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**FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**



My dear fellow Lay Readers, we have been through a nightmare of Covid 19 pandemic and all the strains that have emerged over the past few months and years.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 says, 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.' At our recent AGM on May 21, 2022, the LRA reluctantly said 'Farewell' to Executive members who have been so important to the LRA.

Now, it is a new Executive that will take the mantle and lead the LRA in this next chapter. Our Pastor to Lay Readers, The Rev. Lorne Eason, has also announced that he is stepping down at our Study Day and Commissioning in November 2022.

I invite all Lay Readers to write articles, stories, things that might be of interest to all who read our newsletter.

My email is: [religiongeorge@hotmail.com](mailto:religiongeorge@hotmail.com); my cell (438-871-1144).

Respectfully,  
**George Ryder**

**2022 LAY READER STUDY DAY AND  
COMMISSIONING SERVICE**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022**

**CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST**

*Please see last page for registration form*

## RADICAL GRATITUDE

Throughout my life I have been blessed with good health, and lots of energy. I have loved to fill my days with activity.

I have now reached a stage when my body is telling me to slow down. Two hip surgeries, and knee surgeries, took away pain, but also some of my ability to walk smoothly.

Nowadays I notice how high a step is. I see railings and banisters with gratitude. I am grateful for elevators, for benches in parks, and for washrooms on the main floor in a restaurant.

Most churches were originally built without any thought for the elderly or the handicapped. The average church had six to ten steps to the front door, washrooms in a basement down 18 – 20 steps. Even coffee hours and pot luck suppers took place in basement halls. Now churches are constructing ramps and elevators, even renovating worship spaces.

This past winter I had a serious fall. It was a rainy day in February, when water was turning into ice. I stepped out the door to go to the car. Two steps later my feet flew out from under me and I landed heavily on my left shoulder. Immediately I knew I was in trouble. I had broken the humerus bone in my left arm. Four months later my bone has still not healed, and I am awaiting surgery to fasten together two parts of my bone.

Through the past months, since February 17th, I have had to live with only one arm. With the help of my devoted husband, I have needed help to dress, to cut my food, and to get to all appointments. I have also seen this as a time to let go of some of my activities. This was probably one of the hardest changes. Would I ever again be able to help those around me? I have had to learn how to step away, and learn to accept help graciously. It has not been easy to give up being “in charge”.

But I thank God every day for the love and care I have received during the past four months. As I await surgery at the end of June, God is teaching me to age with radical gratitude.

**Sue Winn**



We thank Colin Winn for his photos reflecting the beauty of our natural world.

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### Pastor to the Lay Readers Annual Report for 2021

The author of Ecclesiastes writes in chapter 3 that there is a season or time for everything under heaven. With each season comes things familiar and things new.

With 2021 now behind us, hopefully we are now beginning to see of the end of the COVID pandemic "season," and the beginning of something new as 2022 unfolds.

Thanks to the dedicated work of the Lay Readers executive, familiar lay reader association activities continued uninterrupted in 2021. Zoom enabled 4 virtual workshops to be held, as well as the Annual Spring Retreat, facilitated by Bishop Michael Oulton from the Diocese of Ontario. The Annual General Meeting, the November Study Day led by the Venerable Tim Smart and the Commissioning service facilitated by Bishop Mary all took place as anticipated. All events were encouraging, helpful and well attended. The use of Zoom has certainly made it easier for the lay reader membership to attend all of these functions, no matter the weather, or the distance. I am quite sure Zoom will continue to be a familiar feature in future LRA events even as in person gatherings become more favorable and frequent.

Besides the familiar events that were organized in 2021, the Association under the initiative of committee members Rob McLaughlin, Mark Weatherley and Randy Gates has undertaken a new project to promote the value and work of the lay reader ministry throughout the Diocese. The hope is that others will be encouraged to offer their time and talent in service to the Lord through this particular ministry in their parishes. This new project will continue to progress throughout 2022.

