

The Bulletin

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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR BAPTIST FREEDOMS
FORMERLY THE ATLANTIC BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP



Window detail, First Baptist Church Halifax

Pentecost: A New Spirit

SPRING 2014

Editorial: Belonging to a New Spirit

Spring is in the air and we look forward to new things 'springing up' around us. The Rushton Lecture is a highlight of Spring ushering in summer for the CABF, honouring a man, the Rev'd Vincent Rushton, former United Baptist missionary to India, and a revered leader of our organization. He was, from the beginning, our unofficial General Secretary who visited, listened, led, and cared for us as individuals and as an association. We need, in the CABF, another who would take up his torch.

The theme of this issue is Pentecost: A New Spirit. It seemed appropriate for this Pentecost season of the church year which reminds us of the precipitating cause for organizing the first Baptist churches: the Holy Spirit. It is also a basis of our Baptist Principles that we hold so dear: of regenerate church membership, soul liberty, congregational government and evangelical goals. We forget this at our peril and it is odd that many Baptist churches ignore this season altogether.

For us in the CABF we are seeing a new spirit growing amongst us, too. There is renewed interest in our programmes, our purpose, and the fellowship that we engender. Even our Council meetings are filled with joy in accomplishing a great deal of work, all through volunteers. There is a great initiative in the challenge of raising the funds by extra donations to ensure at least a third issue annually of *The Bulletin*.

The season of Pentecost is vitally important to the Baptist denomination not only in recognizing the basis of our organization, but the power behind all that we do today. The CABF is very aware of this.

ROGER H. PRENTICE, EDITOR *pro tem*.

The Bulletin is published three times a year by the Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms. It is meant to be an informative magazine about Baptist concerns and news of the Church in the world.

Editor *pro tem* is Roger Prentice
5 Grandview Drive, Wolfville, Nova Scotia B4P 1W5.

Police Chaplaincy in the RCMP

by Stephen Graham

*Stephen Graham is a recently retired
Deputy Commissioner of the RCMP
who currently lives in Bedford.*



The role of chaplain dates from the 13th century according to Wikipedia. Some of the first chaplains were instituted in the military, but chaplains are now common in hospitals, prisons, schools, colleges, universities, corporate and private chapels and police organizations. Although chaplains grew out of Christian traditions, today they are found across many faiths.

Police chaplains minister across the police community; in Atlantic Canada most police agencies have a chaplaincy/pastoral connection or program. More than 95% of police chaplains are selfless volunteers who have been invited into police organizations to support spiritual and human needs, not only of police personnel, but also communities.

The Canadian Police Chaplain Association lists many roles for chaplains, and to a large extent these vary broadly from one locale to another. Activities include, but are not limited to, sacramental ministries, support to police employees and their families, community crisis response, liaison with other faiths and clergy, and offering of celebratory or memorial prayer at ceremonial and social events.

Rev. Don MacPherson of PEI is the 1st Vice President of the Canadian Association of Police Chaplains, and although recently retired from the United Church of Canada, remains very active as both a Chaplain for the RCMP and the Atlantic Police Academy. In his opinion, the modern police chaplain must wear many hats and evolve with the role of the police. This includes “integrating other faiths into our spiritual traditions” and remaining a “trusted spiritual advisor” given the stresses to which police and their families are often subjected.

Rev. Dr. Glen Matheson of First Presbyterian Church in New Glasgow is the RCMP Chaplain Coordinator for Nova Scotia. He has

found his involvement to be both rewarding and professionally challenging, and is grateful for the unhesitating support of his congregation. He believes the role he, and the other 14 Nova Scotia RCMP chaplains play, help to support individual police personnel and their families. The unique challenges of police work and being a first responder require a heightened vigilance that brings stressors home. Similarly, chaplains support communities at times of crisis. Matheson cites the recent tragedy in Woods Harbour, NS, where 5 young men were lost at sea. The police chaplains supported the many first responders, and also provided respite to local clergy who were providing ministry around the clock.

Pastor Karl Ingersoll of Fredericton, NB is also a RCMP Chaplain. He confirms the experiences of both Matheson and MacPherson, and speaks animatedly about how he enjoys the pastoral elements of the role, and particularly the importance of a good sense of humour. As he says, there is a dance of invitation into any organization's culture, and perhaps more so in policing. "Time and proximity" are key elements to acceptance and success of the relationship on both sides.

The case for police chaplains has grown beyond participation in official ceremonies. It now supports a more balanced organizational culture and recognition that officers and clergy gain on many human levels from the experience. One thing that chaplains and police personnel agree on, is the relationship must be founded on trust and understanding.

