

Bulletin

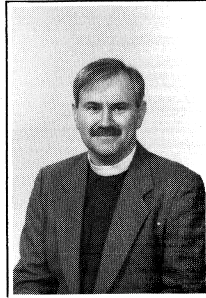
ABF SPRING ASSEMBLY

First United Baptist Church New Glasgow, N.S.

May 30th and May 31th

Friday Evening

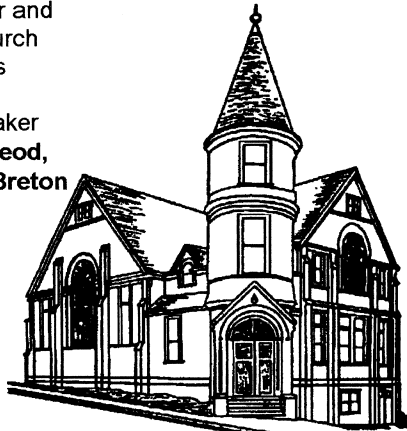
- 6:30 Registration
7:00 Welcome:
Elaine Anne MacGregor and
Rev. Allen Jorgensen
Introduction of the Guest Speaker
The Rev'd. Archdeacon Rod Gillis,
North Sydney, N.S.
7:15 First Presentation:
"On being Heavenly minded and
Earthly good" --
worshipping God with an eye to the
world.
8:15 Discussion period with Rev'd Rod Gillis
8:45 Refreshments



Rev'd Rod Gillis

Saturday Morning

- 8:30 Holy Communion with Minister and
Deacons of New Glasgow Church
9:00 Welcome and Announcements
Elaine Anne MacGregor
Introduction of the Guest Speaker
The Rev'd Fr. Gregory MacLeod,
University College of Cape Breton
9:15 Second Presentation:
"Finding Hope in the Face of
Unemployment" --
creative responses to life's
raw deals
10:15 Refreshment break
10:45 Discussion period with
Rev'd Gregory MacLeod
11:45 Announcements re: lunch and
afternoon meeting



First United Baptist Church
New Glasgow

Saturday Afternoon

- 12:00 Lunch (provided by the New Glasgow Church)
1:00 Business Meeting
2:30 Adjournment



Among those in attendance at the Spring Rally of Friends of the
ABF at First Baptist Church Halifax on April 19th were:

Heather Rushton, Mary Miles and Jean Rushton

ABF ASSEMBLY
May 30th and May 31th
(see back page for details)

Summer 1997



Alliance of Baptists Convention

Elaine Anne MacGregor

Sheila Smith, Judy Saunders and I attended the Alliance of Baptists 10th anniversary Convocation held in Raleigh, North Carolina March 14-16. See page 14 for Sheila and Judy's article.

The theme of this year's Convocation was "Greeting the Promise from Afar" (Hebrews 11: 13-16). As this was the celebration of the Alliance's 10th anniversary, it was a time of reflection and looking forward. For many Alliance people they do feel they are still in the wilderness without yet having experienced the promise; their hopes and dreams of the changes they could make, the equality and justice they could bring and the message they could spread. But with hope and faith, they greet the promise from afar, and will continue on.

The Alliance is now at the point of having found its own feet: it no longer measures itself as being in reaction to the Southern Baptist Convention. The excitement of being a friend of the Alliance is to see their proaction. In the words of Mahan Siler during his Covenant address, the Alliance is "less into institutional goals and more into being a movement of God and for God in our time, less into preserving Southern Baptist traditions and more into living out the wisdom of our Baptist heritage". The list of titles of the workshops held during the Convocation hints at the diversity of interests and concerns of Alliance people: Strengthening Local Church Ministries of Education, The Soul's Music: A Wellspring for Pastoral Care, Baptist Freedom and Spiritual Formation: Dissonance or Harmony, Christian Jewish Dialogue, Are We Forgetting the Poor? Politics and Welfare, the Church and Homosexuality: Introducing Dialogue, Overcoming Racism in Church and Society, Ecology and the Alliance: Spiritual, Theological, Ethical, Ecclesiastical and Ecumenical Concerns.

