

Bulletin

ABF Spring Assembly

Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6

First Baptist Church Halifax

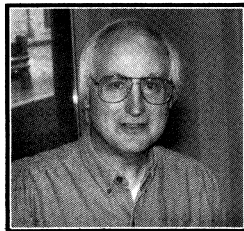
1300 Oxford Street, Halifax



Theme

**"Jesus, Canon and Community :
Options in Contemporary Christology"**

Guest Speaker



Rev. Canon Fred Krieger, STB
Professor of Historical and Theological Studies
Atlantic School of Theology

Programme

Friday, June 5th

- 6:30 p.m. Gathering and Registration
7:00 p.m. Welcome: Host Minister and President ABF
Introduction of Speaker
7:30 p.m. First Presentation: **Rev. Canon Fred Krieger**
Questions/Comments from Assembly
Holy Communion to follow

Saturday, June 6th

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome - Introduction of Speaker
9:15 a.m. Second Presentation: **Rev. Canon Fred Krieger**
10:15 a.m. Break/Refreshments
10:45 a.m. Panel (Response): Chair Andy Crowell
Jim Perkin - Retired University President
Ray Francis - United Church Minister
Pauline Allsop - Deacon, FBC Halifax
Noon Lunch at the Church
1:00 p.m. Business Meeting



Anne and Timothy McFarland
First Baptist Church Halifax

"It is my feeling that the presence of ABF is crucial for Baptists here in the Maritimes"

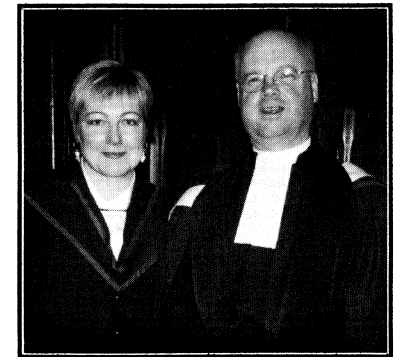
- Timothy McFarland

(see article page 6)

" A growing and special relationship which ABF'ers have with some other Baptists in our country and elsewhere . . ."

- Roger Prentice

(see article page 7)



Deborah Demsey, Minister,
First Baptist Church, Ottawa; and
Roger Prentice, Chaplain
Acadia University

Summer 1998

President's Message

Paul Burden

In March, my wife, Carol Ann and I had the pleasure of attending the Eleventh Annual Convocation of the Alliance of Baptists in Washington D.C. The Convocation was held at Calvary Baptist Church, a large inner city church on the edge of Washington's Chinatown. This church houses the offices of the Alliance.

The theme of the convocation this year was 'Repair The Ruined Cities' and it focused on the inner city problems that are occurring in the U.S. Although I do not run into these problems to the same magnitude in Port Williams, it was still interesting to hear of the concern and the ideas presented at this meeting.

As always, we were made welcome and warmly received by the people of the Alliance and we made many new friends and associations at this event.

The Alliance is looking forward to the future with great enthusiasm. Many new churches are joining their ranks and they are now beginning to form associations in mission with other countries in the world.

There was representation from Zimbabwe and Liberia throughout the weekend. These countries were part of mission areas dropped by the Southern Baptist Convention when the fundamentalists took over that group. These countries as well as others were heavily funded by the S.B.C. and were summarily cut out off with little or no warning. The Alliance has been trying their best with limited resources to help these good people.

Of great interest to me was the opportunity to meet and talk to a group of Baptists from Cuba who were attending the convocation. The alliance has established an association with the Baptist Churches in Cuba much to the dismay of some in the U.S. Government. We had an opportunity to meet with the Cubans as well as the other delegates from other countries at a breakfast hosted by Stan Hastey. Stan, besides his other many talents is fluent in Spanish so was able to translate for us.

I think we here in the Maritimes should develop a relationship with the Cuban Baptists. There are many Maritime connections with Cuba at this time so this could be a good match. I will be bringing this up at council meetings in the future.

We were greatly blessed with the worship and fellowship at this Convocation and I would urge anyone to attend next year's Convocation in Richmond, Virginia.

I felt at home with these wonderful Baptists and I thank the A.B.F. for the opportunity to attend.

I want to thank Doris Hilchey and Roger Prentice for putting on a terrific 'Friends' luncheon in April. I also want to thank Tim McFarland for his interesting and entertaining talk at that luncheon. We all hope the rest of Tim's time in the ministry is as interesting as the first five years. See you all in June.



