



**CHESTER UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH
85 King Street, Chester N.S.**

**Bio-ethical Issues and Christian Faith:
Beginning the Conversation**

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Friday, May 31

- 6:30 p.m. Registration
- 7:00 p.m. Session 1
Lecturer — **Dr. Henry Friesen**
- 8:30 p.m. Communion

Saturday, June 1

- 9:00 a.m. Business Meeting
- 9:45 a.m. Devotional — **Rev. Tom Harvey,**
Minister, Bridgewater UBC
- 10:00 a.m. Session 2
Lecturer — **Dr. Ian Wilks**
- Discussion
- 12:30 p.m. Closing, Lunch

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A Quarterly Publication of the
Atlantic Baptist Fellowship

the Bulletin

**Chester Church Honours
Rev. Dr. Allen Gibson**



Participating in a ceremony of the Chester United Baptist Church paying tribute to Rev. Dr. Allen Gibson and to his family by naming the parsonage "Gibson House"

(l-r) John Chandler, Deacon; Garry Zwicker, Town Crier; Carol Nauss, Chair, Board of Deacons, Dr. Gibson; and Rev. Dan Green, Minister Chester UBC

(see "A Magnificent Faith" page 3)

From the President: "We walk by faith..."

John E. Boyd

Atlantic Baptists are gradually implementing structural changes to Convention and its staff which were approved at recent Assemblies. One of the more visible changes is the appointment of Regional Ministers who will offer leadership in five newly established geographic regions of the Convention. As our current Area Ministers complete their terms or retire the changes will take place.

A new component will be the first ever appointment of a Regional Minister for the African United Baptist Association. The Convention has agreed to fund half the salary for this position and the AUBA will seek to raise the rest. All Atlantic Baptists are being asked to help the AUBA do this.

Having a full-time staff person dedicated to the growth and development of AUBA Churches and ministries has exciting potential. A majority of black Atlantic Canadians look to their Baptist Churches and clergy for pastoral and social leadership.

Pastors of black churches carry an additional leadership responsibility in the community that most white pastors do not. They are sought out by media, governmental agencies, community organizations and others to comment on social issues, to mobilize support for social, economic and educational development and to provide hands-on leadership in broad-based community activities.

A full time Regional Minister can help give focus, training, support and encouragement to AUBA churches and pastors in a way we have never tried before. As we heard at last fall's conference in Amherst, intentional action is required if we are to *join hands and hearts to overcome the racial divide*. I pray that ABF congregations will respond generously when the opportunity comes to contribute to this ministry.



Janet Atwood, ABF "Friend" and John Boyd, President

Dr. Gibson Honoured . . . "A Magnificent Faith"

(Address given by John W. Chandler, Q.C. on the occasion of the naming of the Baptist Parsonage at Chester on Sunday, October 28, 2001.)

Come gather friends and let me tell you of a "magnificent faith".

From the opening verse of Hymn 351 in the old Baptist Hymnary, the words of Horatius Bonar

"He liveth long who liveth well
All other life is short and vain
He liveth longest who can tell
Of living most for heavenly gain"

Writing in Beautiful Upon the Mountains, a portrait of the late Nova Scotia born industrialist, Cyrus Eaton published in 1972, Dr. Allen Gibson speculated how Mr. Eaton would be remembered:

"It never is easy properly to evaluate contemporary events or the individuals who are responsible for and part of them. Proximity foreshortens perspective and tempts conclusions which may prove invalid when subjected to the assessments of the future."

For us the task is made simple because the assessments of the future are no different than the assessments of the past. The result of the evaluation has been clear for centuries. A life well lived - the Christ centered life makes a person "whole". Dr. Gibson's is such a life.

Writing of Micah in *Songs of the Prophets and other Poems* published in 1965, Dr. Gibson observed:

Mere works will never justify a man
Nor will his sacrifice for sin atone
Religion to be true, must centre in
The will to do the Will of God alone.

O man! The Lord has shown thee what is good,
And this the Lord Jehovah asks of Thee:
That thou shalt justice do, and mercy love,
And walk with Him in true humility

Good living brings eternal blessedness
To all who walk with God in faith and trust
But those who place their hope in outward pomp
Shall perish with their idols into dust"

With modest pomp for which we seek forgiveness and approval, we pay tribute to Dr. Gibson and to his family by naming this place which was their home from its construction until Dr. Gibson's retirement.

