



A reflection from Sue Winn...

Dear Friends,

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Have you ever sent an invitation to someone and not received a reply? Well...Just maybe...the dog ate the message before it was opened! I used to roll my eyes when students told me their dog ate their homework. These poor young people were probably telling the truth!

This REALLY happened to me. I arrived home the day after a big snow storm. My husband was shoveling the driveway. A car pulled up and a lady asked if I was home. I wasn't, so she handed my husband an envelope and told him I was invited to a "get-together". He thanked her and tossed the letter into the house to keep it dry.

Our golden retriever, Tilly, has been known to scrounge through a waste basket, but she doesn't usually eat that kind of stuff. She was probably annoyed not to be outside in the snow. She ate the whole envelope, invitation and all, not leaving one clue. Someone is going to think I am very rude or thoughtless. If you hear someone ranting about my inconsiderate behaviour, please blame it on my dog.

Often we jump to conclusions about people who do not respond to our kindnesses. We really have no idea what may be happening in their lives. Will they believe me when I tell them my dog ate their message? Probably not.... Oh well....



Who? Me?

I hope this newsletter will bring you answers to questions about our Spring and Fall events. It is always wonderful to be in fellowship with one another.

If your dog eats this, you can always find a copy on the website!

Blessings to you all,

SUE WINN



A Message from The Rev. Canon Tim Smart

You Have Heard it Said

The Harper Government, along with the general support of the opposition parties, has been enacting legislation to put more people behind bars for a longer time.

Harper's *Tough on Crime* policies appeal to our fears that if only we could lock up enough 'bad guys' Canada would be a safer country.

The truth is, is that Canada is already a safer country than most other countries. In fact, despite the headlines, the statistics reveal that violent crime has been on the decline since 1992.

So why more jails and longer sentences? Well, because it creates more employment in all regions of Canada, which is surely a grab for votes. And, *Tough on Crime*, sounds like a good idea – until you think it through and imagine the results of spending billions of dollars locking up more people for longer amounts of time. One only needs to look south of the border to see the failure of tough on crime legislation. Overcrowded prisons with states now looking at how to reduce their prison population. (Meanwhile we plunge ahead with the building of more prisons.)

Locking up more people for longer is not a solution for the victims of crime nor for the offenders. Justice comes about when we take responsibility for each other in community. Locking up people and throwing away the key may satisfy the self-righteous component of our personality – but it's really a recipe for disaster.

It's too easy to see ourselves as 'better than' those we incarcerate. "We're good citizens. We don't break the law like those guys who end up in jail." Jesus' challenge is to identify those in jail, not as 'one of them', but as 'one of us'.

You have heard it said, "You shall not murder... But I say to you, that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement." (Matthew 5:21-22)

Jesus constantly undermines our tendency to self-righteousness and puts us on an equal footing with those who have broken the law and are being punished.

In my work as a prison chaplain at Cowansville Penitentiary, I have found men much like myself, with the same hopes and fears, desires and dreams. What separates us – their crime, and the barbed wire fencing – begins to seem insignificant compared to our common humanity, now broken and shared, and the love of Christ revealed to all who are judged, forgiven, and set free. Myself included.

PASTOR TIM SMART

Bursaries for Ongoing Studies

Your executive reminds you that a number of bursaries to a maximum of \$100 are available to Lay Readers who pursue studies through EFM and Diocesan College. Please contact Linden Rogers for further information:
rogel42@gmail.com

Counting my Blessings

♪ *When I'm worried and I can't sleep, I count my blessings instead of sheep and I fall asleep counting my blessings* ♪
from "White Christmas"

The other morning after watching the early morning news and seeing how much pain and suffering is going on in the world, I sat in silence with my God, and the first thing that came to mind, was how much I have to be grateful for. That morning I woke up in a warm, dry bed under the roof of the house that I share with my husband, Alfred and our dog, Norris. I had clothes on my back, food in the fridge, and a hot cup of tea to help me start the day. We have three wonderful children and five healthy grandchildren. We know people whom we call friends; we live in a free country, worship in a church of our choice and enjoy the freedom to do so. But, at that moment, sitting there in comfortable contemplation with my Creator, I thought of another blessing that has touched my soul.

