

# *The Bulletin*

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR BAPTIST FREEDOMS  
FORMERLY THE ATLANTIC BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP



REV'D DR. DAN GREEN,  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, AMHERST  
(PHOTO SUSAN AND EDWARD COLQUHOUN)

FALL 2018

## *Editorial: Looking To The Future*

Sir Winston Churchill wrote a short piece in 1932, 'Fifty Years Hence' where he comments, 'Progress is also very fortunate, for if it stopped or reversed, there would be the catastrophe of unimaginable horror.' It is a good thing that the CABF is looking ahead with intent. A special committee of the Council, with professional help, is planning for the future of our beloved organization.

It is too early to forecast what might be the result but the initial meetings in Wolfville, Amherst, Burlington and Halifax proved to have been very successful. More people than expected attended, a welcome momentum initiated, and formal discussions, which will continue for some time, have taken place in earnest. The task is complex but important.

The Atlantic convention has shown something of a same desire to 'renew' and this is an opportunity to add the voice of the CABF. How can we more effectively present the Christian Gospel to our communities and society? There will be many answers and there needs to be an attempt to 'separate the wheat from the chaff.'

The Sursum Corda begins, 'Lift up your hearts,' and we respond: 'We lift them up unto the Lord.' Our planning for the future might always begin with these words. We cannot plan outside our faith in Jesus Christ, nor without commitment to bringing the Word in Jesus to our people and communities. As Bonhoeffer lectured in 'Discipleship and the Cross', '... he is going ahead: hold fast to him.'

It is that important.

*Roger H. Prentice—Editor*

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*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 is Roger Prentice—5 Grandview Drive, Wolfville, Nova Scotia B4P 1W5.  
The colour cover was donated by a friend of CABF.

# *Coming Full Circle: Baptists and the Empires of Today*

The Rev'd Bert Radford

I attended a Baptist church in my youth. The minister was fond of denouncing “the unholy alliance of church and state”. I had a vague idea about this but I was not sure why it was unholy. I knew that Baptists believed the church should be free of government control and the government free of church control, but I thought that the Reformation had pretty well fixed this church-state problem. The more I learned the more I realized that the relationship of church and state is still a relevant and often crucial issue.



In the good old days, the church in general exerted a great influence on the government, whether directly by lobbying, or through influencing the faithful's voting patterns. Baptist tended to resist this use of power and campaigned against explicit deals with government, even when we stood to benefit. We preached that the state had no place in the chancels of our churches.

We got our way! The shift of our country from church attendance and support to a secular society that pays little attention to the church has brought about the separation that Baptists longed for. But the reality includes side effects not envisioned in the theory. As the churches' influence has declined so has knowledge and understanding of the basis of our social structure. Our common morality now is based in pragmatism and relativism that foster little understanding of ultimate right and wrong. The highest good is deemed to be the greatest good for the greatest number or simply human pleasure. These ideas generally ignore the deeper issue of what is the ultimate nature of good.

The church believes that good is grounded in the nature of God, and that ethical principles are based on the purposes for which God created us. This understanding of moral and ethical principles has collapsed because many people do not believe in God. The churches' influence wains; church and state are now actually separate. Just as the towers of commerce have replaced the dominance of our century-old church spires, secularism has replaced the influence the church once exerted.

The church must make choices. Some are choosing to support politicians who promise to implement conservative social agenda and extreme moral codes even though these leaders are divisive, oppressive and belligerent. On the other hand, some of us are reviving the spirit of early Baptists and are refusing to cooperate with politicians who are manipulative and self-serving. We may become even more a minority, maintaining our witness in small societies and groups that preserve a belief in a way of life that is inclusive, tolerant and just. We may become almost invisible, ignored or scorned by the world. If we do, we will have come full circle and be starting again where the early church started, as a small, seeming insignificant movement in a huge, hostile empire. That might just be a blessing. It might bring a collective spiritual re-birth.

*The Rev'd Bert Radford lives with his wife Mae and are members of the Burlington Baptist Church, Ontario.*

## *Archival Treasures*

The Acadia Archives contains a small pamphlet by Dr. I. Judson Levy entitled *The Autonomy of the Local Church and Co-operative Efforts*, published by the Literature Committee of the Maritime United Baptist Convention. At that time he was Minister of James Street Baptist Church in Hamilton, Ontario. Dr. Levy argues convincingly the congruity of local church autonomy and delegating to larger associations and councils. In particular, he argues that the Canadian Council of Churches is compatible to the Baptist principal of local church government. One might recall that it was written most likely before the systematical reforms of Vatican II.

