



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

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2015 LAY READER STUDY DAY AND COMMISSIONING SERVICE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2015

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Church of St. John the Baptist, Pointe Claire

233 ave Ste. Claire, Pointe Claire

Speaker and Study Day Leader:

The Rev. Dr. 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.

The design and development of liturgy that engages in God's Mission.

A Day of Reflection and Learning for Lay Readers

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

4:00 pm: Commissioning Service and Evening Prayer with Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson, followed by a reception for all family and friends.

Our speaker, 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.

Eileen is passionate about engaging the connections between prayer and work, leadership and discipleship, worship and mission.

In August, 2015, Eileen coordinated an international liturgical conference in Montreal. Her recent experience with liturgical experts from around the world will provide her with new insights to share with us.

A Request from Eileen to Lay Readers

She would like participants to come prepared, if possible, with a brief, personal story, just a "vignette", of a time you have experienced, strongly, a connection between the service of worship and the service of God's mission.



Left to Right:

Archdeacon Peter Townshend, Rector of Church of the Holy Saviour, Waterloo, ON
The Rev. Dr. Eileen Scully
Primate Fred Hiltz, Anglican Church of Canada



THE INVISIBLE IN THE VISIBLE

The Rev. Lorne Eason

My wife and I have recently returned from a wonderful, albeit short, vacation in Nova Scotia. Each year we travel east to visit with two of my brothers, both of whom live in Nova Scotia, one in Amherst and the other in Springhill. Travelling east in the summer also affords us the benefit of visiting with my parents, who live in Calgary but spend the summer months in Springhill. And like previous summers we had a great time together. We caught up on one another's news, we laughed, we played, we worked, we lounged around, we went to church, we stayed up late and got up even later. In short, we enjoyed one another's company.

It was during this particular visit though that my wife and I did something we hadn't done before while visiting with my relatives, something very mundane, something very simple, yet something that reminded us both of the wonder, mystery and majesty of God. We collected a few leaves from various trees that lined the sidewalk as we walked to the store.

For whatever reason we were intrigued by the different types of leaves that hung from the various trees we walked past. Not that we hadn't noticed varieties of leaves before, but for some reason on this particular day we were fascinated by the uniqueness of the leaves we saw. And without much forethought we started picking different shaped leaves as we walked, not paying much attention to the type of tree each leaf came from.

After stuffing my pocket with a number of different leaves, we determined to identify each leaf we collected when we returned home. And it was in trying to identify each leaf that we learned of the unique characteristics that make up the anatomy of leaves; shape, size, texture, color, length of stalk, layout of its veins, the structure of its edge, all determine the type of leaf and the tree that it comes from. I was taken aback by the detail and the uniqueness of these leaves, and that is when it struck me. What I was seeing in these leaves was the handiwork of God, an expression of the Creator's wonder and mystery and majesty being exhibited in the form of a simple leaf.

And at that moment I was humbled and in awe of what the apostle Paul describes as, "....God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made..." And I was clearly reminded once again that God is much bigger and much greater than I make God out to be.

It's always amazing to me how paying some attention to what seems like the simple things in life can open up to us the glorious and inexplicable wonder and majesty of God.



NEW BEGINNINGS

Glen Marcotte

2015 is a year of new beginnings for the Readers' Association, as it is for the Anglican Diocese of Montreal. We are blessed by the leadership of our new Bishop Mary as well as by the support and guidance of our new Pastor, Reverend Lorne Eason. In addition, Afra Tucker of the MDTC Center for Lay Education collaborates closely with us in providing educational resources and in the planning of educational events.

The parish in which I serve, St. John the Evangelist, Portneuf also continues to experience new beginnings. The community of English speakers is rapidly dwindling in Portneuf, as are the number of parishioners in our small country church. This phenomenon is common in many parishes of the Diocese of Quebec as it is in the Diocese of Montreal. We lost two of our stalwart members on the same day this spring. To quote the Queen Elizabeth, 2015 risked being an annus horribilis for St. John's, Portneuf.