Over the past several years the Diocesan Lay Readers Association Executive has been led by a dedicated and faithful group of people. Their combined wisdom, encouragement, dedication and good humor have helped foster a lay reader community of collegiality, shared experiences, and common purpose. I want to express my thanks and gratitude for the work they have done this past year. Although some of the work may have been challenging at times, it never ceased to amaze me how fruitful their efforts turned out to be.

I would also like to thank Bishop Mary and Archdeacon Robert for their continued support and encouragement of the lay readers and myself. As always, their trust and guidance have directed this ministry as a good shepherd leads his sheep.

This years' AGM will see a number of long-time and faithful committee members pass the baton of leadership on to others. Sue Winn, Ann Cumyn, Yvonne Wakeland and Randy Gates will all be leaving the committee effective this AGM. As well, Anne-Claude Geoffrion, having fulfilled her term as President, will be handing over the reins of leadership for someone else to take hold off. Fortunately, Anne-Claude has offered to stay on the executive as its secretary. I cannot adequately summarize the wonderful work they have all done. All I can say is thank you! You all have truly been a blessing to the executive committee, to the lay reader membership as a whole, and to me personally.

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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With the departure of these committee members, the Association will be looking to its membership to take hold of the baton of leadership that is being passed on to it. The positions of President, Vice-President (a new position) Treasurer and members at large all need to be filled. I would ask that you please prayerfully consider allowing your name to stand as a nominee for any one of these positions.

Finally, my season as Pastor to the Lay Readers is about to come to an end. My last function will be my participation in the Study Day and Commissioning service scheduled for November 12, 2022.

It has been a privilege and a blessing being your Pastor over these last seven years. I hope my ministry with you has been a helpful one. Thank you for your support and encouragement and for the wonderful example you have set as ambassadors for Christ through your ministry as lay readers. May the Lord continue to bless the work you do in his name.



Your fellow servant in Christ,  
**Lorne+**  
 Pastor to the Lay Readers

## THE LAY READERS' ASSOCIATION OFFERS BURSARIES

Thanks to the donation received through the Bishop's Action Appeal 2019, the value of the bursaries offered by the Lay Reader's Association has been increased.

Every active Lay Reader who participates in courses of religious studies is entitled to a bursary of up to \$200.00 per year to assist with the cost of their studies.

These studies may be with EFM (Education for Ministry) or with other recognised institutions. Please send a request to our treasurer, Ann Cumyn at [rhodesbartow@gmail.com](mailto:rhodesbartow@gmail.com)

## THOSE LAZY, HAZY, CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER....

### An informal book review

As summer approached, I wanted to choose a book to read. I closed my eyes and put my hand along the bookcase of books I have bought because someone recommended them to me, but I hadn't yet read. I pulled out "As Kingfishers Catch Fire. A Conversation on the Ways of God Formed by the Words of God" by Eugene H. Peterson (WaterBrook Publications, 2017).

You may have heard the author's name before. Eugene H. Peterson is the person who put out The Message Bible which I sometimes enjoy, and I occasionally think is irreverent. But what it is not irrelevant, as what seems irreverent to me might just be the pathway some younger person may think makes the bible relevant to them. When I feel blocked in my reading of a certain text of scripture in the NRSV, The King James or the New Oxford I pull out The Message Bible. This has such a new take on it that it freshens God's message, helps me see the passage anew and allows for new insights.



Just this week I began to look at "As Kingfishers..." The book has seven parts to it, with seven different scriptures addressed in each section. It is a collection of sermons preached on these scriptures. Parts 1-4 are from the Old Testament, and the last three, the New Testament. That makes it a sermon-a-day 6 days a week for 49 days which is ideal for summer.

