



Anderson Laternou and Emma Furguson checking out Fr Tyson's chickens at the Fifth Sunday gathering in Stanbridge East, July 30, 2023. Photo by Tim Smart. Lotsa photos, pages 4, 6 & 7!

101 Ways to Pray: A Year of Spiritual Renewal

NEIL MANCOR

The Rev Canon Dr Neil Mancor is the Congregational Development Officer for the Diocese.

The Apostle Paul gave us some great advice in 1 Thessalonians 5: 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

There is nothing better we can do then to persist and grow in prayer. This is especially true in uncertain times when communities of faith must seek the help and guidance of God as we navigate our way through a changing world. But what a powerful tool we have in prayer!

Prayer is most often a private devotion each one of us does in our own way.

I love hearing from people about the different ways they like to pray. Some sit in the quiet with their Bible and have a routine of prayer. Others



Photo by Lightstock.

sense the awesomeness of God in nature. Labyrinths have been a great way to help some walk their prayers. Some people like to use online prayer resources of which there are many. Still others use art to express themselves in prayer. There can be prayer in wordless contemplation or in vivid imagination.

There are no limits to prayer. When sharing the different ways we like to pray we can encourage one another to find new energy for our personal devotion.

But it is also important for us to pray together. In our Churches we pray liturgically which is very important to us.

The beautiful written prayers of our liturgies and music help us express essential truths. But we are in a time when it is important for us in our communities to pray without ceasing together - and that is more than a liturgical function.

In her charge to Synod this year, Bishop Mary set us this task:

"This year I want to invite everyone to join me in a year of spiritual renewal, of intentional discipleship, of deepening our commitment to Christ, and of discerning ways to reach out into God's world in his love. I want to challenge everyone to take on one spiritual renewal activity in your parish - and invite me to attend!"

When we think of all the different ways to renew our Churches, the foundation of everything is spiritual renewal. For the core of who we are as people of faith is the Lord Jesus Christ and he is our vitality and our hope. But what a great hope! If Jesus is alive and is the head of the Church, then the most life-

giving thing we can do is press into him and seek his presence. We do that in prayer, meditation and reflection."

For this reason, we are launching a prayer initiative: 101 Ways to Pray: A Year of Spiritual Renewal.

The purpose of this is to encourage all of us to pray frequently together and find new spiritual energy in the many ways of prayer.

We are asking you to do a couple of things. First, set aside time in your church's schedule to explore prayer and spiritual vitality. Explore many ways to pray, reflect and meditate and find out what works best for your church. And then: tell us about it. We can encourage each other by sharing the different ways prayer works for us. We will be telling you more about how you can share your stories as the fall progresses.

There are endless ways to foster prayer and reflection

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Diocesan Synod - Racism: Listening, Naming, Reconciling



Bishop Ogé Beauvoir addresses members of Synod, Saturday, June 17, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.

NICKI HRONJAK, EDITOR, VALERIE TAYLOR & BEN STUCHBERY, SECRETARIES OF SYNOD

The 164th Diocesan Synod took place in Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, June 17th; the day opened with worship, followed by Bishop Mary's charge.

The Bishop's Charge

In her charge, Bishop Mary acknowledged that the pandemic and its aftermath left a mark on our diocesan family, and that parishes have recovered - or are still recovering - at varying speeds. "Our diocese continues to evolve and change and that can be a bumpy road at times.... Yet, wherever there are disciples of Christ, followers of the Jesus way, there ought to be some kind of ministry taking

place for the glory of God.

She continued to share what she - and her fellow bishops at last year's Lambeth Conference - sees as the challenge to today's church; "What is very clear is that we are no longer called to serve only those who are already Anglicans and from our particular tribes and languages!" She said "Too often the church has been content with nominal Christians, people who have not really engaged in learning and relearning how to follow Christ. The Lambeth Call on Discipleship notes that some Christian commitment is one mile wide and one inch deep!"

Bishop Mary continued, "This past year, the Anglican Church of Canada developed Five Transformational Aspirations as part of its strategic

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Bishop's Message, September 2023

Kingdom or Kin-dom?

Years ago I read Tales of Kingdom, the first of three books of allegories by David R. Mains and Karen Burton Mains, in which an orphaned boy and his younger brother escape from the Enchanted City and go towards where they have heard there is a king and trees. They find themselves in a place called Great Park which is guarded by Rangers. The rangers call out to one another other, "How goes the world?" "The world goes not well!" comes the answer; "But the Kingdom comes!", "The Kingdom comes!" they reply.

Once in Great Park, the boy learns that the king goes around in disguise so that he can be with his people, in whatever they are experiencing. In fact, it's a game children like to play – to spot the King! Eventually, he learns to spot him and grows into a relationship and calling in which he owns the king's values and methods.

In a recent conversation, someone spoke about the Kingdom of God as the Kin-dom of God. I wasn't sure I had heard correctly but I had! It moves us from a hierarchical way of thinking about God, to a relationship-based model. Rather than being subjects in a kingdom, we are beloved relatives and friends, sons and daughters by adoption, part of the Body of Christ, working as God's Kin-dom people in God's world.

This summer has been a difficult and frightening one for so many people around the world and in our own country as well. Drought, heat waves, floods, fires, evacuations, smoke clouds from miles away, tornados, war, insurrection, disease, famine, political, social and climate instability, chaos. How can we take up the Lambeth Conference call to be "God's people for God's world" with all that worrisome stuff going on?

The letter to the Romans outlines some practices for those who want to live as God's people:

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:9-21 (NRSV)

"The world goes not well!" "But the Kin-dom comes!"

Photo by Janet Best.



+ Mary

Message de l'évêque, septembre 2023

Royaume ou Famille ?

