

# THE CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

May/June 2015

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## Welcome



On Sunday, May 17th last, Malcolm Dewar, Chairman of the Parish Search Committee, read a letter from Bishop Barry in which the appointment of the Reverend Lorne Eason as the new incumbent of the Church of Saint John the Baptist was announced. The Rev. Eason's incumbency will be effective as of July 1st.

The Reverend Lorne Eason comes to us from Christ Church Beaurepaire, where he is presently the Assistant Curate.

Rev. Eason is familiar to most parishioners having spent some time among us as Assistant Curate during his time at the Diocesan College. More recently, he has 'filled in' during our interregnum as the search for a new rector took place. We wish him a warm welcome to the Church of Saint John the Baptist.

No date for an Induction Service has been announced.

DLP

  
ANGLICAN DIOCESE MONTREAL  
The Right Reverend Barry Bryan Clarke  
Bishop of Montreal  
bishops.office@montreal.anglican.ca

May 13, 2015

To the Wardens of the Church of St. John the Baptist, Pointe Claire.

I am pleased to appoint The Reverend Lorne Eason as the new incumbent of the Church of St. John the Baptist, Pointe Claire.

His appointment is effective July 1, 2015.

The Reverend Lorne Eason comes to us from Christ Church Beaurepaire, where he is the Assistant Curate.

Please ensure that this letter is read in the parish at all services on May 17, 2015. This information is embargoed until that time.

Please join me in welcoming The Reverend Lorne Eason to St. John the Baptist.

I wish to thank the Corporation for their prayerful support in this process, trusting in the leadership of the Holy Spirit to bring us to this decision.

With every blessing,

*Barry Montreal*

The Rt. Rev. Barry B. Clarke  
Bishop of Montreal  
Anglican Church of Canada

## Reverend Eason and the Corporation



*Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.*

From an observation by Brent Cowan, via Abraham Lincoln

**In Other News . . . . .**



## Patronal Festivals Huge In the Bahamas

Perhaps, if you grew up in England or have family there, you may know all about Patronal Festivals, but, if you are like I was, you are saying, "What is a Patronal Festival?" I first started to hear about them at my tiny little church, St. Joseph's Anglican, in Upper Bogue, Eleuthera. Every week it seemed they announced a Patronal Festival at one church or another on the island. These services are always at 3:30 p.m., to allow people to get there after their morning service and are held on the Sunday closest to the feast day of the Saint for whom their church is named – their Patron Saint, hence Patronal Festival.

People travel from all over the island to attend these services. The island is 110 miles long with one main road (The Queen's Highway) – narrow, only one lane wide at times (north-bound cars have priority), no white lines, no shoulder lines, so not a quick drive from church to church.

The feast day of St. Joseph of Nazareth is March 19th. There are two St. Joseph Churches on the island as well as St. Patrick's (feast day obviously March 17th) so we toss to see whose service is when. Can't have two the same afternoon because you have to attend each other's! We also have St. Gregory on March 12th so it is a busy month.

Our Patronal Festival was Sunday, March 22nd this year and I was so glad it was before I headed back to the frozen North. I was also honoured to be asked to read a lesson. Our church has a regular attendance of about fifteen, five of whom are winter residents like me. We have a two Layreaders, the minister who serves three churches and does four services each Sunday, five servers and a keyboardist. There is no server or Layreader roster, everyone is "on duty" every Sunday. (You may recall the write-up John did about our church in *The Messenger* several years ago.) Our church holds thirty in a pinch. The day before our service, we put up a tent for the overflow and decorated the church. We brought in an extra pew and chairs for Layreaders, Clergy and congregation. Tulle was draped from the rafters, bows tied on pews. It looked beautiful.



We all knew that if you wanted to sit in the church (which is air conditioned), you should be there by 2:30 for the 3:30 service. By 2:45 buses started to arrive from churches throughout the island, including one from Bannerman town at the southernmost tip, a three hour drive each way. Many people were decked out in their finest, ladies in large "Mother-of-the-Bride" hats.

