



A reflection from Sue Winn...

Dear Fellow Lay Readers,

In this issue...

A reflection from Sue Winn	1
2011 Lay Reader Study Day and Commissioning Service	2
A Message from The Rev. Canon Tim Smart	3
A Letter to Marge Brown	4
Diocese of Quebec Hosts Lay Readers' Conference	4
Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...	5
Message de Yolande Ferron	6
Election of Officers for 2011-2012	7
Letter from Pat Stokes	8
Study Day - Map	9
Lay Readers' Spring Retreat	9

This summer I have had to realize that I have entered a whole new stage of my life. While I have felt my body ageing, until this summer I would not have called myself a senior citizen. That term conjures up images of someone really, really old. I guess I have been in denial!

This summer my grandsons arrived to visit, bringing girlfriends. My own children are reaching middle-age. When I started to use reading glasses, my children said, "Mother, really!" Now they need reading glasses too.

I am not only a grandmother to teenagers; I am a great-aunt to children of my nieces and nephews. I have decided they should all just call me Sue. No more titles please.

With two hip replacements, and wonky knees, I am very aware of high steps, my need for a railing or banister, my joy when there is an elevator, washrooms on the main floor of restaurants and churches. When most of our churches were built, obviously no one expected old or handicapped people to attend. Washrooms were buried in basements. Ramps were unheard of. Even the walk to the Communion Rail can be hazardous.

This summer my husband and I travelled to Newfoundland. We walked a lot...at our own pace. We wore serviceable walking shoes. We both took a walking stick and enjoyed sitting from time to time on benches provided, gazing at magnificent views and feeling enormously thankful for God's Creation and for the health to experience so much beauty.

We drove north along the coast of Labrador to a place called Mary's Cove, then took a ferry to an island called Battle Harbour. In the 1770s this island developed into a thriving salt fish capital. Today it is a village managed by a Historic Trust, with buildings restored so that visitors can experience a fascinating era of Labrador history. We walked the trails and explored the buildings. At one end of the island is a lovely Anglican Church, painted white with a red roof and two lovely outhouses to match!

As I gazed down the rocky slope to these necessary structures, I decided I would never again complain about basement washrooms, especially when the snows fall and the biting winter winds howl.





I am thankful for each new day, for so many interesting opportunities as a lay reader, for my work within the church and the diocese. I enjoy my changing role within my family. I have many precious friends. The advantages to being a senior far outweigh the difficulties.....but that's a message for another time.

I hope you have experienced many blessings over the summer months. In the year ahead we will have a number of rich opportunities to learn and to enjoy fellowship together.

I look forward to seeing you all at Study Day on November 26th.

SUE WINN

2011 Lay Reader Study Day and Commissioning Service



Saturday, November 26th, 2011
Church of St. John the Baptist
233 Ste. Claire Road, Pointe Claire
Registration begins at 8:30 am.

Speaker: Adele Finney, National Executive Director PWRDF
The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

Topic: Creating a More Just, Healthy and Peaceful World

Adele will help us to explore working and living in "Edge Habitat", the place in between two eco-systems, a place of abundance and vulnerability.

Walking through the Samaritan stories we will come to know how Jesus experienced and taught about living in Edge Habitat, and how that can give meaning to our lives and our work.

We will also have Bishop Barbara Andrews with us for the day!
Bishop Barbara has been invited by Bishop Barry to preach at our Commissioning Service.

Cost of the Study Day: \$30 (includes refreshments and lunch and workshop materials)

Order of the Day:

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Opening worship
- 9:15 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:30 First session
- 10:30 Refreshment Break
- 11:00 Second session
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Third session and group work
- 3:15 Refreshments and preparation for Evening Prayer
- 4:00 Evening Prayer and Commissioning
- 5:00 Bishop's Reception for All, including family and friends



To let us know you're coming, please call or email
Geraldine Kavanagh by
November 1st.

450 477 0964
geralka@videotron.ca



A Message from The Rev. Canon Tim Smart

Winter Reflection

Out here in the Eastern Townships the leaves are turning to hues of gold and red and the geese are honking overhead making their way to warmer places; causing me to wonder how wise is it for me to stay put for the next seven months. But I'm not a migrating goose, I'm a Quebecker and my place is here for the foreseeable future, shoveling, scraping, and shivering my way through another Quebec winter.

At the local bookstore in Knowlton I recently purchased Adam Gopnik's new book, *Winter: Five Windows on the Season*. The book is actually the basis for the upcoming Massey Lectures on CBC radio. I'm hoping to read the five chapters in conjunction with the five lectures and in doing so, find my way back to loving winter.

