

The Bulletin

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FORMERLY THE ATLANTIC BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP



WINDOW, MANNING MEMORIAL CHAPEL,
ACADIA UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2019

Editorial: Probing the Future

The March CABF council meeting was exceptionally important to the future of the CABF and it looks very promising. An analysis of the present indicates some achievements in promoting the historic and fundamental Baptists freedoms we cherish in Canada and abroad. What did we find?

Churches are increasingly recognizing that the Right Hon. John Philpot Curran's warning that 'the price of freedom is eternal vigilance,' rings true in a timeless struggle. Today, we have experienced an increasing number of younger Baptist clergy investigating a closer relationship with the CABF. The programme that Edward Colquhoun established for Baptist students at the Atlantic School of Theology has been extremely valuable to the CABF. Notably, relevant topics and discussions at general meetings have been especially interesting and valuable. Our relationship with the Canadian Council of Churches offers a Maritime Baptist voice to the Canadian church scene.

Even the CABF Bulletin has been receiving plaudits for its articles and information and is reaching wider afield. The shuffling by the Nominating Committee of the Council itself has reinvigorated planning, considerations and understanding. The greatest sign has been the extremely successful strategic planning process shepherded by Wayne Marsh, now finished, so that now new initiatives may be discussed, planned and implemented.

We have something of value to add for our churches and Convention to enrich, at least from our point of view, the ministry of Christ amongst us. New conversations might take place, establishment of a new commitment for proclamation and service in our communities, and an enhanced sense of renewal of the real purpose of our beloved Association could well be our present legacy.

Roger H. Prentice—Editor

Hymns that Speak to The Heart

The Rev'd Bert Radford

Nineteenth century revivalist hymns which we often call “Gospel Hymns”, are part of our faith tradition. Many of us grew up singing them and can remember times when they spoke simply and clearly to our hearts. Here is my experience of a gospel hymn impacting my spiritual growth.

In my pre-teen years my father ministered to a little Baptist Church set on the bank a picturesque lake hidden in the depths of northern Ontario bush. On a quiet summer



evening I sat on the steps of the little clap-board church. Inside, the faithful were sharing communion and I, not baptized, was excused from the sacrament. It was a difficult time of life for me. I knew that my father was very sick and probably had little time left and that my mother would have few resources when he was gone.

The words of a gospel hymn drifted out to me. “Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand.” I looked across the lake, now calming in the dying evening breeze, to a large granite outcropping across the bay. Its reflection was clear in the darkening, still water. “The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land.” I felt a sense of peace, and security replace my anxieties. I knew my father was breaking the bread and

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.

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The colour cover was donated by a friend of CABF.

pouring the wine and the little community was coming to God to find again “a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way”. Around me was nothing but unbroken forest for fifty kilometers. The silence was audible. In those, moments listening to the hymn, I felt for the first time an understanding and acceptance of the faith that sustained my parents and the little group of faithful whose home was in this wilderness and who toiled every day to produce a meagre living from the inhospitable land.

The door opened and the people left the warmth and light of the church to make their way home in the gathering darkness. My “rest along the way” was over, but the hymn had gathered up the images of my life and spoken to my soul. I resumed my journey with new faith, “content to let the world go by” and accept the future as it would unfold.

Hymns are important to our worship for they speak to our emotions and feelings as well as our minds. Gospel hymns, the folk songs of our faith, connect us to the roots of our culture using the memories of the rural life many of us shared. Our parents sang of daily toil, “bringing in the sheaves”, of their perilous life on the “wild restless sea”, of their longing to return to their homeland, “coming home, never more to roam”. This is the music of our roots and, used judiciously, can connect our worship to the origins of our culture.

Some gospel hymns are no longer useful for they use inappropriate, graphic images, references to war or express attitudes judgemental to other faiths. But the basic metaphors of these hymns, our daily tasks, life’s perilous journey, our longing for a home land, are valid expressions of our faith that speak to our hearts.

Beneath the cross of Jesus, I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

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

Thoughts from CABF President

Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

What does being a President of CABF mean? Why would someone be willing to be President of an organization like CABF? Was it a calling; was it a volunteer opportunity? Or, was it an assignment that came because of acclamation?

