



Anya Nonnenman shares pretzels at Oktoberfest at St John the Evangelist, October 26, 2024. Photo by Janet Best.

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Building Together in Rawdon; sharing the good news

FR RODNEY CLARK

The Rev. Rodney Clark, part-time incumbent of Christ Church Rawdon, while doing strategic planning and capital development work with a variety of companies.

Christ Church Rawdon is growing! Growth is evident in increased participation at worship, choir, community and parish events, and by a decrease in the average age of participants. In response to this new growth, the parish is working creatively - encouraged by prayer - to more effectively share the Good News. A key part of the work in Rawdon has been the development of a strategic plan. In the spring of 2023, the parish with the assistance of Rev. Neil Mancor, completed a SWOT analysis [SWOT identifies the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats facing an organisation].

The meetings to develop this analysis were spread across

several months and included more than thirty participants. A smaller group then worked with the data to build the report found at right. From this work, the action plan (below right) was outlined.

We chose four items for immediate action: Volunteer care, Housing, Music, Youth.

1. Volunteer Care: the parish corporation built a volunteer data bank to track hours and skills so that the large number of hours given in choir, parish meal prep, visitation, ACW, auction, etc... can be recognized.

In Rawdon, Christ Church works with 'Choral Trad', CIM [Centre d'Interprétation Multiethnique], ECOL [the English Community Organisation of Lanaudière], Friday Friends [an English language Senior's activity group], the Legion, MLUC [Mid-Laurentian United

Church], RRA [Rawdon Rural Association], St. Patrick's Parish, and the WI [Women's Institute], among others, to serve the community.

Cooperation is seen in events such as the Community Carol Service, which raises funds for the local food bank, and 'Under the Pines' [UTP]- a weekly lawn party at The Rawdon Rectory supported by six different groups. UTP saw 134 people - including 28 kids - participate on sunny Wednesday afternoons throughout the summer. UTP was supported by a dozen staff people and 40 volunteers.

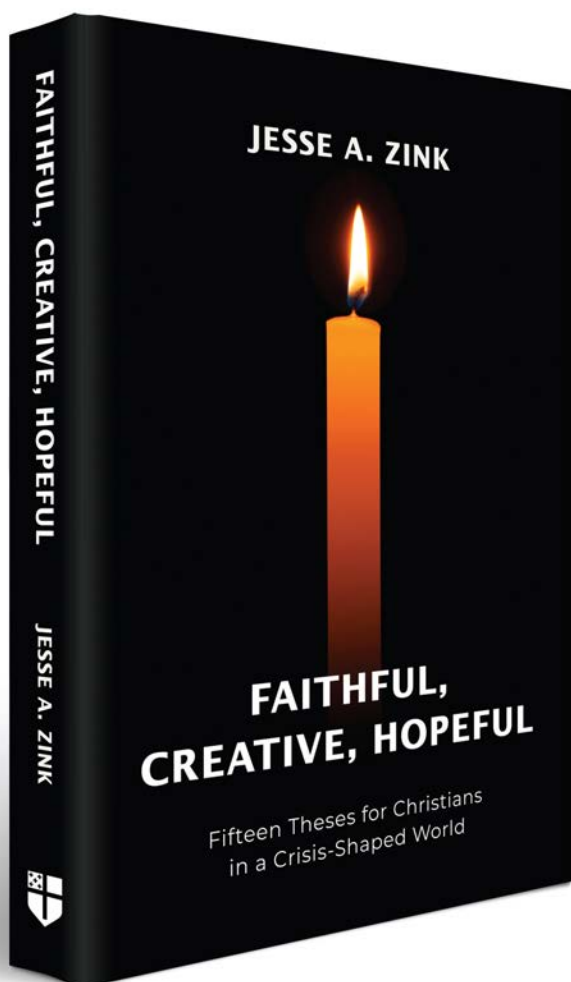
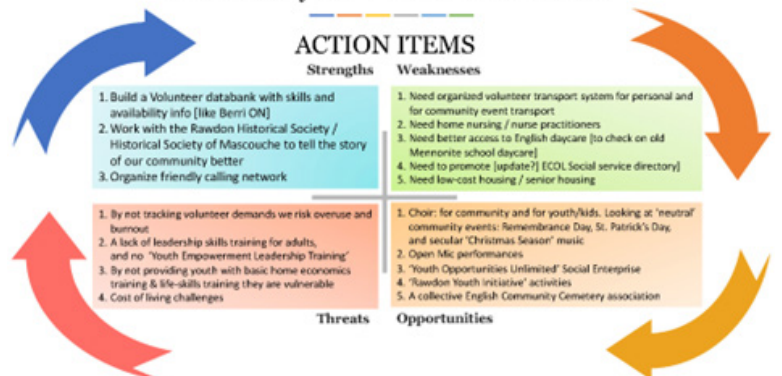
2. Housing: the parish corporation brought to the table a plan - accepted by Bishop Mary and signed on September 30th - to see vacant parish lands transformed into 100 senior housing units, 90 market-rate apartments, 10 low-cost apart-

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SWOT Analysis - Christ Church Rawdon



SWOT Analysis - Christ Church Rawdon



Christianity in a Crisis-Shaped World New Book from Dio Principal, Jesse Zink

The Rev. Canon Jesse Zink has been principal of Montreal Diocesan Theological College ("Dio") since 2017. He has recently published a new book called *Faithful, Creative, Hopeful: Fifteen Theses for Christians in a Crisis-Shaped World*. He answered our questions about the book.

Q: What do you mean by crisis-shaped world?

A: My point of departure in this book is the world "polycrisis." This is a term that has come into use relatively recently and refers to the idea that as a human society we face not just one crisis, but many—climate change, economic inequality, human migration, mental health, housing, racial discrimination, and the list could just keep going. This is the context in which we as Christians are called to witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.

At the same time, we are also aware that the church is facing challenges of its own. We know about declining attendance and predictions of the end of the Anglican Church of Canada. So this is a book written from within a church in a crisis that tries to offer guidance and ideas to energize our witness to a world in crisis.

Q: So what's the answer? How do we find our way to this witness?

A: I begin the book in a place that some people may find unusual or surprising, with the importance of what I call apocalyptic clarity. I don't mean by that that I think the world is ending tomorrow. Instead, to think and act and imagine apocalyptically is to be aware of the powers that are active in this world and are obstructing the kingdom of God and the fullness of life God offers to God's people.

People haven't stopped coming to churches because we've messed up or done the wrong thing. People aren't coming to churches because there are other powers in this world that are drawing their attention, energy, focus, and, indeed, their worship. In the book, I focus in particular on how the economic structures we inhabit are a particular power that obstructs the kingdom of God.

Q: How does an apocalyptic clarity help shape our witness as Christians?

A: For one thing, I think we need to be clear-eyed about the world we live in. Let's honestly acknowledge that there are powers in this world and they are not working towards the kingdom of God. All of us in the church, just as much as people outside the church, are shaped and effected by these

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Bishop's Message, December 2024

We are building for the future of the church here in Montreal, even while we don't know exactly what it will look like. What we can affirm is that we want to be faithful and courageous as we follow God's initiatives and find ways to share Christ's love. We want to equip our leaders and prepare them for ministry. That's why I am excited to draw your attention to this year's Bishop's Action Appeal for Curates. Curacies are times when new clergy leaders are given in-depth, practical training for ministry.

On All Saints weekend I was privileged to attend the Synod of the Diocese of Quebec and to spend time with the faithful and hardworking clergy and lay leaders as they met to think and pray about the future together. In his Charge to Synod, Bishop Bruce Myers, said:

"What does "a vibrant and sustainable Anglican Christian presence in eastern and central Quebec" resemble? A more basic question might be: what does the future hold?"

