Summer snaps

The summer brings relaxing times however activities continue to happen across our diocese.

Pictured on the right: St James Cacouna gets its bell tower back

Over St Jean weekend the Bishop celebrated Holy Eucharist at the 171 year old St. Paul’s Church, Cumberland Mills.

Pictured here to your left is the bishop with Mayor Martin Saint-Laurent of Saint-Simon-les-Mines, the Rev. Barb Wintle, and Yvan Poulin, president of the Corporation de conservation du patrimoine de Saint-Simon-les-Mines.

Throughout the year, two groups from St. Barnabas Church in North Hatley met regularly for fellowship, prayer, study, and social activities. Grace Ladies and Men’s Fellowship Breakfast concluded their activities in June with a lunch at the North Hatley Golf Course. Picture here are Anne, Father Giuseppe and Pauline laughing at a joke. Photo Credit Cathy Salt

The St. John’s Brookbury Annual Flower Service held Sunday, July 29th. There were 15 in attendance and it was held under sunny skies behind the church in the cemetery. Lemonade and sweets were enjoyed. Photo Credit Linda Hoy
I’m writing this on the first day of the 2018 Quebec provincial election campaign, and you may be reading this before you head to your local polling station to cast a ballot for someone vying to represent you in the National Assembly.

In casting a ballot you’ll also be making a choice about the kind of administration you wish to see make important decisions about our common life as a society for several years to come on matters such as health care, social services, education, transportation, and immigration—to name just a few of the important aspects of our lives for which our provincial government is responsible.

As followers of Jesus, when we go into a voting booth to mark an X beside an individual candidate’s name (or to send a different message by spoiling our ballot), we don’t leave our Christian faith at the door of the polling station.

As the apostle Paul says, “our citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20). However, that doesn’t mean we abandon our earthly citizenship. Christians live, often uncomfortably, as dual citizens—proclaiming our primary allegiance to the heavenly kingdom inaugurated by Jesus Christ while also abiding in the very earthly kingdom in which we live day by day.

Sometimes (though not often enough) these two kingdoms overlap, and we are able to see and experience aspects of God’s realm of justice, peace, and love given tangible expression here and now, in this very down-to-earth realm we call Quebec.

In the 39 days of official campaigning that have preceded election day in Quebec, have you seen or heard signs of God’s kingdom reflected in the policies, rhetoric, or actions of the platforms of the political parties seeking your support? Can you hear echoes of the values of the kingdom of heaven—articulated most clearly in the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ—resounding in the values espoused by any of the candidates seeking to sit in the provincial legislature?

“Do not put your trust in princes,” the psalmist warns us, “in mortals, in whom there is no help.” It’s a slightly pessimistic reminder that no matter how well intentioned or good-willed they may be, we can’t rely on earthly leaders to bring in the fullness of the heavenly kingdom—only Christ the King can and will.

In the meantime, we each do our part in proclaiming and revealing the heavenly kingdom in our midst—in small but meaningful ways—our respective corners of this earthly kingdom. One way to do that at election time is to try and discern which of our prospective “princes” standing for office gives expression to a vision for our society something like the one expressed by Christ the King.

En exerçant votre droit de vote, vous ferez également un choix quant au type d’administration que vous souhaitez voir en place pour prendre, pour plusieurs années à venir, des décisions importantes concernant notre vie commune en tant que société, notamment en matière de soins de santé, de services sociaux, d’éducation, de transport et d’immigration - pour ne citer que quelques-uns des aspects importants de nos vies dont le gouvernement provincial est responsable.

En tant que disciples de Jésus, lorsque nous entrons dans un isoîlot pour inscrire un X à côté du nom d’un candidat ou d’une candidate (ou pour envoyer un message différent en annulant notre bulletin), nous ne laissons pas notre foi chrétienne à la porte du bureau de vote.

Comme le dit l’apôtre Paul, « notre citoyenneté est dans les cieux » (Philippians 3:20). Cependant, cela ne signifie pas que nous abandonnons notre citoyenneté terrestre. Les chrétiens vivent, souvent de manière inconfortable, en situation de double citoyenneté - proclamant d’une part notre allégeance primordiale au royaume céleste inauguré par Jésus-Christ tout en menant notre existence de tous les jours dans un royaume bien terrestre.

