



ADVENT / CHRISTMAS 2014

PRO CHRISTO ET ECCLESIA

Montreal Diocesan Theological College Newsletter

“God’s work is always unfolding, yet we urgently need to do our part to help bring it to fruition.”

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MONTREAL DIOCESAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Principal
Director of Pastoral Studies
Director of Lay Education
Chaplain
Administrator
Development Coordinator

The Rev. Canon Dr. John Simons
The Rev. Dr. Karen Egan
The Rev. Canon Tim Smart
The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Rowlinson
Beth Reed
Afra Saskia Tucker

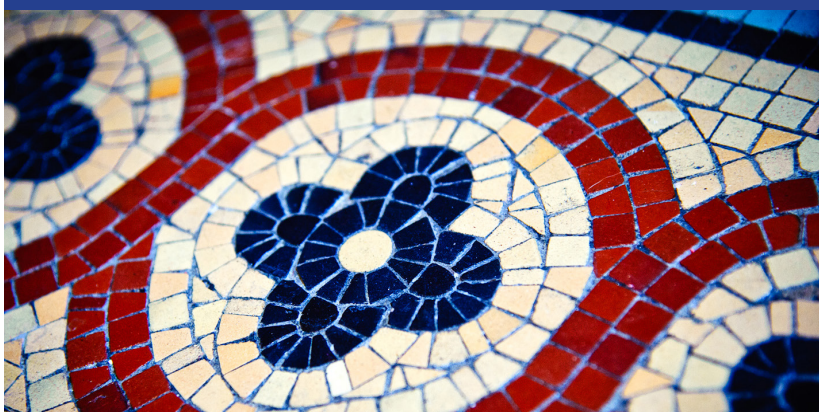
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Cover: The Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton addresses participants
of the celebration of the Montreal School of Theology's
100th anniversary

Photos on this page by Linda Wei

Design and layout: Roland Hui and Afra Saskia Tucker





The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Rowlinson at the Charter of Values protest in Montreal, September, 2013

Many Fond Memories Dio Chaplain Leaves Montreal

BY THE REV. CANON DR. JOHN SIMONS, PRINCIPAL

On Thursday, October 23, the college said a formal good-bye to Elizabeth Rowlinson at a luncheon in her honour. For nineteen years, until her resignation this summer, Elizabeth served the college as chaplain, and for most of that time in an honorary capacity.

Elizabeth's association with the college began before her appointment as chaplain in

1995. Back in the mid-80s while serving as the Dean of Women at Trinity College, Toronto, and Principal of St. Hilda's College, Elizabeth enrolled in the college's Reading and Tutorial Course in Theology. The Rev'd Dr. Don Thompson, one-time director of pastoral studies at the college, and, at the time, director of the Centre for Christian Studies in Toronto,

was her tutor. Elizabeth had previously lived in the Montreal area where she had earned a Ph.D. at McGill, and, with her husband, Hugh, had raised three sons. Elizabeth loved Montreal and wanted to return after retiring from St. Hilda's College. Accepted as a postulant for ordination by Bishop Andrew Hutchison, Elizabeth completed the In Ministry Year in 1993 and was

ordained the same year. She served as an assistant priest at the Cathedral and as one of the chaplains at McGill. It was a natural move for her to add to these duties the responsibilities of part-time chaplain at the college.

We were greatly blessed by her ministry. When the college still had the residence, populated, as it was, mostly by McGill undergraduates, Elizabeth paid special attention to them, hosting social gatherings and a Sunday night service in St. Luke's Chapel. She also instituted the Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent, which has become one of our end-of-term traditions. In the days when it was held in Convocation Hall, it attracted up to eighty persons. It continues to be held in St. Luke's Chapel on the first Friday in Advent, though the smaller space has meant fewer numbers.


Elizabeth's musical connections in the wider community earned us an entrée to CAMMAC in the Laurentians where we have held our annual orientation retreat since 1996 (with the exception of two years while the facility was under reconstruction). Moreover, her friendship with the organ-builder, Karl Wilhelm, allowed for the gift of a handsome tracker-action organ currently located in St. Luke's Chapel and given to the college in memory of Elizabeth's parents.

*We were greatly
blessed by her
ministry.*

And then there are the bells! Elizabeth initiated a whole generation of theology students into the proper use of handbells which, for almost twenty years,

have accompanied our psalm-singing at the weekly Eucharist in St. Luke's Chapel. On those occasions when we have hosted our sister colleges at tri-college worship, more than one Dio student has felt it imperative to sing the psalm with handbells as this constitutes (or so it is believed) a distinctively Anglican contribution to the praise of God offered by the ecumenical Church.