Participating in the Annual Convocation of the Alliance of Baptists in Washington, D. C.

(l to r)

Jeanette Holt, Associate Director, Alliance of Baptists;
Paul Burden, President of ABF;
Elaine MacInnis, visitor from N.S.;
Stan Hastey, Executive Director, Alliance of Baptists.

Unexpected Encounters

Roger Prentice

Recently, at our ABF "Friends" luncheon, we had the honour of having the Rev'd. Barbara Bishop, Toronto, joining us. She brought greetings from our sister organization, "The Gathering," in warm and sincere words, reminding us of a growing and special relationship which we have with some other Baptists in our country and elsewhere.

In the past few years, and usually on an *ad hoc* basis, members of the ABF have been meeting with Baptists in other areas who have formed similar organizations. It has become customary for the ABF to have visitors from the Baptist Alliance attend our meetings, and to send at least two observers to their annual meeting in March.

We have also had visitors from "The Gathering" in Ontario and Quebec, and have sent observers, including our President, to their meetings. Several of us have been speakers for their assemblies, and the Rev'd. John Dickinson has provided a welcome and convenient link between the two Canadian bodies. Although the ABF and "The Gathering" grew out of separate issues in our respective conventions, we are remarkably similar in a concern for upholding Baptist principles. It is ironic that both organizations are minorities in our conventions, and looked upon with some suspicion by those Baptists closest to us.

In some ways, these are "unexpected encounters" which have brought joy and Christian fellowship amongst Baptist brothers and sisters. We are bonded together in our historic Baptist faith, our concerns for preserving one of the primary Baptist principles, soul liberty, and the communion we share as contemporary Christians within the whole Church of Jesus Christ.

Often in life we find that our serendipitous encounters turn out to be the best. Life-long friendships are often made this way. It seems that the ABF has made two good friends. Friendship means that we are no longer alone. We know that there are Baptists of sound mind and faith who share our beliefs and concerns. We are stronger as we unite in a communion that recognizes Christ as our master and a Spirit that offers understanding and resilience.

Friendship also requires responsibility. It is not something which happens haphazardly after the first encounter, but which needs regular contact and communications. Like all good friendships, we need to make a serious investment of time, energy, and finances in order to maintain a mutually agreeable relationship. This is particularly important to keep in mind for our fellow Canadian Baptists. Who knows? We might eventually meet Baptists from the Western Union who believe time has come to return to the historic and faithful principles as we knew them.

Let us look forward to some report from those who attended the Baptist Alliance, and "The Gathering" in Ontario and Quebec at our June meeting. Perhaps we should establish a portfolio on our Executive to keep these relationships before us and to organize to some degree our continued activity to foster our corporate friendships. This also may be the time for one of our semi-annual programmes to focus on "The Gathering" and invite a speaker from that group to address us.

Rev. Roger Prentice is the Chaplain, Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia

Editorial Comment . . .

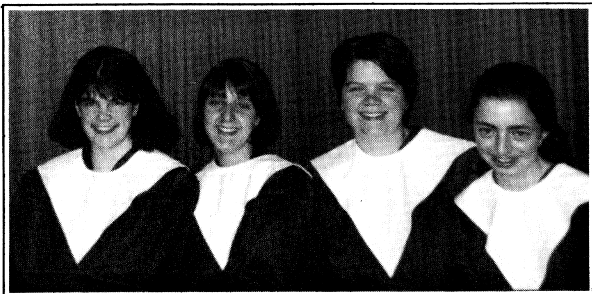
The Will of the Assembly

At the Annual Assembly of the United Baptist Convention of the Atlantic Provinces in August, delegates will have the opportunity to stand up and be counted on the issue of a basic Baptist belief - absolute democracy in local church government.

Some ABF'ers are being asked: "Why stick your neck out?" To an ABF'er, the neck is not as important as the soul.

Dedicated Youth

Christian Young People have much to offer a local church in its many ministries. Their talents and skills do much to advance the cause of Jesus.



These young people are leaders in the Church School activities and other programs of the Bayside United Baptist Church:

(l-r) **Melanie Mosher, Kim McGrath, Leanne Mosher, and Jessi Brown**

People We Meet



Jim Saunders preparing to send bird seed to feeder high (and safe) in a tree . . .