During his annual report, Stan Haste, Executive Director of the Alliance raised to the people of the Alliance the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to the poor. He stated that "the domestic and international dimensions of proclaiming the gospel to the poor will place us at the center of what God is about in the world". He then continued on to say that it is his "growing conviction that Alliance members should give ourselves to such concerns and the new work it will demand".

It is a privilege to be given the opportunity to attend an Alliance Convocation and take to it greetings from the ABF. To be with Alliance people is to experience part of the bigger world of Baptists who are excited about being Baptist and very much concerned, in Mahan Siler's words, about being a movement of God and for God in our time. Thank you for this opportunity.



**Enjoying the warm
Raleigh, North Carolina
weather during the
Alliance of Baptists
10th Anniversary
Convocation.**

(l to r)

**Elaine Anne MacGregor,
Judy Saunders, Sheila
Smith and Stan Haste**

'... that they may be one'

Roger H. Prentice

In a church meeting room 35 people gather. It is a programme of the Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council, and these people represent six congregations: Anglican, two Baptist churches, Quaker, Roman Catholic, and United. The topic was 'Prayer and the Healing Process: A Journey Toward Wholeness' and the speaker was the Reverend Judith Gates, Interim Chaplain of the Valley Regional Hospital, Kentville, and a Baptist minister.

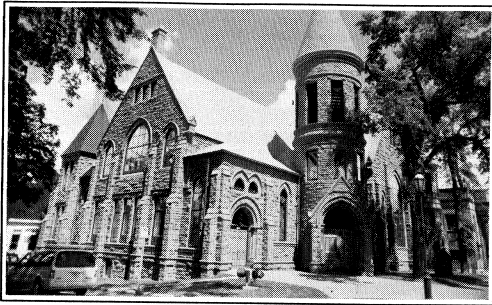
These meetings always move me in surprising ways. We are used to meeting together – ecumenism has brought us a long way since the 1960's. Therefore, it is a surprise when something new appears, is revealed, or inspires during such a meeting. This was no exception.

The Inter-Church Council has been organized for over 25 years, and runs well, which means that business and special programmes are regularly held. Concerns common to the churches represented are discussed, and plans made. This is no mean feat. The Council began the Inter-Church Housing Society which has spent over \$2,000,000 in building homes for the disadvantaged. Even National Film Board movies have been made about this one programme. There are many other projects as well. Ecumenical services are held regularly throughout the year and each church takes a turn hosting one or more. The Clergy committee meets every month, and is characterized by its intimacy and spiritual sharing, and is not without its fun! Close to \$20,000 is spent each year for providing food and emergency aid to those in need.

So as I sat in the church hall, and the people gathered, it began as 'one more meeting.' Then Judith Gates began her talk. It was an inductive session. She introduced the topic of 'prayer' and then led a reflective devotional using prayer and scripture to illustrate their place within the Christian life. People were asked to write down, for their own private meditation, what prayer was for them. We listened to Judith's description of the human use of prayer, and life's intersections with God.

We sang several hymns, and our voices joined in prayer. It was as this programme went on that the sense of Christian unity blossomed and spread amongst the people present. We are all kinds of Christians of very different denominations. We all belonged to one civic community, but when had we really prayed together, save in formal situations? In this hour, our differences were irrelevant to our prayer, but the unity of the human pilgrimage became very relevant. There was a true spiritual unity present which seemed to join us with our Lord at Gethsemane, '... that they may be one, as we are one.'

We became stronger in the faith because of this event. The Church is stronger because the power of God brought us together without any other 'agenda' to deflect our energies. The town is stronger because her citizens have a more spiritual vision for living together. This is the true ecumenical spirit, the Spirit of God. We need to recommit ourselves to this spirit within our churches. It is a missionary call so that the health of our churches might be strengthened, and our society healed. It is indeed 'a journey toward wholeness' which we must never forsake.