I shall miss Elizabeth especially for her wise counsel. As a former dean and principal she had invaluable experience and insight. Elizabeth and Hugh have moved to a retirement home in Ontario. We wish them health and happiness, and we thank God for Elizabeth's many years of faithful service to the college.



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And Their Eyes Were Opened

In memory of Xu Lizhi (1990-2014), Foxconn worker who killed himself, September 30, 2014

BY THE REV. TIM SMART, M.DIV. '87, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR LAY EDUCATION FOR THE DIOCESE OF MONTREAL

In the beginning was the Word.

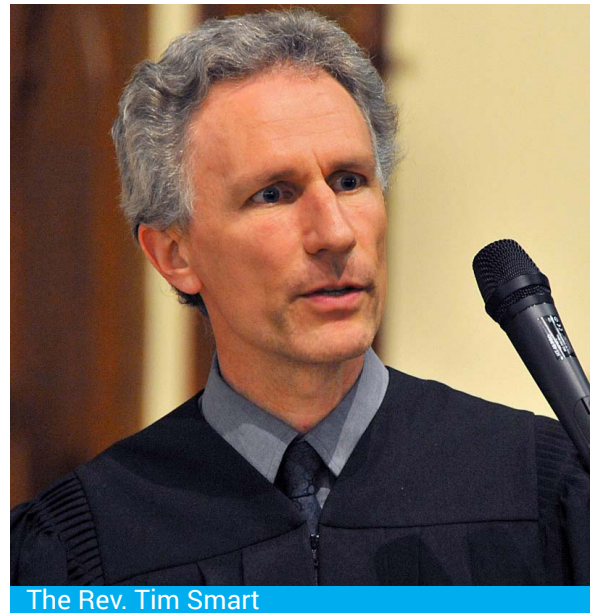
A Word Processor. A fruit named MacIntosh.

An Apple grown in China, plucked off the shelf in Canada, consumed, opening eyes to the new reality of interconnection and global dysfunction, brought to you by the Internet.

Innocence lost.

Outside of Eden, in the open pit mines of Chile where copper is extracted and peasants displaced; in the “Democratic” Republic of Congo where tantalum for capacitors is harvested from the earth and the water is poisoned; mixed with gold from Australia, platinum from South Africa, silver from Peru, aluminum, arsenic, lead and mercury, treasures once hidden beneath the earth, now blended together in magical combinations beneath my fingertips, so that I might compute that which will never compute, the abuse of land and people. Praise the extraction skills of mining companies—we helpfully read online, 75% of the world’s mining companies love to call Canada home—and for good reason. Cue the movie Avatar.

Assembled in China by overworked and underpaid assembly line youth migrants from rural areas, employed by Foxconn (no irony intended in that name). Boxed, packaged, lifted on board container ships bound for the promised land where a pastor who has spare change to buy electronics at glass window



The Rev. Tim Smart

stores—plug and play, now downloading CBC podcasts to keep informed, connecting to his son in Japan via Skype, and watching more cat videos than is healthy. Uploading his digital reality to the Cloud; storing contacts, emails and family photos of Christmases past, precious moments, residing forever on a Server Farm in Iowa (where corn no longer grows) powered by a coal plant, always on, everywhere available, eternal, everlasting moments. Omnipresent Data, demanding only huge amounts of electricity and updates of what you ate for breakfast.

Four years from now, when I’ve finished with the fruit of this labour, I may throw this Apple into the landfill or toss it into some bin, imagining recycling here or there overseas by a young kid in a slum, nimbly

deconstructing the guts of my electronic life, risking his own life, handling precious, deadly metals to make his own living, hoping one day to buy an Apple fallen from the same tree, a cellphone perhaps, connecting him with me in our global village of success, advancement and the good life.

“A Screw Fell to the Ground”

by Xu Lizhi (9 Jan. 2014)

A screw fell to the ground

In this dark night of overtime

Plunging vertically, lightly clinking

It won't attract anyone's attention

Just like last time

On a night like this

When someone plunged to the ground

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Qu'est-ce que la mission urbaine, la 5e marque de mission anglicane et l'église de l'Épiphanie ont en commun?

PAR JOSÉE LEMOINE, ÉTUDIANTE EN ANNÉE TERMINALE DE LA M.DIV. AU MDTC ET EN STAGE À L'ÉGLISE DE L'ÉPIPHANIE, VERDUN

En tant qu'étudiante en année terminale du programme de M.Div. au Séminaire Diocésain de Montréal, je désirais acquérir des habiletés dans le domaine du développement de missions urbaines. Je me suis jointe à Afra Tucker qui travaille avec l'église de l'Épiphanie pour rejoindre la population de jeunes adultes de Verdun à Montréal, tout en mettant l'emphasis sur la 5e marque de mission.