My honest answer is: I don't know. What I do know is that all that we are doing—updating our governance, emphasizing discipleship formation, setting up new ministry structures, implementing robust financial systems, welcoming new staff and officers—we are doing not to keep busy or to kill time or run out the clock, but because we believe we have a future.

A few years ago, someone shared with me a letter they once received from a previous bishop of Quebec, which included the following line: "I am sure," wrote the bishop, "that I don't have to tell you the future of our church in the diocese looks grim, but we must work at it."

The author of the letter was Bishop Allen Goodings and the year was 1977. God clearly wasn't finished with the Diocese of Quebec 47 years ago, and God isn't finished with us now. As long as we're open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, God will continue to use this church to accomplish God's good purposes in the world."

I am excited about the future of the Church—here in the Diocese of Montreal and also in the Diocese of Quebec, because I believe the Spirit of God will lead us in faithfulness and give us the power to do more than we can ask or imagine.

As we move through the Advent season towards Christmas, I rejoice that God is with us always. Alleluia! Come Lord Jesus! Grow your future in us.

+Mary



Photo by Janet Best.

+Mary

Message de l'évêque, décembre 2024

Nous œuvrons pour l'avenir de l'Église ici à Montréal, même si nous ne savons pas exactement à quoi il ressemblera. Ce que nous pouvons affirmer, c'est que nous voulons être fidèles et courageux en suivant les initiatives de Dieu et en trouvant des moyens de partager l'amour du Christ. Nous voulons équiper nos responsables et les préparer au ministère. C'est pourquoi je suis heureux d'attirer votre attention sur l'appel à l'action de l'évêque pour les vicaires de cette année. Les vicariats sont des moments où les nouveaux membres du clergé reçoivent une formation approfondie et pratique pour le ministère.

La fin de semaine de la Toussaint, j'ai eu le privilège d'assister au synode du diocèse de Québec et de passer du temps avec des membres du clergé et des dirigeants laïcs fidèles et assidus qui se sont réunis pour réfléchir et prier ensemble sur l'avenir. Dans son allocution au synode, l'évêque Bruce Myers a déclaré :

« À quoi ressemblent cette mission et ce témoignage ? À quoi ressemble « une présence chrétienne anglicane dynamique et durable dans l'est et le centre du Québec » ? Une question encore plus fondamentale pourrait être : que nous réserve l'avenir ?

Je vous donne ma réponse honnête et sincère : je ne sais pas. Ce que je sais par contre, c'est que tout ce que nous faisons – la mise à jour notre gouvernance, l'emphase sur la formation de disciples, la mise en place de nouvelles structures de ministère, de systèmes financiers robustes, l'arrivée de nouveaux employés et dirigeants – nous ne le faisons pas pour avoir l'air occupés ou pour tuer le temps, mais parce que nous croyons que nous avons un avenir.

Il y a quelques années, quelqu'un m'a fait part d'une lettre qu'il avait reçue d'un ancien évêque du diocèse de Québec, dans laquelle se trouvait la phrase suivante : « Je suis sûr », avait écrit l'évêque, « que je n'ai pas besoin de vous dire que l'avenir de notre église dans le diocèse semble menacé, mais nous devons y travailler. »

L'auteur de la lettre était l'évêque Allen Goodings et la lettre date de 1977. Il est clair que Dieu n'en avait pas fini avec le diocèse de Québec il y a 47 ans, et Dieu n'en a pas fini avec nous aujourd'hui. Tant que nous demeurerons réceptifs à la direction du Saint-Esprit, Dieu continuera d'utiliser cette église pour accomplir ses bons desseins dans le monde. »

Je suis enthousiasmée par l'avenir de l'Église — ici dans le diocèse de Montréal et aussi dans le diocèse de Québec, parce que je crois que l'Esprit de Dieu nous conduira dans la fidélité et nous donnera le pouvoir de faire plus que ce que nous pouvons demander ou même imaginer.

Alors que nous avançons vers la période de l'Avent qui nous mènera à Noël, je me réjouis que Dieu soit toujours avec nous. Alléluia ! Viens, Seigneur Jésus ! Fais grandir ton avenir en nous.

+Mary

+Mary

PWRDF membership approves new name, *Alongside Hope*

PRESS RELEASE

On Tuesday, October 15, 2024 the membership of the *Primate's World Relief and Development Fund* approved a new name for the 65-year-old organization, *Alongside Hope* and its French equivalent, *Auprès de l'espoir*. Members were presented with the new name at a Special Meeting of Members on September 20, 2024, and in accordance with the organization's corporate bylaws, they met again in October to approve the names.

The issue of changing PWRDF's name to one that is easier to say and less confusing has been ever-present for many years. In 2022, the PWRDF Board approved a budget and the creation of a Task Team to identify a new name for PWRDF that would honour its history as the Anglican Church of Canada's agency for international development and humanitarian response, but would also carry it into the future.

In 1958, a mining disaster



Alongside Hope

Anglicans and partners working for change in Canada and around the world

in Springhill, N.S. compelled Anglicans across the country to donate money to support the affected families. One year later, *The Primate's World Relief Fund* was established at General Synod, to create an agency that would respond to emergencies on behalf of Anglicans in Canada. In 1969, the D was added for Development. In the last fiscal year, PWRDF worked with more than 70 partners in 32 countries, and was recently named to the 2024 Charity Intelligence Top 100 Charities List. The voting membership comprises Board members, Diocesan Representatives and PWRDF's Youth Council.

The Task Team was made up of 12 key volunteers from

across the country, including members of the Board, Youth Council and PWRDF staffers. Cyan Solutions, a marketing and creative agency in Ottawa, led conversations with the Task Team, other volunteers and staff to inspire reflections and gain valuable insights.

In all of these discussions, one clear and hopeful theme emerged: partnership.

- PWRDF partners with local organizations who carry out the work of food security, gender equality, community health, climate action and human rights.

- We partner with membership organizations that allow us to be part of a larger network.

- We partner with our generous donors and funding agencies including Global Affairs Canada.

- We partner with the Anglican Church of Canada, Anglican dioceses, spiritual ministries and ecclesiastical provinces, through their bishops and their PWRDF Representatives.

- We partner with parish representatives, clergy and countless volunteers across the country who connect Canadians with the work of our partners, our neighbours.

This theme of partnership and accompaniment is woven throughout the Bible. When we walk alongside one another, Jesus accompanies us. We are strengthened and comforted and recognize Jesus when we share in his feast. As we walk alongside each of our partners, supporting, listening and sharing with one another, we embrace and embody the hope of a better world.

Thus was born *Alongside Hope*. With the guidance of the Board and the Task Team, taglines were developed in English and French to reflect the legacy of PWRDF.

Alongside Hope conveys the concept of partnership in a compelling way, honouring Jesus' words to love our neighbour, says Will Postma, Executive Director of PWRDF. "It conveys the listening and learning that takes place when walking side by side, together with partners from around the world, including in Canada, with our supporters and volunteers. *Alongside Hope* inspires us even further in working with partners towards our vision of a truly just, healthy and peaceful world."

The name is changing, but the colourful globe icon will continue to identify the organization. This will improve brand recognition as PWRDF transitions to its new name into 2025. More information is available on our website at pwrdf.org/our-new-name.



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The Bright Future of the Diocese

Dear Friends,

For this year's appeal we are inviting your support for the curates of our Diocese. Curates are new clergy in their first parish, working alongside the parish priest, learning and serving for approximately two years.

I don't need to tell you that times are challenging for the Church. As we face the future, it is important to have energetic, well-trained clergy to lead the Church and serve the People of God. As you see from the work of Peter, Ben and Fresia, when we invest in our curates, we are ensuring a brighter future for our diocese.

Your gift today will continue to bless the church for years to come.

With my thanks and every blessing,

+ Mary



Peter Lekx has been involved in *Messy Church*, *Church in the Park* and *Harvest House*; creating new avenues for reaching families on the West Island. For his newest initiative, see page 9. Photo by Janet Best.