Il y a des années, j'ai lu Tales of the Kingdom, le premier des trois livres d'allégories de David R. Mains et Karen Burton Mains, dans lequel un orphelin et son jeune frère s'échappent de la Cité Enchantée et vont dans la direction où ils ont entendu dire qu'il y avait un roi et des arbres. Ils se retrouvent dans un endroit appelé Grand Parc, protégé par des gardes forestiers. Les gardes s'interpellent les uns les autres : "Comment va le monde ?" Ils répondent : "Le monde ne va pas bien", "Mais le royaume arrive", "Le royaume arrive".

Une fois dans le Grand Parc, le garçon apprend que le roi se déplace déguisé, afin d'être avec son peuple dans tout ce qu'il vit. En fait, c'est un jeu auquel les enfants aiment jouer : repérer le roi ! Finalement, il apprend à le repérer et grandit dans une relation et dans sa propre vocation, dans laquelle il adopte les valeurs et les méthodes du roi.

Lors d'une conversation récente, quelqu'un a parlé du Royaume de Dieu comme de la Kin-dom (la famille ou la parenté) de Dieu. Je n'étais pas sûr d'avoir bien entendu, mais c'était le cas ! Cette formulation nous fait passer d'une conception hiérarchique de Dieu à un modèle basé sur la relation. Plutôt que d'être des sujets dans un royaume, nous sommes des parents et des amis bien-aimés, des fils et des filles par adoption, faisant partie du corps du Christ, travaillant en tant que peuple de Dieu, dans le monde de Dieu.

Cet été a été difficile et effrayant pour tant de personnes dans le monde et dans notre propre pays. Sécheresse, canicule, inondations, incendies, évacuations, nuages de fumée à des kilomètres de distance, tornades, guerre, insurrection, maladie, famine, instabilité politique, sociale et climatique, chaos ! Comment pouvons-nous répondre à l'appel de la conférence de Lambeth d'être "le peuple de Dieu pour le monde de Dieu" avec toutes ces choses inquiétantes qui se passent ?

La lettre aux Romains présente quelques pratiques pour ceux qui veulent vivre comme le peuple de Dieu :

« Que l'amour soit sincère. Fuyez le mal avec horreur, attachez-vous au bien. Que l'amour fraternel vous lie d'une mutuelle affection ; rivalisez d'estime réciproque. D'un zèle sans nonchalance, d'un esprit fervent, servez le Seigneur. Soyez joyeux dans l'espérance, patients dans la détresse, persévérants dans la prière. Soyez solidaires des saints dans le besoin, exercez l'hospitalité avec empressement. Bénissez ceux qui vous persécutent ; bénissez et ne maudissez pas. Réjouissez-vous avec ceux qui sont dans la joie, pleurez avec ceux qui pleurent. Soyez bien d'accord entre vous : n'ayez pas le goût des grandeurs, mais laissez-vous attirer par ce qui est humble. Ne vous prenez pas pour des sages. Ne rendez à personne le mal pour le mal ; ayez à cœur de faire le bien devant tous les hommes. S'il est possible, pour autant que cela dépend de vous, vivez en paix avec tous les hommes. Ne vous vengez pas vous-mêmes, mes bien-aimés, mais laissez agir la colère de Dieu, car il est écrit : A moi la vengeance, c'est moi qui rétribuerai, dit le Seigneur. Mais si ton ennemi a faim, donne-lui à manger, s'il a soif, donne-lui à boire, car, ce faisant, tu amasseras des charbons ardents sur sa tête. Ne te laisse pas vaincre par le mal, mais sois vainqueur du mal par le bien. » Romains 12:9-21 (Version TOB)

Le monde va mal ! Mais la famille arrive !

+ Mary



Save the date!
16 Nov 2023

The Bishop's Dinner
to support the mission work of the diocese
Club St James ~1145 Union~Montreal

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Reflections on a cultural visit to Kanawake -hope for the future

INGRID GELLIS

Ms Ingrid Gellis is a PWRDF co-rep and Sunday school volunteer for Christ Church Beaurepaire and Community Action Impact rep for West Island Network of churches.

Over the years how many people have crossed the Mercier Bridge and driven along route 132 on the South shore of Montreal and passed by Kanawake? When I did so, I remember thinking that this is land reserved for the First Nations Mohawk people who live here. I really didn't think much more about it, and I suspect that most people don't give it much thought either.

For some people, their awareness began to change in 2015 when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission concluded it's work of bearing witness and recording the history of residential school survivors and offering Canadians recommendations of calls to action.

When I attended school, we learned very little about the history of Indigenous people who were here long before any European settlers. Once the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final re-



A diverse, multi-age group taking part in our first cultural visit to Kanawake. Our guide said that she had hope for reconciliation because of educational opportunities like this tour. We hope this is one step towards that hope. Photo supplied.

port, this history began to filter into the mainstream consciousness of average Canadians. It is not a history that Canadians can be proud of.

The residential schools were a major part of this tragic story, where church and state collaborated to develop policies where indigenous children as young as six were taken from their families, their homes, and their communities. They were denied learning about their culture and punished for

speaking their language. The last residential school closed in 1991, but the legacy of this injustice lives on with so many struggling to overcome the pain of the past - now a source of pervasive inter-generational trauma.

I have asked myself what we - as average Canadians - can do to make a difference. The recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission are a good start. It is important that we

acknowledge the truth of what happened and recognize the harm done. It is also important that we take every opportunity to learn about First Nations history and culture in order to grow - not only in knowledge - but in respect and mutual understanding.

As one of the PWRDF reps for my church, I was invited on a cultural tour of Kanawake and I took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about my neighbours. The tour took

place on May 18th of this year.

As our group drove into the town centre to meet our guide, the local Chief was standing at the intersection, overseeing the plans that were being put in place to slow traffic and make the crossing safer for children in the area. It reminded me of the school meetings that I attended about traffic safety when my children were in elementary school.

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My Ninth General Synod - The Joy of Being an Elder!

SUE WINN

Mrs Susan Winn is a diocesan delegate to General Synod.