Parfois (mais pas assez souvent), ces deux royaumes parviennent à se chevaucher et nous pouvons observer et expérimenter des éléments du royaume de justice, de paix et d’amour de Dieu, reflétés de manière tangible, ici et maintenant, dans ce domaine très terre-à-terre que nous appelons le Québec.

Au cours des 39 jours de campagne officielle qui ont précédé le jour des élections au Québec, avez-vous vu ou entendu des signes du Royaume de Dieu se refléter dans les politiques, les discours ou les actions des programmes des partis politiques qui recherchent de votre soutien? Pouvez-vous entendre les échos des valeurs du royaume des Cieux, articulées le plus clairement dans la vie, le ministère, la mort et la résurrection de Jésus-Christ, résonner dans les valeurs véhiculées par les candidats et candidates désirant siéger à l’Assemblée nationale?

« Ne mettez pas votre confiance dans les princes », nous prévient le psalmiste, « ni chez aucun fils d’homme, en qui il n’y a aucun secours. » C’est un rappel un peu pessimiste du fait que quelle que soit leur intention ou leur bonne volonté, nous ne pouvons pas compter sur les leaders terrestres pour nous faire profiter de la plénitude du royaume céleste - seul le Christ tout-puissant le peut et le fera.

En attendant, nous faisons chacun notre part en proclamant et en révélant le royaume de Dieu - de façon discrète mais significative - dans les vies que nous menons dans nos coins respectifs de ce royaume terrestre. En période d’élection, nous pouvons tenter de faire ceci en essayant de discerner lequel de nos futurs « princes » briguent les suffrages offre une vision de notre société qui s’apparente à celle exprimée par le Christ - Roi.
For a small church in a small town, St. Barnabas Church in North Hatley has a special way of getting people involved in both in-reach and out-reach activities. Even in the lazy days of summer!

A big part of out-reach for the Grace Ladies was serving a hot lunch once a month at the local elementary school. To encourage full participation of students the lunch costs one dollar, hence the name Loonie Lunch. The school year concluded with a BBQ pictured at the top of the page.

The Quebec Diocesan Gazette has featured articles in the past written about, and by, Allison Blair of Bravo Ministries Burundi. Members of St. Barnabas, North Hatley, were blessed to have spent an evening with Allison in August learning more about her work and passion - serving the people of Burundi through the power of the Holy Spirit. In her very humble way, Allison encouraged us to look beyond ourselves to see the needs of the disadvantaged in Burundi.

Our hosts for the evening were Cranmer and Pauline Rutihinda, seen at the far right and far left. Also pictured to the right of Allison is Rosanne Toohey and Archdeacon Richard Salt.

Anyone group interested in learning more about Bravo Ministries and purchasing Burundi cotton items may contact Cathy Salt by email- csalt8@gmail.com

It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of the Rev. Carol Vatcher. A native of Mutton Bay, Quebec, Carol was ordained as a deacon in the Diocese of Quebec in 1998 and began her ordained ministry as deacon assistant at St. Clement, Mutton Bay. In 2001 she accepted a call to the Diocese of the Arctic, where she was ordained to the priesthood and served the parish of Fort Simpson until 2004, when she moved to the Diocese of Ottawa and ministered in the parish of Aylmer. She retired in 2009.

She passed away on August 19, 2018 at the age of 75. She leaves behind her two loving daughters Jody (Wendel Dafcik) and Polly Ann (Toby Maurice), her three cherished grandchildren: Sierra, Elsie and Spencer. She also leaves her brothers and sisters - Philip, Clara Ann and Randy as well as many nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. Predeceased by her parents Willie and Elsie. A commemorative service was held on Saturday, August 25, 2018 at 3 p.m. at Christ Church, in Aylmer.

Rest eternal grant unto her, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her.
A journey to fitness with the ultimate goal of walking the Camino de Compostella

This journey starts three years ago, around dinner and a glass of wine with a friend. My friend, who had walked part of the Camino de Compostela twice wanted to return to finish his journey and get to Santiago, as both her previous journeys had fallen sort of her expectations. Honestly, I thought she was crazy, why would anyone want to walk close to 800km. Even though, I would go hiking with her, I certainly enjoyed those walks, my idea of walk- ing was to and from the car. Forget walking 20 km or more a day. However, that particular evening, I suddenly felt motivated to walk the Camino myself and see what it was all about. Suggesting to my friend that if I was along on her particular evening, I suddenly felt motivated to walk the Camino myself and see what it was all about. Suggesting to my friend that if I was along on her particular evening, I suddenly felt motivated to walk the Camino myself and see what it was all about. 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The Parish of Gaspé, The Parish of All Saints by the Sea (Percé area), Holy Trinity and All Saints Memorial on the Magdalen Islands are marking the first anniversary of working together in a new way.