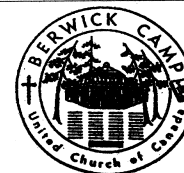
Jim Saunders has a liberty of spirit and expansion of soul because he experiences God in Nature on a daily basis. Jim, and Velma, his wife of 40+ years, are transplanted Newfoundlanders, living in Indian Harbour, minutes from Peggy's Cove.

Jim is a lover of nature. He has a pool stocked with giant goldfish surrounded by trees, one for each family member. His water front property is spacious enough for flowers, birds, trees and rocks of all sizes. His wood carvings decorate his grounds. A self-professed "pack-rat", his philosophy is: "If you have use for it in the next 100

years, Keep it!" His humour and wit charms his many friends. Jim is a good citizen, participating in community and provincial affairs, willing to stand for the truth even though it may be an unpopular choice at times.

Jim and Velma are caring people. Members of Indian Harbour United Baptist Church, they understand that religion is not something separate from common life, but a particular way of dealing with everyday experiences.

Friday, July 24 to

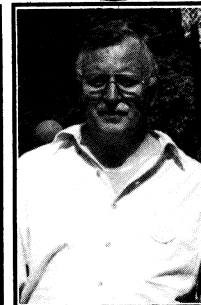


Sunday, August 2

Evangelist
Rev. Ian MacLean
St. George's United Church
Toronto

Theme for Worship Services

"Jesus, B.C.E.", or
"Who is that Masked Man?"



Leland MacLean
President Berwick Camp

Bible Study Leader
Rev. Dr. Colin Grant
Professor, Department of
Religious Studies
Mount Allison University

Theme for Bible Studies

"Christology"

Worship Services
and Holy Communion

Variety Show
Fireside Programs
Vacation Bible School
Bible Study

Sacred Music
CRAFT PROGRAMS

For Reservations and Information, please contact:

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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 Editors.

The BULLETIN is mailed to interested churches and individuals. Those wishing to receive the BULLETIN, and all details of changes of address, etc., are to be sent to the distribution organizer:

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

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

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Deadline for Article Submission for Fall Issue: August 1, 1998

Musings of a Minister 5 Years Ordained

Timothy McFarland

I believe that every human being has more than one purpose or destiny to which they may affix themselves. The same held true for me. As it turned out, some choices that I made and that I made in partnership with Anne, opened anew the doorway to professional masochism ummm I mean the ministry.

This pattern of choices made, roads taken or not is perhaps familiar to many of us in this place. The machinations of coincidence, meshed with freedom of choice is in my mind a greater miracle than the brightest of lights which might radiate down on the road to Damascus. Although I believe there are Pauline types of experiences out there, I am concerned that too often many would tell us that a call from God can occur only in the dramatic or sensationalistic ways. I would encourage us all to share stories of how we arrived at different places in life as well as the ways in which we felt God's presence along those paths.

Well, as I studied to become a minister, I found myself also learning some of what it means to be a Baptist. Another of my worries is that to many of us in the Atlantic provinces today, laity and clergy, do not know what the Baptist heritage entails. Our goals of expressing our Baptist identity are thwarted by those who push neo-Pentacostalism or who squelch the freedoms upon which the Baptist denomination was built. To be perfectly honest, I knew very little of the Baptist distinctives before I had to incorporate them in my years of divinity college. That is tragic, but a reminder to all of us, in our respective communities of faith to be sure and educate and encourage all within the context of Christian grace and Baptist freedom.

From the college, I went to a rural Baptist church field. Those were years of getting my feet wet. My education certainly did not stop when I strode across the stage at U-Hall. It had just begun. Now I faced the chapters of my education that were not provided in my seminary textbooks.

While I certainly defend the rights of all to express their faith in ways they feel led, it does alarm me that currently I see within my own convention those who would have us become cookie cutter Christians. Today I hear outcries, by some within our convention, against ecumenism, (ooooooo better call it interdenominationalism so as not offend) yet some of my most important tasks are done in the context of working with priests and ministers of other denominations. I hear emotional laments about Baptist identity disappearing should the amount of water used at baptism be reduced. Yet, as important as our mode of baptism may be in our heritage it pales in importance when compared to things like autonomy of the local church, or soul liberty.

Though I will stridently defend my Baptist ideals, especially within the work of ABF, I also gain satisfaction not in the large and loud, but in the quiet, personal contacts which I enjoy in my ministry.