By the time the service started I estimated one hundred there. The procession reminded me of a consecration service here. There were 5 robed Clergy led by the crucifer, acolytes, incense bearers, twelve Layreaders and about fifteen servers. The servers did not sit in the church (no room) but in the sacristy where the keyboardist had been set up in a corner so she could see the sanctuary. The servers obviously knew their roles and though they were often seen running around in their robes outside, having escaped out the back door, they obviously had an eye and ear on the proceedings as not one of them missed their part in the service, reading the psalm, bringing the incense forward,

leading the prayers of the people and many other duties. The Eucharist went quickly as it was offered outside to those seated in the tent as well as inside. The guest Celebrant and Preacher gave a very lively sermon on Joseph, the forgotten one of the Nativity and his role as earthly father of Jesus, pointing out how, if he had not accepted Mary's pregnancy, and the obvious blame of the people of Nazareth, she could have been stoned. It was an incredible sermon – can't tell you how long it was. I never looked at my watch I was so engrossed.

The service was close to two hours, but that is not considered long, especially when you travel three hours to get there. And, because of the length of service and travel, one is expected to feed people before they head home. In true Bahamian tradition, this means supper

*(Patronal Festivals continues on the back page)*

# The Green Team(s)



A sincere "Thank you" to those parishioners who devoted the first Saturday morning of May to tidy up the grounds of the church. More than eighty bags of leaves and green waste were filled, ready to be picked up by the city recyclers in the week which followed.



Particular thanks to Hugh and Joyce Farthing. We reaped what they sowed. Thanks to them and all who contributed to the success of our Plant Sale. And 'No!', we did not sell hotdogs . . . !



## Then there were the Rummagers . . .

The two events illustrated in the photographs on this page were the result of hard work on the part of a number of our parishioners. Their combined efforts encouraged enough buyers to attend, and this raised well over \$3000.00 for church funds. Bravo!

### Acknowledgement

Photographs in the pages of this MESSENGER were provided by André, Donna, Kathy, Margaret, Penny and Val.



## Unclear on the concept!?

The following is an actual classified ad in the Employment section of the National Post from Tuesday, May 12th, of this year. If you are interested in the job, at least you know what you are getting into!



**Nanny req'd for 2 children.  
F/T year-round work.**

### DUTIES:

**Supervise** and care for children; bathe, dress and feed children; prepare children for rest periods; help children with homework.

**Organize** activities such as games and outings for children; instruct children in personal hygiene and social development, prepare and serve nutritious meals.