Although I'd like be able to say that I was 'called' to be CABF President—that wouldn't be quite an accurate. More likely, I can say, I agreed to be CABF President. I have a long history with CABF (ABF)—starting



from my early time of becoming captivated and engaged with Baptists back in the late 1990s. I never felt qualified for the title of 'CABF President'; however, I always felt willing. (So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10) I knew the roster of CABF Council colleagues was a willing, educated, caring, 'called' and engaging group of individuals. I was pleased and excited to be able to work with them! These ladies and gentlemen, both lay and clergy have been a blessing to my personal development; they have been assets to the continued growth and support of CABF; and they have given—and continue to give—so much of themselves!

As for the successes of CABF during these past two years: we have engaged local speakers (our own Ed Colquhoun; Rev. Lynn Uzans; Rev. Martha Martin, Rev. Dr. Dorothy Hunse) at our Rushton luncheons and our AGMs. These folks have been instrumental in educating CABFers on 21st century issues. CABF has seen a growth in

candidates for accreditation and for ordination; we have been successful in designing, developing and implementing the first Baptist formation program at AST; and we have had successful representation (through Ed Colquhoun) on the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC). We have been very successful (thanks to so many!!) for an almost two year-long strategic planning process. CABF continues to be cognizant for our future, as to how we can support recommendations of the Reconciliation Council (recommendations 47, 48 and 49). As well, we have been attempting to work (long distance) with The Gathering (our sister organization in Ontario).

As the song goes “... All that I dream, all that I pray; All that I'll ever make, I give to you today. Take and sanctify these gifts for your honour, Lord. Knowing that I love and serve you, Is enough reward. All that I am, all that I do, All that I'll ever have I offer now to you....”

CABF holds a special spot in my heart, mind and soul—for all that I am and all that I will continue to be I am indebted! (“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.”—Pslam 32-8)

Blessings all,

Lee Nicholas-Pattillo, CABF President, 2017 – 2019

Notice

We mourn the death of Jack Matthews on 13 February 2019, of First Baptist Church, Amherst, and second President of the CABF. His funeral was held on 16 February 2019.



Dreams Do Become Real

Rev. John Tonks

The late Dr. Charles Taylor of Acadia Divinity College, Wolfville, NS had long dreamed of a retreat centre being built inside a prison. That dream became real when St Luke's Renewal Centre opened inside Springhill Institution. The Centre was built with the contributions of many people.

The largest contributor to this project was the Nova Scotia Law Society, without whose financial help the centre would not have been able to carry on for these 19 years. Still, today the Centre is dependent on the freewill giving of Churches, individuals and organizations to keep operating. The facilitator's salary must be paid by the governing body, Concilio Prison Ministry, originally known as the Christian Council for Reconciliation. The Centre operates under an agreement with the Correctional Service of Canada and is the only Renewal Centre of its kind in Canada and possibly the world. The



St. Luke's Renewal Centre, Sprnighill, NS

Centre was built with no Government funding and is a six-bedroom bungalow inside the prison overlooking the beautiful hills of Rodney. It is a place which offers a quiet pastoral scene to calm the turmoil which churns within one's soul. It is a strong contrast to the chaos, noise and confusion which is part of prison life. What does it do? One offender describes it this way

I don't know who St Luke was, and I never met Charlie Taylor, but I think they would be well pleased with their effect on the reparations of countless men. Though founded on the Christian faith, the principles of trust, non-judgement, and compassion transcend religion to provide a uniquely intimate environment that lends itself to open communication. In this light, I feel that we are better able to benefit from the healing programs provided. More than just a refuge from the



cold functionality that surrounds it, St Luke's has been instrumental in the reformation of myself and others I have witnessed, who will return to society having been blessed by this house. Thank you to all who make it happen.—David Folker

One of the phrases that Charlie used and entitled one of his early books was "Only Love Heals". We, at St Luke's try to live that concept, with God's help, as we minister to those who voluntarily enter our house. We offer times of quiet reflection, structured programs,

*The Rev'd Dr. Charles Taylor courtesy of
Esther Clark Wright Archives and Special
Collections, Acadia University*

individual spiritual direction and a kind listening ear. It is place for the weary soul to find a place of solace in the midst of the chaos of prison life. A person or group can come for an hour, a day or overnight and find the presence of the Living God as He speaks to the individual.