ABF, for me, is important to my present day work. Colleagues and friends of like mind, though not always of like opinion, are to be found there. Freedom of expressing any idea is to be found there. Fellowship and solidarity is to be found there. Voices that illumine and challenge are to be found there as well.

It is my hope that as Christians, as Baptists, we will continue to work hard for the cause of Christ in the Maritimes. What will help me personally and professionally to continue to do what I am doing is the faithfulness of such endeavours that are found within ABF. No we are not the end all and be all to Christian expression. Yes, I believe there is a place for opposing views to agree to disagree, such as is most obvious within our Convention. Christ's work will be done regardless of what the future has in store for the Atlantic Baptists. It is my

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feeling that the presence of ABF is crucial for Baptists here in the Maritimes.

The 21st century is going to provide Christians with many new challenges and opportunities. We will see the need to further adapt to the technological age of computers and the rapidity at which we convey information. After all is not one of our prime purposes to be bearers of a message? We will, in my opinion have need to expand our work ecumenically while at the same time enjoying our expression of faith as Baptists. To ignore the need to work with other denominations will increasingly render us useless and isolated. And finally, I believe we must continue to educate the preceding generations in the things that truly make us Baptists. The ideals of forbears will equip us well to face whatever changes come our way.

Past, present and future, the ministries we possess are valuable in serving the world. From personal reflections to corporate efforts the cause of Christ will be realized.

Note: Rev. Timothy McFarland is Associate Minister CE, First Baptist Church Halifax. This address (abridged) was delivered to Friends of the ABF at their annual spring luncheon, this year at Manning Memorial Chapel, April 18th.

More Goings-On In The SBC

M.R.B.Lovesey

The religious press in the United States records the death on 15 January 1998 of Harold Lindsell at the age of 84. One of the major contenders for conservative evangelicalism, he wrote more than 20 books and contributed to many more, and beyond doubt was a major catalyst in the successful conservatist take-over of the Southern Baptist Convention from the biblical moderates. From 1947 to 1964 he held a number of positions at the Fuller Theological Seminary. On vacating the vice-presidency at Fuller he became Associate Editor of Christianity Today, the successful conservative periodical. He was Editor of that magazine from 1968 until his retirement in 1978. He defended his inerrantist approach to biblical interpretation in his widely-read book, The Battle for the Bible, published in 1976.

The inerrancy position has been demolished in Clayton Sullivan's book Toward a Mature Faith: Does Biblical Inerrancy Make Sense? published by SBC Today, Decatur, Georgia, 1990. While praising that book, Walter B. Shurden, of Mercer University, Macon, Georgia, writes:

Theologically, inerrancy is a twentieth century heresy. Politically, inerrancy is an axe used by radical fundamentalists to bludgeon other sincere believers. Practically, inerrancy is little more than a mistaken notion of how to attribute high praise to God's word, the Bible. Sullivan's book is for Christian laity who read, study and love the Bible. He reminds us that in the light of the center of our faith - Jesus of Nazareth - "inerrancy" is neither central to nor necessary for those who seek to follow Jesus.

Recent advertisements in the American religious periodicals by the publishing house of Smyth & Helwys (of Macon, Georgia; call 1-800-568-1248) claim that it brings "a breath of fresh air" into resource materials that all Baptist churches might seriously consider using. They claim that much of the resource material currently used is "stale, boring, out-of-touch and out-of-date." Smyth & Helwys offer materials based on the NRSV (New Revised Standard Version of the Bible that first saw the light of day in 1989), materials that are designed for those who refuse to leave their brains in the parking lot when they come to church. The firm is named after two inspiring pioneers of religious liberty: John Smyth

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(1554-1612), who led his band of English Separatists to Holland to escape religious persecution; and Thomas Helwys (1550-1616), who led the church back to England where he died a martyr for religious freedom. It is a "consummation devoutly to be hoped" that the books published by this house will feature on the shelves of our Baptist pastors and leading laypersons, and that its religious education materials will be used in the Sunday Schools of our region.

Many graduates of the Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, have been saddened to hear of the firing of the institution's librarian, Paul Debusman, who has served there with distinction for the past 35 years. He was terminated for a letter he wrote to Tom Eliff, president of the SBC, dated 16 September 1997, in which attention was called to inaccuracies in an address Eliff made in the Seminary's chapel. Eliff said he would never have been invited to speak in that chapel under previous Seminary administrations, that is, before the fundamentalists take-over of the SBC and its institutions. Debusman pointed out that the Seminary had traditionally invited SBC presidents to speak in chapel and on campus whatever theological label they might have. "There was a deliberate strategy to bring in different points of view." However, under the administration of President Albert Mohler Jr. there is a closed-door policy towards any one who does not embrace or espouse the fundamentalist agenda.