Pentecost: a Time for Translation



by the Rev. Dr. Scott Kindred-Barnes
Scott Kindred-Barnes is minister of First Baptist Church Ottawa, and will be the speaker at the CABF annual meeting 3-4 October 2014 at Chester Baptist Church.

In the lower hall of First Baptist Church Ottawa hangs a historical timeline of Baptist thinkers. During coffee hour on Sunday

mornings I often see visitors looking at this timeline with a fair degree of puzzlement. The various names and pictures posted on this banner make it all the more difficult to answer the question I'm often asked: "Who are the Baptists?" When answering I usually smile, point to some of my favorites on the banner like Roger Williams and Martin Luther King, Jr., and then emphasize our diversity. After all, how many denominational families can claim the likes of Tommy Douglas and Jimmy Carter along with Jerry Falwell? Such diversity, however, should not be surprising since the early Church herself was a mixed body whose unity was found only through the power of the living Christ.



*First Baptist Church Ottawa:
A spire surrounded with city*

One of the important themes of Pentecost is how the Spirit of God overcomes existing divisions. A lesson that can be taken from Acts 2 has to do with the reversal of the Tower of Babel where the languages that once divided no longer separate the people of God. Indeed, the historic Baptist witness has been broad and far reaching but the challenges of the 21st century make it necessary for us to think long and hard about how we can continue to be agents of translation in a world of growing divisions. Reaching a broad audience of various convictions was one of the challenges presented to me upon beginning my ministry at First Baptist Ottawa in November 2011.

Ottawa, with its universities, government representatives and

diplomatic forces from all over the world, is a city alive with big ideas. In the past, the historic fellowship at First Baptist has had an important influence upon the intellectual climate of the nation. In fact, the cornerstone of our current building was laid in 1877 by the then Prime Minister of Canada, Alexander Mackenzie. Former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker also worshipped here.

In 2012 First Baptist Ottawa began the Stuart Ivison Memorial Lectures. This lecture series, named after our longest serving minister, invites speakers from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds to engage broadly with the theme of public values in the 21st century. While some of the speakers and themes in the series have been religious, many topics have appealed to a much broader audience; poverty, homelessness, cyber bullying, international human rights and restorative justice are just some of the themes this series has addressed. Thus, when the Rev. Dr. Pierre Allard speaks at First Baptist in May on Public Misunderstandings of Restorative Approaches to Justice we anticipate further translation of an important issue where people of various convictions can gather for healthy public dialogue.

Spirituality in Baptist Churches



by Rev. Dr. Barry Morrison
*Barry Morrison is the minister of the
Wolfville Baptist Church.*

Baptist spirituality has long been characterized by an emphasis on a personal relationship with Christ founded in the study of the Scriptures. Eschewing formal creeds, Baptists have held to the principle of soul competency – the conviction that each person is free to interpret the Scriptures for oneself. For this reason we have often been known as “people of the book” and personal bible study and prayer have been significant ingredients in our spiritual development.

Our spirituality has also been shaped by our worship, consisting mainly of biblically based preaching and the singing of hymns. It may be said of many that their theology is taught by their hymns. Indeed, it is not uncommon to hear Scripture misquoted in favour of a line from a well known hymn. Thanks to the influence of the ecumenical movement, spirituality in many Baptist churches may also be called a liturgical spirituality. One evidence of this is in the way greater attention is being given to the church's annual calendar of seasons and holy days. In times past many Baptists observed only Christmas and Easter. With the discovery of Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Ascension, and Pentecost, to name some of the major days and seasons, our spirituality has been informed by deeper and more sustained movements of reflection and celebration. Such a liturgical spirituality has been further influenced by the introduction of forms of worship from Taizé, Iona, and other cultural expressions of faith and prayer.