Our mission sums up our vision:” St Luke’s offers the inmate a balance of retreat time and activities, supported by volunteers from the wider community, in order to create a physical and spiritual space in which the inmate can experience healing, personal growth and a new vision for his or her life.”

Here is what another offender had to say:

My name is Richard Arsenault. I am a third time Federal Offender, now doing a nine-year sentence for criminal activity. Before I came to prison on this sentence, I was an atheist, I hated myself and hated the world around me. When I finally accepted Jesus Christ into my life, I was very excited and wanted to talk with people about it, but I was in prison, a place with so many lost individuals. I’ve been so thankful and grateful to have St Luke’s and John the Facilitator. St Luke’s has been so valuable to my spiritual life. A place to grow spiritually as well as emotionally. St Luke has given me a place to heal, “to clean the cup from the inside out”. A place to help, support, and care for one another, like no other place in the prison. I fully believe that God has put St Luke’s into my life to not only bring myself closer to Him but help others find their way. God Bless! - Richard.

For further information and how you can support this important work please contact:

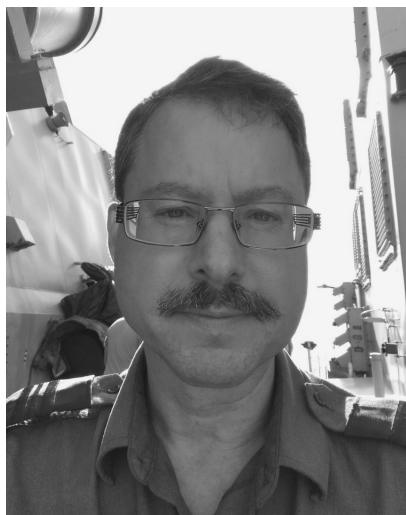
*Rev. John Tonks, Facilitator,
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Office Phone: (902)597-0185, home phone (902) 956-8374,
Emails: John.Tonks@csc-scc.gc.ca, tonksjt@gmail.com*

MINISTRY ON THE FRONT LINES

Major (The Rev'd) Derrick Marshall, CD, D.Min.

Hello good people of CABF!

You may or may not remember me but I am a Canadian Armed Forces chaplain who used to serve as Minister of First Baptist Church Pastorate of Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia before joining the military back in 1997. I have served as a military chaplain in the Royal Canadian Air Force, the Canadian Army (during which time I was deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan on roto3 OPERATION ATHENA), the Canadian Special operations



Forces, served as a staff officer at the office of the Chaplain General and currently serve in the Royal Canadian Navy as Senior Fleet Chaplain at CFB Halifax.

It is good to be home in my native province once more, especially having just recently returned from a 6 month deployment on board HMCS VILLE DE QUEBEC as ship's chaplain. This was a fantastic opportunity to serve alongside the sailors in a frigate, containing 240 personnel of all ranks, from the ship's Commanding Officer (holding the rank of Commander) down to the fresh-faced Ordinary Seaman.

It was a varied ministry which saw me attend regular meetings of the Heads of department (I was the Head of a department—of one—which consisted of... well, just me actually, as the ship only had one chaplain!). These morning meetings allowed me to learn vital information about what the ship would be doing internally in its daily routines, but also how it was contributing to a larger fleet of NATO ships' mission in the Mediterranean, the North Sea and the Baltic region.

I also routinely made pastoral visits each day to the different divisions

within the ship, just to get a greater appreciation of what the other departments did, and to get to know the individual sailors better. I often helped the cooks serve meals in the galley for the junior ranks, as a way to interact with the sailors as well.