A graduate of Southern, James Kelsey, claims that Debusman spoke only the truth. While a student at Louisville he heard several of the conservative evangelical leaders in the denomination speak on campus and in the chapel. He deplores the fact that the history of the Southern Seminary is being re-written and he fears that truth is being sacrificed on the altar of power. Could it be, he asks, that those in control are beginning to actually believe this perversion of history?

the 30th Anniversary Year
**The Atlantic Seminar
in Theological Education**

June 7 - 12, 1998

Nova Scotia Agricultural College
Truro, Nova Scotia

CONGREGATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

A Birthing Image for Discipleship in the Late Twentieth Century

with **Tom Bandy**, author of

Kicking Habits - Welcome Relief for Addicted Churches, and

Joanna Dewey, Associate Professor of New Testament Studies,
Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA

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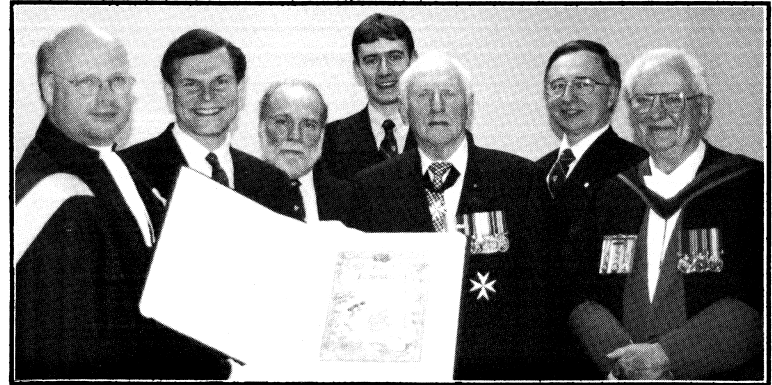
BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

Sponsored by Acadia University;
the Dr. C.B. Lumsden MM, Branch No.74, Wolfville
Royal Canadian Legion; and
the Wolfville Historical Society.

"CLOSING THE GAP"

A most worthy and fitting memorial to the 214 young people of the Wolfville Area and of Acadia University is now enshrined in a Book of Remembrance which is permanently housed in a beautiful display cabinet in the Manning Memorial Chapel on the campus of Acadia University.

The Book, whose title comes from Malachi 3:16, was dedicated at a special service in the Chapel at the 7:00 p.m. service on Sunday, 1 March 1998.



Participants in the Dedication Service (l. to r.)

Rev'd. Roger H. Prentice, University Chaplain, Co-chair of the project; Hon. Robbie Harrison, MLA for King's County and Minister of Education and Culture; Acadia Artist-in-Residence David Silverberg; Acadia Students' Union President, Paul Black; Hon. John James Kinley, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia; Acadia President, Dr. Kelvin Ogilvie; and Wolfville Legion Chaplain, Dr. M. R. B. Lovesey, Co-Chair of the project.

Friends and readers of the ABF's Bulletin, sensible of our duty and privilege of the debt of remembrance we owe to the young people who gave their lives for freedom and democracy in the world wars of this century, are invited to help "close the gap" (\$2,892.00 at time of writing, Easter 1998) between the cost of the project (\$10,000.00) and the donations given to date (\$7,308.00). Please mail your donations (cheques made payable to "The Wolfville Historical Society - Book of War Dead Appeal") to Colonel J. F. Doig, Wolfville Historical Society, P.O. Box 38, Wolfville, N.S., B0P 1X0. Receipts for tax purposes will be issued.

First United Baptist Church, Annapolis Royal



A little group of people undertook the building of this church in the summer of 1873. By June 1874, the church was completed except for some finishing work and the furnishings. On July 1, 1874 a bazaar was held to raise funds for needed work to complete the church.

On September 2, 1874, thirty-four persons organized themselves as the First Baptist Church in the town of Annapolis Royal and the church was dedicated on Sunday, November 15, 1874. Reverend T. A. Higgins was the first pastor.

