



Signs of the Spirit

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In This Issue

- Why Should I Go To Conference?
- Welcome to the City of Saint John
- Then Sings My Soul
- The Book Shelf
- Message from The Chaplain General's Office
- Editor's Note
- Notes and Reflections

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Why Should I Go To Conference This Year?

You may hear ladies at Chapel asking, "Why should I go to conference? Isn't it just a bunch of old ladies knitting?" Let me clear up a few misconceptions for you. It is actually the younger ladies sitting around knitting but the older ladies are teaching us cool new stitches. Seriously though, Guild Conferences are inspiring, friendship filled, musical, and lots of fun!!!!

This year our keynote speaker is Rev. Joanna Doak. She has been called to serve as the Youth & Creative Outreach Coordinator of the UBWMU/ABW. The purpose of the YCOC: To empower young women and girls in the Atlantic provinces by raising their understanding of God's love for them. Some of the activities Joanna promotes are: "Free to be ME!" parties for young girls - huge sleepover events for teenage girls; promoting intergenerational partnerships with women; speaking at "girls' camp" weeks at Eastern Canada Baptist camps. Joanna is the founder and artistic director of Chameleon Jo Productions, a creative not-for-profit creative arts company. She uses music, drama, dance, storytelling, clowning and other art forms to become "all things to all people" (1 Cor. 9:22). She builds confidence, character and community in children, teens and young adults. Joanna has been on mission trips to Rwanda, Cameroon and India. She has served as a pastor of CABC churches in NS and NB. Joanna is a graduate of Acadia Divinity College.



If that didn't convince you to attend this year, let me share some of my favorite memories of Conferences past. I went to my first Conference in my 20's. I was a little nervous but found nothing but loving ladies excited to share their love of the Lord. My second conference was "Common Ground" a joint conference with the Military CWL ladies. One the things that really stood out from that conference was sitting on the swings across the street from the chapel, with other ladies from Shearwater. We just chatted about our lives, it was a just a simple moment to connect with other young ladies. Okay enough reminiscing, who remembers last year when Estella heckled the comedian? A favorite moment for most of us, and for young Jamie. Speaking of entertainment here is what we have planned for this year's Saturday night fun.

The Saturday night entertainment is none other than Stephanie Mainville. Stephanie is a New Brunswick based, independent singer songwriter known for her reflective approach as she communicates compelling life stories. Her crystal-clear voice and fusion of classical violin and traditional Celtic fiddle playing has earned her multiple awards, most recently a Music New Brunswick award, Covenant award, and ECMA for Gospel Recording of the Year in March 2013 for her Christmas album, Old Man Winter. Since 2005, she has been a featured artist and achieved nominee status at the East Coast Music Awards, GMA Canada's Covenant Awards, the Shai Awards (Canada's People's Choice Awards for Gospel music), and Music New Brunswick Awards. For more information and a sample of her music, go to <http://www.stephaniemainville.com/>



Stephanie Mainville

This is just a little bit of what we have planned for you. We look forward to seeing you in Saint John this April.



Welcome to The City of Saint John, New Brunswick

Welcome to the charming and historic city of Saint John situated on the beautiful Bay of Fundy! Located on the north shore of the Bay at the mouth of the Saint John River, it is the oldest incorporated city in Canada (1785). It has the largest city population in New Brunswick.

The sea has shaped Saint John economically and geographically. It has a long history of shipbuilding at the city's dry dock which is one of the largest in the world. Since 2003 shipbuilding has ended on the scale it once was, forcing the city to adopt new economic strategies. There is however, new hope on the horizon for the shipbuilding industry! Tourism is a new and growing economy with 1.5 million visitors per year and 200,000 cruise ship visitors, creating a renaissance in the city's historic "uptown" with many small businesses moving in and large scale waterfront developments.

