

THE CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST MESSENGER



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Vicar's Vignette

I'm sitting at the kitchen table of what at the moment is our quiet home; my wife is away for the week, my daughter is at work and the dog is lying patiently by the front door waiting for his master, my daughter, to come home. It seems like the perfect atmosphere for the new incumbent (me) to write his first article for the church newsletter.



So I've decided that my first contribution to the MESSENGER would simply be to introduce myself, for no other reason than for you to get to know a little about me, as I get to know a little about you. And the MESSENGER seems to be a great way through which we can get to know one another, at least a little. And so I'm hoping that as I add my contributions to our church newsletter so too will many of you share with the rest of our church community something about yourselves. So here is a little of my story.

My name is Lorne Eason and I was appointed as your new incumbent on July 1, 2015, an appointment I was honored to receive and thrilled to accept. Although a life long Anglican, I am new to the ordained ministry having spent most of my adult life working in the railway supply industry, selling parts to the railroads for locomotives and freight cars. I am married to a wonderful woman, Michelle, who is herself an ordained minister in the Anglican Diocese of Montreal, and we are blessed with 4 loving adult children, and five adorable grandchildren, all under the age of four.

At the age of 18, I experienced what some may call a conversion experience, which changed my whole mind set and experience of God. No longer did I understand God as a menacing judge, distant and disconnected, but rather I experienced God as a living and loving Father, intimate and relational. It was an experience begun by inviting Christ into my life and continues as a relationship nurtured in the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit.

I share this with you because I am of the conviction that our journey of faith is a journey of relationships, a relationship with God, a relationship with one another and a relationship with those around us. Although we come from different familial backgrounds, different ethnic groups and different educational histories and so on, we have a common kinship in Christ. It is that kinship upon which the community of Saint John the Baptist was founded and upon which it continues to be nourished.

It is that kinship that I am most privileged to now be a part of and I deeply desire to see it encouraged, supported and enriched. It is my hope and prayer that as we grow together in relationship with God and with one another, our community of Saint John the Baptist will be a beacon of God's grace and love to each other, to our families and friends, to our surrounding community and beyond. It is my hope and intention to meet you all as we grow in relationship together.

Well it seems like the perfect atmosphere for writing just ended. My daughter just came home, the dog is now going nuts, the phone is ringing and my wife is texting me. I guess that's it for this edition of the Vicar's Vignette.

Yours in Christ, Lorne



From the Steering Committee

Dear Fellow Parishioners.

As a follow-up to the Parish Letter recently distributed, the Steering Committee will shortly be hosting small informal get-togethers with parishioners and the various church groups of the Church of Saint John the Baptist. The purpose of these gatherings is to learn a little more from one another about what it is each values as a member of our StJtheB community and life together.

It will also present another opportunity for parishioners to meet and greet our new incumbent, Rev. Lorne Eason. We hope that you will be able to attend these get-togethers and share your love of and hopes for our beloved community of Saint John the Baptist.

Among the topics proposed to each of the groups will be the following three questions.

- 1. How did you come to be a parishioner at StJtheB?**
- 2. What is it that you have come to value at StJtheB?**
- 3. What are your thoughts, concerns and hopes for the future of StJtheB, particularly in light of a possible merger with the Church of the Resurrection?**

Please keep an eye open for an invitation coming your way in the next few weeks.



*May your hands always be busy, May your feet always be swift; May you have a strong foundation When the winds of change shift. May your heart always be joyful and may your song always be sung
May you stay forever young!*

Bob Dylan

Tom Wallace : 100 years and counting

On Sunday, August 16th, after the Morning Service, a birthday lunch was held to honour Tom Wallace. Attended by many family members and friends, it was a fittingly happy affair, celebrating a long and active life.

Tom's long career in *living* began in 1915 on a farm near Shawville, Quebec. Youngest of seven children, life was certainly not easy in those years. Compared to the present, farm life must have seemed almost "pioneering" - although no one would have described it as such had you asked them at the time. Tommy had no toys - but he did have a pet rooster! The walk to the one-room schoolhouse which they attended was three miles; also, as teenagers, the three boys and four girls in the Wallace family, would make their way into Shawville (the local metropolis) riding Shank's pony, a method of transportation arguably alien to most young people today. Tom's brothers worked on the family farm and that of their grandfather. His oldest

sister had to leave school at a young age to help with the younger children at home; she eventually became a brilliant seamstress. The other sisters all became teachers, as indeed did Tom, signing his first contract for four years at the princely sum of \$50.00 per year!