Privileged to be a delegate to General Synod 2023 in Calgary, Alberta, I was also pleased to be able to share memories and experiences from the eight previous General Synods I have attended. Our Anglican Church of Canada has seen so much change since it met in Montreal in May 1998, my first Synod experience.

The Montreal Synod 25 years ago was a nine-day meeting. Calgary was a five-day meeting. Shortening the timeline enables financial savings, reducing costs for accommodation of delegates and guests. I missed the "free" time we used to enjoy during longer meetings, time to tour the host city, or enjoy special meals with diocesan delegations.

On the campus of the University of Calgary, which accommodates 35,000 students, our Assembly of 400 people gathered in the MacEwan Students' Center, assigned to three different dining areas and one large, windowless meeting hall on the lower level where we were oblivious to the weather outside. Our sunshine was the greetings of friends, old and new, Lutherans and Anglicans, Indigenous and nonindigenous, together addressing important challenges facing our churches. This was the second joint assembly of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada. The first joint as-



Left to Right: Bishop Lydia Mamakwa of the Spiritual Ministry of Mishimakoweesh, Sue Winn, Bishop Sidney Black, (retired), Rev. Murray Still, Anglican Council of Indigenous People and Judith Moses, deputy Prolocutor. Photo supplied.

sembly was held in Ottawa in July 2013, twelve years after the declaration of Full Communion partnership and the Waterloo Accord in 2001. I remember with joy the Waterloo Synod when Primate Michael Peers and the Rev. Telmor Sartison the national bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada danced around the podium to singing, cheers and clapping. At this 2023 Assembly we celebrated together and expanded our fellowship to include the Moravian Church.

For me, the highlight of

General Synod 2023 was seeing the progress of the self-determining indigenous church within the Anglican Church. With the leadership of ACIP, the Anglican Council of Indigenous People, the Sacred Circle, and the newly consecrated Indigenous Archbishop, Chris Harper, our indigenous siblings shared generously with us from the stage, around our tables, in comments from the microphones, and in inviting us to participate in a joyous round dance. We have come a long way since the Montreal

Synod of 1998 when we were only beginning the work to implement a "Native Covenant" which would give our indigenous siblings greater autonomy within the church. Now we meet together in worship and in the ongoing work of the church.

The theme, "Let There Be Greening" applied to all the hopes we share as we seek to serve our needy world. Other delegates will share their responses to the work of Dismantling Racism,, Social and Ecological Justice, Peace and

Justice in Palestine and Israel and work towards "Churches Without Borders." Documents will be available to parishes who choose to study further, and to be guided by the new strategic plan of five transformational aspirations.

Primate Linda Nicholls addressed General Synod in a tone of energy and hope. She spoke of the resiliency, adaptability and creativity of the church during the difficult years of the pandemic.

She thanked all church leaders for their courage in meeting challenges, making changes and living their faith and witness through difficult times. Archbishop Linda received a full-hearted standing ovation from assembled delegates, who have appreciated her hard work and her witness in so many places in our world over the last four years. She has visited and served as an outstanding example of Christian leadership.

At my Lutheran/Anglican Table we took note of the diversity in our group of eight: a priest, born in India, living with his family in the Arctic, a Lutheran pastor, two indigenous members, a youth and several others who referred to me as an elder!!! They said they appreciated the historical perspective I was able to contribute to our discussions. I am so proud of our Anglican Church of Canada as it continues to focus on justice, peace and love in our ever-changing world. And I know the joy of being an elder!

“Under the big, old maple tree” Fifth Sunday Gatherings in the Eastern Townships

TYSON ROSBERG

Fr Tyson Rosberg is Associate Priest of the Eastern Townships Regional Ministry.

One of the biggest challenges facing ministry in our rural corner of the Diocese is building a sense of unity and teamwork across the twelve churches of the Eastern Townships Regional Ministry. The geography of our region is vast. It is not unusual for clergy to cover 100 or more kilometres between churches on any given Sunday: it often feels like swinging from tree to tree or flying and never quite getting the landing gear down!

Moreover, most of the church communities in this area have a strong historic sense of identity, one which is linked to a particular location and building, and not so easily expanded to a broader notion of the Christian family. Yet, without deep and genuine Christian collaboration, a regional ministry is nothing more than a financial agreement. Instead, the hope is that we are truly building something stronger together, leaning into the vocation that God has for this place.

Ironically, COVID19 provided the initial momentum towards a team ministry here, as we all gathered online for a single Zoom service from across the whole region — and beyond. We regularly had over 100 participants on our Zoom services, and while no one wishes the pandemic lockdowns to return, many reminisce on the creativity and fun that we shared online. We even had a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper online!

More still, these Zoom services provided an environment for fostering new relationships and friendships from across the region. Those who now travel around to different churches for Sunday worship often remark how they already know so many friendly faces because they met online.

To strengthen this sense of unity, our Regional Ministry now hosts special joint worship services on months with a fifth Sunday, during which we all worship together in a single service and share a potluck meal afterwards. There are no other services scheduled in the region on those Sundays.

There is a tremendous feeling of fellowship at these joint services, and it is a real joy for

everyone to see their churches so full.

We had an explosive attendance of 147 people for our fifth Sunday service hosted in Bishop Stewart Memorial Church in Frelighsburg in April. In July we always gather outdoors for a picnic service in Stanbridge East under the big, old maple tree at the centre of the church yard. We experimented with outdoor services during the pandemic, and “under the big, old maple tree” has become something of a slogan for our joint ministries together, hinting at the all-encompassing nature of it.

For small, rural congregations that normally get less than a dozen people on a Sunday morning, these big regional services also provide a tremendous sense of life and hope for the future! Alone, the churches of this region have limited futures; together, we have an opportunity for greater longevity. God is not finished with the Townships! God is now calling us to try something new: “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness” (Isaiah 43:19).