As a Lay Reader, my ministry to support others in responding to God's grace is an ongoing challenge, especially where numbers are dwindling. Since May 2011, St. John's has celebrated Eucharist every first and third Sunday of the month, en français. Holy Communion services continue to be offered to English speakers on the second Sunday of the month. As a result, we have seen our parish grow in response to God's grace. While we took the risk of offering services to the community at large, with the possibility of falling flat on our faces, it appears that our risk-taking behaviour has paid off.

As Lay Readers, we must also take risks if we are to support others in responding to God's grace. Your Association is taking the risk of offering Saturday workshops where you are physically located; ride-sharing is also being organized. So join us on September 26th in St. Sauveur. Take a risk, come and share with Ralph Levitt as he leads us in "*Feeding our Souls: Spirituality for Lay Readers.*" The Parish of St. Francis of the Birds has generously offered to host us for this our first workshop of the year.

In His Service,

Glen Marcotte
President



ADVANCE NOTICE OF AGM 2016

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on
Wednesday, May 25th 2016
Fulford Hall, Cathedral Place

Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm
\$10 per person





REFLECTIONS

Geraldine Frances Kavanagh

Sitting here thinking.....

About my grandmother, Maude. According to her, a cup of tea was the cure for everything; from acne to an ingrown toe nail; even babies' colic and teething pains could be made better with a wee bit of that miracle elixir in their bottles. Whatever was troubling us would be improved by a cup of hot, strong tea (milked-down for children) poured from the large, white enamel pot that was a permanent fixture, warming on the back of the black and white wood stove that dominated her kitchen.

Could that be why.....

I collect tea pots? To me, they represent family, warmth, comfort and healing. One that I recently acquired has been the source of much contemplation. It bears the following verse:

"This is the Day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it."
Psalm 118:24.

I began to ask myself what I had to rejoice and be glad about, or to be grateful for. As it turns out, quite a bit. I awoke this morning in a free country where I can worship the Lord freely and openly, He who never gives me more than I can handle; in a house that I share with a man whom I love and respect and a dog who is a great companion. We have been blessed with three wonderful children, and seven precious grandchildren. I have friends that I can count on and who can count on me. I have been given talents, many of which I am still discovering.

I am grateful for this day, for this beautiful gift of life; and I will rejoice and be glad in it. My prayer is that everyone I know feels the love of life and gratitude in being a part of God's creation on this wonderful day that the Lord has made.

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

SPRING RETREAT AT MANOIR D'YOUVILLE

ILE ST. BERNARD, CHATEAUGUAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 29 (5 PM) TO
SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2016 (AFTER LUNCH)

Speaker: The Rev. Danny Whitehead is a priest and Ministry Developer in Lytton and Scw'exmx Parishes in British Columbia. Danny has been serving in APCI, the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior, since 2013. Previously Danny provided sacramental and pastoral presence and Christian Education to faith communities in North Dakota, USA.

His experiences as a social worker and a mental health therapist, as well as his work with indigenous peoples enables Danny to speak about the Ministry of Presence, Ministry to the Marginalized in our Society, and Self-Care for Caregivers.

These areas of expertise will form the topics for teaching and discussion with Montreal and Quebec Lay Readers.

Rooms for the Retreat can be reserved on Study Day.



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 2016 (unless special arrangements are made with the registrar, Sue Winn).

Costs for 2016:

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

AN EPISCOPALIAN CHURCH IN FLORIDA

Ian Sinclair



For the second time in my life, I found myself in Florida on a Sunday. The first time, friends had taken me to their Roman Catholic Church in Venice – it was bursting at the seams with people young and old. It was surprising to find myself in a packed church on a regular Sunday, and I enjoyed the experience.