Ben Stuchbery led the Revive course for members of Ste Agathe and Arundel who experienced deepening spiritual vitality while growing closer together in community. Photo by Janet Best.



Fresia Saborio has developed ministry to a wide range of people from different ethnicities, including Hispanic and Ukrainian communities in and around Granby. Photo by Janet Best.

The 2024 Bishop's Action Appeal

Here is my single gift of: \$50 \$250 \$500 Other \$ _____

Or, you can make a monthly (or one-time) donation at www.montreal.anglican.ca - click the **Donate Now** button.

Direct my gift to: Curates Giving with Grace (If you do not check either box, your gift will be split equally between Curates & Giving with Grace).

Personal Information

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(in case we have a question)

Contribution Method

Personal cheque payable to *The Synod of the Diocese of Montreal*

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Mail to: The Synod of the Diocese of Montreal
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You can also donate online:
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Thank you for your donation!

Questions? Call 514-843-6577.
 Business No.108061458 RR 0028.

MONTREAL KNITTING PROJECT

PENNY RANKIN

Mrs. Penny Rankin is Chair of the Standing Committee on Mission.

The temperature is dropping, and the journey that is Advent is underway and I'd like to share with you a unique opportunity to have a meaningful impact by picking up your knitting needles!

Meaningful you say ...how so? The Mission Committee is on a mission of its own... instead of being a resource for parish outreach initiatives, we are inviting you and your communities to both support and join in a unique project.

We are asking all knitters to create 50x50 squares that, once gathered, will be sewn into blankets to be sold at a special event scheduled for May 10th, 2025, on the Place Ville Marie esplanade. These blankets will not only provide warmth but

also serve a vital purpose: to raise awareness about violence against women and girls while supporting local shelters.

Knitting is more than just a craft; it's a way to weave love and compassion into every stitch. Each square you create will offer comfort as well as symbolizing hope and solidarity for those who need it most.

The Mission Committee sees this as not "just" about making blankets; it's about fostering connections within our Diocese. Gather your friends, family, or fellow parishioners for a knitting circle! Share tips, laughter, and warm drinks as you work together towards this heartfelt goal.

Whether you're an experienced knitter or just starting out, every contribution counts. Feel free to use any yarn you have on hand; vibrant colours can uplift spirits, while softer textures ensure comfort.


Once completed, these blankets will be sold to raise funds for shelters that provide essential services to women and girls affected by violence. Your efforts will directly support these organizations, helping them continue their crucial work in our community. Additionally, by raising awareness through this project, we can spark conversations about the importance of protecting the vulnerable among us.


So let's get started! Grab your knitting needles, some yarn, and let's create something beautiful together. Whether you knit one square or many, your participation makes a difference. Join us in this uplifting project that combines creativity with compassion—because together, we can spread warmth and hope across the Diocese!

For more information contact me at penelope.m.rankin@gmail.com.

MONTREAL KNITTING PROJECT

to raise awareness about violence against women




An Initiative from the Standing Committee on Mission



L-R: Lise Jutras, Eddy Brunet and Joanne Racette with their Volunteer Service Award. Photo by Lou Hachey.

The Mile End Mission Leadership Team

LOU HACHEY

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

The Mile End Mission has always been a very special community that, among other things, empowers its members through their active participation.

Since 2015, we started to honor this participation by referring to our dedicated crew of volunteer Mission members as our **Leadership Team**. This amazing team ensures that meals are prepared and served at our free hot meals program, donations of clothing and small household goods are sorted and sold at our 'Frèperie Joyce' thrift shop, and Food Bank groceries are packed and distributed to the 100 people who use this service each Thursday.

Numerous other initiatives made possible through the tireless efforts of the Leadership Team include; setting up our annual Open House BBQ, preparing and distributing our Christmas and Easter baskets and helping to cook and serve traditional holiday meals for our members.

Over the years, we've been graced with many Leadership Team members who remain actively involved as seniors.

One such person was Victor, who happily continued to work on the team until his early 90's, folding boxes for the recycling bin after our hectic and messy Food Bank days. Bringing his unique talents, stories and history to his work, he - like other senior members - contribute so much to the daily functioning and spirit of the Mission.

At the same time, many seniors enjoy the opportunity to have a break from their own isolation and loneliness. As I've often said to the group, "*We'd honestly never be able to do all this without you!*".

Since 2018, the *Grace Dart Foundation* has generously recognized the efforts of senior members on our Leadership Team by enabling us to offer regular incentives for their efforts, such as purchasing bus passes and grocery store gift cards. We are so grateful for this support and for their reinforcement of senior's involvement in the community.

Over the past few years, our local MP has presented members of the Leadership Team and others with *Volunteer Service Awards* to acknowledge their contributions at the mission. Above are three such recipients.

PWRDF Montreal Unit is evolving - with a new name!

ROSLYN MACGREGOR

The Rev Roslyn Macgregor is the Chair of the Montreal Unit of PWRDF (Alongside Hope)

We are sorely missing our co-chair, Ann Cumyn who died suddenly in August. She and I worked so closely together as co-conspirators planning and plotting and bringing projects and programmes to fruition.

The entire group has been, and is, a wonderful team of people committed to PWRDF's goals: "*Working towards a truly just, healthy and peaceful world.*" Since Covid, we have held zoom meetings mostly once a month on a Thursday from 11:30am to 1pm. Everyone is welcome. Lay. Ordained. Parish reps or anyone who is committed to these goals. The more the merrier!

And, if your parish or ministry doesn't yet have a PWRDF rep, we would love to have new folks. It's not too taxing and is very fulfilling. It's tempt-



Ann Cumyn in her capacity as a lay reader at Fulford Residence.

ing in today's world to feel helpless and hopeless. Working with PWRDF shows us we can and do make a difference.

We held a meeting on October 24th and what a delight. Missing Ann, yet all conspiring in the Holy Spirit to move forward in love and commitment and sharing the load.

My illness has meant I have less time and energy. However, with the whole team sharing and enthusiastic, I will continue for now as Montreal's Diocesan Rep.

The Rev'd Jane Bell is representing us November 13 - 15 at the annual gathering in Ontario and will share her learnings and inspirations on her return.

And, finally, after a lengthy process, PWRDF has decided on our new name: *Alongside Hope*. It will be gradually brought into play over coming months. (For more on the name change see page 2.)

Alongside Hope. Always partners. Always alongside. Always hope in a world that so sorely needs it.

Won't you join us? macgregor@gmail.com.

Soirée écumenique de

Chants et Prières

Ecumenical Service of

Lessons and Carols

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Cette lumière était la véritable lumière, qui, en venant dans le monde, éclaire tout homme. Jean 1:9
The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. John 1:9

Child Friendliness in Church - embracing the chaos

NEIL MANCOR

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

You may have noticed blessing bags in Churches around the Diocese. This is part of our effort to encourage a child and family friendly culture in our churches.

The blessing bags are a gift we give to children who come to Church. They are not just an activity pack to have on hand, they are a gift given with love.

I heard a beautiful story about a boy who was given one in church recently. He carefully opened the bag and took out each item, one by one. He then put each item back and carefully folded the bag. Finally, he took the bag home to put in his treasure box!

This little boy thought Church was the best thing ever! This is one small story of one child in one place. It shows the beautiful ways we can thrill a child's heart and show families how welcome they are.

All Children Welcome – all the time?

When thinking about child friendliness, you need to consider the facilities you offer and your tolerance for noise. At the very least, providing changing tables is essential. But ask yourselves if you are willing to disrupt your worship space to accommodate small children and if you are willing to put up with some noise and chaos.

Rows of pews are not an ideal environment for wiggly children. With sharp edges and confined spaces, they are ripe for falls, bumps, and squeals. It can also be stressful to try to contain a child in a row of pews. It reminds me of flying across the Atlantic with my children sitting in the middle section of a 747. Not a comfortable journey, though my son did try to walk all the way to Germany one time!