Anthony Manelli, Caitlin Taylor, and baby Torin (who was baptized at the event). Photo by Tim Smart.



Cheryl Vosburgh and Barbara Mosher. Photo by Tim Smart.



Barry Bockus amongst the gladiolas. Photo by Tim Smart.



97 people gathered from across the region at St. James the Apostle, Stanbridge East. Photo by Tim Smart.



Fr Tyson Rosberg delivered the Eucharist. Photo by Tim Smart.



Deacon Randy Gates and Joan Hislopp. Photo by Tim Smart.



Hazel Livingstone and Matthew Farag. Photo supplied.

Intergenerational Blessing!

CHRIS BARRIGAR

The Rev Chris Barrigar is the Incumbant of the Church of St Mark & St Peter.

The merger of St Mark's, St. Laurent, and St Peter's, TMR, in 2019, brought together two very different congregations.

One of the friendships that developed in this merger was between Matthew Farag and Hazel Livingstone. When Hazel had to move into a seniors' residence last year, Matthew and his mom Kristi would visit Hazel. It turns out that Matthew and Hazel have something else in common aside from belonging to CMP (The Church of St Mark & St Peter)—Gardenvue School, where Matthew is a student

and Hazel was a lunch monitor for almost 30 years.

Matthew's class was recently given an assignment to write about a hero in their community, and Matthew chose to write about Hazel. In their conversations, Matthew learned all sorts of interesting things about Hazel, including that she had grown up playing with Oscar Peterson and his siblings, and that she used to take care of St Laurent Mayor Alan de Sousa when he was a child!

Matthew's essay on Hazel was so moving that it won first prize for Grade 6 entries from the Quebec Anglo Heritage Network. The photo shows Matthew with Hazel, and the first place certificate. Thank you, Hazel and Matthew, for your inspiring friendship!

Are we Christians in the world or just at church?

NANCY GREENE-GREGOIRE

Ms Nancy Greene-Gregoire is the EfM Coordinator for the Diocese of Montreal since 2017.

Join Education for Ministry to deepen your Christian faith. Learn how to articulate that faith. Let that faith inspire you into action.

EfM is a place where all questions about our faith are welcome, where we can experience Jesus' words in the Gospels, study the letters Paul wrote to early Christian communities, realize the importance of the Hebrew Bible, read about the First Council of Nicaea, Augustine of Hippo, Thomas Cranmer, Luther, and the Orthodox churches of the East and see how our Christian history relates to our lives today. We practise integrating faith and life, and communicating our faith to others.

Who participates? EfM is designed for people of all ages. At baptism we are all called



to ministry. Don't let the four years be overwhelming, we only ask for a one year commitment at a time.

Costs: The annual fee is \$350 plus \$100 to \$150 on textbooks with opportunities to purchase them second hand.

When & where: It's a hybrid course (Montreal Dio on the McGill campus and online) starting Wednesday, September 6 at 7pm.

Online Open House: Tuesday August 29, 8-9pm. Contact Nancy for the link at ngreene@acm.org or 514-862-5367.

Cultural visit to Kanawake

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The second thing I noticed was the large Catholic Church in the town centre. As a person of faith, I must say that it brought up difficult feelings of sadness about the terrible injustice perpetrated by the church. Yet, I know that the church is made up of people; human beings who got it so wrong during this period in the history of this country. Jesus taught us to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Our guide introduced herself with her English name and also her Mohawk name which is "Kawenahawe." It is quite a mouthful when heard for the first time, but the more I repeated it, the smoother and easier it was to say, until it rolled off the tongue like a soft breeze.

Kawenahawe explained that in traditional indigenous culture, no two children are meant to have the same name. Each is unique and the hope is that each child will grow into the full stature of the name chosen for them. Our guide said that her name was chosen for her by her great grandmother when she was still in her mother's womb. The meaning of her name is "Carrier of the word". I was touched by the fact that we were both aware that she had grown to fulfill the hope of her family.

As our guide, Kawenahawe shared interesting information

about the history of each place we passed, such as the church, the St. Lawrence seaway and the language and cultural centre. This is not meant to be a travel log about Kanawake, but more about my impressions. Of the many things I learned I would like to share the two that impacted me the most.

Her hope is that Canadians acknowledge the mistakes of the past, recognize the injustices that still exist, work towards repairing mistakes and stand for justice together.

As we walked by the seaway, I learned of the cost to indigenous people who lived along the coast of the Eastern United States and Canada. Before European settlers arrived, First Nations were able to satisfy all their needs both physical and spiritual from the natural world around them. With the arrival of Europeans those territories began to shrink.

An example of this is when the St. Lawrence seaway was built; the First Nations that lived along the coast were expropriated and those who refused, were removed forcibly and even had their homes burned down. Not only did they lose their homes, but the seaway cut off their access

to open flowing water which further damaged their ability to provide for themselves. They are limited to fishing on the inside channel of the seaway where commercial and cruise ships still use this area to discharge waste.

It is truly difficult to accept the reality of this injustice which continues to this day. Even with land claims that are not yet settled with the government; a large commercial and residential project is already being built on a tract of land that has not been conceded.

The final impression I was left with, was that our guide said that she still had hope for the future and that, through education, the Canadian people would grow in understanding and support of First Nations.

Her hope is that Canadians acknowledge the mistakes of the past, recognize the injustices that still exist, work towards repairing mistakes and stand for justice together.

It was an eye-opening and heart-opening experience. I would highly recommend anyone to take the time for a cultural tour of Kanawake. I would also suggest looking at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report and think about how you might respond to the recommendations.

These are actions for restoring hope and working towards reconciliation.



This sign in Kanawake speaks for itself. Photo supplied.

Notable

Apple Fest/Craft Sale

St. Paul's, 321 Empire in Greenfield Park on October 14 9am-1:30pm.

There will be lots of baked goods with apples, crafts, a luncheon, raffle and much more.