I have a confession to make. In two different periods of my faith journey I have had a problem with reading some of the Old Testament because, in places, it seems so violent and harsh. I began to even feel angry lately that we 'had to' read it in church thinking "Why would people want to hear about a God who judges and rains down punishment on people." So simplistic, I know. But I had to get around this stumbling block if I wanted to continue preaching. It was worrisome to say the least.

When asked to speak on retreats over the last several years on some aspect of the Christian life I always found I was asked to do a talk about some aspect of faith that challenged me; some part of my worship that needed strengthening. That is how I knew God was doing the asking. Each talk I have given has challenged me to work on some aspect of my walk. This did my spiritual journey a lot of good so, when I reached for a book this week and saw that many of the sermons were on the Old Testament I laughed and knew this was the book God wanted to challenge me with at this time.

In the introduction Peterson, a Presbyterian minister, tells the reader that the first five books of the bible are commonly known as The Books of Moses. They weren't written by Moses but many unnamed Hebrew prophetic minds who told and wrote what was gathered into those books. They are made up mostly of stories and signposts. The stories show us God working with and speaking to men and women in a rich variety of circumstances. God is presented to us not in ideas and arguments but in events and actions that involve us personally. Attending to the stories and signposts helps us find the way God wants us to live. And, most importantly, Peterson says that those five books are foundational for the subsequent sixty-one. I call that "a must read".

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## THOSE LAZY, HAZY, CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER....

Okay, Lord, you are on. When I began reading the first sermon on Genesis 1:1-2:4. I found it invigorating. By the time I read the second sermon on Genesis 12 and Moses' relationship with God I knew I was reading what the Lord wanted me to be reading, and, most importantly, I felt differently. The anger I had felt about the Old Testament was beginning to dissipate as I looked on it from Peterson's perspective. I can't wait till the next sermon. Help me grow, Lord.

So, I leave you with a question...what book, lecture, podcast series is the Lord challenging you to grow with this summer? Will it be "Kingfishers..." or.....?

**Patricia Halford**

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

We have now lived more than two years with the Covid pandemic. As a Church and as Lay Readers we have had to adapt, change or modify many of the things we took for granted. For many months, our services were online either via ZOOM or YouTube or even by phone.

As Lay Readers, we continue to face major challenges and decisions and uncertainties in the next years ahead. The world has changed and continues changing and we too may be apprehensive and worry about the future.

Last year and this year again so far, all of our activities have been held via ZOOM. Rather than diminish the number of participants, this has actually lead to a slight increase in attendance and we may very well continue offering ZOOM participation even when we return to in person workshops and activities. Your continued contribution and support were, and are, pivotal to our success in facing up to this crisis. We are blessed to have such wonderful and dedicated people working for the Glory of God.

Sadly, we lost two of our valued and cherished Lay Readers. We thank God for: Charles Goddard and Ronald Yeoman. We thank the Lord for their friendship and years of ministry. We offer our sincere condolences to their families and friends. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Last year's Study Day and Commissioning Service were also ZOOM events.

At the 2021 Commissioning Service we welcomed Jean-Bridy Sainvil who received his one year Lay Reader License. Kingsley Hohenkrik received his new three year License and 17 Lay Readers received their three year License renewals.

We also presented Emeritus status and commemorative Medallions to Harold Allen, Clovan Boyce, John Clague, Robert Cowell, George Ryder, Susan Winn and Keith Walton. Our sincere and heartfelt Thank You for all your many years of service to your parishes and the Diocese of Montreal. We are grateful for your dedication and support.

Four years ago you chose me as president of the Lay Readers Association. Learning was definitely part of the Lord's plan for me and these four years have been full of challenges, growth and discovery. Normally, the president, and other executive posts, are chosen for three years but because of the pandemic, we decided to postpone the renewal until this year. So, I will be stepping down as president but am willing to remain on as a member of the executive in whatever capacity I can best serve.

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**PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021***continued from previous page*

As you may know by now, other positions are also opening up and we are hoping that some of you will feel led by the Lord to come and join us. The Lay Readers executive is not only important but essential to the ongoing well-being, growth and even survival of the Association. We are a very informal group which meets four, five times a year so the work is not onerous. Do come, we would love to have you join us.

A very heartfelt thank you to those who are leaving us. Sue Winn has been the backbone of the executive and has done incredible work throughout the numerous years she has served. Sue and Cathy McKeogh have done yeoman's work putting out the Lay Readers twice yearly newsletters and we thank them for their time and effort.

We are grateful to Ann Cumyn for her work as Treasurer. Figures are not my forte and Ann has kept the books for the Association and we owe her a grateful vote of Thanks.

Yvonne Wakeland, an Emeritus Lay Reader is a very energetic lady and has been a valuable asset to our group.

Randy Gates is also a very busy man and one of the reasons he is leaving will be to lead the Revive program this Fall which I highly encourage you to join.

Thank you from the executive and also personal thanks from myself for all you have done for the Lay Readers Association. We will miss you and wish you all the best in your endeavours.

Thanks are also due to the remaining members: Bob McLachlan has been acting as secretary and has taken on several duties, especially recently writing articles, George Ryder and Mark Weatherly are invaluable members always willing to take on various duties as needed and I am very grateful for their commitment.

We, and myself in particular, are all very grateful for the continued leadership and guidance of our Pastor, the Reverend Lorne Eason of the Church of St. John the Baptist, Pointe Claire. He is a treasure and we are truly blessed to have him as our leader and minister.

A heartfelt thank you to Bishop Mary for her support. We are very grateful for all you do for the Lay Reader's Association. We appreciate your inspiration and confidence.

I believe that though we have hard work ahead of us, as God's children we need not worry because we know God goes with us. Let us answer the challenge of the Lord by seeking to discern His will. By trusting in Him, by opening up our hearts to Him, we will discover that God, who knows our needs before we ask, will guide us in the way that he knows is best for us. If our commitment is to that end we know with certainty that...

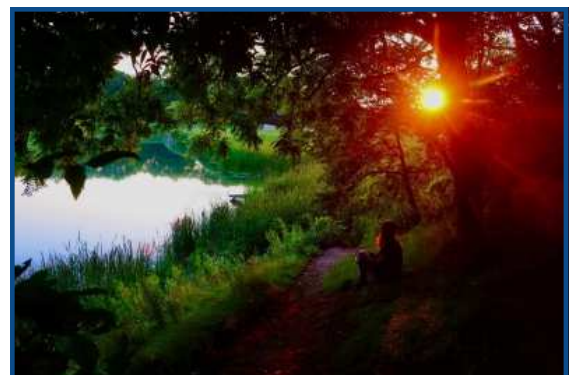
"the Lord himself goes before us, and will be with us;

He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Be strong and courageous"

*(Deut 31:7-8)*



**PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021***continued from previous page*

Let us remember that no matter how undeserving we may be, the extravagance of God's love is such that it allows us to be constantly renewed in faith and in love.

I would also like to say a personal thank you to each and every Lay Readers in our Association. Thank you for your trust and support throughout these years.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ,

**Anne Claude Geoffrion**

**LAY READERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE DIOCESE OF MONTREAL****EXECUTIVE**

<b>President:</b>	Rob McLachlan
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Mark Weatherley
<b>Secretary; Membership Coordinator:</b>	Anne-Claude Geoffrion
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ann Cumyn (as Interim Treasurer until Study Day, Nov. 22)
<b>In Training as Treasurer:</b>	Patti Halford (awaiting appointment)
<b>Members at Large:</b>	
<b>Workshop Coordinator:</b>	Karen Birkett
<b>Study Day Coordinator:</b>	David Blizzard
<b>Facebook Coordinators:</b>	Michel Gagnon Guy Grolimond
<b>Newsletter Editor; Website Coordinator</b>	George Ryder Barbara Whyte Michel Gagnon

**New** Diocesan Process 2022/23 for ALL Commissioned Lay Readers & Non-Commissioned Laity-  
**Police Record Check** (no charge, filled out by individual, handled by Diocese).