...pour la préservation de l'intégrité de la création et maintenir et renouveler la vie sur Terre.

Nous essayons de rencontrer de jeunes adultes intéressés à organiser des activités afin de créer des liens et réseaux dans la communauté, avec des gens qui ont des passions et des valeurs similaires et qui sont particulièrement concernés par la question de la protection de l'environnement, le respect de la nature et de notre planète, un but qui coïncide avec la 5e marque de mission de l'Église Anglicane qui est d'œuvrer pour la préservation de l'intégrité de la création et maintenir et renouveler la vie sur Terre.

Afra et moi avons rencontré Christine, la responsable de Réseau de jardinage du Sud-Ouest et Verdun, afin

de voir si nous pourrions collaborer dans ce sens. Ainsi est née l'idée d'une activité de fabrication de paneer (un fromage indien préparé à partir de lait de chèvre bio) combinée à un repas et échange. Christine apporte son savoir-faire à l'activité de fabrication de fromage, l'église fournit son local et met sa cuisine à la disposition du groupe. Afra et moi participons à l'organisation et la publicité de l'événement, aux achats

et à la préparation du repas. Cette activité permettra à des gens de Verdun de se réunir pour apprendre une méthode de fabrication de fromage bio sans additif et santé. Elle permettra également aux gens de faire connaissance autour d'une table en dégustant un repas qui se terminera avec du paneer au dessert.

C'est une activité qui permettra, nous l'espérons, de tisser des liens entre des gens qui ont des goûts épicuriens,

qui se préoccupent de leur alimentation et de sa provenance. Cela permettra également à certains membres de l'église de tisser des liens entre de nouveaux arrivants dans le quartier, des résidents de longue date et l'église qui est peu connue parmi la population plus jeune. Le début de relations qui pourraient nous mener à plus long terme vers d'autres projets et d'autres collaborations.



Theological Reflection: Doing our Part to Bring God's Work to Fruition

BY THE REV. DR. DONALD L. BOISVERT

The Rev. Dr. Donald L. Boisvert, Dip. Min. '12, is Assistant Priest at Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal and Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Religion at Concordia University.

We sometimes have a rather limited understanding of what theological reflection entails. We think it only applies to church stuff or to complex religious ideas. But theological reflection is really about trying to discern God's ongoing work in the world.

At Christ Church Cathedral, we have become especially attentive to the need to be more deliberate about engaging theologically

with the world in which we live. Recently, a public theology working group was established to help move us in this direction. As its first activity, the group decided that it would focus on the question of climate change. This was timely, especially in light of the major UN meeting on the topic and the parallel marches and protests around the world. First, we decided that we needed to inform ourselves properly

about the issue from a scientific perspective, and then we needed to make theological sense of it together.

What does climate change have to do with theology? In a word, everything. Theological reflection is best done when we look to three sources: scripture, our broad Christian tradition, and our own experience as this is most clearly embodied in the culture in which we find ourselves. We obviously look to the story of creation and our God-given responsibilities as stewards. The Incarnation also tells us something critically important about the goodness and worth of the created world.

Equally significant, however, are parts of our tradition such as our baptismal vows and what the Anglican Marks of Mission require of us. Consider the question posed at baptism: “Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God’s creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?” Or consider also the fifth Mark of Mission, which essentially echoes this baptismal vow: “To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.” Both of these place responsibilities on us as Anglican Christians. Doing something about climate change is therefore a part of what we need to do as

baptised and committed Christians.

Finally, theological reflection considers our experience and how God is at work in the world right now. Certainly, the growth of the environmental and ecological movements in the last decades, and the ways in which they have changed people’s awareness and rallied massive public support, speak rather eloquently to the myriad of ways that the Spirit continues to guide and support us. God’s work is always unfolding, yet we urgently need to do our part to help bring it to fruition.



The Rev. Rhonda Waters

Photo by Matthias Heilke, 2014

Montreal Diocesan Theological College is delighted to welcome its new chaplain the Rev. Rhonda Waters. Originally from rural Alberta, Rhonda has lived in Montreal off and on since 1996, with breaks for stays in Japan and New York City. She came to theological studies from a background in anthropology and community

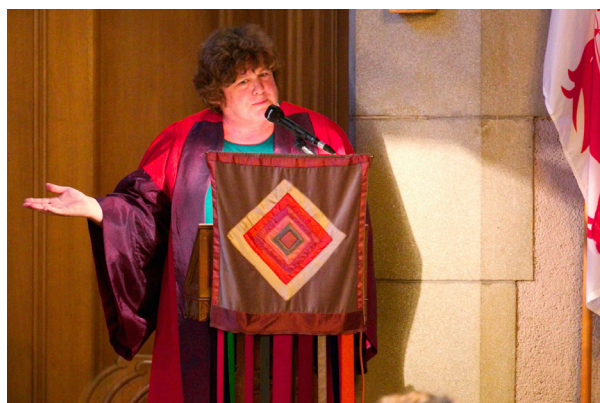
development and graduated from MDTC with an M.Div. in 2011. She currently serves as Associate Priest and Director of Education at Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal. In addition to her diocesan and national church commitments, Rhonda is on the board of Logifem, a transitional shelter for women and children.