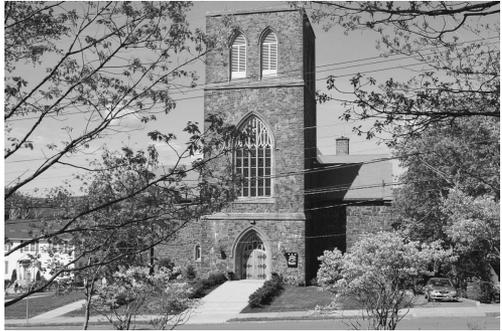
Due perhaps in some measure to a particular hymnic formula in which the last verse was always directed to life after death ("in the sweet bye and bye," "when I tread the verge of Jordan," etc.) Baptist spirituality has sometimes been assessed as being overly concerned with the next life and less concerned with God's will being "done on earth as it is in heaven." From our beginnings, however, Baptist spirituality has fostered a compelling concern for religious freedom and human rights. The social aspects of the faith have been championed by such noteworthy Baptist figures as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a leader of the civil rights movement, and the Rev. Tommy Douglas, parliamentarian and one of the principle architects of the Canadian health care system. Today, Baptists may be found speaking out and working for these freedoms in many parts of the world as Baptist spirituality finds expression in ministries of relief, development, social justice, and ecological action in many parts of the world.

To summarize, spirituality in Baptist churches may be described as personal, liturgical, and global. As a body of believers we are committed to a holistic view of the person, a vision of a transformed earth, and an inclusive understanding of God's grace under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Church News:

MAHONE BAY: In February, the Mahone Bay Baptist Church celebrated African Heritage Month with a special service. A number of spirituals were sung throughout the service and Pastor Sherrolyn Riley gave a historical presentation on the life of Isabella Baumfree (a.k.a. Sojourner Truth), a 19th century African-American woman who was a domestic servant, abolitionist, author and human rights activist. The church is also looking forward to more temperate weather in order to complete repairs to the church steeple.

FIRST BAPTIST HALIFAX: David Gibson (brother of Dan Gibson) reports that their church has supported since 2004 a visitation ministry through giving above and beyond the regular church budget. The Rev'd Nelson Metcalfe became and remains part-time Minister of Visitation and reports over 700 visits annually. Generous gifts have sustained this valuable ministry,



FIRST BAPTIST BRANTFORD, ON: The congregation celebrated their 180th anniversary in 2013 and celebrated with many different events recognizing this milestone, especially with Dan Gibson and Fred Demaray preaching at the beginning and ending of the festival – both being former ministers of First Baptist Brantford. Present minister is the Rev'd Deborah Dempsey.

BURLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH, ON: The church celebrated sixty years as a congregation on 20 October 2013, The Rev'd Bert

Radford created a dramatic reading, 'People of Vision,' that covered significant events in the life of the church. A number of members of the church participated in telling the story. The Minister is the Rev'd Terry Dempsey.

WOLFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH: Wolfville Baptist is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year with monthly events. On 23 May they are having a Gourmet Dinner and Auction to be held in the church hall. Chef Nelson Penner, assisted by Colin Davidson and Nick Dunfield will prepare a fabulous feast, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available until 18 May and cost \$25. On Thursday, 8 May, the four choral scholars of the church presented a magnificent concert in the church sanctuary. They sang from musical theatre, folk songs, classical and original works. and the offering went to support the music scholars' programme at the church.



Ministerial changes:

The Rev'd Gail Whelan-Dunn, who has been minister of the Lockhartville Baptist Church, has been called to become the minister of the Falmouth Baptist Church. Hedley Hopkins was the Interim Minister prior to this, and Lic. Jenn Levy is the Associate Minister.

The Rev'd Jeffrey White, who has been the minister of the Windsor Baptist Church has accepted a call to the Digby Baptist Church, beginning on 1 July.

The Man from Margaree

by R. H. Prentice

John Howard MacDonald is a name far too long overlooked in Canadian Baptist history. Born in Margaree, Cape Breton, 1863, he made his way to Acadia University graduating with the famous Class of 1891. That year he was contracted to serve a year at the Bass River Baptist Church, and he took the opportunity to marry Agnes Viola MacInnis in Cow Bay (Port Morien) on 25 September.

With his year completed, MacDonald became Assistant Minister with Dr. David Allen Steele at First Baptist Church, Amherst. Wishing more theological knowledge, he attended Newton Theological College and returned to become Minister of the Woodstock Baptist Church in 1894. It was while he was there that he influenced F. W. Patterson,



then a teenager, to enter the Ministry. Who would know then that Patterson would become President of Acadia University at the same time MacDonald become Professor of Church History?

In 1896, MacDonald returned to succeed Steele at Amherst – where he had a successful ministry, especially amongst young people. In 1899 he stepped forward to become Principle of the Acadia Ladies' Seminary. 1901 saw him called to be Minister of Brunswick Street Baptist Church, Fredericton. This was his longest

John Howard MacDonald, student of Acadia University. (courtesy of the Acadia University Archives.)

pastorate (12 years) and there baptized another well-known future Baptist minister, Frank Orchard.