For more information, call 450 678 2460 or email gkidd71@yahoo.com

Notable

Great Country Christmas Sale

St. Paul's, 321 Empire in Greenfield Park on November 18th 9am-1:30pm.

Baked goods, crafts, home made preserves, nearly-new table, and raffles, and much more. A luncheon will be available.

For more information call 450 678 2460 or email gkidd71@yahoo.com.

Around the Diocese



Yevgeniya Zvereva at the 125th anniversary of All Saints by the Lake on June 18, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



The Rev Ben Stuchbery at the 125th anniversary of All Saints by the Lake on June 18, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.

Church of St John the Baptist's 100 year anniversary on St John's Day, June 25, 2023



Daniel Deslauriers, Bruce and Carol Glencross and Angela Deslauriers. Photo by Janet Best.



Mary Wright. Photo by Janet Best.



Michael Care. Photo by Janet Best.



Christina Barruco, Hannah Creese and Eleanor Creese. In the background Susan Kaye. Photo by Janet Best.

Around the Diocese



Merley Cumberbatch at the 150th anniversary of St Matthias Anglican Church on May 14, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



Brian Davies and Gerry Cormier at the 150th anniversary of St Matthias Anglican Church on May 14, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



The Rev Terry Blizzard preaches at the 150th anniversary of St Matthias Anglican Church, May 14, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



Cheryl Hodge and son Daniel Hodge Masnaghetti who was confirmed at St Matthias, May 14, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



Confirmation service at St Paul's, Cote des Neiges on June 18, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



Tianna, Altovise and Jasmine serve food following the confirmation service at St Paul's, Cote des Neiges, June 18, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.

Diocesan Synod - Racism: Listening, Naming, Reconciling continued from page 1

planning initiative and these will be presented at General Synod, which meets in Calgary at the end of this month. I commend them to you as spiritual practices as we seek to train our lives as Christ's disciples. In all that we do, we can look at whether the following apply:

- Invites and deepens life in Christ
- Champions the dignity of every human being; works to dismantle racism and colonialism
- Embraces mutual interdependence with the Indigenous church (Sacred Circle)
- Nurtures right relationship among people of faith in local, national and global communities and networks
- Stewards and renews God's creation: protects and sustains the earth; pursues justice for all

This year I want to invite everyone to join me in a year of spiritual renewal, of intentional discipleship, of deepening our commitment to Christ, and of discerning ways to reach out into God's world in his love. I want to challenge everyone to take on one spiritual renewal activity in your parish – and invite me to attend!"

(For the complete charge, in both languages, go to www.montreal.anglican/synod.)

Synod Presentation- Racism- Listening, Naming, Reconciling

Bishop Ogé began with a video

clip of two young children of different ethnicities embracing and then shared his experiences of racism and discrimination, from his early childhood in Haiti to the present day.

During his early years as a priest in this Diocese he experienced racism but was able - through talking with those who discriminated against him - to build positive relationships.

Bishop Ogé concluded with suggestions for parishes to fight racism:

- Teaching is the key; encourage children to enjoy differences
- invite people from your neighbourhood to suppers,
- encourage inter-racial groups,
- work with other churches,
- get local politicians to speak out against racism while keeping them accountable.

As individuals we cannot say racism doesn't exist, we cannot ignore it, we need to be the light and salt in the world, we cannot let racism take over the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Canonical Changes on Racial Diversity

The proposed Canonical Changes come out of the work of the Anti-Racism Task Force. All amendments were ultimately voted on and accepted.

The first amendment is an update to the Canon on electing a bishop, adding changes to create a more diverse membership on the search committee.

A new subsection is to be added under "Nominations for Bishop" encouraging a wider range of diversity in nominations.

The next section included amendments to the Constitution. The first includes increasing the number of additional members of Synod as elected by Diocesan Council from five to seven and also work at increasing diversity among those selected to better reflect the composition of the Diocese.

The final amendment tasks the Nominating Committee to aim for a diversity of candidates for all Diocesan committees. The Rev. Deborah Meister suggested a friendly amendment, adding "economic status" to the list of criteria for diversity, which was accepted.

Fossil Fuel Motion

Mr. Mark Gibson, Chair of the Stewardship of the Environment Committee and Mr. Ross Hamilton, spoke to the motion, which encourages all Parishes to move away from fossil-fuel heating sources in all church buildings, in order to eventually reach a goal of zero GHGs by 2030. All Parishes, their parishioners and neighbours should also be actively encouraged to move towards making these changes.

The motion was voted upon and carried.

Finance Presentation

Ms. Laura Prince expressed gratitude to all those who had assisted her in her first year as Treasurer.

In introduction, Ms. Prince highlighted some of the many important functions and ser-

vices provided by the Synod Office. She noted that the Diocese has various sources of income that support ministry.

Investment losses were down by 10%, with an overall operating loss of 350K. Revenues are gradually increasing although investment income is down but stable. Receivables in 2022 were at their highest in recent years. Market value of investments is down.

The forecast for 2023 was for a 323K loss. With revenues and investment income down we are now looking at a net loss of 408K at year-end.

The Treasurer presented the Budget for 2024. It is relatively the same as 2023 with no overall increases expected. Ground rent is fixed and does not increase from year to year. The loss from operations is estimated at 335K.

The budget was voted upon and approved.

Motion from the Floor on Multicultural Awareness/ Anti-Bias Training

The Rev. Deborah Meister spoke to the motion to "welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you". The Anti-Racism Task Force wishes to equip Clergy and Lay Leaders by offering mandatory training in multicultural awareness and an anti-bias posture. The motion seeks to implement a course as a prerequisite for all those in leadership and open it to all members of the Dioceses. A refresher course would be required, every 3 years.

The Rev. James Pratt noted that grace will be employed in being flexible in allowing people time and opportunity to complete the training course.

The motion was voted upon and carried.