Symbolic though the gesture is, it will serve as a lasting reminder to all of us of a life well lived. In our small way we have been privileged to see how from this place, a house filled with love becomes a home. Thomas Chandler Haliburton writes one of Sam Slick's old saws "A small house well filled is better than an empty palace".

Many have come to this place to tell of troubles, stress and sad events. Others have come to share the good news of a wedding planned or to set a date for dedication and baptism. Still others, including many here today, have come here to obtain letters of reference, explore the wonderful world of coins and stamps, to hear of travel to far distant places, share a book - a thought or a train story. Some have been brought to faith in Christ, been built up in their faith, been strengthened, comforted, inspired and even given a fresh start. All this because of one who lived here, but, more significantly, because of the One who lives in the hearts of the ones who lived here and continue to inhabit this place - this home.

As a lasting reminder of a "Magnificent Faith" the congregation through its Board of Deacons names this great good home - Gibson House.

SPRING CONFERENCE

The beautiful and historic Chester United Baptist Church will be the setting for our Spring Conference on May 31-June 1, 2002 when we focus on *Bio-ethical Issues and Christian Faith: Beginning the Conversation*.

Guest lecturers will be Dr. Henry Friesen of Winnipeg, Man. and Dr. Ian Wilks of Wolfville, NS.



Dr. Henry Friesen

Dr. Friesen was recently named to the *Maclean's* magazine 2001 Honour Roll as one of Canada's outstanding research scientists. To quote the magazine: *His scientific and administrative prowess has earned him the Order of Canada, membership in the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and this year's (2001) Gairdner Foundation Wightman Award for "extraordinary achievement as a creative scientist and distinguished leader."* Dr. Friesen headed Canada's Genome Project as well as the Medical Research Council. He is an active Mennonite Christian and is more than qualified to help us understand the implications of some of the research currently being undertaken in the biological and medical sciences. His lecture will be given on the Friday evening.



Dr. Ian Wilks

Dr. Wilks is Professor and Head of the Department of Philosophy at Acadia University where he also chairs the University Senate. He is an active member of Wolfville United Baptist Church and has had a longstanding professional interest in bio-ethical issues. Dr Wilks will help us understand and apply ethical principles and insights as we think through the implications of today's scientific research. His lecture will be offered on the Saturday morning.

We are grateful to Rev. Dan Green, the Deacons and congregation of Chester United Baptist Church for hosting this exciting conference!

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| <p>Atlantic Baptist Fellowship</p> <p>within Convention</p> | <h3>ABF BULLETIN</h3> | | |
| <p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>Mrs. Isobel Horton, P.O. Box 586, Wolfville, N.S., B0P 1X0.</p> <p>The BULLETIN is mailed free of charge. Donations towards cost of publication are gratefully received and should be mailed to the treasurer:</p> <p>Dr. John Churchill, P.O. Box 56, Port Williams, N.S., B0P 1T0.</p> | | | |
| <p>CO-EDITORS ABF BULLETIN</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>Terry Tingley 9 Youth Camp Road Bayside, N.S., B3Z 1L8 (902) 852-4405</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>Frank McGill 80 Camelot Lane, Apt 212 Halifax, N.S., B3M 4K8 (902) 457-2229</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>E-mail Address for article submission: fmcgill@ns.sympatico.ca</p> <p>Deadline for Article Submission for Summer Issue April 20, 2002</p> | | <p>Terry Tingley 9 Youth Camp Road Bayside, N.S., B3Z 1L8 (902) 852-4405</p> | <p>Frank McGill 80 Camelot Lane, Apt 212 Halifax, N.S., B3M 4K8 (902) 457-2229</p> |
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Editorial Comment . . .

... the Best of Life ...

Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be,
The last of life, for which the first was made.
Our times are in his hand
Who saith: "A whole I planned,
Youth shows but half; trust God; see all, nor be afraid!"

A lovely description of approaching life after middle age by Robert Browning in "Rabbi ben Ezra".

Jesus stated that "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30). There is a distinct difference between survival and life. Many seek to survive at the expense of giving up living. Exercising the mind and spirit as well as the body will help us, as we age, in staying alive.

It is important that we develop varied interests. Interests that will add meaning to our lives. And, keep in mind, that our God is using organizations and movements as well as the church to accomplish the Eternal Spirit's purpose in our communities and world.