The outstretched forefinger, on the church spire, pointing upward to God symbolizes the mission of First United Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal.

Letter to the Editor . . .

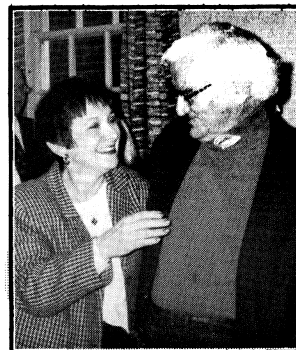
You may, and I hope you will, publish the following in the next ABF Bulletin, so that I may have the opportunity of defending McMaster Divinity College against an anonymous and unsubstantiated public vilification.

Last time the ABF Bulletin published a piece which publicly denigrated McMaster Divinity College (MDC), the piece was contributed anonymously. My response, published in the ABF Bulletin, called on the person to declare who they were. To this day I am not aware that anyone has publicly indicated who they were. Only one person responded to my response, in another piece published in the ABF Bulletin, but rather innocuously ignored the main arguments I had laid out. Now it happens again, another apparently anonymous piece in the latest ABF Bulletin under "Editorial Comment", a piece entitled "The Gathering (contributed)" in which, unless the editors wish to take responsibility for it, "contributed" presumably means that it is from some unnamed person other than the editors. Why does the "contributor" not take responsibility for their negative innuendo against MDC?

It is not my intent here to say anything about the Canadian Baptist Archives (CBA) situation; BCOQ officials and others know more about the ins and outs of that. Nor is it my intention to contend that MDC is a perfect institution. God knows we are all human. However, I will comment on the fact that the anonymous piece refers to the CBA as "the latest victim of the powers that transformed the McMaster Divinity College", which surely must be taken as a negative comment about MDC and the changes which have occurred there over the last number of years. Would the anonymous individual please say who they are and take responsibility for their statement? In a postmodern age of rapid change, institutions which do not change die. To defame an institution because it has been transformed is absurd, if not theologically thoughtless, given that the Gospel is supposed to transform. I would encourage your readers to reread my previous article in the ABF Bulletin (June 1995, pp.10-11). It would be superfluous to repeat here what I said there.

I would urge the ABF Bulletin to adopt a policy of no name -- no game, i.e. anonymous pieces will not be published; if someone has not the courage to put their name to what they say, their comments do not deserve publishing.

Malcolm J. A. Horsnell, "Friend of the ABF", Hamilton, Ontario



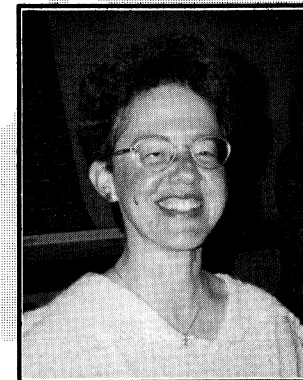
Enjoying fellowship at ABF Friends Spring Luncheon in April - The Gathering visitor Barbara Bishop, pastor, Woodbine Heights Baptist Church, Toronto and Gerry Harrop, Halifax



Linda Griffin-Alwood, Kentville, and Vera Ernst, Bayside, in attendance at Induction Service for Lic. Sheila Smith, Milton UBC, April 26th.



Jean Dexter, Halifax



Mary Miles, Wolfville



Rodger Forsman and Dorothy Lovesey, Wolfville.


Maritime Church Leaders Speak Out

Halifax, Nova Scotia, March 5, 1998 -- In fidelity to Jesus Christ who commands us always to act out of love for God and neighbor, we the undersigned Church leaders are compelled to express to you our deep concern that the gambling industry in Nova Scotia is being promoted by our provincial government at the expense of the public good. Committed, therefore, to holding our political leaders accountable for their responsibility to do their utmost to protect the public good at all times, it is our intention, immediately following the March 24 election, to meet with the newly elected government and challenge them

1. To restrict any further expansion of legalized gambling in this province, and to enact policies which will see the existing number of gambling opportunities rolled back.
2. To take concrete actions that will protect the integrity of regulatory institutions and processes that ought to be governing the gambling industry and, in particular, to take steps that will guarantee the arm's length operational integrity of the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation.
3. To place real limits on the VLT industry in Nova Scotia by
 - first implementing a freeze on the number of VLTs that are allowed to operate in the province, then taking active steps toward reducing their total number;
 - requiring design alterations that will render the visual and operating features of VLTs to be less enticing and, therefore, less addictive;
 - affirming the right of local municipalities to decide, without penalty, on the issue of VLTs through their own democratic processes.
4. To commit itself to a full and public accounting of the past and present fiscal situation of the Halifax and Sydney casinos, beginning with the release in its entirety, of the report on casino viability which was conducted at taxpayer expense by McGhie Consulting.
5. To begin allocating monies from the VLT Gaming Fund for serious research into (a) the social and human costs of gambling in Nova Scotia, (b) the incidence, causes and treatments of gambling addictions in Nova Scotia, and (c) the full economic impact of gambling in Nova Scotia.