Places We Worship

First Baptist Church
Amherst
Byron Corkum

Established in 1809, First Baptist Church, Amherst has been a focal point of the historic downtown. The present church is the third building to have housed the Baptists in this town. It was built in 1895 of red

sandstone quarried in Amherst. The contractor was the well known firm of Rhodes Curry and Company. The building initially seated 700 in the sanctuary and 300 in the vestry area. In 1905, a Casavant-Freres pipe organ was installed and the seating capacity was increased by another 400 seats with the addition of a curved balcony. The woodwork within the sanctuary is local oak and much of the ornate work is hand carved by the craftsmen of the period. The seating in the sanctuary is in a horseshoe configuration that makes for a warm, worshipful setting and masks the fact that the sanctuary can hold 1100 worshippers.

Throughout the history of First Baptist Church, there has been a succession of well respected, and dedicated clergy, who have faithfully served both, the congregation and the denomination. Among the more recent have been, the Rev. Reg Dunn, the Rev. Roger Prentice and the Rev. John Boyd who have been active members of the Atlantic Baptist Fellowship. First Baptist Church was built on service to the community and dedication to proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ. This has been accomplished through outreach programs and strong youth work. At one point in the history of the church, it boasted a Sunday School of over 700 students. Today, the building is a vital part of the downtown core of Amherst and is a leader in the ecumenical movement. With a resident membership of 389, it is a long way from the rolls of the 1800's, but it is an active, strong congregation that meets the needs of the Baptists in Amherst. With an open membership, all are welcomed to share in the ministry and family life of this church.

Recognizing the need to preserve this historic building, work was begun in 1992 to restore the outside sandstone to its original condition, both for appearance sake and to preserve the stone work for another 100 years. The total cost of this project by its completion, was over \$500,000. In 1995, as a part of the Centennial celebrations of the church building, the pipe organ was fully restored and an additional trumpet stop added, with a total cost of \$100,000. The congregation undertook both projects with a sense of dedication and devotion to its ministry, and by January 1997, the entire debt (\$600,000) for the program was retired. The church is more than the structure. It is the people who make up the church family. Together, a full program of worship, education and outreach is provided. First Baptist Church, Amherst, continues to live up to its calling to be a place of worship and service for the Baptists and the people of Amherst. It is no wonder that it is one of the most recognizable and well known buildings in this border town of 10,000 people. With a vision for the future, the congregation continues to worship and reach out in Christ's name.



Editorial Comment . . .

Autonomy of the Local Church

When ABF president Elaine Anne MacGregor moves amendments to Article III of the AUBC constitution at the annual assembly of our Convention in Wolfville this August, she will be addressing a basic Baptist belief -- the independence of the local church.

No organized group has ever been permitted by Baptists to usurp authority over them.

So be it !

ABF Executive Meets

Plans are underway for the Fall Assembly of the ABF. The theme suggested at an ABF executive meeting at First Baptist Church Halifax, on April 19th, was "Taking the Environment Seriously".

Terry Tingley announced he will be stepping down as Editor of the ABF Bulletin following the fall edition of **The Bulletin** and the nominating Committee will name his successor at the fall meeting of the ABF.

In attendance at the executive meeting were: Elaine Anne MacGregor, president; Ed Colquhoun, vice-president; Jeff White, secretary; John Churchill, Treasurer; Doris Hilchey, secretary, Friends; Tim McFarland, program committee; Terry Tingley and Frank McGill, ABF Bulletin, and vice-president nominee Paul Burden.

Convention Review Underway

The Convention Review Committee (CRC) has begun meeting to conduct a comprehensive review of the total Convention structure with the final report and recommendations due no later than the annual assembly in 1998.

Members of the CRC are: Lois Mitchell, Harry Gardner, Jeff MacArthur, David Morehouse, Ron Baxter, and Bob Colborne. Perhaps another one or two women should be added to the CRC for obvious reasons.

Written submissions are welcome and should be addressed to:

Rev. Ron Baxter, Chair : CRC, 1655 Manawagonish Road, Saint John, New Brunswick, E2M 3Y2

Atlantic Baptist
Fellowship



within
Convention

ABF BULLETIN

The **ABF Bulletin** is published quarterly by the Atlantic Baptist Fellowship.

Submissions: Articles must be less than 500 words in length.

Opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the ABF or the Editor.

