from May through October. St. John's continues to sustain itself well with services every Sunday as well as special feast days. There are many fund raisers and the congregation, while far from young, and small in number, has a wonderful, positive spirit. A few of the St. James congregation now attend St. John's, and Judy and I both serve as Lay Readers at St. John's.

St. John's is part of a strong Ecumenical Committee in Huntingdon, with each of the four local churches (Catholic, United, Presbyterian and Anglican) having representation. Four ecumenical services / events are held each year: The Good Friday Walk of the Cross, an Easter Sunrise Service, Labour Day Service and lunch, and Armistice Day at the elementary school.

We have been very fortunate over the years to have had great teachers in our clergy.

From the beginning in 2005, Archdeacon David Stanway arranged for our training as Lay Readers with Canon Jan Dijkman to be carried out in our parish, with both priests leading various topics in the course. At that time, with a retiring priest and no certainty about the type or frequency of ministry for the future, there was a great need to have people in place.

Then, during a 2-year period of Interim Ministry, Archdeacon Gordon Guy met regularly with us for scheduling of services and within those forums so much learning took place.

For the past 7 years, Archdeacon Brian Evans has carried on that same role with us...meeting regularly for scheduling and teaching. How fortunate we have been over the past 10 years to have worked with priests who have provided guidance and so many opportunities to practice and improve.

Judy and I lead the Service of Morning Prayer on the 4th Sunday of each month.

As well, we have conducted a number of Funerals and Burials and assisted at Baptisms.

Weather conditions on our country roads have caused the occasional cancellation of services but that is rare. We are a hardy people in the country and, with the exception of days with freezing rain or fierce blowing snow, we carry on. Judy and I have experienced last minute calls to take a service if our priests have been ill and even to cover special services.

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Last February, the Baden Powell Service was held at St. John's on a day that I was scheduled to lead the service. Archdeacon Evans was preaching elsewhere on that day. What a wonderful day it was! Our little church was bursting at the seams with young people from the Scout and Guide Movements as well as their families and parishioners. From preparing bulletins, to meeting with the leaders to plan the day, to delivering the homily, all became the role of the Lay Reader. I loved every moment of it, especially having all those exuberant young people join us... or we actually joined them.

Things move at a slower, more relaxed pace in the country but commitment to the community, friends and church are strong. Small groups with common interests thrive...knitting groups, book clubs, and Meals on Wheels. The men prepare a Community breakfast on the first Sunday of the month.

Every year in the month of May, we celebrate Rogation Sunday by having a part of the service held in each of the three churches. We begin at St. James, Ormstown, then carry on the St. Paul's, Herdman, and end at St. John's, Huntingdon, where we celebrate Holy Communion, followed by lunch. We call this our "travelling road show," where everyone follows in their cars from one locale to the next, stopping along the way for our Priest to bless the fields.

The apple blossoms are at their prime and the Bishop has occasionally joined us on this special day.

Rural ministry has a flavour of its own. We always lose a couple of members of our congregation during haying season as they work in the fields. Summer is a slow season, as it probably is everywhere. Cottages, family visits and vacations all contribute to smaller congregations. We feel God is always among us, accepting our humble offerings, encouraging our weaknesses and rejoicing in our strengths.

Our challenges do exist by virtue of the high degree of time and work that we put into our many roles, the distance from large centres of activity, and the winter road conditions, but all these factors are outweighed by the joy and satisfaction we derive from serving God in this way and in this place.

Thanks be to God.

Carol Johnson

(with much input from Judy Hooker)



Judy Hooker, Rev. Brian Evans, Bishop Barry Clarke, Carol Johnson

LIFE-CHANGING DECISIONS

Shirley Newell

Sue Winn asked me to write something on this topic as she has observed me moving in new and interesting directions in my life.

My Aunt Fanny, from Kewanee, Illinois, used to say to us, "Life is a number of choices."

Recently, at our Bible Study, our priest, Joyce Sanchez said, "The serpent really challenged Adam saying, I dare you to eat the apple! Adam made a choice!"

For me, life-changing decisions began within the family, listening to the "still small voice."

Of course you would not agree that I had done that when I threw a dish of tomatoes at my father in a moment of anger and frustration.

Listening to the "still small voice", fortunately, despite failures along the way, I have made a few good decisions!

In 1944 I went to Fenwick in the Niagara Region of Ontario to work on a farm. There I worked outdoors all day and I learned to work with all kinds of people. The owner of a market garden, his sons and daughter, worked along with us, "farmerettes". Mr. Crysler had been a German immigrant. He became a successful man with a beautiful home and a well-equipped farm. I had been taught that my goal in life should be to enter the professional world, but I saw that this was not necessarily so. I was so lucky to be doing exactly what I wanted to do.