I have sympathy for parents on airplanes whose



children run a little wild, and I feel the same in Church. If a parent makes the effort to come to Church with young children, let's try to make their lives a little easier.

Many churches dedicate a section of their pews, usually towards the back of the sanctuary and create a play space where parents and children can be present in Church in a more relaxed way. Some will include a comfortable couch and soft toys or a colouring space.

Remember the stresses of parenting young children. If we make it even more stressful for parents in Church by making no accommodations for their needs or even worse, consigning them to the basement of the Church, why would they come? If we shush children up in church, then are they welcome at all?

The point is to try to show some love to young parents and give them a break so they can be in church. It is also to foster spirituality in the youngest members of the community who are themselves innately spiri-

tual beings. Spiritual formation begins at birth and continues for the whole of our lives.

Small children are noisy little creatures and will not necessarily be silent at the silent times of the service. On the other hand, the raucous sounds of children in church always signifies hope and life. We know there is another generation because they are there with us making their presence felt. This reminds us that, as with youth, young children are not the future of the Church, they are very much part of the now of the Church.

Having children present in a service they can barely follow, is an investment in their spiritual selves that can have lifelong benefits. They may not understand what they are seeing, but these vivid images will stay with them and in time, they will be able to put the many pieces of the puzzle together. Later, this will provide a reservoir of memories and traditions for their lives.

I recall sitting with my parents in Church and found myself drawn to the stained-

glass windows. Their colours were mesmerising to me. I was in a service recently where a little baby was trying out her lungs as she sang along with the choir, her special music lingering in our ears after the organ had ceased. Heaven!

Children's Spirituality: The power of story

Many churches have a children's "moment" towards the beginning of the service, usually with the priest sitting on the floor. This can be a way to integrate children into the service at the beginning, but it can quickly become little more than a gesture before the children go to their thing downstairs and the adults stay upstairs. I confess that sometimes my children's story was thought up during the processional hymn as a digest of the sermon. We can do better than this.

Much of Sunday school is based around story, but I have found many adults like to hear the stories of the Bible themselves, stories they may not have heard for years. These are the stories of our faith, and they are meant for all generations. Perhaps sometimes in Church everyone could be integrated into a beautiful storytelling time which invites all to wonder and make meaning.

Godly Play storytelling creates sacred space to present the stories of our faith, wonder about them together and then find open ended ways for us to engage with the stories in our own way. Created by Jerome Barryman of the Episcopal Church, Godly Play tries to integrate what happens upstairs and downstairs to allow children to make connections with the stories they hear and the liturgy they see. I was telling a Godly Play story in church one time during a service and a child looked at one of the stained-glass windows and pointed out that it was the same story.

I have told Godly Play stories to both children and adults and the responses I have

heard are always deeply moving. We all have the capacity to wonder. Children are innately spiritual beings, and our role is to create space to allow them to explore faith their way.

What about the Eucharist?

There continues to be debate about allowing young children to participate in the Eucharist by receiving Holy Communion. The reason given is that children should wait until they can "understand" what is going on. Others prefer to wait until confirmation.

Eucharist is a beautiful mystery of the Church, and I suggest none of us understand what it is all about. It is a gift, a symbolic and sacramental action that binds us to Christ and to one another. Why should we exclude children from this? It is a way to include children in the ongoing story of faith and of the People of God. When is the right age?

When I was a young child in the early 70s, it was becoming possible for children to receive communion at the discretion of their parents. As the church we went to tended to be more experimental, I was allowed to receive when my mother thought it was right. This was when I was about four years old. She taught me how to approach the altar rail, to kneel and hold my hands the right way. She taught me the reverence needed for that moment. Over the years of my childhood and adolescence, participating in communion along with everyone else, gave me a deep sense of belonging to the People of God that has formed the foundation of my faith.

Which brings me back to the blessing bags. They are a small gesture, but from the perspective of a five-year-old, a big deal. Think of children's ministry that way: the giving of gifts to children and their parents, creating the foundation that lasts a lifetime.

For more information or resources contact us!

2025 CrossTalk Ministries Day Camps are on Fire!



VALERIE TAYLOR

For more than 45 years, CrossTalk Ministries has been facilitating Day Camp programs for children ages 4-12 across Canada and beyond. Children in these communities spend a week learning about God. Lives are changed as campers and leaders come to know Jesus and experience God's love.

For summer 2025 we are offering "On Fire!" exploring passages from the Book of Acts. Each day the campers will experience one of these five exciting stories: "Alight," "Walking and Leaping," "The Riddle", "Blinded" and "Midnight Adventure!" Our program will unpack the stories through songs and

games, small groups, crafts and liturgical dance all geared to children of 4-12 years.

Classic Day Camp- a locally-led program with five days of content lasting five hours each day. Includes access to a CTM Mentor (an experienced former Leader, assigned to join your Set-up Meeting and Daily Team Meetings via an online platform) Cost: 550\$

Note 1- We have a limited number of qualified mentors, therefore applications requesting their services MUST be submitted before December 31, 2024.

Note 2- If you do not require the services of a mentor make sure to tick the box on the application form to receive an automatic

discount of 100\$.

The Extended Day Manual- Optional resources to extend program content to 8 hours Cost: 50\$

Backyard Day Camp – a program for smaller communities unable to mount a full-day program. Includes five two and a half hour sessions for a half-day experience with content for the five Daily Stories including puppet videos, sing-along songs, small group materials, crafts, games and daily challenges. Cost: \$250

Visit the Day Camps section of the CTM website for further promo details and fillable application. <https://crosstalkministries.ca/wordpress/>.

Around the Diocese



Willaine Juliassaint participates in Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral September 22, 2024. Photo by Janet Best.



The Archbishop of York, the Most Rev. Stephen Cottrell, celebrates Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral September 22, 2024. Photo by Janet Best.



The Ordination of Geoffrey McLarney to the Diaconate at Christ Church Cathedral, October 6, 2024. L-R: Noah Taaffe, Tucker Gordon, Fr. Marc-Philippe Vincent, Rev. Deacon Geoffrey McLarney, Bishop Mary, Mtr. Wendy Telfer, the Rev. Canon Andrea Budgey, Catherine McLarney. Photo by Janet Best.



The Ordination of Peter Lekx to the Diaconate at Christ Church Cathedral, October 6, 2024. Back row: Bishop Mary, Rev. Deacon Peter Lekx, Rebecca Dowd Lekx, Rev. John Lekx. Front row: Thomas Lekx, Pippa Lekx, Jonathan & Eloise Lekx. Photo by Janet Best.



The Rev. Graham Singh participates in a conversation during Clergy Day, September 22, 2024. Photo by Janet Best.



The Rev. Deborah Noonan participates in a conversation during Clergy Day, September 22, 2024. Photo by Janet Best.

Around the Diocese



The Ven. Dr. Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu, Brigitte Ngoudie, Mark Gibson, Bishop Mary, Emilie Milord, Rev. Jean Fils Cherry, and Rev. Frantz Casséus (priest from the diocese of Haiti) on the 5th anniversary of the move of Église de la Nativité to Rosemere, August 25, 2024. Photo by Carlo Sainvil.



Patrick Wheeler with special guest at his 25th Anniversary Celebration at St Matthias, Sunday, October 6, 2024. Photo by Bishop Mary.



Following the Service of Leave-Taking to mark his retirement from St. Philip's Church on October 27th, Fr. Jim cuts his retirement cake. Photo by Robert Friend.



Following the Confirmation service at the Church of Saint John the Baptist, Pointe Claire, September 22, 2024, Jacob Potter, Matthew Greaves, Nigel Tearle, Penelope Marsh and Sydnee Blackburn (with Rev. Trevor Potter and Bishop Mary) celebrate. Photo by David Paterson.