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Mrs. Isobel Horton, P.O. Box 586, Wolfville, N.S., B0P 1X0.

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John Churchill, P.O. Box 56, Port Williams, N.S., B0P 1T0.

Next Issue:
FALL BULLETIN 1997
Deadline for submissions:

August 1, 1997

E-mail Address for article submission: fmcgill@fox.nstn.ca

ABF BULLETIN EDITOR

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Valley Pastoral Counselling

Andy Crowell

A little over two years ago, not long after I had begun work in Canning, an effort to have one person representing each ministerial and/or Inter-church Council, from Windsor to Annapolis Royal was organized. I went representing the Canning and Area Inter-church Council and ministerial. There were various commendations for attempting to bring together such a group which expressed not only an effort to be ecumenical, but which might show also a stewardship of resources, economically. An area of need was identified and mutually agreed to be the one which an appointed board might help begin and govern (with the board accountable to their various Inter-church Councils and ministerials). The need identified was that of 'pastoral counselling' which would be Christian oriented, ecumenically sensitive, and competently accredited.

The service is hoped to be one that will support clergy in the referring of counselees who require special pastoral care, while still encouraging the relationship of the counselee to their minister (if there is one). Also, the service is to serve the counselee by offering an atmosphere welcoming of religious and spiritual concerns. Finally, the intention of the service is to compliment the important work of "Valley Mental Health", not to compete with, or contradict it. To this holistic and ecumenical end, the board has been comprised of the following, representing various ministerials in the Valley as well as those from respective areas of expertise that would assist in this ministry: Bill Gibson, clergy, United, Windsor; Gil Todd, clergy, United, Wolfville; Andy Crowell, clergy, Baptist, Canning; Bennie D'Entremont, clergy, Roman Catholic, Kentville; Gerry Saulnier, clergy, Roman Catholic, Berwick; George Lohnes, lawyer, Kentville; Roger Hamilton, physician, Wolfville; Glenn Barry, psychologist, Valley

Regional, Kentville; Paul Burden, financial advisor, Kentville; Ann Barry, coordinator Eastern Kings Memorial Health Centre, Wolfville; Dennis Veinotte, ADC Professor, Baptist, Wolfville (ex officio),

After placing an advertisement in various denominational publications and the provincial newspaper, for the appointment of a Co-ordinator, a short list was comprised, a decision made, and an invitation given to appoint The Reverend Patricia S. Gow as Co-ordinator. She has accepted the invitation, and will begin immediately, both her guidance/suggestions for our board and The Service of Counselling under the incorporated heading of "Valley Pastoral Counselling Services Association". The Counselling itself will take place at the 'Eastern Kings Memorial Health Centre' in Wolfville in an allocated space which the EKM has been most helpful-and-all-too-pleased to make available for this service.

There is still much to do, e.g., the standards for accrediting other competent counselors; making the service known to churches and communities; the revising of a mission statement; the raising of funds, etc. But where the ministry grows out of a common unity, seeks to address an authentic human need, and does so with attention and care... it seems the effort is worthwhile indeed.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Those interested in accommodations for the
ABF Spring Assembly in New Glasgow are asked to telephone
N.S. toll free information: **1-800-565-000**

Marginal Notes

Grammateus

In late February, 1843, there was visible, at least from North America, a strange new comet, so brilliant that it could be seen in broad daylight. For hundreds of thousands, of North Americans, many living in Upper Canada and the Eastern Townships, this was a confirming sign. For they were followers of a farmer from upstate New York, one William Miller, who believed and taught that Biblical prophecy predicted the end of the world and the second coming of Christ before the end of the year 1843. This date, like the comet, came and went. The world and the human adventure continued and the Messiah came not.

In apocalyptic prophecies the New Age will come amid mighty signs and portents and in the wake of cataclysms and catastrophes. "There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven (Luke 21:11 NRSV).

Today (late March 1997) we have the unheralded appearance of the brightest comet in the last half of the 20th century. It was first sighted nearly two years ago by two obscure astronomers in the American southwest, Alan Hale and Tom Bopp. With primitive equipment they identified the celestial object as a comet and they have achieved a kind of immortality for the great comet of 1997 will always be known by the strange name of HaleBopp.