Q&A with Bishop Ogé Beauvoir- Facilitated by the Rev. Canon Dr. Neil Mancor

Canon Mancor opened the floor for questions from delegates, expressing that this had been a wonderful Synod with so much inclusion. He asked Bishop Ogé to elaborate more on his comments about the relationship between racism and discrimination.

Bishop Ogé answered that racism becomes concrete through the application of discrimination. They are one coin with two faces; discrimination is putting into practice racist thoughts.

Canon Mancor asked Bishop Ogé to expand a bit more on the interesting stories of his childhood.

Bishop Ogé shared about his leaving the countryside at age 5 and how his faith had helped him move forward. He was not distracted from his mission to do the work he was there to do, which, at that time, was to get a good education. He has followed these principles throughout his life.

The Rev. Graham Singh asked how the downtown deanery churches can reach out to serve the wider community and multicultural groups and how do they go about having bigger conversations?

Bishop Ogé answered that we need to take risks in doing mission, and change the way we do mission. The field is out there, it is open to us. What are we doing to make people

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Join this free webinar to learn all about what went on at this year's General Synod from Dio principal Jesse Zink.

Thursday, September 14th, 2023, 7:30pm to 8:30pm.

Register at www.montrealdio.ca/our-courses/

Growing in Love and Acceptance: Montreal Mission Internship 2023

EMILY STUCHBERY

Ms Emily Stuchbery is the Communications Coordinator for the Montreal Diocesan Theological College.

Montreal Dio was delighted to host a cohort of interns once again this summer for the Montreal Mission Internship (MMI). MMI is a summer internship that combines social service work with theological reflection and discernment.

This year's participants were placed at various organizations around the city including The Nazareth Community, Ministry to Seafarers, and Christian Direction.

"I was drawn to this program as I was looking for a summer opportunity to serve others in simple ways and grow in my abilities to help vulnerable people and try to love them the way God loves them," said one participant, Katharine Mallet. *"I have learned to identify the unique gifts God has given me and the importance of loving people in such a way that they can receive it, among many other things. It has been hard but God has been showing me that He is definitely worth it."*

Tashiana Boodhoo, who travelled all the way from Mauritius to study at the

University of PEI last year, was excited by the opportunity to spend the summer in another Canadian city, all while drawing closer to God through service.

"MMI has not only helped me to achieve my dream of experiencing life in another part of Canada while deepening my faith, but it has surprisingly enabled me to live the Montreal city life through a lens of profuse honesty and acceptance of what has been, is and can be," she says. *"I embarked on this journey with an expectation of it being just another job, but what I am ending up receiving is so much more than I could have asked for. At this point, I have learnt not to set expectations and instead be welcoming of what I am meant to experience."*

Program Director Alan Ma is optimistic about the way God worked in the lives of each of the interns over the nine weeks of the program. *"From prompting vocational questions to discerning daily actions to personal healing, it has been marvelous witnessing the work of our Lord in and around the MMI participants,"* he says. *"I am thankful to God for the precious time that we received together as a community - walking alongside one another."*



From orientation week. Photos by TimChin Photography.

Building community, one faux-ami at a time: Reflecting on Montreal Dio's French for Ministry Intensive

JESSICA STILWELL

Ms Jessica Stilwell is a Board Member for the Montreal Diocesan Theological College and Rector's Warden at St Matthias Anglican Church.

During my time on the Board of Governors for Montreal Dio, I have had the distinct pleasure of participating in College life in a number of ways, including joining the conversations about forming a combined college with the former United Theological College (UTC).

At its best, this process involved Board members and staff from both Colleges speaking openly about their denomination – as well as College-specific experiences of faith, education, and religiosity – and listening to each other in a creative way, not just hearing, but actually making something out of the information they received.

This kind of creative exchange also characterised the **2023 French for Ministry Intensive**, run by the now-ecumenical College with a mixed United-Anglican cohort.

Over the course of five incredibly rich days, we spoke frankly about our experiences of church and of the Church, coming together in conversations that were transformative and profound at times and full of joyful hilarity at others. And all of it happened in our second



L-R: Shanna Bernier, the Rt Rev Bruce Myers, Clara Maranzano, Rev Giuseppe Gagliano, Jessica Stilwell, Jessica Gauthier. Photo by Janet Best.

language.

Without the pressure of perfection that can come from a ministry context - in a space where we were welcome to make the kinds of mistakes that we would learn to avoid in the future - we engaged in

deep theological, liturgical, and ecclesiological reflections that sometimes went deeper than some of us thought we could go without reverting to a first language!

In just five days, it somehow felt like we left neither

linguistic nor content stones unturned, and yet the experience did not feel rushed. My brain worked hard all day, but I would leave feeling refreshed and renewed in a way I have only rarely felt – a testament, I think, to the way the Intensive

is conceived as an opportunity to refine already-existing skills and to bolster students' confidence in their abilities.

This atmosphere owed much to the generosity and good humour of the cohort and

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Save the Date! October 17th Mile End Mission's Thanksgiving Benefit Dinner

Tuesday October 17th, 2023 at 6 p.m. Petros Restaurant: 234 Laurier Ave. West.

You are cordially invited to attend the Mile End Community Mission's 15th Annual Thanksgiving Benefit Dinner. This important annual fundraiser will help the Mission continue its vital work of providing care, inspiration and hope to disadvantaged individuals and families in the Mile-End and surrounding areas.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, guests will have the opportunity to support our community while enjoying a wonderful evening surrounded by old and new friends of the Mission!

Tickets are \$200 per person and a tax receipt for \$125 will be available. The evening will also include an auction and a raffle with many great prizes donated by friends in the community.

For additional information about the dinner or to purchase tickets, please call Lou or Lori at the Mission: 514 274-3401 or send us an email at fundraising@mileendmission.org

We hope you can join us!

If you are unable to attend, your kind donations will help us include two VIP tables of Mission members.