Pastor Eric Dyck and Derek MacLean enjoy Oktoberfest at St John the Evangelist, October 26, 2024. Photo by Janet Best.



Emily Estrella at Oktoberfest at St John the Evangelist, October 26, 2024. Photo by Janet Best.

Parish News

Christ Church Beaurepaire Celebrates 100 Years!

JOEL AMIS

Rev Joel Amis is the Incumbent of Christ Church Beaurepaire

2024 marks Christ Church Beaurepaire's centennial as an Anglican parish in Beaconsfield - and we did it up right!

On September 15th at 4 pm 135 people joined Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson for a special centennial Eucharist. The service

ended with the launch of a new parish history book (see p. 11) and recognition of Dr. Michael Silverthorne and Yevgeniya Amis for their work on the book, as well as recognition of Pat and Gerry Simpson and Donna Gomes for their years of faithful service to the parish.

After the recessional a time capsule - to be opened 25 years hence - was buried at the cor-

ner of the church.

We then gathered in the parish hall for a sumptuous potluck dinner where we invited people to dress in a 1920s spirit (in honour of our founding year), or early 1960s (the current church was built in 1962).

Congratulations and a huge thank you to all the CCB parishioners who made this event a success!



Rev. Joel Amis recognizes Facilities Director Donna Gomes for her service to the parish at Christ Church Beaurepaire's Centennial Celebration Photo by Janet Best.



Choir members June Parry, Yevgeniya Amis; second row - Lynn Curran, Sheila Hawksworth at Christ Church Beaurepaire's Centennial Celebration September 15, 2024. Photo by Janet Best.



Rev. Joel Amis cuts the cake - with an audience - at Christ Church Beaurepaire's Centennial Celebration, September 15, 2024. Photo by Janet Best.



CMP at the Refugee Highway Partnership in Winnipeg

ANDRE LEITAO

André Leitão is Outreach Co-ordinator for the Church of St Mark & St Peter, Ville St-Laurent.

The RHPNA (www.rhpna.com) is a network of Christian organizations and churches committed to sharing the whole gospel with displaced people, including refugees and asylum seekers living in North America. The RHPNA organizes the Roundtable every two years as a gathering for churches and organizations dedicated to serving those who experience forced displacement. It is a time for personnel within these organizations to connect with one another, to share insights and learn about ministry among displaced individuals. The Canadian churches and organizations represented spanned from Vancouver to Montreal. There were also participants from the USA and Mexico.

The first thing I noticed when I arrived at Portage Avenue Church was the bowl, towel, cup, and jar. To me, they conveyed a clear message about why we, as followers of Christ, love and serve refugees, asylum seekers, and newcomers in our midst.

The theme this year was "Listening Together." Our goal was to practice listening to God by quieting the noise around us. We also aimed to listen to one another and learn from each other's diverse experiences. Over the three days we engaged in this listening with people from various nations, cultures, political views, and theological traditions.

Discussions and workshops focused on the reasons we continue to swim against the tide by welcoming refugees and asylum seekers. These workshops provided a chance

to exchange strategies for overcoming the challenges present in these ministries.

One organization, Naomi House in Winnipeg, shared their experience as a church-based initiative serving refugees from any nation and religious background. They operate a seven-bedroom house that hosts refugees for a year as they transition to their new lives.

On the west coast in Burnaby, BC, the Journey Home Community also aims to provide shelter for homeless refugee claimants and guide them through the process of receiving support until they can transition to permanent housing and achieve greater stability in their integration journey in Canada.

Around 28 workshops covered various themes, with participants discussing the importance of English as a second language, mental health, private sponsorship pathways, sports ministries for refugees, and other topics. They collectively emphasized the significance of showing Christ-like hospitality and the church's role in welcoming those who are strangers among us.

Throughout these workshops, coffee breaks and worship sessions, the words of Jesus resonated in our hearts: "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me" The urgency of our calling to love and welcome thousands weighed heavily on us. There is a pressing need for more safe spaces for those who are hurting, alone, hungry, or scared. We prayed for more workers, pastors, leaders, and followers of Jesus to listen to the cries and needs of people just like us who are already among us.

May the Lord help us cultivate serving hearts, washing their feet and feeding their bodies and souls.

Parish News

Sharing meals with great joy and generosity; Supper Club introduced to West Island

REBECCA LEKX

Mrs Rebecca Dowd Lekx is a parent and volunteer.

Supper Club: West Island Inaugural Gathering: Friday, October 18, 2024

“When we invite friends for a meal, we do much more than offer them food for their bodies. We offer friendship, fellowship, good conversation, intimacy, and closeness. When we say: “Help yourself ... take some more ... don’t be shy ... have another glass,” we offer our guests not only our food and our drink but also ourselves. A spiritual bond grows, and we become food and drink for one another. In the most complete and perfect way, this happens when Jesus gives himself to us in the Eucharist as food and drink. By offering us his Body and Blood, Jesus offers us the most intimate communion possible. It is a divine communion.” -Henri Nouwen

When a group of 30-odd folks met in the basement of Christ Church Beaufort for the first meeting of Supper Club: West Island, there were (and still are) very few preconceived notions about the community that will continue to be built. We wanted food, worship, and conversation - and we wanted a gathering that would be different than “regular church”. There is a time and place for formal



Photo by Lightstock

services and beautifully crafted liturgy; the goal is not to replace this type of service but to enhance and supplement it.

As churches across the country have doubtless experienced, attendance at (and interest in) a weekly church service has dwindled, particularly from younger families. There are a myriad of reasons for this decline, but one of the main culprits is the growing sense of over-commitment made by many families.

Between work, school, and extracurriculars, church falls by the wayside and frankly, is barely missed. What was once a joy and a good way to connect with community can

quickly become a burden - and yet, Jesus said something about burdens, didn't he? *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”* (Matt 11:28).

As the church, should we not be trying to find creative ways to lighten the burdens of families, rather than presenting another?

Enter a monthly meet-up. Supper is provided. Musical worship that engages the whole family is integral. Conversation prompts and questions are provided. Games, discussion, and spiritual enrichment for your children (rather than something to simply keep them quiet) is

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The Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Saint-Hilaire with his wife Lorry. Photo by Joanne Dodd.

St. Paul's, Greenfield Park welcomes new Rector

NANCY JONES

We were blessed to welcome Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Saint-Hilaire as the new Rector of St. Paul's on September 1, 2024. A beautiful and spirit filled service launched his ministry as we also welcomed his lovely wife, Lorry, who is expecting their first child in March. We are honoured that his nephews

and sister have also joined our church family and we welcome them all with open hearts and arms! This has been a great addition to our lovely community church. Since starting here, he has made a great impression on all his parishioners and we are certain the future holds great things for us all as it is in Our Father's Hands.

From the Ground Up: All Saints Church Goes Geothermal

JEFF ALEXANDER

Jeff Alexander is the Rector's Warden of All Saints Anglican Church.

From our very first service at the present site on Christmas Eve, 1955, the members of All Saints Church have relied on oil-based heating to keep us warm. This all changed on Sunday, October 7, 2024, when after more than a year of planning, measuring, and meeting, our church service was heated with the support of a fully functional geothermal system.

This landmark project started in response to the mandate of Montreal Anglican Diocesan Synod to switch to renewable energy sources by 2030 as well as the restrictions of the Quebec government on residential buildings to install or repair oil furnaces.

The impact of this project is to decrease our carbon footprint as a meaningful contribution to the global movement against climate change as well as to significantly reduce our energy expenditure. The financial benefit will be the elimination of oil payments, one of our biggest expenses.



All Saints Church, Deux-Montagnes. Photo by Janet Best.

I am grateful that we received much support from our congregation, as we presented the various options like geothermal and heat pumps. It helped that we all knew how much money we spent on heating every year! Our discussions were very positive and questions were debated amicably with a spirit of getting something done that would provide for our needs well into the future.