Sunday mornings saw me hold an ecumenical church service in the Officers' Mess (but which all ranks could attend). These were intimate gatherings of sailors, consisting of about 10 people for an ecumenical service of Holy Communion, although our Christmas Eve service had 25 people in attendance, along with special contributions of music from various talented members of the ship's company. I even had a helicopter pilot who had been classically-trained as a guitarist accompany me and a female sailor in a devotional duet! This service at sea still holds a special place in my memories. We were all far from home, kith and kin, but the gathering of the faithful for a Service of Lessons & Carols and the contributed talents of readers and musicians will long hold a special place in my fond memories!

Life at sea, with the same people and in a cramped space has special tensions and stresses. While we enjoyed many and varied ports of call (we visited some 15 different ports in Northern Europe, Southern Europe and North Africa) and were enriched to see and experience many foreign cultures, it would sometimes be many days at sea in between these blessed adventures. The longest we were at sea without touching land was 21 days, during EXERCISE TRIDENT JUNCTURE which took place off the coast of Trondheim, Norway. Being at sea for weeks at a time is both physically exhausting (with sea sickness in high sea states and poor sleep, as well as duty watches at strange times throughout a 24 hour schedule) and fraught with tension. People make friends in such intense working conditions, but interpersonal conflicts tend to arise the longer the ship is at sea. This makes the ship's chaplain a very valuable asset to the ship's company. After several months at sea, and having gotten to know me better, sailors would begin to seek me out for counsel, to release tension through discussion, and the Executive Officers began to rely on my counsel for defusing work-related conflict, or to help them make decisions on sailors who needed to be repatriated for personal, professional or disciplinary reasons.

A very special memory of being asked to help plan and deliver a Remembrance Day Commemoration at Vimy Ridge will forever hold a place of honour in my heart. We knew that the ship would be alongside in Amsterdam, Holland so the Executive (the Commanding officer, the Executive Officer and the Coxswain) and I began to plan where we would observe Remembrance Day. Being the 100th Anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge stood out to us as being of special significance, and so we drove 6 hours up to Vimy, France and attended the cenotaph ceremony hosted by Veterans Affairs Canada in that hallowed spot. Yours truly was invited to say prayers there at that ceremony on Remembrance Day 2018 and, albeit a cold, wet and windy experience, it will remain emblazoned in my memories as a very high-water mark of my career!

Life as a military chaplain is a unique and intense ministry that sees women and men of holy orders serving sailors, soldiers, airmen and women at the front lines – literally! – wherever and whenever they are asked to serve the national interests. This may mean we must deploy anywhere our units are deployed, both in Canada and abroad, and for some very long periods of time. It calls upon our creativity in trying to reach and minister to Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel to whatever degree they will allow us, whether they be religious or secular-minded, Christian or of another faith group and in some very challenging contexts. We are on duty periodically 24/7 and can be called upon to help a CAF member in crisis, securing a leave pass to get home due to a death in the family, or referring them to another care provider for solving matters pertaining to their mental or physical health. I have thoroughly enjoyed the varied and challenging roles and responsibilities the CAF ministry has entailed, but it is not for the faint of heart, entails much change and flexibility and an understanding and supportive family. Anyone considering becoming a CAF chaplain can reach out to a local Recruitment Centre and they will be put in touch the Director of Chaplain Services 2-3 in the Office of the Chaplain General in Ottawa for a more fulsome discussion of the expectations and professional requirements necessary to be considered for this excellent ministry.

Christians Together

Ed Colquhoun

Seventy-five years does not seem such a long time in the reckoning of human institutions; however, within the often contentious world of religious relationships, the survival and even thriving of the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) for three quarters of a century seems an eternity. Can the history of this body demonstrate any relevance for Baptists who often, above all else, value their independence?



In fact, the founding assembly took place in Yorkminster (now Yorkminster Park) Baptist Church, Toronto, on September 26, 1944. Ten Canadian churches, the largest being Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian and United, making up forty per cent of the Canadian population, were represented at that first meeting. By the time of the second meeting in 1945, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church had become a member. After more than a decade of associate membership, the Conference of Catholic Bishops joined in 1997. At present, some churches hold membership in both the CCC and The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

After 75 years, there are 26 member churches, representing 85 per cent of those adhering to a church in Canada. Such a diverse membership has given rise to a consensus model of decision-making called Forum, in which agreement is sought from all members, all represented equally, before action is taken by the Council.