Thank you!
Lou & all your friends at the Mile End Mission

Synod continued from page 8

feel welcome? It is challenging, we need to meet people where they are and offer unity not uniformity.

Ms. Danica Meredith asked Bishop Ogé to offer his wisdom as to how to do "hospice care" for what we are leaving behind as we take risks and move into new areas.

Bishop Ogé responded that we need to find help along the way and look to where we want to go. We can use the skills we have, once we know where to go with them, in making choices, taking risks and being missional.

The Rev. Steven Maki asked for guidance on allowing communities of faith to be more open. His Parish is using English prayer books and English songs. These are very beautiful but how can they offer worship that would be relevant to the African students who attend their church?

Bishop Ogé recommended the model being used at the Church of St. Mark and St. Peter (CMP) and the need to learn from one another. Bishop Ogé took a group from St. Paul's Church to visit CMP to experience a different style of worship

Canon Mancor asked the Rev. Fresia Saborio to share how she responds to the multilingual needs of the church she pastors in Granby. She suggested finding out the needs of the African students, how they worship and what they want rather than working top down.

The Rev. Graham Singh spoke about the theory of "Missional Distance." This theory looks at our church community in terms of concentric circles, with 'us' at the centre, and those least like us on the periphery, with gradations of similarity in between. We have

to grapple with these tensions especially when encouraging people to look towards Ordination, otherwise we end up ordaining the same sorts of people.

Mr. Mark Gibson noted that we need to remember our mission to the people around us. He recommended a course from Kairos on this topic.

Bishop Ogé concluded with a final word- "*when you leave your comfort zone be prepared to be challenged*".

Update from Anti-Racism Task Force

Mr. Dion Lewis and Mr. Edward Yankie, Co-Chairs of the Anti-Racism Task Force, gave an update on its work over the past year.

Mr. Lewis noted workshops and resources have been offered by the Task Force, they have brought motions to this Synod, they are collaborating with other groups in the Diocese, and with community organisations. A lot of work is being done.

Mr. Lewis encouraged Members to read the Anti-Racism Task Force report in the Convening Circular and, as individuals, to speak out against racism in our communities and work at promoting these principles.

Mr. Yankie said the proposed anti-bias training will be of great value to us in reaching our goals. We need to make reparations for past injustices and continue learning. He thanked those in leadership and many others for helping the Anti-Racism Task Force in its mission.

Synod 2024 will be a Conference Synod - June 6th, 7th & 8th.

Inspired Paths for our Kids



Photo by Lightstock.

LOU HACHEY

Ms. Linda (Lou) Hachey is the Director of Mile End Mission.

In this crazy fast-paced world filled with harsh realities, constant changes and challenges that are brought to us in never-ending 'Breaking News' alerts and alarms everywhere you turn ... you just have to wonder how the children are processing the images of reality they are coming across!

So, with this in the back of

our minds, we were thrilled that more Mile End Mission kids got to have a break this past summer to experience a fun-filled and peaceful week within the beautiful arms of nature at the Quebec Lodge Outdoor Centre on Lake Massawippi in Hatley, Québec.

Once again, this camp experience was made possible through the Anglican Foundation of Canada's annual 'Say Yes! to Kids' fundraising initiative and generous donors in

our community.

For a second year, another one of our campers, Devon, loved the experience so much that he now wants to become a camp counsellor. Paige, who went to camp with the Mission kids last year was hired this past summer as a camp counsellor in the Laurentians!

More than ever, our kids need to experience the wonders of nature, be shown new paths and be inspired.



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The Bible Story Walk; connecting parishes with their neighbors

LEE-ANN MATTHEWS

Lee-Ann Matthews is the MTL Youth Project Coordinator and Web & Social Media Coordinator for the Diocese of Montreal.

The Bible Story Walk pilot project has been up and running throughout the spring and summer of 2023 making its way around several willing and enthusiastic parishes in the Diocese of Montreal.

It has been interesting to learn about the ways that the Bible Story Walk has impacted communities and encouraged engagement.

Here is some of the feedback I've received:

"We had it here (St Paul's Greenfield Park) for a month and I got to see all sorts of different people coming and taking advantage of it. There were young people, high school students walking by and reading it and older people and families. All sorts of different people came to take advantage of the space and just see what it is that has been installed in the front lawn of the church.

One gentleman came and knocked on the door and said what's the story with this? How come I wasn't notified that this was here earlier? I love this. I want to go and tell all my neighbors.

Another lady that was making her way to the library stopped and even came to tears she was we later found out that she was going through these and pondering the wondering questions and she told us I'm going to go to the library I want to invite everybody who's at the library down the road to come and enjoy this as well. That lady has since started attending



The panels represent the creation story. Original artwork by Lee-Ann Matthews.

the 8AM service that is here at St Paul's.

The only downside is that we couldn't keep it all summer and we wish we could have. We wish it could still be here but we understand it's going to be at other churches so others in the area can enjoy all for the glory of God and for his kingdom.

I just want to say thank you to the diocese and to Lee-Ann and Bishop Mary and everybody who is involved in this for making this available to us and allowing us to participate in it. Thank you."

-The Rev Trevor Potter (May 2023)

"Everyone enjoyed the story

- there was engagement from the kids answering Neil's questions and even the adults answered. Several people commented on how lovely the posts were and this was a great idea. Neil Mancor did an excellent job at reading - and talking with the kids.

It was great, it was very good for St. Barnabas. It showed that we are more than just a church building - and that there are fun things going on so check us out.

... it introduces the kids in an easy, simple and fun way to hear about God and His existence; to see what He is like and how He made all things.

New families and people

showed up... the Bible Story was a bonus. We got to meet and chat with them. They know we are inviting them. It's about mission; Jesus sends us out and this was a good way.

I noticed a couple of times during the Sunday service, when I was at the altar and the main doors are open to let air circulate (I can see straight outside the front to the display) I've noticed people walking by and reading the posts."