As I mentioned, we have five grandchildren; four from our eldest son Mark and his wife, Chantal, and one from our daughter, Marguerite, aka Maggie. Maggie and I have always been close and she asked me to assist at the birth of her first child. She was a week late and went into the hospital early in the morning, keeping me abreast of her progress during the day. Finally, around 7:00 p.m. Maggie called to suggest that we get to the hospital **as quickly as possible**. We arrived at her room to discover that she was very busy indeed. I held one hand and the baby's father, Alexis, held the other while she did all the work. She was being encouraged by two doctors and three nurses. Finally, at 8:52 p.m., on March 1st, 2009, my grandson, Loic, was born, strong and healthy.



Sharing in this miracle of birth has created a very strong bond between my daughter, my grandson and me. This experience added a new dimension to my growing list of blessings!

♪ *Just count your blessings instead of sheep and you'll fall asleep counting your blessings.* ♪
from White Christmas

GERALDINE KAVANAGH

LAY READERS' ANNUAL RETREAT

Friday, April 29th to Sunday, May 1st, 2011
Manoir d'Youville, Chateaugay

Speaker: Archdeacon Peter Fenty
Topic: What in the Name of Jesus are you Doing?

Please see last page for registration form!



LAY READERS' ANNUAL RETREAT 2011

The Venerable Peter DeCourcy Fenty M.Div. (Hons); B.A.; L.Th; Dip. Th.



The Venerable Peter DeCourcy Fenty is currently serving in the Anglican Diocese of Toronto as the Executive Officer to the Bishop of Toronto, and Archdeacon of York. Archdeacon Fenty grew up in Barbados where he received his formative education. He is a graduate of Codrington College and the University of the West Indies, Barbados and Huron College of the University of Western Ontario. He holds a Diploma in Theological Studies, Bachelor of Arts in History, Sociology and Theology, and a Master of Divinity with honours.

Peter worked as a teacher and a shipping clerk in his homeland Barbados before he pursued theological education which led to his ordination as a Deacon in St. Michael's Cathedral, Barbados, on June 11, 1975. He was ordained a priest on December 2, 1975 in St. Matthias Church, Barbados where he served as Assistant Curate.

Archdeacon Fenty was Rector of the parishes of St. Patrick and St. Bartholomew, Christ the King and St. Matthias, in the Diocese of Barbados. He also served as Chaplain to a number of institutions, including the University of the West Indies, the National Union of Public Workers, St. Gabriel's School and as an Honorary Chaplain to the Barbados Defense Force.

In 1992, Peter and his family moved to Montreal where he was appointed Rector of St. Lawrence Church, La Salle in the Diocese of Montreal. He served on the Diocesan Council as deputy chair, as a member of the Diocese of Montreal's Social Outreach Committee, and the No Longer Strangers Multicultural Committee. As he did in his native land Barbados, Peter became involved in the wider community and was a member of the Black Community Council of Quebec.

In 1997 after serving for five years in the Diocese of Montreal, Peter became the Rector of the parish of St. Joseph of Nazareth, Brampton in the Diocese of Toronto. He was appointed a Regional Dean in 1999 and in 2003; Peter was appointed Executive Assistant to the Bishop of Toronto and Archdeacon of York. In 2009 Archdeacon Fenty became the Executive Officer to the Bishop of Toronto. In his capacity as the Executive Officer to the Bishop and as Archdeacon, he oversees the work of the committee responsible for the process for candidates seeking and preparing for ordination. He also has responsibility for interviewing clergy from other Dioceses and denominations who are seeking employment in the Diocese of Toronto. He serves as a staff person on the Diocesan Council and Executive Board of the Diocese of Toronto.