As a kid I used to love making snow forts and tunnels, engaging in pitched battles with ample supplies of snowballs at my side. Sliding, slipping, skiing, were all part of the winter fun. And school cancellations were always a dream come true. While the adults around me always seem to pant with the breath of exasperation, we kids couldn't imagine anything more heavenly than 30 inches of fresh, white, blowing snow. The more, the better.

Now that I'm an adult, charged with the responsibilities of driving through the stuff, moving the stuff, and getting stuck in the stuff, the excitement of it all has worn a little thin. (Also, the season seems to go on for about 3 months more that really necessary.)



But there is something instructive (or shall I say 'redeemable') about winter, isn't there? The change into fall and the preparation for winter reminds me of the ongoing cycle of life. Not only do we see change in nature all around us but within us as well. As Sue has written, we too have seasons in our lives and we do well to welcome these seasons and embrace them instead of fighting them or cursing them. Finding the beauty in each season of life brings us inner contentment and peace.

As Lay Readers, who lead in prayer and preach the gospel, we invite people in all seasons of life, to find God in the warmth of the summer day, in the beauty of the fall colors and in the quiet hush of a cold

winter evening. In the changing seasons of our lives we may discover God both in the temperate and intemperate seasons of our lives, not only when the sun is shining, but when the storm clouds gather, God is present. May your fall and winter seasons be times of change, challenge and renewal of life, through Christ our Lord.

PASTOR TIM SMART

A LETTER TO MARGE BROWN

on the occasion of her surprise farewell party at St. Margaret of Antioch Church

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Dear Margery,

You have served for so many years as a faithful and dedicated Lay Reader. You have been active in many capacities in the work of the Diocese of Montreal. Now you are heading towards a new ministry in the Residence Saint-Anne in Rawdon. When the people there come to know your skills and abilities you will be as busy as ever! What a great pastoral visitor you will be!

Margery, the executive of the Lay Readers Association, and Tim Smart, our pastor, thank you for all you have done to keep our Association strong. The wonderful fellowship among the Lay Readers at this time is due to the hard work and generous support of members like you. You have been a treasure in our midst. We plan to stay in close touch in the years ahead.

Our gift to you is a pashmina bought in Jerusalem. Notice that the background is the Lay Reader royal blue. Whenever you are feeling lonely, or wishing you could be more mobile, wrap this lovely shawl around you and remember how loved you are. With fond wishes, and prayers for God's blessings,



Margery was surprised with a Celebration in her church; four Lay Readers were there to celebrate with her.

Left to right: Marge Brown, Sue Winn, Luvina Scope-Taylor, Valerie Bennett, with Dave Blizard in the foreground.

YOUR LAY READER COLLEAGUES

Diocese of Quebec Hosts a Lay Readers' Conference

On Saturday, October 1st, four Montreal Lay Readers travelled to Lennoxville, Quebec to join their colleagues in our neighbouring diocese. The day featured two workshops, one on the Spoken Word in leading services, and the other focused on the leading of music within the liturgy. The speakers for the day were Caitlin Reilley Beck from the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Ottawa, and the Rev'd Wanda Dillabough of the Deanery of St. Francis, Diocese of Quebec. The fellowship throughout the day, and during a delicious lunch, was rich and filled with laughter.

Left to right:

Canon Graham Jackson, Warden of Quebec Lay Readers, Ann Cumyn, Gail Campbell, Bishop Dennis Drainville, Linden Rogers, Sue Winn



Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...It's about learning how to dance in the rain!!!



I would like to tell you a story about something that recently happened to me that has changed my outlook on life dramatically.

At the beginning of December 2010, I had a very strong desire to finish with my Christmas preparations as early as possible. So, with great determination, by December 6th, all the Christmas cooking, baking, decorating, shopping and wrapping had been completed. The only thing left undone was writing Christmas cards and picking up a few last minute items.

After lunch on the 8th of December, my daughter Maggie, who was 11 1/2 weeks pregnant, my 21-month-old grandson, Loic and I set off for WalMart.

Loic was seated in his car seat. We were driving down a small country road, and Maggie made a stop. Suddenly we were hit head-on by another car that had swerved into our lane. Our car was totalled. Maggie hit her knee on the dash, the baby she was carrying was unharmed; Loic bit his lip. I didn't get off so easily. Although my seat belt saved my life, I suffered 4 broken ribs, a fractured sternum, and my two knees, both with prostheses, collided mightily with the dashboard. The police and ambulances arrived and we were on our way to the hospital.