# *Encounter on the Hill*

by Edward Colquhoun

What does the Canadian Council of Churches do? A precis of the 25 pages of minutes from the meeting of the Governing Board in Ottawa would be a soporific certainty. Instead, I will describe what happened one May afternoon on the Hill.

It began more than a year ago when the CRA (that revenue agency) challenged the right of a faith organization to be involved in “political issues” like the prevention of war. Ought the CCC not concern itself exclusively with matters of personal faith like the change in the official “Our Father” by the Roman Catholic Church to better reflect the theology that God does not ever lead us into temptation? Not only should we spend our time discussing such issues (as we, in fact, did in Ottawa), the CRA insisted that issues of peace and justice were not faith concerns. The uneasy stand-off from that discussion is background to the visit of nine delegations from the CCC Board to Parliament Hill on the morning of May 24th this year.

I walked up Parliament Hill with fellow Board members to meet with Garnet Genuis, a young Member of Parliament representing Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan in Alberta, who has often spoken in the House. Stephen Kendall, newly minted President of the Canadian Council of Churches led our delegation which included JoAnn Lam of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Father Cyprian Hutchison of the Orthodox Church in America, and others from the Christian Reformed Church in North America, the United Church of Canada, the Roman Catholic Church, and of course the CABF. Simultaneously, there were similar meetings with Elizabeth May, Art Eggleton, Ahmed Hussen and other MPs. When we finally made it through security, our

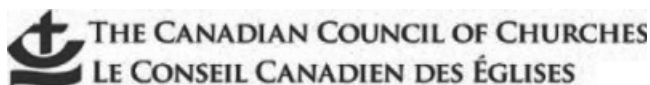
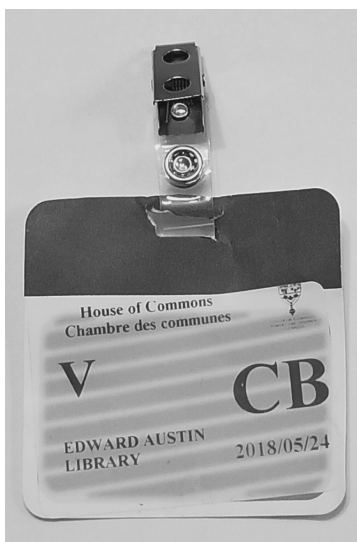


name tags (with my alias!) directed us to the parliamentary library after which we were led by Mr. Genuis to a committee room that we have often seen on TV.

Stephen introduced us and explained that we wanted to discuss several issues with him. I began with the issue of refugee seekers, asking him about his party's approach to those who saw Canada as a safe country. The next discussion was led by JoAnn, who spoke as a mother more than a cleric as she opened the topic of Canada's failure to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (this in light of the CCC sharing last year in the Nobel peace Prize for work on nuclear disarmament). The final topic was raised by Father Cyprian, who surprised everyone in the room when he told us that before he became a full-time priest he was a pediatrician in Montreal who often saw the devastating effects of child poverty. He asked about the poverty reduction strategy of Mr. Genuis' party.

At the de-briefing session that afternoon we reached several conclusions. The MPs were all encouragingly engaged and interested in the opinions shared from the church representatives. There was an understanding on the part of all participants that peace and justice issues were a proper concern of the Christian Church. In fact, there was a recognition on the part of MPs like Garnet Genuis that the CCC could be seen as a resource to government in policy-making rather than an opponent.