**Perform** light housekeeping and cleaning duties.

**Tend** to emotional well-being of children; discipline children according to the methods requested by the parents.

**Take** children to and from school and to appointments.

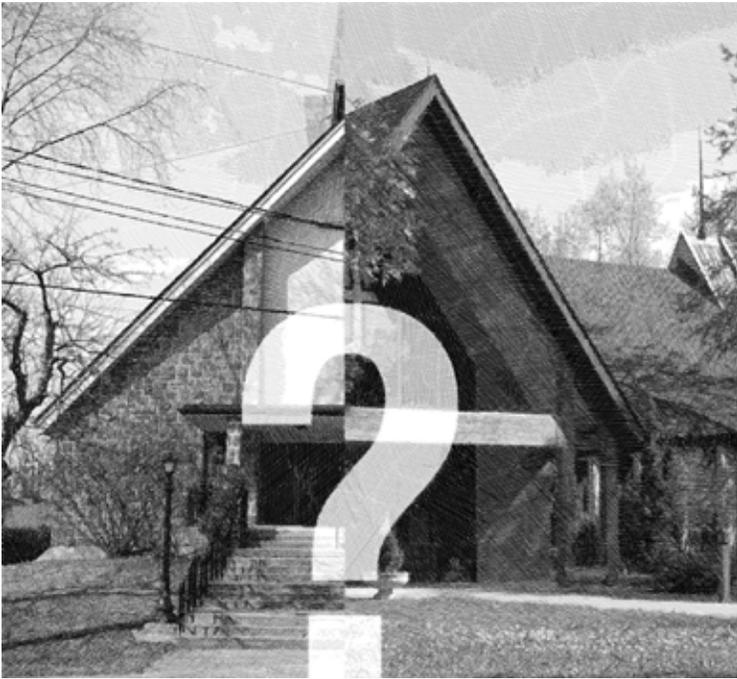
**Wage: \$11.50/hr.**

Skills required: Completion of Secondary Education and a minimum of 1 year of work experience as a Nanny or completion of a training program in a related field.

Apply by email . . . Brampton, Ontario. (Actual email withheld at the discretion of the Editor.)

With thanks to MPP

# CHANGE



**On Sunday, 3rd May, both services were held as joint celebrations with the congregation of the Church of the Resurrection in Valois. The following week, May 10th, this arrangement was reciprocated, with services held at the church in Valois. Approximately forty parishioners from each church made the journey from one parish to the other for these shared services. For both Sundays, the celebrant was the Rev. Sophie Rolland.**

The exchange described above was prompted by the proposition that the two congregations will merge. This possibility has come closer to being a reality with a decision taken, by a large majority, in a special Vestry meeting at the Church of the Resurrection two weeks ago. The vote chose this as the preferred option for Resurrection's parishioners seeking an Anglican place of worship for the future. Sadly, the Church of the Resurrection will close for good although the congregation, ideally, would hope to hold final Christmas services in their building at the end of this year.

For those who experienced both liturgies, the differences between the forms of worship in each location were marked. For many years, the Church of the Resurrection has used a liturgy drawn from the BAS (Book of Alternative Services); those familiar with practices at St. J. the B. know that, for an even longer time, this parish has remained firmly in the camp of those few churches preferring the traditional Book of Common Prayer.

***It is revealing to think that we, in Pointe Claire, are the ones who could be considered to be "out of step"! Most Anglican churches now use the BAS as the basis for their worship, at least in part.***

As one who attended the Communion Service at the Church

of the Resurrection, it was not a little strange to find more in common with the Communion service held in our prayer partner church of St. Andrew's, Pencoys, on our visit there last September. At a time when attendance throughout the Anglican congregations of the West Island area is in decline, no matter the form of worship, it may also be instructive to appreciate that this small rural parish in Cornwall, England, shares one service each month, not with another Anglican church but with the local Methodist congregation. As it becomes more difficult each year to maintain the buildings of several churches in our area (including our own!), we cannot foresee what plans may be in store by the Diocese in years to come. One thing is certain, changes to the organization of West Island parishes is "in the air" and we can only guess what a new Bishop will determine is the optimum way forward.

**In the past months, even without paying for an incumbent, we have been obliged to draw more than \$40,000.00 from our reserves.**

The reality, therefore, if things don't change, will see us exhaust our entire financial '*cushion*' within about three years. Essentially we are in a similar position to the Church of the Resurrection and it is this challenge which has prompted the Corporation to meet with representatives of the Church of the Resurrection to discuss a shared future. (A motion affecting how to proceed will be presented at the Special Vestry on June 7th.)

This motion – and the background to it – provoked a long, and at times, contentious, discussion at the most recent meeting of the Parish Council (May 25th). It is evident that, even within our own ranks, we hold opposing points of view in the search for a solution. If a *merger* is agreed, the disparity in the forms of worship described earlier between the two parishes can only exacerbate what could be a trying period of transition – for both congregations. It could lead some parishioners to the view that not enough remains, in the '*new*' church, of anything resembling the one they have known. There is no doubt that this will be a view held by some, perhaps, by many among our congregation. For this reason, should an amalgamation go forward, we can anticipate that, with the best will in the world, we will lose some members of the parish, as indeed will be the case for the Church of the Resurrection.