Christmas last year was very special. On Christmas day I acted as supervisor, when my husband Alfred propped me up in a chair in the kitchen to delegate the preparation of the Christmas dinner. It was the first time that he had cooked a turkey and he did a fine job indeed. Everything was ready when our children and grandchild arrived. We all shed tears of gratitude that we were all together, safe and sound on this very special day. My friends were happy to hear my voice over the phone. My heart was warmed by those who called, sent notes or dropped by to let me know they cared.

How has this experience changed my life dramatically? Even though I am still recovering from the accident, I wake up every morning and thank God for the blessings He has bestowed on me and my family; I don't take myself too seriously and try not to sweat the small stuff. I don't take anything for granted. I make it a point to tell people how much I love them. I try to keep things in perspective, and to remember how grateful I am to be here.

< Happiness keeps you Sweet; Trials keep you Strong; Sorrows keep you Human; Failures keep you Humble; Success keeps you Growing, but only God keeps you Going!! >

GERALDINE FRANCES KAVANAGH
September 10, 2011

MESSAGE DE YOLANDE FERRON

Bonjour à tous et à toutes,

Enfin voici le temps des vacances. Comme j'ai 5 semaines de vacances à ma disposition, j'ai le temps et je peux choisir ma destination. Cette année, j'ai décidé de faire une retraite dirigée chez les Soeurs de St. John the Divine, à Toronto. Leur nouveau couvent est situé à environ 40 minutes du centre-ville de Toronto par transport en commun. Comme choix écologique, je prends le train chaque fois que je me rends au couvent qui se trouve sur un site merveilleux entouré de verdure.

Cette année, ma directrice spirituelle m'a préparé une retraite vraiment intéressante. J'avais pour objectif d'ouvrir mon coeur et mon esprit à la grandeur de Dieu. Si vous n'avez pas de directeur spirituel, les Soeurs peuvent vous offrir ce service moyennant un léger supplément. Heureusement, la température était très clémente et très fraîche.

Le couvent offre aussi de très beaux espaces bien aménagés, comme des pièces propres à la méditation et un beau terrain avec des aires de repos propices à la réflexion. Donc les lieux physiques aidant mon cheminement spirituel étaient d'autant plus agréables que beaucoup de découvertes s'ensuivirent. Les menus étant diversifiés, les personnes ayant un régime particulier peuvent en obtenir un selon leur spécificité médicale, mais il faut informer les Soeurs à l'avance. Le couvent offre également un labyrinthe grandeur nature. Je fais une marche méditative, tous les jours sauf lorsqu'il pleut, car les aires et terrains nous invitent à la méditation. Je me promets aussi d'observer les étoiles si le ciel n'est pas trop couvert. Le couvent possède aussi un lieu de tentation pour le moins original : l'allée des tentations. Cette allée offre des livres et des c.d. pour tous les goûts et sur tous les sujets spirituels, dont les exercices de St Ignace, la prière (quotidienne, hebdomadaire ou annuelle), le divorce, le décès et la peine qui comptent parmi les événements qui surviennent dans nos vies et qui doivent recevoir quelques soulagements. Il y a aussi des livres pour enfants qui traitent de sujets comme le divorce, la mort d'un parent, le refus d'aller à l'église... Une section Amnistie Internationale procure des oursons qui peuvent être d'utiles amis pour les petits enfants ou les jeunes neveux. Ma retraite fut un succès et m'a permis de prendre conscience de la multitude de chemins par lesquels je peux rejoindre Dieu.

Ceux qui sont habiles avec Internet peuvent consulter le site web des Soeurs si vous effectuez une recherche SSJD, mais j'apporterai aussi des livrets pour notre journée d'étude, fin novembre. J'espère que l'on pourra se retrouver lors d'une conférence ou retraite privée lors d'un prochain voyage à Toronto.

YOLANDE FERRON

When were you saved?

There is a story told about an Episcopalian Bishop who was sitting at the station waiting for a train. A stranger came up to him and said, "Brother are you saved?" "Yes", the Bishop replied.

Not convinced, the stranger then asked, "When were you saved?"

The Bishop answered with great conviction, "At three o'clock on a cloudy afternoon, nearly 2000 years ago".