The Arts and Culture sector play a large role in Saint John's economy. The Imperial

Theatre is home to the highly acclaimed Saint John Theatre Company, the Symphony New Brunswick and hosts a large collection of plays, concerts and other stage production year round. Harbour Station provides other entertainment and sporting events.

Saint John has many events and attractions to offer. Focusing on the “uptown” area, with the Saint John City Market being your starting point, enter through the gates and gaze up toward the ceiling. Notice the wooden structure supporting the roof. Does it remind you of the hull of a ship? You know you’re in a shipbuilding city! Last summer, hundreds of butterflies were hanging from the ceiling in a sea of colour, all created by the children of Saint John and area. It was sight to behold! As you stroll through the market, enjoy visiting with the vendors and taking in all the sights and smells the market has to offer. After walking through the market, take the pedways, to fairly regular shopping malls, Brunswick Square first and going on to Market Square. Market Square also houses the New Brunswick Museum. If you prefer to go outdoors, walk back up the market and you will be on Charlotte Street. Just across the street is a lovely park (you will notice the bandstand in the centre). This is King’s Square. You can sit and relax there, people watch or even feed the pigeons. If you wish to walk on, and this is my favourite walk, head down King Street and step into interesting shops and boutiques. Take side trips up Germain and Prince William Streets as well, for more shops to enjoy. Keep on going downhill towards the Market Slip, stopping to see the wooden carved figures in front of Barbour’s Store (this won’t yet be open while we’re there). When you are finally near the water, breathe in and savour the sea air. Take a walk along the boardwalk and wharf. See any cruise or other ships? Just enjoy some time sea gazing.

Here are a few things to remember so you won’t rub Saint Johners the wrong way:
*Saint John is always spelled “Saint John”, no abbreviating the “Saint” or adding “s”

*the Reversing Falls are truly reversing falls, don’t call them rapids

*You go “Uptown” not downtown

*You pick up your “order”, not your groceries

*Your aunt is your “ont”

*You try dulce and either love it or express you would be able to acquire a taste for it!

Enjoy your visit!

Fran MacCollum

(married to a Saint Johner!)

Then Sings My Soul

He Leadeth Me

1862

~by Joyce Wilmot

.... He leads me in the paths of righteousness, for HIS own name's sake. Psalm 23:3b

On Autumn nights as we sleep peacefully in our beds, millions of songbirds travel under cover of darkness, heading south. Somehow, they know their way. God has given them a state of the art internal guidance system.

We're more valuable than many sparrows. If God guides His creation will He not also guide His children? The Psalmist thought so, Saying, "He leadeth me... He leadeth me Psalm 23:2-3

Dr. Joseph H. Gilmore, son of Governor of New Hampshire gave this account of writing his famous hymn on this theme:

"As a young man recently graduated... I was supplying for a couple of Sundays the pulpit of the First Baptist Church in Philadelphia. At the mid-week service, on the 26th of March, 1862, I set out to give the people an exposition of the Twenty Third Psalm, which I had given before on three or four occasions, but this time I did not get further than the words, "He Leadeth Me. Those words took hold of me as they had never done before and I saw in them a significance of which I had never dreamed.

It was the darkest hour of the Civil War. I did not refer to that fact – that is, I don't think I did – but it may subconsciously have led me to realize that God's leadership is the one significant fact in the human experience, we are led, so long as we are sure about God is leading us.

At the close of the meeting a few of us in the parlour of my host, Deacon Watson, kept talking about the thought I had emphasized; and then and there on a blank page of the brief from which I had intended to speak, I penciled the hymn, talking and writing at the same time, then handing it to my wife and thought no more of it. She sent it to The Watchman and Reflector, a paper published in Boston, where it was first printed. I did not know until 1865 that my hymn had been set to music by William B. Bradbury. I went to Rochester to preach as a candidate before the Second Baptist Church. Going into their chapel, I picked up a hymnal to see what they were singing, and opened it at my own hymn, "He Leadeth Me"

Just as Christ was risen from the dead, by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4

If you have ever seen a show where they do makeovers, face and clothing, some are so shocked they need a mirror to find proof that it's really them. What gives them away is the most cannot walk on their new shoes. Their transformation is not complete

This is true in our Christian lives as well. God does the work in us to give us a new start, but to walk in the way of the Lord (Deut. 11:22) requires time, effort and lots of practice. If we just stand still and smile we can pass as being transformed. But

the way we walk tells us how far along we are living out that transformation. Being changed means giving up our previous way of life and learning a new way to walk (Rom 6:4).