Archdeacon Fenty served as co-chair for three years the General Synod's Partners in Mission and Ecojustice Committee until 2010 and currently chairs the Anti-Racism Implementation Group also of the Anglican Church of Canada. He is a member of the General Synod and Provincial Synod of Ontario. The Archdeacon has also served on the Diocese of Toronto's Social Justice and Advocacy Committee and Multicultural committee.

The Venerable Peter Fenty is a member of the Black Anglicans Coordinating committee which is responsible for the planning of the annual Black History service. Archdeacon Peter Fenty is supported in his ministry by his wife Angela Allman-Fenty, and their adult children André and Peta-Anne.

Lessons from the Lay Readers' Study Day 2010

On Saturday, November 20th 2010, about sixty Montreal Lay Readers were pondering a PowerPoint image, an aerial view of a river flowing down its course in a wide flood plain, with a magnificent bridge built to one side of the river. The river had changed course, but the bridge remained on dry ground! Its approach roads had long gone, washed out by an immense spring flood or a tidal surge.

We wondered, "Was this magnificent bridge, with solid foundations, like the church? Has the river of society passed us by? What does this mean for our Christian activities?"



Dan Hines, from the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior (APCI) in British Columbia, was challenging us to consider our ministries in a new world. He showed us another slide of a vinyl LP of a bygone era. The vinyl LP gave way to the CD, which is being superseded by songs downloaded to the iPod. What is the core message – the music or the vinyl record? In what areas of our lives do we confuse the method of delivery with our core purpose?

Dan lives near Kamloops, in an area that had been organized into the Diocese of Caribou. That diocese went bankrupt in 2000, felled by the outfall from abuses at a native school. The churches that were left had to ponder the prospect, "what does it mean to be a Christian community without property?" (They did keep their church buildings, thanks to a consolidated effort by the National Church.)

He described the ways that the fourteen parishes work out their mission without the formal structure of a diocese. They have had to consider what to give up and what to keep in order to serve the people in their communities. They walked the neighbourhoods, knocked on doors, and found out what people wanted. In one community, the people wanted a Sunday evening service of an ecumenical nature, one that eventually filled with young people!

Dan talked about baptismal ministry, the work that is given to all Christian people. The Holy Spirit gives out gifts, but the calling of each person is of equal worth. The local community is the primary context for formation, ministry and mission. The challenge has been to form leaders, including ordained ministers, within this community. After all, the Spirit equips every congregation with what it needs to do what God is calling it to do.

The response in those churches was to consecrate teams of multiple local priests, deacons and ministers to share the work in each parish. The result has been shared and owned local mission, with church halls deliberately used for AA, shared meals and outreach of all kinds.

Dan directed us to Living Stones Partnership, an association of about twenty North American Anglican and Episcopalian dioceses who are working together to encourage a strong sense of the ministry of all members of a parish.

Under Dan's direction, we asked ourselves probing questions – what are my strengths for ministry? How have I been encouraged by others? How have I been discouraged? What are my areas of weakness? What weaknesses are also gifts in my ministry?

Continued on next page

Lessons from the Lay Readers' Study Day 2010 *(continued)*

The annual Commissioning Service followed our workshop. Someone was heard to remark that it is surprising how many Lay Readers there are in the diocese – an estimated seventy filled several rows at St. Paul's Lachine. Of these, ten received new licenses and a further 41 received a renewal of their three-year licenses.

But we could sing! Led by Simon Hartropp on the organ, we celebrated Evening Prayer and prayed for the continuation of God's blessing on our various ministries. Bishop Barry Clarke reminded us that, although we could be leaders in our own parishes, we must ever be servants.



A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a new Bishop's crosier to Dan Hines, who accepted it on behalf of Bishop Barbara Andrews (who was unable to attend because of illness). The crosier was a wooden staff surmounted by a circular crook made of 14 layers of wood, symbolizing the 14 parishes of the APCI.