Submitted by Ann Cumyn

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2011-2012

May 18th, 2011

President	Susan Winn
Treasurer	Maureen Jolley
Secretary	Linden Rogers
Nominating Committee & liaison with French Ministry	Yolande Ferron
Registrar	Geraldine Kavanagh
Assistant Registrar	Marcel Bourgeois
Newsletter Distribution	Sharon Jolley
Study Day Coordinator	Leslie Blackman
Retreat Hospitality	Irene Martin, Charles Goddard
AGM Coordinator	Ivan Austin
Education Resources	Linden Rogers
Worship and Music	Ian Sinclair, Simon Hartropp
Webmaster	Cathy McKeogh

Members at Large: Carol Gingera, William Griffith

Pastor of Lay Readers: The Rev. Tim Smart
Director of the Center for Lay Education

There are dangers to being buried in Jerusalem!

An elderly couple was visiting Jerusalem. During the visit the wife fell ill and unfortunately died.

When discussing arrangements for her burial, her husband stated a preference to having her body flown home. He was told that such an action would cost \$5,000 while being buried in Jerusalem would only cost \$500. It was strongly suggested that he should take the cheaper option.

After a little thought the husband said 'No.' When asked why he was choosing the more expensive option, the husband replied that he had heard a tale of a man who had died in Jerusalem and had subsequently been buried; however, after three days that man had come alive again. He was not willing to risk a burial in Jerusalem for his wife in case that happened to her!

Submitted by Ann Cumyn

LETTER FROM PAT STOKES

Pat Stokes is well-known to many Montreal Lay Readers. Pat served as President of our Association before she retired from teaching and moved to her family home in England.

Dear Sue,

You asked me to write about my role as a Devon Lay Reader. It's been a busy autumn so far!

There are three bishops in Devon, one of the largest dioceses in England covering Exeter, Plymouth and Crediton, the oldest see in the West. Readers receive the bishop's license at a service in Exeter Cathedral every October. This year approximately 25 new readers will be licensed, adding to a total of over 200!

There are many benefices {groups of small churches} in Devon, especially in the rural areas. I serve in a four parish benefice about 20 miles from Exeter, right out in the country. These parishes are Broadhempston, Landscope, Littlehempston and Staverton. The Hems is our local small river, and Staverton is on the Dart. All our parishes have fewer than 40 regular parishioners but they are packed for Harvest Festivals, Carol Services and other festive occasions. On the first Sunday of the month we have a united benefice service at one of the churches, each in turn. Scheduling personnel is a challenge sometimes!!!

We are very blessed with musical artists. Nigel Amherst played the first violin with the London Symphony, Malcolm Aevans was a founding member of The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Richard Clark is a professional drama teacher and performer, Ann Kimber is the conductor of the Plymouth Symphony and several of us sing in local choirs.