It is necessary to keep the mind and spirit working to full capacity. God did not intend for those of "mature years" to simply wait for the "angel of death". All the days of our life are to be filled with the joy of living.

In his article, "An Aging Illusion", (*ABF Bulletin* -winter,2001) Roger Cann concluded:

- "those of mature years are not a spent force. Their golden age is not in the past. Yoked with Christ, the best is yet to be."

The Taylor Award — A Tribute to Charlie and Charlotte

On November 30, 2001, Federal Solicitor General Lawrence MacAulay paid tribute to citizens who help to make communities safer through their work as volunteers within Canada's correctional system.

In particular, the Solicitor General recognized the long-standing contribution of Dr. Charles Taylor and his wife Charlotte Taylor, of Wolfville, NS, who have provided spiritual counselling and advice to offenders in institutions and in the community for many years. Dr. Taylor has also contributed significantly to the teaching and development of pastoral education and prison ministry in the Atlantic Provinces.

The Taylors are the first recipients of an annual award created by the Correctional Service of Canada to celebrate outstanding volunteer contribution to corrections.

"We have named this honour the Taylor Award, in recognition of the continued commitment of Dr. Charles and Charlotte Taylor to assisting offenders to become law-abiding citizens," Mr. MacAulay said. "By assisting the Correctional Service of Canada in fulfilling its mission, volunteers form an integral part of the criminal justice system by making communities safer."

The Church - A Wall or a Door?

I. Judson Levy*

*(Dr. I. Judson Levy was the editor of the *ABF Bulletin* from 1976 - 1985. This meditation was written for the October edition, 1981)

Is the Church a wall or a door - that is, does it freely admit or does it repel? This, to many, is a strange and even shocking question. For that very reason it challenges our thinking. To reframe the question: To what degree is the Church - yes, your church - a wall between Christ and those who seek him or to what degree is it an open door through which needy people pass freely into his presence? The answer comes immediately - an open door, of course! But is this always true?

A New Testament story (Mark 2: 1-12) illustrates the thrust of the question. Jesus is preaching to a large group of people who filled every available space, and which even then 'was not big enough to hold them.' To give this modern application, we may say that this is the picture of a successful (!) church, with all seats filled and many standing. This is the hour of which many preachers dream. But one thing mars this vision of success, for it made it difficult for a needy person to reach the Christ. There was one person brought by his friends with this in mind, but 'because of the crowd they could not get near.'

Here was a church that had become a wall. This, of course, was not a church as we think of it, but the story illustrates truths that may well apply to any church. The people gathered there are 'enjoying' Jesus and what he is saying, but, at the same time, are insensitive to the needs of one on the outside who sought his healing touch. This suggests a congregation who 'enjoyed' the sermon' while completely missing the message, or unwilling to face up to its implications. Such a 'successful' church may easily, even unconsciously, become a wall shutting needy persons off from Christ.

The man who was brought to Jesus was a sinner. Jesus' first word to him was: 'My son, your sins are forgiven.' All of us who seek the Christ likewise are sinners, so his coming was no different than that of any of us. What is noteworthy is that the ones whom we think of as the world's worst so freely sought the one whom we know to be the world's best. How different seems to be the ministry of our churches today. The plain fact is that the churches of today for the most part are not looking for attracting the type of people who so eagerly sought Jesus in the days of his earthly ministry. Yes, there are exceptions - **but they are exceptions!**

What is the reason? The New Testament story offers us some suggestions as to why this may be so. Has the Church, in its worldly success, self-enjoyment and love of comfort, lost its redemptive passion for those on the outside? Then there were those religious leaders who did not want their fellowship soiled by those 'bad characters' whom Jesus was attracting. We would deny having this same attitude, but, in all honesty, do not we too often show the same attitude? Or, what about an enslavement to a dead tradition that, in this day, repels more than it attracts? There are other reasons surely, but let each church find its own.

A church that seeks to preserve its one life becomes a wall that hems in, and, at the same time, shuts out, and at last is choked to death. The church that pours out its life in loving concern for others becomes a doorway to life everlasting, both for itself and for others.

(from the *A.B.F. Bulletin*, October 1981)

Have You Listened Closely to What Your Tutors Said?