In cooperation with the Diocesan Stewardship of the Environment Committee, we gathered information on our church's heating needs and

zero-emissions options. Volunteer engineers assessed the building layout to ensure that the church, hall, and Sunday school area would be well covered by the heating. One met me at church with a thermal camera before 5am one particularly frosty February morning, showing me where our insulation problem spots were.

Preparation for this project included obtaining the Diocese's approval of our plan and means of financing. We were pleasantly surprised to discover that a geothermal system was not only the more

energy-efficient option but also relatively affordable with the financial assistance through Hydro-Québec and the Quebec government. Additionally, we were grateful to receive a generous grant from the Anglican Foundation towards this project, further to the support of the Diocese.

We also held fundraisers for this project; at one such gathering, I was encouraged by the high level of interest from parishioners and guests about what a geothermal system was and why we made this choice. It was very uplifting to know that they considered they were part of an enduring addition to our church facilities.

We signed our agreement with Marmott Énergies on June 12, 2024, to install the geothermal system and remove our oil furnaces and tank. Installation entailed drilling two wells that are 113 m (370') deep and 15 cm (6") wide. These pipes are filled with an ethanol solution and form a loop, drawing the ground's heat into an electricity-operated pumping station and circulating it through the church's existing duct system. Installation also necessitated upgrading our electrical panel

to accommodate the additional needs to operate the system. Marmott also undertook the responsibility to complete submissions for Hydro-Quebec's Solutions efficaces and the provincial government's ÉcoPerformance rebate programs.

The process took a total of six weeks and generally went smoothly; however, the amount of mud that came out of those holes was more than we could have imagined. Landscaping is definitely on our 2025 projects list!

I enthusiastically express my gratitude to Ron Bourque, Jerry East, and Kathleen Leeming for sharing the task of being on-site during the installation, and to our church's neighbours for putting up with the heavy vehicles and machinery.

We are still learning about the full operation of the system and how we can maximize the efficiency and enjoyment of oil-free heating in the cold months and cooling during the summer. The geothermal system represents great comfort to our parishioners, our guests at ecumenical and community events, and our current and future renters.

Listening – Talking – Anger (Which one of these is your “Achilles heel”?)

ROBERT MCLACHLAN

Rob McLachlan is a member of the All Saints by the Lake – Dorval, Worship Committee; President of the Montreal Diocese Lay Readers Association; and a Masters of Theology Student (online), at Western-Huron Theology School.

Do you ever feel that, in our hustle and bustle world of mega information, it's sometimes harder to get a word in edgewise? Not only amongst parishioners, or friends, but even amongst members of your own family?

Or, perhaps - if you are in cleric or lay ministry - do you find that although you are preparing and talking more thoroughly in sermons; in reality, you are being heard less? How about in one-on-one conversations? Do you feel that sometimes the other person is trying to quickly override your input, by wanting to override or counter, with their own opinion?

If yes, well then guess what? These types of situations are quite normal, in today's hectic world.

Nowadays there is a tidal wave of information that washes upon us 24/7/365. The whole world is at our fingertips “live” and in “real-time.” Headlines change every few minutes, and the iPhone/iPad/Laptop screen you're watching, may have a news-person reading a story; with an image to the right, a sidebar to the left, a screen-crawl at the top, and another one at the bottom; so that simultaneously you're following “five different information sources” – ALL at the same time, on the same screen!

No wonder we are easily distracted. We look without seeing, we listen without hearing, and we speak without understanding!

Thus, submerged within this type of environment, what is our greatest challenge? Well for many, (including myself), it's the “person in the mirror”, and our “sometimes” unruly human hearts. We should always remember that what



Photo by Lightstock.

we are, and feel inside ourselves - will determine how we respond and react to others, from the outside of us!

Now, let's take a look at how a 2000+ year old Scripture might help clarify for us how we should really be listening, talking, and limiting anger - within our 21st century daily lives.

Here's one KEY example: James 1:19 – “You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger”. Appears simple eh? – But putting it into practice, it WILL become a daily challenge for us all!

So let's break James 1:19 down into its three components:

1) Be quick to listen = listen more: “Wisdom begins when we listen more, and talk less”. Our current “heads-down” (I-phone) technology can be somewhat useless (and potentially dangerous) if we are so busy and distracted, that we do not see what is going on around us. Thus we become “quick NOT to hear” what others (and God) are saying to us, in different ways, each day. This principle applies in every area of life. Some people talk so much, that they never hear what anyone else says.

In Proverbs 1. 20-33: Wisdom is personified, as a woman. In places within this Scripture, she is called “Lady Wisdom”. She tells those who have refused to listen to her advice that they will be without resources when disaster strikes. They will be punished severely at the end of time. In Proverbs 1.32-33: She says: “For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

But no one gains wisdom by chance. Wisdom says, “If you seek me, you will find me.” So, are we too busy, worried, pre-occupied, or distracted to seek out the wisdom God offers in His written Scriptures?

2) Be slow to speak = talk less. Ecclesiastes 5:2 says it this way: “Never be rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be quick to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you upon earth; therefore let your words be few.” Also it's very wise, for ALL of us to remember, there is a time to speak, and a time to be silent. Most of us are better at the former, and not so good at the latter!

Today, social media encourages giving quick feedback.

Someone says something we don't like, so without thinking it through, we post a snappy reply, a snarky comment, or a mean-spirited innuendo. You can delete your foolish comment, but you can't erase it from the Internet!

Another insightful statement is the following: “Speak when you are angry and you'll make the best speech, you'll ever regret!”

I always remember when I was a child, and bullied at times; my Father used to tell me “Sticks and stones will break your bones, but words will never hurt you”. Well, I hate to say it now Dad, but that statement is VERY far from the truth! Words CAN do FAR more damage than sticks and stones, and the wounds they leave take FAR longer to heal. Unkind words don't break bones, they break hearts!

3) Be slow to become angry = calm down. Here the writer of James is NOT saying “never get angry” - that's unrealistic! We're ALL going to get angry from time to time. However what he is referring to is that deep emotion which, when released, is like a volcano erupting - it spews red-hot lava all over everything in its path!

Yet anger IS an emotion (with God's help), which we can control!

Another parallel viewpoint is: If we are quick to hear, we will be slow to speak; but if we are slow to hear, we will likely be quick to speak. Quick speaking leads to quick anger. The angrier we get, the faster we speak, and the less we hear!

Naturally, within the written Word, we can readily find examples, as God's disciples, of how NOT to behave, when dealing with others:

- Be not overbearing, nor violent: Titus 1:7: “For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered, or addicted to wine, or violent, or greedy for gain”

- Be not quarrelsome, nor quick tempered, not violent, but gentle: 1 Timothy 3: “Not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and not a lover of money.”

- Or we can also look at Solomon's wise counsel in Proverbs 16:32, “One who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and one whose temper is controlled than one who captures a city.”

Also in retrospect, the writer of James 1. V19, added verse 20, which shows us the true reason for devotees of God to “being slow to anger”, as it states: “For human anger does not produce God's righteousness”. Therefore if you are angry, you cannot do any of the good things that God wants you to complete!

In conclusion, for us to continue moving away from bitterness, anger, and hurtful words, we should also take Ephesians 4:32 to heart: “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”

We need to extend grace to others, as God has extended His grace to us. We who have been showered with God's grace in Christ; should be giving to others, the same outpouring of grace, which God gave us. This is God's plan. We do for others what God has done for us. We have been forgiven; we know what it is like. Now we should be doing the same

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Building Together in Rawdon continued from page 1

ments, a theatre, and office space where non-profits and charities will be able to work together under one roof.

This plan will see Christ Church earn enough income from an indexed lease to fund ministry for the next hundred years. This plan was made real after much discussion, many pastoral visits, and four special vestry meetings. When the vote to proceed was taken on September 29th there were no votes in opposition.