*Ed Colquhoun is the representative of the CABF on the Governing Board of the Canadian Council of Churches.*



# *Looking Towards September*

by Susan Colquhoun

In anticipation of our CABF Assembly at First Baptist Church, Amherst, the end of September, here are some interesting facts :

Did you know:

- That this church was founded in 1809, so the congregation is now 209 years old? The current edifice was built in 1895, the third Baptist church on the site.
- That preachers' kids from Amherst were more famous than their church? Jonathan McCully and Charles Tupper, who were sons of the first ministers, went on to become Fathers of Confederation and, respectively, a judge of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court and Prime Minister of Canada.
- That First Baptist Amherst has welcomed a new Senior Minister? The Rev. Dr. Dan Green, who came from Chester Baptist, was inducted here in December 2017. His wife, Trishe Colman, is acting secretary of the church while Angela, secretary, is on maternity leave.
- That, when the Rev. Byron Corkum retired after 28 years as our Senior Minister, the congregation at First Baptist honoured him with the title "Minister Emeritus"? He and his wife, Sandra, continue to live in Amherst and are active members of the congregation.
- That the church is one of two designated places in Amherst and area for people to gather in case of an emergency? In addition to the expanded lower hall, the church has a





generator, natural gas, a commercial kitchen with ovens that, if need be, could bake 24 pies at the same time, and an accessible washroom with a large walk-in shower.

- That, at the inspiration of the members of the Deacons Board, the church honoured those in the congregation who have been members for 50 years or more? Approximately forty persons were each presented with a card and pin at a celebratory lunch following a morning service.
- That the First Baptist building is a secret “home away from home” for those taking part in marathon group sessions at the Springhill Institution? For years now (since visitors were no longer permitted to stay overnight at the prison), participants come to our church late in the evening to sleep, rest, meditate, etc., until they slip away early in the morning to return to the Institution for their next session.
- That we recently partnered with churches of other denominations and the Amherst Rotary Club to sponsor two Syrian families? As well as providing considerable financial support, we worked wholeheartedly to offer a home and resources for the newcomers. Our church regularly provided a place for Steering and Settlement Committee meetings, English instruction for the newcomers, child care, and large social get-togethers for food and fun. Many in the First Baptist church family were involved in this humanitarian endeavor.
- That there is a special fund established in the church devoted to helping others? A very generous church member left First Baptist a legacy that allows the congregation to finance worthwhile projects such as the purchase of pain machines for the local palliative care unit, provide support to the counselling program established at Acadia Divinity College by The Rev. Dr. Charles Taylor, sponsorship of an adult to help build a school in Kenya, etc. Priority is given to projects that propose helping as many people as possible. The Christie Fund Steering Committee considers applications four times a year.



- That our congregation took on a recent renovation of our building? There now is an elevator from the vestry to the lower floor, an enlarged and updated lower hall (newly renamed The Christie Room), and as mentioned above, accessible washrooms and a new kitchen.
- That each summer, an enthusiastic and dedicated group from the congregation puts on a Wednesday noon barbeque in front of the church on Victoria Street? Community folk and tourists alike are welcome customers. Our church doors are open year-round with the beckoning sign, "Visitors Welcome! Please Come In!". The church Guest Book is a record of many sojourners from all parts of Canada and around the world. There are church pamphlets available in English, French, and German.
- That a number of ministers and laymen from First Baptist have served as president of the ABF/CABF over the years? They include (earliest to latest): Jack Matthews, Ed Colquhoun, The Rev. Dr. Reg Dunn, The Rev. John Boyd, The Rev. Dr. Roger Prentice, The Rev. Byron Corkum, and The Rev. John Tonks.
- That the Annual General Meeting and Fall Assembly of the Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms are being held at First Baptist, Amherst, the end of September? Hope to see you there!

*Susan Colquhoun lives in Amherst with her husband, Edward, and they are members of First Baptist Church, Amherst. They are also retired educationalists.*

## *News Notes*

**Bayside Baptist Church** celebrated their 80th anniversary on 24 June 2018. They marked Eighty Years as a Beacon of Christ in the community. During the service Robbie Ernst was honoured as their Charter Member who aided in the construction of the church building in 1938 when he was a teenager. Pastor Vicki Brown led the service and Cindy

den Hollander provided direction for the music. A happy reception was held following the service complete with a special anniversary cake brought by 'our resident baker,' Leanne Dunbar. An 80th Anniversary Building Fund has been established for those who are able to make a special donation. The CABF celebrates with Bayside Baptist their achievement and wish our member congregation many more successful years in ministry.

A memorable Induction Service was held on Sunday, 27 May 2018 for the formal beginning of the ministry of the **Rev'd Dr. Don Flowers** at the Port Williams United Baptist Church. The Rev'd Dr. Rusty Edwards of First Baptist Church Halifax preached an outstanding sermon as a charge to both the congregation and their new minister. A bountiful reception with various greetings exchanged was held following the service. A very large congregation attended including many from other CABF churches.