This time, I was in Pensacola, and had arrived two days before meetings which were to begin on Monday. Others in our small group planned to spend Sunday morning seeing the historic sites with a Segway tour. No”, I thought, “this is my chance to see if the Episcopalian church in the Florida pan-handle can be as well attended as the RC church in Venice”.

This being June, it was a hot and muggy day. So off I went to Christ Church in light-coloured trousers and a short-sleeved button-down shirt. Good for a Sunday morning, I thought. Not so! When I arrived, the dress code was obviously button-down full-up suits! I felt so under-dressed, as I surreptitiously studied the fine clothes and the elaborate earrings on those around me.

As the church filled, I discovered it was Confirmation, and the Bishop was present. It was Trinity Sunday, and of course we sang “Holy, Holy, Holy”. I wasn’t prepared for the roll of two enormous kettle drums that initiated the music, nor the support of a 35-person choir! The service was moving, a real pleasure to be part of – so much new music to discover, with new ways of arranging hymns, choir pieces and service music!



The service was followed by a reception, with cake and coffee for all. It was good to meet with my American counterparts, to compare notes on church policy and to get the look and feel of the Episcopal Church in that part of Florida. As I left for the hotel, I thought of the people that had welcomed me as a visitor, even in a short-sleeved shirt! It was like another world of ecclesiastical success, yet at the same time part of the same church family.

AN EPISCOPALIAN CHURCH IN FLORIDA

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

As our own churches regroup for the fall, let's remember to treat visitors well. Although we may not see them again, the experience of visiting our church on Sunday can be the highlight of someone's trip to our part of the world. Whether it be a glorious service with choir and kettle-drums, or a small gathering of the faithful, our turn will come to be hospitable to whomever God sends our way!

You can visit the Christ Church website at: <http://www.christ-church.net>

A MESSAGE FROM THE REV. WENDY TELFER DIOCESE OF QUEBEC



I had the pleasure of meeting twice this summer with several members of the executive of the Lay Readers' Association of the Diocese of Montreal. We are working together to provide continuing education to the lay readers of both our dioceses, and in particular exploring ways of making programs accessible to people in the regions.

If there are topics you wish to learn more about, or if you have suggestions on how to gather people in this vast province of ours, please let us know.

à la prochaine,
Wendy+

The Rev. Wendy Telfer, warden of Lay Readers, Diocese of Quebec

The Rev. Lorne Eason, Pastor of Montreal Lay Readers

Sue Winn, events planner for Montreal Lay Readers

Photo credit: Valerie Bennett

HOW I TURNED MY LIFE AROUND

Charles Goddard



Five years ago I was caring for my wife, Shirley, who had a condition in which the cells in her brain deteriorated rapidly. This was a condition for which there was no cure. Sadly, I was not at her side when she died. I was in the hospital with what the doctor called a mini stroke and exhaustion. Shirley's funeral was put off for two weeks while I recovered.

During my first week in hospital, the doctor came to me and said, "Mr. Goddard, you have a problem. Your kidneys are in bad shape and you will have to go on dialysis."

My response to him was "Dialysis is not for me! I will stay on the pills. When the good Lord is ready for me, I am ready to go."

In addition to the kidney problem, I have diabetes. I monitor my blood sugar faithfully and I take care with my food choices. I went to Barbados for several months to rest and regain my strength. Over time I changed my diet, and I began to feel better.

I will share with you what I am doing. I eat no canned products, and no sodas, no beef, no juice from cans or plastic bottles, and no alcohol. I have fresh orange juice every morning before a breakfast of one boiled egg with spinach. I also have Source-brand yogurt, and one slice of rye bread toast with butter (never margarine). I have either a cup of tea, or I drink the left-over spinach water. For lunch I eat any kind of fish with hash potatoes. Dinner consists of chicken or fish with rice, fresh vegetables, a salad and another Source yogurt. By following this simple meal plan I have kept my diabetes under control and reversed the kidney problem. Today the doctors are surprised that I have regained the effectiveness of my kidneys.