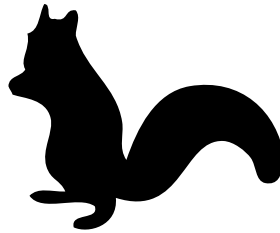
Tom met Louise at St. Stephen's Church in Lachine and it was there that they were married in June, 1948. Three years later an opportunity to teach at a school in Danville in the Eastern Townships arose. Tom and Louise must have liked what they saw since they stayed, raising two daughters in this picturesque corner of Québec. ADS High School was the center of the family's life. Tom taught Woodworking and Technical Drawing and Louise became the School Secretary - while Lynda and Donna were students. The woodworking shop was "Mr. Wallace's shop" long after he had moved on to the new Richmond Regional. Two homes were built in Danville under Tom's watchful eye, the second one on a 109 acre piece of land after they had become empty nesters.



Shortly after Tom's and Louise's first grandchild had arrived and their second was on the way, they came back from visiting friends in Florida and announced they had bought a mobile home in West Palm Beach. When the grandchildren's schedules made trips down to the farm less frequent, they decided to move into Pointe Claire, to everyone's delight it must be said. Tom turned an ordinary back yard into a lovely flower garden; the basement of the house became his woodworking shop which became a prolific source of hand-made items for the Church Bazaars. Now living in the Cambridge complex on Hymus Boulevard, Tom continues to be an active craftsman, making birdhouses and garden decorations in the workshop there. L.L.

Drastic measures

There were four churches and a synagogue in a small Ontario town – a Presbyterian church, a Baptist church, a Methodist church, an Anglican church and the Jewish synagogue. Each church and the synagogue had a problem with squirrels.



The Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrels. After much prayer and consideration they decided the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist church the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistry. The deacons met and decided to put a water slide on the baptistry and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Methodist church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist Church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water slide.

But the Anglican Church came up with a very creative strategy. They baptized all the squirrels and consecrated them as members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue, but it's rumored that they took one squirrel, circumcised him – and they haven't seen a squirrel on their property since.

With thanks to Diane

A Prayer for the future

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes; and to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love.

From a prayer by Sir Francis Drake

Grist for the mill

With a Steering Committee busy at work as we continue to explore possible future avenues for this congregation, is it worthwhile for each parishioner to consider which changes, if any, are necessary and to identify those which we can meet with a consensus of acceptance and those which we can not?

As always, people tend to vote with their feet if they feel betrayed concerning their place of worship, a fact which is already evident in many churches, including Saint John the Baptist. We all bemoan the lack of young people attracted to our services and to most of several other activities which might reasonably appeal.

In the light of our present situation, is there anything that the church can do to better answer the hopes and desires, not only of young people, but of their parents and family members?

The following “**eight principles for growth**” are taken from a blog article by Norman Ivison, an ordained Anglican priest of thirty years and former BBC producer. Written with young adults in mind, but broadly applicable, Ivison's tongue is stuck firmly in his cheek – or is it?

- **Don't be tempted to offer variety.**
- **Value your tradition above all else.**
- **Preach and teach for all you are worth, but don't encourage disagreement or questioning.**
- **Make sure you stay tight-lipped about the inner workings of your church.**
- **Say one thing in church, do another out of church.**
- **Take church life very seriously.**
- **Take your time about making decisions.**
- **Avoid experimentation at all costs.**

Norman Ivison, Missional Musings blog, June 2012



SUMMER FUN



A celebratory barbecue welcomed the Rev. Lorne Eason after his first service as incumbent of the parish. A good turnout of parishioners enjoyed the excellent hamburgers, hotdogs and other sinful goodies served up on the front lawn of the church by culinary chiefs

Brenda, Donna and Malcolm. Many thanks also to Lynda and those others who donated the use of barbecues, shopped for ice cream or opened condiments and refreshments. The event was enjoyed by all in attendance – not least by our new incumbent!



The Strawberry Social took place on June 30th and was attended by about eighty people. This number included many from the congregation of the Church of the Resurrection in Valois who had been invited to join us for this popular annual event. It was possibly the first official *unofficial* occasion to be attended by St. J. the B.'s new incumbent, the Rev. Lorne Eason.

Dear God,
My Grandpa says you were around when he was a little boy. Do you really go back that far or is he just joshing me?
Love, Dennis