**The Rev'd Dr. Scott Kindred-Barnes** of First Baptist Church, Ottawa, has been called to become Minister of the Wolfville Baptist Church. He will begin services at Wolfville at the end of the summer. He is well known to the congregation, having served as student assistant there for a year during his studies at Acadia Divinity College. He was also very active at the Manning Memorial Chapel acting in its 10-year run of Passion Plays. The CABF welcomes Scott to its family of congregations.



**Scott's Bay Union Church** has had five services this summer under the leadership of your Editor. Member Beverly Shaw Johnson has just published a series of poems, *The Crow's Nest: Capturing the Wonder of Tidal Bay Summers*, all focused on her family's summer visits to Scott's Bay. A very successful book launching took place at the Merritt Gibson Memorial Library, Canning, on Thursday, 2 August. Scott's Bay is one of

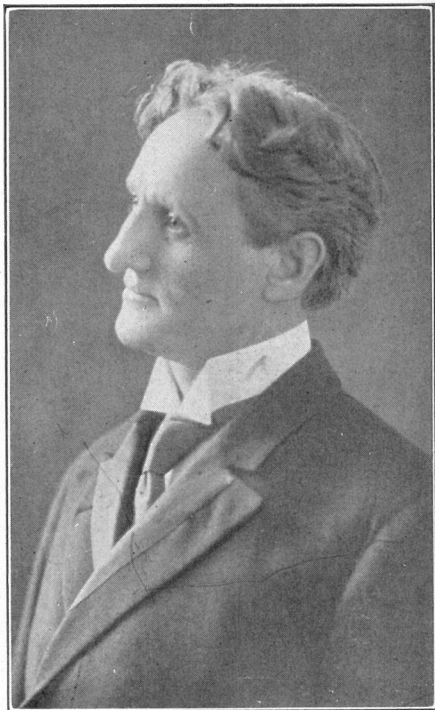
our member congregations and the Rev'd Murray Shaw has been ministering there for several years.

## *The Colonel Who Disappeared*

Roger H. Prentice

Walking through Willow Bank Cemetery in Wolfville, one meets many illustrious Baptist dignitaries. Although the Old Burying Ground downtown has Edmund Crawley and Isaac Chipman, in Willow Bank we have the Baptist Mausoleum for our Maritimes. We find John Mocket Cramp, Thomas Higgins, Marion Grant, Charles W. Rose, I. Judson Levy, Fernetta Levy, Watson Kirkconnell, Vincent Rushton, and many more. But one of the most distinguished cannot be found. He is there, tantalizing the historians but hiding under the well cared for turf.

Lieut. Col. (The Rev'd Dr.) John Howard MacDonald, one of the most illustrious of Maritime Baptists of the 20th century is buried unmarked amongst the stones of the rest. This Baptist minister served in Bass River, Amherst (twice), Woodstock, Brunswick St. of Fredericton, and Wolfville Baptist Churches. He was Principal of the Ladies Seminary at Acadia University (1899-1901), Editor of *The Maritime Baptist* (1914-1917 and



LT.-COL. (REV.) J. H. MacDONALD, D. D., C. B. E.  
President of Convention, 1920-21

1936-1942), Secretary of Convention (1905-1912), President of Convention (1920), Vice-President of the Baptist World Alliance, Professor of Church History at Acadia University (1923-1936), President of the Associated Alumni of Acadia University, Member of the University Board of Governors, Dominion Chaplain of the Royal Canadian Legion for all of Canada, Chaplain of the Canadian Armed Forces (1914-1919) and Deputy Director for the Canadian Armed Forces Overseas the last two years of World War I, Member of the Royal Geographical Society, Commander of the Order of the British Empire, honoured by three honorary doctorates.

In our churches, he was known as a powerful orator, a magnificent author and a valiant visitor. The English language was his forte. He often was a guest to Associations and congregations representing the Convention, the University, *The Maritime Baptist*, and veteran affairs in which he was vitally interested.

This incredible curriculum vitae does not include MacDonald's very active civilian life in the Town of Wolfville. Almost every second edition of *The Wolfville Acadian* (published weekly) has his photograph and/or an article about his civic activities. He died in June 1946 at the age of 83. One wonders why we know not this most significant Christian? Even more, we might wonder why he lies with his immediate family without any memorial stone. Perhaps his life is his authentic marker, but too soon we 'know not Joseph.' Some sort of physical reminder of his faith and discipleship would be appropriate and an encouragement for us to adopt.