When I went to university I really learned to think about my decisions. I started out doing all the things I wanted to do...besides attending class, fraternities, the Follies, Theater and the Debating Society. I almost failed my third year when I did not finish the required assignments.

In my fourth year I met a group of young people who were going to change the world. They were idealistic and they were Christians. They believed that change began with changing ourselves. They started each day with a quiet time, reading scripture and listening for the Holy Spirit as they planned their day. I began to get my essays in on time. I kept my room tidy. This may sound mundane but it was a training ground for making sound, life-changing decisions.

Fast Forward: I married, had six children, lived with my husband and family in Worcester, Massachusetts. When my twin boys were teenagers, about to enter high school, I knew I needed to have these competitive young men placed in separate high schools. I was a stranger in a foreign land, intimidated by the school system, but I listened to the "still small voice" and knew in my heart it would be a good thing for both boys. I obeyed, and it was a good, life-changing decision for them and for me.

Another life-changing decision was applying to do some public relations writing at Anna Maria College in Paxton, Mass. This was my first job outside the home in twenty-five years and I learned confidence and discernment, a valuable introduction to the business world.

Because I enjoyed sales I wrote an exam to become a real estate agent. I enjoyed the people and the houses, but not the under-the-table practices that frequently took place. It was time for another change.



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My husband died of cancer and heart failure. I remembered a professor who told me of his experience teaching in China during the year of the Tianamen Square incident. China had always fascinated me. I took a course in teaching English as a second language, and spoke to my bishop. He gave me the name of a person in charge of sending teachers to China. My new adventure began in New York for a period of preparation, then I was on a plane headed to Shanghai.

My children were grown and they encouraged me in this life-changing decision. Without a doubt I was led by the Holy Spirit. I spent my first year at an agricultural institute outside the old capital, Nanjing, training mature students who needed English to discover western methods for improving silk worm production, and sweet potatoes, rice, apples and canola oil. There were no politics here, just people who wanted to do a better job. My students were delightful!

As a Volunteer in Mission I understood that I was there to teach English, and not to proselytize. I hoped by my behaviour to demonstrate the democratic and spiritual values of my country, Canada. I was one of Eighty-four teachers sponsored by the World Council of Churches from 1991 to 1995. In these years I learned to downsize, and to manage with what was most necessary. This was useful, especially when I chose to move into the Manoir Westmount a year ago. My experiences in China also taught me to understand a culture very different from my own.

In 2006 I was offered a chance to teach in Sri Lanka. With some seed money from the Diocese of Montreal I was able to raise enough funds to cover my travel and expenses. I trusted that God would provide for my needs. Sri Lanka was another truly fulfilling experience.

My latest mission experience was in the parish in Sorel-Tracy, working closely with the Rev. Holly Ratcliffe. Holly said she had been praying for help. I loved living in Sorel, and served there for five years. Last year I knew it was time for me to move to a residence for the elderly. I do pray that Christ Church, Sorel, will continue to offer their weekly café to the lonely, the disadvantaged, the needy. Now I am learning to "Let Go" and to give thanks for the times that God nudged me into change. God has given me a wonderful life!



Shirley Newell and Valerie Bennett

WINTER REFLECTIONS

Geraldine Frances Kavanagh

Remember the Golden Rule?

Whatever happened to treating others as we want to be treated? One cannot open a newspaper or listen to the news without hearing about persons committing acts of violence against others. Oh! I'm not naive. Brothers have been hurting brothers since Cain and Abel. But what has happened to tolerance, patience, understanding, compassion and kindness? Have we forgotten about walking a mile in someone's shoes before judging them? I am only one person and I realize that I can't change the world, but I can make my world better by doing my best to live by the Golden Rule. Maybe that is the answer. We can change the world with one thought, one action and one person at a time. We can "pay it forward".

Pay it Forward!

A few years ago, a friend asked me to lend her \$40 to buy groceries. I was able and happy to do so. When she promised to pay me back, I suggested that instead she might someday be able to help someone in return. She thought I was joking. Her reaction got me to thinking and this brings me back to the Golden Rule. Why has it become so hard for us to accept a simple act of human kindness? On a personal note, I think that it might have to do with the fact that we spend our time trying to be Human Doings instead of Human Beings. Maybe it's time to slow down and enjoy our blessings.

And I was Sent a Woodpecker!