***The flip side of the coin suggests that, if the Church of Saint John the Baptist decides***

(Continued overleaf)

**that, as a parish, we wish to continue the path of present practice, an urgent and complete re-evaluation of how we can maintain our building and pay our employees will need to be undertaken.**

Given the trend of dwindling attendance, this is a daunting challenge which has been highlighted several times in past years. Nevertheless, there is obviously a limit to how much of an increasing financial burden we can expect our present parishioners to sustain. Taken in conjunction with growing annual costs for maintenance, heating, and administration, this is the reality with which the Corporation – and indeed all parishioners – are faced.

Any amalgamation with another parish will not be easy. Consider what would be involved if this church and its congregation were the ones to be moving to a new location. What would happen to memorials, altar linens, furnishings, and other *treasures* orphaned by such a move? It is with this in mind that the Corporation has proposed the establishment of a *Steering Committee* to investigate the scenario from this parish's point of view. The mandate and parameters under which this *steering body* – if it is approved – will work will be discussed at this morning's Special Vestry meeting.

***The parishioners of the Church of the Resurrection have made their decision. With our new incumbent appointed, it is now up to this parish to make a similarly courageous choice regarding its direction for the future. The ball, as they say, is in our court.***

David L. Paterson, Editor

## A fable

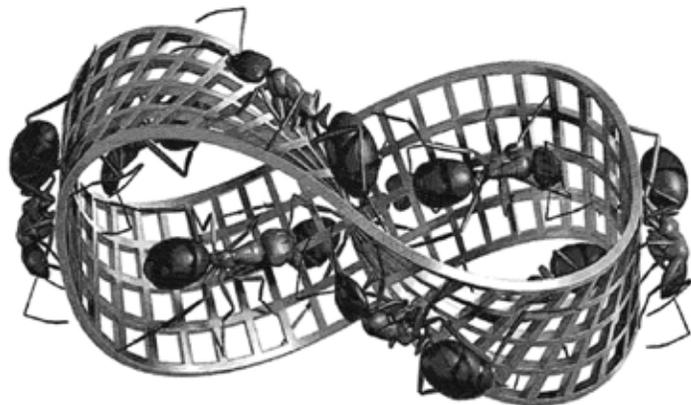
Everyday, a small ant arrived at the office very early and started work immediately. As a worker he was very productive and very happy about his work until the day the chief, a lion, became surprised that the ant was working without any supervision. The lion then thought that if the ant can produce so much without supervision, wouldn't he be even more productive if he had a supervisor!

So the lion recruited a cockroach who had extensive experience as a supervisor, well known for writing excellent reports. The cockroach's first agenda was to set up a *clocking-in* attendance system and he needed a secretary to help him document the records. So he recruited a spider – whose job was to manage the archives and monitor all phone calls made by the company.

Lion was delighted with the cockroach's reports and asked him to produce graphs illustrating production rates and analyzing trends, so that he could use these for presentations at Board meetings.

The cockroach therefore needed to buy a new computer and a new laser printer to print his material and he recruited a fly to manage the IT Department.

The ant, who had once been so productive and relaxed, hated this plethora of new forms, paper work and meetings which now used up most of his time. The lion came to the conclusion that what was needed was a person to head the department where the ant worked. This new position was given to the cicada, whose first decision was to buy a carpet and an ergonomic chair for her office. She also needed a new computer and an assistant whom she brought from her previous department, to help with budget control and the strategic optimization plan.



The department where the ant worked became a sad place, where no one laughed anymore; everybody was upset and stressed. Faced with poor morale, the cicada convinced the lion of the absolute necessity to initiate a climactic study of the entire company environment. Having reviewed the new cost for running the ant's department, the lion found that production had diminished considerably. A prestigious and renowned consultant was obviously needed to carry out an audit of company practices and suggest solutions. So the lion contracted the owl who spent three months in each department and concluded that the company's main problem was over-staffing. Downsizing was therefore recommended.

The ant, of course, was the first to be moved out citing a "chronic lack of motivation and a persistently negative attitude"!