This strange visitor to our cosmic neighbourhood last was hereabouts in 2213 BCE and will not return for 2400 years.

There are those who see this as a "sign" pointing to a new millenium and a New Age. There is (I am told) much excitement on the Internet. It is tempting to associate the ritual suicides of the "Heaven's Gate" and "Solar Temple" cults with the pre-millennial mood of anxiety and expectation. It seems that the San Diego cultists expected to be gathered for their journey into their New Age in a UFO space vehicle flying in the wake and tail of Hale-Bopp !

It is not only the Jews who "require a sign" (I Cor 1:22) when in a mood of apprehension; we all sometimes look for signs. Our Lord did not encourage us to seek after signs (Mark 8:12 and parallels). We can do nothing about the past and less than we think about the future. The real time, the only time, we have, is now:

"Behold, now is the accepted time,
now is the day of salvation (II Cor 6:2),

Paul Burden VP Nominee

The ABF Nominating Committee will nominate Paul Burden as vice-president during the spring sessions in New Glasgow.

Paul, who received his BBA from Acadia University in 1972, is a member of the Wolfville Baptist Church. Trained in accounting and sales, Paul is a partner in Agents' Security. He is involved in community and church activities, currently treasurer of the Valley Pastoral Counselling Services Association.

With wife Carol Ann, daughters Jennifer and Jani, Paul lives in Port Williams.

Significant Ecumenical Happenings

Roger Cann

- Canadian ecumenism takes a major leap forward. After ten years as an associate member of the Canadian Council of Churches, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCBC) is to become a full member of the Canadian Council of Churches.
- Catholics apologize to the Waldesians. The Conference of Catholic Bishops in Italy formally apologized to the Waldesian (Protestant) community for centuries of persecution.

These ecumenical events are most significant. You need to subscribe to **Ecumenical News International** to get the whole story. However there is a free service on the Internet. You can receive **ENI News Highlights** at no cost. It contains summaries of ENI articles the same day they are released in Geneva. Summaries such as those above may be copied or reposted in total provided the following information is provided:

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February 25th Summary: WCC launches year to promote solidarity with uprooted people

Geneva (ENI) A special year to promote solidarity with migrants, refugees and other uprooted people is to be launched next week by the World Council of Churches. The WCC, the world's biggest ecumenical organization, has declared 1997 to be the "Ecumenical Year of Churches in Solidarity with Uprooted People" to give global witness to the support of churches for refugees, migrants and displaced people around the world. It comes at a time of growing concern about "xenophobic hostility" directed towards uprooted people throughout the world. [ENI-97-0075, 726 words]

March 12th Summary: Churches demand governments help 15 million refugees

London (ENI). Church organizations from across Europe are calling on governments to ratify an international convention on displaced people which has been gathering dust for more than six years. Only seven countries - and no leading Western nation is among them have ratified the United Nations-supported 1990 convention to improve the official status of migrants, according to the secretary for migration at the World Council of Churches (WCC). He was speaking after the first Pan-European Ecumenical Conference on Uprooted People, held in London from 6 to 9 March. The conference was jointly sponsored by the WCC and the Conference of European Churches (CEC).

Government Hooked on Gambling

Roger Cann

Last fall Statistics Canada reported that government-regulated gambling operations have expanded enormously in recent years. They supply provincial governments with an annual total net revenue of almost \$5 billion. This constitutes an average of -3.8% of total government revenue, and more than 5% for Nova Scotia and PEI.

The first national lottery helped finance the 1976 Olympic Games. In 1979, the federal government withdrew from the sale of lottery tickets and gave sole control over public gambling to the provinces. Until 1991, all of the revenue from government run gambling was derived from lotteries. In 1992, 69% of Canadian households bought government-run lottery tickets and spent, in that year, an average of \$225 for that purpose. However, with the introduction of video lottery terminals (VLT's) in most provinces and casinos in Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan, the gambling income share from lotteries has been falling.