As a person with limited mobility, I don't get out as much as I used to. One day recently I was experiencing a case of cabin fever. Sitting on my sofa and looking out the patio door, my eye caught a flash of color. A beautiful pileated woodpecker had discovered a tree behind our house and was tapping a tune just for me! Boy! Did he work hard! For over three hours that little guy went to town on that old tree, his red crown bobbing up and down. I just sat there, enjoying the show. What's so special about a woodpecker? He flew into my life when I needed a pick-me-up and his timing was perfect. It might seem like a little thing, but aren't unexpected blessings the best kind? What would life be like without a baby's gurgle, a child's drawing, a stranger's smile, an unexpected phone call, a tender caress, a hug or a pat on the back or a loved one's company? To quote the lyrics of a song:

"Give me your hand when I've lost the way; Give me a shoulder to cry on,

Whether the day is bright or gray; Give me your heart to rely on.

"Send me the warmth of a secret smile, to show you haven't forgot,

Now and forever, that always and ever, little things mean a lot."

Music and lyrics by Edith Lindem and Carl Stielz

In closing, in light of what happened in France a few weeks ago about the slaying at the newspaper, Charlie Hebdo, and the resulting controversy over the freedom of speech, aren't we fortunate to live in a country where opinions can be shared openly? I am Geraldine.

**2015 LAY READER STUDY DAY AND
COMMISSIONING SERVICE**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2015
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

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



The Reverend Eileen Scully

Speaker and Retreat Leader:

**The Rev. Eileen Scully, Director of Faith, Worship, and Ministry for
the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada**

Topic: Living into God's Life: personal prayer and community worship
engaging God's mission
-a day of reflection for Lay Readers

A fee of \$35 covers all refreshment breaks, lunch and materials

Commissioning Service and Evening Prayer with Bishop Barry Clarke
4 pm, followed by a reception for all family and friends

***The Rev. Eileen Scully
Director of Faith, Worship, and Ministry for the General Synod
of the Anglican Church of Canada***

Eileen Scully currently serves as Director of Faith, Worship, and Ministry for the Anglican Church of Canada. She spent her twenties studying theology in an ecumenical context, her thirties in pastoral studies with Lutherans, and her forties engaging questions of Anglican identity. She and her husband Eric are parents of young adult sons and support artists by running a music recording studio. She is passionate about engaging the connections between things: prayer and work, leadership and discipleship, worship and mission. After several decades exercising lay leadership, she was priested in 2010, and supports the ministry of the Church of the Holy Saviour in Waterloo, Ontario.

**MONTREAL LAY READERS RETREAT - MAY 1 TO MAY 3, 2015
AT MANOIR D'YOUVILLE, CHATEAUGUAY**

**THE BEGINNINGS OF JUDAISM AND THE EMERGENCE OF CHRISTIANITY
SOME IMPLICATIONS FOR INTER FAITH STUDIES/DIALOGUE IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

SPEAKER: THE REVEREND PROFESSOR PATRICIA G. KIRKPATRICK

Friday, May 1

- 5:00 - 6:30 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm Introductions & opening thoughts (Patricia Kirkpatrick)
**Christian presentations of Judaism and their implications for
Interfaith Dialogue**
- 8:30 pm Night Prayers
Social Time

Saturday, May 2

- 7:30 - 8:30 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Morning Prayer
- 9:30 am **The Monotheistic Faith beginnings of Judaism and Christianity**
- 10:15 am Morning Refreshment Break
- 10:45 am Return to plenary/small groups
- 11:55 am Mid-day Prayer
- 12:00 Lunch
- Free time until 3:00 pm***
- 3:00 pm Afternoon Refreshment Break
- 3:30 pm **The Judaisms of the Roman period**
- 4:15 pm Group Discussion
- 5:00 - 6:30 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm **Key Aspects/Symbols of Emerging Rabbinic Judaism Redefined
1) Scriptural interpretation 2) Authority 3) Passover**
- 8:15 pm Night Prayers
- 8:30 pm Social Time

Sunday, May 3

- 7:30 - 8:30 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Holy Eucharist with sermon
- 10:15 am Refreshment Break
- 10:30 am Reflections on Learning of the weekend
- 12:00 pm Lunch, followed by departure

ANNUAL RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM
Lay Readers of Montreal , May 1st to 3rd, 2015

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Food allergies and special requests: _____

Payment for room:

Please call Sue Winn to determine room availability at 514-457-0736.

Single with bath (\$265) \$ _____

Single no bath (\$200) \$ _____

Twin beds with bath (\$175) \$ _____

All six meals, snacks and materials included.

Please make cheques payable to: **The Lay Readers' Association**

Please mail form and cheque to:

The Lay Readers' Association of the Diocese of Montreal

c/o Ann Cumyn

71 Stafford Road

Baie D'Urfé, QC H9X 2Y9

acumyn@sympatico.ca

514-457-5280

[Please click here for Google Map](#)