M.R.B.Lovesey

Simon Winchester, the best-selling author, did not listen sufficiently closely to what his tutors at Oxford told him. He tells us this in a piece he wrote for the *St. Catherine's Year 2001*, the annual report sent to all alumni of St. Catherine's College, Oxford. He studied geology at Oxford from 1962 to 1966, but what he calls his "dismal" performance in his final examinations closed the path to further endeavour in that field. He found employment as a journalist - a field of endeavour that causes "North Oxford" to raise its eyebrows! Employed as a foreign correspondent by *The Guardian* and *The Sunday Times* he travelled all over the globe. His many adventures in far-off places included a stint of three months in prison during the 1982 Falkland War in Usuaia, Tierra del Fuego, on a charge of espionage. He published several travel books over a period of thirty years but, as he says, "they sold lamentably" and rapidly "headed straight for the remainder's table."

Then, on a whim, he wrote a book that was not about travel but was in a completely different genre, that of history and biographical interest. This book, published in 1998 by Harper Collins of New York, immediately became a best-seller. It has the intriguing title, *The Professor and the Madman: a Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary*. This book tells of the creation of the *Oxford English Dictionary* brought about by two editors, Professor James Murray and an American Surgeon from New Haven, Connecticut, a Dr. William Chester Minor, a murderer, clinically insane and locked up in Broadmoor, England's harshest asylum for criminal lunatics.

The success of *The Professor and the Madman* was followed by another best-seller, with the publication in 2001 of *The Map that Changed the World: William Smith and the Birth of Modern Geology*. Smith's dates are 1769 to 1839. It was another book about history and a fascinating historical character. It was about William Smith, an Oxfordshire surveyor, canal-digger and drainage engineer, a most practical man though lacking the higher education of the times. In the last decade of the eighteenth century, through his observation of the rocks through which he was digging and which he saw in his descents of the shafts of the Somersetshire coal mines, he made the discoveries that stimulated the emerging science of the history of the earth. His thought also led in time to an updating of the Christian doctrine of creation. He observed that the rocks of the skin of the earth were arranged in layers (strata - he became known as "Strata Smith") with characteristic fossils in each layer. The idea occurred to him that the outcrops of these layers could be expressed in colours on a map. With that in mind he travelled widely in England and Scotland. This caused him great expense and ended in a stay in one of the debtor's prisons in London. In 1815 he published his map, measuring eight feet tall by six feet wide, the first geological map of its kind. It is pleasant to record that as his life neared its end his work was recognised for its great benefit to so many by a pension from the crown and honours given by the Geological Society of London and Trinity College, Dublin.

Simon Winchester tells us that it was at Oxford where he was first told about the significance of William Smith, by Harold Reading, his tutor in geology. He confesses that he should have listened to this and realised more quickly where his undoubted ability in writing should take him. It was not in writing travelogues but in the area of history and the interesting biography of real persons. Maybe all of us would do well to indulge in a little introspection and see if we have listened well enough to advice given long ago! The moral of all this can be summed up in Winchester's own words: "Listen closely to what your tutors say."

(continued on page 9)

Who Am I ?

Jean Munro Gordon

I am an 82-year-old woman.

My body parts are giving out, bit by bit.
My mind races with thoughts -
- with challenges I can no longer respond to (because of my aging body).
- memories of accomplishments of the past.
I function with a sense of incompleteness.
There is a gnawing within me to accept a life of contentment.
I do not have satisfaction in being a little old lady.

I am a rebel.

In middle life I became an ardent feminist - a Christian feminist (which was not considered possible).
I taught, spoke, wrote on controversial issues.
I questioned the conservative interpretation of my faith, the stereotyped image of women ...
I was an activist against domestic violence, war, racism ...
I terrified my husband with my focus on politically correct language, women's rights ...
Despite his discomfort over my fresh stance of independent thinking I knew I could not go back to what I was. This was who I really had become. I ceased to be "the minister's wife".
I became a person in my own right.

I am a wife.

Married when very young (some thought too young), through the many stages of my life, my husband has been beside me. We have traveled lovingly together through success and failure, health and illness, joy and sorrow.
I am blessed to be married to such a man.

I am a mother.

Four were born of me, each one so deeply loved through childhood and into adulthood; each uniquely him/herself,
each bringing joy and at times, heartache;
each finding his/her significant place in the world;
each so loving and supportive of us in our golden (?) years.
I am blessed to be their mother,

I am a mother-in-law and a grandmother-in-law.