The Nova Scotia Gaming Control Commission reports that \$760 million was wagered in the province during 1995. The breakdown of where that money was wagered is important. VLT's took the biggest slice 46%. Next it was Atlantic Lottery Tickets 21%; then casinos 15%. Bingo 12%, charitable ticket lotteries 3%; and harness racing 2%. The estimates for 1996 indicate that VLT's took in much more than half of the moneys wagered.

The Nova Scotia Government admits that there are 40,000 problem gamblers in the province. Those working with problem or pathological gamblers estimate that they are mostly VLT players. The National Council of Welfare reports that about 12 per cent of Nova Scotian teenagers were problem gamblers. The teens were spending an average of \$20. a week on gambling.

Provincial gambling corporations promote gambling as a relatively cheap form of fun and entertainment. They are ignoring, if not promoting, a new generation of problem gamblers.

Sources: "A Sure Bet Industry", Katherine Marshall, Statistics Canada; "Perspective on Labour and Income", Autumn 1996; A Year in Review: Gaming in Nova Scotia; Addiction Research Foundation; Gamblers Anonymous

People Against Casinos and VLT's

People in Nova Scotia failed to stop the government from establishing casinos two years ago. The experience during those two years is video lottery terminals (VLT's) are a far greater menace to the health and well being of the populace. And especially dangerous to teenagers.

On the 20th of March in Halifax a number of concerned people formed an organization, "People Against Casinos and VLT's". The stated goal of the organization is to rid the Province of Nova Scotia of casinos and VLT'S. The immediate objective is to have the removal of VLT's a topic for debate in the provincial election which should take place this year.

The organization will have a website; with stories of problem gamblers, information from allied organizations in North America, information as to what action has been taken by Municipalities in Nova Scotia, with emphasis on what families and communities can do about the menace of VLT'S.

The Municipality of Kings County has considered taking steps to mobilize public opinion against VLT'S. The County does not have the authority to ban them outright, but in an election year, the voicing of concern is expected to have a strong influence on government action.

For information contact: Roger Cann, P.O. Box 354, Wolfville, N.S., BOP 1X0; phone (902) 542-4596; Fax (902) 542-9402; email [<rcann@glinx.com>](mailto:rcann@glinx.com)

BERWICK CAMP

July 25th to August 3rd



1997 EVANGELIST

Rev. Anthony Bailey

- ◆ born in Bardados and immigrated to Canada with his family in 1966
- ◆ completed High School and graduated from McGill in Social Work
- ◆ ordained in 1986 by Montreal/Ottawa Conferance
- ◆ 1993-96 he and his family served the church as overseas personnel in Kingston, Jamaica
- ◆ his Theme will be "Construing a Christian Identity for the 21st Century"

1997 BIBLE STUDY LEADER

Rev. Dr. Ben Wade

- ◆ native of Virginia
- ◆ ordained minister of the United Methodist Church U.S.A.
- ◆ V. President and Dean of the College Emeritus, Florida Southern College
- ◆ 1988 Bible Study at Berwick Camp
- ◆ his themes will be "We Know What It Says But What Does It Mean?" and "What Christian Beliefs Are Worth"

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Eric and Cathy Smith

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Book Review

Lovesey, Morris R. B.; **Called to Serve**;
 Wolfville, N.S.; 1996; illustrated

M. Allen Gibson

For the generation of students which prepared itself for the work of ministry at Acadia University during the years leading up to the founding of Acadia Divinity College, Dr. Clarence Basil Lumsden remains prominent in their minds. Both because of his classroom work and the profound example of his own life and study habits, he made a lasting impression on his students. Through them, he continues to contribute effectively to strong and growing congregations.

Many, therefore, are deeply indebted to him and will welcome the opportunity to become better acquainted with the man and his work through the recently-published book, "Called To Serve", which its author, Dr. M. R. B. Lovesey, calls a "mini-biography".

My own interest stems from several reasons, not the least of which is the book itself. Biographies, especially when they are well and readably written, as is this, are a type of book from which I derive a great deal of pleasure. "Called To Serve" may be "mini" insofar as length is concerned but in other respects it is "maxi", carefully written, informative and a joy to read.