When disassembled, it fits into a wood case with a lid inlaid with the road map of the APCI area, with flowers set in for the church locations, the whole looking very much like a branch of a wild rose.

Now, is there a message for ministry in that design? We left with many thoughts in our heads, and hearts filled with hope for the future.

IAN SINCLAIR



Further Reflections on Study Day

Gifts certainly abounded when the Lay Readers arrived at St. Paul's Church on Saturday, November 20th, 2010! The heavens opened and we had rain, snow, freezing rain, and finally sunshine! Our greatest gift was the leadership of the Rev. Dan Hines, who was asked on short notice to replace an ailing Bishop Barbara Andrews.

Dan is the Ministry Development Officer of the Anglican Churches of the Central Interior, APCI, formerly the Diocese of Caribou in British Columbia. We were most fortunate to have Dan to lead us, looking at Change in the Church, Our Baptismal Ministry and how to deepen our competencies to meet the needs of the church in the future.

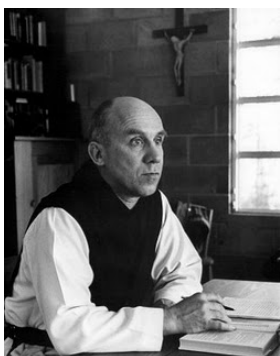
All in the Anglican Communion are trying to discern a new path. This is so difficult when we are unsure about what will replace the old ways.

Our day began and ended with a "Prayer for Discernment" by Thomas Merton.

We prayed the prayer together, replacing "I" with "We".

Thomas Merton's Prayer for Discernment

At a very difficult and dark period in Thomas Merton's life he penned this prayer that has been such a help to so many people:



O Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going,
I do not see the road ahead of me,
I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself,
And that fact that I think
I am following Your will
Does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe
That the desire to please You
Does in fact please You.
And I hope I have that desire
In all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything
Apart from that desire to please You.
And I know that if I do this
You will lead me by the right road,
Though I may know nothing about it.



Continued on next page

Further Reflections on Study Day *(continued)*

Therefore I will trust You always
Though I may seem to be lost
And in the shadow of death.
I will not fear,
For You are ever with me,
And You will never leave me
To make my journey alone.

Source: Thomas Merton, Pax Christi, Benet Press, Erie, PA.



Our Study day was patterned from the APCI process of rebuilding their congregations after paying the heavy debt of the Residential Schools legacy.

We spent time looking at the Discernment questions for Deepening Competencies. You will find this list elsewhere in this newsletter.

What a stimulating and challenging day we had! We were most fortunate to have Dan walk us through this interesting process for ministry.

The Commissioning of 5 new lay readers and the recommissioning of 45 others by Bishop Barry Clarke was a fitting end to our day. Dan was presented with a crosier for Bishop Barbara Andrews, and gift from Montreal to our partners in APCI. All those gathered felt blessed to be part of this time of fellowship and learning.

YVONNE WAKELAND

Lay Reader Association Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, May 18th, 2011

6:00 pm

**Trinity Memorial Church
5220 Sherbrooke St. West
Montreal**

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

6:00 pm Gathering and Registration

6:30 pm Dinner (\$10 for a delicious dinner cooked by the team of Trinity Memorial Church)

7:30 pm Business Meeting (Annual reports and Elections)

8:30 pm Closing Prayer and Dismissal

Please bring your thoughts and ideas for our year ahead!
We look forward to seeing you all at this important meeting!

Vocation and Discernment for Lay Leaders

- Candidates have an understanding of their gifts, abilities, strengths and weaknesses and have been encouraged by their minister and congregation to assist with lay ministers' tasks.
- Candidates have a longing for deeper involvement in the life and ministry of the Church.
- Candidates have a heart for those who are not Christians.