I love those who are loved by my family.
It seems so natural;
we are friends. It is fulfilling - a blessing.

I am a grandmother.

Oh the deep, deep love I have for my grandchildren.

(continued on page 9)

continued from page 8)

They are so fresh and promising, beautiful and loving.
There are nine, each unique and special - more blessings.

I am a great-grandmother.

The line goes on. He lives so far from us. How I would love to have him near.

I am a product of a broken home.

Growing up with one parent in a time when such circumstances weren't understood; when women were supposed to accept violence and neglect; it created for me an unnatural life.

I am a member of the family of the Earth.

I suffer and grieve over the plights of the family of the Earth injustice, greed, violence, poverty, disease ... But I am enriched by other cultures, skills, beliefs of my Earth family. We are sisters and brothers together.

I am a person of wealth:

with not only a loving family, but a wealth of friends;
wealth in opportunities and experiences of the past;
a secure and loving community;
facilities to care for my health problems;
freedom to be true to who I am.

I am a child of God.

My concept of my divine parent has developed over my 82 years. God surrounds me, lives in me, strengthens me, leads me, gives me courage.
I have come to know God through Jesus Christ, who taught us about God as no other ever has, showing us how to live and to love.

What a blessing to know God through Jesus Christ!

Who Am I?

I am a woman, wife, parent, feminist, rebel, member of the Earth's family, child of God, follower of Jesus Christ; blessed beyond measure.

I am an 82-year-old woman, a little old lady, still incomplete.

Jean Munro Gordon and Rev. Fred Gordon, former editor of the Atlantic Baptist, live in Milton, N.S.

(Have You Listened Closely to What Your Tutors Said? continued from page 7)

The writer of this essay regrets to have to say that it seems to him that Simon Winchester writes his excellent books from the standpoint of scientific humanism, with little or no regard for religion, which he describes as a "fog." It is to be hoped this is not a misrepresentation! This essayist prefers to take the view not of credulous faith but that advocated by such modern Christian apologists as the Reverend Hugh Montefiori, the Anglican Bishop of Birmingham, namely, that of a reasonable faith, one that is not contrary to the established truth of general culture. This will stand up better in the market-place of today! Nevertheless we must give honour where honour is due. Winchester's fascinating books of recent years are excellent and must be given their full share of praise.

Peace Camp 2002

Roger Cann

This year Church people from all over the northern hemisphere will be coming to Wolfville in the third week of July. The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, will be in conference from July 22nd to the 27th on the Acadia University campus, Wolfville, Nova Scotia. This will be "Peace Camp 2002" with the theme "...to sing among the peoples" (Psalm 57). The week will include; separate programs for youth and children, with a daily schedule of worship, Bible study, workshops, and afternoon excursions to sites of historical, environmental and peace and justice interest.

The evening sessions will be led by Barry Morrison as preacher with music by Michael Hawn of Dallas, Texas. One feature of the evening program in University Hall will be telling the stories of displaced peoples in the Annapolis Valley. Starting with native peoples, then the Acadiens, and the Planters, and the United Empire Loyalists, both black and white, the Valley has its stories to tell. Heritage would be linked to Christian Mission.

More than one in every fifty human beings is now a refugee. Most are women, youth, and children. Uprooted people are those forced to leave their communities: those who flee because of persecution or war, those who are forcibly displaced by military action, and those who are compelled to seek a sustainable livelihood in a hopefully more welcoming land.

In workshop sessions the peace and justice activists of BPFNA will explore the painful struggles of those who were victims of injustice, and frame positive responses for our day and our communities. Other workshop topics will include: Women's Spirituality, the Act of Worship, Peacemaking in North American and Overseas, Writing your Story, and Social Justice.

To register or for additional information contact:

LeDayne McLeese Polaski

Managing Director Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America

4800 Wedgewood Drive

Charlotte, NC 28210

phone: (704)521-6051 fax: (704)521-6053

E-mail <ledayne@bpfna.org> www.bpfna.org

Mark Your Calendars and Join us in 2002!



Peace Camp

Baptist Peace Fellowship

Summer Conference

22-27 July 2002

Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia

**Preaching by Barry Morrison of Wolfville, Nova Scotia
and Music with Michael Hawn of Dallas, Texas**

Rev. Jeffery White Inducted at Windsor United Baptist Church



Rev. Phil Locke, Moderator, Eastern Valley Association of United Baptist Churches; Rev. Sheila Smith, Minister of the Milton, Charleston and Port Medway United Baptist Churches, preached the Induction message, and Rev. Jeffery White, Senior Minister Windsor United Baptist Church, following his Induction, February 16, 2002.