While the challenges of fewer people, fewer dollars in the offertory plate and consequently fewer clergy are lamentably common in rural areas, these parishes of the eastern part of the deanery of Gaspé, have the additional challenge of separation from one another by the Gulf of St. Lawrence. How to provide sacramental and pastoral ministry within this context?

The response has been a pilot project involving all four parishes cooperating to ‘Sing a New Song Unto the Lord’. Wardens and treasurers, one priest, one deacon and three to five lay-readers work out with diocesan support the schedules and finances that can best address the needs and capacities of each parish.

The result is: Rev. Cynthia Patterson ministers on the Magdalen Islands for three months of the year (two weeks, every two months) and serves The Parish of Gaspé for the rest of the time; Rev. Douglas Johnson replaces Rev. Patterson within the Parish of Gaspé during her absence, as well as providing weekly services to The Parish of All Saints by the Sea where he is Incumbent.

Muriel Clark, Candace Aitkens and Jonathan Patton, lay readers on the Magdalen Islands, provide morning prayer every second week and conduct funerals on the Islands throughout the year.

And how about the Gulf of St. Lawrence? Well, it is definitely still there and definitely still poses a significant challenge. The 37-47 min. return flight typically costs $620, taxes included. In spite of this, so far, our ‘new song’ seems to be soaring.

None of this would have been possible without the amalgamations in 2017 of five separate congregations into The Parish of Gaspé and three separate congregations into The Parish of All Saints by the Sea. Those amalgamations were the result of two years hard work by the diocese with all involved. The road was often bumpy. Now most people wonder what they were worried about. Parish life is significantly easier, shifting energy from conflict to conversation, from money to mission. In other words, we are now able to renew ourselves as Christian communities.
Anglican Editors Association holds a three day professional development conference in Halifax

For the third time, the Anglican Editors Association held their annual conference in Halifax. They met here in 2003 and 2010.

The conference (May 24-27) started with a short service by Archbishop Ron Cutler who spoke on the Ven. Bede, the writer of the history of the church in Britain: The Ecclesiastical History of the English People, completed in 731 AD.

Janice Biehn, the communications officer for PWRDF, gave a presentation, reminding members of the thrice yearly publication, Under The Sun, distributed with the Anglican Journal.

Bev Murphy gave her circulation by Skype; she noted the loss of subscriptions is pretty much in line with other years. The Heritage Canada postage grant was $441,077.40, about half of the cost of mailing the papers ($834,594.44). That program is under review by the federal government.

Mike MacKenzie, an Anglican who is also a communications officer with St Francis Xavier University, gave a presentation on social media, offering the top 10 “must-know” tips.

Next on the agenda was a presentation from Michael Thompson (general secretary of CoGS) and Ian Alexander (working group chair). Ian spoke on the working group’s consideration of the future of the newspapers in the Anglican Church of Canada.

He noted that results from the editors’ survey are vastly different from those of the bishops. He suggested editors and bishops have a discussion since they seem to be out of touch with their bishops.

The second part of his presentation was on how to manage the transition from print to digital. Much discussion ensued regarding circulation lists, diversity of voices, printing papers at the parish level, and one editor’s concern that the mission of spreading the word of God is now threatened.

Several editors expressed concern to Michael Thompson of the Anglican Journal staff not being in attendance.

Judy Rois gave a short presentation on the Anglican Foundation, including the fact that more than 60 applications for funding were received last year.

The day began with a panel discussion on MAiD – Medical Assistance in Dying – with the following speakers:
- Rev. Canon Kirsten Wells, hospital chaplain
- Rev. David Currie, rector and school chaplain
- Dr. Ken Rockwood, cathedral member and MD working with the elderly
- Dr. Jeff Kirby, ethicist and researcher

Each made an opening statement.

DAVID: Is there a right to die? How do you position a Christian understanding in a post-Christian world?

KIRSTEN: MAiD allows us into the very last bastion of God’s domain. Care providers often say ‘it’s in God’s hands now’ but we’re going there now. Death has been a very mystical, spiritual experience.