Last year I had another health set-back. Shortness of breath and light-headedness kept me from following my regular routine. After several tests it was confirmed that I had blocked arteries. I was very fortunate as the heart specialist was able to install stents to open the arteries. I credit my recuperation from this procedure to my healthy eating habits.

I am no longer a candidate for dialysis! Thanks be to God!

(Those who have seen Charles in recent weeks have commented on how well he is looking. Well done, Charles!)

THE BRISTOWS VISIT MONTREAL!

Sue Winn



Many of you will remember the Rev. Phil Bristow and his wife, Cheryl. Phil was a priest who served in several Montreal area churches, including St. Simeon's, Lachute and St. Peter's ,TMR.

Cheryl is the author of a wonderful new book titled, "**A Shield in the Shadows**", published by Xulon Press. While the Bristows were in town, Cheryl spent time signing copies of her book at the CLC bookstore in LaSalle. Cheryl's pen name is L.A. Racines.

The story is a Christian historical fiction. It begins in 405 AD when an army of Huns destroy a Christian village in the heart of barbarian Germania. A Christian pastor and his sixteen year old daughter, Theona, are among the survivors who are forced to run for their lives. They lead a tiny group of survivors who are searching for a safe place to settle. Ultimately they join a massive invasion into the Roman Empire.

This is a tale about a suspense-filled journey, romantic encounters and people of faith who face many challenges, relying on the Holy Spirit to guide and protect them amidst harrowing experiences. It is a story that is difficult to put down. It is extremely well written, well-researched and historically accurate.

Cheryl is a masterful story-teller. She has been my friend for many years, but I had no idea that she had such a good book growing inside her. It is wonderful!

PLANS TO CELEBRATE OUR EMERITUS LAY READERS!

Our Association is so grateful for contributions of all those faithful Lay Readers who have served before us, providing us with excellent role models. Many of these people inspired us to become Lay Readers ourselves.

At this year's Commissioning Service on Saturday, November 21st, any Emeritus Lay Readers who are able to be present with us will be awarded a newly-designed Emeritus certificate, signed by our new bishop, Mary Irwin-Gibson, and our new pastor, Lorne Eason. Of course, those who cannot be with us will be named, and will receive their certificates in the mail.

An Emeritus Lay Reader is one who decides to step away from regular duties. These individuals return their blue scarves to the Bishop's Office to be passed on to those who follow. They remain Emeritus Lay Readers for the rest of their lives, still receiving our newsletters, and remembered in our prayers.



A WORD FROM ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER REPS

Stacey Neale and Valerie Bennett are representatives of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer within the Diocese of Montreal. AFP Canada exists to assist those in ministry to increase prayer in their work and in their lives. Stacey and Valerie are able to provide excellent resources to assist Lay Readers in their parish ministry and in their visiting to seniors' residences and to those who cannot leave their homes.

One of these tools is called *Alongsidors*. This program is ideal for people who have been active in their parish, but are no longer able to attend church or to be active in their previous ministries. *Alongsidors* encourages participants to pray without ceasing for issues that are important in the church or the local parish. A Fall workshop is being planned for interested Lay Readers.

Last June, Valerie and Stacey had an opportunity to attend an AFP consultation in Newfoundland. In conversation with representatives from other dioceses, including many parish representatives, they were encouraged to seek parish representation from all the areas of our Diocese. The first Montreal church to respond to this challenge is Trinity, Saint Bruno, with Betty Ross and Carol Hutton. Other churches are urged to invite Stacey and Valerie to speak to a gathering of leaders and members to share their learning and resources about the ministry of praying without ceasing.



AFP consultation participants selecting images for "Praying with Pictures" exercise.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

There are many useful links to assist with teaching and preaching!

<http://www.layreaders.org>



**STUDY DAY AND COMMISSIONING SERVICE 2015
NOVEMBER 21, 2015**

**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 The Rev. Dr. Eileen Scully

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