MARANATHA COUNSELLING CENTRE

Henry Sharam

Religious people who want psychotherapy want a therapist who is sensitive and open to their spiritual concerns. All the helping professions, who have in the past generally ignored the spiritual dimension, are indicating an interest in spiritual concerns. Spiritual, for them, can be all over the map as most, good intentioned as they are, do not have any formal theological education. Many, in the local church community, have been concerned about this situation.

A group of us have formed a pastoral counseling center aimed at meeting this need, and helping some of the spiritually minded people who cannot afford therapy fees to get the help they deserve. We are registered with Joint Stocks in NS as the Maranatha Counselling Centre Association, and have been granted a charity designation by the Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency.

Rev. Henry Sharam is the first psychotherapist working for us. A board is in place under the leadership of Rev. Edward Fiander, Anglican Chaplain and supervisor of C.P.E. at the V.G. Fellowship members will know board members Rev. Drs Frank Guinta and Ron McLean, and Rev. Martin Zwicker from our Baptist Community. It is our hope in the future to offer pastoral counseling training. Rev. Henry has at present started a Jung study group.

We are just getting to our feet as a center. Our two most pressing needs are accommodations, so we can move out of a home office, and financial support. Anyone interested in more information please contact us at 63 Nappan Drive, Lower Saukville Halifax Co., B4C 2E1. We welcome any financial support you wish to give to such a worthy cause. We encourage Friends to take \$200 of the money they yearly give to charities and donate it to us this year and for the next four years. Charitable receipts will be given for all amounts.

"Faith Alive & Lively"
The "Atlantic Seminar In Theological Education"
Truro, Nova Scotia

For over thirty years now a committee of chaplains, ministers, lay people, and theology professors have met to bring people from various Christian denominations in the Atlantic Provinces together for a week long seminar of stimulating and spiritual exploration. The "Atlantic Seminar In Theological Education" is designed to enhance ones own faith and challenge us as we strive to be witnesses to God's love alive and active in our own communities. The committee of volunteers who put together the seminar come from Catholic, Anglican, Baptist, United, and Lutheran churches, ensuring that a diversity of directions are brought into consideration.

The 2002 seminar will be held June 9 - 14, in the beautiful setting of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro, Nova Scotia.

Well known authors Marcus Borg, John "Dominic" Crossan, and M.T. Winter are just a few of the guest lecturers from recent years for what many agree is the bargain among bargains for events of its type.

It's a combination of lectures, group discussions, informal chats, relaxation, singing, friendship forming, times for worship, and the sharing of faith expressions designed to energize the individual and encourage you to share your experiences with your home congregations.

In this year, (perhaps more than ever before) many of us are wondering how to be community in the diverse cultural landscape that we recognize our world to be. Hence this year's theme: Common Ground – Exploring Interfaith Dialogue.

Dr. Willard G. Oxtoby of Trinity College, University of Toronto will be the main facilitator as we search from within our own religious experiences and seek where we can find common ground for dialogue and understanding with other major faith traditions prominent in the world community.

Accompanied by leaders from within Islam (Dr. Jamal Badawi), Judaism (Rabbi David Ellis), Buddhism, and Hinduism; the seminar will provide an experience to broaden our avenues of understanding of the world we all share.

Dr. Oxtoby is the editor of "World Religions - Western Traditions" published by Oxford University Press.

Dr. Jamal Badawi is founder of the Islamic Information Foundation and teaches Islamic Studies at St. Mary's University.

Rabbi David Ellis is a chaplain of the Atlantic Jewish Council.