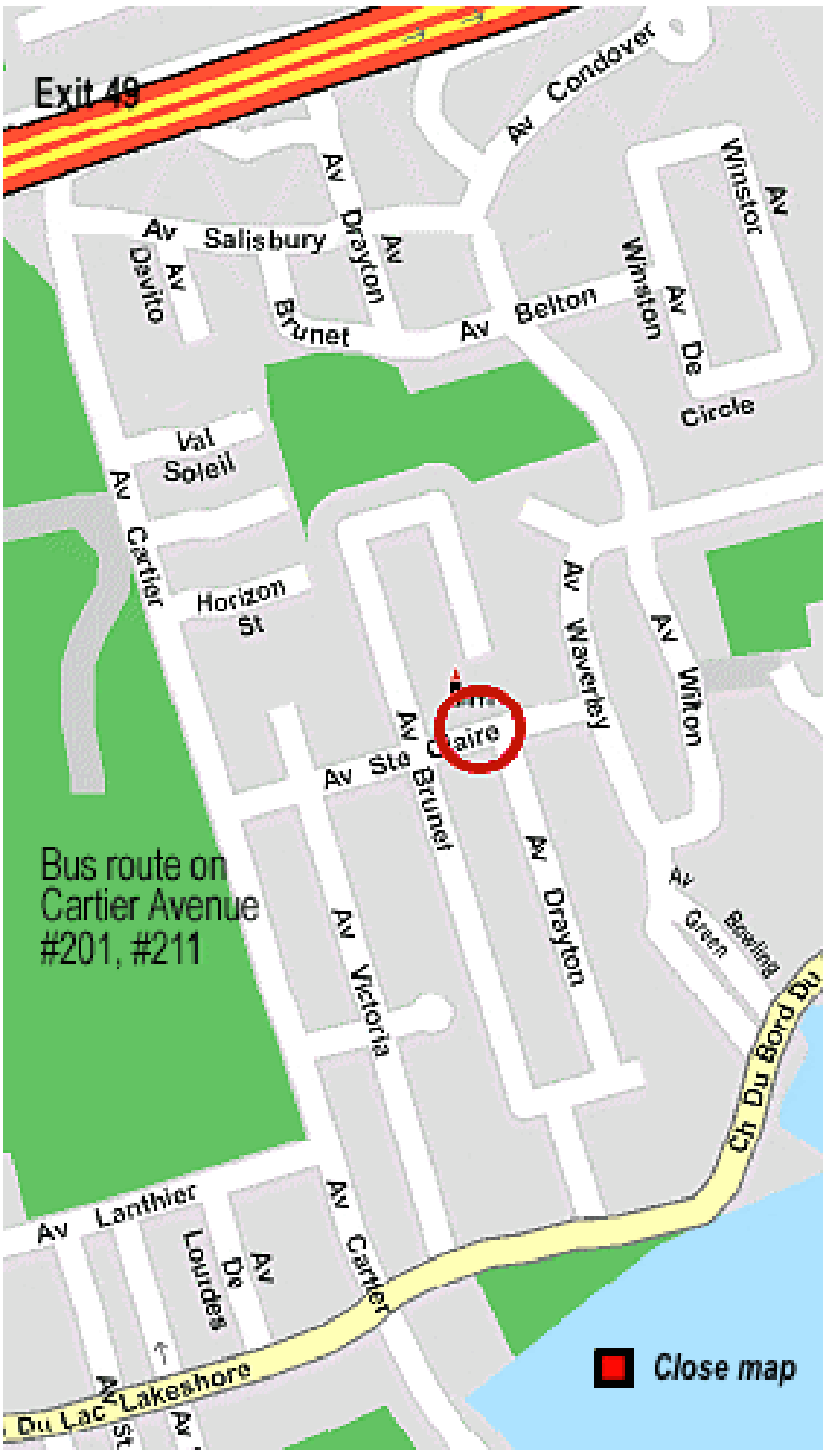
I lead services of Communion by Extension, a wonderful privilege, at least once a month and also prepare, with a team of parents and children aged 8 to 16, a Family Service on the 4th Sunday at 4 pm!! Another joy for me is to be a part of the Methodist Lay Preachers' Circuit, so I lead services in Dartmoor churches, at Buckfast Abbey Chapel and at Totnes Church where we have a meditation service once a month.

Pastoral visiting is a crucial part of my ministry, in hospitals, people's homes and residences. My role is a typical example of a Devon Reader. Many readers serve in as many as 8 churches. We are all required to attend diocesan training sessions. Two will be held in November on Safeguarding our children and other vulnerable people. In addition, I am a licensed Spiritual Director, usually called a Spiritual Companion. We are deeply blessed in our diocese by the devotion of its readers. Please hold us in your prayers.

I send my best wishes to the Lay Readers of Montreal. I think of you often.

PAT STOKES

2011 Lay Reader Study Day and Commissioning Service
Church of St. John the Baptist
233 Ste. Claire Road, Pointe Claire



LAY READERS' SPRING RETREAT

Friday, May 4th to Sunday, May 6th, 2012

Manoir d'Youville, Chateauguay

Speaker: The Very Reverend Louise Peters

Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in Kamloops, BC
Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior

Topic: The Sacred Authority of Lay leadership

The Manoir d'Youville is now under management by the city of Chateauguay. Renovations are underway and those who have experienced the new management are saying the meals are excellent!

- The costs of the rooms have increased and the single rooms with bathroom en suite are fewer and quite a bit more expensive. The costs include two nights and six meals, beginning with dinner on Friday evening and ending on Sunday after lunch.

Costs for this retreat will be as follows:

Single room with bathroom, \$240

Twin beds in a room with bathroom, \$140 per person

Single room, bathroom in corridor, \$160

Members with mobility difficulties and medical concerns will be given priority for single rooms with bathrooms. Those with medical concerns should reserve their room on Study Day, or by mail to Geraldine Kavanagh, with a down payment of \$50.

All Lay Readers are welcome to register for the Retreat on Study Day, November 26th. Parishes often sponsor their Lay Readers by paying their Retreat costs. Alert your priest and Wardens to this request so that it can be part of the Church budget.

Registrar: Geraldine Kavanagh: geralka@videotron.ca
355 Sullivan Crescent
Mascouche, QC J7L 3M7
Tel. 450-477-0964

Louise Peters, Sue Winn & Dan Hines

APCI Assembly May 13 to 15, 2011