MacDonald moved in 1913 to McPhail Memorial Baptist Church, Ottawa, but a year later he was lured back to the Maritimes as Editor of *The Maritime Baptist*. He arrived in Saint John in April but by December he announced that he would be signing up with the armed forces as a Chaplain. The Great War, as it was known, had broken out, and it may not be a coincidence that his son, Eric had also enlisted.

MacDonald became the senior Baptist chaplain during that war and would rise to become the Assistant Director of the Chaplaincy Services. His letters from the front, published in *The Maritime Baptist*, are fascinating accounts of his experiences during the war. He was presented with a OBE by King George V.

MacDonald returned to Canada in 1919 as the Minister of Wolfville Baptist Church, which he held until 1923 when the School of Theology was formed and he become the first Professor of Church History and Pastoral Theology. He retired in 1936, and re-assumed editorship of *The Maritime Baptist*. Finally, he completely retired in 1942, but still active in the national leadership of the Royal Canadian Legion, concerned about the welfare of 'his vets'.

Agnes died in 1945, and after spending that winter in Florida with his daughter, Ruth, he also passed away in June 1946. He is buried at Willowbank Cemetery, Wolfville.



*John Howard MacDonald:
graduate of Acadia University 1891.
(courtesy of the Acadia University
Archives)*

Third Issue Assured

There was much rejoicing in the editorial office when we received an important message from CABF member Marilyn Peers. Believing that a third issue of *The Bulletin* is very important to the advancement of the CABF, she has contributed \$1,500 as a start of an initiative to ensure this publication. Since then another has also made a contribution in support of this challenge.

If you would like to add to this fund, send a cheque to our Treasurer, Cynthia Ogilvie, and make a notation that it is for The Bulletin Fund.

Ray Ivany Report and the Church

The Wolfville and Area Inter-Church Council invites all who may be interested to a public meeting to be held at Wolfville Baptist Church on Wednesday, 21 May 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The theme is:

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY:

THE RAY IVANY REPORT

The speaker will be Ray Ivany, President of Acadia University and Chair of the Commission of the Report, Now or Never, to the Nova Scotia Government. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served.

... in the poor brother [or sister] Christ is knocking at the door. We must, therefore, be very careful at this point. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together (SCM, London, 1949, 1954) p. 28)

Acadia Centre for Baptist and Anabaptist Studies Endowment Fund

To encourage the study of Baptist and Anabaptist history through the Special Collections of the Acadia University Archives, an Endowment Fund has been established by the University and Divinity College. All gifts are welcome and Income Tax receipts will be sent to donors. Send your gift to Acadia University, Wolfville, N. S., B4P 2R6 and make the notation that it is for the Acadia Centre for Baptist and Anabaptist Studies Endowment Fund.



CABF Council Meeting on 29 April 2014 at Greenwich, NS

CABF Council meeting, 29 April 2014



*The Rev'd John Boyd, minister of
First Baptist Church Halifax.*



*The Rev'd David Ogilvie,
minister of the Port Williams
United Baptist Church.*



Lee Nicholas-Pattillo, Secretary, and the Rev'd John Tonks, President.

CABF MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Centreville, NS, B0P 1J0**

*You can visit our website at
www.c-abf.ca*

This year the Annual Vincent Rushton Lecture will be held on

SATURDAY, 7 JUNE 2014, at the
MANNING MEMORIAL CHAPEL, Acadia University

The speaker will be Dr. Pamela Mosher,
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry,
Dalhousie University Medical School



**Her topic will be:
Soul Loss: the Changing Landscape
in Youth Mental Illness.**

Dr. Mosher says that she wishes to speak about how communities and churches can help this epidemic of loss of meaning in life, and loss of sense of place in the world that has become an epidemic for youth today, notably in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Mosher was raised in Boston by Canadian parents and always wanted to be a pediatrician. She received her B.Sc. from Duke University, a M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School and a M.D. from Stanford Medical School. While at Harvard she studied liberation theology, ethics and interpretations of suffering and death across religious traditions. At Stanford Medical School she developed new curricula around delivering difficult news and navigating 'end of life' conversations with patients and families, an effort she continued in residency along with facilitating bereavement groups.

Please send notification of your intention to attend to Kim Sweet at
20 Ports Landing Avenue,
P.O. Box 528,
Port Williams, NS B0P 1T0
(902) 542-1261 - kjsweet@live.ca

Registration: 10:30 a.m., Lecture at 11:00 a.m.; Luncheon at 12:15 p.m.