VS REVIVE AD

## **EFM (AKA: EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY)**

### **Some Random Thoughts**

Three questions to begin:

**Have you done it?**

**If not; Are you doing it?**

**If not; Are you thinking about it?**

All of these lead to the follow up questions:

**If you have done it: What has it changed for you and your community?**

**If you are doing it: How is it changing you and your ministry?**

**If you are thinking about it: What is stopping you from taking the plunge?**

I hope that as we move forward with the newsletters under our new editor (George) we will see an ongoing dialogue in this newsletter that will help us all to see what changes this programme has wrought, is causing and enabling.

I am in the middle of the programme. I have done 2 pandemic years on the Old and New Testaments. They have made me think each week about what I have read and how I should interpret what I read. They have made me think about how the words I read and read regularly from different parts of the Bible relate to today, and our lives in our Christian and world communities.

I will not say it was easy. Some weeks it was exceedingly hard to prepare the reading, especially when the reading was one of the longer books supplemented by an equally long-seeming commentary from the supporting text. And then to decide what I would like to say about this in under 10 minutes.

I have been fortunate to be able to designate Wednesday as my study day. (Sometimes I start on Tuesday). Everyone will have their own way of approaching the time constraints and that is fine. But I had to be dedicated to the programme and its objectives and my desire to participate as completely as possible.

I also had to restrain my desire to discuss and debate. I had to open my ears and listen. I am still trying to listen and rearrange the fragments I hear into a new jigsaw puzzle for today.

Write to the newsletter with your reflections. And if you are on the fence step off, please; then come and join us. **If for no other reason than that you would like to be part of the jigsaw puzzle for today and tomorrow.**

***Mark Weatherley***

ROB BIO

## REFLECTIONS (ON BECOMING VICE-PRESIDENT)



The weekend of the annual meeting this year I was in Riviere-du-Loup for a family engagement. I thought I would join the meeting in the morning while the rest of the family sorted themselves out in a normal random Saturday sort of way when children are involved. But little did I know what had been planned for me that would send me on a drive into the mountains of the Temiscouata National Park.

Rob and I had talked before the annual meeting election and discussed whether we would support each other as Vice-president if the other won the election. For me there was no question that I would support him. We have been working on a project for several months now that we hope will lead to a revival of the role of lay readers in parish and diocesan ministry.

At the annual meeting Rob provided a summary of what we have done and why. He also explained where we are going. Our plans to research with the clergy their thoughts through structured meetings.

Using Revive as a medium to encourage non-lay readers and lay readers alike to become more engaged in their own prayer life and grow their personal ministry and faith is a new direction for the Lay Readers Association. Hopefully it will inspire other people to decide to grow further by becoming Lay Readers. In the end we will all grow together.

Mostly, in the years to come, I hope we will enable all our brothers and sisters to be better storytellers. To better explain why our faith and its scriptures matter and have relevance in our daily lives; So we encourage other people to come with us and ask the questions that matter through study and prayer.

***Mark Weatherley***

At All Saints by the Lake, we continue to meet from Monday to Friday for Morning Reflections. This time lasts no more than half an hour from 7:30 till 8:00 a.m. Our pattern is the same every day and we have a liturgy, mostly based on Morning Prayer, that changes each month with the psalms and predetermined readings. This month we are reading Romans and Thessalonians. We finish with prayer.

If you are interested in being present, please contact me at [mark.weatherley@sympatico.ca](mailto:mark.weatherley@sympatico.ca) so I can send you this month's readings and liturgy. This is not a time of discussion but a morning discipline of reading, prayer and reflection.

The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84289208646?pwd=UXFtclhuN1BrOUFKcnBCZ0NpQ3Yxdz09>