The transformation to be like Jesus begins from the inside, from the heart and radiates outward. Your heart will lead you and keep you on path.

The Book Shelf

Putting Away Childish Things – A Tale of Modern Faith

by Marcus J. Borg

Putting Away Childish Things is one of my favorite Christian themed books. When I first found it, I read it once for the storyline and a second time to focus and reflect on the theological ideas. Borg is a religious scholar and has written many non-fiction books. This is his first fiction book.

“In Putting Away Childish Things, Marcus Borg weaves his insightful teachings on Christianity into a new form—fiction. In this compelling tale, we meet Kate—a popular religion professor at a liberal arts college in a small Midwestern town who thinks her life is right on track. She loves her job, is happy with her personal and spiritual life, and her guilty pleasure consists of passing her afternoons at the local pub with a pint of Guinness and a cigarette. Life is good.

Kate is up for tenure when it all starts to go wrong. A colleague warns her that her books are too Christian and too popular. She is offered a visiting professor job at a prestigious seminary, which sounds like the perfect solution except for one complication—it is the same seminary that employs the professor she had an affair with years ago. Kate now has to face her past and watch as the ramifications unfold in ways she never imagined. In the classroom, students ask for her views on Jesus, the Bible, and homosexuality, controversial topics that Kate candidly addresses until outraged parents start campaigning for the school to get rid of her. Through it all, Kate faces the toughest challenge yet—a crisis of faith that leaves her questioning what she believed so strongly before.”

Message from the Chaplain General’s Office

I am delighted to share with you the news that the Chief of the Defence Staff has announced that Colonel Guy Chapdelaine will succeed me as Chaplain General, upon my retirement at the end of summer of this year.

From my very first posting as a Unit Chaplain with 1 VP (more than 25 years ago), through to my current ministry as Chaplain General, I have always been deeply grateful for -- and inspired by -- the faith and fellowship, and the care and commitment of our Protestant Chapel Guilds. Please convey my thanks and very best wishes to the members of the National Executive, and to all of the members of the Guilds across our Canadian Armed Forces.

Please join with me in offering congratulations and prayers of support to Padre Chapdelaine as he prepares to undertake these new responsibilities in providing leadership to the Royal Canadian Chaplain Service. Padre Chapdelaine is indeed a well-respected and strong spiritual leader. I am completely confident that our entire chaplaincy -- including the wonderful work and witness of our Protestant Chapel Guilds -- will be truly blessed by his ministry as our next Chaplain General. Please uphold Padre Chapdelaine in your prayers as he prepares to undertake his new responsibilities, this summer; and please continue to pray for me. May God bless you all, and continue to make-of our Guilds a source for deep blessing to others.

Yours in faith and hope.

J.M. Fletcher
Brigadier General / Brigadier-général
Chaplain General / Aumônier général
National Defence Headquarters / Quartier general de la Defense nationale
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K2

Submissions are always welcome!! If I missed your submission I am so sorry. Please send me an email and remind me. We would love to see Guild Sunday and your fall activity pictures.

Deadline for the next issue is May 10.

You can submit by email: dee.hearts.books@live.ca

snail mail: Dee McCabe Box 218, Denwood AB T0B 1B0

If you would like the next copy of "Sings of the Spirit" delivered directly to your inbox, please send me a quick email with "subscribe" in the subject block and you'll be added to our list. To be removed from our email list, please send me an email with "unsubscribe" in the subject block.



Notes and Reflection