For more information, check out the website at:

<http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/don.macqueen/ASTE.HTM>

and/or contact:

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Stan Hasteley

Alliance of Baptists
15th Annual Convocation
April 5 — 7, 2002
Winston Salem, North Carolina
Wake Forest Baptist Church and
Wake Forest University

Our theme is **"Servant Leadership"** and the topic will be addressed in a variety of ways in workshops as well as worship. Topics will include:

- Lessons Learned from the Long-term Pastor
- Baptist Ordinances in the 21st Century
- Leading Children / Leading Youth / Leading Senior Adults
- The Church and the Dechurched
- Leading from Within
- The Intersection of Congregation and Community
- Contemporary Ethical Challenges
- Interfaith Dialogue

Schedule

Friday, April 5

- 4:00 p.m. Registration Opens
- 6:00 p.m. Welcoming Reception
- 7:30 p.m. Worship — Carolyn Gordon, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Preacher

Saturday, April 6

- 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayers led by Advent Spirituality Center
- 9:00 a.m. State-of-the-Alliance Address — Stan Hasteley
- 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting
- Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Workshops
- 7:00 p.m. Barbeque, Bluegrass and Storytelling: A Celebration of the Alliance's 15th Birthday

Sunday, April 7

- 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayers led by the Advent Spirituality Center
- 9:00 a.m. Workshops — Session II
- Bible Study — Mary Foskett, Wake Forest Divinity School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Alan Neely, Covenant Address
- Paula Clayton Dempsey, Worship Leader
- 12:30 p.m. Adjournment

Visit the Alliance website: allianceofbaptists.org for detailed information

ABF FRIENDS LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Roger Prentice

On Saturday, 23 March 2002 the ABF Friends will gather for the annual Vincent Rushton Luncheon and Lecture at the Manning Memorial Chapel, Acadia University. Chair will be Dr. Roger Cann.

The special speaker this year will be the Rev'd. Dr. Robert Ellis, presently Tutor in Pastoral Studies at Regent's Park College, Oxford University. He will speak on the topic, 'The Church and the Challenge of Contemporary Culture.'

Rob Ellis was born in Cardiff, Wales, and studied theology at Regent's Park College, Oxford, and Colgate Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, New York. After doctoral research in systematic theology (D.Phil) with John Macquarrie at Oxford, Rob was ordained and served as minister to Baptist congregations in Milton Keynes (1981-87) and Bristol (Tyndale Baptist, 1987-2001). In Bristol, he also served part-time as Baptist university chaplain, and chaired the BBC's regional advisory panel for religious broadcasting. He was also a regular contributor to religious programmes.

One of his outstanding presentations was portraying the role of Sir Thomas Moore in the play 'A Man for all Seasons,' (by Robert Bolt) at Regent's Park College, directed by the Rev'd. Roger H. Prentice, in 1980. Rob was also at the time President of the student body.

Rob served on a range of denominational boards, including acting as Convenor of the Baptist Union's Working Group on Chaplaincy in Higher Education, and still serves both on the Baptist Union's National Council and its Ministry Committee.

In the later years at Bristol, Robert began teaching part-time at Bristol Baptist College (the oldest Baptist theological college in the world), and in September 2001 took up the post of Tutor in Pastoral Studies at Regent's Park College. He is the Course Director for ministry training, and teaches various aspects of pastoral and practical theology and some Christian Doctrine. His journal publications reflect this range of interests, and most recently also work in the areas of spirituality, and theology and film.

Rob is currently working on a book on the theology of intercession.

Robert is married to Sue, a primary school teacher, and they have four children aged between 13 and 20 - as well as a golden retriever. Rob enjoys movies, music, reading, and rugby, as well as a range of other sports - generally as a spectator!

His talk at the luncheon will be about the Church and the challenge of contemporary culture. This will be especially interesting in light of recent world events. Rob will also be preaching at First Baptist Church Halifax on Sunday, 24 March, at 10:30 a.m.

Everyone is invited, and encouraged to attend the Rushton Luncheon and Lecture. It is held each year in honour of the Rev'd. Vincent Rushton, one of our founding members, and long the driving force behind the continuation of the ABF. Gifts have helped to establish an endowment for this most valuable memorial lecture so that speakers of great interest to the Baptist society might be invited to come and inform us of their thinking and development.

VINCENT V. RUSHTON MEMORIAL LUNCHEON AND LECTURE

Manning Memorial Chapel Hall
Acadia University, Wolfville, N. S.

Speaker: The Rev'd. Dr. Robert A. Ellis, Oxford

Saturday, 23 March 2002 — 12 noon to 2 p.m.
Cost: \$15.00

Please inform Dr. Roger Cann
before 20 March 2002 of your intentions.



Vince Rushton

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.

To:

Rev. Dr. Roger Cann
1032 Club Crescent
New Minas, N. S.
B4N 4Z5

Please enroll me as a Friend of ABF

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____ 'Phone # _____ Subscription _____