As many may have noticed, the second week in May is “Nurses’ Appreciation Week”. This took on special significance this year with the recent inauguration of the new McGill University Health Centre as it began to welcome patients being transferred from other hospitals around the city. It was an important occasion for at least one of our parishioners – as is described in the article below.

## My 60th Reunion: MGH, Class of 1955

There was an excellent article in the Monday’s Gazette, which paid tribute to the Nursing profession. The article stressed that nurses hold a strong bond of support for each other as they tackle the sorrows and successes in patient care each day. I can vouch that this loyalty lasts a life time.

Our class has just celebrated our 60th reunion, as graduates from the Montreal General Hospital, we laughed and raised toasts. We talked about the new volunteer experiences we still enjoyed, bringing our past nursing experiences still in to good use as airport volunteers, hospital visitors, tour guides, and board members for many organizations. We were astounded as we remembered the responsibilities we were given as young students in our training, and wondered how we managed. We marvelled we were still managing!

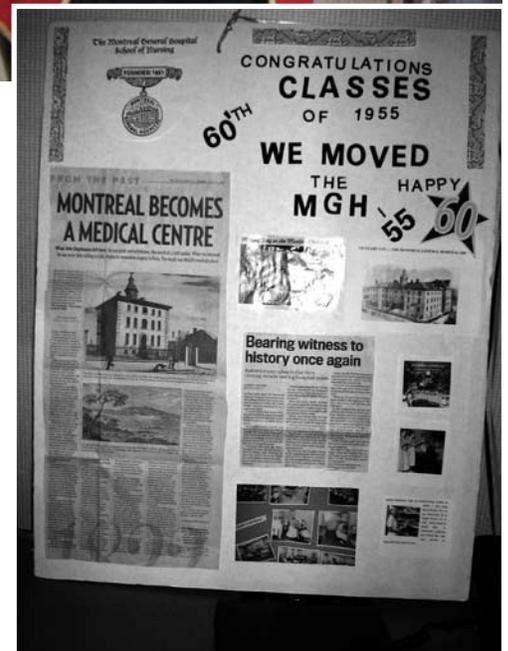
We toured the vast new MUHC, with relief that our working days were over. We hoped the nurses in these new hospital beautiful units, will want to carry on some of the traditions of our past, but confident the caring will continue. The Royal Victoria Hospital has now moved. The “Queen” is resplendent in the entrance hall of the new Royal Vic building of MUHC. The well worn small toe of one of the marble children’s feet at the foot of the Queen’s statue will still be rubbed for good luck. Our Cedar Ave. Montreal General Hospital, is still fully functional up on the hill. With all the hype of the Royal Vic move, we remembered our BIG move in 1955, when we made history with the trek from the old MGH, on the then, Dorchester Street, to our beautiful new hospital on the hill on Cedar Ave.

Our class and MGH are both celebrating 60 years in 2015. The old MGH is now a chronic care hospital, and, our old nurses residence, luxury condos! I’m glad both hospitals are still an important partners of the MUHC and the MGH will host the new trauma center, as well as many other specialities and clinics.

### We enjoyed our reunion. Celebrations are important!

So here is a toast to all nurses, and especially to the many nurses in our congregation at St. J the B. We all share a special bond.

Marg N-G., RN. (very retired)



(Patronal Festivals continued)

in a box. The food was prepared by the Layreaders and their families and a few villagers. In the box – ham and turkey slices, coleslaw, potato salad, peas and rice and a square of cold macaroni and cheese – the last two being Bahamian staples. With this, a canned drink and cake. One of the Layreaders left mid-service to get the boxed meals from wherever they were refrigerated. They were passed out from a table on the lawn and you ate there, under the

tent, on your bus or even took your meal home. There was much fellowship afterwards. No one seemed anxious to leave, even those with that 3 hour drive.

I found the whole experience very uplifting. The service itself gave me goose bumps but it was the coming together of people to celebrate their faith and support each other in their churches that really was special.

Kathy Woodard