Dr. Lumsden's story began in Canso where he was born in 1895. His studies were interrupted when, in 1915, he enlisted for military service in the First World War. While in action, he suffered the loss of his left arm.

So it was that, from 1917 to 1921, he was at Acadia preparing for a career in ministry. Further studies took him to the Newton Theological Institution and, later, to Yale University.

During those academic years, he served several pastorates, one of the more recent and better known being at Dartmouth where, from 1925 to 1928, "he made a large place for himself both in the church and in the community".

His work at Acadia concluded with his retirement in 1963. At that time, the university conferred upon him the degree of doctor of divinity in recognition of his faithful and remarkable ministry.

His doctrinal position, teaching methods and, sometimes, his public statements earned him considerable and, often, vilifying criticism. He bore it with classic fortitude and refused the temptation to reply in kind to his critics.

It was a mark of the measure of the man that his stature in all respects was greater than that of his detractors. His life was a superb illustration of Christian grace at its best.

Always devoted to his wartime comrades, Dr. Lumsden was committed to the work of the Royal Canadian Legion. He served as president of Dominion Command from 1952 to 1954, "the first ex-private soldier to be elected to such high office".

Significant, too, was his service to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation of which he was appointed a director in 1958. For six years, he helped shape the affairs and destiny of an important Canadian institution.

The book, "Called To Serve", further is enhanced by the identity of its author. A colleague of Dr. Lumsden on the Acadia faculty, Dr. Lovesey first prepared this biographical sketch as an address to be delivered to the Wolfville Historical Society. It has been printed as one in the series of Chapel Booklets produced by the Acadia University Chaplaincy.

His former students will have strong personal reasons for reading this record of Dr. Lumsden's life and ministry. Any who are interested in the Baptist story in Atlantic Canada will want to read it. For all who turn to these pages there will be the experience of reading a masterful composition and the inspiration of the story of a life well and usefully lived.

The Continuing Story of Baptist Battles

M. R. B. Lovesey

Although the main battle over the Bible and Christian Theology, carried on in the Southern Baptist Convention, ended several years ago with the victory of the fundamentalist/conservative faction over the moderate/liberal groups, what might be called mopping-up skirmishes are still taking place in the United States.

The latest news from the religious press in the States tells of a major split that has recently occurred in the state organization of Baptists in Virginia. This is the first formal schism of a general Southern Baptist body over doctrinal differences since the bitter theological debate began in the Southern Baptist Convention in 1979. To shouts of "Praise the Lord," and a standing ovation at the group's annual meeting last September, fundamentalist Southern Baptists of Virginia formed a new state convention separating from the 173-year-old Baptist General Association of Virginia. This action was taken over what the fundamentalists view as the liberal theology too prominent in the state association and its willingness to allow its supporting churches to donate funds to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a moderate Southern Baptist group. So there are now two state conventions in Virginia, the Baptist General Association of Virginia dominated by moderates, and the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia.

The latest theologian to be attacked by the fundamentalists is R. Kirby Godsey, the president of Mercer University, Macon, Georgia. His book, with the intriguing title ***When We Talk About God . . . Let's Be Honest***, was published by Smyth and Helwys last year. The book has been censured by the leaders of the Georgia Baptist Convention as far too liberal, for it denies the infallibility of Holy Scripture and rejects most of the salient points of the fundamentalist creed. The Convention wants the president to recant, rethink his theology and conform more nearly to what it considers to be valid Christianity. "This book," says Godsey in the preface, "is about whether faith makes sense and whether we can lay claim to a life of devotion without the nonsense of a good deal of our popular religious rhetoric." He continues: "I believe that we can find out way toward a faith that enlightens and sustains, a faith that lifts us up instead of putting us down." The book is Godsey's very candid and honest *apologia pro vita mea* and should be respected as such.

Traditionally, in its liturgies, the Church has always prayed for "a happy issue out of all our afflictions," but unhappily this has not always been the case, especially for martyrs for theological freedom and truth. However, in the case of Molly Marshall, this prayer has been answered -- she has survived the trauma and possible destruction of an academic career by being given a full-time permanent, tenured teaching appointment at the Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. This is an American Baptist School that receives grants from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Molly had been a teacher at the Southern Baptist Theological School, Louisville, Kentucky, for more than ten years, when she was asked to leave the school over differences with its conservative president, Albert Mohler. Her excellent book, ***What It Means to be Human***, of easy reading, based on excellent authorities, and full of wise advice for all of us, published in 1995, is highly recommended.