KEN: Contrast of frail patients for whom death is not unwelcome; patients with dementia for whom death is usually calm; and patients in the ER fighting to live. It all depends on the circumstances.

JEFF: He has an interest in research into MAiD, especially patients with mental health issues. He also noted the difference in urban and rural access to MAiD.

Many questions from editors led to an interesting discussion. Topics included Supreme Court challenges, aftercare for healthcare providers, who is accessing MAiD (generally middle class and educated), individual control over life and death, MAiD in other countries and palliative care. Ken explained the actual physical process of MAiD and the effects of the drugs used.

The Saturday afternoon session included presenter Tim Currie, director of journalism at Kings College. He gave tips on how to cover such a complicated topic as MAiD. He passed out a recent story in the Anglican Journal by Tali Folkins called Assisted Dying: One Anglican Family’s Story.

Tim’s tips for coverage included spending time with the family involved, doing stories on hospice care and palliative care, what goes on at nursing homes and medical schools. He provided a resource from the Radio Television Digital News Association on coverage guidelines.

Created by our host Paul Sherwood, editor of The Diocesan Times from minutes by Gisele McKnight – diocesan editor in Fredericton. Thanks to Paul and Gisele.
Gleanings

Gleanings is a monthly column by Meb Reisner Wright, the diocesan historian, who delves in to the back issues of the Quebec Diocesan Gazette to present us with interesting nuggets of our past.

Because of the amount of time it took the mail from the outlying regions to reach the Editor of the Diocesan Gazette in Quebec City—as well as the interval required in finding a moment in a clergyman’s busy routine to put pen to paper to produce a report—there was often quite a gap between ‘the news from the parishes and its appearance in the diocesan paper. In 1918, for example, it took fully five months for the Rev. Hollis Hamilton Corey’s Thanksgiving news from Mutton Bay to reach the diocesan community of readers.

Corey’s report, taken from a letter dated 20th November 1917, but printed in the April issue of the following year, began with the somber news that “winter conditions are general here now”:

“All the motor and sail boats are now hauled up on the beach. There is already quite a depth of snow as we have had five snowfalls and no thaws between them. Travel is practically at a standstill except what can be done in rowboats or on foot overland.”

“I spent last Sunday at La Tabatiere” he continues, “having gone down on Saturday in one of the last motorboats still left in the water. I rowed back home on Monday in a small canoe. This then will be my last trip until I can go with dogs.”

“We have just been observing our Thanksgiving Day …”

Thanksgiving Day in Canada, 1917, was Monday, October 8th. Canada had been celebrating Thanksgiving as a recognized holiday since 1879, usually on the second Monday in October, but not fixed as such or officially proclaimed until Governor General Vincent Massey would do so on 31st January 1957.

Continuing his description of their Thanksgiving Service, Corey points out that, in Mutton Bay—and probably elsewhere on the Lower North Shore—the harvest celebrated was a distinctive one. “As we have both the harvest of the land and that of the sea to be thankful for here,” he explained, “we decorated one side of the church [St Clement’s] with the fruits and vegetables recently brought up by the trading schooners”—in other words, not locally grown—and the other side with fish of different kinds, while sails were set just as for sailing on each side of the chancel just outside the altar rail. The evening service was followed early the next morning by a Eucharist with special intention of thanks for the harvests—specially that of the sea …”

V B S in New Carlisle and Chaleur Bay
By Joshua Paetkau, Photos by Bethany Paetkau

The week of July 23 -27 the Parishes of New Carlisle and Chaleur Bay partnered with Crosstalk Ministries to host a Vacation Bible School Day Camp program.

The children were welcomed into the chapel for prayer, and encouraged to explore their faith through song, crafts, dance, and daily devotions. At the end parents and volunteers were treated to a work of improv theatre put on by some of the campers. Many thanks to all who took part for their faithful encouragement.

Daily Devotions: Lydia, Joshua Paetkau, Connor, Charlie, Solomon, Jared, Mark, and Rose

Improv Theatre: Elizabeth and Alana

Reordering Your Church
How to Do It Without Anyone Noticing

- Do everything at a time when no one will be around
- Keep people away
- Carry out the work gradually
- Disguise all equipment
- Modify tools to reduce noise
- Ground pens into sandpits and release surreptitiously

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