Happy Birthday Montreal School of Theology

The 'oldest ecumenical consortium in the Western world' turns 100!

The Montreal School of Theology celebrated its 100th anniversary on Wednesday, September 24, 2014. A celebratory worship service was held in McGill's Birks Heritage Chapel, which included a sermon entitled "God Uses Whom God Chooses" offered by the Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, General Secretary of the Canadian

Council of Churches. The service was followed by a reception. Approximately 100 people attended the event, including faculty, students, and staff of Montreal Diocesan Theological College, Presbyterian College, and United Theological College.



Clockwise from top left: Afra Tucker (MDTC Development Coordinator) gives a thumbs up alongside the Rev. Dr. Donald Boisvert, the Rev. Dr. Karen Egan (MDTC Director of Studies), and the Rev. Patrick Wheeler. The Rev. Dr. Patricia Kirkpatrick, honorary faculty member of the MDTC and professor of Hebrew Bible in the McGill Faculty of Religious Studies, introduces the speaker. A display of photos and items, recent and old, belonging to the three colleges. MDTC's first principal the Rev. Joseph Albert Lobley pictured with students (1878).

Alumni

Where are they now?

Emily Carr (MMC '05)

Emily Carr is a graduate of the college's Montreal Ministry Challenge (recently redesigned as Montreal Mission Internship; see page 12). Emily has since moved to Saskatoon, SK where she served as a Lay Minister at Holy Trinity Anglican Church prior to being ordained as a Deacon in 2012. This year, Emily was appointed Priest-in-Charge of St. George's Anglican Church in Saskatoon, and will also serve as an associate priest at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.



The Right Rev. Ron Cutler (B.Th '83)

Ron Cutler was ordained priest in the diocese of Central Newfoundland in 1981. He has served in various parishes in Newfoundland and in Nova Scotia. In 2008, Ron was made suffragan bishop, and in 2013, was elected coadjutor bishop. This year, he was installed as diocesan bishop of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Ron's interests include children's and youth ministry, congregational development, and facilitating lay and clergy team ministry.

The Rev. Canon John Gibaut (D.D. honoris causa '12)

John Gibaut has served the Anglican community in a number of diverse areas. As a professor at Saint Paul University, Ottawa, he taught in the faculty of Theology; as a priest, he has worked in the dioceses of Toronto, Quebec, and Ottawa. John has also served on several national and international dialogues and commissions. He is currently the Director of the World Council of Churches' Commission on Faith and Order based in Geneva Switzerland. In 2015, John will be appointed Director for Unity, Faith and Order of the Anglican Communion.



MDTC Alumni and Friends Homecoming Event

On Wednesday, October 22, Montreal Diocesan Theological College showed gratitude for the support it receives from the newly reconstituted Alumni & Friends of MDTC Association by serving members a light dinner at the college followed by a lecture in the McGill Birks Chapel by

renowned Yale Divinity School Old Testament scholar John J. Collins. If you would like to show your support of the mission of the college as an alumnus/a or a Friend, we would love to hear from you (and invite you to future events)! Please write to us: info@dio-mdtc.ca



Left: Professor John J. Collins of Yale Divinity School. Right: Friends and alumni of the college: the Rev. Robert Camara, the Rev. John Serjeantson, and the Rev. Jen Bourque



The

Montreal Mission Internship

is a program that will equip six young adults ages 18-26 to get out into the city this coming summer, working in the service of others. It will be a good summer to try something new, to test your ideas and to see if a life of service and mission is for you.

Let us help you design a project and walk alongside you as you get it going!

For more information please visit the website of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College:

WHO: Young adults aged 18-26
WHAT: Urban mission internship
WHERE: Montreal, Quebec
WHEN: May 11 - July 17, 2015
WHY: We want to walk with you as you explore how God is calling you to serve the world!

We know different people are interested in different things and that's why we are asking you to step up and think outside the box. Maybe you are interested in the environment, community gardens, or some other kind of community development. Maybe working with children or young people is your thing, or learning how to foster interfaith or intercultural dialogue. Whatever it is, this summer let us help you design a project and walk alongside you as you get it going.

www.dio-mdtc.ca
 or email:
mimi2015@dio-mdtc.ca