Photo Album . . .

ABF Friends Spring Rally



ABF Vice-president nominee,
Paul Burden,
Eastern Valley UB Association



Judy Saunders and Carole Ann Janzen



Tim McFarland and Roger Prentice

New Friends...New Ideas

Sheila Smith and Judy Saunders

Leaving kin, country, and snow, we journeyed by car, bus, and plane to the Tenth Anniversary Convocation of the Alliance of Baptists being held in North Carolina from March 14 to March 16. Upon our arrival, we were surprised to learn that our plane was sharing the Raleigh/Durham tarmac with the president of the United States!

Dr. Furman and Mrs. Donna Hewitt were our hosts for the first part of our stay and their southern hospitality far exceeded our expectations. Forever, we will have fond memories of hush puppies, grits, and barbecue (not backyard style).

What do two students do when they get four whole days away from the task of studying? They go off to class at Duke University. We had the privilege of attending Dr. Allen Neely's class, "The Christian Mission in Today's World." The class discussion left the two of us with plenty to reflect upon. Nevertheless, all was not study for we had a wonderful opportunity to worship with and to share in the joys and struggles of fellow divinity students.

Throughout the weekend, we shared with our sisters and brothers, the joys and sorrows of life. Our minds were challenged by the address of Stan Hastey, Executive Director, Alliance of Baptists and the presentations of representatives from Canada, Cuba, Puerto Rico, United States, and Zimbabwe. Our souls were soothed by scripture read in Hebrew, lifted by majestic music, and stirred by liturgical dance. Love, compassion, and honesty, extended to us by our new found friends, filled our hearts.

We are most grateful to Atlantic Baptist Fellowship for the opportunity to attend and participate in the Tenth Anniversary Convocation of the Alliance of Baptists. Both of us brought home many new ideas and insights that will be certain to broaden and to challenge our thinking.

Chaplaincy



Hospital Chaplains, Gerald Burke and Douglas Kellough informed Friends of the ABF at the Spring Rally, April 19th about "Health Care Reform and Pastoral Care." Pictured above are (l-r) Chaplaincy Committee members Mel Scott and Greg Cooper (Chair), Gerald Burke, and Douglas Kellough.

Friends of the ABF - Update

Doris Hilchey

Dear "Friends":

May the brightness of lengthening day, the promise in green shoots sprouting everywhere and the new life assurance of Easter fill you with joy within.

Thank you for the splendid response to the appeal for early payment of dues. As of April 22, 89 members had sent in contributions totaling \$1,221.89. Keep up the good work.

Five new Friends have joined us since January. Welcome ! We are saddened by the loss of a longtime active and faithful member of ABF, J. Winston Miles, who died in Windsor, February 27, 1997. Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Miles in Windsor Elms.

Despite the weather, 40 members and their friends attended our Spring Friends Rally in First Baptist Church Halifax, April 19 and enjoyed fellowship and food for both body and spirit. Our Halifax hospital chaplains, Rev. Douglas Kellough and Rev. Gerald Burke, gave us a clear and excellent presentation on the changes in our health care system -- a grim picture of the pain, bewilderment and frustrations involved. They also, however, gave us constructive suggestions on how we as ministers, churches and individuals can assist those faced with the problems and trauma of changed hospital conditions and the provision of home care. They urged our moral support and encouragement for health care workers, both those faced with loss of jobs and those left to cope with incredible workloads under trying conditions; for moral support and practical assistance for those at home who are trying to provide care formerly given in hospitals. They left us with much to think about and to act upon.

A reminder of the Spring Assembly in New Glasgow, May 30 - 31. More details throughout this Bulletin. Hope to see you there.

Please join us. We need you. You need us.



Doris Hilchey, secretary of Friends of the ABF, registering those attending the Spring Rally in April