- Deacon Debbie Galt-Shane (June 2023)

As this is something we haven't done before, we are in an experimental phase, adapting as we go. Each church has been encouraged to invite

neighbours to their lawn for an event to celebrate the Story Walk, serve lemonade etc. This has proven to be fruitful and has provided opportunities to connect with families and the spiritually curious of all ages and stages of life.

The project broke ground at its first stop at St. Paul's Greenfield Park in May then to St Barnabas Pierrefonds, followed by All Saints by The Lake, Dorval, St Thomas Church in NDG and St Philips Montreal West. Its final destination for the season will be Christ Church Beaufort in October 2023.

If you are interested in hosting the project in 2024 or are inspired by this project and have other ideas you wish to share, get in touch with Lee-Ann Matthews: lmatthews@montreal.anglican.ca



June 4th Confirmation service at St Philip's Church, Montreal West. L-R: Elizabeth Bowie, Evan Bowie, R.J. (Andy) Walter, server, Malcolm Patterson, Andrew Patterson, Ryder Higgs. Photo by Janet Best.

French for Ministry continued from page 9

to the inspiration and nurturing care of the Holy Spirit. But much of the credit should go to the instructor, Clara Maranzano. She deftly handled questions from the sublime to the ridiculous, and often used the content of our pre-class and lunchtime discussions as instructional material. Her patience and encouragement - paired with a clarity of expression and a true pedagogue's heart - were central to creating a space for not only improving grammar but improving our understanding of each other's church contexts and our shared context of the Church in Quebec.

In the process of Dio and

UTC becoming one body, I often heard French programming described as a central tool in UTC's arsenal, a specialisation that would enrich any partnership they entered - and that is certainly true.

Theological education in the language of the context is just as crucial now as it was in the vernacularizing movements of medieval Europe. But the Intensive in particular is also something more: it is a space of co-creation and of wrestling, and it is a model for how intentional, gracious vulnerability and genuine curiosity are central to building up the (ecumenical) Body of Christ.

A Prayer from the Diocesan Representatives The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer - Canada

Loving God, maker of all creatures great and small, we thank you for blessing us with companion animals. We are privileged to have the opportunity to care for and be cared by our various pets. They bring us immense pleasure and comfort, fill our homes with life and love, and ask for nothing in return.

At the height of the Covid19 pandemic, those who had pets were comforted and grateful. Others, who yearned for pets, procured them and were rewarded with great joy. We confess that with the return to in-person office hours and the onset of high inflation, many among us are no longer able to give our companion animals the attention they need and deserve.

Gracious God, we lift in prayer those among us who are forced to abandon their pets due to lifestyle changes. This loss is hard as these owners truly want to keep their companions, but can't. We pray that you will soften the hearts of those who manage restrictive leases and maintain narrow policies for seniors'

residences. May they come to appreciate that the benefits of pet ownership outweigh the inconvenience and cost.

Creator God, we pray that through your Divine hand you will be with these surrendered and vulnerable animals. Like us, they are scared of the unknown and dislike change. Some are grieving owners who have died while others are skit-



tish due to mistreatment and neglect. We thank you for bringing people into their lives who will love and care for them just as they are. We pray that you will sustain and guide all staff and volunteers who work for rescue organizations and shelters as they are the first point of contact for these orphaned creatures. We pray for all foster families who open their hearts to them as they wait impatiently for forever homes.

Eternal God, we implore you to be with all pet owners when they must say goodbye to their companions due to illness, old age, or accident. Help them discern the right time to seek euthanasia and not feel guilty with this difficult decision. This loss is hard and the void is great. We pray for comfort and peace for the bereft. Ultimately, we pray that humans never lose the zeal for companion animals nor the love and responsibility that comes with this bond.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Valerie Bennett and Stacey Neale

For more information on AFP-C, contact Valerie Bennett and Stacey Neale at valstacey@bell-net

101 ways to pray continued from page 1

in your church that are non-threatening and easy to do.

- **Lectio** is a simple way to share the scriptures with simple questions that help draw out the meaning of the text for everyone. It comes from the Benedictine tradition.
- **Praying imaginatively** comes from the Ignatian tradition and is a way you can use your mind to enter vividly into the story of Scripture. Several diocesan spiritual directors are well trained in this practise (and much else besides).
- **Praying with images** comes from the Orthodox tradition and is a way to centre your reflection on an icon or image that you find helpful.
- Many of us find **using a piece of music** is a way to open our hearts to the prayer. It can be anything from a piece of classical music to a praise chorus.
- One of my new favourite practises is **Doodle Prayer** which is deceptively simple. Sitting with some

paper and a pen or two, just pray and then doodle your prayer needs. Its easy and fun to do as a group or on your own.

- We strongly encourage parishes to **practice prayer walking in their neighbourhoods**. Just walk around where you are and ask God to show you who your neighbours are and how God wants you to serve them.

Prayer with Bishop Mary has also been a powerful way for us to gather in prayer. We have done this as a clergy group and at St Paul's Greenfield Park. It is an opportunity to have some time to worship and for Bishop Mary to anoint those who wish with holy oil. We could love to come to your church, if you are interested. Many people have already been blessed by Bishop Mary's prayers.

Let's take St Paul's advice and Bishop Mary's exhortation to focus on prayer and spiritual vitality together as people of faith. Whatever you decide to do, get together as a community and figure out a way to pray without ceasing. Pray as if the life of the Church depends upon it, because it does!

A Few More Great Shots ...



Audrey at the Confirmation service at St Paul's, Cote des Neiges on June 18, 2023. Photo by Janet Best.



Nathan McMaster and Esther Guillen at the July regional service in Stanbridge East. Photo by Tim Smart.

“Come and See”
(John 1:39)

A Vocations Day for the Diocese of Montreal

Do you feel called to ministry leadership in the church?

Come and See ... a day to hear about vocation and ministry (lay and ordained) in the Anglican Diocese of Montreal

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