In 1993, Church representatives from across the province attended the Fogarty Commission hearings and voiced their opposition to the Provincial Government's decision to promote gambling casinos in Nova Scotia. In 1994, we issued a statement, along with the Medical Society of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Provincial Health Council, opposing the decision to establish casinos in the province. Today, we continue to be concerned that the very presence of casinos and other forms of gambling, such as VLTS, is "chang[ing] our province's cultural, social, and economic life in a manner that is detrimental to the majority of our people..." (Church Media Release, 24 October, 1994); however, our concerns have taken on a new urgency now that our political leaders have effectively decided to allow the gambling industry itself to determine the shape of gambling policies and practices in Nova Scotia. It is our shared commitment to follow the will of God, and our Christian sense of responsibility for our neighbors and for the well-being of the community as a whole which leads us to speak out on these matters at this time.

Signatories:


Most Rev. Arthur Peters, Archbishop
Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia


Most Rev. Colin Campbell, Bishop
Roman Catholic Diocese of Antigonish

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75th Anniversary of Church Camping at Wegesegum

The time is fast approaching for the August 14 to 16, 1998 weekend which will celebrate the 75th anniversary of church camping at Wegesegum. We hope that you are including this reunion in your summer plans.

Rob Wells has agreed to direct this weekend. Rev. Byron Fenwick has been asked to lead a discussion on Saturday morning based on the 1996 notice of motion re the future of Wegesegum given by Neil Scott. Other alumni from different decades are being contacted to give leadership in various areas.

The anniversary committee is busy making plans for this special weekend: morning watch, a children's program, canoeing, swimming, crafts, singing, vespers - all parts of a traditional camping weekend. Come and enjoy the fellowship and experience spiritual renewal.

Notice of Motion: I Neil H. Scott move, seconded by Yan Storr, that the Board of Directors be directed to establish a Ways and Means Committee to report to the Board as it deems necessary and to the 1997 and 1998 Annual Meetings. It shall be the mandate of this committee to:

1. solicit discussion and ideas from representatives of the Atlantic Baptist Convention (AUBC) and the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada (MCUCC) on whether and how Camp Wegesegum, Inc. can better meet their needs for Christian camping in the Maritime region, and whether and how bridges of mutual benefit can be built.
2. solicit from Alumni and friends ideas for the future direction of Camp Wegesegum, Inc.
3. recommend whether Camp Wegesegum, Inc. should continue its current lease arrangements with the AUBC and MCUCC.
4. recommend whether Camp Wegesegum, Inc. should continue to exist as a corporate entity and, if so, recommend any changes in its form of governance.
5. recommend any other changes which appear to be in the best long-term interests of preserving Wegesegum for Christian Camping, whether or not this involves Camp Wegesegum, Inc.

If you cannot attend the weekend but want to express your views on the motion, feel free to write them to: **Shirley Hunt at 121 Downey Ave., Riverview, N.B., E1B 1W4.**

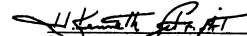
For information and registration for the Anniversary Weekend:


Rev. Geraldine Reid, 78 Woodlawn Ave., Moncton, N.B., E1E 2J9 or telephone (506) 857-2101

(Continued from page 12)



Rt. Rev. Fredrick Hiltz, Bishop
Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia



Rev. Msgr. Martin Currie, Administrator
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Halifax

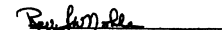

Rev. Kenneth Stright, President
Atlantic Ecumenical Council


Most Rev. James Wingle, Bishop
Roman Catholic Diocese of Yarmouth


Dr. Harry Gardner, Executive Minister
United Baptist Convention
of the Atlantic Provinces


Major David Hiscock, Divisional Commander
The Salvation Army
Maritime Divisional Headquarters


Ms. Debra Stewart, Moderator
126th Synod of the Atlantic Provinces
Presbyterian Church in Canada


Rev. Joy Noble, President
Maritime Conference of the
United Church of Canada

Marginal Notes

Grammateus

The "in" words in today's religious discourse seem to be: spiritual and spirituality. Mark Parent's new book Spiritscope describes contemporary faith-communities, both within and without traditional Christian institutions, whose members believe they are finding God in shared charismatic experiences. (I hope I have not misrepresented Dr. Parent. So far I have been able to read only reviews, all of them very positive).