3. Music: the parish has seen music explode. We have banjos, guitars, bass, fiddle, mandolin, drums, bongos, trumpet, flute, cello, clarinet,

saxophones, keyboards, bagpipes, and many voices. Fifty or sixty gather to sing on the first Sunday of each month.

We sponsor Open Mic events once a month, and many musicians come to perform. Choirs have grown from NIL to three: Parish [mostly English], Community [mostly French], and Children's [from Rawdon Elementary]. Our Christmas Carol service will have more than 50 voices. We will sing to gather funds and food items for the local food bank.

Christ Church has worked with the Town of Rawdon, with the CIM and a rich community of musicians to build a concert series for 2024-25 –

from Bach to Quebec folk songs to Caribbean dance; all to get people into Christ Church so they can discover a beautiful space and meet a welcoming community.

4. Youth: the parish corporation has encouraged the development of youth activities to start in Rawdon. November will see two 1-day Rawdon Youth Initiative events. Christ Church will work with Shauna Bernier [the United Church Youth Work], Lee-Anne Matthews, our Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator, the Youth Initiative sponsored by the parishes of the West Island [Rev. Peter Lekx and Rev. Grace Burson], and

with parents of Rawdon kids to offer a program that is cooperative, that empowers, and that teaches leadership skills.

People in Rawdon are singing with full voices. Laughter is heard at church and Sing-alongs.

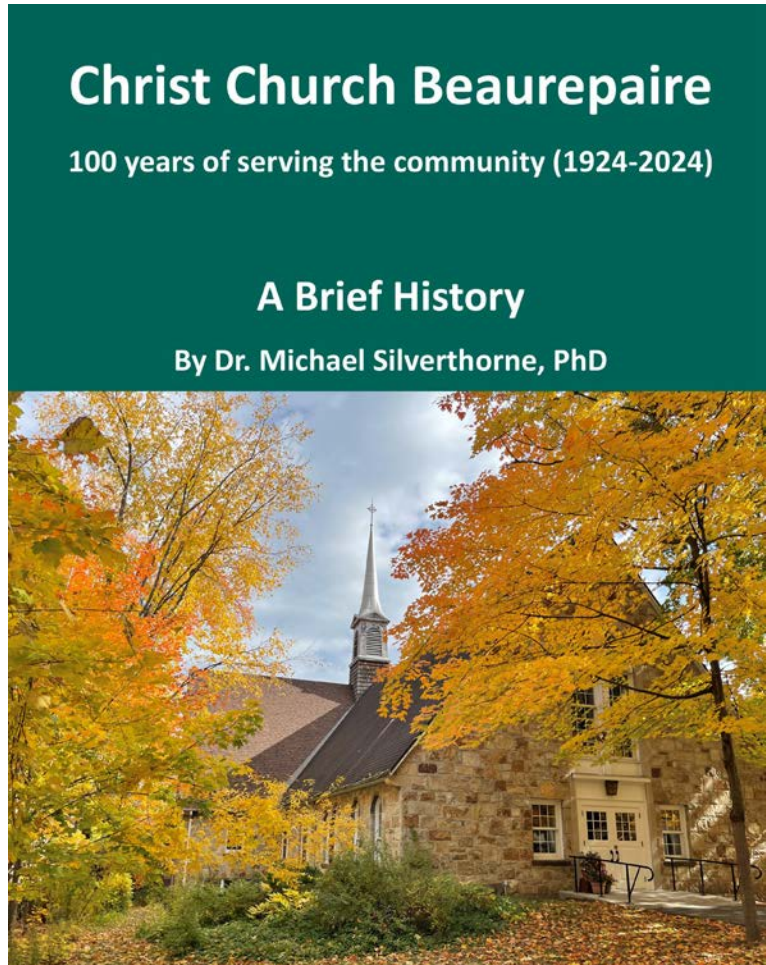
With a new recurrent revenue source Christ Church is able to plan strategically: focusing on what needs to be repaired / improved so that we can better serve the community. Our hall, used more than 330 days a year and used each week by 250 people from nine different community groups, needs significant repair.

The town of Rawdon has recently asked to purchase a bit

of land from our parish. This sale, once it closes, will give Christ Church sufficient funds to upgrade the hall.

The saints of Rawdon have worked to common benefit for eight generations. With prayer and a willingness to risk renewal and change, the saints of Rawdon are laying the foundation for the next eight generations.

“Hide it under a bushel? NO! I'm Gonna Let It Shine!” was sung with verve at Christ Church on the first Sunday of October [with guitar, violin, and bass]. This is how Christ Church is stepping forward in service to those who come to seek succour, refreshment, healing, and a life in a community of faith: ‘We're Gonna Let It Shine’.



Christ Church Beaurepaire launches centennial history book

JOEL AMIS

Rev Joel Amis is the Incumbent of Christ Church Beaurepaire

The 100th anniversary of a parish is no trivial occasion – miss it, and you won't be around for the next one! So, of course, it is an event to be properly commemorated. But how? Obviously, a special centennial service and party are in order (see p. 8!) But what else? We decided that the most fitting – and useful – tribute to our parish's 100-year history was a written account of that history.

Supported by the *Parish History Committee* (formed specifically for the Centennial), Dr. Michael Silverthorne - a retired

professor of Classics at McGill and parishioner – spent many months researching, conducting interviews, compiling and writing to produce the text for this 55-page parish history book.

We also wanted this publication to capture the life of Christ Church Beaurepaire throughout the years visually as well. Yevgeniya Amis employed her experience as editor and graphic designer to marry historic images and current photos with Michael Silverthorne's text, producing a colourful and dynamic account of the parish's first 100 years.

This full-colour edition is available for \$20. Contact Rev. Joel Amis to purchase a copy.



Seventy members of the Church of St Mark & St Peter enjoyed a parish retreat at Villa de Brome October 25-26. The retreat was an intergenerational event, with a blend of fun free-time with intentional learning on the theme of "Marks of Deeper Community." Guest speaker, the Rev Jennifer Bourque, facilitated several sessions on the theme of "Deepening Pastoral Care Together."



Holy Darkness

A midwinter retreat for an overheated age

Saturday, February 1, 9 AM-2 PM

Light breakfast provided; bring your own lunch

Prayer, silence, crafting, sharing

To register: gburson@montreal.anglican.ca

All welcome!

Anglican Church of All Saints by the Lake

865 Lakeshore, Dorval



New Book from Jesse Zink

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powers. For much of the book I draw out the implications of this apocalyptic perspective and if I were to summarize it in one word it is this: resist. Christians are called to form communities that resist the powers and principalities and offer to the world a different way of life that is ultimately more, well, faithful, creative, and hopeful than much of what we find around us. Much of the book is about me identifying the outlines of that resistant living, even as I also understand that the particular shape of that living will vary depending on a community's context.

Q: The subtitle of this book is "Fifteen Theses for a Crisis-Shaped World." You've already spoken about the crisis-shaped part. What do you mean by theses? And why fifteen?

A: A thesis is a declarative statement. So for instance the first thesis of the book is this: "A crisis-shaped world requires apocalyptic clarity." I found that the thesis was a helpful structur-

ing device in that it allowed me to introduce and write about a range of topics and do so in a way that I hope is accessible for all people in the church. For several of these theses, I could have written a whole book! As for fifteen, well, I originally wrote several more but between the publisher insisting on a word limit and the reality that not all of those theses were quite ready for public consumption, I settled on fifteen.

My other hope in using the thesis is that it generates conversation. I hope that when people read the book they don't agree with all of them! I'm looking forward to hearing back from readers and I'd love to read someone else and their theses on what Christian witness can look like at this time.

Q: Who do you hope reads this book?

A: Every time I write a book I try to keep an audience in mind. The audience I had very clearly in my mind is a community of faithful Christians who

are struggling to make sense of the change that is going on around them, not only in their church but also in the world, and wondering what their faith has to say to this moment. So while this is a work of theology, it is not esoteric and out of reach. I use a lot of stories to make this material accessible to lay people. I hope that congregational book groups will find that it provides helpful fuel for their own Christian reflection and ministry.

Q: Where can we buy the book?

A: Wherever books are sold! Find your favourite bookseller, online or in person, and let them know you'd like a copy. If you're having trouble, drop me a line at jessezink@montrealdio.ca and I can help you out.

Faithful, Creative, Hopeful: Fifteen Theses for Christians in a Crisis-Shaped World (ISBN: 9781640657380) is published by Church Publishing, Incorporated. Its official release date is December 3, 2024.

Advent Activities 2024

<p>CREATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite someone to discover part of God's beautiful Earth with you • Donate supplies to an animal shelter • Pick up litter • Take a shelter dog for a walk • Discover God's beauty by walking a new trail • Support a cause that supports the Earth 	<p>FRIENDSHIP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call and check on a friend or family member • Listen to someone's story 	<p>CENTRING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a centring prayer to hear God's voice • Listen for God's voice in music • Set aside time and place to hear the Holy Spirit's voice
<p>GRATITUDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a note of gratitude to God • Reflect and record how much joy the Advent season has brought you 	<p>SHARING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give a treat to a community helper • Bake or buy cookies or muffins and share them with co-workers, friends, or people in need • Drop off a veggie tray to a nurse's station at the hospital, the police station, fire station or EMT depot • Donate what you can to a food bank or community pantry 	<p>KINDNESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let someone go ahead of you in line • Smile at everyone today
<p>READ & WATCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Luke 1:39-45 • Read Luke 2:1-20 • Read Luke 3:1-6 • Read Luke 3:7-18 • Read Luke 21:25-36 • Watch a film version of the Gospels, like <i>The Chosen</i> • Study the life of Jesus written by scholars 	<p>CHILDREN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read to a child • Adopt a local school and supply them with snacks and other necessities 	<p>SECRET ACTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for every neighbour on your street • Hide a happy note for someone to find • Do a secret act of kindness
		<p>SOCIAL JUSTICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fight for a cause Jesus would support • Read the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action. Then act.

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

Heavenly Father, we pray for your continued support for our Bishop, The Right Reverend Mary Irwin-Gibson. You have guided her along a fruitful and impactful path from parish priest, to Archdeacon, to Dean to being elected the first female Bishop of this Diocese. We are grateful for her ministry, and thank you for bringing her to us almost a decade ago.

Gracious God, we thank you for all the opportunities you placed in Bishop Mary's path. We give thanks for the interaction and fellowship with all her episcopal colleagues, especially those from the Territory of the People and the Diocese of Masasi. Her trip to Masasi was impactful in encouraging women in ministry. After lots of uncertainty



and doubt, it was a joy to see her attending the Lambeth Conference. All these experiences and more enriched the Diocese

through conference Synods on Indigenous understanding and anti-racism initiatives.

God of time and space, you know the church is in the midst of a great transition and we are slow to admit it. We thank you for helping Bishop Mary bring her expertise of good management and her gifts of faith to bear on this shift. With your wisdom and guidance, she along with her colleagues had to overcome many difficult challenges. It is not easy to close churches, encourage mergers, cope with fewer priests, and dwindling resources. It was also quite a challenge to deal with the fall-out from COVID while continuing to build up the people of God through meaningful worship and good works.

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



Carols & Cocoa

Saturday December 7th 4pm-5pm via ZOOM

Welcome the Christmas Season by joining the Crosstalk Ministries Day Camps Community for an hour of video presentations, with "sing-along" carols, instrumental pieces and readings, all brought to you by performers from across Canada and beyond.

Contact the CTM office by Dec 1st to receive the link.

A suggested donation of 10\$ would be gratefully received by e-transfer or our via the [PayPal Giving Fund](#). A video recording of the event will also be available.

Contact the [CTM office at office@crosstalkministries](mailto:office@crosstalkministries).

Listening

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for others, and NOT left wondering what it means to forgive those who have hurt us. Jesus DIDN'T come down to earth, to make us nicer people - He came down to make us new people.

After having read all the above perspective, and you only think that: "Well, perhaps I should simply try harder to listen more, speak less, and calm down," that's a good sentiment, but it's only a part of the point. For us to understand the whole point, we need to accept having our Lord Jesus living within us, every moment, of every day, for the remainder of our lives! Then with God's grace, will YOU TRULY BE "Swift to hear, Slow to speak, and Slow to anger!"

In the meantime, God's Blessing to you all - and as it says in Proverbs 4.23: "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it - flow the springs of life."

Christmas Events

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Lessons and Carols for Advent: December 1: 4:00

Lessons and Carols for Christmas: December 15: 4:00

FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 6:00 pm

St. Lawrence Anglican Church, 520 - 75th Avenue, LaSalle

Contact the church at (514) 366-4652 or stlawrence520@gmail.com

Charles Dickens' A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Saturday, Dec. 14, 4 pm

St. Thomas Anglican Church, 6897 Somerled Ave, Montreal

Tickets: Suggested donation \$10 - \$20

A costumed staged reading with live music and audience participation. Featuring an ensemble cast from Théâtre d'à Côté. Read a part, throw a snowball, join the sing-along--or just sit back and enjoy the family-friendly fun. Concessions available.

Advent Quiet Day

Advent Quiet Day for SSJD associates and friends

Saturday, December 7 from 9:30am - 2pm

at St Stephen's Church, 25 - 12th Ave, Lachine

Priest-in-Charge and Leader Rev Shirley Smith

Bring your lunch. Coffee and tea will be available.

To register, please call 514-488-5137.

Notables

GRAND BAZAAR : Sat, Dec. 7, 9:30 - 3pm.

Attic treasures, baked goods, books, greeting cards, homemade, preserves, winter wear, housewares, linens, and more. Lunch served.

St. Thomas', 6897 Somerled Montreal.

The Clothesline: New and gently used clothing, jewelry, housewares etc. Thursdays 12 - 3pm and first Sat. of the month, 11 - 3pm. St. Thomas', 6897 Somerled Montreal.

Supper Club

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provided. And hopefully, an atmosphere that is open to believers, seekers, and doubters alike, is provided as well.

This was the kind of gathering that our own family needed; surely there were others who felt the same?

There certainly were at our first gathering, and our prayer is that as this community takes shape, the flexible and informal nature of our gatherings will evolve naturally to fit the needs of the community. Much like the earliest Christians did, we strive to "worship together at the Temple, meet in homes for the Lord's Supper, and share meals with great joy and generosity - all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord adding to their fellowship those who are being saved." (Acts 2:46-47 paraphrased.)

Radical hospitality and informal gathering is not a new concept, as we can see from the above example, and so our goal is to re-prioritize the importance of this at our supper club. Henri Nouwen said it best. As members of the body of Christ, feeding each other physically as well as spiritually, we ourselves become an offering. We become a sacrament. And bite by bite, meeting by meeting, we become a community.

Supper Club: West Island meets on the third Friday of each month, at Christ Church Beaufort. For more information contact rev.peterlek@gmail.com or visit www.montreal.anglican.ca/latest-news/2024/10/4/new-family-oriented-all-ages-supper-club-west-island.

Mission Communautaire

MILE-END

Community Mission

The Mission is calling upon your generosity this year to help us make the holiday season and year ahead a more joyous time for our members.

With your help, we can provide **200 Christmas baskets** to disadvantaged individuals and families.

All food donations needed by December 13th

Financial donations can also be made via our website at mileendmission.org or mailed to us at 99 Bernard Ouest, Montréal, QC H2T 2J9

Please know that your kindness goes a long way in helping to nourish our community, especially during these challenging times!

THANK YOU!