Questions for Deepening Competencies

1. Define the meaning of "gift" in your own understanding of ministry.
2. What are your gifts and/or abilities? Name 2 or more
3. How did you come to know that you have these gifts?
4. Who has helped you to know what gifts you have?
5. What gifts do you use inside of the congregation (worship, parish life, pastoral care) and what gifts do you use in your community and world?
6. Tell a story about when you discovered that you had a gift or tell a story when a gift you have was affirmed by someone.
7. What are your strengths for your ministry?
8. How will you build on your strengths?
9. What are your areas of weakness?
10. How will you find ways to overcome some of these weaknesses?
11. What weaknesses do you possess that are also gifts in your ministry?
12. How have you been encouraged by clergy in your vocation?
13. How have you been encouraged by the congregation?
14. How have you been discouraged by others?
15. What does it mean to "assist"?
16. What ministry tasks are you currently doing? What would be included in this list?
17. How do you determine what ministry tasks you take on and which tasks you do not?
18. What new tasks or challenges are you thinking you might want to try?
19. Where did your longing for deeper involvement in ministry come from?
20. Describe that longing for deeper involvement
21. What does it mean "to have a **heart** for those who are not Christians"?
22. What is the current condition of your heart?
23. How do you find and foster a more passionate heart?

Study Day 2011 - Creating a more Just, Healthy and Peaceful World

Adele Finney, a writer and spiritual director from the diocese of Toronto, was appointed executive director of The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), effective January 1, 2011.

Finney is well-acquainted with PWRDF and well known to its staff and partners. She served as interim executive director at PWRDF since March 2010; she also served as interim director from 2006-2007. Prior to that, Finney worked with PWRDF's parish and diocesan partnership program and as fundraising and promotions coordinator.

In a letter announcing Finney's appointment, Archbishop Fred Hiltz said the decision "was made with every confidence that the staff, governing bodies and ambassadors for PWRDF across the church will continue to benefit from Adele's style of leadership." He added that her leadership style is "borne of a deep passion for the vocation of PWRDF in working for a more just, healthy and peaceful world."



Photo: Art Babych

<http://www.anglicanjournal.com>

2011 Lay Reader Study Day and Commissioning Service

Saturday, November 26th, 2011

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Adele Finney, executive director of The Primate's World Relief and
Development Fund
Creating a more Just, Healthy and Peaceful World

A fee of \$25 covers all refreshment breaks, lunch and materials

Commissioning Service and Evening Prayer with Bishop Barry Clarke
4:00 pm, followed by a reception for all family and friends

LAY READERS' ANNUAL RETREAT

Friday, April 29th to Sunday, May 1st, 2011

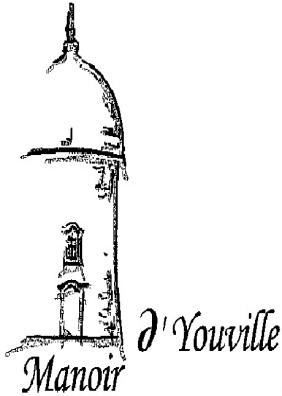
Manoir d'Youville, Chateauguay

Speaker: Archdeacon Peter DeCourcy Fenty
Topic: What in the Name of Jesus are you Doing?

First meal is dinner at 5:00 pm, April 29th

Last meal is lunch at noon on May 1st

Two nights and all meals included



Mail your cheque, payable to "**The Lay Readers' Association**"
with your registration to:

The Lay Readers' Association

c/o Susan Winn

680 Victoria Drive,

Baie D'Urfe, Quebec

H9X 2K2

Questions or more information needed?

Please contact Registrar **Geraldine Kavanagh** at 450 477 0964

If you require or can offer transportation to another Lay Reader,
please call **Marcel Bourgeois** at 514 931 5045 or by email at

marcel.bourgeois@videotron.ca

Lay Readers' Annual Retreat

Friday, April 29th to Sunday, May 1st, 2011

- Single Room \$140
- Single Room with bathroom \$165
- Double Room, 2 beds, \$120 per person
- Double Room, 2 beds, with bathroom, \$130 per person

NAME 1

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

NAME 2 (if in double room)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____