As Baptists, we have been unfortunately reluctant to remember the 'saints' of our denomination, failing to allow them to tell their story, to honour their presence amongst us, and to find in them the spiritual influence that has enriched our denomination. Dr. Charles Tupper, Joseph Crandall, Ingraham Bill, Hon. J. W. Johnston, Edmund Crawley, John Mocket Cramp, Hon. Jonathan McCully, Theodore Rand, A.W. Sawyer, E. M. Kierstead, E. M. Saunders, Norman Hutchins, W. C. Goucher, C. W. Rose, Waldo C. Machum amongst many others were very significant in our growth as a denomination of the Christian Church. They are worthy of our honour, and we could be inspired if we knew of their example.

## *Scott's Bay Life*

Beverly Shaw Johnson, *The Cow's Nest Chronicles: Capturing the Wonder of Tidal Bay Summers* (BookLocker.com, Inc.: St. Petersburg, Florida, USA, 2018). This beautifully written book of contemporary poetry is about arriving at the site of their old homestead at Scott's Bay, NS. It is available at The Box of Delights bookstore in Wolfville.



### **CABF MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**Please use this form to become a member or renew your membership**

*Name(s):* \_\_\_\_\_

*Address:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Membership:**

**Annual Fee:**

**Individual**

**\$20**

**Optional Donation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

Tax receipts will be issued for any donations of \$10.00 or more. Please make cheques payable to the **Canadian Association For Baptist Freedoms** or **CABF** and detach this form and mail to:

**Joyce Allen, PO Box 217, 308 Main Street,  
Mahone Bay, NS, B0J 2E0**

## *Church Images*



*McPhail Baptist  
Church, Ottawa ON*

*Granville Centre  
Baptist Church, NS*



*Wolfville  
Baptist  
Church, NS*

One of the most striking images of a conurbation is the multitude of churches which decorate the architecture of the people surrounding them. Sadly, more and more are closing, usually blamed on 'lack of support'. We might think about both the images external and internal that they reflect.

The casual visitor will often comment on the beauty of church buildings, easily identifiable by their towers, steeples and gothic arches. They should not look like factories or schools, for even the visual communicates a number of ideas. This loftiness suggests 'higher things,' the arches look like praying hands; the size connotes its importance to the people.

But does the outward and visible indicate an inward and spiritual presence? As one settles down in a pew, is the person confronted with a inspirational view? What is suggested by what they see? Is it clean, calm, positive and purposeful or is it cluttered, noisy and disorganized? Will the centre of attention be the cross, the communion table, the baptistery and the pulpit? On the other hand, is all that is visible a clutter of band instruments, old posters, screens and microphones? What image of holiness and devotion does the casual visitor recognize or will one be disgusted. Have we forgotten John Monsell's beautiful hymn, 'Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness'? Remember Psalm 96: 6, 'Honour and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary'

Of course, there are many designs for church interiors but do they represent the faith, hope and love of the congregation? Worship is, of course, an offering of the people in faith. Does the sanctuary present this truth or does it suggest receiving rather than giving, of person-centred activity rather than spiritual meditation, prayer, and reflection?

What do we hear when we are in the pews? Is the sermon manipulative in self-interest? Are the hymns about honouring God or providing the people with only 'good feelings'? Do the prayers reflect reality of the world today? Are the people engaged with their discipleship without vainglory? What of this will tell of the integrity of Christian faith, its truth, its power to the coontemporary enquirer? Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, 'God is spirit, and those who worship him, worship him in spirit and in truth.' Does this intimacy fit the images given by our churches? This question may encourage us to view our churches, externally and internally, with newly discerning eyes.



*Annual General Meeting*  
*Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms*

First Baptist Church, Amherst, NS



28 September 2018 at 6 p.m.

29 September 2018 at 9 a.m.

Registration

Opening worship

**Special Speaker: Dr. Dorothy Hunsel**

Registration: \$25 payable at the door.

Please pre-register for it includes lunch on Saturday and snacks Friday evening. Email the church office: [ambapt@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:ambapt@ns.aliantzinc.ca) or call (902) 667-2001

Membership Dues: if not paid this year, \$ 20.00