The momentous world events of 1944 no doubt gave impetus to the urge of churches to cooperate. The brutal fighting in both the far east and western Europe, with some church leaders supporting the Nazi



regime, gave rise to considerable reflection and action on the part of leaders like Bonhoeffer. Within a year, people were faced with the annihilation of Japanese cities with nuclear weapons and the horrors of extermination camps. Churches deplored the spectre of world-wide mass destruction and the savage treatment of members of the very religion that had nurtured Jesus.

Formation of the World Council of Churches began in 1937 but was delayed by the war until 1948. In Canada, this cooperative movement forged ahead, no doubt taking inspiration from the work to unite for service the major Baptist Conventions of Canada into the Federation, an act finally concluded in Germain Street Baptist Church, Saint John, in 1944.

Is there any relevance to this history? Only a year ago, the CCC was greatly honoured to share in the Nobel Peace Prize through its operating division Project Plowshares for its efforts to eliminate from the earth the threat of nuclear weapons. We continue to seek a solution to the thorny problem of dialogue with our Jewish neighbours, despite the complexities of Israeli politics. These are just two priorities that engage the more than 180 church women and men volunteers working on the CCC Board and its committees.

This anniversary year the CABF will set aside time at our gathering to mark our membership in the CCC, celebrating our shared mission of “responding to Christ’s prayer for unity and peace, seeking Christ’s truth with an affection for diversity, and acting together through prayer, dialogue and witness to the gospel.” On October 26, 2019, a cross-Canada live streamed event entitled “Christians Together in Canada Today” will feature dialogue with prominent church leaders interacting with participants country-wide.

Ed Colquhoun, CABF Representative to the CCC Board

A Ministerial Birthday

The Bulletin sends our wishes to the Rev'd Dr. George Pilkington Allen of Bridgetown for a very happy birthday. Born on 21 March 1913, he is now 106 years of age—and counting! Born in North Sydney, N. S., a graduate of Acadia University, he has held distinguished pastorates in a number of our churches. Happily retired, he still is active, leads sing songs and raises the morale of all around him.



CABF MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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Membership:

Annual Fee:

Individual

\$20

Optional Donation

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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:

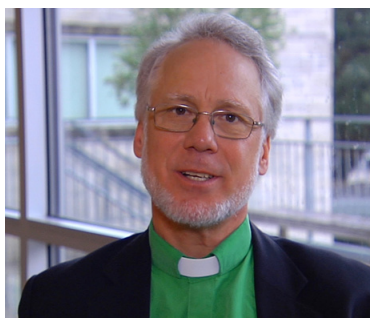
**Joyce Allen, PO Box 217, 308 Main Street,
Mahone Bay, NS, B0J 2E0**

Annual Rushton Lecture And Luncheon

*Saturday, 1 June 2019
Port Williams United Baptist Church*

Worship: Dr. Spencer Boersma, Assistant Professor of Theology,
Acadia Divinity College
Speaker: The Rev'd Dr. Michael Dowd
Topic: Can Christianity Be Saved in Time to Redeem Humanity?'

Dr. Michael Dowd is an evolutionary theologian, author and evangelist for Big History and for an honourable relationship to the future. Michael and his wife, Connie Barlow, an acclaimed science writer and evolutionary educator, permanently travel North America promoting the inspiring side of science, religious naturalism and one-story spirituality. Michael comes as a prelude to a week of lectures and conversations in Truro at the 51st Atlantic Seminar in Theological Education.



After the luncheon, a business meeting will be conducted by our President, Lee Nicholas-Pattillo.

Registration: \$25 at 10:00 a.m.

Please pre-register and let us know your choice of meal for lunch: pork loin roast, salmon or vegetarian. Please let us know of any dietary restrictions. Contact Lana Churchill at 902 542-7407 or jchurchill@ns.sympatico.ca.

Welcome 10:30 a.m.
Luncheon 12:15 p.m.