The lifelessness of the modern church does not mean that people are not seeking some kind of vital relationship with the divine. They are indeed seeking. But most us are not finding. Our post-Christendom, secular, consumerist, hedonistic society and culture is failing us. This, however, has always been true. Twenty-seven centuries ago it was true.

For my people have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water (Jeremiah 2:13).

There seem to be two types of spirituality, although sometimes both are experienced by the same person. One is the experience of being part of a charismatic community. Millions of people, especially perhaps in Latin America, but also among us, believe they are finding God as together they feel the movement of the Holy Spirit whose outward manifestation will be spectacular gifts: tongues, miraculous healings, being "slain in the spirit", ecstatic singing and so forth. The Toronto airport Vineyard Church manifests this kind of seeking and finding.

There is also the more difficult path of personal mysticism. In his familiar and beautiful hymn, John Greenleaf Whittier rejects Pentecostal revivalism for a "more excellent way":

*Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.*

*Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm.*

We need not reject either the folk or the idea of experiencing the divine presence in places beyond the halls of Zion, to continue to try to be faithful to a faith-community which, for all its failings and faults, carries on the proclamation of the Gospel and the worship of the Living God.

Booklet on Prayer

A new Acadia Chapel Booklet will be published shortly. It will be the five meditations which Dr. Roger Cann gave at the week-day service last January during the Wolfville Week of Prayer.

The work will have the title, *Aspects of Prayer : Five Meditations*.

These five aspects are Adoration, Thanksgiving, Confession, Petition, and Intercession.

This booklet will be made available in the usual places: the University Bookstore and the chapel, and at times when the churches of the area meet.

Friends of the Atlantic Baptist Fellowship

FRIENDS are sympathetic to the aims of the ABF, which are:

- (1) To witness to the freedom implicit in the voluntary principle in religion which is the essence of the traditional Baptist position;
- (2) To affirm and celebrate Baptist participation in, and witness to the whole, visible, catholic and evangelical church of Jesus Christ;
- (3) To strengthen the United Baptist Convention of the Atlantic Provinces and to encourage it to strive for the above;
- (4) To provide a forum for the discussion of doctrinal and ethical questions and social problems and policies in that spirit of tolerance and mutual respect which issues from Christian love;
- (5) To publish, at regular intervals, a Bulletin which seeks to further these aims and which describes the activities of the Fellowship and announces the agenda for its general meetings which will be held in the spring and in the autumn of each year.

FRIENDS undertake:

- (1) To pray for the life and work of the Convention and the Fellowship;
- (2) To seek other committed Christians to join the Fellowship;
- (3) To become better informed about current ethical and theological issues;
- (4) To pay an annual subscription, minimum \$10.00;
- (5) To respond, as circumstances permit, to requests for financial support.

Friends of the ABF - Update Doris Hilchey

Greetings as spring rushes into summer.

The Spring Luncheon in Manning Chapel on April 18 was much enjoyed by the thirty members and guests who attended. Our thanks to Acadia University Chaplain Rev. Roger Prentice for providing the setting and the caterers. Also to our guest speaker Rev. Timothy McFarland who "mused" on his five years of ministry past and present, then looked ahead with some sobering questions regarding the future.

Thank you to seventy-eight members (not quite one-third of the membership) who have faithfully and generously contributed to date (May 1) dues totalling \$1,404.03.

Details of the Spring Assembly to be held June 5 and 6 at First Baptist Church Halifax appear elsewhere in this Bulletin. We hope to see you there.

God grant you a restful, restorative and creative summer.

**YOU NEED US
WE NEED YOU**

Miss Doris Hilchey
1350 Oxford Street, #207
Halifax, N. S. B3H 3Y8

PLEASE ENROL ME AS A FRIEND!

Name _____
Address _____

Date _____ 'Phone # _____ Subscription _____

Please cut along this line and mail to: